

COMMUNITY CORNER

Activities abound for military Families during appreciation month

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

It is often said in the Army, "You enlist a Soldier, but you re-enlist a Family." Our military Families are the cornerstone of military life. They are the constant in a time of war and deployments. The strength of our Soldiers often comes from the strength of their Families.

November is Military Family Appreciation Month. While we always keep our military Families at the forefront of our minds, in November, we will take a little more time to honor their strength and commitment to their Soldiers.

Bowling and golf specials, movie and comedy nights, and

fitness events are among the activities at Fort Riley that will serve as a thank-you to our dedicated Family members. Below is a list of some of the great events our post has planned for its military Families.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Extreme Bowling Special – 6 p.m. to midnight Nov. 2 at Custer Hill Bowling Center
- Fall Lock-In – Nov. 2 at the Middle School Teen Center; members only
- Veterans Day Event – 4 to 6 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Middle



Col. Clark

School Teen Center

- Thanksgiving Dinner – 5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Middle School Teen Center
- Library Story Time – 1:30 to 2 p.m. Nov. 3, 10 and 24 at the Fort Riley Post Library
- Custer Hill Last Stand – 9 a.m. Nov. 3 at Custer Hill Golf Course
- Winter Sale – Nov. 3 to Dec. 24 at Custer Hill Golf Course
- Veterans Appreciation Week – Nov. 9 to 11 at Custer Hill Golf Course
- Turkey Scramble – 9 a.m. Nov. 17 at Custer Hill Golf Course
- Comedy Night – 8 p.m. Nov. 3 at Rally Point Bingo
- Family Night – 4:30

- p.m., Movies at 5 p.m. every Wednesday at Habañeros
- Butterball Blast – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Skeet and Trap Range
- Loopy Dragon Night – 7 to 10 p.m. Nov. 10 at Eyster Pool
- Library Movie Night – 6:30 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Fort Riley Post Library
- Turkey Bowling – Nov. 12 to 16 at Custer Hill Bowling Center
- Education Fair – 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 13 at Riley's Conference Center
- Family Fitness Night – 6 to 7 p.m. Nov. 16 at \$800 Thomas Ave.
- Turkey Two-Miler Fun Run – 10 a.m. Nov. 17 at Riley's Conference Center

- Winefest – 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 17 at Riley's Conference Center
 - Let's Talk Turkey – 1 to 3 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Fort Riley Post Library
 - Family Bingo – 1 p.m. Nov. 18 at Rally Point Bingo
 - Fort Riley Network – 10:30 a.m. Nov. 29 at Riley's Conference Center
- For more on any of these events, visit www.rileyarmy.com.
- The opportunities highlighted for Military Family Appreciation Month are just a small part of what we at Fort Riley provide for our Families every day.
- Keep your eyes on the Post newspaper for more information about these events and

others you can participate in to stay involved.

Another great source of information is our Fort Riley page on Facebook – www.facebook.com/FortRiley – and our Fort Riley Twitter page – www.twitter.com. You also may visit the Fort Riley website at www.rileyarmy.mil.

Whether our Soldiers are at home or deployed, it's important for our Families to stay connected, learn from others and support each other.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for Community Corner, email usarmy.rileyincom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil

Soldiers, school officials meet to coordinate for Adopt-A-School

By Calun Reece
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Soldiers and education professionals from schools surrounding Fort Riley got together to make plans during an Adopt-A-School meet-and-greet Oct. 23 at the Child, Youth and School Services building.

The meeting provided an opportunity, time and space for school personnel and unit representatives to link up and coordinate events for the upcoming school year, said Eric Childs, school liaison officer, CYSS.

"This is the first year I've actually been here to represent my school ... So I'm pretty excited," said Cheryl Martin, school social worker and homeless liaison for the district, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, Manhattan.

"I know the kids love it when the Soldiers come regardless of what they're doing."

About 75 schools from nine counties participate in the Adopt-A-School program this year.

"Many of the schools do not have an extensive military background – many do, but many do not. So I think this helps foster that understand-



Calun Reece | POST

Kim Moir, social worker, Bluemont Elementary School, Manhattan, left, and Cheryl Martin, social worker, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, Manhattan, center, make plans for the school year with Staff Sgt. William Ashmore, 2nd Bn, 32nd FA Regt., 4th IBCT, right, Oct. 23, during an Adopt-A-School meet-and-greet event at the Child, Youth and School Services building. The event provided an opportunity for Soldiers and school officials to coordinate events at participating schools.

ing," Childs said. Students can benefit from the involvement of Soldiers through activities like Soldiers reading in the classrooms, performing lessons and helping out with recreational activities like field day or track meets, Childs said.

"I'm excited to be involved with this," said Staff Sgt. William Ashmore, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. "I didn't get a chance to do it last year, so I want to get my guys in the unit more involved with the schools as much as we can."

The program also gives stu-

dents opportunity to perform a public service by providing support for Soldiers.

Students have reached out to Soldiers by mailing deployment support packages and participating in events like re-deployment ceremonies, Childs said.

"(We) encourage partners on both sides to take full advantage and to do as much together as they can. Again, I think it's real positive for everybody involved," Childs said. "Everything we do on the school side is for the children, and they really are the ones that stand to benefit the most from our partnerships."

Red Cross seeks blood donors for Nov. 13 to 14 drive on post

By Julie Fiedler
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion. In order to increase stores of available blood, the American Red Cross will host a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 13 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Warrior Clam Shell, Building 675.

Levels of blood are at an "all-time low," said Susan Westbrook, Red Cross station manager, Fort Riley. The need for donors is great and the goal of the drive is to get 70 donors, she said.

The Red Cross is the sole provider of blood to Irwin Army Community Hospital. Donated blood goes to those hospitals most in need, so not

all the blood donated during the drive will go to IACH, but some may.

"There is a chance that if you give on Fort Riley, it stays on Fort Riley," Westbrook said.

Appointments are encouraged, but not required. Donors with appointments will be seen before walk-ins.

Military installations are typically hindered during blood drives due to restrictions caused by deployments and overseas travel. Although Soldiers' eligibility might be affected, Family members can often donate.

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be healthy. To check your eligibility, call 1-800-448-3543 (800-GIVE-LIFE).

One pint of blood is taken from each donor during a blood drive. While dehydration is less of an issue for donors in cold weather, the Red

Cross advises donors to drink extra water before and after donating.

Another helpful tip for those who have trouble with their hemoglobin is to eat Oreos. "(Phlebotomists) say to eat Oreos (before you donate). There's something in Oreos that will ensure that you almost always pass the (finger prick) test," Westbrook said.

In addition to blood donors, the Red Cross needs volunteers during its blood drives. Family readiness groups can get involved by "baking goods, recruiting donors, getting the flyers out, (being) escorts at the drive, (and providing) somebody to man the tables," Westbrook said.

Interested FRGs can contact Westbrook at 785-239-1887.

For more information, call 1-800-733-2767 (800-RED-CROSS) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

HOUSE FILL AD

Stay in touch from anywhere

Sign up for Stay In Touch with Fort Riley to get information about upcoming events or services on post and in surrounding communities. To register, visit www.rileyarmy.mil and complete the form linked on the homepage.