

## COMMUNITY CORNER

# Thanksgiving marks beginning of holiday activity across post

By Col. William Clark  
GARRISON COMMANDER

The holiday season is upon us, and by this time next week, many of us will be eating leftover turkey, enjoying a few extra days off of work, bringing out holiday decorations, and maybe even doing a little bit of Black Friday shopping.

But before we think about the winter holidays, I hope you all pause for a few moments and remember what you are thankful for – friends, Family, health, a job, a meal on the table. I am thankful that, with the return of our 1st and 2nd heavy brigade combat teams, a majority of our Fort Riley Soldiers will be home for the holidays.

At Fort Riley, we want to ensure that each of our Soldiers and Family members has the opportunity to properly enjoy Thanksgiving. Whether your Family is here and you will spend a quiet evening at home, or if you are traveling long distances to see your loved ones, I hope you enjoy the day off.

If you are staying and cooking at home, please read the article on page 5 about fire safety when cooking for Thanksgiving. For more tips, visit our food safety site at [www.fsis.usda.gov/factsheets/Seasonal\\_Food\\_Safety\\_Fact\\_Sheets/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/factsheets/Seasonal_Food_Safety_Fact_Sheets/index.asp).

If you are traveling, keep in mind that the highways and airports will be busy. Allow extra time for road or air travel so you are not in a rush and do not increase your chance of an accident. Practice defensive driving, if applicable, or make sure to follow all Transportation Security Administration

regulations if flying.

And if you don't have a place to go to this Thanksgiving, the Army family will welcome you at one of three dining facilities on post with a home-cooked, traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Demon Diner will host a meal from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 23, and Devil's Den and Cantigny dining facilities on Custer Hill will host meals from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 24.

I've been told the menu will include all the traditional fixings – turkey, ham, stuffing, potatoes and corn on the cob – with just a few surprises in the mix. Pumpkin and apple pie will finish off what I am sure will be a tasty meal.

Meals are \$7 for non-meal cardholders. Cost of meals for children of E-4s and below, who are under the age of 12, are \$5.95.

While you reflect on what you are thankful for this year, consider those in our community who may be less fortunate than you. Operation Santa Claus, a long-standing Fort Riley program that provides gifts for military Families who may otherwise be unable to provide them for their children, is in full effect. So, if shopping on Black Friday, maybe you can pick up an extra toy for our military Families in need.

To make a donation, visit the Santa's workshop between 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. Extended hours



Col. Clark

are available upon request. Donations can be dropped off at one of about a dozen locations that include the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters, Building 580; Garrison headquarters, Building 500; each brigade headquarters building, the Exchange, Armed Forces Bank on Custer Hill, Fire Station 1 and the Forsyth Fire Station. Drop-off boxes also will be at the Wal-mart in Junction City and Manhattan. Additional locations, such as the Main Post Chapel, may be added.

Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 2427, Fort Riley, KS 66442.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Johnson at 785-239-6944 or [rile.santa@conus.army.mil](mailto:rile.santa@conus.army.mil).

And, finally, I encourage you to take advantage of some of the early holiday activities at Fort Riley. The post will light its holiday tree at 5 p.m. Dec. 2 in front of Garrison headquarters, Building 500.

The following day, a traditional German Christkindl market will feature arts, crafts and other gifts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 3 at Riley's Conference Center. That same day, the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley will host a Historic Tour of Homes from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 3 on Main Post. For more information on either of these events, see page 13 of this week's post newspaper.

Happy Thanksgiving, and let's make this a safe and joyous holiday season.

*If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, email [rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil](mailto:rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil).*

## VETERAN'S SALUTE



Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth | CAB

Maj. Joshua Berryhill, operations officer, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, returns the salute of a Burlingame Elementary School student during the school's Veterans Day celebration in Burlingame, Kan. Berryhill presented a student from each grade with a certificate and a flag that was flown in Iraq. The school adopted the 1st ARB, 1st Avn. Regt. last year during the unit's deployment to Iraq.

## AAFES kicks off shopping season with day-after Thanksgiving deals

### AAFES PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DALLAS – According to the First Command Financial Behaviors Index, day-after Thanksgiving discounts are more likely to draw military Families than their civilian counterparts.

To help shoppers get the most bang for their buck, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is serving up a host of Thanksgiving weekend sales.

The feast begins in the U.S., Europe and the Pacific on "Black Friday" with Sony 55" LCD TVs for \$899, HP Pavilion G6 Notebooks for \$279, 50 percent off regular-priced ladies apparel from Izod, Calvin Klein, Michael Kors and others, as well as Xbox 360 4GB gaming systems with built-in Wi-Fi consoles for \$99. Additionally, all Coach handbags – both in-

store and online at [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com) – will be 25 percent off from 5 to 7 p.m. that day.

The deals continue on Saturday as Samsung 46" LCD TVs will be available for \$629, with shoppers receiving a \$30 Exchange gift card with any Samsung LCD TV purchase.

From 5 to 7 p.m., all Dooney and Bourke handbags – both online at [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com) and in-store – will be 25 percent off. Additionally, Sony 7-inch LED photo frames will be priced at \$39.95; Easy-Bake Ultimate Ovens will be \$29.95; and a four-piece America Explorer luggage set can be purchased for \$49.99.

Sunday's savings includes a Sharp 60" LED TVs for \$999 – a \$300 savings. Panasonic 3D Wi-Fi Ready Blu-Ray disc players also will be available for \$99.99; selected Crafts-

man tools will be discounted 20 percent off; fashion jewelry will be 30 percent off; and assorted DVD TV boxed sets will cost from \$15 to \$20.

Additionally, Cyber Monday's online-only deals include Sony 40" LED TVs for \$699; BCBG Max Azria soft leather shoulder bags for \$99; Fujifilm FinePix S2950 14MP digital cameras for \$139; and Kenmore Elite washer and dryer combo for \$959, a \$600 savings.

"The Thanksgiving weekend specials are just the beginning of what will be a huge season of sales and savings at Exchanges around the world," said Col. Thomas Ockenfels, the Exchange's chief of staff.

"From electronics to toys to jewelry, Exchanges will have everything military Families need, at the right price."

## HOUSE FILL AD