

## POST SHORTS

### Recycling schedule

Recycling pickup for Wednesday, June 9, is plastic, glass and metal. Put appropriate items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

### Garrison plans sports events

As in the past, there will be sports competitions held during the APG Garrison Organizational Day, which still is scheduled for June 30 at CAPA Field in the Edgewood Area. Competitions will be volleyball, softball, horseshoes, golf and a hole-in-one contest. For information or to register for events, contact Tommy Vincenti, co-ed volleyball, 410-306-1131; Ralph Cuomo, co-ed softball, 410-278-4056; Joe Sims, horseshoes, 410-278-4993; Gene Harris, golf, 410-436-2213; and Bob Silcox, hole-in-one contest, 410-278-5494. Entry deadline for softball, volleyball and golf is June 19.

### Pediatric Clinic summer hours

The Pediatric Clinic will not have evening hours on Monday beginning in June. For more information, call SSgt. Michael Jackson, 410-278-1717/1777.

### Buy savings bonds throughout June

The post's U.S. Savings Bond Campaign will be held through June 30, and offers military and civilian personnel a chance to diversify their savings plan with government-backed bonds. Campaign coordinators met Tuesday and will be distributing information on how as little as \$5 can be deducted from your paycheck to purchase bonds. For more information about the campaign, or to find out who your representative is, call Vicki Singleton, APG's campaign coordinator, 410-278-0764.

### HST ceremony set for June 3

A change of command ceremony for Headquarters Support Troops, APG Garrison, will be held June 3, 10 a.m., at Fanshaw Field. Maj. Earl J. Teeter will pass command of HST to Maj. Clifton R. Johnston.

### D-Day veterans to be honored

A religious commemoration program dedicated to the D-Day veterans from the 29th Infantry Division will be held Sunday, June 6, 1 p.m., at the Post Theater.

Musical selections from America's history, and tunes specific to the World War II era, will be performed by the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own). Chaplain John Murdoch, a guest musician, will sing "America the Beautiful."

Featured speakers will include Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command; Richard Jordan, past Maryland commander of the 29th Division Association; and Brig. Gen. Steven Blum, assistant division commander (support) of the 29th Infantry Division.

Chaplain (Col.) Paul Grant, state area command chaplain of the Maryland National Guard, will deliver the primary address.

Refreshments will follow in a tent outside the theater.

See SHORTS, page 2



**'If we don't remember, no one else will.'**

Photo by KAREN JOLLEY DREWEN

Otis Redmond, a veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, wipes tears from his eyes at the end of Monday's Memorial Day ceremony at the Edgewood Area Cemetery.

## Ceremonies stir painful memories, but fill communities with pride



Photo by KAREN JOLLEY DREWEN

Col. Robert J. Spidel joins Aberdeen city leaders as Barbara Cowles sings the National Anthem at Monday's Memorial Day ceremony.

## Symposium brings groups together to discuss issues

By Sheila Little  
APG News

In 1942, the Army's axiom was "The Army takes care of its own." The 1999 version of that statement adds "by teaching its own to take care of themselves."

That was the word from Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, as he and his wife, Denise, hosted the 1999 Army Family Action Plan Symposium May 18-20 at the Top of the Bay.

Doesburg opened the event,

emphasizing the importance of communicating perceived problems with those in charge to effect change.

"One of the most important things we do for our community is meet together and take the time to discuss the issues," he said.

He said the symposium gives residents the opportunity to make APG "a better place for us all," by offering a forum that notes problems and suggests workable solutions.

Brig. Gen. Craig B. Whelden, commander of U. S. Army Community and Family Support,

addressed the participants at the May 18 opening, describing the symposium as "one of the neatest things we have going."

"None of the other services has it, but the entire military benefits from what suggestions go to Congress," he said.

Whelden described his previous experience as commander of the 98th Area Support Group in Wuerzburg, Germany, as "the absolute best job."

"I learned more about myself, the people, and the Army," he said, adding that the area support

See SYMPOSIUM, page 8

## 'Spill Drill' helps emergency responders to prepare

By Karen Jolley Drewen  
APG News

Fluid gushed from an overturned tanker truck on Boothby Hill Road May 19, as APG firefighters rushed to the scene.



Photo by LAMONT HARBISON

Firefighters Harold Travers, left, and J.K. Williams don Level A chemical suits with assistance of two firefighters.

In a real-life emergency, the toxic flammable liquid acrylonitrile could cause burns and respiratory problems, and even ignite. But in this "emergency," the situation was simulated and the fluid

was water, giving the post's emergency responders a chance to practice handling this type of accident.

"Our premise for this is that a truck driver got off I-95, ended up getting lost on post, and was cut off by a car, causing him to flip the truck," said Charlie Jones, APG fire chief, of the drill, an

## Garrison loses second CA bid

Employees ask about future as contractors chosen for work

By Karen Jolley Drewen  
APG News

"Unfortunately." That was the word that began bad news for hundreds of Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison employees, as they learned May 27 that the garrison lost the bid for the second of a two-part Commercial Activities proposal.

The winner, Aberdeen Technical Services, presented a bid that beat the government submission by about half a million dollars, even after the government's 10 percent incentive and other costs associated with the plan were factored in, bringing the

contractor bid to just over \$129.5 million.

It was a blow to the positive feeling in the garrison following the announcement of the government's win on April 15 of the Information Services portion of the CA study.

"I truly believed we were going to win," said Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG Garrison commander, who called the task of announcing the loss to the work force "one of the hardest things I've ever had to do."

That announcement was met with silence at the Edgewood

See CA, page 5

## 'Firebox' to help testers seek safer fire suppressants

By Karen Jolley Drewen  
APG News

Fire is the combat vehicle's biggest foe. But the newest test facility at Aberdeen Test Center will seek ways to fight fire without harm to the environment.

Known as "The Firebox," the \$24.5 million facility was welcomed to ATC's arsenal of testing methods during a ribbon-cutting ceremony May 18.

The facility, formally called the Fire Safety Test Enclosure, is ATC's answer to test the effectiveness of fire-suppression agents. Col. Andrew Ellis, ATC, commander, called the FSTE "one more in a series of major investments at

ATC that have been visualized and, through the hard work of many of the people here today, realized."

For years, Halon 1301 has been the suppressant of choice, a known ozone-depleting chemical.

"We have to get out of the business of ozone depletion," said James Fasig, ATC's technical director, noting the need to find a safer alternative. "Fire is the killer of combat vehicles. Punching holes in them doesn't really kill them, but you burn it and it's gone. Even worse, you lose the crew."

Fasig introduced several speak-

See FIREBOX, page 6

## Register weapons if you live on post

If you live on post and own a firearm, you must register the weapon with post law enforcement personnel.

In accordance with APGR 190-1, paragraph 5a(4), personnel residing in assigned family quarters, bachelor enlisted quarters, bachelor officers quarters or trailer parks on Aberdeen Proving Ground are authorized to retain privately owned firearms in their quarters if the firearms are registered in accordance with this regulation.

This means all reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent the theft or unauthorized use of these firearms, such as gun cabi-

nets with built-in locks, trigger guard locks, or metal weapons containers with built-in locks.

Register your privately owned firearm with the Badge/ID Section of APG Garrison's Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security in building 310, wing 3C, within 72 hours after your arrival at APG.

You do not need to bring your firearm to the Badge/ID Section, but you must bring proof of ownership. Notify the Badge/ID Section immediately upon the loss, trade, or sale of privately owned firearms, and report any change of residence or in the location of firearms to the Badge/ID

See WEAPONS, page 4



Photo by DAVE MAYOR

# APG and communities celebrate Memorial Day

## CEREMONY, from front page

5337, which sponsored the ceremony with other local service organizations and Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"Let us not forget our honored veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice," Miller said. "You honor us all by doing so. If we don't remember, no one else will."

Memorial Day began in 1863 when Confederate wives tending the graves of their own soldiers also took time to clear and decorate the graves of Union soldiers. Since then, "Decoration Day" has become "Memorial Day," and has taken on a special meaning, particularly for veterans service organizations.

Participating in the ceremony were Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5337 of Abingdon and its Ladies Auxiliary; American Legion Post 17 of Edgewood and its Ladies Auxiliary; Knights of Columbus Corpus Christi Council 6188 of Edgewood and its Ladies Auxiliary; Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus St. Francis Xavier Assembly; Cub Scout Pack 973, Den 9 of Abingdon; Boy Scout Troop 396 of Edgewood; and Boy Scout Troop 806 of Joppa. In addition to the band, a 21-gun salute was provided by APG.

The day also has a special meaning for Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, and guest speaker for the event. His mother is buried at Arlington; his father, a veteran, will be buried there when he dies. And, Doesburg also remembers those he served

with in Vietnam, a memory that resurfaced after visiting "The Wall," the Vietnam memorial in Washington, D.C.

"Seventeen names on that wall were friends, and will be friends for a lifetime," he told those assembled for the ceremony.

He acknowledged that some consider the holiday as a day off work or a chance to shop.

"You've encountered some of the ignorance and apathy yourselves, and you may wonder what to do about it," he said.

He recounted a story from 1996 when Carmella Laspada asked a group of children on the Mall in Washington, D.C., what Memorial Day meant.

"They all paused and then told her it was the day the pool opens," he said. "She decided she wanted to show these children and others like them why they are free and who paid for their freedom."

She advocated observing one minute of silence at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day. Shopping malls, baseball stadiums, transportation centers and amusement parks observed that moment.

"The goal is for every American to hear an announcement on Memorial Day at 3 p.m. calling for a moment of silence — one minute out of the year to remember those who made the greatest possible sacrifice," Doesburg said.

The ceremony included placing wreaths by Charlene Hall, president of VFW Post 5337 Auxiliary; Donna Visnich, president of the American Legion Post 17 Auxiliary; and Phyllis A. Baird, president of the Corpus Christi

Ladies.

Theresa Vagenos dried her eyes after the ceremony, and talked of her family's long history of military service in every branch of the Armed Forces.

"My cousin was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. He was like a brother to me," she said. "It's always a beautiful ceremony. It gets to me every time."

Her husband, Michael, a World War II veteran, has been a member of VFW 5337 since 1954. The ceremony has changed, he noted. In earlier years, the procession began off-post at the American Legion, and traveled nearly a mile to the cemetery.

"We're all getting older now," he said. "Our legs can't take that anymore."

Shortly after the Edgewood ceremony, Aberdeen's ceremony began in the city's Veterans Park, located behind the library. Barbara Cowles of American Legion Post 128 sang the National Anthem. Aberdeen Mayor Doug Wilson welcomed those who gathered to remember the nation's veterans who fell, and those from the community who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Col. Robert J. Spidel, deputy installation commander and commander of APG Garrison, spoke at the ceremony, sponsored by Aberdeen's American Legion Post 128 and its Auxiliary; Catholic War Veterans Post 1841 and its Auxiliary; and VFW Post 10028 and its Auxiliary.

He encouraged veterans to "spread the word."

"If you are a veteran, share your

own stories. Tell soldier stories to other Americans any time you have the chance, and encourage veterans you know to share their stories," he said. "We in this country owe a great debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives so that we could live free. We can start to pay that debt ... by remembering what they did and what they stood for."

Placing wreaths were Anna Sissum of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 128, representing the Gold Star Mother for all who made the supreme sacrifice. Cecilia Kief of Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary placed the wreath in memory of departed comrades. Honoring veterans of the past, present and future were wreaths presented, respectively, by Jackie Rohm, president of VFW Auxiliary Post 10028; Fred Savadge, commander of American Legion Post 128; and Kief and Bob Norton, commander, Catholic War Veterans Post 1841.

A memorial salute was provided by the American Legion Post 128 Honor Guard, with "Taps" played by Francis Field, echoed by Sgt. Mickey Gibson of APG's U.S. Marine Corps Detachment.

The ceremony strikes a patriotic chord in those who participate.

"To me, it's a way to honor the people who gave their lives so we can live the way we do today. It's time for us to give back to them," said Army veteran Charles Greer, executive committeeman for American Legion Post 128 and a member of the legion for nearly 32 years. "This was our 24th year for the Memorial Day service, and it always means a lot to us."

## Support makes service worth it

(Editor's note: Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, sent this letter to Gen. John Coburn, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, following the May 22 Armed Forces Day celebration. It is reprinted here with permission.)

Sir: Sometimes the long days and long weeks fighting budget battles and personnel cuts are made up by one single great day. Military Appreciation Day this past Saturday, here at Aberdeen, was one of those days. It really renewed my faith in why we serve, and more importantly, who we serve.

The day started with a Fun Run. It was an otherwise usual event except that the Mayor of Aberdeen ran with me. He didn't even own running shoes but wanted to participate because he understood soldiers would be participating. As someone who had never served, he wanted to be part of what he labeled a unique calling. We didn't set any speed records, but we definitely had fun.

Later in the day we had a parade down main street. As you know, Aberdeen is truly "Small Town America." The street was lined with those too young to know, to those who had seen the ravages of too many wars. They sat in their front yards waving flags, they stood on corners wearing medals from battles long over, saluting our soldiers and our country. As I returned their salutes, I felt embarrassed. I should have been saluting them for their courage, patriotism and valor. They should have been the Grand Marshal, not me.

Later that evening we had a concert on the front lawn of Aberdeen High School. The 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) along with County Honors Band members and the Aberdeen High School Chorus played for almost two hours. The music captured and enthralled the crowd of several thousand who sat out on the lawn. The most moving event was the raising of the Garrison Flag as the band played the Armed Forces Medley, and those who serve and have served stood for their Service song while the crowd provided thunderous applause. The standing ovation at the conclusion of the 1812 Overture would have gone on indefinitely if it weren't for the fantastic fireworks display that capped the night. What a way to end a great day!

Sir, I'll sign-up for another year of budget battles (I could do without the personnel cuts) just to be here for next year's Military Appreciation Day. In fact, I wouldn't miss it for anything.

**VR,**  
**Maj. Gen. John Doesburg**

## POST SHORTS

### SHORTS, from front page

with static displays of vintage World War II vehicles, uniforms and memorabilia. For information, call the Post Chapel at 410-278-4333.

### Red Cross blood drive is June 8

The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the AA Recreation Center, building 3326. Call 410-278-2087 to make an appointment. The Red Cross needs continued support now more than ever.

The APG Apheresis Center also is looking for volunteers to donate platelets. Call 410-297-9125 for details.

### Red Cross classes available in June

Teens looking for extra money this summer can attend a two-day Baby-sitting Class from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, and Saturday, June 12, in the Red Cross, building 2477. The class costs \$10 with an ID card, thanks to the APG Thrift Shops with their generous scholarships. Teens ages 13 and older are welcome. Upon completion, you will be certified as an American Red Cross baby-sitter. You must attend both days.

The APG American Red Cross will hold the next Community First Aid and Safety Course on Saturday, June 26, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., in building 2477. Upon completion you will be certified in first aid for three years and community CPR for one year. You also will be eligible to be registered for the Instructor's Candidate Course. Cost is \$25.

For information on both classes, call 410-278-2087.

### Scouting offers disabled children adventures

The Baltimore Area Council Boy Scouts of America would like to offer new opportunities for children with disabilities and their fami-

lies to get involved in the adventures of Scouting. Army Community Service is seeking interested families to see if such a group should be started on post. Scouting gives parents the opportunity to see their children grow and interact with other children while helping parents to create the capacity for their children's accomplishments. Children can develop a sense of teamwork and belonging through one of the greatest experiences of their lives. If you have a boy at least 7 years old or in first grade, or a girl who has completed eighth grade and is at least 14 years old, call Peggy Horne at ACS, 410-278-7474/7478.

### National Guard change of command

The Maryland Army National Guard's Mobilization for Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depots (AVCRAD) Control Element will hold a change of command ceremony on Saturday, June 5, 2 p.m. at the Edgewood Armory, building E-4305. Outgoing commander Col. James W. Taneyhill of Baldwin, who will retire, will be replaced by Col. Robert A. Peterson Jr. of Churchville. Peterson previously was commander of the 29th Air Traffic Services Group. For information, call Master Sgt. Linda Martin, 410-436-2635.

### Apply for Officer Candidate School

Applications are being accepted for the next board and must be received by June 21 at U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command Headquarters, ATTN: AMSTE-RP-P. This date is firm. Applicants will be scheduled to appear before the OCS board convened at Fort Meade. For details, call Barb Tarczynski, 410-278-1172, or Connie Garcia, 410-278-1175.

### Aberdeen Library closed through June 20

The Harford County Public Library Aberdeen Branch is closed through June 20 for renovation. Materials checked out from the

Aberdeen Branch and due back to the library between May 19 and June 20 will be exempt from fines and may be returned to any branch or to the Aberdeen Branch after June 20.

The library's Board of Trustees encourages library customers to visit the system's other eight branches while Aberdeen is closed. For more information and branch service hours, call 410-638-INFO.

Harford County Public Library's catalog, on-line databases and other information can be accessed from the library's Web site at www.harf.lib.md.us. Text only computer access to the Harford County Knowledge Network and the library's catalog may be reached by dialing 410-638-5669.

### Community yard sales planned

The Community Life Mayoral Program will sponsor Community Yard Sales in housing areas in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas during June. The **Aberdeen Area yard sale** will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6. Participating housing areas include Patriot Village, Mobile Home Park, New Chesapeake, Bayside Village, School Street, Plumb Point Loop and Hopkins Loop. All family housing residents can participate. The rain dates are Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13. The **Edgewood Area yard sale** will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 19 and 20. Participating housing areas include Lee Court, Mobile Home Park, Everette Road, Scully Road, Grant Court, Skippers Point, Clearview Drive and Austin Road.

Yard sales can be held weekends between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Signs announcing the sale may be erected in the vicinity the day of the sale; they should be placed on wooden stakes and placed in the ground. Residents must remove signs and police the area. Advertise for a sale on bulletin boards at the PX, Commissary, Shoppette (contact manager for approval), or off-post publications.

## 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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## RETIREE CORNER

### Air Force stop-loss update

When the Operation Allied Forces call-up was approved, the services were given the option of invoking stop-loss. With the majority of the call-up authorization being Air Force personnel, the Air Force invoked stop-loss while the other services did not.

Although a complete stop-loss has not been implemented, this decision has generated many questions, concerns and rumors about the program. To respond, the Air Force Personnel Center Call Center has begun a toll free 24-hour hotline to help answer questions concerning stop-loss. If you have questions, call (800) 558-1404, DSN 665-2949 or commercial (210) 565-2949.

### Free phone cards from VFW

During Operation Allied Forces, the VFW is continuing its three-year-old program, Operation Uplink, which provides a pre-paid phone card with \$10 of talk time on it to reservists deployed overseas or those on active duty for 30 days or more. Operation Uplink is primarily designed for active-duty people and hospitalized veterans and has served more than 250,000 vets and active duty troops in its three year history. VFW's website is at http://www.vfw.org.

### Medal of Honor memorial

The nation's first memorial specifically honoring all recipients of the Medal of Honor was dedicated in downtown Indianapolis May 28. The memorial features 27 curved-glass panels etched with the names, branches of service and locations of the heroic actions of the 3,410 people who have received the nation's highest award for military valor. Reaching seven to ten feet in height, the walls represent the 15 conflicts in which acts of bravery resulted in the awarding of the Medal of Honor. Steps, benches and a grassy area will provide seating for visitors. Each day at dusk, the memorial's sound system will play recorded stories of medal winners or the conflicts in which they fought. IPALCO Enterprises, an Indianapolis-based energy company, is contributing the memorial — including design, construction

and future maintenance — as a gift to the medal recipients and the country. The location of the memorial is particularly appropriate because it's adjacent to Military Park, which served as a prisoner-of-war camp during the Civil War. Nearly half of the Medals of Honor issued were given to soldiers who fought in that conflict. Ninety eight of the 160 living Medal of Honor recipients participated in the dedication ceremony.

### VA information

The Department of Veterans Affairs has several Education Assistance Programs. These are benefits that assist you in advancing your education and improving your job skills. There are various education and training programs available. There are degree and certificate programs, independent study programs, cooperative courses, apprenticeship and on-the-job training, flight training, work-study programs and tutorial assistance.

- Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP) Chapter 32: This is a contributory program with service between Jan. 1, 1977, and June 30, 1985. You may receive payments up to \$8,100 and DoD kickers. Your benefit entitlement amount is based on your contributions. The personal contributions may be refunded. You may receive up to 36 months of entitlements.

- Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Chapter 30 Category I: You must have entered service after June 30, 1985. There is a \$1,200 pay deduction while on active duty. These payroll deductions are not refundable to the veteran. You may receive up to 36 months of entitlements. You must have received a honorable discharge.

- Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Chapter 34/30 Category II: You must first have entered service prior to Jan. 1, 1977. You must have remaining entitlement under old GI Bill Chapter 34. You also must have served on active duty from June 30, 1985, to June 30, 1988.

- Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Chapter 34/30 Category IV: You must first have entered service after June 30, 1985. There is a \$1,200 pay deduction while on active duty. These payroll deductions are not refundable to the veteran. You may receive up to 36 months of entitlements. You must have received a honorable discharge.

See **RETIREE CORNER**, page 12

# COMING UP...

## THURSDAY JUNE 3 MERRY MELODIES

Aberdeen Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Orchestra, 6th Grade Band, Jazz Ensemble will hold a Spring Concert at 7 p.m. at the school.

## SPRING CONCERT

Roye-Williams Elementary School will hold a Spring Concert at 5 p.m. The concert will be held outside with a picnic following the performance.

## FRIDAY JUNE 4 WOMEN VETERANS

Maryland Freestate Chapter 70, of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association will meet at 2 p.m. at the Aberdeen Senior Citizen Center, 7 Franklin St. WAAC, WAC, Army Reserve, Army National Guard and those serving in the Army today or honorably discharged, are invited. Call 410-676-9574.

## COUNTRY NIGHT

American Legion Post 128 will have country western dancing 7:30-11:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for non-members, \$8 for members. The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association sponsors the dance.

## SATURDAY JUNE 5 SUMMER JAM '99

Big Cube Entertainment presents Summer Jam '99, at the Top of the Bay Main Ballroom, beginning at 9:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$7 in advance. For details or tickets, call 410-817-1390.

## NG CEREMONY

The Maryland Army National Guard's Mobilization AVCRAD Control Element (MACE) will hold a change of command ceremony at 2 p.m. at the Edgewood Armory, building E-4305. Outgoing commander Col. James W. Taneyhill of Baldwin, who will retire, will be replaced by Col. Robert A. Peterson Jr. of Churchville. Peterson was previously assigned as commander of the 29th Air Traffic Services Group. For more information, call Master Sgt. Linda Martin, 410-436-2635.

## SUNDAY JUNE 6 D-DAY REMEMBRANCE

A ceremony to honor veterans of all wars, dedicated to the D-Day veterans of the 29th Infantry Division, will be held at the Post Theater. Musical selections from America's his-

tory, and tunes specific to the World War II era, will be performed by the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own). Refreshments will follow in a tent outside the theater, and static displays will be available for viewing. For details, call the Post Chapel, 410-278-4333.

## TUESDAY JUNE 8 CONTRACTING SYSTEM

The AMC Acquisition Center will implement a new contracting system (PD2) in July and August. There will be a PD2 Implementation Briefing at 1 p.m. in the EA Conference Center. It also will be broadcast live on channel 3. Briefers will be from AMS, the system developer; Army Materiel Command; and AMCAC. The briefing primarily is aimed at AMCAC personnel, but customers are encouraged to send a representative to learn how PD2 will impact their acquisition program. Questions about PD2 and/or the briefing should be e-mailed to ldavis@apg-emh1.apg.army.mil

## WEDNESDAY JUNE 9 NCMA LUNCHEON

The National Contract

Management Association Upper Chesapeake Chapter will hold its June luncheon at the Gunpowder Club in the Edgewood Area at 11:30 a.m. For reservations or details, call Joan Hauser, 410-436-3577.

## FRIDAY JUNE 11 TAKE A TEST DRIVE

The Main Post Exchange, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund and Plymouth/Dodge Dealers are teaming up for a special event today and June 12 at the PX parking lot. If you take a test drive in a new Plymouth/Dodge Neon on those dates, you will receive a \$5 gift certificate to be used at the PX. Plymouth/Dodge also will donate \$4 to the Army Youth Sports Program for every test drive taken. Everyone taking a Neon test drive will be given a free movie pass for the Post Theater and a free "Go Large" coupon from Burger King. She added that the offer will be repeated in the Edgewood Area on Aug. 27-28. For more information, call 410-272-6828.

## TUESDAY JUNE 15 CHUCK BAKER

The Chuck Baker Orchestra will perform at 7 p.m., at the Aberdeen Festival Park located on Howard Street, Aberdeen. In the event of rain, concert will be held at Aberdeen High School Auditorium. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Office at 410-939-6767.

## WEDNESDAY JUNE 16 REAL LIFE 101

"Real Life 101: Your Summer Job and You" for teens and young adults will be held at 7 p.m., at the Bel Air Branch, Harford County Public Library. This program, presented by APG Federal Credit Union, will highlight money management as it pertains to teens and includes savings alternatives, checking account management, automated banking services, credit basics and investing. For information call the Bel Air Branch at 410-638-3151.

## SATURDAY JUNE 19 SURPLUS SALE

The EA Thrift Shop will be open from 10 a.m.-noon for sales for patrons of the EA yard sale. Surplus yard sale items will be accepted for donation; no consignments will be taken. Consignments may be made up to one hour prior to closing on Tuesdays,

10 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month.

## BENEFIT CONCERT

The Aberdeen Chamber Orchestra will hold a summer benefit concert at 7 p.m. at the Havre de Grace High School Auditorium. The program will feature classical music, soloists, hymns, patriotic, gospel and popular music and "sing-along" selections. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children ages 12-18, \$3 for children under age 12. For details, call 410-272-5640.

## PX CONCERT

The Main PX will feature the Baltimore-based jazz/funk group "Citilites" performing at the PX from noon-2 p.m. The group will have compact discs available for sale at the PX. For information, call 410-272-6828.

## SATURDAY JUNE 26 COMMUNITY FIRST AID

The American Red Cross will hold a Community First Aid and

CPR class from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. at building 2477. Cost is \$25 and is payable by check to the American Red Cross. Students will be certified for three years in First Aid and one year in Community CPR. Call Carolyn Lerwill, 410-278-2087.

## TUESDAY JUNE 29 HOW SWEET IT IS

The Sweet Adelines will perform at 7 p.m., at the Aberdeen Festival Park located on Howard Street, Aberdeen. In the event of rain, the concert will be held at the Aberdeen High School Auditorium. For details, call 410-939-6767.

## WEDNESDAY JUNE 30 ORGANIZATION DAY

The 8th annual APG Garrison Organization Day will be held from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at CAPA Field. Games and entertainment will be provided for the whole family. Ticket prices and points of contact will be provided soon.

## MWR UPDATE

### Take Dad to the park

Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park will offer a Father's Day special all day June 20. All dads pay just \$1.50 (half price) for miniature golf. The everyday low prices for other activities at the park are batting cages for baseball/softball, 50 cents for 12 balls; go-karts, \$3 for five-minute ride; and 18-hole miniature golf, \$3 per person, \$1 for ages 5 and under. Just a reminder: you must be at least 54 inches tall to drive; two-seaters are available so those who are under that can ride with an eligible driver. A limited snack bar is available, with hot dogs, nachos, chips, sodas, and sno-cones. The park is open Monday-Thursday, 5:30-10 p.m.; Friday, 5:30 p.m.-midnight; Saturday, 1 p.m.-midnight; and Sunday, 1-8 p.m. To schedule a party or special group, call the park at 410-278-9920.

### Swimming Pools are open

Olympic Pool at building 3325 and Bayside Pool at building E-4656 are open. Monthly and seasonal pool passes are on sale at the Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center, building 2407, and the Edgewood Area Health and Fitness Center, building E-4210. Shore Pool at building 2031 opens June 19. The daily fee is still \$3 per person; monthly individual passes cost \$25 and monthly family passes cost \$35. The season pass for individuals costs \$50, and the family season pass costs \$80. Lap swimming is available at Olympic and Bayside pools Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Call Outdoor Recreation, 410-278-4124, for details.

### Swimming lesson registration

Registration for Pre-School Aquatics and Youth "Learn to Swim" swimming lessons continues for active duty family members. Registration is conducted at the Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center, building 2407, and the EA Health and Fitness Center, building E-4210. Lessons will be conducted July 12-23 at both the Shore and Bayside pools. Pre-School Aquatics are offered for children between ages 3-5, from 10-10:50 a.m. A parent or guardian will be required to accompany the child in the water during lessons. "Learn to Swim" lessons will be conducted from 9-9:50 a.m. for children ages 6 and older. The fee is \$20 per student. Registration for all other MWR-eligible family members begins June 6. For details, contact Outdoor Recreation, 410-278-4124.

### APG Boat Docks open

The Aberdeen and Edgewood area boat docks are open for the season. Motor boats, row-boats, canoes, sailboats and windsurfers are available for rent by the hour or by the day. The AA Boat Dock is located off Old Cut Road, building 2040; the EA Boat Dock is located on Skipper's Point Road in building E-1473. Both facilities are open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation, 410-278-4124.

### Equipment Resource Center

The Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center offers 20x20-foot and 20x30-foot canopies and party tents, padded folding chairs, eight-foot rectangular folding tables, and new this year, 70-inch round folding tables, to help outfit graduation parties, weddings, receptions, family reunions or any outdoor function. Reserve your equipment now to ensure availability by paying the daily fee in advance. Active duty military and family members may reserve equipment up to 60 days in advance; all others may make reservations up to 30 days in advance. Fees are reasonable,

and reservations are accepted over the telephone when paying by credit card. The center offers supergrills (trailed charcoal grills), ice chests in assorted sizes, insulated drink coolers, camping equipment, outdoor sports and games, canoes, kayaks and boats. The center has new camping tents, sleeping cots, internal frame backpacks, stoves, lanterns, camping chairs and more! Visit the center in building 2407 or call 410-278-4124 for details.

### Hunter Safety Classes

Hunter Safety classes are scheduled for the Aberdeen Area in building 5445, room 213, the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center Training Building: Monday, June 21, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, June 25, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, June 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 21 and 22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, 6-10 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 11, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. In the Edgewood area classes will be given in building E-4733 (the Deer Station) as follows: Monday, Aug. 23, 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 27, 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, 6-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1, 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The cost of the class is \$5. Call 410-278-4124 to register.

### Bow Hunter seminars

Bow Hunter seminars will be conducted at the Bow Club on Saturday, Aug. 14, 9 a.m., and Sunday, Aug. 29, 1 p.m. Call 410-278-4124 for information and registration.

### Aberdeen Fitness Center

Kick-boxing-style aerobics classes are coming to the Aberdeen Area Health and Fitness Center. Watch upcoming issues of the APG News for more information. The center is a full-service facility with aerobic and toning classes daily, one-on-one personal training, the Civilian Fitness Program, and state-of-the-art equipment. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 5:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, 5:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon. For further information on programs, call 410-278-9725/9759.

### Edgewood Arts & Crafts

**Ceramic Class:** A beginning ceramic class will be held June 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$7 plus supplies. The craft shop has more than 500 ceramic molds to pour and a wide selection of bisqueware, greenware, paints and brushes for sale.

**Stained Glass Class:** A beginning Stained Glass Class will be held Saturday, June 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Students will make a suncatcher using the copper foil method. This basic method teaches the skill you need to make larger projects. Cost is \$15 plus supplies.

**Woodshop Orientation:** A basic woodshop orientation class will be held Saturday, June 5, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is a \$3 user fee. This class is required to work in the woodshop.

**Framing Class:** A beginning Matting and Framing class will be held Thursday, June 24, 5:30-9 p.m. Students must bring an 8x10-inch picture to frame. Cost is \$15 plus supplies. Students must register in advance as space is limited. For information on classes call 410-436-2153 on Thursdays, 1-9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., or visit the center in building E-4440.

## MOVIES

Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children

### THE OUT OF TOWNERS

Friday, June 4, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, June 5, 9 p.m.  
Starring: Steve Martin, Goldie Hawn

In this remake of the 1970's hit, a Midwestern couple flee their empty nest and head for the "Big Apple." A comic odyssey of unexpected calamities yanks them through the most bizarre 24 hours of their lives. (Rated PG-13)

### DOUG'S 1ST MOVIE

Saturday, June 5, 7 p.m.  
Animated

Based on the ABC television series, 12-and-a-half-year-old Doug Funnie is an average, lovable adolescent who is faced with every teenager's dilemma - doing what's right or doing what's popular. (Rated G)

### THE MATRIX

Friday, June 11, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, June 12, 9 p.m.  
Starring: Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne

In a universe run by computers, human beings are used as batteries, to provide bio-electrical energy to fuel the artificial intelligence known as the Matrix. The Matrix has created a virtual reality, to make its inhabitants think they are living happy, creative, productive lives. (Rated R)

### ANALYZE THIS

Saturday, June 12, 7 p.m.  
Starring: Billy Crystal, Robert De Niro

A New York mob boss is having anxiety attacks and secretly seeks out a psychologist for help. The therapist can't resist taking on this most challenging case. Ultimately, the two men offer unexpected help to each other. (Rated R)

## LEAVE DONATION

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

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program are:

Michael Alexander (wife has cancer);  
Joan Bond (stroke);  
John Boyle (surgery);  
Barbara Breithaupt (multiple sclerosis);  
Bonnie Bromley (liver transplant);  
Alberta Brown (mother ill);  
Daniel Brown (father has emphysema);  
Linda Brown (diabetic);  
Melda Callendar;  
Sheila Cassidy (mother has cancer);  
Dawn Crouse (surgery);  
William Edwards (back surgery);  
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);  
Sherrie Laury (heart problems);  
Dolores "Dee" McGrogan (back problems);  
Susan Naccarato (carpal tunnel syndrome);  
Lesley Parker (daughter has seizures);  
Cathleen (Higgins) Perry;  
Barbara Carol Remines (surgery);  
Michael Reynolds;  
Mary Lee Samples (lymphoma cancer);  
Sherry Schaffer;  
Walter Taylor (auto accident);  
Lavonne Telsee (caring for daughter);  
Joseph Walker (Wife has cancer);  
Cecelia Walton (respiration problems);  
Kenneth Weathers (medical);  
Frank Winters (surgery).

## WAPG-TV

The following programs are scheduled on WAPG-TV, on-post cable channel 3, from June 3-9:

### THURSDAY, JUNE 3

10 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 min.)

2 p.m., Senior Environmental Quality Control Committee Meeting (1 hr., 20 min.)

### FRIDAY, JUNE 4

10 a.m., 7 p.m., Coping in a Changing Environment (1 hr., 10 min.)

### MONDAY, JUNE 7

10 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 min.)

### TUESDAY, JUNE 8

10 a.m., 7 p.m., Coping in a Changing Environment (1 hr., 10 min.)

2 p.m., Senior Environmental Quality Control Committee Meeting (1 hr., 20 min.)

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

10 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 min.)

A calendar of events and post information runs at all other times. For more information about programming, call Lynn Witkowski, 410-278-1151.

## 203d Military Intelligence Battalion company welcomes new commander

Capt. William L. Powell III accepted command of Alpha Company, 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion, from Capt. Nandkumar R. Singh in a ceremony last month.

Lt. Col. Kevin McGrath, commander of the 203rd MI Bn., passed the guidon to Powell during the April 13 ceremony, signifying the passage of responsibility for the company.

A company's lineage traces back to the Vietnam Conflict. Then as today, the company's wartime mission is to field Technical Intelligence (TECHINT) Collection Teams and deploy in support of theater operations. The collection teams perform immediate evaluations on

captured foreign materiel and coordinate the evacuation of the materiel for more in depth analysis. A Company soldiers have participated in virtually every real-world deployment. These include: Operations Urgent Fury (Grenada), Just Cause (Panama), Desert Shield/Storm (Saudi Arabia), Uphold Democracy (Haiti) and Restore Hope (Somalia). The unit currently is deployed in support of Operation Joint Forge.

Singh brought a diverse background to his command. He enlisted in the Army in 1979 as a medical specialist and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School as an Armor officer. In 1996, he attended the

Military Intelligence Officer Transition and Advanced Courses and was assigned to the 203d Military Intelligence Battalion. He served as the assistant S-3 and as the commander of the TECHINT Detachment in Bosnia-Herzegovina before taking command of A Company. During Singh's tenure as company commander, his company participated in four major training exercises and deployed TECHINT teams for duty in Bosnia.

Powell enlisted in the Army in 1984 as a Morse Code interceptor. In 1988, he enrolled in the University of Kentucky and graduated in 1990. He was commissioned through ROTC as an Armor officer. After promotion to

captain, he attended the Military Intelligence Officer Transition and Advanced Courses and was assigned to the 532d Military Intelligence Battalion, Yongsan, Korea. In 1997, he was assigned to the 203d MI Bn. and served as the battalion S-4 and as commander of the TECHINT Detachment in Bosnia-Herzegovina before taking command of A Company.

Although the battalion has downsized significantly in the last year as it prepares for restructuring as an active/Reserve multi-component unit, its responsibilities have not diminished. The battalion's mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina continues indefinitely

## Never take security for granted

Security awareness at Aberdeen Proving Ground should never be taken for granted, according to Maj. Darrel W. Andrews, Director of Law Enforcement and Security at APG Garrison, especially in the wake of U.S. involvement in the Balkan conflict and reports alleging espionage and security breaches.

The Annual Security Awareness Training Program at APG will be presented by the directorate's Intelligence Division

throughout the summer. Regardless of security clearance level, attendance is mandatory for all Department of Defense personnel.

"Since it is a requirement for all Department of the Army members to receive this training, all tenant activities are invited to send their employees, in order to conserve their scarce security resources," Andrews said in a memorandum announcing the training.

Training will be held at the Post Theater, building 3245, and the Edgewood Area Conference Center, building E-4810. Thirty-four sessions over a 10-week period will be available to ensure everyone will have the opportunity to attend.

Activities are recommended to schedule an equal number of employees to attend each session, to ensure seating capacity is not exceeded. At the conclusion of each training session, an EAP Form 1198, Security Awareness Attendance Form, will be distributed to verify attendance for employee records. Attendance

slips only will be provided to personnel who are present for the full presentation. Attendees are encouraged to arrive prior to the scheduled briefing times - no one will be admitted once the briefing has begun.

This training is classified as For Official Use Only. Attendance is limited to government and contractor personnel; family members are not permitted at these briefings.

An interpreter for the hearing impaired will not be provided this year, as a close-captioned version will be shown on the July 1 and 20 and Aug. 10 sessions. The close-captioned version may be signed out on a limited basis after all training has been given.

Scheduled briefing dates and times are:

### Post Theater

Tuesday, June 8, 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Thursday, June 17, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 22, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 1, 1:30 p.m. and

3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 6, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 15, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 20, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

### EA Conference Center

Thursday, June 10, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 29, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Thursday, July 8, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 13, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Thursday, July 22, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 27, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Thursday, July 29, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 5, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call Joseph Kaffl or Sharon Heidtman, 410-278-5348/3187.

## Post residents must register weapons

**WEAPONS, from front page**  
Section within 72 hours of change.

The Edgewood Area section is located in building E-4420 on Thursdays only, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The Aberdeen Area section in building 310 is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Garrison personnel in this office are on a compressed work schedule; if you plan to register a weapon on a Friday, call extension 410-278-4190 to ensure the office is open.



Lt. Col. Kevin McGrath passes the guidon to Capt. William L. Powell III, signifying the transfer of responsibility for A Company to the captain.

# CA loss stuns APG Garrison

## CA, from front page

Area's Stark Recreation Center, where dozens of employees gathered to hear the results. In a voice full of emotion, Spidel informed the work force of the loss.

After a long holiday weekend, employees were more vocal at briefings on Tuesday, as they asked questions ranging from how many people would lose their jobs, to whether the garrison could get a refund from the contractor who helped to prepare the bids.

At the briefing in the Edgewood Area, Spidel said the people on the CA Team "tried their best to make this a success for the government. They worked their tails off."

He also noted that representatives from the "initial winner," as he called the contractor, may visit the proving ground as early as next week.

"I call them the initial winner because it's not final until the end of the June 24 public review period," he said.

Aberdeen Technical Services' proposal was determined to be the best value from proposals submitted from private industry. That proposal then was compared to the bid prepared for the in-house government work force. Pending the result of the public review period, the garrison will begin transition to the contractor this fall with full contract performance expected by January 2000.

After the two-year CA process, the final decision came down to basic math. The contractor bid \$107,842,296 for the five-year contract. Subtracted from that was federal income tax of \$539,212. Added to that was \$4,150,185 for contract administration; a one-time conversion cost of \$8,261,395; and a minimum conversion differential of \$9,845,306. That brought the total bid from the contractor to \$129,559,970. The government's bid was \$130,062,726; that was \$502,756 more than the contractor bid.

APG Garrison employees are awaiting word not only from the contractor on what the work force will look like and how many current employees will be hired, but also whether Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VSIP) will be approved.

"You have to save someone who would be involuntarily separated to be approved for VSIP," Spidel said.

Also requested is Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA). The results will help determine how many people will be involuntarily separated during the Reduction-in-Force. While the numbers are not firm, approximately 400 of the garrison's current 1,300 employees will be affected by VSIP, VERA or RIF; the rest will be part of the Residual Efficient Organization, known as the REO.

Forums for Directorate of Community and Family Activities and Directorate of Information Management employees will be held Thursday, June 3, 8-9:30 a.m., at the Post Theater. On the same day, from 1:30-3 p.m., the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security and Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment will meet.

Directorate of Public Works employees will meet Monday, June 7, 8-9:30 a.m., at the Post Theater; Directorate of Logistics employees will meet the same day and location from 1:30-3 p.m.

For counseling and stress management services from the Community Counseling Center, call 410-278-3137/5319/7474.

Other help for employees is in the works, Spidel added. A letter from the post commander, Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, will ask APG tenants to defer hiring where possible to provide more employment opportunities for garrison employees.

Directorate of Community and Family Activities employee Linda Holloway asked if that request could be extended beyond the post's boundaries, to all federal agencies within commuting distance of APG. Spidel said that request should be possible.

"I talked to some of the tenant commanders this weekend, and they are supportive," Spidel added, noting that while not many jobs may surface from this plan, it will add to opportunities for garrison employees. "We're going to do what we can to make this transition process the best possible for the employees."

The main change in the plan, he announced, is that everyone who is adversely affected by this award is eligible for the right of first refusal, which means the contractor must offer government personnel positions first. Previously, those who accepted VSIP were not eligible for this right. The garrison will provide a list of names to the contractor for hiring purposes.

Despite the long preparation for this event, many employees are not prepared to make such a decision in such a short amount of time. VSIP and, if approved, VERA, should be offered within the next few weeks. No approvals will be made until after the public review period ends June 24. RIF letters will go out in mid-September, and personnel will be separated in January 2000. Spidel explained to the Edgewood Area audience that only Congressional mandate can change the rules of VSIP, VERA and RIFs.

"Law or no law, it's just not fair," said Dwight Bloom of the Directorate of Public Works. "You don't know if you'll be hired by the contractor, you can't retire. Three months is not very long to make decisions about what you'll do for the next 30 years."

In the Aberdeen Area, one employee likened the presence of current post contractors in the package "like kids bidding against their father."

"You just walk around with your hands up. You don't know

who's going to stick you up, but you want to be ready for it," he said, drawing applause and laughter from the audience.

The largest contractors in the Aberdeen Technical Services packages are DynCorp (www.dyncorp.com) and R.F. Weston (www.rfweston.com). Also part of the package are several subcontractors:

- Aramark Educational Services (www.aramark.com);
- General Physics, a "performance improvement company" (www.generalphysics.com);
- Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a research and engineering company (www.saic.com);
- Potomac Research International, Inc. (pr-intl.com);
- Horne Engineering Services Inc., an environmental engineering consulting firm (www.horne.com);
- Engineering Design Systems Inc. (EDSI), an engineering and automation firm (www.edsi.com);
- and, the Cube Corp.

The duties involved include performing maintenance duties from the Directorate of Public Works; running the child care centers; performing duties of the Directorate of Logistics; and taking on elements of the Directorate of Community and Family Activities, Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment, and Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization.

## Rumor control

The presence of so many post contractors in the winning bid may have led to some of the many rumors circulating around post. Spidel noted that the "rumors have been flying."

"I think I've heard them all," he said.

Some rumors address alleged irregularities in the CA process. According to all current available information, there was no break-in at the CA office, and no sensitive documents were stolen; no hackers broke into sensitive CA documents on government computers; the contractor did not have an additional few weeks to work on its bid; the contractor was not given the opportunity to "lower the bid" at the last minute; and no contracting leaks "gave away" the government total so the contractor could ensure a win.

While the government bid is a

public document, the contractor's bid remains confidential. That was a matter of discussion and some anger at the briefings.

"If we can't see their bid, how do we know what to fight against?" asked an employee at the Aberdeen Area briefing.

While the government cannot appeal the decision, employees can, and so can the unions. Union officials are discussing how they can address the situation, and employees also can write to their congressional representatives to seek help in the situation.

As far as the appeal goes, "anything's possible," said Dave Scott of the APG Legal Office. However, some of the options are slim possibilities.

"Things could change, but if everyone did their jobs correctly, the result probably will stand," he said at the Edgewood Area briefing.

At the Aberdeen Area briefing, he elaborated on the difference between a bid by a contractor and a bid by the government.

"The government bid is set by statute," he said. "We could compete using numbers and grade of employees. We could not change pay or benefits. All we can play with is how many people and where they work."

Spidel emphasized that benefits and salary offered by the contractor will not be known until the contractor arrives to discuss these issues.

Another matter of discussion was how the garrison will meet its mission facing low morale, animosity and hundreds of employees seeking jobs. Spidel admitted that while some may not continue to work, "the great majority are professional and will continue to do a great job."

Employees can learn about VSIP, VERA and RIF, and other personnel information, at forums. The forum for Directorate of Community and Family Activities and Directorate of Information Management employees will be held Thursday, June 3, 8-9:30 a.m., at the Post Theater. On the same day, from 1:30-3 p.m., the Directorates of Law Enforcement and Security and Safety, Health and Environment will meet. Directorate of Public Works employees will meet Monday, June 7, 8-9:30 a.m., at the Post Theater; Directorate of Logistics employees will meet the same day and location from 1:30-3 p.m.

If an employee cannot attend the briefing for his directorate, he should attend another session because no make-up sessions are scheduled.

Counseling and stress management services are offered by the Community Counseling Center, 410-278-3137/5319/7474.

Information also is available at the APG web site, www.apg.army.mil/ca.html, or on the CA Hotline, 410-278-9461.



Photo by RALPH BROTH

Post and local officials prepare to cut the ribbon at the ceremony to welcome ATC's "Firebox."

## 'Firebox to protect environment

### **FIREBOX, from front page**

ers, including Col. Thomas Resau, chief of staff at the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command.

"Thanks to the Firebox, the Army can effectively and quickly suppress vehicle fires without ozone-depleting chemicals getting into our environment," said Resau, who represented Brig. Gen. Dean Ertwine, commander of TECOM, ATC's higher headquarters.

Sherri Goodman, deputy undersecretary of defense for environmental security, who is responsible for DoD's environmental, safety and occupational health policies and programs, added her comments about the facility.

"It's exciting for me to see the ways our people are harnessing science and technology" to make testing safer and more effective," she said.

"Your actions have prevented loss of life, injuries and damage to property ...because we have people like those right here," she said of the ATC personnel assembled for the ceremony. "Even if they don't have the word 'environment' in their job title, they care about the environment."

Dr. Patricia Sanders, director of Test, Systems, Engineering and Evaluation for DoD, said the new facility is "symbolic of all that ATC has done in its mission and in environmental stewardship."

"I think it's a great day to be a tester, and I'm proud to be part of this team," she said.

James O'Bryon, deputy director of operational test and evaluation/live fire test and evaluation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, worked at APG's Ballistics Research Laboratory first as a soldier, then as a civilian, moving on to APG's U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity before moving on to Washington, D.C.

Fasig said he was a vital part of making the facility a reality, beginning with giving the center \$50,000 to study the feasibility of the project.

"Jim, your seed's finally grown," Fasig said as he introduced O'Bryon.

Fire causes devastating losses to DoD each year, O'Bryon said, noting that the Navy has more than 100 fires per year on ships; the Army has more than 127,000 vehicles that need fire protection; and the Air Force experienced more than \$15 billion in losses due to fire from 1967-1995.

"Fire is one of the hardest things to model" on a computer," he said, adding, "We don't even know how to model a match burning."

There are no models needed in this 62-foot-high dome, which accommodate all military combat vehicles and can withstand the equivalent of a 100-pound blast of TNT. The only test facility of its

kind, it allows testers to collect data from vehicles as they burn, yet captures and "scrubs" all gaseous and liquid emissions from the test. Released at the end of the extensive filtration process are carbon dioxide and water.

"A fully battle-loaded vehicle can explode in here, and it will withstand it," said Larry Stepnitz, project manager for the facility, as he stepped into the 84-foot-wide dome, which housed a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

Charles "Chuck" Boutin, Maryland representative for District 34 and a member of the Maryland House Environmental Subcommittee, said the Firebox was "an impressive facility."

"To my way of thinking, I wish some industry would do as good a job as APG and ATC," he said as he toured the facility. "If people who cut testing programs could see this, they'd understand the deep level of concern this center has for the safety of our military personnel, and their devotion to ensuring they have the best and safest equipment possible."

From a health perspective, Col. Walter Egerton, commander of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, spoke highly of the facility.

"I'm in favor of anything that protects the ozone layer, so I don't have to treat any more skin cancer cases than I already do," said the doctor as he examined the thick armor plating of the dome's enclosure.

## SPORTS

# 143rd Ord. Bn. chaplain nets All-Army Volleyball spot

By E.C. Starnes  
Ordnance Corps Corporate Affairs

Soldiers at the 143rd Ordnance Battalion readily recognize Tricia Gilbert in her uniform. After all she is a captain in the U.S. Army and the battalion's chaplain.

However, many didn't see her as she wore another uniform for the Army. Gilbert, a standout volleyball player in high school and college, played on the All-Army Women's Volleyball Team in the recent 1999 Armed Service Volleyball Tournament at Kelly Air Force Base, Tex.

She began playing volleyball when she was 7 years old.

"My oldest sister played," she explained, "and she needed people to practice with so she taught me and my two older sisters how to play."

The lessons took and she went on to play in recreational leagues and high school. During this time she won several trophies and was quite proud of them.

When troubles began at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant, her family informed her she had to be ready to evacuate at any time.

"We were only allowed to pack one suitcase each. We had to decide what was most important to us in case we would never return to our house. So, I packed up my trophies first. There must have been 10 or so, and then whatever room I had left I threw in some clothes. When you're 10, you don't necessarily think to take family heirlooms or pictures. That's what parents are for."

She said her parents were there for her during her early sporting "career."

"For example," she said, "they would take a day off work early, drive five hours to watch one match, and then drive back home so they could work the next day. They were extremely supportive of all my siblings."

She continued to excel at the sport at Eastern York High School in Wrightsville, Pa., and won a full scholarship to play volleyball at American University in Washington, D.C. There, she earned Second Team All Conference honors in the Colonial Athletic Association her freshman and sophomore years and landed on the First Team in her junior and senior years. She was team most valuable player one year, a team captain for four years, and a scholar athlete for three years. Gilbert also was

named CAA Scholar Athlete of the Year and American University Student Athlete of the Year and was named to numerous all-tournament teams throughout her four years.

She first heard about military sports tournaments when she was 18 and played softball against the All Army Softball Team.

She was playing for her unit at APG when she saw posters at the gym and inquired about the team.

"I had some conversations with Marni Allison about trying out. I had to submit paperwork pertaining to my volleyball experience and some supporting documents," she said.

More paperwork, permission from her commander and permission from the local chaplain's office followed, and she was on her way to the tryouts at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

"The first week [at Indiantown Gap] was painful, not realizing all the muscles involved with diving, spiking, setting, and how sore you actually get," she said, although she described the overall experience as "great."

"We generally practiced three times a day for two-and-a-half hours. There really wasn't much you wanted to do after a day of practice, except sleep," she said.

The team also scrimmaged to bring up their game form.

"We scrimmaged generally A or double-A women's teams and we also scrimmaged a lot against some of the All-Army Men's Volleyball Team," she stated. "Of course, they had to spike from beyond the 10-foot line. We played in three tournaments - one in York, Pa., and two at Fort Indiantown Gap."

The team was solidified and it was off to the All Services Tournament at Kelly. The Air Force women defended their 1998 title, but it wasn't without some competition from the Army and Navy.

"The Navy and Army teams really gave the Air Force a run for the money," said Paul Prentice, base fitness center sports director in an article released by the American Forces Information Service. "Each game was tight. Hustle and good outside hitters worked well in favor of the Navy, and the Army's team had great unity."

The Air Force went 6-0, while the Air Force came in second at 4-2. The Army team finished at 2-4, while the Marine team was shut

out.

A low turnout and the loss of a leading player caused some problems for the All Army team.

"I think the low turnout could be related to a lot of deployments around the world. Did it hinder us?" she asked. "Well, we'll never truly know."

One thing that did hurt the team was the loss of key player Sunny Barse to a torn Achilles' tendon.

"We really missed Sunny! Her presence would have made a huge contribution to the team and would have changed the outcome for sure," Gilbert said.

Would she do it again?  
"I would love to go again," she said. "The All Army sports program is great. I would strongly suggest it to athletes who are interested in taking their sport and abilities to a new level."

She noted that she could not have participated if she had not received so much support from people at APG. "I want to thank everyone who went out of their way to cover for me while I was gone, especially the chaplains and my unit. It was a great opportunity."  
Gilbert also noted she owed thanks to Allison, her staff at Hoyle Gym and "Captain Williams and his staff at Physical Therapy for getting my knee in shape to play at that level."

While she will not be playing on the All-Services team, she will be reunited with some of her teammates and see some friendly foes in July as the All-Services Women's Volleyball Team conducts trials and practices at APG.

In the meantime, she is back in her other uniform, working her new ministry.

"A large portion of my job as chaplain is counseling the AIT soldiers," she said. "I also provide or perform religious services for them."

She also runs religious programs within the battalion, provides a "ministry of presence,"

and serves on battalion commander Lt. Col. Paul Meredith's personal staff, advising him on unit morale, religious issues and "anything that will help him in doing his job."

Gilbert said she has been interested in the ministry "ever since I can remember."

"I always wanted to be a part of the church," she said. "I just didn't know that I could be a pastor. When I was 18 years old I finally met a female pastor, and then everything became quite clear to me. It took me another year and a half to realize that God was leading me into the ministry."

"I remember sitting in the pew of my home church, listening to the pastor preach and it hit me right there and then that this was what I was supposed to be doing. So I went back to college, changed my major to religion and entered the seminary when I graduated from college."

How did she become interested in the Army? The answer echoes that of many young people seeking to go to college - money.

"I was looking for a way to pay for college in case I didn't get a scholarship, so my parents wouldn't have to pay," she explained. "I received an ROTC scholarship, I graduated, was commissioned and then switched branches into the Staff Specialist Branch/Chaplain Candidate."

"I did that for four years while I went to seminary," she said, noting that she received her master of divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

She also spent two-and-a-half years serving three parishes in Minnesota and as a member of the Minnesota National Guard. She qualified to enter active duty as a chaplain and came on active duty in 1998.

Gilbert noted that her new ministry is somewhat different from her job with the parish.

"But yet this is a totally different type of ministry. I enjoy what I do."

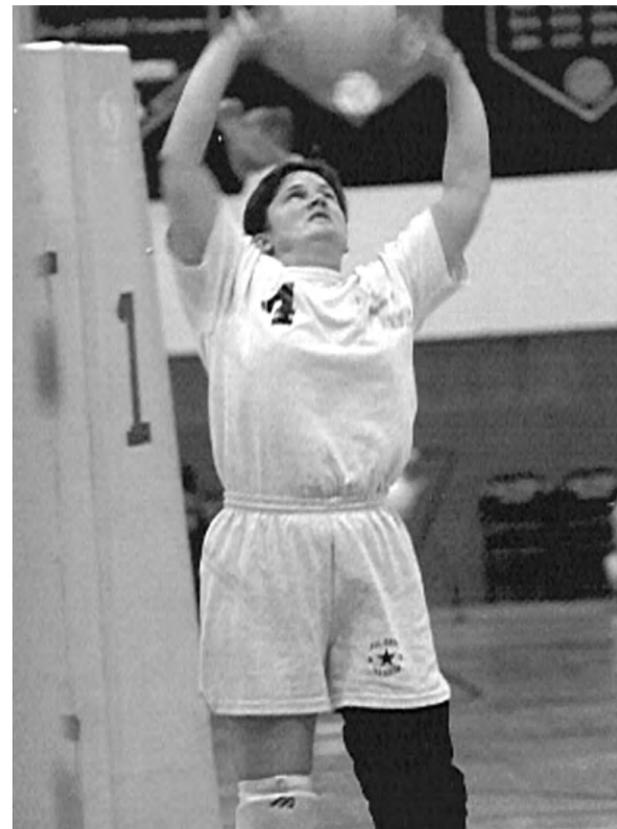


Photo by E. C. Starnes

Trisha Gilbert provides one of her patented sets for the spike by a team mate during All-Army Women's Volleyball tryouts at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Military Golf Tournament is June 12, 13

The Community Recreation Division's Sports Office and Ruggles Golf Course are sponsoring the 1999 Military Golf Tournament on June 12-13. This tournament is for active-duty military only and will run on a 36-hole format with five flights. Handicaps must be reported at registration. Those interested in participating must register by June 4 at either MWR gym or any post golf course. For more information, contact Harold Smith at 410-436-3375 or Marc Williams at 410-278-9452.

### Military, civilians can vie for tennis trophy

The Intramural Tennis Tournament will be held June 14-24 in both Edgewood and Aberdeen. Play will be held in the Men's Open, Men's Senior (34-39), Men's Masters (40 and over) and Women's Open. Active-duty military who are interested in playing in this tournament need to register at their area gymnasium by June 3.

The Intramural Sports Office also is sponsoring an open tennis tournament in conjunction with the Intramural Tennis Tournament June 14-24. This tournament is open to all family members of active-duty military, retirees and their family members, and all civilian employees of APG who are 18 years or older. The Intramural and Open winners will compete for the post tennis championship on June 30. For more information, contact your area gymnasium or the Intramural Sports Office at 410-278-7933.

### Join post-level volleyball, softball teams

Any active-duty soldier interested in playing on the post-level volleyball or softball team should call Marni Allison, APG Sports director, 410-278-4497.

# Army, Family Action Plan Symposium raises issues

**SYMPOSIUM, from front page**  
group experience has proven to be invaluable to him in his new position, one he assumed last July.

"Soldiers are entitled to the same quality of life as is afforded the society they are pledged to defend," he said, adding that the military has realized the importance of considering both the soldier and family when making decisions.

He said the military has realized that "we recruit soldiers, but retain families," and said that the focus is now on the total Army family.

Speaking of the 15-year history of the Army Family Action Plan, Whelden pointed out that issues have resulted in 54 pieces of legislation, 124 policies revised or new regulations and 119 program or service improvements. Whelden mentioned specific successes, including the establishment of family support groups, the expansion of the Dependents' Dental Plan, increased life insurance for service members, increased temporary lodging expense to 10 days and the establishment of child care standards.

"We now have the benchmark for the nation when it comes to child care," he said, noting that President Clinton has challenged the Army to partner with neighbors on child care issues.

Whelden gave a brief progress report regarding issues brought to the attention of the military in 1998, including financial planning education. Whelden made note of the huge problem of soldiers getting into financial problems by "not being able to balance the checkbook," and mentioned the recent initiation of required finance classes for active duty personnel.

He covered an overview of the AFAP issue selection process, reviewed progress on ongoing issues, and answered audience questions.

When asked for the "biggest problem covered at AFAP," he said issues that can be addressed only through increased funding are always contentious.

"If we had more money we'd do an awful lot of things," he said. Whelden said the most emotional problem is geographic isolation and the resultant lack of proximity to benefits.

He concluded his remarks by commending the community for previous AFAP success.

"APG is the one installation that is further down the road than anyone else," he said.

He was followed by Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG Garrison commander, who called the forum "extremely important."

He also commended "the folks out there who are doing the best they can with limited resources."

As a result of the previous symposium, Spidel said the Child Development Center in the Aberdeen Area opened eight more slots for the children of active duty members to meet the demand. He said the Post Exchange has decreased the number of vendors in front of the store entrance, in answer to those who felt the entry was too crowded.

Spidel said that of the 34 issues brought up at last year's forum, four went to the Department of the Army for further consideration, and 30 were considered local in scope. Of those APG issues, 25 were considered completed and

the other five still were being monitored. He added that a few of the issues could not be resolved as the panel suggested because of regulations.

"For example, no speed bumps are allowed on post," he said, although post residents can report speeders to the military police.

Also prohibited is an after duty-hours kennel, due to the high cost factor involved in planning and maintaining a designated area for dogs.

In regard to the seeming inconsistency between areas of post regarding civilian use of the Shoppette, Spidel said civilians in Edgewood are authorized to use the Shoppette for food purchase because otherwise there is no place on post for them to eat. Limited civilian use "is being studied," he added.

Spidel said those relocating to APG are often familiar with "innovative ideas from other posts." Stating he was "more than happy to listen," he suggested passing to him the name and number of who was doing it better, for follow up.

Delegates to the symposium were represented by both genders, covered several age groups, and included active duty officer and enlisted personnel, spouses, civilian employees, retirees and youths ages 12-17.

Delegates were assigned to four work groups to discuss issues and possible solutions to problems, under Community Activities, Community Support, Consumer Services and Health Services. Each group consisted of a facilitator, appropriate resource people, and at least 10 delegates. The youths also met together for one day of the symposium to cover issues relating to youth.

Denise Doesburg was one of those monitoring the work sessions throughout the three-day event. She noted "a lot of good issues are coming up," and commented that delegates seemed cognizant of funding issues, noting "redirection doesn't cost anything."

Over the course of the forum, the delegates brought up issues, discussed and narrowed the number of issues to a maximum of 10, and offered possible solutions. On the final day, each group briefed APG officials on what they covered.

## Participants' reaction

Overall reaction to the symposium was positive, with participants saying they were pleased that an effort was being made to address their concerns.

A military spouse for six months, Health Services delegate Deborah Norton said her initial reaction was to feel "intimidated," until she discovered that others who had been with the military for years had just as many questions. She observed that there seemed to be a real effort to ensure "delegate diversity."

Fellow group delegate Victoria Kost acknowledged the contributions of those new to the military, and said she felt the group was "getting down to work, and bringing up and relaying some real concerns."

Alfred Grein, Community Services delegate, said that although the process was "laborious" at times, participants "voiced legitimate concerns and asked for realistic solutions, keeping in

mind the budget constraints and cutbacks."

Youth delegate Theresa Jackson, experiencing her third seminar, observed teens willing to offer "a lot more input" than previous years, adding that more teens indicated an interest in participating this year.

Resource personnel remained with their assigned groups throughout the forum and welcomed the opportunity to address the issues.

## AAFES answers

Answering a delegate who stated that certain items were cheaper when purchased off post, Army and Air Force Exchange Service representative Catherine Jones explained price leaders, which are items advertised and sold at a loss to attract customers to buy higher priced items while in the store. She also mentioned that AAFES employs those who continually monitor prices at outside stores in order to remain competitive, and stated that the exchange is willing to meet the lowest price in the area.

Spidel monitored all of the groups on Wednesday, listening to concerns and speaking to delegates during their breaks.

Spidel was open to the invitation to attend Youth Council meetings. Youth delegate Cassandra Lampkin invited Spidel to attend the meetings to get a better feel for the concerns of teens.

## Community Activities

Results of the symposium are covered issue by issue as presented by each group. Community Activities chose Gregory Smith as their spokesman. He addressed three issues.

The first issue was how to deal with Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Non-Appropriated Funds staffing shortages, which limit the hours and enrollment at the Child Development Centers. The group suggested expanding the advertising for potential staff, and expediting the recruitment and placement of workers.

The limited availability of recreation for youth located in the Edgewood also was addressed. The group, made up of all adults, suggested surveying the youth for suggestions; adding a bus stop on post to take youth to county events, and activating a mobile unit to transport youth to the Aberdeen Area on a regular basis rather than only for special events.

The final issue was limited hours of operation for the Autocraft shop. Delegates said the shop is closed Mondays and Tuesdays, and asked that the shop be opened on Mondays for a trial period. The consensus was that the weekend projects that ran overtime could be completed on Monday, rather than waiting for an opportunity later in the week.

## Community Support

Alfred Green spoke for the Community Support group, which presented nine issues.

Concerning the perceived substandard permanent party quarters for soldiers who decline the fee for cable and cleaning service, the group suggested that garrison pay the service fee, allow the sponsoring units increased control, or allow soldiers to live off post.

Contractor quality control also was addressed, the consensus being that work often is not to

standard or completed in a timely manner. The delegates suggested instituting a customer feedback program with mail-in response cards, and enforcement of contract specifications.

Tick control could be achieved with carefully-controlled deer hunts closer to housing areas, a re-evaluation of the grass-cutting policy in populated areas, or spraying for ticks.

The group said unsupervised initial entry soldiers can be a traffic hazard, and asked that Army Regulation 350-6 be enforced. The regulation states that soldiers should be marched to their destinations. Delegates also suggested modifying the brigade procedure, if necessary, to include closer supervision.

Fire regulation 420-1 prohibits the burning of candles in the barracks. Participants ask that a distinction be made between permanent party soldiers and those here on a temporary basis. Stating that permanent party soldiers consider the quarters "their home" they ask that the policy be re-evaluated. They added that post residents in family quarters are not under the same "no candles" restriction.

The gate closure policy was also discussed. Suggestions include opening all gates 4:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., or turning the post into a restricted post. Spidel said the threat level is determined by the Department of Defense, and APG is in the "Alpha Phase," meaning one gate on each area of the post must remain closed. He added that he is short of police for gate monitoring, leaving him "limited options until the DoD changes the threat level."

A light at the corner of Rodman and Harford Roads was described as a nuisance light. Suggestions include eliminating the light, putting it on a timer for high traffic volume operation, or changing it to a flashing yellow.

A second light problem was brought up concerning the light at Maryland Boulevard and Darlington Road. The pond on Darlington is considered a hazard for drivers turning onto Darlington from Rodman. The group asked that a guard rail be put up or some kind of warning light be installed.

The final problem for the Community Support group involved marking Directorate of Public Works items so problems can be accurately reported and understood. The suggestion was to mark items such as street lights, so that DPW knows the exact location of the problem being reported.

## Consumer Services

The Consumer Services group covered three issues. Sean Marshall served as spokesman for the group.

There is no furniture store on post. Since furniture is often a high-ticket item, the consensus is that APG is missing out on MWR funds generated by potential sales. Suggestions included locating a store in the old PX building once the new facility is built, utilizing a vacant building in the Edgewood Area, or increasing the use of the Fort Meade shuttle program. The program involves identifying what is available from Fort Meade via catalog, item selection, and regular APG delivery days.

The second item addressed by the group was the lack of food

choices on Edgewood. The group agreed to concentrate on breakfast items, feeling this particular meal had the most potential for increasing sales. Delegates suggested increasing the items carried by Dunkin' Donuts to include more bagels, breakfast sandwiches and muffins, increasing the staffing of the store to decrease service time and expand the hours, and opening a new concession near the post barber shop and troop store.

The final suggestion was including a "Long Saturday" in the commissary schedule. Like the shopping schedule in Germany, delegates asked that the commissary schedule be arranged so that the first Saturday in the month following a payday include a three-hour expansion of business hours. Adjusting the 50-hour weekly schedule to accommodate the change and advertising the extra hours are suggestions for maximum effectiveness.

## Health Services

Health Services covered seven items that were presented by Bill Harrop.

Participants suggest instituting an outprocessing procedure that covers TRICARE/Dental benefits education. Many dependents do not know what is covered, the extent of their coverage, who to ask or where to go for answers.

Non-payment of TRICARE bills due to improper billing by employees can lead to inadequate patient care. Suggestions included adding employee training for code input, adding a line on the computer program that shows something was disapproved because of a code discrepancy which should lead to a correction, and an explanation on mailings as to why something was not paid so patients have a point from which to proceed.

Delegates discussed the lack of primary care manager choices in Region One. After they were informed that it is the only region in the continental U.S. that does not allow choice, participants asked that the contract be amended to allow latitude in choosing a primary care manager.

The Sierra benefits services lack effective and efficient customer service personnel. Suggestions included better and more thorough education for the phone representatives, operating under the same hours as the office hours, and making sure that all information is being constantly updated.

Representatives suggested re-evaluating the active duty military access standards in health care. Addressing the 24-hour magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) schedule at Walter Reed Army Medical Center which allows appointments throughout the day and night, participants felt the readiness issue could be redefined, or the government could pay the private sector for providing the services locally, in a timely manner, and at a reasonable hour.

The next issue addressed was the Army alcohol and drug prevention control briefing.

Suggestions include initiating two briefings, one geared toward a general audience and one for commanders. The commander briefing would include the most effective methods to enforce drug and alcohol compliance including tips on how to time and administer testing. The general briefing would not cover issues relating to command, just the policy and consequences of non-compliance.

The last issue was the lack of published off-limits areas for soldiers. The list should include those businesses that discriminate, and areas known as "hot spots" because of illegal activities such as drugs, prostitution and theft. No such list currently is posted, and the consensus was that there should be such a list.

## Youth issues

The final briefers were Theresa Jackson and Daniel Beasley of the Edgewood Area and Aberdeen Youth Centers. The youth representatives discussed four concerns.

The first was basketball courts. The courts at Patriot Village and Bayside Village need lights, and the grass is not as short as preferred. Both areas could be repaved, and Bayside needs replacement swings on the playground portion. Edgewood Area youth also would like to light the main playground, repave and paint the basketball court, and perhaps install cages around the power boxes that are nearby, to prevent children from playing on and around them.

The youth said they would like skateboard and bike tracks on both sides of post, and reminded attendees that the Edgewood Area has little in the way of recreation for youth.

The youth also said there is a problem for teens applying for a Maryland driver's license if neither parent possesses a Maryland license. Spidel said he would contact the appropriate authorities to rectify the situation.

The final request was for vending machines at the Aberdeen Youth Center. Delegates said that they cannot go to the Shoppette for snacks when at the center, and saw vending machines as a viable option.

After the group presentations, Doesburg commended the participants for their hard work and attitude throughout the three day symposium.

"Look at the mix of folks and look at the focus, he said. "The vast majority of issues concern taking care of others."

He pledged quick action on APG issues and follow-up on other issues. He urged participants to "stay in touch, and be our conscience."

"We will get back to you," he said.

The symposium ended with Installation Volunteer Coordinator Alice Surette being thanked for her diligence and hard work in arranging the symposium, recognition of facilitators and resource people, and a final pledge to work on the highlighted issues.

## SAFETY AWARENESS

### HOME SAFETY

Are you prepared if a minor injury occurs at home? The APG Division of Fire and Emergency services and the American College of Emergency Physicians suggests you make a home first aid kit including pain reliever, bandages, antibiotic ointment, and a first aid manual.

Keep your kit stocked at all times and be sure that everyone in your home knows where it is and how to use the items it contains.



Learn about handling an emergency by contacting the APG Division of Fire and Emergency Services at 410-306-0562.

## AMC Acquisition Center provides COR refresher training

The Army Materiel Command Acquisition Center provided four two-day contracting officer's representative refresher training classes to more than 600 people from April 12-22.

Taught by Cheryl Cretin, chief of the Yuma Contracting Division, the course covered general topics but quickly moved into the areas of most change and of primary interests to CORs.

Helen Morrison, acting director of the center, addressed each session with opening remarks stressing the importance of the role the COR plays in assisting the contracting officer in monitoring contract performance.

"The AMCAC depends on the technical community, working with the contracting officer, to ensure quality products and services will be provided," Morrison said.

Because recent acquisition reform has cre-

ated significant changes in the way the federal government does business, the refresher course, normally offered as a four- to eight-hour course, was expanded.

Cretin discussed market research, commercial items and the use of simplified acquisition procedures up to \$5 million, and writing performance-based statements of work using plain English. She also discussed contract administration and surveillance plans, how changes may be made to a contract and when to provide government-furnished property.

Throughout Cretin's presentation she provided the class with her experiences and lessons learned as they related to each topic. Her enthusiasm and deep interest in acquisition kept classes light, interesting and provoked a lot of interchange with her audience.

CORs who were not able to attend should sign up for the Internet-based COR Mentor Course at: <http://www.faionline.com/>. The cost for this course is free for this fiscal year. The course is 45 hours if all 18 "duties" are completed. Each training duty generates its own test and certificate.

The center recommended, as a minimum, technical assistance; administer government property; monitor performance; modifications; claims; remedies; and payment.

CORs should also read the AMCAC COR handbook dated March 1999. Copies will be provided to new CORs upon appointment; those enrolled in the refresher course can contact Elaine Smith, [esmith@apg-emh1.apg.army.mil](mailto:esmith@apg-emh1.apg.army.mil), or Rita Maclary, [rmaclar@apg-emh1.apg.army.mil](mailto:rmaclar@apg-emh1.apg.army.mil).



Photo by DAVE MAYOR

At left, a stream of foam from the aviation crash truck hits the overturned vehicle used in the drill. At right, a decon station uses children's swimming pools to clean firefighters returning from the chemical site. Below left, firefighters J.K. Williams and Harold Travers prepare to place protective booms on storm drains. Below right, the roll-over training trailer "Bottoms Up" is used to simulate an emergency.



Photo by LAMONT HARBISON

## 'Spill Drill' responders prepare

### SPILL, from front page

"In this scenario, we are simulating support from fire departments in Aberdeen, Level and Havre de Grace," said Bill Streaker of the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment, who works with the Fire Department on environmental issues and arranged to have Weavertown at APG.

"In a real emergency, we would need the assistance," added firefighter Harold Travers as he returned from the scene, sweating from the protective gear on the overcast but warm day. "We have learned that we would need more than 15 people to handle this."

The APG Fire Department has a mutual aid agreement with local volunteer fire companies to provide support when needed. The departments routinely back each other up when they are on calls elsewhere.

Also on hand for the drill as evaluators were Art Mayfield from the Spill Response Team, Maryland Department of the Environment; John Simpson from Harford County Hazardous Materials Team; and Keith Sinclair from Cecil County Emergency Services.

Fire officials cautioned all personnel never to approach a vehicle that has rolled over or is leaking. Activate the "9-1-1" system and let emergency responders who are trained to handle these emergencies perform their jobs.



Photo by LAMONT HARBISON



Photo by DAVE MAYOR

## Retirees get information on benefits

### RETIREE, from page 2

must have entered active duty prior to Jan. 1, 1971.

• Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Selected Reserves Chapter 1606: You must have a six-year obligation after June 30, 1985, and be a high school equivalency and complete initial active duty training. You must have satisfactory participation in a reserve unit. There are up to 36 months of entitlements available.

For additional information on any of these programs call toll-free 1-888-442-4551 or visit the Department of Veterans Affairs on the web at [www.va.gov/education](http://www.va.gov/education).