

The Soldiers and Families of Fort Riley appreciate the wonderful support that the surrounding communities provide. With that said there are a few new rules that the Family Readiness Groups have to follow. These rules are mandated by an Army Regulation that went into effect July 2006. Some of the changes are as follows:

1. Unit Commanders may accept an **unsolicited** gift or donation of money or tangible property with a value of \$1,000 or less for its Family Readiness Group (FRG). They would also need to speak with their Ethics Counselor before accepting the said donation.
2. As an official activity of the Department of the Army, the FRG may not engage in external fundraising and may not solicit gifts and donations. However, in accordance with AR 1–100 and with the advice of the ethics counselor, commanders and FRG leaders may, in response to an appropriate inquiry, inform potential donors of the needs of the Army in relation to assisting Army families.
3. Appropriate gift acceptance authorities may accept unsolicited gifts and donations made to the Army intended for FRG support; these donations will be added to the garrison's FRG supplemental mission account after consultation with an ethics counselor. The director, MWR (DMWR) will assign these donations intended for FRG use. These supplemental mission donations do not expire at the end of the fiscal year, and balances automatically roll over into the following fiscal year.
4. Garrison commanders may accept unsolicited gifts into the supplemental mission program when the donor intends the donation or gift to be used only in support of FRGs that are experiencing certain deployment cycle events, such as preparing for deployment, deployment and redeployment. The DMWR will ensure that the supplemental mission donations are disbursed to FRGs whose Soldiers are experiencing the deployment cycle event stated in the donation. This ensures that the garrison fulfills the conditions of the gift which the commander accepted. For example, a donor intends a gift to be used "for the families of deployed Soldiers." The DMWR ensures only FRGs whose units have deployed Soldiers share in the supplemental mission donation.
5. The garrison commander may not accept unsolicited gifts into the supplemental mission program when the donor intends the donation or gift to be used only by a named FRG. For example, a donor intends a gift to be used "for Brigade X's FRG." Garrison commander must decline the gift because it creates disparity between FRGs experiencing the same deployment cycle events.

6. Commanders and FRG leaders must be careful to avoid stating or implying that the Army officially endorses any person or private organization that offers a gift. The commander and FRG leadership may not promise donors that donations are tax deductible. Businesses may be encouraged to speak with their tax adviser regarding business tax deductions.
7. Commanders who are offered donations they may not accept will consider referring the prospective donor to other Government or private organizations, such as Army Emergency Relief, local tax qualified charities, foundations, and fraternal or service organizations.
8. FRGs may not enter into commercial sponsorship agreements. Commercial sponsorship is an agreed upon arrangement under which a business provides assistance, funding, goods, equipment, or services in exchange for public recognition or other promotional opportunities on the installation.
9. Commercial sponsorship is generally only authorized for official MWR programs and events.

If anyone should have further questions please call the Family Readiness Support Assistant Program at 785-240-1251. Someone will be happy to answer any questions you may have. This information was provided by Stacie Belt, FRG program assistant.