

COMMUNITY CORNER

Graduation can enhance life; Army offers many opportunities

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

Fort Riley will celebrate with its 138 new graduates Dec. 11 during the post-wide graduation ceremony at Riley's Conference Center. Join me and other post leaders at 1 p.m. as we offer congratulations to these Soldiers, Family members and civilians who have put in the hard work to further their educations and now have the degrees to prove it.

Faculty and staff from the colleges and universities in the Fort Riley Consortium will be on hand to confer nine master's degrees, 26 bachelor degrees, 101 associate degrees and two homeland security certificates.

I would like to congratulate all of our graduates, and those graduates who may not be participating in the ceremony.

This past summer, I completed my Master's in Diplomacy, and I know juggling work, Family and school work is a challenge. I commend our graduates for tackling a task which will only enhance their lives and their careers.

If you have been thinking about school—whether you're seeking promotion points, a doorway to a new career, or you want to finish up that degree you started five years ago—visit Education Services. The Army offers numerous opportunities to advance your education, and many of those opportunities are free. The counselors at Education Services can help you decide which programs are best for you.

Leader Skills Enhancement Courses are offered free of charge for Soldiers, Family members, Department of the Army civilians, retirees and Reserve Soldiers also are eligible on a space-available basis. More than 42 courses are available and Barton County Community College provides



Col.
Brown

more about what each school has to offer, visit their Web sites or call.

Barton Community College

Phone: 785-784-6606 –

fr.bartonccc.edu/

Central Texas College

Phone: 785-784-6240 – www.

ctcd.edu/continental/friley/index.htm

Upper Iowa University

Phone: 785-784-5225 – www.uui.

edu/eu_students/nationwide/fortriley.html

Kansas State University

Phone: 785-239-0685 – www.

dce.k-state.edu/military/friley.shtml

Central Michigan University

Phone: 785-784-4402 – www.cel.

cmich.edu/friley/

Southwestern College

Phone: 785-784-9930 – www.

southwesterncollege.org/frw

University of Mary

Phone: 785-239-6792 – www.

umary.edu/um/

Since Aug. 1 Soldiers have been

able to take advantage of the Post

9/11 GI Bill. This program offers

tuition assistance to Soldiers and also

may be transferred to dependents. To

learn more about the ins and outs of

the bill, how to utilize it or transfer

benefits, visit the Education Center or

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.

Don't wait to take advantage of

these opportunities. Visit Education

Services' Main Post Learning Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Building 217

Custer Ave. Call them at 785-239-6481. On Custer Hill, stop into Learning Center 1 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 7604 Parker St. Their number is 785-239-9485.

Learn what is available for you, and I hope to see many more of our Soldiers, Family members and civilians at the post-wide graduation next spring and fall.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, e-mail riley.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.

LC CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

Learning Center 2, Building 7656 Graves, St., will be closed from Dec. 18 through mid-March 2010 for renovations. Education counselors will move to Main Post and Learning Center 1. The 1st Infantry Division language lab remains unchanged. The Fort Riley Tutor Center will move to Building 8044.

Hours remain the same for COMPASS testing, computer support and tutoring service. CLEP and DSST testing will be moved to Building 215 and will require 48 hours scheduling prior to the test time.

LSEC classes in Building 7656 will be moved to Learning Center 1 and Buildings 215 and 217 on Main Post. The classes on Main Post have been increased to reduce the requirement for the students to travel to Custer Hill or to Main Post. Students should review the class locations to plan their schedule for the January cycle.

Picerne, mounted color guard join together to make large food donation

By Andy Massanet
FORT RILEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Picerne Military Housing and the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard teamed up on Nov. 21 for the second annual Holiday Fort Riley Food Drive and provided a boost to the Geary County Food Pantry in Junction City.

On behalf of Picerne were communication specialist, Michelle Geering, and housing manager of Historic Main Post, Jason Dejadins.

Representing the garrison and all the Soldiers at Fort Riley was Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Mann.

Accepting the donation on behalf of the volunteers at the Geary County Food Pantry was pantry manager, Edna Hatchett.

According to Geering, both the food drive on post and the resulting donation were a success.

"(Both events) went well and were well received," Geering said. "And it was a great opportunity for our residents to reach out and help the local community."

During the food drive, the CGMCG joined Santa Claus as he traveled throughout Fort Riley, making stops at Warner Heights, historic Main Post, McClellan Place, Colyer Manor, Peterson Place, Forsyth and Ellis Heights.

The result was more than 280 pounds of food items delivered to the pantry on Nov. 24 by representatives of Picerne and Fort Riley.



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Mann helps deliver food items collected at the second annual Holiday Fort Riley Food Drive Nov. 21. The food was delivered on Nov. 24 to the Geary County Food Pantry in Junction City.

Andy Massanet
USAG P&D

"We can help feed about 10 to 15 Families with this food," Hatchett said.

Citing the tough economic times for many Families, Mann commended Picerne and the generosity of Fort Riley residents.

"Picerne is a great partner for us on the installation," Mann said. "And the residents just reached down and contributed what they could. It all goes a long way."

Contributions from Fort Riley, along with those from other sources in the Central Flinr Hill Region, are key for the Geary County Food Pantry, which is as busy now as it has ever been, Hatchett said.

"(Nov. 23) we helped a total of 23

Families, which included 81 people. In about 3.5 hours we distributed 2,214 pounds of food."

The Geary County Food Pantry, an agency of the local United Way affiliate, gives about 2,000 pounds of food each month. Food usually is distributed according to the recipient's income level.

Hours of operation for the food pantry are 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Monday; 5:30-7 p.m., Tuesday; and 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Thursday.

Donations at these times are always welcome.

For more information, call 785-762-8830 or visit the United Way-Junction City, Geary County Web site at <http://unitedwayjcg.org>.



Play a round at Custer Hill Golf Course.
Winter hours are weather dependent. Call ahead at 785-784-6000.

Connect with the Garrison Commander at www.facebook.com/FortRiley