



1st INFANTRY DIVISION & FORT RILEY

Community Update



CR team ready for new year

By Monte Volk
Chief, Community Relations

Wow! Time really flies. I came to Fort Riley after working public affairs for the U.S. Air Force Academy six months ago (seems like only a few days) with a wife, three children, two dogs and 14 years of public affairs experience. During this brief time, the community relations section has undergone some major changes.

I joined the CR team in July as the chief. Things looked bright as we had a full staff – April Blackmon, Andy Masanet, a temporary hire and I – to assist the Greater Flint Hills Region with their community relations needs.

The euphoria was

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Commanding General: Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins

Garrison Commander: Col. Richard Piscal

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

Garrison Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Mann

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1st Sust. Bde. makes it home for holidays

By Anna Staatz
1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs

The moment was everything Linda Spain could have hoped for. Her daughter, Sgt. Summer Spain, returned to Fort Riley Dec. 8, after a 15-month deployment to Iraq with Soldiers of the 1st Sustainment Brigade.

Summer didn't know her mom would be at the return ceremony, expecting only her sister, Sunshine Pille. As Soldiers filed into formation at the start of the ceremony, Pille excitedly pointed to her sister. Summer found Sunshine's face in the crowd quickly, her eyes widening in surprise, and then filling with tears as she spotted her mother.

"I love you," Summer mouthed to her Family.

Twenty-five-year-old Summer joined the Army, not wanting to

follow her sister into the Air Force.

Summer was last together with her Family about 18 months ago, after her niece was born. Linda traveled to Fort Riley from Hansville, Wash., to be present for the redeployment.

"It's been driving me crazy, because she's been sending texts and messages, and I can't answer," Linda said before the ceremony. "I don't want her to know I'm here yet."

Summer was one of about 370 1st Sust. Bde. Soldiers who made it back to Fort Riley in time to spend Christmas with their Families.

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Fort Riley: Home of the **Big Red One**

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short-lived as April left to become the Fort Riley USO director and our temporary hire left as well. I wish them the best in their careers; however, their departure left gaping holes in the CR section.

Andy and I have used all of our combat lifesaver skills to maintain a pulse in the CR section the last several months. The good news is CR survived.

Andy permanently joined the CR team as a government civilian employee in November and Tina Schreiner returned in December from a yearlong deployment in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Andy, Tina and I are now resuscitating programs that have been in intensive care for the last few months and we will work to be the best teammates we can be for the Central Flint Hills Region.

I will not say I am feeling euphoric, but I am extremely happy – pun intended.

Please let Andy (239-2022), Tina (239-3358) or myself (240-0588) know if you have any questions or concerns. Happy New Year!



Wreaths laid to honor Veterans

By Lyndsey Born
Fort Riley Post staff writer

More than 900 wreaths were placed on headstones Dec. 13 at Fort Riley's Post Cemetery as part of Wreaths Across America. Across the U.S., ceremonies took place to honor veterans who have served in the military.

Guest speaker, Col. John Dvoracek, deputy garrison commander for transformation, spoke about the mission of Wreaths Across America.

"Today we are here to remember the fallen, honor those who have served and teach our children the value of freedom. This is the mission of Wreaths Across America," Dvoracek said. "More than 350 cemeteries throughout America, others are remembering our veterans on this day of remembrance. More than

100,000 will be placed today in honor of those who have sacrificed, and thanks to the efforts of Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary our volunteers will place over 900 wreaths here today."

After Dvoracek gave his speech, seven ceremonial wreaths were laid representing the seven different branches of the military. Sgt. Andrew Spinazzola, 1st Infantry Division, played taps after the laying of the wreaths.

As people laid wreaths on the tombstones of the veterans they were asked to take a moment and write down the veteran's name on a Wreaths Across America sticker so they could continue to remember after they left the cemetery.

— [MORE](#) —



Dates set for 2009 Scout Riley Days

[Fort Riley's Scout Riley Day](#) program has set its 2009 dates. They are Jan. 24, May 9, Sept. 26 and Nov. 14.

The Jan. 24 event has been organized. Events and offerings have been planned, though the event is still subject to change based on Soldier training and support changes. The proposed offerings include: Engagement Skills Training, Flight Simulators, CGMCG Stables, MSTC, Air Force Weather, Museums, Moon Lake (Camping)

Scout Riley Day entry forms and hold-harmless documents submission deadlines is two weeks prior to the date of the event.

Community Relations coordinators will then send notifications through the Fort Riley In Touch system.

Scar reminds Soldier he is alive

By Lyndsey Born
 Fort Riley Post staff writer

As Soldiers come home from being deployed they go through many different briefings and activities, one of which is a physical. Capt. Michael Barnett, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade, found out he had cancer after a lump was found in his neck .

of redeploying I was at a hospital getting my thyroid removed, and a month later I went for chemotherapy, which for thyroid cancer you take a radioactive iodine pills and they isolate you in a room so that you aren't radioactive to anyone else," Barnett said. "So that was surgery in June, radioactive iodine in July and in September, I was at the career course at Fort Knox."

"So within a couple of weeks

[— MORE —](#)

JANUARY 2009 STATUS REPORT			
<i>*All numbers are approximate</i>	Oct. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008
1st Infantry Division military personnel assigned to Fort Riley, KS (not including Military Transition Team personnel)	15,470	15,280	15,150
Active Duty Soldiers Deployed Overseas (Not including deployed Military Transition Teams)	6,500	6,400	4,000
1st Infantry Division military personnel assigned to the Nebraska location	50	50	50
Military Transition Team Members assigned to Fort Riley	950	490	470
Total Military Transition Team Members deployed	5,800	6,290	5,600
Activated Reservists working on Fort Riley	340	300	270

DEPLOYED
DEPLOYING
REDEPLOYING
UNITS

Welcome Home!

— 1st Sustainment Brigade
— 1st Combat Aviation Brigade

Currently deployed, as of Dec. 2008:

— 97th Military Police Battalion's working dog team
— 300th Military Police Company
— 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division
— Military Transition Teams
— Elements of MED-DAC
— Elements of 10th Air Support Operations Squadron

Scheduled to deploy:

— 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

For redeployment ceremony information, [click here](#).

Upcoming January events

JAN. 5

— *St. Mary's ribbon cutting ceremony, 11:30 a.m. at Fort Riley's St. Mary's Chapel*

JAN. 7

— *Manhattan Military Relations Committee lunch, 11:30 a.m., at the Manhattan Country Club*

JAN. 8

— *Family Readiness Group Muster to disseminate information to commands/sections, 6:30 p.m., in Building 580, Room 110*

JAN. 9

— *Child Development Center ribbon cutting ceremony (time TBD, between noon and 3 p.m.) at Camp Forsyth, Fort Riley*

— *Warrior Transition Battalion groundbreaking ceremony (Time TBD, between noon and 3 p.m.) in the clamshell near Irwin Army Community Hospital*

JAN. 10

— *4th Annual Martin*

Luther King Junior 3-on-3 basketball tournament, 10 a.m., in Fort Riley's King Field House

JAN. 16-17

— *Regional Leaders Retreat 2009 starting at noon at the Sheraton Hotel, 6100 College Blvd, Overland Park, Kan.*

JAN. 19

— *Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed*

JAN. 20

— *Kansas City Royals Caravan, 1-2 p.m., Fort Riley's Post Exchange*

— *Presidential Inauguration*

JAN. 22

— *Junction City/Geary County Military Affairs Council breakfast, 7:30 a.m., at the Geary County Convention Center, Junction City*

JAN. 23

— *84th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion change of command, 9 a.m., in Fort Riley's, King Field House*

— *Whitside Child Development Center ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:30 a.m.*

JAN. 24

— *Winter Fun Party, 1-3 p.m., at the Fort Riley Post Library, Building 5306*

— *Scout Riley Day, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*

JAN. 25

— *ABC Broadcasts 1st Infantry Division Extreme Makeover Home Edition, 7 p.m.*

JAN. 28

— *Monthly Retirement Ceremony, 9 a.m., in Fort Riley's King Field House*

JAN. 30

— *Community Partners Conference (Education), 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Riley's Conference Center*

NOTE: Ceremony times are tentative and subject to change.

Check the [ceremonies link](#) for current information.

Stay In Touch with the Big Red One & Fort Riley

For more 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley news visit

www.fortrileypost.com.

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To sign up for [Training Advisories](#), [click here](#).

Already registered with Fort Riley In Touch, [click here](#) to update your Fort Riley In Touch messages.



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