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Weather Forecast	Today	High:49 Low:39
	Saturday	High:48 Low:40
	Sunday	High:65 Low:42

**FRIDAY**

# Fort Riley Post



**Veterans remembered**  
Area veterans are honored for Veterans Day, Tuesday from World War II to 'Code Talkers.'  
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November 7, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 46, No. 45

## Army's top Soldier visits Fort Riley troops, families

By Ryan D. Wood  
19th PAD

Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the Army, spent several hours at Fort Riley Oct. 30, visiting with Soldiers and touring the post.

Schoomaker, who assumed his current position as chief of staff on Aug. 1, has been touring various posts to assess Army readiness and to better acquaint himself with different posts and commanders.

Immediately after arriving, Schoomaker filmed his holiday message to the Army with members of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. Approximately a dozen Soldiers from Company C, stood with Schoomaker in front of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle at the Duty Statue outside the U.S. Cavalry Museum on Main Post.

Schoomaker commended the Fort Riley Soldiers, and servicemembers like them, who have "witnessed the brutality and horror of war because they answered their nation's call" in Iraq.

"They have also experienced the satisfaction of knowing they helped liberate more than 46 million people from tyranny and oppression," he said.

After the filming and attending a briefing at the post head-

quarters, Schoomaker traveled to the Devil's Den dining facility where he had lunch with Soldiers from the post. Here, Schoomaker took the opportunity to talk with Soldiers who have

**"I want to tell you all how proud I am of your service and how proud America is of you."**

—Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker  
Chief of Staff of the Army

depleted. He stressed that they were the future leadership of the Army, and that the experiences and lessons they had learned would make all the difference to the Soldiers they would lead in the future.

"People are going to be looking to you after all that you have been through," said Schoomaker. "They will be counting on you to get them through their first experiences. You are the people who have seen the tiger and who will be able to get them through."

Schoomaker also took questions from the Soldiers, and offered to send one Soldier information on the military's new fast tracking program and how it is being instituted.

Following the lunch, Schoomaker presented four Soldiers with Purple Hearts for wounds received in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He thanked the assembled families and Soldiers for their sacrifices and service to their country.

"I want to tell you all how proud I am of your service and how proud America is of you," said Schoomaker. "I just thank you for all that you do. . . I wish you all the best in recovery from your wounds.

"To the families who are here - the parents, wives, girlfriends - we appreciate your service as well. We don't forget that this is a great strain on you," Schoomaker said. "I told these other Soldiers that this is going to be a long fight, and that it is going to require a lot more attention to duty, a lot more commitment and unfortunately, a lot more injury, but we are committed as a nation to this."

Schoomaker said that he had the utmost confidence in the Soldiers of today and tomorrow. "I can say that the nation is proud of this Army," he said. "The reason that they are proud is because of what you have done. It's all part of being a team, with all the parts that operate together. I just can't tell you how proud I am to be back with you in the service."



Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, chief of staff of the Army, receives a playing card from 1st Sgt. James Moore, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, after filming his holiday message to the servicemembers. The cards were left in Iraq as calling cards at locations where 1st Bn., 41st Inf., engaged the enemy.

## Soldiers receive Purple Hearts from Army Chief of Staff

By Kevin Doheny  
19th PAD

According to many leaders in the Army, there is no way to move into a conflict or war and not have casualties. This has not changed since the days of Gen. George Washington and the fighting for independence against the British. America has found itself back at war, and once again Soldiers have been killed and wounded. At Fort Riley, 11 Soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice and hun-

dreds have been wounded.

During a visit to Fort Riley Oct. 30, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, chief of staff of the Army, presented four Fort Riley Soldiers with Purple Hearts at the 1st Brigade Dining Facility.

The four Soldiers, Staff Sgt. Larry V. Burkhardt and Pfc. Adam J. Zarembo, Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, and Spc. Daniel J. Stangel Jr. and Spc. Reginald D. Boyd, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 70th Engineer Battalion, returned from Iraq to recover from the wounds they received

during the conflict. They came before a crowd of family members, fellow Soldiers and civilian employees to accept their awards.

"Thank you for your service, and I hope you have a quick recovery from your wounds," said Schoomaker to the four wounded. "We all are very proud of you and are grateful to see you all walking around."

Schoomaker went on to say how these types of actions affect Soldiers and their families.

"For the families here, we appreciate

your service as well," said Schoomaker. "We don't forget that all of this is a big strain on you, and your support is needed."

The award bears the face of the first Commander in Chief, George Washington. It is lined in gold and attached to the Washington Coat of Arms.

The Purple Heart is awarded to Soldiers who have been either wounded or killed in action.

The original Purple Heart was designated as the Badge of Military Merit and was established by Washington by order

from his headquarters at Newburgh, N.Y., Aug. 7, 1782.

"The General ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his Soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of Military Merit," said Washington in 1782, "directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry,

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## Memorial held for Armor Soldier killed in action

By Christopher Selmek  
19th PAD

A new menace has risen up to face the American people, according to Lt. Col. George

Gezy, III, battalion commander, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. It is a menace that hates us for our freedom and will not cease to attack until our way of life is completely destroyed. Many of us have called into question why

we are still involved with Iraq. Many people have wondered, having toppled Saddam's regime, if it is worthwhile to maintain a presence in Southwest Asia.

Gezy was one of many to attend the memorial service of Pvt. Jason Ward, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, Oct. 31 at the Morris Hill Chapel, where family and friends gathered to honor and remember the life of a Soldier killed in action in Iraq on Oct. 22.

Gezy continued his statement by saying that many Americans think of children growing up with only the pictures and words of their fathers who have been killed in Iraq. The American public dwells on widows trying to build a life as a single mother without their husbands and ask, 'Is this to high a price to pay? Is all this worth the loss of a single human life?'

He concluded his statement by explaining why he felt Operation Iraqi Freedom was still worth our attention.

"We owe it to Jordan (Ward's wife), and to his children, to grow up in the land of the free and not run from this new menace," he said. "Pvt. Ward looked terror in the face and did not flinch; he did not run. Because Pvt. Ward did not run, we cannot run and we cannot look away. His sacrifice, his family's sacrifice, is reason enough to contin-

ue fighting."

"Yes, it is wrong when a young man's life ends," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Daniel Jenks, who delivered the meditation near the end of the ceremony. "But, there is an even greater evil, and that is the evil which took Jason's life, took him away from his family and his friends. Jason loved his family, and he loved his wife and his children. But, he also loved freedom, and he loved his country. He loved his freedom so much that he wanted to give that freedom to a people that had never known it. He loved his country so much that he gave his life in defense of that country that he loved, so that we might enjoy its freedom."

Soldiers and civilians filled the chapel, not only to pay respect to this noble veteran, but also to attempt to start the healing process.

"Today, we come together in a time of sorrow," said Chap. (Capt.) David Schnarr. "It is a time that we can come together and say 'yes, the pain hurts,' and try to help each other to get through it."

"I know it is hard, and there is nothing that I can say or do to make it any easier," said Jenks. "It is always difficult, and although you will always remember him, it will get better. That is why we are here today, to begin that healing process."

Jordan Ward, widow of the

See Memorial Page 3



A memorial display at Morris Hill Chapel for Pvt. Jason Ward, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment.

## Officer killed in Iraq by explosive device

The Department of Defense announced that 2nd Lt. Todd J. Bryant, 23, of Riverside, Calif., was killed Oct. 31 in Al-Fallujah, Iraq.

Bryant was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. He joined the Army in 2002 and has been stationed at Fort Riley since January 2003.

He was assigned to the unit as a Tank Platoon Leader and deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

Bryant was on patrol when an

improvised explosive device exploded. He died of his injuries. The incident is under investigation.

He is the 11th Fort Riley Soldier who has died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fort Riley commanders, Soldiers, civilian employees and Family Readiness Groups are providing ongoing assistance to all families of Soldiers supporting the war effort and are prepared to continue around the clock assistance throughout this operation.

## Salina-based Reserve unit returns home

By Sam Robinson  
Staff Writer

A demobilization ceremony was held for the 425th Transportation Company, Nov. 3 at Barlow Theater. The 145 reserve Soldiers from northeast Kansas had returned home, from Operation Iraqi Freedom, last week.

The Soldiers appeared to be in good spirits and anxious to return to their homes.

"It is excellent to be home, to see my family, who met me when I got off the bus," said Staff Sergeant Chad Engle, Lincoln,

Neb. "Being gone makes you realize what you have to come home to."

"It's damn good to have you back," said Maj. Gen. Michael Symanski, commanding general 89th U.S. Army Regional Support Command. "I appreciate your service and professionalism."

Most of the demobilizing Soldiers have families and jobs to return to in the upcoming weeks.

"You are a citizen Soldier, just like the Soldiers who won our freedom," said Col. Richard McPhee, chief of staff, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort

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# Commentary

## Citizen thankful as nameless hero returns to Fort Riley

On my way back from Memphis last week, I had a long wait at KCI before boarding the little puddle-jumper plane to Manhattan. While I was sitting there trying to stay awake, an airline employee wheeled a very young man to the gate where we would be boarding for the Manhattan flight. The young man was in a wheel chair and I noticed that his left leg was in some sort of a contraction that covered his foot and most of his calf. When he was "parked" near the gate, the airline employee patted his back and said, "Good luck to ya," and then walked off leaving the young man there to stare off into space.

I knew there would be at least a two-hour wait before they called our flight, so I decided to start a conversation with the young man by asking him about his leg. He turned toward me and seemed glad that someone was talking to him. He told me that he had injured his leg in Iraq. That comment stirred my interest and I quickly asked him to tell me about it. I also asked him if he was going home to Fort Riley. He said he had been stationed on Fort Riley before being deployed to Iraq and that he was on his way home to see his wife after spending about six and a half weeks in the hospital.

The young man told me that he had been in Iraq only two months before he was injured and that he was very anxious to get home because he just hated being in the hospital. He said that he had been at Walter Reed Hospital recovering, but that he would still need many more surgeries and therapy on his foot. I asked him if he could walk at all and he explained that he was not able to put any weight on his leg and, therefore, could not walk - but that he was determined to walk again someday. He smiled bashfully as he was telling me that and I tried to comfort him by telling him that I personally was very proud of all the Soldiers who were "over there". I tried to assure him by telling him that he probably would recover very nicely after all the procedures were done on his foot and leg.

I then asked him how he was injured. The young man told me that he had been in a military vehicle and that they had hit an explosive device that blew up underneath the truck. He said that the shrapnel had cut his foot almost off at the ankle and that other bits of shrapnel had lodged in his head and face. He then showed me some scars and told me that he had already had surgery to remove shrapnel from his brain. I winced as he was telling me that, but he seemed to be more concerned about his leg than his head. The young man also told me that when the explosive device had gone off, he thought he had not been as injured as some of his buddies, but that when he tried to get up to walk, he just fell over on his face.

I asked him more about his leg and he explained that the shrapnel had sliced off some of his anklebones and that his foot just dangled like a limp rag at the end of his leg. He also told me that all his tendons had been cut and destroyed and that was why he could not walk anymore. Some of his doctors told him that they would try to take some tendons from his right foot to place them on his left injured foot but that it would be a long and tedious recovery. He then took pride in telling me that at first he could not stomach looking at what was left of his foot cause he had a great big hole on the top. He then said that now he had no problem dressing the wound and that he thought it was "kinda neat" the way it was healing.

I then asked him if his family was meeting him at the Manhattan airport. He told me that his wife worked nights and would not be there, but that her family was

meeting him to take him home. He told me that his wife had traveled to Washington, DC while he was at Walter Reed Hospital, but that he was so glad to be going home. His eyes seem to glow while he was talking about his wife so I asked him how long he had been married and whether he had kids. The young man told me that they had been married only four months! I commented that they were just newly-weds and he blushed sheepishly.

While we were waiting for the flight to Manhattan, we had a nice long chat and in the course of our conversation, he told me that he was 20 years old. I teased him that he was a mere baby - younger even than my own son! I felt compassion for this young man, yet I was proud of the sacrifices he was enduring for our country. I told him again that I was very proud of him and he just nodded and tried to change the subject. Other folks started to drift in to the waiting area and one young man also asked him if he was on his way to Fort Riley. He asked what Unit he was with and they started their own conversation using military jargon. I sat and watched these young folks and marveled at their bravery and camaraderie.

They finally called for boarding on the flight to Manhattan and I wondered how they were going to get him on the plane. I watched as they wheeled him out on the tarmac and I watched as he skipped on his one good leg up the ladder. I noticed that once he was situated on the very first seat on the plane, they let other folks board and he greeted each one with a funny quip. Once we were in the air, I knew that he must have been getting more and more excited about finally getting home to his wife. I said a private and silent "Thank You" to him and settled down for the flight home. I noticed that an older gentleman started up a conversation with him from the seat opposite the aisle, and he once again related his war stories. The older man seemed in awe of him and in the course of their chat, told him that he wished him luck in his recovery.

Our landing in Manhattan was uneventful. I waited to get my luggage and noticed a group of folks greeting his young man very warmly. While he was talking to his family, he pointed toward me as if telling them that we had somehow connected through our conversation at KCI. They smiled at me and I waved. As I was pass-

ing them in the waiting area, I said, "Good luck to you. Hope all goes well with your foot." He politely smiled broadly and said, "Thanks, ma'am."

As I drove home at almost midnight that evening, I thought to myself how lucky this young man was to be alive. I also quickly remembered that I had never asked him his name! He remained an unsung hero - nameless, yet recognized and admired for what he and many of his fellow Soldiers do for us every day. I sighed because I failed to ask him his name, but at the same moment I thought "Thank you, Lord, for all these young men and women who put their lives at risk for us here in the United States."

We are truly a blessed country. And, we must not forget to say "Thank You" to all our Soldiers here and abroad for all they do for us. I shall never forget this very young Soldier who politely talked about his Iraq experience with me. He is an unsung hero from Fort Riley!

Lucy P. Gonzalez  
Advisor, SWCPOC

## Purple Hearts continued from page 1

but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with a due reward."

Zaremba said he was proud to receive such a prestigious award that was first given to those who were fighting for freedom.

"I did what I could for the Army and my country," said Zaremba.

He said, "It's not good that I'm wounded, but it is good that I did something to deserve such an award like this. I'm glad to be alive."

Zaremba, who was wounded

outside an Iraqi bank by an improvised explosive device, said his parents were in shock when they found out about his injury.

He said they were first shocked when he joined the Army, then when he deployed to Iraq and finally when he was injured.

"This is a big deal to them, but I know they are very proud of me," he added.

Schoemaker closed out the ceremony by telling all who attended that this war is not going to be finished anytime soon and to prepare for Soldiers sacrificing more and

more.

"This is going to be a long fight," he said.

"It is going to require a lot more attention to duty, a lot more commitment and, unfortunately, a



**FORT RILEY POST**

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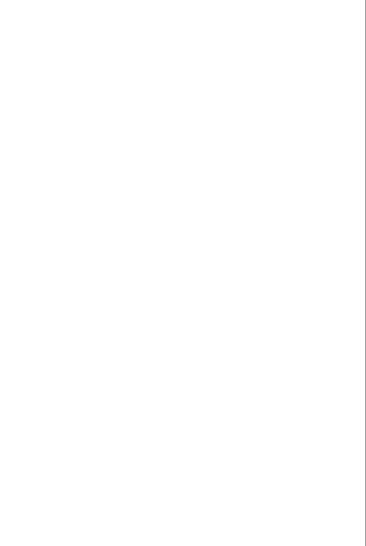
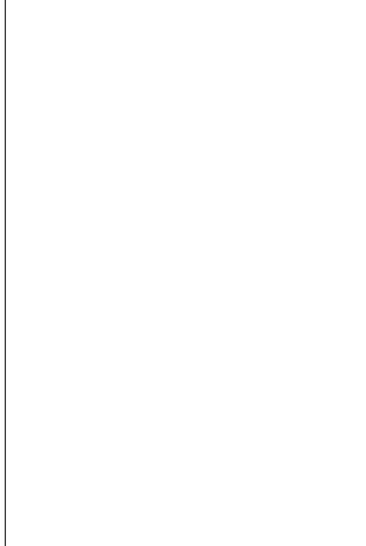
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# Sand flies dangerous in Iraq

Army News Service

Service members in Iraq who fail to follow preventive measures risk the bite of the tiny, but fearsome, sand fly, Army medical officials said.

It's peak season for these pests through the end of November, doctors said, and their bite can carry a disease called leishmaniasis.

There are two kinds of leishmaniasis—cutaneous and visceral.

People who get the cutaneous form have sores on their skin that do not heal after several weeks. The sores form weeks after an infected sand fly bites. The sores initially appear bumps on the skin, then form an open, flat, circular sore with raised edges. Sometimes they have a scab, and sometimes they hurt. Untreated, the skin sores can last for years and leave permanent scars, but are rarely life threatening.

Visceral leishmaniasis, on the other hand, is a much more serious infection of the liver, spleen and other internal organs that can be fatal if not treated. People who get the visceral form of the disease become ill from several weeks to six months after becoming infected, medical officials

said. Those infected will usually have high fever, weight loss, and an enlarged spleen and liver. They also have other symptoms that show up in blood tests—such as anemia, low white cell count and low platelet count.

Leishmaniasis occurs in tropical areas around the world officials said.

They said it's very common in Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and other countries in Southwest Asia.

In the past two years, 52 cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis have been reported in the Department of Defense. All of the patients were infected in Southwest Asia; all but two spent at least some time in Iraq. There have been no cases of visceral leishmaniasis detected so far.

Prevention is the best defense against the disease, medical officials said. There is no vaccine and no medication to protect against leishmaniasis. Preventive measures include taking steps to avoid or prevent sand flies from biting. These include:

- Limiting outdoor activity at dusk and during the evening, when sand flies are most active.
- Wearing protective clothing and insect repellent.
- Treating uniforms with per-

methrin.

- Using permethrin-treated bed netting.

Detailed information about prevention is available from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/news/Leishmaniasis.asp>.

While it's rare, leishmaniasis can be transmitted through blood transfusion, medical officials said. Although there have been no cases transmitted through blood transfusion in the United States, personnel deployed to Iraq will be deferred from donating blood for one year after departure from Iraq. The deferral, put in place by the Armed Services Blood Program Office, is a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of the blood supply, officials said.

People diagnosed with either cutaneous or visceral leishmaniasis are permanently deferred from donating blood. But in most cases, it takes two to six months for symptoms of the disease to show up. Service members returning from Iraq may have been bitten by the sand fly that causes the disease and may have the parasite in the blood stream, but they may not know it.

# Talk Around Town

## “What holiday message would you like to send the troops overseas?”



“God bless, we're all praying for you. We want you to come home safe.”

Jerry Patton  
Civilian Contractor



“Wish they could be home with their families for the holidays. Best of luck.”

Sgt. Steven Moore,  
3662nd General Support  
Maintenance Command



“Stay safe, and you'll all be coming home shortly. If you want to know it, I'll be praying for you.”

Spc. Jessica Boehning,  
523rd Military Police  
Detachment

# Myers: Recognize those who served nation on Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a solemn day to honor and recognize all who have served our nation in war and in peace. This year, hundreds of thousands of our men and women in uniform and Department of Defense civilians have the distinction of serving in wartime. Counted among them is the largest number of reservists and guardsmen activated since the Korean War.

The war on terrorism is like no other war we have ever fought - and it is far from over. We will

preval, but it will require our patience, our full commitment, and the will to win against an enemy who tries to create fear and destroy freedom. We have seen tremendous displays of courage, dedication and sacrifice to defeat the terrorists who are targeting the United States and our allies with hatred and intolerance. This tradition of outstanding service links this newest generation of veterans to the lives and legacies of those who have served and defended

our nation with honor and dedication during previous times of threat. The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I join our fellow Americans in paying tribute to all of our veterans, the sacrifices they have made and the courage they have displayed in defending freedom and security around the world.

Richard B. Myers,  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

# Demobilization continued from page 1

Riley, “Your love of country is what brought you here.” The unit transported fuel as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to McPhee, the unit travel nearly 1.5 million miles during their tour.

“I used the fuel you hauled,” said McPhee. “To leave your lives behind, to do the job you did, where you did, is something to be proud of.” An additional ceremony, for the unit, is planned to take place in Salina, with family and friends.

# Memorial continued from page 1

deceased, was presented with an Army Commendation Medal to honor her own unique sacrifice.

Ward is also survived by his two children and Ward's mother. Ward's eulogy was read by a tearful company commander, 1st Lt. Jay DeShazo, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor.

“Pvt. Jason Ward was born in Tulsa, Okla., on May 9, 1978,” said DeShazo. “He graduated High School in 1997 and enlisted in the Army on April 15, 2002. Throughout his active military service, he constantly displayed his toughness, leadership and strict adherence to military professionalism. Fort Riley was Pvt. Ward's first duty assignment, and he left an indelible mark on all Soldiers of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment.”

“Pvt. Ward graduated Advanced Individual Training in September of 2002, and then was assigned to A Company as the loader for dock A22,” DeShazo continued. “He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March of 2003. His awards include an Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.”

“Pvt. Ward will always be remembered for his infectious humor, leadership and military professionalism,” he said. “His actions constantly displayed genuine concern for his fellow Soldiers. He made a positive and long lasting impression on all of those

he came into contact with. He will be missed by all of the Thunderbolt family.”

Ward was then honored by a moment of silence, followed by a 21-gun salute and Taps.

“I met him briefly in Baghdad when we were stationed at the

same facility,” said Spc. Don Howard, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery. “He seemed like a very easy-going guy. I remember everybody in his unit liked him. He was a great Soldier.”

Jenks, in his final remarks, said, “We are here today not only

because of a friend, but because of a special friend,” he said. “Pvt. Ward was a special friend because he was a Soldier, because he supported his unit and his family. We honor him because he paid the ultimate sacrifice, he gave his life.”

# Holiday Mail Guidelines

Officials have released new send by dates for mail being sent to the Central Command area of responsibility for it to arrive by Christmas.

For First Class Mail - letters or cards or Priority Mail, send by Dec. 4; for Parcel Air-lift Mail, send by Nov. 26; for Space Available Mail, send by Nov. 13 and to send something Parcel Post, it should have been mailed by Monday



# Briefs

## Operation Santa Claus

Santa's elves are gearing up for the Christmas holiday with Operation Santa Claus. A ribbon cutting ceremony is Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. at Building 7802 to kick off the 35th year of Operation Santa Claus.

Operation Santa Claus is a toy collection drive for boys and girls

ages birth to 14 who live in the Flint Hills region and need assistance this holiday season.

The program, which runs through mid-December, was established to make the holiday brighter for children of Fort Riley soldiers and aid civic organizations in serving the needs of children in the region.

During the drive, red, wooden boxes will be located throughout

Fort Riley and the surrounding communities to collect unwrapped toys and wrapping supplies.

On Fort Riley, boxes will be at all brigade headquarters, building 500, Irwin Army Community Hospital, the Post Exchange, Fort Riley National Bank and the Fort Riley Credit Union.

They will be located off post at Wal-mart and Alco in Manhattan and Junction City, at Target in Manhattan and at KB Toys in Manhattan.

Monetary gifts may be mailed to: Operation Santa Claus, P.O. Box 2427, Fort Riley, Kan., 66442. To volunteer, call 785-239-6944.

## HASFR Speaker

The Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley is sponsoring a speaker on World War II on Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Barlow Theater.

Bob Dowling is an author who has written about his experiences as a Japanese Prisoner of War for three years, and he will be sharing his experiences with participants. This event is free and open to the public.

## Free Child Care

The Child Development Center and School Age Services will offer free childcare for families of deployed soldiers on Dec. 6 and 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Reservation must be made by 6 p.m. on Nov. 26 for Dec. 6 and by 6 p.m. on Dec. 9 for Dec. 20.

## Wreath Laying

The annual German and Italian Wreath Laying Ceremony will be conducted at the Fort Riley Post Cemetery, Nov. 14, 11 a.m.

During the ceremony, Fort Riley will honor the German and Italian Prisoners of War buried at the Fort Riley Cemetery. The ceremony is open to the public.

## Holiday Tree Lighting

The post Holiday Tree Lighting will be held Dec. 5, 4:45 p.m. at Ware Parade Field, in front of building 500. Santa Clause will visit and there will be light refreshments.

## Christmas Boughs

Units, housing occupants and activities desiring cedar and pine boughs to decorate the interior and exterior of their buildings can pick up this material at the Public Works parking lot, Dickman Avenue, across from building 364, Main Post, on a first come, first serve basis, from Nov. 12 - Dec. 24.

Extreme care should be taken in using these to avoid fire hazards. Frequent misting or sprinkling of boughs with water is recommended to retard their drying out.

All units, housing occupants, and activities are reminded that cutting pine and cedar trees or branches anywhere on the installation is strictly prohibited.

## Refuse Schedule

Due to the upcoming Holiday Tuesday, refuse collection will change as follows: Monday - Colyer Manor, Main Post housing, Marshall Army Air Field housing; Tuesday - no collection;

Wednesday - Ellis Heights, Monteth Heights, Peterson Heights and O'Donnell Heights; Thursday - Burnside Heights and Warner Heights and Friday - South Peterson, South Warner, McClellan Heights and Meade Heights.

## SMART Workshop

A Specific Measurable Appropriate Reasonable Time Specific Individual Educational Plans, an advocacy workshop that will be presented by Brandy Riggs. The workshop will be held Nov. 18, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264.

Brandy Riggs has attended the SMART IEP training course and has experience in writing IEP's. Brandy has been a Parent Support Network Provider and has worked specifically with families who have special needs children in the last six years.

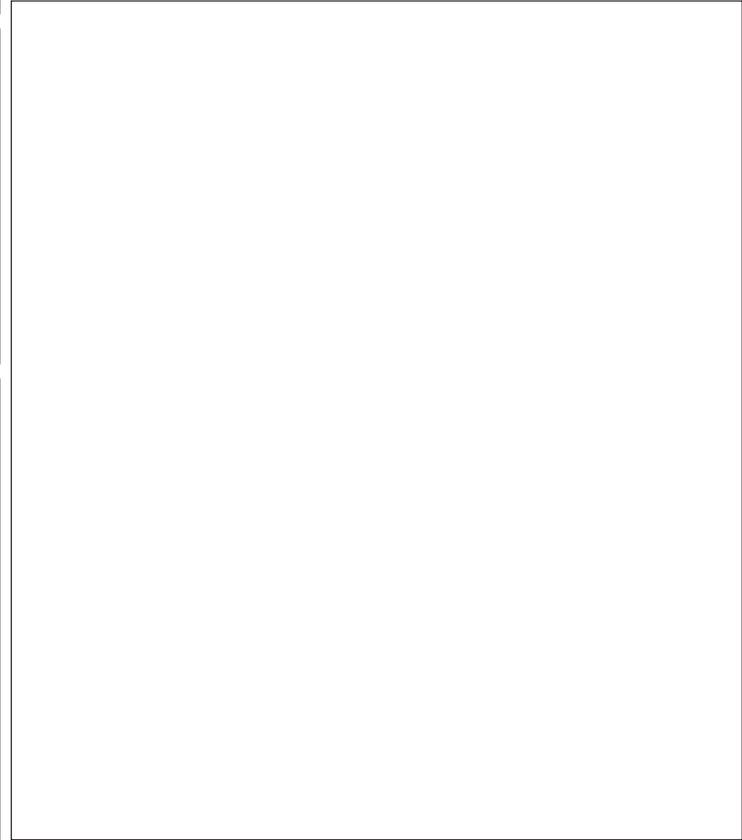
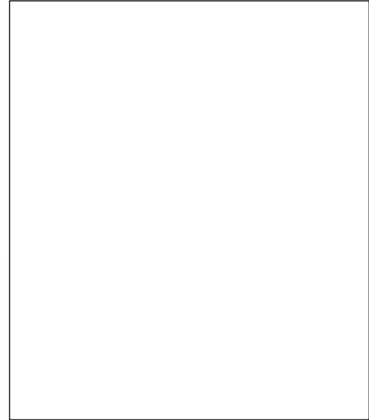
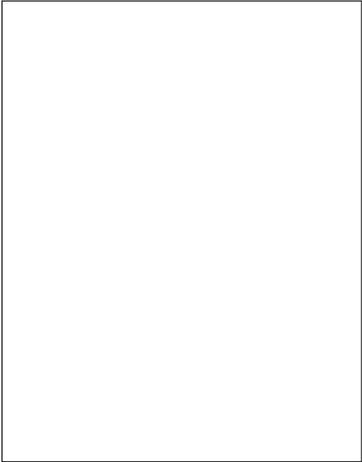
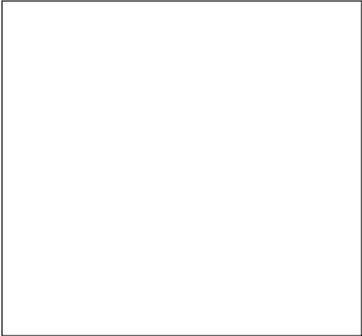
Learn how to write bjectives that fit your child's unique educational needs. Learn basic writing techniques to avoid conflict with school districts policies. Learn

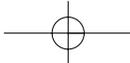
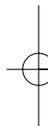
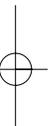
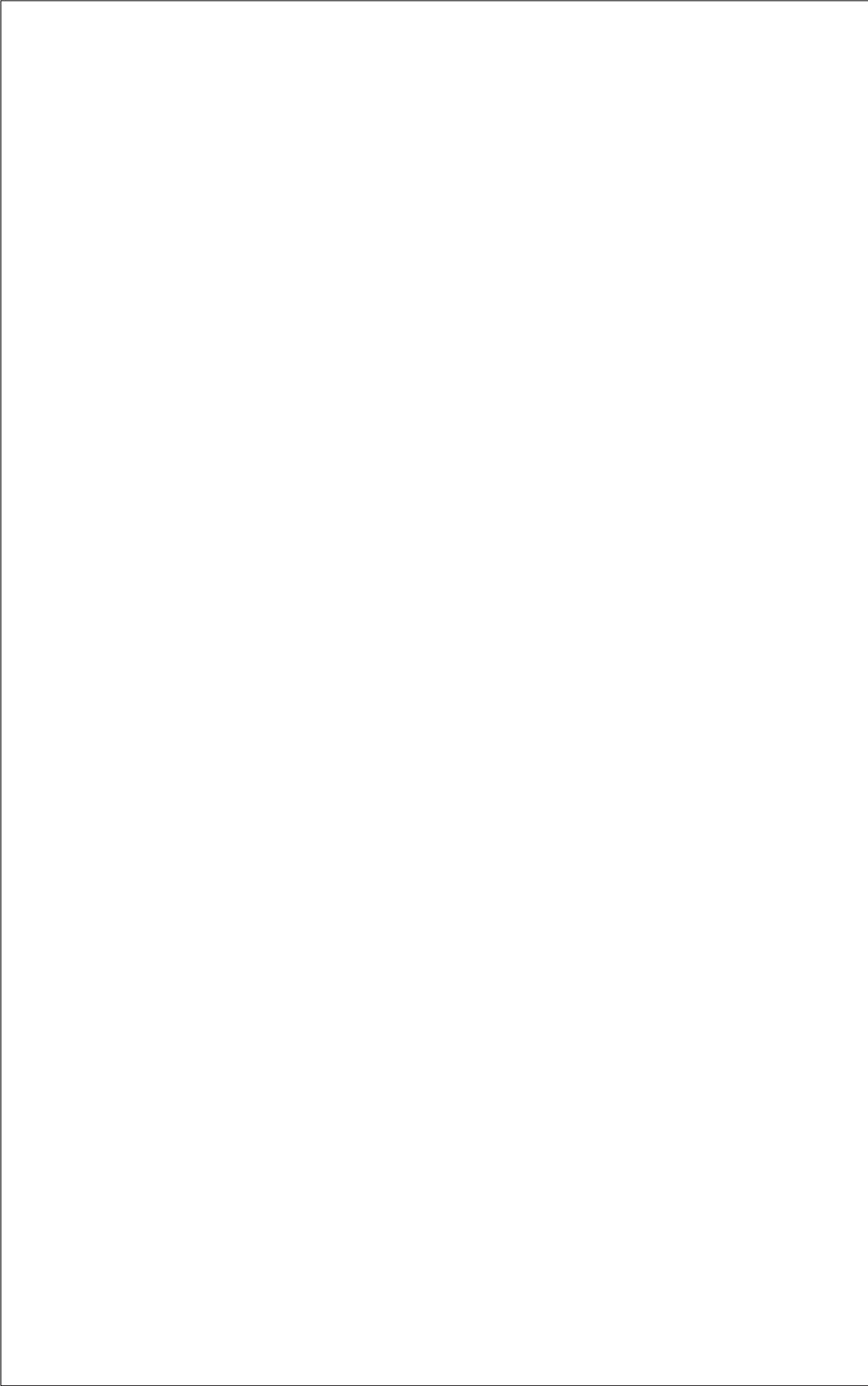
and goals that may work to meet your child's educational needs. RSVP to the Exceptional Family Member Office, 239-9455.



937th Engineer Group Photo

In June, Lt. Col. Xavier P. Lobeto relinquished command of the 541st Maintenance Battalion, 937th Engineer Group, to Lt. Col. Curt Higdon in a change of command ceremony held at Log Base Seitz in Baghdad, Iraq. The base is named for Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Richard Seitz, of Junction City.







# More Briefs

## Construction Project

There will be construction of off-street parking areas in Housing areas 19-24, Peterson and Warner, beginning Monday. The project is expected to be complete by Feb. 4, 2004. Locations for parking lots are near buildings 6534, 5151, 5153, 5707, 5127, 5125 and 5726. Traffic will be reduced to one lane. Oversized vehicles may have trouble maneuvering in some areas.

## DES Classes

The Directorate of Environment and Safety is offering the following classes in November.

Please call 239-2334 or 0446 to enroll. Nov. 14 - HAZCOM, Nov. 17 - 18 - ETT and Nov. 25 - ETT-Refresher.

## EEO Office Moved

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office has moved to building 319.

Visitors are asked to enter the building through the side entrance, which is handicapped accessible. The phone numbers remain, 239-3263 or 239-2595.

## OCSC Luncheon

The Fort Riley Officers' and Civilians' Spouses Club will have a luncheon Nov. 20, 11:30 a.m., at the Junction City Country Club. The menu will include a salad, soup, and sandwich bar. Build your own turkey, ham or roast beef sandwich. The soup of the week is to be determined and dessert will be served. Tea, coffee

and water will also be included. The cost of the luncheon is \$10.

The guest speaker will be Pauline Myers and Jerry Hume of Ben Franklin Crafts in Manhattan. As you make your reservations for the luncheon, be certain to reserve a craft kit for \$5 or less, then "Make and Take" your craft home from the luncheon.

Reservations are required for the luncheon. You should RSVP to Connie Taylor, 784-5111, by Nov. 12.

## Leaf Pick-up

Leaf pick-up with the Public Works leaf vacuum machine has commenced in areas of heavy tree concentration. Weather permitting, the leaf pick-up schedule is as follows, with emphasis given to Family Housing areas in these locations: Main Post - Mondays and Tuesdays, Marshall Army Air Field - Wednesdays, Camp Forsyth - Thursdays and Custer Hill and other areas - Fridays.

Leaves to be removed by the leaf vacuum should be raked/piled in rows on the lawn area adjacent to the curb, but not on the curb or street. Leaf piles must not contain grass clippings, limbs or other heavy debris that would interfere with the vacuum operation. The leaf vacuum will operate in November as long as necessary to complete fall leaf removal.

Housing occupants desiring to confine leaves in trash bags may place these bags adjacent to the trash carts for pick-up by the trash collection contractor on regular pick-up days. Bagged leaves should not weight any more than 40 pounds each. The trash collection contractor will not pick up leaves for activities serviced by

dumpsters. These units will be required to haul their leaves to the yard waste compost area near building 1945, Camp Funston. Leaves may be hauled loose or in bags, but all leaves must be deposited loose into the compost. Dumpsters containing bagged or loose leaves will not be emptied.

## Exercise on Post

There will be a force protection exercise held on Fort Riley beginning Wednesday that will run to Nov. 18. It could cause some delays in traffic at the gates.

## Holiday Craft Fair

Bring your family to the Holiday Home, Crafts and Things Bazaar for food, fun and entertainment Nov. 15, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., at Marshall Air Field, Hangar 817. There will be a food court, craft vendors, children's corner with moon-bounce and face painting and much more. If you are interested in a booth or need more information, contact Sherri Weber, 537-7781. To volunteer, call 784-4228 or 784-3191.

## Garrison Commander's Address

The Garrison Commander will address the civilian workforce Nov. 18, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at Barlow Theater.

## Thanksgiving Service

There will be a post-wide Ecumenical Worship Service Nov. 26, 11:45 a.m., at Kapaun Chapel. The service is for soldiers, family members and civilian workers on

Fort Riley.

## Youth Basketball Registration

Youth Basketball Registration will be held through Nov. 14. The program is open to girls and boys currently in 2nd -6th grades. A current sports physical, dated on or after March 13, must be on file at Central Registration at the time of sign-up. Registration will be held at Central Registration, building 6620, 1-5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, except for Veterans' Day.

Call the Youth Sports office, 239-9223, or Central Registration, 239-4847.

## Blue Chip Social

There will be a Blue Chip Social Nov. 20, 4 p.m., at Rally Point.

## Thrift Shop

The Fort Riley Thrift Shop has a large selection of previously owned articles, from clothing to house wares to furniture. There will be a 50 percent off Christmas Sale on donated Christmas items Dec. 2 - 18.

Visit building 267, Stuart Avenue (next to the stables) Tuesday - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Consignor-Customer Appreciation Day is tomorrow. Items for consignment are accepted on Tuesdays; donations are accepted everyday. For info on needed items or to schedule a pickup for large items, call 784-3874.

## Post Pools

Eyster Pool is closed until further notice. Hours of operation at Long Pool beginning Nov. 5 are:

Wednesday - Friday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. lap swimming and 1 - 6 p.m.

Sunday - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The pool is closed Monday and Tuesday.

Contact the sports office at 239-2172 for additional information.



Capt. Tameka Bowser, MEDDAC, swabs Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Joe Stiefvater with alcohol before issuing him a flu shot at the annual Retiree Appreciation Day Health Fair in Manhattan.

PH: PADD-Setback



# With winter on horizon, prepare for snow, ice, Snow Bursts

By William Biles  
Staff Writer

It's getting closer each day. When it arrives, it could fill everyone's life with perils and danger.

What is it that will arrive? Old Man Winter, and it is looming on the horizon.

Along with winter's arrival come snow bursts. With the snow also comes increased responsibility on the part of Fort Riley residents.

Residents are responsible for removal of snow on their sidewalks, steps and porches.

Rock salt is not permitted for use on concrete or asphalt surfaces. However, sand is provided on post to provide traction, in these areas.

The sand can be obtained from the largest sand pile in the open area located northeast of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, building 319, Marshall Avenue.

Residents must bring their own container, such as a bucket, to carry the sand in. Units needing sand are asked to bring their own trucks, according to Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Brill, Snow Removal Control Center.

De-icer is also available for residents through the Self-Help Store, building 289, to be used on porches, sidewalks and driveways.

Troop units needing de-icer are asked to submit a work order request, Department of the Army Form 4283, to Public Works, building 372, using NSN 6810-01-278-6133, De-Icer, 100 pound



drum.

Residents are also reminded that a parking policy is in effect during the snow removal season. During this season, which began Oct. 1 and lasts until April

30, parking will be on one side of the street only.

When snow and ice are expected, all vehicles will park on the even building numbers side of the street on even number calendar

days and on the odd side of the street on odd numbered days.

However, there is an exception to this rule for streets that only allow parking on one side of the street.

No parking signs are in effect during the snow removal season and will not be violated.

Residents of Meade, Burnside and McClellan communities need to take note that if there is a major snowfall during workdays, they will need to open as much of the area in the parking court as possible.

Residents of Schofield Circle should park on the house side on even numbered days and the parade field side on odd numbered days.

Streets with residents in violation of the parking policy will not be cleared, as it is potentially dan-

gerous for both residents and those operating the snow removal equipment.

In case of hazardous road conditions, Williston Point Road will likely be closed. Also, during heavy snowfall, Rile Range and Estes Roads may not be accessible, according to Lt. Col. Wesley Anderson, director, Public Works.

Fort Riley's Channel 2 will be used to inform residents and employees if the installation anticipates snow or ice conditions.

The alternate side parking will continue to be used until the road is cleared from curb to curb.

All residents should maximize the use of their driveways to reduce the numbers of vehicles on the street during the snow removal process.

# Tax benefits available for combat zone Soldiers

By Frances Walsh  
Legal Assistance Office

Soldiers serving in a combat zone, qualified hazardous duty area or "in direct support" of a combat zone are afforded certain tax benefits. These include the exclusion of certain compensation received while serving in a CZ/QHDA and an extension of time for filing, paying and performing certain other tax related acts.

Enlisted Soldiers and warrant officers are allowed to exclude from gross income all compensation received during the months spent in a CZ/QHDA. Commissioned officers can exclude up to the highest enlisted Soldier's pay plus the hostile fire pay amount. If a Soldier spends any part of a month in the CZ/QHDA, compensation for that entire month is excluded. The Soldier's servicing finance office must be notified of the service so that the Soldier's W-2 accurately reflects excluded pay. If a Soldier believes he is entitled to the exclusion but it is not reflected on his Form W-2, the Soldier should contact the servicing finance office and ask for a corrected Form W-2. Amounts excluded from gross income are not subject to federal income tax. This provision does not apply to civilians in the combat zone.

The deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing claims for refund and taking other actions with the Internal Revenue Service is automatically extended for Soldiers serving in a CZ/QHDA. The deadline for taking actions with the IRS is extended for 180 days after the last day the Soldier is in a CZ/QHDA. In addition to the 180 days, the deadline is also extended by the num-

ber of days that were left for the Soldier to take the action with the IRS when the Soldier entered a CZ/QHDA. These provisions apply to certain civilians in the combat zone in support of the U.S. Armed Forces, such as Red Cross personnel, accredited correspondents and civilian personnel acting under the direction of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Remember that the deadline extension provisions apply to most tax actions required to be performed on or after the Soldier began serving in the combat zone. For example, if the Soldier entered the combat zone on March 1, the extension applies to the filing and paying of the Soldier's income taxes that would have been due April 15. In addition to the 180 days, the Soldier's extension period will include the 46 days that were left before the April 15 deadline when the Soldier entered the combat zone. During this 226-day extension period, assessment and collection deadlines will be extended, and the Soldier will not be charged interest or penalties attributable to the extension period.

The deadline extension provi-

sions apply not only to Soldiers serving in the combat zone, but their spouses as well, with two exceptions. First, if the Soldier is hospitalized in the United States as a result of injuries received while serving in a combat zone, the deadline extension provision would not apply to the spouse. Second, the deadline extension provisions for the Soldier do not apply for any tax year beginning more than two years after the date of the termination of the combat zone designation. The deadline extension provisions apply to both, whether joint or separate returns are filed. For Separate returns, the spouse will have the same extension of time to file and pay her taxes that the Soldier has.

According to IRS guidance, Soldiers covered by the relief provisions for U.S. military and support personnel involved in military operations in a combat zone should put the words "COMBAT ZONE" and their deployment date in red at the top of their tax returns. Covered taxpayers who receive a notice from the IRS regarding a collection or examination matter should return the notice to the IRS with the words

"COMBAT ZONE" and the deployment date in red at the top of the notice and put "COMBAT ZONE" on the envelope so IRS can suspend the action. Taxpayers may prevent issuance of such notices by notifying IRS that they are serving in a combat zone.

The IRS has provided tax information for members of the U.S. Armed Forces on their website. Go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click on "Armed Forces Tax Benefits." Included are a number of questions and answers on the combat zone tax provisions. If you have questions, call the IRS, 1-800-829-1040, or the Legal Assistance Office, 239-3117.

# Native American Heritage program planned

Staff Reports

The Division Equal Opportunity Office will sponsor Fort Riley's observance of Native American Heritage Month with a program Nov. 20, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at Barlow Theater.

Ray Farve will be the guest speaker at the event, speaking of his position at the American Indian Studies, Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence.

The program will also feature the Native American Performers of the Haskell Indian Nations University, performing both the Fancy Dance and the Jingle Dress Dance.

Following the presentation, the audience will be able to sample a variety of Native American dishes including corn bread, breaded duck strips, wild rice, wild mushrooms, corn on the cob, buffalo and pepper kabobs and chicken drumsticks.

Displays from the Haskell Cultural Center and Museum will be available to look at throughout the program.

For information, contact the Division EO Office, 239-2928.



# Foundation volunteers help collar, study elk on Fort Riley



Lou Bender measures the girth of an elk on Fort Riley in order to ensure proper growth.

By Jason Shepherd  
19th PAD

Members of the Fort Riley Directorate of Environment and Safety and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation woke up early on Oct. 26 and 27 to go hunting for elk in the area north of Main Post.

But this type of hunting didn't involve 30-06 rifles or bows, and these hunters weren't looking to bring down these massive beasts for food. They were going to study the behaviors of elk herds on post to ensure that the animals were healthy. They also placed collars on some of the animals to track movement patterns of the herd.

During the two-day event, Fort Riley civilians and foundation volunteers searched for different elk herds in the Fort Riley hunting area.

Approximately 20 people were broken into five groups for the search. One group went in a helicopter that was used to flush the elk out of wooded areas. The other groups were the capture crews on the ground. That group tracked the downed animal and gathered data about how Fort Riley elk compare to other elk

herds in the western United States. The researchers were able to collar 16 elk during the study and will use the data to study migration patterns of the herd as they move on and off post.

"We're going to track their home ranges to see where they're going, particularly during certain times of the year when they seem to be going off post, especially late summer and late winter," said Alan Hynek, chief, Conservation Division, DES.

Hynek said the collar will help them find the elk when they do a census on post. "This will help us track the herds and let us know where they're at and where they're moving to, which will make our job easier," he said.

Lou Bender, a wildlife research biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, New Mexico Research Unit, came to Fort Riley to help with the data collection. Bender flew in the helicopter and fired a dart filled with a sedative, which put the elk to sleep. Gibran Suleiman, DES, was also in the helicopter guiding the action.

Once an elk was sighted, the helicopter herded the animal into the open and got as close as possible, while Bender fired, aiming at

its hindquarters. "We try to hit toward the upper loins of the elk," he said. "This area has the most blood vessels and muscle tissue, so if you hit this area, the animal tends to go down faster."

Bender said the dart takes from three to seven minutes to affect the animal, depending on where the dart hits and how much body fat the elk has. Once the animal has fallen asleep, the capture crews were called in to perform several tests in order to identify the health of the elk.

"We're going to be taking a lot of biological data once the animal is down," Bender said to the crowd during his briefing. "We'll be doing this to try to get a feel on what the overall health of the population is. Once the animal is down, we'll be using the large animal Ultrasound, which will measure the amount of fat on the animal, which we will compare to 20 to 25 other elk populations in the west."

The group also pulled blood and fecal material, which was checked for parasites and disease, as well as checking the girth of the animal to help determine the overall size and weight.

During this time, the crew fastened the tracking collars on the animals. The collars give off a radio signal that can be tracked during elk movements. According to Hynek, if an elk lies still for a long period of time, usually after death, the collar puts out a different tone. The collar batteries usually last for three years, but can last up to five. The last time elk were collared on Fort Riley was 1994, said Hynek.

Once all the data had been recorded on a downed animal, Bender pulled out the tranquilizer and administered a counter to the sedatives. Once received, elk usually recovered in about two minutes and were released back into the wild.

According to Hynek, hunters in the areas should be aware that some elk on Fort Riley do have these collars on them. Hunters should not fire on collared elk if possible.

Hynek said that it was because of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation that Fort Riley was able to perform the elk collaring. Not only did the volunteers give their time to come to Fort Riley to help, they also committed over \$45,000 to the project.

## MyPay users must request hard copy W-2 on website

Army News Service

All current myPay military users and Defense Finance and Accounting Service civilian employees who request or already have a myPay Personal Identification Number and access myPay will now automatically receive an electronic W-2.

The electronic method is now the primary means of delivery for all DFAS civilians and military users with a customized myPay PIN. Users may elect to receive a printed W-2 by mail by choosing the hard copy option through myPay before Dec. 1.

"This is an opportunity for our customers to better manage their pay information," said Dennis Eicher, director for Electronic

Commerce, Military and Civilian Pay Services at DFAS. "We are providing myPay customers access to their tax and pay preferences online. We also know some individuals would rather have a hard copy statement, so we are giving them that choice."

The online version, complete with printing instructions, is 100 percent compatible for all tax purposes and allows users to print as many copies as they need without having to depend on saving a hard copy. A save button is also available to allow individuals to save their W-2s to disk.

To ensure customers who are affected receive either an electronic or hard copy W-2, there will be a "no change" period from

Dec. 1 through January 31. During this period users will not be allowed to change their W-2 print election on myPay, but may request a paper W-2 by contacting their local financial services activity.

To select the hard copy W-2, go

to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. Under Taxes, select "Turn on/off Hard copy of W-2".

Once this option is selected, carefully read the various questions posed. The user will be given the opportunity to select "hard copy." In doing so, the user has elected to receive a hard copy

by mail and will also still be able to see the W-2 electronically.

Retired military servicemembers and annuitants, as well as civilians outside of DFAS, will continue to receive their tax statements or 1099 statements by mail. No action is required.

