

Month reminds all to be prepared

Did you know September 2012 marks the ninth annual National Preparedness Month?

You see the news everyday in the United States, somewhere, someone, is suffering the effects of a natural or a man-made incident and the heartache it brings.

The challenge for preparedness is maximizing awareness and encouraging participation in disaster preparedness activities that affect change at the community level.

Our nation's emergency managers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMT/paramedics and other emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, but they cannot do it alone.

We must all embrace our

personal responsibility to be prepared. In doing so, we contribute to the safety and security of our community and Fort Sill. Being prepared is the best thing we can all do to alleviate the potential suffering we and our families may endure.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has partnered with nearly 11,100 different businesses, organizations, communities, agencies, groups and schools across the nation to help everyone prepare with a simple and basic message: Be informed, make a plan and build a kit.

These three simple things go a long way in ensuring you and your family are prepared to deal with nearly any situation that may arise.

More information for the



Did you know?

By Col. Paul Hossenlopp
Fort Sill Garrison commander

national campaign may be found at www.ready.gov. Besides the focus of preparing your family, there are a number of preparedness and service organizations that train everyday citizens to assist in their communities when a disaster hits. There are opportunities with the Community Emergency Response Team, Volunteers in Police Service, Medical Reserve Corps Fire Corps and Neighborhood Watch.

The Lawton-Fort Sill

community has CERT, MRC and Neighborhood Watch programs available for you to participate in. For more information contact the Lawton/Comanche County Emergency Management Office at 355-0535.

Similar to what is being done on a national level, the State of Oklahoma and its Office of Homeland Security have developed Red Dirt Ready that closely mirrors the efforts of Ready.gov but with an Oklahoma tie.

Preparedness and volunteer information, and activities such as Neighborhood Watch and Map Your Neighborhood are available for you to help in your neighborhood and community. For more information on Red Dirt Ready, go to www.ok.gov/reddirtready/index.html.

For our Army family, the Department of the Army in 2006 also partnered with Ready.gov and established Ready Army to provide a proactive campaign to increase the resilience of the Army community and enhance the readiness of the force by informing Soldiers, their families, Army civilians and contractors of relevant hazards and encouraging them to build a kit, make

a plan and be informed. Through outreach and education, Ready Army calls our Army community to action and aims to create a culture of preparedness that will save lives and strengthen the nation. For more information, fact sheets, posters, booklets and other helpful resources, visit www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy.

If you, your unit or organization is interested in hosting or conducting any preparedness activities or would like a briefing or presentation, call the Fort Sill Emergency Management Office at 442-2533/2532/5973 to schedule.

Be informed, make a plan, build a kit.

Briefs

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Garage sale

Permits go on sale Sept. 4-27 for the Fort Sill Fall Post Wide Garage Sale Sept. 29 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the 1-78th Field Artillery (BOLC) parking lot located on Crane Road. Purchase your garage sale permit at Adventure Travel, located in Building 4700, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$20 each; all sellers must

have a permit. For more information call the Family and MWR Community Recreation Office at 442-2025.

Reclamation sale

The next Fort Sill reclamation sale is Sept. 8 from 8 a.m. - noon in Bldg. 2102, Currie Road. Until further notice, no Army Service Uniforms will be sold. Sales are cash only, and a military ID card is required to make a purchase. For more information, call 442-2712.

Heritage luncheon

The Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill will observe Hispanic Heritage Month with a luncheon Sept. 20 at 11:30 a.m. at the Patriot Club. Cost is \$8 and tickets must be purchased by Sept. 10, from unit Equal Opportunity advisers or the Installation EO Office in Bldg. 4700, fourth floor. Attire is duty uniform for military personnel and business casual for civilians. For more informa-

tion, contact the post EO Office at 442-5895 or unit equal opportunity representatives.

Backbone Ball

The eighth annual Backbone Ball will be Sept. 14 at 5 p.m. at the Patriot Club. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III will be the guest speaker. Attire is formal for military and civilians. Tickets are \$35 for all ranks; make checks payable to NCOA Backbone. RSVP no later than Sept. 1 to Staff Sgt. Ronterron Carter at 442-5083.

Pets half off

Adoption fees for cats and dogs at the Fort Sill Stray Facility are 50 percent off, which is \$28.50. There is currently a large selection of animals. The facility is at Bldg. 832 Macomb Road at Condon Road. For more information, call Andy Anderson, animal caretaker, at 442-3340.

Retiree appreciation

Retiree Appreciation Days

are Sept. 20-21. Military retirees will be given full priority to obtain wills, advanced medical directives, and powers of attorney (advice on any other legal matter is also available, but priority is given to estate planning).

The legal assistance office will be closed to all other military or civilian personnel - it will only serve retirees during this time. For more information, call 442-5058/5059 or to schedule an appointment. See upcoming editions of the Cannoneer for more details on this annual event.



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the Cannoneer®

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For news tips and feature items, contact: the Cannoneer, 652 Hamilton Ave. Rm. 200, Sheridan Hall, Fort Sill, OK 73503-5100, or call (580) 442-5150. Deadline to submit announcement and other information is close of business Thursday before the following Thursday's issue.

Printed every Thursday as an offset civilian enterprise publication by Lawton Media, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army under exclusive written contract. Bill Burgess, Jr. and Brad Burgess, co-owners.

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Circulation 12,000 weekly.



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