

# Fort Riley Community

November 21, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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## Family Action Conference brings ideas, solutions to leaders

By Steven Cooke  
19th PAD

Several Soldiers, family members, civilian employees and other members of the Fort Riley community participated in the Family Action Conference at the Battle Simulation Center Oct. 23 - 24.

At the conference, participants, called delegates, were divided into several groups. Each group was assigned a topic. The group was to discuss relevant issues relating to their topic and possible solutions. Facilitators and recorders were assigned to each group to guide the discussions. Subject matter experts were also assigned to some groups to offer

more guidance.

Topics assigned to the groups were: Child and Youth Services, Family Readiness, Employment, Medical and Dental, Force Support/Customer Service and Entitlements/Housing/Public Works.

"While the groups were open to discuss as many concerns as possible, each had to finalize their top three issues. The groups would later present their top three issues and proposed solutions to the commanding general and the garrison commander on the last day of the conference.

Though participants were comprised of different ranks, pay grades, ages and backgrounds, they said they felt comfortable speaking their minds.

"It was very much an open environment to express your ideas," said Shelley Burge, delegate, force support/customer service.

"(The group process) went very well, actually," said Patti Walker, recorder, force support/customer service. "(The delegates) were very courteous to listen to each other. They had patience for each other."

"It was a debating system," said Shawni Sticca, facilitator, benefits/entitlements/public works. "Someone threw out an idea and people discussed if they agreed or disagreed."

"It's a good format. Every issue is addressed," said Sgt. 1st Class Pamela Jamerson, subject matter expert, force support/customer service. "It's an open environment; no animosity. Everyone got a chance. And, there is no rank structure."

At the end of the last day, the groups, including two middle school groups and a high school group, presented their issues and possible solutions.

The Child and Youth Services group presented two issues. One, the Teen Center is not appealing to youth and two, the need for after duty hours team sports for three to five-year-olds.

The group said the Teen Center is being used at less than 25 percent capacity and the center is geared toward middle school students and not the interests of high school students. Their proposed solutions were to offer volunteer positions to teenagers to supplement Teen Center staff and to serve teen oriented fun in evenings and on weekends.

Issues the Family Readiness group came up with were the enhancement of in-processing requirements, inadequate awareness of the capabilities of

the Family Readiness Group program and lack of communication during deployments.

The group said Soldiers' and families' morale is being eroded due to lack of communication between forward units, rear detachments and families. The groups proposed solutions were to generate increased Army/Air Force Post Office deliveries through military or civilian contract airtel, investigate using portable communication centers that utilize satellites, the use of individually issued morale calling cards and the increase of Internet access for deployed soldiers.

The Employment group's top three issues were: the amendment of spouse preference for non-appropriated funds positions, the lack of manpower in employment services and the denial of federal positions to alien servicemembers upon discharge from the military.

The group said alien servicemembers do not meet the criteria to apply for civilian jobs because of their resident status. Money and skilled personnel are sacrificed because alien servicemembers are not retained after being discharged from the military. The group went on to say they feel qualified non-U.S. citizens who have exhibited loyalty to the U.S. through their military service should be allowed to continue their service to the nation in civil service employment.

The group recommended allowing honorably discharged aliens with military service into civil service opportunities.

The next group to present was the Medical and Dental Group. Their top three issues were unavailability of acute care, the accountability for no-show medical appointments and medical referrals for active duty servicemember's non-emergencies.

There is no standardized policy to enforce accountability for appointment no shows. The failure of patients showing up for appointments or cancel them, impact other patient's ability to receive medical appointments.

The group proposed establishing a standard Department of Defense policy to enforce accountability for no-show appointments.

In the Force Support/Customer Service group, the



Sgt. Ray Flete, delegate, Entitlements/Housing/Public Works, voices his opinion during his group's discussion at the Family Action Conference Oct. 23 - 24.

## Several concerns expressed at Youth Action Conference

By Steven Cooke  
19th PAD

Several middle and high school students recently spent their Saturday discussing issues close to their hearts at the annual Youth Action Conference Oct. 18, at the Teen Center.

"We had 28 kids," said Becky Willis, program manager, Army Family Action Plan. "It went great. I am very pleased. The kids came in with some really good issues that will really have a positive impact on the post."

At the conference, the kids were divided into three groups; two middle school and one high school group. Each group was assigned an adult facilitator and an adult recorder. The students were the delegates. In the morning, the groups discussed their issues.

Students said one of the best things about the conference is the free atmosphere to speak their mind and not worry about getting in trouble.

"(The conference) is a great

opportunity to express your feelings out loud," said Angiel James, 7th grader, Junction City Middle School. "If you have something bad to say about something, you will not get put down. You can express your feelings in a positive way."

Students said they believe that by talking, they are making a difference in their community.

"Over the years, the things we suggest happen," said Brad McCormick, 10th grader, Junction City High School. "It may not happen right away, but it happens. Every year we accomplish something new. Even if it doesn't benefit us now, it will benefit others in the future."

This was McCormick's third year participating in the conference.

"It's important to get involved because, even if you feel like you can't make a change, just you voicing your opinion can make a difference," said Cassandra Myskiw, 8th grader, Fort Riley Middle School. "Voicing your opinion with other people who have the same ideas as you can

really make a difference."

At the end of the day, each of the three groups came up with their top three issues. Representatives from each group presented these issues to Fort Riley's Garrison Commander, Col. John Simpson, Jr., and his Steering Committee Oct. 28 at the Family Action Conference.

For the high school group, top issues were, more teen employment opportunities on the installation, Teen Center hours of operation and Teen Center gym space utilization.



Students in the high school group at the Youth Action Conference discuss problems and their possible solutions.

High school students said even though they could find jobs elsewhere, they would prefer to work on post.

"I want a job at the Teen Center," said Kietra Robinson, 12th grader, JCHS. "I know everybody at the Teen Center, and I feel comfortable here."

The high schoolers also feel like the Teen Center has become more for the younger kids than it is for them.

"It's the fact that we can not use our own facilities because the school age children are using it," said Allyscia Holloway, 11th grader, JCHS.

Middle School Group 1 came up with several issues, including the condition, safety and quantity of basketball courts, poor conditions of Fort Riley school locker rooms and bathrooms and "To Play or Not to Play."

Fort Riley Middle School's Trooper time does not include physical activity. Students said they wanted more after school activities, not only for fun but to keep them out of trouble.

"If a kid has different activities

after school, they'll be less likely to get involved in drugs," said Myskiw. "That's like an anti-drug."

Group 2 of the middle schools decided their top issues were: traffic on 1st Division Road before and after school frequently causes students and parents to be late, more family activities on the installation, especially during deployment, and more extra curricular activities for students.

The group said the traffic on 1st Division Road effects three schools. The group recommended a walking bridge over the road at the current crosswalk.

In the end, the students and adult volunteers said they had a good time and would like to invite more students to participate next year.

"It was a lot fun for me," said Elias Guadalupe, 8th grader, FRMS. "I got to express my opinion and meet new kids from off post."

"It was fun — A lot of healthy conversation and a lot of good

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## Fort Riley schools receive Challenge Awards

By Ryan D. Wood  
19th PAD

In a year that has already identified a Fort Riley school for being one of the best schools in the country, the honors don't stop there. Six Geary County schools, including Ware and Custer Hill Elementary, along with Fort Riley Middle School, are again being recognized.

Ware and Custer Hill both received the 2003 Challenge Award Certificates of Merit in 4th grade math. Certificates in 5th grade reading have also been awarded to Ware and Custer Hill. Fort Riley Middle School received a certificate of merit in 7th grade math.

The awards are given through the Challenge Award Program. Through this program, 70 state schools were identified as high performing schools, based on 2003 Kansas Assessment results as well as other factors such as sample size, ethnicity and the socio-economic status of those taking the tests. From those 70, up to five in each district were selected to receive certificates of merit.

Sixty-nine Kansas schools earning certificates of merit were recognized at the Confidence Task Force Challenge Award banquet Nov. 9, at the Junction City High School.

## Army Field Band, Chorus perform in Manhattan

By Ryan D. Wood  
19th PAD

In an appropriate start to the Veterans Day weekend, the U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus took the stage at McCain Auditorium, Kansas State University, Nov. 8 for an evening of both patriotic and popular music.

Col. Richard McPhee, chief of staff, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, took a few moments to welcome the band and choir before the evening's festivities began.

"It is indeed an honor for me to welcome you to this great event — to welcome this magnificent organization of warriors here to Kansas," said McPhee. "You may ask why I would say that. I will tell you that they are warriors first and musicians second. They are here representing not just magnificent musicians, but they are representing the 480,000 Soldiers that make up your Army."

The program opened with a rousing patriotic prologue to get the audience in the mood for the spectacular evening of music and



Post Still Video/Wood

song. With numbers ranging from a Stephen Foster Song Book to the Stars and Stripes Forever, both the

instrumental and vocal musicians elicited many spurts of spontaneous applause from the audience, and even an occasional 'Hooha!' could be heard echoing out of the audience.

During an intermission, Sgt. 1st Class Sarah Anderson, USAFB, took a moment to talk about the mission and passion of the band and choir.

"Our mission is to bring the story of the American Soldier to the American people, and we have been doing it since 1946," said Anderson. "We are on the road about 120 days a year, with an average of one show per day. We also have 14 educational ensembles who, while on the road, go out into the schools."

Anderson said she saw the band and choir as ambassadors for the military.

In a part of America that most people don't get to experience directly, Anderson said the band

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# Bazaar raises money for scholarships

By Christopher Selmek  
19th PAD

The Holiday Home Craft and Things Bazaar was held Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., in Hangar 817, drawing hundreds of prospective buyers and dozens of vendors to show off their wares.

This year's event was the first that the Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club and the Enlisted Spouses' Club coordinated together. All proceeds go to the Fort Riley Combined Scholarship Campaign, which is given out to spouses and family members of active duty military personnel who wish to go to college.

"We are running the show together," said Sheri Weber, 2nd vice president, OCSC. "We were both in charge of setting up and getting all the vendors, and it looks like it's doing great."

The craft bazaar attracted more than 400 visitors in the first two hours alone and even more began to pour in after lunch.

"We're hoping to have over a thousand," said Shanni Sticca, ESC president.

"That's looking more possible as the crowd rushes in now."

The bazaar offered crafts of all different types, including candles, clothing and various ceramic figures.



Bill Wedekind works carefully at his home pottery wheel during Saturday's bazaar.

"All kinds of different people are showing up," said Weber. "A lot of the spouses do a lot of the crafts, and this is an opportunity to show their work."

Wedekind was first fitted with hooks, but found that they did not work because a blind person requires a sense of touch. Doctors then separated the two forearm bones halfway to his elbow, creating what looks like two large fingers and gave him a grip by reattaching his thumb muscle.

"Living without sight is more difficult that living without hands," he said. "I've learned to compensate for my hands."

Wedekind is assisted at the wheel by his wife, Diana, who applies the glazes, loads and unloads the kiln, packs pottery and travels with her husband to many area shows. The two drew perhaps the largest crowd at the bazaar in demonstration of their unique skills.

"He really feels that this is what God intended for his life," Diana said of her husband. "This is the way he was meant to be."

Other crafters were impressed by the amount of advertising that had been done in advance for this craft bazaar.

"I actually think they did a very good job advertising this," said Julie Johnson, who had a booth at the bazaar. "We've been to a lot of bazaars where it's just hit or miss, but we've had a very good turn out here so far."

"We always love to come out to be with the people and show our crafts," she continued. "It's a very positive experience."

The bazaar also included Family Readiness Group food booths and a moonwalk for children.

Overall, the customers and vendors seemed very satisfied with the bazaar, and those responsible for its coordination were hopeful for more in years to come.

"We hope to have a huge turnout, and we hope it's successful because we'd like to do it again next year," said Weber.

# Fort Riley transportation officer honored

By Steven Cooke  
19th PAD

One of Fort Riley's very own was recently recognized by Forces Command for outstanding service.

Richard Wollenberg, transportation officer, G-4, Directorate of Logistics, was given the Transportation Officer of the Year award Oct. 31.

"It feels good," said Wollenberg. "It means a lot, not so much to win the award, but [the fact] the command cared enough to nominate me."

For the award, Wollenberg had to compete against transportation officer at all FORSCOM installations.

Members of Wollenberg's command said it is his dedication and hard work that make him deserving of the honor.

"Dick Wollenberg works long and hard on the power projection platform," said Larry Githerman, director, DOL. "He's did a lot of long range planning that was very instrumental in the success of Operation Iraqi Freedom."

"He's always up to the task. A pretty dedicated guy," said Sgt. Maj. Luis Lopez, G-4, transportation office. "He works long hours, seven days a week, if he has to. He doesn't go home until all the transportation issues have been resolved."

As Fort Riley's transportation officer for the last 10 years, Wollenberg said he is responsible for making sure Fort Riley Soldiers and their equipment get to where they need to go, handling all rail and air loads.

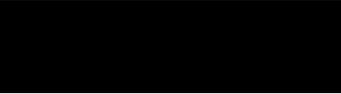
Wollenberg, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, said what he enjoys most about his job is working with young Soldiers.

"The best part is the ability to teach everything I have learned in the last 35 years — the ability to work with people I love most, and that's Soldiers," he said.

Wollenberg's leaders know he will continue the mission he has worked so hard to accomplish. "He came to Fort Riley long ago and had a vision for Fort Riley. He worked long and hard to make that happen, and continues to do so," said Githerman.



Lynne Krivitsky looks away as Sgt. Paul Hanna, 396th Combat Support Hospital, prepares to draw her blood at a bone marrow donor registration event. The blood is matched against needed types to try and find people who can donate bone marrow to cancer patients. According to Hanna, a very small percentage of registrants actually pass all of the tests and matching profiles for marrow donation, making a large number of willing donors very important.



# New Post Exchange boosts Soldier morale at Camp Junction City

By **Jamie Bender**  
1st BCT Staff Writer

CAMP JUNCTION CITY, Ar Ramadi, Iraq—Soldiers lined up three hours early to make their purchases at the new Post Exchange grand opening recently. Col. Buck Connor, commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, command sergeant major, 1st BCT, were on hand at the official ribbon cutting ceremony. Before asking Bob Hunt, team leader, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, to cut the ribbon, Connor spoke about the history of the PX system.

"For the past 100 years, beginning with the first world war, the PX system has always been there, in peace and in war, but especially in combat zones," he said. "Once we merged with the Air Force in 1950, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service has been there. They were there in Korea, they were there in Vietnam, they were there in Desert Storm and they are here now." Connor also talked about what AAFES brings to the Soldiers. "The greatest thing that Mr. Bob Hunt and his volunteers bring to us is a piece of home," said Connor. "When you go inside there, you will see the same things you see in PX's in America. What a great

joy that is to bring us some normalcy. We can't thank you enough. On behalf of all the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team and the Big Red One, thank you and all of your staff for coming to be with us." The merchandise sold at the PX comes from several sources and is distributed through a system at Baghdad International Airport. "We should be getting more merchandise every two weeks from BIAP," said Hunt. "We get our magazines, books and movies from Atlanta. We also get stereo (equipment) from Germany." Getting the merchandise here that the Soldiers want can be a difficult task and

can cause additional problems. "It took us almost two weeks to get this stuff from BIAP because they were having trouble with (local nationals) not wanting to drive the trucks," said Hunt. "That can cause Soldiers to want to buy everything now while we have it because they are afraid we won't get more." To prevent shortages, some items in the PX have been limited to one per purchase. "We suggested that coffee and tobacco products be limited to one per Soldier," Hunt said. "We are low on that kind of stuff, but we don't want Soldiers to buy it all at once because we are going to be here. It's not like we are leaving next

week or something. Just give us time and we will get what you need here." The Soldiers of Camp Junction City have looked forward to the PX opening and many felt that it added to their morale. "It gave everyone something to look forward to," said Sgt. Dave Renjifo, 1st Engineer Battalion. "It makes me feel like the Army is working for me." "It was better than I expected," said Sgt. Patrick Leon, 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion. "It had a lot of stock and a good variety. They had everything from electronics to snacks to sundry items."

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lack of personnel to enforce animal regulations and state laws, customer dissatisfaction at the post office and a license plate program for active duty servicemembers were the top issues. The sixth group to present was Entitlements/Housing/Public Works. The group's top issues were the condition of barracks, the inconsistency of temporary duty allowances and adjustments of basic allowance for housing for larger families. All the groups also presented

their four most valuable services on Fort Riley. The top services were the Commissary, fitness centers and the Post Exchange and Shoppettes. Brig. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, and Col. John Simpson, Jr., garrison commander, listened to all the group presentations and responded to some. Becky Willis, program manager, Army Family Action Plan, said the next step is for the garrison

commander's Steering Committee look over the issues and assign them to the responsible agencies. "The committee meets quarterly and the agency point of contact will update the committee until the issue is either resolved or every possible attempt is eliminated," said Willis. After that, Willis explained, the unresolved issues will be forwarded to next Major Command level. Participants said the conference was very important and a great opportunity to make a dif-

ference in the Fort Riley community. "I participated because I felt it was important to have a voice in what is going on," said Burge. "You can't complain about it if you don't do something about it." "If you have an issue and you want it to be solved, the Army Family Action Plan is a good place to get your issue fixed," said Walker. "We get to have an impact on post," said Sgt. 1st Class Will Langes, delegate, force

support/customer service. Melinda Geczy said she got involved because she witnessed the success of past AFAP conferences. "It's a wonderful process to get community issues addressed," she said. Willis said there have been several issues resolved from past conferences. "(An example from the teen issues is) the PX set up an area to display videos and games that are

on sale or sold at \$20 or less," said Willis. "(From the adult conference) there is hourly childcare at King Field House for spouses to utilize while (exercising). Another was a designated area for teens to play street hockey (near the old commissary), to include nets, and the basketball court lines were repainted in that area for adults and teens use."

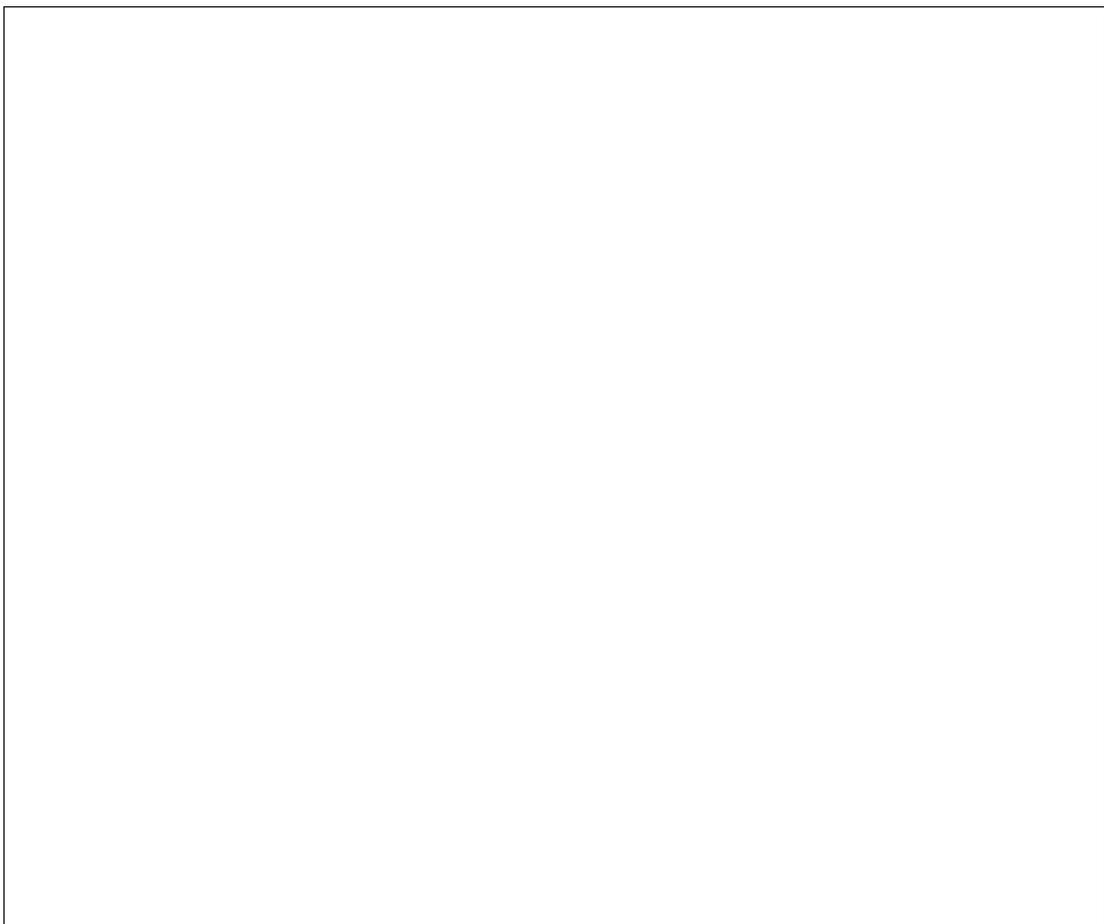
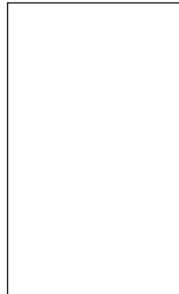
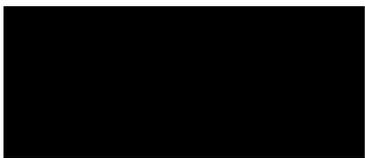
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points were brought up," said Holloway. "The best part for me was getting around all my peers, talking about issues and everybody get-

ting together as a whole doing something about it," said Robinson. "It went exceptionally well," said Lorri Perry, high school

group facilitator. "(They are) a wonderful group of kids. They bashed all the stereotypes of the lazy teenager. They were willing

to listen and take responsibility to make this better."



# Snow in forecast: Be prepared for snowburst

By William Biles  
Staff Writer

Winter is upon us and 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 6810-01-2778-6133, 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 expect-

ed, 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 still 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 possi-

ble. 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 dangerous 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, Rifle 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.

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offers a glimpse into the professionalism and dedication shown by the men and women serving in the Armed Forces today.

"I think that the Field Band shows a level of professionalism that's going across the Army. John Q. Public doesn't know what a well-fired missile looks like, but he does know what really well performed music sounds like. We

just say that this level of professionalism is across the board," Anderson said.

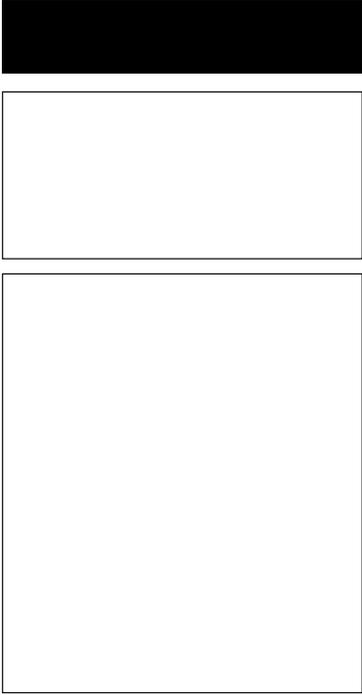
As her time to again take the stage approached, Anderson took a moment to thank the people who had come out to see the performance.

"I am so glad that people come. Our favorite part of the show is always the patriotic songs that we

have at the end where all the veterans will stand up," said Anderson. "Sometimes we will get choked up on stage. It's just so important to have an audience. We can't do our jobs without them."

At a time when the country is fighting for the cause of freedom around the globe, the band and choir offered an auditorium full of

appreciative spectators a chance to hum along and lose themselves in a bit of America. As the program stated, the mission of the band is to "carry into the grass-roots of our country the story of our magnificent Army." For a few hours, the band did just that, with songs of patriotism and a deep appreciation of what they stand for.



# Operation Santa Claus brings toys to local children in need

By Sam Robinson  
Staff Writer

The joy of bouncing out of bed at the crack of dawn and running to see what surprises Santa left is a memory shared by many, but not all. Unfortunately, some families do not have bountiful memories of Christmas. Instead they feel stress, guilt and disappointment about not being able to provide gifts for their children.

Fort Riley is taking steps to ensure that all families have a plentiful and merry holiday season. One such step is Operation Santa Claus, which began in 1968. Through this program, new toys are collected and distributed to boys and girls, up to age 14.

The Fort Riley Non-Commissioned Officers Association, along with Fort Riley's Garrison Command Sergeant Major, sponsors this annual event.

"Operation Santa Claus helps the kids that otherwise wouldn't have a Christmas," said Charlie Quick, NCOA member and co-organizer. "OSC is a wonderful holiday tradition for Fort Riley and the Flint Hills area."

"It takes a lot of planning and work, both before and after Christmas," said Quick.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the OSC headquarters was

held Nov. 14, kicking off the season. During the drive, red, wooden boxes are located throughout Fort Riley and the surrounding communities to collect donated toys. Everyone is welcome to give an unwrapped toy or wrapping supplies during the collection time, which runs through mid-December.

"The toys are received unwrapped. They are sorted into age and gender groups," said Quick. "When a request comes in, it is filled from the designated group of toys."

"Fort Riley families as well as Flint Hills area families are eligible for assistance," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Noble, garrison command sergeant major and event co-organizer.

Families are nominated to receive assistance by the units through the first sergeants and sergeants major. Outside of Fort Riley, agencies such as Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Red Cross and Salvation Army provide names of needy children and families, according to Noble.

In addition to the large red boxes, Quick hopes people will pay attention to the smaller boxes off to the side, which are for monetary donations. Funds that are donated are used to purchase gift wrap, supplies and additional toys.

"In 2002, the combined value of money, supplies and toys donated was over \$50,000," said Quick.

According to Quick, it takes the efforts of 14 to 19 "elves" to help Santa at the Fort Riley workshop. In addition to the elves, Quick estimates that 600 to 700 volunteer hours are spent wrapping and sorting gifts.

"Volunteers are certainly needed to wrap gifts. We couldn't do this without their help," said Quick. "If someone cannot donate a toy or money, maybe they could spare their time."

"In a time when we hear so many bad stories, this is a good, good story," said Col. Thomas Luebker, assistant division commander for support, during the ribbon cutting ceremony. "Genuine people working together, for the children in our area—there is no better story, no better cause."

The organizers plan to make the first major shopping spree for Nov. 25 in Junction City. Subsequent toy buys will take place in December, depending on the amount of money raised.

"I hope this year with Soldiers being deployed, we will remember families that are here and in need," said Quick. "There is a real need for this program."

Monetary gifts may be mailed to: Operation Santa Claus, P.O.

Box 2427, Fort Riley, KS, 66442. The telephone number for the OSC headquarters is (785) 239-6944.

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

located off post at Wal-Mart and Alco in Manhattan and Junction City, at Target in Manhattan and at KB Toys in Manhattan.



Col. Thomas Luebker, assistant division commander (support), 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, and Santa Claus wrap gifts after the Operation Santa Claus ribbon cutting.

## Troopers lose against Chapman

By Steven Cooke  
19th PAD

The Fort Riley Middle School Trooper girls' basketball teams lost to the Chapman Middle School Leprechauns Nov. 18.

Troopers A team lost, 13-47, and the B team lost, 14-15, while the C team lost, 5-43, and the D team, 35-2. Despite their losses, the Trooper's leadership said the teams played well.

"They played pretty well. They played well defensively," said Laura Donley, assistant coach, Trooper's A and B teams. "They had pretty tough defense and good rebounding. They need to work the ball more and pass the ball more accurately."

Betty Ryan, coach, A and B teams for the Leprechauns, said she was pleased with her team's performance.

"They ran really well (with the ball), cut down passes and there were a lot of lay-ups," she said of the A team.

"(The B team) stole the ball a lot," Ryan said. "But they were not very patient — force the ball a lot."

In the close of the B team game, Ryan said, she didn't have a really good shooter.

"We had a hard time scoring," she said.

Ryan said, though they lost, she was still impressed with the Trooper's performance.

"They really hustled and tried really hard," she said. "I'm always impressed when coaches can keep their teams trying the way Fort Riley coaches can."



Fort Riley Middle School Troopers go for the layup in a game against the Chapman Middle School Leprechauns Nov. 18.

## German, Italian POWs honored

By William Biles  
Staff Writer

Fort Riley held a ceremony Nov. 14 for the 73 German and Italian Prisoners of War buried in the post's cemetery.

German and Italian Soldiers from the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, were on hand to pay tribute to their brethren and spoke to the gathered crowd about the Soldiers during the German/Italian Memorial Day ceremony.

"It is a sad feature of international relations that, although Soldiers rarely make the policies, they are, nonetheless, exalted to enforce them with military means," said Col. Rainer Waelde, German liaison officer, CGSC.

"Each of these 73 Soldiers served their countries for a cause, which at that time was considered by each of them to be just, and for which each was prepared to lay down his life," he said. "This was the source of their commitment and their strength. We do not pay honor to the cause for which they died, which all of the world's countries have condemned, including Germany and Italy. It is a day that people mourn their comrades-in-arms, the victims of despotism, and the men, women and children of all nations, who perished as a result of the past wars."

Waelde went on to say that it is a day of remembrance and reconciliation, and a day to thank God for peace and human dignity.

He stated how more than one hundred million human beings lost their lives or were seriously injured in WWI and WWII, and that during the second World War alone, more than fifty five million people were killed. Among them were the 73 German and Italian Soldiers who are buried on Fort Riley and died as Prisoners of War.

"It's an honor for us to be here today with you at Fort Riley," Waelde said.

"This coming Sunday, people in Germany and Italy will cele-



German officers lay a wreath in tribute to their fallen comrades who are buried on Fort Riley.

brate Memorial Day. I think this is a fitting tribute to each of these 73 men that we acknowledge them here today as not having died in vain."

The foreign Soldiers weren't the only ones that realize the importance of honoring the fellow brothers-in-arms.

"It's very important to the German and Italian Soldiers that honor their fallen comrades, as it is for us to honor our fallen Soldiers buried on foreign soil. There is even a contingent of local German-Americans that are war brides, or for whatever reason they have come here, came to honor the dead that are buried here," said Brad Carlton, G3.

The POWs played an important role while they were imprisoned in America, scattered throughout the country—a role they were not obligated to perform, but did anyway.

"These soldiers were captured by allied and American forces during WWII and brought to Prisoner of War camps scattered throughout the United States," Carlton said. "A very large camp was in Concordia, and it held 10's of thousands of prisoners. A lot of those prisoners worked in all of the industries where there was a lack of American males. They didn't have to help, but many of them chose to do so," he said.

The 73 POWs currently in Fort Riley's cemetery weren't the only ones that died while held captive.

"Some of those soldiers died while in captivity, either from illness or injuries sustained during their capture. Those that died while in captivity were buried here at our cemetery on Fort Riley," said Carlton. "After the war, many of those bodies were taken back to their countries. The families that couldn't be located, due to the confusion of war, led to some of them not being claimed. So, we continue to honor those that are here in our cemetery, and we will continue to do so."

Waelde stated how this ceremony is also a reminder to what is happening in the world today.

"The grave markers here and the memorial service for two American Soldiers, at the same time, here at Fort Riley, remind us of our obligation to face the new challenges to peace, freedom and human rights of the recent past. Let it remind us that freedom isn't free, and that any laws of physics do not guarantee peace and world brotherhood," Waelde said.

"It is my prayer that our political leaders may always be guided in the appropriate direction and derive balance between the individual's right to live and their lives' freedom and dignity — carrying the hope that the future might spare all Soldiers from a senseless death, he said.

"We are here to lay down a wreath and salute our fallen comrades, far away from their home countries, Prisoners of War who will never see their homes again, and at the same time we will also value our American friends who have fallen in the war against terrorism," Waelde concluded.

## Wild turkey make big comeback in Kansas, across country

By Alan Hynck  
DES Conservation Division

Today, turkeys are plentiful on Fort Riley. But it wasn't too long ago that turkeys were absent from plains of Kansas, and most generally throughout the nation. As with many other species of game, the wild turkey nearly succumbed to the unlimited hunting of the late 1800's and was soon gone from the state of Kansas. The last recorded observance of a native turkey prior to their reintroduction was in 1871 near Fort Hays.

The history of turkeys in Kansas is well noted, and early records indicate wild turkeys occurred in large numbers throughout much of the nation.

One report from 1609 indicates that wild turkeys were "Innumerable" and another from North Carolina states reports seeing more than 500 in one flock. On July 1, 1804 near Leavenworth, Merewether Lewis wrote, "Deer and turkeys in great quantities on the bank."

By the mid to late 1800's, the wild turkey was at its lowest point in population. Reintroduction efforts began around the turn of the century, but few populations took hold. The population of turkeys in the U.S. probably reached its lowest point in the 1930's, with very few birds remaining in the wild. In 1959, the Kansas population struggled to maintain an estimated 110 birds.

A successful turkey reintroduction program by the state began in the mid 1970s, as a wild turkey population first took hold in southeast Kansas. Their numbers grew exponentially across the state and were estimated to be at 45,000 birds in 1986. Even then, it was somewhat rare to see a turkey in north central Kansas. Over the last two decades, repeated stockings and protective laws allowed the turkeys to increase and reclaim every corner of the state.

There are two subspecies of wild turkeys native to Kansas, the Rio Grande and Eastern. Presently, the Rio Grande's occupy the

western half of Kansas, with the Eastern occupying the eastern quarter. Both species occur in central Kansas, including Fort Riley. There is a fair amount of hybridization between the two subspecies in this area. Common plumage characteristics can differentiate the two, however, with hybridization there is quite a bit of variation. The Rio Grande is typified by copper to greenish in color, especially on the breast, whereas the Eastern is purplish.

Turkeys are omnivorous, meaning they will eat just about anything they can catch. Their diet varies as the seasons change.

In the spring and summer, the largest percentage of their diet is made up of insects. In the fall and winter, their diet switches to acorns, seeds and green matter.

With the increased number of turkey, the season and bag limits have become quite liberal. The current fall season in Kansas and on Fort Riley has a bag limit of four birds total (one primary tag and three game tags). The 2004 spring turkey hunting regulations have not been set, however, recent seasons consisted of a bag limit of two birds.

Turkey hunting is definitely a challenge, especially in the fall. Turkeys are generally very wary. This difficulty is compounded with all the eyes present in a large flock of turkeys. The keys are

good scouting before the season and finding good habitat and movement patterns.

The wild turkey in North America has come full circle. From near decimation to becoming, once again, a common sight in the outdoors. The return of the wild turkey is truly a remarkable story, and with Thanksgiving just around the corner, an appropriate example of a great American symbol.

For more information on turkey hunting on Fort Riley, call the Conservation Office, 239-6211, or stop by the office, building 1020. You may also visit their website: <http://www.riley.army.mil/Recreation/Outdoor/>

### On the Wildside: News About Nature

# ITR

### MWR Bus

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation bus is available for rent for Command and unit functions, Hail and Farewell's, Family Readiness Groups, retiree groups, church groups and Fort Riley private organizations. Call ITR for further information.

### Armed Forces Vacation Club

AFVC is a space available program that offers condominium vacations at resorts around the world for only \$249 per unit per week. If you enjoy off-season activities in popular locations

without the hassle of high-season prices and crowds, the AFVC offers an incredible vacation value. Call or stop by for further information.

### Santa Suit Rental

Stop by and rent a special ensemble for that special person

for your unit, FRG or organizational holiday party. New this year are elf suits for Santa's special helpers. There is limited availability.

### McCain Auditorium

There are military discounts available for upcoming perfor-

mances at McCain Auditorium on the Kansas State University campus. There is a limit of two discount tickets per ID holder. Scheduled performances include: Feb. 6 - Giselle (Moscow Festival Ballet), Feb. 14 - The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Feb. 26 - Moscow State Radio Symphony. Stop by ITR for a brochure and

further information.

### Discount Movie Tickets

Discount movie tickets are available at ITR. Passes may be used at Seth Childs in Manhattan for \$5.50. They are a great gift idea for birthdays or special occasions.

## Consider rules, regulations before sending packages to Soldiers overseas

By Steven Cooke  
19th PAD

At a time when so many Soldiers are deployed overseas, mail is very important to the morale of Soldiers as well as their families at home.

To help make the correspondence process move a little smoother, the Post Operations Center offered a few tips.

First, consider what to send and what not to send. "Overall, families should not send pork, pornography and religious items," said Erika Swartz, program manager, post operations center. "Families should also keep in mind that individual commanders have their own rules about what to send, like the size of the package or chocolate."

She also recommends families place items in double plastic bags to prevent leakage or damage. Swartz suggests not sending soft baked items or items that can melt. She said the average time for standard mail to reach overseas is one month.

Swartz said when sending packages, size could also be an issue.

"Ideal would be shoe box size," said Swartz, "but you can send bigger."

Swartz said families should use sturdy boxes.

Verifying a correct and up to date address is also very important. "Packages come back because of an incorrect address or old addresses because the unit has moved," Swartz said. Families should check with their Soldier before mailing packages, as well visit the United States Post Service website.

www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bul-let-in/2003/html/pb22100/apof-po.html for a list of Army/Air Force Post Office and Fleet Post Office zip codes, as well as their corresponding restrictions.

Swartz said sometimes mail gets lost and ends up missing. She said it is beneficial to fill out a customs slip. If the packages are undeliverable, they will be sent back to the sender.

Swartz said sending mail First Class can take seven to 14 days to arrive. Standard mail can take up to a month.

With the Christmas season approaching fast, it is important that packages be mailed soon. The

latest recommended date to mail packages, whether first class or standard mail, was Nov. 13, if families wanted mail to arrive by Christmas.

Swartz also noted a change to a policy regarding supporters of our troops sending unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to servicemembers. The Department of Defense has suspended mail programs such as "Operation Dear Abbey" and "Any Servicemember" due to force protection concerns. Swartz cutting back on these programs also helps reduce overcrowding of the mail system, which allows mail sent by Soldiers families and loved ones to arrive more timely. The Department of Defense recommends supporters visit websites like www.defenseamerica.mil/supp-rt-troops.html, www.usocares.org or www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html to learn other alternatives to help keep Soldiers morale high.

The Fort Riley Post Office hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



Bernethia Myers, postal clerk, Fort Riley Postal Operations Center, receives packages to be mailed to troops in Iraq from unit postal clerks.

### Barlow Theater

**Tonight:**  
7 p.m.  
Intolerable Cruelty (PG-13)

**Saturday:**  
7 p.m.  
Under the Tuscan Sun (PG-13)

**Sunday:**  
7 p.m.  
Intolerable Cruelty (PG-13)

**Nov. 28:**  
7 p.m.  
Beyond Borders (R)

Ticket prices:  
Adults - \$3  
Children - \$1.50

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

