

Safe houses can be safe havens

Did you know Fort Sill has a McGruff Safehouse Program?

The McGruff Safehouse is a program that helps provide a safe place for children to go when they need help. Students can knock on a safehouse door if they are hurt, being bullied, lost or come home from school and a parent is not there. A background check is completed for everyone wanting to be a safehouse participant.

McGruff Safehouse signs have been in Fort Sill housing all year. They have been there as children walk to

school and as they run home with their homework and art projects. With school in session, it is time to remember the McGruff Safe houses are there waiting for children who need help.

The McGruff Safehouse sign, features a dog in a trench coat with the words McGruff House in bold letters. This sign is posted in the front window of the participating house so that it is visible from the street.

Even though Fort Sill is a military post, it is not 100 percent safe. Just like any other community, we are



Did you know?

By Col. Raymond Lacey
Fort Sill Garrison commander

trying to prevent any incident from happening on post.

Parents are encouraged to take the time and talk to their children about safe places to play and places to avoid, such as dark corners of areas where children are acting rough. Parents are encouraged to

keep track of their children and make sure there is always a supervising adult nearby when they are playing outside. Parents are also encouraged to explain the McGruff signs and what it means if a sign is in the window of a house.

Safehouse participants

are neither the police nor babysitters, but are simply adults who can call the youth's parents or proper authorities in case of an emergency. The adult is asked to make that call without giving first aid or giving snacks due to possible allergies.

There are 55 Fort Sill residents who have volunteered for the program and have received their serial-numbered McGruff Safehouse signs, but we need more volunteers. Please consider becoming a member of the McGruff Safehouse Program.

To learn more about the McGruff Safehouse program or to sign up to be a Safehouse participant, call 558-4967 or stop by the Directorate of Emergency Services at 5030 Hatch Road.

To reach me

To send questions or comments to me, please e-mail fscoms@conus.army.mil or you can mail your comments to Commander, USAG-Fort Sill, 462 Hamilton Road, Suite 120, Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Thanks and have a great Fort Sill day.

Fort Sill unit wins CASCOS award

By Mathew Montgomery
CASCOS PAO

FORT LEE, Va. — A Fort Sill basic training unit is tops in the Army for keeping Soldiers ready for their missions.

F Battery, 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery won first place in the Supply Excellence Awards recently here. The battery won in the Level I; Unit Table of Distribution & Allowance category, beating Maintenance Activity Vilseck, Theater Logistics Support Center-Europe, Vilseck, Germany.

Regardless of where they're fighting, operating or

training, Soldiers require supplies to accomplish their mission. The Combined Arms Support Command Supply Excellence Award recognizes those who keep the Army moving by providing superior supply operations for the active Army, National Guard and Reserve components.

The SEA program started in 1986 to highlight the critical role sustainers play in supporting the warfighter. The purpose is to increase the logistical readiness of all Army units; enforce the Command Supply Discipline Program; encour-

age the use of available resources; and provide a structure for recognition of group and individual initiatives.

According to the SEA evaluation team, "participating units have a strong knowledge of regulations and well established CSDPs. They use the evaluation process as a training aide for improving operations while the recognition derived from winning, and the public awareness of supply excellence, creates competition and unit excellence."

To determine winners, the

SEA evaluators traveled all over the world to inspect, grade and evaluate units in various areas of supply operations. Some areas evaluated included unit standard operating procedures, records management, financial data accuracy and inventory accountability. While some units use the competition to make their overall supply program better, others took the competition on as a challenge.

"Some units who had just returned from deployment, and were preparing to deploy again, looked at the com-

petition as a challenge," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mary Apodaca, active-Army SEA evaluator. "Because of their established standards and strong command support, units were able to not only compete while gearing up for deployment, but also win this year's competition in their category."

Units will be honored during the Combined Logistics Excellence Award ceremony at the Greater Richmond (Va.) Convention Center May 12.

The SEA, along with the Army Award for

Maintenance Excellence and the Deployment Excellence Award, recognizes those organizations that have attained logistics superiority.

The ceremony is the culminating event for the Sustainment Commanders Conference and Association of the Army Sustainment Symposium, May 9-12. The Quartermaster School, CASCOS, manages the program and receives support from the National Defense Industrial Association, Association of the U.S. Army, and Department of the Army G4/Logistics.

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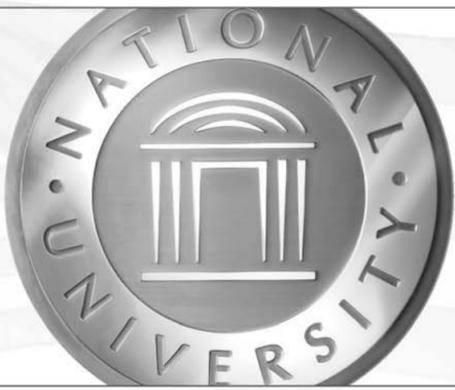
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