

## COMMUNITY CORNER

## Ogden Gate to use trial traffic flow plan

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

The question has come up in numerous forums – “What is Fort Riley going to do about congestion at the gates?” I’ve heard versions of this question many times, mostly in reference to the Ogden Access Control Point.

While Fort Riley already operates its ACPs at a level greater than suggested by the Army, we’re continually looking at ways to improve the commute for those who utilize Fort Riley.

Traffic congestion on Huebner Road between the Williston Point roundabout and the Ogden ACP is significant as drivers head off post in the evening.

During peak hours, an average of about 3,000 vehicles pass through the ACP per hour.

To help relieve this congestion, Fort Riley will implement a traffic flow improvement plan for the Ogden ACP on a trial basis, Monday through Friday, from Feb. 22 through March 7.

This plan is a short-term test as a possible mitigation

for current and expected traffic congestion because of the 2012 Homecoming.

During this period, a plan will be put in place to let traffic run unimpeded from the Williston Point roundabout to the Ogden ACP.

From 3 to 6 p.m., traffic will not be permitted to make left-hand turns onto Huebner Road from A Street or Buffalo Soldier Road.

The traffic light on Huebner at Buffalo Soldier Road also will be set to blinking yellow. And, no left-hand turns will be permitted from Campbell Hill Road onto Huebner.

Traffic wishing to exit Camp Funston to travel to the west side of post will be required to exit the 12th Street Gate and re-enter at Henry Gate, as vehicles won’t be permitted to turn left onto Huebner from Camp Funston. Signs will be placed at intersections leading to Huebner to remind drivers of

the left-turn restriction.

During this trial period, the Directorate of Emergency Services will be conducting traffic studies and soliciting feedback.

To submit your comments on the one-way plan, click the Interactive Customer Evaluation link on the left-hand side of the Fort Riley home page, [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil). On the main ICE site, click “Safety and Security” and submit a comment for “DES – Access Control Points.”

As Fort Riley prepares to deal with an increase in the use of services across the installation during the 2012 Homecoming, we’ll keep you informed of our efforts and changes that may affect you.

Our mission is to provide the best support we can for our Soldiers and Families so they can accomplish their missions.

As those missions change, we work with the resources we have to adapt to support them.

*If you would like to comment on this column or submit a topic for Community Corner, e-mail [riley.post.newspaper@com.us.army.mil](mailto:riley.post.newspaper@com.us.army.mil).*



Col. Kevin Brown

## NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Shandi Day, 1 P081

From left to right, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Weller, Directorate of Public Works; John R. Bess, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; and Col. John Dvoracek, deputy garrison commander for transformation, pose for a photo Jan. 20 at Garrison Headquarters. Bess was named the employee of the month for November for his work with the Training Support Center’s task to support the NETT Warrior test for the Department of the Army. Within the task was the responsibility of the TSC to issue out training aids that would assist in the testing of the equipment in a simulated training environment to selected units at Fort Riley. Bess took the lead, without being asked, in coordinating the training aids at the TSC with the representatives from the NETT Warrior from Fort Hood, Texas, and coordinated the issue of more than 1,000 training aids device simulators and simulations in two days.

## HOUSE FILL AD

## Tricare benefits to be extended to dependants up to age 26

## TRICARE

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The signing of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2011 into law enables Tricare to extend coverage to eligible adult children up to age 26.

A premium-based Tricare Young Adult program is expected to be in place later this spring.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 required civilian health plans to offer coverage to adult children until age 26.

Tricare previously met or exceeded key tenets of national health reform, including restrictions on annual limits, lifetime maximums, “high user” cancellations or denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions, but did not include this expanded coverage for adult children.

Dependent eligibility for Tricare previously ended at age 21 or age 23 for full-time college students.

The Fiscal Year 2011 NDAA now gives the Department of Defense the authority to offer similar benefits to young adults under Tricare.

The law was signed by President Barack Obama Jan. 7, but full details of the Tricare Young Adult program will not be in place until later this spring, according to Tricare officials.

“We’ve been working hard to make sure we could put Tricare Young Adult on a fast

track,” said Navy Rear. Adm. Christine Hunter, Tricare deputy director.

“Fortunately for our beneficiaries concerned about health care coverage for their adult children, the law signed by the President includes opportunities for military Families to elect this new premium-based plan, retroactive to Jan. 1,” he added.

Beginning later this spring, qualified, unmarried dependents up to age 26 will be able to purchase Tricare coverage on a month-to-month basis – as long as they are not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health coverage.

Premium costs are not yet finalized, but the NDAA specifies rates must cover the full cost of the program.

“This program has the potential to extend Tricare coverage to several hundred thousand additional beneficiaries,” Hunter said. “The premium allows us to provide this excellent benefit to our military Families while responsibly addressing the impact of health care costs on the DoD budget.”

Initially, the benefit offered will be a premium-based Tricare Standard benefit.

Eligible Family members who receive health care between now and the date the program is fully implemented may want to purchase Tricare Young Adult retroactively and should save their receipts.

Premiums will have to be paid back to Jan. 1, 2011, in order to obtain reimburse-

ment. As details are being finalized to offer the Tricare Young Adult Standard option, the Tricare Management Activity also will begin work on the required policy and contract changes to offer a Tricare Prime option later in 2011.

While it is too soon to provide specifics, eligible Family members using the Tricare Young Adult Standard program may be able to change to Tricare Prime later in the year if it meets their needs more fully. The Tricare Young Adult Prime option also will carry a separate premium.

Stay up to date about the Tricare Young Adult program by signing up for e-mail benefit and news updates from Tricare. To subscribe, Tricare beneficiaries can visit [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions) and look for “Tricare Young Adult” under benefit changes.

Adults who are no longer eligible for Tricare, but need health insurance coverage, may wish to explore the Continued Health Care Standard benefit.

CHCBP is a premium-based program which offers temporary transitional health coverage for 18 to 36 months. Coverage must be purchased within 60 days of loss of Tricare eligibility.

For more on CHCBP, go to [www.tricare.mil/CHCBP](http://www.tricare.mil/CHCBP).

## AAFES revises online coupon policy

## AAFES

DALLAS – With a click of the mouse, saving at the Exchange can be easier than ever thanks to a decision to accept manufacturers’ online coupons.

“Frankly, the economy has spurred increased interest in electronic coupons,” said Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella, Army and Air Force Exchange Service’s commander. “This, combined with industry projections showing online offers accounting for 8.7 percent of all coupons sent

out in 2010, made it necessary to find a way to let Exchange shoppers apply some of the estimated \$12.7 billion in savings said to be out there to purchases made at their (Base Exchange) or (Post Exchange).”

Sites and services offering manufacturer coupons range from a company’s own website to online discount portals.

What a manufacturer’s coupon says actually takes priority over its source, as AAFES requires the words “manufacturer’s coupon,” a bar code, expiration

date, redemption address, usage policy and stated face value, to all appear on the coupon in order to redeem it.

In most instances, AAFES’ new coupon policy also allows for one manufacturer’s coupon to be combined with an AAFES-issued coupon for the same item.

“Unless either offer specifically prohibits a combined discount, coupons available through AAFES’ mobile marketing service or sale fliers can be combined,” Casella said.

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