

COMMUNITY CORNER

New garrison commander glad to be home in CFHR

I am thrilled to once again be part of the Fort Riley community and the 1st Infantry Division – it is always a good day to come home and be with family. As a way of introduction, I have been privileged enough to serve previously here at Fort Riley and with the 1st Inf. Div. during the days of Desert Storm. Additionally, I have served with the "Big Red One" on two other occasions in Germany as well. My wife, Andrea, and I are true fans and believers of Fort Riley and the 1st Inf. Div. Andrea and I are truly

grateful the Army has sent us back home to Fort Riley, to the Central Flint Hills Region – our true choice of duty location.

The team here at Fort Riley is tremendous to say the least. The quality and dedication of the workforce at Fort Riley is incredible. I am honored to be part of such a remarkable organiza-



Col. Clark

tion. The Fort Riley team is well-regarded across our great nation. What the workforce does day in and day out, to care for Soldiers and Families of this installation is amazing – the deeds of the workforce speak for themselves. I look forward to being part of such a tremendous team.

During our tenure together, I do need your assistance – your feedback is essential to assisting me and the rest of the garrison team to understand your views, challenges and desires. Your voice is critical to helping us move

forward and meet the issues at hand. I ask for your honest feedback at all times, whether in person, through the Interactive Customer Evaluation program or comments via social media. We want to hear from you – both positive and negative. The garrison team is fully committed to the Soldiers, Families, civilians and retirees of this installation and community. I am positive that together we can make a difference and improve upon what is already a tremendous place to live and work. Your voice counts here at Fort Riley.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment and publicly thank Col. Kevin Brown for his energy and leadership, not only while he served as the garrison commander, but also for his efforts to our Army and nation over the past 24 years. Col. Brown is an innovative leader, who truly cares for those around him; one who possesses a strong desire to make his community and the entire Army a better place. Kevin, on behalf of the Soldiers, Families and civilians of Fort Riley, both Andrea and I, and the entire Army Family,

thank you for a job well done. You have left a legacy for others to emulate. We all wish you nothing but continued success and joy as you begin a new chapter in your life.

Once again, I am delighted to be part of the Fort Riley team and the Central Flint Hills Region. It is good to be home!

"Duty first, service always!"

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

Post children make big splash during 'Little Mermaid' performance

By Melony Gabbert
1ST INF. DIV. POST

"Deep in the salty waters of the Sassafras Sea, there lived a Little Mermaid," or so began a version of *The Little Mermaid* seen July 16 at the Forsyth East Child Development Center, Building 2420.

Outreach Services of Child, Youth, and School Services partnered with the Missoula Children's Theatre, Missoula, Mont., through Department of the Army funding in order to bring *The Little Mermaid* to life according to Rashelle "Shelley" Anderson, instructional program specialist, Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills.

Performances were at 3 and 7 p.m. Admission was free and open to the public.

In this version of the story, there are two mermaid sisters. The younger one is given legs to be with the prince. But when she discovers the prince wants fish served at the wedding reception, the once half-fish objects. A twist in the plot develops from there.

Faith Janicki played the older mermaid, Celia. Delia, the younger mermaid, was portrayed by Amber Stewart. Joseph Janicki played Gil, a merman. The prince was Joshua Medicinebird. Isaiah Poulson played the king.

Jenna Carmen, Meredith Williams and Abby Janicki took on the parts of scouts. Joy Floyd, Taniya Cook, Abi-

gail Kaminsky, Emma Gardner, Lukas Carmen and Katie Williams portrayed seafarers, while Adam Carmen, Natalie Campbell, Lauren Peterson, Annlynn Ayers, Elijah Poulson, Lauren Washburn and Becky Peterson were sea horses.

"The public came out in this intense heat and supported the children and youth in their efforts, and it was appreciated," Anderson said. "It was a wonderful production, a wonderful day. The kids have been so excited to do this."

"This is all they have talked about," said Nyssa Poulson, about her sons, Isaiah, 11, and Elijah, 6, who portrayed the king and a sea horse, respectively.

"They sing all of the time. Both boys had a solo. From the time they would get home, they were running lines," Poulson said.

Poulson also said her sons learned about the production when her daughter was attending a SKIES dance class, and she saw a flier.

Anderson said participants were recruited via flyers, the schools, home schooling lines of communication and the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation website.

"We have had the Missoula Children's Theatre here before, and they have always put on one beautiful show," Anderson said.

This is the fourth residency for the traveling portion of the



Melony Gabbert | POST

The cast of "The Little Mermaid" pose for a picture under a sea of lights July 16 at the Forsyth East CDC, Building 2420. CVSS partnered with the Missoula Children's Theatre, Missoula, Mont., to bring the production to Fort Riley.

Missoula Children's Theatre, the Missoula Children's Theatre International Tour project. As an international tour group, the group will follow by traveling to Japan this summer, said Haley Chapin, tour marketing associate.

This year, the Missoula Children's Theatre will work with 65,000 children in nearly 1,300 communities in more than 50 states and 17 countries.

"We love visiting any military base there is. It brings a

consistency to the children – brings something familiar. We find it special to visit these posts and bases," Chapin said.

The theater brought everything – the backdrops, costumes, makeup and the lighting, Anderson said.

"The actors even washed the costumes," she said. "And everything fit into that little red truck."

The Missoula Children's Theatre is partially funded through private donations.

MSE director speaks about current operations at JC Rotary Club



Stephanie Hoff | 1ST INF. DIV.

Ollie Hunter, director, MSE, 1st Inf. Div., speaks to the Junction City Rotary Club July 12 at the Geary County Convention Center, Junction City. Hunter discussed the current missions and assignments of the units assigned to the division.

By Stephanie Hoff
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ollie Hunter, director of Mission Support Element, 1st Infantry Division, updated members of the Junction City Rotary Club on the current operations of the brigades assigned to the 1st Inf. Div. during the organization's weekly meeting July 12 at the Geary County Convention Center, Junction City.

"We are our nation's first division, created in 1917 when the nation had no divisions," Hunter said. "We were the first created, invented, built, manned, equipped and trained division in our nation."

He described how in its more than 94 years of service, the 1st Inf. Div. has served in conflicts ranging from World

War I to its most recent deployments in support of the global war on terror. Hunter noted a key difference in the nation's fight in the global war on terror versus previous conflicts is the deployment of individual brigades instead of the entire division.

"The global war on terrorism is not division-centric. It's a brigade-centric fight," he said. "(The units) are all on their own different path."

Hunter said each unit's path is laid out in the Army Force Generation cycle. The cycle, broken down into three stages – reset, train/ready and available – Hunter said, categorizes all Army units into one of these three phases, a process designed to make deployments more predictable, while ensuring the Soldier adequate home

and training time.

The "Big Red One" recently adopted the title "BRO-FORGEN" to identify the cycle related to its specific units, Hunter said before displaying a world map with locations labeled where the division currently has Soldiers assigned.

"(The 1st Inf. Div.) is all over the place. Not only in multiple locations in the United States, but Afghanistan and Iraq," he said.

Hunter concluded by thanking the members for their support of Fort Riley and the Big Red One, particularly the ones with loved ones serving in the military.

"You need to know what we're doing. You give us your sons and daughters – your most precious possession," he said.



For information about religious services at Fort Riley or to talk to a chaplain, call 239-3359 or visit www.riley.army.mil and click on "Fort Riley Services" under the Services link.