

# THE ROCK



Area officials  
call on  
First Army

Serving the Employees and Residents of Rock Island Arsenal

October 2009 Vol. 8 No. 7

# ASC a Family, says new commander



Greetings to all of you throughout the Army Sustainment Command! Thank you for the warm welcome you have given to my family and me, and for all of your help and cooperation during this period of transition. From the start, you've made us feel a part of this Command and community, and we greatly appreciate your warmth and

courtesy.

Many of you attended the Change of Command ceremony, and many more of you were able to view the Town Hall meeting held soon after. I'd like to use this forum to highlight a few points from those occasions. These points bear emphasis and provide insight into how I intend to lead ASC.

First, you should know that ASC is well-known and highly respected throughout the Army. Our accomplishments have earned us a reputation for excellence, and our mission and the way we've performed it have given us a critical role in the Army's overall mission of fighting and winning on the battlefield. We need to enhance that reputation by placing our focus squarely on ASC's customers and making them our top priority. ASC's support is integrated into combat units, and we stand shoulder to shoulder with Soldiers on the front lines. That's all the reason we should need to be certain that our support is the very best we can deliver.

The ASC has relatively few military personnel and is largely populated by civilian and contractor employees. Whether you wear the uniform or

not, I respect each and every one of you, and fully comprehend the importance of the work you do for the Army.

All of you want to do a good job, and it is the job of those in leadership positions within ASC, to guide, mentor, and provide you with the resources you need to excel. We're also obliged to recognize and reward the excellent work you provide. That said it's my intent to reenergize our awards program.

As a husband and father of four daughters, I know and recognize the importance of family. I don't expect anyone to be a "workaholic." I do expect you to spend time with your family, to refresh yourself through rest and recreation, and to place your work life and your home life in balance. Our families are part of the ASC team, so they need our time and attention just as our jobs do.

Finally, I view ASC as a family, and believe that we all need to treat one another as members of the same family. All families, even happy ones, have disagreements and conflicts. Families succeed and prosper by learning how to resolve these disputes with respect and understanding. Families, and organizations, fail when they react to problems with abusive behavior.

While we should always make room for questions, we should never make room for abuse. I will not tolerate abuse in any form, and will expect everyone to be treated with dignity.

We need to stay together, because that's the only way we can accomplish a mission that is complex, challenging, interesting and vitally important to military readiness. We have a lot to do, and I'm looking forward to working with you as we get it done.

Airborne!

# H1N1 flu, information and precautions

With the H1N1 or “swine flu” in news nationwide, local officials have prepared information for the Quad Cities area to ensure sound information about the progress of the virus is available.

## What’s happening in Rock Island County

As of Oct. 28, Rock Island County has experienced 13 confirmed H1N1 hospitalized cases, and one H1N1 death.

## Vaccine

The Rock Island County health Department received a partial order on Oct. 22. RICHD received 7,500 doses of injectable vaccine and 100 doses of intranasal spray. As of Oct. 27, the county had served 1,494 people with one or the other of these treatments. The county is making some of its supply available to Rock Island County care providers to administer to the priority groups they serve.

Upon receiving the vaccine, RICHD immediately began giving vaccinations to health department staff and volunteers who will be working the vaccination clinics.

RICHD also scheduled several clinics for persons falling into the CDC defined priority groups. Clinics began Friday, Oct. 23 and will run through Friday, Oct. 30. All appointments for these clinics are filled at this time. RICHD is planning clinics at the Health Department for two days next week. Dates and Times of these clinics will be posted to [www.richd.org](http://www.richd.org).

## Info from Scott County Health Department

While most people will recover from the virus without needing to see a doctor, some people are at higher risk for H1N1-related complications.

Parents of the following children should contact their health care provider as soon as flu-like symptoms begin:

- Children younger than 2 years of age in particular, some children up to 4 years of age;
- Children and adolescents with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma and diabetes;
- Adolescents who are pregnant (and up to two weeks after giving birth);
- Children and adolescents who are on long-term aspirin therapy.
- Even healthy older children can have severe or fatal outcomes after influenza infection. In all children, emergency warning signs indicating the need for urgent medical attention include:
  - Fast breathing or trouble breathing;
  - Bluish or gray skin color;
  - Not drinking enough fluids;
  - Severe or persistent vomiting;
  - Not waking up or not interacting;
  - Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held;
- Flu symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough; or
- Fever with a rash.
- In adults emergency warning signs are:
  - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath;
  - Pain or pressure in chest or abdomen;
  - Sudden dizziness;
  - Confusion; or
  - Severe or persistent vomiting.

If you have concerns call your doctor. He or she can make the best recommendations based on your health history.

For updates see the Ready Army Web site at:

<http://www.ria.army.mil/sites/riapo/>



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**THE ROCK**

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On the Cover: The First Army patch, displayed on coffee cups at Fort Gillem, Ga., will become a commonly seen symbol at Rock Island Arsenal after the command moves here beginning in 2011. Dignitaries from Rock Island Arsenal and the surrounding communities visited Fort Gillem to inform those who might move about conditions at RIA.

# MFSC Re-flags, Baxter assumes command, Follett Retires

By

SGT. 1ST CLASS SEAN RILEY  
ASC Public Affairs

Soldiers and civilians of the Army Sustainment Command and Multi-Functional Support Command gathered Sept. 19 at Constitution Square on Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., for a deactivation and reactivation ceremony, a change of command, and to honor one Soldier's 29 years of service.

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. David Clarkson, commander of the Army Reserve Sustainment Command, accepted the MFSC's colors for the last time from its retiring commander, Col. Mark R. Follett, before handing the Army Sustainment Command-Army Reserve Element's new colors to Col. Vicki J. Baxter.

The MFSC first stood up in December 2002 as a U.S. Army Reserve Program Unit. The unit was created from excess positions identified from the reorganization of the 19<sup>th</sup> Theater Army Area Command in Des Moines, Iowa, and transferred to Rock Island Arsenal to support the Army Field Support Command, now the ASC.

After the unit colors were cased and returned to Sgt. Maj. Eric Hill, the command sergeant major for the unit, they were posted.

Hill, along with Clarkson and  
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Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Riley

Sergeant Major Eric B. Hill, command sergeant major of the Army Sustainment Command-Army Reserve Element, and Brig. Gen. David Clarkson, commander of the Army Reserve Sustainment Command, uncased the unit's colors during a deactivation and retirement ceremony, as Col. Vicki Baxter looks on. During the ceremony, the MFSC was reflagged as the Army Sustainment Command-Army Reserve Element, Baxter assumed command of the ASC-AR Element, and Col. Mark R. Follett was honored for 29 years of military service.

Baxter, the commander of the newly re-flagged Army Sustainment Command-Army Reserve Element, uncased the unit colors, symbolizing the change of command.

Baxter enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard after graduation from high school. She earned her active-duty commission to second lieutenant into the Ordnance Corps in 1985. Prior to her assignment as the new commander, Baxter was commander of the 787th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

"Obviously, the MFSC has a very great history," Baxter said. "The Soldiers have done well and I am counting on those Soldiers to continue that reputation. (Sergeant Major) Hill and I will be a command team that will get the mission done and take care of the Soldiers.

"We are looking forward to working with you," she said.

When Clarkson passed the command to Baxter, Follett ended a 29-year military career that began in 1980 with his enlistment in the

Army Reserve.

Follett achieved his active-duty commission into the Infantry branch as second lieutenant in 1983.

"Through all this time, there have been a lot of changes in the Army," said Follett. "During my career, the first company I commanded was inactivated, the first battalion I commanded was transformed with another battalion, now at the Colonel-level, this unit's being reorganized today as well. Change has been constant."

Follett also remarked that two things that have always remained constant.

"One is God. God is always unchanging," he said, his voice choked with emotion. "The other is my family. I've known my wife for 30 years, we've been married 27. "She's known me longer than the Army has," he joked. "It's been a pleasure and an honor serving the Soldiers here at the Multi-Functional Support Command," said Follett. "Now it's time for Colonel Baxter to have that honor."

# Arsenal Museum opens renovated childrens' room



Submitted photos

by  
JODEAN ROUSEY MURDOCK  
RIA Museum

The Rock Island Arsenal Museum celebrated the grand opening of its newly renovated children's room with a ribbon cutting on July 27. Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager, was assisted in the ribbon cutting by thirteen children from Rock Island Arsenal's School Age Center.

The children, with ages ranging from six to nine years old and from civilian and military families, were the first official visitors to the room.

Tina Bevier, Youth and School Age Services Facility Director, and Luke Linnenburger, School Age Services Assistant Director, accompanied the children and said they were very pleased with the children's enthusiastic reaction to the room's offerings.

The room named "Bridging Our Progress", features interactive elements which highlight Rock Island Arsenal's past and current contributions. The name acknowledges both the bridges that provide accessibility to the island and the progress made over the years to better serve our soldiers and community.

The exterior of the room is faced with two faux finishes. The first suggests the rough hewn lumber of Fort Armstrong. The fort was built in 1816 on the western end of the island to protect fur traders and monitor river traffic. A set of custom-made building blocks are available inside the room for younger visitors to assemble a replica Fort Armstrong blockhouse. The other finish suggests the limestone construction of the ten stone shops. Designed by General Thomas J. Rodman, the limestone buildings served as a manufacturing complex for over 100 years. Visitors can also learn more about past and present use of the buildings inside the room.

Two computer kiosks provide an interactive experience. Visitors may test their skills at assembling a Model 1903 rifle on one kiosk while the other kiosk provides an inside look into the manufacturing capabilities at Rock Island Arsenal. Two display cases compare and contrast items used by soldiers during the Civil War and those

At left, Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager, cuts the ribbon on the new Childrens exhibit at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. He aided by Jodean Rousey Murdock, of the museum, and children from the RIA School Age Center.

items used by today's warfighters.

The interactive experience continues beyond the computer screen with a hands-on pulley system. The system demonstrates how pulleys work and how they were used to operate machinery during early manufacturing at Rock Island Arsenal.

A favorite element was retained from the previous children's room. Reproduction clothing of Civil War era and present day military uniforms can be tried on by visitors of all ages. Two life-size mural backdrops provide the perfect setting for a photo opportunity.

After several months of design and installation, the children's room has become a well received hands-on experience for museum patrons. Positive comments from both adults and children are testament that the room is being enjoyed by everyone who visits.



Emma Swesey examines the telodynamic pully system at the RIC Museum's new childrens room. The room provides a hands-on experience for young visitors.

# Energy Consumption: What's Your Excuse?

## Dispelling myths about energy consumption

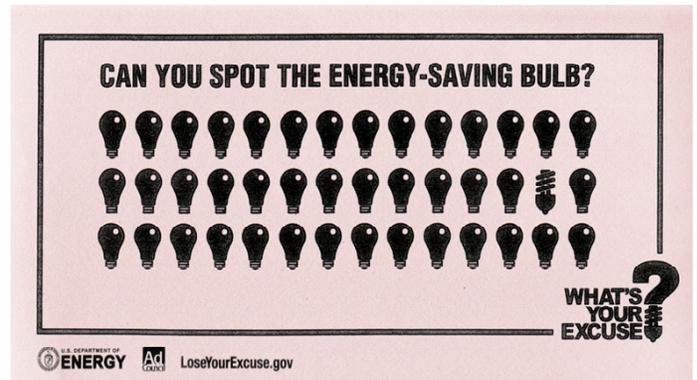
Those of you who read the weekly edition of the Island Announcements will recognize this graphic. This graphic is part of an aggressive campaign led by the Department of Energy, in partnership with the Ad Council. The campaign is a result of a 2008 survey of school aged children that found that 85 percent polled felt they could influence positive change on energy consumption in their homes. The campaign includes graphics and billboards depicting how simple it is to conserve energy, as well as an interactive website that can be found at: [www.loseyourexcuse.org](http://www.loseyourexcuse.org).

Individuals should be aware of a few myths regarding energy consumption.

- Myth: The Army does not pay for utilities, so it doesn't matter how much is consumed.
  - This is a false statement. The Army is one of the largest utility customers, and spends over one billion dollars on energy annually. Any reduction in energy consumption, multiplied across installations Army wide, could reap huge reductions in the amount we spend on energy.
- Myth: It uses less energy to maintain a facility at a constant temperature than it does to bring it back to a comfortable temperature after it is dialed back.
  - Studies have shown this to be untrue. In actuality, savings over an 8-hour period of time is estimated to be 1 percent per degree of set-back for heating. For cooling, the savings is estimated to be 2 percent.



- Myth: It takes more energy to turn lights on and off than to just leave them on.
  - Also a false statement. A surge of energy is required when the lightbulb is switched on. However, turning the light off helps to save the life of the bulb. Therefore, utility costs are saved.
- Myth: Computers and electronic equipment last longer if they are left on constantly.
  - False. Computers also experience a surge when they are started. However, it has been proven that turning computers and associated equipment on and off does not harm them. Additionally, although waiting for the computer to boot in the morning is a minor inconvenience, it has potential for significant savings across thousand of computers on an installation.
- Remember: we can reach our 30 percent energy reduction goal with a mix of an ownership attitude, individual responsibility, and teamwork!



# Lean Six Sigma saves, helps

## Instructional DVD to solve training problem

By

DARRYL HOWLETT  
Joint Munitions Command Public Affairs



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – Put down the books and pick up a DVD.

That's the message from a group of Joint Munitions Command employees who decided to create a hands on

device to fix a problem.

The problem: minimizing or eliminating discrepancies in level 1 shipments of Low Level Radioactive Waste sent to the Rock Island Arsenal's Army Contaminated Equipment Retrograde Team (ACERT) Consolidation Facility.

Level 1 shipments are made by the installation instead of using a contracted LLRW broker.

The solution: a green belt project that using several Lean Six Sigma tools allowed team members to create an instructional DVD to improve shipper expertise.

"I thought the project was needed. We had noticed a trend developing that we were getting discrepancies coming into the (ACERT) facility," said project sponsor Kelly Crooks, with the

Safety/RAD/Waste office. "We knew it needed to be addressed.

"Most people are visual and respond better to pictures than long, written out instructions. I thought it was a great idea. Joe and his team did really well."

The project's goal was to reduce the number of shipping errors associated with level 1 shipments to the ACERT Consolidation Facility. The project's scope included the complete cycle starting with the request for disposal to the receipt of the material at the consolidation facility.



Photo by Darryl Howlett

Kelly Crooks, left, and Joe Hart display the cover of the DVD they created as part of a Lean Six Sigma Project. The DVD provides education on shipping low level radioactive waste.

"We started to see improvements in shipments right away," Crooks said. The three-member team that took on the project came from JMC headquarters' Safety RAD Waste Directorate and the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, also located on the Rock Island Arsenal.

The team facilitated the development of the instructional DVD, which was distributed to all level 1 shippers during the pilot test. The pilot test lasted approximately three months.

During this period, approximately nine level 1 shipments were received, with no shipping discrepancies found.

"We tried to come up with a solution as a team, so we ranked the different possible solutions and choose an instructional DVD," Hart said. "Our director, Bruce Elliot, came up with the original idea of an instructional DVD."

RCH Technologies, located on the Rock Island Arsenal, created the video production.

"We had one guy from Blue Grass Army Depot that had never (shipped low level waste) before. He really got into (using the DVD)," Hart said. In other words, another customer satisfied.

# Rock Island Arsenal, area officials, make transition visit to First Army

*Presentation goal: encouraging employees to make the move*

By

ERIC CRAMER

Rock Island Garrison Public Affairs

Officials from the Quad Cities and from Rock Island Arsenal visited Fort Gillem, Ga. in October to inform civilian employees of First Army about life at the Arsenal and in the Quad Cities.

First Army is slated to move to Rock Island Arsenal in 2011.

Making the trip were Rock Island Arsenal Garrison Manager Joel Himsl; Jim Bohnsack, chairman of the Rock Island County board; East Moline Mayor John Thodos; Mike Bobie, director of Plans Analysis and Integration at the Arsenal; Larry Hilding, director of the Arsenal's Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; Tara Barney, president of the Iowa Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce; Rick Baker, president of the Illinois Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce; Liz Tallman, vice president, Quad City Development Group; and Veronica Pianca, vice president of Ruhl and Ruhl realtors.

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Himsl said the goal of the trip was to inform First Army employees about life here, so that key staff members are encouraged to make the move to RIA from Georgia when First Army moves as part of base realignment and closure.

"We want them to see what a great place the Quad Cities area is to live and work," Himsl said. "They need to know that the Quad Cities is a community that likes and respects the military and the installation – and they also just need general information on everything from what weather to expect to how much it costs to live in the area. This trip is designed help with that."

The presentation was a joint effort among Arsenal officials and representatives of area governments, chambers of commerce and the Rock Island Arsenal Task Force. "The work of the Rock Island Arsenal Task Force is vital and important," said Tara Barney, Iowa Quad



Submitted photos

Jim Bohnsack, chairman of the Rock Island County board, speaks to employees of First Army. He was among a group of area officials to visit Fort Gillem in October.

Cities Chamber of Commerce president and CEO. "This presentation to First Army is representative of the Quad-Cities community and highlights our strengths as a region," she said.

Bohnsack said the trip was more than worthwhile.

"To travel to the Atlanta and let the First Army know how great it is to live in the Quad Cities is an opportunity of a life time. We are taking a highly motivated group to show them and invite them to the Quad Cities and the Rock Island Arsenal," he said.

For others making the presentation, it was about letting those at Fort Gillem know they'll be welcome.

"The Quad Cities is a military-friendly community. This presentation sends a welcome message to



First Army employees at Fort Gillem fill a room of the Getaway Club at the installatoin, waiting to learn from Rock Island Arsenal officials and those from surrounding communities.

First Army,” said Rick Baker, Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce president.

Speaking before the visit, Thodos defined it as informative.

“From my perspective, the purpose of the First Army meeting is to listen to any question and concerns they may have about their new home in the Quad Cities, and to answer and address any issues or questions they may have,” Thodos said.

“If there is time, I’ll try to explain how in our area ‘Quad’ means more than four,” Thodos added with a laugh.

Brig. Gen. Richard McPhee, chief of staff for First Army, said his team welcomed the officials.

“We welcome the Rock Island Arsenal and Quad Cities team to Fort Gillem this week as they provide information to our Soldiers, Civilians and Family members on Rock Island and the surrounding communities,” he said, “I think it’s

important to provide as much information about as possible about Rock Island to our workforce and their families as we relocate the headquarters in 2011. The information provided by these individuals will go a long way in helping our

workforce make informed decisions during the transition.

First Army officials said there are about 100 employees who could make the move to the Quad Cities.



**USAG-RIA Garrison Manager Joel Himsl addresses First Army employees. About 100 of the employees are eligible to move to Rock Island Arsenal in 2011 as part of base realignment and closure.**

# Stress & depression: understanding the link

By

LISA YOUNG

U.S. Army Center of Health Promotion and preventive medicine

The month of October is designated as National Depression Education and Awareness Month. The Army views this observance as an opportunity to increase the awareness of Soldiers, family members and civilians about the signs and symptoms of depression, treatment and behavioral health resources available for care.

The relationship among stressful situations, our mind and body's reaction to stress, and clinical depression is complex. Clinical depression is associated with an imbalance of chemicals in the brain that carry communications between the nerve cells that control mood and other body systems. Clinical depression is defined as a period of sadness that affects an individual's ability to work, sleep, eat and enjoy once-pleasurable activities.

It is not uncommon for stressful positive or negative events to precede the development of clinical depression. Stressful events are common in the military service and in military family members. Negative life experiences, medication, rigid thinking patterns, lack of sunlight, and certain personality traits and genetic factors can influence clinical depression. Depression may develop after a stressful negative event, such as the death of a loved one, loss of a job, end of a relationship or physical illness. Stress can also occur from a positive event such as getting married, moving to a new city or starting a new job. No single stressful event will cause depression to develop in every person, but stressful experiences may contribute to the development of depression.

A stressful event is more likely to come before a first depressive episode. After that, depression may develop spontaneously with stress leading to the depression. For those who struggle with chronic depression, the effects of stress may be more complicated. A theory called the "kindling effect," proposes that initial depressive episodes spark changes in the brain's chemistry that make it more prone to future depression just as the use of kindling wood sparks the flames of a campfire. Because early episodes of depression make a person more sensitive, even small stressors can lead to later depressive episodes.

Depression may also result from struggles with chronic stress. This stress may be due to juggling multiple roles at home and work, making major changes in lifestyle, coping with deployment issues, handling normal transitions in life, dealing with children leaving the home, or struggling with a reduction of position and finances.

If a person is under continuous stress, a single difficult event may be more likely to induce a depressive episode. Researchers theorize that when people experience chronic or repeated stressful events, they learn to feel helpless. This feeling of helplessness is strengthened when a person believes he or she has no control over the stressful situation. When a depressed mood persists for several months and interferes with everyday living, it is likely a sign of serious depression that requires treatment.

With appropriate treatment, many people can experience improvement in a relatively short period of time and are able to function fully and control the chance of recurrence. Treatment can include medication and talk therapy. Medication helps to balance chemicals in the brain, and talk therapy helps individuals to identify and correct common errors in their thinking. Without treatment, the costs of depression can be very high, to include loss of jobs, destroyed relationships, isolation from their communities, and reduction in physical or mental health.

As the Army's theme for October indicates, "There is no braver act than to ask for help if you need it."

For more information about depression, its treatment and how to get help go to these Web sites:

- CDC: [www.cdc.gov/features/depression](http://www.cdc.gov/features/depression)
- Military OneSource: [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)
- Defense Center of Excellence Outreach Center: [www.dcoe.health.mil/ph\\_stress\\_res.aspx](http://www.dcoe.health.mil/ph_stress_res.aspx)
- Real Warriors Campaign: [www.realwarriors.net](http://www.realwarriors.net)

*The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine is the Army's public health organization. It supports Soldiers around the world with health education information and deploys its expert medical and scientific staff to deliver occupational and environmental health surveillance everywhere Soldiers go. On U.S. military installations, CHPPM provides environmental health engineering and health hazard assessments as well as injury and disease prevention programs.*

# Post 9/11 G.I. Bill--

## Better educational support for Soldiers, Families

By

ANN SHOWALTER  
ESO Rock Island Arsenal

Near the end of WWII, then President Roosevelt worried about how millions of veterans would be successfully integrated back into a non-war American economy.

Out of this presidential concern came the Serviceman's Re-adjustment Act of 1944 - later to be known as the Montgomery GI Bill. That Bill changed America forever. Prior to WWII, a college education was a luxury for the wealthy, white male.

The Serviceman's Re-Adjustment Act was both color blind and gender blind. Basically if you served in WWII, you could attend the institution of your choice at no personal cost.

During the War, university enrollments had dipped to an all-time low. Colleges and Universities welcomed the GI who had guaranteed tuition. With the new Act, it was possible for the Black GI from Mississippi to attend Harvard. Blacks moved from the South to the North for college, and remained in the North. Farm boys moved from the farm to the city; and America changed from a rural economy to an urban economy. The GI turned College student was both worldly and mature. He studied hard and did well academically.

By the end of the Serviceman's Re-Adjustment Act in 1956, the cost to American tax-payers to educate the veteran's was \$5.5 billion dollars. The result was 450,000 engineers, 240,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, 22,000 dentists, 17,000 writers and editors, and thousands of other professionals. It was estimated that for every tax-payer dollar spent on educating the veterans, seven dollars were returned to the economy.

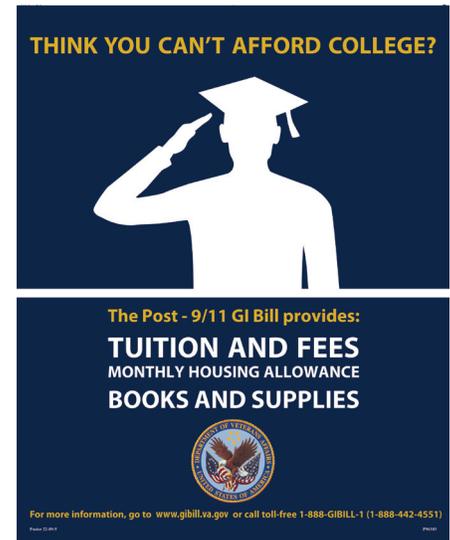
The Post-9-11 GI Bill is very similar in scope to the Service Man's Re- Adjustment Act of 1944. Basically, if military personnel has served 36 months since Sept. 11, 2001, he/she will be eligible for 100 percent of the benefits. Those benefits could include tuition,

housing, books and fees – in other words, a “full-ride”. Tuition is based on the most expensive state school in the state of attendance. In Illinois that rate is \$555 per semester hour; in Iowa, the rate is \$324.25 per semester hour.

In Texas the rate is \$1,333 per semester hour. In addition, the veteran will receive housing at the rate of what an E- 5 would receive for housing in the same zip code as the school. Also, the qualified veteran will receive \$1000 per year for books. 1100 private schools, including both Augustana College and St Ambrose University, have agreed to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Campaign. Yellow Ribbon schools will pay half the difference between the eligible state rate, and the VA will pay the other half – making for a full-ride at those private schools.

The most anticipated piece of the Post 9/11 GI Bill is Transferability. Is there anyone who wouldn't like to give their dependent one million dollars? According to the US Census Bureau that is the amount of difference in work life earnings between a high school graduate and a college graduate in 2006 dollars. Those education gap earnings get greater every year. Eligible service members may transfer benefits to a dependent at the same level of their own eligibility.

The Veterans Administration has produced an eight minute video about the new Post 9/11 Bill. That video can be accessed at: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/feature/amervet/video/amvet2009-7-1.aspx>.



# CSM Rodriguez touts Hispanic Heritage

by  
STAFF REPORT  
Garrison Public Affairs Office



Photo by Mark Kane

Command Sgt. Maj. Ismael Rodriguez speaks at the Hispanic Heritage Month Recognition Sept. 9 at the Arsenal Club.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ismael Rodriguez spoke about Hispanic identity at the Hispanic Heritage Month Observance Sept. 9 at the Rock Island Arsenal Club.

Rodriguez said Hispanics have not always shown pride in their heritage, citing an Army leader of his acquaintance who always denied his Hispanic background.

“It’s up to all of us, to parents, to teach our children about their heritage,” he said.

Rodriguez said he decided to teach his own children about their Puerto Rican background, and to make certain they could speak, read and write in Spanish.

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 each year to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States and to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture. Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries; Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

“Hispanic Heritage Month to me is recognition and recognizing contributions of Hispanics to our country,” he said. “I try to bring honor to my heritage and my American citizenship.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Blake said Americans should all be aware of the heritage of Hispanics in the United States.

“Hispanic Heritage Month to me is recognition and recognizing contributions of Hispanics to our country,” he said.

## Hispanic contributions in U.S. military history

- 1770s Revolutionary war, troops from Spain, Mexico and the Caribbean region along with Hispanic Americans were instrumental in defeating British forces in the Gulf of Mexico.
- War of 1812 – Hispanics play a major role in securing victory in nearly every battle.
- 1830s Texas Independence and the Mexican War – Thousands of Hispanics side with the Texans and later with the Americans during the war for Texas independence and the Mexican war which followed it.
- 1860s Civil War – Hispanics were especially instrumental in protecting the southwest against Confederate advances in California, Arizona and New Mexico..
- 1890s Spanish-American War – Several thousand Hispanic volunteers, mostly from the American Southwest, fight with distinction in the U.S. Army.
- 1917-18 – World War I – more than 200,000 Hispanics were mobilized for WWI.
- 1940s World War II – About a half a million Hispanics served during WWI. Gen. Douglas MacArthur called the Arizona National Guard’s 158<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, the “Bushmasters,” “One of the greatest fighting combat teams ever deployed for battle.
- 1950s Korean War – All together, about 150,000 Hispanics served in the war, many earning awards for valor from the Bronze Star to the Medal of Honor.
- 1960-Present. Nearly 80,000 Hispanics serve in Vietnam, and 20,000 in the Persian Gulf War. Today, about 50,000 people of Hispanic origin serve on active duty.  
-- Source: [www.army.mil/hispanicamericans](http://www.army.mil/hispanicamericans)

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# Years of service

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Photos by Eric Cramer



Jessica Kuethe, at left, of the Garrison Resource Management Office receives a plaque honoring her five years of service from Garrison Manager Joel Himsl. At right, Himsl presents Frances Pearson of the Rock Island Arsenal Public Works Division with a recognition of her 30 years of government service.

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# Departures

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Valerie Buckingham, at left, of the Garrison Public Affairs Office receives a Commanders Award for Civilian Service from Garrison Manager Joel Himsl. Buckingham took a position with the Veteran's Administration. At right Cheryl Neal-Green receives a Commanders Award for Civilian Service. Neal-Green, former EEO for the Garrison, took a position at Installation Management Command.

# GEAR UP! FOR THE FIRE!



## WHERE THERE'S SMOKE...

- Follow the directions on the package if you use man-made logs. Never break a man-made log apart to quicken the fire.
- Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace and be sure the fire is out before retiring for the evening.
- Always use a sturdy screen when fireplaces are in use.
- Burn only wood. Paper or pine boughs can float out the chimney and ignite your roof or neighboring homes. Also, plastic, charcoal or Styrofoam can produce toxic gases!
- Make sure the fire is out before leaving the house or going to bed.



ARMY SAFE  
**FallWinter**  
NO TIME TO CHILL



ARMY SAFE  
IS ARMY STRONG



ARMY STRONG