

APG News

Vol. 42, No. 49 • December 9, 1999

Published in the interest of the people of Aberdeen Proving Ground

BULK RATE
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POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Dec. 15, is paper. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Bulk pickup for APG housing areas will be Monday, Dec. 13, for the fall clean up. Christmas tree pickup for APG housing areas will be Monday, Jan. 10. Normal trash pickup will be held Friday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 31.

Correction

The front-page photo on last week's APG News was taken by APG photographer Max Wachsman. The APG News regrets omitting the photo credit.

RAB meeting set for Dec. 9

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, Dec. 9, 7-9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic will be the Carroll Island and Graces Quarters Study Areas. Meetings are open to the public. For information, call the Information Line at 410-272-8842.

Donate blood at Dec. 14 drive

The American Red Cross will hold its next blood drive on post on Dec. 14, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. The entire process takes about 45 minutes. DoD policy allows employees up to four hours of excused time to donate blood; if unusual need for recuperation occurs, an additional four hours may be authorized. For an appointment, call 410-278-2087.

Esprit de corps run set for Dec. 15

The commanding general will hold an esprit de corps run on Dec. 15, 6 a.m., starting at Fanshaw Field. The event is open to all post tenants and civilian employees. The military uniform for the run is gray winter PT uniform with black hat and gloves. Units that have unit-specific T-shirts are encouraged to wear them. For civilian participants, winter running attire is advisable. For more

See SHORTS, page 2

APG Pollution PREVENTION

Fact of the Week



Hydrogen is the only gasoline substitute which currently has the potential to be pollution free, emitting only water vapor.

Statistics provided by the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Mobile Sources

For more information on pollution prevention, call Michelle Guitard, APG Pollution Prevention Program, 410-306-2273

Army band tunes up for season

Aberdeen High School Chorus to join festivities for holiday concert at Post Theater on Saturday

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

It's beginning to sound a lot like Christmas on Aberdeen Proving Ground, thanks to the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) and the Aberdeen High School chorus.

Led by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jerry L. Standridge, the two groups rehearsed together last week for the annual holiday concert at the Post Theater on Dec. 11, 7 p.m.

The concert will feature traditional holiday songs like "Silent Night" and "Sleigh Ride," plus not-so-traditional seasonal songs like "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," from the Christmas television special "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

Standridge said band members Sfc. Bruce Malone and SSgt. Robert Bauerle arranged much of the music for the concert.

Malone, a bass guitarist serving his second tour at APG, said hearing his songs played is the best part of arranging music.

"Sometimes you have an idea or you do it for need of a new arrangement," Malone said. "You don't always get to pick the songs, but you always get pleasure from it."

Bauerle called arranging music a "time-consuming process requiring a basic knowledge of the instruments involved."

"A lot involves understanding how they will sound together," he said, adding that the more he writes, the easier it gets.



Photo by DAVE MAYOR

Bobbie Ahearn sings the Christmas carol "O Holy Night" with 389th Army Band (AMC's Own). Ahearn and the rest of the Aberdeen High School Chorus will perform with the band in the annual holiday concert at the Post Theater on Dec. 11, 7 p.m.

The two collaborated on some songs and worked alone on others for about six weeks.

The band and chorus also will serenade the audience with the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah" and a special

arrangement of "O Holy Night," featuring a solo by Aberdeen High School junior Bobbi Ahearn, 16, who said she is looking forward to the concert.

She said she has a simple plan to handle nervous energy.

"Someone told me take a deep breath and you'll be fine," said the soprano, in her second year with the chorus. "That's what I plan to do."

Seniors Anita Cullum, Mandye

See BAND, page 5

Students preparing to leave during Army's annual 'EXODUS' mission

By Karen Jolley Drewen
APG News

Personnel at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School are preparing for one of its biggest events of the year — the transport of nearly 1,500 students off post on Dec. 17, during EXODUS, the start of the holidays for students at military schools.

"We're ready. It went smoothly last year, and everything is about the same as it was last year," said SSgt. Ray Watson, NCOIC for EXODUS.

While the word exodus means "a mass departure," some say in this case, it stands for "early exit of departing U.S. soldiers." Regardless, the mission requires coordination, planning, and a lot of numbers, Watson said.

"Getting the correct numbers is the biggest challenge. You have a lot of soldiers who are undecided up until the last two weeks," he said. "Some soldiers will say they're going home, but we don't count them until they've actually bought the ticket or made a reservation."

Of the 2,000 soldiers currently attending Advanced Individual Training at OC&S, 653 will graduate by EXODUS.

"About 900 will go to BWI, and the rest will travel by train or personal vehicle," Watson said.

Home for the holidays

The logistics of transporting 900 young soldiers to the airport at 3:45 a.m. are daunting. Drill sergeants, operations sergeants and commanders all work together to ensure each soldier has a ticket, a flight and a destination. Then, the buses load up in the early hours, surprising other early-morning travelers. This year, the airport will have even more soldiers present, as Fort Lee, Va., plans to fly some of its soldiers home for the holidays from BWI. What could be confusion, instead, has turned into a strong partnership between APG and Fort Lee, said personnel from both installations.

"We found out we would be flying out at the same time and contacted APG," said Maj. Karl Bopp, 23rd Quartermaster Brigade operations officer, who noted that some Fort Lee students will depart from Richmond, Va. "We'll make sure the soldiers are supervised. We don't just drop them off and leave."

Sgt. Maj. David Brown of Fort Lee's Management Assistance Division, who will handle the BWI portion of EXODUS, said he and Watson have coordinated their efforts.

"Even though he has Ordnance soldiers and I have

See EXODUS, page 4

The last OBSTACLE

Soldiers at the Ordnance Center and School's 143rd Ordnance Battalion battle to see who's the best

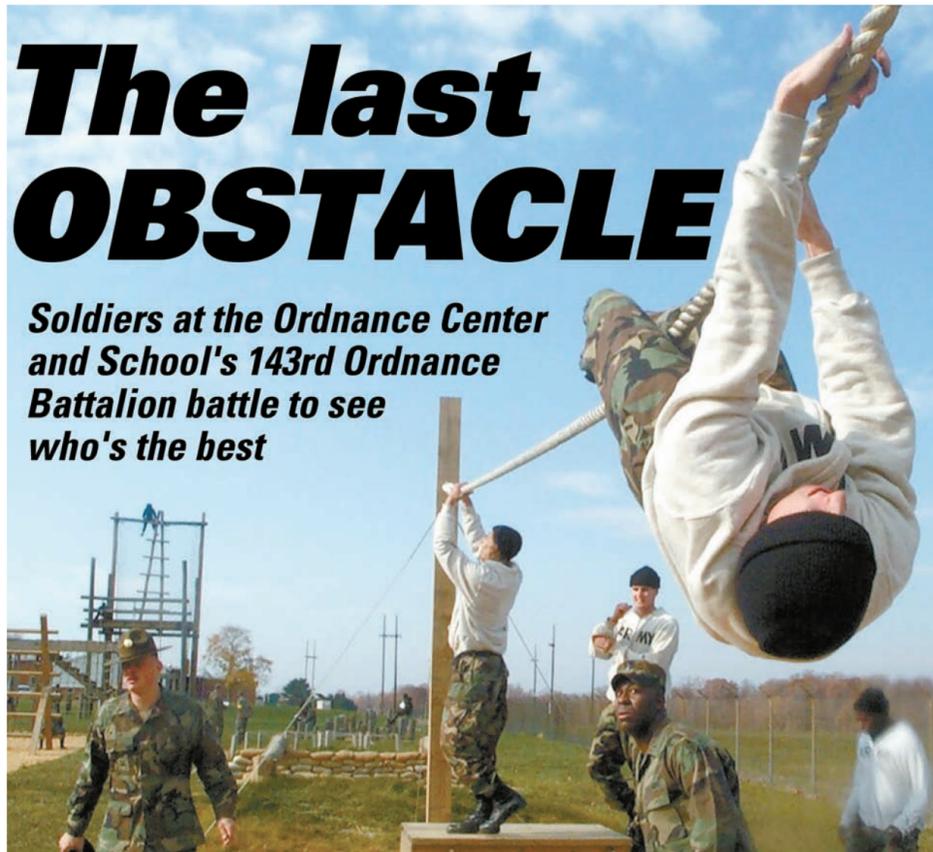


Photo by SSGT. GREGORY BINFORD

1st Lt. Kevin Nix, right, executive officer of Alpha Company, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, watches a soldier traverse "The Rope," the final station on the obstacle course, the most challenging event of the battalions' quarterly Soldier Stakes competition. Keeping an eye on the activities is SSgt. (P) Larry Tulk, left, an Alpha Company drill sergeant.

Celebrate safely during holidays

By Karen Jolley Drewen
APG News

The Army Community Service Alcohol and Drug Control Office will hold a Holiday Open House on Dec. 9, 1-3 p.m., at ACS Headquarters, located at building 2754 on Rodman Road.

Light refreshments will be served, and information about how to hold festive but safe holiday entertainment will be provided, said Cynthia Scott, a drug and alcohol prevention specialist at ACS.

"A host is responsible for ensuring that if their guests are drinking, they are not drinking too much, and they are not driving," Scott said. "Some of the options we offer for consideration are providing non-alcoholic beverages, enough food to slow the effects of alcohol, and options for taking people home, whether you call them a cab or drive them home yourself."

The goal, she said, is to increase awareness of responsible alcohol consumption.

"Our effort is part of '3D,' the national Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Campaign," she said. "Of course, we always have the red ribbon available for people to put on their vehicles to heighten awareness of this issue. We want to give people information to make good decisions."

If you plan to attend the open house, or if you want a red ribbon for your vehicle, call ACS at 410-278-7474/7478.

Morale-boosting competition pushes soldiers to succeed

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Esprit de corps and camaraderie were evident in the enthusiastic soldiers who recently participated in 143rd Ordnance Battalion's Soldier Stakes and Obstacle Course competition.

The quarterly event, held Nov. 20 in the Edgewood Area, pits company-against-company in a test of basic soldier skills and physical endurance.

Four teams of 21 soldiers competed through six stations of Common Task Testing, a 16-station obstacle course and a 3.2 mile road march to see which unit would take home the Soldier Stakes streamer.

Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald E. Stallings said the event has become a kind of "rite of passage" for the training battalion.

"Soldiers thrive on competition," Stallings said. "Training is what we do and fun training is what these soldiers want."

A former tactical training NCO and first sergeant on APG, Stallings said he hopes Soldier

Stakes grows into a post-wide competition.

"We want to compete against the 16th Ordnance Battalion, the U.S. Marine Corps detachment and other units," Stallings said. "Even NCOA. Whatever APG can do for training that is positive, we should do."

The event started with CTT testing at 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning, in Hoyle Gym. The teams, consisting of 18 males, two females and headed by a drill sergeant, had to evaluate a casualty, answer five written questions, and perform protective or corrective measures on the M40 protective mask and the M16A2 rifle.

At the 9 a.m. formation to kick-off the obstacle course competition, Lt. Col. Francis R. Merritt, battalion commander of the 143rd, encouraged the participants and spectators to give their all.

"It's a great day to be in the Army and a great day to be on Edgewood," Merritt said. "As you go through the stations, work as a

See OBSTACLE, page 14

Civilian personnel ready for Year 2000

CPOCMA Public Affairs Office

As the turn of the century approaches, the Army's civilian personnel community anticipates the Y2K impact on its automated computer systems with the quiet assurance that personnel actions will be processed.

Tim Grey, deputy director of the Civilian Personnel Operations Center Management Agency at Aberdeen Proving Ground, said the Army's systems that support the civilian personnel program have been tested and are Y2K compliant.

"The Army has replaced or upgraded many of the local computer systems at the CPOCs (Civilian Personnel Operations Centers) with Y2K updates," he said. "During the past two years, we have dedicated the people, technology and resources necessary to ensure that we're ready to serve our customers without disruption on January 1."

The year 2000 is significant because some computer programs only recognize the last two digits of a year, and therefore cannot tell the difference between the year 1900 and the year 2000, opening the door to serious problems. To fix the problem, computers must be reprogrammed to use four spaces for the year.

Grey said the Army has taken steps to ensure its hardware, telecommunications and operating systems are Y2K compliant. With

this in mind, CPOCMA, in cooperation with the South Central, Northeast, North Central and West CPOCs, and three Defense Finance Accounting Service centers conducted extensive Y2K tests during October and November. The tests assessed the Army's ability to process emergency personnel actions.

"The exercises demonstrated that our CPOCs are confident that emergency personnel actions can be processed," Grey said. "Our biggest deterrent was the overnight express mail service, which added several days to the process."

Dave Brooks, chief of CPOCMA's Productivity Enhancement Division, said DFAS is prepared for Y2K contingencies and is confident that Department of Defense civilian and military employees and retirees will be paid on time.

Brooks said DoD's Civilian Personnel Management Division requested organizations submit personnel actions to DFAS by Dec. 28, 1999, for the pay period ending Jan. 1, 2000. Personnel actions submitted after that date will be processed retroactively in the next pay period.

Staff members will be on-site at CPOCMA and the seven stateside CPOCs Jan. 1, 2000, and the Army's contractor help desk will be available throughout the weekend to address problems.

Open season ends Dec. 13

Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season ends Dec. 13. By that date, employees who wish to make an open season election must submit a completed SF-2809, Health Benefits Election Form (July 99 edition) to APG CPAC, ATTN: AMSSB-GCP-P/HBOS, Bldg 305, Room B-15. Election forms are available from agency administrative offices and from the APG Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. Open season information is available on the Office of Personnel Management web site, www.opm.gov/insure.

Employees who are enrolled in United Health Care must elect a new health plan during open season or they will be without coverage beginning Jan. 2. Employees who are enrolled in NYLCare Health Plan must elect a new plan or they automatically will be transferred to AETNA US Health Care Jan. 2.

For help in choosing a plan, check out PlanSmartChoice, accessible at the Office of Personnel Management website, www.opm.gov/insure, or at www.PlanSmartChoice.com/PSC2000. The site helps users match their preferences to the plans available.

For more information on Health Benefits Open Season, contact Kathy Anderson, 410-278-2649, or Teri Wright, 410-278-4331.

Firewood available through program

By Karen Jolley Drewen
APG News

If you are interested in getting up to a cord of wood per week for the cost of a \$10 permit, consider Aberdeen Proving Ground's Firewood Sales Program.

The program, which falls under APG Regulation 420-11, enables a permit holder to take a pickup truck full of wood - about a cord - from post each week, said Roger Stoflet of the Directorate of Public Works Engineering Division.

"Proceeds from the sales of wood products goes directly in the forestry account," said Stoflet, who is the post agronomist. "These moneys are used to cover the costs involved in managing the forest, such as the recent gypsy moth spray program, reforestation projects and wildlife habitat improvement projects."

The program, established in the early 1980s, makes available trees removed by the Directorate of Public Works. Stoflet coordinates the location of the wood when customers purchase a permit.

"The buyer should come with a chainsaw or some means of cutting the wood," he said. "For only \$10 a pickup load, it is not cut to length."

He added that the wood is for personal use only, not intended as a source for commercial vendors.

To purchase a permit, you must have \$10 in cash and the license plate number of the vehicle you will use to pick up the wood.

In the Aberdeen Area, contact Stoflet at 410-278-9234, building 4302; in the Edgewood Area, contact Jean Wagner, 410-436-1835, building E-5179.



Photo by DAVE MAYOR

CPOCMA employees support charities

Julie McGrath, left, and Mary Lou Kubicki, right, of the Civilian Personnel Operations Center Management Agency, present Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, with two gift certificates for the APG Commissary at the Garrison staff meeting on Nov. 23. The \$50 gift certificates were given to needy soldiers and their families for Thanksgiving. Richard Normhold, manager of the APG Commissary, also donated a turkey to each family. CPOCMA's Special Activities Committee also sponsored a bake sale and raised more than \$100, which will be donated to Harford County Neighbors in Need.

Flags to be lowered, bells to ring as nation honors first president Dec. 14

By Karen Jolley Drewen
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground will join the rest of the nation in lowering the flag to half-staff and ringing the bells on Dec. 14, in recognition of the George Washington Bicentennial 1999.

Congress has issued an official call for bells to be rung and the American flag to be lowered to half-staff on that date in honor of George Washington. The bells at the post chapels will ring at noon.

The call is authorized by Senate Concurrent Resolution 83, to comply with protocol for all private, city, state, and federal organization participation, said Lt. Col. Steve Brooks, chief of staff at the

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command.

"In honor of this recognition, the commanding general of SBCCOM and APG directs that all elements fly the flag of the United States at half staff from dawn to dusk and to toll all bells for the duration of one minute commencing at noon," he said.

Brooks noted that the Mount Vernon Ladies Association has been celebrating bicentennial all year.

"They chose this year to renew the public's appreciation of the first president," he said. "The commemoration on December 14 is the final piece of that plan."

Post Shorts

SHORTS, from front page

information about the run, call Maj. Clifton Johnston, Headquarters Support Troops commander, 410-278-2104.

Donate use-or-lose leave by Dec. 22

If you have use-or-lose annual leave, you can donate it to employees who are out of sick leave in the Leave Donation Program.

"You can donate to any person on the list, and that donation must be in by December 22 to meet the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Y2K Contingency Plan," said Cheryl Gatling, who administers the program for the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

Employees can donate leave year-round, but if you want the donation to fall in this leave year, it is required by Dec. 22, she emphasized. A list of approved recipients of donated leave runs each week on page 3 of the APG News. For more information, call Gatling at 410-278-8978, or fax your donation form to her at 410-278-7652.

Clinic plans holiday hours

The 1999 Holiday Schedule will be in effect at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic from Dec. 18-Jan. 2. All KUSAHC clinics will be open during normal operating hours during the holiday period. On Dec. 24 and 31, the Acute/Minor Illness Clinic will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All other KUSAHC clinics will be closed. Sick call for Advanced Individual Training students will be conducted at 8 a.m. at the Troop Medical Clinic.

Garrison employees should update files

The APG Garrison freeze on submitting employee updates to Official Personnel Files has been lifted. Updates to OPFs must be received by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center by Dec. 15 if they are to be used for qualification determinations in the projected reduction-in-force. Employees who have new information should update their SF 171 or OF 612. Send updates to CPAC, Building 305, Room B-16 (lower level); all updates must be signed by the employee's supervisor. For information, call Dave Mial, 410-278-1524.

RE-NU-IT Center has winter hours

The Re-Nu-It Centers now have winter hours. The Aberdeen Area center, building 5413, is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and the Edgewood Area center, building E-5703, is open Wednesdays and Fridays, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call Ellery Blake, 410-306-1108.

Volunteers needed for 2000 tax season

The 2000 tax season is approaching and the APG Legal Assistance Office is soliciting volunteers to help as tax preparers. Training will be held from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 24-27, and Jan. 31, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. Anyone interested in volunteering should call Brenda Taylor or Alene Williams at the Legal Assistance Office, 410-278-1583/1584.

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 Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: STEAP-IM-PA, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5005, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 13,500.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

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For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 324, Second Floor, STEAP-IM-PA, APG, MD 21005-5005; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; or send e-mail to kdrewen@apgnnews.com. Deadline for copy is Monday at noon (Thursday at noon for letters to the editor).

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MURPHY'S LA



Community Notes

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 9
AA TREE-LIGHTING**

The AA Tree-Lighting Ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. in front of the Post Library, building 3320.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

The annual U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School 61st Ordnance Brigade Holiday Prayer Breakfast will be held from 6-7:30 a.m. at Top of the Bay, featuring the Covenant Players, a religious drama group, and a brass ensemble from the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own). The event is open to military and civilians in the Ordnance Brigade. Cost is \$5. For information, call Chaplain Mark Roeder, 410-278-2994.

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 11
HOLIDAY CONCERT**

The 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) will host a Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. at the Post Theater.

SUPER BINGO

The EA's Stark Recreation Center in building E-4140 will hold Super Bingo, with earlybirds starting at 6:30 p.m. Super Bingo starts at 7 p.m. There is one game at \$600, seven \$500 games and six \$100 games. The snack bar is open before, during and after bingo. For more information, call 410-436-2713.

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 12
EATREE-LIGHTING**

The EA Tree-Lighting Ceremony will be held at 6 p.m., in front of the EA Chapel, building E-4620.

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 14
BLUE CROSS PLAN**

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has arranged for a visit by a claims representative of the Service Benefit Plan (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) from 9-11:30 a.m. in building 305, room B-14 (lower level) in the Aberdeen Area, and from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Edgewood Area at building E-4420. No appointment is necessary. For details, call Kathy Anderson, 410-278-2649, or Teri Wright, 410-278-4331.

PET OF THE WEEK



Photo by DAVE MAYOR

Take "Silver Bells" home for the holidays. This 2-year-old smoky gray male cat is friendly and even-tempered. He has greenish-yellow eyes, light gray paws and is neutered. He and other cats are available for adoption at the Post Veterinary Treatment Facility. You do not have to be active-duty military to adopt animals. For details, call 410- 278-3911.

DONATE BLOOD

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the AA Recreation Center, building 3326. The entire process takes about 45 minutes. DoD policy allows employees up to four hours of excused time to donate blood; if unusual need for recuperation occurs, an additional four hours may be authorized. For an appointment, call 410-278-2087.

VFW POST 8126

The Weedon-Elliott VFW Post 8126 located at 300 Lodge Lane, Havre de Grace, will meet at 7 p.m.

AA MEETING

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

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 18
CHRISTMAS MUSICAL**

St. James A.M.E. Church School, located at 617 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will host its 5th Annual Christmas Program from 5-7 p.m. Admission is free. Come join the St. James A.M.E. Church School for an evening of song and fellowship and help celebrate "The Reason for the Season."

MWR UPDATE

Center offers Santa suits

Live up your holiday office/organizational party — have Santa Claus drop in for a visit! The Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center can provide the suit, you just need to provide the stuffing. The center, located in building 2407, has a small number of Santa Claus suits available for rent, including red corduroy pants and jacket; black boot covers and belt; red hat and white gloves, wig and beard. Complete suits are \$10 per day and may be reserved by paying the daily fee in advance. Call the center, 410-278-4124/5789, for further information.

ITR Office has stocking stuffers

The Information, Ticketing and Registration Office has several ideas for stocking stuffers, including the 1999 White House Christmas ornaments, featuring President Abraham Lincoln. Patrons who prepaid can pick up ornaments in building 3326. Cost of the ornaments is \$15 each, \$13 if you purchase two or more. You can charge them by phone, by calling 410-278-4011/4621, or stop by the ITR Office, located in the new APG Travel Center in the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center. Entertainment Coupon booklets are available for \$35 each, \$33 if you purchase two or more, gift certificates for trips to New York City or Atlantic City, or tickets to the National Aquarium in Baltimore and other offers. See the office for details.

Fitness center offers help

Take that first step toward a lifestyle change for better health.

Call the AA Health and Fitness Center and set up a consultation with a staff member. The facility offers aerobics classes, kickbox aerobics and toning. 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 details, call 410-278-9725/9759.

EA Health and Fitness Center

The EA Health and Fitness Center has a new aerobics schedule, with two new classes added. Classes are held Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. On Mondays and Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m., "Funky Step" classes are held. From 6:05-7:05 p.m., step classes are held, followed by an abdominal workout. Aerobics classes with toning are held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6 p.m. An "Aero-Box" class will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Step aerobics are held Saturdays. For details, call 410-436-7134.

Lunch-time bowling offered

Lunchtime bowling is offered at the APG Bowling Center. Gather your friends and co-workers and hit the center for lunch. The Snack Bar offers weekly lunch specials. Fall hours at the center are: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-midnight; Saturday, noon-1 a.m., and Sunday, noon-7 p.m. Call for specials available for parties and events, 410-278-4041/2084.

Join APG Riding Activity

The APG Riding Activity has vacancies. Monthly stall fees are \$40 per horse. Owners are responsible for daily care and feeding. For details call Outdoor Recreation, 410-278-4124.

Chapel plans holiday events

The following is the schedule of holiday events taking place at the Aberdeen and Edgewood Area Chapels:

Aberdeen Area:

Catholic:

Dec. 24 - Midnight Mass preceded by Christmas Carols, 11:30 p.m.
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Mass, 9 a.m.
Dec. 31 - Mass 5 p.m.

Jewish:

Dec. 9 - Chanukah Service, noon

Protestant: (General Protestant and Gospel)

Dec. 11 - Christmas Caroling at the PX, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. (Gospel)
Dec. 15 - Christmas Caroling at the PX, 7 p.m. (Gospel)
Dec. 19 - Children's Christmas Program, 6 p.m.
Dec. 19 - Christmas Cantata, 7 p.m. (General Protestant)
Dec. 22 - Community Christmas Caroling, 7 p.m. (General Protestant)
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.
Dec. 31 - Watch Night Service, 10 p.m.

Edgewood Area:

Catholic:

Dec. 18 - Mass in Stable 7 p.m., preceded by caroling from Edgewood Area Chapel
Dec. 24 - Christmas Family Mass, 5 p.m.
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Mass, 11 a.m.

Protestant:

Dec. 12 - Edgewood Community Combined Choirs Cantata, 9:15 a.m.
Dec. 19 - Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, 9:15 a.m.

WAPG-TV

The following programs are scheduled for WAPG-TV, on-post cable channel 3, from Dec. 9-15:

Thursday, Dec. 9

11 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 minutes)

Saturday, Dec. 11

11 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 minutes)

Monday, Dec. 13

11 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 minutes)

Wednesday, Dec. 15

11 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 minutes)

For more information, call Lynn Witkowski, 410-278-1152.

MOVIES

The Post Theater will be closed through Jan. 8 during the EXODUS military holiday.

LEAVE DONATION

For information about donating annual leave, call Cheryl Gatling; 410-278-8978; or fax 410-278-7652. Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program are:

- Michael Alexander (wife has cancer);
- Fay Walker Banker (hip replacement);
- John Boyle;
- Barbara Breithaupt (multiple sclerosis);
- Bonnie Bromley (liver transplant);
- Alberta Brown (mother ill);
- Daniel Brown (father has emphysema);
- Tammy Budkey;
- Melda Callendar;
- Sheila Cassidy (mother has cancer);
- Nancy Coleman-Jones (surgery);
- Dawn Crouse (surgery);
- Bonnie Day;
- Jennifer Drennen (mother terminally ill);
- William Edwards (back surgery);
- Wayne Erb (wife ill);
- Willa Freisheim;
- Lena Goodman;
- Barbara Holland;
- Stephen Howard (bone marrow transplant);
- Judy Hunt (arthropathy);
- Lilly "Kitty" Johnson (surgery);
- Marlin Julian (heart surgery);
- Sharen Kaylor (eye surgery);
- Jennifer Keetley (maternity);
- Tracey Kerney (surgery);
- Beverly King (caring for husband);
- Connie LaFlamme;
- Sherrie Laury (heart problems);
- Dolores "Dee" McGrogan (back problems);
- Susan Naccarato (carpal tunnel syndrome);
- Mary Pettitway;
- David H. Reed (wife ill);
- Barbara Carol Remines (surgery);
- Michael Reynolds;
- Denise Robinson (maternity);
- Ricky Ross (heart attack);
- Mary Lee Samples (lymphoma cancer);
- Teresa Oyler-Sayles; Allan Scarborough (back surgery);
- Sherry Schaffer;
- Jack H. Smith (surgery);
- Walter Taylor (auto accident);
- Lavonne Telsee (caring for daughter);
- Gayle L. Thompson;
- Joseph Walker (wife has cancer);
- Rosalind Walters Kenion (maternity);
- Cecelia Walton (respiration problems);
- Kenneth Weathers (medical);
- and Willie Williams.

Organizations scheduled to wrap gifts

The following organizations are scheduled to wrap gifts at the Main Post Exchange through Christmas Eve. The organizations work for donations, and most wrapping materials are provided by Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

| Date | Time | Organization |
|---------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dec. 9 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | 389th Army Band Family Support Group |
| Dec. 10 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | 520th TAML Family Support Group |
| Dec. 11 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | 389th Army Band Family Support Group |
| Dec. 12 | .10 a.m.-6 p.m. | Aberdeen High School Booster |
| Dec. 13 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | OC&S CSD Family Support Group |
| Dec. 14 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | Boy Scouts |
| Dec. 15 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | Kirk Family Support Group |
| Dec. 16 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | 520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory |
| Dec. 17 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | Military and Civilian Spouses Club |
| Dec. 18 | .9 a.m.-10 p.m. | EA/AA Youth Centers |
| Dec. 19 | .9 a.m.-7 p.m. | Warrant Officers Association |
| Dec. 20 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | Noncommissioned Officers Association |
| Dec. 21 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | 520th TAML |
| Dec. 22 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | Women Air Force Group |
| Dec. 23 | .9 a.m.-9 p.m. | Air Force Det 1 Family Support Group |
| Dec. 24 | .9 a.m.-4 p.m. | Protestant Women of the Chapel |

OC&S honors top officer, enlisted Instructors of Year

By E.C. Starnes
OC&S Public Affairs Office

On Sundays, Sfc. Roger Cogburn reaches out to the young minds of his Sunday School classes with the Landmark Baptist Church in Elkton, Md.

Monday through Friday, he concentrates on some older students who want to learn the secrets of being a machinist in the U.S. Army.

Capt. Chris Palfi spends his Sundays serving as the nursery coordinator for James United Methodist Church. He splits the rest of his time coaching the 5- and 6-year-olds on the APG Lazars instructional soccer team, and teaching career Ordnance officers the mysteries of maintenance and supply management.

Both have been honored as the Ordnance Center and School's top instructors for the year and will go on to compete in the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Instructor of the Year for Fiscal Year 1999.

Cogburn, OC&S Enlisted Instructor of the Year, has been an instructor with the Metalworking Services Department for five years and said he liked being a teacher from the very first day.

"The first time I instructed a class, I knew that this was going to be fun," said the Antlers, Okla., native.

It also has been educational. "From every class I have taught, I learned something. I have been an instructor for almost



Capt. Chris Palfi
OC&S Officer Instructor of the Year

five years, and when I go back to the field I will take five years of cumulative experience and knowledge with me," he said.

What was his secret to winning the Instructor of the Year honors?

"I tell the student what I'm going to teach them. I teach the student. I ask the student what was taught. I test the student," he said.

When asked if the Ordnance Center and School Instructor Training Course helped him, he quickly replied, "Yes. The training program taught me the secret."

In addition to imparting knowledge and lessons learned from experience, he said his assignment at Aberdeen Proving Ground has benefited him professionally.

"Being an instructor at APG has enabled me to go to schools



Sfc. Roger Cogburn
OC&S Enlisted Instructor of the Year

that wouldn't have been available at other posts," he explained.

Cogburn credited his fellow instructors and the staff at the Metalworking Services Department Professional Development Section for his selection. He particularly noted the influence of Sfc. William Fuentes and Lee Vreeland.

"Sergeant First Class Fuentes sets a high standard for instructors in the Metalworking Services Department," he said. "They trained me to a high standard and set the stage for this awesome achievement."

Cogburn said that his success comes from "attaining goals and never quitting."

In addition to training younger soldiers, he also works with the

second lieutenants in the Ordnance Officer Basic Course. His advice to young men or women considering joining the Army is, "if you are looking for a challenge that has career focus, then the Army has what you need."

In addition to spending time with his uniformed students, he spends a lot of volunteer time in the local community, including his work with his church. He and his wife, Helen, keep busy with their children, Britney, Dusty and Dillon.

Palfi, Officer Instructor of the Year, grew up in nearby Joppatowne and said that his selection as Instructor of the Year "is a reflection of the education I received in Joppatowne, the University of Delaware, and in the U.S. Army. Encouraging and facilitating student officer learning is my most rewarding job in the Army."

What's his secret?

"The mission is clear as an instructor," he said. "Focus all effort and work to create an environment that promotes unlimited student learning."

Palfi is assigned to the Maintenance and Supply Management Division of the Command and Staff Department and is an instructor in the Captains' Career Course. He credited part of his success as an instructor to the OC&S instructor development program and his experiences in the field.

"The [instructor development] program trains and emphasizes the importance of learning objectives that include a task, condition, and standard. In addition, an instructor learns how to appropriately ask a question to a group of students," Palfi explained.

He added that students bring their own experiences and training to the courses.

"The classroom is the ideal place to share experiences of active duty and reserve component advanced course officers," he said. "The strength of a class is in



Photo by E.C. STARNES

Sfc. Roger Cogburn, left, works closely with Pvt. Corey Lewis from Dallas, as he works on a project in the Metalworking Services Department. Paying attention to detail has paid off for Cogburn, who recently was named OC&S Enlisted Instructor of the Year.

the varied experiences of the student officers."

Palfi added that his classes are learning experiences for him as well.

"Through research and conference discussions with hundreds of officers, I continually improve my knowledge of maintenance doctrine and Army operations," he said.

He has continued his professional development while serving as an instructor and will complete a master's degree in leadership in teaching at the College of Notre Dame in spring 2000.

He has used his local connections to talk to students about the Army as a career.

"The people and experiences encountered in the Army contribute to becoming a confident, proud, and exceptional person," he tells them.

He and his wife, Lesley, have two daughters, Allie and Maggie.

Both Palfi and Cogburn will compete for the Instructor of the Year for the entire U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Winners of that competition will be announced by the end of February 2000.

OC&S preparing for mass exit from APG in EXODUS

EXODUS, from front page
Quartermaster soldiers, a soldier is a soldier. We have the same mission – to make sure they get on the aircraft on time, and that they do it safely," Brown said.

Watson said having the NCOs from Fort Lee will help all the soldiers.

"It doesn't matter where the soldier is from, the NCOs will be there to help them, and Carlson will be there to help them get in the air," Watson said. "Plus, we'll give them a hand if they need it. We're working together on this."

The planning may mean a sleepless night for many OC&S personnel, but Watson added that making sure the soldiers are safely on their way home for the holidays is worth it.

"After that, I can relax," he said.

APG for the holidays

The soldiers who do not leave for the holidays are placed in what

is called "NOEL Company," which stands for "no EXODUS leave." The 16th Ordnance Battalion has invited Aberdeen and the surrounding communities to Adopt-A-Soldier for a Christmas meal.

"What better way to show the soldiers in Advanced Individual Training, your appreciation for the hard work and dedication they display while here for training?" said Capt. Willie J. Harris Jr. of the 16th Ordnance Battalion. "At times, we forget those soldiers who do not have family or friends to share in the holiday spirit. Opening up your home establishes a bond that will last a lifetime."

He added that the program gives the community an opportunity to learn about the individual soldier and the training here at APG, and gives soldiers a chance to relax in a home environment, away from the rigors of training.

"The holiday season is here

upon us," he said. "Let us show America's finest our appreciation for all that they do."

If you are interested in hosting military personnel in your home for a Christmas meal, call Harris at 410-278-4203/8732.

389th Army Band, Aberdeen High School chorus prepare for concert



Photos by DAVE MAYOR

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James May, left, practices with the trumpet section while rehearsing for the holiday concert, scheduled for Dec. 11, 7 p.m. With May from left are SSgt. Fred Boyd, SSgt. Robert Bauerle and Spc. Ryan Kenny. At right, Bauerle poses with Sfc. Bruce Malone. The two did the arrangements for the concerts.

BAND, from front page

Lawson and Heather Way said they also are looking forward to this, their last holiday concert with the chorus and the band.

"I enjoy the music and hearing the instruments while we sing," Cullum said.

Lawson and Way agreed. Way added that singing with the band "fills out the songs, letting you hear all the different parts."

Filling out the trumpet section will be Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James May, APG Post chaplain and a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Band from 1968-1975.

Standridge said the 389th is pleased to have May "lending the band some of his expertise for the concert."

The holiday concert is free and open to the public. For information, call 410-278-8769.



Make changes to TSP through January

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will conduct Thrift Savings Plan Open Season through Jan. 31. Forms received after Jan. 31 will not be processed. For more information about TSP Open Season, call Kathy Anderson, 410-278-2649, or Teri Wright, 410-278-4331.

Elections will become effective as follows:

| TSP-1 received in CPAC: | Effective date: |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Nov. 15-Jan. 1 | Jan. 2 |
| Jan. 2-15 | Jan. 16 |
| Jan. 16-29 | Jan. 30 |
| Jan. 30 or 31 | Feb. 13 |



Aberdeen High School choral director Chuck Braungard and members of the chorus sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah" during rehearsal with the band.

NATO spouses receive labor of love from Edgewood wives

By Cindy Sepulveda
CHPPM Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine – Europe hosted the annual NATO Chiefs of Military Medical Services Military Preventive Medicine Working Group meeting in Bethesda, Md., Nov. 1-4, on behalf of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-4, Logistics (Medical Readiness Division).

Karen Chambers, wife of CHPPM Chief of Staff Col. William Chambers, escorted the NATO delegates' spouses while their husbands attended the meeting. She took them to the Smithsonian American and Natural History museums, toured the White House and Pentagon, and went shopping at Potomac Mills.

The group specifically wanted to see the Changing of the Guard and President Kennedy's grave at Arlington National Cemetery, which they did. Chambers said the women were amazed that the tours were free.

"The ladies were very down-to-earth. They had done their high-powered shopping in New York and wanted to go bargain shopping," she said.

She said she also enjoyed meeting the wives from different countries; they shared pictures and customs of their countries with her.

"I feel like I've met new friends," she said of the delegates, who represented Norway, Portugal, Spain and Greece.

Lt. Col. Robert Thompson, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-4,



Logistics (Medical Readiness Division), suggested that a gift be given to this elite group of women. Chambers brought the idea up to the Edgewood Area Officers' Wives Club.

Although not from CHPPM, Colleen Newing, whose husband is commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Center, volun-

teered. She had a cross-stitched pattern she had made in the past for military wives who had meant a lot to her. The pattern, a poem entitled "Military Wife" with a pattern copyrighted by Brenda Lavender, is about how special military spouses are to each other. On the bottom is a cross-stitched rose.

Newing called the work "a labor of love," taking approximately 25 hours to make.

She expressed appreciation for the foreign hospitality she has received throughout her experience as a military spouse. This gesture is a way of "giving back" to them for all the nice things they have done for her, she said.



Photos by CAROLYN COLBURN

From left, Becky Cornforth, Karen Chambers and Colleen Newing show their labor of love, a framed, cross-stitched poem called "Military Wife" presented to the wives of NATO members attending a meeting in Maryland.

Also volunteering was Becky Cornforth, wife of a naval optometrist who recently left CHPPM's Directorate of Clinical Preventive Medicine. Cornforth and Chambers helped Newing create the cross-stitched poems that were placed into decorative brass frames. While on a trip to South Carolina, Chambers picked

up the remaining five frames needed to complete the project.

The gifts were well received when Chambers presented them during a formal dinner held Nov. 3. As a part of her presentation, she read the poem to the gathering.

"Military wives welcome each other, no matter where they come from," Chambers said.

Innovative military family programs can get recognition

Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Nov. 30, 1999) - Department of Defense-authorized private organizations — to include enlisted, noncommissioned officer and officer spouses' clubs — that provide military families with innovative support may be eligible to receive extra funding through a Fisher House-sponsored program.

Five organizations will be recognized

for developing innovative programs to improve quality of life and support of military families in military communities, said retired Army Col. James Weiskopf, a with the most innovative program will receive a check for \$10,000; the other four will receive \$5,000 each.

In an open letter to military members and families, Arnold Fisher, Chairman and chief executive officer of the Fisher

House Foundation Inc., announced a partnership of Newman's Own, Fisher House, and the MilitaryTimes. Newman's Own provides funding; Fisher House provides administration; and MilitaryTimes Newsweeklies provide advertising.

The organizations have created their partnership because they believe no investment pays a higher rate of return improving the quality of life for America's

service men and women and their families, said Weiskopf.

World War II Navy veteran and actor Paul Newman has donated more than \$100 million for educational and charitable purposes since 1982, when he began selling Newman's Own products, said Weiskopf. Newman's Own products were introduced into the military commissary system in 1997, and a portion of the com-

pany's after-tax profits are donated to the Fisher House program.

The organization must be a private organization as defined in DoD Instruction 1000.15. Apply by March 15. For applications, see <http://www.militarycity.com/communityaward>, or call the Fisher House Foundation, (888) 294-8560.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information provided by the Fisher House Foundation.)

Spouses take trip to museum at Walter Reed Army Medical Center

By Sheila Little
APG News

A visit to the National Museum of Health and Medicine can interest military members, history buffs, scientists and students.

Established in the days prior to the Civil War, the museum, then known as the Army Medical Museum, served as a center for the collection of specimens for research in military medicine and surgery. The museum is credited with having the largest collection of Civil War bones in the country.

Now a department of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, the museum, located on the campus of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, houses a Civil War medicine exhibit, a display of the evolution of the microscope, historical medical instruments, a section covering human development in the womb, and an area devoted to the systems of the body.

Through March, an exhibit of the life and scientific contributions of Linus Pauling is featured. Another exhibit on Acute Immune Deficiency Syndrome, on indefinite status, is periodically updated.

Jeanne Levin, tour program coordinator for the museum, said everyone is welcome to tour the free museum, which hosted more than 51,000 visitors last year.

"This year's attendance is even greater," she said.

Tour groups run the gamut from "fifth grade students to those in medical school," she said. In fifth grade, students begin study-



Photo by SHEILA LITTLE

Museum docent Peggy Sculley and EA-OWC members Jackie Kattner and Karen Chambers look on as Colleen Newing tracks her vital signs on the museum's cycling machine.

ing the human body, and the museum exhibits on body systems add to their education.

"We get school groups that come back year after year," she added.

Levin added that medical stu-

dents, nursing students, and other professionals come through, "even those from out of the country," and the feedback is generally

"very positive."

She said that docents for the museum include nurses and doctors. With advance notice, groups

of 10 or more are supplied with a free tour guide.

Levin said displays of body systems are the most popular, but the Civil War medical artifacts generate a great deal of interest too. In addition to the bullet that killed President Abraham Lincoln, medical instruments of that era, and skulls displaying the cause and location of the mortal wound, the Civil War display includes what remains of the right lower leg bones of Maj. Gen. Daniel Sickles.

"General Sickles lost his leg at Gettysburg in 1863," she said. "After surgery, he placed the bones in a little black coffin and shipped it to the museum."

Levin said that for a number of years Sickles observed the morbid anniversary of losing his leg by coming to the museum and visiting it, often bringing friends. She said much of the popularity of the museum at that time is attributed to Sickles and his guests.

Peggy Sculley, whose husband Maj. Gen. Patrick Sculley, former commander of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, is a docent for the museum. A nurse by profession, Sculley said she enjoys guiding guests through the museum, especially children.

"I love to go around with the school kids. They ask a lot of questions and are excited to visit," she said, adding that in addition to students learning about the sys-

tems of the body, displays of unusual conditions and primitive means of treatment "satisfy their morbid curiosity."

Karen Chambers, vice president of the Edgewood Area Officers' Wives Club and also a nurse, agreed. She said the displays offer "real teaching opportunities."

While working for the hospital several years ago, Chambers toured the museum, and decided to bring her daughter for a visit after seeing a particular display.

"When my daughter was young, she would eat her hair. In order to get her to stop, I brought her to the museum and showed her the hairball removed from the stomach of a 12-year-old," she said. "After seeing that, she never ate her hair again."

The museum is open to the public, but other sites on the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Campus include the Fisher House, a home for qualifying families of long-term care hospital patients, and the Eisenhower and Pershing suites in the original hospital building.

Free to the public, the museum is open every day except Christmas, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. A self-guided tour takes about two hours. Guides are available, with advance notice, for groups of more than 10. For information call 202-782-2200, or visit the museum web site at www.natmed-muse.afip.org.

Conference delegates learn basics of retirement

By Laura Paul
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Dec. 2, 1999) - Will Social Security affect my military retirement pay? How do I estimate my retired pay? Won't my spouse receive my retirement pay after I die?

These are just a few questions fielded by Max Beilke, deputy chief of Army Retirement Services, at a special retirement briefing at the annual Army Family Action Plan Planning Conference held Nov. 15-19 in McLean, Va.

Beilke, whose audience included active-duty soldiers, retirees, reservists, and family members, debunked a few myths.

"There are still soldiers and retirees who think Social Security will reduce their retired pay. It won't," he said. "We still hear from widows who thought they'd still get their husband's retired pay after he died. They don't. Retired pay stops with the death of the retiree. Some of these widows are living on Social Security. It doesn't take more than a couple of letters from widows like these to make you a believer in the Survivor Benefit Plan."

When soldiers elect SBP, they

pay 6.5 percent of their retirement pay so their surviving spouse will receive 35 percent of retired pay upon the death of the retiree, said officials. If your spouse is not 62 when you die, the government adds to the benefit and the spouse receives 55 percent of your retired pay until age 62.

At age 62, your spouse receives 35 percent of your retired pay. If you want the benefit to remain at 55 percent, you'll pay about 12 percent of your retired pay for that SBP election, known as supplemental SBP, said officials.

SBP benefits, like retired pay, receive cost-of-living adjustments.

"If I don't make it home today, the wife's first SBP check will be greater than my first retired paycheck," said Beilke, a military retiree.

Beilke said soldiers could get answers to retirement-related questions from their Retirement Services Officer, or at the Army Retirement Services homepage at <http://www.odcsper.army.mil/retire1.asp>.

(EDITOR'S NOTE : Paul is a public affairs specialist for Army Retirement Services.)

Show leaves diners FULL-y pleased

Second annual event draws hundreds to APG

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

All the major food groups and then some were represented at Top of the Bay on Nov. 16, when more than 40 food vendors showed their wares at the Directorate of Logistics' Installation Food Service Office's Second Annual Food Show.

Vendors from Alliant/Atlantic Food Service gave away hundreds of samples to more than 250 diners who munched on egg rolls, hot dogs, pastries, vegetables, fruits, and numerous other food items during the three-hour show.

Col. Robert J. Spidel, deputy installation commander, opened the show, welcoming everyone on behalf of the APG commander and community.

He said the show enables people who work in or receive food services the chance to enjoy samples of the type of items that are available for today's soldiers.

"Food service has undergone a constant change. It has evolved from purchasing in depots in the old day," Spidel said. "We welcome those who came to sample some of the varieties on the market today."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tommy Benbow Sr., installation food advisor and coordinator of the event, said the show's main purpose was to familiarize young soldiers and those new to the industry with modern food services.

"This is our way of keeping up with the changes," Benbow said. "Ninety percent of the foods here today are eaten in the dining facility."

He added that the same foods are provided to commercial restaurants.

"Soldiers are eating good food. We try to give them extra variety like our 'Surf-N-Turf' on Fridays," Benbow said, adding that the community is reaping the benefits of displaying the posts' commercial prime vendor.

"Putting on the show is low cost for us, and people come to APG from all over to learn more about the changing food service environment," Benbow said.

Joseph Bond, director of the Directorate of Logistics, said planners agreed that APG is the ideal site to host the expo for the vast northeast region.

"Vendors and purchasers are eager to come to APG as we are centrally located near major cities," Bond said, adding that the show's main benefit was to encourage service members to use dining facilities because many troops don't realize installations buy from commercial vendors.

"This is a way to show soldiers the quality of the products available to them," Bond said. "With theme meals like 'T.G.I. Fridays,' service members see they can get the same products at more reasonable rates than are offered off post."

Bond said the expo was his last large function as he will retire in January after a 53-year career. The Havre de Grace native said he will remain in the area.

Logisticians from Quantico, and Fort Belvoir in Virginia and Fort Detrick, Andrews Air Force Base and Bolling Air Force Base, in Maryland were just some of the many visitors to the food show that day. Master Chief Petty Officer Jesse Stiggins, assistant food services officer, and James Nelson, a civilian supply technician, came to APG from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Facility at Wallops Island, Va.



Pfcs. Brandie Bouwman, left, and Stephanie Eppley, from HHC 61st Ordnance Brigade, select snacks for their "lunch." Both said they were impressed by the quality of foods being used in dining facilities.

They agreed that the food service industry has become more "modern, menu-driven and cost effective."

"We use almost everything here," Nelson said indicating the vendor's tables. "Alliant/Atlantic is our supplier also, and their service has been excellent. We now communicate with the vendor better than under the old system."

"The current system enables us to better adapt to the customer's needs," Stiggins added. "Under the old system, you got what you got."

The vendors were more than willing to provide detailed descriptions of their services along with tasty samples of their products.

At one display Liza D. Fuller, area manager for Appetizers and, Inc., Maryland and Washington, D.C., district, presented assorted miniature pastries and cheesecake tartlets. Joined by her assistant, Sue Daily, who passed out samples, Fuller said the company specializes in "hand-made and fresh frozen pastries."

"The same products we distribute to hotels and catering businesses we distribute to military installations," Fuller said.

She added that her product's main benefits include availability of a high quality product that is free of preservatives and requires little preparation.

Representing Papetti's Hygrade Egg Products, Inc., was

Faith Zei, an account executive with Ellis-Aronson food service brokers from Columbia, Md. Zei said Papetti's supplies pasteurized egg products to major hotel chains, hospitals and fast food restaurants as well as to military installations.

"We have whole, boiled, scrambled, dry packed, frozen, liquid and prepared egg patties,"

Zei said as she gave out samples of boiled eggs. "Our products are guaranteed to be bacteria-free and are actually fresher than standard eggs."

While sampling the Asian cuisine offered at the Minh Food Corporation display, Sfc. Winston Worrel, senior legal NCO at the APG Garrison Legal Office, said he found most of the foods "surprisingly delicious."

"This is the first show I've been to and I'm impressed with the variety offered," Worrel said. "It's all appetizing."

Marine SSgt. Petula Mohabir, a food service quality insurance evaluator with the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, looked over the fruits and vegetables offered at the Atlantic Fresh Cuts table, as

Laurie Zeisloft, an account executive for the company, explained that packaged produce is the fastest growing segment of the food industry because of concerns over biological contaminants.

"Packaging reduces the risk of cross contamination while supplying a preservative-free, 100 percent, fresh product," Zeisloft said.

A dining facility inspector, Mohabir said she was impressed with the preparation, preservation and sanitation of the product.

Pfcs. Stephanie Eppley and Brandie Bouwman, administration clerks from HHC 61st Ordnance Brigade S-1, said their entire section came to the show. Both soldiers are on separate rations but said they sometimes eat in the dining facility.

"I didn't know they had all this," Bouwman said. "I'd eat there more than I eat in McDonald's."



Sgt. Deidre Goodman, left, and Sfc. Winston Worrel, from APG Garrison, Headquarters Support Troops, enjoy Asian appetizers from the Minh display at the Second Annual Food Show at Top of the Bay.

Photos by DAVE MAYOR



Photo by LORI DAVIS

Thinking 'green'

Lt. Col. Bertil Steen, left, of the Environmental Department of Headquarters, Swedish Armed Forces, discusses lead-free 5.56mm bullets, part of the U.S. Army's environmentally friendly "Green Ammunition" with Dave McFerren, the U.S. Army Environmental Center's program manager for the project. Representatives from the Swedish Armed Forces visited USAEC recently to learn about the U.S. Army's efforts in maintaining force readiness through proactive management of ranges and training lands. Green Ammunition is part of the Range XXI program, which looks across the training spectrum to sustain ranges and training areas through protection of the environment.

COMMENTARY

Answers on anthrax are available Vaccine proven to be safe, can save soldiers

By Maj. Guy S. Strawder
Office of the Surgeon General

By now, most everyone has read, heard or seen something about anthrax and the Defense Department's efforts to protect its service members. With the possible exception of Oprah and Jerry Springer, everyone is talking about anthrax — virtually every major television network, magazine, and newspaper in both this country and abroad has covered the issue.

What is often glossed over in these stories, however, is just how deadly serious this threat has become in the business of contemporary warfighting. Make no mistake about it, biological warfare is a "growth industry", particularly in countries trying to counter the technological superiority of the United States military.

In the wake of the Gulf War, we discovered that Saddam Hussein had manufactured enough weapons-grade anthrax to kill every man, woman and child on earth several times over. Iraq conducted live weaponization tests with anthrax shortly before the coalition's ground offensive and deployed warheads loaded with the agent to several forward storage locations in December 1990. Serum testing of defectors from the Iraqi Republican Guard revealed evidence of anthrax antibodies and Saddam Hussein's intent to introduce the American soldier to the horrors of biological warfare.

In 1992, Boris Yeltsin admitted that the former Soviet Union had maintained a huge BW capability. An accidental release of anthrax spores from a production facility located 1,400 kilometers east of Moscow killed an estimated 70 people in 1979. The release of deadly spores was estimated to be less than one gram — about the weight of a single paper clip.

The threat is perhaps even more ominous today. At least 10 of our potential adversaries are suspected of weaponizing anthrax. Radical Islamic fundamentalists and other terrorists, including Osama bin Laden, have been very vocal about their contemplated use of biological agents. Only four years ago, the Japanese terrorist cult Aum Shinrikyo experimented with the release of anthrax on several

occasions before resorting to the use of sarin gas in its deadly attacks on Tokyo subways.

R. James Woolsey, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, stated in a recent interview with the New York Times that biological warfare is "the single most dangerous threat to our national security in the foreseeable future."

A 30-year-old vaccine

There is no doubt that anthrax is a grave and urgent threat to our soldiers today. You can't see it, taste it or smell it, and it's difficult to detect under the best of battlefield conditions. If you are unvaccinated and inhale anthrax spores, you almost certainly will die. By the time you develop the first symptoms of the disease, there is very little that anyone can do to save your life.

Fortunately, American medicine has provided a vaccine that, in combination with protective suits, detection, and surveillance instruments, significantly reduces our risk.

Let me be clear about one simple point — this is an ordinary vaccine. Just like your yellow fever shot or that jack hammer full of gamma globulin that you've had to take prior to major deployments or assuming mission cycle — this is no different.

The anthrax vaccine has been licensed and approved by the Food and Drug Administration and used safely for almost 30 years. I know people who've taken more than a dozen anthrax vaccinations — one has been taking this vaccination for more than 20 years! Despite the science fiction you hear, they are all healthy, they can still procreate, they haven't developed male-pattern baldness and they don't suffer from mysterious ailments.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, the American Public Health Association and virtually every public health organization in this country recommend this vaccine for people whose jobs put them at risk. The AVIP Agency consults regularly with the Department of Health and Human Services and with clinicians who represent the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins University, George Washington University

and other private sector organizations on all aspects of program execution.

A 'vocal minority'

For nearly 13 months as director of the AVIP Agency, I continuously analyzed, critiqued and reviewed this program to the gnat's eyelashes. I personally investigated every criticism and claim of indiscretion. I found most of the hand-wringing, myths and bizarre allegations were generated by a very vocal minority whose objections have absolutely nothing to do with either medical science or the safety and effectiveness of this vaccine. If indeed this debate is genuinely about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, then where is the outrage from the medical community?

Members of one of the prominent opposition groups proudly characterize themselves as "radical docs", who believe that protection against biological warfare can only be achieved through total abolition of these weapons of mass destruction. Certainly a worthy goal if we could just convince international terrorists and rogue nations to comply with existing international treaties. While the United States has disbanded all offensive BW programs, the number of countries that continue to develop this capability has doubled in the last 25 years — in blatant violation of the 1972 Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention.

Another group opposes the AVIP because they believe that a more effective way to deal with the threat of biological weapons, such as anthrax, is for the U.S. to dismantle its nuclear weapons capability. Some oppose mandatory immunizations because it violates their libertarian ideology. And there are some fringe groups that believe we are spreading a virus through vaccinations that will weaken our military and allow the uprising of the New World Order.

Protection in combat

Groups in opposition to the AVIP don't face the dangers we must. They stand to lose very little by committing young men and women unprotected into a combat zone. Conversely, those of us who do this for a living, those of us who have children

and spouses in uniform, and our esteemed combat veterans all have a profound interest in the health, welfare and success of service men and women.

Certainly there are honest, patriotic Americans who believe the anthrax immunization program is a mistake, or even dangerous. Their concern is sincere, but misplaced because they are working with misinformation.

The Internet is a wonderful innovation that puts a world of information at our fingertips; unfortunately, with the good comes the bad and the Internet can often seem like a giant bathroom wall of graffiti — if you're not careful, there's no telling what kind of garbage you'll find on it.

There is a clear threat of biological warfare. We have a vaccine that is licensed and approved by the FDA and recommended for use by the medical community for those at-risk to exposure. These facts beg a single, simple question — if our soldiers were targeted with anthrax and died by the thousands because we failed to vaccinate the force, how could we ever justify those losses to their children, their spouses and the American public? The answer is, we could not. Failure to protect our forces against a known threat would be nothing short of criminal negligence and dereliction.

Nothing is more unsettling than seeing service members jeopardize their careers and the readiness of their units simply because of bogus rumors. If you want to know the facts, the AVIP Website, www.anthrax.osd.mil, is an excellent resource providing everything you want to know about the program and more.

If you want to speak directly to a member of the AVIP Agency, they operate a toll-free information line at 1-877-GETVACC. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of these resources. This organization is entirely composed of active-duty service members and veterans from every branch of service — and I guarantee you there isn't a question they can't answer.

(Strawder is the former director of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program and now is deputy director for current operations in the Office of the Surgeon General.)

Sports and Fitness

Navy beats Army 19-9 in centennial rivalry

By Tim Hipps
Army News Service

PHILADELPHIA (Dec. 6, 1999) - Army football coach Bob Sutton said all the hoopla surrounding Saturday's centennial edition of the Army-Navy Classic meant little to the men who played the game.

What mattered most to them was much the same as for all who play college football: Winning their final game against their storied arch-rival. It just so happens that the lore is much more when these two service academies take the field for their annual showdown, which makes losing twice as tough to swallow, Sutton said.

"For the seniors, this is certainly a tough game no matter what happens," Sutton said after Navy quarterback Brian Madden scrambled for a career-high 177 yards on 41 carries in leading the

Midshipmen to a convincing, 19-9 victory. "It's obviously much, much more difficult when you lose it because this game doesn't leave you.

"It's not going to be over tomorrow for those guys. It will be that way 40 years from now. They understand that. They know the history of the game."

The storied history of this game attracted 70,049 fans - the largest crowd to ever see a football game at Veteran's Stadium. Forget that neither team is bowl bound. Army (3-8) and Navy (5-7) both have fielded far superior football teams. That doesn't matter. Forget that Army leads the series, 48-45-7, and has won 10 of the last 14 meetings between the teams.

None of that mattered Saturday when sophomore Madden ran circles around the Cadets to become

the first player in Navy history - including Heisman Trophy winners Roger Staubach and Joe Bellino and All-America Napoleon McCallum - to rush for more than 100 yards in his first five starts.

"He is a hard runner," Army defensive back Derrick Goodwin said. "He put his head down and ran hard. He's more like a running back than a quarterback."

You have to give him credit. I thought we hit him hard, but he kept coming back. We keyed on him in the second half, but he made the plays."

Madden, a 6-1, 210-pounder, was a state wrestling champion at Eisenhower High School in Lawton, Okla., where he also lettered four times in golf and three seasons in football. He has topped the 150-yard rushing mark in four of his five starts with the Midshipmen.

"He did a great job of breaking some good tackles," Sutton said of Madden, who he also recruited. "He's a very aggressive guy. He does a good job with the option, and he runs hard. You have to tackle him sometimes and knock him backwards because he's going to run it wide."

Madden accounted for 177 of Navy's 216 rushing yards. His 41 carries fell one shy of Eddie Myers' single-game Army-Navy record set in 1979. Madden also scored Navy's only touchdown, a two-yard run that capped an 11-play, 67-yard drive to a 7-0 lead with three minutes, 26 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

"We've got great leaders up front," said Madden, deferring credit to the offensive linemen who plow the way for Navy's rushing offense, which averages 299.1 yards per outing, tops among NCAA Division I schools. "They have

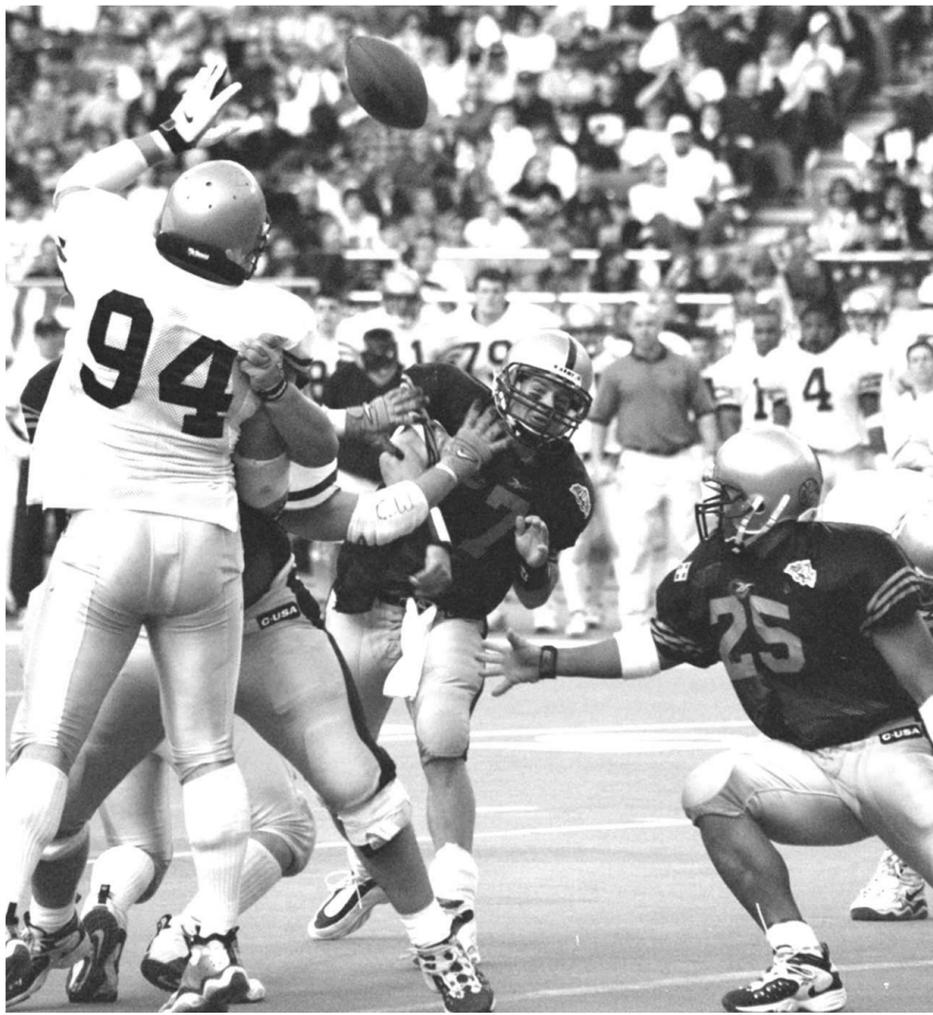


Photo by TIM HIPPS

Navy defensive end Brad Wimsatt deflects a pass from Army quarterback Joe Gerena, who completed 7 of 19 passes with one interception during Navy's 19-9 victory over the Cadets.

been the backbone of our offense for two or three years now. It's a compliment to them to say we led the country in rushing. I've gotten better execution-wise throughout the year, not turning the ball over. And our defense has kept us in games all year long."

Army lost three fumbles, the most notable coming with 3:56 remaining in the third quarter. The Cadets, trailing 16-3, drove 60 yards in a dozen plays to Navy's 12-yard line, where fullback Michael Wallace lost the handle and defensive end Gino Marchetti recovered the ball for Navy. Suddenly, all momentum shifted to the Midshipmen.

Tim Shubzda kicked field goals of 35, 34, 37 and 38 yards for the remainder of Navy's points in the game, which featured a first-half punter's duel between Army's Graham White and Navy's Tray Calisch. Graham averaged 50 yards on five punts, with a long of 72 yards. Calisch averaged 50.3 yards, with a long of 73. Each had one punt downed inside their opponent's 20-yard line.

"I thought the kicking game was crucial," Navy coach Charlie Weatherbie said. "We made every field goal today. We punted the ball out of the hole real well several times. Defensively, we kept them out of the end zone except for one play."

Shubzda took the victory in modest stride.

"I don't have a very hard job," the poised place-kicker said. "They send me out there to do one thing and that's put the ball through the uprights. It makes it easier for me when the blocking and the snaps and holds are dead on. It takes off a little of the pressure knowing that they'll give me plenty of time to get the kick off."

"It was important for me to make those field goals because they have counted on me all year and stuck with me through thick and thin. Luckily enough, the Lord put the ball through the uprights."

Army quarterback Joe Gerena, who completed 7 of 19 passes for 95 yards with one interception, rolled right and threw back across the field for a 2-yard touchdown pass to Shaun Castillo, capping a 10-play, 60-yard drive with 4:47 left in the game. It was too little too late for Army, which dropped

its fourth consecutive game.

Yet, this defeat these Cadets will never forget.

"Winning this game is without question the greatest feeling in the world," Sutton said. "And losing it is the exact opposite. It doesn't go away. That's why it's such a great game."

"It's not a one-day game that disappears like a blip on a radar at some point. These games stay with you in the good times and they're with you in the not-so-good times. They stay with you for the rest of your life."

"That's the risk you have to take to have that other kind of memory, too. You can't have it one way. You've got to be able to risk everything to get one of those precious moments that you can treasure for the rest of your life. And when you don't, it's deflating. It's devastating to you,

believe me.

Saturday's 100th edition of Army-Navy was the final chapter for Sutton, 48, who was informed on Monday that Army would no longer honor his contract to coach at West Point. His eight-year run was done.

"Being the 100th game just put it on a pedestal for some other people who have never followed it closely," Sutton said. "But in my summation, all the other 99 were played just as hard and with just as much emotion as this one. That's why it's such a great game."

Weatherbie knows the storylines will grow more grandiose with each passing year and he said someday the players will tell their grandkids about the 100th Army-Navy game.

(Editor's note: Tim Hipps is a staff writer for the Belvoir Eagle.)



Photo by TIM HIPPS

Army junior defensive back Derrick Goodwin, of San Diego, Calif., latches onto Navy quarterback Brian Madden as several Cadets swarm to help make the tackle during the Midshipmen's 19-9 victory in Army-Navy 100.



Photo by PAUL HARING

Army cheerleaders rally the Cadets in front of a record crowd at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium.

143rd Ordnance builds character, teamwork with Soldier Stakes

OBSTACLE, from front page

team and be safe as you do so.”
 Noting that the staff and cadre of Headquarters and Headquarters Company would compete against the soldiers, Merritt added jokingly, “We’ll issue HHC some ‘Ben Gay’ afterward.”

After a coin toss to determine the order of progression, the obstacle course competition began. While their comrades cheered them on, teams representing HHC, Charlie, Bravo and Alpha companies advanced through the obstacles.

Sfc. Pamela Irle, 143rd battalion S-3 NCO, said her office organized the event, in which she plans to participate next time.

“It took just a couple of weeks to coordinate support as far as medical assistance and refreshments from the mess hall,” Irle said. “This is a great unity day where the soldiers get rid of stress and have some fun doing it.”

As Bravo company drill sergeants watched their soldiers descend the cargo net obstacle, they commented on the benefits of competition.

“I challenge my troops to motivate me,” Sfc. Joseph Pressley said. “I think they will win because they know how to stay motivated.”

“They’ve been looking forward to this,” Sfc. Teresa O’Hara added. “We call them the ‘quiet storm.’”

Col. Hugh Hudson, 61st Ordnance Brigade commander, visited the site during the competition, and said the Soldier Stakes is a great opportunity for younger soldiers to show off and for the older soldiers to practice.

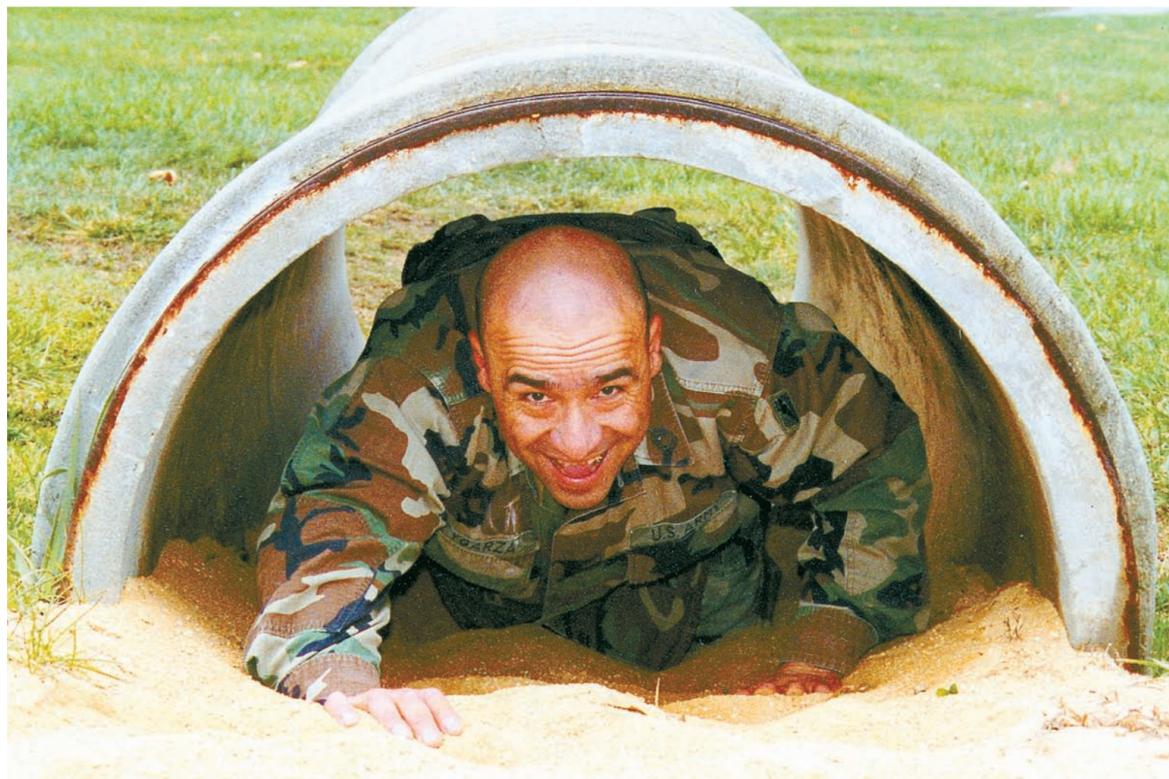
“It’s a significant way to improve us old guys on permanent party,” Hudson said. “I suspect Command Sergeant Major Stallings will soon issue a challenge.”

The Soldier Stakes is part of the year-round Honor Company competition among the 143rd’s three Advanced Individual Training companies.

Units are evaluated on student’s academic averages, Army Physical Fitness Test scores, Student of the Month board and the command sergeant major’s barracks inspections.

The battalion holds an esprit de corps run the first Wednesday of each month, at which the honor platoon for the month is named.

After the obstacle course, participants were given a 10-minute rest before donning 20-pound ruck sacks for the road march. The units lined both sides of the street waiting to cheer their com-



Photos by YVONNE JOHNSON

Above, Lt. Col. Francis R. Merritt, 143rd Ordnance Battalion commander, addresses the battalion formation at the start of the soldier stakes. Holding the guidon is Pvt. Mark McGregor. At left, Sfc. Jose Ygarza, HHC 143rd, smiles as he exits “The Tunnel,” the second station on the obstacle course. HHC 143rd staff and cadre tackled the course along with students in the training companies.



Photo by SSGT. GREGORY BINFORD

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Stallings supervises the coin toss at the start of the obstacle course competition. With him are Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Company team leaders, SSgts. Vincent Rodgers, Willie Jones and Darrel Johnson.

rades across the line.

As he waited for his group’s turn at the road march to begin, Pvt. Robert Vieyra from Alpha Company, said he volunteered to participate because he wanted to do “something different.”

“The first time through the obstacle course was hard, but fun,” Vieyra said. “I’m sore but not tired.”

Pvt. Josh Crockett, from Bravo Company agreed, saying the day was “a lot of fun.”

“The competitive spirit was the best part. I hope we won because we get a pizza party,” Crockett said.

Bravo company commander,

Cpt. Sandra Robinson, said she always rewards her soldiers for a job well done.

“I told them it’s not about how you do, but what you do,” Robinson said.

Sgt. Derrick Gibson, from HHC, said the obstacle course reminded him of the Air Assault course in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

“It was a challenge and some of it was very difficult but we believe in leading by example,” Gibson said. “We were not going to look bad in front of our soldiers.”

Last week, the battalion awarded Bravo company the Soldier



Photo by SSGT. GREGORY BINFORD

Bravo Company team members eagerly await their turn at “The Pipe.” The team went on to win the Soldier Stakes streamer.

Stakes streamer for surpassing all other units in CTT testing, the obstacle course and the road march.

Bravo Company operations NCO SSgt. Gloria Challenger said she was not surprised.

“They enjoy winning and this

gives them bragging rights,” she said of the student soldiers.

“They’ve done it before and they’ll do it again.”