

COMMUNITY CORNER

Garrison commander says farewell and thank you to Fort Riley

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

I say farewell to the Fort Riley community with a heavy heart. This has been absolutely the most trying personal period of my life, and yet somehow it turned out to be enormously rewarding. I probably could not have succeeded were it not for the passion and compassion I brought into this job based on my own experiences in times of both war and peace.

As Gen. Bradley said, having been tormented by their ordeals, I understand fully the value of the lives of our Soldiers, our civilian workforce and the Families of Fort Riley. I genuinely cared about all of you and was committed every day to making your lives better here. But that personal commitment was only one ingredient – it was buoyed by one other very important ingredient I would like to high-

light in this short goodbye, the civilian workforce that makes up the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Riley.

As I depart, if I could ask any one thing of our Soldiers and Family members here at Fort Riley, it would be this – thank a civilian.

I wrap up 24 years of uniformed service July 15, and it took me most of those years before I figured it out – our civilian workforce is indispensable, patriotic and as committed as the Soldiers we all pat on the back every day in the airport and thank for their service – frankly, in some cases more so, but the thanks come less often.

The Civilian Corps Creed contains a line that sums up the critical role they play in the readiness of our Army – “I



Col. Brown

provide stability and continuity in times of war and peace.”

There are many who will never grow to understand the criticality of the experience and expertise of this workforce, particularly in the age of Army Force Generation, where uniformed Soldiers come and go at a dizzying rate and change seems to be a constant. So, if you can find the time and place – which is just about anywhere, anytime at Fort Riley – thank a civilian for providing stability and continuity in times of war and peace.

Finally, I thank all of you who I have served these past two years. You filled my cup on a daily basis. At a muster meeting, welcome home ceremony, Ceremony of Remembrance, our Artillery Parade Field during Fall Apple Day Festival, at a Leader's Call and even during a town hall – those of you with whom I was simply able to come into contact with, learn from, care about and

“Far from being a handicap to command, compassion is the measure of it. For unless one values the lives of his Soldiers and is tormented by their ordeals, he is unfit for command.”

GEN. OMAR BRADLEY

serve – you gave me purpose, direction and motivation, and for that I will be forever grateful.

I close by sharing “The Paradoxical Commandments” by Kent M. Keith.

Please do not read this as a bitter reflection on my part, although admittedly, a couple of these did resonate with me on a personal basis as I think on my service here these last two years. Instead read this as a reminder of how those of us who serve a greater purpose, those who serve our Soldiers, Families and civilians, must always remember that we do what we do not for self, but for others.

“People are illogical, unreasonable and self-centered. Love them anyway. If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Do good anyway. If you are successful, you will attract false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway. The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway. The biggest persons with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest persons with the smallest minds. Think big anyway. People favor underdogs, but

follow only top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help, but may attack you if you do help them. Help them anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.”

Farewell, Duty First and Service Always!

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

New CAB commander addresses Salina MAC at luncheon

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth
CAB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SALINA – The Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division leadership traveled to Salina to strengthen the partnership between the city and the brigade's Soldiers.

CAB commander Col. Mike Morgan and CAB Command Sgt. Major Jim Thomson joined members of the Salina Military Affairs Council during their quarterly luncheon to tell them about the CAB's recent tour to Iraq and what is ahead for the aviation unit.

“We look forward to hosting you at the (CAB), so you can see what we do on a daily basis,” said Morgan, who took command of the unit at the end of June. “I look forward to continuing to foster this great relationship.”

While trips to Fort Riley will occur in the future for Salina community leaders, the

community leaders already have programs in place to help Soldiers and their Families. The council has started Operation Bigs, which joins children of deployed Soldiers with a mentor to help them through their parents' deployment. The local high school also is planning a military appreciation month around Veterans Day.

“I have been around Fort Riley and the local community for about three weeks now, and I'm totally impressed, especially with the outreach, the warmth and the welcome from the local communities and its people,” Morgan said.

Thomson said the connection between Soldiers and the community isn't just felt in the states, but also in Iraq. U.S. Soldiers impact whatever community they are in, he said.

“When we were there (in Iraq) in (July 2009), we weren't really sure if things were going to work out,” Thomson said.

“A year later, and we are back there and the lights are on, there are traffic jams on the highways and green grass in the farmland.”

“That is what our Soldiers have done. The Iraqi military has got it, and they are capable of defending themselves. The Iraqi government is getting business done and it's because of our Soldiers' presence and dedication there.”

Morgan talked to the council about how Soldiers and their Families have had multiple deployments during the past 10 years and what is needed to get them back on a “normal” routine.

“We have the capability and the opportunity to renew our Soldiers and Families right now, to get them back to a normalcy. That is why our partnership is so important,” he said. “We cannot do it without you. The things that you provide before, during and after



Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth | CAB CAB commander Col. Mike Morgan, center, addresses members of the Salina Military Affairs Council during their quarterly luncheon July 7 in Salina.

a deployment, are tremendous combat multipliers.”

Thomson also expressed how important communities are to Soldiers and their Families.

love, respect and support binds us,” Thomson said. “We are no longer doing our nation's business – we are doing Salina's business.”

Tricare begins promoting home delivery versus retail pharmacy

TRICARE

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Tricare beneficiaries who still get two or more maintenance prescriptions from a retail pharmacy can start checking their mailboxes.

Tricare Management Activity and Express Scripts Inc. are mailing out home delivery education “alert” letters to promote pharmacy home delivery.

The alerts focus on the convenience and lower cost of home delivery versus retail pharmacies and include information on how to switch prescriptions over. The alerts also seek to alleviate possible concerns about home delivery by highlighting safety measures and 24/7 access to a pharmacist.

“Providing service members and their Families with an affordable, quality prescription drug benefit is a vital part of Tricare's mission,” said Tricare Deputy Director Rear Adm. Christine Hunter. “When beneficiaries choose home delivery, they are using their benefit wisely.”

Switching from retail pharmacy to home delivery spares beneficiaries the inconvenience of picking their prescriptions up from the pharmacy and saves them 66 percent per prescription. Home delivery also is cheaper for Tricare. Beneficiaries switching from retail to home delivery saved the Department of Defense \$30 million in 2010.

Tricare and ESI are engaged in an aggressive campaign to promote home delivery with success. Growth in retail pharmacy prescriptions covered by Tricare is only 3.4 percent in 2011, down from the average of 5.2 percent. Home delivery prescriptions have grown 9.8

percent in 2011, almost double the 5.8 percent rate.

“The more Tricare beneficiaries learn about pharmacy home delivery, the more they take advantage of its benefits,”