

pers. file

McKnight speaks about black history

"The United States Constitution and Black Americans" was the topic of a luncheon presentation on Feb. 24 at the Fort Ritchie Officers' Club. This luncheon was part of the post's recognition of Afro American History Month.



Dr. Gerald D. McKnight, as associate professor of history at Hood College, spoke to the group about the historic struggle of black Americans and the rights offered by the U.S. Constitution.

In comparison to the American Revolution, he called the gathering of our "founding fathers" in Philadelphia a "bloodless" revolution. "Out of this second revolution came the constitution — the protector of civil rights and civil liberties," he said.

McKnight commended the infinite wisdom of these founding fathers for using the words "persons" throughout the constitution rather than slaves or property.

"Many years of history then set the need for the 5th and 14th amendments to the constitution giving civil rights to blacks, and to all Americans," he said.

Other Black History Month activities sponsored by the Human Affairs Office at Fort Ritchie during February included films, a touring group from Washington, D.C., and a variety of ethnic meals in the post dining facility.