

COMMUNITY CORNER

Don't be that guy: Help is available to keep Soldiers from getting DUIs

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

How far should a Soldier go to stop a friend from driving drunk? The question stemmed from an incident where a Soldier was trying to stop his friend from driving. The intoxicated Soldier was already in the car, and his friend tried to block him in. The driver hit the gas, hit his friend and drove away. Obviously the driver shouldn't have been behind the wheel, but did his friend take the correct action? The answer to that is, "no."

While it is everyone's responsibility to look out for each other and prevent others from placing themselves and others at risk — this should never happen at the risk of their own personal safety. Jumping in front of a car whose driver is under the influence and their known ability to make sound reason or judgment calls is impaired, to say nothing about the impaired reflex response, isn't advisable.

The driver who fails to submit to warnings to not drive while intoxicated, refuses offered alternative methods of transportation and denies the support or warnings should be informed they will be reported to the authorities if they drive one foot further.

The legal consequences of driving under the influence are by far of lesser impact than a death inflicted by an intoxicated driver.

Driving under the influence is illegal and lethal and should be treated as such. If you cannot secure the keys within reason, then you should call for assistance from those who can.

Those who get DUIs are not those drivers who have gotten behind the wheel for the first time and get caught.

National statistics show drunk drivers have driven hundreds of times without getting caught and think they can drink and drive. It is when they get stupid or have a serious incident they are identified.



Col. Brown

Instead of waiting until you've been out drinking with friends to decide how to get home, make plans ahead of time and encourage your friends to do the same. Stop by the Leisure Travel Center and pick up cards for the Riley Ride, which offers nine pick-up and drop-off locations at Fort Riley and one in Aggieville. The program offers rides between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. on the weekends.

Individuals can purchase a \$5 Riley Ride card that gets them one round-trip ride to Aggieville and back, or a \$10 Riley Ride card that gets them two round trips to Aggieville and back and one one-way ride.

For more information on the Riley Ride program, call 785-239-5614. Riley Ride is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. People must have their ID card with them to get a ride.

You may notice on the signs at Henry and Trooper gates, the lists of units with Soldiers who get DUIs.

Those signs should be blank. Without endangering ourselves, we need to encourage others to do what's right — to make the responsible choice. And, if you know someone who all too often makes the wrong decision, talk to them about getting help.

ThatGuy.com, a Department of Defense campaign with the goal of reducing excessive drinking among young servicemembers, offers these signs that a person may need help:

- Neglecting major work or Family responsibilities
- Missing work, poor performance reviews and/or disciplinary actions
- Getting drunk regularly
- Lying about how much he/she is drinking
- Believing that alcohol is necessary to have fun
- Having frequent hangovers
- Having blackouts
- Getting in trouble with the law because of drinking
- Changing moods, such as temper flare-ups, irritability or defensiveness
- Becoming That Guy

Visit the Fact section at www.ThatGuy.com to learn more about talking to your friends about their drinking. You can help make a difference.

For those who decide they'd like to get help, they can do so confidentially by contacting the Confidential Alcohol Treatment and Education Pilot program on post. CATEP was designed to encourage Soldiers to seek help before it gets to the point they receive a mandatory referral to the Army Substance Abuse Program. CATEP counselors will meet with Soldiers, even after duty hours, to develop a treatment plan.

To talk to the CATEP counselor, send an e-mail to rile.dht.catep@conus.army.mil or call 785-239-5047/240-5127.

For more information on CATEP visit www.riley.army.mil and click on "Services," "Soldier Services," and then the CATEP link.

Let's have a safe holiday season and make sure we're all here to ring in the New Year.

To comment on this column or suggest a topic for Community Corner, e-mail rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.

Teen girl, Legion Auxiliary member collects socks, money for troops

By Jordan Chapman
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Haley McMurphey of Scranton, Kan., attends school, does her homework, does her chores and said she enjoys hanging out with her friends, but Haley isn't your average 13-year-old.



Haley McMurphey

This year marks her 13th year as a member of Post 296 of the American Legion Auxiliary for the Department of Kansas, and as the honorary junior president, she's on a mission.

"In October, we found out through a co-worker of mine that the Soldiers are in need of socks over in Afghanistan. Haley thought it would be a great idea to collect socks to send over to the troops," said Heather McMurphey, Haley's mother, who also said her daughter is using the auxiliary newsletter to request white tube socks and donations for Soldiers.

The response has been overwhelming.

Through November and the beginning of December, Haley has collected 1,470 pairs of socks and more than \$1,600 for postage.

Of the donations, 450 pairs have been sent to Afghanistan, and the remaining pairs were donated Dec. 14 to USO Fort Riley to send overseas with a deployment of Soldiers from Fort Riley.

"With the money we have remaining from postage, we

will buy additional pairs of socks that we hope to send over on another deployment," her mother said.

Diana Archer, Haley's grandmother and the one who initially enrolled Haley into the auxiliary group as a baby, along with friend, Edward Dillon, took the time to bring the socks to Fort Riley while Haley was in school.

Archer said she is very proud of her granddaughter's desire to help others, explaining Haley's Socks for Soldiers program isn't her only endeavor to help people.

"(Haley's) got a project where they are collecting tabs for the Ronald McDonald House ... she's in an Adopt-A-Soldier program ... for Veterans Day, she made little 'thank you' notes with her picture," she said, adding the notes were taken to nursing homes and placed at dinner tables. "It's been fun and (it's) been a good experience for her. She just goes about doing stuff and takes it all in stride — that is what she is supposed to be doing for people and Soldiers. It makes me almost cry sometimes," Archer said.

QUIET TIME



PICERNE MILITARY HOUSING
Quandra Johnson enjoys some quiet time while getting a pedicure at Picerne Military Housing's recent spa-themed Down Range Day Off on Nov. 20 at a local salon in Manhattan. Down Range Day Off is part of Picerne Military Housing's deployment program. The program consists of specific benefits and services for Families with deployed Family members. Down Range Day Off occurs twice annually and is an opportunity to take the "day off" from the stress and struggles of deployment and to create a support network with others going through the same challenges. The next Down Range Day Off will be in the spring of 2011.

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