

# Ready Army: Are you prepared?

*Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office*

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The Boy Scout motto is “Be Prepared,” but that’s good advice for anyone. As we begin to enter the time of year that we remember the Sept. 11 attacks, Hurricane Katrina and prepare for the snow and ice of winter, it’s a good idea to make sure you are prepared in the event you are forced to take shelter in your home for an extended period.

This may sound like a daunting task but it’s not as hard as you might think. You probably have almost everything you need in your house right now.

Liz Knouse, the Child and Youth Services coordinator for Carlisle Barracks, knows from experience about being prepared to leave at a moment’s notice. While her husband was stationed in Florida, they were evacuated three times, and having the preparedness kit ready to go with food, water, asthma medication for her son, first aid supplies, pet food and other necessities made the evacuation go more quickly and more efficiently.

Lt. Col. Michael Wertz knows that it’s always a good idea to have a preparedness kit on hand because you never know when something could happen. He keeps a first aid kit ready to go along with a few gallons of water and a flashlight.

Charity Murtoff, photographer, believes it is a necessity to have one in your vehicle in case of breaking down or coming across an accident. She has a first aid kit and blankets in her car.

Although Scott Finger, photographer, doesn’t have a kit ready to go, he believes you should have a plan. The kit should be dependent on the types of emergencies or disasters relevant to you and your area.

Never knowing what could happen, Douglas Chun, summer hire, says his family has non-perishable food, water, blankets, flashlights, and things to build a fire in their kit. They believe it doesn’t hurt to be prepared.

Megan Clugh, photographer, said the kit helps to survive during a natural disaster. She has food, water, clothes, and duct tape in her kit.

Retired Marine and former Boy Scout, “G.K.” Cunningham possesses a 72-hour kit. His contains food, water, clothes, and bedding. He has all the essentials to survive because disasters strike in unexpected frequency.

Col. Mike Moyer believes that the necessities should be packed in preparation for an emergency. He suggests food, water, flashlights, and batteries to be in any emergency kit.

Col. Dean Stodter, DEP faculty, said that kits should be dependent on location and time of

year. You wouldn't want a snow shovel in the kit in case of a hurricane or an umbrella in a tornado.

Check out the 3-day preparedness kits on display at locations throughout post.

#### Making a plan for your family

Make and practice a family emergency plan. Consider the range of potential emergencies and all the places your family members might be. Family members may not be together when an emergency strikes. Planning ahead for various emergencies will improve the chances of keeping in touch, staying safe and quickly reuniting.