

COMMUNITY CORNER

Safety is top priority at Fort Riley, garrison commander says

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

One of my top priorities as the garrison commander at Fort Riley is safety. It is something I take very seriously and it is something I feel we need to work together to improve every day. On- and off-duty accidents can affect our workplace, and we must ensure we are mitigating risks to safety hazards.

At Fort Riley, we have 10 safety goals:

- Goal 1: Zero suicides
- Goal 2: Maintain zero class A and B accident rate
- Goal 3: Reduce class C and D accidents by 10 percent
- Goal 4: Reduce non-

appropriated funds, or NAF, employees' lost workdays by 10 percent

- Goal 5: Reduce appropriated funds, or NAF, employees' lost workdays by 20 percent
- Goal 6: 100 percent of accidents reported on time
- Goal 7: Improve safety communication
- Goal 8: 100-percent correction of shortcomings/deficiencies noted during Standard Army Safety and Occupational Health Inspections
- Goal 9: Implement safety award/incentive program



Col. Clark

• Goal 10: Compete for Army-level safety awards

These goals remain the same yearlong; however, each quarter, the post will focus on hazards that may be specific to that time of year.

For example, in the second quarter of fiscal year 2013, which runs from January to March, safety priorities are:

- Slips, trips and falls: These are the leading cause of lost days for our employees.
- Periods of limited visibility due to shorter days or weather-related issues often make it difficult to see hazards that may cause slips, trips or falls. In your work areas, be vigilant about maintaining surfaces so they are clear of liquids or

tripping hazards.

• Exertion and/or lifting stress: On-the-job related lifting as well as lifting for physical fitness can lead to injury. Before participating in either activity, consider and identify the risk factors.

• Operations support: As our units redeploy/reintegrate and as weather-related support increases, so does the possibility of work-related stressors. Identify and mitigate these before performing any job that may be somewhat out of the ordinary.

• Winter weather conditions: Snow, ice and heavy winds are among some of the winter weather-related hazards that cause safety issues – espe-

cially on our roads. Road conditions this time of year are not optimal. As a driver, one must adjust for these conditions.

Our commanders understand the importance of safety and encourage the use of tools to mitigate risks.

Tools include the Composite Risk Management system as the primary decision-making process to identify hazards, reduce risk and prevent loss. For those traveling, use of Travel Risk Planning System, or TRiPS, is encouraged, if not required.

With that, I ask that you help ensure you and your battle buddy, friend or coworker are always keeping safety in mind. Utilize the resources at your disposal. And if you see

something that appears unsafe, notify your unit or organization's safety officer or contact your safety officer.

The Garrison Safety Office offers training and information on all safety matters, ranging from defensive driving to severe weather safety.

For more information on training and training materials, call the safety office at 785-239-2514 or visit www.1starmy.mil/UnitPage.aspx?unit=usag.safety.

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

K-State's sequicentennial to celebrate 1st black male, female graduates

K-STATE MEDIA RELATIONS

MANHATTAN – George Washington Owens looked around his classmates and realized he was the only black student in his class. He was determined to be the first black student to graduate.

"I found to my surprise that I was the only colored student enrolled in the college, and they had never had a colored graduate," he later wrote in an autobiography. "So, I resolved to be the first."

Not only did he become Kansas State University's first black student to graduate, but he also graduated with distinction in 1899 and took just three and-a-quarter years to earn his degree. Two years later, Minnie Howell Champe earned the distinction of becoming the university's first black female graduate.

During K-State's 150th anniversary this year, the university is celebrating diversity and honoring Owens and Champe, both of whom went on to become influential educators. "Since (K-State) was founded in 1863, the university has been open to any student who met entry requirements," said Pat Patton, research specialist at the university archives. "Minnie and George set examples

and are an inspiration to this day for all students." University archives staff members have researched the lives of Owens and Champe, delving into records and interviewing family members.

Tony Crawford, curator of manuscripts, researched Owens, while Patton helped uncover the story of Champe in 2001. Champe's graduating class could not afford a class book, so little was known about her until that time. "These two students paved the way for future students and demonstrated how an education can change lives," Patton said.

Born near Alma, Kan., Owens was the son of ex-slaves from Tennessee. His father was given land in Wabunsee County to start a farm, where Owens often worked. During his college years, Owens worked on the university farm, in the dairy and as a janitor.

He graduated in 1899 with a bachelor's degree in general science and became the director of agriculture at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. There, he was in charge of the dairy herd and worked with Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver.

In 1908, Owens helped establish the agriculture department at Virginia State Uni-

versity. He served as the head of the agriculture department until 1927. A building at Virginia State University later was named in his honor.

Owens "was progressive, not boastful, loved his work and made untold sacrifices to promote its progress," a colleague wrote. "He never discussed college at that time, but Minnie was courageous. It's extraordinary what she accomplished."

Champe was proud to be a K-Stater, Patton said. She paid her dues in 1922 to become a member of the alumni association, later paying for a lifetime membership, and she often visited campus after graduating.

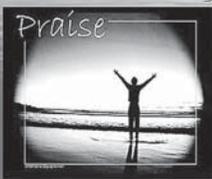
Champe became a home economics teacher in Topeka at the Industrial Institute, and, later, taught in Kansas City, Kan., and Petersburg, Va. She became the head of the home economics department at Southern University and A&M College in Louisiana, but left in 1938 due to ill health to live in Kansas City with her sister.

She later moved to Manhattan to live with her daughter, Frances Annette Allen, at 811 Yuma St. and became the director of the Douglass Community Center in 1946. Champe died in 1948.

Champe earned a bachelor's degree from K-State in domestic science. Although her father died of typhoid fever her sophomore year of college, she continued her education.

Fort Riley Weekly Luncheon

Bible Study



When: Noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays

Where: Fort Riley USO – next to Burger King on Custer Hill

What: Weekly free lunch – Fort Riley USO and chaplain-led Bible study

POC's: Chap. Adriatico 239-9530, Chap. Ball 240-3855

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You can't smell it,
but everyone else can.
If you smoke, you must be 50 feet
away from building entrances on post.