You may have heard about a new Army initiative called the Army Family Covenant. If you haven’t, here’s what it is: the Army Family Covenant is recognition at the Department of the Army level that we must respond better to the needs of Families (we even capitalize the word “Families” to signify their importance).

The Army has never ignored families – in my 25 years in the Army, 23 of them married, the Army always took good care of my Family, and we have had Family support groups for decades.

So what has changed? Well, the Army has promised $1.4 BILLION dollars for next year alone towards improving quality of life for Families. This money will go towards Family support activities in five areas: programs and services; health care; housing; youth needs; and spouse education and employment.

We don’t know yet how much of the $1.4B Fort Riley will get. But we do know the Army is serious about increasing emphasis on caring for Families.

**Examples:**
We have seen the privatization of housing on post. Picerne Military Housing has brought a new standard to on-post family housing – Families on post don’t even cut their own grass, and if a faucet drips, the Family just calls it in to be fixed. That’s service!

Additionally, we have new daycare facilities on post, with more coming, and we recently hired Family Readiness Support Assistants for every Battalion. These assistants help commanders communicate with and assist the unit’s Families.

But most important, this Army Family Covenant is a promise from leaders – a sacred promise – to recognize our Family’s sacrifices with the services they deserve.

We are fortunate here at Fort Riley in that we already have a very supportive community that provides great support to our Families – thank you!

Duty First!

Lt. Col. Christian Kubik

**NOTES FROM LT. COL. CHRISTIAN KUBIK, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT RILEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**

There are a variety of activities, events and ceremonies during the next two months. We begin Nov. 7 with “Operation Santa Claus,” the community’s effort to provide toys to children up to 14 years old in need. Through Dec. 19, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at various places on post, or at the Wal-Mart stores in Junction City and Manhattan.

Fort Riley will be participating in a variety of activities over the Veterans Day holiday weekend, including the ribbon cutting for the new VA cemetery just outside of post (see p. 4 for a list of events).

We ask that you please keep our Soldiers and their Families in your thoughts and prayers, especially those who will spend this holiday season apart.

April M. Blackmon

**NOTES FROM APRIL BLACKMON, COMMUNITY RELATIONS CHIEF**

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**Population estimates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military assigned to Fort Riley (includes TT servicemembers)</td>
<td>15,860</td>
<td>15,440</td>
<td>17,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve component Soldiers on duty at Fort Riley</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total civilian employees</td>
<td>5,805</td>
<td>5,805</td>
<td>5,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active duty deployed</td>
<td>6,380</td>
<td>9,300</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil) and click on “Keeping Communities Informed” for the latest version of the status report.
Transition Teams, deployments remain top missions

TRANSITION TEAM TRAINING

Welcome home to classes 1 through 8, who all have completed their yearlong tour.

Classes 9 through 29 remain deployed. Please keep these servicemembers and their Families in your thoughts and prayers.

DEPLOYED/DEPLOYING UNITS

Currently deployed about 7,500 Soldiers total, as of Oct. 24 ( coming home in December)

- * HHD, 97th Military Police Battalion
- * 1st Engineer Battalion
- Individual elements, 10th Air Support Operations Squadron
- 4th Inf. Brigade Combat Team
- 977th Military Police Company
- 70th Engineer Battalion (Afghanistan)
- 97th Military Police Battalion working dog teams
- 266th Movement Control Team
- 24th Transportation Company
- 2-2 Heavy Equipment Transportation Detachment
- 116th Military Police Company
- Detachment F, 15th Finance Battalion
- 1st Sustainment Brigade
- 1st Combat Aviation Brigade

Welcome home

- Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Inf., 1st Brigade
- Company C, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Brigade
- Batteries B and D, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, 1st Brigade
- Troop D, 4th Cavalry, 1st Brigade

We remember

Fort Riley mourned the loss of three servicemembers this past month.

As of Oct. 25, 137 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.

Our active duty strength on post is nearly 17,300; but about 7,500 of those Soldiers are deployed. We ask that you keep these Soldiers and their Families back home in your thoughts.

If you can, please come to our deployment and redeployment (welcome back) ceremonies – they are always open to the public (see p. 4 for ceremony dates).

Settling in

Col. Kevin O’Connell and CSM Frank Cardoza uncase the 1st Sustainment Bde. colors in Iraq.
**1st Infantry Division Headquarters** is scheduled to begin modularizing in Fiscal Year 08. The new Headquarters building ribbon cutting is scheduled for 2 p.m., Nov. 16. Located on 1st Div. Road, the 138,000 square-foot building includes features such as a three-story glass lobby and a massive joint operations center.

1st Brigade still has the lead for the transition team training mission. Approximately 825 Soldiers serve as cadre for this mission. Upon completion of the TT mission, the brigade will modularize and grow. Additionally, the brigade’s seven Security Force companies, which deployed last fall, have all returned. The 1st Engineer Bn. will return in December. Sgt. Norman Inch, 1st En. Bn., was recently awarded a Silver Star for his heroism and valor while serving in Northern Iraq.

2nd Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., still based out of Schweinfurt, Germany, is beginning to return to Germany from a year-long tour to Iraq. To learn more about this brigade, visit [http://www.2bct.1id.army.mil/](http://www.2bct.1id.army.mil/)

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., is at Fort Hood, Texas. Currently, no deployment orders have been received, but the brigade is scheduled to enter the available deployment pool Spring 2008.

3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Div., has approximately 3,400 Soldiers assigned. A brigade-wide gunnery is slated for November. Currently, no deployment orders have been received, but the brigade is scheduled to enter the available deployment pool Spring 2008. The brigade also maintains command and control for the 70th Eng. Bn., which is deployed to Afghanistan.

Fort Riley’s combatives team placed third overall in the All-Army Combatives Tournament. Pfc. Matthew Bray, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, won first place in the light weight division to secure the team’s only first-place finish. Staff Sgt. Rudy Romero III, also from 2nd Bn., 70th Armor Regt., brought home third place in the flyweight division. Pfc. Marquez Staton and Pfc. Michael Goede, both of 2nd Bn., 70th Armor Regt., finished fourth place in their respective divisions.

4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is more than halfway into its deployment. Iraqi security forces took another step toward self-sufficiency when several Iraqi security elements participated in a civil defense drill Oct. 20 in Yarmouk, an area in the Mansour District of western Baghdad. Soldiers from 2nd Bn., 32nd FA assisted with the training.

1st Combat Aviation Brigade crews are getting settled in Iraq.

1st Sustainment Brigade officially took charge of support operations throughout Iraq in a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 19. The brigade has taken charge of eight battalions and commands more than 4,000 Soldiers who are spread throughout the Multi-National Division — Baghdad area.

MEDDAC The Warrior Transition Unit at IACH currently has 98 members assigned with about 20 more pending assignment. Because of the rapid growth of the WTU, a second Company and a Battalion have been authorized and are being staffed. Whenever possible, WTU Soldiers will live at home. If they are Guard or Reservists, they stay in the WTU barracks. The barracks are new modular buildings adjacent to IACH. The WTU offers a triad of care for every member. The triad consists of a squad leader, a case manager and an ombudsman. Every possible medical, pay, family, assignment or other issue that arises for a WTU soldier is to be dealt with in an attentive and expeditious manner.
COMMUNITY RELATIONS NEWS

Fort Riley to participate in Manhattan’s Veterans Day parade, ceremony Nov. 9

“Veterans Serving Proudly” is the theme of the 2007 Veterans Day Parade, set to be held in downtown Manhattan Nov. 9.

Organized by the Flint Hills Veterans Coalition, Inc. with the sponsorship of the City of Manhattan, the parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Manhattan City Park, run east along Poyntz Avenue and finish at the Manhattan Town Center.

“Our main goal is to honor our veterans,” said Michael Kearns, chairman of the Flint Hills Veterans Coalition. “The parade and the accompanying festivities will help bring to the attention of Manhattan and the surrounding communities what our veterans have done and what they are doing. We encourage everyone to come out to the parade; your presence shows that you value the veterans and the sacrifices they made.”

Among the many groups featured in the parade will be Fort Riley’s Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard, the 1st Inf. Div. Marching Band, and a special marching military unit from Fort Riley’s 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, will serve as the parade grand marshal. Durbin also will be the keynote speaker at a special patriotic ceremony, which will begin after the parade at 11 a.m. in the Wareham Theatre on Poyntz Avenue.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS EVENTS

These on- and off-post community events are open to the public. For more information, visit www.riley.army.mil and click on the “Events” calendar.

Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard will participate in the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Eskridge Veterans Day Parade (Downtown Eskridge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Ogden Veterans’ Memorial dedication (City Park, Ogden)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Salina Parade of Lights (Downtown Salina)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>Junction City Christmas Parade (Sixth &amp; Washington streets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Manhattan Mayor’s Holiday Parade (Poyntz Ave.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1st Infantry Division Band will participate in the following events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Celebration of Freedom Parade (Downtown El Dorado)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Leavenworth County Veteran’s Day parade (Downtown Leavenworth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Holiday concert (McCain Auditorium) * Tickets available Nov. 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

- Nov. 7 — 11 a.m. Operation Santa Claus Ribbon Cutting, Bldg. 211
- Nov. 11 — 10 a.m. Fort Riley VA Cemetery Breaking Ground Ceremony
- Nov. 14 — 11:45 a.m., Native American Heritage Month, Riley’s Conference Center
- Nov. 16 — 11 a.m., German/Italian Memorial, Post Cemetery
- Nov. 16 — 2 p.m., Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Division Headquarters, Bldg. 580
- Nov. 27 — 3 p.m., Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, Bldg. 500
Federal job information at Fort Riley is available on the Internet. For information about the variety of opportunities, visit the employment Web site at http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/EmploymentOpp.asp.

There are two primary Federal employment Programs: Appropriated Fund (APF or Civil Service) and Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF). APF and NAF Vacancies are listed at the Army Civilian Personnel Online at www.cpol.army.mil. Or call the local Civilian Personnel Office at (785) 239-6004 for more information.

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 http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Contracting.asp. AAFES (Army and Air Force Exchange Service) employment opportunities are available. Visit http://odin.aafes.com/employment/default.asp for more information.

Stay InTouch with Fort Riley. E-mails about upcoming job opportunities are available by visiting http://www.riley.army.mil/view/article.asp?id=013-2005-02-08-47167-2 and joining the InTouch list.

Fort Riley leaders sign Army Family Covenant

Fort Riley leaders signed the post’s copy of the Army Family Covenant Oct. 29 at Riley’s Conference Center. The covenant formally recognizes the sacrifices made on the home front while the Army is at war and pledges to standardize funding for existing Family programs and services, increase the accessibility and quality of health care, improve Soldier and Family housing, ensure excellence in schools, youth services and child care, and expand education and employment opportunities for Family members.

The official Army covenant was signed Oct. 17 by Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey Jr. Army installations across the world are hosting similar signings.

Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, said the word “covenant” brought a much more significant meaning to the signing than the word “promise” conveyed.

“This covenant and the initiatives within this covenant that the Army has put forth show that we, in fact, have changed,” Durbin said. “We are an Army at war and we are no longer an Army training for war. The demands and stresses placed on our Soldiers and Families are worthy of this covenant.”

Durbin noted that the covenant represents a $1.4 billion commitment to improve quality of life for Army Families. Present for the signing of Fort Riley’s covenant was Gen. Charles Campbell, commanding general of U.S. Forces Command.

“Our Army is the strength of our nation,” Campbell said. “And the strength of our Army depends on the strength of the Army Family.”

Campbell said the Family support systems designed in the pre-Sept. 11, 2001, era were no longer adequate for an Army in a sustained war.

“We must incorporate the lessons learned from six years on the home front in supporting our Families,” Campbell said. “Their challenges have grown significantly. Our support of Army Families must adapt to this new normal.”

Training Items of Interest

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

To receive e-mail updates, send your e-mail to aprl.blackmon@us.army.mil and reference “training advisories” in the subject line. Or, check our Web site, www.riley.army.mil and click on “Advisories.”

Population estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sept. '05</th>
<th>Aug. '07</th>
<th>FY 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soldiers</td>
<td>10,060</td>
<td>15,138</td>
<td>~ 18,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family members</td>
<td>12,714</td>
<td>20,063</td>
<td>~ 25,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Post</td>
<td>7,751</td>
<td>7,854</td>
<td>~ 17,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Post</td>
<td>4,963</td>
<td>12,209</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Employees</td>
<td>5,805</td>
<td>6,013 (Total = 8,089*)</td>
<td>~ 6,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees</td>
<td>19,752</td>
<td>19,195</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>48,331</td>
<td>60,409</td>
<td>~ 69,955</td>
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* Includes temporary contractors for peak construction