

## COMMUNITY CORNER

## Participation, our support helps military children during deployment

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

Earlier this year, a study commissioned by the Army War College was published that analyzed the effects of deployments on the children of our Soldiers.

According to the study, the factors that best predict lower levels of stress in adolescents during deployments are: 1) high participation levels in activities — especially sports, 2) a strong Family, and 3) the adolescent's belief that America supports the war.

The results also showed the "best predictors of an adolescent's overall ability to cope with a life of deployments are a strong nondeployed parent, the child's belief that America supports the war, a strong family, and the adolescent's belief that the deployed soldier is making a difference."

One of the most basic conclusions I drew from this study is that we all need to pitch in and make sure our children are aware that their father's or mother's service is honorable, appreciated and making a difference for our world.

This is sometimes easier said than done, but I try to make a point of it with every audience I get (school administrators, local chambers, local governmental

officials and Families). From there, I can only hope that at every turn we are all doing that with simple gestures.

Throughout April we all can reinforce these messages and celebrate our children during the Month of the Military Child. Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation has a calendar packed full of activities for April from the kick off April 1 to the festival and concert April 23. Visit [www.rileymwr.com](http://www.rileymwr.com) for more information on the Month of the Military Child activities.

Do you have other ideas on how we can reinforce these messages in our children? I started a new discussion thread on Fort Riley's page on Facebook — [www.facebook.com/FortRiley](http://www.facebook.com/FortRiley). Log on and share your thoughts with me and our other fans.

One of the predictors of lower stress levels in adolescents during deployments was high participation levels in activities. For teens looking to get involved, check out what the Middle School Teen Center has to offer. Besides a deployment support group, the teen center offers sports activities, dances,



Col. Brown

movies, clubs, an internship program and other forums for teens to meet and have fun.

Search "Fort Riley Middle School Teen Center" on Facebook to become a fan of its page. Or, visit [www.rileymwr.com](http://www.rileymwr.com) and click the "CYSS" link for more information.

Last week I met with a teen focus group to hear their thoughts about life on post. They came up with about a dozen good points, three of which we are pursuing — the most important of which is a shuttle for children to get around post this summer. Rules and procedures will be developed — stay tuned for more on that.

Stay connected for information on Month of the Military Child activities. Information is posted at [www.rileymwr.com](http://www.rileymwr.com), in "The 1st Infantry Division Post" and on Riley TV. Get involved and help show our children you care about them and what their parents do each day.

To read more on "The Effects of Multiple Deployments on Army Adolescents," visit [www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil](http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil).

*If you would like to comment on this column or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, send an e-mail to [rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil](mailto:rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil).*

## Junction City library to participate in nationwide 'Big Read' campaign

By Deikaya Greer  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Dorothy Bramlage Library in Junction City is extending an invitation to the Big Read.

The Big Read is an ongoing spring event that will kick off at 10 a.m. March 27 at the C.L. Hoover Opera House.

Art Beltrone, author of the book and museum project "Vietnam Graffiti: Messages from a Forgotten Troopship," will present at the kick-off event.

"We encourage everyone to come out and participate in this communitywide event. The Big Read has created a nationwide buzz that will be fun for everyone," said Terri

Seaman, Fort Riley library director.

The Bramlage Library was chosen by the National Endowment for the Arts for a Big Read grant for the 2010 year. According to a press release from the library, the purpose of the program is to "restore reading to the center of American culture through local community programs that offer book discussions and activities centered on a single book title."

The book chosen for the Fort Riley, Junction City and Geary County communities is Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried," a story about a journey through the Vietnam jungle.

"At various points of the

program there will be a nationwide discussion," Seaman said.

Books for young people have been selected as well. They include "The Wall" by Eve Bunting and "Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam" by Cynthia Kadohata.

"Young, old, black and white, military and civilian, come together and talk about the book and what it means to them personally. The Big Read is a great way to learn about what others think and hear their views," Seaman said.

Events will take place throughout April and May.

For more information on the Big Read, visit [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org) or [www.arts.gov/bigreadblog](http://www.arts.gov/bigreadblog) or call 785-238-7873.

## Fashion, talent show set for April 3

By Parker Rome  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The sixth Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers talent and fashion show will feature 22 models and six or seven individual performances.

The event is set to take place at 5:30 p.m. on April 3 at the Holiday Inn in Manhattan.

The fashion show models

are volunteers comprised of single Soldiers, civilians and students from Kansas State University.

They will be wearing apparel from local stores and designers, said Spc. Desaree Molina, BOSS president.

The event, Molina said, will be a great opportunity to preview some of the spring styles available.

"It's something for people

do to on the weekend, and it's a good opportunity to see performers showcase their talent," she said.

Adult tickets are \$8. Soldier and student tickets are \$7, and tickets for children 12 and younger are \$4. VIP tickets are available for \$17, which offer closer seating, a glass of champagne and a snack.

For more information, call BOSS at 785-239-8147.

HOUSE FILL AD