

COMMUNITY CORNER

Focus on healthy relationships during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

Oct. 1 kicks off Domestic Violence Awareness Month. During this month, let's focus on healthy relationships and what each of us can do to improve our family lives and support those who may be facing abuse.

The month's activities will kick off at 10 a.m. Oct. 1 at Riley's Conference Center. During the Family Readiness Group Muster, Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general – rear, will sign the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation, which will renew

the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley's commitment to promoting healthy Families.

Promote your Family's health by checking out classes offered through Army Community Service. ACS programs offer parenting classes, support groups, financial classes, classes just for dads and wounded warrior support and services. Whatever the need, ACS has a program for it.

Child, Youth and School Services offers classes on being



Col. Brown

an involved parent, information on bullying, stress management and child abuse prevention. Or, take advantage of CYSS play groups and free child care for those with a deployed sponsor. For more information on CYSS programs, call CYSS Parent Central at 785-239-9885.

While most of our Family support services are offered year-round, the Family Advocacy Program has some special activities planned in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Oct. 16, join ACS staff as they present iTalk, at 6 p.m. at the C.L. Hoover Opera House in Junction City. iTalk will feature comedian Timothy

Homeron, who will open the show with humor on Family life. Following the comedy act, a panel will discuss everyday Family issues. This show is free and open to the public.

On Oct. 19, the Family Advocacy Program will host a professional development workshop for all professionals who serve military Families. The workshop will include an original production that examines issues of Families exhibiting violent behaviors. Professionals will learn what they can do to better serve these Families. Reserve a seat by calling ACS at 785-239-9435. The program is free and lunch will be provided. It will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

at Riley's Conference Center.

Other events:
Oct. 2 – Day of Peace, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Heritage Park, Junction City

Oct. 4 – Silent Witness display at IACH

Oct. 5 – Marriage Enrichment, 9 a.m. to noon or 6 to 9 p.m., at ACS

Oct. 7 – Love and Logic Parenting, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at ACS

Oct. 11 – Silent Witness display at Caldwell Clinic

Oct. 14 – Love and Logic Parenting, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at ACS

Oct. 21 – Love and Logic Parenting, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at ACS

For more information about Domestic Violence Awareness Month or the services offered by the Family Advocacy Program, call 785-239-9435 or visit the staff at ACS, Building 7264 on Custer Hill. For 24-hour domestic violence response, call 785-307-1373.

There's an event this month for everyone. Invite a friend or come alone and meet new friends. Here at Fort Riley, we're in it together. Let's encourage each other, learn together and strengthen our Army Families.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, send an e-mail to rlc.post.paper@comus.army.mil.

'Big Red One' Soldiers mentor K-State Army ROTC cadets

By Edward Faircloth
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Theresa Piscal, the wife of U.S. Army Col. Richard Piscal and mother of two Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets, recognized an opportunity – ROTC cadets would benefit by having an active-duty field-grade U.S. Army officer mentor them.

Though destined for active duty soon after graduation, few ROTC cadets have anything more than superficial direct contact with the active military.

Enter Theresa Piscal with a solution for K-State similar to the mentor program at West Point.

With her husband, she spearheaded the creation of the Kansas State University Army ROTC Wildcat Battalion/Fort Riley Mentorship Program.

The relationship fosters personal and professional connections between field-grade officers of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley and senior Kansas State University ROTC cadets. The mentor program is designed to build upon and strengthen existing academic and athletic partnerships between K-State, Fort Riley and the 1st Inf. Div.

Maj. Chris Ott, Division Headquarters and Headquarters

Battalion-Rear commander, and his wife, Denise, have sponsored K-State cadets for three years.

"The cadets remind me of my time at West Point," Chris Ott said. "They're highly motivated and excited about their career."

"We've preferred to regularly invite cadets into our home to give them a real-world introduction to a typical Army home environment," added Denise Ott, director of the Junction City Military Affairs Council.

"We talk about traditions, advanced training, information on particular installations, military Family life and anything on the Cadet's mind."

To encourage program experimentation and flexibility, Theresa Piscal has kept the mentor relationship largely unstructured.

"We don't tell sponsors what to do with their cadets," she said. "We want mentors to use their creativity for a relationship best tailored for individual cadets."

K-State's Army ROTC Wildcat Battalion, with 165 Cadets, is commanded by Lt. Col. Scott Bredgam.

"Our program works because it allows a Cadet to see what 'right looks like,'" he said. "We

opted to use field-grade officers to do the mentoring since they are professionally committed to making the Army a career."

More than 30 K-State senior cadets recently joined their sponsors at the Fort Riley home of Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, for "Spuds, Suds and Studs."

The event, co-hosted by Brig. Gen. David Petersen, 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general-rear, and Carol Brooks, wife of Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, included the presentation of St. George Medals to each cadet by his or her mentor and an Army traditional garter ceremony.

Addressing the cadets, Col. Paul Calvert, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team commander, expressed deep respect, appreciation and gratitude.

"You are the future of the U.S. Army, and it is the obligation of officers like myself to provide you a deeper understanding of Army traditions, history and expectations," Calvert said. "I respect you and thank you for your dedication and determination to serve, even in these troubled moments of ongoing conflict in our country's history." The 1st Inf. Div. mentor



K-State senior Army ROTC cadets and their 1st Inf. Div. sponsors gather at the Fort Riley home of Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general, and his wife, Carol, Sept. 18.

program with K-State's Army ROTC has spawned another relationship – a broader mentorship between the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the entire K-State ROTC program.

"The K-State Wildcat Battalion is invited out to train with our 4th Brigade, which is

just back from Iraq," said Col. Hank Arnold, 4th Brigade commander and Florida State ROTC alumnus. "There are few, if any, ROTC programs in close proximity to a major active-duty military installation. Cadets, as a result, get training from seasoned combat Soldiers.

The K-State cadets clearly benefit from the experience, breadth and depth of the 4th Brigade."

The K-State ROTC mentor program is administered by Kevin West, the 1st Inf. Div./Mission Support Element executive officer, who also is a K-State ROTC cadet mentor.

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