

COMMUNITY CORNER

Commander encourages Soldiers to make safe plan when drinking

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

Every day, 32 people in the U.S. die in motor vehicle crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 45 minutes. Driving while impaired is unacceptable. And, I know this isn't the first time I've written about it – and it likely won't be the last – but our duty as motor vehicle operators to drive responsibly is of paramount concern to the safety of ourselves and those around us.

With the passing of Mardi Gras and upcoming St. Patrick's Day celebrations, there may be some people in our community who chose to celebrate by having a beverage with friends. I want to remind our readers to do so responsibly!

What does this mean? Most importantly, this means having a plan.

- For example:
- Prior to drinking, design a non-drinking driver

when with a group.

- Don't let friends drive impaired. Take their keys away.
- When hosting a party where alcohol will be served, remind guests to plan ahead and designate their sober driver; offer alcohol-free beverages; and make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.
- When drinking, get a ride home or call a taxi.

On Friday and Saturday nights in Manhattan's Aggieville, those who are out and may have been drinking can also take advantage of Riley Ride.

The Riley Ride bus leaves the Leisure Travel Center, Building 6918 on Custer Hill at 9:30 p.m. every Friday and Saturday and picks Soldiers up at designated barracks and buildings, before dropping them off in Aggieville. The bus, which holds up to 20



Col. Clark

passengers, makes three trips back to post throughout the night, beginning at 11 p.m. and picking up one last time at 2 a.m.

The charge for one ride is \$2.50, but punch cards are available for \$5 and \$10 at the center and never expire.

For more information about the Riley Ride program, call the Leisure Travel Center, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, at 785-239-5614.

Do drive impaired and risk a driving under the influence charge – or worse injuring yourself or others.

Additionally, know that programs on post can help with alcohol and substance abuse issues and training.

If training on alcohol or drugs is desired, contact Fort Riley's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program at 785-239-1928 or 785-240-3200.

To comment on this column or suggest a topic for Community Corner, e-mail rle.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.

VALENTINE'S DAY TREATS



TOP: First-graders in Chelsey Hiltbrand's class exchange Valentines Feb. 14 at Morris Hill Elementary School. The students were so excited, it was all they could think about for days, Hiltbrand said.

LEFT: First-grader Jaylyn Cox smiles after receiving a valentine Feb. 14 at Morris Hill Elementary School.

Melony Gabbert
POST

'WARE BEARS' PLEDGE TO SAVE



COURTESY PHOTO

Deb Gustafson, Ware Elementary School principal, center, signs a Military Saves Week proclamation Feb. 16 at the school while four fifth-graders from Lori Heidrick's class, including, from left to right, Kyndal Archer, Xavier Nesahkluah, Alayshia Jacobs and Joseph Terrell look on.



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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: 2012 Military Saves Campaign

To kick-off the 2012 *Military Saves Campaign*, the Department of Defense has designated February 19-26, 2012 as *Military Saves Week*. As part of the larger nationwide *America Saves Campaign*, *Military Saves* is conducted in cooperation with the Consumer Federation of America.

While the *Military Saves Campaign* is a year-long effort, *Military Saves Week* is an opportunity for the entire military community to come together with federal, state, and local resources, including military banks and credit unions to focus on the financial readiness of military members and families to help them reduce debt and save their hard-earned money. The *America Saves* slogan, "Start Small, Think Big" is shared by *Military Saves* and talks to the long-term benefits of saving a little each month. The *Military Saves Campaign* is a Total Force, command-level program. It provides an opportunity for leaders at all levels of all components - Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve - to motivate and educate Service members and their families.

It's particularly important to engage our military spouses. They play a vital role in ensuring the financial well being and stability of our military families. In addition, our youth in our future and learning good financial habits early can only strengthen their financial stature. In support of *Military Saves*, please sponsor financial awareness events where practical within your organizations, encourage your personnel to access www.militarysaves.org, take the "Saver Pledge," and support the 2012 theme, "Set a Goal, Make a Plan, Save Automatically."

I wish you great success for the 2012 *Military Saves Campaign*. My action officer is Brenda McDaniel at brenda.mcdaniel@osd.mil and (703) 695-3629.

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cc:
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