

COMMUNITY CORNER

Commander challenges others to think about ways to honor veterans

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

About 22.7 million Americans are veterans of the U.S. armed services, and Kansas houses about 225,000 of these honorable men and women. We honor these brave individuals for their contributions and sacrifice to our nation today on Veterans Day.

More than 4 million Soldiers fought in World War I; more than 11 million in World War II; about 3 million in Korea; more than 4 million in Vietnam; and nearly 800,000 in the Gulf War. Since operations began in Afghanistan and Iraq, most of our Soldiers have deployed at least once, if not three, four or five times.

Our veterans exemplify the Army values; they are loyal, to their country and have the courage to serve selflessly. And

for generations, they have been the minority in the U.S. — less than 1 percent of the population serves its country.

Thank you to all of the Soldiers at Fort Riley and across our Army. We truly appreciate you.

While it is always important to have a special day set on our calendar to honor veterans, I ask everyone to think about ways you can honor our veterans every day.

Perhaps that veteran is your spouse, father, mother, brother or sister. A simple "thank you" certainly goes a long way, but also consider bigger commitments, like volunteering at your local Veterans of Foreign Wars



Col. Clark

or the USO Fort Riley.

For our local veterans, please know Fort Riley is here to support you.

Fort Riley's Irwin Army Community Hospital houses a one-stop shop for veterans on the fourth floor of the hospital. The IACH Department of Veterans Affairs office provides services and information for Soldiers, veterans, Family members and survivors.

Services provided include assistance and information on VA benefits, like disability claims and compensation, pension and VA home-loan guarantee, educational programs and vocational rehabilitation and employment information.

The one-stop center takes appointments from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Walk-ins are welcome between 3 and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. To make an appoint-

ment or for more information, call 785-240-7307 for vocational rehabilitation and employment; 785-240-7302 for veterans health administration; and 785-240-7282, 785-240-7308 or 785-240-7312 for military service coordinators.

For more information on VA services, stop by the office or visit www.va.gov. For our local veterans, who are still active duty — many of whom recently redeployed, Fort Riley has services available to help you in your transition back to stateside life. One such service is the military Family life consultants. These consultants keep no records and are available to speak with you on just about any topic, and, ultimately, offer referrals to further help if needed. For more information on military Family life consultants, call 785-221-9483 or 785-239-9555.

I also encourage you to utilize the great services our Directorate of Family and

Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers. Visit www.rileymw.com to learn more.

Veterans transitioning out of the Army should know Fort Riley's Army Career and Alumni Program is here to help you, too. Visit <http://www.acap.army.mil/>, call 785-239-2278 or stop by the ACAP main office in Room 006, Building 210 Custer Ave. on Main Post or the Soldier and Family Assistance Center office at 674 Warrior Road to learn more.

Finally — since I know many of our readers also are on Facebook, I'd like to share some of the latest efforts of our Army, and military; to reach out to veterans and their Families.

Three days ago, Facebook announced three new initiatives designed to support and

connect members of the armed service and their loved ones:

* "U.S. Military" page on Facebook — a page for all branches of the military to stay informed and connected.

* A Nation Gives Thanks — An application that will enable Facebook users to thank active-duty service members, veterans and Family members for their contributions to the nation.

* Social Media Guide for Military Families — A Facebook and Blue Star Families joint effort, this guide will help Veterans Assistance Center office at 674 Warrior Road to learn more.

Thank you, again, to our veterans for all you do!

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



Shandi Pase | POST

K-State ROTC cadets speak with Fort Riley senior leaders at the ROTC mentorship program icebreaker event Nov. 4 at the 1st Inf. Div. Headquarters.

Post officials host K-State ROTC cadets during social

By Shandi Pase
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Kansas State University ROTC members nearing the end of their college career and preparing for their full-time careers as Army officers had the opportunity to meet with some of Fort Riley's senior leaders during a social event Nov. 4 at the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters.

This partnership began nearly four years ago by then Garrison Commander Col. Richard Piscal and his wife, Theresa.

"The Piscal's initiated this and tried to formulate a mentorship program that was similar to what the West Point cadets have at the U.S. Military Academy, where field grade officers are assigned there as cadets," said retired Lt. Col. Scott Bridgman, K-State professor of military science. "You get the senior mentor when you're in your senior year to kind of teach you about what Army life is going to be, not just being a cadet."

Each field-grade officer in attendance was partnered with two or three cadets, in which he or she will sponsor throughout the remainder of the cadet's academic year at K-State, showing them what the Army life is about — not just the tactical side, but the social side as well, Bridgman said.

"This night is the first official event... where the cadets get to meet their mentors for the year. For the rest of this year, those mentors will invite the cadets to anything from training to (physical training)

to social events, formal events, hail and farewells or just hang out with them," he said.

December graduate Benjamin Novak is taking part in the partnership for the second time.

"It's very beneficial. It's important because we get more out of it than other programs do since we're right next to each other. It would be unwise to not use this as a teaching tool," he said.

Novak said he already knows he's going to be an armor officer, so he was teamed up with a field grade armor officer.

"For me, I'm able to get a lot more detailed information about the armor branch, as far as what kind of jobs I can do," Novak said. "Not a lot of cadets get the chance to go do actual active-duty things and work with field grade officers and pick their brain about their 20-year experience."

Even the wives or significant others of cadets are able to form a mentorship with their cadet being partnered with a married senior officer. This allows the young wives the opportunity to gain an understanding of what to expect as an officer's wife in the next few years.

The current partnership between K-State and Fort Riley is the only partnership of its kind throughout ROTC programs nationwide, according to Bridgman.

"There are colleges around the country — University of Louisville and Tarleton State down in Texas — trying to emulate what we've done be-

tween K-State and Fort Riley with Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Hood, Texas, because it's such a great partnership to have these sorts of events, along with the partnerships between the units and sports teams," Bridgman said.

The partnership and mentorship has a lasting effect for some involved, according to retired Lt. Col. Kevin West, who is now the executive officer for Fort Riley's Mission Support Element.

"We've got cases, in fact Lt. Col. (Michael) Mathews, 97th Military Police Battalion commander, is getting two lieutenants this spring that he sponsored a year ago as a cadet," West said.

Garrison Commander Col. William Clark described the mentorship program as "a great opportunity for both sides."

"One, it helps to assimilate future officers into the Army. It gives them a taste of what they'll see in the future. It allows them to talk to more senior officers about their experiences and what they can expect, so when they arrive at their unit about a year from now, they'll have an expectation of what they're getting into," he said. "From an Army perspective, it's a great way for us to give back. We've been mentored through our careers, and it's a great opportunity for us to give back to the next generation of leaders in our Army."

So the concept of the program is a great one — definitely one that we want to continue to foster and nurture here at Fort Riley."

IACH Soldier relives 9/11 at MRC luncheon, Manhattan

By Shandi Pase
1ST INF. DIV. POST

MANHATTAN — Many remember where they were and what they were doing on 9/11 when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Then, Capt. Jennifer Glidewell, was right in the middle of the attack on the Pentagon.

Now, 10 years later, Glidewell is a major and serving as the chief of department of primary care and community medicine at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

Glidewell said she remembers the chaos of that day 10 years ago and relives it at various community functions, like the Manhattan Military Relations luncheon Nov. 2 at the Holiday Inn near the Kansas State University campus.

Following the attack at the Pentagon, Glidewell said she and her fellow clinic staff members evacuated. Accompanied by one medic, Glidewell ran to the center court where they heard there was a patient.

"As we ran out, we saw the smoke billowing from the building on the other side," she said. "Of course at that point I'm going, 'This is not a drill. This is real.' Still, the first thing I think when I saw the first patient coming towards me was, 'that is the best moulage job I've ever seen.'"

An emergency room nurse by trade, Glidewell began triage.

"After what seemed to be a few minutes, the medic accompanying Glidewell asked to go back into the building."

"Right then my answer was very easy. 'Well no. I need you out here. We've got a lot to do here.' I look back and I understand that he felt that need to get in there to see what he could do — see if he could do anything else to bring anybody out of there," she said.

As patients filtered out of the building, Glidewell said she began receiving help from many others, including the surgeon general of the U.S. Air Force, whom she asked to do triage.

"This was very late in the process so he said, 'yep, I'll stay



Shandi Pase | POST

Maj. Jennifer Glidewell, chief, department of primary care and community medicine, IACH, speaks with community members at the Manhattan Military Relations Committee luncheon Nov. 2 at the Holiday Inn near the K-State campus. Glidewell talked about her experience working in the Pentagon on 9/11.

"I think we very much underestimate how valuable we are to everyone else."

Maj. Jennifer Glidewell | Chief, Department of Primary Care and Community Medicine | IACH

in triage.' He stood there for about two minutes, looked at the building where we had patients coming out, looked out at the courtyard. By that time, I had lots of help, we had plenty of folks, lots of physicians, lots of providers. He looked down at that point and said, 'I'm going in. Who's coming with me?' Glidewell said.

For a second time, the medic accompanying her asked if he could go in.

"At that point, I could see that this was something he needed to do, and I let him go in," she said.

There were a couple of times during the day the medical team thought it was over — one time being when the outer walls collapsed, Glidewell said, and the second was the reports of a second plane heading toward the Pentagon.

"As crazy as the courtyard was, it got very hushed for a minute, and then everybody just went back to work doing the same thing. It's just an

awesome feeling to see all of those professional people. Nobody looked scared, everybody looked peaceful, everybody said 'we've got a job to do, let's do it,' and they kept getting people out," Glidewell said.

Following the attacks, Glidewell said it was neat to see the community come together with patriotism and support for everyone affected that day.

When she returned home that evening, she found 50 messages left on her answering machine from family, friends and people she met in officer basic course and basic training.

"I think we very much underestimate how valuable we are to everyone else," Glidewell said.

There will not be a MRC luncheon in December because of the holidays. The next luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 4 at the Holiday Inn near the K-State campus with Garrison Commander Col. William Clark as the guest speaker.

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