

COMMUNITY CORNER

Military Saves campaign encourages Families to save, reduce debt

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

In these tough economic times, many people are taking another look at their family finances with an eye toward saving.

The Military Saves campaign and its partners offer many resources to help individuals develop better saving habits.

The Department of Defense will launch the 2010 Military Saves campaign with Military Saves Week from Feb. 20 to 27. The annual campaign is part of two larger campaigns – the DoD Financial Readiness campaign and the National America Saves campaign.

Military Saves is a campaign

that encourages low- and moderate-income individuals to save money, reduce debt and build wealth. The campaign is a growing network of organizations and individuals committed to helping and supporting military members and their loved ones build personal savings arsenals to provide for their immediate and long-term financial needs.

Part of being resilient and mission-ready is not having to worry about where money for groceries or the car payment is coming from.



Col. Brown

We want our Soldiers and Family members to develop healthy financial habits and avoid common financial pitfalls, like overreliance on credit, spending beyond one's means and the inability to retire.

While this is an ongoing year-round campaign, the entire military community comes together to focus on financial readiness during Military Saves Week.

The campaign's lifeblood is in its partners, organizations that see the value in working together to empower members, employees, customers and clients to become financially stable through saving, debt reduction and wealth-building over time.

Special events happening

during Military Saves Week include a special recognition of savings at the Commissary and Post Exchange. Bring in your coupons and save your receipts during Military Saves Week.

Shoppers whose receipts reflect the most savings will receive savings bonds and gift cards. To compete with the best savers, take your receipts from the week to any Armed Forces Bank or Quest Federal Credit Union on Custer Hill by 5 p.m. Feb. 28. They'll be keeping track of savings and tallying the results.

Also as part of this campaign, students at Ware and Jefferson elementary schools will learn about the importance of saving.

The students will have the

opportunity to sign pledge cards to save for a future goal, participate in art and writing contests, piggy bank contests, brainstorming activities and bank tours.

Military Saves represents an opportunity for all active duty, National Guard and Reserve service members, DoD civilians, retirees, veterans, contractors and Family members of all ages to take the "Saver Pledge," to develop a personal savings plan, establish an emergency fund and enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan, and, for eligible deploying service members, the Savings Deposit Program.

Military Savers can receive monthly Military Saves and eWealth Coach e-mails with tips and encouragement to

help them stay on track to their saving goals.

If you're ready to commit to changing your financial future and start saving, sign the Saver Pledge – "I will help myself by saving money, reducing debt and building wealth over time. I will help my Family and my country by encouraging other Americans to build wealth, not debt."

Pledge forms can be picked up at Army Community Service, 7264 Normandy Drive, or submitted online at www.militarysaves.org.

To comment on this article or send a suggestion for a future Community Corner topic, e-mail rlc.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.

PREP classes to teach couples keys to happy relationships

By Jerry Mulryan
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

A pre-marital/marital educational curriculum is now being offered at Army Community Service.

The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program attempts to help couples reduce negative risk factors and help strengthen their connection

and commitment to their relationship.

PREP focuses on areas that have a direct effect on relationships. These areas include communication, gender differences, problem solving, clarifying beliefs and expectations, forgiveness, fun, friendship and sensuality.

The PREP curriculum is being offered by the ACS Family

Advocacy Program staff on a monthly basis. The two-part, three-hour classes are from 1 to 4 p.m. on the third and fourth Thursdays of each month at ACS, Building 7264, Normandy Drive. Free child care is available with registration at least two days prior to the first class. Couples can register by calling 785-239-9435 or stopping by ACS.

Home wanted

Forrest

Forrest is a 1-year-old male brown tabby cat. He's litter-box trained and neutered, but he will need all of his vaccinations and a microchip.

Forrest is friendly and seems to get along well with other cats and dogs.

He's curious and likes to explore, but he would also be right at home on someone's lap.

Fort Riley Stray Facility
Building 225 Custer Ave., Main Post
Noon to 4 p.m.
Monday through Friday
785-239-6183



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'MEATY' DONATION



Katherine Rosario | POST

Kevin Carter, field sales consultant for Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc., second from right, and Carol Toomey, Commissary meat manager, far left, present a check for \$800 to Maj. Steven Blount, Warrior Transition Battalion executive officer, second from left, and Spe. Christian Teinert, WTB, far right, for the Wounded Warrior Project during a muster meeting Feb. 4 at Riley's Conference Center. Tyson had a competition between the meat departments at different installation commissaries across the country to see what post could sell the most meat during the first six months of the year. Fort Riley's Commissary took second place, selling about 126,000 pounds of meat. Tyson and the Commissary donated the winnings to the Wounded Warrior Project.

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