

COMMUNITY CORNER

Garrison commander encourages others to choose 'to be nice'

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

Fort Riley is a growing installation – there's no doubt about that. With that growth, comes change. Residents and visitors to post are all too familiar with this change – construction, personnel and traffic are all in flux.

While these changes will lead to progress and improvement at our great installation, I understand we are experiencing some growing pains right now.

Despite what many may believe are hardships, I'd like to share with you one simple solution to dealing with

the stress of change – be nice. It's that simple. Be nice; be kind; smile more often.

We chose how we approach and react to situations.

If you approach a busy intersection, you have the choice to sit in your car in anger, honk the horn and speed past your neighbor once given the go-ahead – or you can wait patiently for your turn and smile as you drive safely by your neighbor. Attitude is everything.



Col. Clark

At Fort Riley, I'm seeing all too often people choosing the first approach. This me-first attitude is negatively impacting our community. Specifically, it has resulted in injury and accidents on our roadways. Is a temporary state of anger worth injuring our neighbor?

Our challenges at Fort Riley won't change. We will have traffic problems in the near future. We are working to improve our roads, buildings, services and our community, but in the meantime, we'll have to endure some growing pains. And, during this time, I urge you to be nice.

In grade school, they teach children the "golden rule" –

treat others as you would like to be treated. As adults, we can still apply this lesson to our everyday lives.

If the golden rule does not ring true for you, I hope the Army values do.

Our shared values of loyalty, respect, duty, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage should guide how we approach all aspects of our lives – not just our work.

So when you approach that busy intersection – or face any stressor in your life – think: Loyalty: Where does my loyalty lie – to myself or to my community?

Duty: Do I have an obligation to myself or an obligation to others? How can I be a

responsible citizen?

Respect: How would I like to be treated? How can I be respectful of all parties involved?

Selfless service: Can I place the welfare of others before my own?

Honor: What is the honorable way to approach the situation?

Integrity: How can I do what's right, legally and morally?

Personal courage: Do I have the courage to do what's right, even if it's not easy?

Together these values make LDRSHIP – leadership, I'm asking for your help in leading the way to a nicer, kinder Fort Riley. Take a stand against

negativity and anger – be nice.

I realize this exercise takes practice, but I encourage you to attempt to apply it to everyday situations. Eventually, it will become second nature.

I see great things happening at Fort Riley. We have Soldiers who willingly enter harm's way to protect our freedoms. We have hundreds of volunteers who take time out of their lives to help others. Let's follow their example a make a difference in our community.

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

Post to get new middle school

USD 475 GEARY COUNTY SCHOOLS

USD 475 Geary County Schools received official word recently from the Office of Economic Adjustment that the new Fort Riley Middle School building will begin construction this fall.

The new middle school will be built on the same property, adjacent to the current school – with the current school being demolished – and will have a number of amenities.

Upon completion, the new middle school will be a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certified building, making it the second "green" addition to the district. It will house a high-tech media hub/center that will transform the way students are able to collaborate and learn. Additionally, the school will be home to a state-of-the-art auditorium and two expansive gymnasiums, with the second gym being a Fed-

eral Emergency Management Agency-certified structure able to withstand winds of up-to 250 mph.

"This will be a tremendous learning environment," said Marcie Teenor, director, business operations, USD 475. "I am very excited for the students and staff. They are very deserving of this new school." Construction of the 800-student-capacity building is expected to be completed during a 20-month period.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Breaking the silence: Reporting child abuse, neglect

By Barbara A. Gabriel
LIFESCAPE, CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION NETWORK

SUMMARY

• By our silence, we unwittingly play a part in the child's abuse.

• A "reasonable suspicion" that child abuse is taking place is all that is needed to report it.

"He's not my child; it's none of my business."

"Let other members of his family handle the situation."

"Surely someone is aware of what is going on and is doing something about it."

The above are among the things some people when they are witnesses to child abuse, but they are reluctant to "get involved."

There is a powerful cultural belief in our society that intervening in another family's business is an invasion of their privacy. Potential allies of abused children, like other family members, teachers, friends and neighbors tend to look away from what they perceive as "none of their business."

By their silence, they unwittingly play a part in the child's abuse. Their unwillingness to intervene or enlist outside help can have dire consequences for the child involved.

Those who suspect child

abuse and fail to report it also may be subjecting themselves to legal repercussions. Each state identifies "mandatory reporters," like doctors or teachers, who are legally bound to report suspected child abuse cases to child protective services. In some states, all citizens are mandated reporters by state law and must report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, more than 1.25 million, or one in every 58 children in the U.S., was abused in 2006. Tragically, on average, four children die every day as a result of child abuse or neglect.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

There are four major types of child maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. Identification and reporting are the first steps to stopping any of these forms of child abuse. A "reasonable suspicion" that child abuse is taking place is all that is needed to report it. Each state has laws that protect reporters of child abuse from legal liability if a suspicion is unsubstantiated by further investigation. The report simply must be made in "good faith" and without malice.

WHAT TO EXPECT

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, you should call your local child

protective services agency. If you are unsure of the number, call the Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD.

The person responding to your call will ask you for specific information. This may include your name, the suspected perpetrator's name, a description of what you have seen and/or heard and the names of any other people with knowledge of the abuse. Anonymous calls also may be made, but they are generally less effective in helping child welfare workers gain the necessary information during investigation.

If you have a relationship with the child you suspect is being abused, you can play an important role in helping him cope with the situation. Children, especially those who have been abused, need positive adult role models. You can help improve his damaged self-esteem by helping him see the value in himself through encouragement and active listening. Often, the love of a caring adult can help children re-establish trust in others.

Making the decision to help an abused child is often a difficult one wrought with fear of unintended consequences. Remember the worst consequence may result from your silence.

Seventh-grader says seeing world is benefit to being military child

This is the second in a series of articles highlighting outstanding youth at Fort Riley in celebration of Month of the Military Child.

By Calun Reece
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Seeing the world is one of the benefits of being a military child, according to Giovanni Hamanaka, seventh-grader, Junction City Middle School.

Hamanaka has moved with his family six times so far, and has lived in places like Japan, Miami, the state of Washington, and now, Kansas.

Deciding his favorite place where his family has been stationed is difficult, he said.

"I'm kind of torn between Kansas and Japan," he said.

Hamanaka said he remembers the Japanese sushi rolls being really good, but he thinks Kansas has been the best place to live so far.

"I've been in Kansas a lot longer though, so I would have to pick Kansas," he said.

Getting to go to Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Mo., last year for a school field trip was



COURTESY PHOTO

Seventh-grader Giovanni Hamanaka is this week's featured Military Child of the Month. He enjoys the opportunities and benefits of worldwide travel as a military child.

"It's a fun experience because the teachers let the students go explore on their own the whole day, he said.

Hamanaka said he has experienced a lot, but one of the best experiences has been seeing how boot camp works.

"My dad was a drill sergeant, and I got to see him work," he said. "I remember hearing someone say 'smoking the privates,' and I had to ask

him what that meant, and he explained it to me."

Hamanaka said he comes from a long line of service members in his family. His grandmother and his aunts are all retirees from different military branches.

As far as knowing what he wants to do when he grows up, like many seventh-graders, Hamanaka is undecided.

"I've thought about joining the Air Force because it pays for college, and I want a good college education," he said. "I've also thought about doing something in chemistry, but I don't know yet."

Right now, Hamanaka said he simply wants to continue with his academic goal of progressing in school.

When asked if he could pick his family's next duty station, Hamanaka said he thought it would be interesting to experience living somewhere in Europe.

"My family thinks that would be a pretty cool experience, but going back to Japan, I think, would be great, too," Hamanaka said.

Sharp to be next principal at JCHS

By Chase Jordan
DAILY UNION

A new leader will roam the halls of Junction City High School next fall.

During a recent Geary County School Board meeting, Freshman Success Academy Principal Melissa Sharp officially was named the new principal of JCHS. After serving six years, current principal Stan Dodds will retire at the end of the school year.

Board President Becky Bramlage said she's excited about Sharp filling the position at the high school.

"She's done a wonderful job at the Freshman Success Academy, and she has good ideas, and we're real excited," Bramlage said. "She's going to take our

high school in great directions."

Bramlage said Dodds has done a wonderful job because he was visible to the students.

"We really appreciate the service that he gave us and to Junction City," Bramlage said.

Associate Superintendent Pat Anderson said Sharp has had a great impact on the Freshman Success Academy and was successful as principal. The academy is a branch of JCHS for freshmen.

"There was a lot of concern that this would be a difficult transition for students, and under her direction, that hasn't been the case," Anderson said about the academy. "She's done a wonderful job of making that Freshman Success Academy a very positive experience for our freshmen."

Sharp has served as principal of the Freshman Success Academy since 2002. From 1992 to 2002, she was an assistant principal at the academy, the health and physical education teacher and coached girls' basketball, track and volleyball.

Prior to coming to Junction City, she taught and coached in Westville, Okla.

She has a bachelor's degree in education from Northeastern State University in Oklahoma; a master's degree from Kansas State University in educational administration and leadership; a school district license from Kansas in 2008; and a doctoral degree in preliminary exams, completion of coursework in 2011.

Dodds also served in various administrative roles in Colorado and Wyoming.

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