

COMMUNITY CORNER

Program provides sponsors to help new Soldiers learn about Army

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

Each month, Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of the Installation Management Command, focuses on a topic of interest to the IMCOM community. For June, the focus is on the Total Army Sponsorship Program.

While many Soldiers and their Families may have experienced numerous moves during their careers, first-term Soldiers are required to be paired with sponsors under Army Regulation 600-8-8, The Total Army Sponsorship Program. Sponsors are provided to help Soldiers learn Army standards and develop a sense of responsibility and teamwork.

And, while our seasoned Families may be experienced movers, it is often helpful to have a sponsor at each new duty station to help familiarize you with the area. For this reason, sponsors also are offered to every Soldier, private through colonel, when they move.

Soldiers can be paired with a sponsor 90 days prior to their arrival. Prior to being contacted by a sponsor, Strength

Management is the point of contact for questions on the sponsorship program.

Sponsorship requests can be made by completing a sponsorship form online. Click the Sponsorship link under the New Arrivals menu at www.riley.army.mil for officer and enlisted forms. Points of contact for the sponsorship program are:

Field-grade officers: 785-239-3021
Company-grade officers and warrant officers: 785-239-0448

Enlisted Soldiers: 785-239-0448

Incoming enlisted personnel who already know their major unit of assignment can complete the sponsorship form, print it and mail it to their unit or e-mail the information to their unit contact. Contact information for the unit sponsorship programs is listed under the Enlisted Sponsorship link on the Sponsorship page at www.riley.army.mil.



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We also want to make sure our youngest Family members have the opportunity to request sponsors if they would like them. The youth sponsorship program is run through Army Community Service's Relocation Readiness Program. It is designed to match relocating youth with youth at Fort Riley who they can connect with before their arrival to post and as they learn their way around.

Youth may request a sponsor by filling out the appropriate Web form under the Sponsorship page at www.riley.army.mil.

If you're a youth who already knows the ins and outs of Fort Riley, we need you to act as sponsors for incoming youth. Those who would like to be sponsors can fill out the Request to be a Youth Sponsor

web form on the Sponsorship page. For more information on the Youth Sponsorship Program, call Relocation Readiness at 785-239-9435.

Besides the youth program, Relocation Readiness provides assistance to Families moving to and from Fort Riley. They can help during deployments with incoming and outgoing briefings, provide welcome information for adults and youth, counseling, relocation guidance, citizenship and immigration information, and they offer a lending closet for those waiting on their household goods.

When arriving at Fort Riley, Soldiers will receive briefings during inprocessing, including a brief from Relocation Readiness. For spouses, Relocation Readiness offers Discover Riley's Treasures, a newcomer's

orientation program. Upcoming sessions will be held in July, September and November. For more information or to sign up, call 785-239-9435.

Families may check out items from the lending closet for up to 30 days while they wait for their household goods to arrive, or while they wait to follow their household goods to another installation. The lending closet has items such as dishes, car seats and cots. To check out items, you need your military ID and a copy of your orders.

Moving to a new duty station may seem like a daunting task, but with the help of a sponsor who knows their way around post, it can be a great experience. As with many things in the Army, the sponsorship program is what we make it. I encourage all of our

newcomers to request sponsors and take advantage of Relocation Readiness orientations and programs. For those of us who have been here for awhile, I encourage you to sign up to be a sponsor. Share all of the great things you know about Fort Riley and the Central Flint Hills Region with our new Soldiers and their Families.

For more information about the sponsorship program or Relocation Readiness, call 785-239-9435 or check out the information under the New Arrival tab at www.riley.army.mil. E-mail question to Relocation Readiness at dmwracs@conus.army.mil.

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