This is my last letter to you in this forum, so I’d first like to say “Thank You!” for a great tour. Many of my memories here are built on interaction with the community. In my 26 years in the Army, I have not before experienced the level of community support so evident here in what we now call the Greater Fort Riley Community.

The support isn’t superficial - it’s more than a yellow sticker on a bumper. This support ranges from housing to highways, and is very evident in forums such as the Junction City/Geary County Military Affairs Council breakfasts or the Manhattan Military Relations Committee events (most notably the recent lunch!).

I am most pleased with the success of our Community Partnership Conferences, and I truly believe we are leading not just the Army, but the nation in developing a teamwork approach to regional opportunities. And I do mean opportunities — we are lucky to be experiencing opportunities associated with growth, instead of decline. I know my small hometown in Nebraska (population 89) is struggling to stay “alive.”

My job here has not been easy. I certainly wish I had more time, especially over the last year, to get out and see more of you more often and attend more social events. But I will take away many great memories and an appreciation for this part of Kansas.

I think we all feel the progress we are making in community relations between Fort Riley and the surrounding communities and area. Always strong, our relationship has grown even closer and more productive since the arrival of the Big Red One.

I want to personally thank April Blackmon, who created the Community Relations office from scratch about two years ago and has just done a phenomenal job. This newsletter you are reading is just one of many great ideas and initiatives. What you don’t see is the tremendous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes in her office. When you see her, tell her thanks. She has truly been instrumental in helping make Fort Riley a better neighbor.

So this is it, my friends — farewe ll. I don’t have a “snappy” quote, but I will miss my friends and keep you in my thoughts and memories as my family and I continue to trot around the globe in service to our great Army and Nation — the heart of which is right here at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Duty First!
Lt. Col. Christian Kubik

April 2008     Volume 2, Issue 4

PAO CONTACTS

Division PAO: Lt. Col. Chris Kubik, 239-2253
Community Relations: April Blackmon, 239-2022
Media Relations: Deb Skidmore, 239-3410
Newspaper/TV Show: 239-8854 / 239-8850

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April Fort Riley Status Report

*All numbers are approximates

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Feb. ’08 (as of 21 Feb.)</th>
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NOTES FROM APRIL BLACKMON, COMMUNITY RELATIONS CHIEF

With summer on its way, Fort Riley is more interested than ever in knowing the recreation, leisure and arts opportunities in the Greater Fort Riley Community. We actively check calendars and Web sites to learn more about what’s going on in the area and work to pass that information to Soldiers and Families. We have created a Greater Fort Riley Community Web page, the Post newspaper is reinstating its travel and leisure section, we send out a weekly community outreach calendar and continue to explore ways to keep our Soldiers and Families informed.

We would like your help too. If you see a missing link on the Web page, it you have a press release on an upcoming event that would interest Soldiers and Families, please let us know.

April M. Blackmon
Warrior Transition Battalion gets new high-tech buses

Fort Riley’s Warrior Transition Battalion recently received two handicap accessible buses for the transport of wheelchair-bound Soldiers. The WTB waited a long time for the buses, which are valued at $70,000 each.

“These are really state-of-the-art buses. They have so many safety features, they cannot even be put into drive unless all the features have been checked and activated,” said Bruce Klaverweider, Department of Logistics.

Klaverweider came to the WTB to train the drivers to operate the new buses. The buses have wheelchair restraint systems, can carry up to five wheelchairs at one time and have ramps that can lift up to 800 pounds.

The buses will be well used for the transport of patients, especially for long trips to appointments or pickups from the airport in Kansas City, Mo. In addition to the chair restraints, there are also side restraints to secure patients in their chairs.

The buses have cameras positioned at the rear to enable the driver to see everything behind the bus. Two sets of sensors on the lifts – one at the exit of the bus door and the other on the end of the lift – ensure the ground is level before wheelchairs can be loaded or unloaded.

The drivers were trained on how to handle manual and motorized wheelchairs. In the instance of motorized chairs, they must lock the hubs and place the motor into a manual setting to avoid accidents or injury to the patient.

The operators must have a commercial drivers licenses with a passenger endorsement. WTB primary driver, Lee Pugh, said he was excited to start using the buses and transporting Soldiers in a safer and more comfortable environment.

Prior to the arrival of the buses, patient transport was sometimes cumbersome, especially if patients had to get out of their wheelchairs to get into the vans.

“While there are nearly 16,000 Soldiers assigned to Fort Riley, several thousand servicemembers are currently 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 always are open to the public.

Information on upcoming ceremonies, as well as any time changes to those ceremonies, is available on the Fort Riley Web site — www.riley.army.mil.

Click on “Ceremonies” in the top left corner for the most up-to-date information.

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

As of April 25, 148 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.

Currently deployed, as of April 20:

- 977th Military Police Company (scheduled to return in May)
- 70th Engineer Battalion (Afghanistan) (scheduled to return in May)
- 266th Movement Control Team (scheduled to return June/July)
- 24th Transportation Company (scheduled to return June/July)
- 2-2 Heavy Equipment Transportation Detachment (scheduled to return June/July)
- 116th Military Police Company (scheduled to return July)
- Detachment F, 15th Finance Battalion (scheduled to return October)
- 1st Sustainment Brigade (scheduled to return December)
- 1st Combat Aviation Brigade (scheduled to return December)
- Transition Team servicemembers (scheduled return dates vary)
- 97th Military Police Battalion working dog teams (scheduled return dates vary)
- Individual elements, MEDDAC (scheduled return dates vary)
- Individual elements, 10th Air Support Operations Squadron (scheduled return dates vary)
**1st Infantry Division Headquarters** is gaining staff as it prepares to modularize and is working to implement the commanding general’s initiatives of caring, leading, training and maintaining.

**1st Brigade, 1st Inf. Div.** conducted an auto show and safety day April 4 at Long Fitness Center. The brigade’s 101st Forward Support Battalion teamed up with the 541st Combat Service Support Battalion for the event, which featured members of the Fort Riley police and fire departments and a “drunken” go-cart demonstration.

**2nd Brigade, 1st Inf. Div.** (formerly 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division) conducted its first exercise under its new designation. The Warfighter exercise was a test of the brigade’s battle readiness and tested the brigade and its subordinate battalions in a number of combat critical areas. The exercise itself was a simulated invasion of a fictitious nation by another nation, similar to that of the Gulf War. The brigade then conducted an operation to free the overwhelmed nation from the invading forces. The brigade is preparing for a monthlong rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

**3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div.** out of Fort Hood, Texas, was the only unit that had all of its teams finish in the Best Ranger Competition April 18-20 at Fort Benning, Ga. Soldiers climbed ropes, scaled walls, rucked, low crawled through muddy water and under barbed wire, did a 1,500 ft. airborne jump and did an obstacle course that would challenge a fresh contestant, much less one dog tired on the final day of competition.

**4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (REDEPLOYED)** has welcomed nearly all of its 3,400 Soldiers home from a 15-month deployment to Iraq. In Rashid, 4th IBCT Soldiers conducted combat operations that resulted in the capture of more than 200 high-profile targets and reduced 20 enemy cells to five. Soldiers also completed more than 200 civil projects, including repairing sewer, water, medical and education facilities and electrical projects.

**1st Combat Aviation Brigade (DEPLOYED)** With the unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the brigade’s rear detachment and Family readiness groups have been taking care of those left behind. The unit is setting itself apart from other rear detachments and providing outstanding support to Families. Their formula for success combines leadership and experience along with the regular Army training for rear detachment personnel. “There’s really no secret,” said Lt. Col. Ed Ripp, CAB rear detachment commander. “They care and they’re effective at leading them. (Families) trust them and they’re not afraid to ask for assistance.”

**1st Sustainment Brigade (DEPLOYED)** A team of shower, laundry and clothing repair specialists from the 549th Quartermaster Company, 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, from Fort Carson, Colo., attached to the 1st Sustainment Brigade, arrived at PB Murray from Camp Liberty, Iraq, to install and operate shower and laundry systems. Within 24 hours of their arrival, the SLCR team had set up a functional site and boosted the morale of the Soldiers on the base.

**MEDDAC** Irwin Army Community Hospital is planning to create a new outpatient pharmacy at the new Post Exchange complex. The new pharmacy is scheduled to open in late 2008.

**75th Fires Brigade** is located at Fort Sill, Okla. 1st Infantry Div. has training oversight of this brigade.

**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command** is located at Fort Knox, Ky. The 1st Infantry Division has training oversight of this command. The unit is scheduled to deploy in 2008.
COMMUNITY RELATIONS NEWS

Communities can request Fort Riley speakers

Fort Riley has numerous speakers in a variety of areas available to speak to your organization/community as part of the Fort Riley Speakers Bureau.

Commonly requested speakers include Soldiers who have served in Iraq / Afghanistan, experts in various military career fields, Fort Riley and / or 1st Infantry Division leadership, Army chaplains, etc.

If you are interested in requesting a speaker for your group, school, or community, visit www.riley.army.mil and click on “Community Relations” in the left column to learn more about available support and to locate the proper request forms. Requests must be sent in at least 60 days prior to the event date.

If you have any questions about the Fort Riley Speakers Bureau or other Fort Riley support, contact the Community Relations Office at (785) 239-3358 or e-mail april.blackmon@conus.army.mil

1st Infantry Division Band performs throughout summer

The 1st Infantry Division Band will perform various events throughout the summer season. All events listed are open to the public.

- **May 5** — 7 p.m., Riley County High School (Jazz Combo)
- **May 17** — 3 p.m., VFW Flag Raising, Stafford, Kan. (Brass Quintet)
- **May 18** — 3 p.m., Riley KC Power & Light District Grand Opening & Armed Forces Appreciation Event, Kansas City (VICTORY 8 Rock Band)
- **May 24** — 9 a.m., Chicago Memorial Day Parade, Chicago, Ill.
- **May 30** — 5:30 p.m., Whiskey Lake Raceway, Junction City (Marching Band)

All events are open to the public. Please note, these events may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

CG’s Mounted Color Guard to participate in various events in May

Fort Riley’s Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard will perform tactical demonstrations on the following dates at Fort Riley. All events are open to the public.

- **May 1**, 1:15 p.m.
- **May 5**, 2 p.m.

Both demonstrations will be held at Training Area 314. The arena is located off of Marshall Ave. on Main Post across from the Civilian Personnel Office.

Other CGMCG events for May:

- **May 17** — 3 p.m., Topeka Armed Forces Appreciation Day
- **May 18** — 7:30 p.m., Run for the Wall, Heritage Park, Junction City
- **May 24** — 9 a.m., Chicago Memorial Day Parade, Chicago, Ill.
- **May 31** — 11:30 a.m., Stafford Heritage Days, Stafford, Kan.

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

Free tickets available for KC Brigade home games

The Kansas City Brigade, an indoor arena football team, has donated tickets for all their home games at the Sprint Center in Kansas City.

Tickets to the games, which run through June, are available at Information, Ticketing and Registration, Building 6918, across from the Post Exchange.

For more information, call ITR at 532-5614.

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.

- **May 1** — 9 a.m., 1st Bn., 63rd Armor Change of Cmd., Cavalry Parade Field
- **May 3** — All day, Postwide Yard Sales
- **May 5** — 10 a.m., 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Change of Cmd., Cavalry Parade Field
- **May 8** — 9 a.m., 4th IBCT Change of Cmd., Cavalry Parade Field
- **May 9** — 9 a.m., 2nd HBCT Change of Cmd., Cavalry Parade Field
- **May 14** — 11:45 a.m., Asian Pacific Heritage Observance, Riley’s Conference Center
- **May 16** — 8 a.m., Semi-annual Pre-retirement Orientation, Riley’s Conference Center
- **May 26** — 11:40 a.m., Memorial Day Ceremony, Post Cemetery
- **May 28** — 9 a.m., Monthly Retirement Ceremony, Bldg. 580 Field
- **May 30** — 1 p.m., Post Graduation

Door-to-door rules explained

Who’s ringing your door bell? At Fort Riley, it had better not be someone trying to sell something. Army Regulation 210-7 prohibits door-to-door sales on Army installations. Whether that sales representative is peddling vacuum cleaners, magazines or encyclopedias, door-to-door sales are not legal on post.

Sales by invitation or appointment can be legal at Fort Riley if the sales representative already has obtained a solicitation permit from Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Remember that even those people with solicitation permits cannot sell from door to door. For questions or information about getting a solicitation permit, contact Angie Minarich at 239-6385.
Families and facilities. He also discussed ongoing and future projects to meet the needs of Soldiers and their members of the Greater Fort Riley Community about the installation’s recreational programs and facilities. He also discussed ongoing and future projects to meet the needs of Soldiers and their

In addition to those projects, Tully said Fort Riley’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation department is currently working on enhanced outdoor recreational activities including paintball, rock climbing, adventure trips and boating; it recently opened an all-terrain vehicle and dirt bike area on the installation; and will be adding additional intramural athletic programs. Tully also announced that a USO Center is coming to Fort Riley, which is expected to be completed this year.

Future projects include a new Post Exchange; a $9.2 million Soldier Entertainment Center; four new Child Development Centers by 2009; a new post commissary in 2010; and new fitness facilities and a new chapel in 2011.

In addition to those projects, Tully said Fort Riley’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation department is currently working on enhanced outdoor recreational activities including paintball, rock climbing, adventure trips and boating; it recently opened an all-terrain vehicle and dirt bike area on the installation; and will be adding additional intramural athletic programs. Tully also announced that a USO Center is coming to Fort Riley, which is expected to be completed this year.

During several recent focus groups consisting of active duty Soldiers, spouses, contractors, Department of Defense civilians, veterans and youth living on or around the installation, Tully said several suggestions were made to improve recreational activities on post.

Youth involved in focus groups indicated they would like to have a skateboard park and a discovery center, including pools with water slides and miniature golf. Adult respondents indicated that outdoor recreation programs are not communicated well to single Soldiers; and that there is a desire for a single Soldier multi-purpose recreation facility on post, as well as a Rod and Gun Club and a skeet range. There also is a desire to see more Milford Lake outdoor recreation opportunities.

Additionally, adults indicated that child care at fitness centers is unavailable; there is not a casual dining facility on post; and Custer Hill Golf Course is inconveniently located.

A large initiative to provide alternative entertainment for Soldiers on post, Tully said, is the construction of a $9.2 million Soldier Entertainment Center called “Warrior Zone” on Custer Hill by 2009. The center will include a video game and arcade area; MPOG room; home video game room; billiards game area; indoor basketball court and rock climbing wall; media and multi-purpose room; outdoor patio, bar and stage; snack bar; bar, kitchen and dining area; and outdoor areas including beach volleyball and basketball courts.

Other Fort Riley initiatives include renovating Rally Point into a Family entertainment center by 2010; implementing a minimum of four Warrior Transition Battalion program events per month; renovating the Custer Hill Golf Course and clubhouse by 2008; expanding outdoor recreation program hours from five days to seven days a week; initiating Warrior Adventure Quest, which will provide adventure programs for Soldiers returning from deployment and their Families; providing lake front marina at Milford Lake in 2008; upgrading fitness equipment at all fitness and aquatic centers; constructing a fitness center at Camp Whitside to support the 1st Infantry Combat Aviation Brigade; consolidating programs at the arts and craft center; and establishing a name brand restaurant for casual dining at Fort Riley.

Opportunities for community investment include casual dining facilities close to Fort Riley; outdoor recreation programs; nightlife and entertainment alternatives; library programs both on and off Fort Riley; indoor youth and teen programs with a ‘Spin City’ concept; a water park; indoor skateboard facilities; and affordable public transportation.

Future studies will be conducted to learn more about Soldiers’ and Families’ wants and needs, Tully said, and working groups are being established to address recreation and leisure opportunities both on- and off-post.

Recreation and leisure is growing at Fort Riley, Tully said, however, more programs and activities are needed. “There is a great potential for recreational and leisure growth in the Greater Fort Riley Community,” Tully said, “and a strategic communication plan is essential in accomplishing our shared goals.” The goal is that “Fort Riley becomes a first choice duty assignment for Soldiers and their Families,” Tully said.

Recreation, leisure opportunities at Fort Riley and the potential for growth in the GFRC:

Conference highlights

- Our Soldiers and Families deserve a quality of life commensurate with their sacrifice and service.

Fort Riley’s investment:

- Enhance outdoor recreation in 2008: paintball, rock climbing, adventure trips, boating, ATV/dirt bike area
- Construct a new marina on Milford Lake in 2008 with watercraft rental
- Renovate Fort Riley Arts and Crafts Center in 2008
- USO center on Fort Riley in 2008
- Free and reduced cost youth programs in 2008: sports, arts, fitness
- Renovation of on-post parks and playground equipment in 2008
- Construct a Soldier Entertainment Center (Warrior Zone) on Fort Riley in 2009
- Construct new on-post neighborhood pools and community centers
- Increase on-post special events
- Enhance before and after school programs for youth

Opportunities for community investment:

- Casual dining
- Outdoor recreation programs
- Nightlife and entertainment alternatives to the club scene
- Affordable public transportation
- Retail shopping
- Innovative outdoor recreation programs
- Library programs both on- and off-post
- Youth and teen programs (such as one implemented by Spin City in JC)
- Water Park
- Indoor skateboarding facilities
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/Contracting.asp


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.

ID cards, decals available to retired DA civilians

Department of the Army retired civilians who have a DA retired civilian identification card now can obtain a decal for their vehicle for up to three years. Retirees wishing to obtain a DA retired civilian ID card can go to Building 212 on Main Post, between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays, or call Gary Morris at 239-3698 for more information. Appointments are accepted and walk-ins are welcome.

When acquiring a DA retired civilian ID card, retirees should bring their Form 50 verifying their status and a picture ID.

After receiving an ID card, retirees can register their vehicle for a decal at the Vehicle Registration Office, Building 885, near Henry Gate. Retirees must bring their ID card, a valid driver’s license, vehicle registration and insurance.

For more information, call the Vehicle Registration Office at 239-3884.

TRAINING ITEMS OF INTEREST

Units from the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team will be headed to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. No heavy training has been scheduled for the month of May.

Hear about what’s going on

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, check our Web site, www.riley.army.mil and click on “Training Advisories.” There, you can sign up through InTouch to receive training advisories via e-mail.

EMPLEYMENT/CONTRACTING

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Kansas, Kentucky sign compact for military schoolchildren

The nation’s military children are one step closer to smoother school transfers, thanks to the signing of a bill by Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius. The governor signed the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children into law April 9 at the state’s capitol in Topeka. Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear followed suit the next day.

Sebelius credited Kansas District 66 Representative Sydney Carlin for the compact’s success along with the support from District 65 Representative Barbara Craft and others.

The compact, developed by the Council of State Governments, education experts and the Department of Defense, addresses common problems that affect military students as a result of frequent moves and deployments.

States that agree to work collectively with other compact states create uniform standards of practice, including the transfer of records, course placement, graduation requirements, redundant or missed testing, entrance-age variations and other transition issues.

Twenty-one other states are currently considering the compact, while 14 of those state legislatures have bills submitted in one or both chambers. The compact will only become reality if at least 10 states ratify the bill.


“There are many states and many people in those states who have no idea of the stress and the strains on military Families. They don’t even understand the challenges they have moving from school to school because they have not been faced with that,” Caldwell said.

Durbin said the new legislation ties in well with the Army Family Covenant and the upcoming Army Community Covenant.

“I think it’s a perfect fit,” Durbin said. “I think the Army Family Covenant preceding the Army Community Covenant was exactly right because we make a commitment to those who are with us and raised their hand to serve us and those who support our Family members. On post, we have the ability to provide services that are commensurate with their service for quality of life. Right now, for half of our military members, about 50 percent, live on Fort Riley...as we continue to grow, only one out of three. So our partners off post are in this wish us to provide quality of life commensurate with their service. This community covenant is precisely what’s needed to ‘round the circle’ so to speak so that all of us who are understanding we are a nation at war with an Army at war so we’re all here to support those who are serving. So I think it just rounds the circle.”

The new legislation will impact about 19,000 schoolchildren of military Families living in Kansas.

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

Free lawn care is available for Soldiers and their Families in the Abilene and Manhattan area to show community support for deployed troops. GreenCare for Troops is a nationwide outreach program coordinated by Project EverGreen to assist military Families with free lawn care.

By going to projectevergreen.com, service members and their Families living off post can sign up for free lawn care service and be connected with businesses who participate in the program. Landscape Solutions, Manhattan, and Stout Lawn Service, Abilene, are listed as two area businesses who volunteer their services to the program.

The purpose of the program is to help military Families with lawn and landscape maintenance when their loved one is deployed in an effort to show community support for service members.

For more information or to sign up, go to www.projectevergreen.com.

Members of the Combat Infantrymen’s Association present Brig. Gen. Keith Walker, deputy commanding general, with a plaque April 2 to thank all 1st Infantry Division veterans, past and present, for their “sacrifices in protection of our nation’s freedom.”

K-State partners visit Fort Riley April 1

Top officials from Kansas State University, including K-State President Jon Wefald, far left, visited Fort Riley April 1 as part of Fort Riley and K-State’s Community Relations Day.

Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin presented Wefald with an Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. The medal was in honor of Wefald’s commitment over the past 20 years to providing educational opportunities at K-State for Soldiers and their Families. The award also was in honor of his leadership and support for the military.