COMMUNITY CORNER

National Preparedness Month emphasizes being ready for emergencies

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

September marks the ninth annual commemoration of National Preparedness Month.

According to www.army.mil/standto, National Preparedness Month is a commemorative event recognized each year to emphasize the importance of preparedness.

This commemoration serves to encourage Army leaders, Soldiers, Families and civilians to prepare for all hazardous emergencies at home, work and throughout their communities.

Col. Clark

The Army's focus on preparedness remains steadfast: to educate, empower and involve the Army community in preparedness activities that enhance the resiliency of the Army and increase our nation's readiness for all-hazards events.

According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association, 2011 was the United States' costliest and deadliest hurricane season in recent years. It also was the fourth deadliest and second worst active season for tornadoes.

Events like these should show us the importance of proactive planning to be prepared for any emergency.

This year's theme is "Be Informed, make a plan, build a kit and get involved." Preparedness is a shared responsibility; it takes a whole community. So here is what you can do.

BE INFORMED

Consider emergency situations that might happen in your area – work, home or otherwise.

Identify challenges, limitations and specific needs you and your Family would have in these emergency situations.

MAKE A PLAN

Plan for emergency situations early and update existing plans with lessons learned after any incident. Incorporate common local emergencies and geographic hazards into planning.

BUILD A KIT

Prepare for all hazardous emergencies by assembling an emergency kit for at least your home. Include a minimum of basic household necessities like water, food, batteries and a radio. Be sure your supply will last at least 72 hours.

For more information, visit the Ready Army website at www.ready.army.mil and learn about how to prepare for everything from man-made hazards to natural disasters.

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

PWOC kicks off new year with worship session, intro to Bible studies

By Calun Reece
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Protestant Women of the Chapel kicked off its official opening event for the year Aug. 28 at Morris Hill Chapel.

The event started off with a praise-and-worship session follow by introductions for participants of the Bible studies offered for the semester. Some of the studies offered also will continue through the spring semester.

Seven different Bible studies will be available from 9 a.m. to 11: 30 a.m. Tuesday mornings and one study will be available from 6:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday evenings.

This year the Bible studies will be focused on Scripture itself, said Jennifer Stair, first vice president, PWOC.

"I'm confident that God's word transforms us. It changes who we are to be more like Him," Stair said.

The Tuesday morning Bible studies include: Prayer – An Adventure with God; Chronological Bible Study; Live Fearlessly; Be Committed, a Bible study of Ruth and Esther; Romans; A House Divided, Elijah and the Kings of Israel; and Be Mature: Growing up in Christ.

The Tuesday evening Bible study is titled: Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ.

"I've just been super excited – I just love the time of worship and I've still not decided on a Bible study – lots to choose from. They all sound good," said Jana MacFarlane, military spouse, originally from Columbia City, Ind.

Reading God's word daily is needed to remind believers of who they are in Christ, said Heather Anne Ward, president, PWOC.

"We need to be reminded of who we are, who's we are and our purpose," she said. "Run to Jesus, and to God's word. Allow God's truth to transform the way that you think, you feel, you react, you believe and what we know about ourselves. We need to come out of the darkness and into God's marvelous light."

The PWOC board members also were introduced during the opening event, and each member was asked to share how reading and studying the Bible has transformed her life.

"It's hard to pick just a few Bible verses that show how much God has changed me," said Sam Standefer, hospitality chair, PWOC. "When I feel like I really just want to know who God is, figure out His truth and figure out the answers to life: Matthew 7:7 says, 'Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.'"

God's word can transform one's life, marriage, parenting and relationships with others, Stair said.

"I think that here at PWOC, here at Fort Riley, the women are weary. They're wounded; they're worried, and I believe that the only thing that can change that – truly change it forever in us – is God's word," she said.

For more information about PWOC or its Bible studies, visit www.facebook.com/FortRileyPWOC or email Riley@pwoc.org.

Calun Reece | POST

A PWOC member, center, lifts her hands in praise Aug. 28 during the PWOC kickoff event at Morris Hill Chapel. The event introduced upcoming opportunities for women to be involved in PWOC.

Princeton Review names K-State as one of best colleges in nation

K-STATE MEDIA RELATIONS

MANHATTAN – In a repeat performance, Kansas State University is recognized on the Princeton Review's "The Best 377 Colleges."

Only 15 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges and three international colleges are recognized in the publication. The list included profiles of the colleges with rating scores for all schools in eight categories. It also included rankings based on The Princeton Review's survey of students attending the colleges of the top 20 schools in 62 categories.

From the student surveys K-State is ranked No. 2 for great campus and community relations; No. 4 for the best quality of life; No. 8 for the happiest students; No. 12 in best-run colleges category; No. 13 in their students love these colleges category; No. 14 in jock schools category; and No. 16 in the most religious students category.

"K-Staters know it and the Princeton Review confirms it: K-State is one of the best college experiences in the nation," said Pat Bosco, vice president for student life and dean of students. "Our recognition in this elite publication is a direct result of our award-winning and caring faculty and student life staff and the more than 250 academic programs and majors available to students. It's great to have others in the nation recognize our efforts to make K-State a classic college experience."

Out of all of the top 377 colleges, the publication also ranked K-State No. 64 in fire safety, No. 79 in the green rating and No. 99 in quality of life.

"We commend Kansas State University for its outstanding academics, which is the primary criteria for our selection of schools for the book," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's senior vice president-publisher and author of "The Best 377 Colleges."

The schools listed in the publication are based on institutional data, visits to the university, feedback from current students, and the opinions of staff and a 30-person National College Counselor Advisory Board. The rankings are based on an 80-question student survey.

Earlier this year the university was included in "The Best Value Colleges: 2012 Edition," a book by the Princeton Review that identified the top 75 public and top 75 private colleges and universities as true values when it comes to getting a quality education.

The university also was featured in Forbes magazine's 2012 America's Best Colleges List, which includes 650 colleges nationwide.

READY ARMY