

COMMUNITY CORNER

Army has no-tolerance policy for sexual assault, harassment

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

April is Sexual Assault Prevention Month; so I'd like to take this week to remind you all that there is no place for sexual assault or harassment in the Army — and in our places of work.

At the beginning of the year, I shared with you that Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta announced two new sexual assault policies and four initiatives designed to aid victims and strengthen prosecution of military sexual assault cases. Panetta has made decreasing sexual assault cases a priority in his administration, and so have we at Fort Riley.

While each and every Soldier, civilian and Family member in our Army shows strength in their own ways, our Army is strongest when we all work together. I consider it the duty of every person on and off of Fort Riley to help prevent sexual assault. The Army's sexual assault prevention campaign — I AM Strong — encourages everyone to intervene, act and motivate others to put a

stop to sexual assault.

Find out what you can do to help prevent sexual assault. Some suggestions from the SHARP program are:

- **Be assertive.** State what you want. If you do not want to be intimate with another person, tell him or her clearly. Use a confident voice and body posture. Match your body language to your words — don't laugh and smile while saying "No."

- **Be Prepared.** Travel with a buddy. Stay in groups, as there is safety in numbers. Plan your outings and avoid getting into a bad situation. Stay sober. Studies indicate about half of all U.S. sexual assaults involve the use of alcohol by the offender, the victim, or both. Never leave a drink unattended. Educate yourself about date rape drugs.

- **Be Alert.** Trust your instincts; if a place or person feels unsafe, it probably is.



Col. Clark

Watch for signs of trouble such as strangers in private areas or persons loitering in places where they shouldn't be. If you sense trouble, get to a safe place as soon as possible. If you feel you are in danger, attract help any way you can.

To report a sexual assault, you can reach a sexual assault response coordinator at 785-239-2991, 785-239-6086 or call the 24-hour victim advocate line at 785-307-1373.

As Soldiers in the U.S. Army, it is our duty to stand beside each other and never leave a fallen comrade. It is our duty to intervene when we see a threat to a member of the Army Family. It is our responsibility to act to prevent sexual assault, and it is our job to motivate those around us to uphold the Army values. To find out more about how you can help prevent sexual assault, visit www.preventsexualassault.army.mil.

If you would like to comment on this article, or suggest a topic to be covered in the Community Corner, e-mail file.post.news@comus.army.mil.

Instructor's worldwide expertise brings global health class to K-State

K-STATE MEDIA RELATIONS

MANHATTAN — Deborah Briggs travels all over the world. But for a few weeks this summer, her location will be certain: on campus at Kansas State University in Manhattan, teaching a course for May intersession.

Last fall, Briggs branched out. The adjunct professor of diagnostic medicine pathobiology in the university's College of Veterinary Medicine diverted from her face-to-face, regularly offered intersession class, Emerging Diseases, and developed an eight-week online class, Global Health Issues, offered via distance education.

Now, along with teaching Global Health Issues in the eight-week online format in August, Briggs will offer Global Health Issues in May as an on-campus intersession class.

Briggs said offering the class on campus and online was important for students who may not be able to attend classes in Manhattan.

"I wanted to set up the class so students would be able to choose whether to take it on campus or online," Briggs said. "By providing it online, students who can't come to campus can still take Global Health

Issues. Last semester I had students from Uzbekistan, the Caribbean and the U.S. take the course."

Teaching online was new territory for Briggs, she said.

"I love the one-on-one interaction with students because you never know where the discussion is going," Briggs said. "But I saw that more and more students are off campus, and they want to have access to bigger and more extensive online classes, so I thought I would give it a try."

Because the eight-week session is online, it allows for the fairly seamless introduction of material that may be affected by the fluid nature of global public health, such as outbreaks of contagious diseases. This may be achieved by the impromptu addition of informational links and interactive real-time maps for real-time situational awareness. All of this information also will be available to students in the on-campus intersession course in May.

Briggs, who lives in France most of the year, brings her international experiences to the classroom to provide a firsthand look at global health issues.

The course presents slide

shows featuring photos from her travels as well as several video interviews from international experts. According to an article Briggs recently published in "Educause Quarterly," these elements were included in the class curriculum to provide strengthened interactivity and to emphasize the worldwide nature of global public health.

"Global health is a major issue we all face and there are aspects of it we really don't think about. People in different countries approach these issues differently," she said.

Although Briggs wants to spend more time teaching on the Manhattan campus, she said she sees a need for more online courses and programs for global health professionals. "We're all so busy, so to actually come and spend eight weeks in a particular city is pretty difficult," she said. "Online and e-communications are incredible tools and we really need to take more advantage of them."

The university's May intersession runs from May 14-June 1, and August intersession from July 30 to Aug. 17. More information on intersession courses is available at www.dce.k-state.edu/courses/intersession/students/.

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Child Abuse ... It's No Secret

EVERYONE CAN HELP

Child abuse is no secret. We've all heard about it.
We need to motivate everyone to take positive action to reduce child abuse and neglect.

The safety and health of the Army's children rest in all of our hands.

Recognize the signs ... report abuse and neglect.

U.S. ARMY MWR

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