

COMMUNITY CORNER

Special events planned through month for Family appreciation

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

Two years ago the Army and Fort Riley made a commitment to Families when leaders signed the Army Family Covenant. The covenant recognizes "the commitment and sacrifices that our Families are making every day" and that the "strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families."

November is Military Family Appreciation Month. At Fort Riley, we will celebrate our Families' strength and commitment to their Soldiers with a few special events.

The New Parent Support Program will host the following classes in November:

Nov. 3, 9 to 11 a.m. – Positive Discipline. This course is designed to help parents get their message across to their children by helping them learn to set limits, acknowledge feelings and take care of themselves.

Nov. 12, 1 to 2:30 p.m. or 6:30 to 8 p.m. – Letters from Dad. This class will teach dads how to communicate their thoughts, hopes and concerns to their loved ones.

Nov. 17, 10 a.m. to noon – Sibling Silly. This class is for children ages 2 to 6 who are soon to be older siblings.

Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to noon – Love and Logic Parenting. This class is for Families with children ages 0 to 6. Parents will learn how to create happy Families and responsible kids.

All of these classes will be held at Army Community Service, Building 7264. For more information on these classes, or to sign up, call 785-239-9435. Child care will be provided for those who register at least two days prior to the event.

Hearts Apart is a program especially for our spouses whose Soldiers are deployed or on an unaccompanied tour. They provide opportunities for spouses and Family members to get out and about to meet others who share their situation. This November, Hearts Apart and the Arts and Crafts Center staff will team up for a holiday card event. Families will make cards for their deployed Soldiers from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 10 at ACS, Building 7264 Normandy Dr. Register by Nov. 5 by calling 785-239-



Col. Kevin Brown

9435 or e-mailing rik.dmw@acsc.com, army.mil. Older children are welcome to make cards, however, child care will be available for the little ones. Short records are needed.

The Kansas State University Research and Extension Office at Fort Riley houses a staff with a wealth of information on Family topics. One of their most recent undertakings is a College Prep Series aimed at high school seniors and their parents. Their November workshop, "Financing Your Future" will provide information on options available to fund college for our students. This workshop will be at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 12 at the ACS Annex, Building 1020 Huebner Road. For more information on this class, call 785-239-9539.

Employment Readiness will host a job fair Nov. 17 at Riley's Conference Center. From 2 to 6 p.m., job seekers will be able to meet with prospective employers from on and off post. To prepare for the fair, call Employment Readiness or attend one of its weekly classes at ACS. Classes are from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesday workshops focus on NAF applications, how to read vacancy announcements, application forms, and the step-by-step process for filling out applications. Thursday workshops will focus on the federal Resumix system, how to read federal announcements, assistance in researching positions for specific job qualifications and new spouse non-competitive status. Workshop attendees will be able to set up one-on-one appointments to review their final applications. For more information or to register, call 785-239-9435.

The month's main event to show our appreciation for our Army Families will be a Military Family Appreciation dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Cantigny Dining Facility, Building 7673 Estes Road on Custer Hill. The cost is \$5.50 per adult, and the menu will include prime rib, tempura fried fish, fried shrimp, garlic mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, glazed carrots and broccoli with cheese. Besides a great dinner, the event also will include music from the 1st Infantry Division Bands

woodwind section, a visit from Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's mascot Riley Bear, children's coloring activities and door prize drawings.

Military Family life is challenging, unique and special; we want to share your experiences. ACS is collecting your heartwarming or funny military Family experiences; if you have a story to share, please drop it by ACS or e-mail it to Becky.Willis@us.army.mil by Nov. 17. The winning story will be published in the 1st Infantry Division Post.

As a show of appreciation for Army Families, American Airlines has donated two round trip tickets. Military Family members may submit one entry to win the tickets at each of the November classes or events I previously mentioned, as well as at several other events during the month of November, such as the Turkey Trot Two-Miler on Nov. 21, and the 'Tired of Turkey' Brunch on Nov. 22 at Riley's Conference Center. The drawing will be held Dec. 3 at the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The opportunities highlighted for Military Family Appreciation Month are just a small part of what we at Fort Riley provide for our Families every day. Whether our Soldiers are at home or deployed, it's important for our Families to stay connected, learn from others and support each other.

Keep your eyes on the Post newspaper for information on events you can participate in to stay involved. Another good source of information is our Fort Riley page on Facebook – www.facebook.com/FortRiley. Each week, we publish a list of activities coming up at Fort Riley, which includes more than what will fit in the newspaper. Also, join in the conversations under the discussions tab to let us know what other types of events you would like see on post. If you prefer TV news, check out Riley TV on post on Allegiance Channel 2, or watch an hour of Riley TV programming in Manhattan, Junction City and Ogdon on Cox Cable Channel 8. Watch at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday or 10 p.m. Wednesday to find out what's happening at Fort Riley.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for Community Corner, e-mail riley.post.newspaper@com.us.army.mil.

More than 50 volunteers honored at Fort Riley's quarterly ceremony

By Ashley Strehle
and Shandi Dix
1ST INF. DIV. POST

More than 50 individuals were recognized at the Fort Riley Quarterly Volunteer Recognition Ceremony Oct. 20 at Riley's Conference Center.

These volunteers were nominated by their brigade, battalion or an organization on post.

The number of volunteers recognized varies from quarter to quarter depending on how many nominations are turned in. This quarter had a higher number of volunteers recognized than last quarter, said Becky Willis, installation volunteer coordinator.

The last quarterly volunteer recognition was held in July. That ceremony recognized volunteers for April through June. This quarterly volunteer recognition ceremony recognized volunteers for July through September.

Volunteers recognized at the quarterly ceremony are eligible to be recognized as volunteer of the year.

The volunteer of the year awards are given out in April during National Volunteer Appreciation Week. They will recognize volunteers for the calendar year 2009.

A committee reviews nominees for the volunteer of the year award in cat-



Shandi Dix, 1 POST Brig., Colleen Bay and children, Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, Fort Riley and 1st Inf. Div. commanding general and Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell Wallace, CAB, pose for a photo Oct. 20 during the Fort Riley Quarterly Volunteer Recognition ceremony at Riley's Conference Center. Bay was nominated by the Officers and Civilian Spouses Club.

egories: adult Family member, active duty Soldier, civilian and retiree. Willis encourages organizations to nominate people within all the categories because they can only nominate one individual per category for the volunteer of the year award.

A committee then grades the indi-

viduals in each category and selects the winner for volunteer of the year.

The committee makes the decision based on the volunteer work itself.

The identifying information on the volunteers is not given to the com-

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Participants taught variety of skills at 3rd annual Women's Conference

By Ashley Strehle
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Around 100 women gathered at Riley's Conference Center Oct. 21 for the third annual Women's Conference.

The conference, sponsored by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, lasted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The theme of this year's event was "The real Army wives: This ain't no TV show."

Keynote speaker, Lucille Pattard, spoke of her personal experience with the "Army Wives" television show.

People from the Lifetime network

show had talked to her about the life of an Army wife.

"She talked about how the bond between Army wives is really strong," said Kilee Debita, program manager for special events with FMWR.

Debita said the women who attend the conference had a great time.

"I think it was a great success. I've only heard good things about it," she said.

At the conference women had the opportunity to take classes on a variety of subjects from self-defense to time management.

Susan Gwaltney and Dan Brecci with the Boys and Girls Club of Geary Coun-

ty taught the self-defense class that was offered in one of the class sessions.

Brecci is a captain in the Junction City Police Department. He has been doing martial arts for 39 years, and Gwaltney has been his student since 1990.

Though this was their first appearance at the Women's Conference, the duo had taught martial arts at Fort Riley in the past. They taught martial arts at Child, Youth and School Services for about 10 years. They have been teaching martial arts in the area for about 20 years.

Brecci was in charge of police defen-

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