

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule

Recycling pickup for Wednesday, April 7, is paper. Put appropriate items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Town Hall Meeting set for April 6

A Town Hall Meeting will be held April 6, 10:30 a.m.-noon, AA Recreation Center. Col. Robert Spidel, APG Garrison commander, and his staff will answer questions. A Town Hall meeting is for anyone who lives, works or plays on APG, including civilians, retirees, active duty, family members, Reserve and National Guard. All are invited to share ideas or offer suggestions on how to improve the quality of life at APG. For more information, call 410-278-5469.

Plan to donate blood on April 6

Sign up for the Red Cross blood drive on April 6, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Aberdeen Area Chapel. Call 410-278-2087 to make an appointment. Platelet donors are needed at the Red Cross Apheresis Center on APG. When you give platelets, you give a child with leukemia another birthday - another chance at life. Call 410-278-9125 to make an appointment, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Workshop helps with transition

The next Transition Workshop for ETS and retiring military personnel will be held April 6-8, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. each day, in building 2752, conference room 212. To register, call Don DelGavio at 410-278-9669. There is limited seating.

Power outage set for housing areas

A power outage is scheduled for April 6, 9-11 a.m. This outage will affect all buildings in the 2800 block, Patriot Village and Bayside Village. The Aberdeen Area Projects Section will perform switching on the 13 KV lines. For more information, call James Kirk, Directorate of Public Works Engineering and Construction Division, Quality Assurance Branch, 410-278-8693.

Normal hours planned for Easter

Both the Aberdeen Proving Ground Commissary and Main Post Exchange are scheduled to be open normal hours during the Easter weekend. Normal hours of operation for the Commissary are Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. PX hours are Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

APG will honor volunteers

APG will honor the post's volunteers at the Installation Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Reception, 7 p.m., on Thursday, April 22, at the Top of the Bay, building 30. All Aberdeen Proving Ground volunteers and their guests are cordially invited to attend. Refreshments and door prizes will follow the ceremony.

Re-Nu-It summer hours start soon

The Re-Nu-It Center will begin summer hours effective April 12. In the

See SHORTS, page 2



Photo by SHEILA LITTLE

Carl Buffalo, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Garden Center manager, shows off some of the flowering shrubs available at the Main Post Exchange.

PX, Re-Nu-It Centers can offer tips and tools for great gardening

By Sheila Little
APG News

The Garden Shop at the Main Post Exchange opened early last month - just before what many hope was the final snowstorm of the year.

But as the weather warms up, people's thoughts are moving from snow shovels and ice scrapers to garden rakes and lawn mowers.

The shop features much of what you will need for the upcoming gardening season. In addition to topsoil, mulch, fertilizer and weed and insect killers, the shop has bulbs, seeds, and potting packages for those who wish to get an early start on the traditional growing season. Also available are lawn mowers and other yard maintenance equipment, outdoor sporting

and fishing equipment, lawn furniture, and grills ranging from the throw away variety to those for the grill gourmet.

Carl Buffalo, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Garden Center manager, said shrubs, vegetables and flowering plants are made available as soon as the weather makes transferring relatively safe. Outdoor plants currently featured include azaleas, pansies and other hardy varieties. Plants that require warmer temperatures will arrive over the next few months.

Buffalo said employees go through a training program to get "a good general gardening knowledge" so they can assist the novice gardener. A description

See GARDEN, page 4

Red Cross says APG donation site won't close

Hours reduced to two days per week

By Karen Jolley Drewen
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Apheresis Center has reduced its hours, but a Red Cross official said the center has no plans to close its doors.

The center, which opened in April 1997, is open on Mondays and Fridays, 10 hours each day, beginning this week.

"The good news is we're not closing it, but we are changing our hours," said Patrick Smith, Red Cross spokesman. "Mondays and Fridays were really our big days at APG, and the other days were slow."

"The APG center is very successful," he added. "We just had to make one or two adjustments to the schedule."

Smith noted that some donors are regular "customers" at the center.

"We hope our very dedicated platelet donors at APG are not put out by this, and we can continue to count on them," he added.

One of those dedicated donors is Jim Hanna of the Directorate of Public Works, who has been donating platelets twice a month for the past year-and-a-half.

Previously, he had gone to Baltimore, but usually only donated twice a year.

"It won't affect how I donate, because I usually donate on Fridays," he said, although he added that he worried the center may lose out on some donors due to the inconvenience of limited hours.

For an appointment to donate, call the center at 410-297-9125.

No ground troops slated for Kosovo

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (March 29, 1999) — The Army is not currently planning to send ground troops to fight in Kosovo, Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera emphasized to reporters Friday at the National Press Club.

Following a speech about recruiting and public service, Caldera answered questions about Kosovo. He said Army troops will not likely be sent there until after a peace agreement is reached.

"The circumstances under which we are contemplating introducing ground troops are at this point limited to enforcing a peace-keeping agreement like the one in Bosnia," Caldera said, "where both sides have agreed to lay down their arms."

Caldera said soldiers in Bosnia and Macedonia are focusing on

force protection and have raised their readiness level in keeping with the threat as Operation "Allied Force" continues in Yugoslavia.

Moderator David K. Martin from King Publishing Company posed questions to Caldera submitted on slips of paper by reporters in the audience.

"Given the many historic lessons that air strikes never are sufficient to impose peace," Martin said, "how can we avoid a significant ground force presence for an indefinite period in Kosovo?"

Caldera admitted that there are limits to what air power can accomplish.

"It took ground forces to eject Saddam Hussein from Kuwait," Caldera said. "It takes ground forces to take hold of terrain."

See KOSOVO, page 4

Post to test response to chemical emergency

By Karen Jolley Drewen
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground will test its ability to respond to a chemical emergency on April 14, during the annual Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program training exercise.

The exercise, which will run from about 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., will revolve around a simulated accident involving the bulk mustard agent stored in the Edgewood Area's Chemical Agent Storage Yard. Participants will demon-

strate activities such as message reception and dispatch, emergency notifications, decision making, coordination, resource management, emergency response and public information.

Emergency staffs use these exercises to practice their response to crises and to assess the effectiveness of their communication networks, said John Yaqui of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command Public Affairs Office.

"We have found that these

See EXERCISE, page 4

Mother's Day Brunch planned for May 9

By Karen Jolley Drewen
APG News

Several years ago, Top of the Bay ended its brunch tradition. In May, the tradition will return for a special Mother's Day Champagne Brunch on May 9.

"The brunch was an old tradition at APG, but it consistently lost large amounts of money in its latter days," said Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG Garrison commander. "But I believe this can be a great event with the support of the community."

Doris Reitzle, manager of Top of the Bay, said the brunch was planned "for a special occasion."

"When we were still a commu-

nity club, we offered brunches, but we didn't have the customers to make it profitable on a weekly basis," she said. "But for this special event, I think people will be excited by what we have to offer."

The menu will feature both breakfast and lunch buffets, featuring an omelet station, French toast, eggs and bacon for the breakfast fans, and carved ham and turkey, beef burgundy, shrimp Creole, seafood Newburg and a variety of side dishes for lunch aficionados. A variety of desserts, salads, breads and beverages will be featured.

Information about the event

See BRUNCH, page 4

Easter, Passover events planned on post

Holy days, celebration mark season

The Jewish Holy Days of Passover began at sundown Wednesday and conclude at sundown on April 8. The first two days of the festival (Thursday and Friday) and the last two days (Wednesday and Thursday) are religious days of obligation.

Home Hospitality for the Seder service, are available for all interested Jewish personnel. A Passover service and luncheon will be held at the APG Post Chapel on April 5 at noon in the Social Hall.

Call the Chapel Center at 410-278-4333/2886 for information.

Easter Egg Hunts planned for Saturday

The Civilian Welfare Fund will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt at CAPA Field in the Edgewood Area at 10 a.m. on Saturday. An Easter Egg Hunt also will be held at the Post Chapel in the Aberdeen Area from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This information was incorrect in last week's paper.

The Easter Bunny will visit the Aberdeen Area Youth Center on Saturday, 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by the post youth centers and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the event will be segmented by age group: ages 2-4 can get their pictures taken from 2-2:30 p.m.; ages 5-7, 2:30-3 p.m.; ages 8-10, 3-3:30 p.m.; and ages 11 and 12, 3:30-4 p.m. For information, call Gary Nyikos, 410-436-7131 or 410-278-9062. This event is free to the post community; photos will be taken, and parents can bring their own cameras and take photos.



Week to feature Living Last Supper, Sunrise Service in EA

The following events are scheduled on post:

- AA Protestant**
April 1, 7 p.m., Living Last Supper
April 2, noon, Good Friday Service (Grace Methodist, Aberdeen)
April 3, 10 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt, AA Chapel.
April 4, 7 a.m., Easter Sunrise Service, McBride Field, EA.
April 4, 10:15 a.m., Easter Service
- EA Protestant**
April 2, noon, Good Friday Service
April 4, 7 a.m., Easter Sunrise Service, McBride Field, EA.
April 4, 9:30 a.m., Easter Service
- AA Catholic**
April 1, 11:45 a.m., Holy Thursday Mass
April 2, 11:45 a.m., Good Friday Service
April 4, 8:45 a.m., Easter Sunday Mass
- EA Catholic**
April 1, 7 p.m., Holy Thursday Mass
April 2, 7 p.m., Good Friday Mass
April 3, 8 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass
April 4, 10:45 a.m., Easter Sunday Mass

Spring forward

Daylight-saving time

Remember to turn your clock forward one hour before turning in for the night Saturday

Daylight-saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday

POST SHORTS

SHORTS, from front page

Aberdeen Area, the Re-Nu-It Center will be open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, from 8 a.m.-4:20 p.m.

In the Edgewood Area, the Re-Nu-It Center will be open on Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m.-6:20 p.m. For more information call Ellery Blake, 410-306-1108.

Old buildings to be burned

Buildings 2768, 2770 Rodman Road and 2725 South Court will be burned by the Fire Department for training exercises. Burning will take place from early April through May 16. The APG Fire Department will conduct nighttime controlled burning. Daytime burning will only be conducted on the weekends. The free training gives government and local volunteer fire companies the opportunity to test new equipment and rescue techniques and maintain their fire fighting skills. For more information, call Richard B. Dunham, DPW, 410-278-0370 or Edward Budnick, APG Fire Department, 410-306-0576. This training was coordinated with the demolition contractor P&J.

Briefings on health plan scheduled

The DoD TRICARE Uniformed Services Family Health Plan at Johns Hopkins will conduct briefings at Dickson Hall at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the following dates. Tuesday, April 6; Wednesday, April 14; Monday, April 19; and Tuesday, April 27. Plan representatives also will answer questions. Prospective members, including family members of active and retired military personnel and their survivors, are welcome.

Civilian Welfare Softball League meeting

The AA Civilian Welfare Softball League meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 5 p.m., at the Bullpen, located in Colonel's Choice in Aberdeen. This meeting is mandatory for coaches; teams not represented at the meeting will not be able to participate in the league this season. For more information, call the AACWF softball commissioner at 410-306-0770 or send e-mail to dspagnu@arl.mil.

Guidelines for yard sales posted

Residents should keep the following guidelines in mind when planning a yard sale in family housing areas:

Yard sales will be held any weekend of the month between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Signs announcing the sale may be erected in the immediate vicinity only on day of the sale. Signs will not be affixed to traffic signs, utility poles, trees, lamp poles, or fences. Signs should be placed on a wooden stake and placed in the ground. Signs will be taken down at the end of the sale, and residents will be responsible for policing their area after the sale. Advertising for a yard sale is by notice on bulletin boards at the Post Exchange, Commissary, Shoppette (contact manager for approval), or any off post publication.

Parents Support Program seeks help

A home visitor is needed to work in Army New Parent Support Program. Applicants should be registered nurses with associate's or bachelor's degrees and two years of experience in community health and prevention of child/spouse abuse.

Licensed MSW's are needed to work in Army New Parent Support Program at APG. Home visitor must have two years experience in prevention of child/spouse abuse. For immediate consideration for either position, fax a resume with cover letter to J&E, 301-650-4136, Attn: HV/NPSP, E.O.E., M/F, H/V.

Send in soup labels to CDC, schools

The Aberdeen Area Child Development Center, Aberdeen Middle School and Edgewood Elementary School collect Campbell's Soup labels to redeem for equipment to be used by children enrolled at the center. Eligible products include: Campbell's bean products; chunky, condensed, Home Cookin' and Healthy Request soups; Campbell's tomato juices; Franco-American gravies, SpaghettiO's; Pace Picante; Pepperidge Farm products; V8 juices; Swanson products; and Prego spaghetti sauces.

The schools are collecting Klein's Supermarket receipts and Campbell's labels. Klein's is running a "Computers Plus for Schools" program through May 25. Pink register receipts are issued to all customers. The small portion with the total cost of groceries is needed, so the schools can redeem receipts for free computers, audio-visual equipment, software, books and sports equipment.

Drop off label donations at the AA CDC, building 2485, at the box in the lobby. Call Kim Fillinger at 410-278-9950 or 410-939-5950 for details. For schools, send labels and receipts by June 1 to Aberdeen Middle School, ATTN: PTA, 111 Mount Royal Ave., Aberdeen, MD 21001 (call Rose Ann Spieles, 410-272-6308); or Edgewood

Elementary School, ATTN: PTA, 2100 Cedar Dr., Edgewood, MD 21040 (call Kathy Shrontz, 410-612-0444).

Apply for scholarships by April 2

The Edgewood Area Thrift Shop will present two \$500 scholarships for high school seniors this spring. Candidates must be the dependent of either an active duty, retired or deceased service member, or the child of a Department of Defense civilian. Application forms may be obtained at the thrift shop on Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in building E-1633, or by contacting the shop at 410-676-4733. Application deadline is April 2.

EAOWC offers scholarships

The Edgewood Area Officers' Wives Club will offer a \$1,000 youth scholarship on behalf of the USPA and IRA Educational Foundation. The EAOWC also will offer \$500 scholarships, two to high school seniors and one to a currently enrolled full-time college student. Applicants must be the child of an active-duty, retired or deceased service member who will attend college during the 1999-2000 school year. Pick up applications at Harford County high schools, the EA Thrift Shop, the EA Library, or by calling Evelyn Atchison, 410-297-8558. The EAOWC will donate a \$500 scholarship for a spouse of active duty, retired, or deceased military members. Apply by April 2. Winners will be notified by early May.

MCSC plans to donate funds

The Aberdeen Area Military and Civilian Spouses Club will donate funds to organizations and charities this spring. Groups interested in receiving funds should submit requests in writing and include the organization to receive the funds, the manner in which the funds will be used, and a contact person for the organization (name, address, and telephone number). Submit requests by April 1 to Marlys Wallman, 3801 Hazel Ct., Abingdon, MD 21009.

Apply by April 1 for MCSC scholarships

The Aberdeen Area Military and Civilian Spouses Club (MCSC) will award three higher-education scholarships this spring. A \$1,000 college education scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who is the child of an active duty, retired, or deceased service member or DoD civilian. A scholarship from the USPA&IRA educational foundation will give \$1,000 to a service member's child who is entering or continuing education in an undergraduate college program. The recipient will be determined by the MCSC. The club also will award \$500 to a military spouse entering or continuing a college education. Applications are available in the Aberdeen Area library, Post Office and Thrift Shop, and through the local high school guidance office. For more information, contact Ellen May, MCSC scholarship chairperson, 410-297-8387. Application deadline is April 1.

Refresher training for CORs set

Changes in Federal Acquisition Regulations have taken effect in the last few years due to the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994. All contracting officer's representatives (CORs) need to be aware of these changes. The U.S. Army Materiel Command Acquisition Center will conduct mandatory COR refresher training at both areas of Aberdeen Proving Ground in April. There is no cost for attendance. All CORs should attend this refresher training. This is not a certification course like the Army Logistics Management College or the Department of the Navy Contracting Officer's Representative Course. This is only refresher training for CORs. However, it will provide Continuous Learning Points for members of the Defense Acquisition Workforce. It is important to know the approximate number of CORs attending so enough booklets can be printed. If you need to attend this refresher training, notify your training coordinator.

Scout Troop seeks former members

Former members of APG Scout Troop 429 are invited to the troop's 50th anniversary celebration on April 30. Those interested in attending should supply an address to Dean Kolker, 410-273-0985.

Bingo to benefit Roye-Williams

Roye-Williams Elementary School Parent Teacher Association will host bingo on April 16, 7 p.m. Prizes will include Longaberger Baskets, Pampered Chef and Tupperware products. Cost per ticket (three games per card) is \$10. Doors will open at 6 p.m.; refreshments will be available. Purchase tickets at the school or by calling 410-273-5536. For details, call Trish Ruby, 410-273-5536, Debbie McGrath, 410-297-8620, or Lorie McDuffie, 410-272-0434.

AA meeting held at chapel

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Aberdeen Area Chapel Center in the Social Hall.

Block leave set for band

The 389th Army Band will not be available for commitments from July 6-22 because of training and summer leave. Questions regarding scheduling should be referred to Judy Michalski, 410-278-2711.

Pizza delivery offered in EA

Anthony's Pizza in the Edgewood Area delivers to homes and barracks on post (Edgewood Area only) Monday-Friday, 5-7 p.m. To place an order, call 410-671-6198.

Change in EA badge section

Effective May 4, the Badge/ID Section of the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security in the Edgewood Area, building E-4420, room 109, will be open on Thursdays instead of Tuesdays. For more information, call Edward Davis, 410-278-3821.

Thrift shop seeks cashier

The Aberdeen Area Thrift Shop is seeking applications for a paid cashier position requiring approximately 40 hours per month. The Thrift Shop offers an unique opportunity to work in a friendly and stress-free environment while receiving benefits not usually associated with this type of job. Previous cashier experience is helpful, but more important is a willingness to work and a "people person" attitude. Qualified applicants can apply at the AA Thrift Shop, building 2458, during business hours or call Carol at 410-272-8572 or 410-273-5033 for additional information.

Story-tellers needed at libraries

The APG Library System is looking for volunteers to help with the annual Summer Storytime held at both libraries. If you are interested in volunteering for either location, call 410-278-3417 and ask for Tina.

Recruiting team seeks volunteers

The U.S. Army Recruiting Command's Recruit The Recruiter Team is looking for top NCOs from sergeant through sergeant first class who are looking for one of the Army's most challenging and rewarding jobs. If you qualify, volunteer and receive an assignment, you will receive extra pay, incentive awards, assignment preference, career enhancement and job satisfaction. For a phone interview regarding qualifications, call (800) 223-3735, then dial extension 60215, 60105, 60234, 60210 or 60231. You can also use DSN 536- (and last four of any extension). Check the website at www.goarmy.com/recruiter.

Play bingo on post

The post recreation centers hold bingo four times a week. The Aberdeen Area Recreation Center has bingo Wednesdays, 7 p.m., and Sundays, 2:30 p.m. For details, call 410-278-2621. The Edgewood Area's Stark Recreation Center holds bingo Thursdays, 7 p.m., and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. For details, call 410-436-2713.

Summer program for youth planned

The Child Development Center and Youth Services are accepting pre-registration for the full-day summer program, which will operate for eight weeks from June 28 through Aug. 20. Children enrolled in grades 1-9 are eligible for the program. Pre-registration forms are available at both Youth Centers and Child Development Centers. The AA CDC is located in building 2485; the EA CDC is located in building E-1901. The AA Youth Center is located in building 2522; the EA Youth Center is located in building E-1902. The CDC and Youth Center priority for care policy is in effect for the summer program. Patrons on this list who turn down a position (when it is offered) will be removed from this list. Activities planned include swimming, sports, skating, movies and field trips. For questions, call Rita Wilkins, director, School-Age Services, 410-278-2572.

Purchase request schedule set

The following schedule has been established for the submission of purchase requests for Fiscal Year 1999 for the Army Materiel Command Acquisition Center:

- Noncommercial Items over \$100,000 - June 1
- Noncommercial Items between \$2,500 and \$100,000 - July 1
- Commercial Items between \$100,000 and \$5 million - July 1
- Short-of-Award over \$2,500 - July 1
- Commercial Items under \$100,000 - Sept. 1

Submission of requests after the scheduled dates will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Refer questions to Joyce Roberts, APG Branch (e-mail: jrobert@apg-emh1.apg.army.mil), 410-278-0869; or chief, Edgewood Branch (e-mail: arbaker@apgea.army.mil), 410-436-2554.

APG NEWS

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command. The newspaper is published weekly by the TECOM Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSTE-PA, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5055, (410) 278-1150. Printed circulation is 13,500.

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RETIREE CORNER

Gulf War veteran bonuses

Service members who served during the Gulf War and were legal residents of Minnesota, Massachusetts or Illinois are eligible for cash bonuses from their home state. Minnesota is offering bonuses to service members who served in or outside the Gulf. If the person served in the war zone and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal, he or she will be entitled to a \$600 bonus. Service members from Minnesota who served in locations other than the Gulf, including National Guard members and Reservists called up for active duty, are eligible for a \$ 300 bonus. The deadline to apply to Minnesota is June 30, 1999. In Massachusetts, service members are eligible for a \$500 payment if they served in the Gulf. National Guard and Reserve members who did not serve in the Gulf, but were called up for duty there are eligible for a \$ 300 bonus. Illinois offers a \$ 100 bonus to service members who served in the Gulf theater of operations. Service members must be able to prove they were residents of either of the three states when they entered the service and remained residents during the war. Details are available from the Veterans Service offices in each state or at the following websites: Minnesota, www.mdva.state.mn.us; Massachusetts, www.state.ma.us/sec/cis/cisvet/vetbonus.htm; Illinois, www.state.il.us/dva/bonus.htm.

Life insurance benefit change

Changes in government life insurance programs allow terminally ill veterans to receive accelerated death benefits. The Veterans Programs Enhancement Act has an option for VA to pay benefits under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance. Terminally ill SGLI and VGLI policyholders can receive up to half the face value of coverage, to a maximum of \$100,000 during their lifetime.

Education payments increase

Legislation signed by the president increases by 20 percent VA

monthly education payments to veterans who enrolled in the active duty or reserve components' Montgomery GI Bill. Effective Oct. 1, 1998, the full-time rate per month for MGIB active-duty enrollees with three years' service increased from \$439.85 to \$528; the total amount rose from \$15,834.60 to \$19,008. The rate for those with two years' service increased to \$429 from \$357.38 per month, a total of \$15,444, from \$12,865.68. Rates for Vietnam-era GI Bill enrollees who converted to the MGIB-Active Duty program increased to \$716 from \$627.85 (to \$25,776 from \$22,602.60 for 36 months). MGIB selected Reserve trainees' rate increased to \$251 from \$208.93, a total of \$9,036, from \$7,521.48. Other benefits improved are: a one-time allowance for disabled veterans needing modified controls or wheelchair lifts for an automobile increased to a maximum of \$8,000 from \$5,500; a one-time special housing grant for disabled veterans who have lost the use of both legs increased to \$43,000 from \$38,000; special housing adaptation grant for veterans who are blind or have lost the use of both hands increased to \$8,250 from \$6,500; pensions paid to low-income veterans in need of regular aid and attendance increased by \$50 per month; and a 1990 law that permanently terminated eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation for a veteran's survivor who remarries was repealed; benefits can be restored if the marriage is terminated.

New law helps soldiers

HR 4110 rolls into one new bill several pending veterans' initiatives that were not acted upon as the end of the session approached. The bill:

- sets the 1999 cost of living adjustment of 1.3 percent, beginning Dec. 1; this matches the Social Security increase.
- continues to allow Gulf War vets to be treated at VA facilities if they suffer from undiagnosed illnesses (through 2001). Their family

See RETIREE, page 4

COMMENTARIES

Suicide prevention: Understanding the risks, signs

By Maj. Angela Pereira
Directorate of Health Promotion and Wellness, CHPPM

When one thinks of causes of death among active duty soldiers, one typically thinks of accidents – car accidents and training accidents – and illness. Yet there is another cause of death that is a serious concern to the Army: suicide.

Lt. Col. Mark S. Roupas of the Department of the Army, Office of the Deputy Chief of Personnel, said “suicide is the third leading cause of death among active duty soldiers, right behind illness.”

When adjusting for age, sex, and race, the Army’s suicide rate is consistently lower than the expected number for a comparable civilian population. However, last year alone, 62 active duty soldiers took their own lives. That number is far too high, he said - too many soldiers saw suicide as their only option and committed a desperate, permanent act to end a temporary crisis.

With the arrival of spring, the number of suicides usually increases. Fifty-two of the 180 suicides by active duty soldiers during the three-year period from 1996 through 1998 were during the spring months. This compares to 48, 44 and 42 suicides completed by active duty soldiers in the winter, summer, and fall months of the same three-year period, respectively.

The warmer weather, burst of new life from trees and grass and renewal of nature in the form of births all signify a new start. Unfortunately for some, this newness does not bring new solutions to a seemingly overwhelming problem. The lifting of the dark, cold winter does not lift their depression. The contrast between the promise of a new beginning and the inner darkness they experience is too much for some to bear.

How do you recognize suicide risks and prevent these unnecessary and tragic deaths? The first step is to be aware that many people think about committing suicide when they think their problems cannot be solved any other way and feel that they have completely lost control over their lives. These feelings of hopelessness and helplessness often occur after a significant loss – the loss of a close relationship to death, divorce, or a break-up, the loss of a job, a financial loss or a decrease in health. How can we help?

Showing personal interest and offering support to anyone going through a crisis or difficult period is the most important way to prevent someone from seriously considering suicide because his or her life is out of balance. Get involved and be available to help find solutions; stay involved until the problem is solved.

Almost as important in prevention is to be aware of the indicators that someone is contemplating suicide and to respond to these signs. The most common and visible warning sign is a noticeable change in behavior: an increase or decrease in sleeping or eating; engaging in fewer social activities and/or interactions with friends and family; a loss of interest in hobbies, work, classes, and personal appearance; an increase in the use of alcohol or drugs; and an increase in taking unnecessary risks.

Another common sign someone might be at risk for suicide is behavior intended to “tie up loose ends” prior to one’s death, such as preparing a will, making funeral arrangements, organizing business and personal matters and giving away valued possessions.

Perhaps the most obvious, yet the most ignored, danger signal is a preoccupation with death and dying. People who are contemplating suicide or have decided to commit suicide often talk about, read about, or listen to music related to death. They might also take actions to prepare for the act of suicide, such as collecting prescription drugs, buying a weapon, carrying a bullet, or composing a suicide note. Also, 80 percent of people who commit suicide have told someone of their intentions. However, because many people are uncomfortable talking about suicide and do not want to believe that someone they know might actually be considering taking their own life, these cries for help too often go unheard.

“Often, soldiers give hints, but nobody takes them seriously and nobody follows up on their hints,” Roupas said.

Do not allow your own discomfort with death and dying prevent you from saving a life. If you suspect someone is thinking about suicide, ask the person if they are thinking about hurting or killing themselves. Just asking the question conveys your concern and can bring relief to someone who has been carrying around a heavy secret. It can also open the door for her or him to ask for the help that can provide a solution to an overwhelming problem.

Once someone has admitted to thoughts of suicide, take immediate action. Eliminate any means of suicide that might be available (i.e., knives, guns, medication) and do not leave the suicidal person alone. Contact a mental health professional, a chaplain, or the nearest emergency room. Finally, do not stop there - follow through to ensure that the problem has been solved or is being worked out and continue to provide support.

Let us make this spring a true season of renewed hope for as many soldiers as possible. The hopelessness and helplessness someone experiences can lead to a perception that the future promises only pain. We must reduce the number of times that a tragic and final choice of death prevails.

What’s the thinking behind ‘force health protection’?

By Lt. Gen. Ronald R. Blanck
Commander, USAMEDCOM

Force health protection. What does that mean? Isn’t that what we’ve always done? Why a new buzzword?

Good question. Here’s a good answer. That terminology:

- vividly reminds our line comrades why we are part of the Army team.

- vividly focuses our own thinking and energies on our primary mission.

“Force health protection” puts the Army Medical Department motto “To conserve the fighting strength” into words that resonate in today’s line Army.

Today’s Army is concerned about “force protection.” That means any security measures to protect units against attack.

Today, when so many peacekeeping and nation-building missions don’t involve face-to-face enemies, the only attacks may come from behind, from terrorists, rioters – and environmental hazards like disease.

In a way, this is an ironic return to the past. Throughout history, until World War II, military medical losses always overshadowed combat losses. Today – not because we have regressed medically, but because we have become so good at minimizing combat casualties – medical issues often return to the fore.

Today, health perils are again perceived as real threats to (1) hinder a mission, (2) upset the media and public, and (3) spawn damaging long-term controversies, as with Persian Gulf illnesses.

“Force health protection” reminds line leaders that Army Medicine exists to safeguard their units against those threats.

Those words remind us, too. Vital as our other services are – family-member and retiree care, humanitarian aid at home and abroad, research – our defining role is keeping the soldier on the job.

Moreover, the new terminology hints at HOW to do this. Since

we suffer few combat/accident injuries and our troops are healthy, curing patients plays a small role in force protection. The real need is for prevention.

This includes general health promotion such as anti-smoking efforts. But it also includes specific measures against identified threats on each deployment, such as endemic diseases and parasites, toxic pollutants, biological-warfare agents, etc.

To cope better, we continue to beef up prevention resources. Creation of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine five years ago was a giant step. Today CHPPM leads our force-health-protection efforts.

Efforts range from the traditional – vaccinations – to such innovations as the Deployment Environmental Surveillance Program (DESP). DESP is a tool to (1) assess environmental hazards; (2) help commanders, medics and troops cope with them; and (3) archive the data so

that we can investigate delayed health problems.

Technology promises better individual health records and fast analysis of patterns that impact force health protection. From Personal Information Carriers that store information on a chip worn like a dog tag, to a global database, a seamless web of retrievable and usable data will track exposures, interventions, risk factors, etc.

I’m proud to say, we’re good at this. Troops in Bosnia are sick less than stateside forces.

But we must not become complacent. Nature often shocks us with new perils - and unprincipled human foes would eagerly exploit laxness with biological weapons.

“Force health protection” gives us the concept to prevent this. Our robust preventive-medicine organizations give us the tools. But only eternal vigilance can give us assurance of fully protecting the health of our forces.

Parents: Don’t miss out on time with your children

By Beverly Hartgrove
Child and Youth Services

As parents we are far too busy with our lives, our jobs, car, details, to give our children the time to make them feel important.

The sharing thing does not work unless you are there. So many children need that human contact that is hard to get when a parent is at work and a child is at home.

Do you really have to work? Can you work at home? Can you work part-time? Parents are missing the good years, the foundation years of their children’s lives. We are trying to have it all and for what?

Birth to three years is the most important time of a child’s life. Bonding, love, and attention are all important to an infant’s outlook on life. If infants do not get immediate response to needs, and end up feeling forgotten, it effects learning, and self-esteem.

The world does not care about me is the way an infant feels. Parents, you cannot go back and build self-esteem easily or at all.

As children grow to toddlers, preschoolers, kindergartners, and schoolagers, parents have a wonderful opportunity to do things with their children, to play (yes, play), to take trips to the zoo, go camping, go to the Smithsonian, or go visit a nursing home. When your children are older, they will remember these intimate times with parents as the best.

It is important for parents to know that their biggest influence on their child’s life is up until eleven years old. After eleven years, peers have more influence on your child then you do. So, parents, NOW is the time to pay attention to children.

I work with your children. Family Child Care, Centers, School age and Youth Services, and other developmental child-care programs deal with all your

wonderful children while you work. And, we do an excellent job of living and caring and teaching.

But parents need to be plugged into each day with your children. Don’t just drop off children, and leave the problems of the day to the provider or caregiver. Give providers the support, cooperation, and help that they need to care for your treasures. It takes good parents to have good children.

Don’t wait until your children mess up to give them attention. Pay attention when things are fine. Plan a special time everyday with each child, maybe just to talk. Plan a special day each week for an outing to do whatever a child wants to do. When children are 16, and into serious trouble, you cannot go back and lay that foundation of communication.

What our children are missing most in elementary school years

is human contact. They are left alone too much, to care for themselves, to watch TV (which has awful programming and far too many adult themes), and to play computer games.

If parents start early enough, they can create family time with the TV off, playing family games such as Blues Clues, checkers or Monopoly. Parents need to get involved with children’s sports programs, science, and libraries, to name a few.

I’m okay; you’re okay. Parents, you must be okay with yourself to be able to give children what they need. Feed your own soul. Be a good role model for children. Let children see you help others, be caring, and doing the right thing. Take your children to church to meet others who are trying to do the right thing. Work on your relationships with others. Ideally, children need two parents to rear them.

The secrets of the universe revealed

By Buddy W. Maxwell
OC&S Weapons Department

Once upon a time in a distant galaxy, far from Earth, there lived a race of creatures not dissimilar to humans of today. Devoted to managed information, these creatures spent many hours operating strange electronic machines which manipulated date into various and sundry displays. The end product could never be deduced. As soon as one display was viewed, they went on to maneuver other words and numbers into forms that seemed to please them.

Our team of explorers made it a specific point to ask what the end product was to all this effort and was rebuffed with a simple, “you wouldn’t understand.” Further investigation proved this point time and time again.

Speculation upon return of this mission covered many areas, but almost all decided that it must be some advanced project that would only be revealed to earthlings when they had sufficiently advanced their knowledge of the universe to grasp the vastness of the project’s information.

It was on the fifth liaison visit by earth to the home of these beings that some understanding of their efforts began to show itself. Captain Garth “Vader” Benniwahoo was strolling around the central hall of the most populated planet, awaiting what had been described to him as an official welcoming party, when he stopped to watch one of the middle grade workers enter some data into his machine.

While watching, he overheard another

worker’s comment and copied it on his palm computer in the closest tones he could manage. It went something like, “oghieest ampleesae hgu anseesuutt.” He guarded this recording throughout the flight and turned it over to earth’s finest linguists upon his return.

After 18 months of round-the-clock work, using all the finest computers on earth and the finest linguistic minds on earth and the inner planets, the recording has finally been given what is described as an interim possible translation. Their degree of probability has been rated as near 80 percent. The words they have came up with translate into English roughly as follows:

“The black Jack will play on the red Queen.”

STORK STOPS

Devonna Marcelle Jennings was born on Feb. 8 and weighed 3 pounds and 11 ounces. Devonna is the daughter of Peggy A. and William P. Jennings of Aberdeen. Devonna has one sister, DeJanae’. Devonna’s grandparents are James and Yvonne Sims of Youngstown, Ohio.



Jonathan Christopher Springer, left, was born on Feb. 26 at 3:35 p.m. at Harford Memorial Hospital, weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces. He is the son of Christopher and Sgt. Michele Springer of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

Spring clean-up scheduled in housing, around post throughout the month

By Meghan Heimbach
APG News

It is that time of year again to help bring in the spring season with the Aberdeen Proving Ground Spring Clean Up scheduled for this month.

In a March 4 memorandum from Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG Garrison commander, the post was informed that clean-up in the installation housing areas will be held April 13-17, and common use areas used by all organizations and police call areas are scheduled for April 20-24. Spidel said the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School’s clean up day will be scheduled for April 27-May 1.

Garden equipment, trash bags, grass seed and fertilizer will be supplied by both the Aberdeen Area, building 5413, and Edgewood Area, building E-5703, Re-Nu-It Centers.

Spidel also said special trash and leaf/tree limb pick-ups are scheduled for two Sundays, on April 18, beginning at 10 a.m., and May 19, beginning at 8 a.m., for all areas during their designated clean-up period.

Trimmings from bushes and tree limbs should be place on the curb for pick-up, and swept-up dirt should be places in containers and kept at a manageable weight for emptying. Any bulk household items should be stacked on the curb for special pick-up by the refuse contractor on the following Monday, and household trash items will be picked-up on the normally assigned day Spidel said.

Behold! It is Jesus

It was time for Him to rise

What manner of Man is this?
 Even the winds and sea obey
 Get thee behind me, Satan
 “I AM” The Only Way

He arose the Third Day, Just
 like He said
 The Grave had to let Him go
 He Conquered Death, Hell and
 the Grave
 Is alive for ever more.

The Prophets prophesied about
 Him
 It is written in the Bible, It’s True
 Took upon Himself the Sins of
 the world
 That no one else could do

He had to appear before His
 Disciples
 They had to be a witness for
 Him
 He did what He had to do
 And removed all doubt from
 them

On the Cross of Calvary, He
 was Crucified
 A Soldier pierced His side,
 He bled
 He was the Only lamb of God
 For us His blood was shed

Behold! It is Jesus, He Lives
 Accept Him as Your Savior
 today
 He has all Power in His hand
 And He is The Only Way.

The trees were budding, It was
 Spring
 Nature was alive
 The Creator of all Living, Was
 Dead

— Richard Walton Sr.

Get ready for gardening with help from PX, Re-Nu-It Centers

GARDEN, from front page

of the soil and lighting environment is helpful in determining the degree of garden success. To answer a specific gardening dilemma, information referral packages are available in the department.

Buffalo said his shop sees "a lot of retirees who possess a first-hand knowledge of local gardening." He encourages his employees to learn as much as they can from the knowledgeable customers, to offer greater assistance to others.

An advantage for post residents of purchasing at AAFES is that all products carried by AAFES are approved for use on post.

"The environmental folks are in here to check the products and quiz me on a regular basis," Buffalo said.

The center is open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Post residents also are eligible to call on their local Re-Nu-It Shop. Shops in the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas currently have mulch and topsoil on hand. John Settles, who works at both shops, said plants will arrive soon.

"Yard shrubs, probably azaleas

and holly, should be here by the middle of April, and flowering bedding plants come after the first week of May," he said.

He explained that plants are made available when they are ready for outdoor planting.

"Maryland's last frost date is in early May," he said.

In addition, the shop lends lawn mowers, weed eaters, trimmers, shovels, rakes and hoes to post residents.

Hours for the Aberdeen Area center, located in building 5413 on Boothby Hill Road, are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m. The Edgewood location, building 5703 Magnolia Road, is open during the same hours on Wednesdays and Fridays.

For more information, call the Aberdeen Area center at 410-278-08814, or the Edgewood Area center, 410-436-2398.

For those who would like a little extra help in finding solutions to gardening dilemmas, Harford County Master Gardeners are giving a series of free programs at the Aberdeen and Joppa branches of the Harford County Library. Each class will consist of a demonstration or lecture. Participants can bring a plant



Photo by SHEILA LITTLE

Ella Patrick, a supply technician with the Re-Nu-It Center, shows the variety of the garden and yard equipment post residents may borrow.

sample, and gardeners will offer a diagnosis to determine identification, disease or infestation.

"Landscapes: Creative Solutions to Problems" is scheduled for the Joppa library branch April 5, 6:30 p.m., and the Aberdeen branch April 15, 11 a.m. "Growing and Using Herbs" is May 3, 6:30 p.m., at the Joppa branch, May 13, 6:30 p.m., at the

Aberdeen branch. "Organic Landscaping" is the topic for June 7, 6:30 p.m., at Joppa, and June 17, 11 a.m., at Aberdeen. Classes are one hour. Register with the Aberdeen branch, 410-273-5608, or the Joppa branch, 410-612-1660, two weeks in advance. For more information on the classes, call 410-273-5601, or by visiting the web site, www.harf.lib.md.us.

Summer jobs for pool managers, lifeguards available on post

With three swimming pools opening this year, APG will need even more lifeguards than originally expected. The post initially did not intend to open the Shore Pool; now, that pool will be open for the duration of the public school summer vacation. Three pool manager positions are open; each is a GS-4. Twenty-two lifeguard positions also are open, at the GS-3 level.

Submit an SF-171, OF-612 or resume, and documentation of lifeguard certification at the Northeast Region Civilian Personnel Office in building 314; complete information about what is required is available on the

appropriate job announcement, available on the Northeast Region Civilian Personnel Operations Center web site at www.cpol.army.mil/ner, or at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center Job Information Center in building 305, lower level. Candidates will be rated and hiring will begin once the list of applicants is complete.

This is an open continuous announcement, but Kim Hart of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center recommended applying soon. Employment will be from May 24-Sept. 6. For more information, call Hart at CPAC, 410-278-7144.

Make reservations soon for May 9 Mother's Day Brunch

BRUNCH, from front page

will be posted on WAPG-TV, and on flyers around post. Two seatings will be held, from 10 a.m.-noon and 12:30-2:30 p.m. Cost is \$13.95 for adults, \$6.95 for chil-

dren ages 6-11 and free for children ages 5 and under. Reservations are required by May 5, but organizers recommended making them earlier; call 410-278-3062/2552.

Caldera says no ground troops going to Kosovo

KOSOVO, from front page

There are limits to what one can do with bombing and cruise missiles."

Caldera continued by saying the Army must operate in a joint environment. "The Army doesn't do it alone. The Navy can't do it alone. The Marines, the Air Force, no one of the services can do it alone."

The national military strategy, Caldera said, is to promote stability in the world by helping deter aggression. He said it's a strategy of engagement and enlargement.

Caldera said the president's goal and "exit strategy" for

Kosovo is clear.

"What the goals are in terms of stopping Slobodan Milosevic's aggression against the Kosovars and degrading his ability to burn and kill people in Kosovo, I think are very clear," Caldera said.

Caldera said that service men and women in the Balkans are seeking "to prevent a modern genocide in a faraway land. Our thoughts and prayers are with those soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines in Bosnia, in Macedonia, in Italy and off the coast of Yugoslavia, and indeed around the world, who are selflessly doing their duty this day."

Exercise to ensure APG prepared for incident

EXERCISE, from front page

annual exercises confirm we have the right people, the right equipment and the right procedures to handle a chemical emergency," Yaquiant said. "Even though a stockpile incident is very unlikely, we need to be prepared."

Robert Silcox, APG's director of plans, training and mobiliza-

tion, noted that the exercise will be "invisible to most people," but those in the Edgewood Area should be prepared to some inconvenience, and may see emergency vehicles responding to the exercise.

"Exercises are designed to test our ability to respond to any kind of an accident or incident that

would involve both the installation and the community, to ensure that an emergency has as little impact as possible to people," Silcox said. "The goal is to have an appropriate level of response to the emergency scenario and ensure post residents, workers and the surrounding community are protected."

CSEPP exercises are evaluated jointly by the Department of the Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

For more information about the exercise, call Butch Kinerney at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, 410-486-4422, or Yaquiant at 410-278-1154.

Changes in laws offer more veteran benefits

RETIREE, from page 2

members can continue to use VA facilities through 1999.

- increases the special monthly payment to Medal of Honor winners from \$400 to \$600.
- allows terminally ill veterans to receive their death benefits on an advance basis.
- allows the VA to guarantee loans for "multifamily transitional" housing for homeless veterans.
- allows National Guard and Reserve members to continue to qualify for guaranteed home loans beyond the planned Sept. 30, 2003, expiration date.
- creates a more flexible payment option for students receiving aid under the Montgomery GI Bill and expands the number of former service members eligible for the GI Bill by allowing credits for certain life experiences.
- sets construction limits for fiscal years 1999 and 2000 at \$241.1 million for major products and \$8.5 million for medical facilities.
- changes cemetery-funding formulas. The VA will increase its up-front contribution to cover construction costs, but the states will be responsible for operating expenses.

SPORTS UPDATE

Volleyball pre-season puts 520th on top

By Meghan Heimbach
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Intramural Pre-Season Tournament was held March 23-24, with a tight final match between 520th and MRICD.

Match winners who took the best two out of three games moved through the tournament. In the final duel, 520th put up a fight, falling to MRICD, 15-9, then winning twice, 15-12, 15-9.

"There is no question in my mind that 520th is going to be the team to beat," said Allan Gayhart, recreation aide for Hoyle Gym.

Many of the teams were close, but Edgewood Area teams dominated the tournament, and most of the games were played at Hoyle Gym, said Earlene Allen, intramural sports director.

On March 23, at the Hoyle Gymnasium, HHC 143rd took the win after a three-game match against HHC 16th. HHC 143rd won the first, 15-8, but HHC 16th came back in the second game with a bang, 15-7. After a tight final game, HHC 143rd fought for the second round and defeated HHC 16th, 16-14.

Later that evening, 520th defeated SBCCOM in a two-game match. The first game put 520th in the lead, 15-0. In the sec-

ond game SBCCOM came back strong but 520th took the win, 15-12.

The last game of the evening brought MRICD into day two of the tournament, with the team's double defeat of HHC 143rd, 15-4, 17-15.

The same evening at the APG Athletic Center, a tight three-game match was played between A Co. 143rd and USMC, putting USMC into day two of the tournament. In the first game USMC defeated A Co. 143rd, 15-12, but A Co. 143rd won the second, 15-7. USMC came back to win the third match, 15-7.

Later that evening NCOA took the win against E Co. 16th in a two-game match, defeating E Co. 16th, 15-10, 15-5.

On day two of the tournament, all the games were played in the Edgewood Area. The first game of the day put 520th into the final round after defeating NCOA in a three-game match. In the first game NCOA took a 2-0 when not enough 520th players showed up, but 520th took the next two wins, 15-5, 15-7.

Later that day, MRICD defeated USMC twice, 15-3, 15-8, and was off to the final round.

Regular intramural volleyball season began Monday.

Hoyle Division wins All Star championship

By Meghan Heimbach
APG News

Basketball fans came out to watch the "best of the best" compete for the championship of the 1999 APG Basketball All Stars Tournament held Monday night at Hoyle Gym, with the home team taking a 45-42 win.

The evening started with the posting of the colors by Headquarters and Headquarters Co. 143rd Ordnance Battalion, and the National Anthem performed by Pvt. Shawn Farrow of B Co. 143rd.

Next the teams were introduced and the ball was tipped between the American Division and the Hoyle Division All Stars. At the half, the score was 19-17, and the American Division team, made up of players from Aberdeen Area units, was in the lead.

In the second half, the teams battled for the lead, but at the end of regulation play, the Hoyle Division All Stars, made up of players from Edgewood Area units, took home the trophy.

Duvowel Peaker, coach for the Hoyle Division, said he was proud of his division, and said the week of practice "really paid off."

"We used that week of practice to get to know each other on the court," he said. "We really concentrated on our defense. It was a very competitive game."

Peaker commented on Aberdeen's "good and strong" defense.

Greg Dingle, American Division coach, said everyone played well and had a good time out on the court.

"Hoyle was playing like they were going for the NBA Championship," he said. "They hit a few crucial free throws, whereas we missed a few. We look forward to playing them again next year to take that plaque back to Aberdeen."

Leading all scorers in the tournament were Brian Hill of HST for the American Division Team with 20 points, and Rashard Weaver of B Co. 143rd for the Hoyle Division Team with 13 points. Terry Fortson of 16th Ordnance Battalion added 10 points to the American Division effort, and Jerry Hemphill from B Co. 143rd, dropped in nine points for the Hoyle Division's winning effort.

Tournament players received commemorative T-shirts for being selected to participate in the tournament.

During the half-time ceremony, the finals were held in the three-point shot and the slam dunk. The three-point winner was Fortson from HHC 16th, who sank the most baskets from behind the line, with Michael Bibbins of HHC 143rd taking second. Weaver of B Co. 143rd took first in the slam dunk competition, with Richard Jones of B Co. 143rd coming in second.

(Marni Allison contributed to this story.)

Wife of Army chief of staff talks to APG spouses

By Sheila Little
APG News

Mary Jo Reimer, wife of Army chief of staff Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, was the guest speaker at the joint luncheon of the Edgewood Area Officer's Wives Club and the Military and Civilian Spouses Club on March 10.

Hosted by the EA-OWC at the Holiday Inn in Aberdeen, the luncheon was attended by more than 60 ladies from the APG community.

Describing Army families as "national treasures," Reimer spoke of the many "joys and challenges" of living the Army life.

"I believe that a commitment to being an Army spouse is a call to love with great intensity," Reimer said.

She suggested a personal inventory to help pinpoint strengths and goals, and gave examples of how Army wives of the West adapted by using frontier ingenuity.

She also challenged attendees to recognize what is needed to "hitch to the back of our wagon."

"Your wagon and my wagon will contain different sorts of things," she said.

She also spoke of "warm hellos and sad good-byes" and credited



Photo by CHRIS LASSITTER

Mary Jo Reimer chats with, from left, Cindy Van Prooyen, Esther Jackson and Denise Doesburg, at the annual combined luncheon of the Edgewood Area Officers' Wives Club and the Military and Civilian Spouses Club, held March 10.

military children with quickly adapting to new cultures and new nations. Each era has new family challenges, and ensuring military children receive a good educational foundation is one of the challenges.

"Educating our children today is a family issue," she said. "As parents we need to get connected with our child's school and stay connected."

Reimer reviewed the ways in which spouses added the building

and sustaining of community to their family nurturing role. She said tending the sick and teaching school were some of the ways, but said stories of "a community pulling together in a crisis" were particularly inspirational. She spoke of a fire in a military community and the subsequent overwhelming response by those who contributed anonymously and generously.

"This is the 'spirit of community' that is at the core of how we

Local ground water expert meets with Chinese counterparts

By Evelyn B. Riley
CHPPM Public Affairs Office

John W. Bauer, hydrogeologist and program manager with the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, recently returned from a two-week scientific and technical exchange with his counterparts from the People's Republic of China.

Bauer was part of a 22-person delegation that visited Beijing, Hohhot, Xian and Shanghai following the Chinese government's invitation to the National Ground Water Association, an international organization of 16,000 members based at Westerville, Ohio. Members of the National Ground Water Association are dedicated to protecting the

world's underground water resources.

"Water shortages are a major problem for the People's Republic of China and its 1.2 billion people," Bauer explained. "It has been estimated that nearly 550 million people throughout northern China, for example, do not have enough water. Nearly 70 percent of the 600 cities of China suffer water shortages.

"In rural areas, misuse of water supplies, fertilizers, and pesticides has multiplied the number of water pollution problems," he added. "Poor farming practices, in irrigation and drainage, have destroyed millions of acres of land."

The nation has an estimated 3.4 million water supply wells, with an annual production

volume of about 86 billion cubic meters of ground water, Bauer said. Nearly 80 percent of this volume is for agricultural uses. Over pumping of ground water has led to significant subsidence problems throughout the nation, as well as salt-water intrusion. Further, recharge of ground water resources by contaminated surface water has created additional problems.

This visit afforded a rare opportunity to discuss current issues and technologies regarding water pollution, treatment, and protection with scientists and officials of various ministries and universities within the People's Republic of China. The experience served to enhance the Army's strategic preventive medicine role in international activities.

SPORTS SHORTS

Attend Sports Council meeting April 1

The next Sports Council meeting will be held April 1, 10 a.m., at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center. Topics will include an update of Commander's Cup point standings, three-on-three basketball, deadlift, softball and golf competitions. All units at APG should be represented at this meeting. For information, contact Earlene Allen, intramural sports coordinator, 410-278-7934.

First three-on-three basketball planned

The Intramural Sports Office is sponsoring its first three-on-three basketball competition at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The tournament will be held in the Aberdeen Area on Saturday, April 10. There will be an Intramural Division competing for Commander's Cup points, and a Civilian Division which is open to all other eligible patrons. Register by April 2. For more information, contact the Intramural Sports Office, 410-278-7934.

First deadlift competition is April 10

The Intramural Sports Office is sponsoring the first Deadlift Competition at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The tournament will be held in the Edgewood Area's Hoyle Gym on Saturday, April 10. There will be an Intramural Division competing for Commander's Cup points, and a Civilian Division which is open to all other eligible patrons. Register by April 7. For more information, contact the Intramural Sports Office, 410-278-7934.

New 'Firebox' test facility opening soon at ATC

By Lena Goodman
ATC Public Affairs Office

The Aberdeen Test Center will soon open its newest test facility, the Fire Safety Test Enclosure.

Known as the "Firebox," the FSTE will allow ATC personnel to determine, in an environmentally sound manner, how effective new fire-suppression agents are putting out the types of fires likely to occur in combat vehicles.

For years, the main fire-suppression agent in tanks and armored personnel carriers has been Halon 1301, a substance with known ozone-depleting chemicals. Recognizing the potential danger of continuing to use Halon 1301, the Army decided several years ago to replace it with fire-suppression agents that contain no ozone-depleting chemicals.

Since then, ATC has been at the forefront of analytical work to find the most suitable fire-suppression agent — one that will extinguish crew and engine compartment fires quickly and reliably.

"The FSTE will allow testers to evaluate fire suppression systems and agents while preventing detrimental impacts to the environment," said Larry Stepnitz, the ATC project officer who has overseen the construction of the facility. "During tests, ATC often uses impenetrable pads to contain fuel, oil, and other liquid discharges from entering the ground.

With the FSTE we can now exert the same controls over smoke and gases."

A fireworks fire suppression test was recently conducted at the FSTE complex to demonstrate and assess the effectiveness of a commercially available fire-emergency, water sprinkler system in combating fireworks fires.

"A series of tests were conducted in a showroom-like configuration with various amounts of boxed and packaged fireworks," said Stan Polyanski, ATC's project test officer. "Instrumentation included thermal measurements, toxic fumes sampling and video coverage."

The \$24.5 million facility consists of a containment dome and an emission control system. The containment dome is 84 feet in diameter and 62 feet tall, and can withstand the equivalent of a 100-pound explosion of TNT. The corrosion control system refines and cleans gases before they are released into the environment. The FSTE can also contain and support the study of fires covering 200 square feet.

Stepnitz said the emission control system is designed to remove harmful chemicals and contaminants as a result of explosions and fires and before anything is released to the environment. This process produces a white plume of water vapor and carbon dioxide.

LIBRARY CORNER

The APG Garrison Library has new children's books for your reading pleasure. Come by the Aberdeen or Edgewood area Branch Library and check out some books. The following books were donated to the Garrison Library System by the Aberdeen Area and Edgewood Area Thrift Shops.

Everything You Need to Know About:

American History Homework
English Homework
Geography Homework
Math Homework
Science Homework
World History Homework



The Kid's Book of the 50 Great States

The Magic School Bus (six-title series), by Joanna Cole

National Audubon Society First Field Guides, on birds, insects, mam-

mals, rocks and minerals, weather and wildflowers.

The New York Public Library Kid's Guide to Research, by Deborah Heiligman

Scholastic Children's Dictionary
Scholastic Encyclopedia of the Presidents and Their Times, by David Rubel.

Scholastic Encyclopedia of the United States, by Judy Bock.

The APG Library System is looking for volunteers to help with the annual Summer Storytime held at both libraries. If you are interested in volunteering for either location, call 410-278-3417 and ask for Tina.

The Aberdeen Area Library is located at building 3320 on Aberdeen Boulevard, and is open Monday-Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. It is closed Thursday and Friday.

The Edgewood Area Library is located at building E-4405 on Austin Road, and is open Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. It is closed Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Ten selected for Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame

By E.C. Starnes
Ordnance Corps Corporate Affairs

Ten individuals have been selected for induction into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame during Ordnance Week anniversary activities in May.

To be honored are: retired Army Col. Frank A. Scott; retired Army Col. James P. Hamill; Dale Kinney; retired Army Sgt. Maj. Willie E. Cameron; Leslie H. Black; Gen. Johnnie E. Wilson; retired Army SSgt. Roy Judkins; retired Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas G. Grice; retired Army Lt. Gen. Ronald Hite; and retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas J. Rucker.

The Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame was created in 1969 to recognize and memorialize persons who have made a positive, significant contribution to the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps. Its members are honored with a permanent display in the Ordnance Museum. Since its inception the Hall of Fame has provided not only permanent recognition to these individuals, but it has also provided a substantial amount of historical information about the Ordnance Corps.

Included in its membership rolls are such individuals as J.C. Garand, who invented the M1 rifle; Dr. Werhner von Braun, whose work in the technical advancements of rocketry led to the liquid fuel rocket engine and ultimately to manned space flight; R. J. Gatling, inventor of the Gatling Gun; Dr. Herman H.

Goldstine, who served as the Ordnance Corps project officer for the development of the world's first computer, the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC), which brought the world into the Information Age; and Brig. Gen. Horace Porter, who served as an aide to general and later secretary for President Ulysses S. Grant and who won the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863.

Gen. Johnnie E. Wilson

Wilson, a native of Loraine, Ohio, and commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, was cited for his many contributions to the Ordnance Corps during his 39-year career. Entering the Army as an enlisted man, he completed the Ordnance Officer Candidate School and earned his fourth star when he assumed command of AMC. At AMC, he became responsible for an 80,000 person work force and worldwide logistics support for the U.S. Army.

Col. Frank A. Scott

Scott, a native of Cleveland, is being honored as an important industrial pioneer in World War I. He has been cited as being one of the first men of the 20th Century to master the elements of the critical relationship between the modern needs of Army Ordnance and the civilian manufacturing and procurement process. Scott also co-founded the Army Ordnance Association in 1919 and served

as the director for 30 years. He passed away in Cleveland on April 15, 1949.

Col. James P. Hamill

Hamill has been cited for playing a major role in the United States' missile and aeronautical technology as it exists today. As a member of the Ordnance Technical Intelligence team, he captured and shipped V2 rocket parts from Germany after World War II. His work permitted the United States to move ahead in the space program. He passed away in February 1984.

Dale Kinney

Kinney, a native of Bloomfield, Neb., is the president of Day and Zimmerman, Inc., Government Systems Group. He has been cited for his leadership in the development and adoption of innovative programs to improve Army depot productivity and as a key influence on today's philosophy of depot management.

Leslie H. Black

Black, a native of Lancaster, Ky., spent half of his 38-year career as the director of Industrial Operations, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. He has been cited for his leadership in improving the quality of products in the Army Tool Kit Program, especially in the designing and development of three prototype tool kits which were successfully field tested in 1997. His work in leading the programs to support the prototype production of the Heavy Mobility Contact Maintenance

Trucks was noted as one of the reasons he has become known as "Mr. Logisitan."

SSgt. Roy Judkins

Judkins was cited for his many years of distinguished service as an explosive ordnance disposal specialist, and specifically for his heroism on three separate occasions in Vietnam. He earned the Distinguished Service Cross and the Bronze Star for Valor within a six-month period for rescuing a squad trapped in a minefield and assisting in the removal of live ammunition from two soldiers undergoing surgery. He retired in 1978 when back and neck injuries forced him to leave the Army.

Chief Warrant Officer Five Thomas G. Grice

Grice, a native of Urbana, Ill., has been cited as being one of the most talented and respected technicians in the Army. He was the first warrant officer to command the Army's first technical service Warrant Officer Candidate Company. He also was the first individual named as the Regimental Warrant Officer of the Ordnance Corps and when he retired in 1996 he was called a true pioneer in shaping the future of the warrant officer corps.

Lt. Gen. Ronald Hite

Hite, a native of Washington County, Tenn., has been cited for being a key player in the testing and fielding of the M1 Abrams Tank and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and as a leader in the

development of the Army Acquisition Corps. He is now president and chief executive officer of Cypress International and continues to support the Army as a member of the Army Science Board and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Technology Review and Assessment Process. Hite retired from the Army in 1996.

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas J. Rucker

Rucker, a native of Toledo, Ohio, has been cited for his 30-year career in assignments ranging from organizational maintenance in missile units to battalion motor sergeant to advanced individual training brigade command sergeant major. He is a veteran of five tours in Vietnam, three in Germany, one in Korea and one in Italy. He specifically has been cited for developing maintenance support under the forward support teams the Army currently uses, and leadership training developments in both AIT and NCO Academy arenas. He retired from the Army in 1994.

Sgt. Maj. Willie E. Cameron

Cameron, a native of West Green, Ala., has been cited for his contributions to the Ordnance Corps as both a soldier and an Army civilian employee. His work in maintenance management and support of decontamination equipment as a logistical manager have been noted specifically as being a part of his can-do attitude.

General shares leadership secrets with students

By SSgt. Wayne V. Hall
MDW News Service

Leaders come in all shapes, sizes, colors, races and creeds. They're old and young, big and small, but they all share the common bond of the responsibility of caring for and guiding those they lead.

The student leaders of Fort Belvoir Elementary School's Student Council Association got a unique opportunity March 12 to learn a few secrets of success behind one of the Army's senior leaders — Gen. Johnnie E. Wilson, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

"About two years ago now, I visited Barden (Elementary School)," said Wilson, an Army veteran of nearly 38 years. "I had just been in Bosnia and remember I said at that particular point in time, the kids in Bosnia did not have a school to attend.

"They were going to a school in a barn; there were some animals in there and the roof had been blown off the top," he said. "It was in March, so it was wet and dreary, and they had books that were muddy and dirty."

"The teacher said 'General,' in broken English, 'General, my job is to help these students because these children have no place to go and study, and even if they went home, some of them do not have their parents,'" Wilson said. "So a young Army soldier said to me, 'General, we will put heat in the building; we will put a roof on the building,' and in fact they did that.

"Last week we went to Bosnia, and I flew over this little village. The helicopter dropped down and I went in and the children were attending school," Wilson said. "They had books this time, and not one teacher but three teachers still in the same building."

The general, who rose to the rank of staff sergeant before attending Officer Candidate School in 1967, challenged the new school leaders to be proud of their new elementary school and to be happy, despite the necessity



Photo by PAUL HARING

Gen. Johnnie E. Wilson, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, leads members of the Fort Belvoir Elementary School Student Council Association in a pledge during his visit with the student leaders.

for doing homework.

"Today you should say what a great day to be part of this school," Wilson said. "I walked around [Fort Belvoir Elementary School] for the first time. Of 1,300 students in this school, all of you have the potential now to grow up and be good students. We talked about respecting each other, studying hard and paying attention. Everyone should be happy, right?"

"Every time you get involved, and especially in the SCA, you have someone who represents your class," Wilson said. "You represent your friends, so you all come to these meetings and put forth your best efforts. And you go back and you tell your classmates, 'Here's what we decided on.'"

"As I listen to your bank account — \$1,000, I don't even

have \$1,000 — you all are doing very well," he said. "I live on Belvoir, and I think some of you all are involved in fund-raisers and come by the house. Whether it be candy, cookies or popcorn, we just procure a lot of those items because they're worthwhile."

"You all are leaders because you're working for people, you're representing people," he said. "You don't want to stand up and just say do this and do that."

"All of us, as Americans, would like to say to our buddies, 'Here's what we have to do,' and all of us would volunteer to be part of a team and do that. In my

command we have about 60,000 people who are spread all over the place in about 24 different countries. And often times I have to be the one to call them and say we have to send you to Macedonia, Haiti, Korea or Bosnia. And that is not easy."

"Part of my job [as a leader] is to make sure that they understand why they have to go to many places overseas," Wilson said.

"Here in Washington and on TV you all hear people talking about why the U.S. military is off in many places," he said. "Let me tell you why we do that."

"About three years ago, your Army went to Haiti," Wilson said.

A pledge for leaders —

"I promise, to be a good student; I promise, to pay attention, to respect my classmates, to respect my teacher; I promise, to tell my parents tonight that I love them; and that they will always be proud of me."

— Fort Belvoir Student Council Association, led by Gen. Johnnie E. Wilson.

"I went down there to visit soldiers. As we drove through this village our truck was stopped.

"All the guards got out to make sure they could protect me. They came back and said, 'General, something has happened in front of us.'"

It turned out that a mob of Haitian children had stopped an Army garbage truck, climbed atop and started rummaging through it looking for something to eat.

"As we began to drive and I looked in the ditch and saw all of these children," Wilson said. "I almost cried at the sight."

"When I got to the installation, the Army soldier said to me, 'General, we will do all we can to help the children,'" he said. "And they did, they gave about 200 chil-

dren a job on the post.

"We will continue to be leaders in the world because you all will make sure that that happens. You all represent the next century, the next millennium," he said. "It will not be easy, because we have to work together. The goodness of our nation is the strength of its diversity, and everyone that works hard has the opportunity to succeed."

Working hard and looking out for one another were two lessons Wilson learned in his childhood that have served him well throughout his career, which ends this month with his retirement.

"In my family, there were 12 of us. I never had a brand-new pair of Nikes because we handed the shoes down," Wilson said of growing up in Lorain, Ohio. "But what we had was each other, all 12 of us, and — knock on wood — we're thankful that we went off to school and we are doing well."

"I say to you all ... you can do the same thing, but you have to decide now that you want to work hard," he advised.

"I'm going to leave here and go to the Pentagon. I'll tell the people in the Pentagon that I just left the leaders of tomorrow."

(Hall is assistant editor of the Fort Belvoir Eagle)

COMING UP...

THURSDAY APRIL 1 ITEA LUNCHEON

Dr. Henry Dubin, technical director of the U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Command, will speak to the Francis Scott Key Chapter of the International Test and Evaluation Association at Top of the Bay, 12:30-1 p.m. Participants are invited to eat lunch in the Old Baltimore Room prior to the talk. His subject will be "Mission Capabilities: A Common Framework for Requirements and Test and Evaluation."

MONDAY APRIL 5 FEEL BETTER

A Look Good ... Feel Better program will be held at 7 p.m. at the Oncology Center at Riverside, 1200 Brass Mill Rd., Belcamp. This free program is sponsored by the American Cancer Society to help women undergoing cancer treatment deal with the cosmetic side-effects of chemotherapy and radiation. B. Ramsey Bane will be the trained cosmetologist leading the program. To register, call the American Cancer Society at 1-888-ACS-NEED (1-888-227-6333).

TUESDAY APRIL 6 TOWN HALL MEETING

The Town Hall Meeting will be held 10:30 a.m.-noon, AA Recreation Center. Col. Robert Spidel, APG Garrison commander, and his staff will answer questions. APG military, civilians, retirees and family members are invited to share ideas or offer suggestions. For more information, call 410-278-5469.

FLOAT YOUR BOAT

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-4 of Havre de Grace will offer a 13-lesson public education class in boating skills

and seamanship in the Edgewood Area, building E-4733. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Call for reservations, 410-838-2265 or 410-569-8093. The instruction is free; a \$20 fee covers textbooks.

HCC REGISTRATION

The summer/fall catalogs for Harford Community College will be available the first week of April. Registration for all classes starts at 12:30 p.m. Stop by the Harford Community College Office in building 3146 next to the Army Education Center. Classes will be offered on APG as well as the main campus. For more information, call 410-272-2338.

FRIDAY APRIL 9 APRIL SLEEP OVER

Protestant Women of the Chapel will present "An April Sleep Over," starting at 6 p.m. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow and a towel. Pizza will be served at 7 p.m. Call Sandy Rodriguez, 410-297-8757.

COUNTRY ANNIVERSARY

The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association will sponsor its seventh anniversary dance from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 128. Everyone is welcome, cost is \$10 for non-members, \$8 for members.

SATURDAY APRIL 10 BABYSITTERS CLASS

A two-day baby-sitting class will be held today and April 17, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., building 2477. You must attend both days. The class is open to youths 13 years of age and over. A price of \$10 is offered through the APG Thrift Shop's scholarship to all ID card holders on stop. Stop by the Red Cross Office in building 2477 to register by noon on April 7.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 14 B.I.G. MEETING

Blacks in Government (BIG) meetings are the second Wednesday of every month. April meeting will be held in the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3226, in the Reading and Writing Room at 5:30 p.m. All federal, state, and local government employees interested in equality of the work force are welcome to participate. Annual dues are \$35. For information, call Rev. H. Les Wallace, 410-893-6912.

EA-OWC LUNCHEON

The EA Officer's Wives Club invites its members and their guests to the club's monthly luncheon at Japan House, 984 Beards Hill Rd., Aberdeen, 11:30 a.m. After a lunch of chicken teriyaki grill (\$8.75) or shrimp tempura and vegetables (\$9.75), TechSgt Harvey Davis will speak about Space A travel from BWI. Lunch includes salad, rice, beverage and dessert. For reservations, call Paula Meredith, 410-676-4022, by noon on April 9.

NCMA MEETING

The Upper Chesapeake Chapter of the National Contract Management Association will have its monthly luncheon at the Gunpowder Club's Heron Room, 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker, Joel R. Feidelman, will discuss "Bid Protesting at the Millennium." Feidelman is a senior partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, where he is the co-chair of the Litigation Department, and partner-in-charge of the Government Contracts Practice Group. The presentation should conclude at 1 p.m. Cost is \$8. Make reservations by April 9 to Joan Hauser, 410-436-3577, or joan.hauser@sbc.com.apgea.army.mil.

FRIDAY APRIL 16 ELEMENTARY BINGO

The Roye-Williams Elementary PTA will host bingo at 7 p.m. Prizes include Longaberger Baskets, Pampered Chef, and Tupperware products. Cost is \$10 per ticket (three games per card); additional cards cost \$5. Doors open at 6 p.m. For information or tickets, stop by Roye-Williams Elementary School or call the school at 410-273-5536. Roye-Williams is located at 201 Oakington Rd., Havre de Grace, between Routes 22 and 40.

SATURDAY APRIL 17 WALK AWAY HUNGER

The third annual Harvest For the Hungry Hunger Run/Walk-A-Thon will be held at APG's Main Gate, Route 22. Registration for the run begins at 8 a.m.; the run starts at 9 a.m. Registration for the walk begins at 9 a.m.; the walk starts at 10 a.m. For a brochure and registration form, call Lorraine Carson, 410-272-1883, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 410-679-8188 after 5 p.m. The three miles will end back at the gate of APG.

TUESDAY APRIL 20 REMEMBRANCE

The Days of Remembrance Commemorative Program in observance of the Holocaust will be held from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Post Theater, and from 1:30-3 p.m. at the Gunpowder Club. The guest speaker will be Regina Spiegel, a survivor of the Holocaust.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 28 WELCOME TO APG

APG will hold an orientation, 1-3 p.m., AA Recreation Center, building 3326, to welcome incoming military and civilian personnel and their families. Representatives from post activities will inform you about APG and community services and activities. For information, call 410-278-7474/4372.

SUNDAY MAY 9 MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Celebrate Mother's Day with a Champagne Brunch at Top of the Bay. Seatings will be from 10 a.m.-noon and 12:30-2:30 p.m. Make reservations early; call 410-278-3062/2552. Cost for adults is \$13.95; \$6.95 for children ages 6-11; children 5 and under are free.

WAPG TV

The following programs will run on WAPG-TV April 1-7:
THURSDAY, April 1
10 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 minutes)
FRIDAY, April 2
10 a.m., 7 p.m., Total Army Story (10 minutes)
MONDAY, April 5
10 a.m., 7 p.m., Army

Newswatch (30 minutes)
TUESDAY, April 6
10 a.m., 7 p.m., Total Army Story (10 minutes)
WEDNESDAY, April 7
10 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 minutes)
For more information call Lynn Witkowski, 410-278-1151.

MOVIES

MY FAVORITE MARTIAN

Friday, April 2, 7 p.m.
Starring: Jeff Daniels, Christopher Lloyd
Ambitious television reporter Tim O'Hara stumbles upon a Martian whose spaceship has crashed on Earth. **(Rated PG)**

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Saturday, April 3, 7 p.m.
Starring: Brendan Fraser, Sissy Spacek
Fearing nuclear attack from Cuba, a couple takes refuge in their backyard bomb shelter. Thirty years later, their son emerges to restock supplies and search for a wife. **(Rated PG-13)**

A SIMPLE PLAN

Saturday, April 3, 9 p.m.
Starring: Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton
The quiet, rural lives of three men erupt into greed, paranoia and distrust when they discover \$4 million in cash in a small airplane. **(Rated R)**

LEAVE DONATION

For information about donating annual leave; call Cheryl Gatling; 410-278-8978; or send a fax to 410-278-8839. Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program are:

Michael Alexander (wife has cancer);
Lena Blethen;
John Boyle (surgery);
Barbara Breithaupt (multiple sclerosis);
Bonnie Bromley (liver transplant);
Alberta Brown (mother ill);
Daniel Brown (father has emphysema);
Linda Brown (diabetic);
Sheila Cassidy (mother has cancer);
Cara Coe (maternity);
Dawn Crouse (surgery);
Dennis Green;
Herman Hensley;
Gordon Herron (Wife has cancer);
Joseph Hill (heart problems);
Judy Hunt (arthropathy);
Lilly "Kitty" Johnson (surgery);
Mary Johnson (surgery);
Marlin Julian (heart surgery);
Jennifer Keetley (maternity);
Tracey Kerney (surgery);
Beverly King (caring for husband);
Barbara LaGrange (Hodgkins Disease);
Patricia LaGrange;
Sherrie Laury (heart problems);
Dolores "Dee" McGrogan (back problems);
Susan Naccarato (carpal tunnel syndrome);
Lesley Parker (daughter has seizures);
Cathleen (Higgins) Perry;
Barbara Carol Remines (surgery);
Michael Reynolds;
Mary Lee Samples (lymphoma cancer);
John Sheppard (colon cancer);
Rita Sluder (mother has cancer);
Walter Taylor (auto accident);
Lavonne Telsee (caring for daughter);
Joseph Walker (Wife has cancer);
Cecelia Walton (respiration problems);
Kenneth Weathers (medical);
Frank Winters (surgery).

MWR UPDATE

Paintball Festival is April 24

Paintball is coming to APG on Saturday, April 24. Outdoor Recreation will host Paintball Festival at the Maryland Boulevard picnic area. Two categories of competition, a 5 person-40 team (3 Division, Round Robin) and a three-person Round-Robin tournament will be held. Equipment rental is available. The top three finishers will receive \$3,500 in gift certificates (1st-\$2,000, 2nd-\$1,000, 3rd-\$500). Target Shooting will also be open to all participants and spectators. Don't miss out on this exciting and fun-filled event, register by March 31. For more information, contact Charles Heinsohn, Outdoor Recreation, 410-278-4124/5789.

Ski tuning special

The Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center will continue its end-of-season ski tuning special through April 9. Bring in your skis and receive 30 percent off already low prices. The center can hot wax, sharpen edges or repair your base (p-tex application), or do all three. Stop by building 2407 or call 410-278-4124/5789.

Boater safety class scheduled

Outdoor Recreation and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-04 is offering a Boating Skills and Seamanship Course, starting April 6. Classes will be held in building E-4733 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. A \$20 fee covers the cost of text and study guide. Class size is limited to 40 students. For reservations and more information call Charles Shadle at 410-838-2265 or Outdoor Recreation at 410-278-4124.

Spesutie Island Boat Club

The Spesutie Island Boat Club is accepting applications for the 1999 season. You must be authorized to participate in APG Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. Eligible personnel include all active duty military, military retirees, APG civilians, retired APG civilians, civilian contractors (with ID cards) and Baltimore Area Corps of Engineer employees. You must provide proof of insurance for your boat and registration. Cost of keeping a boat is \$9.50 a foot for mooring, \$6.50 per foot for lot storage, and \$6 per foot ramp access. If you are interested in joining this organization stop by building 36 or call Outdoor Recreation at 410-278-4402

Turkey season starts soon

There will be a spring gobbler turkey season on APG April 17-May 15, corresponding to the state season. Hunting will take place in the Aberdeen Area only. The limit per hunter is one bird and the season will close when 10 birds have been harvested. Designated areas

for turkey hunting will be determined in the next few weeks. For information contact Charles Heinsohn, Outdoor Recreation Program, 410-278-4124.

Edgewood Arts & Crafts

Woodshop Orientation: A basic woodshop Orientation will be held on Saturday, April 3, 9:30 a.m. in building E-4440. Cost \$3 user fee. This class is required to use the woodshop.
Ceramic Class: If you would like to learn to about ceramics and how to pour your own ceramic pieces this is the class for you. Class participants will learn about bisqueware, greenware, kilns, glazes, paints and brushes cost is \$7 plus supplies.
Framing Class: A beginning Matting and Framing Class will be held on Thursday, April 29, 5:30-9 p.m. Students must bring an 8" x 10" picture to class to frame. Cost is \$15 plus supplies. Students must register in advance as space is limited.
Custom Framing: If you would like professional advice and picture framing bring it to the experts for framing. We will do it for you at great savings! For an estimate bring your pictures to building E-4440 during our hours of operation.
Porcelain Doll Classes: The center is forming new classes in beginning porcelain dolls. Cost is \$30 plus supplies. If you are interested please call us for the next class date.
Ceramic Bisqueware & Greenware: A large selection of ceramic items is available and ready to paint and decorate, including carousel horses, fountains and vases.
Decorations. Come in and visit the center at building E-4440. For more information call on Thursday, 1-9 p.m., or Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 410-436-2153.

Aberdeen Fitness Center

Get in shape for Spring, and what better way to do that than joining the Aberdeen Area Health and Fitness Center, located in building 320. The center can help you reach your goals. If you enjoy Aerobics and Toning, join one of the classes offered. The center has a variety of levels from low-impact to advanced. All instructors at the center are certified. If you prefer to use cardio equipment, the Health and Fitness Center has a variety available. One of the staff members will help you establish a program using cardio equipment and weights. There's a program for everyone. Thanks to Civilian Welfare Fund, the Fitness Center will be adding more treadmills and crosstrainers to its equipment soon. The membership fee includes the use of any programs offered by the center. The center is open Monday-Thursday, 5:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, 5:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon. For further information on any of the programs, call 410-278-9725/9759.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHOICES '99

ADOLESCENTS

TALKING TOUGH SUBJECTS*

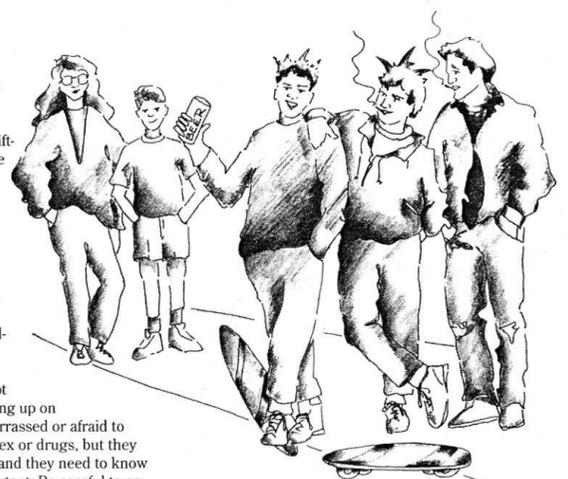
Talking with adolescents does not have to be uncomfortable and difficult. In fact, relating to your teenagers about sex, drugs, shoplifting, or other tough subjects can be a productive and bonding experience between you and your child.

Direct And Honest

Unfortunately, there is no magic age when you begin "real life" discussions with your teenage children. Each child will differ depending on his or her environment, maturity, and goals. But by this time, you are probably pretty adept at reading your children and picking up on their cues. They may be too embarrassed or afraid to ask you specific questions about sex or drugs, but they need to know about these things, and they need to know that you feel such issues are important. Be careful to approach them like you would any other subject—don't make these talks different.

Give Accurate Information

A very positive and nonthreatening way to approach tough topics is to ask your kids what they know. You can then begin discussing the subject together without appearing as if you're interrogating them. Try to emphasize how important correct information is and reinforce your faith and trust in their judgment. Be prepared with in-depth, but simplified, pamphlets and books geared to their age group. Perhaps you can collect these together or you can go to community health lectures to learn more together. With both sex and drugs, discuss real-life consequences and make sure they understand them. Work with them to anticipate peer pressure situations and figure out what words and phrases to use in order for them to be accepted, yet maintain their individuality.



Encourage Positive Role Models

"Monkey see, monkey do!" and this holds particularly true with adolescents. They have an affinity for being associated with the "cool" ones—and quite often the "cool" ones are cigarette-smoking or alcohol- and drug-consuming. Be aware of who your kids emulate. Is your 12-year-old son's hero a tobacco-chewing baseball player? If so, he may be imitating that behavior, as well as perfecting his curve ball. He needs to know the far-reaching effects of tobacco addiction and the possibility of cancer. Just be cautious about your own behaviors. Contradiction can blow your credibility, and your kids will be scrutinizing you!

*Adapted with permission from the Parents In Touch Project, 343 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202; (312) 864-5660.

Boat club gates offer experience for students

Future welders test their skills on community service project on post

By Meghan Heimbach
APG News

With the compliments and craftsmanship of Harford Technical High School welding students, Aberdeen Proving Ground's Spesutie Island Boat Operation now has two sets of new gates at its boat storage entrances.

Richard Bruno, vice commodore of SIBO and an engineering psychologist for the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, contacted Glenn Maguire, welding instructor at Harford Tech and boat club member. They arranged for students to construct and help install new gates for the club as a class project. Maguire assigns several large projects a year, and puts all work into his students' hands.

"I give my students as many fabricated projects as I can," he said. "That way, they get more hands-on experience with real-life jobs."

On behalf of the boat club, Bruno thanked the students for all their hard work.

"A professional project was fabricated and produced," he said. "The students demonstrated proficiency, and the quality of work and student pride was highly reflected in this project."

"The mentoring faculty at Harford Tech should be proud of their students as a reflection on them also,"

"The students demonstrated proficiency, and the quality of work and student pride was highly reflected in this project."

- Richard Bruno,
vice commodore of Spesutie Island Boat Operation

Bruno added. "Harford Tech is a terrific facility for students."

The project was done by seniors Mike Pretty and Zach Coleman, and juniors Jared Bates and Jared Humphreys. The help of younger students with the final touches made it a successful effort.

"I want to get everyone involved," he said.

Maguire said it is important that the students are involved from beginning to end, and explained they are the ones who sketched the design, made the blueprints and constructed the gates.

"By reading blueprints, they get more experience out of the project," he said. "I try to keep them involved in everything from beginning to end. It is a joint project, and they get the satisfaction of seeing the gates going up."

The boat club provided the supplies. Having the students take on the project saved the post money; Maguire said materials cost approximately \$250, and a welding company would have charged close to \$2,000 for the job.

Pretty, a third-year welding student, was the "main drive" of the project Maguire said.

"He really encouraged the other kids to do well," Maguire said. "He was very supportive of the 11th-grade students."

After putting the final touches on the gates Friday, Pretty placed first in the Maryland State Welding Competition sponsored by the Vocational Industrial



Photos by MEGHAN HEIMBACH

Harford Technical High School welding students pose in front of the new gates at Spesutie Island Boat Operation. The gates were crafted by the students as a group class project. From left, Steve Gambrell; Zach Coleman; Lannie Branham; Lindsey Williams; Mike Pretty; Jared Bates; Jared Humphreys; Doug Mill; Tim Saneman and Ed Wheeler. Not pictured are Adam Wilson and Ronnie Short.

Clubs of America (VICA) on Saturday; he placed third last year.

Pretty, who works part-time for Price Brother's Company in Perryman through the school's work study program, admitted that the project was challenging, but said the challenge brought about "a lot of improvement" from each student.

"The students got to learn more about laying out the project, keeping the right measurements and keeping each gate identical," he explained.

Pretty said after graduation he will represent Maryland in the National Welding Competition in Kansas City this June. He then plans to enroll at Harford Community College to study business management, and wants to have his own welding business one day.

His welding accomplishments include the Lincoln Electric Company Scholarship Award for \$500; Maryland's Welding Finest Award from the Maryland Chapter American Welding Society and Outstanding Achievement Award in Certified Welding from Harford Technical High School.

Maguire said he was proud of Pretty during this

year's welding competition, adding that "it brings great credit to Harford Technical High School."

Bates, also a third year welder, said working as a team can be hard, but said he too felt the project was a success.

"We are like a family," he said. "We all want to get the job done, and working together went smoothly."

Bates said he plans a career in welding, and said this summer he plans to work full-time in a welding position. After graduation next year, Bates said he and his father will own a welding business together.

Both Pretty and Bates said it was Maguire's support which helped them through the project.

"The welding class at Harford Technical High School would like to thank and congratulate Mr. Glenn Maguire for being such a great inspiration, mentor and friend," said Pretty. "He is the most dedicated of the teachers here and has been an encouragement to us all."

Maguire said this year his students have built a truck bed, modified three trailers and constructed the boat club gates.



Mike Pretty welds the finishing touches of the gate's lock.