

## COMMUNITY CORNER

## Fort Riley preparing for winter weather; residents should, too

By Col. William Clark  
GARRISON COMMANDER

Directorates and agencies across Fort Riley participated in a command post exercise Nov. 14 to simulate a severe winter weather scenario. We completed the exercise to ensure that all aspects of our post are prepared for a weather event.

Safety of our Soldiers, Families and civilians who live, work and play at Fort Riley is our top priority.

Fort Riley is doing its part

to be prepared for winter weather, and I'd like to ask you to do your part. The best defense against winter-weather hazards is preparation. Now is the time to think about basic needs you, your Family and your pets will need in the event of an emergency. Now also is the time to make a plan – a plan for food, shelter, transportation



Col. Clark

– and more.

I encourage you to visit [www.acsim.army.mil/ready-army](http://www.acsim.army.mil/ready-army) to learn how you can prepare for winter weather.

Most importantly, in the event of severe weather, be informed about the storm, tornado or other weather event.

Local radio stations usually have storm spotters on location following the storm's path. These spotters call back to the station with reports that are broadcast over the radio waves. Stations in the Fort Riley area include: 100.9 in

Clay Center; 1420 AM, 97.4 and 103.5 in Junction City; 1350 AM, 101.5, 104.7 and 95.3 in Manhattan; 580 AM in Topeka; 1150 AM in Salina; and 98.5 and 102.5 in Abilene. Local television stations also can help you stay informed. They include WIBW, KTKA and KSNT.

Other ways to stay informed on watches and warnings is through tornado sirens and the giant voice system, Fort Riley web presences like [www.facebook.com/fortriley](http://www.facebook.com/fortriley) and [www.twitter.com/fortriley](http://www.twitter.com/fortriley),

and [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil), and the Fort Riley AtHoc Text Messaging system.

To sign up for AtHoc text messages, common access card holders can visit the following locations:

- At your work computer – on post only
- Any Department of Defense computer with dual CAC card readers

- Laptop kiosks located at:
  - Army Community Service, Building 7264
  - Replacement Company, Building 208

- In-processing, Building 210
- ID Card Center, Building 212
- Soldier Readiness Processing site, Building 7673

Additionally, Family members can sign up at their unit's Family readiness group offices or at their sponsor's unit on any local area network computer.

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



Photos by Calun Reece | POST

LEFT: Sirena Martin, third from left, receives a Volunteer of the Quarter award during a Nov. 6 ceremony at Riley's Conference Center. Also pictured are, from left to right, Fort Riley Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera; Brig. Gen. Donald MacWillie, senior commander, Fort Riley; Col. Michael Pappal, 1st ABCT commander; and 1st ABCT Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Kiefer.

RIGHT: Shealyn Martin, third from left, receives a Volunteer of the Quarter award during a Nov. 6 ceremony at Riley's Conference Center. Also pictured are, from left to right, Fort Riley Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera; Brig. Gen. Donald MacWillie, senior commander, Fort Riley; Col. Michael Pappal, 1st ABCT commander; and 1st ABCT Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Kiefer.



Julie Fiedler | POST

Corey Sands, fire marshal, Shawnee Fire Department, right, speaks during the Fire Marshals Association of Kansas quarterly meeting Nov. 7 at Fort Riley FES headquarters.

## FES hosts Kansas fire marshals' meeting

By Julie Fiedler  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services hosted a quarterly meeting of the Fire Marshals Association of Kansas and the Fire Educators Association of Kansas Nov. 7 at FES headquarters.

The joint meeting provided an opportunity for representatives from across the state to come together and address issues regarding legislation, training, education, certification, and fire codes and regulations.

Sharing knowledge is critical, said Shawn Sullivan, assistant chief of prevention and public education officer, FES.

"It's important for (FES) to hear what's going on (across) the state of Kansas," he said.

Through discussion during the meetings, representatives were able to leverage the group's expertise and share best practices that could directly impact individual regions.

Mike Hall, president,

FEAK, stressed the importance of the educational outreach of the organizations.

"A lot of times our first contact is at an emergency call, but we'd rather be there before the emergency to try to prevent it," Hall said.

Much of the work FES does around the Fort Riley area is educational.

"We get outside of the Fort Riley gates (to educate) smaller communities. We've been to Enterprise, Herington, Abilene, (and other) communities around here," Sullivan said.

Representatives from Kansas communities to include nearby Manhattan and as far away as Hays, Winfield and Overland Park came to Fort Riley to attend the joint meeting.

"The main focus is to get everyone together to talk about what's going on in (each area)," said Brad Henson, president, FMAK.

## Volunteers receive recognition at ceremony

By Calun Reece  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

"It is the best feeling in the world to be able to recognize our volunteers," said Brig. Gen. Donald MacWillie, senior commander, Fort Riley.

Participants, Family and friends gathered for the Volunteer of the Quarter ceremony Nov. 6 at Riley's Conference Center.

More than 70 volunteers were recognized from the past quarter, and about 11,000 hours of volunteer service were accrued during that time.

Twin sisters Sirena and Shealyn Martin, seventh-graders, Freshman Success Academy, Junction City High School, each received the Volunteer of

the Quarter award.

"(I feel) really awesome," Sirena said. "I didn't know I was going to go up there in front of all those people."

"I didn't know what (the ceremony) was going to be about, until I knew that we were going up to be recognized," Shealyn added. "I was nervous."

Shealyn and her sister, Sirena, found out they were receiving the award the day before the ceremony.

Sirena served in several roles including as an altar server and lector for the Catholic community, a Religious Education assistant, JROTC member and as a Vacation Bible School volunteer.

"It takes a lot of patience and care to help create an enjoyable VBS experience for about 15

3- to 4-year-olds," said Roxanne Martinez, director, Religious Education. "It is exciting to see (Sirena) as active in the community as she is."

Martinez selected the sisters as nominees for the quarterly event.

Sirena's sister, Shealyn, also served as a VBS volunteer, an altar server and lector for the Catholic community, a Religious Education assistant and a summer school volunteer.

"This last summer, (Shealyn) helped in a class of first- through third-graders (by) helping them to do a computer project learning about animals and extinction," Martinez said. "This is a service that requires patience and talent in working with young children."

Michael Brookhart, seventh-grader, Fort Riley Middle School, also was a youth selected by Martinez for the Volunteer of the Quarter award.

"I thought it was pretty cool, but I didn't realize that I would have to walk up in front of a bunch of people, so I was sort of nervous," he said.

Brookhart contributed volunteer hours towards VBS, as an altar server, assisting with Judge Advocated General functions, and he is a member of the Catholic Youth Group at Fort Riley.

"He lives his Catholic faith through his actions, especially his service and kindness to all," Martinez said. "We have a lot of teens that really do a lot of volunteering, and it's important to recognize them, you know."

## BOSS Soldiers visit veterans in Topeka center

By Calun Reece  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Trading war stories with veterans while watching a Denver Broncos football game is how some Soldiers spent their Sunday afternoon.

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosted a trip to the Community Living Center in Topeka Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

The Community Living Center used to be known as the VA nursing home, and is in association with the VA Medical Center.

BOSS tries to make the trip

every quarter.

"We sit with the veterans and just spend time with them," said Pfc. Peter Smith, BOSS vice president.

BOSS members spent the afternoon talking with older veterans about previous war experiences, deployments and Family.

"They love to hear the stories of what's going on in the Army now and how the Army's changed from when they were doing it," Smith said.

Visiting the Community Living Center is beneficial for both the Soldiers and the veterans, Smith said.

"It's a good way for Soldiers that may have come back from deployment, who just need somebody to talk to that knows what they're going through," he said. "It's a good way for them to get out there and talk to somebody who's been through it all."

The experience also helps young Soldiers recognize the differences between previous and current military life, he said.

"It's a good opportunity for Soldiers to see how much different it is now and how much easier it is for Soldiers to be in the Army and have Family and

extracurricular opportunities,"

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