

COMMUNITY CORNER

Fort Riley Tax Center offers free services to Soldiers, Family members

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

With the end of the holiday season, a new season looms – tax season. Many people dread this time of year, but Soldiers, their dependents and retirees have the Fort Riley Tax Center to make filing state and federal returns a quick, easy and free task.

The Fort Riley Tax Center will celebrate its grand opening at 3 p.m., Jan. 22 at Building 7034. Once open, the tax center's hours of operation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments, which are available Monday to Friday, are encouraged.

Trained tax preparers will prepare 2010, 2011 and 2012 federal tax returns, in addition to state returns. State returns, however, will only be prepared in conjunction with federal returns.

Last year, 7,627 federal and 5,790 state returns were prepared, saving Soldiers and Families about \$1.5 million in preparation fees. More than \$15 million in tax refunds also were secured.

If you are thinking of forgoing the tax center in favor of quick cash from a refund-

anticipation loan, don't.

The tax center can electronically file your refund. Electronic filing and direct deposits drastically reduce the time it takes to get your refund. On average, filers see their refunds in less than a week.

Instant rebates offered by most commercial tax services are nothing more than loans with incredibly high interest rates.

If you prepare your taxes on your own, bring them into the tax center. One of the certified tax preparers will check over your state and federal returns to make sure you've got it correct. If the IRS questions your taxes, the tax center can provide help.

The tax center is just one more service provided at Fort Riley to help ease the burden on Soldiers and Family members. The staff at the tax center provides excellent customer service and will make filing taxes a positive experience.

Along with all of your W-2 forms, be sure to bring the following items – if applicable – with you when you head to



Col. Clark

the tax center:

- Social Security card – required for everyone, including children
- Power of attorney
- All 1099-R Forms – Pension and Retirement
- All 1099-INT Forms – Interest Income Statement
- All 1099-DIV Forms – Dividend Income Statement
- Form 1098 – Mortgage Interest Statement
- Form 1098-E – Student Loan Interest Statement
- HUD-1 Forms for those who have purchased or sold a home in 2009
- Bank routing and account numbers
- Receipts for deductible expenses
- 2011 Tax return
- Form 8332 signed by custodial parent if a non-custodial parent is claiming a child exemption.

The Tax Center will be open through April 15, but why wait? Gather your forms and make your appointment today. Remember, appointments can be made by calling 785-239-1040.

If you would like to comment on this column or suggest a topic for Community Corner, send an email to warmy.riley.incom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil.

SNOW ART



Judy Woodward | FORT RILEY
Two mini-snowmen adorn a yard after the first snowfall of the season Dec. 20. The snowmen were made by Savannah Woodward for entry into the Outdoor Recreation Center's Fort Riley Frosty Snowman contest. Each snowfall participants can send a photo of their snowmen to odr@riley-mwr.com to enter the contest for a chance to win prizes.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013 10AM-3PM at RILEY'S

Interactive conference with multiple seminars ranging from reunion challenges to stress reduction. This is a great opportunity to learn together with other Spouses that are going through the same situations. School Age and Middle School/Teen children are welcome and encouraged to attend this event, which will have activities and age specific discussions. Join us in learning how to not just survive redeployment but thrive!

Please contact ACS to RSVP at 785-239-9435.

Onsite childcare available, registration needed by Jan 2nd at 785-239-9435. CYSS registration is not required but shot records must be shown at drop off.

All you can eat pasta bar will be available for \$7.50.

Prizes given away throughout the day, Kindle Fires and 1 Tablet as the grand finale! (Must be present to win.)



FORT RILEY (open Jan. 23, 2013) TAX CENTER

FREE SERVICE · SAVE HUNDREDS · CALL 785.239.1040

WHAT

2010 to 2012 Federal and State
Income Tax Returns Filed

- Will only file State Income Tax Return when filing your Federal return;
- No more than two rental properties;
- No business returns except for childcare providers on post;
- Prior two year tax returns reviewed and amended if prepared by the Fort Riley Tax Center.

HOURS

0900-1800 Monday-Friday
(appointments and walk-ins)
0900-1300 Saturday (walk-ins only)
** including training holidays

WHERE

Located at Building 7034
(Normandy & Bullard)

CONTACT

785.239.1040

DON'T FORGET THE BELOW ITEMS!

- Social Security cards (required for everyone, including children);
- Power of Attorney (if filing jointly and one spouse is signing for the other spouse);
- All W-2 Forms;
- All 1099-R Forms (Pension, Retirement, IRA, etc.);
- All 1099-INT Forms (Interest Income);
- All 1099-DIV Forms (Dividends and Distributions);
- Form 1098 (Mortgage Interest Statement);
- Form 1098-E (Student Loan Interest Statement);
- Form 1098-T (Tuition Statement);
- Closing documents for those who have purchased or sold a home in 2012;
- Bank routing and account numbers (required for direct deposit of refunds);
- Receipts for deductible expenses (if you are itemizing deductions);
- 2011 tax returns (if you have rental property income or converted a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA);
- Form 8332 signed by custodial parent (if you are a non-custodial parent claiming a child exemption or Divorce Decree if divorce was final before July 2008.);
- Childcare statements for services paid in 2012;
- Property Tax Statements for homes and vehicles.