

## COMMUNITY CORNER

## Garrison commander encourages Families to attend National Night Out

By Col. William Clark  
GARRISON COMMANDER

An evening of safety-related information, displays, fun activities and a free dinner – that is what Fort Riley has in store for the community Aug. 7 at the Forsyth Neighborhood Center as it celebrates National Night Out and a USO Fort Riley No Dough Dinner.

The National Night Out festivities begin at 4 p.m. and run until 9 p.m. From 5 to 7 p.m., Soldiers and Family

members can enjoy a free cookout style dinner.

National Night Out has been celebrated across the country since 1984 to increase awareness on topics like police and firefighter programs, drug prevention, neighborhood watch programs and crime prevention.

At Fort Riley, the goals



Col. Clark

for the event are in line with the national goals. We aim to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in local anti-crime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

More than 37 million people attended NNO in 2012 in about 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and

military installations all over the world – and this year, Fort Riley hopes to have about 500 to 800 attendees to add to the national figure.

The following activities are some of what will be available for adults and children:

- D.A.R.E. static display
- Bicycle registration
- McGruff child identification system
- Special reaction team static display
- Fire safety trailer
- McGruff, DAREN, the D.A.R.E. Lion and Sparky the

Fire Dog

- Military working dog demonstrations
- WATCH booth
- Children's inflatables
- Seat belt convincer
- Motorcycle simulator
- Safety-related items to give away

The USO Fort Riley; Directorate of Emergency Services; Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Pecan Military Housing; Army Substance Abuse Program and Unified School District 475 Geary County

Schools are working hand-in-hand to bring the free event to the Soldiers and Families of the installation. It is a real collaborative effort across our installation, and I encourage you to support this great event with your attendance.

To learn more about NNO, visit [www.nationalnightout.org/nno](http://www.nationalnightout.org/nno).

If you would like to comment on this article, or suggest a topic for a future Community Corner, email [usarmy.riley.incom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.riley.incom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil).



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First Lt. Benjamin Garrett, second from left, gives Brig. Gen. Donald MacWillie, senior commander, Fort Riley, right, a Team Red, White and Blue T-shirt July 24 during the Volunteer of the Quarter ceremony at Riley's Conference Center. Garrett was awarded the MOVSM award for volunteering his time at Team Red, White and Blue.

## Ceremony recognizes more than 21,000 hours clocked by volunteers

By Calun Reece  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Over 21,000 hours worth of volunteerism was recognized July 24 during the Volunteer of the Quarter ceremony at Riley's Conference Center.

The event is an opportunity to recognize all volunteers, including adults, youth, Soldiers, civilians and retirees.

The awards ceremony is conducted every quarter. This quarter, about 85 volunteers were recognized at the event.

One volunteer Soldier used his own leave time to participate in volunteer work.

First Lt. Benjamin Garrett, 97th Military Police Battalion, was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for volunteering at an organization called Team Red, White and Blue.

Team Red, White and Blue

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping wounded veterans and victims of post-traumatic stress disorder reintegrate into society after they are discharged from the military. It's based in West Point, N.Y.

During leave, Garrett drove out of state to participate in nine fundraising events for the organization, which included six runs and three triathlons.

"We compete in endurance events or sports ... to raise awareness for their cause – you wear their gear when you compete," Garrett said.

He also is close to clocking more than 150 hours worth of volunteerism with the organization.

Another volunteer who was recognized, Thomas Richter, 13, Junction City Middle School, said he was feeling great after receiving a Medical Department Activity volunteer award.

"Well, it feels good to get an award, but I was kind of nervous," he said.

Richter volunteers four to eight hours a week at the American Red Cross on post.

"I just filed papers, shredded a few – I answered the phone a bunch," he said.

Volunteering can be important at Fort Riley and in the local community.

"The types of volunteering is across the board – the installation, communities, scout leaders, Big Brothers, Big Sisters ... Anything that you're not getting paid to do and you're doing out of the kindness of your heart, not tasked or assigned to do, is considered volunteering," said Becky Willis, readiness branch manager, Army Community Service.

For more information about the program or to volunteer, call Willis at 785-239-4593/9435.



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Staff workers take care of young children July 26 at the Whiteside CDC. The CDC officially received national accreditation July 11 from NAEYC.

## Whiteside CDC earns accreditation

By Calun Reece  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Whiteside Child Development Center earned official accreditation July 11 from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Becoming accredited takes time – the preparation process alone is 16 months, said Rosalind Wesley, administrator, Child, Youth and School Services.

"You submit your application, you enroll in NAEYC and then from there you go through the process of preparing," she said. "They have a list of things you have to complete like classroom portfolios, program portfolios, so you get together your team ... And then when you finish collecting everything you submit it to NAEYC."

About 45 staff members currently work at Whiteside CDC, and each played an important role in helping with the accreditation process, Wesley said.

The NAEYC Accreditation stands for a high-quality early childhood education, she said. Parents often look for this seal of approval, when they come to enroll their children here, said Stephanie Santana, director, Whiteside CDC. "I'm very excited and happy just to show all the other parents that we do provide quality care for all the children here," she said. "They have a list of things you have to complete like classroom portfolios, program portfolios, so you get together your team ... And then when you finish collecting everything you submit it to NAEYC."

DeLee-Dickson and her class just returned from a field trip to a dairy farm at Kansas State University.

"I'm just so excited – very ecstatic that we are accredited, said DeLee-Dickson.

"Once you just start working with these children you just see how much they have learned and absorbed throughout the year and then they can start teaching their other friends, and that's what we want them to do. We want to set them up for success and to be self-sufficient ... and to help their friends when they need help."

Five-year-old Katherine Moen, Strong Beginnings Pre-K student, enjoyed many of the activities including making puppets and collages during class time the day of the CDC received accreditation.

"I like to play on the computer when it's lab time – math and science, house," Moen said.

## Parents can save on school lunches, snacks at their local commissary

DECA

FORT LEE, Va. – Before children return to the classroom, military parents can check the local commissary for sales events offering contests, coupon booklets, giveaways, shopping sprees and overall discounts on all their back-to-school meals, said the director of sales for the Defense Commissary Agency.

"Your commissary is the place to be for all your back-to-school essentials," said Chris Burns, the DeCA sales director. "There are specials on everything you need for hearty Family breakfasts, healthy pack-a-lunch and snacks for school, and easy-to-fix, good-for-you snacks for after school

with friends."

Now to September, DeCA's industry partners – vendors, suppliers and brokers – are collaborating with commissaries to offer discounts beyond everyday savings. Overseas stores may have substitute events for certain promotional programs. Customers are asked to check their commissary for details on dates and times for the following sales promotions:

### HOT-SUMMER GRILLIN', SCHOOL-TIME THRILLIN'

Through Sept. 12, Kraft Foods, General Mills, Ocean Spray, Heinz, Pfizer, Beiersdorf, Schwarzkopf & Henkel, Reynolds, Sun-Maid, Fresh Express, Tyson Foods and Ralston

Cereals are partnering to offer a 32-page coupon booklet valued at \$42 to include savings on fresh meat, produce, bakery, Family meal favorites and back-to-school products. The booklet also includes recipes, a shopping checklist and tips from Kay's Kitchen.

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