

## COMMUNITY CORNER

## Garrison commander wishes everyone happy, safe holiday season

By Col. William Clark  
GARRISON COMMANDER

Although the holiday spirit has been at Fort Riley all month long, as we near Christmas and New Year's, I can feel the excitement across post. The holiday season is a wonderful time to give thanks, to give gifts and to celebrate with our Families and loved ones.

This time of year also allows many of our Soldiers, Families and civilians to take a break from their busy work schedules. The 1st Infantry Division Soldiers moved to a half-day schedule starting this week to Jan. 2. And civilians

across post, who are able, may be taking leave as well. This time off is well deserved because we have had a record-breaking year, thanks to the hard work of Soldiers, Families and civilians on post.

I'd like to highlight just a few of Fort Riley's significant accomplishments in 2012, and I hope you will take some time to reflect on the success of the installation that many of you call home. In 2012:

• "Big Red One" Soldiers



Col. Clark

extended the history of excellence of the division at their home stations in Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Oklahoma, as well as in far-off places like Afghanistan and Kuwait.

• Fort Riley was recognized as an Army Community of Excellence for the second year in a row.

• The post's Army Substance Abuse Program was named Best ASAP Program by the IMCOM Prevention Office.

• The Transportation Division of the Directorate of Logistics earned first place in the Army Deployment Excellence Award.

• The Supply and Services Division of DOL was named runner up in the Chief of Staff, Army, Combined Logistics Excellence Awards for the Level Four Supply Support and Allowances category.

• The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate earned the Department of the Army Excellence in Claims Award for the seventh year in a row.

• Fort Riley was named a Lean Six Sigma Excellence Award Program for the second year in a row.

• The post earned the Army Safety Streamer.

• Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services was identified

as the fourth-most active in the Department of the Army.

• The 1st Infantry Division Post newspaper staff earned five Kansas Press Association's Awards of Excellence.

Thank you to our Soldiers, Families and civilians for your sacrifice, dedication and selfless service. You are Fort Riley's No. 1 asset. In order to protect this asset, just like any other, we must be vigilant.

The period between Thanksgiving and New Year's is one of the deadliest times to be on the roads. Many of us go out with Family and friends over the holidays or travel to visit loved ones. When driving, make sure to avoid drowsy

driving, distracted driving and drunk or drugged driving. Always wear seat belts and follow all traffic regulations.

If you're traveling long distances, know the traffic laws of each state you will travel through. And, if you're going to a friend's house for a get-together, plan ahead for a safe way home if you will be drinking.

Let's make this a happy – and safe – holiday season.

If you would like to comment on this column or suggest a topic for Community Corner, send an email to [usarmy.riley.imcom.mbc.post-newspaper@gmail.com](mailto:usarmy.riley.imcom.mbc.post-newspaper@gmail.com).



The Forsyth Neighborhood is Picerne Military Housing's latest completed neighborhood. The neighborhood consists of 1,389 homes and was completed Dec. 14.

## Picerne completes master-planned community on post

By Michelle Geering  
PICERNE MILITARY HOUSING

With the final touch ups in the senior noncommissioned officer – E6 to E8 – homes at 22500 Thunder Road finished, the planned new home construction in the Forsyth Neighborhood is complete.

In less than six years, Picerne Military Housing has constructed its first master-planned community on Fort Riley.

A master-planned community is a residential area that includes additional amenities, such as jogging trails and parks, not typically included in a residential community.

The Forsyth Neighborhood includes 1,389 three- and four-bedroom homes, 14 playgrounds or common areas, a neighborhood center, soccer and baseball fields, a pedestrian and bike trail, a community garden and a bark park. These amenities are available to all Family housing residents.

In addition, the neighborhood's master plan included a section of land dedicated for a future school. Picerne helped make this a reality by serving as the construction manager for Seitz Elementary School that opened in August 2012.

All neighborhoods on Fort Riley have additional amenities, so Forsyth's plan is in keeping

with the other neighborhoods here. When planning Forsyth, we looked at the typical Family composition in the different rank bands within the neighborhood and provided features these Families would utilize," explained Shawn Cheever, project manager, Picerne Military Housing.

Cheever also explained that, throughout the construction of Forsyth, plans were reviewed and amended, if needed, to better service Fort Riley Families.

"When we first started this project, we moved quickly to build the homes then came back later and added the playgrounds or common areas. We learned from residents that the parks were needed sooner than we had thought, so we shifted our delivery schedules in future phases of the project," Cheever said.

Picerne now has common areas ready for use in the neighborhood before Families move in.

While the neighborhood amenities are additional benefits of living on-post, the new homes are also designed with the Army Family in mind.

Each home has a spacious kitchen, storage space, safe room, front porch, small maintenance-free yard and a garage.

Forsyth Neighborhood houses almost every rank, from privates to lieutenant colonels.

## FORSYTH FAST FACTS

- 1,389 homes
- 328 acres
- 10 miles of roadways
- 12 miles of water mains
- 920 miles of electrical wiring
- 4,167 exterior doors
- 8,334 sinks
- 15,279 windows
- 27,780 cabinets
- 66,672 gallons of paint
- 213,906 linear feet of guttering
- 6,250,500 square feet of sod
- 13,890,000 nails

## HOW IT ALL GETS DONE

Picerne's development and construction plan is complex and requires coordination among numerous departments, all of which is done behind the scenes, to make the transitions as smooth as possible for Families. There are weekly meetings with construction, property management and the leasing teams to review the status of relocations as well as safety and quality control inspections and coordination with various Garrison directorates throughout the construction process.

"With the number of new homes being made available to Families at one time, coordination is essential. We have to look at which homes need to be vacated in another neighborhood due to renovations or demolitions, while balancing the waitlist for incoming Families as well," said Scott Korwas, director of construction, Picerne.

During the past five years, more than 2,400 Families have

moved into homes in the Forsyth Neighborhood.

Valerie Alexander, Forsyth neighborhood manager, said seeing the neighborhood come together has been astonishing.

"To watch the neighborhood grow, from the groundbreaking in 2006 until now, and get to share it with our service members and their Families is a wonderful experience. The excitement of giving Families keys to a new or newer home in the neighborhood has never diminished for us. It is just as fun today as it was five years ago," Alexander said.

Picerne began new home construction in Forsyth in March 2007 as part of the 10-year Initial Development Plan. The new homes at Fort Riley were needed to improve living conditions and quality of life for Fort Riley Families. New home construction and renovations throughout Fort Riley will continue through 2016.



PICERNE MILITARY HOUSING

Forsyth Neighborhood resident service specialists, Donovan Campuzano, left, and Lizzie Flores, right, "spiff" a new home on Thunder Road. A "spiff" includes making sure faucets, window coverings, lights, appliances and other items are in working order and completing any additional tidying to ensure the home is ready for a Family. Additionally, Picerne provides each Family with a gift to welcome them to their new home.

## DeCA scholarship applications for military children available

By Tammy Reed  
DeCA

FORT LEE, Va. – In 2012, the Defense Commissary Agency Scholarships for Military Children Program celebrated a major milestone as it reached more than \$10 million in scholarships awarded to more than 6,700 students from around the globe.

Applications for the 2013 DeCA Scholarships for Military Children Program became available Dec. 3 at commissaries worldwide. The applications can be found online at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) and [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org). The deadline for applications is Feb. 22.

Scholarship awards will be based on funds available, but the scholarship program awards at least \$1,500 at each commissary. If there are no eligible applicants from a particular commissary, the funds designated for that commissary will be awarded as an additional scholarship at another store.

The scholarship program was created to recognize military Families' contributions to the readiness of U.S. armed forces and to celebrate the commissary's role in the mili-

tary community.

"DeCA is focused on supporting a good quality of life for our military and their Families," said DeCA Director and CEO Joseph H. Jett. "We do that by delivering a great commissary benefit, while our industry partners and public donations help the scholarship program provide money for higher education to many worthwhile students."

To apply for a scholarship, the student must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger than 21 – or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university – of a service member on active duty, reservist, guardsman, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty or survivor of a retiree. Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military ID card.

The applicant also must be planning to attend or already attending an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2013 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-

year program.

Applicants must submit an essay on a topic chosen by the Fisher House Foundation. The essay topic will be available Dec. 3 on [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org). Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 22.

The scholarship program is

administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to service members and their Families. Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship-management services organization, manages and awards these military scholarships. If students have questions about

the scholarship program application, call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311 or email them at [militaryscholar@scholarship-managers.com](mailto:militaryscholar@scholarship-managers.com).

No government funds are used to support the Scholarships

for Military Children Program. Commissary vendors, manufacturers, brokers, suppliers and the general public donate money to fund the program. Every dollar donated goes directly to funding the scholarships.