

# APG News

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## POST SHORTS

### Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Sept. 29, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



### Water restrictions lifted Wednesday

APG ended water restrictions on Wednesday. The post will continue to monitor stream flows and remain in close contact with state officials into the fall. APG officials encouraged everyone to continue practicing water conservation whenever possible, and thanked everyone for helping the post to surpass state conservation goals over the past two months.

### Clinic plans Organization Day

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be open limited hours on Sept. 24, during its Organization Day. The clinic will close at noon, and the Acute/Minor Illness Clinic will be open from noon-8 p.m. For appointments, call 1-888-999-5195.

KUSAHC will observe a training holiday on Oct. 8, and will be closed for the holiday Oct. 11; the A/MIC will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each of those days.

### AMSAA building to be dedicated

U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity will hold a building dedication on Sept. 23, 1:30 p.m. Building 392 will be dedicated in memory of Dr. Joseph Sperazza, founder and director of AMSAA for 12 years, who dedicated 38 years to government service. For details, call Jayne Lyons, 410-278-6614, or Kenneth V. Hilton, 410-278-3701.

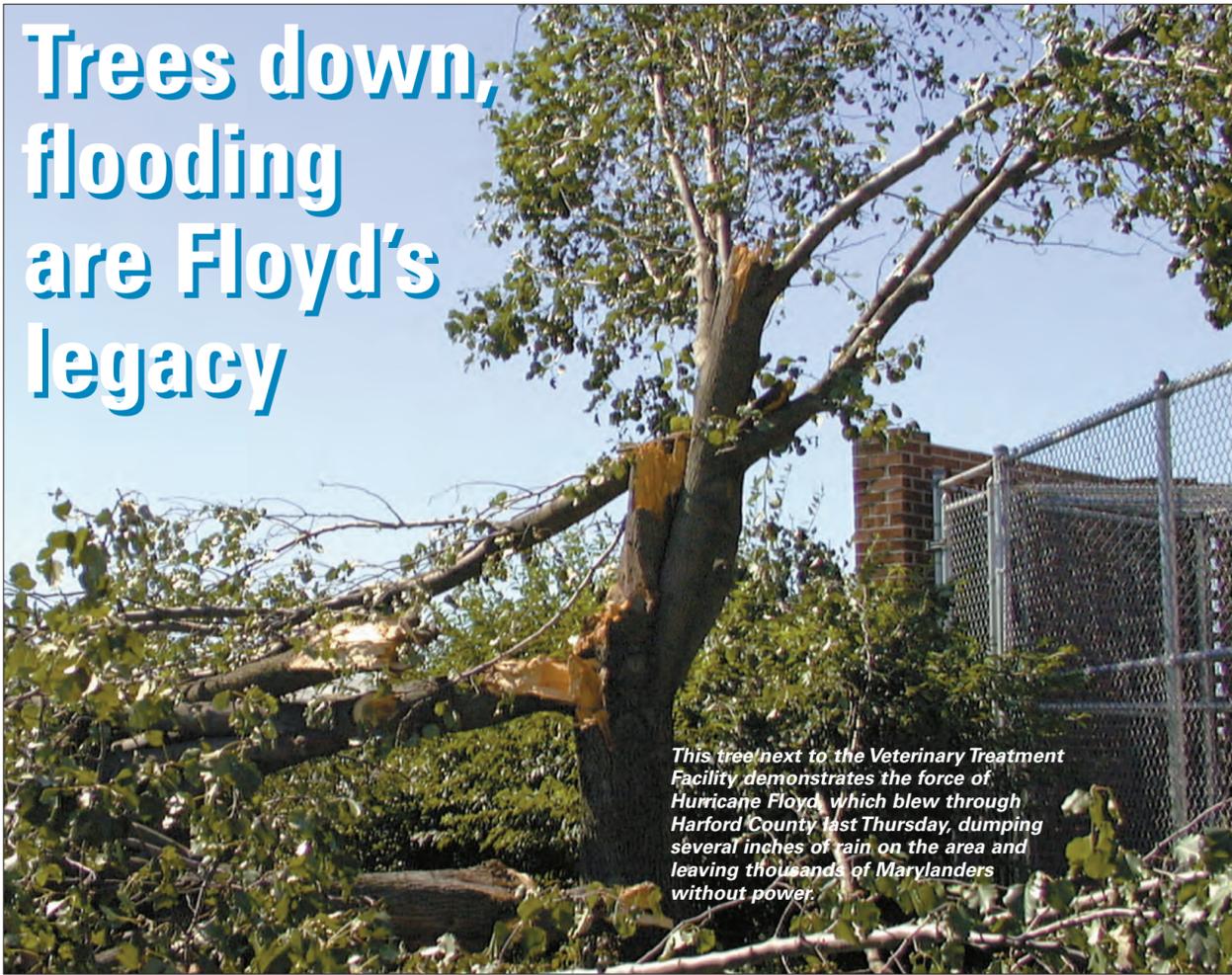
### Travel Fair set for Thursday

The APG Travel Fair will be held Sept. 23, 2-6 p.m., Aberdeen Area Recreation Center. The event will feature airlines, tours, local attractions, cruise lines and door prizes. For details, call the ITR Office, 410-278-4011.

### Commander's Cup to be presented

The 1999 Commander's Cup Awards will be presented Sept. 23, 7 p.m., at the APG  
*See SHORTS, page 2*

## Trees down, flooding are Floyd's legacy



*This tree next to the Veterinary Treatment Facility demonstrates the force of Hurricane Floyd, which blew through Harford County last Thursday, dumping several inches of rain on the area and leaving thousands of Marylanders without power.*

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

## Rain falls fast and furious on APG

By Yvonne Johnson and Karen Jolley Drewen  
*APG News*

Hurricane Floyd's fury is gone, and Aberdeen Proving Ground officials said the post weathered the storm well.

Barry Decker, operations specialist in the Directorate of Public Works, said the main damage reports were of downed trees, power lines and utility poles, and some flooding.

"One tree smashed through a pavilion in Woodpecker Point," Decker said. "Another damaged the roof and pulled down power lines at quarters 71."

Decker said APG soldiers were a great help to DPW personnel during cleanup efforts Friday where they worked on the golf courses, housing areas and barracks area.

Randy Moore, chief of the Community Recreation Division, said the golf courses were open for business on Friday, which was "a really nice day."

"The golf staff were out there first thing Friday morning clear-



Photo by DAVE MAYOR

*Ronnie Callender, on forklift, annual training coordinator for Swann Creek Inn, offloads mattresses as Spc. Anthony Johnson, right, supervises soldiers from 143rd Ordnance Battalion in setting up an emergency shelter at the Edgewood Area's Hoyle Gym.*

ing up the branches, and DPW got out there quickly to handle the big trees," Moore said.

Post residences weathered the storm well, said Gladys De Jesus,

chief of the Housing Division.

"We had the typical basement flooding, but everyone off post seemed to have that as well," she said. "On Thursday, the phones

were gone and the power was out in some areas. But then I came in Friday and it was business as usual."

*See FLOYD, page 4*



Photo by SPC. ADAM THORNTON

*Juan Mata, contracted mechanic, loosens bolts to the bell-housing of a two-and-a-half-ton truck engine as part of a refit operation for vehicles from 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Carson, Colo. The operation runs through September.*

## Improved Army truck gets OK for production

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON (Sept. 17, 1999) - The Army has authorized production of an improved version of a tactical truck that was initially fielded to soldiers almost three years ago.

Army Acquisition Executive Paul J. Hoepfer gave the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle truck contractor, Stewart and Stevenson Inc., the go-ahead Sept. 9 to produce an A1, or modified version of the truck, after prototypes successfully completed more than 90,000 miles of extensive testing at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The improved truck, which like the original model comes in two-and-a-half-ton (M1078A1) and five-ton (M1083A1) variants, features a more powerful diesel engine, a better transmission and brakes, added corrosion protection, computerized engine diag-

nostics, and beefier drive line engine/transmission/differential connection) components, according to Army officials. The A1 also has almost 40 additional upgrades, such as more durable seating material and cargo tarp, beefier door hinges, and reinforced sections that can be used as footholds to gain access to the cargo area.

"We're going to produce and field a truck with eight times the reliability, availability and maintainability of the old 'deuce-and-a-half' truck it replaces," said Hoepfer during a Sept. 9 press luncheon at the Pentagon. "We've got a truck we're proud to be buying for soldiers and I think the contractor is proud to be making it for soldiers."

More than 7,600 original-model (AO) FMTV trucks were produced and delivered to units Armywide since January 1996 as part of a \$1.4 billion, five-year

## TECOM prepares for move to ATEC

By Karen Jolley Drewen  
*APG News*

An event that is making history in the Army testing community may mean some minor changes for employees, but will be transparent for the customers of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, said TECOM Commander Brig. Gen. Dean Ertwine.

For the first time, all Army test organizations will be aligned in the same command, said Ertwine as his organization prepares to become the Developmental Test Command, which will fall under ATEC, the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, headquartered in Alexandria, Va.

"The transition should be transparent to our test customers and have little impact on the way our work force goes about the business of ensuring safe and reliable

*See TECOM, page 9*

## Golfers to take shot at \$20,000

By Karen Jolley Drewen  
*APG News*

Dozens of golfers will take a shot at \$20,000 on Saturday, as the proving ground hosts the "Shot of the Century" hole-in-one contest at Ruggles Golf Course.

The community is invited to watch as the golfers, selected in a drawing last Saturday, tee up for a chance to win \$1,000 for getting the ball within six inches of the cup, and \$20,000 for a hole-in-one.

"This is a great opportunity for the golf program to give a little something back to our patrons," said Randy Moore, chief of the Community Recreation Division, noting that free beverages and food will be available. "We're going to open the driving range with complimentary range balls from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m."

The event will kick off at about  
*See GOLF, page 9*

## APG Pollution Prevention Fact of the Week

The United States is the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide; emissions are still rising steadily.



It will take decades before China and other rapidly growing economies reach our levels of carbon dioxide pollution per person.

Statistics provided by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

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

# Don't let yard waste go to waste - compost it

By Lori A. Davis  
U.S. Army Environmental Center

In the fall, children love to make piles of leaves and jump into the fluffy mounds of orange, yellow and brown. Although they don't realize it, they have taken the first step toward developing a valuable resource - compost.

Composting is a biological process during which naturally occurring microorganisms convert organic waste, such as yard trimmings, into a product suitable for mulching, fertilizing or conditioning soil, according to George Teachman, a soil scientist at the U.S. Army Environmental Center.

Adding compost to soil helps retain moisture and make soil easier to till. Plants grow better because the soil has more nutrients and there is less need for chemical fertilizers.

While starting a compost pile is a bit more involved than raking leaves into a pile, the whole project is not much more complex.

## Getting started

The most low-tech compost pile can be a simple pile of organ-

COMPOST TROUBLESHOOTING		
Symptom	Problem	Solution
Bad odor	Not enough air	Turn the pile
Dry center	Not enough water	Add water while turning the pile
Damp and warm	Pile is too small	Add more material to center of pile
Damp, sweet-smelling but not warm	Lack of nitrogen	Mix in nitrogen source (wet green material)

ic material, but that can be messy and unattractive. A simple compost bin can be made from wooden stakes and chicken wire, or an inexpensive plastic collapsible compost bin can be purchased at most garden stores. These kinds of bins are good for families who move every few years and don't need a permanent structure.

However, if you want to make a large amount of compost, the best way to manage the material is in a sturdy wooden box with a large side opening. You will need that opening to reach in to stir the

compost, and to transplant it to your garden.

When you have selected your compost container, choose a level spot of about three square feet near a water source and preferably out of direct sunlight. Clear the area of sod and grass. The compost bin should not be placed directly on the ground because it will need ventilation from the bottom, said David Lorenz, a plant material specialist for USAEC. A good base for the bin would be a wooden palette, or logs covered by chicken wire.

The three most important components in any compost pile are moisture, oxygen and temperature. An ideal diet for the microorganisms consists of a carbon source (dry, brown material such as leaves and dead weeds) and about one-half to one-third as much of a nitrogen source (wet, green material like grass clippings and plants), Teachman said. Add successive layers of this organic material if possible, but during seasons when dry, brown material is not available, compost may still be made with only wet, green plant material.

Sprinkle water on the pile after adding each layer of organic material so that the pile maintains the consistency of a squeezed-out sponge, but is not soggy, he said. Also, regularly aerate the pile by turning it and mixing the old layers with the new layers; by poking holes in the pile; or by burying a perforated pipe in the pile to supply a constant stream of fresh air.

Yard debris such as tree branches should be chipped before being added to a compost bin so that it will decompose faster. If a large quantity of

chipped wood is added to the compost, it is a good idea to add a small amount of fertilizer to increase the level of nitrogen, Teachman said.

You can speed up the composting process by chopping large material into smaller pieces, keeping the pile moist, and frequently turning the pile.

When composting is completed, the resulting soil will appear as a dark, crumbly material uniform in texture.

The compost pile should begin cooking once it is established and should feel warm to the touch. A carefully maintained compost pile can turn waste into compost in as little as six weeks.

## What can and can't be composted?

Most organic materials are acceptable for use as compost, including grass clippings, leaves, coffee grounds and filters, shredded woody yard waste and sawdust, wool and cotton rags, and manure from herbivorous animals, such as cows, horses, sheep and chickens. Many foods can be

composted as well, but meats, grease and dairy products should be omitted because they cause odors and attract pests.

Nonorganic materials cannot be composted. They include Styrofoam, metal, plastic, and charcoal or coal ashes are not suitable for composting. Other materials that should not be composted are diseased plants, noxious weeds and pet wastes, which may contain disease.

According to the U.S. Composting Council, the United States generates 180 million tons of solid waste each year, a figure that has more than doubled in the past 30 years. This pace is rapidly taking over the nation's landfills, and new sites are difficult to create because of environmental requirements and community objections.

In fact, two-thirds of America's landfills have closed since 1970, and one-third of the remaining landfills will close in five years.

Composting is not only an excellent way to increase crop production and promote healthier flower gardens, it reduces the strain on the nation's landfills.

## POST SHORTS

### SHORTS, from front page

Athletic Center. The winner of this year's award, presented for intramural sports participation, is E Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion. The runner-up trophy will be presented to the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment. Awards also will be given for Unit Sportsmanship and to the Unit Sports Representative of the year. The 1998/1999 Commanders Cup competition began with soccer and ended with softball. The Harford County Chamber of Commerce has provided sponsorship for this award since its inception. For more information, call Marni K. Allison, APG sports director, 410-278-4497.

### Workshop can help with transition

A Transition Workshop will be held Sept. 28-30, to offer training and assistance for active-duty military personnel who are retiring or leaving the service. Days one and two cover resume preparation, interview and job search techniques. Day three features briefings on separation. The workshop will be held at building 2752, the Army Community Service Career Focus Center, room 210, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Spouses are welcome. Call 410-278-9669 to register.

### Learn about NCO-ER changes

Master Sgt. Danny J. Griffin, a Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report (NCO-ER) System analyst from the Department of the Army Personnel Command's Evaluations Department, will present an NCO-ER System information briefing for all personnel who have the responsibility as a rater, senior rater, or reviewer in the NCO-ER process on Tuesday, Sept. 28, at the Aberdeen Area from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Post Theater, building 3245; and from 2-3:30 p.m. at the EA Conference Center Auditorium, building E-4810. The briefing will cover procedural changes to AR 623-205 (Enlisted Evaluation Reporting System), and rating chain responsibilities. For details call Sgt. Maj. Daniel Sweeney, 410-278-2952.

### Monthly RAB meeting scheduled

The Restoration Advisory Board for the Installation Restoration Program will meet Thursday, Sept. 30, 7-9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic will be the Westwood Study Area. Board meetings are open to the public. For information, call 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

### Drop off old latex paint

Harford County residents, including those who live on post, can drop off latex paint on Saturday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Harford Waste Disposal Center at Scarboro Landfill, 3241 Scarboro Rd., Street. The paint should be usable and in labeled, closed contain-

## CA Update

**Q:** In both of his TV announcements in the last two weeks, Col. Robert J. Spidel mentioned that there would be no RIF [reduction in force] effective before mid-April next year. Does that mean that we won't begin the RIF process, RIF letters won't be issued or that no one will have to be off the rolls by then?

**A:** Due to the current delays which are part of the CA process, the mid-April 2000 date to which Colonel Spidel referred, is the earliest in which APG Garrison could implement a RIF effective date. The actual RIF mechanics (which would be run by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center) and the RIF letters to employees could occur prior to that date, but given the time it will take to run the RIF mechanics and allowing the 120 days employees will receive upon receipt of RIF letters, the earliest that there could be a RIF effective date (the date employees would have to be off the rolls) would be mid-April 2000.

### CA Hotline

Q&A's and Updates!

## (410) 278-9461

Available  
**24 HOURS**  
a day

Call us if you have any questions or concerns or would like an update on current CA processes, activities, or briefings. Also visit our CA Web Page for answers to Hotline questions and updated information: [www.apg.army.mil/ca.html](http://www.apg.army.mil/ca.html)

ers. Paint is donated to The Loading Dock, a non-profit building material recycler. For details, call the Harford County Office of Recycling, 410-638-3417.

### Missing government property

A biofeedback/electromyography machine is missing from Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. The machine is an Amatron, serial number 725013509, MMCN C5743. If you have information about this machine, contact Sgt. Jonathan Stapel, 410-278-1951/1953.

### Donate platelets in White Marsh

For those who donated platelets at the APG Apheresis Center, or

those who want to donate, the White Marsh Apheresis Center is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. For appointments, call 800-272-2123, x4472.

### Spouse Abuse Resource Center donations

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (B.O.S.S.) members are collecting items for the Harford County Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC). Personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste and disposable diapers are needed. Persons wishing to contribute may contact their unit BOSS representative or drop off items at the Aberdeen and Edgewood Recreation Centers.

### Thrift Shop seeks manager, donating funds

The Aberdeen Area Thrift Shop is accepting applications for manager through Sept. 30. Retail and personnel experience is preferred. For information, stop by the shop on Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m., or Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; call the shop at 410-272-8572; or contact Moira Kearney, 410-297-9614.

The shop also will donate funds this fall. If your group or organization would like to receive a donation, submit your request, in writing, by Nov. 1 to: Aberdeen Area Thrift Shop, Building 2458, ATTN: L. Conway, APG, MD 21005. State the purpose for the funds and provide a name and phone number of a contact person.

### Blue Cross rep to visit APG

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

### Sign up for gift wrapping

Sign up for the 1999 Christmas Gift Wrap Program, sponsored by Army and Air Force Exchange Service. All APG family support groups, non-profit organizations and volunteer activities affiliated with APG are eligible to participate. Those interested must contact Alice Surette, installation volunteer coordinator, 410-278-5469, by Oct. 26. Each organization must send a representative to a meeting. AAFES provides wrapping paper, boxes and an area to wrap at the Main Post Exchange. Organizations and activities provide labor, tape, scissors and ribbon and receive all money the group earns. Wrapping starts the day after Thanksgiving and runs through Christmas Eve.

# APG News

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

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# Make all your travel plans at APG Recreation Center

By Yvonne Johnson  
APG News

Travel patrons soon will have a more convenient location to process paperwork or request assistance, thanks to the much-anticipated opening of the new APG Travel Center. Construction is under way at the APG Recreation Center. The center is due to open in mid-October.

The new facility, which will be home to the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office, Carlson-Wagonlit Travel's official and leisure travel offices, and the APG Garrison Transportation Division, officially opens Oct. 18.

Leisure Travel Center director Chris Lockhart said the office has been hoping for the move for the past five years.

"Since Carlson-Wagonlit took over from SATO in 1995, our goal has been to move everything into a 'one-stop-shop' concept," Lockhart said.

Today, she explained, patrons must use one or both of the travel offices in buildings 3320 and 3321, both World War II-era buildings, to complete official or leisure travel transactions. In October, they will be able to conduct all travel business in one modern facility.

"So many people go on temporary duty, and some combine leave and include their families," said Donna LeBlanc, Carlson-Wagonlit branch supervisor. "Now, they can get official and leisure travel in the same place."

Randy Moore, chief of the Community

Recreation Division, said his organization is excited about the new facility.

"This is a fantastic new program and travel opportunity for patrons," he said. "A one-stop service in a public facility with easier access will benefit the community and makes sense from a tactical customer service approach."

Those who want to try out "travel shopping" at the Recreation Center can attend Thursday's Travel Fair in the ballroom from 2-6 p.m. Moore said 35 vendors will bring brochures and travel information about local tourist locations, amusement parks, historical sites and vacation packages.

"This will be Carlson's fifth annual Travel Fair," Moore said. "And this year, USAir is raffling off tickets as well."

Barbara Higdon, APG Garrison Transportation Division chief, explained that the main purpose of the move was to have one location for all types of travel services.

"Now we will have two different directorates providing similar services under one roof," Higdon said. "This is in line with the new reorganization taking place within the garrison."

Trish Mullin, Carlson-Wagonlit district manager who oversees operations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland, said the integration of the three offices will go a long way toward providing "travel service excellence" to customers.

"It is to the advantage of the installation as

See TRAVEL, page 4

# Community Notes

## FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24

### LONGABERGER BASKET BINGO

The Meadowvale Elementary PTA will sponsor Longaberger Basket Bingo at 7 p.m., at the Aberdeen Fire Hall on Rogers Street. Doors open at 6 p.m.; there will be a bake sale and drinks are available. For tickets, call Meg Wloczewski, 410-939-5048, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332. If available, tickets will be sold at the door. Proceeds benefit Meadowvale Elementary School PTA.

## SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25

### ABERDEEN HERITAGE DAY

The Aberdeen Heritage Trust Committee and City of Aberdeen will sponsor Aberdeen Heritage Day, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The special day-long event features a pancake breakfast at Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School from 8-10 a.m., craft and artisan displays, entertainment for all ages, an antique car display and an apple pie judging contest and more. For more information, call Aberdeen City Hall, 410-272-1600.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

Steppingstone Museum will hold its Fall Harvest Festival from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The event, which continues Sunday, will feature scarecrow stuffing, apple butter making, pumpkin painting, apple bobbing, craft booths, hay rides, pony rides, apple cider pressing, a 4-H petting zoo and pie contests. Entertainment will feature county music, dancing and a storyteller. Admission is \$5 for adults, free for children ages 12 and under. For more information and directions, call 410-939-2299.

## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26

### BWI AIRPORT RUN

The 13th annual BWI Airport Run and Family Walk will be held at 8:45 a.m. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Kennedy Krieger Institute Down Syndrome Clinic and local Down Syndrome parent support groups. The USATF-certified course on the tarmacs of BWI Airport and Northrop Grumman allows 5K race participants and 3K family walkers an exciting view of take-offs and landings. For information, call 410-993-RUNN (7866) or visit [www.kennedykrieger.org](http://www.kennedykrieger.org).

## MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27

### NARFE MONTHLY MEETING

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Bel Air Chapter 1770, will hold its Fall Monthly Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Bel Air United Methodist Church on Linwood Avenue and Main Street. The meeting will be held in the Armstrong Community Center. Entrance to the Community Center is on the lower level. All federal employees and retirees are invited to attend. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the meeting.

## GAS MASK DASH



Sponsored by Matcom Credit Union

1999

Mark your calendars for Sept. 23, 5:30 p.m., to participate in the 17th Annual Gas Mask Dash to be held at the Edgewood Area. A gas mask is not required for the event, said organizer Bill Blewett; in fact, only one person has been known to run the event in a gas mask.

"Apparently, once was enough!" he said.

Proceeds go to the Chemical Corps Regimental Association and Chemical Corps Museum; over the years, those donations total about \$10,000.

Sponsors include the MATCOM Federal Credit Union, the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, and the Renaissance All-Sports Athletic Club. The APG Garrison Community Recreation Division also is a supporter of this event.

For additional information, contact either Bill Ahearn (410-436-8066 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) or Bill Blewett (410-879-2168 evenings).

## TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 28

### HISPANIC LUNCHEON

There will be a Hispanic American Luncheon at the Top of Bay at 11:30 a.m. Gil Coronado, director of Selective Service, will be the guest speaker. Cost is \$8.95. The event sold out last year, so get your tickets soon. For more information, call Sfc. Shelton Torbert, 410-278-1534.

## THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30

### MASSAGETHERAPY

The APG Committee for the Disabled is hosting a special presentation on massage therapy from 2-4 p.m. at Top of the Bay. Joanna Herrmann, a nationally certified massage therapist from the Center for Holistic Healing in Bel Air, will speak about the benefits of massage therapy and relaxation therapy as alternative approaches to good health. This presentation is open to all APG employees. No reservations are required. For information, see your organization's representative for the APG Committee for the Disabled, or call Angela Cheek, 410-278-1140.

### RAB MEETING

The Restoration Advisory Board for the Installation Restoration Program will meet from 7-9:45 p.m. at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic will be the Westwood Study Area. Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and local citizens are invited. For information, call 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 1

### 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. All WAAC, WAC, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and those serving in the Army today or honorably discharged are invited. Call 410-272-5040 for more information.

### COUNTRY DANCING

Country western dancing will be held at American Legion Post 128 in Aberdeen. Beginner Cha Cha will be held at 8:15 p.m., with intermediate lessons at 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 for non-members, \$8 for members, and includes draft beer, soda, chips and pretzels.

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 2

### BAKE SALE

Maryland Freestate Chapter 70 of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association will hold a bake sale/raffle at the APG Main Post Exchange from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Three baskets will be raffled. Tickets for the raffle cost \$1 each; you need not be present to win. Call 410-272-5040 for information.

### CASTING KIDS

Youths ages 7-14 can learn fishing skills and cast for prizes at the "Cast, Pitch and Flip" contest, sponsored by the Onotok Bass Outfitters Club, held at the Onotok Bass Outfitters Bass Tackle Pro Shop at 2057 Pulaski Highway, North East, Md., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and will continue Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Rods and reels will be provided. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information call Karl Bunch, 410-272-6940.

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 8

### LONGABERGER BASKET BINGO

The Harford County Humane Society will sponsor Longaberger Basket Bingo at 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Fire Hall on Rogers Street. Doors open at 6 p.m. For tickets, call Doris Hoppers, 410-939-2055, Joan Bain, 410-272-1391, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

## MWR UPDATE

### Bow hunting classes scheduled

APG will host Bowman's Certification Classes Sept. 27 and Oct. 1, 6-10 p.m. Both will be held in building 5445, room 213. This certification is recognized throughout the United States and in parts of Europe. The final bowman's seminar of the season will be held Sept. 26, 10 a.m., at the bow range on Combat Drive. For information, contact Outdoor Recreation, 410-278-4124/5789.

### Hunter Safety Classes scheduled

Edgewood Area Hunter Safety Classes will be presented in building E-4733 (Deer Station) on the following dates: Monday, Sept. 27, 6-9 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 29, 6-9 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 1, 6-9 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$5. Call 410-278-4124 to register for the class.

### Chesapeake Challenge open on weekends

Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park is located off Springfield Road, behind the APG Commissary, and is open Fridays, 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Saturdays, 1 p.m.-midnight, and Sundays, 1-8 p.m. Ride the go-karts for \$3 for five minutes, or bat in the cages for 50 cents for 12 balls, baseball or softball. Bring a friend and challenge them to 18 holes of miniature golf, for \$3 per person, \$1 for ages 5 and under. For the go-karts, you must be over 54 inches tall to drive. The park has two-seaters for those who don't meet the height requirement. Watch for upcoming specials in October for half-priced go-kart rides and half-priced miniature golf.

If you would like to schedule a party or other special event call 410-278-9920.

### Edgewood Arts and Crafts Center has classes

**Woodshop orientation:** A basic woodshop orientation will be held Saturday, Oct. 2, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$3 user fee. This class is required to work in the woodshop.

**Porcelain Doll Class:** A beginning Porcelain Doll class will begin Oct. 7 and will continue Oct. 14 and 21, 5-8 p.m. Students will make the Sugar Britches doll. Cost is \$30 plus supplies.

**Ceramics class:** A beginning ceramics class will be held Oct. 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$7 plus supplies. The craft shop has more than 500 molds to pour and a wide selection of bisqueware, greenware, paints and brushes for sale. This is an introductory class in mold-pouring ceramics and will give a basic understanding of how to get started.

**Stained glass:** A beginning stained glass class will be held Oct.

16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Students will make a suncatcher using the copper foil method. This basic class teaches the skill you need to make larger projects. Cost is \$15 and includes supplies.

**Framing class:** A beginning matting and framing class will be held Oct. 28, 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.

**Custom framing:** The center does quality custom framing at reasonable prices.

**Hours:** The center is open Thursdays, 1-9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Stop by building E-4440 or call 410-436-2153 for information.

### Join a bowling league

Bowling leagues start soon for adults and youths. Call Jeff Peterson or Margie Giles for information, 410-278-4041/2084.

### Lunch-time Cosmic Bowling special

Cosmic Bowling is held every Wednesday in September, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Gather your friends and co-workers hit the APG Bowling Center for lunch on Wednesdays in September, and try Cosmic Bowling for only \$1.75 per game. The game features music, lights, glow-in-the-dark pins and balls. The Snack Bar offers weekly lunch specials. Fall hours at the center are: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-midnight; Saturday, noon-1 a.m., and Sunday (starting Sept. 19), noon-7 p.m. Call for specials available for parties and events, 410-278-4041/2084.

### Aberdeen fitness center offers health help

The Aberdeen Area Health and Fitness Center in building 320 is a full-service facility with daily step aerobics, toning and kickbox aerobics classes and one-on-one training. The center is open Monday-Thursday, 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m., Friday, 5:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon. For details, call 410-278-9725/9759.

### EA Health and Fitness Center

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

## MOVIES

### THE WOOD

Friday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

Starring: Omar Epps, Taye Diggs

A wedding groom with prenuptial jitters and his two best friends reminisce about growing up in Inglewood, Calif. The film captures the mood of the '80s era through the powerful beats and lyrics of some of the decade's most memorable hip-hop music. (Rated R)

### DEEP BLUE SEA

Saturday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.

Starring: Samuel L. Jackson, Stellan Skarsgard

A team of scientist and crew members of the floating laboratory Aquatica have been experimenting on sharks. Now, the sharks are more intelligent and powerful, and the team members find themselves being stalked. (Rated R)

### THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT

Saturday, Sept. 25, 9 p.m.

Starring: Heather Donahue, Michael Williams, Joshua Leonard

Three film students travel to Maryland's Black Hills Forest to shoot a documentary about a local urban legend, the Blair Witch, and never come back. One year later, the students' film and video are found in the woods, and compiled into a movie. (Rated R)

## LIBRARY CORNER

The APG Garrison Library has the following new books for your reading pleasure:

**1001 Ingenious Gardening Ideas;**  
**The Control Revolution: How the Internet is Putting Individuals in Charge and Changing the World We Know,** by Andrew L. Shapiro;  
**Home Security: Your Guide to Protecting Your Family,** by James A. Hufnagel;  
**Internet Power Searching,** by Phil Bradley;  
**Stylish One-Dish Dinners,** by Linda West Eckhardt;  
**What Did I Just Say!?: How New Insights into Childhood Thinking can Help You Communicate More Effectively with Your Child,** by Denis M. Donovan.

### Hours

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

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

## SAFETY AWARENESS

### Bystander care

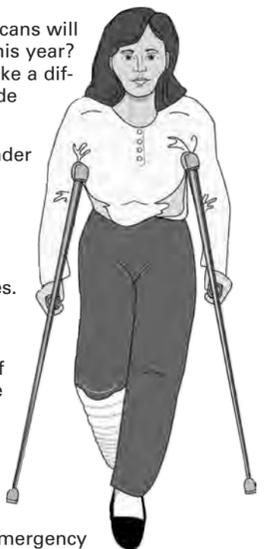
Did you know one in three Americans will visit an emergency department this year? When seconds count you can make a difference by learning how to provide emergency roadside assistance.

Learn the five elements of bystander care:

- Recognize an emergency;
- Stop to help;
- Start the breathing;
- Stop the bleeding;
- Call Emergency Medical Services.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Division of Fire and Emergency Services and American College of Emergency Physicians encourage you to make a commitment to practice injury prevention and learn about bystander care. Remember, you can make a difference for life.

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



## LEAVE DONATION

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

Michael Alexander (wife has cancer);  
Barbara Breithaupt (multiple sclerosis);  
Bonnie Bromley (liver transplant);  
Alberta Brown (mother ill);  
Daniel Brown (father has emphysema);  
Tammy Budkey  
Melda Callendar;  
Sheila Cassidy (mother has cancer);  
Dawn Crouse (surgery);  
William Edwards (back surgery);  
Willa Freisheim  
Stephen Howard (Bone Marrow Transplant);  
Judy Hunt (arthropathy);  
Lilly "Kitty" Johnson (surgery);  
Marlin Julian (heart surgery);  
Sharen Kaylor (eye surgery);  
Jennifer Keetley (maternity);  
Tracey Kerney (surgery);  
Beverly King (caring for husband);  
Lucy Long;  
Connie LaFlamme;  
Sherrie Laury (heart problems);  
Dolores "Dee" McGrogan (back problems);  
Susan Naccarato (carpal tunnel syndrome);  
Mary Pettway;  
Barbara Carol Remines (surgery);  
Michael Reynolds;  
Churon Ringgold (maternity);  
Mary Lee Samples (lymphoma cancer);  
Sherry Schaffer;  
Richard Squillacioti (Terson Syndrome);  
Walter Taylor (auto accident);  
Lavonne Telsee (caring for daughter);  
Joseph Walker (Wife has cancer);  
Cecelia Walton (respiration problems);  
Kenneth Weathers (medical);  
Willie Williams.

# Emergency plans fall into place as storm reaches APG

**FLOYD, from front page**

She attributed the quick recovery to "a wonderful team effort."

"The storm was coming and everyone was in place to respond," she said. "It seemed like there was nothing we couldn't handle."

The Emergency Operations Center was activated Wednesday afternoon, as post officials prepared to deal with the aftermath of the storm. Emergency shelters were set up in the APG Athletic Center and the Edgewood Area's Hoyle Gym in anticipation of displaced personnel, with soldiers and civilians scrambling to prepare sleeping areas for local residents displaced by the storm.

"They began Wednesday night and worked into Thursday morning," said Carol Lamp, chief of the Unaccompanied Personnel Housing and Furnishings Management Branch. "We stayed all day during the storm, but fortunately, no one was displaced."

Lamp said the branch provided beds, blankets, sheets and pillows for the shelters.

"These are items we keep in stock to support the barracks, family housing and officers quarters," Lamp said, adding that she was especially grateful to warehouse workers Danny Jones, Steve Fazebaker and Ronnie Callender, who spent Wednesday evening moving beds.

Soldiers from the 143rd Ordnance Battalion worked through the rain Thursday morning, unpacking mattresses and making up beds at Hoyle Gym. SSgt. Bridget Sealy, A Company, assisted by Spc. Anthony Johnson, B Company, supervised 45 soldiers who worked through pouring rain and driving wind.

"Ordinarily, these soldiers would be in the field," Sealy said. "So their attitudes are pretty good and all the activity keeps them from worrying about the storm."

"They've been at it since 8:30," Johnson added. "We'll set up 48 beds today and have more ready if they're needed."

Pvt. Nancy Jacobsen, A Company, said she was glad to help prepare a place for those who might need a warm place to stay.

"I'm glad I've got a place to stay and I'm glad to help with this one," Jacobsen said. "Now I can tell my kids what I did during Hurricane Floyd."



Photo by KAREN JOLLEY DREWEN

**Col. Robert J. Spidel, center, deputy installation commander, discusses emergency plans with Tim McNamara, left, director of safety, health and environment, and Bob Silcox, director of plans, training and mobilization, after the post closed Thursday at noon.**



Photo by ROGER PARKS

**Quarters 71 on Hopkins Loop in the Aberdeen Area was damaged by a tree that fell during Hurricane Floyd, taking power lines with it. Winds were reported at 60 mph when the damage occurred.**



Photo by DAVE MAYOR

**Soldiers from 143rd Ordnance Battalion carry boxed mattresses into Hoyle Gym as part of emergency shelter preparations during Hurricane Floyd. Swan Creek's unaccompanied personnel housing and furnishings management branch provided beds, mattresses, blankets, pillows, sheets and pillowcases for emergency shelters in AA/EA during Hurricane Floyd.**



Photo by MARGUERITE TOWSON

**Hurricane Floyd stopped this traffic light at the intersection of Harford Boulevard and Rodman Road. Most damage on post was confined to trees, downed power lines and one home on Hopkins Loop.**

## Travel Fair slated for Sept. 23; new center will consolidate APG travel services

**TRAVEL, from page 2**

well as the customer," Mullin said, noting that of the \$9 million generated through official travel transactions in the past year, 2 percent has gone back into installation accounts.

During a tour of the new site, Joyce Founds, Recreation Center director, said the area under construction for the center once was a game room.

"We consolidated activities into other areas, moving the pool tables into the lounge and snack bar area," Founds said. "The soldiers actually like it better now that they don't have as far to go for refreshments."

Lockhart explained that the transition from the old offices to the new site will be done gradually, with little interruption in service.

"We will have to close on Friday, October 15, but other than that our hours will remain the same," Lockhart said.

ITR, Carlson-Wagonlit and the Transportation Division currently are located in buildings 3320 and 3321.

For information concerning the upcoming move to the APG Recreation Center, contact Chris Lockhart at 410-278-4011.

## AROUND THE ARMY

## Guard helps North Carolina recover from hurricane

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Sept. 20, 1999) — As Hurricane Floyd hit North Carolina last week, a National Guard soldier used his raincoat to drag an expecting mother under fallen power lines so police could rush her to the hospital.

That effort by Sgt. Scott Bloemers was one of many rescues by National Guard troops along the East Coast during the height of the storm and its waterlogged wake.

Soldiers in New Jersey and North Carolina used trucks and helicopters to rescue hundreds of people from rooftops and buildings that were surrounded by rising water. By Friday, more than 2,100 Army and Air Guard troops were on state active duty in North Carolina, where the storm hit the United States hardest, 561 were on duty in New Jersey, and 925 were called up in New York state, according to the National Guard Bureau.

Those numbers brought the week's total to more than 10,800 National Guard troops called out in eight eastern states to help civil authorities deal with one of the largest storms to ever threaten this country. North Carolina Army Guard Maj. Barney Barnhill called cooperation between agencies involved "tremendous."

"Everyone is mission focused," he said. "I haven't heard anybody say 'This is not our job.' Everybody is doing what they can to help."

That included a massive search and rescue mission by about 30 military helicopters along the North Carolina coast, said Maj. Robert Jones, that state's National Guard spokesman.

Helicopters from the Coast Guard, the Navy, the active Army at Fort Bragg and from four states carried stranded people to safety and looked for others who needed their help. Tennessee, Georgia and Florida each sent two Army Guard Black Hawks to reinforce North Carolina's fleet of utility helicopters.

"Everything that's not an Apache [attack helicopter] is out there flying," Jones explained.

A Blackhawk helicopter from the Tennessee Army National Guard's Medical Detachment responded to a call to pick up a pregnant woman in labor at the new Hanover Airport in Wilmington, NC. Flooding precluded ground ambulance travel. From her local medical center in Doshier, N.C., to the New Hanover Hospital.

The crew, flying with night vision goggles, helped deliver the baby in the air. Twenty feet from the ground and 30 seconds prior to touch down the woman gave birth to Samantha Nichole in the helicopter.

In another incident, Sgt. Larry Dever, a medic with the North Carolina National Guard, administered CPR to a heart attack victim at a high school being used as an evacuation shelter for 700. During the same day,

Dever aided a nurse on duty who went into a diabetic coma. He helped administer an airway procedure to revive the nurse.

North Carolina Air Guard members, meanwhile, flew in 33,000 cases of Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) in three C-130 cargo planes for flood victims, and others erected a tent town for 80 people near the Wilmington airport, Jones added.

Forty-nine of the state's armories were opened so Guard members could help the people afflicted in the flooded region between Interstate 95 and the coast.

New Jersey Guard members focused their efforts in the northern part of that state where eight inches of rain overflowed river basins and where floods were expected to crest Friday afternoon and evening, explained SSgt. Ray Martyniuk.

"We are geared up for extended operations into the weekend," said Martyniuk on Friday morning after Guard members had already rescued hundreds of Garden State residents including 100 senior citizens from a nursing home in East Brunswick.

Virginia Guard soldiers were tasked with helping to provide Portsmouth with bottled water. Flooding and power failures shut down that southern coastal city's water supply system which serves 110,000 people.

(Master Sgt. Bob Haskell is a member of the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office.)

## Army teams move in behind Floyd

Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Sept. 16, 1999) — As Hurricane Floyd storms up the eastern seaboard, teams from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are moving into areas behind the storm to begin preliminary damage assessment, distribute ice, provide emergency power and initiate recovery operations.

In addition, the Corps' North Atlantic Division is preparing to meet the storm.

The Corps is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on \$2.5 million in emergency preparation and recovery mission assignments. The Corps' South Atlantic Division, with headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., — and district offices in Charleston, S.C.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Mobile, Ala.; Savannah, Ga., and Wilmington, N.C., — is coordinating efforts from Florida through North Carolina. The North Atlantic Division coordinates support for Virginia north through New England.

Missions include activating and deploying teams to purchase and distribute 300,000 pounds of ice. 100,000 pounds will be shipped to Dobbins Air Force Base, near Atlanta, Ga., and 200,000 pounds to Shaw Air Force Base, near Columbia, S.C. The ice will be moved to distribution areas as directed by FEMA. A FEMA mission for an additional 400,000 pounds of ice is on hold pending what Hurricane Floyd does today.

A team from the Corps' 249th Engineering Battalion

(Prime Power) is at Fort Gillem, Ga., near Atlanta, preparing 280 generators prepositioned there. The generators will be deployed to support FEMA requests for emergency power for key facilities such as hospitals, shelters, and water plants.

The Corps is performing debris and structural damage assessments along the path of Hurricane Floyd to assist federal, state and local planners, open key routes, clear roads and protect homes and businesses. Both satellite and on-scene reconnaissance is performed to focus relief efforts, officials said. They explained that beach and shoreline erosion also will be studied.

In the North Atlantic Division, emergency staffs are preparing for Hurricane Floyd's passage. The Division will coordinate contracting for ice, water, debris removal, etc. as directed by FEMA. The Corps' New York District provided 10,000 sand bags to the New York City Department of Transportation for use in flooded areas; 10,000 sand bags for Orange County; 5,000 sand bags to Nassau, Suffolk and Rockland Counties.

The Corps also is prepared to assess and open navigation channels in Atlantic seaboard harbors and the Intercoastal Waterway, if necessary, officials said. Corps teams will assess dredging requirements as the storm passes; officials said, and they are prepared to react to requests for levee and dam inspections throughout affected areas.

## Insurer, Army cooperate in legal settlement

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Sept. 20, 1999) - As the result of a court-adjudicated settlement that was made between the U.S. government and two life insurance companies last year, 79 individuals, including Army members, have received premium refunds totaling \$50,305.

The federal government had filed suit against The Trans World Assurance Company, San Mateo, Calif.; and American Fidelity Life Insurance Company, Pensacola, Fla. Last year, the suit was brought before the U.S. District Court in Tacoma, Wash.

As part of the court settlement agreement made Dec. 3, 1998, both companies were judged innocent of having committed

illegal acts or violated laws while selling life insurance policies to some customers, including service members stationed stateside and overseas, according to a U.S. Army Legal Services Agency memorandum.

The government maintained during the course of litigation that the insurance companies had committed illegal acts.

Additionally, the Army memorandum states that the president of the Trans World Assurance Company has taken the following steps in order for his company to fulfill its obligations under the settlement agreement:

- Agents have been instructed to fully explain and provide a copy of the executed Statement of Understanding to each purchaser at the point of sale;

- Agents who sell in the military market were retrained on all military regulations concerning insurance sales practices and the consequences for any violations. TWA said it is prepared to fire agents who are repeat violators of the regulations;

- The company continues to cooperate with the Florida Department of Insurance in resolving policy reinstatement and premium retention issues, commonly referred to as Account 10101 issues. Any allocated money will be refunded to payers who can be located through the exercise of due diligence. Any non-remitted funds, thereafter, will be paid to the State of Florida or other appropriate entity;

- The company has remitted premiums totaling \$50,305 to 79

individuals who applied for a refund. There were 215 military personnel eligible for a refund of their premiums pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreement.

Some military personnel are taking their grievances against the insurance companies to civil court. In California, three coast guard members have filed a class action lawsuit against Trans World Assurance Company and American Fidelity Life Insurance Company, seeking reimbursement of premiums paid and damages, according to their attorney. The lawsuit, the attorney said, comes up in court this month.

## AROUND THE ARMY

# 'Army Knowledge Online' provides storehouse of information at web site

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Sept. 10, 1999) - In a month or so, authorized users will be a mouse click away from accessing the Army's internal web site.

When established, "Army Knowledge Online," the Army's Intranet, will give active-duty and reserve soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, retirees and other authorized users a secure, computer-accessed ability to communicate worldwide and obtain access to a storehouse of information, said AKO Program Manager Maj. Charles A. Wells.

Currently undergoing testing, AKO was developed by the Army's Strategic and Advanced Computing Center in the Pentagon, which falls under the Office of the Director for Command, Control, Communications and Computers.

The concept of AKO was initiated in 1996, said Wells, by then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis J. Reimer.

"AKO began as a communications project up in the General Officer Management Office [in the Pentagon]," said Wells. "General Reimer used it to collaborate with his general officers; they could email each other and conduct online 'chats.'"

"The senior Army leadership liked the system so much that they wanted to use it for the whole Army."

The vast majority of AKO content, said Wells, is service member-specific, linked to worldwide Army command homepages. Authorized users will be able to log on and electronically "surf" for information, such as the quality of life at future duty stations to include local attractions, cost-of-living and schools. A plethora of other information, such as weather, travel, and service news, would also be available.

"When you see the site, the content will be 'Army content,' said Wells. "This won't be information we've thought up and put on the system ... we're collecting information to be made available at one location for internal consumption."

"We've had the public web site, the Army Homepage, which basically tells the Army story to the world, for quite awhile ... AKO is the other side of the coin; it is the Army's 'private' web site, which provides Army-specific information for the Army."

Wells said AKO also includes an internal, computerized, combination address/phone book/"yellow pages" information directory for soldiers and other authorized users.

"One of its features is a 'people search' to locate and contact other soldiers and DA civilians," he said. "You can also search all web servers in the army.mil domain to look for information and documents," he said. "This is a knowledge-management project, and that knowledge comes from people."

AKO will also enable users to share knowledge quickly via encrypted email accounts, said Wells. In a smaller and much-deployed post-Cold War Army, that ability becomes invaluable.

"Why are we doing this? Well, yesterday we had a very straightforward threat; we knew who the enemy was and we had a lot of detailed plans to stop an attack in central Europe. Today we are faced with a variety of challenges ... everything from regional instabilities, economic dangers, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. How are we going to accomplish all of these missions with a much-smaller force?"

"The senior Army leadership sees knowledge management as a key tool to accomplish that. We

can work more effectively with fewer personnel. As soldiers travel to new jobs around the world, we can have more continuity within the Army if they share their knowledge with others. We want to capture knowledge from that soldier who has been on the job for 18-24 months and share it with the rest of the Army," he said.

That shared knowledge, however, could be of interest to those who would use it to the Army's disadvantage, such as espionage agents, said Wells. That, he said, is why AKO will be a safeguarded, protected and monitored information conduit.

Contrasted with the current Army Homepage, which is open to the general public through the Internet, Wells said AKO is available only to those with an Army-approved user ID and password.

"In order to get to The Army Portal [for AKO] you have to get an account [consisting of] user ID and password. In order to qualify for that, you have to be working for the Army as an active duty or reserve component soldier, as a DA civilian, a retiree, and some contractors on a case-by-case basis," he said.

There are currently 27,000 registered users for AKO, said Wells, who noted that for the past two years the system has been in limited usage for general officers, other senior leaders, and selected officer year groups using the site for Career Field Designation.

Wells said AKO would expand to 50,000 [users] in Fiscal Year 2000. When The Army Portal debuts in the next few weeks, it will provide additional features such as the ability for users to individually 'tailor' their site by placing preferred topics 'up front' on the page.

"If I decide, in order to help me do my job, that I need to obtain the latest information about Fort Huachuca and Bosnia over a peri-

od of time, I can customize my page to always have this information," said Wells.

AKO is "a communication, collaboration, and interaction vehicle," said Lt. Col. W. Addison Woods, the director of the Army's Strategic and Advanced Computing Center in the Pentagon.

"We have a lot of really great web sites and knowledge management efforts around the Army," he said. "One central [AKO] portal at the headquarters level gives us the capability to harness all of that good work to make it an information multiplier for the Army community."

Wells said AKO users would be able to log on at home or at work.

"When I log on at my house, or anywhere in the world, I'll get the same [AKO] page and it is all protected, using encryption and the user ID and password," he said.

Harnessing the benefits of knowledge management via AKO enhances readiness, said Army Webmaster Christopher Unger.

"We've gotten a lot of benefit by training enroute to a mission; we are now communicating enroute, so when you PCS, you are not 'out of the loop' for that week or so," said Unger. "You can check your Army [AKO] email on your laptop or on a friend's computer."

"To be able to communicate at all times gives the Army a tremendous amount of flexibility. Informational awareness is just as important in the institutional (headquarters) Army as informational dominance is for warfighters on the battlefield," he concluded.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about "Army Knowledge Online," visit the public web site at <http://www.army.mil/ako>, or to apply for an AKO account, go to <http://www.army.mil> and click on "I'm a new user.")*

## PET OF THE WEEK



Photo by DAVE MAYOR

### Friendly Feline

**Every cat has nine lives. You can give this friendly female kitten 10! This and other animals are available for adoption at the Post Veterinary Treatment Facility. You do not have to be active-duty military to adopt animals. For details, call 410-278-3911.**

## AROUND THE ARMY

# Army works 'bugs' out of FMTV

**TRUCK, from front page**

use more "off-the-shelf" components and commercial technology for its new trucks.

FMTVs are manufactured according to military performance specifications, but the contractor selects and assembles the commercial-source components, according to Army officials. This more efficient process enables the Army to purchase more trucks at less cost to taxpayers. FMTV trucks have also been engineered to make them easier to airlift during deployments, with some models specifically designed for air-drop.

Officials note that FMTVs have proven to be one of the Army's most durable pieces of equipment with a 97 percent operational readiness rate. However, the first batch of FMTVs had some "bugs" that needed to be worked out. Last year, the Army sent out a March 10 message, restricting the speed of original-model two-and-a-half-ton FMTVs to 30 mph after three non-fatal accidents involving those models were reported in close succession. That message was later expanded to include five-ton FMTVs.

A total of 11 accidents — all involving no injury or minor injury and involving original-model FMTV trucks — have been reported since fielding, said Army

officials.

Army and contractor officials found that the initial model's drive line was susceptible to vertical flexing and vibration when the vehicle was lightly loaded and driven above 50 mph on paved highways for long distances. Resultant vibration-induced stress on u-joints connecting the transmission to the drive shaft caused the drive shaft to break off in three accidents cited, officials said.

Original-model FMTV trucks are now being retrofitted in the field with sturdier u-joints, larger-diameter drive shafts, and a stronger flywheel housing, said Army officials. Retrofits have been completed on trucks in Korea, and Fort Carson, Colo., and the job is 25 percent complete involving a total of 500 vehicles in Hawaii. Work to retrofit 2,600 trucks at Fort Bragg, N.C., is scheduled to start in October.

Other FMTV retrofit operations are scheduled at Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Hood, Texas; and Fort Lewis, Wash.

"The approach we've taken is much like that of recall [campaigns] of commercial [auto] manufacturers," said Lt. Gen. Paul J. Kern, the military deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the

Army for Research and Development.

The new A1 truck features the drive line improvements and other upgrades such as better brakes, a smoother, seven-speed automatic transmission, increased engine size and horsepower, and more, said Kern.

Many FMTV improvements were made according to input from soldiers in the field, said Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Mitchell, a support maintenance officer with U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg. Mitchell, who is Ranger-qualified, was asked to travel to Aberdeen to suggest improvements for the FMTV. Outside the Pentagon after the luncheon, press members were able to inspect a partially upgraded FMTV fresh from testing at Aberdeen with 25,000 miles on its odometer.

Mitchell helped to explain the vehicle to the press. Later, he climbed up into the cab and sat behind the wheel.

"I came up here to tell people about some of the [FMTV] problems which needed to be fixed," said Mitchell. "The modifications, without a doubt, have gone a long way to improve the vehicle."

FMTV Program Manager Col. Robert B. Lees was on hand to explain the improved truck to the press. Soldiers should start receiv-



Photo by GERRY J. GILMORE

**Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Mitchell, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., checks out a manual while sitting in the cab of an FMTV truck parked outside the Pentagon during a Sept. 9 press briefing.**

ing the A1 in March, he said.

Between now and July, said officials, Stewart and Stevenson will produce more than 1,500 A1s — at a cost between \$130,000-\$320,000 a copy, depending upon the type of truck and configuration — at its Sealy, Texas plant.

"We addressed the users' issues over the past two months and [improvements] will be manufactured-in at the plant," said Lees. One of Mitchell's suggestions — a reinforced rear tail light assembly that can be used by soldiers as a foothold to climb up into the

cargo area at the rear of the truck — will be implemented.

"It doesn't affect critical mission performance, but it affects soldiers' confidence in the vehicle," said Lees. "It is an item that makes the truck more comfortable to soldiers in the field."

## AROUND THE ARMY

## BATTLE OF BANDS

## Fort Eustis R&amp;B group 'Social Crew' wins top honors

By Marcia L. Klein  
U.S. Army Community and Family Center

Rattling cymbals instead of sabers and aiming guitars instead of guns, 11 of the best bands in the Army duelled fiercely on a muddy field of honor at this year's Battle of Bands held Sept. 6-12 at Fort Eustis, Va.

The final tough decision of the three music industry judges gave the Best of Battle award to the polished rhythm and blues group, Social Crew, from 7th Transportation Group, Fort Eustis.

The seven-member Social Crew, also top in the R&B category, earned a total \$10,500 for the Eustis Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and Morale, Welfare and Recreation entertainment programs.

Three other bands took home individual honors and cash awards for their installations in country,

Latin and rock and roll. There were no jazz groups entered this year. Eight musicians and four vocalists were also recognized for outstanding performances during the Battle.

Although Social Crew was mentioned as a possible winner by members of other bands even before the awards breakfast Sept. 12, all three judges commented on the expertise shown during the two nights of the contest.

"The level of competition has been pretty fierce this year," said producer Will Severin, a third-time judge for the Battle and a guitarist and songwriter who has recorded for Warner/Chapel Music. "I think some of the musicianship level is higher this year than in previous years."

"It's been very good, very consistent," echoed Mickey Baker, a second-time judge and music pro-



Photos by MARCIA L. KLEIN

**Spc. Robert Lowery, lead vocalist with rock band Damaged Goods, was named one of the top four vocalists at this year's Battle of Bands. Spc. Kevin Kutch is on rhythm guitar in the background. Their group was named the best rock band at the competition, taking \$2,500 back to 415th BSB, U.S. Army Europe, Kaiserslautern, Germany.**

ducer and associate of such recording artists as AC-DC, Ray Charles, Dolly Parton and Frank Sinatra. "That's a point to being professional; whether you're a professional soldier or a professional musician, you look for consistency (along with musical talent)."

For Social Crew, it was a sweet victory to achieve on their home turf where they could savor it with family and friends. They were also grateful for the interaction with other bands.

"You learn a lot from the other guys and vice versa," said drummer and vocalist Staff Sgt. DeAngelo Bailey, Social Crew. "You (get to) sit down and exchange ideas and techniques."

The bands also had a chance to learn from professionals during a workshop Friday morning with the World Classic Rockers, a group of musicians from such 60s and 70s bands as Toto, Steppenwolf, Foreigner and Wings. The Rockers performed Saturday night after the completion of the Battle.

The annual Army Entertainment Division Battle of Bands competition is a Morale, Welfare and Recreation activity of U.S. Army Community and Family Center and is co-sponsored by BOSS.

[For more information about this program contact Cordell Hall at (703)806-5250/DSN 761; e-mail hallc@hoffman-cfsc.army.mil]



**Grupo K-Liente took cash and glory back home once again to Forces Command's Fort Hood, Texas. The group was chosen best Latin group at the annual Battle of Bands, Sept. 6-12 at Fort Eustis, Va. The group was last year's overall winner at the Battle. Keyboardist Sgt. Francis Sanchez was chosen one of the eight top instrumentalists at the Battle.**



**Spc. Linda Robinson, vocalist with Social Crew, chosen Best of this year's Battle of Bands, gets that groove thing going the first night of the competition at Fort Eustis, Va. Social Crew not only was named best of the 11 bands performing, it also took best Rhythm & Blues band, representing Training and Doctrine Command's Fort Eustis. Robinson was also recognized as one of the Battle's top four vocalists and asked to perform with one of two USA Express soldier show bands touring this winter.**

# TECOM to be rededicated as DTC on Sept. 29

**TECOM, from front page**  
equipment for the American soldier," Ertwine said.

The general noted that TECOM's mission will remain the same.

"We will continue to provide developmental testing and test engineering services for our cus-

## Hole-in-one could win \$20,000 for golfer

**GOLF, from front page**  
9:45 a.m., with comments from the commanding general, and representatives from the Department of the Army's Community and Family Support Center.

"This is a customer appreciation day, to thank them for all the support that we've gotten throughout the year," said Marc Williams, golf director.

This is the first year for the "Shot of the Century, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund event, sponsored with First USA Bank and Budweiser. The event will give out up to \$1 million at installations across the nation.

The golfers who qualified for "Shot of the Century" include John Oblinger, Karl Saul, Bob Owens, James Hull, Tracy Mize, Steve Hinch, Stephen Lightbody, Manuel Dallago, Louis Delicio, Mike Caggino, Larry Simpson, Danny Paul Jones, David Marsh, M.M. Spicer, Many Tufuga, Mike Ferry, Rickie Cannon, Dave Brooks, Jim Wagner, Bill Niemeyer, Jon Gregory, Fred Campbell, Ed Perri, Tom Bowman, Arnold Newman, Patrick Hinch, Fran Mirabelle, Dave Gogue, Steven Hinch,

## Harford County Job Fair planned Oct. 15

The Harford County Job Fair will be held Oct. 15 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The fair is open only to Aberdeen Proving Ground personnel from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; the public is welcome to attend from 2:30-6 p.m. The event, which organizers consider one of the most successful partnerships between APG and the community, has been held since 1988.

The fair, which is supported by the Directorate of Community and Family Activities, is sponsored by the Army Community Service Career Focus Center and Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; Harford County Office of Economic Development; Harford County Chamber of Commerce; Harford Community College; Open Doors; Susquehanna Region Private Industry Council; and Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Registration.

Attendees are encouraged to dress for an interview and bring a resume. For help with resumes, preparing for interviews or seeking employment, call the APG Career Focus Center, 410-278-9669.

tomers," he said, noting that DTC will continue as the Army's leader in test technology development, to include modeling and simulation testing. "We will continue to provide safety releases before equipment goes into the hands of soldiers, and safety confirmations to support the milestone decision

Harold Smith, Thomas Resau, Ken Bruce, Donald Drane, Joe Iacovelli, Doug Rinehart, Brad Dawson, Dan Adamack, Ivy Roberson III, John Aljets, Norm Phillips, Marcello Vache, Gale Armstrong, George Hartwig, Fred Mason, Mike Aljets, David Thinkle, Steve Carbone, Harvey Lee, Tanya Shoff, Merlin Erickson, Suzanne Delicio, Dave Bird, Vicki Simpson, Frank Garbinski, Bill Smith, Pat Sheldon, Dan Van Coskie, Bill Kegley, Kevin Morland, Zane Fleming, Stefan Buitron, Wayne Doyel, Edwin Delacruz, Dan Kirk, Jack Jolley, Brad Drewen and Charles Nietubicz.

review process; and we will continue our installation management oversight of the test centers at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, and Dugway Proving Ground, Utah."

The commanders of those installations and TECOM's other four test centers, as well as current and past TECOM employees, will gather at a ceremony in front of the Ryan Building on Sept. 29, 4 p.m., to mark this milestone event. Traffic will be rerouted around the Ryan Building during the ceremony; post personnel driving in the area should watch for detours.

On Oct. 1, DTC officially will leave its home for 37 years as a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Materiel Command and become part of ATEC, a two-star command that reports directly to the Army vice chief of staff. That ceremony will be held Oct. 1, 10 a.m., at Fort Myer, Va. ATEC will merge the Army's developmental and operational testers and evaluators, creating a command that supports the testing process from the concept stages to fielded equipment.

"The new command expects to gain some efficiencies from this

**"The transition should be transparent to our test customers."**

**Brig. Gen. Dean Ertwine**  
*TECOM commander*

combination, for example, the shared use of instrumentation at ranges and proving grounds. However, in consolidating and streamlining, we will ensure we safeguard the independence of operational testing," Ertwine said, noting that the challenge is to preserve that independence while maintaining the strong business relationship between the developmental testers and their customers.

"For years, TECOM/DTC has been an active partner in the developmental process," he said. "We have worked closely with project managers, program executive offices and AMC R&D centers to become an integral part of the developmental team. We have matured a strong business relationship with the Army's develop-

mental community."

As the name implies, developmental testing takes equipment through the early stages, a creative process where many ideas and innovations are suggested, rejected or incorporated. Operational testing takes the product to the field, where testers, often soldiers, try it out in a real-world scenario.

"Operational testing is intended to provide independent, objective testing before equipment is fielded," Ertwine said. "Therefore, operational testers are not partners with the developmental community in the sense as is TECOM/DTC.

"As with any change, much of the work force is anxious as to how this realignment may affect our day-to-day work environment," Ertwine added. "But we feel our current organization is still the right one to support our mission."

Good news for TECOM employees is that everyone will remain at APG. The Ryan Building will maintain a 28-person ATEC Headquarters cell, staffed by some current TECOM personnel, and 10 positions were transferred to the U.S. Army

Soldier and Biological Chemical Command to help SBCCOM support the garrison functions it picked up when the SBCCOM commander received the post commander mission, a role previously held by the TECOM commander.

Ertwine added that the merger also took into consideration concerns from TECOM personnel, many of whom have worked at TECOM for several decades. He emphasized that no APG jobs were lost in the consolidation, and no one was forced to move away from the installation.

"The TECOM work force at APG was kept up-to-date on plans through monthly town hall meetings," Ertwine said, noting that the DTC structure will remain similar, except for some minor changes in the Directorate for Test and Technology.

"That directorate is being restructured to better align three divisions with the test customer base," he said.

Ertwine said he has assured these customers that they will continue to receive the same professional testing support that TECOM has provided for the past 37 years.

## YOUTH UPDATE

### Aberdeen Area Youth Services

#### Dance classes start soon

The Aberdeen Youth Center has spaces in the following dance classes for ballet tap and jazz:

<b>Monday</b>	4:30-5:30 p.m.	Ages 3-5	Ballet and jazz
	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Ages 3-5	Ballet and jazz
	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Ages 5-7	Tap
<b>Tuesday:</b>	4:30-5:30 p.m.	Ages 6-12	Ballet
	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Ages 6-12	Jazz
	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Ages 6-12	Jazz
	7:30-8:30 p.m.	Ages 6-12	Tap
<b>Thursday:</b>	4:30-5:30 p.m.	Ages 13 & up	Lyrical/Ballet
	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Ages 13 & up	Jazz
	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Ages 13 & up	Tap

Cost is \$65 for the year. The program started this week.

#### Opening for gymnastics

There are spaces for the Saturday Gymnastic classes:

- 9-10 a.m. for ages 2 1/2-4
- 10-11 a.m. for ages 5-7
- 11 a.m.-noon for ages 8 and up

The cost is \$35 per 10-week session. The program started Sept. 18. Limited spaces are available; register soon.

#### How to register

All fees must be paid at registration, which is held at the Aberdeen Youth Center, building 2522. The center is located at the corner of Bayside Drive and Harford Boulevard (near Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and next to the APG Shoppette).

The point of contact for sport activities is Bill Kegley, 410-278-9544/4995.

### Edgewood Area Youth Services

#### New computer labs available

The Edgewood Youth Center is making two new Computer Lab programs available to all members:

- Middle School Mathematics, for grades 6,7 and 8, is designed to tutor youth who want to accelerate their knowledge of or are having problems with middle school math. Trained youth center staff are available to assist members.

- The Internet and Your Family, during the week of Oct. 19, is designed to introduce the Internet as a family unit, providing wholesome fun and education in a family environment.

For more information and to reserve a space, call 410-436-2862/2098. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first-served basis.

## Youths can develop positive image

The Aberdeen Area Youth Center will introduce youths to "Project Image," a new program that will teach basic modeling techniques.

Classes will be held that the center on Saturdays, Oct. 2-23, 6-8 p.m. The class will emphasize good grooming habits, posture, grace, poise, proper presentation, model walking, execution of hand positions, pivoting, stage performance and talent preparation.

The cost is \$20 for the session and is limited to the first 12 registrants, ages 12-18. There may be more sessions based on demand.

For details or registration, call Annette Isaac, 410-278-9062/4995.

**Want the latest post news?**



**Listen to the APG REPORT on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 7:08 a.m. and 4:08 p.m., on Aberdeen's WAMD radio station, 970 AM.**

## AROUND THE ARMY

# Army gets Hammer Award for energy management

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON (Sept. 14, 1999) - Military and civilian employees from three Army organizations that helped save millions in energy dollars were honored with a prestigious award Sept. 9.

The "Army Energy Team" received Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award from Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera at a Pentagon ceremony. The Hammer is awarded to government organizations that have achieved greater efficiencies in the course of doing business.

Consisting of action officers from the U.S. Army Logistics Integration Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, the energy team has been credited for achieving a 23.5 percent reduction in Army facility energy consumption from 1992-98, said Caldera.

Army Energy Team efforts during that period, he said, translate into \$1.4 billion in savings to taxpayers.

"Through [the Energy Team's] leadership, diligence and enthusiasm, the Army has gained distinction within the Department of Defense and throughout the federal government, for effective management of the energy conservation program," said Caldera, who added that Army energy conservation efforts have saved \$2.1 billion since 1985.

The Army Energy Team, said Caldera, directly assists Armywide energy cost savings efforts by conducting on-site technical analyses, evaluations, and installation-specific energy awareness seminars.

"These efforts enhance command support for energy awareness and conservation throughout the Army," he said.

## Submit photos for USO contest

The USO of Metropolitan Washington is still accepting submissions for a photography contest open to all military ID card holders. The winning shot will be featured on the cover of USO-Metro's 2000 Guide to Washington. More than 75,000 copies of this fact-filled publication are distributed annually, and credit will be given in the Guide to the photographer who submits the winning shot.

Submissions (including name, phone number and address of photographer, as well as a description of the picture) may be mailed to:

October is Energy Awareness Month, and the Army has sought to reduce its energy consumption for some time, said Grant R. Keath, an Army Energy Team leader representing the LIA.

"We've had an energy program and goals set forth [to reduce consumption] since 1975," Keath said.

Modern equipment that requires less energy to operate and automatic lighting/air conditioning/heating monitoring and control systems have helped Army energy conservation efforts in recent years, Keath said. However, he said, it is still important for people to be aware of the need for energy conservation practices.

"A lot of energy savings is gained through new technology, but [energy savings] is a combination of technology and awareness; if you build something and it is not used properly, then that technology doesn't save you anything," Keath said.

Other members of the Army Energy Team include:

Maj. Ted C. Phairas, LIA;  
James L. Campbell, LIA;  
Jeffrey L. Hager, LIA;  
Maj. James R. Hann, LIA;  
Maj. (retired) Lawrence R. Hall, LIA;  
Harry Goradia, Corps of Engineers;  
John R. Lanzarone, Corps of Engineers;  
James B. Paton, Corps of Engineers;  
Roger E. Cundiff, Corps of Engineers;  
Joe A. McCarty, Corps of Engineers;  
Andrew M. Jackson, Corps of Engineers;  
Maj. (retired) Susan L. McDonald, Corps of Engineers;  
Kaiser Z. Toor, Installation Management;  
Satish K. Sharma, Installation Management;  
and, John J. Krajewski, Installation Management.

USO-Metro Photography Contest

Attention: Beth  
204 Lee Ave., Room B-9  
Fort Myer, VA 22211

The deadline for submissions is Oct. 15. The winner will be notified by Nov. 1. A negative or slide must be provided to USO-Metro by the winner, but will be returned to the photographer with a copy of the guide.

For more information and guidelines, call 703-696-2628.