

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Jan. 1, is glass, plastic and metal. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

Holiday gate operations

At 8 p.m., Dec. 24, the Harford Gate, or Route 22, in the Aberdeen Area and the Wise Road Gate, or Edgewood Road, in the Edgewood Area, will be closed for the holiday and will reopen 4 a.m., Jan. 2.

Requesting day passes

The Edgewood Area Office of the Pass/ID/Registration will only provide the Common Access Card and DA Forms 1601 services Dec. 26, 30 and 31. Personnel requiring security badges, fingerprinting, or vehicle registration will have to go to the Aberdeen Area Pass/ID/Registration Office.

For more information, call Wilbur Townsend, chief, Physical Security Services Division, 410-278-4631.

Holiday closures

The Edgewood Area Re-Nu-It Center/Self-Help, building E-5185, will be closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 7. Operations will resume on Jan. 8.

The laundry services area, building E-5185, will be closed until Jan. 3. Linen services will resume as normal on Jan. 6.

The Walter Reed Army Medical Center Shuttle will not be operating through Jan. 5. The run will resume on Jan. 6. The Aberdeen Area Motor Pool, building 5256, will be closed on Dec. 26. The Housing Division will be closed Dec. 26 and Dec. 27 is an RDO. The office will be operational on Dec. 30, but with limited staff.

The Edgewood Area Motor Pool will be closed on Dec. 26.

The Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School Library will reopen Jan. 3.

Donna's Pit Beef will be closed through Jan. 5.

Equipment center offers specials, changes hours

Two holiday specials being offered allow customers to rent anything on Dec. 30 and return it on Jan. 2 for the cost of a one-day rental fee.

New hours for the Outdoor Recreation's Equipment Resource
See SHORTS, page 3

Holiday spirit shines with SBCCOM Food and Toy Drive

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

"Suddenly, in the busy lives we lead, something happens to show you we are in the holiday season."

With that remark, Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, opened the celebration that signaled the end of the annual Food and Toy Drive in the Edgewood Area.

A mountain of toys and food took up one wall in the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center Berger Laboratory cafeteria on Dec. 17, as employees celebrated another successful drive with holiday snacks and caroling to music provided by the ECBC Ensemble, and officially turned over the hundreds of donations netted to representatives from Neighbors Involved in the Community of Edgewood, or NICE, the Edgewood charity supporting 75 families this holiday

season. "Everyone here should be proud," Doesburg told the gathering. "Think about those folks who will benefit from what you have done and feel real good about yourselves," he said.

Jim Zarzycki, ECBC technical director and Barbara Knapp, toy drive chair, led the celebration.

Zarzycki thanked Doesburg as "a commander who encourages these kinds of things," and the volunteers, noting how the toys have to be collected from 23 sites around the installation.

"It's not a small management task. Everyone in Edgewood and ECBC gets together to make this happen," Zarzycki said. "For me, the closing ceremony changes everything. The true spirit of Christmas is in this setting."

The Rev. Cheryl Hill, president of NICE, and Alex
See TOY DRIVE, page 11



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Boxes of food and a mountain of toys donated to the SBCCOM Holiday Food and Toy Drive await pick-up before the start of the closing ceremony celebration in the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Berger Laboratory cafeteria, Dec. 17. During the ceremony, the toys and food were turned over to representatives of NICE, Neighbors Involved in the Community of Edgewood, which is supporting 75 needy families.

ACS hosts holiday party

Story and photo by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Army Community Services' Army Family Team Building sponsored its second annual Community Holiday Party, drawing dozens of Aberdeen Proving Ground families to the Post Recreation Center Dec. 17.

Led by Celestine Beckett, chief, ACS and her staff, area youths and their parents played games, won prizes, enjoyed holiday snacks and chatted with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the APG Garrison sponsored event.

Twenty-three soldier volunteers from Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course ran the games that included the ring toss, beanbag toss, candy guess, musical chairs and the wooden egg race, as well as face painting.

In addition, eight firefighters from the AA Fire



Austin Bryant, 7, sits still for his face painting as Sgt. Dreon Davis, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, paints a Christmas tree on his face during the Army Community Service Holiday Party.

Department, led by Howie Travers, helped Santa hand out presents and ACS provided complimentary photographs with Santa for all the little wish-makers.

Youths and parents seemed to enjoy themselves tremendously.

"This is a great activity for kids and families," said Yolanda Bryant, as she watched her son Austin, 7, get a Christmas tree painted on his face.

The mother of six added the family is celebrating its first holiday on APG having arrived here three months ago.

"My kids are all over the place having fun," Bryant said.

"It's good family fun," added Cpl. Maria Muniz as she and her husband, Julio watched their daughter Airam, 2, chat with Santa.

"They have something for every age group," Muniz said. "She is just loving it."

Sgt. Robert Mikell, BNCOC platoon leader, said the group was participating as part of its community service project.

"We're helping run the games and with the clean up afterward," Mikell said.

See ACS PARTY, page 12

DIO gears up for annual status report

Story by Yvonne Johnson
APG News

With the new year comes the requirement to assess the installation's overall condition and report the findings to the Secretary of Defense.

The Installation Status Report, or ISR, was developed by the Department of the Army in 1994 as a way to assess installation conditions and performance against Army-wide standards. The ISR is a three-part report consisting of Infrastructure, Environmental and Services that requires active participation of all organizations within APG to compile.

"The ISR data for all army installations is rolled up at the Department of the Army level for all installations and is used as a decision making tool. In some respects this data helps them to decide where to best use the taxpayers money," said Skip Glascock, an operations specialist with the Business Management Office.

Glascock, who heads the Infrastructure portion of the

Aberdeen Proving Ground ISR process, is one of several representatives who will attend the ISR Central Training session in Florida in January in preparation for the annual ISR submission. The purpose of the training session is to provide ISR points of contact with the latest updates on changes to procedures and standards for inspecting and reporting. Shortly thereafter he will distribute the materials necessary for tenant organizations and Garrison staff elements to conduct inspections and evaluations in their area of responsibility.

"Basically the APG tenant organizations will evaluate their assets against a set of standards that are consistent throughout the Army." All permanent and semi-permanent structures on the installation will be inspected and provided a rating of Red, Amber or Green, he said.

"The ISR is a long process but the benefit is that it gives

See DIO, page 12

Candidates appl to OCS board

Deborah Dawson
SBCCOM Adjutant

On Feb. 13, the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Meade, will convene a board for soldiers applying for attendance at the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School.

Along with the United States Military Academy and the Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Officer Candidate School remains an important source of commissioned officers for the Army. Recently the Army has increased the number of soldiers who may attend Officer Candidate School.

Candidates apply through local boards - Fort Meade for APG soldiers - and those selected begin a rigorous, 14-week course of instruction at Fort Benning, Ga.

Aberdeen Proving Ground

soldiers who wish to become commissioned officers should prepare their applications early. The key prerequisites for eligibility are:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Have a GT score of 110 or higher.
- Pass the Army Physical Fitness Test score 180.
- Pass the Scholastic Aptitude Test, minimum score of 850 or American College Test, minimum score of 19.
- Have at least 90 semester hours of college study.
- Achieve a score of 80 or higher on the English Comprehension Level Test, if primary language is not English.
- Be at least 18 years old and less than 30 (can waiver

age up to 35).

• Have a complete physical exam six months prior to date of application.

Completed packets must be submitted to the SBCCOM Military Personnel Office not later than Jan. 9. Each application consists of one packet containing all original documents, and three photocopies of the original packet. Additional information may be found in Army Regulation 351-5 (Officer Candidate School) or the OCS Web page <http://www.armyocs.com/home/>.

For OCS application information, call the SBCCOM Adjutant's Office, Vanessa Cefaloni, 410-436-2130/3239 or e-mail milpo@sbccom.apgea.army.mil.

Installation watch card

Awareness is key! Everyone is a sensor.

Do observe and report:

- Unusual or suspicious activity or suspected surveillance.
- Unusual questions or requests for information relating to capabilities, limitations, or operational information.
- Unusual vehicles operating in or around the installation.
- Unusual phone calls, messages, or e-mails.
- Unusual contacts on or off post.
- Unusual aerial activity near or around installation.
- Any possible compromise of sensitive information.

Do not:

- Discuss any aspect of military operations or planning.
- Discuss military capabilities or limitations.
- Discuss force protection measures, capabilities, or posture.
- Disclose any information related to unit deployments.

Report any suspicious activity immediately to APG Police:

Aberdeen Area 410-306-2222
Edgewood Area 410-436-2222
Your call may save lives!

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Army News

Understanding disability is key to overcoming it

Story and photo by Sonya P. Reynolds
APG News

"Look at that poor man," said Dan Wilkins, chief executive officer of The "Nth Degree" and guest speaker at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Disability Awareness Month Observance program held Nov. 20, at Top of the Bay.

Judy Matthews, U.S. Army Developmental Test Command and chairperson, Committee for the disabled opened the ceremony by thanking all attendees and said events like this make it less stressful to cope with the trying times of the world.

"One way to cope with these struggling times is to participate in meaningful and inspirational events such as our program today," Matthews said.

She extended gratitude to Spc. Gabriel Sanchez, piano soloist, 389th Army Band, (AMC's Own), for providing the musical selections for the program and thanked the sign language interpreters for their participation.

Matthews mentioned how proud she was of the committee's efforts over the past year including programs on the education of lime disease, cerebral palsy, Parkinson's disease, colon rectal cancer and sign language classes for APG employees.

Committee members also visited Future Home, a technologically advanced accessible home, which offers suggestions to modify homes of individuals with disabilities. Matthews said APG community members were instrumental in modifying some facilities on APG and will continue their efforts to ensure accessibility

for people with disabilities. Vendors present included but were not limited to Child Find Program, National Federation of the Blind, Parent Resource Center and Commission on Disabilities. Matthews said that through these resources, APG committee members were able to provide educational information.

"The exhibitors here today represent some of the areas which have provided educational information throughout the year," Matthews said.

"I want to thank them for being here today and providing their information to us."

Randy Weber, School of Military Packing Technology, U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, sang the national anthem, followed by the invocation by garrison Chaplain Lt. Col. Kenneth Kolenbrander.

Col. Mardi U. Mark, garrison and deputy installation commander, thanked attendees and commended the committee on a job well done.

"Thanks for joining us for this year's Disability Awareness program. What a fantastic job they've done," Mark said. "Special thanks to the APG committee for their dedicated efforts all year."

Mark said disability awareness is more than a celebration, it's a challenge.

"Disability is a celebration of employees with disabilities who have walked the path of opportunity and have demonstrated their abilities," Mark said. "It is a challenge to overcome the attitude barriers left in our society which continue

to keep people with disabilities from becoming part of our workforce."

She pointed out the areas where persons with disabilities have been successful and how these successes have been instrumental in leading the way for others.

Mark said that there are more than 800 people with disabilities on APG and that the various organizations recognize and appreciate the positive contributions they make.

"The organizations realize they have employees with good attendance records, who are loyal to their jobs and organizations," Mark said.

She elaborated on the theme, "Understanding Makes Tolerance Unnecessary," by adding the key is to understand.

"This year's theme conveys an important message that understanding disabilities is the key," Mark said.

She noted that not understanding creates barriers for those with disabilities, which keep them out of the workforce.

Mark said understanding comes with first understanding ones' self.

"These barriers keep quality employees from joining the work ranks of the employed. We must become understanding ourselves," Mark said.

Wilkins, a husband, dad, artist, writer, graphic designer and an individual with a disability, was asked to be the guest as a man who understands both sides.

"He was not disabled all his life. He became disabled because of an automobile acci-



Dan Wilkins, guest speaker, shares personal experiences about living with disabilities at the Disability Awareness Month Luncheon Nov. 20.

dent. We thought he would be the best candidate because he can see from both sides," Matthews said.

Wilkins noted that because of his experiences he has learned to appreciate living with a disability.

"I sit before you a man very proud to be a veteran and also very proud to be living with a disability," Wilkins said.

Wilkins told a story of how he had an opportunity to visit the re-creation of the Titanic and how awful it must have been for the people aboard that ship. While his focus was

on the misfortune of the Titanic, a voice in the background said, "Look at that poor man," a comment made by another visitor, about him.

Not at all surprised by the comment, Wilkins used the story as an example of what persons with disabilities face almost daily. He said that from comments like these, he's learned what it is like to be discriminated against. Wilkins noted that people who have disabilities learn to laugh at the comments but added that there's nothing funny about it.

"We laugh at those types of interactions because it's how we deal with the way people react or interact with us," he said. "There is nothing funny about discrimination."

Wilkins said that the reactions are just a reflection of what they don't know.

"So much of this misperception is based in fear of the unknown, what they don't understand and lack of awareness," Wilkins said.

"There's nothing wrong with people living with disabilities, they are just different," Matthews said.

Support our troops

DoD

With the holidays approaching, thousands of Americans are again asking what they can do to show their support for service members, especially those serving overseas in this time of war. Below are Web sites for several organizations that are sponsoring programs for members of the Armed Forces overseas. While it would be inappropriate for the Department to endorse any specifically, service members do value and appreciate such expressions of support:

Donate a calling card to help keep service members in touch with their families at Operation Uplink at <http://www.operationuplink.org/>.

Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil/> or <http://www.Operation-DearAbby.net>.

Sign a virtual thank you card at the Defend America Web site at <http://www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html>.

Make a donation to one of the military relief societies:

Army Emergency Relief at <http://www.aerhq.org/>

Navy/Marine Relief Society at <http://www.nmcrs.org/>

Air Force Aid Society at <http://www.afas.org/>

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance at <http://www.cgm-ahq.org/>

Donate to "Operation USO Care Package" at <http://www.usometrodc.org/care.html>.

Support the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services at <http://www.redcross.org/services/afes/>.

See SUPPORT, page 12

Commandant, U.S. Army Management Staff College, to present briefings

Deborah Dawson
SBCCOM Adjutant

Col. Thomas E. Sittnick, commandant, U.S. Army Management Staff College, will present a briefing of the Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Program offered by the Army Management Staff College, Ft. Belvoir, Va., on Jan. 21. The morning session will be conducted in the Edgewood Area SBCCOM Conference Center, Auditorium, building E-4810, and the afternoon session will be at the Ball Conference Center in the Aberdeen Area. Graduates of SBLM (previously known as Army Management Staff College) are encouraged to attend the meeting scheduled to be con-

ducted prior to the briefing. **What is SBLM?**

The Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Program is the Army's only leadership, management, and decision-making education institution encompassing the breadth of the Army's sustaining base, geo-political interests through strategic systems to direct soldier support. The program's focus is multi-functional and horizontally integrated education.

The AMSC defines the sustaining base as that aggregation of people, guidance, systems, money, materiel, and facilities that prepare the soldier for action, get the soldier to action, sustain the soldier during action, and return that soldier home--and take care of the soldier's family throughout. It encompasses HQDA through installation, and even unit. It encompasses the environment and context within which the Army must accomplish its mission; functional areas such as financial, personnel, logistics, acquisition, and

installation management; decision-making tools and practices; and creative, critical, and strategic thinking applied to problem solving. It also touches the social, economic, and political events impacting the Army.

The academic program focuses on enduring principles and concepts over transient or procedural activities. The content stresses critical thinking and active learning, practical work among student and faculty-student teams, and intensive student self-preparation, at least two weeks of which occur before matriculating to the 12-week resident portion of the program.

The AMSC employs a variety of teaching and learning techniques that include top-level guest speakers, seminar discussions, research projects, practical exercises, case studies, field trips, and student leadership opportunities.

Through frequent written and oral evaluations of progress, students demonstrate knowledge of the mission,

roles, functions, and organization of the Army, and relate Army systems (money, people, things, places) to each other and the larger economic, social, and political environments within which Army leaders discharge their decisions.

Students must demonstrate their abilities as leaders who can write clearly and concisely, communicate orally, lead people, make decisions, and solve problems. They must demonstrate vision, flexibility, selflessness, and a "can do" attitude, as well as the Army Values. All students are expected to assume leadership roles within each class. AMSC's program in Sustaining Base Leadership and Management is pass-fail.

Who should attend

- Civilian nominees must:
- Be serving in or have potential for advancement to key leadership positions;
 - Have a career conditional appointment or career status,

See SBLM, page 12

APG News

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Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

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SANTA SURPRISES CHILDREN

Photo by BEVERLY HARTGROVE



Santa holds 4 month old Alexis Robertson, daughter of Headquarters and Headquarters, 16th Ordnance Brigade's Staff Sgt. Jeffrey and Gwendolyn Robertson, during a surprise visit to the Family Child Care Providers' Gym Day at the Aberdeen Youth Services building Dec. 19. Santa talked with the children, answered lots of questions and gave out candy canes and warm hugs. The FCC Program has scheduled Play Days in both the Aberdeen and Edgewood Areas each week. For more information about Play Day or openings in Family Child Care, call 410-278-8720-7477/9832.

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Center begin Jan. 6. The center will operate Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The center will be closed Sundays and federal holidays.

Due to the center being closed on Sunday, the one-day rental for Saturday pickup and return on Sunday is no longer available. A new special reduced rate for Saturday and Sunday equipment rental is a day and a half rate. Customers can still rent equipment on Saturday for Sunday and bring the equipment back Monday for a one-day fee.

For more information, call Wayne L. Doyel, program manager Outdoor Recreation, building 2407, 410-278-5789 or DSN 298-5789, 410-278-4124. Fax to 410-278-4160, or e-mail him at wayne.doyel@usag.apg.army.mil or outdoor.recreation@usag.apg.army.mil.

Holiday refuse removal schedule

There will be no trash pickup on Christmas Day. Thursday and Friday's pickups remain the same.

For the week of Dec. 30, refuse will be removed on Monday, Dec. 30 for Tuesday scheduled stops and Tuesday, for Wednesday scheduled stops.

There will be no trash pickup on New Year's Day. Thursday and Friday pickups remain the same.

Vet Facility holiday hours

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will operate its normal hours 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, in December with the following exceptions:

No clinics will be held until January 2003.

For appointment dates in January, customers may call after Dec. 27. The facility will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

CWF hosts trip to Italy

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring a trip to Italy, April 25 through May 3 to tour Rome, Perugia, Florence Venice and Pisa. Excursions include the Trevi Fountain, Colosseum, and St. Peter's Basilica; the Great Fountain, Cathedral and Priors' Palace in Perugia; Michelangelo's tomb and Gates of Paradise in Florence; the Roman Forum; Scenic Brenta Riviera Drive; Cruise to St. Mark's Square to see the Bridge of Sighs in Venice; and Florence leatherwork and Venetian glass-blowing demonstrations.

Included is a dinner of local cuisine with entertainment in Rome, seven buffet breakfasts, and three other dinners. Transportation through Italy will be on a luxury motor-coach.

The price per person is \$2,250 for a single, \$2,150 per person for a double room, and \$2,100 per person for a triple room. A \$150 deposit per person is due upon reservation. Price includes airfare, hotel, tours, and specified meals, transfers to and from the airport and taxes.

For reservations or more information, call Angela Keithley or Jacqueline McKeever at 410-278-4603/4771.

University of Maryland University College to host EXCEL Orientation

Find out how to earn college credit for knowledge acquired in work and life experiences at an EXCEL (experiential learning) orientation Jan. 14, 4 to 6 p.m. in building 3146, located on the corner of Raritan Avenue and Bel Air Street on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

For information and to reserve a seat, call UMC's APG office at 410-272-8269, or 410-278-4632.

Fact of the Week



Using recycled aluminum saves 95 percent of the energy used to make new aluminum cans from raw materials.

- Courtesy of the Maryland Department of Agriculture

Family Child Care training in EA

Family Child Care training will be conducted Feb. 3 to 7 at the Edgewood Area Youth Services building. Applicants who are interested in providing home-based child care, especially infant care for those residing in the Edgewood Area, are encouraged to apply.

Being a professionally trained provider in a warm, home environment offers many benefits such as self employment, free training in a marketable profession, transferable credit to Army installations world wide, free use of the lending library, free referrals by Central Registry, free monthly newsletter, free workshops (nutrition, health, child development, safety, CPR, taxes), participation in the National CDA credential program and participation in the USDA food program.

For more information, call the FCC Office, 410-278-7477/8720/9832.

Have you updated your DEERS information?

DEERS beneficiaries are reminded to update information whenever beneficiaries face a life change, e.g., new baby, retirement, deployment, etc. Visit Web site http://www.tricare.osd.mil/smart/deers_month.cfm for more information.

Classes offered to prevent cold injuries KUSAHC

Now that winter is coming, it is imperative that leaders counsel their personnel about cold weather injuries. Cold weather injuries are preventable.

Successful prevention requires vigorous command leadership and proper use of preventive measures. Prior planning, cold weather training, and the proper clothing and equipment are paramount.

Specific preventive measures include conserving body heat, avoiding unnecessary prolonged exposure to cold, moisture and activities favoring cold weather injury. Preventive Medicine and Wellness, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, offers classes on cold injury prevention and awareness.

For information, contact 1st Lt. Parrie or Spec. Roberts at 410-278-1991/1956.

WACVA 114T sells cookbooks

The Women's Army Corps Veterans Association Chesapeake Beacon Chapter 114T is selling cookbooks for \$12.50, plus shipping and handling, to offset expenses for their holiday charities for local veterans' hospitals.

To purchase a book, call Wanda Story at 410-272-5040, or e-mail her at okiegirlmd@aol.com.

Flu shots available at KUSAHC

Flu vaccine is available to retirees and family members at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. No appointment or prescription is necessary.

The Immunization Clinic is open on Monday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 to 11:45 a.m.; Wednesday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 8 to 11:45 a.m. and Friday, 8 to 11:45 a.m.

Flu immunizations will be available for DOD civilians at KUSAHC and Edgewood Occupational Health Clinics

from Jan. 6 to 9, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

PWOC holds Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite the community to attend Bible Studies. Monday evenings at 7 p.m., PWOC will study Joyce Meyer's "Battlefield of the Mind, Winning the Battle in Your Mind." For more information on the Monday evening study, contact Cindy Sepulveda at 410-306-1780.

On Thursday mornings at 9 a.m., two Bible Studies are held, "The Prayer of Jabez" by Dr. Bruce Wilkinson and "Becoming a Woman of Influence, Making a Lasting Impact on Others" by Carol Kent. For more information on the Thursday morning studies, call the APG Chapel at 410-273-4333.

Child care is provided on Thursday morning. Monday evenings currently does not have child care; however, it can be arranged if necessary.

Youth Services makes room for APG homeschoolers

On Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the school year, the Aberdeen Youth Center multipurpose rooms will be available

from 1 to 3 p.m. for APG's homeschoolers. Youths must be registered members of APG Youth Services and in grades one through 12. Parent-teachers must be present throughout the visit.

For more information on homeschool usage of Aberdeen Youth Services, call Norma Warwick, 410-278-9059 or e-mail Norma.Warwick@usag.apg.army.mil.

Since military homeschooling families have special needs, Lisa McGee is interested in forming a network of APG's homeschooling families. To make arrangements, call McGee at 410-272-8743, e-mail at JustgottaBme123@aol.com, or talk with her during Homeschooler Time at the Aberdeen Youth Center.

Have you updated your DEERS information?

DEERS beneficiaries are reminded to update information whenever beneficiaries face a life change, e.g., new baby, retirement, deployment, etc.

Visit Web site http://www.tricare.osd.mil/smart/deers_month.cfm for more information.

ABC-C newsletter publishes quarterly

The Army Benefits Center-Civilian, ABC-C, publishes a newsletter that will be e-mailed to employees quarterly. Its purpose is to provide up-to-date information helpful to employees when using the Army's automated system to manage benefits and entitlements and when planning retirement. For more information, contact Terri Wright, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, 410-278-4331.

Red Cross relocates

The APG Office of the American Red Cross has relocated from building 2477 to Room 111 in building 2752.

It is located next to the Army Community Services building on Augusta Street. The telephone number remains 410-278-2087.

Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday.

Nearly 200 soldiers graduate in single ceremony

E. C. Starnes
OC&S

Nearly 200 Advanced Individual Training students graduated in a special combined mass graduation ceremony at the Edgewood Recreation Center Dec. 18. The 16th and 143rd Ordnance Battalions combined ceremonies for 13 classes just prior to the EXODUS leave for the year.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia A. Pritchett, Command Sergeant Major of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., served as the guest speaker.

"Are you all happy out there," she asked the graduates and their families.

She thanked the families for traveling to see their sons or daughters graduate, as well as the drill sergeants and instructors for their support of the young soldiers.

"These soldiers wouldn't be here tonight without any of these groups [family, drill sergeants and instructors]," she said.

"I was once given an award by the Women in Military Service to America," she said. When she received the award she was asked what it meant to her to serve the nation or the flag.

"I thought about when I was the Post Command Sergeant Major at Fort Belvoir. It was a retreat and the flag was going down. A young boy got off his bike and laid the bike down. He took off his hat and faced the flag," Pritchett said.

"I also thought about my mother's funeral. She was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. When I was presented the flag as the eldest, my niece looked over at me and said, 'That's grandma's flag.'

"Or it was when I was in a movie theater and I heard some

voices say, 'I think that's her.' Then when I went to get some popcorn they recognized me as their drill sergeant."

"I'm a sergeant now, too," said one of the soldiers.

"It's about being in Somalia, where some people didn't think we should be.

It's seeing people starving. It's being on the tarmac when the remains of our Rangers were shipped out," she continued.

"Or it was sitting by a little boy on a plane. He was 5 years old and he was on his way to a science fair. His science project was on DNA," she said.

And she thought that what she was doing was important because it permitted the freedom necessary for this 5-year-old to have the freedom and the education to take on such a project.

She explained that as she spent the day visiting soldiers. "I felt good," she said. "It's about our future being very secure."

She noted that she came in the Army in 1973. "A lot of you weren't even here then.

"I joined the Army because my Dad and I got into a fight," she told the young soldiers. She explained that they were arguing about where she was going to go to college. She had scholarship offers and wanted to go to Central Michigan University so she could be closer to home. Her father wanted her to go to Perdue.

"You have to understand that my father was a 25-year Navy man. The best way to get back was to join the Army. I went down to the recruiter and I signed up. Then when I got to Fort McClellan, I started wondering what I had gotten myself into."

Pritchett noted that she stayed in the Army, not because she was still upset at her father, but "because of the people I met and the things I got to do.

And," she added, "because of my drill sergeant. I still remember her name."

She told the students that she and her drill sergeant saw each other again about 20 years later. "I was her faculty advisor at the Sergeants Major Academy. I asked her if she would appoint me to command sergeant major.

"I tell you this because one of you might be up here one day as a drill sergeant, as a first sergeant, a command sergeant major, or as a guest speaker at an ordnance graduation."

She told them she believed that an "Army of One" is more than a recruiting slogan. "It's about the Army," Pritchett said. "Who I am is greater than who I was.

"You probably had doubts along the way. But somebody pushed you. Now you're going on Christmas break and then on to your next unit."

She asked the soldiers to do one thing for her while they were back with family and friends. "Right now there are soldiers on point for the nation.

It could be you next Christmas. Remember these folks when you are home with your families. And, give your family a big hug."

She talked about September 11, 2001 as a turning point for their generation.

Each young generation has had a defining point she noted. Whether it was the assassinations of John F. Kennedy or Martin Luther King or Vietnam, it marked a definite point in the lives of a generation.

"We had the big parade when we came back from



Photo by E. C. STARNES

Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett and Maj. LouAnne Maddox talk with families and soldiers following a mass graduation ceremony at the Edgewood Recreation Center. Pritchett was the guest speaker as nearly 200 ordnance soldiers graduated from Advanced Individual Training.

Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Then there was 10 years of relative peace.

"9-11 changed us forever," she said. "Some of you may be here because of it and I commend you for that."

Pritchett told the young soldiers that they will hear a lot of discussions about Iraq and the possibility of going to war when they go home.

"Remember, you are serving so people can voice their opinions. You belong to a great profession, a great organization. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. You are what it's about for our country."

"Go ordnance. Go ordnance. Go home," she told the graduates after they had received their diplomas.

The mass graduation exercise is an annual event for soldiers approaching the holiday season break from training. In the past there were two mass graduations, one at each battalion. This year the ceremonies were combined.

CPSC makes list, says check it twice for recalled toys

Nychelle Fleming, Kim Dulic
CPSC

Consumers are often advised to shop early for the holidays, even months ahead, to save time and money. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is alerting consumers that they may have bought children's items that have since been recalled.

Hal Stratton, in his first news conference as CPSC Chairman, announced a list of some of the commission's largest recalls of children's products over the past year.

"We've made our list and want consumers to check it twice," said Stratton. "Preventing needless tragedies and providing a safe environment are the best holiday gifts parents can provide their children."

Stratton also discussed hazardous products that consumers may have in their homes that could endanger children, as families gather for the holidays. Consumers should check whether products have been recalled and dispose of them or place them out of the reach of children until they can be replaced or repaired. Manufacturers will usually offer a free repair kit or replacement product.

The CPSC is also providing safety tips (see below) to help consumers choose appropriate toys this holiday season and year round.

Consumers can get the list of recalled products by going to the CPSC Web site, www.cpsc.gov, or calling toll free, 1-800-638-2772. This list identifies recalled children's products that are off store shelves but may still be lurking in garages, attics, basements, toy boxes or closets.

Checklist of recalled children's products

- Gearbox Pedal Cars distributed by Alpha International Inc.: The paint on some of these pedal cars contains high lead levels. CPSC standards ban toys and other children's products containing high levels of lead.

Young children could ingest the lead from the car's paint coating, presenting a lead poisoning hazard. Call Alpha International at 1-800-368-6367 to receive a replacement car or return the product to the place where purchased to receive a full refund.

- Air Powered Rockets distributed by Estes Industries: The rockets' foam tips can break off exposing sharp edges that can cause face lacerations or eye injuries. The rocket system also has a weak pump handle that can break during use, posing a risk of hand lacerations. Estes and CPSC have received 16 reports of rocket tips breaking off. Six children were struck in the face by the rockets, including two who suffered detached retinas and four who suffered cuts requiring stitches. There were 68 reports of broken pump handles, including six hand lacerations. Call Estes Industries toll-free at 1-800-576-5811 to get a replacement rocket, or visit www.estes-rockets.com.

- Firestormer and Skyblazer toy air-powered planes distributed by Spin Master Toys: The plastic air intake chamber of the air-powered toy planes can burst, throwing plastic pieces, posing a laceration, bruise and abrasion hazard to consumers. Spin Master Toys received seven reports of Firestormer planes bursting, including four reports of injuries (chest abrasion, cut leg, bruised shoulder, and ringing in the ears) to children. There have been no reports involving the Skyblazer planes. Call Spin Master Toys at 1-800-622-8339 to get a free replacement plane, or visit www.spinmaster.com.

- Animal Toy Sponges distributed by Dollar Tree Stores: The eyes on the toys can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

CPSC and Dollar Tree Stores received one report of an eye coming off.

Return the toy sponge animals to the store where purchased for a full refund. Call

Dollar Tree Stores at 1-800-876-8077 or visit www.dollartree.com.

- Stuffed Polyester Pool Animals distributed by Dollar Tree Stores: The seams can separate exposing the polyester stuffing and foam beads. The foam beads pose a choking hazard to young children. CPSC and Dollar Tree Stores have received one report of the seam ripping, exposing the polyester stuffing and a plastic bag containing foam beads.

Return the stuffed animals to the store where purchased for a full refund. Call Dollar Tree Stores at 1-800-876-8077 or visit www.dollartree.com.

- Cotton Candy Machine distributed by Rose Art Industries: The electric motor on the cotton candy machine can jam and overheat, posing a fire hazard. The heating unit can be activated without the spinner in place, presenting a risk of burn to consumers. CPSC and Rose Art have received 225 reports of the machines overheating. There have been three reports of fire, one resulting in an estimated \$2,000 in property damage. CPSC received a report of two unconfirmed minor injuries. Call Rose Art at 1-888-262-4474 for a free replacement motor unit. Visit www.roseart.com.

- Baby Walkers that can fall down stairs distributed by Oriental International Trading Company and Bikepro: The walkers will fit through a standard doorway and are not designed to stop at the edge of a step. Babies using these walkers can be seriously injured or killed if they fall down stairs. Return the baby walkers to the store where purchased for a full refund. Call Oriental International Trading Company at 866-666-9868 or visit www.bike-stroller.com. For Bikepro walkers call 1-800-261-2559.

- Toy Tracks on Activity

See **RECALLS**, page 9

Community Notes

ABERDEEN COMMISSARY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Christmas

Dec. 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 25, closed
Dec. 26, closed (in lieu of Monday)
Dec. 27, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.*

New Year's

Dec. 30, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.*
Dec. 31, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.*
Jan. 1, closed
Jan. 2, 100 a.m. to 7 p.m.*
*Early Bird shopping

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The public is invited to First Baptist Church of Aberdeen at 219 E. Bel Air Ave. for a 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29 HAVRE DE GRACE CHURCH TOUR

There will be a free, self-guided tour of historic Havre de Grace churches from 2 to 4 p.m. Churches include Havre de Grace United Methodist Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church of Havre de Grace, Zion Temple, First Baptist Church, The Church of St. Patrick, First Christian Church and Christ the King Pentecostal Church.

Brochures are available at Tour Headquarters, Havre de Grace United Methodist Church located on 101 S. Union Ave., 410-939-2464; Havre de Grace Tourism Commission located on Pennington Avenue, 1-800-851-7756; and Discover Harford County Tourism Council located on 3 W. Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen, 1-800-997-2649.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 31 VFW NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054, 206 Spesutia Road in Aberdeen, will hold their annual New Year's Eve Party 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The cost of \$25 per person includes an open bar, food, dancing with Cool DJ Bugg and party favors. The menu features cornish hen, baked ham, ham hocks, greens, por-

tioned potatoes, wild rice, home made gravy, cornbread, rolls, assorted desserts and drinks.

The dress is semi-formal--no jeans, boots, tennis shoes, athletic wear or T-shirts--and will be enforced.

Non-alcoholic beverages for designated drivers will be available. For more information, call Senior Vice-Commander Suzette Shields, Junior Vice-Commander Keith Hammitt or Ladies Auxiliary President Cheryl Gatling at 410-272-3444.

SATURDAY JANUARY 4 WACVA CHAPTER 70 MEETING

The Women's Army Corps Veterans Association Maryland Free State Chapter #70 will meet 11 a.m. at the Aberdeen Senior Citizen Center. All women who have served or are serving in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, Women's Army Corps, Regular Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard and Army Nurse Corps are welcome to attend. Also welcome, as associate members, are women of the Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard.

For more information about the association, call Sheila Smith, 410-273-1687 or visit Web sites www.wacva.com or www.armywomen.org.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8 DAV CHAPTER MEETING

Bel Air Disabled Veterans Chapter 30 will resume regular meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 303 S. Atwood road, 7 p.m. For more information and transportation, call 410-838-8325 or 410-879-0861.

SATURDAY JANUARY 11 BUYING A HOME WORKSHOP

Home Partnership, Inc., a non-profit agency, is holding a free one-day workshop on

how to buy a home at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Joppa. To register, call 410-297-6700. Only registered guests can attend. A free lunch will be provided

SATURDAY JANUARY 11 2003 YOUTH BUDDY POPPY CONTEST

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054, 206 Spesutia Road, Aberdeen, will host the 2003 Youth Buddy Poppy Contest at the Post home. The contest, which begins at 3 p.m., is open to all youths up to the age of 17. This time-honored local and state-level contest is designed to promote respect for the supreme sacrifice paid by our veterans in the interest of freedom. Contestants will be given a simple set of questions to study and a short poem to remember. Judges will award a U.S. Savings Bond to the winner, who then competes at a district-level competition. For rules and an entry packet, call Keith Hammitt or Suzette Shields at 410-272-3444.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY JANUARY 17 TO 18 HIGH SCHOOL LOCK- IN

Club Beyond and the Chaplains Activities is sponsoring a high school lock-in 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. at the Aberdeen Area post chapel. Suggested donation is \$10. For more information, call Alan Leavell at the AA Chapel, 410-278-4333.

POST CHAPELS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Catholic

Confessions
Dec. 24, 4 p.m., EA
Family Mass/Christmas Pageant
Dec. 24, 5 p.m., EA
Carols preceding Midnight Mass
Dec. 24, 11:30 p.m., AA
Midnight Mass
Dec. 24, midnight
Christmas Day Mass
Dec. 25, 10 a.m., AA
Christmas Day Mass
Dec. 25, 11 a.m., EA
Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) Mass
Dec. 31, 6 p.m., AA
Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) Mass
Jan. 1, 10 a.m., EA

MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50
Building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard

The Post Theater will be closed Dec. 27 and 28 and Jan. 3 and 4 for the holidays.

MWR Morale, Recreation & Welfare



Tom Green
MWR

Strength training directly applies to the golf swing

Most great players have strong forearms. Tiger Woods built up his forearms which allowed him to add incredible shots to his arsenal, such as the ripping out of heavy rough and the super low "stinger."

Forearm strength is important because your hands are your direct contact with the golf club and they control the club. This strength helps to hit the ball farther, have better control, get out of thick rough, buried lies, and also with short game shots such as chipping.

The purpose of this article is to teach you the best forearm exercises, how to perform them, what you should feel, how it relates to your game, and most importantly how to use this feel on the course.

The six main exercises are curls and extensions, radial flexion and extensions, and pronation and supination.

Curls and extensions

This is the most basic of forearm exercises, but very important for your game.

Grab dumbbells or a barbell and lay your forearms on a bench with your hands facing up and holding the weight over the side. Release the weight and then curl. When you flex the muscle you should squeeze at the top. The tempo will be

up for 1, squeeze for 1, down for 2, and no pause at the bottom. Complete 15 - 20 reps.

This will keep your hands in front of the club and promote solid contact. You will also gain strength to have positive control of the club.

Now, turn your hands over with your palms facing down. Curl the weight up and hold. Use the same tempo: 1 - 1 - 2 - 0. You should feel this immediately in the tops of your forearms.

This forearm extension also helps with positive control of the club and keeps your right hand from flipping. It gives you the strength to hit from buried lies and heavy rough. The grass will try to twist your club, but your strength will keep the club head square. You should be able to do 15 - 20 reps, so the weight should be relatively light. Do 2-3 sets of each exercise.

Radial Flexion (downswing movement)

You need a weighted bar for this one. Radial flexion gives you the feel of the wrist cock in the golf swing and also allows you to hold the angle, instead of "casting." Do the same rep tempo as before: 1 - 1 - 2 - 0.

Radial Extension (through swing movement)

This is the opposite of flexion. Squeeze so the weight moves behind you.

This will give you more power when you do release. This is your last chance to add power to the swing as your club approaches the ball.

Do 2 - 3 sets. You should be able to do 15 - 20 reps, so again the weight should be relatively light.

Supination

This exercise gives you the rotational feel of the release in the golf swing. It is a definite must to get the feel of

"working" the ball with your hands.

Think of throwing a cup of water underhanded in your right hand for a draw, this is supination. Think hold for a fade. Hold the face so it does not release.

Pronation

Sit with your forearms in the same position as curls/extensions. This time take your weighted bar and rotate your forearms back and forth. The tempo should be slow and controlled. Be

sure not to rush it. You should do 25 reps, a full rep is all the way over and back.

These six exercises will help strengthen your forearms and improve your game.

It cannot be stressed enough that you must visualize and feel the movement and how it affects the swing while you are performing that movement. When you are swinging, try to visualize and feel the exercise, this will give you the feel.

Activites

Teen aerobics

One way for teens to stay active this winter is to join the teen aerobics class to be held Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. starting Jan. 7 in the AA Fitness Center, building 320. The cost of this 10-week session is \$40. To register, call Christina Keithley at 410-278-7571 or e-mail christina.keithley@usag.apg.army.mil. Registration ends Jan. 6. Registrants must be current CYS members in order to participate.

Survival Guide to Italy

Develop the confidence to experience the Renaissance on your own. Some of the topics that will be covered are etiquette, negotiating, useful phrases and much more. Class will be held Jan. 25 at the Four Points Sheraton in Aberdeen. Cost is \$10. Register at MWR Registration by Jan 8. For more information, call Chris Lockhart at 410-278-3904 or e-mail chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army.mil.

Friday nite basketball league

This is a 10-week league consisting of officiated games and a post league tournament. Games will have two 20-minute halves using a running clock with a 5-minute half time. Register teams by Jan. 10 at the APG Athletic Center or MWR Registration. Cost per team is \$200. For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil.

APG Sports Club

Join the APG Sports Club and learn about sports from experts in the field. Find out what it takes to participate in activities like running, bowling, biking, skiing, table tennis, water sports, racquet sports, fitness training, golfing, and more. Master the basic fundamentals of all these great sports and fine tune your body at the same time.

Dress in any athletic or sports attire that is comfortable. The club will be held every Wednesday in Russell Gymnasium starting Jan. 8. Class times are 6 to 7 p.m. and the cost for this club is \$25. For more information, call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868 or e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil.

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

Operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library, building 3320, are Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper Case Solved

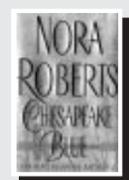
by Patricia Cornwell
In 1888, someone moved through London's night shadows, slashing the throats of five women. In her quest for the real Ripper, Cornwell spent \$4 million, and pulled in some of the world's most respected forensics experts to guide her. Now history's most infamous serial killer is revealed.



Prey by Michael Crichton

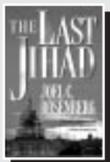
Hotspur by Rita Mae Brown

Hornet Flight by Ken Follett



Chesapeake Blue by Nora Roberts

The Last Jihad by Joel C. Rosenberg



The Edgewood Area library is open Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For information, call 410-436-3589.

To receive a complete listing of the library's new materials via e-mail and also reserve items electronically, call the library at 410-278-4991

APG SCHOOL LIAISON

'Put Reading First'

Copies of "Put Reading First-Helping Your Child Learn To Read (Preschool through Grade 3)" are available at the School Liaison/Youth Education Office, building 2752, Room 200.

'Parents Count'

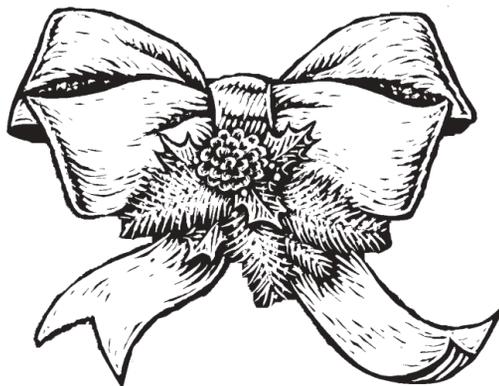
To provide support and information to parents on how they can help their children succeed in school, the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education launched a "Parents Count" Web page in September 2000 at www.mbrt.org/parents/index.html.

On the first of each month, a new topic is introduced. "Parents Counts" is part of MBRT's Achievement Counts campaign, which is a statewide campaign created to demonstrate the important connection between achievement in school and success in the workplace. The campaign sends a powerful message to students that what they do in school counts and that what they do now will affect their futures. For more information, check out the monthly parent topics at the MBRT Web site or call 410-727-0448.

Christmas holiday schedule for MWR activities

Directorate of Community and Family Activities, Community and Recreation Division

Activity	Tuesday Dec. 24	Thursday Dec. 26	Friday Dec. 27
Arts & Crafts AA	Closed	Closed	Closed
Arts & Crafts EA	Closed	Closed	Closed
Athletic Center	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Auto Crafts	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bowling Center	Closed	11 a.m. to 6 p.m.	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Equipment Rental Center	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Exton*	8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fitness Center AA	5:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Closed	Closed
Fitness Center EA	5:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Closed	Closed
Hoyle Gym	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.
MWR Registration	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Library AA	Closed	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Closed
Library EA	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center AA	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center EA	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	Closed	Closed	Closed
Ruggles*	8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



The staff at MWR wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Activity	Saturday Dec. 28	Sunday Dec. 29	Monday Dec. 30	Tuesday Dec. 31	Thursday Jan. 2	Friday Jan. 3	Saturday Jan. 4	Sunday Jan. 5
Arts & Crafts AA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed
Arts & Crafts EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed
Athletic Center	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 10 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Auto Crafts	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bowling Center	1 to 10 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.	1 to 10 p.m.	1 to 10 p.m.	12 to 6 p.m.
Equipment Rental Center	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Exton*	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fitness Center AA	Closed	Closed	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Closed
Fitness Center EA	Closed	Closed	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Closed
Hoyle Gym	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
MWR Registration	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Library AA	1 to 5 p.m.	1 to 5 p.m.	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Closed	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Closed	1 to 5 p.m.	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Library EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center AA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Ruggles*	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*In event of inclement weather course will be closed and signs posted.

Note: All MWR activities are closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

Leave donation program benefits all participants

Story by Sonya P. Reynolds
APG News

The leave donation program was established to assist individuals with medical emergencies who have exhausted both their annual and sick leave balances.

Dave Mial, program coordinator for the Aberdeen Proving Ground Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, can assist anyone with questions. Recipient and donor information is available below for civilian personnel interested in taking advantage of this program.

Recipient

Some civilians are not aware that they can receive donated leave to care for sick family members, says Mial.

"The recipient does not have to be the ill one. It can be a sick husband, child, mother, etc. As long as there is a need, they can stay in the program," Mial said. He added that the leave donation program is also available to recipients with complicated pregnancies.

Request for recipients of

the leave donation program must submit an application. Prior to doing so, the recipient must have a supervisor sign it, thus granting them permission to take leave. Without the supervisor's signature, the application cannot be processed.

Once Mial receives the application, he verifies that they meet all requirements. As part of the process, the recipient must prove that it is a medical emergency that can be documented by a hospital or physician and that the recipient has no annual or sick leave balance. If the applicant does meet the requirements to become a donor, the person is added to the list and given the option of listing the medical emergency or not.

Donor

Before the donor can donate leave, there are several things to take into consideration, Mial said.

"You must first have leave available to donate. Then I

verify it with Defense, Finance and Accounting," Mial said.

He noted that a donor can only donate half of their total annual leave, and he added that sick leave cannot be donated. Donors in the 8 hour category can only donate 104 hours, 6 hour category can only donate 78 hours and the four hour category can only donate 52 hours of annual leave.

"A lot of people think they can donate sick leave, but they cannot donate sick leave."

Kim Hart, program director for Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, said another common question is whether or not donating leave is tax deductible.

"I'm asked this question all the time, but donating leave is not tax deductible," Hart said.

If a donor wants to donate leave to an individual at APG, Mial suggests completing Form 630A, (Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program).

Since the program is available to all government civilian employees, any leave accrued can be donated to any government employee, whether they work here at APG or at any other government facility.

When requesting to donate leave to an individual outside of APG, the donor must complete Form 630B, (Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program).

On both forms, the donor is asked to select the intended recipient and the number of hours to be donated.

"It is the responsibility of the donor to select the recipient. I cannot do that for them," Mial said.

He offered an example of a donor having a co-worker who needs leave and said that the donor may request that it go to that person. He also noted that in some cases the donor may not know the individual and

selects a person because of the nature of the illness.

"Some donors don't know the person they have selected but are aware of the illness. So they make decisions based on the nature of the illness," Mial said.

He also added that it is the right of the recipient to release their name or the illness.

"Some recipients list their names and the illness and some don't. At the recipients request, it is our policy not to give out the names until they are out of the program, unless otherwise instructed by the recipient," Mial said.

He noted that a list of names appear in the *APG News* bi-weekly, for those looking to select a recipient.

"All they have to do is pick up a copy of the APG News and read it. Every other week, there is information about donating leave," Mial said.

Match Making

After both the applicant and donor's information have been

verified and processed, Mial matches the two, then forwards correspondence to Defense, Finance and Accounting. Once the approval process is complete, the recipient is granted leave.

It is understandable, Mial said, for donors wanting to know if the leave has been allocated to a recipient.

"Simply look at your Leave and Earnings Statements, it appears automatically once the leave has been allocated," Mial said.

He noted that it may take several weeks for it to show up but it will appear on the LES statement.

Mial said that it is extremely important to note the deadline for donors to get Forms 630A or 630B in by Jan. 6. "The cut off is Jan.6. If you are going to loose your leave, you may as well donate it," Mial said.

He said that forms received after Jan. 6 would not be allocated and the leave will be lost.

Maintenance school honors instructors of the year

E. C. Starnes
OC&S

"Today we are celebrating success," said Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, chief of Ordnance and commander of the Ordnance Center and Schools. "We are celebrating the achievements of four individuals who have taken to heart the task of transitioning young men and women into soldiers, leaders and technicians."

The four individuals he noted are the Instructors of the Year for the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School. They are Capt. William A. Galinger and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Trzeciak from the Command and Staff Department, and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lee and Charles W. Taylor from the Tactical Support Equipment Department.

Stevenson stated that the Instructor of the Year Program "is not a talent contest. It is not a popularity contest and it is not a beauty pageant. It is a program that promotes and recognizes excellence, professionalism, and competence.

"The transformation of America's youth to soldiers and the professional development of our young leaders and technicians to support the best army in the world requires just such people," he said.

The general explained that Army training exists for two primary reasons. The first is to "develop soldiers of character, competent in war fighting and technical skills, possessing the warrior ethos, who can effectively contribute to their unit's mission and who can successfully complete his or her first enlistment."

The second, he stated, is to "develop leaders for these soldiers and to provide the professional development and follow-on training necessary to increase their knowledge and competence.

"This is not something we take lightly," he said, "and it is something that these four individuals have gone beyond the standard to achieve."

The three military instructors received Army Commendation medals. A Commander's Award for Civilian Service was also presented to the civilian instructor of the year. The four were also honored by Col. Paul Meredith, commander of the 61st Ordnance Brigade; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Richard Wynne, Regimental Chief Warrant Officer; and Command Sgt. Major Ronald Stallings, APG Garrison Command Sergeant Major.

Stevenson also noted that

Trzeciak is one of five finalists for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's Warrant Officer Instructor of the Year competition.

Capt. William A. Galinger

Galinger began his teaching experience at OMMS as an ammunition instructor for the Ordnance Officer Basic Course. He has since moved to teach ammunition and maintenance for the Combined Logistics Captain's Career Course.

"I feel the greatest challenge facing our schoolhouse today is how to keep pace with Army Transformation," he said. "With the modernization of the current force, the interim force and the eventual transition to the objective force, instructors today, and especially into the immediate future must be flexible and adaptable to train students for the variety of assignments at which they could find themselves."

Galinger came to OMMS from an assignment as a company commander with the 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division in Korea. His previous assignments include Aide-de-Camp to the Commander of the U.S. Army

Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command's Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, Assistant Division Chief of the 20th Corps Materiel Management Center at Fort Lewis, Wash., and platoon leader and executive officer of the 63rd Ordnance Company at Fort Lewis.

"Probably my greatest asset as an instructor is that I've held jobs in both ammunition and maintenance assignments at corps and division levels," he said. "This allows me to approach each lesson from a variety of perspectives. Drawing on both my own experience and those of the students helps facilitate a higher level of understanding as the officers learn how doctrine is applied in real-world situations."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Trzeciak

Trzeciak is an instructor for the Warrant Officer Advanced Course.

"Meeting the challenge of being an instructor is very enjoyable and rewarding," he said. "It is a reward that renews itself for me with every new class."

He explained that the diversity of students who attend classes at OMMS raises the

course content to higher levels. "Each new class brings fresh ideas and enthusiasm that keeps an instructor striving for excellence. [The] most difficult challenge of being an instructor is the development of trust and confidence between the students and instructor. To do this the instructor must adhere to and display the Army values, have strong communication skills, and most of all, enjoy the many difficulties and rewards of being an instructor."

Trzeciak joined the Army in 1983 and was appointed a warrant officer in 1992. He has served in Germany, Hawaii, Fort Stewart, Ga., and Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lee

Lee teaches maintenance theory and application.

He noted that his greatest contribution is "having a hand in molding young men and women into products we can be proud of." He said that his greatest satisfaction comes from seeing his students graduate.

"I meet the challenge of being an instructor by pushing and allowing myself to be pushed by some of the highest quality NCOs the Army has to offer," Lee said. "I strive to

excel professionally through Army correspondence and Federal Emergency Management Agency courses as well as by attaining higher instructor levels and civilian education proficiency."

Lee has served at Forts Bliss and Hood in Texas, Saudi Arabia, and two tours in Korea. He is a combat veteran of Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Charles W. Taylor

Taylor, a retired Army staff sergeant, teaches power generation. Prior to becoming a civilian instructor, he served in the military as an instructor.

"It is very satisfying to see privates that I have trained return to Aberdeen Proving Ground as instructors and drill sergeants. My greatest challenge as a civilian instructor," he stated, "is that I get the privilege of molding young men and women into confident soldiers in their military occupational specialties. I truly love what I do, and when young soldiers sense that they become motivated and want to learn."

Taylor's past military assignments include tours in Germany, Fort Carson, Colo., Fort Ord, Calif., Fort Lewis, Wash., and APG.

DIO

From front page

Congress a way to look at Army installations and how they rate in regard to each other."

He said the most important thing for all garrison and tenant participants to do is to be honest in their ratings.

"There is an inclination to make things look worse than they are but that can backfire," Glascock said. "Congress may look at it from the dollar standpoint and decide it's cheaper to close an installation rather than expend large amounts of funds to repair it."

Ultimately, the report assists HQDA in establishing installation conditions, justification of funding requirements, distributing funding and preparation of the Annual Installation Readiness Assessment Report to Congress, he added.

"ISR is a long and arduous process at the installation level. But honest assessments are critical to reaping any benefit from the report," Glascock said. "Users cannot rely on repetition of last years evaluations since the standards may have changed since

then." Once inspection sheets and standards materials are distributed organizations will have four to five weeks to complete and return the evaluations to Glascock for final compilation of the report.

For more information about the upcoming Infrastructure ISR, call Glascock at 410-406-1104 or e-mail him at skip.glascock@usag.apg.army.mil.

Information concerning ISR Part II Environmental can be obtained by calling the USAG Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment, Francis Roller at 410-306-2269 or e-mail her at froller@dshe.army.mil.

Information concerning ISR Part III Services can be obtained by calling Connie Hardison, operations specialist, Business management Division, DIO at 410-278-2952 or e-mail her at connie.hardison@usag-apg.army.mil.

ISR benefits to the Army

- Provides Army-wide standards for infrastructure, environmental and service delivery requirements in one reporting system.
- Identifies shortcomings that may not have been discovered other ways.
- Provides more visibility to Installation conditions and priorities.
- Applies objective, Army-wide quality and quantity standards to facilities, environmental programs and service delivery conditions.
- Assists commanders at all levels to track progress and justify resourcing.
- Provides HQDA and MACOMS with an objective, summarized picture of overall status based on detailed assessments.
- Provides estimated costs needed to sustain, renovate or construct facilities to achieve desired Condition ratings.

SBLM

serve in Schedule A excepted appointments without time limitations, or serve under an Excepted Service appointment in the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System; and

- Be serving in grades GS-12 through GS/GM-14 or equivalent Nonappropriated Fund grades.

Check the Army Civilian Training Education and Development System Plan at <http://cpol.army.mil/train/acteds> to see if course will satisfy the core competency requirements in your Career Program or Career Field.

Enrollment procedures

Register not later than Jan. 16 by sending an e-mail to Karin.Hancock@cpocner.apg.army.mil and indicate which session will be attended. Registrants must receive confirmation in order to attend.

For more information, call Karin Hancock, Northeast Civilian Personnel Center, Human Resources Division, 410 306-0065, or fax 410 306-0163.

Recalls

From front page

Center distributed by Graco Children's Products: The toy track can break, presenting a cut or pinch hazard and exposed small parts pose a choking hazard to young children. Graco received 11 reports of the toy tracks breaking. Four children received minor scratches and one child's finger was pinched. Call Graco to receive a free replacement track at 1-800-673-0392 or visit www.gracobaby.com.

Other hazardous products

- Playpens that can collapse and entrap a child in the V-shape folded top rails. The top rails must be turned to set up the playpen. CPSC is aware of 15 deaths to children when the top rails of playpens collapsed. A new industry standard requires

that the top rails of these playpens automatically lock into place when the playpen is fully set up. CPSC obtained voluntary recalls of the following playpens with top rails that people had to turn into place when setting up the playpen: Evenflo "Happy Camper," "Happy Cabana," and "Kiddie Camper;" Century "Fold-N-Go" Models 10-710 and 10-810; Baby Trend "Home and Roam" and "Baby Express;" and Kolcraft "Playskool Travel-Lite Model." CPSC also issued a safety warning about "All Our Kids" Models 742 and 762 playpens imported by a firm that is out of business.

- Lane cedar chests distributed by Lane Co.: The cedar

chest lids automatically latch shut when closed, posing a suffocation hazard to children. Twelve children suffocated inside the chests. New locks, used since 1987, will prevent entrapments because they do not automatically latch shut. No Lane cedar chests manufactured since 1987 pose this safety hazard. Contact Lane to get new free locks (easy to install at home) to prevent entrapments, 1-888-856-8758 or www.newlock.net

- Old chest freezers (made between 1945 and 1970) have heavy lids that latch. Children can suffocate in old chest freezers (and in other products with heavy lids that latch). CPSC knows of 27 deaths between

1980 and 1999 in old chest freezers. Destroy the old freezer, take the door off, or remove the latch.

Call 202-872-5955 or visit http://aham.org/freezer_safety/freezer_safety.cfm.

NOTE: Products listed above may have already been repaired or there may be similar products that do not have the identified problems. For assistance in identifying recalled products, call the manufacturer listed or the CPSC toll-free Hotline at 1-800-638-2772. To see a picture of the recalled product(s) visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtm103/03044.html>.



— Army News —



PaYS expands to Army Reserve

Julia Bobick
Army News Service

The Partnership for Youth Success, the Army's partnership with industry recruiting program that provides youths the opportunity to serve their country while preparing for their future career success, expanded to the Army Reserve in October.

Soldiers learn technical skills required by industry, along with work ethics, teamwork, communication and leadership during an enlistment in the U.S. Army. Once they complete their service obligation, they receive hiring preference at the company they select during their enlistment process.

"Each year thousands of young men and women enlist in the Army Reserve to develop valuable skills and gain experience while serving their country in the Army Reserve," said Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, Chief of the Army Reserve.

"The Reserve PaYS program offers prospective soldiers an inside track for civilian jobs of their choice when they enlist.

"This partnership is one way we can help ensure our Army Reserve soldiers achieve success in their chosen civilian careers as well as in the Army Reserve. American industry gains quality employees who are motivated and have professional work habits and high standards of conduct that come from their values as soldiers in the Army Reserve."

PaYS is available to all eligible Reserve applicants in addition

to other enlistment incentives such as the Montgomery GI Bill and loan repayment program.

More than 12,000 Reserve PaYS jobs are already available to qualified Army Reserve applicants.

One PaYS job is medical lab specialist (MOS 91K). In the Orlando-St. Petersburg, Fla., area for example, a recruit can learn the skills to be an experienced medical lab specialist for a U.S. Army Reserve Medical Support unit, while working full time for HCA, a PaYS partner and one of the largest hospital corporations in America.

Building on the success of the Army's two-year-old PaYS program, Army Reserve PaYS will work much the same as the active program, which has more than 7,000 soldiers participating, officials said.

After an applicant qualifies for PaYS, the Army guidance counselor matches his or her MOS with a partner's job listing. The recruit's PaYS job selection is reported to the partner company by the PaYS team. The statement of understanding between the soldier and the partner becomes a permanent document in the soldier's personnel record.

Within 30 days of completing initial entry training, the Reserve soldier interviews with the PaYS partner company or

agency selected during the recruiting process.

Since most Army Reserve soldiers, unlike their active Army counterparts, stay in or near their hometown during their term of service, Reserve PaYS jobs are generally located within a 50-mile radius of a soldier's home of record. PaYS job coverage is expanding to many regional and local partners with job locations close to Reserve Troop Program Units.

The Recruiting Command PaYS team is working to offer the program in more and more locations as it gains additional corporate and public sector agency partners, officials said.

The Army's PaYS partners include Southwest Airlines, EDS, Sears Logistics Services Inc., Halliburton, HCA, The Pepsi Bottling Group, Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Los Angeles police department, DynCorp, Caterpillar, Johns Hopkins Health Systems, Rush Enterprises, Schneider National, BellSouth, John Deere, Lockheed Martin, RUAN Transportation Management Systems, Travel Centers of America, General Dynamics, NTB, Goodyear, Blue Dot and State Farm Insurance.

For more information on both the active-Army and Reserve PaYS, visit <http://www.armypays.com/>.

(Editor's note: Julia Bobick is assigned to the U.S. Army Recruiting Command Public Affairs Office.)

Army restructures personnel specialties

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

Personnel specialists will see their career management field undergo a number of changes to include consolidations, an increase in promotions and an expansion of assignment opportunities.

The military occupational specialties MOS 75B, personnel administration specialist and 75H personnel service specialist will be consolidated and re-designated to 42A human resources specialist, said Lt. Col. Donald Woolverton, the Adjutant General Enlisted Branch chief.

Other approved changes are to re-designate MOS 75F personnel information system management to 42F human resources information system management specialist and MOS 71L administrative specialist to 42L administrative specialist.

Lt. Gen. John Le Moyné, the Army G1, approved the changes. The reclassification of soldiers is scheduled to take place June 1 through Sept. 30, with Army authorization documents scheduled to reflect the new MOS beginning Oct. 1, 2004, Woolverton said.

The need for the numerical change is to align the enlisted branch with the commissioned officer's (42) Adjutant General branch, Woolverton added.

Warrant officers in the personnel field also fall under the 42 series umbrella, and once the final MOS consolidation takes place more enlisted soldiers will have the opportunity to apply as warrant officer, Woolverton said. Currently, MOS 71L soldiers don't have the option to submit warrant officer packets to become a personnel warrant officer, but with an eventual planned consolidation into MOS 42A this opportunity will be expanded, he added.

Other expected benefits from merging the job specialties will be diverse types of assignments, said Sgt. Maj. James Miller, the AG Branch sergeant major.

"Special assignments at the White House and various embassies that were once traditionally MOS 71L positions will be open to the human resources specialists," Miller said. "Also soldiers in higher ranks won't be limited in assignment opportu-

nities at table of distribution and allowances assignments while skill-level-one soldiers work at table of organization and equipment assignments.

"We're going to train a well-rounded soldier who will have the confidence to leave a garrison environment and perform administrative duties at echelons above corps," Miller said.

Promotion opportunities will also increase over time, Miller said. Initially promotions may slow down based on the consolidation efforts, but over time it will balance out, he added. As the AG corps transforms with the rest of the Army, soldiers' futures, careers and families will be at the heart of all decisions, said Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Morales, the Army G1 sergeant major.

"There will be hard decisions to make and some of them won't be very popular," Morales said. "There have been no definite decisions to reduce the AG corps, but there are a number of slots that are vulnerable to reduction, particularly MOS 71L slots."

There are not enough positions in the CMF 42 field for all the CMF 71 soldiers to migrate into, Miller said. However, there's no reason for anyone in the CMF 71 field to panic and start making a mad rush out of their MOS, Morales said. But personnel cannot be void of transformation, he added.

A lot of work still has to be done before definitive information can be released, but a draw down will happen at some level, Morales said. However, he said there would be a population of MOS 71L that will be protected from reduction.

"When the time comes for us to make this transition, the intent is to give soldiers the option to reclassify to other jobs. They will not be limited to the AG corps," Miller said.

With that in mind, Miller said, some soldiers may start to prepare to segue by improving their GT score and staying informed. The plan is to disseminate information to the field in a timely fashion, and be just as timely in making pragmatic decisions, Morales said. It's important that soldiers know that MOS 71L restructuring is just a subset of the larger issue of consolidation and restructuring of the CMF.

Web system tracks OERs

Army News Service

Personnel staff officers, rating officials and individual officers have a new capability to check to see if efficiency reports have arrived at the U.S. Army Personnel Command.

The Interactive Web Response System is a web-based solution that provides a list of all evaluation reports completed since Oct. 1, 1997 for a rated officer and identifies the date each was received at PERSCOM.

IWRS also allows users to view specific administrative information from each report. Unit S-1s can now verify that reports have reached PERSCOM or the last date of a report before initiating a new rating period. All the staff officer has to do is enter an officer's Social Security Number to acquire the report.

IWRS complements the currently used interactive voice response system at 703-325-2637.

Capt. Joel Prather, 1-4 Aviation Regiment, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, has used the new system and said he liked it.

"Pretty neat," Prather said. "It's a lot better than going through all the prompts and having to listen carefully to the telephone voice."

IWRS available through an American flag icon on the front page of the PERSCOM homepage in the bottom left hand corner. Users can access it with an AKO password. Eventually, IWRS will have a link on AKO.

Individual officers can still access and print their entire file or completed reports through OMPF online.

For more information, call Joan Freeman, PERSCOM's Evaluation Systems Office at 703-325-4141.

(Editor's note: Article provided by the PERSCOM Public Affairs Office.)

Deployed troops get 'hugs' through packages

Sgt. Reeba Critser
Army News Service



The soldiers at Khost, Afghanistan, a forward operating base, have never met Elaine Harmon, but they know she always ends her letters with "Hugs, mom."

Infantrymen from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, deployed to Afghanistan from Fort Bragg, N.C., look forward to the comfort Harmon sends them in large packages.

"She sent a box to our sergeant major who gave it to us," said Sgt. 1st Class Wylie Hutchinson, from Chino, Calif., "and we've been writing her ever since."

He said Harmon sends them packages in themes. For example, for the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks, Harmon sent them flags. On Halloween, she sent them items like pumpkin plates, napkins, cups, candy, movies and popcorn.

"She must have spent more than \$1,000 on us,"

Hutchinson said. Harmon, from Lawrenceville, N.J., makes them feel appreciated said Sgt. Mark Finney, from Phoenix.

"She's great because she gives us a time out," he said. "She thinks we're heroes."

In addition to the regular packages they receive, Harmon elected to do more for the troops.

"The single guys got letters from older women" Finney said.

Harmon also sends individual packages to soldiers on their birthdays.

"I get more from her than my family," Finney said.

In return, he said his company will present her with a gift for all her hard work.

"We're getting her a plaque with an American flag enclosed," Finney said. "We took the flag on every mission."

(Editor's note: Sgt. Reeba Critser is a member of the 28th Public Affairs Detachment.)

Army calls RC officers to volunteer for active duty

Army News Service

The Army is calling specific Reserve and National Guard commissioned and warrant officers to volunteer for active duty.

The Limited Call to Active Duty Program is currently requesting captains in the Signal Corps; majors in all basic branches, except for Chaplain, Judge Advocate General and Medical corps; and aviation warrant officers, except for air traffic controllers and aviation maintenance technicians.

The call is also for technical warrant officers: Special Forces (180A); data processing technicians (251A); Criminal Investigation Command or CID special agents (311A); counter-intelligence technicians (351B) and human intelli-

gence collector technicians (351E-Korea).

There is no longer a need for reserve-component lieutenants, officials said.

The purpose of the program is to offset officer shortages in the active-duty basic branches. Qualified National Guard and Reserve officers are invited to apply. The process of selection is competitive, with only the best-qualified officers selected to enter or return to active duty, officials said.

Officers seeking additional information can call U.S. Army Personnel Command Accessions Branch at 703-325-9970.

(Editor's note: Information submitted by the PERSCOM Public Affairs Office.)

Female MPs join infantry on front line

Sgt. Reeba Critser
Army News Service

To this day, the U.S. military has its doors closed to women performing combat arms duties like infantry and cavalry.

Nevertheless, three female soldiers in southeastern Afghanistan are breaking barriers as military police. Sgt. Nicola Hall, Cpl. Jill Osowski and Sgt. Stephanie Blazo have all recently accompanied infantrymen to complete MP missions.

Hall is the first woman to accompany the infantry in combat operations in theatre.

"Taking females out on missions was new to the infantrymen," said Hall, 21st Military Police Company, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The female MPs assist infantrymen when Afghan women are searched.

"It's tough work, what they do," said Osowski, 972nd Military Police Company, Massachusetts National Guard, Melrose, Mass. "It's a privilege to do it with them."

The three travel with the men on almost every mission and have gained a new perspective on an infantryman's work.

"I like doing what the guys do," said Blazo, 972nd MP Co. "I get a better appreciation of their job."

Although working with infantrymen can be fun, Osowski said, she also stressed that the MPs take their job seriously and play hard.

"You have to make sure you're in good physical condition," Osowski said. "On my last mission, we walked 18 clicks [kilometers] with all of my gear on."

Hall agreed with Osowski.

"I'm learning what grunts do," said Hall. "They learn what I do. As MPs, we search people and look for weapons. It's our SOP [standard operating procedure]. I never thought we would be walking for hours or be on the front."

"They've [82nd Airborne

soldiers] been nothing but respectful to us," she continued. "As long as you walk, carry your own weight and don't whine, you're respected."

Because Afghanistan is a male-dominated country, the trio receives a lot of attention when they conduct their missions.

"The men and kids are shocked to see us carry a weapon," said Blazo, from Revere, Mass. "But we haven't had trouble with them so far."

The need for women in Afghanistan combat operations has recently risen.

"I'm not surprised that they're [82nd Airborne] using females," Hall said. "Females play a bigger part in combat now. In Israel, women are strapping bombs on themselves - suicide bombers. It's come to be true here." For the last two months, Hall was the only female performing searches on Afghan

women. She was the MP that discovered Afghan women hiding weapons under their burkas last month. Since then, Osowski and Blazo have joined her from Uzbekistan.

"We're invading their houses and searching persons," Osowski said. "The males are not expecting the women to be searched. So, we're sending out the message that the behavior will not be tolerated."

Although these women are pioneers in their field, none of them want to pursue the option of women in the combat military occupational specialties.

"It's difficult, vigorous, mentally stressful," Hall said. "I know as females that we can do it. But for cohesion, it's not good. Cohesion is what makes the Army click. It's not women's lib - I'm just here doing my job."

(Editor's Note: Sgt. Reeba Critser is a staff member of the 28th Public Affairs Detachment.)



A Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle operates on one of U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center's automotive test courses at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Courtesy of ATC

ATC employees receive recognition for rebuy program

Marty Bindel
ATC

On November 6, a group of Program Manager-Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle, or PM-FMTV, and U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command personnel attended an awards ceremony in the Medium Truck Test Support Facility. The awards were given for the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center's support of the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles Competitive Rebuy Program.

Ninety-three ATC government and contractor employees received certificates from Dennis Mazurek, deputy PM-FMTV. Plaques were also presented to Col. Mary Brown, ATC commander, and John Wallace, Automotive Core director, for their support to this major acquisition effort.

The FMTV A1 Competitive Rebuy Program is a full and open competition for a follow-on five-year multi-year production contract for FMTV A1s to be awarded in fiscal year 2003. The contract is valued at over \$2 billion.

The contract will include the two FMTV companion trailers and the following variants produced under the current A1

contract: Light Medium Tactical Vehicle Cargo, LMTV Van, Medium Tactical Vehicle Cargo, MTV Tractor, and MTV Wrecker.

Additionally, the FMTV A1 competitive rebuy will include a new variant not previously production-tested, the MTV Expansible Van.

The FMTV A1 competitive rebuy mandates the following hardware changes from the existing FMTV A1 fleet: an Environmental Protection Agency 2004 compliant engine, master electrical power switch shut-off, MIL-STD-209H compliant vehicle and cargo tie-downs, a 200-hour life air cleaner, and an ingress/egress ladder that reaches the ground from the cargo bed.

The Rebuy Program consists of two phases. Phase I is a competitive run-off between two contractors, Tactical Vehicle Systems (also known as Stewart & Stevenson, the incumbent) and Oshkosh Truck Corporation. Information from this phase will be used to down select to a single contractor through the

Source Selection Evaluation Board process.

Phase II is the production verification of the winning contractor's vehicles. The contractor can propose changes to the vehicle system to improve life cycle cost, safety, durability or performance. All parts and components will be both upward and downward compatible where possible. New parts should be downward compatible with the fielded FMTV A1 fleet. The manufacturer should ensure that new vehicle design is compatible with old parts. FMTV A1 competitive rebuy compatibility with the FMTV A1 system must remain a key effort.

ATC support to the program included the endurance testing of 12 each (6 per manufacturer) test items, 20,000 miles per item, for a total of 240,000 miles of operation along with a full schedule of performance testing which included an additional two vehicles from each contractor. All endurance testing was completed approximately two months ahead of schedule. Efficiencies in testing and success of the test items led to significant savings for the PM.

Toy Drive

From front page

Hathaway, vice-president, were on hand to accept the donations. Hill said she was overwhelmed by the size of the donations.

"We are so excited about what you've expressed to a community of people you will never see," Hill said. She thanked Doesburg, noting, "leadership in these endeavors trickles down from the top."

Hathaway added that because state funding for charitable programs is in decline, the SBCCOM effort means more than ever.

"If there is anything we can do as an organization to facilitate what you have done, please let us know," Hathaway said.

He said the items would be bundled and distributed to families according to applications gathered by the charitable organization, Neighbors in Need.

"We thank you from the bottom of our hearts,"

Hathaway said. "As a former service member, the leadership I see here at all levels blesses me."

Starting with Knapp, Doesburg presented the Food and Toy Drive team members with commanders' coins in appreciation of their efforts.

Knapp thanked the volunteers for their efforts, adding, "everyone gives 100 percent to make this happen. It gets bigger and better every year."

"I think we tend to think of others more this time of year," added team member Mary Ann Ricketts. "It's how we celebrate the spirit of the season."

The rest of the SBCCOM Food and Toy Drive committee members included Gerri Cragg, Carol McVey, Georgia Braun, Becky Mercer-Leto, Mindy Daugherty, Zada Stallings, Emily Fowler, Pat Belcher, Becky Stump, Barbara Frank, Kristina Gonser and Melanie Siler.



Santa gets ECBC employees in the spirit, leading holiday carols.

Photo by CONRAD JOHNSON



Photo by CONRAD JOHNSON

Col. Edward Newing, SBCCOM chief of staff, gets his turn on Santa's knee.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Mickey and friends were just some of the toys, puzzles, books, electronic equipment and bicycles donated by SBCCOM employees for the annual gift-giving effort.

Environmental training film wins international award

OASD

An animated character who lives down a drain and dispenses environmental wisdom to service members became an international star late last year.

"What's Down That Drain?" won first place in the "Education" category at the Italian government-sponsored International Competition of Military Film in Rome in early November.

The Army's winning eight-minute video features a fallen chief maintenance officer in the body of an animated sludgy character. Through a Star Trek(r)-like transporter, two soldiers cleaning up a shop are sucked down into the drain, where the character teaches them the importance of pollution prevention and its impact on the successful oper-

ation of the facility's oil-water separator.

In the end, the character materializes as the maintenance officer and, in the shop, he and the two soldiers drive home an important message about environmental responsibility.

"What's Down That Drain?" a training film developed by the U.S. Army Environmental with production support from the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center's International Imaging, is aimed at enlisted soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, departments of public works, installation environmental officers, users of oil/water separators and garrison staff.

The production was created to promote responsible use of floor drains in maintenance shops, to keep oil-water separators from being overloaded with pollution and debris.

Tasked with developing an entire training package on operating, servicing and protecting oil/water separators,

USAEC's Clean Water Act Program Manager, Billy Ray Scott, approached the imaging center's chief, David Jennings, about producing one of the many pieces for the package. Jennings, who worked as the production supervisor, collaborated with Scott and others to capture ideas for the video and put the finishing touches on the shooting script.

One of the successes of the show was [Scott]...He really knew what he wanted," said Jennings. "He kept [the video] focused on his audience...He wanted a show that was memorable."

"What's Down That Drain?" is one of two videos in of a comprehensive training support package on oil-water separators, said Scott. AEC and the Department of Defense Clean Water Act Services Steering Committee developed the package as a multi-service guidance and training tool for the proper management, maintenance and operation of

oil/water separators.

The sludgy character weathered some challenges on the way to the screen. When the original animator took a job elsewhere, International Imaging turned to nationally recognized in-house artist, Chris White. Armed with talent and an idea, White completed a two-week course in computer animation, during which he refined his sludgy character.

Together with a team of professional actors, a broadcaster, prop master and camera crew, director David Geatty and editor David Shea took White's character and parlayed him into the award-winning production. Camera operators John Miyagawa, and Jeff Adams recorded the action at various locations throughout APG, using many "staged" scenes to avoid introducing pollution into the environment during the videotaping.

"It was a lot of fun to do," Jennings said, who said he is very proud of both the

team and the video.

The contest, an initiative of the Italian non-profit association, "Eserciti e Popoli" (Armed Forces and Peoples), was established to recognize outstanding visual information productions created by, or on behalf of, armed forces throughout the world. The competition featured 72 entries from 31 countries.

An international panel of media producers judged the entries. Many nations, especially those in Western Europe, make a considerably greater investment of intellectual and monetary capital in the creation of military films and videos than the United States typically does.

For more information on the Joint Service Oil-Water Separator Training Support Package, contact the USAEC Technical Support Line at 1-800-872-3845.

(Editor's note: Based on an Office Assistant Secretary of Defense (OASD), Public Affairs release.)



Sludgy is the character created for the award winning environmental film, "What's Down That Drain," developed by the U.S. Army Environmental Center with support from U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center's International Imaging.

Guest guardians adjusting to APG

Story and photos by Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The members of E Battery, 111th Field Artillery, one of several units providing additional security, have been keeping watch over Aberdeen Proving Ground since September.

Led by Capt. Matthew A. Ritchie, battery commander, the Sandston, Va., National Guard unit has been assisting the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security in providing security for the installation, its employees and residents.

The unit's activation has been a new experience for most but they are adjusting, Ritchie said.

"There is no lack of issues but most have taken it well," Ritchie said.

Most are able to go home to visit family and friends twice monthly, he added.

One soldier faced with a unique situation is Sgt. 1st Class Ronald L. Smith, platoon sergeant.

Smith, a police officer with the Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va., Police Department, is serving his third deployment, having served in Panama and Desert Storm. He is dealing with this deployment while handling concerns for his father, who has been diagnosed with lung can-

cer.

"It hit the family pretty hard," Smith said, "when they received the diagnosis last spring.

"We are very close. We have

grown closer since," he said.

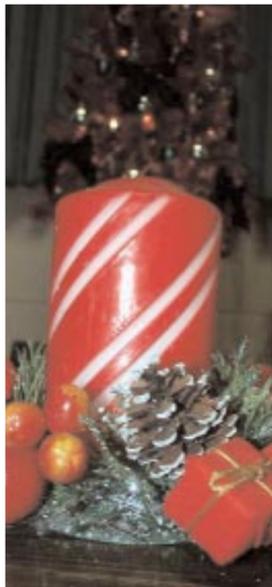
Smith said he tries to schedule his trips home to coincide with his father's therapy treatment. Married for seven years to his wife, Melissa, with a 5-year old son, Ronald III, Smith said his deployment, while difficult, could have been much worse.

"It was easy for me to prepare due to my experience in the Army," Smith said. "It's difficult having to deal with a sick parent but it's a blessing not to be overseas."

With the responsibility of transporting rations to soldiers at remote sites, and keeping them trained and proficient at their duties, Smith said he keeps busy and tries to instill a sense of thankfulness in his soldiers.

"I think back on the times when I was far from home," Smith said. "Here, we are not that far away. I try to make the younger soldiers realize how lucky they are."

Another soldier making the mental adjustment, Sgt. David Begley, put his energy into making his barracks room as "homey" as possible. Begley, a security specialist from Richmond, turned his room into a holiday showroom with Christmas decorations throughout.



A Christmas tree glows behind a garland and candle decorating the barracks room of Sgt. David Begley, a member of the Virginia National Guard's Echo Battery, 111th Field Artillery unit, serving on point at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"I was bound and determined to make it homey," Begley said.

"Since I have to be here, I might as well make it as pleasant as possible."

Begley's decorations include a red Christmas tree in the center of the room, garland and lights on his curtains, a dancing Santa Claus and a holiday welcome sign on his room door.

A former Marine Corps range instructor, Begley said his deployment has been particularly difficult for his 12-year old son, Drew.

"My wife, Brenda attends the family support group meetings and we keep in close touch," Begley said. "It's getting better. Others have it a lot worse."

He added that he appreciates the job the unit is doing here.

"I feel pretty strongly about my duty here," he said. "It seems boring at times, but it's important to stay mentally focused. We have an important job to do."

Begley said he and his family will enjoy Christmas together here in Aberdeen.

"They are coming up to be with me here," he said. "It will be different but we are thankful because it could be worse."

ACS party

From front page

He added that most were having as much fun as the children.

"This is the most fun some kids will have over the holiday," said Harold Smith, Hoyle Gym manager, as his

twin grandchildren, Michael and Michelle Smith, 9, raced through the wooden egg race.

"It's great for them to have something like this," Smith said. "It means as much to the parents as it does to the kids."

Support

From front page

Volunteer at a VA Hospital: <http://www.va.gov/vetsday/> to honor veterans who bore the lamp of freedom in past conflicts.

Reach out to military families in your community, especially those with a loved one overseas.

Please do not flood the military mail system with letters, cards, and gifts. Due to security concerns and transportation constraints, the Department cannot accept items to be mailed to "Any Servicemember:

http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Nov2001/b11282001_bt603-01.html.

Some people have tried to avoid this prohibition by sending large numbers of packages to an individual service member's address, which however well intentioned, clogs the mail and Causes unnecessary delays.

The support and generosity of the American people has touched the lives of many service members, over 300,000 of who are deployed overseas.

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