

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, March 21, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



Beef and Burgundy cancelled

Beef and Burgundy, originally scheduled for March 21, is cancelled due to lack of participation.

Army Emergency Relief campaign

The Army Emergency Relief campaign will run through May 31. This non-profit program endeavors to ease financial hardships experienced by Army family members. Ninety-five cents of every dollar donated to AER can be used for such things as food expenses, rent, utilities, travel emergencies, etc. Maj. Clifton Johnston, commander of Headquarters Support Troop is this year's chairman and can be reached at 410-278-2104.

Disability committee presentation

APG Committee for the Disabled is sponsoring the presentation "Life As A Blind Person," by Patricia Maurer, Director of Community Services for the National Federation of the Blind at Top of the Bay on Thursday, March 22, at 2:30 p.m. She will be discussing her life and the work of the NFB. Mrs. Maurer, who is blind and married to a man who is blind, has taught sighted elementary school children and directed a life skills program for adults who are blind. Presentation is free of charge and open to the entire APG Community.

USFHP briefings at Dickson Hall

Johns Hopkins Medicine will hold briefings on the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan, a TRICARE Prime designated provider. Briefings will be held at the Ball Conference Center in Dickson Hall, building 3074, on Tuesday, March 20, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Dependents of active duty families, retirees and their dependents and survivors are encouraged to attend to learn about choices for medical services.

EA Thrift Shop

After being closed for three weeks the EA Thrift Shop is again open for business in our

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AEC science night

TRICARE Senior

Pharmacy Program



Photo by Jeannie Skillman

Students learn ways to clean up an oil spill

From left, Christopher Ewing, Craig Merk, Christopher Merk, and Megan Ewing practice containment of a mini oil spill as Deborah Elliott from the U.S. Army Environmental Center explains various ways to clean up an oil spill. The hands-on experiment was part of Science Night at the Edgewood Elementary School.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Staff Sgt. Mark Weimer, kneeling, and Sgt. 1st Class David Sharp, standing, paint a hallway at the St. Johns' Towers in Havre de Grace.

ANCOC class paints the 'towers' in Havre de Grace

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

When members of the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course class 09-01 made their choice of which community project to perform, they picked the most challenging one available.

Recently, 15 NCOs descended on the St. Johns' Towers, a high-rise apartment community in Havre de Grace, to paint the old and peeling hallways on six floors.

Armed with paint buckets, brushes and rollers, the NCOs began about 8 a.m. and finished less than 6 hours later.

Class leader, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Wittle said the project saved the community a "hefty contractor

fee" and brightened the lives of the building's residents.

"Everyone who came out and saw what we were doing stopped to thank us," Wittle said, "although some weren't too crazy about the colors."

The Harford County Commission provided pastel pink and green paint and supplies, and the residents supplied sodas and snacks for the soldier in the building's day room.

"They lined the floors with newspaper for us so all we had to do was paint," Wittle said adding that the building had not been painted in 15 years.

"We've got a good class that

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IAM & AW Lodge 2424 recognized for cooperation and increased membership

By Sheila Little
APG News

Local Lodge 2424 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers played host to Eastern Territory representatives Feb. 27, who came to the area to see the work being accomplished by local workers, tour a portion of the installation, and award the local union for increasing membership by 22 percent over last year.

Representatives of the IAM&AW's Eastern Territory headquarters in Cincinnati, Baltimore representatives, and local union officials visited the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center and observed an Abrams tank maneuver over a washboard and conquer a 60 percent slope, viewed an ammunition processing plant which processes ammunition for tank guns and track vehicles, heard a briefing on the procedures used to test weapons, and visited welding and machine shops and track and wheeled vehicle repair bays.

The IAM&AW leadership expressed appreciation for the opportunity to visit the job site of some of their membership and familiarize themselves some of jobs union workers hold at APG.

After the ATC tour, the union tour group met with Col. Robert J. Spidel, garrison commander and deputy installation commander, in the garrison headquarters building, before a final stop at the local lodge headquarters for an award presentation.

"The last several years has been pretty tough here," Spidel said, as he addressed the union leadership. "But I'm enormously proud of the workforce and appreciate the support and cooperation I've

received from the union."

Spidel said that considering the lack of information in many instances, and adaptations that were required, the workforce displayed patience and a great ability to adapt to change.

Spidel said that even facing Hurricane Floyd, snow storms, extreme heat and drought situations and budget problems, the workforce has consistently come through, and successfully dealt with every situation.

"It's been a good relationship, with a focus on keeping the installation running and our Army strong," Spidel said.

Warren L. Mart, general vice president of the IAM&AW, thanked Spidel and Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, installation commander and commander of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, for their hospitality and their efforts to promote a successful working relationship between the union, the employees, and their APG employers.

"We're very proud of the relationship with APG," Mart said, adding that the leadership of APG has consistently "done the right thing instead of the easy thing."

"It takes two to have a good relationship," Mart said. "Thank you for the informative tour, and for your efforts in working with us to promote a good relationship," Mart said. "I'm hoping it becomes even better," he added.

Spidel, who will leave his position in mid-summer, assured the group that the good working relationship that the installation and union enjoy, should

See LODGE 2424, page 5



Photo by SHEILA LITTLE

Tom Buettner, president of Lodge 2424 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, accepts a plaque from Warren L. Mart, eastern territory general vice president, acknowledging the local union's recent successful membership campaign as other union officials look on. From the left, Henry Scott, business representative, Stanley Short, grand lodge representative, Tom Buettner, Warren L. Mart, Paul Jones, vice president of Lodge 2424, Terry Parker, secretary and treasurer of Lodge 2424, Jim Lauter, grand lodge representative, and Vickie Fultonberger, directing business representative. Due to the efforts of Lodge 2424, local membership increased by 22 percent.

POST SHORTS

SHORTS, from front page

regular location, building E-1633. Hours of operation are Tues. and Thurs. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The consignment room is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on all of the above days. For information call 410-676-4733.

ITR is selling Orioles' tickets

The Information, Ticketing and Registration office is selling Orioles baseball tickets. Call 410-278-4011 or 4612 or stop by building 3326. Patrons can prepay to order tickets using VISA or Mastercard through April 1. All tickets have a \$2 handling fee included in the price that is nonrefundable.

After April 1, tickets should be available in the ITR office.

Volunteers needed

The education centers in both the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas are looking for volunteer receptionists to help with the day-to-day office operations. Some duties include directing phone calls, filing, providing general information to visitors and assisting with special projects.

All of the volunteer hours accumulated, training received and skills acquired are documented and can be used to advantage when filling out future job applications.

Anyone interested in learning more about these positions should contact Dori Lawton, education specialist, at 410-278-3515 or Alice Surette, volunteer coordinator, at 410-278-5469.

Ambulance transfers for pediatric patients

Children treated at the Harford Memorial Hospital Emergency Room who require hospitalization will be transported to Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air. TRICARE beneficiaries may be charged a copayment for the civilian ambulance transfer to Upper Chesapeake Medical Center for pediatric admissions.

However, if your child should require emergency medical services for life threatening conditions such as poisoning, convulsions, high fever and other acute conditions, call 911 or seek care at the nearest civilian hospital emergency room.

APG Red Cross blood drive

Give the gift of life - donate blood at the upcoming Red Cross blood drive at APG. The next one is Tuesday, March 20, 4 to 8 p.m., 143rd Ordnance Battalion.

Call Capt. Amanda Akers, 410-436-3301.

MCSC has funds for charities, organizations

The Aberdeen Area Military and Civilian Spouses' Club will donate funds to organizations and charities this spring. Groups interested in placing a request for funds should do so in writing. Requests should include name of organization requesting funds, the manner in which the funds will be used, list of other fund raising efforts, and a contact person for the organization (name, address and telephone number). Requests must be postmarked by April 2. Submit requests to the Military and Civilian Spouses' Club, P.O. Box 752, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005.

For more information call MCSC at 410-273-9663.

Summer program has openings for first through ninth graders

The Aberdeen and Edgewood School Age and Middle School Services has summer openings for children who are presently enrolled in first through ninth grades. The program, June 19 through Aug. 18, Monday through Friday, 6:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., offers safe, fun-filled, developmental opportunities for your child, such as swimming, bowling and field trips. You may sign up for the weeks that fit your summer schedule.

Tuition fees are based on total family income and will be determined at the time of registration. Mark your calendar. Spaces are limited. Open registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration packets and appointments will be available at the Central Registration Office, building 2485, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

March 19 to 23 is registration for single military and civilians, dual military and military with a working spouse. March 26 to 30 is registration for civilians with a working spouse. April 2 to 6 is registration for contractors and all other civilians and military personnel.

For questions or further information, call the Central Registration Office at 410-278-7479/7571.

Hispanic Employment Program Committee to meet March 20

The Hispanic Employment Program is seeking individuals, both military and civilian, to participate in committee activities. There are many projects available to learn essential skills for furthering your career. The focus of the committee is to educate people about Hispanic heritage and deal with employment issues. The next meeting will be held in the

Aberdeen area, building 2043's conference room, on Tuesday, March 20, from 2 to 3 p.m.

For more information contact Joanne Holloway (Edgewood Area), 410-436-3628 or Cindy Sepulveda (Aberdeen Area) 410-278-1131.

Submit AFAP suggestions today

APG community members are invited to submit suggestions on improving the quality of life at Aberdeen Proving Ground for consideration at the Army Family Action Plan, Symposium XVI.

Suggested topics include medical, dental, commissary, AAFES, housing, youth, education, employment, safety and relocation. Issues should answer the following questions: What is the problem? Why is it a problem? What is the solution? Suggestions must include your name and telephone number and answer all three questions to be considered. Send them to building 324, First Floor, ATTN: Alice Surette or FAX 410-278-7011, by March 20.

The symposium, intended to identify quality of life issues, will be held April 10 through 12 at Top of the Bay.

Representatives from throughout APG will participate in one of four workgroups. A special youth work group will be held on April 11 to discuss issues that concern the youth in our community.

If you are interested in being a delegate or would like to find out more about the AFAP process, contact Alice Surette at 278-5469.

Wealth-building classes offered by ACS

The Army Community Services is presenting a series of classes starting March 28 to teach how to manage money, live debt-free, and invest for the future at the Army Community Service Center, building 2754 on Rodman Road.

On March 28, Planning and Budgeting, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On April 4, Banking and Checking, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On April 11, Using Credit Wisely, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On April 18, Savings and Investing, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On April 25, Retirement Planning, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Classes are free and open to all civilians, active duty personnel, retirees and family members. Space is limited. Call Tricia Jewitt, 410-278-4372 to reserve your seat (bring a lunch).

Microsoft-USO Defenders 10 Mile Run

Microsoft, GEICO, Comprint Military Publications, and QMZO 98.7, will sponsor the Microsoft-USO Defenders 10-mile Run on Sunday, May 6. The Race will begin at the Pentagon at 8 a.m. Awards totaling \$10,000 will be presented to the top male and female finishers. Participants will be allowed use of the ChampionChip(r), a certified, fast course, pre-race expo at the Sheraton National Hotel and course entertainment.

First place male and female finishers will each receive \$2,400 and special awards will be given to the first place male and female from each branch of service. Individuals and teams are encouraged to participate. Team categories include military (male, female and co-ed), embassies, Corporate Challenge, Open (Male, Female, Co-ed) and Masters (Male, Female).

All proceeds from the race go directly back into USO-Metro programs and services for military personnel and their families. Cost of race registration is \$20 until April 23, and \$25 after April 23.

For more information on the Microsoft-USO Defenders Ten Mile Run, call Beth Bradner, 703-696-3279, or visit www.runwashington.com (online registration available).

Ordnance to be destroyed

APG's Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment, in conjunction with Aberdeen Test Center, is destroying unexploded ordnance at a remote area in the Aberdeen Area. The destruction does not include chemical warfare munitions, and will be conducted on Fridays and Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

For more information, contact George Mercer, chief, APG Public Affairs Office, 410-278-1147 or 1-800-688-8705.

Purchase request submission schedule set for FY 2001

The following schedule should be used for the submission of purchase requests for fiscal year 2001 and maintenance for fiscal year 2002 for the U.S. Army Robert Morris Acquisition Center.

Noncommercial items over \$100,000 by May 15. There may be instances, though, where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. It is required that these actions be coordinated with the branch chief prior to this date.

Noncommercial items between \$2,500 and \$100,000 by June 15. Commercial items between \$100,000 and \$5 million by June 15. Short-of-Award over \$2,500 by June 15. Commercial items under \$100,000 by Aug. 15. Maintenance for fiscal year 2002 by June 15.

PD2, the new DoD contracting automated system, has been fielded at both the Aberdeen and Edgewood sites. Experience and updates to the system indicate a continued learning curve.

Although the center purchase request submission schedule has been increased to permit additional time to process actions through this new system, you are advised to submit your year-end requirements as early as is reasonable to minimize the possibility of funds going unobligated at year's end. Submission of requests after the scheduled dates will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Refer questions to Joyce Roberts, APG Branch, joyce.roberts@sbccom.apgea.army.mil, 410-278-0869; or Fred Thomas, Edgewood Branch, fred.thomas@sbccom.apgea.army.mil, 410-436-2554.

Register now for HCC college classes

Registration is currently underway for credit classes in Harford Community College's Spring Term II. Classes begin March 19; students may register in person or add a class up to March 17. Courses for the session include Accounting, Automotive Technology, Business Administration, Biology, Criminal Justice, Interior Design, Mathematics, Physical Education and Psychology.

Registration is accepted at HCC's Aberdeen Proving Ground Center Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and alternate Fridays, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., March 2 and 16.

For more information, call 410-272-2338. Students may register in person in the Office of Registration and Records in HCC's Chesapeake Center: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Payment is due at the time of registration.

The college accepts VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Mail-in or fax registrations, with payment by credit card, will be accepted through March 17.

Registration must be accompanied by credit card payment information, including account number, expiration date, and signature. The fax registration number is 410-836-4169.

Forms are available in the Schedule of Credit Classes catalogue, which was mailed to all Harford County residents, from HCC's Aberdeen Proving Ground Center, or from HCC's Office of Registration and Records.

For more information, call 410-836-4222 or 410-879-8920, ext. 222, or stop by the Registration and Records area in the Chesapeake Center on campus.

547th Engineer Battalion Reunion

The 547th Engineer Battalion (Cbt) Association and its attached units (552d and 1328th) will hold its 15th annual reunion from Thursday, Aug. 2 through Sunday, Aug. 5, at the Radisson Governors Inn, Durham, N.C. The Radisson Governors Inn is located on I-40, Exit 280 at Davis Drive, Research Triangle Park.

For reunion pre-registration, call John Joyner, 919-596-7940, 2114 Baltic Ave., Durham, N.C. 27707; or Ursula Allen, 253-582-4649, 9111 Forest Ave. SW, Lakewood, WA 98498.

For hotel reservations, call 919-549-8631 or 1-800-333-3333.

Legal Office offers advice

For emergency legal advice, the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Army Garrison Legal Assistance Office, continues to see eligible clients on a walk-in basis every Thursday in building 310, wing 2, 8 to 11 a.m.

For more information, please contact the Legal Assistance Office at 410-278-1583/1584. For any non-emergency situation, call the office to schedule an appointment.

Outreach Office offers stockpile information

Get answers about how the Army is safely eliminating the mustard agent stockpile stored at APG. Call or visit the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office located at 1011B Woodbridge Center Way, Edgewood. The Outreach Office is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information, call 410-676-6800 or visit the website at www.pmc.dau.apgea.army.mil.

AMCAC website offers information

The U.S. Army Materiel Command Acquisition Center has posted a government purchase card web page designed to be a user-friendly network of information to meet the unique needs of organizations interested in obtaining and maintaining the card. The website supports AMCAC's service commitment toward its credit card customers. Information concerning the government purchase card program, its administration, required training, references and procedures is contained on this website.

The website includes items of particular interest concerning use of government credit cards such as: local news and regulations, required training, discussion areas, policy letters and links to related websites.

There is also an automated e-mail link to the agency/organization coordinator for the AMCAC Government Purchase Card program. The website is available at <http://www.sbccom.apgea.army.mil/srs/amcac/CC/index.html>.

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5005, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 13,500.

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

Editorial content is prepared, edited and approved by the APG Public Affairs Office. The APG News is printed by Homestead Publishing Company, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with APG. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Homestead Publishing Company of the products or services advertised.

For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 324, Second Floor, AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5005; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; fax it to 410-278-2570; or e-mail it to editor@apg.army.mil. Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

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SMOOTH AWAKENING



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Members of the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) Woodwind Quintet recently gave a morning performance at the post's housing office because they were missed during the band's holiday tour of post organizations.

"We couldn't get here then, so we want to show we haven't forgotten about you," said 1st Sgt. Enrique Alcaraz-Lopez.

"We appreciate their music so much," said Pat Hector, housing division chief, as she enjoyed refreshments with housing office employees, customers and musicians at the concerts' end.

From left, Sgts. Crystal Kraus and Kira Wharton on flute and clarinet, Alcaraz-Lopez on French horn, and Staff Sgts. Kay Reynolds, on oboe, and Michelle Gould, on clarinet, perform a version of "Scarborough Fair" that charmed the early-morning listeners.

Good dental health starts early

Taking the trauma out of dentistry

By Sheila Little
APG News

Nearly three dozen preschool students at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Child Development Center visited the Aberdeen Proving Ground Dental Clinic March 2, and no tears were shed. In fact, most were pretty excited about the visit.

The 3 and 4 year-olds were treated to a movie about good dental health, got to see and touch some of the instruments used in patient evaluation and treatment, took a ride in the dental chair, and visited the on-site x-ray room, dental laboratory, and instrument sterilization center.

Held in conjunction with dental health month, the tour was arranged by Judy Callahan, a dental therapist at the Aberdeen Area facility, as a way to promote good habits and take the fear out of a trip to the dentist.

"Some children see their first dentist when they are in pain and have a problem," Callahan said. "Afterward, they associate pain with every trip to the dentist. This is our effort to avoid that."

The hygienist said educating students as to what they can expect during an initial exam, and allowing them access to some of the tools, equipment and professionals garbed in gloves and masks, helps allay some of the fears.

"Before they have a bad experience, we like to introduce them to a good situation," she said.

As the children took seats in

the lobby of the clinic, Callahan welcomed the young visitors and introduced them to Dudley the dinosaur, who, via video, captured the interest of his young audience by reviewing proper brushing technique and procedures to expect on the first dental visit.

Callahan then led a tour of the Aberdeen facility. The children gathered around a treatment room as the hygienist allowed volunteers a turn in the dental chair, showed and explained the tools used during treatment, and explaining masks are worn to help prevent the spread of germs, helped the youngsters don surgical masks like those worn by treatment center personnel.

Showing mouth guards worn by athletes to her young audience, Callahan urged the group to wear proper mouth protection when playing sports.

"Do you wear a helmet when you ride a bike?" asked Callahan. "Well, this is the helmet for your teeth," she said.

The young tourists, now all wearing surgical masks over their mouths, around their necks or on top of their heads, visited the x-ray room, listening attentively as Sgt. Nicola Pinnock, a dental hygienist, explained the x-ray machine. The children touched the lead apron worn as protection during x-ray procedures and intently studied teeth as they appear on x-rays.

From there the class moved on to the dental laboratory, looking at dentures, crowns and bridges, and



Photo by SHEILA LITTLE

Seated in a treatment chair at the Aberdeen Area Dental Clinic, Aminah Jones opens wide for Dental Therapist Judy Callahan. Looking on intently are from left, fellow preschool classmates Jazmine Thacker, Richie Pinnock, and Erin Kelley.

the equipment used for fitting adjustments. Students also visited a room equipped with an autoclave, used to sterilize the clinic's dental instruments.

Following the tour, the preschoolers received neon-colored toothbrushes equipped with equally colorful bristles. All were advised to brush every day and visit their dentist at least once a year.

Lt. Col. Michael Garvin, commander of the dental treatment facility, gave credit to Callahan for planning and directing the student tours, and for arranging school visits by dental clinic personnel.

Garvin said that the first few trips to the dentist help set a lifetime attitude about dental visits. He said a positive experience early in life makes later visits easier for both the patient and the dental professional. An initial stress-free situation is a great way to introduce children to the dentist.

"It is really important to make it fun," he said.

Referring to Callahan's efforts, Garvin said, "This is an incredible program. Preventive medicine is really emphasized in dentistry, and having a good initial experience is really helpful."

Callahan has been arranging tours for preschoolers for ten years. She said the close location to the child development center makes it possible for preschoolers to tour the Aberdeen facility, but older children are not forgotten. Elementary school students are treated to visits in the classroom by dental clinic personnel, who review proper cleaning technique, introduce students to careers in the field, and emphasize the dental problems associated with tobacco use.

Knowing that regular dental check-ups are part of good health, Callahan said the tours are offered to show that a trip for a check-up is not something to be avoided.

"We want to make their first few visits enjoyable, so kids will say to their parents, 'Can I go to the dentist?'" she said.

Making the most of doctor visits

Sierra Military Health Services, Inc.

Whether a visit to the doctor is for an annual check-up or prompted by unusual symptoms, patients can make sure that all issues are addressed by preparing for the visit.

Before the visit, take time to write down any symptoms along with the length of time they have been present. Be specific. Has it been a week or three months? Is the pain or discomfort there all the time or only sometimes? Exactly when is it painful or uncomfortable? Is the pain or condition getting worse? Did over-the-counter medications help? Also, list any

new medications that may have been prescribed by other doctors.

During the visit, go over the list and ask that it be placed in your chart. Listen to the doctor's instructions and ask questions. Is this test or procedure needed now? Is there anything else that can be tried first? If a test comes back positive, what will be done next? Always tell the doctor if pregnant, planning to be pregnant or breastfeeding.

If medication is prescribed, remind the doctor of any allergies and ask if the prescription can be taken with other medications. Note if side effects are possible

and ask if generic brands may be used as substitutes before filling the prescription. After taking the medication, if problems persist or the condition worsens, contact the prescribing physician immediately.

(NOTE: Sierra Military Health Services, Inc., the TRICARE administrator for TRICARE Northeast, submitted this information courtesy of Optum to help make doctor visits more informative and successful. Optum's Health Information Library has registered nurses available 24 hours a day to provide helpful health information. To speak with

a registered nurse, call 1-800-308-3518, or to register for SMHS Obstetrical Care or Diabetes Management programs, call 1-800-903-5336.)

Kirk Urgent Care Clinic changes operating hours

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic

Prior to July, many patients seen in the Urgent Care Clinic at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic had non-urgent conditions. As a result, urgent patients were not seen as quickly, there were longer waiting times for everyone, and patients did not receive the continuity of care they would have if seen in their primary care clinic.

The primary care clinics at Kirk include the Pediatric Clinic, General Medicine Clinic and Women's Wellness Clinic. The Edgewood clinic also provides primary care to adults, primarily to active duty personnel. The job of your primary care provider or manager, commonly referred to as a PCM, is to provide health maintenance care, acute and chronic illness care, and coordinate specialty referral care.

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic initiated the Nurse Telephone Triage Service in July for appointing patients in the Urgent Care Clinic. The goal of the triage program was to appoint patients to the appropriate level of care. That means making an appointment for the patient in the right clinic with the right provider.

When a patient calls for an appointment in the UCC, he or she talks to a registered nurse trained in telephone triage. The nurse uses nationally-approved protocols to determine if the patient's condition is emergent, urgent, or non-urgent and the time frame in which the patient should be seen.

If the triage protocol indicates the patient's condition is an emergency, the patient is directed to call 911 or to go to the nearest emergency room because KUSAHC does not have the capability to treat patients with emergency conditions. Likewise, if a patient comes to the UCC

with an emergent condition, Kirk calls 911 to transport the patient to the nearest emergency room.

If the patient is triaged with an urgent injury, the patient is appointed to the UCC. If the patient is triaged as an urgent illness, the patient is appointed to a primary care clinic or the UCC. If there is an appointment available in the patient's primary care clinic at the same time an UCC appointment is available, the nurse will book the patient into the primary care appointment slot. If a primary care clinic appointment is not available, the patient is appointed in the UCC.

Patients triaged as non-urgent are offered the next available primary care clinic appointment. The UCC is a Prime Priority clinic. If the next available appointment is not within the triage protocol time-to-be-seen, TRICARE Prime patients are offered an UCC appointment. Non-urgent, non-TRICARE Prime patients are not seen in the UCC. Non-TRICARE Prime patients may be seen in the primary care clinics on a space-available basis.

The triage protocol may direct the patient to do self-care at home. In this instance, the nurse provides patient education and home care instructions. The nurse also tells the patient what changes in their condition would indicate they should call the nurse back or seek medical care. The nurse makes a follow-up telephone call to the patient within 24 hours to make sure the patient's condition is improving.

Patients who walk in to the UCC are triaged and appointed the same as telephone patients. Patients are encouraged to call the nurse telephone triage number rather than walk in to the UCC. Patients will avoid potential delays in treatment or inconvenience as they may be directed to a primary care clinic, a civilian emergency room or even home self-care.

Triage protocols are guidelines. If the protocol indicates the patient's condition is non-urgent, the nurse may use clinical judgment and upgrade the triage to urgent. The nurse will never downgrade a patient triaged as urgent to non-urgent.

The Nurse Telephone Triage Service has been in place for seven months. By triaging patients requesting UCC appointments, Kirk has been able to maximize appointing patients to their primary care clinic. This has resulted in urgent patients being seen in the UCC and non-urgent patients being seen in their primary care clinic by their primary care manager who can most efficiently coordinate their care. This has decreased the number of patients being seen daily in the UCC by 40 percent.

A review of data showed that the majority of appointments to the UCC were before 6 p.m. during the week and that on Sundays and holidays the UCC usually saw less than six patients.

As a result, beginning Sunday, April 1, the UCC is changing its operating hours. Monday through Friday the UCC will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Saturdays and training holidays the UCC hours will remain unchanged with the clinic open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. On Sundays and holidays the hours will be 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Nurse Telephone Triage Service will be available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays and training holidays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sundays and Holidays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

When you set your clock one hour ahead for daylight savings time that weekend, remember, the Kirk UCC hours change, too.

OSJA advises on outside employment restrictions for DoD personnel

By Capt. Roy A. Hilferty
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

In considering outside employment, Department of Defense employees must be conscious of the requirement to avoid conflicts of interest with their official duties.

Employees required to file financial disclosure forms (Standard Forms 450 and 278) need to be aware of special requirements applicable only to them.

No employee may have outside employment or be involved in an outside activity that conflicts with the employee's official duties.

An activity conflicts with official duties if it is prohibited by statute or by regulation, or if the activity would require the employee to be disqualified from matters so central to the performance of the employee's official duties as to materially impair the employee's ability to carry out those duties.

Generally, employees may not be paid for outside speaking, teaching, or writing that relates to their official duties, although there is an exception for teaching certain courses at

accredited schools.

In other words, you are not allowed to profit from the expertise and information you develop in performing your official duties.

In addition, no DoD employee may engage in outside employment that detracts from the readiness of the agency or poses a security risk. Further, all federal employees are prohibited from acting as a representative for a non-federal party in matters in which the Government has an interest.

The Joint Ethics Regulation requires those filing financial disclosure reports, SF 450 and SF 278, obtain written approval from their supervisor before engaging in a business activity or compensated outside employment with a prohibited source.

A "prohibited source" is defined very broadly to include any person or company who does business with or seeks to do business with your agency or has an interest that may be substantially affected by performance or nonperformance of the employee's official duties.

Some restrictions apply only to military personnel. Active duty officers should be mindful that they may not hold a federal, state, or local civil office.

Moreover, military personnel may not accept compensation for holding another federal position, because their active duty status has them on call 24 hours a day. As an exception to this rule, military personnel on terminal leave may accept a civilian position.

Prior to accepting an off-duty position with a non-appropriated fund organization, enlisted soldiers must obtain their commander's approval. If at any time the commander determines that off-duty employment is detrimental to military duty, the soldier is required to quit his or her off-duty employment.

This article provides a brief reminder of the basic rules governing outside employment by DoD employees.

For more information or advice on a specific situation, contact an Ethics Counselor in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

New serving option for Army Reservists

By Sheila Little
APG News

Reservists located within a four-hour commute of the geographical region of the U.S. Soldier and Biological Chemical Command headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground are encouraged to apply for a position in the Army Reserve Unit for Consequence Management.

The unit is being formed to respond to Department of Defense operations related to domestic and overseas incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives elements.

The mission is to provide multi-disciplined U.S. Army Reserve consequence management expertise to support and, if required, mobilize with SBCCOM and State Department in response to a terrorist-related or other incident involving the release of CBRNE elements. The unit will be initially comprised of three

full-time military support individuals from the U.S. Army Reserve Active Guard Reserve program and 38 drilling reservists.

Each member is authorized a paid annual-training period of up to 29 days, with an additional 24 days of paid drill status.

Those Army Reservists interested in joining, should send their military resume to Lt. Col. Carroll Lucas, operations officer for ARU-CM. Resumes will be accepted via facsimile transmittal, 410-436-9040, electronic mail, carroll.lucas@sbccom.apgea.army.mil., or U.S. mail.

Mailed resumes should be addressed to Commanding General, U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, ATTN: ARU-CM (LTC Lucas), 5183 Blackhawk Road, APG, MD 21010-5424.

For further information, contact Lucas via e-mail address listed above, or call 410-436-6224.

Junior officers not leaving Army in droves

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

While the Army is losing company-grade officers at a slightly higher rate than the historical trend, it is not hemorrhaging its junior officers as reported recently by civilian media, according to the Army's senior personnel chief.

Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude, deputy chief of staff for personnel, made that observation during a Jan. 30 Pentagon interview, which covered Army personnel initiatives.

"First and foremost, officer attrition is not bad," Maude said. "There is a natural loss rate built into the system. Company-grade officer attrition is currently about 8.5 percent, while the ideal is 7.5 percent - the difference is the loss of about an extra 350 officers a year."

Part of the misperception by the civilian media about shortages of junior officers is the fact that the Army greatly reduced officer accessions during the early 1990's. This left the Army without enough officers to fully man today's force, Maude said. Those short officer year groups are 1991 and 1994.

While junior officer attrition and shortage are presenting some personnel management challenges, they are not causing great alarm on the Department of the Army staff, he said.

Maude listed five questions, in order of importance, which soldiers and their spouses generally ask themselves before making a decision to stay or go.

"If you look at the corporate world, I think you'll find that people who move on ask the same five questions," Maude said. "One of the things we are looking at is

how can we better communicate to our officers and soldiers that their service matters, we appreciate what they do and to stay with the team. We cannot afford to take them for granted."

Another challenge Army personnel managers are currently examining is the trend of job hopping.

"As I grew up, my father told me to find a good job and stick with it," Maude said. "Current surveys tell us that today's average college graduate expects to switch jobs at least five times during a lifetime. We're paying attention to what the surveys tell us and constantly look for ways to make improvements."

Maude said he believes the Army will continue to be a competitive career choice among the nation's best because, unlike civilian corporations, it recruits 100 percent of its intermediate and senior leaders from within its own ranks.

ATC honors employees and contractors for support on the bid sample event

ATC employees put candidate vehicles through their paces

By Phyllis J. DeFranks
ATC Public Affairs Office

One-hundred ninety one civilian and contractor employees of the Aberdeen Test Center were honored at a recent awards ceremony by the Brigade Combat Team - Interim Armored Vehicle, for their exceptional performance and support during the bid sample event. Bid samples for a new and lighter Infantry Carrier Vehicle for the interim brigade combat team underwent a series of events at ATC that enabled the Army to evaluate the performance and endurance of each candidate vehicle.

In October 1999, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki unveiled his vision to make the Army a rapidly deployable, lethal, agile, survivable and sustainable force. He launched a major Army transformation that initially requires the organization of brigade combat teams, capable of deploying to any hot spot in the world within 96 hours. To meet this challenge, and ultimately reach the "Objective Force" the Army has developed an "Interim Force" that consists of two initial brigade combat teams.

The operational requirements of the teams call for not only changes in organization, but also new, lighter, more mobile weapon systems. The Army's plan to equip the BCTs, include the Interim Armored Vehicle, that will be comprised of two vehicle classes - the Mobile Gun System and the Infantry Carrier Vehicle.

Four offerors made IAV proposals to the Army and brought "bid samples" of the Infantry Carrier Vehicle to the Aberdeen Test Center, for a 30-day series of events that enabled the Army's Source Selection Evaluation Board to evaluate the performance and endurance of candidate vehicles.

"The event plan normally would take four months to complete with one contractor and two vehicles, but this program had four offerors", said Col. Andrew G. Ellis, ATC commander.

"Add to that, another month for compiling the results and reporting the information to the customer. The ATC Team accomplished in 25 days all field-testing and by day 35, one hundred percent of the results were provided to the evaluators," he said. "All of this was accomplished without a safety or security incident, and under budget. All of you are commended for the success of this event."

ATC's Automotive Core recognized thirty people for support provided to the overall test coordination, data collection, performance driver support, automotive performance measurements, instrumentation, maintenance support, data processing and reporting.

Four individuals from the command staff supported the bid sample event with security control due to the competitive nature of the event and significant number of foreign nationals.

Six people from the Firepower Core were recognized for providing support for the performance measures of the remote weapon stations on each of the bid samples.

Seven individuals from the Survivability/Lethality Core assisted with the much-needed support during the swim testing. They also provided the machining and welding support needed to adapt instrumentation and various specialty work.

The Services Core provided support from nine people with fast response in purchases and provided each vendor with the required facil-

ities, parts storage, and workspace to allow them to support their vehicle.

The Technology Core recognized eighteen employees who were instrumental in the establishment of the digital library, the data-handling scheme used to provide the data to the evaluators, as well as photographic support throughout the event.

The Warfighter Core provided the support from thirteen people in the areas of human factor engineering, toxic fumes, and noise measurements as well as assistance with the C-130 transportability event.

Several ATC contractors supported this program. COBRO provided thirty-four data collectors; Dynamic Science Incorporated provided twenty-two employees for instrumentation, technical support, and photographic assistance; Dyncorp provided four employees that assisted with photographic support; and Tero Tek International, Incorporated provided thirty-five drivers for the bid samples.

Additional support was provided by the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command - North, High Performance Technologies, Incorporated, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, United States Military Academy, and U.S. Army Operational Test Command for assistance in data quality review and releasing of information to the evaluators.

Local union recognized

LODGE 2424 from front page

continue.

"Its an important relationship and I'm sure my successor will feel the same," Spidel said.

Addressing the union leadership at their APG headquarters in building 5031, Mart presented a plaque to Tom Buettner, president of local Lodge 2424.

"I'd like to thank everyone personally, because I know this wouldn't happen without your direction and your input," Mart said. This plaque is given in appreciation and recognition of your commitment to 'organize the un-organized.'"

Buettner, accepting the plaque on behalf of the membership, thanked all participants in the recent membership drive who took the time to talk one-on-one with eligible workers.

The union president added that he was very pleased that the union boosted its membership by 22 percent.

"The successful membership drive was a team effort by all the members of the local lodge," Buettner said.

Housing fire leads to renewed warnings about halogen lamps

By Sheila Little
APG News

A fire in the Patriot Village housing area Feb. 12, sparked by an overturned halogen lamp coming into contact with bedding, serves as a reminder to residents of APG and the surrounding community of the increased danger of fire associated with halogen lamps. Residents are asked to consider replacing such lamps with lighting that uses regular light bulbs.

If opting for halogen, be aware that the extreme temperatures involved in halogen usage require increased diligence. Check the lamps for a safety cage around the halogen tube, required over the last few years as a result of fire incidents.

Additional suggestions include safe placement away from draperies, bedding and clothing, and never leaving a halogen lamp operating in an unoccupied room.

Last month's fire started when a halogen lamp not equipped with a safety cage, tipped onto a bed, smoldered in the bed clothes, and started a fire. The room had been unoccupied for an estimated three to four hours.

The sound of a smoke detector, recently installed by Directorate of Public Works personnel as a part of the replacement of older detectors, served to notify the adult occupant, who was with his young children in another area of the house. Upon hearing the alarm, the occupant took his two preschoolers outside to await the fire department.

Fortunately the children were not hurt, but due to his efforts to put out the blaze before the arrival of fire personnel, the adult occupant was treated for smoke inhalation at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

Damage was limited to a twin mattress, box springs, and bedding.

In an effort to avert possible severe injuries and major damage to dwellings and household goods, the Housing Office supervised a recently-completed smoke alarm replacement program. Smoke detectors targeted for replacement were ten years old or older. Patriot Village was one of the housing areas that received new smoke detectors several months ago.

Marilyn Spence, housing division's engineering technician for the Aberdeen Area, credited the recently installed and updated smoke detectors with contributing to a relatively happy ending, with minimal injury and damage.

"I'm thankful that no one was badly hurt," said Spence, "and really grateful that we completed replacement of the old detectors last fall."

Spence said the lamp causing the fire was a torch design, with an open top. The torch lamp did not have a safety cage around the halogen tube.

APG Fire Department Chief Charlie Jones advises halogen lamp owners to consider replacing them with regular lamps, or, at the minimum, checking that the lamps have a safety cage around the halogen tube and placing them away from playrooms and bedrooms of children.

"I strongly recommend that anyone who has a halogen lamp remove it from the house," Jones said.

He also reminded residents of appropriate fire safety procedures.

"As soon as your smoke alarm goes off, evacuate the residence and call the fire department from another location."

Jones suggests calling the fire department from a neighbor's home or

via cell phone.

"Never re-enter the residence," Jones said. "Wait outside for help."

The Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that the tubular light bulbs in most torch-style halogen lamps can reach extremely high temperatures and start a fire if they come in contact with draperies, clothes, or other flammable material.

Halogen bulbs operate at temperatures much hotter than those of regular light bulbs. Halogen bulbs of 250 watts can reach temperatures of nearly 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. In contrast, standard incandescent bulbs operate at temperatures nearly half that of halogen bulbs.

Susie Ashby of the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment, said many consumers are unaware that halogen lamps burn hotter than lamps which operate with regular light bulbs.

"Residents should be aware of the increased fire risk that comes with operating halogen lamps," Ashby said.

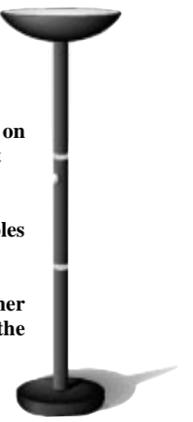
She recommended that if halogen lamps are in the house, they not be near young children, who are curious and may get burned by touching them or knocking over the lamps.

"I'd get rid of those that pose a fire hazard," Ashby said.

She said that those which pose a risk are not equipped with a safety guard around the halogen tube. Ashby added that everyone in the household should use extreme caution when operating the lamps and keep combustible items away from them.

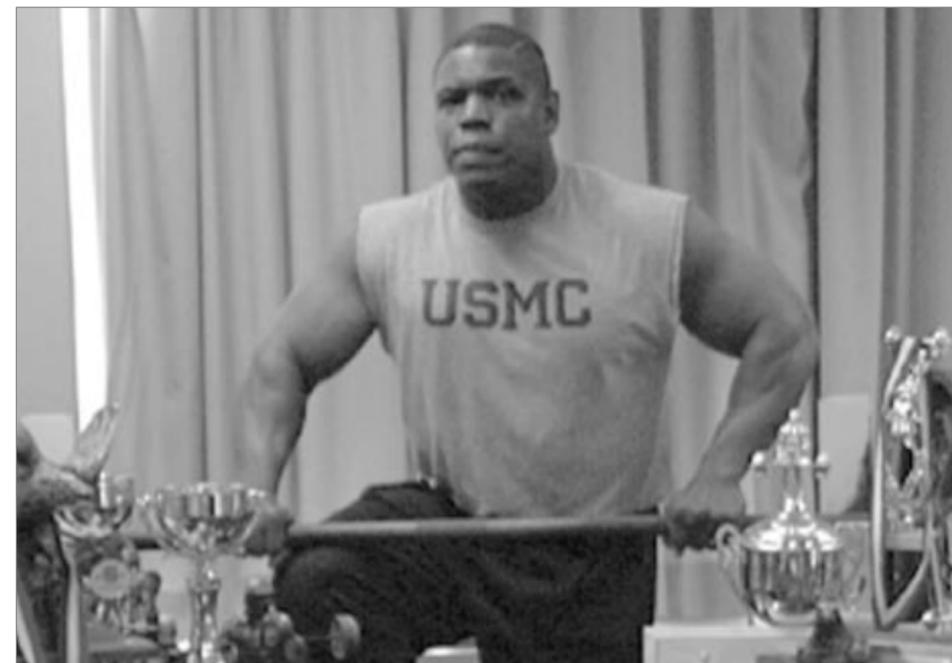
Consumer Product Safety Commission suggestions for safe operation of halogen lamps

- Never allow torchiere halogen lamps to be placed where the tubular bulb could come in contact with curtains or other cloth window treatments.
- Never leave a torchiere halogen lamp on when you leave the room or are not at home.
- Never drape clothes or other flammables over a torchiere lamp.
- Torchiere lamps equipped with dimmer switches should be operated below the maximum setting whenever possible.
- Keep torchiere lamps away from elevated beds, like bunk beds, where bedding may get too close to the bulb.



Sports & Fitness

USMC weightlifter still winning titles



Photos by YVONNE JOHNSON

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Zachary Rhodes, an instructor with the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' Marine Corps detachment, recently won his fifth consecutive Maryland Bench Press title. The fitness mentor for USMC students and weightlifting icon in the community, will soon depart APG after five years.

Rhodes set to depart APG

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Gunnery Sgt. Zachary Rhodes won his fifth consecutive Maryland Bench Press title Feb. 24 in Baltimore.

Rhodes pressed 540 pounds to claim his third state title of the year from the World Natural Powerlifting Federation, the American Powerlifting Alliance and the American Powerlifters Federation.

A small arms instructor with the U.S. Army Ordnance Center

and Schools' Marine Corps detachment, Rhodes said that wherever he competes he is proud to represent the U.S. Marine Corps, Aberdeen Proving Ground and the Aberdeen community.

He and his wife Janet Rhodes, a state bench press champion who pressed 180 pounds in the contest, soon will depart the installation for Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego after a 5-year tour at APG.

"I've enjoyed working with the Army," Rhodes said. "I've met a

lot of professional soldiers and made a lot of new friends."

Also an athletic leader for the detachment, Rhodes most recent post accomplishments include leading detachment teams to two consecutive wins in the installation's annual bench press competition and winning the prestigious Commanders Cup Trophy in 2000.

Rhodes heads a Marine powerlifting club and is active in the community as a coach and mentor to local teens. Next up for Rhodes

is a powerlifting competition at Virginia State University in April which will determine team members for the world competitions in Puerto Rico later this year.

The Detroit native and 17-year veteran said he might return to bodybuilding once his powerlifting days are over.

He offered sincere thanks to those who helped him meet every challenge while at APG.

"I appreciate the time my commanders gave me to meet these commitments, the insight I learned from my lifting partner, Sebastian Dokes, and the training and nutritional guidance I received from my wife," Rhodes said.

Rhodes was recently informed that he has been inducted into the World Powerlifting Association Hall of Fame.

Rhodes has excelled in powerlifting competitions since 1995.

Earlier this year he was named best overall lifter and state champion at the Bel Air Athletic Club with a lift of 460 pounds. He pressed 525 pounds at the APA competition in Laurel, Md. Winning the U.S. Powerlift.

His accomplishments include a team win at the Amateur Athletic Union Championship in Towson, Md. in 1997; Powerlifter of the Year in 1998; first place in the World Powerlifting Competition held in Lancaster, Pa. in 2000 and four consecutive championships at the Military Powerlifting Competition held in Fort Hood, Texas.

Rhodes was named the Best Bench Presser in a San Diego match in March 2000.

Basketball Update

The following results were reported for Intramural Basketball post season tournament.

Results

March 10

HHC 16th, 53; Company E

16th, 40

Company C 143rd, 62; HHC

16th, 56

HHC 143rd, 39; USMC, 31

NCOA, 55; Company C 16th,

53

HHC 61st, 54; Company A

143rd, 50

Company E 16th, 62;

Company C 16th, 48

USMC, 62; Company A

143rd, 48

March 11

Company C 143rd, 47; HHC

143rd, 44

NCOA, 53; HHC 61st, 47

Company E 16th, 51; HHC

16th, 48

HHC 143rd, 58; Company E

16th, 44

NCOA, 56; USMC, 52

HHC 143rd, 47; NCOA, 44

HHC 61st, 55; Company C

143rd, 49

Company C 143rd, 53; HHC

143rd, 47

March 12

Championship

HHC 61st vs. Company C

143rd

Intramural Basketball final standing

Aberdeen Division

HHC 61st 14-1

USMC 12-4

NCOA 11-4

Company C 16th 9-7

HHC 16th 8-8

Company E 16th 8-8

KUSAHC 6-10

Company A 16th 3-13

Edgewood Division

Company C 143rd 14-1

HHC 143rd 11-4

Company A 143rd 8-7

Company B 143rd 6-9

520th TAML 4-11

Heavy Medals!

Some of the trophies and plaques Gunnery Sgt. Zachary Rhodes accumulated in his five years assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground. The weightlifting and bench press champion moves on to Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego later this year.



TRICARE offers new benefit for active duty family members

Courtesy of TRICARE Management Activity

With passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2001, TRICARE Management Activity is planning to implement a new benefit, TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members.

Beginning Oct. 1, active duty family members who reside with their TRICARE Prime Remote eligible sponsors in remote locations will be eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members. Locations designated as TRICARE Prime Remote are generally more than 50 miles in distance or a one-hour drive time from a military medical treatment facility or clinic.

The 2001 Defense Authorization Act also eliminates cost shares and deductibles for active duty family members who accompany their sponsors on a remote assignment.

"While details for enrolling in the new program are still in the development stages, there is a 'waive of charges' clause which will provide interim relief to active duty family members who reside with their TRICARE Prime Remote eligible active duty sponsor," said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Robert Styron, TRICARE Prime Remote

regional operations officer, TMA.

"Active duty family members living in remote locations with their TRICARE Prime Remote eligible sponsors will be eligible to have their cost shares and deductibles waived for one year until the TRICARE Prime Remote program for Family Members is implemented. Sponsors and family members are encouraged to keep track of all fees paid from Oct. 30, 2000, (the day the President signed the NDAA into law) forward, in order to apply for reimbursement once the program details are finalized," said Styron.

Starting Oct. 1, enrollment in TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members will be optional for active duty family members who reside with their sponsors in designated remote locations. You can verify your sponsor's TPR eligibility on the TRICARE Prime Remote Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/remote.

Previously, the only option available to family members living in these areas was to seek care with authorized civilian providers using the TRICARE Standard benefit. Consequently, sponsors with family members residing in remote locations paid more for health care than sponsors with family

members living on or near military installations.

Under TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members, eligible active duty family members choosing to enroll will enjoy a TRICARE Prime-like benefit. The TRICARE Prime access standards, cost shares and other benefits will apply. Family members will also be required to use TRICARE authorized providers. Active duty family members residing with their TPR eligible sponsors in remote locations who choose not to enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members can continue using the TRICARE Standard benefit.

According to Styron, active duty family members often told him: "My sponsor and I were assigned where there is no military health care available except TRICARE Standard, which costs me money. If we were assigned to a military installation or lived within close proximity to an MTF, we could get all of our healthcare for free." This new program corrects that inequity.

The TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members affects approximately 137,000 uniformed services active duty family members. The active duty sponsors include military recruiters, Reserve

Officers' Training Corps instructors and their staffs, educational instructors on permanent duty assignments and any other active duty personnel on permanent duty assignments as designated by the Secretary of Defense.

Active duty sponsors are encouraged to contact the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System to verify that information for themselves and their family members is correct. Eligibility for TRICARE Prime Remote for Family Members will be based on DEERS data. Sponsors may call DEERS personnel at the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll-free at 1-800-538-9552. Sponsors and family members can also update their addresses for DEERS on the Military Health System/TRICARE web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/.

Additional information on the TRICARE Prime Remote benefit for active duty family members, and the waive charges clause is available on the TRICARE Prime Remote web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/remote.

NurseLine - Heart Health

Courtesy of Sierra Military Health Services and Optum

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in men and women, but there are things that can be done to help prevent it. Two of the biggest controllable risk factors in heart disease are smoking and obesity. By not smoking, exercising regularly and eating a well-balanced diet, you can help keep your heart healthy and beating strong for years to come.

Registered nurses are available 24 hours every day to provide information on heart health and any other health-related question by calling NurseLine at 1-800-308-3518.

You also can learn more about heart health by using Optum's Health Information Library. Simply call the same toll-free number, choose the Health Information Library from the option menu and enter the code for the topic you want to hear.

Personnel actions easier with modern computer system

MODERN LINK, from front page

The modern system uses new technology to simplify processing personnel actions, accessing civilian work force information and standardizing the way personnel services are managed. The system is designed to streamline personnel paperwork and services, and will support appropriated and non-appropriated fund, and local national civilian personnel operations.

Because of the Army's reorganization, infrastructure changes, and centralizing of personnel functions in the last decade, the human resources workforce has decreased by 41 percent. Their job of providing pay and benefits services is evolving into a more strategic role, as personnel specialists focus on recruiting a skilled workforce for the future.

"The modern DCPDS will support regionalized personnel services by allowing direct access to up-to-date information," said Denise Copeland, a personnel management specialist at the Civilian Personnel Operations Center Management Agency, headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"One of the advantages of the new system is that everyone involved in the civilian personnel process (managers, supervisors, resource managers and human-resource personnel) can access the system, and data will flow quickly and efficiently to organizations and geographic locations," she said.

The Civilian Personnel Operations Centers' staffs will be the most frequent users, as they are the ones that process personnel actions, which will be recorded electronically. This will allow managers and human-

resources officers to track personnel activities from their desktop computers. Managers will be able to track the status of personnel actions from their desktops and retrieve personnel information regarding their employees. With the new system, human resource providers can simplify the processing of personnel actions and provide expanded access to information on civilian employees.

The Northeast Region, headquartered at APG, will begin using the new system March 16. Late last year, the Southwest and North Central Regions started using the modern system, and the transitions of both went well.

Army personnel officials project being fully deployed throughout their 10 regions by September 2001.

The Pacific Region, which was one of Defense Department's three Operational Test and Evaluation sites, continues to show steady progress with system usage and customer acceptance. They have helped other Army and non-Army regions prepare for deployment since initially deploying the modern system in October 1999.

Copeland said the Oracle-based system, which DoD developed in partnership with Oracle Human Resources, will capitalize on new technology to deliver personnel services.

"Our biggest challenges have been the time and training to accomplish the CPOC's deployment tasks, keeping up with the volume of information regarding the system, and overcoming the overall fear of change from some of our customers," said Mike Vajda, director of the Northeast CPOC.

"We met these challenges by designating a project officer (for the modern system), establishing a deployment committee and training the customers."

Vajda said his staff keeps customers informed through newsletters and e-mail messages. "Our trainers have done a remarkable job in instructing and demonstrating how the system works and how user-friendly it is. As with any new system, there are changes, and we plan to offer refresher training sessions to our customers."

Greg Wert, of CPOCMA's Training Management Division, said the system has user-friendly screens.

"The modern system is based on a commercial, off-the-shelf product that uses a graphical Windows environment with drop-down menus, point-and-click maneuvering, and cut-copy-paste capability," he said. "Users who have more than one 'role', such as a budget officer who also supervises civilian employees, will appreciate the ease of switching between these roles without having to exit from the system."

The modern system is moving toward greater standardization in the way we process personnel actions, Wert said, and added that it is moving away from relying on locally-developed systems. He said that customers and managers who move from one organization to another should see a marked similarity in the operation of the civilian personnel system among organizations in the Army.

"Organizational and employee data can be displayed in a variety of different formats that can be modified, filtered, sorted and exported for use in other applications such as an Excel spreadsheet," he said.

Training is a key element of the system's success, and CPOCMA is coordinating an extensive training effort. The organization established a charter team to conduct the training on the new system, using a "train-the-trainer" approach. The members served as the key trainers for the regional operations centers, and developed job aids and training modules for use in training the regional human resource personnel.

"We have a great deal of training material available for all the audiences using the system - personnel specialists, training coordinators, administrative and resource management staff, managers and supervisors," Wert said. "We (CPOCMA) have coordinated an extensive training effort, which includes workshops for trainers from the major Army commands and CPOCs, and multiple training sessions at each region as they prepare to deploy."

During the past six years, the Army has led the way for the other services in regionalizing and modernizing civilian personnel operations, and is now 100 percent regionalized. Civilian personnel operations across DoD continue to regionalize and modernize to provide more cost-effective services and support services with fewer personnel specialists.

Army officials said more improvements are needed and will come with everyone's support. The Army's goal is to have a personnel system that has more integrated processes, and is responsive to customer need.

For more information and current up-to-date information on the modern system, see the Web site, <http://cpol.army.mil>, under "Modernization." Current information on policy and procedural changes also is posted on the Web site.

Community Notes

THURSDAY MARCH 15 USA WARRANT OFFICER ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Aberdeen/Edgewood Chapter of the United States Army Warrant Officer Association will hold its March meeting at 11:30 a.m. at Top of the Bay in the Gunpowder Room. Please come and bring a fellow warrant officer. Lunch is available. For more information contact Chief Warrant Officers Pete Hill or Jane Jones at 410-278-4979.

FRIDAY MARCH 16 WEEKLY BINGO

The Weedon-Elliott Ladies Auxiliary, VFW 8126, sponsors weekly bingo every Friday, 7 p.m., at Joseph L. Davis Post 47, American Legion, 501 St. John Street in Havre de Grace.

SATURDAY MARCH 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

The Weedon-Elliott Ladies Auxiliary, VFW 8126, located on Lodge Lane, Havre de Grace will hold a St. Patrick's Day Dinner, from 3 to 7 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$5.50 per person. Corned beef, ham, cabbage, potatoes, and carrots will be served. For reservations or to order a dinner to go, call 410-939-4578.



BABYSITTER'S TRAINING COURSE

Youths can earn money and learn first-aid skills at the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Course. The two-day program will be taught from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 17 and 24 at the APG Red Cross Office, building 2477. Youths ages 11 to 15 can attend this interactive program which teaches knowledge, skills and confidence to care for infants through primary school age children. Cost of the course is \$20 with military ID and \$37 without military ID. For more information or to register, call 1-800-787-8002 or visit the Red Cross web site at www.redcross-cmd.org.

SUNDAY MARCH 18 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The Military Order of the Cootie and Ladies Auxiliary #8 will hold their installation of officers for the 2001-2002 year at 2 p.m. at Harford County Memorial #5337, 3705 Pulaski Highway in Abingdon.

BENEFIT CONCERT

The Vernon Sewell Ensemble of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church of 615-617 Green Street in Havre de Grace will perform in concert at 4 p.m. The concert will benefit the church's 93rd Annual Women's Day Program on March 25.

TUESDAY MARCH 20 IRISH SPECIALTY MEAL

The annual Irish Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4219 and 4503, and Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m. During this event all military, family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$3.20 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, Department of Defense civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$2.65 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

For more information call Edward Parylo, or Joyce Thane at 410-306-1399/1393/1398.

OC&S LIBRARY

The Ordnance Center and Schools Library is located in the basement in building 3071. Hours are Monday and Thursday, 12 to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 12 to 7 p.m., and Friday, 12 to 4 p.m.

LIBRARY UPDATE

The post's libraries have new books by and about women for your reading pleasure. Come by either the Aberdeen Area Library or the Edgewood Area Branch Library and check them out.

Better than Ever: The 4-Week Workout Program for Women over 40 by Lisa Hoffman

Beyond the Double Bind: Women and Leadership by Kathleen Hall Jameson

Business Know-How: An Operational Guide for Home-Based and Micro-Sized Businesses with Limited Budgets by Janet Attard

Elizabeth: The Struggle for the Throne by David Starkey

In Full Flower by Lois W. Banner

Joan of Arc: A Military Leader by Kelly DeVries

Letter to the World: Seven Women Who Shaped the American Century by Susan Ware

On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker by A'Lelia Perry Bundles

On the Trail of the Women Warriors: The Amazons in Myth and History by Lyn Webster Wilde

Simplify Your Work Life by Elaine St. James

The Aberdeen Area Library is located at building 3320 on Aberdeen Boulevard. Temporary operating hours are Monday through Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday closed, Saturday and Sunday open from 1 to 5 p.m.

For information call 410-278-3417.

The Edgewood Area Library is located at building E-4405 on Austin Road. Temporary operating hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday closed, Sunday open from 1 to 5 p.m.

For information call 410-436-3589.

Irish specialty menu: Broccoli and cheese soup, simmered corned beef, beef pot pie, savory baked chicken, baked knockwurst with sauerkraut, grilled rubeen sandwiches, parsley buttered potatoes, cole slaw with creamy dressing, country style tomato salad, assorted breads, carrot cake, snickerdoodle cookies, Boston creme pie, soft-serve ice cream, coffee, tea, milk and soda (Note: The menu is subject to change without prior notification.)

FRIDAY MARCH 23 LONGABERGER BASKET BINGO

The Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Football Program will sponsor Longaberger Basket Bingo, 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be food, drinks and baked goods available. Cost is \$10 per ticket (three cards), and \$5 for additional sets of three cards. For tickets, call Pat Guary, 410-272-4445, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332. Proceeds benefit the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation football program.

SATURDAY MARCH 24 BASKET BINGO

The Water Witch Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will hold a Longaberger Basket bingo at the VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per ticket (3 paper cards); extra cards are available at \$5 per set. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be food, drinks and baked goods available. The fundraiser benefits the Water Witch Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. For tickets, call Brenda Conjour, at 410-273-7332.

MECHANICAL MOZART

The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra will perform 8 p.m. at John Carroll High School, Bel Air. The Orchestra's percussion section performance will have a twist - members will be playing large wrenches from a tank maintenance shop at APG as musical instruments. Performances include Exsultate Jubilate, K. 165 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Symphony No. 11 "The Year of 1905," Op. 103 by Dmitri Shostakovich. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$12 at the door; \$8 for senior adults, \$10 at the door; and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at Preston's Stationary, 410-838-5858, Musicland, 410-838-2079, or Music and Arts Center, 410-569-3500.

SUNDAY MARCH 25 SHRIMP AND BULL ROAST

The Ladies Auxiliary of Aberdeen Memorial VFW Post 10028, 821 Old Philadelphia Road (behind Wal-Mart) is sponsoring a shrimp and bull roast. The menu consists of steamed shrimp, pit beef, Chesapeake chicken, Italian sausage w/peppers, a side-dish buffet offering a wide variety of salads and vegetables, plus draft beer and soda. Food will be served 1 to 5 p.m. DJ music will be 2 to 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$23 in advance and \$25 at the door. Call 410-272-1218 or 410-569-0127 for more information.

WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM

The women of St. James A.M.E. Church of 615-617 Green Street in Havre de Grace invites you to help celebrate their 93rd Annual Women's Day Program on March 25. Rev. Charlene Boone, Chattanooga, Tenn., will preach at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The 4 p.m. service "A Salute to Women" will feature the Aberdeen Gospel Choir.

TUESDAY March 27 PANCAKE SUPPER

The Aberdeen Lions Club will hold its annual Pancake Supper from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Aberdeen High School North Building cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 in advance from any club member and \$5.50 at the door. Children 3 and under are free. The Aberdeen Lioness Club will also hold a bake sale in the lobby. For tickets or informa-

LEAVE DONATION

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

Jodie A. Ables (herniated disc)	surgery)
Ameneh M. Arasten (maternity)	Angela R. Little (neck and shoulder injury)
Fay Walker Banker (hip replacement)	Rebecca G. Mercer-Leto (heart attack)
Marian Bellis (fracture of left tibia)	Stacy Miller (maternity)
Barbara Boyd (mother is ill)	Mary V. Overstreet (twisted and sprained wrists and legs)
Bonnie Bromley (liver transplant)	Cecil Pennington (surgery)
Daniel Brown (father has emphysema)	Debi L. Petosky (back surgery)
Tammy Budkey	Mary E. Pettway
Nancy Coleman-Jones (surgery)	Barbara Carol Remines (surgery)
Tracy H Coliano-Hirsch (maternity)	Michael Reynolds
Geraldine S. Cragg	Boyd J. Richards (care of mother)
Bonnie K. Day (surgery)	Denise Robinson (maternity)
Tricia Lin Dietz	Ricky Ross (heart attack)
Fred Dill	Tami C. Rowland (maternity)
Surinder K. Dillon	Allan Scarborough (back surgery)
Joseph R. Dugan	Ralph A. Scutti (care of daughter)
Messina Enderlein	Sherry Schaffer
Wayne Erb (wife is ill)	Lena Shelton
Willa Freisheim	Gail H. Smith (death of husband)
Penelope K. Galoff (maternity)	Motoko Stahl
Norman L. Greear	Rachel Swearingen
Rose M. Hill (vertigo)	Ronald L. Taylor (chronic pulmonary disease)
Michael L. Hitchcock (surgery)	Frances L. Thomas
Melanie A. Hoffman (parosynusitis, fibromyalgia condition)	Rosalind Walters Kenion (maternity)
Stephen Howard (bone marrow transplant)	Cecelia Walton (respiration problems)
Wayne A. Jaynes	Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant)
Evelyn K. Johnson (surgery)	Amber M. Vanakin (care of husband)
Carole Jones	Andrew M. Vaught (brain tumor removed)
Marlin Julian (heart surgery)	Josephine O. Wojiechowski (care for elderly parents)
Jennifer Keetley (maternity)	Yvonne Lissimore (knee

For information about donating annual leave, call Dave Mial at 410-278-1524 or fax 410-278-7877.

tion, call 410-676-8574.

LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION TO BEGIN SEASON

The Edgewood Ladies' Golf Association (nine holes) will hold a welcoming coffee at 10:00 a.m. at the Exton Golf Course in the Edgewood Area. Thereafter, play will be from the first Tuesday of April through October.

All ladies are welcome but must be able to shoot less than 80 for nine holes to be eligible for membership.

For more information, call Connie Richardson, 410-676-0179 or e-mail at car0992@home.com.



FRIDAY MARCH 30 MORE BASKET BINGO

The Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, will hold a Longaberger Basket bingo at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per ticket (3 paper cards); extra cards are available at \$5 per set. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be food, drinks and baked goods available. To purchase tickets, call Nicki Leonetti, 410-272-8275 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332. The fundraiser benefits the Aberdeen High School Junior and Senior Prom.

SUNDAY

APRIL 15 EASTER BUNNY TO MAKE APPEARANCE AT EASTER BRUNCH

The post's Sunday brunch series continues with Easter Brunch slated for April 15. The first seating will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; the second seating is from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The late seating fills first, so make your reservations early.

The menu will include an omelet station, French toast, waffles, sausage, bacon, creamed beef with biscuits, home fries, grits, Danish, muffins, cereal, carved top round of beef and smoked ham, seafood creole, roast leg of lamb with peaches and mint jelly, pasta, potatoes and rice, vegetables, desserts, and beverages, including champagne and bloody Marys.

The Easter Bunny will give baskets to children. Cost is \$13.95 for adults, \$6.95 for children ages 6 to 11 and free for children under age 6. Price does not include gratuity. Make reservations by April 12. Advance payment with a major credit card will be accepted. For reservations, call 410-278-3062/2552.

MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3 CHILDREN \$1.50

ANTITRUST

Friday, March 16, 7 p.m.

Starring: Ryan Phillippe, Tim Robbins

When a young computer whiz is wooed by a huge Silicon Valley company, he soon discovers that his boss has rather nefarious ways around antitrust complaints. (Rated PG-13)

HEAD OVER HEELS

Saturday, March 17, 7 p.m.

Starring: Monica Potter, Freddie Prinze Jr.

A single girl in Manhattan finds herself rooming with four super-fabulous model roommates. She finds herself in head over heels and she's not sure whether to thank her lucky stars or curse her lot in life. (Rated PG-13)

VALENTINE (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, March 17, 9 p.m.

Starring: David Boreanaz, Marley Shelton

Four friends receive morbid Valentine's Day cards. Someone out there is stalking them ... someone they all spurned when they were younger. And Valentine's Day 2001 is the day she/he gets their revenge. (Rated R)

MWR UPDATE

Edgewood Arts & Crafts is a Morale, Welfare Recreation facility and is open to active and retired military, civilians, and contractors working on Aberdeen Proving Ground and their dependents. We are located in building E-4440 next to the military police station near the troop store. Our hours of operation are Thursday, 1 to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 410-436-2153 during listed hours.

Woodshop Orientation

The woodshop will hold a safety orientation on Saturday April 7th from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The cost is the \$3 user fee. This class is required in order to use the woodshop.

Ceramic Class

A basic ceramic class will be held on Saturday, April 14th from 10 to 1 pm. This class teaches the basic of mold pouring, glazing, and painting. Cost is \$7 plus supplies.

Porcelain Dolls

A beginning porcelain doll class making a Sugar Britches doll will be held on Fridays, April 7, 14th, and 21st from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Class size is limited. Pre registration is required. Cost is \$30 plus supplies.

Stained Glass

A beginning stained glass class will be held Saturday, April 21st from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students will make a simple sun-catcher using the copper foil method. Cost is \$25 and includes supplies.

Framing Class

A beginning matting and framing class will be held on April 26th from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Students must bring an 8 inch by 10 inch picture to class to frame and pre register in advance because class size is limited. Cost is \$15 plus supplies.

An early lesson in camaraderie

OC&S students dedicate graduation hall to lost classmate

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

In the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' Advanced Individual Training courses young soldiers receive a series of technical and tactical instructions designed to prepare them for their military professions.

There are some lessons, however, that cannot be taught out of a manual or practiced on a drill field.

Soldiers assigned to Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion found this out when they returned from holiday leave in January to learn they had lost one of their own.

Edward B. Collins, a 21-year old private from Greensboro, N.C., passed away in December while home on Exodus leave after he was accidentally overcome by carbon monoxide fumes.

Shocked and saddened by the news of Collins' death, the returning students began thinking about what they could do to remember their comrade.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Dorsey, drill sergeant, approached his chain of command with a daring idea that would enable the students to memorialize Collins and benefit the unit at the same time — construct a company graduation hall in Collins' honor.

With his leaders' blessings, Dorsey and the students located an ideal site — an empty storage area in the company headquarters building.

Realizing the unsightly room would require a complete overhaul, Dorsey began soliciting donated materials to be used for the hall's construction, from post and local organizations.

He received plywood from the garrison's Directorate of Public Works, borrowed tools from the post's Re-Nu-It Center, hardware from the Wal-Mart in Aberdeen, carpeting, paint, chairs and even food from the post's commissary for the reception following the ceremony.

Having never attempted such an endeavor before, Dorsey said he was encouraged by the enthusiastic support the project received.

"Without the help of those organizations, all of this would have remained just an idea," Dorsey said.

In just over a month, the student volunteers, working whenever they had time away from their duties, transformed the bare and ugly room into an ornate graduation hall befitting its inspiration and purpose.

Those in attendance at the March 6 inaugural graduation and dedication ceremony included members of the Company A 16th Ordnance Battalion cadre, family members of the 34 graduates and 10 OC&S sergeants major.

Collins' parents and two brothers were also present, having traveled to APG from their North Carolina home at the unit's invitation.

Quietly seated at the start of the program, even those who had never seen the hall before, marveled at its beauty.

The former chipped and peeling white walls were now painted a deep burgundy. Matching carpet lined the newly constructed stage and the sitting area was filled with cushioned folding chairs.

Framed U.S. Army posters hung on the left wall and a trophy case sat in the left rear of the room.

On the right wall, a display case constructed by the students contained framed photographs of the OC&S and U.S. Army chain of command.

Burgundy drapes hung over the two entranceways at the front of the room.

Two video monitors, obtained through the battalion's supply section,



Photo courtesy of Barbara Collins

Pvt. Edward B. Collins

sat in the windows of the stage wall that was designed and constructed by the students. The OC&S and American flags framed the cloth-draped portrait of Pvt. Edward B. Collins.

Dorsey opened the program, leading the assembly in the pledge of allegiance then offering the invocation. He introduced the program's official party, Col. John Hills, 61st Ordnance Brigade commander and Capt. Willie Harris, commander, Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion.

"There comes a time when we meet that one person who touches our lives both professionally and personally," Harris told the audience. "Pvt. Edward B. Collins was such a person."

Noting Collins' maintenance of a 98.8 grade point average and his willingness to help others, Harris described him as a "quiet professional."

"He exhibited great pride and dedication in being the finest soldier possible," Harris said.

"Take pride in what you have learned here," he told the graduates. "Go forth and be the finest ordnance soldiers you can be."

An overcame Edward Collins Sr. took the podium to offer his family's gratitude for the "overwhelming tribute."

As his wife, Barbara, and sons Michael, 16, and Matthew, 15, shed silent tears, he told of their pride in his son's accomplishments, noting their delight in attending his basic training graduation at Fort Knox, Ky.

"He was our pride," Collins said. "We loved him so and we thank you for this great honor to his memory."

Following a standing ovation for the great effort it took to deliver the solemn address, two students stepped forward and undraped the portrait of their lost friend.

Preceding the commencement portion of the program, Dorsey read a letter of congratulations and condolences from Maj. Gen. Mitchell Stevenson, chief of ordnance and OC&S commander.

Following the delivery of diplomas by Hills and Harris, each graduate filed past the Collins family, delivering final farewells of hugs and handshakes.

In closing, Dorsey offered a final thanks to OC&S Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Ayers for his support of the project and to "all the senior leaders who took the time to share in this occasion with us today."

Company A 1st Sgt. Glenn Graves praised the students after the ceremony.

"They perceived a dream, then accomplished their mission," Graves said. "This was once a big, ugly room but they have distinguished it with focus and vision."

"This is an outstanding way for us to recognize all good soldiers," Harris added. "It sheds a favorable light on the Army and how we take care of our own."

Harris praised Dorsey and the rest of the Company A cadre for ensuring the soldiers had the materials and time needed for the challenging venture.

"They worked in shifts, whenever they had free time, from right after morning formation to as late as 10 p.m.," Dorsey said, adding that while he would have liked to single out individual efforts, "the entire unit can take pride in this accomplishment."

Pvt. Sara Wood, a graduate from the Armament Repairer course, said she and others volunteered to help with the hall even though they were in a different platoon.

"We sanded, painted and did whatever we could because this was a project for all of us," Wood said. "I feel like we've achieved a lot more than the average AIT student because of it."

Wood was joined by her parents, Jo and Lester Sells from Marion, Ark., who were in town for the graduation.

"It's a marvelous hall," Lester Sells added. "They will carry away an early lesson in camaraderie."



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

The parents and brothers of Pvt. Edward B. Collins pose with Staff Sgt. Anthony Dorsey, drill sergeant, Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion in the unit's new graduation hall constructed in Collins' memory. Collins was an Advanced Individual Training soldier who passed away while home on Exodus leave in December. A portrait of him hangs on the wall in the graduation hall. From the left, Michael Collins, 16, Barbara Collins, Staff Sgt. Anthony Dorsey, Edward Collins Sr., and Matthew Collins, 15.

Aberdeen Proving Ground National Women's History Month Luncheon

Celebrating women of courage and vision

March 29

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Top of the Bay

Tickets \$8.50

Guest Speaker:

Jacqueline Haas,
Superintendent of Harford
County Public Schools

For tickets contact
Master Sgt. James Davis,
410-278-2529, Sgts. 1st
Class Rodney Yelder, 410-
278-5598, Mitchelen
Bigman, 410-278-7381,
Hebert Johnson, 410-278-
1053, Shelton Torbert,
410-278-1534, Cheryl
Coleman, 410-306-0713.

Commentary: New slogan packs more punch than portrayed

by Spc. Jonathan Wiley
Ft. Eustis, Va.

One thing I've noticed in my time in the Army is that soldiers love tradition.

Almost without exception, those who have been in the Army for longer than five years are a little suspicious of the changes that have occurred since their first enlistment.

Words like: "The Army isn't like it was when I first joined," read as a simple observation, a reflection on the state of things without any particular value attached to it. When spoken, however, they're rarely neutral. They're intoned in a way to suggest that the "new" Army is an imitation of the old - today's soldier may carry a heavy load, but it is a few pounds lighter than the one carried by yesterday's.

Given this attitude, it would be asking a lot of soldiers to immediately embrace the Army's new advertising slogan - "An Army of one" - without fondly reminiscing about the old. Those of you who joined the Army between the years of 1981 and 2000 did so to "Be all you could be."

That was an ingenious slogan because it draws upon an assumption almost every recruit has about the Army: that it is challenging, that you can only achieve your best through adversity. It says "Sure the Army is hard, but aren't you as well?"

How could you not be sad to see a slogan like that go?

At the moment the new slogan is like a stepmother. Even if she does have some good qualities, it's natural to be a little resentful of her presence if you liked the slogan she's replacing - and obviously, most of us did since we're wearing BDUs.

The new slogan isn't for us, though. It's for potential recruits wondering if they should investigate the Army further. While it's impossible to predict whether or not the new slogan will be successful, I think it might be, because, like "Be," it packs a lot more meaning into a short, punchy phrase than a first reading

betrays.

Initially, "An Army of one," seems to encourage functioning on one's own, taking little notice of the team. Imagine a recruit at Basic Training explaining to his drill sergeant why he's doing things his own way and not the way he was instructed.

"I'm an Army of one, drill sergeant, and in my Army I do things this way."

It's safe to say that probably wouldn't go over too well.

The slogan doesn't actually encourage a disregard for teamwork, though. Instead, it simply allays a potential recruit's fears that the Army strips soldiers of their individuality. In doing so, it conveys an idea about the Army as classic and as American as something its first general, Gen. George Washington, said about himself and his troops:

"When we took up the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen," he said.

As a nation, America demands that its citizens function as individuals, not drones, and it expects its soldiers to be citizens. Yes, as soldiers we must follow orders.

But as citizens, we must each choose those who shape the orders — our highest leaders. As soldiers, we must answer to our commander-in-chief. As citizens, our commander-in-chief must answer to us.

It's a curious contradiction, but one at which the "An Army of one," slogan artfully hints. It suggests that every American soldier retains his or her unique identity, but it also implies that every soldier is a member of an organization with a singular and unwavering purpose. We are powerful as individuals, and we are undefeatable as a team.

Our Army has always been, and hopefully always will be, a monolithic force remaining ever vigilant in the fight for the freedom and liberty of every individual. It's an Army of one.

(Editor's note: Spc. Jonathan Wiley is the Fort Story, Va., bureau chief for The Wheel newspaper at Fort Eustis.)



Photo by JEANNIE SKILLMAN

William Oldenburg plants wild celery, a type of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, with a little help from Geoffrey Jay, an environmental specialist from the U.S. Army Environmental Center.

AEC celebrates Science Night at elementary school

By Jeannie Skillman
AEC PAO

Saving the environment can be fun! At least that's what many of the over 100 students and parents found out when they took part in the 4th annual Science Night at Edgewood Elementary School.

Volunteers from the U.S. Army Environmental Center developed eight learning stations that offered a fun and interactive approach to gaining knowledge about science and the environment.

As part of an ongoing partnership between the elementary school and the environmental center, volunteers from the center created scenarios to explain some of the threats facing the environment and set them up in the Edgewood Elementary School cafeteria so that the students could become involved with solving those problems.

"We appreciate the dedicated participation of AEC scientists and professionals working with hands-on science experiments," said Edgewood Elementary School Principal Allyn Watson. "Our parents and students look forward to this event every year."

Students moved from station to station in 15-minute increments and had actual hands-on experience in many areas. One station showed students four ways to clean up an oil spill by having them clean up a "mini-disaster." The students tried sinking the oil, extracting it, containing and dispersing it. They were able to see which of the methods worked to clean up the oil and which methods turned out to be the best for the environment.

Students planted submerged aquatic vegetation at another station. They learned how SAV are grasses that produce oxygen and grow beneath the water's surface.

"I knew not to put trash in the water," second grader Katy Alderman said. "But I did not know that grass helped the water."

Because of their many values and functions, SAV are considered to

be the lifeblood of the Chesapeake Bay.

Other stations discussed the depletion of the ozone layer and the quality of the air as well as the reasoning behind recycling.

At another station, parents pretended to be trees while students dressed up as water drops, soil particles and patches of grass and acted out how erosion plays a part in the environment.

"The water drops were trying to drag soil particles to the stream but were slowed down or stopped by the grass and trees," explained Angel Figueroa, a soil conservationist with AEC. "Then we removed the grass and trees, so the water could then drag the soil into the stream."

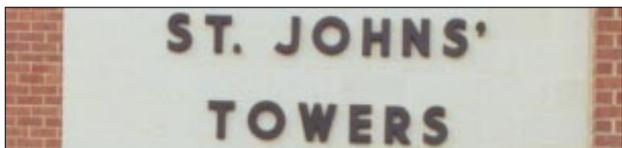
The kids answered questions and concluded that buffers are great to protect water quality.

Edgewood Elementary School and AEC began a formal educational partnership in 1997. Every year since then, the commander of the center has signed an agreement with the school's principal, pledging to support the school's children and to share knowledge of the environmental sciences with students and teachers.

Col. Stanley H. Lillie, AEC's commander, renewed that pledge in November in conjunction with the continued celebration of the Bayscapes garden at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Students contributed 20 concrete steppingstones they had designed and made themselves. In September students, community members, and AEC personnel worked together to build a garden made of plants native to the area. These plants help to filter pollutants, resist local pests and diseases, and help improve the water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

AEC and Edgewood Elementary School have other fun partnership activities planned for the future. An Earth Day celebration is scheduled in April, a mock trial in May and a reading program continues throughout the school year.



Members of ANCOG class 09-01 pose outside the St. Johns' Towers apartment complex in Havre de Grace. The class painted the hallways on six floors of the complex as part of the community service project initiative administered by the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools.



Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS MARK WHITTLE

From left, front, Staff Sgt. John Wilds; second row, kneeling, Staff Sgts. Mark Weimer, Charles Schneider, Danny Taylor and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Orsulak. From left, standing, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Whittle class leader, Sgts. 1st Class Ronald Kinney, Kevin Fletcher, David Honaker, Staff Sgt. James Marshall, Sgts. 1st Class David Sharp, Darrin Dixon, Staff Sgt. Michael Madden and Sgt. 1st Class William Dameron.

ANCOG class brightens residents' day

PAINTING, from front page

works well together," Wittle said.

He said he plans to participate in the upcoming "Christmas in April" program, an effort to fix-up low income housing areas in the county in late April.

St. Johns' Towers' resident, Grace Hilliard, said she loves the new look of the hallways.

"I've been here 14 years and this has never been done before," Hilliard said.

"This is a wonderful change

considering how it looked before."

Members of ANCOG class 09-01 include Sgts. 1st Class Mark Wittle, class leader; William Dameron, Darrin Dixon, Devin Fletcher, David Honaker, Ronald Kinney and David Sharp and Staff Sgts. Terry Kasper, Michael Madden, James Marshall, Charles Schneider, Danny Taylor, Mark Weimer and John Wilds.

The TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program is here

Courtesy of Sierra Military Health Services

Beginning April 1 uniformed services beneficiaries 65 years of age and over will have access to the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, provided by the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act. This Act continues to authorize beneficiaries to obtain their medications at military hospitals and clinics on a space-available basis and authorizes eligible beneficiaries to obtain low-cost prescription medications from the National Mail Order Pharmacy, TRICARE Network and non-network civilian pharmacies. The TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program replaces the Base Realignment and Closure pharmacy benefit and the Pharmacy Redesign Pilot Program.

To participate in this pharmacy program, beneficiaries must be currently listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. This new benefit may require beneficiaries to be enrolled in Medicare Part B. Those who will be age 65 before April 1 do not have to enroll in Medicare Part B. Those who turn 65 on or after April 1 must be enrolled in Medicare Part B in order to use the mail order and retail pharmacy benefits.

The Department of Defense encourages everyone to carefully consider enrollment in Medicare Part B so they will be eligible to take advantage of TRICARE health benefits to help pay the cost of doctor and hospital bills that will begin October 1. Medicare Part B open enrollment dates are Jan. 1 through March 31. Contact a local Medicare office today for more information or visit web site www.medicare.gov.

There is no enrollment fee for this new program, and co-payments and cost shares vary with each option and type of drug (brand name or generic). To fill prescriptions, qualified beneficiaries can use Military Treatment Facility pharmacies, National Mail Order Pharmacy, TRICARE Network Pharmacies and non-network pharmacies. There are

Rx

no fees for prescriptions filled at MTF pharmacies. NMOP provides up to three times the value, with up to a 90-day supply, versus the retail network with up to a 30-day supply of medication. The most costly and least desirable option is obtaining medications from a non-network pharmacy.

The Department of Defense policy requires the use of generics when available, unless the provider justifies the brand name product as being medically necessary. Brand name products for which no generic alternatives are available can be obtained at the brand name drug co-pay.

Beneficiaries may obtain prescription drugs from any of the four pharmacy types, at any time. For the beneficiary's protection, there is a system in place among network retail pharmacies, NMOP, and most MTF pharmacies to cross-check prescriptions to help limit the potential for adverse drug reactions. This protection is not available in non-network pharmacies - a good reason to stay with the MTF, NMOP or TRICARE network of pharmacies.

If a beneficiary has prescription drug coverage with another health insurance plan, they cannot use NMOP. They can only use NMOP if the medication is not covered under the other plan or if the dollar limit of coverage under that other plan is exceeded. Call Merck-Medco for specific instructions at 1-800-903-4680. When using a retail pharmacy, the other policy must be used first to cover any costs. The beneficiary might be eligible for full or partial reimbursement from TRICARE for any uncovered out-of-pocket costs.

For any questions about this program, visit the TRICARE Management Activity web site at www.tricare.osd.mil, call the toll-free help line at 1-877-363-6337, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST or contact a local TRICARE Service Center at 1-888-999-5195.

5-K race April 21

The Military and Civilian Spouses' Club will host a 5-kilometer race beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 21 at APG's Fanshaw Field. Age categories are 15 and under, 16 to 20, 21 to 30, 31 to 40, 41 to 50, 51 to 60, 61 and over.

Register at the APG Athletic Center, building 3300. The entry fee is \$10 for those registered by April 10; \$12 for those registered by April 20; and \$15 the day of the race from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. The overall first place male and female winners will receive \$200. The second overall male and female winners will win \$100, and the third place overall male and female winners will receive \$50 each. Medallions will be given to the first three finishers in each category. The first 200 participants registered will receive a free tee shirt. For more information call Diane Wilson, 410-297-8508, or Amy Carlson, 410-939-6429. USPA & IRA, APG Federal Credit Union, and the Ordnance Corps Association are sponsors of the race. All proceeds will benefit welfare and scholarship funds.