

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule

Recycling pickup for Wednesday, Feb. 24, is paper. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Female officers to meet Feb. 23

The next Female Officer Luncheon will be held Tuesday, Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Gunpowder Lounge at Top of the Bay. For more information, call Capt. (P) Donna M. Killian, 410-278-4482.

Lady Bombers play this weekend

APG's post basketball team, the Lady Bombers, will play on Saturday, Feb. 20, against Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and Sunday, Feb. 21, against Andrews Air Force Base. Both games will begin at 1 p.m. at the APG Athletic Center.

"We'd love people to turn out for these games," said Marni Allison, APG sports director. "It's great basketball and great entertainment. And, it's free."

For more information about the team, call Allison at 410-278-4497.

The Lady Bombers won third place in the Capitol Classic during the President's Day holiday weekend, after taking on military teams from around the world.

Two APG players were recognized for their performance. Sarah Chatman won most valuable player for the team that did not play in the championship game, and Robbie Powell won best rebounder.

The team defeated Quantico Friday night, after team members raced to Fort Myers, Va., after finding out they had an 8 p.m. game late in the afternoon.

"We pulled it together, even though we had to go through Baltimore and Washington traffic in a downpour," said Coach Melroy Simmonds.

He noted that Quantico has defeated the Lady Bombers twice in the Washington Area Military Athletic Conference, so the victory was even sweeter.

The team returned Saturday, taking a loss to Fort Bragg, which eventually won the tournament. Throughout the weekend, the Lady Bombers also defeated Andrews Air Force Base, Fort Meade and Fort Knox.

The turning point was during the Fort Meade game, when the team was down by 14 points with just six minutes left. Fort Meade, which is still undefeated in the WAMAC, fell during a last-minute recovery.

On Monday the Lady Bombers fell to Henderson Hall, which then went on to play Fort Bragg, which won the championship.

FWP plans annual conference

The APG Equal Employment Opportunity Office Federal Women's Program is sponsoring its annual Women's History Month Training Conference on March 17, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Edgewood Area. Further information will follow electronically and through the APG News. Information and on-line registration is available at www.apg.army.mil/garrison/fwp/fwpconf.html. You also can send registration by See SHORTS, page 2

Andrews to pass TECOM command to Ertwine



Maj. Gen. Edward L. Andrews



Brig. Gen. Dean R. Ertwine

On Friday, Feb. 19, Maj. Gen. Edward L. Andrews will pass command of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (TECOM) to Brig. Gen. Dean R. Ertwine.

Gen. Johnnie E. Wilson, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), will host the ceremony, set for 10 a.m. at Fanshaw Field.

Units participating in the ceremony will represent U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground (USAGAPG), U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center (USAATC), U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center (USATTC), U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground (USADPG), U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (USAYPG), U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range (USAWSMR), and U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School (USAOC&S).

Shuttle buses will run from buildings 400, 310, 314 and 305 to Fanshaw Field from 9-9:45 a.m. and return after the ceremony. In case of inclement

See page 3 for memorandum on transfer of APG Garrison from TECOM to the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

weather, the ceremony will be held at the APG Athletic Center.

Andrews assumed command of TECOM 19 months ago. He came to APG from Warren, Mich., where he commanded the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command for almost three years. Andrews had served at APG before. In 1969, he attended the Ordnance Career Course, in 1972, he served as a test director at what is now Aberdeen Test Center, and in 1991, he returned as assistant commandant of USAOC&S.

His command and staff positions have taken him all over the world. His assignments include serving in Vietnam with the 2d/501st Infantry Battalion, 101st **See TECOM, page 3**



Photo by LAMONT HARBISON

Maj. Gen. Edward L. Andrews applauds second-graders from William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School, after presenting U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command coins to them for academic excellence. From left are Christine Ryan, Mark Brice, Samantha Wise, Marcus Johnson and Thomas Bright.

Students visit TECOM to see Army community

The second-graders from William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School looked around the Ryan Building with awe.

"It is so cool in here," said one as she clutched a Commander's Coin presented by Maj. Gen. Edward L. Andrews, commander of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command and Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The 35 students added to that coin a framed letter from Command Sgt. Maj. Tyler Walker II, who orchestrated the trip to TECOM after he visited the school last fall, and received a lot of questions from the students about his job and his Army career.

"We saw the opportunity to

bring the students out here and let them see what life is like in the Army," said Walker as he helped to herd the students through the offices at TECOM Headquarters.

One stop was the commanding general's office, where Andrews presented coins and told the students about what it's like to travel the world.

"All these things you see on my walls are things people gave me as I traveled around the world," said Andrews, describing how his 33-year Army career has taken him to Saudi Arabia, Korea, Germany, Vietnam and all over the United States.

He introduced his staff, including Walker, whom he called "my

right hand man"; Capt. Lance Burton, his aide; and Tina Everett, his secretary, who Andrews said "really runs this place."

"That's something you will learn as you get older," he said with a smile.

The TECOM coins, he said, represent TECOM's mission of "Test for the Best" - the best being America's soldiers, "the best soldiers in the whole world."

"This crest helps to identify that we're all in the same unit," he told the students. "You'll see our motto 'Test for the Best' and our crest on this coin. This coin is very special."

He presented each student with **See VISIT, page 3**

MRICD receives top Army award in health care

By Meghan Heimbach
APG News

On Feb. 5, Col. James S. Little, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense (MRICD), received the Army Medical Department Award of Excellence in Allied Health Care, an honor which comes from devotedness to an institution and its people.

The U.S. government began giving the award in 1991 to honor one officer and one noncommissioned officer, in the Army Medical Department who have demonstrated excellence in allied health care.

On behalf of the Army Surgeon General, Maj. Gen. John S. Parker, commander of the U.S. **See MRICD, page 3**

Polar Bear Run Feb. 27 offers 10K, 5K routes

By Meghan Heimbach
APG News

The clock is ticking away to register for the Annual Polar Bear 10K Road Race, and on Feb. 27, runners will take their mark, get set and go on the run, which starts at 9 a.m. at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Athletic Center, sponsored by the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School and the APG Garrison Community Recreation Division.

SSgt. Delano Talley, a student in the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course at OC&S, said the involvement is part of the course's class project.

"It was our responsibility to coordinate a meeting with MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) to find out what type of personnel and resources we would need to make the race happen," Talley said. "They told us what they

See RUN, page 7

Events slated to honor African-American history

Two events are scheduled during the rest of the month to celebrate African American/Black History Month.

Scheduled for Feb. 24 is a presentation by Rev. Howard L. Wallace, "The Legacy of African-American Leadership for the Present and the Future," sponsored by the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command. The presentation will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at

the Edgewood Area Conference Center Auditorium, building E-4810.

Wallace, an APG employee, has presented seminars, workshops and keynote addresses to organizations such as Blacks in Government, the Minority Coalition at the Department of Agriculture, the Office of Personnel Management and the U.S. Navy. During his seven **See EVENTS, page 3**

Mayors offer communication line for residents

By Sheila Little
APG News

Being a community mayor can be a satisfying and rewarding experience. Seeing playground safety upgrades, baseball field construction, parking lot improvements, and passing out fire safety tips are just a few examples of what can be accomplished through participation in the mayoral program.

Getting to know your neighbors and lending a helping hand, listening ear or community voice, is another.

"The community mayor serves as the communication link between the residents and command to voice concerns and suggest possible solutions," said Alice Surette, APG Quality of Life coordinator. "As the voice of the neighborhood, mayors meet with their neighbors to hear the concerns, present those concerns to command, and bring back helpful information and solutions to the residents."

Mayors serve a year-long term beginning in March. The 12 designated family housing communities and two mobile home parks that need mayoral representation are:

Aberdeen Area

Bayside Village, Patriot Village, Shore Gardens, Mobile Home Park, New Chesapeake, Plumb Point Loop and Hopkins Loop.

Edgewood Area

Everette/Scully, Lee/Reider, Austin/Parrish, Mobile



Austin/Parrish Mayor Becky Cornforth worked with 143rd Ordnance Battalion soldiers, above, who spread an enormous pile of mulch on the community's playground last summer.

Home Park, Chevron/Clearview, Skipper's Point and Grant Court.

If you are age 18 or older, live in one of the communities, and would like to volunteer, contact Alice Surette at 410-278-5469. The deadline for mayoral nominations is Feb. 23.

Mayors are kept up-to-date on neighborhood issues through monthly meetings with the deputy installation commander, and promote community involvement and pride through organized neighborhood activities.

Becky Cornforth has been the mayor of Austin and Parrish Roads for two years, and said that having a voice has led to more community involvement and neighborhood safety.

Through the mayor program, the addition of new playground equipment and upgraded safety features was discussed with the neighborhood.

"The residents had a say in the type of safety surface and timbers used for our playground upgrade."

She added that when it came time to spread the upgraded surface, "soldiers from the 143rd Ordnance Battalion came over to help spread the safety surface."

Under the direction of Command Sgt. Maj. Carlos Estronza, the soldiers placed a weed barrier and spread wood chips under the play equipment. Cornforth's husband, Navy Cmdr. Lee L. Cornforth, an Austin Road resident, said the playground had been a place to avoid, because it was on hard ground and infested with disease-carrying ticks.

"Now the playground has a soft, deep cushion of wood chips to protect the children from injury due to falls, and keep the deer and other tick-carrying animals out," he said.

He praised the initiative and team effort displayed by the soldiers, and the direction and interaction of Estronza as he

See MAYORS, page 5

FROM THE COMMANDER

APG looks to the future with confidence

By Maj. Gen. Edward L. Andrews
Commander, TECOM and APG

Change is inevitable and should be accepted and positively managed. While many people regard change with fear and trepidation, we in the Army family accept that change is sometimes necessary, and view it as both a challenge and an opportunity.

The 1990s have been a decade of change for all of us. We at Aberdeen Proving Ground have successfully coped with the many changes, and are prepared to handle others that will surely follow.

One will be the redesignation of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (TECOM) as the Developmental Test Command (DTC). On Oct. 1, 1999, DTC will join the U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Command, headquartered in Alexandria, Va., to form the newly estab-

lished U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC).

In preparing for this, TECOM will transfer operational control of the APG Garrison from TECOM to the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command on Feb. 19, 1999. That will begin the transition that will become effective on Oct. 1, 1999, when SBCCOM will assume command and control of the garrison.

On a personal note, my change of command will occur Feb. 19, 1999. As expected, I have mixed emotions as I bring my 33-year Army career to an end. Allie and I are proud to have invested our lives in the world's best Army. As I depart, I feel secure in knowing I am leaving TECOM and APG in good hands.

Brig. Gen. Dean Ertwine, my successor, and Brian Simmons, deputy to the commander, are well-qualified to steer TECOM

through its transition to ATEC's Developmental Test Command. The important thing to remember is that though the name will change, the mission of developmental testing will continue, performed by the same great soldier and civilian team.

I congratulate Maj. Gen. John Doesburg and Col. Bob Spidel for the great job they are doing preparing the Aberdeen Garrison to join the U.S. Army Soldier, Biological and Chemical Command. The union of these two great organizations ensures a solid future for APG.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and loyal support. We have met many challenges together, and I am confident that APG's exceptional leadership team will continue to turn challenges into opportunities, look to the future with optimism and confidence, and succeed in all we do as a team.



POST SHORTS

SHORTS, from front page

email to fwp@apg-emh1.apg.army.mil. The conference is open to military and civilian personnel, and requires permission from your supervisor.

Registration for the day-long conference begins at 7:15 a.m., kicking off the morning session. Participants can choose from three-hour presentations on retirement benefits, personality conflicts and self-defense; or, select 90-minute "mini sessions," customizing your work station, protecting your eyes from strain, doing business electronically, and communications in the new millennium. A brown-bag lunch will be held at the Gunpowder Club, followed by the afternoon session. For questions, contact the APG FWP manager at 410-278-6149.

Military Pay Office adopts schedule

Beginning this week, the Defense Military Pay Office joins the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison work force in following the compressed work schedule. The office's first scheduled Friday off will be Feb. 26. The office will be open Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (closed from noon-12:30 p.m. for lunch); first Friday of the pay period, 7 a.m.-noon (closed after noon for training); and second Friday of the pay period, closed.

Health plan benefit information offered

A claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) will visit APG on March 9, through an arrangement by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. The representative will be available from 9-11:30 a.m. in building 305, room B-14 (lower level) and in building E-4420 from 12:30-1:30 p.m., to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call Kathy Anderson, 410-278-2649, or Teri Wright, 410-278-4331.

Ordnance Ball set at Redstone

Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., will host the 1999 Ordnance Ball at the arsenal's Redstone Club on March 19, 6 p.m. For tickets and information, call (256) 876-6697, DSN 746-6697.

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. The troop will welcome photos and memorabilia from earlier years.

Sign up for youth sports

Edgewood Area Youth Services will begin conducting registration for baseball, softball and T-ball through March 13. Cost is \$30 per

person; family discounts are available. For more information, call Norma A. Warwick, Youth Sports director, 410-436-2172/2862.

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.

Military Personnel Division closure

The Military Personnel Division will be closed on Feb. 19, due to the change of command ceremony for the post commander in the morning and regular military training in the afternoon. Questions may be directed to Sgt. Maj. Sherry Smith, military personnel sergeant major, at 410-278-5307. Emergency cases should contact the Emergency Operations Center at 410-278-4500/5225.

Pre-register for summer program

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.

Family Child Care training set

Family Child Care training will be conducted the week of March 15-19. Interviews will be held on March 8, 9 and 11. Applicants interested in providing home-based child care, especially in the Edgewood Area, are encouraged to apply. For applications, call 410-278-8720. Bring a professionally trained provider in a warm home environment offers many benefits: free training in a marketable occupation; credit transfers to Army installations world-wide; free use of toy lending library; free referrals by Central Registry; free monthly newsletter; free workshops (nutrition, child psychology, CPR, tax assistance); participation in the National CDA credential program; participation in the USDA food program; and self employment. For more information, call Gail Smith, 410-278-7477/8720 or Kathy Reese, 410-436-2692/3355.

EAOWC to donate funds

The Edgewood Area Officers Wives Club will donate funds to services and charities this spring. If your group or organization is interested in receiving a donation, provide a request in writing by Feb. 28, to Deborah Pellissier, EAOWC Services and Charities, 4842 Austin Rd., Gunpowder, MD 21010. Be as specific as possible in stating the purpose for which the funds will be used, and include the name, title, address and phone number of a contact person.

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. To be eligible, one must be the child of an active-duty, retired or deceased service member, who will be attending college during the 1999-2000 school year. Applications may be obtained at all Harford County high schools, the EA Thrift Shop, the EA Library, or by calling Evelyn Atchison, 410-297-8558. The EAOWC will donate \$500 for a spouse scholarship for a spouse of active duty, retired, or deceased military members. Applications must be received by April 2. Winners will be notified by early May.

MCSC to offer 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.

Red Cross has classes scheduled

A Community First Aid and Safety Class will be held March 19, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$25. Upon completion you will be certified in first aid for three years and community CPR for one year.

A baby-sitting class will be held Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Those who complete the class will be placed on a list for baby-sitting for the post. Cost is \$10 for all ID card holders, with scholarships donated by the post thrift shops.

For information about classes, call Carolyn Lerwill at 410-278-2087. Course fees are payable by check to the American Red Cross.

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.

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 TECOM Public Affairs Office, Building 314, Room 326, AMSTE-PA, APG, MD 21005-5055; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; or send e-mail to kdrewen@apgnews.com. Deadline for copy is Monday at noon (Thursday at noon for letters to the editor). Check out the website at <http://www.apgnews.com>.

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CA UPDATE

Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison and the Aberdeen Test Center have received authorization to begin contingency planning to implement the Commercial Activities Study decisions. Initial plans include developing the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA), Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP), and Reduction in Force (RIF) request packages.

Bids were received in response to the three solicitations and are now being evaluated. Initial decisions on the separate solicitations are currently expected between March and May 1999.

Work-force briefing notice

A work force briefing for U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command and APG Garrison employees is scheduled for March 5. There will be two briefings in the Edgewood Area at 9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. in the Edgewood Area Conference Center in building E-4810, and one briefing in the Aberdeen Area at 1 p.m. at the Post Theater.

Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander SBCCOM and APG commander as of Feb. 19, will be introduced to APG Garrison employees. Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG Garrison commander, will present a garrison and CA update.

Question and answer

Q. *Considering what is happening within government, with down sizing, right sizing, resignations, VERA/VSIPs, retirements, RIFs bumping, retreating and personnel finding other jobs. How will the government ensure us, the taxpayers, that if the government wins and the jobs stay in house, that they will have the people on board to meet the PWS requirement for first day performance? It is probable that some if not many of the jobs currently involved in the CA process require formal training or certification of specialized and unique systems or tasks. If the government is requiring the PA to have trained, qualified or certified personnel on day one, which is stated very clearly in the RFP, then the government also has to provide the trained and certified personnel.*

A. Only people qualified to perform the duties would bump or would retreat into the MEO positions. If a vacancy exists, management can waive qualification requirements and allow the person filling the vacancy time to train to perform the work.

Do you have a question about the Commercial Activities study?

Call 410-278-WIN1 (9461)

TECOM prepares for new commander; ceremony is Friday at Fanshaw Field

TECOM, from front page

Airborne Division. Andrews was chief of staff of the 2d Corps Support Command, VII Corps, in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. He served as commanding general of the 19th Support Command in the Republic of Korea.

He also commanded the 3d Supply and Transport Battalion, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Germany, and the 5th Infantry Division DISCOM (Mechanized) at Fort Polk, La., and was the assistant division commander for support in the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan.

As the new TECOM commander, Ertwine assumes command during the restructuring of the Army's testing operations. Under that restructuring, which will occur on Oct. 1, 1999, TECOM will be redesignated as the Developmental Test Command, reporting to the new Army Test and Evaluation

Command (ATEC) in Alexandria, Va.

Ertwine, a native of Ringtown, Pa., graduated in 1972 from the U.S. Military Academy. He comes to APG from AMC's Communications-Electronics Command in Fort Monmouth, N.J., where he served as deputy for systems acquisition and director of the CECOM Systems Management Center for almost two years.

A 26-year Army veteran, Ertwine is no stranger to TECOM's mission. He commanded the U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center in Fort Greeley, Alaska, and served as director of materiel testing at U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.

He also served as executive officer to the assistant secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition) at the Pentagon, and commander of the Fire Support Armaments Center at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

Speakers scheduled to discuss history of African-Americans, leadership legacy, plans for future

EVENTS, from front page

years as an equal employment opportunity counselor within DoD, he was recognized for saving the agency millions of dollars as he successfully negotiated settlements between the agency and employees who had filed EO complaints.

"Blacks in American Military History" will be the topic at the APG Post Theater at 10 a.m., Feb. 22. Sponsored by the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School as part of African-American/Black History Month, the two-hour presentation features Dr. Alan L. Gropman, chairman of the Department of Grand Strategy, Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF).

He has published several works on the subject, to include his dissertation for his doctoral degree in history from Tufts University, "The Air Force Integrates: Blacks in the Air Force 1945-1964."

He retired from the Air Force as a colonel in 1986, following an assignment as the Deputy Director of Air Force Plans for Planning Integration. A Vietnam veteran, Gropman also has taught at the National War College and was an associate dean of faculty. In addition to his role as a department chairman at ICAF, he is also the book review editor for "Air Power History."

He is a well-known and respected lecturer with appearances at the National War College,

Smithsonian, Air University, Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, University of Maryland, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Australian College of Defence and Strategic Studies, and the Royal New Zealand Air Command and Staff College.

For more information about post-wide events, contact Sfc. Thomas Stephanic, OC&S Equal Opportunity advisor, 410-278-5598; Sfc. James Davis, NCO Academy Equal Opportunity advisor, 410-278-7381; Sfc. Herbert Johnson, TECOM Equal Opportunity advisor, 410-278-1053; or Sfc. Shelton Torbert, AMC Equal Opportunity advisor, 410-278-1534.



Photos by LAMONT HARBISON

Second-grade students, teachers, chaperones and members of the Test and Evaluation Command staff pose outside the Ryan Building during a visit by students from William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School last week.

Second-graders visit TECOM to learn about Army communities

VISIT, from front page

a coin, singling out five who "do really great things." Mark Brice, Christine Ryan, Samantha Wise, Marcus Johnson and Thomas Bright recently received honors, such as Student of the Month.

After the visit with the general, teachers Tracey Gay and Stephanie Batton and other chaperones followed the children, many of whom had made their own "BDUs," complete with camouflage and nametags, to wear for the visit. They looked at photos on the walls, took pictures and ate lunch in the conference room.

"The children enjoyed Command Sergeant Major Walker's visit to the school so much, and we were fortunate to be able to come out," said Gay, whose husband, Tim, was Andrews' aide before leaving military service. "We're studying communities in school, so this topic fit right in."

Most of the students had little direct experience with the military, although student Alex Rojas has two parents in the Army. His mother is assigned here, and his father is on duty in Korea.

After lunch, the students continued their up-close look at an Army community, as they traveled to the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum. There, Walker showed them vehicles and equipment



Command Sgt. Maj. Tyler Walker II leads second-graders into the Ryan Building for the visit.

from America's earliest Army. Overall, he deemed the day "a big success."

"It's not often that we get to meet our future. These are the leaders of tomorrow," Walker said. "I'm glad we had the opportunity to have them here for a visit."

"We're studying communities in school, so this topic fit right in."

—Tracey Gay, second grade teacher

SBCCOM, TECOM offer update on transition of APG Garrison



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21005-5001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AMSTE-SG (10-5a)

25 JAN 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, TECOM Test Centers
Headquarters, TECOM Directors and Office Chiefs
Headquarters, U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground Transition Update

1. These last few years have been filled with change. The Department of Defense and the Army have initiated many different actions necessary to maintain a strong, healthy national defense workforce in the face of constant national and international stresses. No organization in the Army has been immune from these changes, including the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC).

2. As members of AMC we have experienced several major changes recently and have weathered them well. Our next challenge is the realignment of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command. This realignment will place all Army testing within a single command. As a part of this realignment, the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground (GAPG) will be reassigned to the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM) effective 1 October 1999. As a prelude to this changeover, SBCCOM will assume operational control of GAPG on 19 February 1999.

3. To assist in this transition and make the process as smooth and seamless as possible, we have formed several working groups to address and resolve the issues that this restructuring will raise. These teams are comprised of personnel from both SBCCOM and GAPG and will keep the workforce informed of all the pertinent actions through regular updates as the transition progresses.

4. We know that with your cooperation and assistance we can accomplish this transition smoothly and that Aberdeen Proving Ground will continue as a viable Army research, development, test and evaluation and training installation.

5. Request widest dissemination of this memorandum.

JOHN C. DOESBURG
Major General, USA
Commanding

25 Jan 99
(Date)

EDWARD L. ANDREWS
Major General, USA
Commanding

22 Jan 99
(Date)

Institute wins Army award for health care, honors for disability awareness

MRICD, from front page

Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, came to Aberdeen Proving Ground to present Little with this award during what was supposed to be a "surprise" presentation. Little admitted to "snooping around" earlier that morning to find out the reason for everyone's secrecy.

Parker, after explaining "snooping is part of a commander's job," presented Little with encouraging words and a symbol of his appreciation.

"It is a pleasure for me to come down here for this event," Parker said. He read a letter he received in December from Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Ronald R. Blanck, explaining why Little deserved the award, which included recognition of his more than 20 years of dedicated service, leadership and involvement in civic programs.

Little became commander of MRICD on Aug. 7, 1995, and previously served as the Army Surgeon General's consultant in biochemistry. Throughout his military career, which began in 1975 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, Little has received several military awards, and has authored or co-authored 28 research articles and three book chapters. He is also an honor graduate of the Command and General Staff College.

Parker presented Little with a crystal glass eagle: "No plaques, no engravings, just a beautiful glass to remind you of this day," Parker said as he congratulated Little.

Little, who also received his doctorate in cell biology from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, gratefully accepted the award.

"Thank you for taking time and doing this personally," he said. "I know you didn't have to come here do it, but I am certainly glad you did."

Little also spoke of his surprise at being chosen, and recognized the contribution of his organization.

"When you get recognized for something like this there are a lot of people behind it," he said. "If there was a way I could break this glass into several small pieces, I could give everyone in this room a piece of it."

Little spoke of how fortunate he has been in the past with the successful recruiting of "good people" to MRICD.

"I thank you for every day you show up and for your dedication to mission accomplishment," he said. "This type of an award takes a whole institution to win."

Little, whose two daughters, Diana and Denise, are in college thanked his wife, Sheila, a reporter for the APG News, for her support.

"With no kids in the house, she is all I have," he said.

Maj. Charles A. Asowata, MRICD's executive officer and chief of administration, was one of those who worked on the nomination.

"Colonel Little is a very caring commander," Asowata said. "He is devoted to the institute and the well-being of each employee, both military and civilian."

Asowata explained that Little was one of 17 nominees considered for the award, and said nominees came from Europe, Southeast, North Atlantic, Great Plains, Western and Pacific regions.

"The award shows how determined, how dedicated and how

loyal his efforts have been," he said.

But there was another award that took the entire staff by surprise. Parker also presented MRICD with the U.S. Army Medical Command's Award for the 1998 Best Disability Awareness Program.

Janet Long, MRICD's disability awareness coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the organization. Long is a management assistant within MRICD's Resource Management Branch, Administrative Division.

Parker presented Long with the award, and honored her for her work in the program.

"When a general is proud of you, he or she puts you on the right side," he said. "The right side is the side of honor."

Capt. James Davidson, detachment commander/adjutant for MRICD, explained that the institute was the first Medical Research Materiel Command unit to receive the award.

"We were shocked," he said. "This was something the general kept to himself. The institute was very surprised about receiving the award because of its high level, and the fact that we are a relatively small organization. I have heard nothing but positive comments since last week. The staff is quite proud of both of the awards."

In closing Parker encouraged and commended MRICD for its years of excellence in research and development.

"You've gotten the spotlight on you, which you deserve," Parker said. "Now it is up to you to sing well."

After the presentation Parker joined Little and the MRICD staff in celebrating their accomplishments during a reception.

Preventive Medicine forward: CHPPM moving with 'SMART-PM'

By Capt. Lisa Forsyth
*U.S. Army Center for Health
 Promotion and Preventive Medicine*

Military preventive medicine is intended to be proactive and an integral part of every deployment. This article describes the medical planning process for U.S. disaster relief assistance to Nicaragua, specifically the role of U.S. military preventive medicine in a joint military operation.

Highlighted are many "firsts" which would occur during the effort, such as deployment of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine's Special Medical Augmentation Response Team – Preventive Medicine (CHPPM SMART-PM) and augmentation to Nicaraguan preventive medicine staffs.

On Oct. 27, 1998, Hurricane Mitch struck the coast of Nicaragua, resulting in devastation and loss of life. Massive mudslides destroyed or severely damaged roads, bridges and communication systems. The death toll resulting is estimated at 2,300 with 970 still missing, and the displaced population is over 860,000.

Numerous communities are still isolated, water supply systems have been damaged and contaminated, and food supplies and crops are destroyed. The destruction to the infrastructure directly threatened public health. Poor water and food sanitation, lack of sewage treatment and a breakdown in vector control programs are the greatest public health risks. Diseases that can cause the greatest morbidity within the country are upper respiratory infections, gastroenteric diseases, dengue and malaria, with the threat of leptospirosis increasing.

On Nov. 16, 1998, Joint Task Force-Aguila (JTF-Aguila) commanded by Col. (P) Virgil Packett II, deployed U.S. forces to the Joint Area of Operation that includes Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. A subordinate JTF was formed in each country with the priority of effort in Nicaragua. JTF-Build Hope (JTF-Build Hope) is located in Nicaragua and is commanded by Col. Allen Rasper. During the next few months, JTF-Build Hope will facilitate Nicaragua's long-term recovery efforts using a tailored task force consisting of 1,800 engineers and medical personnel.

For the first time, U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines will work side-by-side with Nicaraguan counterparts to assist in disaster relief efforts. U.S. participation is a complex process involving the Nicaraguan government, international organizations, and U.S. diplomatic and command channels.

The Nicaraguan government initiated the multi-tiered process by identifying medical and engineering requirements that would reduce suffering and safeguard the health of the affected population. Through State Department channels, the U.S. government received Nicaragua's official request for technical expertise and assistance. The Nicaraguan Ministry of Health specifically requested preventive medicine assistance in disease surveillance, water surety, sanitation and vector control.

Both the JTF-Aguila Surgeon and Humanitarian Operation Center validated the mission requirements. The U.S. Agency for International Development and U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua prioritized requirements. The commander, JTF-Build Hope provided final approval for each mission.

The concept of operation is a four-phased process (Deployment, Rehabilitation, Transition and Redeployment). During the initial stages of Phase I (Deployment), the JTF-Build Hope commander and his joint staff were busy finalizing the operation plan, coordinating the arrival of U.S. forces, and integrating the plan with the Nicaraguan government.

Operational planning was greatly enhanced when the Nicaraguan liaison officers joined the JTF-Build Hope staff. The initial health service support structure consisted of medical planners

and preventive medicine units from the U.S. Army and Navy. With the assistance of the Nicaraguan Medical LNO (Major Moncado), the JTF-Build Hope medical planner facilitated several key meetings between commanders of U.S. preventive medicine units and representatives from the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health and USAID.

The meetings outlined the Phase II (Rehabilitation) disaster relief assistance plan and clarified U.S. preventive medicine capabilities, levels of expertise and concept of operation. The Nicaraguan Ministry of Health outlined its priority of need by location and clarified their request for assistance.

Furthermore, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health requested from U.S. Army Forces Command preventive medicine units training in field preventive medicine equipment, specifically bacteriological water testing equipment, water analysis sets, and backpack and hand-held insecticide sprayers.

One of the first U.S. military preventive medicine teams in country was from CHPPM. The six-member SMART-PM provided expertise tailored to the disaster relief effort, to include epidemiology, community health

nursing, sanitation, environmental engineering, medical entomology and veterinary care.

CHPPM worked directly with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health to re-enforce the national strategic disease surveillance program. As a result of their combined effort, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health prioritized the disaster relief effort, minimizing disease outbreaks. CHPPM, with USAID, drafted funding proposals to support three national projects: a sanitation project for resettlement camps, a national community health pyramid-teaching program, and a point of use water filtration system.

Throughout the deployment, command emphasis was placed on U.S. force health protection. The initial force consisted of FORSCOM preventive medicine units: the Army's 227th Medical Detachment (Sanitation), Navy Disease Vector Ecology Control Cell and Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit #2. In Phase I, preventive medicine elements were engaged in base camp threat assessments throughout the Joint Operation Area, to include the Aerial Port of Debarkation, Sea Port of Debarkation and six Forward Operating Bases (FOBs).

During the Reception, Staging, and Onward Integration process, the 227th Medical Detachment and NEPMU/2 provided country force health protection briefings to all U.S. forces. Nicaragua's country briefing focused on major health threats. U.S. forces were instructed on countermeasures to eliminate or reduce health threats, including taking medication to prevent malaria and leptospirosis; only eating food and drinking water that was approved by U.S. veterinary or preventive medicine inspectors; proper waste disposal; and avoiding biting insects.

The DVECC provides extensive entomological and vector control countermeasures, to include spraying insecticides where U.S. forces are living and treating uniforms with permethrin. DVECC can treat large areas with truck or heliborne mounted sprayers.

During Phase II (Rehabilitation), U.S. military preventive medicine units will have a dual mission: U.S. force health protection and disaster relief assistance. Preventive medicine units will provide disaster relief assistance by augmenting Nicaraguan public health professionals at the local level. Professional exchange

through train-the-trainer programs will provide the Nicaraguans the opportunity to work with U.S. equipment and to receive training on its proper use. U.S. preventive medicine units will gain knowledge and experience in implementing preventive medicine countermeasures in a tropical environment. U.S. force health protection is accomplished by forward preventive medicine elements at each FOB.

Each FOB presents unique preventive medicine challenges. Rice paddies and other forms of standing water surround several FOBs. Although Nicaragua is entering the dry season, mosquito breeding areas will continue to be a concern. Cow manure and flies may pose a health threat to troops. Most of the buildings at the FOB locations are simple in design with cement block walls, tin roof, and cement floor. There are no screens or doors. These buildings may offer a functional purpose to protect equipment and troops from the elements. However, the same is true for rodents and other vectors. Basic sanitation is of paramount importance in controlling insect and rodent populations and preventing disease outbreaks.

Human waste disposal at each FOB is a challenge. Except for the APOD and SPOD, there are no latrines at the FOBs. There are no chemical latrines (port-a-john) companies in Nicaragua, and except for the city of Managua, no sewage contracting services. U.S. forces were prohibited from burning waste. JTF-Build Hope engineers built latrines. CHPPM, through the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health, obtained a waiver for burnout and deep-pit latrines. Preventive medicine elements can assist in recommending the location, number and type of latrines.

During Phase III (Transition) and through Phase IV (Redeployment), U.S. forces will begin integrating projects back to the Nicaraguan government, international organizations, and private volunteer organizations. Integration will be completed during Phase IV (Redeployment). Until the last soldier redeploy, elements will continue to provide U.S. force health protection.

NOTE: Capt. Lisa Forsyth served as the initial coordinating officer for the SMART-PM and then as the Joint Medical Planner for JTF-Build Hope, Nicaragua. She currently is executive officer, CHPPM-North, Fort Meade, Md.

Mayors help build better on-post communities

MAYORS, from front page

worked with the men. Those who participated were: Sfc. Erik Vaughn, Pfc. Luke Clements, Jeremy Cummings, Joseph Higham, Kenneth Knight, Nathaniel Long, Scott Nelson, Kevin O'Born, Eric Pheil, and Steven Thorton; Pvts. 2 Jerry Chambers, Justin May and Toby VanAken, and Pvts. Richard Bounds, Scott Conley, Craig Mason, Mathew Merritt, Denny Meyrand, Seth Orban, Juan Vidalez and Marc Virgil.

"In just four hours, the working party finished what Austin Road residents had been laboring for three months to complete," he said. "The result is a safe and healthy playground for children and families to enjoy for many years to come."

Making a difference also moved Adalberto Rodrigues of New Chesapeake to become mayor of his neighborhood when the previous mayor moved eight months ago. A minor accomplishment might be expected in such a short time frame, but through Rodrigues' persistence, a neighborhood ball field has been made "player friendly." He said that "keeping on top of it" was the key.

Grant Court Mayor Kathy Shrontz said that there are some in the neighborhood that claim she has "the magic touch."

"Just about everything I've asked for as far as upkeep of Grant Court has been granted," Shrontz said, adding that retouching the parking lot lines is the latest of her accomplishments.

After each monthly mayor meeting, Shrontz types and distributes a newsletter to her neighbors. She said that it is a good way to get the information out and discuss neighborhood concerns.

Connie McInnish of Bayside Village works full time, but still finds time to volunteer at the Red Cross and Army Community Service in addition to her mayoral duties. After a recent neighborhood fire, she passed out flyers on how to remove and clean range hoods on stoves. She said many residents were unaware that they

were allowed to do that bit of safety maintenance.

Skipper's Point Mayor Mike O'Hern, whose wife is on active duty, has been the neighborhood mayor for every year but one since his military retirement in 1994.

O'Hern said the reason he became involved in the program was twofold.

"There seemed to be an inadvertent lack of voice for the enlisted ranks at the installation level," he said. "Often, concerns were not heard until they reached a crisis level."

He said he sees his role as one through which enlisted soldiers

and their families can be heard, and as someone who can offer assistance and perhaps divert a crisis, or "put out those brush fires."

O'Hern added that his previous military experience has been helpful in giving him a keener understanding of the military community and how it works, and that he sometimes "serves as 'the squeaky wheel' in order to keep folks on the priority list."

During his tenure, a playground project initiated by previous Skipper's Point Mayor Michelle Landers, was completed with incorporation of neighborhood suggestions.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHOICES '99

Most parents can't or won't believe their kids might try drugs, even though all children are widely exposed to them, and almost all experiment with them. At every turn in our culture, your child is exposed to drugs: in malls, in the classroom, in the gym, on the playground, while walking home from school, even at Sunday school and church camp.

Some parents may suspect a problem but just can't bring themselves to believe their children could use drugs. Another problem is parents' limited definition of "drugs." Many parents don't think of alcohol as a drug. Or parents think it's "better" for their kids to drink than to use other drugs, even though it is the leading cause of accidental death among teenagers.

Have you taught your kids how to handle drug-related confrontations with their peers or friends? If you don't take active steps to drug-proof your kids, who will? Here are some tips for protecting your kids from alcohol and other drugs.

Helping Your Kids Say 'No' to Drugs



Example

Example is the best teacher. Think about the example you set. Do you always reach for a beer, sweets, junk food, pills, an aspirin, a cigarette, or some other chemical stimulant or depressant when you've had a rough day or are feeling blue? How would you answer your child if he or she asked you "Can't you just say 'no'?" How do you routinely handle a bad mood? How do you expect your children to handle theirs?

Of course, you have to be clear yourself about what's good for you, for your children, and for society. If you lie to your children, or exaggerate the drug problem, and a child eventually sees that what you say is not true, none of your other arguments will carry much weight. Scare tactics, like claiming that marijuana causes insanity, will usually backfire, especially if you smoked it in your past. It may become the forbidden fruit, whose wonderful effects you're keeping to yourself by covering them up. If kids point out that you experimented with pot when you were their age, emphasize why you stopped such drug use.

Peer Pressure

Peer pressure is one of the most powerful forces in life. If you trivialize it with statements like "If your friend jumped off a cliff, would you follow him?," you may only build a barrier to further communication. Instead, make sure kids know they have choices. Help kids develop ideas for coping with peer pressure. Be realistic, but be creative. Help them list the choices they have if they still want to keep such a "friend"?

The Media

Kids today are bombarded with media messages. On TV, booze is a routine part of life. A well-stocked bar in the office is often a symbol of business success. When your kids see such efforts to glamorize drinking, take a moment to discuss what such a portrayal may mean in "real life." And never condone or laugh at drunkenness.

It's a good idea to restrict TV viewing time anyway, perhaps to a maximum of an hour a day during the week and 2 hours a day on weekends. Such discipline teaches children how to incorporate limits into their own lives, a critical skill for adolescents. And resist the temptation to use the TV as a babysitter.

The Possible Dream

Drug-proofing kids is a tough and constant—but not impossible—job. Armed with facts, good communication skills, a good example, alternatives to peer pressure, and control of the media in the home, you will be giving your children the gift of life every day.

"Residents wanted a playground that was useful to older children in addition to being safe for toddlers. As a result of a joint effort, we now have a playground that can be enjoyed by young children and older elementary-age kids too," he said.

Citing another example of community cooperation, O'Hern said that some playground equip-

ment not needed when the Child Development Center relocated to its new site was made available for the Grant Court playground.

Ellen May, mayor of Plumb Point Loop, accepted the position in an effort to get to know her neighbors.

"I decorate cakes," she said, "and I try to take one to each of my new neighbors and answer

their questions about the community."

This is her second time being in the Plumb Point community and her second stint as mayor.

If getting to know your neighbors and working to solve problems within the community is of interest to you, call the Quality of Life Office at 410-278-5469 to find out more about the program.

Unit tax advisors offer free tax help

The following unit tax advisors can provide free tax help to active duty military personnel and their dependents:

143d Ord Bn, A Co
SSG BENJAMIN L. CONNOR
410-436-4443

143d Ord Bn, B Co
SFC WILLIAM COLLINS
410-436-4212
2LT MICHAEL POTTRATZ
410-436-4212

143d Ord Bn, HHC
SFC JOHNNIE GATLIN
410-278-4848
SSGT ANTHONY D. MASON
410-436-5339

16th Ord Bn, A Co
1LT JASON LODGE
410-278-8732

16th Ord Bn, B Co
1LT MARTIN MCLAUGHLIN
410-278-5445

16th Ord Bn, C Co
1LT KARL BRUECKNER
410-278-5455

16th Ord Bn, E Co
SPC CHARLOTTE OTORUBIO
410-278-3979

16th Ord Bn, HHC
SFC HARRY B. ANDERSON
410-278-4422
1LT MARTIN A. GRIFFITH
410-278-8594
SSG PATRICK MCGRATTAN
410-306-1526
SFC LAWRENCE D. SMITH
410-278-2553

16th Ord Bn, MSD
SSG CHARLES GILLIAM
410-278-9886

16th Ord Bn, TSED
SFC CARL LAKSHMANAN
410-278-3444

203d MI Bn
CPT MARK J. STAUD
410-278-7800

389th Army Band
SGT KEITH D. CALMES
410-278-8769
SGT JANINE STILLWELL
410-278-8769

520th TAML
SSG ALFONSO CLEMMINGS
410-436-7268

61st Ord Bde, HHC
SSG LEROY BENNETT
410-306-5770
SSG LEONARD FARLOW
410-278-2957
SGT BANGURA KHA-BENNEH
410-278-5041

SSG DARRUN E. MURPHY
410-306-3010

61st Ord Bde, HQ
CW3 RICHARD L. KRAUSE
410-278-3170

AMSAA
SFC LUIS M. EMMANUELLI
410-278-8735

ARL, WMRD
LTC VERNON TAYLOR
410-306-0663

CHPPM
1LT TANYA KITTELL
410-436-5476

DENTAC
SPC CAROL HARDIE
410-278-1795

KUSAHC
SGT ANDREW J. IGNATZ
410-278-1870
SSG RANDY G. RIGGS
410-278-1958

MRICD
CPT JAMES DAVIDSON
410-436-2463

NCOA, ANCO
SFC WILLIAM BUTTRAM
410-306-4108

NCOA, BNCO
SFC OFELIA WEBB
410-278-3920

TEU
1LT CHRISTIAN HILL
410-436-1882

USAF
SSG JERRY L. CARPENDER
410-278-9882

APG Garrison, DLES (MP)
SFC WAYNE D. GREENLEAF
410-306-0562

APG Garrison, HST
SSG FIDEL DIAZ
410-278-2104
SSG RICHARD GUTIERREZ
410-278-7358

APG Garrison, HST/ATC
SGT JESSE M. SCHMIDT
410-278-5605

USMC
GY SGT K.R. BROWNING
410-278-9261
SSGT RICKY A. COOLONG
410-278-2831
SGT MICKEY E. GIBSON
410-278-8559
SSG TODD I. MASON
410-278-0606

Volunteer, Edgewood
DENISE DOESBURG
410-436-6092/3044

Volunteer, Tax Center
MICHAEL R. O'HERN
410-278-3397

Volunteer, Tax Center
Chief Warrant Officer 3 (Ret.)
HOWARD SWINK
410-278-3397

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Recent graduates from Florida Tech are, standing, from left: Brad W. Bradley of the Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity; Pat A. Tagnani, who works in Perryman; Capt. James L. Kennedy, APG Garrison; Yvonne D. Paraway, who works in Lutherville; Kathleen Tarquini, who works in Aberdeen; and William D. Fisher of AMSAA. Seated are, from left: Dr. John B. Foulkes, assistant director of FIT; Dr. Atefeh S. McCampbell, director of FIT; and Pamela A. Richardson, office manager for FIT. Not pictured are graduates John Kopp of APG Garrison and Jessica R. Zapp of AMSAA.

Swan Creek Inn employees honored



Mable Henson recently received the Swan Performance Pin and a certificate at Swan Creek Inn.

An awards ceremony was held on Jan. 19 in the lobby of the Swan Creek Inn.

Carolyn Lamp, chief, UPH/Furnishings Management Branch, presented awards to Mable Henson and Vielka Park, both custodial workers at the inn.

Henson received the top-level Swan Performance Pin, a Swan Performance Certification and pink carnations. The Swan Pin is the third in the series to be earned as part of the APG Billeting Performance Plus Program. Park received the Star Performance Pin and also received pink carnations. The Star Performance Pin is the second-level pin.



Vielka Park recently received the Star Performance Pin at the Swan Creek Inn.

Personnel receive awards

The Good Conduct Medal was presented to the following personnel:

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine: Spc. Cathy A. Barton and SSgt. Tina M. Ellington (third award).

U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense: Sgt. April M. Norton (second award), Sgt. Peter L. Norton (second award), Spc. Mary E. Schons and SSgt. Vanessa R. Wilson (fifth award).

APG Scouts celebrate achievements at Feb. 11 Blue and Gold Banquet



Eight Webelos from Pack 924 became members of APG's Boy Scout Troop 429 on Feb. 11 during the Blue and Gold Banquet at the APG Chapel Center. Members of the Order of the Arrow Nentico Lodge 12 performed the ceremony, presenting the Arrow of Light to the Scouts to advance them into Boy Scouts.

Front row, from left, are Stephan Neyens, J.J. Buckingham, Buck Tanner and Patrick Jordan; second row, from left, Daniel Ellis, Jesse Atcherson, Kevin McGrath and Justin Kolker; back row, from left, are Order of the Arrow Nentico Lodge 12 Secretary Mike Buhite, Chief T.J. Buhite, Lodge Chief Steve Hall and Vice Chief of Inductions Richard Mason.



Photos by JEREMY GRASZ

Above, clown "Cowboy Steve" Gambrell entertains Scouts during the Blue and Gold Banquet. At left, Daniel Ellis receives his Arrow of Light from Steve Hall of the Order of the Arrow, as his father, Lt. Col. Tracy Ellis, one of the new assistant Scoutmasters for Tiger Patrol, looks on.

SPORTS

Intramural basketball update

Results reported by the Intramural Sports Office for the week ending Feb. 11 are:

7 p.m., HHC 16th vs. HST
8 p.m. HHC 61st vs. NCOA

American Division

RESULTS

Feb. 8
HHC 16th, 57 HHC 61st, 18
KUSAHC, 27 HST, 21
NCOA, 61 HHC 143rd, 31

Feb. 10
HHC 61st, 52 HHC 143rd, 19
NCOA, 67 HST, 38
HHC 16th, 51 KUSAHC, 36

STANDINGS

HHC 61st	8-2
NCOA	7-3
KUSAHC	6-4
HHC 16th	6-4
HST	2-8
HHC 143rd	1-9

SCHEDULE

Upcoming American Division games are:

Feb. 22
6 p.m., KUSAHC vs. NCOA
7 p.m., HHC 16th vs. HHC 143rd
8 p.m., HST vs. HHC 61st

Feb. 24
6 p.m., HHC 143rd vs. KUSAHC

Hoyle Division

RESULTS

Feb. 8
SCBCOM, 30 520th, 23
B CO 143rd, 63 MRICD, 43
HHC 143rd, 41 A CO 143rd, 19

Feb. 10
HHC 143rd, 33 SCBCOM, 25
A Co. 143rd, 51 MRICD, 38
B Co. 143rd, 46 520th, 27

STANDINGS

HHC 143rd	9-1
B Co. 143rd	8-2
A Co. 143rd	5-4
MRICD	4-5
SCBCOM	2-7
520th	0-9

SCHEDULE

Upcoming Hoyle Division games are:

Feb. 22
6:30 p.m., MRICD vs. 520th
7:30 p.m., SCBCOM vs. A Co.
143rd
8:30 p.m., B Co. 143rd vs. HHC
143rd

Feb. 24

6:30 p.m., 520th vs. SCBCOM
7:30 p.m., A Co. 143rd vs. B Co.
143RD
8:30 p.m., HHC 143rd vs. MRICD

National Division

RESULTS

Feb. 9
B Co. 16th, 44 USAF, 36
A Co. 16th, 63 E Co. 16th, 15
C Co. 16th, 29 USMC, 25

Feb. 11
B Co. 16th, 31 C Co. 16th, 30
USMC, 44 E Co. 16th, 15
A Co. 16th, 55 USAF, 26

STANDINGS

A Co. 16th	11-0
USMC	6-4
B Co. 16th	6-5
C Co. 16th	6-5
E Co. 16th	2-8
USAF	1-10

SCHEDULE

Upcoming National Division games are:

Feb. 22
6 p.m., E Co. 16th vs. B Co. 16th
7 p.m., A Co. 16th vs. USMC
8 p.m., USAF vs. C Co. 16th

Polar Bear Run is Feb. 27

RUN, from front page

needed and guided us in the right direction. The rest was up to us to figure what we would need to accomplish the project."

Ralph Cuomo, director of the Community Activities Branch at the Directorate of Community and Family Activities, said this is the first year the race has been sponsored with MWR.

Talley, who will be responsible for controlling race traffic and supplying a water stop for runners, said he expects up to 700

runners to participate.

Anticipated participants include civilians, Advanced Individual Training Battalion students, Air Force and Marine Corps Detachments, and Noncommissioned Officers Academy. Cuomo said the 16th Ordnance Brigade will also participate, for its Battalion run.

"All are eligible," Cuomo said. The fee for the race is \$12 until Feb. 19, and \$15 after.

T-shirts will be given to the first 200 runners who register for

the 10K, and all runners will be eligible for door prizes from local vendors.

Talley said Maj. Gen. Dennis K. Jackson, commander of OC&S, will attend the race and will award medals to six men and six women in six age groups: 19 years and under; 20-29 years; 30-39 years; 40-49 years; 50-59 years; and 60 years and older.

A trophy will also be awarded to the top military team. Cuomo said teams "must register as a team consisting of three runners."

For those who want to participate in the run, but are looking for a shorter distance, there will also be a free 5K Fun Run.

"We have a race for those who want to be competitive, and we have the 5K for runners who want a shorter course distance," Talley said.

Registration for the 5K Fun Run is free, and participants will also be eligible for door prizes. No awards will be given, and T-shirts will be available to 5K runners for purchase.

Entry forms for the Annual Polar Bear Road Race may be obtained at the APG athletic and fitness centers.

For details, call Donna Coyne, race coordinator, 410-278-7934, or Cuomo, 410-278-4402.

SPORTS SHORTS

Intramural racquetball tournament set

An organizational meeting for the intramural racquetball tournament will be held Feb 18, 2 p.m., at the APG Athletic Center for all military participants. The winners of this tournament will play the winners of the Civilian Racquetball Tournament for the title of Post Racquetball Champion.

Civilian racquetball tournament scheduled

The APG Sports Office is sponsoring a civilian racquetball tournament to coincide with this year's military intramural racquetball tournament. The tournament will be held in the APG Athletic Center Feb. 22-March 3. Games will be held in the evening, and may be scheduled at Hoyle Gym if necessary. The civilian champions will play the champions of the intramural tournament for the title of Post Racquetball Champion. Register at the APG Athletic Center or Hoyle Gym, or call the Intramural Sports Office at 410-278-7933/7934.

Interested in indoor soccer?

Anyone age 30 and older who is interested in playing indoor soccer on a league can call SSgt. Ken Whipple, 410-278-4525/6025, at HHC, 16th Ordnance Battalion. The league is open to anyone interested, military or civilian.

Coaching positions open

The APG Sports Program is accepting applications for post-level coaches in softball, volleyball and soccer. APG's post-level teams participate in the Washington Area Military Athletic Conference and play in round-robin tournament format on week-ends only. Once coaches are selected for each sport, player recruitment will take place. Applications for coaching are available in all gymnasiums and the APG Sports Office. For more information, contact Marni Allison, APG sports director, 410-278-4497.

Apply for All Army Triathlon Team

Any active duty soldier interested in participating on the All Army Triathlon Team needs to submit an application to the Sports and Fitness Office in building 3320 by March 12. Candidates are advised to read AR 215-1, section 20c-4, which reviews the standards for All Army participation. Applications can be picked up at the Sports Office or from any APG gym. For more information, call Marni Allison, 410-278-4497.

Apply for World Military Games

The 1999 CISM World Military Games will take place Aug. 6-18 in Zagreb, Croatia. Applications are being accepted for the following sports: judo, canoe, marathon, diving, kayak, team handball, cycling, rowing, fencing, orienteering and swimming. All other team sports are selected from the Armed Forces Championships. Active duty military interested must submit an application to the APG Sports Office by Feb. 19. Those selected must have a current passport. For more information, call Marni Allison, APG sports director, 410-278-4497/9816.

COMING UP...

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19 COUNTRY LINE DANCE

Learn country dancing at Aberdeen American Legion Post 128, located on Parke Street. Intermediate West Coast Swing begins at 7:30 p.m., Sleazy Slide and Cowgirl Hustle line dances at 8 p.m., and beginner West Coast Swing at 8:30 p.m. Open dancing will be held from 8 p.m.-midnight. Admission is \$10 for non-members, \$8 for members; everyone is welcome.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20 BIG AWARDS, DANCE

The Susquehanna Chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG) will present its first Awards Dinner Dance at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Chesapeake in Aberdeen. Proceeds will benefit the BIG Youth Scholarship Program. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call Jackie Pitts, 410-273-7915, or any BIG member.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21 WEDDING RENEWAL

The Roman Catholic congregations of the post chapels will hold a Mass of Renewal at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace for those wishing to renew their marriage vows. The mass will begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m. Entree choices are veal, prime rib and rockfish. The cost is \$20 per couple for parishioners, and \$20 per person for guests. Make checks payable to the Chaplain's Fund. For information and reservations, call Connie Richardson, 410-676-0179, or the EA Chapel, 410-436-4109, by Feb. 17.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23 FEMALE OFFICERS

The next Female Officer Luncheon will be held Tuesday, Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Gunpowder Lounge at Top of the Bay. For more information, call Capt. (P) Donna M. Killian, 410-278-4482.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24 LEADERSHIP

The U.S. Army Soldier Biological and Chemical Command African-American History Month presents Rev. Howard Les Wallace. The theme will be "The Legacy of African-American Leadership for the Present and the Future." The presentation will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Conference Center Auditorium, building E-4810.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 JOB FAIR

The USO of Metropolitan Washington and the Joint Employment Transition Services (JETS), will co-host a Job Fair, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Spates Hall, NCO Club, Fort Myer, Va. More than 60 companies with full or part-time positions have been invited. The fair is free and open to all members of the armed services, their family members, retired military and DoD and Coast Guard civilian personnel. For details, call Dale Jovero or Dawn Ruth, 703-696-2552/3279.

THURSDAY MARCH 4 RETIREMENT LUNCHEON

A retirement luncheon honoring Betty C. Morris, medical lab technician at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Top of the Bay. For information, call Cathy Byrd, 410-278-1853 or Tina Long-Williams, 410-436-4550, by Feb. 19.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 10 JOINT LUNCHEON

The Edgewood Area Officers' Wives Club cordially invites members of the EA-OWC and the Military and Civilian Spouses Club to the annual joint luncheon. The special guest speaker will be Mary Jo Reimer, wife of the Army Chief of Staff. The luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn Susquehanna Room, 1007 Beards Hill Road, Aberdeen. Social time will begin at 11:30

a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Entree choices are honey-baked chicken breast for \$11, or stuffed flounder for \$12.25. Both entrees will be served with tossed salad, roasted potatoes, vegetable medley, rolls, chocolate peanut butter mousse cake, and a choice of coffee or tea. For reservations, call Rosemary Kramp, 410-569-7167, by noon, March 3.

SATURDAY MARCH 13 HOE DOWN

The Edgewood Area Officers' Wives Club invites the public to a hoe down at the Gunpowder Club, located on Edgewood Area. Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and dancing from 7:30-10 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person, and

includes a chicken dinner with dessert and beverage. A professional caller will give instruction with the country western dancing, including a mix of line dancing and square dancing. Tickets should be purchased by March 10, and are available through Diane Payne, 410-676-1524, or Mary Lesniak, 410-272-4363.

MONDAY MARCH 8 FCC INTERVIEWS

Interviews for Family Child Care training are being held through March 11, for training to be held March 15-19. Applicants interested in providing home-based child care, especially in the Edgewood Area, are encouraged to apply. Call 410-278-8720.

LEAVE DONATION

These employees are eligible to receive donations through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

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);
Tamara Dawson (maternity);
Dennis Green;
Herman Hensley;
Gordon Herron (Wife has cancer);
Joseph Hill (heart problems);
Judy Hunt (arthropathy);
Eldon Jerome James (lung cancer and brain tumor);
Marcia Johnson (Down's Syndrome child requires surgery);
Mary Johnson (surgery);
Marlin Julian (heart 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;
Jack Pollitt (caring for wife);
Churon Ringgold;
Mary Lee Samples (lymphoma cancer);
John Sheppard (colon cancer);
Rita Sluder (mother has cancer);
Walter Taylor (auto accident);
Lavonne Telsee (caring for daughter);
Deborah Tredway (car accident);
Joseph Walker (Wife has cancer);
Cecelia Walton (respiration problems);
Kenneth Weathers (medical);
Frank Winters (surgery).

For information about donating annual leave; call Cheryl Gatling; 410-278-8978; or send a fax to 410-278-8839.



Photo by CHRIS LASSITTER

A perfect pattern

B.J. Pierce and Laura Pool admire a quilt that will be part of the spring fund-raiser for the Edgewood Area Officers' Wives Club. Tickets for the quilt, handmade by Susan Freund and Carolyn Kelly, are available through Diane Wilson, 410-297-8508, or Karen Chambers, 410-676-9142. Tickets cost \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing will take place March 13. Funds raised will benefit local charities.

MOVIES

STARTREK: INSURRECTION

Friday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

Starring: Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes

Jean-Luc Picard travels to a planet that is a virtual fountain of youth. He discovers a dark conspiracy and leads an armed resistance to protect the alien inhabitants of the idyllic world. (Rated PG)

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

Saturday, Feb. 20, 1 p.m.

Animated

This is an epic drama of heritage and destiny with its timeless themes of faith, hope and freedom. Moses was born a slave, raised by kings and chosen to lead. (Rated PG)

YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Saturday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m.

Starring: Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan

Joe Fox and Kathleen Kelly are two bookstore owners who battle each other in real life, but unwittingly romance each other in cyberspace and fall in love via modem. (Rated PG)

MIGHTY JOEYOUNG

Saturday, Feb. 20, 9 p.m.

Starring: Bill Paxton, Chalize Tharon

Mighty Joe Young is an awesome 15-foot-tall gorilla from Africa brought to a California animal preserve for protection. Threatened and confused, he escapes, leaving a trail of destruction and chaos. (Rated PG)

MWR UPDATE

Take a trip to the Bahamas

The Leisure Travel Center is offering special dates to Grand Bahamas Island, non-stop from BWI. Special departure dates for the Bahamas Princess Resort & Casino are March 16 and 23 for three-night trips, and Feb. 26, March 5, 12 and 19 for four-night trips. Cost for these dates is \$355 per person (plus \$18 Bahamas departure tax/airport fee) for three nights, and \$508 per person (plus the \$18 fee) for four nights. The rate applies to double occupancy and includes airfare, Country Club standard room, airport transfers, U.S. taxes and local airport fee. You also can add meals, beverages, shows and more from \$164 for three nights, and \$254 for four nights. Call Carlson Wagonlit Travel at 410-273-1184 to book your trip.

Paint Ball coming to APG

Outdoor Recreation will sponsor a Paint Ball Festival on April 24 at the Maryland Boulevard Picnic Area. There will be a five-person tournament for experienced paint ballers with cash prizes and a 3-on-3 competition for newcomers. There will also be target shooting available. If you have not yet tried this sport, here is your chance. All gear and safety equipment will be available on site for your use. For more information contact Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-4124/5789. Spaces are limited, so make your reservation today.

BOSS meeting scheduled

There will be a BOSS meeting (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers), on Feb. 18, 1:30 p.m., at the Edgewood Area's Stark Recreation Center. All BOSS members and potential members are requested to attend this organizational meeting. For information call Ralph Cuomo at 410-278-4402/4056.

Get fit at center

The Aberdeen Area Health and Fitness Center located in building 320 is a full-service facility. For one small fee, you can workout in a pleasant, helpful, friendly environment. The center has several types of cardiovascular equipment, free weights and aerobic and toning classes, plus certified instructors and both aerobic and personal trainers. 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 call 410-278-9725/9759.

Apply for boat club

The Spesutie Island Boat Club is accepting applica-

tions for the 1999 season. Membership is open to those authorized to participate in APG Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. 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. For applications, stop by building 36 or call Outdoor Recreation at 410-278-4402.

Rent ski equipment

The Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center has head-shaped skis and conventional skis for rental. Shaped skis are the latest revolution in the ski industry. Outdoor Recreation also offers conventional skis in sizes 100 to 200 cm. Skis, boots and poles are available separately or as a package at reasonable rates. Get a complete package of skis, boots and poles for \$14 per day. The center's rental policy allows you to pick up skis on Friday after 3 p.m. and return them by noon on Sunday for a one-day charge. The center also gives 25 percent off all ski equipment rented for four or more days. Snowboards, size 125, 143, 151, and 159, are available for \$15 per day (boots not included). Whether you are a skier or shredder, you'll appreciate bibs (pants) and car ski racks for \$5 a day. The center ski tuning shop is now in operation. Have your skis hot waxed, edges sharpened, and p-texed. Visit the Equipment Resource Center for an update on the latest conditions at nearby ski areas. Call 410-278-4124/5789 for hours and details.

Make reservations now

Outdoor Recreation is accepting reservations from APG organizations for the 1999 picnic season. Maryland Boulevard and Skipper's Point may be reserved now for organizational day picnics and parties. Shore Pool and Woodpecker Point Picnic Areas are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 410-278-4124. CAPA Field is reserved through the Civilian Welfare Fund; call 410-278-4603.

Outdoor Recreation space

The Outdoor Recreation AA and EA RV Storage lots have spaces available and are open to all MWR patrons. Access to lots is available 24 hours per day. The monthly fee is \$12 for items up to 20 feet long, plus an extra 60 cents per foot for vehicles over 20 feet. Vehicles must be registered and insured. Call 410-278-4124, or stop by building 2407 for information.

EA Arts and Crafts

Porcelain Doll Class: A beginning Porcelain Doll Class will be held on Feb. 19 and 26, 9:30 a.m.-noon. The cost is \$30 and pre registration is required.

Framing Class: Matting and Framing for Beginners will be held Feb. 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Cost is \$15 plus approximately \$40 for supplies. Students must bring an 8x10-inch photo or piece of artwork to frame. Registration is required.

Custom Framing: The center provides custom framing. For prices and information bring your piece in for an estimate.

Stop by Thursdays, 1-9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 410-436-2153 or visit building E-4440.

AA Framing Shop

Basic Framing Classes: Learn the basics of framing by attending a class at the AA Arts and Crafts Center. Bring an 8x10-inch picture and take home the finished product. Classes are held the first Saturday of each month. Class fee is \$15 plus supplies.

Custom Framing: If you don't want to do it yourself, the center offers professional custom framing. Bring your piece to the center for a free consultation.

Custom Engraving: Custom plaque-making and engraving is available at the Arts and Crafts Center. Choose from the display of plaques and finishing touches and create a memento that comes from the heart. For more information, call 410-278-4207, or stop by building 2407.

ITR has specials

Hop around Disney: The ITR Office has new Walt Disney World prices. Four-Day Park Hopper: \$162 per adult; \$129 per child, ages 3-9 years. Five-Day Park Hopper: \$187.50 per adult; \$150 per child, ages 3-9 years. Park Hopper passes allow patrons to move back and forth between Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney's MGM Studios or Disney's Animal Kingdom parks only. Any unused days are valid until used. Six-day All-In-One: \$250 per adult; \$197.50 per child, ages 3-9 years. Seven-day All-In-One: \$272.50 per adult; \$217 per child, ages 3-9 years. All-In-One passes offer the same benefits as the Four and Five-Day Park Hopper passes plus Pleasure Island, Disney World Water Parks, Discovery Island Park & Disney World's Wide World of Sports Complex. Admission to sporting events requiring a separate charge are not included. Seven-Day All-In-One passes are special ordered, and patrons are asked to pay two weeks in advance. For information, call Rose Bailey or Janie Waiters at 410-278-4011.

Apply by March 10 for May's ASE certification

The Army Education Center will administer the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification test on May 4, 6 and 11.

Active duty, National Guard and Reserve military personnel are eligible to test. There is a \$25 registration fee plus a \$20 charge for each test taken. Soldiers having an MOS of 52C, 52D, 61B, 63B through 63H, 63S, 63T and 63Y, those who previously held the MOS, or those currently enrolled in an associate degree program in automotive and metal working warrant officer specialties, will have their test fee paid by the Army.

Funding is limited to three specialty tests. The automotive tests to be administered are: Engine Repair, Engine Performance; Suspension and Steering; Brakes; Automotive Transaxle; Manual Drive and Axles; Electrical Systems; Heating and Air Condition. The Truck Tests are: Gasoline Engine; Diesel Engines; Drive Train; Brakes, Suspension, and Steering.

DANTES does not fund the L1 or L2 Advance Engine Performance test costs of \$40. For more information!

and to apply for these tests, visit the Army Education Center APG/AA, building 3145, telephone 410-278-2380/3515, or the Army Education Center APG/EA, building E-4410, telephone 410-436-2166.

The application deadline for these tests is March 10.



U.S. Army photo

Gender-integrated training will begin in May at Fort Sill, Okla.

The cutting edge: Army considers whether 'shaving bumps' are a thing of the past?

Medical officers at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center (DDEAMC) at Fort Gordon, Ga., have recently completed a clinical investigation studying the effects of a new medicine designed to treat pseudofolliculitis barbae, or "shaving bumps."

Maj. (Dr.) Niel Johnson, the principal investigator, is a family practice physician assigned to the Primary Care Clinic at DDEAMC.

Pseudofolliculitis barbae (PFB) is a common skin condition affecting up to 80 percent of black men in the military. Its treatment has been difficult and frustrating to medical officers and patients alike. Many treatments have been employed over the years, with varying degrees of success, including topical steroids, antibiotics, retinoic acid, and some over-the-counter shaving lotions.

To date, no single product has been formally clinically tested to prove its safety and effectiveness in alleviating this condition in the military soldier. Military medical officers, displeased with the effectiveness of available remedies, often resort to issuing shaving profiles. A shaving profile is a formal written prescription allowing a soldier to modify his shaving practice to allow the beard to grow out, in effect, resting the skin from being shaven. Profiles, unfortunately, allow the soldier to appear unkempt, which can lead to less favorable impressions among other troops.

The purpose of the study was to determine the effectiveness and safety of a witch-hazel based topical after shave in the treatment of shaving bumps (Repair Medicated After Shave is not available under any other generic or commercial produce names.); to determine the effectiveness of traditional shaving profiles in shaving bumps; and to compare Repair to traditional shaving profile.

The study was conducted at DDEAMC and its Troop Medical Clinics using men aged 18-50 who volunteered and consented to

participate in the study. The study was overseen by the Department of Clinical Investigations at DDEAMC and approved by the U.S. Army Medical Command. Funding was provided by DDEAMC and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine. Forty-nine subjects completed the eight-week, randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled study, which involved multiple physical exams and assessment of satisfaction.

Results indicate a clinically and statistically significant reduction in the amount of ingrown hairs and shaving bumps during the course of the study in men using this after shave lotion. There was no difference in the degree of improvement between profiled and non-profiled men, indicating that the shaving profile was not effective at all.

There were no adverse reactions, and the men tolerated the product well.

Self-assessed, satisfaction of overall beard appearance improved 24 percent, which is significant considering the short duration of the study.

Based on these results, the following conclusions were:

a. Repair Medicated After Shave is a safe and effective product that is proven to help improve Pseudofolliculitis barbae;

b. Traditional shaving profiles do not appear to help shaving bumps, especially in the short term;

c. Thorough shaving education is effective in improving compliance with good shaving technique; and

d. The number of soldiers receiving shaving profiles can be expected to decline if they are first given a course of therapy with Repair Medicated After Shave prior to resorting to a written profile.

This study does not constitute an endorsement of Repair Medicated After Shave by the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

Fort Sill takes on gender-integrated training mission

By **Tonya L. Riley-Rodriguez**
Special to Army News Service

FORT SILL, Okla. (Feb. 4, 1999) — Fort Sill will become a Gender-Integrated Basic Training installation in May, senior Army leaders announced Jan. 28.

According to Fort Sill Commander Maj. Gen. Leo J. Baxter, who discussed the Army's decision during a Jan. 29 news conference, preparations to accept the mission at the Oklahoma artillery post are ongoing.

"We expect about 5,000 women next year, which will compose a little less than half of all the soldiers that come here for basic training," Baxter said. "Along with that, we will receive a large number of women drill sergeants for the first time."

"We have about three [women drill sergeants] here at Fort Sill, right now. That number will climb to 50 by ... June," he said.

The Army's decision to start gender-integrated basic training at Fort Sill "realistically reflects the fact that we are having more and more women join the Army," Baxter said.

"We have always trained this way at Fort Leonard Wood and Fort Jackson, and Fort McClellan, Ala.," he said. "But, through the base closing process, Fort McClellan is shutting down [in October], so there was a need to ship some of that mission to another place, and Fort Sill was selected for that."

Having 5,000 women train at Fort Sill annually "will substantially change the face of our basic training effort here," Baxter said. Currently, there are approximately 25 women in Advanced Individual Training courses at Fort Sill.

"So, this is going to be a big shift for us," said Baxter. "[Male and female soldiers] will train together, the only thing is that they will be billeted separately and securely. As for their day-to-day activities, they will be mixed."

Preparations for gender-integrated training at Fort Sill encompass areas as diverse as remodeling of buildings, and clothing, health, education, safety, training and policy issues, according to post officials. Baxter listed a few.

"[There] is a need to re-focus efforts [on how] we provide support to soldiers," said Baxter. "Obviously, our military clothing issue has got to change, because ... women soldiers wear different kinds of uniforms than men soldiers do. We [also] have got to make sure we have the right sort of medical specialties in the hospitals."

Baxter said funding in the "three to four million-dollar-range" has already been made available to ready the post for the mission, adding that he wants to "provide safe, secure and separate living facilities for men and women" in a training environment.

"We have to change some of the bathroom facilities to accommodate women rather than men, and all that process is ongoing..." Baxter said. "We [also] want to make sure we are strictly in accordance with the regulations that pertain to safe, secure environments for these soldiers."

The first group of women to arrive will be a platoon-sized element of around 52 trainees, Baxter said. Although thousands of women trainees will take basic training alongside their male counterparts at Fort Sill annually, most won't stay for Advanced Individual Training courses, "because many of our specialties in the field artillery are not open to women, based on [current] rules," he said.

According to a Jan. 28 Department of the Army news release, the decision to expand gender-integrated basic training to Fort Sill was made "To accommodate the increase in the number of females joining the Army, and to compensate for changes in training capacity as the Army adds a week to recruit training in Fiscal Year 1999."

The announcement was no surprise, said Col. Rod Walsh, commander of the Field Artillery Training Center. The center and the installation have been preparing for the new mission since Fort Sill's leadership got the heads-up several months ago, he said.

Until now, the training environment at Fort Sill "has always been virtually dominated by men," Baxter said. Accordingly, he said, significant changes are in the wind.

"We are [providing] training for much of the leadership at Fort Sill," Baxter said, "[to include] drill sergeants, first sergeants, company commanders and others, to make sure that we are considering all the things that need to be considered as you bring women into this type of training environment."

Fort Sill officials have contacted other installations that are currently conducting gender-integrated basic training to gather input, said Walsh.

"We sent some commanders and senior noncommissioned officers from the training center and the reception side of the house TDY to those installations," Walsh said. "We have been working about the last four or five months with the Directorate of Public Works and the other organizations on Fort Sill in terms of getting all that prepared. We will be ready."

Walsh said the basic combat training program of instruction is the same for women as it is for men. "What will be different for us is understanding the physiological differences between men and women in terms of our physical training program."

"As a general rule, women have most of their strength in their legs, while a majority of men are stronger in the upper body. From a PT perspective, it means drill sergeants will have to tailor their PT programs to address these differences," Walsh said.

Baxter views the new training mission as a substantial challenge and an opportunity "to demonstrate that we can do this right." He said Fort Sill's training cadre is eager to accept the challenges.

"We have a very, very talented drill sergeant corps that is terrific, but at Fort Sill they have trained virtually exclusively men — very small numbers of women — so, I think we have to be cognizant of the sensitivities associated with the differences and behave accordingly," Baxter said. "Those are behavioral things, not training things. We train men and women all to the same standard."

(Editor's note: Riley-Rodriguez is a writer with the Fort Sill Public Affairs Office.)