

COMMUNITY CORNER

Fort Riley receives ACOE award, named net zero water installation

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

I was proud to represent Fort Riley last week at the Installation Management Command's Symposium in San Antonio. Our employees participated in numerous programs during the event and were recognized for the continuing work they do to ensure Fort Riley is the premier division-level installation for our Soldiers and Families to live, work and play.

Our biggest achievement as an installation was receiving recognition as an Army Community of Excellence. I see this everyday as I work with the civilians and Soldiers of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley. Taking care of Fort Riley and providing services to our Families is more than a job for these employees that keep the post running each day, it's a personal mission.

I know this is something our employees think about everyday and have been thinking about for several years. The

last time Fort Riley was recognized with an ACOE award was in 1998. Since then the post has grown immensely and we've been hard at work implementing the Fort Riley 2015 Campaign Plan. The fact that our plan was in sync with the IMCOM campaign plan that came out later goes to show just how in tune our post is with what our Soldiers and their Families need.

We accepted a check for \$250,000 as one of the six installations that were recognized out of 69. Congratulations, Fort Riley.

Our Resilient Spouse Academy, a feature of the FR2015 Campaign Plan also was recognized. Our Army Community Service Director and staff accepted a Secretary of the Army Quality of Life award for Best Practices for the program.



Col. Brown

Even before this Army-level recognition, other installations have been visiting Fort Riley to learn what they can and model this truly home-grown effort.

Spouses are our troops on the front line, and this program trains them to respond. If you haven't attended, get in touch with ACS at 785-239-9435 to sign up.

Also in line with our campaign plan, Fort Riley was named as a pilot net zero water installation as a part of IMCOM's goal to reach net zero by 2020. A Net Zero Water installation is defined as one which limits the consumption of fresh water and returns water back to the same watershed, so as not to deplete the groundwater and surface water resources of that region in quantity or quality.

According to Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, who announced the selected installations, Fort Riley along with the other installations will become

centers of environmental and energy excellence. Further, they will establish a framework of reduction, re-purposing, recycling and composting, energy recovery, and disposal to guide them toward achieving net zero in an environmentally responsible, cost-effective and efficient manner.

Keep an eye out for news on this exciting initiative. Individually, I'd like to recognize Ted Freeman, our Army Substance Abuse Program manager who was named the IMCOM West Region Stalwart award winner for 2010. Stalwart award winners are those employees who stand out as model leaders and exemplify the spirit of IMCOM. Criteria for being selected for the Stalwart Award include representing high standards of performance, promoting the IMCOM mission and vision, and work performance in an exemplary manner.

Ted exemplifies all of these criteria. He has been continually recognized for his insightfulness and identified by the

Army G-1 as providing the Army's most suicide prevention training for Soldiers at an installation. At just the tip of the spear, Ted has facilitated suicide prevention videos shown Armywide and developed the Sober Army Bravely Expedite Readiness awards at Fort Riley. Not only does Ted strive for excellence, but he encourages it in his staff.

Also recognized at the symposium were two Fort Riley employees who participated in this year's IMCOM mentorship program — Tim Livey, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, and Anna Morelock from the USAG Public Affairs Office. As we look for our leaders of the future, ensuring proper development of our workforce is more important than ever. If you're interested in participating in this program, talk to your director and keep an eye out for application procedures later this summer.

Gary Nap from Our Public Affairs Office also was recognized for excellence in broad-

casting with IMCOM Keith L. Ware awards. Additionally, Gary won First place at the Department of Army Level for broadcasting excellence with his video on Volunteerism.

"Find your reason." You can watch the video at www.riley.army.mil or www.facebook.com/FortRiley.

While these awardees were publicly recognized, other Fort Riley staff was on hand from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, our Resource Management Office, Directorate of Human Resources and others to learn from and teach other installation management professionals about running our award-winning installation. I'm proud of all that went into our efforts and look forward to continuing on this path.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, email riley.post.newspaper@comus.army.mil.

KIDDIES ON PARADE



Shandi Dix | POST

Children at the Forsyth Child Development Center parade around the parking lot of the child care facility April 22. The parades were part of the Month of the Military Child activities at Fort Riley. The Fort Riley Fire Department's Smokey the Bear served as grand marshal for the parade.

Ready Army helps children prepare for emergencies

By Katherine Rosario
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Ready Army helps the military community by giving them tools to be better prepared in an emergency. Now, Ready Army also caters to children to help them learn about emergencies and how to respond.

The website, www.ready.gov, has activity sheets and guides designed especially for young children to help them learn how to get a kit, make a plan and be informed during emergencies.

During emergencies, children can become scared if they do not know what is going on or how to respond, said Erik Stewart, Installation Emergency Management specialist.

By helping children pre-

pare a kit and learn a specific evacuation route and meeting place they may feel better prepared during a true emergency, he said.

When making a kit, have children learn what is in the kit, like nonperishable food, water, flashlights, batteries, matches, maps, toiletries and medications.

Having them put activity books such as coloring books and crossword puzzles into the kit can be their way of contributing.

Websites such as www.fema.gov/kids/ready provide kid-friendly activities to help them learn how to prepare for a disaster.

The site helps children set up a Family disaster plan with their parents that shows a drawing of how to get out of

the house in the event on an emergency and a specific location to meet up.

"Both the FEMA site and the Ready.gov site will give the kids a certificate when they complete a series of online activities," Stewart said.

The Sesame Street website, www.sesamestreet.org/ready helps younger children learn how to prepare for emergencies through games and videos.

"The Sesame Street site is good because the kids can relate to nationally known characters," Stewart said. "It has lots of good information that teaches children how to prepare without creating unnecessary fear or talking over their heads."

For more information, visit www.ready.gov.

HOUSE FILL AD

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Katherine Rosario | POST

Cassandra Mesecher, Fort Riley Stray Facility manager, right, shows Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts from troops 3501 and 7040 the dogs and cats up for adoption April 11 at the Fort Riley Stray Facility. The Girl Scouts, who all have at least one parent in the military, donated food, toys, beds, leashes and collars to the facility as part of their community service project.

Girl Scouts donate supplies, food for animals at post stray facility

By Katherine Rosario
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts from troops 3501 and 7040 donated supplies for stray dogs and cats April 11 at the Fort Riley Veterinary Treatment Facility.

The girls, who all live on post and have at least one parent in the Army, put bags on the doorknobs of neighbors' houses to collect donations throughout the month.

"We did it each week and left the bags on the doors so the people wouldn't have to even be home to give supplies," said Carrie Wulf, troop leader.

The idea to donate to the stray facility, 226 Custer Avenue on Main Post, came about when the girls had to decide what to do with the money raised from their annual cookie sales.

The money is usually set aside for the girls to plan a fun trip or activity, but they decided to give it to needy animals.

"They all decided they wanted to help the animals that didn't have homes yet," Wulf said.

The Girl Scouts donated 54 pounds of cat litter, 64 cans of wet cat food, 32 cans of dog food, 24 pounds of dry dog food, 6 packages of dog treats, 12 food dishes, 11 leashes and collars, three packages of cat toys, two training pads and one travel kennel.

Along with donating the supplies, the girls also earned badges for their service project.

The Brownies earned an animal's badge, and the Daisies earned flower petals for considerate, caring, friendly and helpful categories.

Kayli Davis-Batson, 8, said it was important to donate to

the stray facility because the animals need help.

"I love animals, and this was a good project to help them," she said.

Cassandra Mesecher, stray facility manager, said the facility does not receive donations often, although they are needed.

"Having the Girl Scouts donating is such a huge help to us, especially when we run low on supplies for the animals," she said.

Although the facility cannot accept monetary donations, supplies are always greatly appreciated, Mesecher said. The facility is open from noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information on how to donate, call 785-239-6183.