

COMMUNITY CORNER

Safety important for all when using firearms, commander says

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

When in the military, we, as Soldiers, are often accustomed to being around firearms. But there is a time and place for the use of firearms. And, above all, we must remember they can be dangerous. Therefore, firearms safety is an issue that is important for all.

First, let me define "firearm" as Fort Riley uses the term.

A firearm is any revolver, pistol, rifle, shotgun or other device designed for or capable of propelling a bullet or other projectile by means of an explosive or compressed charge. This definition includes BB guns, paintball guns and airsoft guns.

The use of firearms brings with it an inherent responsibility. How a user handles a firearm impacts the safety of all on the installation.

For example, an individual under the age of 18 years of age should never carry or use any firearm without the accompaniment of an adult who is responsible for the safe and lawful use of the firearm.

While personally owned firearms are permitted at Fort Riley, any user of firearms on post must abide by all regulations set in place. These regulations are in place to protect all of Fort Riley's residents,



Col. Clark

Soldiers, Families, civilians and visitors.

At Fort Riley, three policies exist that regulate firearms on post. They are: Army Regulation 190-11 "Physical Security of Arms, Ammunition and Explosives," paragraph 4-5; Fort Riley Regulation 190-1 "Control of Privately Owned Firearms, Weapons, Explosives and Ammunition," and Picerne Military Housing's Fort Riley Resident Responsibility Guide, Section 1-14. It is important to note that Picerne's RRG is nested with the Fort Riley policy; that is, the two work in tandem.

These regulations prescribe the responsibilities of individuals and commanders concerning registration, storage, transport, use and control of

firearms, weapons, explosives and ammunition on the installation.

The first step when dealing with firearms is to ensure they are properly registered.

Military personnel are required to register their privately-owned firearms and the firearms of their Family members with their unit commander.

Civilians, including Fort Riley employees and visitors to post, must register their firearms with the Directorate of Emergency Services.

It's important to note that BB guns are required to be registered, but paintball and airsoft guns are exempt from registration.

When storing a firearm in on-post housing, military

personnel must have written authorization from their commander to store privately owned firearms in housing. They must then be properly secured – in either a locked container or provided with a trigger lock. Ammunition for the firearms will be secured separately from the firearm in a locked container.

Most importantly, it is prohibited to discharge any firearm within the Fort Riley military installation, except at authorized ranges and authorized areas. And Fort Riley does offer several areas to do so. Among them are:

- Privately Owned Firearms Range 4 – 785-239-4200
- Skeet and Trap Range – 785-239-2363/9058
- Approved Hunting Areas

– 785-239-8579

For more information on any of the regulations listed above, visit http://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/190_Series_Collection_1.html, www.1d.army.mil/documents/DES-Documents/101207093103.pdf and www.riley.picerne.com/residents/resident-responsibilities.

For registration questions, contact Ray Coffey, DES, at 785-239-3080.

Please help us keep everyone at our installation safe and abiding by all regulations.

If you would like to comment on this article, or suggest a topic for a future Community Corner, email usarmy.riley.incom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil.

Army invites DoD cardholders to enter arts and crafts contest

By Calun Reece
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Hidden talents may be revealed during the 2012 Army Arts and Crafts competition.

The annual event is accepting entries until June 30 and is free to enter.

The competition is Army-wide and is open to active-duty Soldiers, retirees, Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, as well as military spouses and dependents of Defense civilians.

An Army Knowledge Online, or AKO, account is required to enter the competition.

"We've always had a winner, whether it is an honorable mention or first place – we've always placed somewhere," said Marilyn Paras, lead art specialist, Arts and Crafts Center, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Two divisions exist in the competition: the "novice" and the "accomplished."

The novice category is for participants who have not developed their art skills through formal courses leading to college credit or a college degree.

The accomplished category is for those who have taken formal courses leading to college credit, a degree, or have received awards in professional competitions.

Each division has nine categories. Participants can enter up to three artwork pieces for each category at the garrison level.

"That's kind of nice because you can spread out your talents and not just be focused on one type of media," Paras said.

The categories range from ceramics and jewelry to digital art and mixed media.

"It's pretty much anything and the categories are huge," Paras said.

The drawing category, for example, could be any media ranging from pencil, charcoal, pastel, etching, crayon and oil sticks, she said.

First, second and third places will receive awards. Up to four honorable mentions will be recognized from each category and each division of the competition.

"It's more than just the prize," Paras said. "Enter for the fun of it and to see how you stand up to someone else at the same level

as you are – especially if you haven't had any special classes. I think it's interesting to see because everybody is unique in the way they present their art."

Art also provides an outlet for personal expression and can bring personal healing, according to Paras.

"Doing art relieves stress, and it's very therapeutic for Soldiers who come back from deployment," Paras said.

To enter the competition, participants must fill out an application online and submit two photographs of each entry.

"Some recommendations while taking your photograph: if it's a three-dimensional work such as a piece of furniture is to place a white or black sheet behind the artwork so there is no distraction from the piece, and take two photos from different angles of the artwork," Paras said.

To enter or for more information, visit www.armymwr.com/recreation/artsandcrafts/default.aspx.

Vacation Bible School to begin during first week in August

Calun Reece
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Vacation Bible School will be from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 6 to 10 at Morris Hill Chapel.

Registration for VBS is currently under way. All children ages 5 to 10 are invited to participate.

"It's a lot of fun and really good for the community," said Don Ericson, director of religious education, Fort Riley.

About 30 children have already registered for the August event. The average number of children who attend VBS is about 140, Ericson said.

In the past, VBS activities usually took place in early summer, Ericson said, but this year, it is planned for August

so new Families who have just arrived in the area can participate and get involved in chapel services and activities.

Volunteers also are needed for VBS positions.

"I've got all my main responsibilities covered, but what we're looking for right now are crew leaders who take kids from class to class," Ericson said.

Preschool VBS will be available for the children of volunteers who are 5 years and younger. Child care for children of VBS volunteers also will be offered.

This year's theme for VBS is, "Everything is possible with God."

"We choose this particular curriculum because we thought it was very appropriate for our community where kids face so many challenges and unknowns," Ericson said. "They're concerned about what might happen to a parent who's down range, or they might be moving away, and this week is meant to equip a child to know they can trust in God no matter what they're facing or what their Family is facing."

All military Families are welcome whether they are involved in the chapel programs or not, Ericson said.

"This is for our military community regardless of whether you are part of the chapel – it's for any military Family," Ericson said.

To register or volunteer for VBS, call 785-239-0979.

Submit your comments to Fort Riley leaders through the Interactive Customer Evaluation system.
Click on the ICE link at www.riley.army.mil.

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