

# THE ROCK

One of many  
views from the  
newly remodeled  
Building 350  
cafeteria now  
known as the  
Eagle View Cafe.

See page 8

Serving the employees and residents of Rock Island Arsenal.

# Army Strong Families, communities equals Army Strong support for Soldiers



Maj. Gen. Robert Radin

The Army has been in existence for over 230 years, and there never has been a stronger focus on the Army family than there is today. Last December, I was honored to sign the Army Family Covenant on behalf of the Army Sustainment Command and Rock Island Arsenal. At installations and sites around the world, leaders of Army

organizations have signed or are signing the same covenant and pledging their support to the family.

The Army recognizes that Soldiers are the strength of the nation, and that the strength of our Soldiers lies in their families. Our Families have to carry an emotional burden that is just as heavy as the rucksack carried by our Soldiers in the field. At the end of a long day, Soldiers can take their rucksacks off and rest. But the emotional rucksack carried by Soldiers and their family members - the rucksack that contains the challenges and stresses that come with being part of a military family - can never come off, and is borne 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

When the Army decided to enact the Family Covenant, it wasn't just a promise on paper. The covenant represent a \$1.4 billion commitment in this year's budget to improve the quality of life for Army families. The Army's top leadership is working to include a similar or higher level of funding in future budgets. Every dollar will be spent on programs and facilities that will lift some of the weight from that emotional rucksack carried by Army Families.

Last month, I had the opportunity to observe an AMC military retention training session hosted by ASC. Again and again, the issue of improving the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families came up.

The comments of these Soldiers made a point

that is worth reemphasizing: Soldiers who know that their families are well cared for will be better able to concentrate on and perform their missions. The focus on the Army family has become more important here at Rock Island Arsenal. The number of Soldiers and other servicemembers assigned to the Arsenal is higher than it has been in years, and that number will grow even more when 1st U.S. Army arrives. Through Army Community Services and other organizations, many outstanding programs are already in place to support military families. The Army Family Covenant gives us an opportunity to expand and improve those programs, at a time when demand for them is increasing.

Support for military Families needs to extend beyond the gates of the installation, and I am pleased to note that the Quad Cities area has always been very supportive of the Arsenal and the military families who live and work here.

I've met with numerous community leaders, and one question they almost always ask me is, "What can we do to support Soldiers and families at The Rock Island Arsenal?"

In June, community leaders recognized the sacrifices made by military servicemembers and their families by holding the first-ever Military Appreciation Week. Several family support groups that operate year-round can also be found in the Quad Cities. It touches my heart to see so many people demonstrate unwavering dedication to our men and women in uniform and their Families.

I have been many places in the Army, and I believe that the Quad Cities is one of the strongest communities I've found when it comes to providing tangible support to the military. We always stress how it is important to remember the sacrifices that our Soldiers make to ensure our freedom.

Let us not forget the people who make sacrifices so our Soldiers can do their jobs.

# Actions speak louder than words

An old cliché is that “actions speak louder than words.” While this may be a trite sentiment, a throw-away line, it has durability. This may be a result of the fact that, no matter how trite it sounds it is also true.

Here at Rock Island Arsenal we’ve seen the truth of that cliché exhibited this year, not just by the Army but by our surrounding communities. We established two covenants this year. The first, the Army Family Covenant committed the Army to doing improving conditions for Soldiers and their Families.

The Army Family Covenant devotes the Army to standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services, increasing accessibility to and quality of healthcare; improve Soldier and Family housing, ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care, and expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members.

The second, the Army Community Covenant, formalized the support the Army receives from its surrounding communities.

The Community Covenant says communities will recognize the commitment Soldiers and their Families

make every day, recognize that Soldiers’ strength comes from the strength of their Families; that those Families are supported by strong communities, and that the communities are supported by employers, educators, civic and business leaders and citizens.

Obviously, these are the words that both the Army and the communities are putting forth – but actions speak louder than words. We have seen some of those actions. We are starting to see more. Still more will come in the ensuing months.

On the Community Covenant front, I don’t believe any installation has ever been supported as wholly as Rock Island Arsenal is by the surrounding Quad Cities Area. The support is more than symbolic. During the outstanding Military Appreciation Week held in May, there were price specials and numerous displays of the fact that the cities appreciate the Arsenal, its Civilians and Soldiers and want us here – want us to be part of their communities.

More symbolic, but no less important as an example of this commitment, is the establishment of a Soldiers Memorial at Modern Woodmen Park. This memorial, yet to be formally dedicated, consists of a boulder signed by the wounded Warriors who have passed through the Arsenal’s Community Based Health Care organization. The boulder weighs more than a ton and we thank the local chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army for helping us to get it moved. Once in place and dedicated, this memorial will be a permanent reminder of the service of the brave men and women from a six-state area – displayed in a public place at the request of the local baseball team. It’s a great action in support of the Community Covenant.

Closer to home, we see action on the Family Covenant. In just a few weeks, construction is slated to begin on our new Child Development Center. Our School Age Center is already the prototype for such facilities Army wide.



Joel Himsl  
Garrison Manager



**JOEL HIMSL**  
Garrison Manager

**ERIC W. CRAMER**  
Public Affairs Officer  
Layout and Design

**VALERIE BUCKINGHAM**  
Editor

**THE  
ROCK**

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On the Cover: A view from a window in the newly remodeled Building 350 Cafeteria, now known as the Eagle View Cafe, overlooks the Mississippi River. See page 8 for full story.

(see Actions page 8)

# STUDENTS SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR SOLDIERS



submitted photo

Above: Students from Moline's Franklin Elementary school cross stitch "I love you" pillows for Soldiers from Rock Island Arsenal and their families. The school also conducted an "Adopt-a-Soldier" program.

By

ERIC CRAMER  
Garrison Public Affairs

Students from Moline's Franklin Elementary school picked the U.S. Army as one of their service projects for this year, with a number of activities by the school's students.

Among these, the student council adopted a Soldier, after talking to Reba Rogers, wife of former Joint Munitions Command commander Brig. Gen. James Rogers.

Sandy Hirstein, advisor to the student council at Franklin Elementary, said the program, provided benefits to the students.

"So many things kids do for a reward. In this the reward is the feeling you get," she said.

The students adopted a Soldier, and sent a care package to that Soldier late in the spring. Excess donations were given to local food pantries, Hirstein said. Donations came from the children and their families.

"The students were able to share, to help a real person," she said. "And we know that Soldiers are doing what they do over there, so we can do what we do here."

In addition to the Adopt-a-Soldier program, fifth grade students in the class of Maureen Dittmar learned to cross-stitch "I love you Pillows" for Soldiers and their Families.

The pillows, about 4x4 inches in size and red and white, were given to deployed Soldiers from Rock Island Arsenal and to their families. The Quad Cities Embroiderers' Guild visited the class to teach them the counted cross-stitching technique, said Dittmar.

"It's our mission to think about the special person who will receive our pillow as we labor to create something we hope will bring them joy and let them know that we honor their sacrifice," Dittmar said.

Dittmar said the entire class participated.



At left: Two students from Franklin Elementary work on their cross stick project to honor Soldiers from Rock Island Arsenal.

Bottom Right: Cross stitching an "I love you pillow," takes deep concentration for one student.

Bottom left: Reba Rogers, wife of former Joint Munitions Command commander Brig. Gen. James Rogers, gives cross stitch pointers to a student.

"Some of my best stitchers are boys – if you present things correctly its all good," she said. "It also allows the kids to use parts of their minds that regular teaching doesn't reach. We're teaching them service and volunteerism."

Hirstein said the projects reinforced the school's connection to Rock Island Arsenal.

"Many of our students' parents work at the Arsenal. We really value our connection and rapport with the installation."





photo by Ted Cavanaugh

(Left) The 2007-2008 Journey to Leadership Tier II class takes a class photo along with the JTL Class Facilitator, (far left) Melanie Upson and the Program Manager, (far right) Tracy Wyant. The program is a 10-month leadership development program created by the US Army Sustainment Command in order to select and develop cadre of high potential employees who will be available to fill key positions that will become vacant over the next several years. The program consists of participation in Command-endorsed team projects and a variety of training and educational experiences. It provides participants an objective view of their strengths and weaknesses and an opportunity to build upon them.



# The Journey begins . . .

By  
ERIC CRAMER  
Garrison Public Affairs

It was a day of learning and celebration as 22 students graduated from the Journey to Leadership Program's Tier II class in a ceremony Aug. 22 at the Lodge in Bettendorf, Iowa.

The Army Sustainment Command Journey to Leadership program is operated to select and develop a cadre of high-potential employees who will be available to fill key positions that will become vacant over the next several years. It is 10 months long and consists of participation in command-endorsed team projects, developmental assignments and a variety of educational experiences.

The 22 graduates at the Aug. 22 event were split into three teams: LeaderStrong, Blended Energy and FUEL. Each team conducted a presentation explaining its project to those who attended the graduation.

LeaderStrong's presentation was about the interface between Civilians, Contractors and military members when working in the uniform environment. Team members performed a skit highlighting the differences between working as a civilian, working as a contractor

and working in the military – the environment referred to as “MC-squared.”

The team also provided a link to its Army Knowledge On-Line Web site MC<sup>2</sup> which covers topics including ethics, protocol and other matters regarding the military/civilian/contractor workforce.

Blended Energy's presentation, entitled “Pump up Your Work Force,” focused on developing and retaining good employees through trust, change, team building, fun, respect and communication.

A high-energy presentation featuring numerous video clips, the Blended Energy piece showed examples of how building the proper environment can make the workforce and the work place better for all.

FUEL, an acronym for Future United Envisioning Leaders, focused on planning for a safe retirement. In its presentation “Uncle Sam,” portrayed by Richard Kutzler of the Letterkenny Munitions Center, explained three-tiered retirement planning featuring Federal Employees Retirement System, Social Security, and the federal employees Thrift Savings Plan.

Maj. Gen. Robert Radin, commander of Army Sustainment Command praised the concept behind the Journey to Leadership

program. “Personally, I think this is one of the ways the Army should develop our civilians,” Radin said. “What we're doing is a great model being done at the installation level.”

Radin said the program helped develop leaders who frequently have to work an “environment of ambiguity.” “Leaders take very complex goals and make them simple,” he said. “They empower subordinates.”

To the students graduating from JTL, he said that their participation in the program reflected support for them from their organizations. “What leaders do is establish procedures and allocate resources. Your command, your organization, your boss think this is a good allocation of resources to develop your career,” Radin said.

The event closed with graduates discussing the influence JTL has already had on them. “I recommend JTL for anyone who wants to enhance their career and improve their leadership skills,” said Amy Mack, of the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center.

“The training was helpful. JTL has been key to expanding my network of contacts,” said Howard Allman of Joint Munitions Command's Kansas Army Ammunition Plant. “Thank you for your friendship, the valuable mentoring, and your feedback.”

# *Arsenal leaders, military members, employees celebrate new cafeteria*

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By

DARRYL HOWLETT

Joint Munitions Command Public Affairs

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ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, III.

-- With a beautiful view from of the Mississippi River, patrons of the new Eagle View Café can eat breakfast and lunch in style.

August 15 represented the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the renovated \$1.3 million cafeteria in building 350.

Col. (promotable) Larry D. Wyche, commander of the Joint Munitions Command, and Garrison Manager-Rock Island Arsenal Joel Himsl cut the ceremonial ribbon. Customers were then able to take a sneak peak of the new area, which opened August 18.

“This is a great day that took enormous amount of time and effort, a huge teaming effort,” Himsl said. “When you look out of those windows customers will be able to see Quarters One, the Mississippi River, and the eagles. It’s going to be a beautiful place.”

JMC chipped in \$700,000, while the Army Sustainment Command and the RIA each chipped in

\$300,000. The new cafeteria can now seat up to 140 customers.

“It’s all a part of the Army Family Covenant. It’s just a beautiful place,” Himsl said.

The cafeteria now includes new types of food – a salad bar, a sub sandwich line, expanded drink selection (bottle and fountain), and a hot and cold “grab and go” line.

Large improvements to the cafeteria include relocation of the food area so customers now have window access, better traffic flow, and a larger selection of food. Also the dining room area will stay open after the cafeteria closes so it’s available for other uses.

Joe Schneider, JMC’s building 350 renovation project manager, said the best part of the project was working together.

“The renovated cafeteria is really a benefit to all the folks in building 350. It’s also a great example of how we’re all part of the same “Big Army.” JMC, ASC and the Garrison all shared in the cost to provide a new and better place for the folks to eat and meet.”

Jeff McMahon, division chief for

business programs for the Arsenal, breathed a sigh of relief that the Arsenal community can now enjoy the new cafeteria.

“I’m glad it’s finally here. We had some hurdles we had to get over,” he said. “I think it is an excellent facility. From the laborers to the designers they all did an excellent job. I’m very happy.”

Sheri Jensen, the operations manager for Sheridan’s said giving customers a better product was worth the wait.

“I’m very excited,” she said. “It’s been a long time that (the cafeteria) has been downstairs (in Building 350’s first floor). This is a much nicer place that has new equipment and a better flow for the customers.”

Jensen said the company has 40 RIA employees, eight of which work in building 350.

One JMC employee maybe summed up the experience the best.

“I am blown away,” said Celia Hadden. “(During the construction) I hadn’t come in to peek. I heard how (the cafeteria) was being transferred. I’m delighted with it.”

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## **Actions**

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The new CDC will provide additional space for the children of the Civilians and Military who work at the Arsenal.

It is a concrete example of the commitment the Army is putting into the Army Family Covenant. We will soon open a new Child Development Home, providing additional hourly care and more flexibility for hard-working parents at Rock Island Arsenal.

It is actions such as these that prove the

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commitment by the Army, and the support of our communities, are reality. The Army cares about its Soldiers and their Families. The Army cares about recruiting and retaining of high quality people. The communities care about our installation.

They are our neighbors and they want to be our friends. “This is a win-win situation,” is another cliché. Where we are, that is also true. Actions have already spoken louder than words.