

COMMUNITY CORNER

Leaders to hear Soldiers, Families' concerns in series of AFAP sessions

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

The Army Family Action Plan has been in place since 1983. Since then, it has helped sustain our all-volunteer force by listening to and implementing suggestions from our Soldiers and Families at the installation-level on up to the Department of Defense.

Your chance to participate is coming up soon. The first opportunity will be for Fort Riley teens to address issues which concern them. The Fort Riley Teen AFAP Conference will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Middle School Teen Center.

Teens, we need your participation. Join in the conference as a delegate and help us come up with solutions to issues facing our teens. If you can't take part as a delegate to the teen conference, make sure you submit your issues and your ideas on what should be done using the AFAP form.

Army teens are an important part of our community, and we want to make sure you have all the resources you need to help with the many transitions involved with growing up in the Army. The Teen AFAP Conference is a great way to get at those issues.

The next week, from Oct. 5 to 7, adults are invited to join in the Fort Riley AFAP Conference. Come those days and volunteer as a delegate or submit your issues ahead of time to be addressed by the committee.

The AFAP Conference also is where issues that come up at town hall meetings and through other venues will be

discussed if they need further action. This is where the changes happen.

During both the teen and adult conferences, delegates will identify and prioritize the issues, talk about feasible solutions and what is the appropriate level to staff the solutions. Many issues are bigger than Fort Riley and will get passed on to the regional, and possibly, up the Department of the Army-level.

To see what the Army is working on relating to AFAP, visit the new issue search application on Army One Source, www.myarmyonesource.com. Click "Family Programs and Services," "Family Programs" and then "Army Family Action Plan" to access the search feature. The search tool was developed under the guidance of Installation Management Command Commanding General Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch to allow Soldiers, Family members, retirees, wounded warriors and others with a stake in our installations to track issues; review the status of issues; and learn what needs to happen to resolve those issues important to them.

For those issues which can be solved here at Fort Riley, an AFAP Steering Committee meets quarterly to review the issues and monitor their progress. The issues currently being monitored include:

- Adopt-A-School program
- In conjunction with the Fort Riley 2015 Campaign Plan,



Col. Brown

the Adopt-A-School program at Fort Riley was formalized and training was recently provided to unit representatives and their partners. The issue will remain open for another quarter to ensure successful implementation.

- Lack of staff for teen music room - The Middle School Teen Center continues music programming on a weekly basis. The staff also has been recruiting volunteer instructors from Kansas State University, the 1st Infantry Division Band and other sources. The issue will remain open to monitor the progress of volunteer recruitment efforts.

Some issues that have been closed by the AFAP Steering Committee:

- Pool pass fees - In May, the pools on post stopped charging entry fees.
- Covered bus stops - Picerne renovated 12 bus stops to provide shelter for students waiting for buses.
- Basketball tournaments for teens - The Middle School Teen Center hosts a monthly late-night basketball tournament for teens.

To find out more about the work of the AFAP Steering Committee, click the customer Management Services link on the right-hand side of Fort Riley's homepage at www.riley.army.mil. Slides from the last committee meeting are posted to keep you up to date.

AFAP conferences are a great opportunity to come out and be part of a working group which discusses problems that require help at the highest levels of government and the military.

Your participation is

FORT RILEY
AFAP & CMS Issue Resolution Form

Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) and Customer Management Services (CMS) have teamed up to offer the Fort Riley community a quarterly issue resolution process called Community FIRST. Use Community FIRST for issues beyond the scope of the interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) feedback system, whether it affects you here at Fort Riley or throughout the Army, your feedback is important. Email the completed form to rlcwebmaster@conus.army.mil or deliver to the U. S. Army Garrison, Attn: Customer Management Services, 300 Huebner, Room 210, Fort Riley, KS 66442. You may also submit your issues on the Garrison Web site, <http://www.riley.army.mil>. Call CMS at (785) 239-2540 or AFAP at (785) 239-9435 with questions.

Issue Information	
Issue Title: (what is the problem)(example: Increase Service Member's Group Life Insurance Benefits)	
Scope: Why is it a problem?	
What is the impact of the problem?	
Provide facts and other pertinent information.	
Whom does the issue affect? <small>(check all that apply)</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soldiers	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Members
<input type="checkbox"/> Retirees	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Civilians
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <small>Please describe</small>
Recommendation: what is your desired outcome, what do you want to happen, does it require change to regulations	
1.	
2.	
3.	
Contact Information (optional): Personal information is not shared or used for any purpose other than to verify information on issue resolution form.	
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	

critical. Past conferences have brought enormously positive results as Army policies have been changed, and Congress has passed legislation in support of Soldiers and their Families, all because of your

participation and great ideas. To submit an issue, drop off the form printed in the newspaper to ACS, Building 7264 on Custer Hill. Forms also are available via e-mail by contacting ACS at 785-239-

9435 or rile.dmwacs@conus.army.mil.
If you would like to comment on this article or submit an idea for the Community Corner, e-mail rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.

HOUSE FILL AD



Have a story idea?

Send it to rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil