



POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, March 27, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Use both lanes

Drivers are urged to use both lanes as they approach the gates to APG's Aberdeen Area. At the barricades, motorists should alternate the right of way, allowing every other car to move into the primary entrance lane, like a zipper. This more efficient movement of traffic will speed up the process.

The provost marshal warns drivers who pull out in front of other vehicles, block traffic lanes or exhibit other aggressive tendencies, that they are driving on a federal installation and are subject to citations through the federal court system.

APG hosts Technology Expo 2002

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Technology Expo will take place March 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Top of the Bay. The annual event is free and open to all personnel and contractors.

More than 20 leading industry manufacturers, developers and systems integrators will exhibit the latest in knowledge management solutions, data warehousing, network operations services, Web/enterprise content management, information assurance/security/mobile computing solutions, wireless networking/computing, collaborations tools, hardware/software and more. Free refreshments will be provided and there will be give-aways (while supplies last).

It's 'Showtime at APG'

The Family Advocacy Program and the Exceptional Family Member Program of Army Community Service will host "Showtime at APG," a talent show of children ages 18 and under.

If your child can sing, dance, act, play an instrument, tell a joke, or any other talent, why not register them to showcase their talent?

Showtime will be held Monday, April 22, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Required auditions will be

See SHORTS, page 2

APG's March madness



Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion's Derrick Sheppard, 14, lands a hard foul on Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion's Tyrone Innis, 10, during the second half of the March 13 game in Hoyle Gym. See article on page 6.

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

DOIM pushes to secure the network

Sheila Little
APG News

The events of Sept. 11 and the ensuing war against terrorism have brought to the forefront the need for securing communications via telephone and computer.

Information assurance, formerly called information systems security, is designed to protect information systems against unauthorized access or modification of information, and against denying service to authorized users.

With the advent of Operation Noble Eagle, Aberdeen Proving Ground has joined with others in the Department of Defense infrastructure in increasing emphasis on securing government information.

In observation of Information Assurance Awareness Week, which begins March 25, the Directorate of Information Management, or DOIM, is attempting to increase awareness of how government workers can contribute to network security.

Mike Reynolds, network

security analyst for the DOIM, said security of government information is always a concern, but has come under additional scrutiny since September.

"The DOIM monitors network activity 24 hours a day," he said. "We check for intrusion attempts, compromise and unauthorized activity."

Reynolds added that monitoring is not limited to the garrison, but includes all APG tenants.

He said that those contributing to a breakdown in security are and will continue to be vigorously pursued and dealt with to the fullest extent of the law.

Reynolds said that the best way to fight those attempting unauthorized use or abuse of government information is with good information.

Emphasizing IA Awareness Week, the APG News will feature several articles covering ways to combat cyber crime in the March 28 issue.

Also, beginning Monday, March 25 at 9 a.m., WAPG, See SECURITY, page 6

Army Emergency Relief campaign off to good start

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

As of March 20, the following Aberdeen Proving Ground units collected \$2,636 in Army Emergency Relief, or AER, donations:

Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion
Company A, 143rd Ordnance Battalion
520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory
U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense

U.S. Army Garrison, Headquarters Support Troop

AER, the Army's emergency financial assistance program, provides financial assistance for emergencies that are unforeseen and require immediate attention. The program helps eligible soldiers, active and retired and their dependents, National Guard and Reserve soldiers on continuous active duty for more than 30 days and their dependents, and surviving spouses and orphans of deceased soldiers.

It also provides financial assistance to other services through relief agencies. Assistance is provided as an interest-free loan. Under extreme circumstances, assistance may be given as a grant.

Every AER request is considered on its own merit. Any emergency must have originated from other than the soldiers' actions.

AER can help with emergency financial needs for food, rent or utilities, emergency transportation and vehicle repair, funeral, medical and dental expenses, personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen and give undergraduate-level education scholarships, based on financial need, to children of soldiers.

AER cannot help pay for nonessentials, finance ordinary leave or vacation, pay fines or legal expenses, help liquidate or consolidate debt, assist with house purchase or home improvements, help purchase, rent or lease vehicle, cover bad checks or pay credit card bills.

For AER assistance, contact Marge Fissel, AER officer, at 410-278-2508.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground AER office is located in building 2752, Room 200. For information on contributing to the 2002 AER campaign, contact your unit representative or Maj. Hugh Shoultz, campaign chair, at 410-278-3000.

Pledges closed for Pentagon Victims Fund

Due to the overwhelming response from around the world, the Pentagon Victims' Fund has received enough contributions to satisfy emergency financial needs of the Army families affected by the attack on the Pentagon. Additionally, enough contributions were received to cover the cost of post-secondary education for the children of these victims.

Because of this overwhelming response, Army Emergency Relief requests that no new

contributions or pledges be made to this fund. All contributions pledged after Jan. 31, 2002 will be placed in the general fund in support of all soldiers.

Army Emergency Relief will continue to provide emergency financial assistance to all Army families, around the world, as they have done for the last 60 years.

(Editor's note: Information is courtesy of www.aerhq.org.)

A 'March' of success

(Editor's note: In recognition of Women's History Month, the series highlighting women on Aberdeen Proving Ground continues. This week's story focuses on a member of the Senior Executive Service.)

ARL director reaches the stars

Sheila Little
APG News

When Jill Smith was hired as a general schedule 7 mathematician to do ballistics research at Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1977, she was not only embarking on an exciting career, she was keeping up with a family tradition. The director of the Weapons and Materials Research Directorate at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory is a third-generation federal employee.

Still, when the native of Mechanicsburg, Pa., arrived at APG, her experience was bound to be different than that of her parents and grandparents.

Working in what were then considered the more traditional career fields at a nearby naval base, their daughter began her career learning all she could about ballistics research at an Army post.

Receiving her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Shippensburg State College in 1974, Smith returned to the Pennsylvania school receiving a master's in the same subject in 1975. Between college and graduate school

semesters, she taught summer school and worked on the naval base, all the while considering a career as a civil servant.

Hired to work at the Army Ballistics Research Laboratory, or BRL, now part of the Army Research Laboratory, Smith was able to remain at APG throughout her career

taking developmental assignments, including one at the Army secretariat level in the Pentagon, to progress to the civilian position equivalent to a brigadier general. Careful research helped her make what turned out to be a great choice, reaching the one-star level in less than 25 years.

"I considered where to go, and actually turned down my first offer (for another position elsewhere)," Smith said. "But I liked that BRL was a research organization, and thought that it might offer lots of opportunities," she said.

Through her successes, Smith has paved the way for others to follow.

Mentored by men throughout most of her career, Smith said being a woman in what is traditionally a man's area of expertise has caused

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Photo by SHEILA LITTLE

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Doo Wop Cops wow APG

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center gave a musical close to February's Black History Month observance with an afternoon concert in the Post Theater.

The featured entertainers were 'D.C.'s Finest, the Doo Wop Cops,' a group of former Washington D.C. police officers who travel the country as musical ambassadors, spreading a message of hope.

About 250 Aberdeen Proving Ground employees attended the performance that was hosted by Linda Ruff, NECPOC personnel manager.

Ruff welcomed the crowd, noting that the show, like Black History month, "is a celebration of a people who are prevailing."

"In the African-American culture, we celebrate through dancing and singing," Ruff said. "You will see in our program today, a true celebration."

Ruff's father, Reverend Lewis H. Smith Sr., opened the program with a prayer thanking God "for the gift of life" and asking for "blessings on service men and women all over the world who protect us at home."

The opening performance was a spiritual dance number performed by Denise Coleman, NECPOC, and Jeannie Davis.

Then the Doo Wop Cops took the stage, performing several favorites from the 1950s and 60s including "Zing Went the Strings of My Heart," "Sincerely," "Blue Moon," "Why Do Fools Fall in Love," "Beauty's Only Skin Deep" and "A Little Bit of Soul."

Their silky six-part harmony, intertwined with scat, doo-wop and blues, captivated the crowd as they sang along, clapped and applauded wildly at the sound of each familiar tune.

Between songs, the group members bantered with the audience and with each other, and encouraged listeners to sing along.

At the concert's end, Mike Vajda, NECPOC

See DOO WOP, page 13

Guarding the G Fund

Brian Friel
Government Executive

Since 1987, the federal government has tapped the Thrift Savings Plan's G Fund five times to avoid hitting the federal debt ceiling. Each time, the government has made good on the requirement that it repay the G Fund for its temporary losses as soon as possible.

Now the G Fund may be tapped again. And once again, the government would be required to repay the G Fund as soon as it can.

The thought of your employer tapping your retirement funds to stave off a debt crisis is sure to make you

think of Enron and the fate of its employees' pension fund. But the federal government is not Enron, and the G Fund is not like the Enron pension fund.

The 401k-style Thrift Savings Plan invests the retirement savings of federal employees and military personnel in five funds: the C, S, I, F and G Funds. The first four funds are invested in stocks and bonds.

The G Fund is invested in government securities. The Treasury Department invests the G Fund in securities that mature in one day. The G Fund earns interest on those

See G-FUND, page 12

POST SHORTS

SHORTS from front page

held April 1 or April 8 at ACS, building 2754. Group talents are welcome to participate.

If you would like to register, or need special accommodations, call Reeshemah Bugg, exceptional family member program manager at 410-278-2420 or Laura Reich, family advocacy prevention specialist at 410-278-7478.

Disposing of excess software

Excess software with accompanying DA Form 3161, Request for Issue or Turn-In, can be turned in every other Tuesday between 8:30 and 11 a.m. at building 4021.

For complete sets of software, the DA Form 3161 should include software name, manufacturer, date of manufacture, and the number of sets. For incomplete sets, the media (diskettes, CDs, etc.) must be separated from the manuals and other papers. The entire lot may then be listed as "Assorted software, 1 lot."

For more information or for a turn in that involves more than 100 boxes, call Sandy Schiller at 410-278-8883.

Family child care training offered

Family Child Care, or FCC, training will be conducted during the week of April 22 in building 2752. Interviews will be held on April 15 and 16. Applicants who are interested in providing home-based child, especially infant, care, are encouraged to apply.

Being a professionally trained provider in a home environment offers many benefits: \$500 per week; self employment; free training in a marketable profession; transferable credit to Army installations world wide; free use of 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 Gail Smith, 410-278-7477/8720.

FEEA scholarship applications due by March 29

The 2002-2003 Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund, or FEEA, scholarship competition is underway.

Eligible applicants are civilian and federal employees with at least three years of service, and their dependents. Dependent applicants must be full-time students in an accredited degree program and must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

An application form is posted on the FEEA Web site at www.feea.org.

The deadline is March 29.

For more information, call Bruce Spruell, Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center, 410-306-0180, or fax, 410-306-0163. The NECPOC training calendar Web site address is <http://cpolrhp.army.mil/ner/training.htm>.

KUSAHC holds food handlers class

The Environmental Health Section of Preventive Medicine Services will conduct a food handler's class on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, room A-14. The class, 8:30 to 10 a.m., is mandatory for food service personnel (military and civilian) in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Managers, directors or noncommissioned officers in charge of food service establishments on post will ensure that their personnel attend this class. Attendance at this class will be a requirement for hiring new civilian employees.

Registration should be made at least three days prior to the class date. Class size is limited and is based on first-call, first-served basis. For more information, contact Spc. Chris Roberts at 410-278-1956.

Kirk offers classes

The following classes will be held in the Preventive Medicine conference room (Room A-12), located on the first floor at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, Room A-12. For more information and to register for classes, call Preventive Medicine, 410-278-1964.

Tobacco cessation: Classes are scheduled for four consecutive Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m., April 3, 10, 17 and 24. Preregistration is required. All TRICARE Prime beneficiaries are invited to attend.

Diabetes education: Classes are scheduled for four consecutive Tuesday evenings, 6 to 8 p.m., April 9, 16, 23 and 30. All TRICARE-enrolled individuals with diabetes or parents or sponsors of a diabetic are invited to attend. Classes are taught by a certified diabetic educator and registered dietician.

Take care of yourself: The Take Care of Yourself class is held the first and third Wednesday of every month, 10 a.m. to noon. April's class dates are 3 and 17. The purpose of the class

is to teach patients how to treat minor illnesses and injuries at home and when to see a doctor. The class is instructed by a registered nurse using the Take Care of Yourself and Taking Care of Your Child handbooks distributed to TRICARE Prime enrollees.

Attendees receive a Medicine Cabinet Card which allows them to request specific over-the-counter medications without having to see a Primary Care Provider. This education class and pharmacy privilege is limited to TRICARE Prime enrollees only. To sign up for this class, call 410-278-1725.

Pollution Prevention

To save energy, when heating and air conditioning, close doors to unused rooms.



APG Pollution Prevention

Purchase request submissions schedule

Early customer support in identifying and submitting purchase requests will assist the Robert Morris Acquisition Center's, or RMAC's, ability to meet customer needs. Early planning and coordination remain the keys to a successful year-end.

The following schedule should be used for the submission of purchase requests for fiscal year 2002 and maintenance for fiscal year 2003.

- Noncommercial Items over \$100,000 by May 15. There may be instances where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. It is required that these actions be coordinated with the branch chief prior to this date.
- Noncommercial Items between \$2,500 and \$100,000 by June 15.
- Commercial items between \$100,000 and \$5 million by June 15.
- Short-of-Award over \$2,500 by June 15.
- Commercial Items under \$100,000 by Aug. 15.
- Maintenance for fiscal year 2003 by June 15.

PD2, the Department of Defense contracting automated system, is used at both the Aberdeen and Edgewood sites. Although the RMAC purchase request submission schedule has been increased to permit additional time to process actions through this system, year-end requirements should be submitted as early as is reasonable to minimize the possibility of funds going unobligated at year end.

Submission of requests after the scheduled dates will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Refer questions to Joyce Roberts, APG Branch, joyce.roberts@sbccom.apgea.army.mil, 410-278-0869; or Cynthia Phillips, Edgewood Branch, cynthia.phillips@sbccom.apgea.army.mil, 410-436-2554.

VTC unites military family members

Army Community Service has set up a free video teleconference, or VTC, available for military families to get in touch with their deployed loved ones. The VTC is located at ACS, building 2754, Rodman Road. Families will be able to see each other on a wide screen while they talk. To set up an appointment, call ACS, 410-278-2453/7474.

NAF employees to be recognized

The seventh annual Nonappropriated Fund Employee of the Year Awards ceremony will be held April 2, at Top of the Bay, 2 p.m. The four categories to be recognized include administrative, trades and crafts, para-professional and supervisory. All Aberdeen Proving Ground personnel are invited to attend. For additional information, call Jean Fuddy, 410-278-8993.

HCC spring term II courses

Students can earn credits toward a degree in seven weeks in a spring session beginning Monday, March 25 through May 14. Students may register in person or add a class through March 19 at Harford Community College's Aberdeen Proving Ground Center, building 1346 Raritan Avenue, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. For more information, call 410-272-2338 or 410-278-0516. Spring term II includes courses in automotive technology, computer information systems, criminal justice, environmental science, history, interior design, nursing, physical education, sociology and speech.

Registration is also ongoing at HCC's Student Center, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Thursday; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Payment is due at the

time of registration; HCC accepts major credit cards. For more information, call 410-836-4222 or stop by the Registration and Records area in the Student Center. Spring Term II schedule of classes, applications for enrollment, and registration forms are available on the college's Web site at www.harford.cc.md.us.

Commercial Activities Hotline available

The Commercial Activities, or CA, telephone hotline at 410-278-7414, and CA e-mail hotline at CA.Hotline@usag.apg.army.mil, are available to provide updates and answers to your questions concerning the CA Study. In addition, CA is now showing up as a choice on the first page of the APG Web site, www.apg.army.mil.

AA meetings held at APG chapel

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at the Aberdeen Post Chapel, building 2485, every Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is an open discussion meeting available to the entire Aberdeen community, military and civilian.

Army Band requests

Requests for the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) should be submitted to Staff Sgt. Kay Reynolds, 410-278-7953. Requests should be submitted a minimum of 60 days in advance of an event.

Determining your job skills

The Army Community Services Career Focus Center will hold a workforce preparation workshop March 26 entitled, ACS Resume Preparation/AFTB Motivating Factors, 9 to 11 a.m., building 2752, Rodman Road. The workshop is for those who have never worked outside the home, been out of work for several years, or are just entering or re-entering the workforce.

The workshop is open to all valid I.D. cardholders, 18 years of age and older. Military family members have priority; all others may attend on a space-available basis. Class space is limited to 18 students. Class instruction will be given by Tela Vass from the Maryland Job Service.

To register or for more information, call Marilyn Howard, Army Community Service, Family Member Employment Assistance Office, 410-278-9669.

PIE for exceptional family members

Army Community Service sponsors the Parent Information Exchange for exceptional family members from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the second Monday of each month at ACS, building 2754. Space is limited for child care - call in advance if needed. For more information, call 410-278-7474/7478.

CWF softball league forming

The Civilian Welfare Fund is looking for people interested in playing softball. For more information, call Angela Keithley or Jacqueline McKeever at 410-278-4603/4771.

Parenting Classes

Parents and Children Together presents "Family Matters." The program is designed to provide enrichment to parents. Classes will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 2754.

March 21 - Education starts at home

March 25 - Wise words on discipline

March 28 - Fathers matter

For more information, call Diana Hayes 410-278-4372.

Volunteer tutors needed

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Tutorial Program provides volunteer tutors to assist local secondary school students who are having difficulty in various subjects.

School counselors select students who need help, want help, and who can benefit from tutorial assistance. The counselor informs the student's parents of the program. The parents then contact the APG Program Coordinator who selects an appropriate tutor from a list of volunteers. The tutor sets up a mutually agreeable place and schedule for help. Most tutors meet with students one to two hours a week.

No teaching experience is necessary to participate in this program, just a desire to help. If you are willing to tutor, provide name, address, telephone number, tutor subject (mathematics, history, foreign language, vocation trade, English, biology, sciences, or other), and preferred geographical area, to Army Community Service, ATTN: Laura Reich, Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program, building 2754. For additional information, contact Reich at 410-278-7478.

Volunteer tutors are also needed for the Free State ChalleNGe Military Youth Corps. Tutoring is scheduled for Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Subject areas are mathematics, social studies, science, literature and writing. If interested in tutoring, contact Dr. Webb at 410-278-6605/4541.

APG News

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

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

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

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

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An early start on patriotism



Photo by SHEILA LITTLE
 Decked out in patriotic attire, 7-week old Ryan Maturay and his mother Roni, shown with Col. Mardi U. Mark, garrison and deputy installation commander, were among those who attended the March meeting of the Community Action Council, held at the Edgewood Area Conference Center auditorium. All meetings are open to members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., April 25, in the garrison headquarters conference room, building 305. See article on page 3.

CAC covers spring on APG

Sheila Little
APG News

A meeting of the Community Action Council was held at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Edgewood Area Conference Center Feb. 21. The meeting, chaired by Col. Mardi U. Mark, garrison and deputy installation commander, included spring updates from several post tenants and a roundtable discussion.

Renovations at Kirk, PX

Lt. Col. David Krieger, commander of Kirk U. S. Army Health Clinic, announced that renovations are ongoing at the clinic, but "the quality of care is there." He said personnel are working on scheduling appointment times that are convenient for the customer and easy to schedule. Tuesday and Thursday evening appointment times are under consideration, along with adding evening hours for X-ray and laboratory services.

Jim Servies, manager of APG's Main Exchange, said new fixtures and counters are being added to the exchange, and the customer service area is being improved. He also said a new flower shop that opened before Valentine's Day, was well received.

An Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the exchange, is planned for March 30. It will be held outside the store if the weather is good, and inside if it rains.

Commissary

Richard Nornhold, commissary director, said there were 31 applicants for college scholarships. The successful scholarship applicants will be announced in the spring.

He also said patrons with stocking or other questions should fill out a customer request form, located adjacent to the coffee pot reception area at the front of the store. "We will respond in three days or

less," he said.

In conjunction with Army Family Team Building, a class on benefits and entitlements as they relate to the commissary, will be presented March 20. See the related article in Post Shorts.

He also said the store will be closed on Easter Sunday, March 31, re-opening Tuesday, April 2.

Activities, concerts

Roy Ballinger, Directorate of Community and Family Activities, said the APG Morale Welfare and Recreation booklet will be up-dated and printed every three months.

Activities, with details listed in the MWR section of the paper, include a March 23 paintball tournament, scuba, line dance and hand-held computer classes, and lunchtime volleyball.

Ballinger added that MWR is asking for ideas from the community and is looking for instructors for a variety of classes. For more information on these paid positions, call 410-278-4497 or 9816.

A brunch is planned for Easter Sunday, March 31, at Top of the Bay, building 30. Two seatings for a traditional Easter meal, one from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and a second seating from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. are scheduled. Cost is \$15.95 for adults, \$7.95 for children ages 6 through 11, \$2 for 2 to 5 year-olds, and free for those under age 2.

The menu is posted in the Community Notes page of *APG News*. A special guest will pass out treats to younger brunchers. For reservations, call 410-278-2061.

An outdoor classic rock concert is scheduled for August 18. The lineup being discussed includes REO Speedwagon.

Gate access

Rob Krauer, APG provost

marshal, citing access control issues, said that the installation "will remain in Force Protection Charlie for the foreseeable future."

One-day passes will not be issued at this time. Residents welcoming visitors without access should meet them off post and car pool, or meet and sign them in at the gate. All non-military related teen and adult visitors should have proper photo identification. Dependents over the age of 10 may use their military identification card for access.

He urged residents and employees to remain vigilant and report suspicious persons or happenings.

Boating

Coast Guard representative Charles Shadle reported that due to installation access difficulties, a basic boating course will be held off post at the Joppa/Magnolia Fire Company on April 2. A Maryland boating safety course, a requirement for all Maryland boaters (including those boating on APG waters) born after July 1, 1972, is being arranged. The six-hour course is completed in three two-hour sessions. More information will follow as known.

Housing issues

Marilyn Spence, Aberdeen Area engineering technician, said geothermal heat pumps are being installed to service more than 600 homes on APG. So far, 175 homes have it, and the feedback is positive. Residents report their homes being much warmer. Lawns damaged by the installation of the new system will be repaired as soon as possible. The new heat source uses the underground temperature of the earth, approximately 55 degrees, and generates only enough energy to heat from 55 degrees and up, instead of the current ways homes are heated with an energy source generat-

ing all the heat.

Bert Scott III, Directorate of Installation Operations, said flowers and shrubs have been ordered. Residents will be notified when the plants arrive at the Re-Nu-It centers.

Pat Hector, director of the Housing Office, asked residents to notify her office when they know they are moving, so housing can be prioritized.

Mark assured attendees that "housing maintenance is near and dear to the garrison's heart," and added that the more maintenance that can be done prior to the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, the better.

Army Community Service

Diana Jackson, program manager for Army Family Team Building, said AFTB is conducting a class on benefits and entitlements on March 20. Starting at the ACS building at 10:30 a.m. and moving on to the commissary, attendees will hear about the AFTB program and learn about the benefits and entitlements available through shopping at the commissary. Store Director Richard Nornhold is the guest speaker. Call 410-278-2464 to register.

See CAC, page 4

Chaplain, instructor hailed at retirement ceremony

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison retirement ceremony on Feb. 27 saw the departure of one civilian and one military member with a combined service of 53 years.

Co-workers and friends came out to hail Maj. Michael H. Wallman, garrison chaplain, and James A. Jacobs, a lead technical writer and training instructor with the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command.

Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG garrison and deputy installation commander, hosted the ceremony, which included music by the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) led by Chief Warrant Officer Jerry Standridge.

Mark welcomed the guests, noting that the occasion was "an opportunity for each of us to honor the service of these great Americans and to be thankful for the privilege to have served with them."

Quoting Aristotle, Mark said that excellence is not an act, but a habit.

"You've dedicated a very large portion of your lives to developing these excellent habits and living them," Mark told the retirees. "We thank you for your dedication."

Wallman retired with 33 years of service, 20 on active duty and 13 with the Army Reserve.

He received the Department of the Army Chief of Chaplains Certificate of Appreciation signed by Maj.

Gen. Gaylord Gunhus, chief of chaplains, and a DA Certificate of Retirement. His wife Marliss received a DA Certificate of Appreciation signed by Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff.

Retiring with 20 years of federal service, Jacobs received a DA Certificate of Appreciation and Certificate of Retirement, and his wife, Sue, received an APG Certificate of Appreciation.

OSJA provides tax break information concerning military uniforms

Susan Grendahl
OSJA

To take the deduction or not

Despite the common belief that the cost of all military uniforms is "tax deductible," the Internal Revenue Service Code states that military personnel generally cannot deduct the cost of uniforms if the servicemember is on full-time active duty.

If local military rules do not allow military members to wear battle dress uniforms, or BDUs, when off duty, one can deduct upkeep costs beyond the uniform allowance.

Prior to deducting for uniforms, check with the commander of your unit or installation to determine if there is a written policy expressly prohibiting off-duty wear of military uniforms.

Different branches of military service and installations vary in this policy.

Do not assume that because there was a written policy at one installation or with one branch of service, that it is universal.

If the servicemember is a student at an armed forces academy, one cannot deduct the cost of uniforms if they replace regular clothing. The student can deduct the cost of insignia, shoulder boards, and related items.

The servicemember can deduct the cost of military uniforms if he or she is a civilian faculty or staff member of a military school.

What about reservists?

Armed forces reservists can deduct the unreimbursed cost of BDUs if military regulations prohibit off-duty wear.

In figuring the deduction, the reservist must reduce the cost by any nontaxable allowance received for these expenses. Reservists may not deduct the cost of Class As, Dress Blues or Dress Mess.

The rationale behind this guidance is that soldiers may wear Class As and Dress Blues off duty, such as for funerals and weddings.

Where to deduct?

The deduction of military uniforms will be restricted. In order to claim a deduction, the soldier must itemize and the unreimbursed employee expenses must exceed 2 percent of the soldier's adjusted gross income.

Servicemembers itemize and complete a Schedule A if the itemized deductions exceed the standard deduction for that person's filing status.

If a soldier is audited by the Internal Revenue Service, the IRS may require a written policy letter signed by the commander that specifically prohibits soldiers from wearing BDUs off post.

For more tax information, see your unit tax advisor if you are on active duty. If you are a military retiree or family member, telephone the Taxpayer Assistance Center, 410-278-3397.

Federal family to receive new benefit — long term care insurance

Sherry Smith
ASA(MR&A)

The Office of Personnel Management, OPM, announced that John Hancock and Metropolitan Life have been selected as the carriers who will offer long-term care insurance, or LTCI, for the federal family.

The two companies have formed a joint venture company that will be dedicated to the implementation and administration of the federal LTC program.

There will be two opportunities for eligible individuals (active and retired civilian employees and uniformed servicemembers) to enroll in LTCI provided by LTC Partners, OPMs designated provider.

The first opportunity, the Early Enrollment Program, will be held from March 25 through May 15.

It is important to note that

not all plan features will be available during early enrollment.

Premium payments may be made to the provider through automatic bank withdrawal and direct billing; however, payroll deduction will not be available.

Premium costs, not yet available, will be announced before March 25.

The second opportunity to enroll will be the first LTCI open season to be held July 1 through Dec. 31.

At that time all benefits options under the program will be available and payroll deductions will be implemented.

Those who enroll under the early enrollment program may switch to payroll deduction during the LTCI open season.

LTC Partners is solely responsible for all core functions that support this program.

LTCI may be unfamiliar to many people so employees should rely on the experts at LTC Partners to field any questions that they have about long-term care in general or about any aspect of the plan.

Personnelists and or Army Benefits Center - Civilian, or ABC-C, counselors are not to answer any questions regarding this insurance other than to direct employees to the provider.

Employees who are interested in receiving information about long-term care will be able to subscribe to a series of informational bulletins being produced by LTC Partners.

Post cards requesting a subscription will be sent through normal distribution channels.

LTC Partners will also provide information regarding enrollment, including brochures, meeting notification and applications for coverage.

Enrollment will be made

directly with LTC Partners.

Enrollments cannot be accepted through any servicing personnel office or the ABC-C.

Employees may also contact LTC Partners to subscribe to the bulletin series by calling 1-800-LTC-FEDS, or 1-800-582-3337, or visit the LTC Web site www.ltcfeds.com.

Employees with questions about LTCI should be directed to these sources for information.

OPM also plans to provide a calculator on their Web site, www.opm.gov/insure/ltc to assist with decisions about LTCI.

(Editor's note: Sherry Smith works in the Staffing, Benefits and Entitlements Branch for the assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and Reserve affairs, 703-325-9984.)

CAC

From page 3

"AFTB is an excellent program, especially for junior soldiers and their family members," Mark said.

ACS will hold an open house April 4 in building, 2754. Unit commanders and first sergeants are asked to attend the brunch program, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. For civilian employees and partnership groups, a light lunch program is available from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All other military members and their families are

asked to attend during the late afternoon from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be served during the family session. Call ACS by March 21, 410-278-7572, to sign up.

Call ACS for more information on family-centered classes regarding raising children through various life stages.

Around the neighborhoods

Austin Road resident Lt. Col. Frank Merritt asked about the status of the porch replacement project in his neighborhood. He was told that the project will re-start in April.

Grant Court will close this summer. Currently, the only residents remaining should be

those moving from the area no later than mid-summer. Residents are expected to clean their stoves, refrigerators, bathrooms, and sweep their quarters before clearing post.

A resident of Skippers Point said the woods surrounding the neighborhood contains a number of unstable trees. In high wind or other storm conditions, trees can block the road or cause other problems. The DIO said post personnel will remove problem trees while the installation considers contracting a professional sawmill.

As for service orders, Scott said emergencies should receive a response within one hour, less urgent issues may take a week, and more routine repairs may take 30 days or more. Extensive repairs may take several months.

The list of supplies available through the Re-Nu-It centers may be expanded, and more convenient hours for the centers are also being considered.

A resident asked about the possibility of installing ceiling fans as an energy saving measure. She was told that incidental improvements cannot be made as long as there is a backlog of workorders.

A plan to allow air conditioning repair students at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools to ride-along with those on similar housing repair calls is being considered.

Speeding in neighborhoods, mostly by residents, remains an issue. Some neighborhoods are home to hearing-impaired residents.

"Slow down before someone is hurt," Krauer said.

Another resident asked what can be done about out-of-control juveniles. Krauer said the juvenile disciplinary advisory council meets once a month to redirect misguided youths through community service.

The next meeting of the Community Action Council is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., April 25, in the garrison headquarters conference room, building 305.

Youth Services accepting Youth of the Year applications

Aberdeen Area and Edgewood Area Youth Services centers are accepting applications for the Youth of the Year leadership competition, a Boys and Girls Club of America program.

In its second year, the program seeks APG teens of military or civilian personnel who are freshmen, sophomores, or juniors in high school, maintain at least a "C" average, and are members of the youth center. Leadership, community service, values, and school are the key components of the program.

The Youth of the Year winners will be selected from the winners of the first six months competition period ending in June, and the second six months competition period, which ends in December.

Youth of the Year winners will be automatically entered into the Boys and Girls Club of America state competition in January-February 2003. Applications can be picked up at either youth center.

For more information, contact Angela Shannon or Norma Warwick, Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522, 410-278-4995/9059, and Catherine Hanlon or Carlos Phillips, Edgewood Area Youth Center, building E-1902, 410-436-2862/2098.

Swan Creek employees award their own

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Workers, managers and family members gathered to hail co-workers and friends who received Swan Creek Inn employee awards during the annual award ceremony at the Post Recreation Center in February.

Swan Creek manager Carol Lamp, and Roy Ballinger, director of Community and Family Activities, presented the awards.

Ballinger noted that the ceremony is unique among Aberdeen Proving Ground organizations.

"This is the only organization whose workers vote to award their fellow workers," Ballinger said.

The top honors went to Teresa Martin, who was named Employee of the Year, 2001.

Martin received a commemorative plaque and a \$1,500 monetary award. She said she was "very surprised" by the honor.

"It's nice to know your work is appreciated," Martin said, adding, "so many others were just as deserving."

Martin is a branch secretary who has been with Swan Creek since 2000, after five years with the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools.

The other awardees included Lisa Unruh and Sandra Fazanbaker, for creating the new

newsletter design and logo for the year 2002; Darlene Hornes, as the 'Employee who continually exceeds established standards,' and Sheila Baldwin, as the 'Employee who is dedicated to the overall mission, not just job specific.'

Mable Henson was named the 'Employee who displays exceptional work ethics and is a role model for others;' Lynda Mack, received the award for the 'Employee who has knowledge and is able to accomplish the job with little or no assistance;' Bobbie Henderson and Richard Ferrell were the 'Employees who take pride in their work and responsibility for it;' and Gregory Morris, was the 'Employee who continually seeks self-improvement.'

The 'Most customer service oriented for internal and external customers' was Linda Thomas; the 'Employee who readily adapts to change' was Mary Davis; and Warren Tull was named the 'Employee who performs duties by giving particular attention to detail.'

Rounding out the categories was, Michael Zyski, for being a 'Conscientious

worker and knowing what needs to be done without continual instructions and does it.'

(Editor's note: Single quote marks indicate the name of the actual award given.)



Photo by SANDY LINDSAY
An 'Employee who continually seeks self improvement,' Gregory Morris was one of 14 winners of the annual Swan Creek Inn employee awards.

APG welcomes newcomers

Susan Hagan
ATC

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Newcomer Orientation was held at the Aberdeen Recreation Center Feb. 28 for military and civilian personnel, retirees and their families.

According to Godofredo Posadas, relocation manager, Army Community Service, 175 people attended the orientation, and representatives from 54 support agencies and organizations were present. Among those present were Harford Community College, the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association, the Legal Office, Military Police, the APG Recreation Center, and the Library.

Comparing APG to a town and herself as mayor, Col. Mardi U. Mark, deputy installation commander, welcomed the group.

Mark discussed such issues as adhering to the speed limits on post, the child supervision

policy, the emergency response center and the APG police. She encouraged residents to keep their eyes open and to report anything unusual to the military police.

She ended with "Welcome to APG. It's a great place to live, work and play."

Other featured speakers included Garrison Chaplain Lt. Col. Kenneth Kolenbrander; Celestine Beckett, ACS team leader; Col. David Krieger, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic; and Norman Taylor, Uniform Services Family Health Plan at Johns Hopkins.

Tables set up by the various organizations contained information as well as free gifts. Many representatives provided give-aways and the commissary offered a drawing for a free tulip.

For those that are new to APG or have never attended a newcomer orientation, the next APG Newcomer Orientation will be held May 30.

Photo by GODOFREDO POSADAS



A variety of winter sports equipment is displayed by the Outdoor Recreation Center at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Newcomer Orientation held Feb. 28 at the APG Recreation Center.

Sports & Recreation

Company B 143rd downs HHC 16th in second round, 61-53 Teams step it up for playoffs

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The heart of the intramural basketball season is the post-season tournament, or playoffs. This is the time when desire can overcome deficiencies and propel a team past a favored opponent. This was the case in the second round playoff action when Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion defeated Headquarters and

Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion to advance to the next round in the winners bracket.

Earlier that evening, Company B defeated the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, the Edgewood Area champion and HHC 16th played back-to-back games, first handling Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic to play Company B 143rd 10 minutes later.

The intramural basketball championship was held March 18 in the Aberdeen Athletic Center. Coverage will appear in next week's *APG News*.

The semifinal game began at a moderate pace with HHC 16th leading 5-4 when James Bradley broke it open with a 3-pointer from the perimeter for an 8-4 lead. Company B 143rd battled back, adjusting to the HHC 16th fast break, to eventually tie it up 13-13.

Repeated missed shots by Company B 143rd saw HHC 16th take a 17-13 lead.

Down 17-15, Company B 143rd came to life beginning with two points from the foul line by Dell Williams to tie it up again. HHC 16th got the ball back but a steal by Sean Swaite got the ball to Williams who flew up the middle for the score and the foul, then completed the 3-point play at the line for the team's first lead at 20-17.

HHC 16th's Timothy Switzer responded with a jumper for two, but Company B 143rd was feeling it by then. You can't score without the ball and Company B 143rd began going after it. Double and triple-teaming HHC 16th players, they made their opponents fight for every point they got.

Still in it, HHC 16th's Tony Caver put up a jumper and Bradley scored the final basket of the half to trail by only one point, 25-24.

"We're not capitalizing on opportunities," HHC 16th coach Lonnell Williams said at the break.

With solid defense and good shots, they'll pull it out,



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

HHC 16th's Earl Barnes, 5, tries to avoid Company B 143rd defender, Dell Williams, 11, as he looks to pass during the March 13 intramural basketball playoff game. Standing ready from left is James Brady, 10 and Andre Sheldon, 32 from HHC 16th, and Company B 143rd's Marlon Lone Bear, 13 and Mikial Lewis, 1.

he added.

Tina Williams, Company B 143rd assistant coach, said the team would see the victory if they pulled together.

"As long as they keep their heads in the game and play as a team, it's ours," Williams said.

The second half, a surprisingly fast pace led to impressive defensive efforts on both sides. Neither team ran away with the game, but Company B 143rd enjoyed some shinier moments.

With 10 minutes to play, down 39-37, Company B 143rd's Williams posted two to tie it up, then rebounded and passed the ball to Tyrone Inniss for two more, followed by a Williams 3-pointer for a 44-39 lead.

After a jumper by HHC 16th's Earl Barnes, Company B 143rd's Keith Strain drew a foul when he sank a three from the left then added one more at the line for the team's biggest lead at 48-41.

HHC 16th closed to within one point at 48-47 with just

over three minutes left, and Company B 143rd called a timeout to regroup.

Strain, the player-coach-drill sergeant, must have said something good in the huddle because the squad came out smoking. Back-to-back threes from William Hadley, one off a steal by Williams, gave the team a 51-47 cushion. They began passing the ball around to eat the clock, forcing HHC 16th to foul.

Taking advantage, Company B 143rd added six of its final 10 points at the line to win the game, 61-53.

"They just ran out of gas," coach Williams said when it was over.

"We had a good season but we never had the right chemistry," added Caver, the team's high scorer.

In his fourth year, the multi-sport player added that this would probably be his last basketball game though he would continue to play softball and football.

"We've won championships before and we're still a cham-

pionship team," Caver said.

Strain, a Company B 143rd drill sergeant and player-coach, said he was proud of his team that "hung together all season. They believed in themselves," he said. "Even if we don't win it all, we had a great season."

Williams led all scorers with 20 points. He said the game, especially the second half, was the best playoff game they had.

"When the drill sergeant yelled at us, that made us play," he said with a smile. "This showed what we're made of. We can go all the way."

High scorers for the game for HHC 16th were Cavers with 18 points, Earl Barnes with 14 and James Bradley with 12. Company B 16th high scorers were Williams with 20 points, Strain with 12, Swaite with seven, and Hadley and Inniss had six points each.

Ron Sappington and Larry McCorkle refereed the game.

Basketball update

The following results were reported for the intramural basketball post-season tournament.

Results

March 11

Company B 143rd, 46;
Company C 1/115th, 34
HHC 16th, 51; USMC, 46
NCOA, 61; MRICD, 54
USAF, 68; KUSAHC, 53

March 12

HHC 61st, 51; Company B 143rd, 46
HHC 143rd, 49; HHC 16th, 48

NCOA, 57; Company C 16th, 47
USAF, 59; Company B 16th, 52

HHC 61st, 77; HHC 143rd, 34
NCOA, 58; USAF, 36

March 13

Company C 16th, 89;
Company C 1/115th, 37
USMC, 58; Company B 16th, 57

Company B 143rd, 57;
MRICD, 50

HHC 16th, 58; KUSAHC, 44
Company C 16, 58; USMC, 38

Company B 143rd, 61; HHC 16th, 53

March 14

HHC 61st, 62; NCOA, 39
Company C 16th, 73; HHC 143rd, 49

Company B 143rd, 44; USAF, 43

March 16

Company C 16th, 59;
Company B 143rd, 30
NCOA, 62; Company C 16th, 46

March 18

Championship

Security

From front page

channel 3, will air the first in a two-part series of programs, highlights of which include networks at risk, computer security 101, the importance of maintaining safe data, a proper response, and protecting your computer workstation.

On Tuesday, March 26 at 9 a.m., the second program in the series will cover discretionary use and computer network misuse and consequences.

Part one in the series will re-run at the same time on Thursday, March 28, with the second half on Friday, March 29.

A computer security open forum will be held at the APG Recreation Center, building 332, March 26 and 28, 2 to 4 p.m., for all APG employees. There will be a short presentation on computer security and an open question/answer session presented by the DOIM Information Assurance Team. This is your chance to question the experts.

Commentary

Behind every successful person is unfailing support



Sheila Little
APG News

When I started college in the 1970s, there were choices out there, but women were encouraged to go into what are traditionally thought of as 'female' career fields.

Half of my girlfriends became teachers, the other half nurses. I became a nurse, but

left the career to raise two daughters.

I never regretted becoming a nurse and loved the time I was able to spend with the girls, but 25 years later, when Jim and I sent our daughters off to college, I asked them to avoid traditionally female studies and consider the wide spectrum of opportunities open to them.

Thinking that attitudes have changed regarding what is appropriate for both sexes in the last few decades, I feel chances are good that the girls will be judged for their accomplishments. Eventually the sentence 'You do that well for a girl,' will end after the first four words.

Our older daughter has a degree in neuroscience and is doing scientific research at the National Institutes of Health.

For years Marie Curie was the only name that came to my mind when someone asked

about a female scientist of note.

Today, I know of numerous female scientists in the workforce. Some of them work on APG. Perhaps someday Diana's name will be on what promises to be a long list of successful female scientists.

Our younger daughter is a senior at the U.S. Military Academy. When she graduates in June, she'll have a resume that includes an emphasis on leadership, and be experienced in marching, camping in all kinds of weather, firing weapons, driving tanks, planning assaults and conquering obstacle courses. If you are reading this paper, you most likely can name a number of successful female NCOs and officers. Denise has a great career ahead of her.

Of course, making your mark in an exciting career field while raising a family is not easy. Like successful men,

women generally need a good support network to thrive. It's my observation that if you are really successful, you're either single with no children and have the time to devote every waking hour to your career, or you have an extremely supportive spouse or a network that includes family or close friends.

A net of support is anchored on one who's learned to change with the times and not put every task into male or female categories. I'm talking about one who, at least occasionally, shares cooking and cleaning chores, does grocery shopping, runs post office and dry cleaning errands, and picks up and delivers children to wherever they need to be. They may even coach sports or run a scout troop.

It's happening. The lines between male and female roles are blurring.

To my delight I see just as

many dads as moms at elementary school bus stops, I see parent-teacher groups headed by men, a number of husbands, and even older children, doing the family grocery shopping, and I've noticed as many dads as moms picking up children at my neighbor's day care. Along with female police officers, soldiers, engineers and truckers, I also see more men in nursing or teaching in elementary classrooms

than ever before.

We really do need the support of others to achieve. A great support system, encouraged by those in charge, is vital to success. Maybe as we turn to pat ourselves on the back for all our accomplishments, we will notice the families; be it moms, dads, spouses or children, who, through cooperation and loving support, have helped us get there. Then we will all be successful.

Smith

From front page

a few problems, and has presented some hurdles, but for the majority has been a positive and exciting experience.

Afforded opportunities that many women and nearly as many men rarely receive, she said when she went to an Army post in Kentucky to become familiar with tank weaponry, she realized that she was definitely in the minority.

"In 1978 there were no ladies restrooms where we were at Fort Knox," she said.

Smith pointed out that although she remembers the restroom issue, it was a minor

inconvenience early in her career.

She said that although initially men were surprised that she was a ballistics expert, she was quickly accepted for what she knew.

Leadership skills such as being able to quickly grasp concepts, conveying those to others, and working closely with a pool of talented and dedicated co-workers has helped her throughout her career.

A published author of many ballistics research publications, including live-fire testing, lethality, survivability and model validation, the ARL director said she has learned a great deal from those around her.

"If you're willing to observe and listen, you can learn from the good and the bad," she said. "Although the ideal is to learn from someone who is doing everything right, you can learn what not to do from those who don't do it well."

In a position that includes a lot of travel, she said having an understanding and supportive spouse who contributes in working out the day-to-day schedule and raising daughters who are willing to negotiate when she can't attend every event has helped.

While challenging herself through assignments of increased responsibility, Smith returned to school, completing additional graduate work in

statistics and electrical engineering.

With the assurance that her family supports her, Smith has risen up through the ranks.

After 24 years of government service, Smith was named to the Senior Executive Service, becoming the director of the Weapons and Materials Research Directorate in May 2001.

"I've taken several developmental and training assignments that were very beneficial," Smith said. "It's been a worthwhile experience."

Smith, her husband Steve, and daughters Jessica, a college sophomore and Stephanie, a high school freshman, live in Forest Hill.

Community Notes

THURSDAY MARCH 21 REVIVAL

The women of St. James A.M.E., 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will host a revival on March 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. Rev. Marietta Ramsey, associate minister, Waters A.M.E. Church, Baltimore, will be the guest preacher for both nights. Music will be rendered by St. Stephen's A.M.E. Church, Essex. This event will benefit Women's Day 2002. For more information call 410-939-2267.

SATURDAY MARCH 23 THREAD AND THINGS FASHION SHOW

The 4th Annual Fashion Show sponsored by Thread and Things will be held at the VFW Post #10028 (behind Aberdeen Wal-Mart), 7 p.m. to midnight, featuring saxophone and jazz player Maxwell Smothers.

Tickets can be purchased with a donation of \$15 from Anthony's Barber and Beauty Salon, Edgewood, 410-679-7161; Lloyd's Home Sales, Joppa, 410-679-4141; and De'Luck's, Havre de Grace, 410-939-7779. For more information, contact Lorraine Williams, 410-676-6119. A portion of the proceeds will be contributed to the United Negro College Fund, Harford County Branch.

OPEN MIKE POETRY/DANCE NIGHT

Open Mike Poetry/Dance Night will be held 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., at the Holiday Inn, Aberdeen. The poetry presentation is from 8 to 8:30 p.m. This is a time for poets to showcase their talents. A cash award will be presented for the best poem. All poets are welcome.

Music will be provided by DJ Sir Knight. Ladies and men should dress appropriately - no jeans, boots, bandannas, sweats, or sneakers. You must be 21 years of age to attend. Proper ID is required. Tickets cost \$6 in advance, \$10 at the door. To purchase tickets, call Sgt. 1st Class Copeland, 1-877-937-9936.

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Water Witch Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will be held at the VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit, 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available. Tickets cost \$10; additional sets cost \$5. For tickets, call Anne Gibson 410-378-3338, Stephanie Gibson, 410-378-2672, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SUNDAY MARCH 24 WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM

Celebrating their annual women's day program, the women of St. James A.M.E Church, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, present Rev. J.B. Redding, who will preach at the 11 a.m. service. A concert is scheduled for 4 p.m. For more information call 410-939-2267.

WACVA FUNDRAISER

The Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association is hosting a Bull/Oyster Roast to raise money to purchase a wheel chair accessible van for the transportation of Perry Point VA Hospital disabled veterans.

The DAV transport picks up veterans from their homes so they can make their doctor's appointments, and takes them home after their appointments. Many veterans are in wheel chairs and unable to transfer themselves onto the vans without help. Volunteer drivers are not allowed to help veterans on or off the vans, therefore they are not allowed to pick up these veterans. The van will cost \$35,000 - \$45,000.

The fundraiser will be held at the Richlin Ballroom in Edgewood, 2 to 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$35. There will also be a Big 6 Wheel, plant wheel, silent auction and a raffle. Donations are needed for the silent auction. Anyone who would like to attend or volunteer should contact Wanda Story at 410-272-5040.

TUESDAY MARCH 26 BACK TO THE WORKFORCE CLASS

The Army Community Service Family Member Employment Assistance Program will hold a Back to the Workforce class, 9 to 11 a.m., building 2752 (second floor). Topics include transferable job skills and resume format, by Tela Vass, Maryland job service instructor; and building self-esteem, by ACS Army Family Team Building. For more information or registration, call Marilyn Howard, Family Member Employment Assistance Program, 410-278-9669.

SATURDAY MARCH 30 'EASTER CELEBRATION'

The APG Post Chapel will host an Easter celebration at 10 a.m. All ages are welcome to attend; food and fun for everyone. Jack Foreaker will provide entertainment. Foreaker has worked in films, television, on stage and in clubs and hospitals, and has worked with Muppeteer Jim Henson. For more information, call the chapel at 410-278-4333.

SUNDAY MARCH 31 EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH

Top of the Bay will hold an Easter Sunday Brunch with two seatings: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The late seating fills first, so make reservations early.

The menu will include an omelet station, French toast, waffles, sausage, bacon, creamed beef with biscuits, home fries, grits, Danish, muffins, cereal, carved top round of beef, smoked turkey and ham, seafood creole, baked cod with white wine sauce, pasta, potatoes, rice, vegetables, desserts, and beverages, including champagne and bloody Marys. The Easter Bunny will pay a visit and pass out candy.

Make reservations by Thursday, March 28, 4:30 p.m., by calling 410-278-2552/3062. Advance payment with a major credit card will be accepted.

THURSDAY APRIL 4 ACS OPEN HOUSE

Join the Army Community Service staff for their Open House at 8:30 a.m., building 2754, Rodman Road. Light brunch will be served from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. for unit commanders and first sergeants. Light lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the civilian work force and partnership agencies. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for military members and their families. To R.S.V.P., call 410-278-7572 by March 21.

DISCUSSION ON COLON CANCER

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Committee for the Disabled presents Lorine Kirby, of the Baltimore County Health Department's Regional Coalition for Colorectal Cancer and the American Cancer Society, speaking on colon cancer at 2:30 pm, at Top of the Bay.

Find out about colorectal cancer, who is at risk, how to reduce risk, the symptoms, and screening options and guidelines. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for both men and women, and the third most common cancer in the U.S. This year an estimated 135,400 men and women will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and more than 56,700 of those will die from this disease.

The presentation is open to the entire APG community. For more information, call Angela Cheek, 410-278-1140. (This presentation is not an APG endorsement of the American Cancer Society, and is only intended to provide educational information.)

SATURDAY APRIL 6 WACVA MONTHLY MEETING

The Women's Army Corps Veterans Association Maryland Free State Chapter #70 will hold their next meeting 10 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, contact Wanda Story, 410-272-5040 or visit Web sites www.wacva.com or www.armywomen.org

KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

The Protestant Women of the Chapel will host a daylong seminar at the chapel 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Two speakers will address what it means to have passion for your husband and what that has to do with your walk with the Lord; how we show Christ's character to those around us; and fixing our eyes on Jesus - in our relationships. The seminar includes a soup and salad lunch and free child care. Reservations for child care should be made in advance by calling Nancy Brugh, 410-272-1098, or Machele Washok, 410-272-0519.

SATURDAY APRIL 12 BAKERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Bakerfield Elementary School will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, Aberdeen, 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available. Cost is \$10 per ticket; additional sets are available for \$5. For tickets, call Sandy Pierce, 410-273-7184.

SATURDAY APRIL 13 TRIP TO SIX FLAGS

Club Beyond and the Aberdeen Proving Ground chapels are sponsoring a trip for middle school students to Six Flags America. Meet at the Aberdeen Area Chapel at 8 a.m. Suggested donation is \$30 and includes lunch. Registration deadline is March 29. For questions or more information, call Alan Leavell at the chapel 410-278-4333.

THURSDAY APRIL 18 TEEN JOB PREPARATION WORKSHOP

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program, Child and Youth Service Liaison/Youth Education Services, Bel Air Workforce will sponsor an Aberdeen Proving Ground Teen Job Preparation Workshop, 4 to 6 p.m., at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. Topics include resumes, paychecks, interview skills, job skills and completing applications, and will assist in giving all youth the greatest possible opportunity to achieve their highest potential in learning and working.

For more information or registration, call Marilyn Howard, ACS Employment Readiness, 410-278-9669, or Ivan Mehosky, CYS School Liaison/Youth Education Services, 410-278-2857.

FRIDAY APRIL 19 BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit Aberdeen High School soccer will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, Aberdeen, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available. Tickets cost \$10. For information or tickets, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY APRIL 20 STEP UP TO A CURE

Do something healthy for yourself and your community at the Maryland Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's 'MS Walk in Bel Air,' starting at Bel Air High School. By walking five miles, you're not only keeping yourself in shape, but you'll get the chance to help local residents living with MS.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is dedicated to ending the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. The society is the leading provider of information and programs for people with MS and their families as well as the supporter of more MS research project than any other voluntary MS organization in the world.

For more information, visit www.nationlmsociety.org or call 1-800-FIGHT-MS.

MOVIES

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



I AM SAM

Friday, March 22, 7 p.m.

Starring: Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer

Sam Dawson has the mental capacity of a 7-year-old. He has a daughter with a homeless woman who abandons Sam and his daughter as soon as they leave the hospital. But as Lucy reaches age 7, Sam's limitations start to become a problem at school. A great deal is learned about love, and whether it's really all you need. (Rated PG-13)



SNOW DOGS (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, March 23, 7 p.m.

Starring: Cuba Gooding Jr., James Coburn

When a Miami dentist finds out that he's been named in a will, he travels to Alaska to claim his inheritance. Once he gets there, however, his dreams turn to mush: he discovers he's been left a mischievous team of sled dogs - Diesel, Scooper, Nana, Yodel, Sniff, Mack, Duchess and Demon - who have got it in for him. (Rated PG)

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Saturday, March 23, 9 p.m.

Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger, John Leguizamo



Firefighter Gordon Brewer is plunged into the dangerous world of international terrorism after he loses his family in a bombing credited to Claudio "The Wolf" Perrini. Frustrated with the official investigation, Brewer takes matters into his own hands, teaming up with a most unlikely ally - the wife of the terrorist - and tracks his quarry ultimately to Colombia. (Rated R)

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

These recently published titles are available at the APG MWR Library:

A Game of Spies by John Altman
Coincidence by David Ambrose
Catch As Cat Can by Rita Mae Brown & Sneaky Pie Brown
Up Country by Nelson DeMille
The Siege by Helen Dunmore
The Dead Survivors by K. J. Erickson
Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands by Susan Carol McCarthy
Adam and Eve and Pinch Me by Ruth Rendell
By Dawn's Early Light by Philip Shelby
The Cottage by Danielle Steel

You can receive a complete listing of the library's new materials via e-mail and also reserve items electronically. Contact the library for details.

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.

The Edgewood Area library is only open on Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

OC&S LIBRARY

The Ordnance Center and Schools Library is located in the basement of building 3071.

Network Centric Warfare, Developing and Leveraging Information Superiority by David S. Alberts
Educational Media and Technology Yearbook, 1999 v.24 by Robert M. Branch
Information Warfare: Cyberterrorism: Protecting Your Personal Security in the Electronic Age by Winn Schwartz
Windows 98 for Dummies by Andy Rathbone
An Album of Memories by Tom Brokaw

The OC&S Library hours are Monday, noon to 4:15 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. and Friday, noon to 4:15 p.m.

LENTEN SERVICES

Aberdeen chapel

Each Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross
March 24, 8:30 a.m. Palm Sunday mass; 10:15 Easter Cantata*
March 27, 7 p.m., Ecumenical Tenebrae Service
March 28, 11:45 a.m., Holy Thursday mass
March 29, 12 p.m., Stations and Seven Last Words
March 30, 10 a.m., Easter program for children and 8 p.m., Easter Vigil
March 31, 7 a.m., combined Easter sunrise service, Fanshaw Field, refreshments in AA Chapel Social Hall following service; 8:30 a.m., Easter Sunday mass

(*The Protestant Easter Cantata will be part of the service March 24, 10:15 a.m. at the Aberdeen Chapel.)

Edgewood chapel

Each Thursday, 7 p.m., Stations of the Cross
March 24, 10:45 a.m., Palm Sunday mass
March 26, 7 p.m., Ecumenical Tenebrae Service
March 28, 7 p.m., Holy Thursday mass
March 29, 11:45 a.m., Good Friday Solemn Liturgy
March 31, 7 a.m., combined Easter sunrise service, Fanshaw Field, refreshments in AA Chapel Social Hall following service; 10:45 a.m., Easter Sunday mass
For more information, contact the Aberdeen Chapel, located in building 2485, at 410-278-4333.
The Edgewood Chapel is located in building E-4620 and can be reached at 410-436-4109.





Morale, Welfare and Recreation

A registration form for any activity listed below can be found in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program Brochure located at MWR facilities and tenant organizations on Aberdeen Proving Ground. The March through May 2002 issue has a yellow cover and was distributed this week.

For more information, call Gwen Meadows, 410-278-4497, or Kelly Hill, 410-278-9816.

Golf

Ruggles Golf Course

Opening Day Scramble is April 6.

Hours of operation during March are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Twilight rates are in effect all day during the month of March. For information, contact the Pro Shop at 410-278-4794.

Exton Golf Course

Opening Day Scramble is April 13.

Hours of operation during March are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. For information, contact the Pro Shop at 410-436-2213.

Plumb Point Golf Course

Closed for play until further notice. Ruggles or Exton Golf Courses are available for daily play.

Introduction to Golf

Sunday, April 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Wednesday, April 24, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ruggles Golf course. Cost is \$25. For more information, e-mail marni.allison@usag.apg.army.mil or call Marni Allison at 410-278-5567.

Introduction to the Irons

Sunday, April 21, 2 p.m. or May 1, 5 p.m. at Ruggles Golf Course. Cost is \$10.

For more information, e-mail marni.allison@usag.apg.army.mil or call Marni Allison at 410-278-5567.

Introduction to the Short Game

Sunday, April 28, 2 p.m. at Ruggles Golf Course or Wednesday, May 8, 5 p.m. at Ruggles Golf Course and Exton Golf Course. Cost is \$10. For more information, e-mail marni.allison@usag.apg.army.mil or call Marni Allison at 410-278-5567.

Introduction to Putting

Sunday, May 5, 2 p.m. at Ruggles Golf Course or Wednesday, May 15, 5 p.m. at Ruggles and Exton Golf courses. Cost is \$10.

For more information, e-mail marni.allison@usag.apg.army.mil or call Marni Allison at 410-278-5567.

Introduction to the Woods

Sunday, May 19, 2 p.m. at Ruggles Golf Course or Wednesday, May 29, 5 p.m. at Ruggles and Exton Golf courses. Cost is \$10.

For more information, e-mail marni.allison@usag.apg.army.mil or call Marni Allison at 410-278-5567.

Bowling

Thursday Night Red Pin League

Every Thursday starting May 23, 6:30 in the bowling center, building 2342. Cost is \$10 per week. For more information, e-mail chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army.mil or call Chris Lockhart at 410-278-3904.

Friday Night Rock and Roll League

Every Friday starting May 10, 6:30 in the Bowling Center, building 2342. Cost is \$10 per week. For more information, e-mail chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army.mil or call Chris Lockhart at 410-278-3904.

Over 35 Lunchtime 3 on 3 Basketball

Starting May 4, games will be played Monday thru Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Russell Gymnasium, building 3330. Cost is \$60 per team. For more information, e-mail donna.coyne@usag.apg.army.mil or call Donna Coyne at 410-278-3929.

APG Early Bird Softball Tournament

Thursday, April 20 to 21, 15 member teams at the Aberdeen Proving Ground softball fields. Cost is \$225 per team. For more information, e-mail donna.coyne@usag.apg.army.mil or call Donna Coyne at 410-278-3929.

Beginning Archery

Starting Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m. Cost is \$40. For more information, e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil or call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868.

Intermediate Archery

Starting Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m. Cost is \$40. For more information, e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil or call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868.

Beginning Kayak

Tuesday, April 2 or Tuesday, May 7, 8 to 10 p.m. for three weeks. Cost is \$125.

For more information, e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil or call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868.

Ballroom Dance Basics

Starting Thursday, April 11 for eight weeks, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. in the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 332. Cost is \$35.

For more information, e-mail earlene.allen@usag.apg.army.mil or call Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854.

Horse Care and Stable Management

Every Saturday for three weeks starting April 20, 10 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$15.

For more information, e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil or call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868.

Introduction to Car Basics

Thursday, April 11, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Automotive Center, building 2379. Cost is \$7.

For more information, e-mail marni.allison@usag.apg.army.mil or call Marni Allison at 410-278-5567.

son@usag.apg.army.mil or call Marni Allison at 410-278-5567.

Next Step Car Maintenance

Thursday, May 23, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Automotive Center, building 2379. Cost is \$10.

For more information, e-mail marni.allison@usag.apg.army.mil or call Marni Allison at 410-278-5567.

Introduction to Digital Cameras

Wednesday, April 17, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 332. This class is free.

For more information, e-mail earlene.allen@usag.apg.army.mil or call Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854.

Introduction to Digital Photography

Beginning April 29, every Monday for four weeks, 6 to 8 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 2752. Cost is \$40.

For more information, e-mail earlene.allen@usag.apg.army.mil or call Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854.

Baltimore Blues Festival Party Bus

Saturday, May 11, 11:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Cost is \$20. For more information, e-mail chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army.mil or call Chris Lockhart at 410-278-3904.

Baltimore Blues Festival Family Day

Sunday, May 12, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 17 and under.

For more information, e-mail chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army.mil or call Chris Lockhart at 410-278-3904.

Mysteries of Wine

Thursday, May 9 or Thursday, June 19, 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Fiore Winery. Cost is \$25.

For more information, e-mail chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army.mil or call Chris Lockhart at 410-278-3904.

Chamber of Commerce offers scholarship

The Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce is offering a scholarship for Aberdeen High School seniors. Student requirements are:

- Must reside in the Aberdeen High School school district and be a graduating high school senior.
- Must have achieved a minimum 2.50 grade point average.
- Must be nominated by a parent/legal guardian or teacher by April 1 of the year in which student is graduating.
- Nomination must be submitted on a completed Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Application, which can be obtained from the Aberdeen Youth Center, building 2522, Bayside Drive, APG, MD

21005, or from the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce located at 115 N. Parke St., Aberdeen, MD 21001, or by calling the chamber office at 410-272-2580 and requesting one be mailed.

• Completed scholarship application must include an official transcript of grades for the previous academic year.

• The completed scholarship application must include a "Letter of Recommendation" on student's behalf from a teacher or school official.

• Credit will be given for community service work, employment and/or participation in extra-curricular activities at school (e.g. school clubs, organizations, etc.). Be sure to reference this informa-

tion in the application.

• Submit an original essay (both in idea and content) with completed scholarship application, of not more than 200 words, typed/double spaced, to include correct grammar, spelling and punctuation on the following topic: "What can be done to make Aberdeen a better community and how I can help".

• The completed application along with grade transcript and essay must be post-marked and/or received by April 1 and mailed to Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce, SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION, P.O. Box 292, 115 N. Parke Street, Aberdeen, MD 21001.

For more information, contact the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce at 410-272-2580.

Nominate future leaders now

NECPOC

The Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture, or USDA, is accepting nominations for the Class of 2003 Executive Leadership Program, or ELP.

ELP is open to full-time permanent federal government employees at the GS-11 through GS-13 levels or comparable salaries. Individuals should be nominated based on their leadership and managerial potential and their motivation to participate in and complete the components of the 12-month program.

Participants must be absent from their position a minimum of five months during the year. The program is designed for nonsupervisors with less than one year's supervisory experience during their careers within the federal government.

The tuition for the class is \$3,650 per participant, plus travel and per diem. Travel and lodging costs are not included in the tuition and are the responsibility of each participant's organization.

ELP provides residential training, developmental work experiences, needs assessment

and career planning, which gives participants the skills, experience and exposure to move into positions of more responsibility.

The training schedule for the class of 2003 is:

Orientation session, Aug. 18 to 23, Norfolk, Va.

Leadership training session, Oct. 27 to Nov. 8, Harrisburg, Pa. (Classes 1-4) Students are assigned to a class during the orientation session.

Leadership training session, Dec. 1 to 13, Harrisburg, Pa., classes 5-8.

Outstanding leadership practices seminar, May 18 to 23, Cincinnati, Ohio, classes 1-8.

Close-out week activities and graduation ceremony, Aug. 24 to 29, Baltimore, Md.

Other activities included in the program are a 30- and 60-day developmental assignment, shadowing assignment, executive interviews and management readings.

Complete details on the ELP to include program design, curriculum, components and nomination procedures can be found at Web site:

http://www.grad.usda.gov/programs_services/lda/welp.cfm.

Nomination deadline for receipt of application at the USDA Graduate School is July 5. Payment is made to the school through approved fully funded DD Form 1556 or government credit card. Withdrawals and substitutions will be accepted in writing until July 26, 2002. A \$900 processing fee will be assessed for withdrawals received between July 29 and Aug. 14, 2002. The full tuition of \$3,650 will be assessed for withdrawals received after Aug. 15, 2002.

Requests for assistance from Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center in processing nominations must be received in the NECPOC by June 15. Check with your Major Army Command for suspense dates for submission of applications.

For more information, call Karin Hancock, NECPOC/HRD, 410-306-0065 or e-mail karin.hancock@cpocner.apg.army.mil

Win \$300 for Mother's Day essay contest

Enlisted members who enter the USO-Metro's annual Mother of the Year Essay contest may win a trip for his/her mother and a guest to Washington, D.C. and a \$300 cash prize.

Each participant must write an essay of 500 words or less entitled, "Why My Mother Should be Honored on Mother's Day." The contest is open to all active duty enlisted personnel permanently assigned to the greater Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area. Essays will be judged on originality, thoughtfulness and content. All entries must be submitted by April 18 to: USO-Metro, Attn: Essay Contest, Bldg 405, 228 McNair Road, Fort Myer, VA 22211.

In the event that your essay does not win

and you would like it forwarded to your mother, include her home address on your entry.

The winner of the contest will be awarded a \$300 cash prize and receive two round trip airfare tickets to the Washington-Baltimore area from any major airport in the continental U.S. for his/her mother and guest. On Sunday, May 12, the winner, his/her mother and guest will be recognized at the annual USO-Metro Mother's Day celebration.

Hotel accommodations and limousine transportation is provided. The winner will be notified April 22.

For more information, call Dale Jovero or Dawn Ruth at the USO-Metro Family Support Services Office at 703-696-3279.

Ordnance Battalion sponsors Hunger Run/Walk-A-Thon

The 6th Annual Harvest for the Hungry Hunger Run/Walk-A-Thon, sponsored by the 16th Ordnance Battalion, will be held April 20, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Route 22. The run starts at 9 a.m., with registration from 8 to 9 a.m.; the walk starts at 10 a.m., with regis-

tration from 9 to 10 a.m. All proceeds will go to the Harford/Cecil County Food Bank. For more information or to register for the Hunger Run/Walk-A-Thon, call Sgt. 1st Class Orville Lyttle, 410-278-8596, or visit www.harford-foodbank.org.

G-Fund

From front page

investments, more like a bank account than a stock fund, since the G Fund never loses value.

Meanwhile, the government each day tries to keep itself under a statutory debt ceiling. The current debt ceiling is \$5.95 trillion, which the Treasury Department expects to exceed in the next few weeks. Congress could increase the debt limit, but such a move is running into opposition on Capitol Hill. If the debt limit isn't raised, then Treasury's first move to avoid defaulting on its debt each day would be to tap the G Fund.

The way Treasury taps the G Fund is by holding off on investing the fund's money. That move keeps Treasury below the debt ceiling, but also prevents the G Fund from collecting scheduled interest.

In a 1996 report, (AIMD-96-130), the General Accounting Office provided a one-day example of how the maneuver works. The example comes from the last time the government came close to breaking the debt ceil-

ing, during the November 1995 to March 1996 debt crisis and government shutdown period.

"On Jan. 17, 1996, excluding G Fund transactions, Treasury issued about \$17 billion and redeemed about \$11.4 billion in securities that counted against the debt ceiling," the report explained. "Since Treasury had been at the debt ceiling the previous day, Treasury could not invest the entire amount (\$21.8 billion) that the G Fund had requested without exceeding the debt ceiling. As a result, the \$5.6 billion difference was added to the amount of uninvested G Fund receipts and raised the amount of uninvested funds for the G Fund to \$7.2 billion on that date. Interest on the uninvested funds was not paid until the debt ceiling crisis ended."

Treasury and the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, which oversees the TSP, kept track of the interest that would have been earned had the investments taken place. During the 1995-96 debt crisis, the government didn't pay \$255 million of interest that should have been credited to the G Fund. As soon as the crisis ended, the government paid that amount into the G Fund.

G Fund investors didn't lose any money.

If another debt ceiling limit is reached in the next few weeks, the scenario would be the same. Each day, the Treasury would calculate the amount of public debt, not including the G Fund investments, that the government would incur that day. Then Treasury would calculate how much of the G Fund's current \$41.6 billion could be invested without going over the debt ceiling. The amount falling within the debt ceiling would be invested; the amount over the debt ceiling would not be invested. The government would keep track of how much interest the G Fund would have earned had the full amount been invested.

Then, once the debt ceiling is raised or concerns about hitting the debt ceiling pass, Treasury would pay all of the outstanding interest to the G Fund.

According to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, the G Fund's investments generate more than \$5.6 million in interest per day.

Treasury is required by law to repay any outstanding interest owed to the G Fund. The safeguard on G

Fund investments, called the 'make-whole' provision, has been in place since President Reagan signed the 1987 Thrift Savings Fund Investment Act. Before 1995, the government tapped the G Fund three times in 1987 and once in 1989. Each time, the government repaid the outstanding interest as soon as the debt ceiling was no longer threatened.

Despite that safeguard, National Treasury Employees Union President Colleen Kelley said Wednesday that Congress should raise the debt limit instead of tapping the G Fund. "The position of the House Republican leadership is wrong, inappropriate and fiscally irresponsible, particularly so in the wake of the Enron debacle," Kelley said in a statement. "This maneuver appears to be driven by the political consideration of not wanting to raise the debt ceiling in an election year. ... On this issue, fiscal responsibility to federal employees and the American public should be above politics."

In 1995 and 1996, it was congressional Republicans who criticized the Clinton administration for tapping the G Fund. At that time, House Republicans proposed a provision

that would have eliminated the 1987 Thrift Savings Fund Investment Act requirement that the government repay the interest the G Fund loses during debt crises. The proposal made it all the way to the White House as part of a larger bill, but President Clinton vetoed the bill.

"At every opportunity, I have advised the Congress that, with the make-whole protection, G Fund investments are safe," TSP Executive Director Roger Mehle said in 1996 when Congress considered revoking the 1987 law.

If such a proposal were to resurface, federal employees could start worrying about their investments. But as long as the make-whole provision is part of the law, G Fund investors won't be shortchanged if and when the government turns to the fund during a debt crisis.

(Editor's note: This article is reprinted from *Government Executive*, March 14. Government employees may subscribe to this daily newsletter for federal executives, managers and employees by visiting <http://www.govexec.com/email>.)

APG youths accept President's challenge to make a difference

James Martin
AMERICORPS NCCC CRS/NE REGION

Spurred by national events, the children of two Aberdeen Proving Ground families answered the President's call to national service by becoming members of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, or NCCC. Gavin Castle and Na'im Whitaker have joined AmeriCorps NCCC at a time of national healing, a sentiment which has ignited a renewed interest in civic pride, patriotism and duty.

For the next 10 months they will serve as corpsmembers for the AmeriCorps NCCC North East Region Campus, located at Perry Point, under the direction of retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Kenith Bixler.

The AmeriCorps NCCC is a 10-month residential national service program for young men and women between 18 and 24. Members assist in environmental, educational, safety, and disaster relief projects.

Gavin Castle is the son of Staff Sgt. Michael Lee and Sarah Castle and is originally

from Louisiana. Castle and his family have been residents of APG for four years.

With the help of the team members of Fire Unit 9, Castle tutors children at Beach High School in Ocean Village, N.Y. Castle and his team are also expected to start an after school program and a senior citizens program in the area.

"The project is going good and I love what we're doing," Castle said. "I enjoy working with the kids the most."

"I feel Gavin made a very wise adult decision joining NCCC to try and better himself," Lee said. He feels every young person should try and take an initiative to serve.

Na'im Whitaker is the son of Sgt. 1st Class William Whitaker and Sgt. Djuana Moye. Na'im is originally from Atlanta, Ga., and this is his second time living on APG.

Whitaker's Fire Unit 5 team was deployed for Webster Habitat for Humanity of Charlie Park, in Springhill, La. For the next eight weeks he and his teammates will help build homes for low-income families.

When asked how he thinks the project is going, Whitaker

said "It feels really good to build houses for people in need of a home."

Whitaker said he enjoys his experiences with AmeriCorps NCCC and said "Joining NCCC and working with a diverse group of individuals has really opened my eyes to how different people are. It's all about giving back to the communities and helping others... That's why I joined NCCC."

Very proud of his son Whitaker said, "It's a good opportunity for him to do what he can for his country in its time of need."

Castle and Whitaker are both projected to be back to Perry Point in mid-April. During their three-day transition, they are expected to debrief the NCCC staff on their past projects, regroup and prepare for their next assignments.

After successfully completing the commitment to their country, Castle, Whitaker, and all other AmeriCorps NCCC members will receive \$4,725 to put toward college tuition and other education expenses.



Photo by JAMES MARTIN

Gavin Castle uses a handsaw to prepare lumber for a Habitat for Humanity project. Josh Leslie, unit leader assistant, helps balance the board.

How to use the National Mail Order Pharmacy

Maj. Brett Kelly
TRICARE Region 1

The National Mail Order Pharmacy, or NMOP, Program eliminates the need to travel to a military treatment facility or retail pharmacy to pick-up prescriptions. The program is free to active duty and relatively inexpensive for others. Up to a 90-day supply is provided. Prescriptions are delivered to the desired home address.

Procedure

Ask your physician for a paper prescription.

Place prescription(s), co-payment(s) and completed registration form* in an envelope.

*(Registration is optional. Registration forms with self-addressed postage paid envelopes are available by calling 1-800-903-4680, going on-line, or at local TRICARE service centers. You will be asked to provide the sponsor's Social Security Number.)

Send to Merck-Medco: MMRX of Dallas, P.O. Box 650322, Dallas, Texas 75265-3022.

Include the co-pay (\$3 for each generic, \$9 for each brand name prescription).

Track the status of prescriptions by calling 1-800-903-4680.

Prerequisites

Must be an eligible beneficiary. (Those with other health insurance, no postal address, or those enrolled to Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (Johns Hopkins), cannot use the NMOP.)

Must be registered with current information in DEERS.

Must have a U.S. Postal Service address (APO and AE work).

The NMOP provides a registration form calling for medication allergies and other medical information requested for safety reasons. (Forms available via Web site, TRICARE Service Centers or by calling 1-800-903-4680.)

Normal delivery is within 11 days of placing the order. (Prescriptions are generally processed within 48 hours of receipt.)

Cannot have other health insurance with a pharmacy benefit.

Non-active duty members pay co-pay with each prescription: \$3 for generics, \$9 for brand names.

Refills

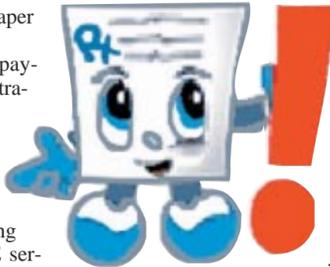
Refills are available three ways:

Mail: Send in the refill request provided by Merck-Medco with each prescription.

Telephone: Call 1-800-903-4680 using the touch pad and voice direction.

Internet: Visit www.merckmedco.com and click on member services. (This requires sponsor Social Security Number, prescription number and credit card.)

Note: Not all medications are available through the NMOP. Consider calling Merck-Medco prior to sending prescription(s) to confirm availability.



To enjoy TRICARE For Life, retirees must update DEERS

Army Medicine News Service

Rejection. That's hardly the experience some 1.5 million jubilant military retirees and their family members expected when Congress voted to create the TRICARE For Life, or TFL, benefit last year for Department of Defense, or DoD, beneficiaries aged 65 and over.

Unfortunately, some elderly beneficiaries had TFL claims rejected because they had failed to keep their eligibility up-to-date in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS.

Now, DoD is taking three steps to fix this problem and ensure that older beneficiaries get the coverage that Congress intended them to have.

First, DoD will pay previously denied claims regardless of "expired eligibility" entries in DEERS records. Claims back to the TFL start date (Oct. 1, 2001) will be reprocessed automatically: no action by beneficiaries or health-care providers is needed.

Second, DoD will continue to pay claims for such beneficiaries until Aug. 1, to give beneficiaries ample time to establish or renew their eligi-

bility.

Third, DoD is launching a massive publicity effort to inform all over-65 beneficiaries of the necessity of getting and/or keeping their DEERS enrollments up-to-date. (Those who have already had claims rejected have received Explanation of Benefits statements explaining the problem. Those without recent claims should be informed before Aug. 1.)

DoD policy requires that beneficiaries' eligibility be reverified every four years. After Aug. 1, beneficiaries who have not gotten their DEERS status straightened out will be cut off from TFL benefits again, and this time they will stay cut off until they update their DEERS files.

Officials are concerned about two challenges: how best to get the word out to elderly beneficiaries who may be out of touch with the military and how to help immobile beneficiaries accomplish their reverification.

"Word of mouth may be the best way to alert them," said a U.S. Army Medical Command spokesman. "We hope that people who do hear about this

will pass the word on to any elderly beneficiaries they know who might be home-bound and might not get the news directly."

But media popular with retirees will also be used, and DoD is working with retiree organizations like The Military Coalition and the National Military and Veterans Alliance to reach these beneficiaries and tell them how to update DEERS.

The mechanics of the process are simple enough for beneficiaries that frequent military installations, but may be challenging for those in remote areas or confined to home.

Retirees usually have identification cards of indefinite duration and should encounter few problems with DEERS. However, their family members receive ID cards limited to four years of validity. After four years, DEERS terminates their eligibility for military benefits (including TRICARE) unless they renew their cards.

To renew, visit an ID-card issuing facility at a nearby installation. When the new ID card is issued, the facility auto-

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Doo Wop

From front page

director, thanked the Doo Wop Cops, calling them "stress relievers," and presented them with NECPOC coins.

"I hope you all enjoyed them as much as I did," Vajda told the audience.

After the performance, the singers signed autographs and sang two more songs for those who stayed behind.

"It was a great show," said Arsell Robinson, CPOC personnel clerk, after joining in on a song with the group.

"I love acapella singing," Robinson said. "When it's done right, you don't even miss the music."

The six singers, Deane Larkins, Joe Herndon, Ron Jones, Avon Barbour, Richard Collins and Reamer Shedrick, are retired police officers who began performing together in 1986. Since then, they have delighted audiences with their acapella style and engaging wit.

They have performed for Presidents Bush and Clinton; at Gen. Colin Powell's retirement party; and shared the stage with such stars as Chuck Berry, the Mannhattans, the Dells and the Drifters.

The group was also featured at the dedication of a statue honoring the Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Leavenworth, Ks.

"Next to singing at Gen. Colin Powell's retirement party, that was probably the greatest thing that's happened to us," Jones said.

He added that the group just released its first CD titled, "Arresting Sounds of D.C.'s Finest" with Tower Records.

Upcoming appearances for the group include a Philadelphia concert later this month and an engagement at Sotheby's in New York in April.

"The crowd was wonderful," Jones said of the APG audience. "Wherever we go we try to leave people feeling better than they did when we arrived," he said. "They really did the same for us."



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Arsell Robinson, left, a file clerk with the Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center, joins in on a song with D.C.'s Finest, the Doo Wop Cops after their March 1 concert at the Post Theater. The organization sponsored the show as a musical salute to Black History Month. Doo wopping from left are Reamer Shedrick, Richard Collins, Deane Larkins, Joe Herndon, Avon Barbour and Ron Jones.

Digital delivery speeds photos

Patrick A. Swan
Army News Service

A new digital way to send official military photographs is providing a "picture-perfect" means of delivery to soldiers' personnel files and it may be in time for thousands of NCOs otherwise eligible for promotion boards but lacking official photos in their personnel files.

Approximately 9,000 out of 32,000 staff sergeants eligible for the upcoming sergeants-first-class board still need official DA photos, according to Army officials.

"Without those photos in their records, those soldiers are at a distinct disadvantage for promotion," said Command Sgt. Maj. Deborah Seimer, sergeant major for the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center in Indianapolis, Ind. "They should act today to get their digital photos taken and submitted."

This initiative is called the Department of the Army Photograph Management Information System, or DAPMIS, which receives digitized, official DA photographs directly from the Army's worldwide photo labs. It is specifically designed to eliminate DA photo-accountability problems, such as lost, incorrect or damaged hard-copy photos, said Lt. Col. Georgia Bouie, chief, Officer Systems Branch, Total Army Personnel Command.

"The DAPMIS initiative supports both Personnel Transformation and the Army's Knowledge Management Strategy," said Lt. Col. Curtis H. Nutbrown, action officer with the Strategic Partnering Directorate for Army Knowledge Management, Chief Information Office and G-6. "In this case, PERSCOM was able to redesign business processes and apply Web-based capabilities to support these new processes. With DAPMIS, we get a system that is faster, more responsive and soldier friendly."

"At the same time, DAPMIS supports the Army's migration of business and customer support applications to Army Knowledge Online, [or AKO,] the Army Portal. The goal is to use AKO as the one-stop information site for the Army."

While DAPMIS will be fully implemented this summer, there will be a transition period where hard-copy photos will still be printed, said Lt. Col. Stan Heath, PERSCOM public affairs officer. Soldiers will be given hard-copy photos to mail to PERSCOM during a three- to six-month transition period.

"Some personnel will be able to view their photos online initially and will also be given photos to mail in for their file," Heath said. "The rule of thumb will be, if you're given photos, then mail them in."

By eliminating the requirement for hard-copy photos, DAPMIS saves the Army approximately \$1.6 million annually in material and equipment costs, Bouie said. This figure is based on a \$4 production cost and a \$4 lab-handling fee per photo multiplied by 207 thousand photos yearly. A side benefit is that DAPMIS provides a management tool for the Army's photo lab managers to increase quality, and control the operating costs of their facilities.

More importantly, it saves soldiers time, energy and the out-of-pocket costs associated with mailing or hand-carrying to PERSCOM duplicate, hard-copy replicas of their digital photos, Bouie said. She estimated those annual costs top \$300 thousand for all affected soldiers.

For instance, a last-minute, overnight mailing can cost \$12 or more, Siemer said.

"And those duplicate photos must still be scanned upon receipt," she continued. "In addition, those scanned photos don't look nearly as good as the digital ones we receive."

The sergeant major said DAPMIS also eliminates a trip back to the photo studio by soldiers to review the printed photo. They will also no longer be responsible for walking those approved photos to their nearest personnel services battalion to mail to PERSCOM on their behalf.

This is because, with DAPMIS, a soldier's photo is automatically forwarded to the centralized-data base used by Army selection boards, branch-assignment officers, soldiers and commanders. The soldier is given three days in which to approve the stored photo. Soldiers review and approve such stored photos through their Army Knowledge Online accounts on the Army Portal, www.us.army.mil. The photos are part of AKO's password-protected section for Official Military Personnel Files.

As a result, DAPMIS shortens the preparatory time required for selection boards and branch assignments.

(Editor's note: Patrick Swan is a public affairs liaison officer with the Chief Information Officer/G-6.)

TRICARE

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matically notifies DEERS to renew the recipient's eligibility for military benefits. (NOTE: ID-card facilities are operated by military personnel officials - not by TRICARE or military

medical officials.)

TRICARE for Life retirees can easily update their DEERS information by visiting the Military Personnel Office at Aberdeen Proving Ground in building 4305 on Susquehanna Avenue behind the commissary. The hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For individuals unable to travel to a military installation, DoD officials are exploring how to make this process easier.

Meanwhile, one Army Medical Command TRICARE expert says the best advice is for immobile beneficiaries - or those caring for them is to contact the closest ID-card issuer by phone, explain the problem, and work out a solution.

Policies and options vary depending on service and location. In some cases, IDs can be issued by mail for homebound beneficiaries, if someone can secure a photo of the individual.

A list of nearby ID-card offices can be obtained by doing a search (by city, state or zip code) on this DoD Web site <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/>.

More information on updat-

ing DEERS is found at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSaddress/>.

Another alternative is to telephone 1-800-361-2620.

For information on TRICARE for Life, visit the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>; call the TRICARE Information Center toll-free at 1-877-363-5433 (1-877-DOD-LIFE); or write the TRICARE Management Activity, Skyline 5, Suite 810; 5111 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3206.

"We want to ensure that our beneficiaries, some of whom are re-entering the Military Health System, and using TRICARE for the first time, have the best possible experience and receive their rightful benefits," said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. "We will do everything we can to overcome initial difficulties that may arise."

TFL provides pharmacy benefits and TRICARE coverage secondary to Medicare. More than 3.1 million health care claims have been paid since the program started in October 2001.



Join the SIBA Boat Club

The Spesutie Island Boating Activity, or SIBA, is accepting applications for the 2002 season. Membership requirements include possession of a government identification card, boat registration, and proof of insurance.

Costs are:

For a moored boat - \$11 per foot

For a boat on trailer in parking lot space - \$8 per foot,

For ramp access only - \$7.50 per foot.

Members perform eight hours of work for the club and

stand security watches.

Membership is open to active duty military, full-time Army National Guard, retired military, Department of the Army civilians employed at APG, retired APG civilians, and full-time contractors with government ID cards. Details can be found in Army Regulation 215-27. Applications can be picked up at the SIBA clubhouse, building 36, or at Outdoor Recreation.

For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 410-278-4124.