

Commanding General: Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins

Division Command Sergeant Maj.: Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne

Garrison Commander: Col. Richard Piscal

Garrison Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Mathews



On the Web: www.riley.army.mil -
Click on "Keeping the Greater Fort Riley Community Informed"

PAO CONTACTS

Deputy PAO: Maj. Nathan Bond, 239-3032

Community Relations: Monte Volk, 240-0588

Media Relations: Deb Skidmore, 239-3410

Newspaper / Riley TV: 239-8854 / 239-8850

August 2008 Volume 2, Issue 8

IN THIS ISSUE

Warriors in Transition / Deployed Units	2
Division Composition	3
Community Relations News / Event Calendar	4
Greater Fort Riley Community Partnership	5
Fort Riley News / Jobs & Contracting	6
Greater Fort Riley Community Update	7

Big Red One & Fort Riley Community Update

Greater Fort Riley Community signs covenant Aug. 20

Kansas government officials and local community leaders will sign a Community Covenant with Army leaders at 11 a.m. Aug. 20 on the parade field in front of Bldg. 580.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is expected to attend along with Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback and Representatives Nancy Boyda and Jim Moran.

"This ceremony is a wonderful opportunity for the state of Kansas and especially those in the Greater Fort Riley Community to come together and show Soldiers and their Families - active, Guard

and Reserve, our continued support," said John Montgomery, who serves as one of the Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army, and is one of the event organizers.

Every brigade and battalion of the division will be represented on the parade field. The 1st Infantry Division Band and a children's choir from Spring Valley Elementary School will perform. An inflatable jumper will be available for children and the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard will provide free rides on the mule wagon.

Learn more about the Army Community Covenant on p. 7

GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY COVENANT



ARMY STRONG. SOLDIERS ★ FAMILIES ★ ARMY CIVILIANS ★ COMMUNITIES
CLAY, DICKINSON, GEARY, MORRIS, POTTAWATOMIE, RILEY & WABAUNSEE COUNTIES



**AMERICA'S ARMY:
THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION™**

Army Community Covenant
Supporting those who serve...
The Greater Fort Riley Community

Together, We are committed to building strong communities.

We, the Community, recognize...

- The commitment Soldiers and their Families are making every day.
- The strength of Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.
- The strength of Families is supported by the strength of the Community.
- The strength of the Community comes from the support of Employers, Educators, Civic and Business leaders, and its Citizens.

We, the Community, are committed to...

- Building partnerships that support the strength, resilience, and readiness of Soldiers and their Families.
- Assisting in the implementation of the Army Family Covenant.

July Fort Riley Status Report

*All numbers are approximates	June '08 (as of June 26)	July '08 (as of July 22)	Aug. '08 (as of Aug. 18)
Military assigned to Fort Riley (not including TT servicemembers)	15,660	15,600	15,500
TT servicemembers assigned	130	190	315
Reserve component Soldiers on duty at Fort Riley	170	230	210
Deployed Soldiers (OCONUS)	3,220	*2,910 (as of July 28)	2,830
Deployed TT servicemembers	4,430	4,400	4,550

Subscribe today! To sign up for this newsletter, visit www.riley.army.mil and click on "In Touch" in the top right corner. Look for the "Big Red One and Fort Riley Community Update" list under "PAO."

1

WARRIORS IN TRANSITION

WTB Soldiers, Families attend Hiring Heroes Career Fair

Soldiers and Family members were able to attend a two-day Hiring Heroes career fair July 28-29 to help them find civilian careers. The fair started off with a resume-building workshop July 28 and the next day individuals were able to meet with potential employers to learn what they had to offer.

Many employers offered information on how to apply for positions while others took resumes and interviewed candidates on site.

The first day saw 190 attendees who either participated in the one-on-one resume or information sessions. 106 attended the one-on-one resume-writing assistance willing 109 attending the informational sessions. Sessions included tips on interviewing, networking and using veterans' preference.

Day two, 75 potential employers visited with 417 Soldiers and spouses. There were a total of 48 offers made by employers during the day and 11 offers were accepted on the spot.

Army spouse Lindsey Martin just moved to Fort Riley from Fort Richardson, Ala., and said the career fair was a great way for her to start looking for a job.

"I just moved here. I needed a job, and it seems like there are a bunch of opportunities here," she said.

It was easier to get to know the area and what's available with the help of the vendors and event staff who were at the event, Martin said.

"The people are really friendly and want to help me find a job," Martin said.

Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, said he was impressed with the turnout at the career fair.

"I cannot think of a better way to connect an employer with a Soldier," Wiggins said.

The career fair was a way for some to learn what different options are available to them after they leave the Army.

"I am getting out of the Army, so I wanted to look at all of my options," said Spc. Keith Tatom, Company F, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. Tatom said he was looking for a career in law enforcement and was using the career fair as a tool to find out what he needs to know to get a job.

"The career fair has shown me all of the requirements needed for fields I am interested in," he said.

Sgt. Stephan Pugh, who was discharged from the National Guard in December 2007, because of a knee injury, is now attending Kansas State University. He said he will be graduating soon with a degree in mass communications, so he was using the career fair to help him prepare for life after school. Pugh said he enjoyed both days of the career fair.

"I liked how the resume portion was one day and the fair itself was on another day," Pugh said. "It was beneficial that it was spread out."

Even though Pugh said although he already had a resume, he liked the one-on-one time with someone who could show him how to improve it.

"There was a great event staff, they showed you what direction you should go," Pugh said.

Marilyn Leamer, an employer representative from Saline County, said the Hiring Heroes career fair was the busiest career fair she has ever attended.

Leamer said she talked to many different individuals during the day who were interested in both full-time and temporary positions with Saline County.

"I've been very impressed with the potential candidates," Leamer said.

As part of the career fair, the Department of Defense will continue to track matches made at the fair by contacting both the vendors and attendees about every four months.

DEPLOYED/DEPLOYING/REDEPLOYING UNITS

We remember



As of Aug. 13, 153 Fort Riley Soldiers, TT servicemembers and Reserve component Soldiers who mobilized through Fort Riley have been killed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Welcome home 2-2 Heavy Equipment Trans. Det.!

Currently deployed, as of Aug. 15:

- Detachment F, 15th Finance Battalion (scheduled to return September)
- 1st Sustainment Brigade (scheduled to return December)
- 1st Combat Aviation Brigade (scheduled to return December)
- 300th Military Police Company (scheduled to return September 2009)
- Transition Team servicemembers
- 97th Military Police Battalion working dog teams
- Individual elements, MEDDAC
- Individual elements, 10th Air Support Operations Squadron
- 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based out of Fort Hood, Texas
- Elements of 75th Fires Brigade, based out of Fort Sill, Okla.
- 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, based out of Fort Knox, Ky.

Information on upcoming ceremonies, as well as any time changes to those ceremonies, is available at www.riley.army.mil. Click on "Ceremonies" in the top left column.

Deploying, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (Fall 08)

1

DIVISION COMPOSITION

1st Infantry Division Headquarters Senior military and civilian leaders of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley will meet Aug. 25-27 for the Senior Leaders Orientation Course. The course is designed to educate senior leaders about the diversity and complexity of the mission sets at Fort Riley, inform them of the commanding general's initiatives and priorities and allow them to establish personal networks in the Greater Fort Riley Community.

1st Brigade About 500 Soldiers and their Family members attended a Back to School Fair Aug. 6 sponsored by the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the 101st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, on Custer Hill. This was the first Back to School Fair sponsored by the two units and organizers are hoping to make the event an annual one.



2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team The senior staff recently returned from Iraq where they conducted assessments of the area the brigade expects to deploy to early this fall in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 3,900 Soldier "Dagger" Brigade will begin loading its equipment this month in preparation for the deployment.

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (DEPLOYED) Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth Preston witnessed the July 24 transfer of authority between the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. The unveiling of the Big Red One colors symbolized the beginning of Task Force Duke's command over the northeastern area of Afghanistan.

4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team In the past 30 days, the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the "Dragon Brigade," has been focusing on refitting and training in preparation for any contingencies while also building strong bonds with the Family Readiness Groups.

On Aug. 13, commanders, senior enlisted Soldiers and Family members of the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, "Proud Americans," conducted a FRG orientation tour of Fort Riley to set the foundation of family support prior to any deployments.

During this time, Company B, 701st Support Battalion won the

Department of Defense 2008 Maintenance Award; 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment dedicated a memorial to the Black Lions killed during their deployment; and "Rangers" of 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment held a Motorcycle Mentorship Ride Aug. 15.

1st Combat Aviation Brigade (DEPLOYED)

Assisting ground commanders over the skies of Iraq are the pilots of Troop C, 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry



Regiment flying OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopters. "We are known as the scouts and we are both the eyes and ears of the command and task force," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Attila Herrera, Kiowa pilot for Troop C. "A large portion of our mission is counter improvised explosive device operations. If we are flying in direct support of ground forces our mission entails searching for IEDs."

1st Sustainment Brigade (DEPLOYED) Twenty-three Iraqi Army Soldiers made up the graduating class of the Areef "Sergeant" Course conducted by the Iraqi Army Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. Soldiers of the 1st Sustainment Brigade served as advisers for the experimental course that taught basic leadership skills and some infantry techniques. It was the first time the course has been taught at Camp Taji.

MEDDAC Irwin Army Community Hospital is expanding its footprint with a \$404 million new facility. The 500,000+ square foot hospital, which is currently in the planning and development stage, is intended to be complete in 2013.

Fort Riley is scheduled to break ground in October for a new Soldier and Family Care Clinic on Custer Hill. The new clinic will offer primary care, pharmacy, lab, optometry and more.

75th Fires Brigade is located at Fort Sill, Okla. 1st Infantry Division has training oversight of this brigade. Elements of the brigade are currently deployed.

3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command (DEPLOYED) based at Fort Knox, Ky, is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 1st Infantry Division has training oversight of this command.

1

COMMUNITY RELATIONS NEWS

Local Scout revamps walking trail on post

A Manhattan teen is providing walking trail enthusiasts with a safer path to venture down as a part of an Eagle Scout project for his local Boy Scout troop.

Justin Baublitz, 16, son of Maj. Lee Baublitz and a member of Troop No. 41 in Junction City, is supervising a project to replace a worn-down staircase leading to a trail behind the First Territorial Capitol of Kansas at Fort Riley. The project is expected to be completed in early August.

Justin has been in Boy Scouts for the past six years. His father is currently Troop 41's assistant Scout Master and his younger brother Grant, 14, is also a member of the troop.

As an outdoor enthusiast, Justin said he enjoys camping and hiking, which was a factor in his decision to replace the staircase leading down to the 2-mile Kaw River Nature Trail.

Before work began on the project, the condition of the staircase was poor, he said. The steps leading down to the trail were made of wooden railroad ties which were rotting and the overgrowth around the staircase created a safety hazard threatening to close off the trail. The project consists of installing a permanent staircase built with treated lumber and stable railings.

Justin and other scouts from his troop began tearing out the old staircase July 12, before work came to a halt one hour into the project due to inclement weather. The scouts resumed work July 26 and were able to finish tearing out the old staircase and cementing new posts down the staircase's steep incline. They are hoping to install the new staircase in August.

"I am hoping this will be the last time someone will have to work on this. It has been worked on

several times. It's a good Eagle Scout project, but it's no use if it keeps breaking down," the Manhattan High School junior said. By replacing the stairs, Justin said he hopes it will give visitors an easier and safer passage to the trail.

"Before you could barely get down, especially if you had any type of physical disabilities," he said. "It's going to be much easier to get down there now. It's geared more toward everyone, instead of just physically fit people."

Earning Eagle Scout rank

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout has to be a Life Scout and be in a position of leadership with their troop for at least six months. They also must decide on a project to complete and submit the project plan to an Eagle Project Approval Board. Upon board approval, the project and paperwork accompanying the project must be completed. The project is then submitted to another Eagle Scout board. Once approved, the Boy Scout is awarded his rank, which is the highest rank a scout can obtain and is a sign of leadership. Additionally, scouts applying for the rank must have completed 1,500 tasks, earning 12 required and nine optional badges in the process.

Justin is a senior patrol leader for his troop and has earned more than 60 badges.

"I'm proud of him. Only about 2 percent of Scouts that start ever hit Eagle Scout rank," said Justin's father Lee. "I feel that it's a great thing for him in the future by becoming an Eagle Scout because it opens so many doors - militarily if he chooses that path, educationally with scholarships and just the whole path he had to take to get to this point."

CG's Mounted Color Guard, 1st Inf. Div. Band's Sept. events

Fort Riley's Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard will perform at the following events.

- **Sept. 1** — 2 p.m., Chapman Labor Day parade
- **Sept. 13** — 11 a.m., Santa Fe Trail parade, Council Grove

The CGMCG will be traveling to participate in the National Cavalry Competition Sept. 17-21 in Cheyenne, Wyo.

The 1st Infantry Division Band will perform at the following events.

- **Sept. 1** — 2 p.m., Chapman Labor Day parade
- **Sept. 6** — 4 p.m., Hope Heritage Festival
- **Sept. 28** — 3:30 p.m., Keats Fall Festival

All events listed are open to the public.

Please note, these events may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

CEREMONIES & EVENTS

You are invited to attend the following ceremonies and events on Fort Riley.

For more information, call the Community Relations Office at (785) 239-2022.

- **Sept. 3** — 9 a.m., 70th Eng. Bn. Inactivation Ceremony, Cavalry Parade Field
- **Sept. 11** — 7:46 a.m., 9-11 Ceremony (includes POW/MIA recognition and Global War on Terrorism monument rededication), Cavalry Museum grounds
- **Sept. 20** — Fall Postwide Yard Sales
- **Sept. 24** — 9 a.m., Monthly Retirement Ceremony, Bldg. 580 Field
- **Sept. 27** — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Apple Days/Fall Festival, Main Post
- **Sept. 30** — 9 a.m., 2HBCT Deployment Ceremony, Cavalry Parade Field
- **Oct. 10-13** — Columbus Day Training Holiday
- **Oct. 11** — 10:30 a.m., Eisenhower Wreath Laying, Eisenhower Center, Abilene
- **Oct. 15** — 11:45 a.m., Hispanic Heritage Observance, Riley's Conference Center

To request the 1st ID Band or CG's Mounted Color Guard, visit www.riley.army.mil and click on "Community Relations" in the left column.



GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCES
HOUSING ••• HEALTH CARE ••• RECREATION ••• EDUCATION ••• EMPLOYMENT

Community, post leaders conduct CPC mid-year review

The Community Partnership Conference had its mid-year review Aug. 5 at the Riley Conference Center. Discussion included results from a Kansas State University survey and re-visiting topics from the past five months' CPCs.

K-State Survey

The K-State survey showed Soldier and spouse responses to questions about living arrangements within the Greater Fort Riley Community.

The purpose of the survey was to identify factors that went into the decisions Soldiers and their Families made about relocating to the Greater Fort Riley Community.

"It was opened on April 22 and closed on May 29. We ended up with 1,456 total useable responses," said Briana Goff, associate dean of Family Studies and Human Services.

The survey found almost half of those who responded chose to move with their spouse because they wanted to remain together, not because of the Greater Fort Riley Community.

The top five responses from those who chose not to relocate to the Greater Fort Riley Community with their Soldier was because of deployment factors, housing/neighborhood factors, employment of spouse, other Family factors or educational opportunities for spouse/children.

Deployment factors were the main reason why Family members did not relocate with their Soldier.

"My spouse was deployed after being at Fort Riley for only seven months, exactly one month after we got married," commented one survey participant. "So it made neither financial nor personal sense to relocate to a community where I had no job, no friends, no Family and a deployed spouse."

Housing

The housing update followed the K-State survey with Larry McGee, director of Public Works, and Brian Williams, from the city of Manhattan, as representatives.

"We are still focusing on how we are going to transform to two-thirds of our married population living off post," McGee said. "In the past when our population was around 9,500, it was 50 percent on post and 50 percent off post. As we grow, a majority of our housing is going to be off post."

Accomplishments since the original housing CPC included a low-income housing tax

credit; the initiation of a housing market analysis July 29 and a regional database was developed and updated.

The low income housing tax credit is the exclusion of a Soldier's basic allowance for housing from his or her income calculations that qualify for this housing tax credit program. The president signed the bill on July 29, McGee said.

While trying to achieve short-term and long-term objectives, the challenges included increasing fuel costs, which will limit the inventory of affordable units, and maintaining the database until a regional planning organization is formed.

Health Care

Col. Jeff Johnson, Irwin Army Community Hospital commander, gave an update on the hospital and health care on Fort Riley.

A two-way ticket system has reduced wait times at the hospital pharmacy, even though there's been an increase in patients. The self-care program, which is now available online, has seen an increase in users. Users may log on to <http://iach.amedd.army.mil> and look under quick links to take the self care test and be eligible to receive self care books and a pharmacy card for free over the counter drugs. For more information about the self-care program, call Preventive Medicine at 239-7323.

Routine care also has seen fewer no shows since July 1 when the scheduling of routine check-ups was changed from six-weeks to seven-days out.

A challenge the hospital has encountered is recruiting, hiring, training and retaining contract and GS providers, paraprofessionals and support staff.

New facilities that have been projected are a Soldier and Family Care Clinic, Warrior Transition Battalion complex and new hospital facility.

Construction on the Soldier Family Care Clinic is projected to begin in October 2008, and be completed by summer 2010. Services will include primary care, pharmacy, labs, optometry, radiology, physical therapy, occupational therapy and patient education. The Warrior Transition Battalion complex is projected to begin in January 2009. It will have 138 barracks and will move warriors out of temporary buildings.

A new IACH building is projected to open at the end of Fiscal Year 2013. It will be a 550,000 square foot facility and will include

an in-patient mental health facility. Decisions on the location and design are still pending. A planned hospital addition of 31,000 square feet was cancelled due to the funding being received for the new hospital. Other plans affected by the new funding include renovations to the obstetrics and gynecology clinic, the expansion of the labor and delivery areas, and the renewal of the second floor and MRI facility.

Recreation

Since the recreation CPC, Fort Riley has been selected to participate in a centrally-contracted initiative to establish a franchise sit-down restaurant on post.

A shuttle service was established on Thursday through Saturday nights as a means for Soldiers to travel to and from Aggieville in Manhattan.

A challenge to developing recreational opportunities has been sustaining a recreation working group in the Greater Fort Riley Community.

Education

Kansas, along with nine other states, signed the Interstate Compact for Military Children, which will help ease transitions for the often-relocated children.

Another point of progress was that the USD 383 board of education voted to participate in the Army School Age Services Program in Your Neighborhood, which will provide 75 before and after school spaces for Fort Riley children.

Employment

Strides made under employment included an increase in Employer Day participation from only having one per month to an average of three per month.

The first Army Career and Alumni Program employer's newsletter was sent out on Aug. 1, with the help of community members, to the Greater Fort Riley Community chambers and employers.

The Family readiness support assistants must now provide briefings at the unit level about the Employment Readiness Program. A plan has been developed to increase contacts with all of the Greater Fort Riley Community employers.

Employment challenges include identifying and obtaining funding streams for marketing ventures and finding military spouses work because of their unique needs.

1

FORT RILEY NEWS

Post ACS celebrates 43rd birthday

Fort Riley Army Community Service Director Bill Powers remembers what it was like being one of six children in a military Family during the 1950s and 1960s. While his father was deployed, Powers vividly recalls his mother gathering all of the children and packing their belongings into the Family car to relocate from Fort Riley to Fort Carson, Colo. No military relocation service was provided at that time, and there weren't child care services, Powers said. Families just packed up and went.

Now more than four decades later, those times have changed. July 25, ACS celebrated those changes during its 43rd birthday celebration, honoring the program that transformed itself from a volunteer grassroots organization to the centerpiece of the Army Family Covenant.

ACS offers 10 core services for Soldiers and their Families ranging from financial and relocation programs to domestic violence prevention, mobilization and deployment services, employment readiness and Army Emergency Relief programs.

The birthday celebration at Fort Riley recognized the efforts of the program, its staff and the Army's commitment to the program's success, Powers said.

ACS began in 1965 as a volunteer grassroots organization to address some of the basic needs of military Families.

"Family members would recognize that there were concerns and issues, but there was no formal mechanism to address those issues," Powers said. "It might be something as simple as a lending closet, which is now part of the relocation services within Army Community Services. So they established these little volunteer-run lending closets to help Families who were arriving, say here at Fort Riley, with little or nothing to set up a house with."

Today, ACS has a lending closet that can be used to set up a temporary household for a Soldier and his or her Family until

their household goods arrive on post.

Another example of how ACS has changed the Army and alleviated stress among Soldiers and their Families is by providing financial budgeting and assistance programs, Powers added.

"The way the Army used to do it years ago was there would be a collection taken up in the unit and maybe a slush fund to help a Soldier get out of a jam," he said. "The Army Emergency Relief Fund was designed really to address those kinds of emergencies."

Using services at ACS July 25 was Spc. Joseph Williams and his friend, Spc. Craig McNelley, both with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Williams and McNelley are both transferring to different posts and needed information about changing duty stations. This was not the first time either Soldier had used ACS services. When Williams first arrived at Fort Riley and his possessions did not, he was able to borrow some household goods from the lending closet. During McNelley's time at Fort Riley, he said ACS' computers were useful in completing much needed paperwork.

Today, Fort Riley's ACS has 46 staff members and 20 contracted employees and will soon be at four different locations on the installation. The program serves thousands of Soldiers and their Families every month.

The establishment of the Army Family Covenant last year and the Army's pledge of shifting its focus toward taking care of Soldiers and their Families has contributed tremendously to the growth of the program, Powers said. Other factors that come into play have been the return of the 1st Infantry Division to Fort Riley in 2006 and ongoing deployment cycles.

"The importance of recognizing ACS is the impact that it's had. It's more than just a job, it's a commitment to why the Army exists and why we exist to help that Army," Powers said.

FOR MORE NEWS & INFORMATION

- LOG ON TO WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL AND CLICK ON "KEEPING THE GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY INFORMED"



Fort Riley Post newspaper available online at www.riley.army.mil



Duty First monthly magazine available online at www.lid.army.mil

EMPLOYMENT/CONTRACTING

The Directorate of Contracting provides a list of active contracts, as well as Fort Riley area construction business opportunities and information on submitting bids. For more information, visit www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Contracting.aspx

Stay InTouch with Fort Riley. E-mails about upcoming job opportunities are available by joining the InTouch list. Visit www.riley.army.mil and click on the "InTouch" link.

TRAINING ITEMS OF INTEREST

We know our training can have an effect on you. We will try to keep you informed on upcoming training exercises you could see or hear.

To receive e-mail updates, visit www.riley.army.mil and click on "Training Advisories." There, you can sign up through InTouch to receive training advisories via e-mail.



1

GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY UPDATE

What is the Army Community Covenant?

The Army Community Covenant is an agreement between military bases and nearby communities all over the world that several counties in the Greater Fort Riley Community are expected to enter into this year. The agreement was created to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and Families, both at Fort Riley and as they move from state to state.

A big part of the covenant is the idea of best practices. There are two levels to best practice, the state/national level, and the local level.

At the state/national level, the some of the best practices include spouse employment, unemployment compensation for spouses that leave their job due to a military move, operation purple, which through the National Military Family Association instituted day camps for children whose parent is deployed, and support to wounded Soldiers, including tailored transitions and specialty housing.

At the local level, some of the best practices are the adopt a unit/Soldier program that helps the community to understand the different

needs of deployed Soldiers and their Families; community partnership organizations, which allows military and civilian leaders to discuss support provided by that particular community and identify needs not being met; and community gifts, which involves discounts on goods and services for Soldiers and Families.

Soldiers can also take advantage of education benefits, such as up to 10 semesters of free college tuition for Soldiers that have served at least 90 days in Iraq or Afghanistan, which can be redeemed at any public college or university in Kansas. Soldiers are also entitled to a refund or credit for tuition already paid when their unit is activated according to a new policy by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Fort Benning, Ga., signed the covenant on April 17 and was the first base to enter into the agreement. Other military installations that have signed the agreement include West Point on April 10; Fort Meade, Md., on May 9; Fort Bragg, N.C., on June 5; Fort McCoy, Wis. on July 2; and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii on July 4.

tively enrolled at a regent institution, even if the student's sponsor status changes due to a new assignment.

REFUND OR CREDIT FOR TUITION: The Board of Regents has enacted a system-wide policy stating that when a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, who is a student in a Kansas regent institution, is activated and must leave school he or she will be given a refund or credit for the tuition paid.

COMPLIMENTARY TUITION: The state will provide up to 10 semesters of free college tuition to Soldiers who have served at least 90 days on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, to be redeemed at any Kansas public college or university.

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS PROGRAM: Provides down payment assistance to qualified Kansas buyers for the purchase of their first home. The program is for persons who have incomes at or below 80% of the media income for their area. The loan may be from 15-20% of the home purchase price, awarded on a sliding scale depending on the applicant's income level. Buyers are expected to make a minimum investment of \$500 or 2% of the sale price, whichever is greater. Private lenders provide the second mortgages in conjunction with the first mortgage financing. This program is provided through the Kansas Housing Resource Cooperation.

GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY



"A GREAT PLACE TO TRAIN"
"A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE"

GFRC EVENTS

The following are a few of the many events with Fort Riley involvement.

- **Sept. 3** — 7 a.m. Manhattan Military Relations Committee Breakfast, Chuck Bands, USDA Rural Development. Call 776-8829 for information /reservations.
- **Sept. 6** — 6 p.m., K-State/ Fort Riley Day, K-State football vs. Montana State
- **Sept. 25** — 7:30 a.m., JC/ Geary County Military Affairs Breakfast, Ron Walder, USD 475 Superintendent. Call 238-1270 for information /reservations.

Have an event to add? E-mail monte.volk@us.army.mil with the details. Events must be of specific interest to Fort Riley/the Army.

Free lawn care available to deployed Soldiers, Families in Abilene, Manhattan

For more information about this program, log on to www.projectevergreen.com.

Best local practices

PAY DIFFERENTIAL: For state employees, the state will make up any difference between pay and allowances Kansas National Guard and Reservists receive from the military and their state salary at the time they were called to active duty. The maximum amount paid is \$1,000 per month.

ACTIVATION PAYMENT: A one-time payment of \$1,500 is made to state employees upon activation for 180 or more days. These payments will be made retroactively to all National Guard members and Reservists who have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001.

TUITION ASSISTANCE: The tuition to attend state universities, community colleges, or vocational technical colleges will be covered for Family members of Kansas residents who are killed in the line of duty while in the U.S. Armed Forces or the Kansas National Guard. Tuition assistance is also provided for former Prisoners of War.

IN-STATE TUITION FOR MILITARY FAMILY MEMBERS: Any Family member of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Kansas will be allowed to qualify for in-state tuition; the student's status will not change to out-of-state as long as the student is consecu-