

COMMUNITY CORNER

Sponsorship helpful for first-term Fort Riley Soldiers, Families

By Garrison Commander
COL. KEVIN BROWN

Summer in the Army is often considered "PCS Season," a time where permanent changes of station - moves - frequently occur.

While many Soldiers and their Families may have experienced numerous moves during their careers, first-term Soldiers are required to be paired with sponsors under Army Regulation 600-8-8. The Total Army Sponsorship Program. Sponsors are provided to help Soldiers learn Army standards and develop a sense of responsibility and teamwork.

And, while our seasoned Families may be experienced movers, it is often helpful to have a sponsor at each new duty station to help familiar-

ize you with the area. For this reason, sponsors also are offered to every Soldier, private through colonel, when they move.

Sponsorship can be requested 90 days prior to arrival at Fort Riley. Sponsorship requests can be made by clicking the Sponsorship link under the New Arrivals menu at www.riley.army.mil for officer and enlisted forms. To make a request by phone or for more information on the sponsorship program, call 785-239-0448.

This great program not only provides our Soldiers with assistance as they move, but it ensures their readiness.



Col.
Brown

A Soldier who is familiar with the area, who feels comfortable around post thanks to a sponsor will have far fewer worries and will, therefore, be able to focus on the mission.

A critical part of the sponsorship program is volunteer sponsors - without Fort Riley Soldiers willing to sponsor incoming Soldiers and Families, our program will not work. Army Community Service, in Building 7264, provides training for Soldiers to become sponsors within their units and provides resources for the sponsors to use and give to the newly arriving Soldier.

Training can be completed on an individual basis - in person or online - or training can be provided to an entire unit. Training teaches potential sponsors what a sponsor is, what their role will be and why

that role is important.

If you are willing, I ask you to take the time to extend a hand as a caring friend to a newcomer; help a newcomer find expert advice and empathize with them as they transition to a new post and new job.

We want our Soldiers to be greeted warmly and treated well when first arriving to Fort Riley - this will determine how they feel about our post and, sometimes, their unit or the Army.

To schedule training, contact ACS at 785-239-9435. To complete training online, visit <http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/ESAT>.

Fort Riley has other programs in place to assist our transitioning Soldiers and Families - ACS's Relocation Readiness, for example. This

program, which is integral in the sponsorship training, also provides general information to families relocating to or from Fort Riley. They can help during deployments with incoming and outgoing briefings, provide welcome information for adults and youth, counseling, relocation guidance, citizenship and immigration information.

The program operates a lending closet in Building 7264, where Families can check out items such as dishes, car seats or cots for up to 45 days while they wait for their household goods to arrive. To check out items, you need your military ID and a copy of your orders.

These programs are just a few I hope will help newcomers feel part of the Fort Riley Family. Moving can be daunt-

ing - worrying about packing, getting the kids into school, making new friends. If we can help alleviate some of the stress on our Families during a move, we will have succeeded. I encourage you to take advantage of these programs, and if you have been at Fort Riley awhile, consider becoming a sponsor.

For more information about the sponsorship program or Relocation Readiness, call 785-239-9435 or check out the information under the New Arrival tab at www.riley.army.mil. E-mail question to Relocation Readiness at rledmwracs@comus.army.mil.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, email rile.post.newspaper@comus.army.mil.

Casing ceremony marks new era, move for Army MWR

By Evan Dyson
FMWRC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Employees of the Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command joined together May 26 for the casing of the FMWRC colors near the Nation's capital.

In accordance with 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law, the command is moving

from Alexandria, Va., to a new home at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

Casing the colors is a traditional flag ceremony that symbolizes the movement of a unit. While some may see the event as a sad occasion, FMWRC Commanding General Maj. Gen. Reuben Jones said he sees it as hope.

"It's going to be better," he told the audience. "That's what

life and that's what change is all about."

The support organization provides to Soldiers and their Families will continue, he said.

"It's just the tip of the iceberg, what's done here (at headquarters). There are other warriors 'about 27,000 of them' on garrisons around the world who benefit from the work that the employees here do ... allow-

ing them to go out and execute programs."

Waiting for the organization in Texas are several new and renovated facilities at Fort Sam Houston, including the historic Fort Sam Houston Theatre, the future home of the Army Entertainment Division, and a new building for the Maj. Gen. Robert M. Joyce Family and MWR Academy, which will serve as a training facility for

garrison and headquarters employees.

Distinguished guests at the casing ceremony included Dr. Craig College, deputy assistant chief of staff for Installation Management; Maj. Gen. Tony Taguba (retired), former commanding general of FMWRC's predecessor, the Community and Family Support Center; John McLaurin, director of Force Management for G3/5/7;

Kathleen Marin, director of Installation Services for ACSIM; and Diane Randan, director of Resource Management for ACSIM.

The day before the casing ceremony, a final awards ceremony took place in the Alexandria facility to recognize dozens of employees for their contributions to the organization.

An uncasing ceremony took place June 2 in San Antonio.

Post photos, including many that haven't been printed, are on flickr!

flickr.com/firstinfantrydivision

