

**Commanding**

**General:** Maj. Gen.  
Robert Durbin

**Division Command**

**Sergeant Maj.:**  
Command Sgt. Maj.  
Jim Champagne

**Garrison**

**Commander:** Col.  
Richard Piscal

**Garrison  
Command**

**Sergeant Major:**  
Command Sgt. Maj.  
Michael Mathews



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**Newspaper / Ch. 2:**  
239-8854 / 239-8850

June 2008 Volume 2, Issue 6

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# Big Red One & Fort Riley Community Update

## 1st Infantry Division's 'Victory Week' slated for July 14-18

Former 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Commanders and Big Red One alumni will converge on Fort Riley the second week of July to celebrate the division's lineage and history. A full slate of activities is planned July 14-18 for "Victory Week" – which division leaders say will become an annual event.

"Victory Week celebrates the heritage of our great division and the Soldiers who have worn the Big Red One patch," said Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, commanding general of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div. and Fort Riley.

"It is these veterans who have paved the way and built the legacy which we strive to carry on today."

Some of those Big Red One vets will be honored with their induction as members the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div. Distinguished Members of the Regiment. Current Distinguished Members of the Regiment will also be recognized during Victory Week.

Victory Week's key event will take place July 17 with the dedication of Victory Park – built to honor the division's fallen Soldiers, Big Red One alumni and partners from the Greater Fort Riley Community who have significantly impacted Fort Riley and the

1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div.

More than 400 fallen Soldiers and former division commanders and command sergeants major are memorialized on stones in Victory Park. New stones – including one for the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div.'s most recent Medal of Honor recipient, Spc. Ross McGinnis – will be unveiled during the ceremony.

All of the division's units will be represented on Cavalry Parade Field prior to the park dedication – including the 75th Fires Bde. from Fort Sill, Okla., 3<sup>rd</sup> Sustainment Cmd. (Expeditionary), which is deployed to Iraq and based at Fort Knox, Ky., and 3<sup>rd</sup> IBCT, which is deploying to Afghanistan and based at Fort Hood, Texas.

Former 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div. commanders will be on hand during the week for the division's annual Danger 6 Conference. The former commanders – many of whom went on to higher command posts after leaving the division – will be updated on the current Big Red One mission by brigade commanders and Soldiers. Other events planned include a 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div. Victory Run and Victory Cup sports tournament.

For more information on Victory Week, visit [www.1id.army.mil](http://www.1id.army.mil).

### Fort Riley welcomes several new commanders

Summer is a predominant moving time for Soldiers and their Families. You will see the post population fluctuate slightly as people transition in and out of the post. This also is a time for many leadership changes on post. The following are now in command:

- Lt. Col. Matthew Vanwagenen, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, 1st Bde.
- Lt. Col. Paul Kreis, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., 4th IBCT
- Lt. Col. John Nelson, 1st Squadron, 4th Cav., 4th IBCT
- Lt. Col. Richard Menhart, 610th Bde. Support Bn., 4th IBCT

Changes of command are slated throughout the summer. Visit [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil) and click on "Ceremonies" for the latest information.

#### Subscribe today!

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### June Fort Riley Status Report

<i>*All numbers are approximates</i>	<b>April '08</b> <i>(as of April 20)</i>	<b>May '08</b> <i>(as of May 20)</i>	<b>June '08</b> <i>(as of June 26)</i>
Military assigned to Fort Riley (not including TT servicemembers)	15,560	15,500	15,660
TT servicemembers assigned	370	30	130
Reserve component Soldiers on duty at Fort Riley	150	200	170
Deployed Soldiers (OCONUS)	*3,720 <i>(*as of April 28)</i>	3,550	3,220
Deployed TT servicemembers	5,130	4,400	4,430

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## WARRIORS IN TRANSITION

## A Soldier's story: 1st Sgt. Roy Hahn takes road to recovery

Meet Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Roy Hahn and his Family ... and his extended Family. Hahn is part of a growing population of Soldiers being recognized by the Army community for contributions by him and his Family.

Hahn was on his fourth deployment to Iraq when he sustained serious injuries.

In 2004, during his third tour, his wife Miriam, fearing and planning for the unknown, employed her Family's strength to help during her husband's absence.

As the stars began to line up, Miriam's parents decided to sell their property and move to Kansas to be near the Hahns. Erin and Sylvia Greenawalt were originally from South-central Pennsylvania and ready to retire.

"We have three daughters, and sometimes during Roy's deployments, I needed private time to cry and melt down. I did not always want the girls to see me at my weakest, so having my parents near has helped all of us," Miriam said.

As it worked out, Hahn finished the third tour and started another one. "It was during that tour, I learned my husband sustained four concussions and I began to notice his slurred and irregular speech."

Miriam begged Hahn to seek medical treatment, which he resisted, citing he had to take care of his Soldiers and lead missions.

So, how did Hahn wind up as a medical evacuee to Germany and Brooke Army Medical Center?

"I guess I fell down in front of the wrong people one too many times," Hahn said. Since his arrival back at Fort Riley and reassignment to the Warrior Transition Battalion, Hahn and his Family now



focus on his recovery.

Because of Hahn's balance and equilibrium difficulties, and frequent immobilizing migraines, Miriam quit her job to drive him to appointments. Hahn attends physical therapy three times each week and speech therapy twice a week. When Miriam and Hahn are gone, the Greenawalts keep the home running and provide stability for the girls.

Hahn has noted the greatest improvements in his speech rehabilitation at Geary County Hospital.

"When I first got back to Fort Riley, I was a senior non-commissioned officer who was too embarrassed to speak," Hahn said. "I slurred everything I tried to say, or I could not say the words that were in my head."

Hahn – soft spoken, but serious – now speaks with confidence and determination. He's determined that his 14-year Army career will not end because of temporary setbacks caused by his injuries.

"We have too much time invested, but we also love the Army and it is our way of life," Miriam said.

In the WTB, Hahn now hosts weekly luncheons with his 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion team members who are also in the WTB. "Even though we now have the Army Medical Action Plan and the one-stop service center of the WTB and the Soldier and Family Assistance Center to help us, moving through medical boards, treatment plans and transitions is nothing less than daunting and intimidating," he said.

Hahn holds the informal luncheons to help keep younger Soldiers focused and motivated throughout their medical proceedings.

"It is easy to lose sight of the importance of a worthy and meaningful daily routine when you are sick or ill. That is where self-doubt and pity set in and I hope to encourage younger Soldiers to stay focused on their new job — getting well again."

## DEPLOYED/DEPLOYING/REDEPLOYING UNITS

## We remember

Fort Riley mourned the loss of two servicemembers this past month.



As of June 27, 151 Fort Riley Soldiers, TT servicemembers and Reserve component Soldiers who mobilized through Fort Riley have been killed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

## Welcome home 70th Engineer Battalion!

Currently deployed, as of June 26:

- 266th Movement Control Team (scheduled to return July)
- 24th Transportation Company (scheduled to return July)
- 2-2 Heavy Equipment Transportation Detachment (scheduled to return July)
- 116th Military Police Company (scheduled to return July)
- Detachment F, 15th Finance Battalion (scheduled to return October)
- 1st Sustainment Brigade (scheduled to return December)
- 1st Combat Aviation Brigade (scheduled to return December)
- 300th Military Police Company (scheduled to return September 2009)
- Transition Team servicemembers
- 97th Military Police Battalion working dog teams
- Individual elements, MEDDAC
- Individual elements, 10th Air Support Operations Squadron
- 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based out of Fort Hood, Texas
- Elements of 75th Fires Brigade, based out of Fort Sill, Okla.

Information on upcoming ceremonies, as well as any time changes to those ceremonies, is available at [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil). Click on "Ceremonies" in the top left column.

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## DIVISION COMPOSITION

**1st Infantry Division Headquarters** will host the first annual "Victory Week" celebration July 14-18.

Highlights of the week include a division run and review, dedication of Victory Park and Danger 6 conference.

**1st Brigade** still has the lead for the transition team training mission. Combat engineers on Fort Riley got two chances recently to practice their explosive profession. Soldiers from the



11th Engineer Company, 1st Engineer Battalion practiced C-4 demolition by blowing up a bridge May 28 and a rappel tower June 10, completing necessary training the company hasn't conducted in two years.

**2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team** recently returned from a 30-day rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. The NTC offers units some of the most realistic training in today's Army. The "Dagger" Brigade will deploy to Iraq later this fall.

**3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (DEPLOYED)** cased its colors during a June 17 ceremony before the brigade deployed for a 15-month tour in Afghanistan. Families will continue to be supported by the 1st Inf. Div. and the garrison staff at Fort Hood, Texas.

**4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team** Soldiers in the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, pushed their abilities a little beyond what their normal morning PT time usually includes. The event started at the brigade's confidence course, where Soldiers took on the rope wall, each scaling it six times. The unit then ran two miles to an obstacle course, carrying "log men," that weighed a little more than 150 pounds. Soldiers completed a five-station obstacle course and then made the two-mile run back to the squadron's headquarters



**1st Combat Aviation Brigade (DEPLOYED)** Two UH-60 Black Hawk aircrews assigned to the 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, received medals for heroism resulting from their actions during combat operations while flying east of Balad, Iraq, Jan. 16, 2008. Lt.

Col. James H. Bradley Jr., the 3rd Bn., 1st Avn. Regt. commander, received the Silver Star, UH-60 Aircraft Commander Chief Warrant Officer Lyndle Ratliff received the Distinguished Flying Cross, and Chief Warrant Officer James Howe, Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Henry, Sgt. Paul Perdock, Sgt. Fredrick Benuzzi, Spc. Kenneth Steinmetz, and Spc. Jacob Norostky each received the Air Medal with "V" Device.

**1st Sustainment Brigade (DEPLOYED)** From thousands of miles away, Soldiers are able to keep in touch with their loved ones through a program called "Operation Storytime." Capt. Charles Leggett, a Richmond, Va., native, and chaplain for the 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad, first began the project during his last deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004.



**MEDDAC** The Soldiers and staff of Irwin Army Community Hospital are preparing for the change of command between Col. Dawn Smith and Col. Jeffrey Johnson. The ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m. July 11 at Cavalry Parade Field.

**75th Fires Brigade** Several years ago, a 19-year-old man was on vacation to the United States and a chance encounter with a U.S. Army recruiter changed his life forever. "I was born on St. Thomas in the capital Charlotte Amalie, the economic hub of the Virgin Islands. My parents and their parents are from the British Commonwealth, twin island nation of Antigua and Barbuda," said 1st Lt. Jermaine Athill, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, battalion personnel actions officer. "I joined the Army in November of 1993 just by chance encounter with an Army recruiter in New York City." The brigade is located at Fort Sill, Okla. 1st Infantry Division has training oversight of this brigade. Elements of the brigade are currently deployed.

**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command (DEPLOYED)** based at Fort Knox, Ky, is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 1st Infantry Division has training oversight of this command.

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## COMMUNITY RELATIONS NEWS

## Mounted Color Guard donates horse to saddle club

Jane Cannefax had a smile that stretched ear to ear as she took Little Joe's lead line from 1st Sgt. Wade Greif of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

"He's beautiful," Cannefax said as she ran her hand along the horse's neck.

Greif and Ron Roller, the civilian trainer for the CGMCG, visited Judge Riddel's Boys Ranch June 11 to donate the horse to the home's saddle club.

The ranch, located in Goddard, Kan., is operated by the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections for male youths ages 15 to 19. The ranch's saddle club is one of the most popular activities, said Glenda Martens, corrections coordinator.

Youth who participate receive basic riding lessons and participate in trail rides. They also are responsible for caring for the horses. Once a year, the club has a Cowboy Campout, when they ride about 10 to 15 miles away for several days of camping.

Cannefax, an independent living trainer at the ranch, said the edition of Little Joe gave the ranch a total of 12 horses.

"This place has certainly been a buzz of excitement about him coming," Cannefax said.



Greif said the ranch contacted the CGMCG several months ago to ask if there were any horses that would be possible candidates for a donation.

"Anyone who calls about that we put on the list," Greif said. "We can't make any money off of a horse, so when we can't use them anymore, we have to either trade them for another horse or donate them."

Little Joe was 10 years old and Greif said the horse was just at the point "where he didn't want to run anymore."

"We weren't able to use him around cannon fire anymore, and he was just tired of running," Greif said. "We can't use him and they can. For what they need, he will be a great fit."

Little Joe has been with the CGMCG for about five years, Greif said.

## CG's Mounted Color Guard, 1st Inf. Div. Band 's July events

Fort Riley's Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard will perform at various events throughout the summer.

All events listed are open to the public.

- **July 1** — 7:30 p.m., National Junior Cattle Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- **July 5** — 4 p.m., Jazz Festival, Manhattan City Park
- **July 10** — Morning, Linn parade, Linn, Kan.
- **July 24** — Kaw Valley Rodeo, 8 p.m., Manhattan's Cico Park

The 1st Infantry Division Band will perform various events throughout the summer season.

- **July 2** — 6:30 p.m., Sundown Salute, Heritage Park, JC (VICTORY 8 rock band)
- **July 3** — 11:30 a.m., Topeka's Brown Bag Concert (VICTORY 8)
- **July 5** — 4 p.m., Jazz Festival, Manhattan City Park (Jazz Combo)
- **July 10** — 8 p.m., Arts in the Park, Manhattan City Park (VICTORY 8)

Please note, these events may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

## CEREMONIES & EVENTS

You are invited to attend the following ceremonies and events on Fort Riley.

For more information, call the Community Relations Office at (785) 239-2022.

- **July 2** — 9 a.m., 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Change of Cmd., Cavalry Parade Field
- **July 3-4** — 4th of July Training Holiday
- **July 8** — 9 a.m., Special Troops Bn., 4th IBCT Change of Cmd., Cavalry Parade Field
- **July 9** — 9 a.m., 1st Brigade Change of Cmd., Cavalry Parade Field
- **July 11** — 9 a.m., MEDDAC Change of Cmd., Cavalry Parade Field
- **July 15** — 6:30 a.m., Victory Run, Custer Hill
- **July 17** — 8:30 a.m., Division Review, Cavalry Parade Field
- **July 17** — 11 a.m., Victory Park Dedication Ceremony, Bldg. 580
- **July 22** — 7 p.m., Quarterly Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, Riley's Conference Center
- **July 30** — 9 a.m., Monthly Retirement Ceremony, Bldg. 580 Field

To request the 1st ID Band or CG's Mounted Color Guard, visit [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil) and click on "Community Relations" in the left column.



## GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCES HOUSING ••• HEALTH CARE ••• RECREATION ••• EDUCATION ••• EMPLOYMENT

### Greater Fort Riley Community leaders discuss employment at monthly partnership conference

Discussion at a Community Partnership Conference on June 25 at Fort Riley led post officials to begin steps to combine the Employment Readiness Program and the Army Career and Alumni Program.

Discussion between Fort Riley leaders and state and local employment experts noted that often, spouses in particular are inundated with possible organizations and Web sites to help in finding employment. Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, commanding general of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and Fort Riley, said the change would streamline the entry points for both Spouses and Soldiers transitioning out of the Army in finding employment.

“They both have the same intent and that is to help prepare folks to be hired – to be employed. And so, we will combine those two programs, those two efforts, and we’ll be able to service everyone – whether you’re a Soldier who’s serving and transitioning or whether you’re a Family member,” Durbin said. “It’s the same techniques of helping you write your resume, identify what you are qualified for and then marrying your skills with whatever available jobs are there. And having two separate programs just doesn’t make sense to me – we need to bring them all together.”

Durbin said his staff and Col. Richard Piscal, garrison commander, were still examining the specifics of how to combine the programs.

“Most likely it will be taking the ERP and moving it down with ACAP,” Durbin said. “The ACAP program is older and more mature and more established. But I may decide to we’re going to a brand new building . . .”

Those attending the conference also discussed the “one-stop shop” concept in the need to better link Web sites with employment information – including jobs available on post, the state employment Web site and other local sites.

“We need to eliminate confusion for spouses and Soldiers seeking employment,” Durbin said.

A group of those who attended the June 25 conference will have a follow-up meeting to discuss collaborating with communities more on employment issues; developing a system to track the skills of military spouses in the area and knowing how many of them desire work and are currently working; and developing an employment strategy that facilitates Fort Riley as an assignment of choice.

The conference is the fifth in a series of monthly meetings to discuss issues such as housing, health care and education and how they impact the local communities as the number of Soldiers and Families at Fort Riley continues to grow.

#### CPC progress details: Education

Local education leaders and Fort Riley officials are continuing to work to better education opportunities for Soldiers and Families at Fort Riley.

One effort was the need to develop better delivery of college-level classes to Soldiers who are deployed or on temporary duty.

Hoeffner said possible solutions include using Soldiers as teachers during the duty day; surging on individual training and education during the reset phase; and researching other installations which have implemented alternative class schedules.

Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education needs included an effort to make it easier for spouses with a teacher’s certification from another state to obtain the necessary credentials to teach in Kansas.

Teachers who come to Kansas with a certification from another state are allowed to teach for one year. After that year, they must obtain a Kansas certificate. A follow-up group which met after the conference in May brought up several concerns, including the need for spouses to have financial help in obtaining the certification and the lack of programs which certify teachers in the Fort Riley area. Possible solutions included asking state lawmakers and the board of education to chance licensing requirements to reciprocate with other states; school districts assisting teach in financial aid for obtaining certification and utilizing Army Family Covenant Funding to assist with financial aid.

#### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

- LOG ON TO [WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL](http://WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL) AND CLICK ON “KEEPING THE GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY INFORMED”

### CPC success stories

#### Housing

- The city of Manhattan hired an intern to develop the regional house database
- Focused effort on more multi-family housing
- Enhanced web presence to give more visibility to our customers
- Added the GFRC map with links to the community Web sites
- Added new sections: Newspaper links, Arts & Entertainment, Virtual Tours
- Added new links to JC/GE Military Affairs Council, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce Military Relations Committee, Abilene’s Riley Task Force

#### Health Care

- New contract to refer overflow patients to the Urgent Care Clinic in Manhattan as of June 1
- TriWest hired 7 new providers who will start in July-August
- MOAs in place with VA to perform joint separation physicals at IACH and VA will provide a part-time transition advocate and social worker to help Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) Soldiers

#### Recreation and Leisure

- Established regional recreation partnership working group
- Contacted President and GM of Country Stampede to develop Fort Riley concert series
- Contacted Acorn Estates to develop partnership for camping and recreation services

#### Education

##### Post-Secondary

- Consortium will provide Service Member Opportunity College agreements for family members

##### Pre-K thru 12

- Established open communications between USDs and Consortium
- Established a collaborative goal between USDs and Fort Riley on how we can best support each other for the benefit of the military child



### FORT RILEY NEWS

#### MPs receive awards for service in Iraq

Members of the 977<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company received 144 awards for their service during deployment to Iraq at an awards ceremony June 24 at King Field House. The 977<sup>th</sup> Military Police Co. returned from a 15-month tour in Iraq in May. During their deployment, the company conducted more than 3,700 missions in and around the city of Kirkuk. Missions included combat patrols and prisoner escorts. Members of the company also assisted in training members of the Iraqi National Police force.

"We are presenting a small token of the service you gave while in Iraq," said Lt. Col. David Chase, commander, 97<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, during the ceremony. "Your service training Iraqi police is something that is valuable to Iraq and to our Army."

Soldiers in the company received 24 Bronze Star Medals and 120 Army Commendation Medals. Chase noted in his comments that members of the company have also received 10 Purple Heart Medals and 17 Combat Action Badges.

"I just want to tell you that you did the military police corps proud," said Col. John Huey, commander, 89<sup>th</sup> Military Police Brigade. "You represented your MOS's in an outstanding manner. I'm very glad you're back home and I know you are as well ... Job well done."

#### Shop at Custer's Cottage

Custer's Cottage is open for business in Building 259 off of Stuart Avenue near the Main Post Dining Facility, stables and thrift store. Custer's Cottage is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Custer's Cottage also offers a great way to give back to the community. If you are interested in volunteering, call Cathy at 784-5378 or Sandy at 707-4286. Volunteers are always needed.

#### BOSS Battle of the Bands July 11

The 2008 BOSS Battle of the Bands will begin at 7 p.m. July 11 at Rally Point.

Interested Bands must submit their demos by July 3. Demos can be delivered to Bldg. 253, Cameron Ave., Fort Riley, KS 66442 or turned into the units' BOSS representatives.

Selected bands will perform for 20 minutes, with 15 minutes to set-up, the day of the competition. It is recommended for bands to arrive one-hour before their scheduled performance. Judges will consist of BOSS Soldiers and community members and prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

### FOR MORE NEWS & INFORMATION

- LOG ON TO [WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL](http://WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL) AND CLICK ON "KEEPING THE GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY INFORMED"



Post newspaper available online at [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil)



Duty First monthly magazine available online at [www.lid.army.mil](http://www.lid.army.mil)

### TRAINING ITEMS OF INTEREST

#### Hear about what's going on

We know our training can have an effect on you. We will try to keep informed on upcoming training exercises you could see or hear.

To receive e-mail updates, check our Web site, [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil) and click on "Training Advisories." There, you can sign up through InTouch to receive training advisories via e-mail.



### EMPLOYMENT/CONTRACTING

Federal job information at Fort Riley is available on the Internet. For information about the variety of opportunities, visit the employment Web site at [www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/EmploymentOpp.aspx](http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/EmploymentOpp.aspx)

There are two primary Federal employment Programs: **Appropriated Fund** (APF or Civil Service) and **Non-Appropriated Fund** (NAF). **APF and NAF Vacancies** are listed at the Army Civilian Personnel Online at [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil). Or call the local Civilian Personnel Office at (785) 239-6004 for more information.

The Directorate of Contracting provides a list of active

contracts, as well as Fort Riley area construction business opportunities and information on submitting bids. For more information, visit [www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Contracting.aspx](http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Contracting.aspx)

AAFES (Army and Air Force Exchange Service) employment opportunities are available. Visit <http://odin.aafes.com/employment/default.asp> for more information.

Stay InTouch with Fort Riley. E-mails about upcoming job opportunities are available by joining the InTouch list. Visit [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil) and click on the "Keep 'InTouch' with Fort Riley" link.

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## GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY UPDATE



### GFRC leaders visit National Training Center

Fourteen Greater Fort Riley Community leaders and friends visited Fort Irwin May 28 to observe the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team train at the National Training Center.

The visit was designed to provide leaders with an opportunity to experience combat-like conditions and observe the brigade in training.

This visit also validated Fort Riley's commitment and partnership to the Greater Fort Riley Community, said Mark Edwards, CASA West.

"Fort Riley has really stepped up the whole concept of providing outreach to the Greater Fort Riley Community. On this trip, we had the mayors and commissioners from a lot of adjoining communities and counties and I just think it really provided a great platform for people that have enjoyed Fort Riley maybe at a distance to see firsthand what it's all about and the wonderful things that our Soldiers are doing," he said.

NTC is the premier combat training center in the world to prepare units for war. The center is comprised of 13 mock towns, eight forward operating bases and seven cave complexes. More than 1,300 11th Armored Cavalry Regi-

ment Soldiers serve as role players. An additional 300 contract employees play roles as local citizens and insurgents.

As part of the day's activities, the group visited FOBs and towns, visiting with Soldiers and role players. After a Meals Ready to Eat lunch with 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment leadership and greeting some of the unit's Soldiers, the group observed medical training.

The overall visit was an unforgettable experience, said Clay Center Mayor Sharon Brown.

"When I go back (home) and think about what I'm doing in the community, seeing this puts things in perspective. Our Army is better trained than I could ever have imagined and I want to share that message with everyone here at home," she said.

Odgen Mayor Roger Graham said he has a lot of information to share with his town.

"You got to give these Soldiers a lot of credit. This is a volunteer Army; they do it for love of their country," Graham said. "When you see something like this (training) going on, you know they're well trained."

### Soldiers help Chapman

A group of Fort Riley Soldiers spent several days assisting with cleanup efforts in Chapman after about 45 percent of the town suffered damages from a tornado June 11. Twelve Soldiers from the 72nd Mobile Augmentation Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, visited the community June 18 and eight of them returned the following day to continue assisting with cleanup efforts.

"We just want to help people when they need help," said Spc. Ottis Crudup, who led the clean-up volunteer group. "I volunteered because if my Family or someone I loved needed help, I would want someone to help them, too."

### MPs assist Manhattan school

Nearly 20 Soldiers arrived May 28 at Manhattan Catholic School to help move equipment from four classrooms at the Seven Dolors Elementary School across the street to the Luckey Junior High.

"This is a good community project," said Maj. Larry Bergeron, operations officer with the 97th Military Police Battalion. "There are a lot of those Families who don't have a lot of interaction with the military. It creates awareness for the faculty and children about what the military can provide to them, what the military does in the community and for the United States."

#### GREATER FORT RILEY COMMUNITY



"A GREAT PLACE TO TRAIN"  
"A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE"

#### GFRC EVENTS

The following are a few of the many events with Fort Riley involvement in the Greater Fort Riley Community.

- **July 2** — 8 p.m., Cowboy Crush performs at Sundown Salute's Military Appreciation Night, Heritage Park, JC
- **July 4** — 10 a.m., Sundown Salute Parade, 6th Street, JC
- **July 4** — Noon, Wreath Laying Ceremony, Heritage Park, JC
- **July 24** — 7:30 a.m., JC/ Geary County Military Affairs Breakfast, Col. Lee Merritt, commander of the Warrior Transition Bn., will speak. Call 238-1270 for information / reservations.
- **July 24** — 8 p.m., Kaw Valley Rodeo Military Appreciation Night, Cico Park, Manhattan

**Free lawn care available to deployed Soldiers, Families in Abilene, Manhattan**

For more information, go to [www.projectevergreen.com](http://www.projectevergreen.com).