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Weather Forecast	Today  High:87 Low:64
Friday 	Saturday  High:90 Low:64

Fort Riley Post



Softball season ends
The Fort Riley company level softball season came to a close this week with the championship tournament at the post softball complex.

THURSDAY

August 29, 2002 America's Warfighting Center Vol. 45, No. 35



Soldiers from Battery C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, set up an OE-254 antenna used for long range radio systems.

Troops fine tune warfighting skills

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

All 1st Brigade battalions took part in a tactical operation center/battle simulation exercise this week. The exercise involved field units working in conjunction with the Battle Simulator at DePuy Hall.

"The focus is to train on maneuver control with all the battalions in the brigade using both tactical elements and computer simulation," said Sgt. Mike Alexander, 1st Brigade communications chief.

There are several training and morale

benefits to the exercise. It will help train soldiers who are new to the brigade for the basic things we do in the field," said Alexander. "An exercise like this gives soldiers the opportunity to do their job in a tactical environment and practice and hone their skills. It also gives us the opportunity to experience more about the basic soldiering skills, like the challenge and password. An exercise like this can cover everything from drivers training to actually having a battle. We cover a great deal of combat training, and it can be fun too."

Pfc. Juan Caldera, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, prepares for a DNVLT, a non-secure telephone.

Soldier readiness goal of program

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Late one night, you get the call — the call telling you to bring your bags and equipment and report to your company area. You hurriedly grab all your stuff, shove it in your duffel bags, throw on your BDUs and run to your car. By the time you make it to the company area, most of the other soldiers are there, wondering what's going on. You run to formation, just before the first sergeant says that the unit is deploying to an undisclosed location in less than 24 hours. You are turned over to your platoon sergeant who immediately informs the group that you are about to go through the Soldier Readiness Program.

You are shuffled along to the gym down the street. When you walk in, you see a dozen or so stations set up, each with a number. You wait in line and go through the SRP, which makes sure you are ready to deploy.

The Soldier Readiness Program helps to ensure that all troops are ready for deployment. There are many different steps that go along with this, and each play a vital role in making sure the soldier is ready to deploy and that his or her family is taken care of.

SRPs are usually set up so each soldier goes from station to station, checking off items after each is complete according to the Soldier Readiness Program. The process whereby the installation's various agencies check and ensure that anything associated with the soldier and his

or her family's well-being is taken care of so that soldier is ready to deploy," said Maj. Scott Wilson, deputy GI.

Those checks include medical, dental, legal, family issues - and many other areas that are crucial to soldier readiness," he added. "The SRP ensures that everything here at home station is taken care of so the soldier is not distracted and is fully focused on the mission at hand.

There are many stations that soldier have to go through as a part of the SRP.

The legal assistance office helps with the first couple of stations. One of those is preparing a Last Will and Testament. This will ensure that the designee will get all the deceased soldier's possessions.

"Wills, powers of attorney including temporary guardianships, trusts in the will, and counseling on (Servicemembers Group Life Insurance) are the primary estate planning services we provide at the SRP," said Capt. Jason Bell, legal assistance officer for 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley. "We also can counsel soldiers on any other legal issue they may have such as requesting a delay in a civil court hearing, assistance dealing with debt collectors, and various other consumer and military law issues. Legal assistance is the soldier's lawyer."

The Legal Assistance Office also prepares a Power of Attorney, which gives the designee the power to act on the soldier's behalf during their absence. That person can pay your bills or buy a

Chaplains offer mentorship, counseling to servicemembers

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

If you've ever talked to a chaplain, and most soldiers have, then you know that they can offer a listening ear and sympathy for anyone that needs it.

The chaplains are the guidance counselors of the Army, ensuring that all soldiers are coping well with the stress of their positions and safeguarding the right to freedom of religion. Chaplains need to take care of this need as much in the field as they do in garrison.

"It's kind of like being a doctor making the rounds to see how the soldiers are doing physically, only we check to see how the soldiers are doing spiritually and emotionally," said Chap. (Capt.) Brian Reed, chaplain for 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery.

The responsibilities of fulfilling this duty are many, which often requires following the units to which they are assigned into battle.

"Every battalion has a chaplain and chaplains assistant that deploy any time the battalion deploys," said Pfc. Phillip Olt, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) chaplain's assistant.

The primary mission of the chaplains stresses their importance as a comfort to all soldiers, regardless of their place and type of duty.

"We call it a ministry of presence, for lack of a better term," said Reed. "What that means, ministry of presence, is just being available. We joke around with the soldiers out there and visit with them and ask them how their day was. Sometimes we get responses as varied as 'great' or 'it was terrible,' and sometimes it gives them an opportunity to open up about other things."

"We try to be there for them and visit all the units before they go into battle," add Olt.

The chaplain's role is, perhaps, even more important in the field than in garrison. In the field, stress levels tend to run higher and more soldiers feel they are in need of a chaplain, according to Reed.

"This is a nice office," he said.

"It's private, but if someone sees them walking in the door then they might say 'oh, he's going to see the chaplain for counseling.' You really have a better opportunity to talk to them in the field because when you're out there talking to everyone, nobody is going to know when a conversation takes a turn to actual counseling. It also gives them an opportunity to really open up about things that are going on at home; if they have a problem with their wife or their girlfriend or just to complain about the training environment. People aren't looking for you in garrison."

"When they see the chaplains out there, it also gives them a sense of 'well, they're out here too' and they feel closer to us, and maybe more likely to talk," Reed said.

"I think we perform a very important service on the battlefield," said Olt. "We, hopefully, will never have to pick up a weapon and kill anyone, but we serve as a force multiplier.

Chaplains work with everyone, from the highest levels of the chain of command to the privates in the field, focusing on the basic human in all soldiers.

"We arrange to meet with any soldiers who desire a (religious) service or need to talk to a chaplain. We also attend a Tactical Operation Center at the beginning of every day and have a service, not exactly a briefing, more of just a chaplain's thought of the day. We meet with the leaders and see that everything is going well from their level."

When asked whether he considered his role to be more as a counselor or a minister, Reed hesitated to find an answer.

"Yes," he said. "By that I mean both, counselor and minister. I would say about 60 percent counselor and 40 percent minister, although I see the roles overlapping. Even part of what civilian ministers do is counseling."

Yet, chaplains do have a religious role to play, often considered their primary role, although not the least of their duties.

New leadership welcomed with ceremony

By Steven Cooke
Staff Writer

The Welcoming Ceremony in honor of Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, assistant division commander (Forward), 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, took place Aug. 23 on Ware Parade Field.

As the new assistant division commander, Hood is replacing Brig. Gen. Walter Wodkowski, now the deputy commanding general, V Corps, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

Hood said during his remarks that he remembered looking at Fort Riley through his rear view mirror when he was leaving the post after completing Reserve Officers Training Corps summer camp.

"A long time ago I was at Fort Riley," said Hood. "It was about 28 years ago I put Fort Riley in the rear view of my baby blue 1966 Mustang as I pulled out of ROTC summer camp. That was the start of an Army adventure that would lead to many challenges all over the world. I am delighted that it has brought me back to Fort Riley with the opportunity to serve the soldiers of this great division, especially those Maj. Gen. Metz has tasked me to work with, the soldiers of the 30th, 218th and 48th Enhanced Brigades."

Hood went on to say that it is great to be at Fort Riley.

"After having spent the year in the Balkans, especially Kosovo," said Hood, "it is a great day for me; a great day to be in the United States of America; a great day to be on this parade field on Fort Riley, Kan., and a great day to be a soldier in 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized)."

In his speech, Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, said the addition of Hood completed the 24th Inf. Div. team.

"He's the right soldier, in the right place, at the right time," said Metz.

Metz said he knows he can



Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, assistant division commander (Forward), 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, and his wife, Lynne, greet attendees at their Welcoming Ceremony.

Senior leaders attend orientation course

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

A two-day Senior Leaders Orientation Course was held Aug. 21 - 22 for new leaders at the Family Life Support Center.

Due to the recent high turnover rate of senior leaders on Fort Riley, such as battalion and brigade commanders and command sergeants major, this seminar was a chance for all the leaders to sit down together and familiarize all of them with the programs and facilities available on Fort Riley.

"It was a great two-day conference," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Savitski, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment. "We gathered all of the senior leaders on post here, focusing on issues we thought were important, giving out a lot of information which showed all of the agencies that are available on post. We actually got the help of the spouses to orient them on things that happen on post."

The spouses of the soldiers attending the conference were also invited, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of the commanders in adapting their families to Fort Riley.

"In the two days of the conference, we heard of the facilities here at Fort Riley," said Scott Mattis, a military spouse present at the meeting, "programs that are in place here for soldiers and their

Labor Day has long history: Celebrate holiday with care

Few people remember Peter McGuire, an Irish-American cabinetmaker and co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, or Matthew Maguire, a machinist and former secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. Both campaigned in 1882 for a day to honor laborers in the United States. It is unclear who first asked for this holiday, but 12 years later their hard labor paid off when President Grover Cleveland signed a bill declaring Labor Day as an official holiday.

This weekend we will celebrate Labor Day and mark the end of a great summer. I am asking everyone to keep safety in mind and remember that travel, water sports and other recreational activities can increase the risk for tragedy.

I hope that you will use the following

tips and help ensure the safe return of you and your family from holiday festivities.

Privately owned vehicle accidents are the number one killer of soldiers. With more people on the road this weekend, there will be an increased opportunity for accidents.

Before driving any- where, it is important to thoroughly inspect your vehicle and make sure everything is maintained properly. If embarking on a long trip, it is equally important to ensure the driver has had plenty of rest to prevent him or her from falling asleep at the wheel. Driving while drowsy can be just as dangerous as driving while intoxicated.

As always, remember to designate a sober driver if you choose to drink alcohol this weekend. Additional threats to your safety on the road are aggressive drivers. So, I am asking each of you to watch out for others on the road and be wary of drunk, tired or aggressive drivers.

Many people will be headed to the lake to seek refuge from the heat and to celebrate the last holiday of the summer season. This summer we had two water-related accidents at Milford Lake during a one-week period. One soldier and his family survived a boating accident when their boat overturned and sank. They

were rescued after spending several hours in the water. In a separate incident, a Fort Riley resident dove into unknown waters at Milford Lake and received an eye injury that detached his retina. These accidents serve as reminders of why safety will be kept in mind while on the water. Remember, alcohol and water do not mix, swim only in designated areas and wear life jackets when boating.

The Risk Management Process is Fort Riley's principle risk-reduction method. Applying the process to your Labor Day activities will reduce the risks associated with the holiday weekend. The first step in risk reduction is to identify and assess the hazards. After this has been done, you

should develop controls that can be used to reduce or mitigate the hazards.

Once you select the appropriate controls, use them. A plan is only good if it is followed. Finally, it is important to monitor the situation and adjust as necessary to keep things under control.

For more safety information, visit the Directorate of Environment and Safety website at www.riley.army.mil/services/fort/safety.asp or call the DES Safety Division at 239-2514. I have found this site to be extremely informative and it can help us keep Fort Riley accident-free.

On a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy, fun and safe Labor Day weekend - celebrate safely!

Around Fort Riley: By Col. John Simpson, Garrison Commander

Digital delivery speeds up official photos

By Patrick Swan
Army News Service

A new digital way to send official military photographs is providing a "picture-perfect" means of delivery to soldiers' personnel files and it may be in time for thousands of photos otherwise eligible for promotion boards but lack official photos in their personnel files.

"Without those photos in their records, those soldiers are at a distinct disadvantage for promotion," said Command Sgt. Maj. Deborah Siemer, sergeant major for the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center in Indianapolis, Ind.

This initiative is called the Department of the Army Photo-Management Information System, which receives digitized, official DA photos directly from the Army's worldwide photo labs. It is specifically designed to eliminate DA photo-accountability problems, such as lost, incorrect or damaged hard-copy photos, said Lt. Col. Georgia Bouie, chief, Officer Systems Branch, Total Army Personnel Command.

"The DAPMIS initiative supports both Personnel Transformation and the Army's Knowledge Management Strategy," said Lt. Col. Curtis H. Nutbrown, action officer with the Strategic Partnering Directorate for Army Knowledge Management, Chief Information Office and G-6. "In this case, PERSCOM was able to redesign business processes and apply web-based capabilities to support these new processes. With DAPMIS, we get a system that is faster, more responsive and soldier friendly."

At the same time, DAPMIS supports the Army's migration of

business and customer support applications to Army Knowledge Online, the Army Portal. The goal is to use AKO as the one-stop information site for the Army.

While DAPMIS will be fully implemented this summer, there will be a transition period where hardcopy photos will still be printed, said Lt. Col. Stan Heath, PERSCOM public affairs officer. Soldiers will be given hard-copy photos to mail to PERSCOM during a three- to six-month transition period.

"Some personnel will be able to view their photos online initially and will also be given photos to mail in for their file," Heath said. "The rule of thumb will be, if you're given photos, then mail them in."

"Digital photos being placed online is a system that was designed to allow soldiers to view and accept the same image that promotion, schools and other selection boards will see," Ray Davis, Fort Riley visual information specialist said. "Most installations have currently been allowing soldiers to see hard copy or original photos prior to their being forwarded to the Military Personnel Center. However, many of the boards are being set-up to be conducted utilizing computer terminals for the board members to review records and other pertinent information during their selection process," Davis continued. "Since scanning and inserting photos can require a great deal of manpower, a system was devised for the originating organization to upload the images directly to the files."

By eliminating the requirement for hard-copy photos, DAPMIS saves the Army approximately \$1.6 million annually in material

and equipment costs, Bouie said. This figure is based on a \$4 production cost and a \$4 lab-handling fee per photo multiplied 207 thousand photos yearly. A side benefit is that DAPMIS provides a management tool for the Army's photo lab managers to increase quality, and control the operating costs of their facilities.

More importantly, it saves soldiers time, energy and the out-of-pocket costs associated with mailing or hand-carrying to PERSCOM duplicate, hard-copy replicas of their digital photos, Bouie said. She estimated those annual costs top \$300 thousand for all affected soldiers.

For instance, a last-minute, overnight mailing can cost \$12 or more, Siemer said. "And those duplicate photos must still be scanned upon receipt," she continued. "In addition, those scanned photos don't look near as good as the digital ones we receive."

The sergeant major said DAPMIS also eliminates a trip back to the photo studio by soldiers to review their printed photo.

"This is because, with DAPMIS, a soldier's photo is automatically forwarded to the centralized-data base used by Army selection boards, branch-assignment officers, soldiers and commanders. The soldier is given three days in which to approve the stored photo. Soldiers review and approve such stored photos

through their Army Knowledge Online accounts on the Army Portal, www.usarmy.mil. The photos are part of AKO's password-protected section for Official Military Personnel Files.

As a result, DAPMIS shortens the preparatory time required for selection boards and branch assignments.

Bouie said the first phase of DAPMIS development began in late 1999, using bar coding of hard-copy photos to increase photo accountability. In the next phase, the Army designed and successfully validated the concept of a digitized photo-processing system. The third phase of DAPMIS implements the system worldwide.

"We're really just catching up with technology already being used in the private sector," Siemer said. "Our soldiers are already doing banking online and sending online greeting cards to family and friends. They have confidence these 'transactions' will get through. DAPMIS is one aspect of a concept with which soldiers are already familiar."

"At this time, the system is in a test phase at Fort Riley and Army-wide," Davis said. "And we have not been given a date that the program will become totally operational for all facilities."

For more information on DAPMIS, call the Training Support Center, Photo Production Branch at 239-3871.

Grunt By Wayne Udden



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Orientation continued from page 1

family members and the actual mission of the 24th Infantry Division."

"Primarily the part that I was involved with was the spouses part," said Pearl Speer, Army Community Service Family program manager. "What that was, was to inform incoming senior leader spouses about what's available at Fort Riley, what's going on and where they might fit in. We also involve spouses who have been there awhile, both for a refresher and so they can help the new spouses."

"There are several reasons this conference is important, but one of them is the networking that goes on between the spouses. Another is that it's good for them to get the party lines so they know what information that is out there," said Martis.

"I think it's really important because I think a lot of the soldiers may have the information, but they're not real good at bringing that information home to their spouses," said Martis. "And by inviting family members to the

conference, they help to pass out that information."

According to Speer, the Soldier Family Support Center is an integral part in the lives of families living on Fort Riley, which may have been a factor in choosing the Family Life Support Center as the site of the conference.

"The Soldiers Family Support Center is an area that runs programs for assisting families, for working with prevention programs," she said. "It combines the services of the Army community service, the drug and alcohol program, the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program and the American Red Cross are here, they're all a part of the soldier and family support command."

This conference was generally considered to be an improvement over last year's conference, as it focused more on the importance of settling into the Fort Riley community.

"I attended this conference last year and a lot of the same topics were presented last year that worked," said Martis, "but the fla-

vor and format of presenting the same information made it a lot more fun and more lighthearted."

It also served as a refresher course for those who had attended both conferences.

"I learned a great deal of things," Martis said. "Coming in you think that, well, I'm going to hear a lot of the same things, and that's true, but it's always a good thing reminding yourself what's available here and also new programs that have come out since last year."

The lighthearted atmosphere also contributed to a more relaxed feeling for the incoming soldiers as well.

The information presented at these meetings not only made the leaders more comfortable with their environment, but also may help them to become better leaders.

"What I want to do now is take everything I've learned here and take it back to my battalion and let my troops know how important it is," Savitski said.

Chaplains continued from page 1

"Every unit tries to have a Catholic priest available that can perform last rights," said Ott. "We also hold services in the field."

"I am here to make sure that every soldier has a free exercise of his religion, whatever he believes," said Reed.

Chaplains are all licensed ministers, so they are able to lead services for the religions to which they subscribe. For all other religions, they provide what help they can.

"I am a Christian," said Reed, "so I cannot perform ceremonies

of other religions because it goes against my own beliefs, but I help to advertise their service and to provide them with any materials that they have asked for."

Reed once based a protestant service around the Old Testament for a Jewish soldier, and has provided for the dining needs of Jewish and Buddhist soldiers, among other things.

Above all, however, a chaplain is there to be someone to talk to, for any soldier at any rank, said Reed.

"Not every soldier is looking

for you to provide a spiritual need, most just need an ear, he added.

"Half of the soldiers I council don't want solutions. They want an ear, they need to hear themselves think and solve their own problems. I just help them."

Talk Around Town

"Do you recycle and why?"



"Everybody recycles in 1st Engineers. We have to clean out trash cans if we don't. In our company areas, we have containers set up for paper, bottles, cans and regular trash."

*Spec. Brad Austin
Company C,
1st Engineer Battalion*



"We normally recycle all of our tin cans and plastic bottles, scrap metal, computer paper and anything else we can. I think it's important because we want to have a clean, nice planet for our kids in the future."

*Spec. Jared Hartman
HHC, 1st Battalion,
16th Infantry*



"I recycle newspapers and cans because those two things can be recycled, and there's a place here on post you can take them to."

*Jill Duggins
Shift Manager,
Main Post Shoppette*

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schedule

Briefs

Holiday Refuse Schedule

Due to the upcoming holiday on Monday, the refuse collection schedule will change as follows: Monday is the holiday and there will be no pick-up on that day. On Tuesday, pick-up will be at Colyer Manor, Main Post and Marshall Air Field. On Wednesday, pick-up will be at Ellis Heights, Monteth Heights, Peterson Heights and O'Donnell Heights. On Thursday, pick-up will be at Warner Heights and Burnside Heights, and on Friday, pick-up will be at Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Peterson and South Warner. Due to the holiday, there will be no large item pick-ups.

MWR Holiday Hours

Due to the holiday Monday, MWR facilities will have adjusted hours as follows: Arts & Crafts will be closed Friday and Monday, and hours Saturday and Sunday will be 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; the bowling center will be closed Monday and will have normal hours Friday, Saturday and Sunday; Riley's Conference Center will be closed Monday; Rally Point will be closed Sunday and Monday, and no lunch will be served Friday; ITR will be closed Monday and will be open normal hours Friday and Saturday; the Automotive Shop will be closed Sunday and Monday, and hours Friday and Saturday will be 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Leonard Gym and King Field House will be open

9-11 Memorial Service

A memorial service will be held at the Junction City Park on Washington Street on Sept. 11 to honor those whose lives were lost in the terrorist strikes. Beginning at 6 a.m., displays of emergency and military vehicles will be available for public viewing. At 8 a.m., the memorial service will begin. The service will include a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps. A moment of silence and the singing of "God Bless America" will follow. The ceremony has been arranged to follow the timeline of the events that actually took place on Sept. 11.

Apple Day

Join in the celebration for Apple Day, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Cavalry Parade Field. There will be apples pies, historic encampments, a veterans' tent, honor guard demonstrations, a night vision display and more. Apple Day is Sept. 28 and 1,000 apple pies will be made for the event. Pre-pie sales are now underway. Pies are \$7 and must be paid for at the time of the order. Call Gail Asher at 717-3263 or e-mail her at applepie@cs.com for order information. Frozen pies can be picked up Sept. 17 at the parking lot near building 404 at the corner of Holbrook and Pershing on Main Post 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 4:30 - 7 p.m. Volunteers are needed to make the pies. Pies will be made Sept. 10-12. Call Marlee Marshall at 784-6670 to volunteer or contact her at

Wild West Night

MWR, 937th Engineer Group and MEDDAC will be sponsoring the Wild West Night Sept. 26, 6 p.m. - midnight at Riley's Conference Center. There will be a variety of games, silent and live auction, line dancing, old time photos, Suttler, DJ, door prizes and grub. Tickets are \$20 and includes meal and \$40 funny money. This adult event is open to DoD card holders and guests. For more information, call 239-5614.

FRHG Encampment

A Fort Riley Honor Guard encampment featuring soldiers dressed in period uniforms, a campsite and horses on the picket line is scheduled for display at the U.S. Cavalry Museum, building 205, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Aug. 31. According to Bill McKale, director, U.S. Cavalry Museum, this display is a great way for visitors to talk to the soldiers and experience firsthand the living conditions of soldiers during the Civil War. "This is a great educational opportunity to talk with soldiers dressed in period uniforms," McKale said. "The FRHG encampment display gives the public a chance to learn about the mounted color guard. It also allows people to gain a broader knowledge of Fort Riley's rich heritage, leading up to the post becoming Americas Warfighting Center." McKale believes that having the encampment on the museum grounds may encourage people to explore Fort Riley's rich history

with visits to the U.S. Cavalry Museum, the Regimental and Constabulary Museum and the Custer House, as well as the self-guided walking and driving tours.

Elections Approaching

The 2002 general election is fast approaching (Nov. 5) and Federal Voting Assistance Program officials are sponsoring Armed Forces Voters Week, Sept. 1-7. The week is designed for military installations worldwide to highlight voting issues. For more information, contact, Lt. Brad Hunstable, at 239-6694.

The Thrift Shop

Come see the wide selection of clothes, military uniforms, house-

wares, furniture, jewelry, collectibles, movies, music, sporting goods, seasonal items and lots more! Volunteer opportunities available and volunteers are reimbursed for childcare. For more information, call 784-3874. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., on the first Saturday of each month. The Thrift Shop is located in building 267, Stuart Ave. (near the Fort Riley Honor Guard Stables).

The Thrift Shop is now accepting fall clothes. They will pick up donations in good condition on post.

The Shoppe

Come browse the selection of antiques and hand-crafted items. We are adding new consignors

each week. There is free childcare for volunteers!

Call The Shoppe for details, 239-2783. The Shoppe is located in building 259, Stuart Ave. (just west of the Fort Riley Honor Guard Stables). Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday.

Astronaut to visit Chapman

Chapman native son, astronaut General Joe Engle, will be at the dedication of the Joe Engle Chapman Historic Trail Walk on Monday, 10 a.m., at the Kansas Auto Racing Museum. A reception will follow the dedication. For more information, call (785) 922-6642 or (785) 263-1770.

Readiness continued from page 1

car, so careful consideration should go into choosing the person who will act on the soldier's behalf, according to Bell. There are several types of Powers of Attorney. A general Power of Attorney gives the designee the power to make all decisions and actions in the soldier's name. A special Power of Attorney gives the designee power in the area that the soldier's name. A medical Power of Attorney is needed for childcare and babysitters because it gives them the power to bring children to the hospital. "Powers of attorney can be extremely helpful in allowing your agent to take care of your personal business while you are

deployed," said Bell. "For instance, you could give your spouse a power of attorney to ship your household goods and sign for government quarters. Most businesses will accept a power of attorney drafted by the Legal Assistance Office, but you should contact the business ahead of time if possible. Some institutions require you to use a specific form. Other powers of attorney, often called Advanced Directives, allow you to nominate a person or persons to make medical decisions for you should you be unable to do so yourself." Then the medics have their turn during the SRP. One of the stations makes sure soldiers are

current on all shots, from flu to typhoid. The optometrists check soldiers' eyes and ensure they have glasses and inserts for your protective masks. A medic also may check the soldier's hearing with a test that makes them listen for a series of beeps. Finally, the Personnel Action Center will update emergency contacts, SGLI and records before deploying. They also order a second pair of I.D. tags if needed. Going through the Soldier Readiness Program should ensure that the soldier's family is taken care of back home should and he or she can concentrate on the mission at hand.

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Fort Riley Community

In Step on Channel 2

6:30 a.m. In Step
8 a.m. In Step
Noon In Step
6 p.m. In Step
10 p.m. In Step

August 29, 2002

America's Warfighting Center

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Women's Equality Day Celebration honors contributions to society

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

Women's Equality Day was celebrated Aug. 21 with an ethnic observance at Riley's Conference Center.

The purpose of Women's Equality Day is to commemorate the suffragettes who fought for women's right to vote, said Master Sgt. Paul Donnelly, senior Equal Opportunity advisor for Fort Riley.

The observance began with a slide show of women in the workplace while Sgt. 1st Class Azelia Haley from the Command Chaplain's Office sang "Proud to be an American." Donnelly then introduced guest speaker Helen Gough, deputy garrison commander.

Following the guest speaker, the Geary County Historical Society presented a fashion show entitled "A Day in the Life of a Victorian Lady." Lunch was served to the guests after the presentation.

In her speech, Gough spoke briefly about some statistics on women from the March 2000 census. The statistics show that women are becoming better educated and more prominent in the workplace, said Gough. "Equal pay for equal work is finally being realized," she said.

Gough then went on to speak about some of the choices women make in the workplace. "Some choices are made by women that perpetuate the disparity in income between men and women," she said.

"Many women choose to stop working to raise children," she said. Although this is a good thing for our families, when they return to the workforce women often do not return to the kind of jobs that are financially competitive, she

said. Women often get their degree in a "helping profession," such as social services or teaching, which are generally lower paying professions, said Gough. "Women therapists often choose to charge less for their services than their male counterparts," she added.

"Women also tend to avoid more physical jobs that are higher paying," said Gough. "This is not necessarily because they are unable to do the job, they simply have no desire for them," she added.

Gough also spoke about finding a dream that compliments your personality. "If you value variety and freedom, you probably will not be happy spending 30 years in a job and retiring," she said. "However, if you value stability, you probably don't want to work as an entrepreneur," she added.

Establishing goals was another point that Gough spoke about. "To be effective, goals should be balanced between professional, personal, family and spiritual," she said.

She also encouraged the setting of a plan of action to help accomplish goals and take responsibility for your future.

Gough talked about mentoring and the differences between male and female mentors. She gave several pitfalls to avoid while mentoring. "Don't be afraid to mentor," she said. "Remember that you don't have to do it all to be effective."

She also spoke about networking possibilities in informal relationships. "The most effective workers have the largest social circles," she said. "Networking can be a key to success," she added.

Gough summed up by saying,

"Take control, establish your dream, set goals and develop those informal relationships."

"(Women's Equality Day) is also to celebrate the history of women and to celebrate their accomplishments," said Donnelly. "Many of them have not been noticed as much as accomplishments of men have. We want to get the word out about the tremendous accomplishments of women. We want to refocus our efforts to ensure an environment for our mothers, sisters and daughters to fulfill their potential."

Army Regulation 600-20 prohibits discrimination, Donnelly said. "The most proactive thing we can possibly do is train on these issues and dispel some of the things we grew up with so we can value the Army values of treating people fairly regardless of their gender," he said.



Nancy Hereford shows Victorian dress patterns during a fashion show. Arlene Richmond receives help from Nancy Hereford getting into a Victorian morning dress during the fashion show, "A Day in the Life of a Victorian Lady," presented by the Geary County Historical Society at the Women's Equality Day ethnic commemoration.

Essay contest to reflect on day not forgotten

By Kevin Doheny
19th PAD

On Sept. 10 of last year most Americans spent the day doing whatever it is they do on a Monday, a Monday where it seemed to just be another start to just another week.

Then came Tuesday, Sept. 11. As the morning started off as any other Tuesday for most of the United States, a country was drawn to their televisions as one of the most horrific events in U.S. history had their full attention.

Two airplanes were flown into the heart of the World Trade Center buildings, one into the Pentagon and one down in a rural area in Pennsylvania. America watched with terror as their fellow Americans in these hit areas, scrambled for their lives.

Now, as the anniversary of the 9-11 attacks nears, it is almost certain many across the United States will pay their respects to the fallen men and women who lost their lives in this chain of events.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), will follow suit with many others across the world, as they will also pay their respects to these men and women. They are having an observance essay contest, with the winner to read their essay during a small remembrance ceremony Sept. 11, along with a minute of silence.

"It was the 'Pearl Harbor' of the new generation," said Sergeant 1st Class Charles Ryan, Secretary of the General's Staff, 24th Inf. Div. "We as Americans truly learned that our enemies are every-

where. Regardless if our enemies hate us, fear us or are jealous of us, they struck a terrible blow to this country. That's the negative from 11 Sept. The positive is how Americans move forward and with patriotism."

Ryan, who came up with the idea, said Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hearron, command sergeant major, 24th Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, asked if the company was doing anything for Sept. 11. Then, Ryan proposed the idea to First Sgt. Cleveland Smith, HHC, 24th Inf. Div., and he agreed on the idea.

"HHC, 24th Inf. Div. is a very large company, and it is heavy with adjutant general soldiers," said Ryan. "No other branch in the Army suffered as many fatalities in the Pentagon Sept. 11, as did the AG."

The essays must be 100 words on why America should never forget the tragedies of Sept. 11, and each section in the company must submit one essay. The essay has no boundaries, and each of the soldiers are asked to give their opinion on that fateful day.

"I was in basic training at the time, and I was completely shocked," said Spec. Tiffany Verby, HHC, 24th ID, supply specialist. "I thought it was another drill. I left for the Army when everything was peaceful and a few weeks later a tragedy happened. I am still shocked that my country was attacked. The only difference now is that my pride for my country is on another level. I am proud to be a soldier and to wear my uniform."

These essays should show that, even miles and miles away from the attacks, Americans have not forgotten.

Classes help families learn about Army life

By Emily O'Connor
K-State Intern

Army Family Team Building classes will begin in September. These classes offer help to Army spouses and civilians who want to learn more about the customs, courtesies and intricacies of Army life.

According to Becky Willis, Army Family program manager, classes will begin soon. "Level I classes begin on Sept. 6 and meet every other Friday through Dec. 6," Willis said. "Advanced AFTB classes begin on Sept. 4 and take place every other Wednesday."

AFTB classes are all geared to make the transition to Army life successful and to provide families and those affiliated with the Army the knowledge to be self-reliant and confident in their abilities and place in the military world," said Jennifer Hoellein, AFTB master trainer.

Hoellein, an Army wife of more than seven years, attended all of her AFTB lessons in 1996 and Instructor Training in 1997 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. She feels that the classes made her more confident in dealing with everything related to the military. "I think knowledge is power and it made a big difference in my life to know where to go when I needed something and exactly what resources were at my disposal."

There are three different levels of AFTB classes helping students learn all about Army life. Level I classes cover topics such as military terms, acronyms and courtesies, the Chain of Command and the Chain of Concern, an introduction to military and civilian community resources and an introduction to the Army Family Action Planning Program. AFTB advanced classes cover more advanced concepts, but these classes don't have to be taken in a specific order and can be taken concurrently. Level II classes cover communication skills, meeting management and effective leadership, among other topics. Level III classes involve a look at group conflict management, problem-solving techniques for leaders and building a cohesive team.

"I married an E-7 and was expected to pick up and know all about the Army," Willis said. "I wish that this program had been around when I married into the military. I did not understand the language, demands, etc. This program would have made my life at least 100 times easier."

While the majority of AFTB students are Army spouses, civilians working for the Army are encouraged to attend the program, as well. "Civilians working for the Army benefit greatly from taking the classes," Hoellein said. "Most DA employees don't come from military backgrounds, so they are unaware of some of the programs and also again, the acronyms and the customs and courtesies. I think that going through, especially the Level I, classes would give civilian employees a good handle on the military environment."

Those interested in attending the classes or simply looking for more information can drop by the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264, or set up an appointment with Willis by calling 239-9435. Childcare is provided for Level I classes, but early enrollment is required as spaces are limited. The Armed Services YMCA also offers transportation to the Level I classes, if needed.

"When you think about it, happiness of family members factors into a soldier's decision to stay in the Army or get out," Hoellein said. "I think that well-informed, well-adjusted family members are a great way to get more soldiers to stay in and make the Army their career of choice."

Fort Riley students presented NCOA scholarships

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

The Noncommissioned Officers Association Scholarship Program awarded two scholarships to Fort Riley family members this summer.

Teresa Wright and Phillip Guthrie were chosen to receive the \$900 scholarships based on their answers to essay questions, their performance and potential, said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, command sgt. maj. of 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support) and chairman of the Ready Now Chapter of NCOA.

The panel, made up of educators and senior noncommissioned officers and petty officers, that reviews the applications considers many things when selecting scholarship recipients.

"The scholarships are not awarded based on need," said

Elder. "The student's grades, extra curricular activities and past performance are considered."

Sixteen scholarships were awarded out of 110 applications received, said Elder. "I am proud of the high return rate of Fort Riley entrants. Three applications were submitted from Fort Riley and two were selected."

The funding for the scholarships is raised by the NCOA through the annual Association-wide Holiday Card Fund Raising Program, in addition to generous donations from the members and chapters, said Elder. In more than 20 years, the NCOA has awarded more than \$11 million in scholarships, he added.

The NCOA is made up of non-commissioned officers and petty officers in each branch of the military. The scholarship program is offered throughout the Department of Defense, not just the Army, said Elder. It is open to

spouses and children of service-members.

The initial award is for one year, said Elder, but the student may be considered to receive this assistance throughout the four years of school if he maintains a "B" average and carries a minimum of 15 credit hours.

Wright, one of Fort Riley's recipients this year, is currently taking on-line classes from Barton Community College. With twin four-year-old boys, the flexible class times make it possible for her to continue working toward her teaching degree, she said.

In addition to the NCOA scholarship, Wright also received a \$500 combined scholarship from Fort Riley on-post organizations and some local area businesses. These scholarships have paid for most of her tuition and books, she said.

"With the cost of daycare, I would have to get a job just to pay

for childcare to attend school," she said.

Wright plans to have her teaching degree by the time her twins are in first grade. "I have always wanted to be teacher," she said.

"She promised her parents when she quit college that she would go back someday," said her husband, Staff Sgt. Verle Wright, Company C, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor.

Wright first decided to apply for the scholarship when her two older sons brought home paperwork for their own scholarships, she said. A member of the NCOA helped her to apply in March of this year.

"Without the scholarship, it would be more of a struggle," said Wright. "I might not even have been able to go to school without it."

For further information on the scholarship fund, contact Elder at 717-3009.



Open House, Apple Day celebration to feature pies, events

By Steven Cooke
Staff Writer

With Fort Riley's second Open House this year quickly approaching, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley's Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, appeared on "In Step with Fort Riley" recently to speak about what people can expect at the fall event.

Fort Riley's Fall Open House and Apple Day festivities will take place on Sept. 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Parking will be available on Main Post.

"It's a counter balance of the first one (this year)," said Metz.

"With the first one, I wanted to display Fort Riley to the public. This time I want to focus on the people who live at Fort Riley, so they can see how wonderful it is after the summer chgoovers of all the leaders. We're focusing inward instead of

outward."

Even though the upcoming open house will be smaller, it will feature some of the same events of the spring Open House, explained Metz.

"There will be rifle shooting and machine gun firing," said Metz. "The vendors and food will be similar."

Metz said he wants Fort Riley to get a flavor for the beautiful and historic post.

"The historical piece will be much more accomplished than it was during the spring," said Metz.

Going along with the historical theme will be Apple Day.

"People will get to sample wonderful apple pies or buy some to take home," said Metz. "They're wonderful, even if frozen after a while. You can save them until Thanksgiving or even as late as Christmas."

Apple Day is a once-a-year fund raising event sponsored by the Fort Riley

Historical and Archeological Society. The society makes 1,000 apple pies. They pre-sell 900 frozen pies and bake the remaining 100 for sale at the Custer House the day of the event. The unbaked and frozen pies are \$7 and sold on a first come, first served basis.

The fall open house will also feature historic exhibits, a veterans' tent, an exposition center as well as modern day tactical training activities.

Brad Carlton, chief, garrison operations, explained that this year's event will take off on the historical background of Fort Riley and build up to the mechanized force of today.

Another goal of the combined event is to introduce new soldiers and their families to what Fort Riley has to offer, not only in the way of military training and family support, but to share its rich heritage as well, he said.

An expo center will be the focal point

of the day's activities and interactive booths will be set up on Cavalry Parade Field.

A veterans' tent surrounded by historic vehicles and full of military and historic displays will be on the parade field and many other activities will be located all across the grounds, said Carlton. He added that local communities would have booths in the expo center to showcase attractions available in the surrounding areas of Junction City, Manhattan and Abilene.

Metz went on to speak about the Historic Homes Tour the day after the Open House, Sept. 29.

"Fort Riley has such beautiful quarters," said Metz. "They are historic and some are on the national register."

The tour will be from 2 to 5 p.m. and visit six historic houses on Main Post, including Quarters 1 and the Custer

House.

Metz said the tour is a chance to, "see not only the historical nature of the inside but how that particular family has decorated it."

Metz said that though the focus of the upcoming Open House will be more internal than external, anyone is welcome to attend.

"I'm certainly not going to turn anyone away who wants to visit Fort Riley," said Metz. "Fort Riley is not closed. We just prudently check IDs and car registration a little more carefully during this time of War on Terrorism."

For more information on the Open House and Apple Day, call 239-2022.

To order apple pies, e-mail appledaypie@cs.com or call 717-3263.

For information on the Historic Homes Tour, call Rachelle Boslego at 717-2818.

Armed Services Edition of 'War Letters' released

By Steven Cooke
Staff Writer

On May 1, Washington Square Books, a division of Simon & Schuster, began distribution of the first "Armed Services Edition" in 55 years. The newest ASE is a condensed paperback edition of Andrew Carroll's New York Times bestseller, "War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars."

Forty copies of Carroll's books made their way into the hands of Fort Riley's Task Force 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, soldiers in Kuwait.

Jennifer Hathaway, volunteer program coordinator, Army Family Team Building, explained how it came about.

"I went home to visit my parents, and on the way there I read a magazine article on the Armed Services Edition.

Intrigued by the article, Hathaway said she decided to do some research on the Internet. She came across a general e-mail address and for more information. She sent an e-mail to find out how she could purchase some books to send to Kuwait for her husband and his soldiers. Hathaway got more than she expected.

"Carroll happened to respond back and offered to send the books for free," said Hathaway.

"He asked for my husband Army Post Office address, and within two weeks my husband received 40 free editions," said Hathaway.

Hathaway said the books proved to be a bittersweet hit with the soldiers.

"They loved them. They were really excited to have the books to read," said Hathaway.

"They enjoyed the stories, but

it made them miss their own families."

Hathaway said she, herself, has a hard time reading the book.

"With my husband (being in Kuwait) I tend to get weepy (reading the book)," said Hathaway. "I read a few pages, then put it down."

War Letters, is a collection of personal letters by soldiers from all of America's wars.

Hathaway said she thinks the distribution of the letters is a great idea.

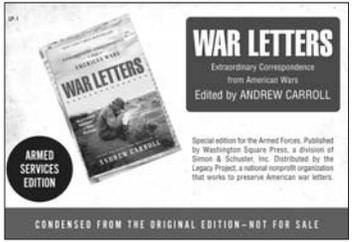
"I think it's amazing," said Hathaway. "It gives everybody a sense of tradition. It's nice to know we're not the only ones going through this."

First published in 1943, more than 123 million ASE's books were given to US troops serving overseas through 1947. That giveaway is believed to represent the largest free distribution of fiction and non-fiction books in the history of the world.

More than 1,300 ASE titles in all were published, including

mysteries, crime stories, biographies, anthologies of poetry, adventure novels and classic works of literature. The books were cut in a distinct cargo pocket size that made for easy carrying.

The new, 2002 ASE version of War Letters will be formatted exactly like the originals and have the same vintage appearance.



Graphic courtesy of Washington Square Press

THE OUTLET
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Black Only
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U.S. OPTIONAL
2 x 5"
Black Only
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2 x 2"
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Scrapbook Garden

KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION, INC.
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GRICO- ARMED FORCES COMM
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Staying Behind

COTTONWOOD THEATERS
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Fort Riley court-martial results announced for second quarter 2002

As reported by the Fort Riley Judge Advocate's office, the following cases went to courts-martial during the second quarter of calendar year 2002 and resulted in the stated adjudged sentences.

Sgt. Prince L. Knight, Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, was convicted at special court-martial of two specifications of indecent acts with another and one specification of adultery. Knight was sentenced to reduction to private (E1), confinement for 45 days and will be discharged from the service with a bad-conduct discharge.

Pvt. 2 Joseph A. Zatarain, Battery C, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, was convicted at general court-martial of two specifications of wrongful use of marijuana, one specification of forgery of checks, one specification of AWOL, one specification of larceny of an ID card and checkbook, one specification of wrongful use of another's ID card, one specification of escape from confinement and one specification of conspiracy to escape from confinement. One specification of wrongful possession of marijuana and one specification of housebreaking were dismissed on government motion. Zatarain was sentenced to reduction to private (E1), total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for 32 months and a bad-conduct discharge.

Spec. St. McElroy II, 596th Signal Company, 125th Forward Support Battalion, was convicted at special court-martial of three specifications of wrongful use of marijuana. One specification of wrongful distribution of marijuana was dismissed by the Military Judge. McElroy was sentenced to reduction to private (E1), forfeiture of \$737 pay per month for four months, confinement for four months and a bad-conduct discharge.

Pvt. 1 Ronnie N. Bumgarner,

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, was convicted at general court-martial of one specification of wrongful appropriation, a lesser-included offense of larceny, one specification of damage to military property, one specification of flight from apprehension, one specification of disobedience of a noncommissioned officer, one specification of AWOL, one specification of failure to repair and one specification of desertion. Bumgarner was sentenced to forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for 13 months and a bad-conduct discharge.

Pvt. 1 Thomas J. Gabbert, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, was convicted at general court-martial for one specification of wrongful use of marijuana and one specification of larceny. Gabbert was sentenced to forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for nine months and a bad-conduct discharge.

Sgt. Jesse Speed Jr., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 937th Engineer Group (Combat), was convicted at special court-martial of two specifications of acts prejudicial to good order and discipline, one specification of indecent acts with another, two specifications of unlawful entry and one specification of indecent exposure. One specification of indecent assault and one specification of assault were dismissed by the Military Judge. Speed was sentenced to reduction to private (E1), forfeiture of \$737 pay per month for five months, confinement for five months and a bad-conduct discharge.

Pvt. 1 Jacob A. Walker, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, was convicted at special court-martial of one specification of AWOL, one specification of failure to repair and one specification of larceny. Walker was sen-

tenced to reduction to private (E1), forfeiture of \$737 pay per month for eight months and a bad-conduct discharge.

Pvt. 2 Jason T. Butler, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, was convicted at summary court-martial of eleven specifications of failure to repair, one specification of disrespect to a noncommissioned officer and four specifications of disobeying a noncommissioned officer. Butler was sentenced to reduction to private (E1), forfeiture of \$737 and confine-

ment for 30 days. Pvt. 1 Roderick L. Hollice, Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, was convicted at special court-martial of one specification of wrongful use of cocaine, one specification of AWOL, a lesser-included offense of desertion and one specification of failure to repair. Hollice was sentenced to forfeiture of \$757 pay per month for three months, confinement for 75 days and a bad-conduct discharge.

Pfc. Jonathan A. Rios, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, was convicted at general

court-martial of one specification of voluntary manslaughter, a lesser included offense of murder and one specification of drunk driving. Rios was sentenced to reduction to private (E1), forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for seven years, six months and a dishonorable discharge.

A Staff Sergeant was convicted at general court-martial of one specification of carnal knowledge with a child under the age of 12 and two specifications of indecent acts with a child under the age of 16. This soldier was sentenced to reduction to private (E1), confine-

ment for 11 years and a dishonorable discharge. Pvt. 1 Christopher L. Skelton, 1st Replacement Company, 1st Personnel Services Battalion, was convicted at general court-martial of three specifications of AWOL, one specification of conspiracy, seven specifications of forgery and two specifications of willful destruction of military property. Skelton was acquitted of one specification of larceny. Skelton was sentenced to reduction to private (E1), forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for one year and a bad-conduct discharge.

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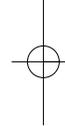
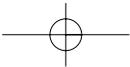
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Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

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8/23, 30 47th Annual Rodeo



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6 x 21.25"
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Fort Riley Sports

August 29, 2002

America's Warfighting Center

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Softball season ends with tournament -- friendships formed

By Kevin Doheny
19th PAD

The Fort Riley company level softball season came to a close this week with the championship tournament at the post softball complex.

Saturday morning the skies opened up and the rains came down, canceling the games scheduled for that day, but the Fort Riley Sports Office 'adjusted fire' and worked on rescheduling the games in the tournament bracket for Monday.

"It has been a good softball season," said Barry Sunstrom, intramural sports director at the Sports Office. "We wrap up the year with this tournament. And, even though we might have had the chance to get some games in on Saturday, we made the call due to some problems which arose, and made the switch to Monday."

The rain might have hindered play for Saturday, but Monday the complex was filled with teams and spectators, getting a peek at Fort Riley softball.

Sunstrom said the units at Fort Riley have done a good job this summer accepting the fact that softball is a recreational sport. He said they are doing a better job compared to a few years ago, when things were much more out of hand.

"In recent years we have seen more of the teams playing just on the basis of having fun," said Sunstrom. "Although they are playing competitively, it's not quite the die attitude it used to be."

Some of the players on post play off-post as well, and sometimes unit teams are short on players for the on-post tournaments. When this situation happens, these teams' short on players go out and recruit players from another unit for the weekend.

"When these guys play together on and off post, they become acquainted. Then, when it comes time for the battalion and company level tournaments, they play on opposing teams and tease each other a little bit, but there is still very good sportsmanship," Sunstrom said.

With the season now at the end, some of the players have vivid memories of the past season.

"It's tough to pick a particular moment from this summer," said Morgan Barnett, 331 Signal Company. "We played a game Monday against 24th Infantry Division, and even though we lost, it's a blast to go on and play with guys you have played with before. There's mutual respect on both sides. There's no trash talking, just having fun and playing softball."

The wins and losses weren't the only thing that came from the games this summer. Being involved with company and battalion level intramural sports often brings more unit cohesion from some of these involved.

"When you get involved with the units sports, it brings together cohesion and moral," said Barnett, who hit 29 homers this summer.

"It takes support from the chain of command, also. When the commander and the first sergeant show up for the games to support, the soldiers see and realize they care, which in turn creates a better work rapport with all."

Some feel Fort Riley could field a team worthy of competing with some of the best in the state.

Currently, Fort Riley competes at the D level when it comes time for tournaments.

"I would like to see a post team," said Barnett, who plays on teams outside of Fort Riley in some of the bigger tournaments in Kansas.



Mike Raush, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, scoops up the ball at third base during their game against HHC, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, as part of the post company level softball championships.

"The games rolled on and players rounded the bases as teams from around post took to the field during the Fort Riley Company Level Tournament this week. The championship game was held yesterday, after press time. The results will be in the Sept. 6 Fort Riley Post.



Sports help develop self confidence, teach youth teamwork

By Steven Cooke
Staff Writer



Fort Riley Middle School recently began football practice for the new season. Their first football game will be a home game on Sept. 5, against Manhattan Anthony Middle School.

As the new school year kicks off, many Fort Riley children will be diving in head first to fall school sports as well as books.

From kindergartners to high school seniors, there will be at least one sport for everyone.

This fall, Junction City High School will offer volleyball, football, boy's soccer, girl's tennis and cross-country.

At Fort Riley Middle School there will be a variety of sports for the 6th, 7th and 8th graders. For all three grades, there will be volleyball and tennis. For the first time, golf will be available to the 6th graders as well. The 7th and 8th graders will also have football, wrestling, basketball, track and tennis. All of these sports will be open to boys and girls and no experience is necessary to play.

Any students interested can sign up with the Athletic Department secretary, Becky McDonnell. Fort 6th grade volleyball, students should contact the Fort Riley Youth Sports Department.

For elementary school children, sports will be run through Fort Riley Youth Sports Department.

For Kindergarten through 8th grade, there will be soccer and for 5th and 6th graders, volleyball will also be made available.

There is a registration fee of \$20 per child, plus a \$15 Child Youth Services yearly registration fee for each child, up to a maximum family registration of \$35. Parents can sign their children up at the Central Registration office, building 6620, weekdays from noon to 5 p.m.

All schools require all interested students to have a current physical on file with the schools

athletic department prior to sports participation.

Administrators and coaches explained that sports can be very beneficial in a child's life.

"Sports develop self confidence in students," said Janet Hoskins, athletics director, Fort Riley Middle School. "As middle school students, they're finding out who they are. Sports helps them understand social structure, and they feel part of a team."

Hoskins added that sports can help children make the right decisions on and off the playing field.

"If they want to play, they know they have to keep their grades up and can't have behavioral problems in the classroom. So, if they want to be a part of the team they have to make the right decisions."

"Football teaches them a lot about life," said Jimmy Goheen, head football coach, Fort Riley

Middle School. "They learn to work and compete in a controlled environment, which will help them with whatever they do in life."

"I've seen evidence that kids who play sports do better in school," said Danny Durkee, Youth Sports Director. "It gives them focus. It helps develop their social skills. It teaches them how to be on time."

The coaches said they really look forward to having as many kids as possible participate in sports.

"We encourage anyone to try for volleyball, no matter your skill level," said Jennifer Lexow, volleyball head coach, Fort Riley Middle School.

"If they are unsure, they should still give it a try," said Goheen. "It will take some work, but the rewards are greater than the effort put into it."

Mountain lion legendary resident in Kansas, rumors may be true

By Alan Hynek
DES Biologist

The debate continues. Are there wild mountain lions in Kansas? If not, then what are all the reported sightings? These questions have gone on for many years, not only in Kansas but all over in the Midwest. There seems to be no shortage of myths and legends surrounding these big cats. If you have lived in Kansas for very long, you probably know someone who has claimed to see one. On one hand, if all of the stories were true, why is there no solid proof? On the other hand, there are a fair number of witnesses, which by all accounts, should

know what they were seen.

Mountain lions (also known as cougars or pumas) are large, slender cats with a small head and a long, heavy tail. They may weigh up to 150 pounds and are normally tan to orange in color. Mountain lions prefer dense vegetation and will rely on wooded riparian areas for travel. Young males have been known to move up to 400 miles in search of an area not already inhabited by another mountain lion. An established territory may be 100 square miles or more (about two-thirds the size of Fort Riley).

Little is known about the habits of mountain lions in the Great Plains. Records indicate that Kansas

was taken in 1904 in Ellis County. Deer make up about 80 percent of their diet and mountain lions may kill up to one per day. They have also been found to consume rats, rabbits, coyotes and bobcats. One strange dietary habit of mountain lions is their particular fondness for porcupines.

Wild individuals have been documented recently in states that

border Kansas. The closest recent sighting was in 2000 in Howard County, Neb., about 200 miles north of Fort Riley.

There have been 11 confirmed mountain lion sightings in

Nebraska since the early 1990s, mostly in the western part of the state. In five of those cases, the animal was either shot or found dead. The most recent sighting was from a trail master camera set up to take pictures near a deer feeder. Imagine the surprise that hunter had when those pictures were developed.

The state of Missouri has had

five confirmed sightings of free ranging mountain lions since 1994. Prior to that, the last confirmation was in 1927.

Unlike Nebraska, which borders states with resident populations, the cats found in Missouri are a bit of a mystery. The closest known resident population to Missouri is in Texas. It is unclear the origin of the Missouri cats, although it is a possibility that at least some were captive animals turned loose. Most of the documented sightings in Missouri have been in the southern part of the state near Arkansas.

Considering the recent sightings in surrounding states, it is probably just a matter of time before a mountain lion is con-

firmed in Kansas. Some things we do know, however, are that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is not in the business of releasing mountain lions in the state, despite the tenacity of this urban legend. Another is the occasional black panther story. Such black cats do exist in the wild, but are mostly melanistic phases of jaguars and leopards.

While it is unlikely that a mountain lion resides in the Fort Riley area, it certainly is a possibility. The one thing that is more rare than mountain lions is proof.

If in fact you do find possible evidence, please contact the DES, Conservation Division at 239-6211 or stop by building 1020.

Boating, water safety important New regulations for post hunting, recreation in place

Staff Reports

If you plan to go boating or be near the water this Labor Day weekend, the US Army Corps of Engineers has several boating and water safety tips.

When going boating, consider the size of your boat, the number of passengers and the amount of extra equipment that will be on-board. Don't overload the boat!

Check your boat for all required safety equipment. If you will be in a powerboat, check your electrical system and fuel system for gas fumes. Follow manufacturer's suggested procedures before starting up the engine. Wear your life jacket, don't just carry one on board. And, leave your alcohol behind.

Paul Burns, Safety and Occupational Health Specialist on Fort Riley offers several safety tips also. He encourages people to "check the total weight capacity of their boat. Eight personnel or 1500 pounds means that a maximum of eight people can be in the boat, not that you can have 10 people as long as the 1500 pounds is not exceeded."

Burns also said, "Alcohol and water do not mix, no matter what the bartender says." And, Kansas Law states that all boat operators born in 1987 or after are required to take a safe boaters course, he said. Burns also recommends that you know the water that you are boating in. "Most lakes have a surface and sub-surface map," he said.

Another condition to watch out for when boating is that water levels are extremely low in this area said Burns. "There is a boat currently stranded on Lake Milford that hit a sand bar at a high speed. Luckily no one was injured during the accident, but the boat will most likely be stranded until next year when the water levels rise." "In addition to the low water levels, most Kansas lakes are nothing more than flooded valleys, trees were not removed and are not always visible," he added.

Burns also cautions boaters to remember that a boat does not drive like a car. "Boats require long slow down and stopping distances, so plan accordingly,"

he said. Other boating tips include checking the weather forecast and filing a float plan with a member of your family or a friend.

"In Kansas, a great day can go sour real fast," said Burns. "You do not want to be on the water during high winds and lightning. If you find yourself caught on the water and unable to get back to the dock, seek shelter in a cover or shoreline," he said.

"Please remember that we are still in tornado season and last year we had a tornado pass through Milford the first week of September," Burns added.

Many of the same safety issues apply to Personal Watercrafts (jet skis) as well. The National Safe Boating Council and the U.S. Coast Guard Safety Bulletin 01-020, encourages PWC operators to take a safety course. The bulletin also reminds jet skiers to stay at least 100 feet from other boaters and designated swimming areas.

There are Corps of Engineers safety tips for being near the water as well. Since most drowning victims had no intention of being in water and because most people drown within 10-30 feet of safety, it is important that you and your family learn to swim. Never swim alone, even if you are an experienced swimmer.

According to Safety Bulletin 01-020, countless lives have been saved by the use of person-

al flotation devices. The bulletin said PFD's are the best "insurance policy" against accidental drowning.

Never rely on toys such as inner tubes and water wings to stay afloat. Don't take chances, by over estimating your swimming skills. Swim only in designated swimming areas. Each year, approximately 6,000 people drown in the United States. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental deaths for persons 15-44 years of age. What is really surprising is that two-thirds of the people who drown never intended to be in the water!

Care should also be taken when children are near water. Each year about 200 children drown and several thousand others are treated in hospitals for submersion accidents, accidents that leave children with permanent brain damage and respiratory health problems. It only takes a few seconds for a small child to wander away, and children have a natural curiosity and attraction to water.

Labor Day weekend is an opportunity to have some last minute summer fun. Remembering these boating and water safety tips can help keep it a safe and fun weekend for all. For more information on summer safety, go to <http://safety.army.mil/home.html> and search "summer safety"

Limited privately-owned vehicle access to areas of Fort Riley north of Vinton School Road for recreational activities will once again be allowed beginning Sept. 1. Use of privately owned vehicles was prohibited in that area of the fort following the events of 9/11.

"In addition to the standard Fort Riley regulations, additional restrictions are in place," said Herb Abel, chief, Conservation Division.

All vehicles must have either a DoD vehicle sticker affixed to the windshield or they must have a daily pass displayed to enter the portions of the installation east of U.S. Highway 77. Vehicles driven west of U.S. Highway 77 do not need a daily pass or DoD vehicle sticker. Daily vehicle passes can be obtained at the Ogden, Marshall Army Air Field,

Grant Avenue and Washington Street entrances to Fort Riley.

Also, all vehicles must display a Recreational Vehicle Marker. These may be picked up at the Outdoor Recreation Center, building 9011, or the Conservation Division office, building 1020. There is no charge for either these markers or the daily vehicle passes.

Abel said that vehicle drivers must sign a statement that they will report any suspicious activity to the Provost Marshal's Office. He added that markers will expire on Jan. 31 of each year.

The Conservation Division authorizes daily which recreation areas are open. Before, visiting Fort Riley for recreational purposes, visitors should call 785-239-6669 for an up-to-date list of open areas.

Each individual participating in

recreation on post must hold appropriate federal, state and Fort Riley licenses, permits, stamps and/or tags. Additionally, all firearms must be registered before being brought onto the installation at the Provost Marshal Office.

"Fort Riley's policies governing access for recreational use will continue to be re-evaluated and enforced to ensure they don't conflict with the fort's military requirements, including the requirement to provide effective security for its personnel, facilities and equipment," said Abel.

For the latest information concerning recreational access procedures, contact the Fort Riley Conservation Division Office at 785-239-6211 or visit Fort Riley's website for Outdoor Recreation information at <http://www.riley.army.mil/Recreation/Outdoor>

Register now for CG's Fall Classic

Staff Reports

Custer Hill Golf Course will be hosting the Commanding General's Fall Classic Golf Tournament, Sept. 10.

The tournament will be an 18-hole scramble, with four players per team. There will be two shotgun starts, with the first being at 7:30 a.m. and the second at 12:30 p.m.

The USGA golf rules will apply for the tournament and play is restricted to the first 60 teams. Proper golf attire is also required.

There will be four flights for full field, with 15 teams per flight. The first three placing teams per flight will receive prizes.

There will be demonstrations by three major golf equipment corporations starting at 10 a.m. and continuing throughout the day.

Players should register at the golf course by Sept. 3. Single players or teams can sign up for their start times when they register.

Team registration times the day of the tournament are 6 and 11

a.m., depending on the teams tee time. The cost is \$35 per person or \$140 per team. Checks should be made payable to IMWRP. The fee includes green fees, golf cart (while supplies last), lunch, dinner and a shirt. The entry fee also includes range balls.

Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. following the tournament and the awards ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m.

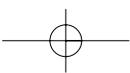
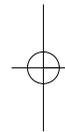
For more information, call Custer Hill Golf Course at 784-6000 or Sgt. 1st Class James Blecha at 239-1490.



The four major causes of drowning are:

- 1 - Not wearing a life jacket.
- 2 - Abuse of alcohol.
- 3 - Lack of swimming skills
- 4 - Hypothermia

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Upcoming Army refinements to OER system will address concerns

By Joe Burtas

Army News Service

Though the latest version of the officer evaluation report accurately assesses officers' performance and potential, according to personnel managers, refinements to the OER system are on the way to address concerns from the field. Approved refinements include: revising the rater portion of the report to separate performance and potential remarks; "masking" all lieutenant OERs upon promotion to captain; reviewing the possibility of masking chief warrant officer 2 OERs upon promotion to chief warrant officer 3, emphasizing current counseling and mentoring obligations; and conducting an annual assessment of the system.

The refinements are based on the recommendations of an eight-month review of the OER system that ended in April.

"The officer evaluation report is doing the job it was designed to do — that is, to assess the performance and potential of officers in a manner that provides an effective tool to identify, assign and select the best qualified officers for promotion, education and command," said George Piccirilli, Total Army Personnel Command officer evaluation system chief. "We know the OER is providing selection boards the information they need to select the leaders the Army needs."

Piccirilli should know how well the OER system is doing the

job it was designed to do as he briefs each officer board on the OER and reviews selections results and board surveys when the board concludes. He said he has gotten a lot of feedback in the last year that board members find it difficult to separate the rater performance remarks from potential ones as both are entered in the same section of the OER. To alleviate that confusion, PERSCOM will soon put out a message to double space between performance and potential comments until the actual OER form can be revised and fielded.

The OER review was prompted in part by the officer Army Training and Leader Development Panel study, released last May, that reported a perception in the field that Army culture expected a "zero-defects" performance of its leaders. Following the results of the study, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinewski directed a deeper looking into the OER system.

The decision to mask lieutenant OERs upon promotion to captain by moving the OERs to a restricted portion of an officer's file allows junior officers more room to grow, ease the zero-defects perception and effectively remove comments from a junior officer's file that may be a reflection of an initial learning curve, Piccirilli said.

"It isn't a free pass for promotion up to captain," Piccirilli said. "Those lieutenant OERs are present when captain promotion

boards meet and are the basis for the promotion list it produces."

The officer ATLDLP also found a perception by many officers that a "center-of-mass" check on the OER by the senior rater meant no possibility of promotion beyond captain.

Center-of-mass ratings are not a killer, Piccirilli said, and promotion board results bear that out.

Statistics from fiscal year 2001 and 2002 boards show that the majority of officers selected for promotion to major, lieutenant colonel and colonel had a mix of center-of-mass and above-center-of-mass reports.

Only about 10 percent of the officers selected for major, lieutenant colonel and colonel had all above-center-of-mass OERs when their boards met. In fact, 11 and nine percent of those selected for promotion to major in FY 01 and 02 respectively had nothing but center-of-mass ratings in their files. For the lieutenant colonel selections, 17 percent of those picked up had pure center-of-mass files in FY 01, and two percent in FY 02. The difference between center-of-mass selection between FY 01 and 02 reflects a larger population of mixed files, officials said.

Promotions are based upon Army requirements, Piccirilli said, and those requirements often dictate the selection line between promote and do not promote to be draw somewhere in the center-of-mass population.

"A senior raters' ability to give

above-center-of-mass ratings is limited by regulation to less than 50 percent of the reports rendered in a particular grade," Piccirilli said. "It allows senior raters the opportunity to advance their best, with the confidence others can't inflate."

As part of the OER review, surveyed senior leaders and junior officers were offered alternatives to the senior rater portion of current OER. Almost all chose to remain with the current system, Piccirilli said.

"Feedback from selection boards clearly indicates that board members weigh an officer's entire file during deliberations," Piccirilli continued, "factoring in the officer's assignment history, career progression and evaluation reports."

Counseling is one area of concern identified by the ATLDLP study. The subsequent OER system review found mix results in field interviews. Some units conduct counseling very well — others don't, Piccirilli said.

By regulation, raters must conduct a face-to-face initial counseling with all rated officers within 30 days of the beginning of the rated period. Periodic follow-up counseling should then be conducted as needed to make needed adjustments to agreed upon goals, Piccirilli said.

For rated lieutenants and warrant officers 1, lieutenant development counseling is required and includes the use of the Junior Officer Development Support

Form. "We've found the best units schedule appropriate counseling in advance on their training calendars," he said. "It's a visible mark on the wall where everyone knows what is expected and when it is supposed to be done."

For officers not getting the required counseling, Piccirilli advised that rated officers should seek appropriate opportunities to ask for rater feedback.

Counseling does not need to be a formal sit-down session — it can be a frank discussion at the motor pool or on the training range, Piccirilli said, as long as it covers the performance bases.

Those bases include what the officer has been doing right, what he has been doing wrong, what improvements can be made and how he stacks up against other officers rated by the same rater.

"It can be tough to look someone in the eye and tell him he is at the bottom of the totem pole," Piccirilli said, "but every officer deserves to know where they stand before an OER is filed."

For more information on the OER system and officer promotion rates visit PERSCOM Online, www.perscom.army.mil, and select the Officer Information link under the Soldier Services section.

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Army meets all recruiting, retention goals early

By Joe Burtas

Army News Service

Dedicated teamwork, commitment of Army leadership and an effective Web-based ad campaign were among the top reasons why droves of people are joining and staying in the Army, said Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

The Army announced that it has met all its recruiting and retention goals for fiscal year 2002 about six weeks early in a Pentagon ceremony Aug. 22. The enlistment goals were 79,500 new recruits for the active Army and 28,825 for the Reserve. The retention goal was 49,000 re-enlistments for the active Army.

This was the third year of meeting all recruiting and retention goals after missing some of

those goals from 1995 through 1999.

USAREC had a new goal this year — accessing 400 recruits for Special Forces.

Normally, "Green Beret" recruiters cull soldiers in the ranks of specialists and above directly from the active Army for additional training and eventual assignment to Special Forces units.

The recruiting command exceeded the Special Forces requirement with 445 recruits signed up as of Aug. 8.

A Special Forces recruiter will be visiting Fort Riley Sept. 16-20.

Special Forces briefings will be held at the post re-up building (7626) at 10 a.m. and 1-30 p.m. daily, with an additional briefing at 6 p.m. on the Sept. 17 and 19.

A Physical Training test will be conducted Sept. 18-20, 7 a.m. at Long Track. Candidates must wear BDU's and running shoes for the PT test.

For more information on Special Forces, call Sgt. 1st Class Hawkins at (719) 510-4493.

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