

FORT RILEY UNIVERSITY
DEAN'S CORNER
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In my last article I mentioned that the deployment of our troops reminds us of our responsibility to the community and BG Dennis Hardy reinforced this theme at the recent deployment ceremony. He went one step further by emphasizing our responsibility to mentor our future leaders. General Hardy outlined the goals and objectives as our troops deploy: "Be good soldiers and advance the civil process." The general's commitment to these virtues was heartfelt. His voice cracked and his deep devotion to humanity was evident in his very stirring speech.

In line with these thoughts, and as part of FRU's commitment to our community, classes will be offered during the noon hours beginning 15 September. The first class is entitled *American History to 1877*, which includes a combination of on-site and on-line instruction and lasts for six weeks. Professor Michael Cox from Barton County Community College will be the instructor of this course, which should be of interest to everyone who loves our great country. ***Three semester hours of undergraduate college credit will be awarded at no cost to the students. It fulfills general education requirements for an Associate of Arts or Bachelors degree. Books are included.*** When considering the high cost of education today, this is an opportunity too good to pass up! Interested individuals should call FRU at 239-6481 for details.

This is an opportune time for all supervisors to reflect and reinforce their mentoring obligations for the empowerment of every individual. Coaching, motivating, and inspiring all team members will not only strengthen every organization, but will allow all supervisors to be seen as forward-thinking, positive role models.

Another life-long learning opportunity will also take place 11-12 September 2003 with a collaborative initiative with Kansas State University -- "A Celebration of Fort Riley" Symposium. Coordinating Fort Riley University's part of the program is historian and the Curator of Fort Riley Museums.

The Curator, who has been working on this initiative for over a year, very enthusiastically tells us that the symposium will bring together a dozen regional and nationally known scholars who will present papers on the history of Fort Riley and its place in American military history -- from its founding in the mid-19th century to the dawn of the 21st century. Capping the symposium will be a round-table discussion by former 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding generals.

The symposium builds upon a cooperative spirit between Fort Riley and Kansas State University. Other interested institutions in this effort include the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, the Eisenhower Presidential Museum and Library, Abilene, KS and the McCormick Tribune Foundation, Chicago, IL. The program is an opportunity for Fort Riley to connect with other educational/philanthropic institutions in advancing "in house" and the general public's awareness and appreciation of the military and its contributions to American life.

These fantastic opportunities for our Fort Riley family are perfect examples of how all soldiers and the “Total Army Family” can become active participants in the learning process and get involved in the community.