

COMMUNITY CORNER

Key to successful safety programs is having measures in place

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

Fort Riley's higher headquarters, the Installation Management Command, lays out expectations for its installations in its campaign plan.

Echoing IMCOM Commanding General Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, one line of effort where we can't afford to fail is safety.

We are all responsible for our own safety and promoting safety in all we do. Luckily, we have division and garrison-level safety offices to help us meet the keys to success laid out in the campaign plan and ensure a culture of safety at Fort Riley.

The keys to success, accord-

ing to the IMCOM campaign plan, include:

- Effective privately-owned vehicle safety programs in place
- Heightened safety awareness across the command
- Hazard control measures employed to foster a safe working and living environment
- Safe and healthy practices are promoted and encouraged on- and off-duty
- Integrated installation protection program and capability in place

As of Oct. 14, 173 days have



Col. Brown

passed since there was a vehicle fatality at Fort Riley.

After 222 consecutive days, troops will receive a training holiday as an incentive to continue their safe-driving practices. This past spring, Fort Riley reached 500 fatality-free days. These records are not just chance happenings.

Fort Riley's Garrison Safety Office actively promotes safe driving among its Soldiers, Family members and civilians. They regularly offer a four-hour defensive driving course and have car and motorcycle simulators to help drivers sharpen their skills on the road.

Classes are available for Soldiers, Family members and civilians, and once completed

may make drivers eligible for insurance discounts.

Special events offer another arena to support good driving habits.

On Oct. 19 and 20, the safety office will host Kelly Narowski, a speaker who was paralyzed from the chest down in an accident involving alcohol.

Narowski will share her story with Soldiers, Family members and civilians to promote the dangers associated with drinking and driving during six 90-minute sessions.

In December, the safety office will host the Street Smart Education Program, which focuses on accident prevention and encourages attendees to

become better educated in safe driving techniques.

These programs are just a few of the ways safety is promoted across the installation. Through our commanders and appointed safety officers, the message of safety is spread from the most senior to the most junior ranks. It's a job for everyone, and it's one we all take seriously.

A safe culture extends far beyond just getting behind the wheel of your vehicle.

In our offices across post, regular safety inspections ensure our employees are mindful of their environment, safe practices are followed and employees know to report any unsafe practices they witness so correc-

tions can be made.

We encourage the use of the Composite Risk Management system as the primary decision-making process to identify hazards, reduce risk and prevent loss.

It's important we use all the tools at our disposal to make sure we are making the decisions that will keep us safe.

For more information on training and training materials or any of the programs mentioned above, call the safety office at 785-239-2514.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the community corner, send an e-mail to rile.post.neuporter@conus.army.mil.

Geary County schools participate in 'Walk a Mile' Day

By Shandi Dix
1ST INF. DIV. POST

More than 7,500 students and adults took part in the "Walk a Mile" Day Oct. 4 at 18 different Geary County Unified School District 475 schools including all schools at Fort Riley.

The event was hosted by the Geary Community Healthcare Foundation and Geary Rehabilitation and Fitness Center along with the school district.

"The committee wants to stress the youth don't have to be on an organized sports team to enjoy the benefits and fun of physical activity," said Michele Stimatz, administrative assistant of the Geary Community Healthcare Foundation and event coordinator. "They are interested in providing the support for the kind of changes that are needed to curb child obesity and the attending health crisis that continue on into adulthood."

Each participating school

formed its own walking venue one mile in length; however, participants did not have to walk the mile all at once.

"It is to get everyone in school walking on one day," said Becky Cook, physical education teacher, Fort Riley Elementary School.

The point of the activity is for everyone to have fun, be successful and recognize the benefits of physical activity, Stimatz said.

"The Healthcare Foundation, Geary (Rehabilitation) and Fitness Center and Geary County staff believes that taking steps now to encourage healthy lifestyles, we will decrease serious illness further down the road," Stimatz said. "While this saves money in healthcare costs, it more importantly improves the quality of life in and around Junction City and Geary County."

"It helps to draw attention to the need for physical activity for every person," Cook

said. "It shows the students that adults need it too."

Upon finishing the one-mile-long walk, each student's name was entered into a drawing for a bicycle. A boys' and girls' bicycle was given away at each of the participating schools.

Winners at each school for the bicycles were:

Fort Riley Middle School: Silvia Daskalakis, seventh grade, and Chris Hundley, sixth grade;

Fort Riley Elementary School: Nick Stone, fourth grade, and Katelyn Sacra, kindergarten;

Morris Hill Elementary School: Erin Rivera, fourth grade, and Ethan King, third grade;

Custer Hill Elementary School: Aubrey Gardner, fourth grade, and Alex Hector, kindergarten;

Jefferson Elementary School: Sebastian Malies, second grade, and Brianna Snow, fifth grade;



Courtesy photo

Morris Hill Elementary School students participate in the "Walk a Mile" Day Oct. 4 sponsored by Geary Community Healthcare Foundation, Geary Rehabilitation and Fitness Center and Geary County Unified School District 475.

Ware Elementary School: David Petee, fourth grade, and Trinity Meyer, third grade.

Names also were entered into a drawing for the grand prize. Michael Nielson, a third

grader at Ware Elementary School, was the winner of a video game system.

Adults participating in the walk had their names entered into a drawing for a \$50

gift certificate to a Junction City restaurant. Kandice Mobarakzadeh, a Morris Hill Elementary School second grade teacher, was announced as the winner.