

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule

The recycling schedule pickup for Wednesday, Dec. 17, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



ASAP holds holiday open house

Army Substance Abuse Program invites all to the holiday open house, Dec. 11, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., in building 2477.

There will be light refreshments, non-alcoholic beer and wine, holiday party tips, recipe brochures and "tie one on for safety" ribbons.

Christmas holiday gate operations

The Harford Gate, or Route 22, in the Aberdeen Area and the Wise Road Gate, or Edgewood Road in the Edgewood Area, will be closed from 8 p.m., Dec. 24 through Jan. 4, for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. The Harford Gate and Wise Road Gate will reopen 4 a.m., Jan. 5.

Santa is coming to APG

Escorted by the APG Fire and Emergency Services Division, Santa Claus plans to visit Edgewood Area housing Dec. 22 at approximately 6 p.m. On occasion, he will get off the fire truck and greet children and parents.

On Dec. 23, Santa will visit Aberdeen Area housing at the same time, but due to his busy schedule that day, will stay on the fire truck.

Santa will be waving to children and parents while riding on top of a firetruck with a spotlight on. He will give out small candy canes at each location.

Tree lighting scheduled

Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander, U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground, will host the Edgewood Area tree lighting ceremony 6 p.m., Dec. 14, in front of the EA Chapel, building E-4620.

EA Shoppette begins new hours

The Edgewood Area Shoppette, building E-4010, will be open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Civilians are authorized to purchase food items.

The shoppette carries frozen food, quarter

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Health & Safety

CAC focuses on winter, holiday safety

Story by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The Community Action Council tackled a wide area of subjects related to the upcoming holiday season during the monthly meeting held Nov. 13 in the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison conference room.

Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG garrison and deputy installation commander, and Joseph Craten, deputy to the commander, led the meeting.

Holiday events

Chaplain (Maj.) William Liptrot notified attendees that the annual Christmas Cantata would be held Dec. 14, 10:15 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area chapel. A community potluck dinner will follow the performance.

The Edgewood Area tree lighting is Dec. 14, 6 p.m. at the Edgewood Area chapel.

"I encourage everyone to come out for these events," Mark added. "Bring your munchkins."

DCFA

Roy Ballinger, Directorate of Community and Family Activities, said that numerous programs were held in November during the month of the military child. They included Red Ribbon dances sponsored by the Army Substance Abuse Program and the Army Community Service Family Fun Nights. Also, Army Emergency Relief announced a new college loan program and a Town Hall Meeting that allowed members of the community to air their interests was held Dec. 3.

Ballinger added that holiday arts and crafts options



Photo by MARGUERITE TOWSON

For employees that decided to test their winter driving skills, it was a snowy commute on Aberdeen Proving Ground's Aberdeen Boulevard on Dec. 5

through the Community Recreation Division includes basic ceramics classes offered at the Edgewood Area Arts and Crafts Center and that White House Christmas Tree ornaments are now on sale.

"I'm not offering any information that is not available in the APG News," he said.

DLES

Robert Krauer, APG provost marshal, said that the national seat belt campaign known as "Click it or Ticket" would be enforced throughout the holiday season.

"We're especially concerned about kids not being in seat belts," Krauer said.

He encouraged motorists to be cautious of deer when driving after dusk and said the DLES is evaluating holiday gate hours.

Army Community Service

Marilyn Howard, Employment Readiness Program manager, said that the joint job fair offered by ACS and the

Maryland Army National Guard's Free State Challenge Academy offered opportunities from more than 50 employers.

Also, gift-wrapping at the Post Exchange by community organizations began Nov. 28 and concludes Dec. 24.

See CAC, page 9

Reserves and Guard receive unlimited Commissary benefits

DoD

The Department of Defense announced Nov. 24 that with the president's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, effective immediately, the following members and their dependents will be permitted unlimited access to commissary stores:

- Members of the Ready Reserve (which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.

- Former members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and who possess a Department of Defense Civilian Identification Card.

- Dependents of the members described above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges administered by the Uni-

formed Services.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping, and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency.

"Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers," Nixon said.

Guard and reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until today when the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which contains provisions eliminating the restrictions.

Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a

Commissary Privilege Card when they shop.

"I want to thank Congress and the Department of Defense for their efforts in bringing the commissary shopping privilege to the total force," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "The Congress included unlimited commissary benefits in the National Defense Authorization Act thus making full time shopping possible for the men and women who serve their nation in the National Guard and Reserve."

Nixon noted that special thanks should go to Charles Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Abell acted decisively and immediately in providing interim authority for the Reserve component to have full-time commissary shopping just in time to take advantage of holiday savings.

For more information about the Defense Commissary Agency, see their Web site at <http://www.commissaries.com/>.



Photo courtesy of ACS

Austin Bryant, 7, sits still for his face painting as Sgt. Dreon Davis, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, paints a Christmas tree on his face during the 2002 Army Community Service Holiday Party.

ACS to host holiday party

ACS

Army Community Service will host its third annual Holiday Party at the Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326, Dec. 18, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All military, DoD civilians, and family members are invited to come out for an evening of games, prizes and treats.

The event will feature activities including face painting, cakewalk, ring toss, beanbag toss, candy guess and many crafts, as well as complimentary photographs with Santa.

The ACS staff wants the community to plan on attending to renew acquaintances, make new friends, and most importantly, have a great time.

"We are looking forward to families coming out for an evening of fun; this is our third year sponsoring the holiday party and previously we've had a tremendous response from the APG community," said Celestine Beckett, ACS director.

To pick up free tickets to attend the Holiday Party, stop by Aberdeen ACS, building 2754, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Edgewood ACS, building E-4630, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call Cheryl Harris, relocation assistant at 410-278-7474. For special accommodations, call Reeshemah Bugg, Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator, at 410-278-2420.

Watch card

Do observe and report:

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

Do not:

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

Report any suspicious activity immediately to DOD Police:

Aberdeen Area 410-306-2222
Edgewood Area 410-436-2222
Off post in Maryland, call 1-800-492-TIPS (8477)
Your call may save lives.

Veteran's View

VA Secretary details plans for better care, service to veterans

Filing VA claims made easier

American Forces Press Service

Secretary Anthony Principi made bold claims on plans to transform the second largest federal department in the nation, promising veterans and America that the "Veterans Affairs will not be found wanting."

Speaking before the National Press Club, Principi said when President Bush named him to the helm of the VA three years ago, "He directed me to take whatever steps were necessary to improve VA's health care and our benefits-delivery systems."

For example, to ensure that veterans receive prompt decisions on their disability claims, he said the VA has revamped its system to eliminate the ordeal of waiting "year after year" for a decision on their claims.

"Last year our inventory for what we call rating-related claims - those are claims for disability compensation, pension for a wartime veteran, low income, a death gratuity - peaked at 432,000," he said.

He said the department averaged 60,000 more new or reopened claims every month, and "we were able to get the number of cases in our inventory down to 253,000."

In addition, the VA claims representatives now visit with newly wounded service members in the hospital, informing them of their benefits, such as disability compensation; vocational rehabilitation, if they choose to go back to school, for which they are eligible.

"And we have social workers in the military hospitals helping newly

wounded soldiers and sailors and Marines and airmen plan a future course of treatment for their injuries when they get back home in VA hospitals," Principi said.

"If these heroes are discharged from the service because of their disabilities, we will link them and their medical records up with the VA medical center closest to their home that will continue to provide them with the care after their discharge."

VA has also set up teams of claims representatives and social workers serving Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash.; and all key DoD processing points for seriously injured troops.

Principi said that each medical center and benefits office has points of contact to work with service members and veterans from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He noted that "many are enrolled in the VA system even before they are discharged from the military."

"We have trained tens of thousands of our hospital employees to treat the anticipated health needs of this new cohort of veterans," he pointed out.

Principi said two new research centers for the study of war-related illnesses and injuries will also be established and that the department has developed new clinical practice guidelines to guide VA physicians and nurses on how to best restore veterans to their highest possible levels of functioning.

"Men and women who sacrifice limbs in freedom's cause will be well

served by the world's best robotic and prosthetic laboratories," he emphasized.

Principi also said that VA also wants to eliminate the puzzling questioning that often accompanies the claim filing process.

"When a wounded or injured veteran from Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom contacts VA for care," he said, "our question cannot be, 'Are you still on active duty? Do you have your discharge papers?' I simply do not want to hear those kinds of ques-

"Many disabled veterans are eligible for vocational rehabilitation that will help them learn a new trade, a new vocation, send them back to school, pay for all of their tuition and a monthly stipend"

-Anthony Principi
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

tions. The only question that should be asked of any man or woman on active duty is, 'How can we help you now? We'll sort out the paperwork later.'

"We know that young veterans who are injured or become ill in combat have never dealt with VA before, and that they likely don't understand our procedures or know the benefits available to them," he said.

Other initiatives he pointed out included VA regional offices calling seriously wounded veterans to help them with their disability claims. The

offices will aid veterans with grants to adapt homes and cars to their disabilities. Offices will also assist with applications for home and education loans, vocational rehabilitation, or life insurance benefits, he noted.

"Many disabled veterans are eligible for vocational rehabilitation that will help them learn a new trade, a new vocation, send them back to school, pay for all of their tuition and a monthly stipend," Principi said

He also said service members will receive service-connected disability compensation more quickly than in the past. VA has established benefits-delivery-at-discharge programs at 136 military installations around the country.

"This will make it more convenient for separating service members to receive the benefits they've earned," he said.

Another move by the department is to assign VA rating specialists and VA physicians to military bases, where he said a service member can "literally" walk across the street from their barracks or his duty assignment, file a claim for disability compensation, see a physician, and have their claim decided even before receiving their DD 2-14 discharge papers.

"They do not have to wait until after they're discharged," he said. "They can actually get this all done before they leave active duty...that's the kind of service that they have earned and that we must provide to them."

But, Principi also cited overwhelming growth in just about all areas of the VA healthcare system.

He noted that this year VA will treat 1 million more veterans than it did in 2000, that veterans will make 50 million outpatient visits to one of its facilities, up from 40 million from 2000.

The VA has also seen an increase in the number of prescriptions filled per year from 86 million to 108 million, he said. And the expected enrollment for VA health care will grow to 7.1 million veterans this year, up from 4.8 million in 2000, "2.3 million (more) than just a short time ago."

"In 1998, the VA was only treating about 2.9 million veterans. This year, we're about 5 million veterans," he said.

Still, he said, the department and the 226,000 employees "hold the power and bear the responsibility to transform the words of countless Veterans Day speeches into the benefits and services ... all veterans have earned while (in) service to our great country."

Principi told reporters that he and his wife were both Vietnam War vets, and that two of his sons served in Iraq. He said he cares "very deeply and very personally about every man and woman who returns to our shores from combat."

"I want to assure every service member returning from the war against terrorism that VA will be there for them when they return to civilian life."

Angel Flight for Veterans provides transportation

Angel Flight for Veterans provides no-cost or greatly reduced rate, long-distance charitable medical transportation/travel for patients who need to travel to distant places for specialized medical evaluation, diagnosis or treatment.

Angel Flight for Veterans serves veterans and active duty military personnel and their families.

It is totally supported by charitable donations, and is a member of Military, Veteran and Patriotic Service Organizations of America and Independent Charities of America.

Angel Flight for Veterans is also included as one of the charitable groups in the Combined Federal Campaign, #2132.

Other primary donors include corporations, foundations, workplace campaigns, individuals, churches and civic clubs.

Angel Flight for Veterans is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

How to give

To give to Angel Flight for Veterans through the United Way Campaign in the Washington, D.C. or San Francisco areas, AFV will be a listed charity. Find the charity # in the list and

write it on the U.W. forms.

In other locations, write in the name and address of AFV on a donor designation form that should be provided to you by the United Way upon request.

Donation checks made out to angel flight for veterans may be mailed to:

Angel Flight for Veterans
4620 Haygood Road, Suite 1
Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

The Angel Flight for Veterans, Washington

D.C. Area Office address is:

P.O. Box 1940
Manassas, VA 20108,
or call 703-365-8348
fax 703-257-1642.

Administrative and Patient Services Office

address is:

4620 Haygood Road, Suite 1
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
or call 757-271-2289
fax 757-318-9107.

For more information or for patients needing help, call the National Patient Travel HELPLINE at 1-800-296-1217, or e-mail angelflightveterans@erols.com.

AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING STAGED FOR VIDEO



Photo by DEIRDRE SHANDLE
U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center soldiers from left, Sgt. Johnthan Stines, Staff Sgt. Reginald Freeman, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Wharton, Sgt. James Wiseman, Spc. Nathaniel Ciano and Sgt. Edwin K. Morris stage amphibious training for the video crew of ATC's International Imaging team.

Transition team helps injured get VA care

Army News Service

Soldiers disabled overseas often have difficulty making the transition from the Army's care to treatment offered by the Veterans Administration. A joint effort by the VA and the Army, though, is now making that transition a little easier.

Dr. Michael Kussman, a former commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital, said the new Seamless Transition Team is designed to help Soldiers with service-related disabilities make the change from Army to VA care.

"As anyone who has made the transition is aware, it's very difficult and bureaucratic," Kussman said. "It can be difficult for people to get the benefits they deserve, that they're entitled to."

He said the transition team was developed in response to a directive from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi.

"He's made this a priority. We had troops coming back from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He wanted to make things better for them," Kussman said.

Kussman said the Veterans Benefit Administration and the Veterans Health Administration now have a social worker and a benefits counselor at Walter Reed

Army Medical Center to assist soldiers making the transition.

"The problem in the past was that the two administrations didn't talk to each other very well," Kussman said. "What we did was put a full-time social worker at Walter Reed along with a full-time benefits advisor from the VBA. They coordinate with discharge planning. Anyone with an injury that could lead to a disability, we want to get involved as early as possible," he said.

Soldiers have a number of treatment options, Kussman said, including TriCare, as well as VA benefits.

"If they choose to use the VA, we enroll them even before they're discharged," Kussman said. "Then, when we know where they're going, the VBA rep can call the area VA and say 'this soldier will be heading home and will be in this town.' This is really raising the bar compared to how it was done in the past," Kussman said.

Xiamora Telfer, the VHA/DoD liaison for the transition team, said it is her job to make certain services are available for Soldiers who are being separated from the Army either for their injuries or for other reasons.

"They need to know they can receive VA benefits for two years at no cost for conditions believed to be related to their service," Telfer said. "That's regardless of their ultimate VA rating, so it's a good thing for most patients."

See VETERANS, page 12

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5005, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

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Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Carol VanSchenkof

This is the season of the year when we get inundated with Christmas letters. Even if it is only once a year, I enjoy hearing from old friends. Yet I am also aware that most of these letters are written with rose-colored ink.

We are apt to hear how cousin Sue has been nominated for the Nobel Prize in physics, Uncle George has been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and those neighbors from three tours ago who fought constantly and had the most obnoxious kids were named the Army Family of the Year.

Rarely does someone write of how Aunt Betsy has finally been sober for a whole year; that their brother-in-law is again serving five to 10 in the state prison; that little Joe is repeating the fourth grade or that they have considered divorce five times during the past year.

We always want to put our best face forward. We want to "look good" to our friends and family and impress them with the achievements of each family member. We want to hide our flaws, problems, and

anything that would embarrass us.

But you know, God knows everything about us. He knows the truth about all of us. He created us. No one is without faults, shortcomings or sin. He knows you. He loves you and has chosen you.

Many "heroes" in the Bible were frail and imperfect. Abraham was a coward who couldn't believe God's promise to him. Jacob was a cheat who struggled with everybody. Joseph was an immature and arrogant teen. Rahab was a harlot. Moses was an impatient murderer who couldn't wait for God. Samson was a womanizing drunk. David abused his power and was an adulterer. And God used them for his purpose.

It never ceases to amaze me why God could not have chosen "better" people to do his work in the world. Yet if God can use them and reveal himself in such marvelous ways, it means he might be able to use you and me.

Think about it, pray about it, let him in this Christmas.

A Soldier's Christmas

by Allison Sauve

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light, I gazed 'round the room and I cherished the sight. My wife was asleep, her head on my chest, My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white, Transforming the yard to a winter delight. The sparkling lights in the tree I believe, Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep, Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep. In perfect contentment, or so it would seem, So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near, But I opened my eye when it tickled my ear. Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear, And I crept to the door just to see who was near. Standing out in the cold and the dark of night, A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

A Soldier, I puzzled, some 20 years old, Stood shivering and shaking, huddled here in the cold. Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled, Standing watch over me, and my wife, and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear. "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!" "Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve, You should be home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift, Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts. To the window that danced with a warm fire's light, Then he sighed and he said, "It's really all right. I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."

"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line, That separates you from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask or beg or implore me, I'm proud to stand here like my Fathers before me."

"My Gramps died at "Pearl on a day in December,"

Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."

"My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam And now it is my turn and so, here I am."

"I've not seen my own son in more than a while, But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile."

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag, The red, white, and blue.....an American Flag.

"I can live through the cold and being alone, Away from my family, my house, and my home. I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet, I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat."

"I can carry the weight of killing another, Or lay down my life with my sisters or brothers Who stand at the front against any and all, To insure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said "harbor no fright, Your family is waiting and I'll be all right." "But isn't there something I can do, at the least?" "Give you money," I asked "or prepare you a feast?"

"It seems all too little for all that you've done, For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that had no regret, "Just tell us you love us, and never forget To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone, To stand your own watch, no matter how long." "For when we come home, either standing or dead, To know you remember we fought and we bled Is payment enough, and with that we trust, That we mattered to you as you mattered to us...."

Editor's note: The inspiration for "A Soldier's Christmas" comes from a mother's love. Allison Sauve's son has been serving as a member of the 82nd Airborne deployed to Iraq since February. She wrote it as a gift to all sons and daughters serving in the Middle East and to comfort their loved ones until they return home.



Aneurysm Surgery?

Did you or a loved one have vascular surgery to treat an abdominal aortic aneurysm since September, 1999? If a stent device was implanted and led to **internal bleeding, damaged arteries, removal of the device, corrective surgery or death**, call James Rolhouse and Associates toll free at 1-800-820-4340 or visit us **on-line at www.rolhouselaw.com** to find out about your legal rights. Ask about the Guidant Ancure Stent-Graft Device.

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Tax season is here

APG Tax Center offers free tax preparation

Sandi Williams
OS/JA

The Installation Tax Assistance Program, directed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, provides free tax assistance each year to qualifying active duty military members, retirees, and their family members. Active duty members are those service members currently holding an active duty ID card. National Guard or reservists not mobilized are not eligible for services. Those individuals should contact their individual units for assistance.

Trained volunteers

The Tax Center is located in building 310, Wing 9, 2nd Floor. It will be open Feb. 2, 2004 to April 15, 2004, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call the Tax Center to make an appointment at 410-278-1208 beginning Feb. 2.

Soldiers have been assigned to work at the Tax Center on a daily basis and have been trained in federal and Maryland state income tax return preparation. An IRS sanctioned examination at the end of the course certifies each Special Duty Soldier as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistant.

Be prepared

It is extremely important to gather all of the information needed to file an accurate return.

Information needed

• A copy of the previous year's tax return

- Original W-2 statements
- Form 1099s stating interest, dividends or capital gains, distributions from pensions and IRAs
- Social security cards for the service member, spouse, and

See **TAXES**, page 11

First Baptist Church of Aberdeen

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship	11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Discipleship Training	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.

- Youth Ministry Teams
- SBC Children's Mission Program (3 yrs. - 6 th grade)
- Prayer Meeting

Dr. Gary Johnson, Pastor
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IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Nights Mon.-Fri. 9:01pm-5:59am; weekends Sat. 12am-Sun. 11:59pm. Taxes & surcharges apply and may vary. Federal Universal Service Charge of 1.90% (varies quarterly based on FCC rate) and a 5c Regulatory Charge per line/month are our charges, not taxes. Requires new activation on 24-month agreement. Subject to Service Agreement & Calling Plan. Activation fee of \$35 on 12-month agreement. Early termination fee up to \$175. Requires credit approval. Cannot combine with other offers. Usage rounded to next full minute. Unused allowances lost. Subject to taxes & other charges. See calling plan. *T720+ \$50 savings is a mail-in rebate. Allow 10-12 weeks for rebate check. For rebate, must be a customer for 30 consecutive days. Phone may not be returned after rebate is submitted Valid through 12/31/03. Not responsible for typographical errors.

Community Notes

Donate your car to KARS-4-KIDS and receive a FREE 3 Day / 2 Night Hotel Stay!
 Quick & Free Pickup! Maximum IRS Deduction
1-877-KARS-4-KIDS
 www.kars4kids.com

HOMEOWNERS: NEED CASH? CALL US! THESE RATES ARE GREAT!
 ✓ Consolidate Debt!
 ✓ Pay off credit card bills!
 ✓ Make Home Improvements!
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 NO PAYMENTS UNTIL 2004!
 Purchases - Refinancing - 100% Financing - No Income Check Loans
 GET CASH FAST! "INSTANT APPROVALS!" Bad Credit is No Problem!
 \$30,000 \$75,000 \$125,000
 \$139 \$347 \$579
BLS Funding 800-LOAN-152
 Closing Loans, Building Relationships.

Urgent news for people who have used WELDING RODS
 Scientists have discovered that elevated manganese exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with Parkinsonism (like Parkinson's disease) and manganism. Symptoms include shakiness, distorted facial expression, loss of equilibrium, decreased hand agility, difficulty walking, joint pain, loss of short term memory, slurred/slow speech, stiffness in muscles and tremors. Call us today toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation to evaluate your potential claim. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S. to help people across the country.
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 CHRISTMAS IN MARYLAND

The town of Aberdeen will hold "Christmas in Maryland." Festivities include breakfast with Santa, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Grace Methodist Church; an open house at the Aberdeen Room Museum, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; tours of the Ripken Museum, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and a street concert, 2 p.m. on the front steps of Grace United Methodist Church.

The Christmas parade begins 3 p.m. on West Bel Air Avenue.

For more information, call Ruth Frank at 410-272-7354.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The St. James A.M.E Church, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will host a Christmas Celebration at 5:30 p.m. The program will include caroling, recitations, Christmas reflections and story telling. Light refreshments will be served. The event is sponsored by the St. James Church School and Christian Education Department.

For more information call 410-939-2267.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Eat breakfast with Santa Clause, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Prince of Peace Church located on 2600 Willoughby Beach Road, Edgewood. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$4 for children ages 6 through 12 and children under 6 eat free. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage gravy with biscuit, coffee, tea and juice.

For more information, call 410-679-5912.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14, 20 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Edgewood Baptist Church and the APG Post Chapel

Church Choirs will perform a Christmas Cantata, "Treasures of Christmas: Joyful Sounds of the Season," 7 p.m. at the Edgewood Baptist Church, 422 Edgewood Road, Edgewood. Everyone is invited to the free concert. Nursery service will be provided.

For more information, call 410-676-5838.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18 EXODUS SUPER SUPPER SPECIALTY MEAL

The Exodus Super Supper Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, for Dinner, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

During this event all military personnel, family members, department of defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$3.25 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, department of defense civilian, retiree and their guests.

The discount meal rate of \$2.80 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Exodus Super Supper Specialty Menu includes chicken noodle soup, grilled steaks, shrimp scampi, fried catfish, chicken cordon bleu, freedom fries, rice pilaf, baked macaroni and cheese, seasoned mushrooms and onions, broccoli with cheese sauce, corn O'brien, assorted salad bar, hot dinner rolls, German tomato salad, creamy cole slaw, jellied fruit salad, chocolate chip cookies, cheese cake, carrot cake, soft serve yogurt with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification. For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green at 410-306-1393/1398.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Edgewood Baptist Church and the APG Post Chapel Church Choirs will perform a Christmas Cantata, "Treasures of Christmas: Joyful Sounds of the Season," 10:45 a.m. at the Edgewood Baptist Church, 422 Edgewood Road, a.m.; Edgewood. Everyone is invited to the free concert. Nursery service also will be provided. For more information, call 410-676-5838.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Grove Presbyterian Church located at 50 East Bel Air Avenue (corner of Old Post Road and East Bel Air Avenue), Aberdeen, will present 'Sounds of the Season' at 5 p.m. The musicians of Grove Church to include A Joyful Noise in the Grove bell choir, the Chancel Choir, soloists and instrumentalists will provide special music. A light reception will follow.

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY SPECIALTY MEAL

The Christmas Day Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building 4503 for lunch, noon to 1:30 p.m. During this event all military personnel, family members, department of defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$5.25 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, department of defense civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$4.55 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Christmas Day Specialty Menu includes cream of broccoli soup, roast prime rib of beef au jus, baked ham, roast turkey, honey glazed Cornish hens, mashed potatoes, scalloped sweet potatoes and

apples, corn bread dressing, green beans with mushrooms, seasoned corn, turkey gravy, brown and serve rolls, assorted salad bar, assorted salads, assorted pastries, soft serve yogurt with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification. For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green at 410-306-1393/1398.

FRIDAY JANUARY 9 AMERICAN LEGION HOSTS COMEDY SHOW

American Legion Post 128, 44 North Parke Street, Aberdeen, will host a comedy show 7 to 10 p.m. with proceeds benefiting World War II veterans' memorial programs.

The show will feature comedy by John Dodge and Uncle Nic as well as Jim Bishop, who has appeared on Comedy Central and performs regularly in Atlantic City, N.J.

Cost is \$10 per person and includes finger food, draft beer and sodas. For reservations, call 410-272-9822.

SATURDAY JANUARY 24 BASKET BINGO

The Military and Civilian Spouses' Club will sponsor Basket Bingo, 7 p.m., at the Edgewood Area Gunpowder Club. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per ticket for three cards and additional sets of three cards cost \$5. Tickets will also be sold at the door if available. Food, a bake sale and drinks will be available and there will be door prizes, special games and raffles.

Visitors can obtain a pass onto post with any valid picture ID at the gate.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Amy Carlson at 410-939-6429, or Susan Burnett at 410-272-8438.

Gift Wrap schedule at Commissary

Thursday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. U.S. Air Force Detachment 1	Wednesday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 520th TAML	143rd Ordnance Battalion
Friday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Roye-Williams Elementary School	Thursday, Dec. 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 520th TAML-FRG	Monday, Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Company A, Company B and Company C, HHC 143rd Ordnance Battalion
Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Protestant Women of the Chapel	Thursday, Dec. 18, 3 to 9 p.m. Crime Prevention and Bakerfield Elementary PTA	Tuesday, Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 651
Sunday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 2025	Friday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 61st Ordnance Brigade	Wednesday, Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. EA Youth Service, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. TEU, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Cub Scout Troop 429	Saturday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. KUSAHC and NCO Fellowship	
Tuesday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. CHPPM	Sunday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.	

MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50, building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard. To verify listing, call 410-272-7520.

MYSTIC RIVER
Friday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
 Starring: Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon

Childhood friends Jimmy Marcus (Penn), Sean Devine (Bacon) and Dave Boyle (Tim Robbins) reunite following the death of Jimmy's oldest daughter, Katie (Emmy Rossum). Sean's a police detective on the case, gathering difficult and disturbing evidence; he's also tasked with handling Jimmy's rage and need for retribution. (Rated R)

BROTHER BEAR (FREE ADMISSION)
Saturday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
 After a bear takes the life of the oldest brother, impulsive youngest brother Kenai kills the bear in revenge, only to be transformed into a bear himself. Denami, the middle brother, comes upon this bear and, thinking it killed Kenai, vows revenge. Now brother hunts brother and Kenai's only hope for survival is to befriend his own worst enemy, a grizzly cub named Koda, whose main goal is to show Kenai the real meaning of brotherhood. (Rated G)

SCARY MOVIE 3
Saturday, Dec. 13, 9 p.m.
 Starring: Anna Faris, Charlie Sheen

Now out of college, the hapless Cindy Campbell is a TV news anchorwoman. Within a matter of days, Cindy is summoned to investigate the mysterious crop circles on Tom Logan's farm, and discover the eerie secret behind the death of a close friend. While on her journey, Cindy pays a visit to Orpheus, who explains to her that she is "the one" who must help the president of the United States prevent a full-scale alien invasion. (Rated PG-13)

The Post Theater will be closed Dec. 19 through Jan. 9 for the holidays.

POST SHORTS

pounders with cheese, chicken sandwiches, rib sandwiches, Krispy Kreme donuts, new items and special request items.

ACS assists families for the holidays

With the holiday season fast approaching, Army Community Service would like to remind the APG community that ACS is the point of contact for military families seeking assistance.

This includes active duty Soldiers, Active Guard and Reservists, retirees, widows and widowers.

ACS also partners with agencies seeking to sponsor families for the holidays.

In the past, ACS has supported over 200 military families during the holidays in partnership with on-post agencies, as well as local businesses.

The families appreciated the fact that the APG community was there to assist them in their time of need. The names of military families in need of holiday assistance must be referred through the unit's commander.

APG organizations may sponsor families with monetary donations, food baskets, toys, and gifts. For more information, call Arcelio Alleyne, 410-278-2450.

Possible delays at gate

In late December, APG Garrison will begin constructing shelters at APG's entrance gates for protection from winter weather during vehicle inspections.

The construction may cause delays upon entering and exiting the installation.

For traffic issues, call Officer Joe Davis, acting traffic division supervisor, 410-278-5451.

For construction questions, call Greg Bryant, contracting officer representative, 410-306-1178.

Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive

One new toy could mean the difference between a smile and just another day of disappointment to a needy child.

Deer Creek Archery, 3021 Churchville Road, is an official Marine Corps Toys for Tots collection location.

Now through Dec. 21, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the Pro-Shop on Thursday, 4 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, noon to 9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information or for directions, visit Web site at www.deercreekarchery.com or call 410-734-9554.

APG News Web site takes a holiday

The APG News Web site Dec. 11 through 26 issues will be updated on Dec. 29.

The site is located at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil. For more information, call the editor at 410-278-1150.

USO holiday concert, Dec. 11

Members of the military and their families are invited to participate in a very special holiday concert at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on Dec. 11, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The concert by Marvin Hamlisch and the National Symphony Orchestra will be videotaped for rebroadcast overseas to those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan on Christmas Eve.

Admission is by ticket only to anyone with a current military I.D. - active duty, retired, and their dependents - and can be picked up at the USO office at the Ft. Myer Community Activities Center. For more information call Kathy Carroll, 703-696-2551.

Theater holiday schedule

The Post Theater will be closed from Dec. 19 through Jan. 9.

Outreach Office holiday schedule

The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 1011B Woodbridge Center Way, Edgewood, will be closed Dec. 24 to Dec. 26, and Jan. 1. On Dec. 31, it will close at 1 p.m.

Regular operating hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. For more information, call 410-676-6800.

RDECOM toy drive underway

The 17th Annual Food and Toy Drive is underway and will continue until Dec. 16. Donation boxes are in place at many locations across post. Donatable items include non-perishable food and new or "clean, gently used" toys for children of all ages, including teenagers.

As in the past, the Neighbors Involved in the Community of Edgewood will be the recipient of the donations.

NICE is a local group working to improve the quality of life in the Edgewood community. Their main focus is toward education, recreation, safety, and crime, drug, and alcohol abuse prevention. This year NICE anticipates 75 or more families will need assistance.

Everyone is invited to attend the reception scheduled for 9 a.m., Dec. 16 in the Berger Laboratory Cafeteria, building E3549 in the Edgewood Area.

All donations help neighbors in need.

For more information, call Barbara Knapp at 410-436-5713.

Lose weight for the holidays

Lunchtime Weight Watchers meetings are continuing on post with the newest program from Weight Watchers' - FlexPoints. FlexPoints makes losing weight in the real world easier.

Get 11 weeks for the price of 10.

Lunchtime Weight Watchers meetings are open to all APG civilian personnel, retirees, military personnel and family members.

For more information, call 410-278-1151.

NAF employees receive credit for military service

Regular Nonappropriated Fund employees participating in the NAF Retirement Program may be eligible to purchase certain prior military service to be credited for NAF retirement benefit computations.

Employees having previous creditable military service, that has not been used under any other employer's retirement system, may wish to purchase their military service (not to exceed five years) to be credited for NAF retirement benefit computation purposes.

The entire deposit must be paid to the USANAF Employment Retirement Plan before Separation for Retirement or the post military service will not be credited.

For employees participating in the Plan on Jan. 1, 1998, interest is first added to the unpaid balance of the deposit on Jan. 1, 2001.

For further information or an appointment, employees are encouraged to call NAF Personnel, Julie Bates, 410-278-8994, or Jean Fuddy, 410-278-8993, editor at 410-278-1150.

ARL hearing study

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory is conducting a study on hearing.

Participants need to be 18 to 30 years old with normal hearing.

The time commitment is 5 hours, and each participant will be paid \$10 per hour. Employees of ARL and their relatives are not eligible.

Interested volunteers should call Justin MacDonald, 410-278-5925, or e-mail him at jmacdonald@arl.army.mil;

or Martha Dennison, 410-278-5918, or e-mail her at mjdenis@arl.army.mil.

Toastmasters meet in Edgewood Area

The Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562 meets on the first and third Monday of every month at 11:40 a.m. at The Gunpowder Club.

The lunchtime club offers an opportunity for people to improve communication, leadership and listening skills and to overcome fear of public speaking.

For more information, call 410-941-1120 or 410-734-6573.

CWF trips

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a trip to the Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater, Dec. 12, departing the Aberdeen Area at 4:30 p.m. Cost of the trip is \$55 per person and includes charter bus transportation, dinner, and the holiday show, "Home for the Holidays."

They will also sponsor a trip to Broadway, in New York City to see "The Lion King" on April 17. Cost of the trip is \$135 per person and includes charter bus transportation and theater ticket. The bus will depart from the Aberdeen Area 6 a.m. The show begins 2 p.m., leaving time for shopping/touring and lunch prior to the show.

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

Early morning Child Development hours

The CDC staff is considering opening the Aberdeen and Edgewood area centers Monday through Friday for Soldiers who participate in early morning physical training.

The rate would be \$23 per

month for three days per week and \$40 per month for five days per week from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. These rates apply only for Soldiers participating in early morning PT.

For patrons not currently enrolled in the Child/Youth Services programs, an annual \$15 registration fee will be required.

If interested in using this service at the AA Child Development Center, call Ruth Strauss, 410-278-711, or e-mail her at ruth.strauss@usag.apg.army.mil.

At the EA Center, call Myria Figueroa, 410-436-8361, or send an e-mail to myria.figueroa@usag.apg.army.mil.

Safety reminder

The APG Garrison Safety Council reminds motorists that turning on headlights is mandatory when operating windshield wipers.

Turning them on at dusk is also a good safety habit.

Kirk offers 'Take care of yourself' class

Class will be held the third Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon.

All TRICARE Prime beneficiaries are eligible to attend. Instruction will be provided to teach patients how to treat minor illnesses and injuries at home, and when to see a doctor.

The classes will be conducted by a registered nurse using the "Take Care of Yourself" handbook. See article on the book on page 11.

At the end of each class, Medication Cards will be given out which will allow patients to pick-up specific over-the-counter medications without a prescription.

For more information and to register for classes, call Preventive Medicine, 410-278-1964. (See article on page 11.)

NEW LINE CINEMA PRESENTS A WINGNUT FILMS PRODUCTION
 "THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING" ELLIJAH WOOD IAN MCKELLEN LIV TYLER VIGGO MORTENSEN SEAN ASTIN CATE BLANCHETT
 JOHN RHYNS-DAVIES BERNARD HILL BILLY BOYD DOMINIC MONAGHAN ORLANDO BLOOM HUGO WEAVING MIRANDA OTTO DAVID WENHAM KARL URBAN JOHN NOBLE
 FEATURING ANDY SERKIS AS GOLLUM WITH IAN HOLM AND SEAN BEAN WRITTEN BY JOHN HUBBARD AND AMY MACLEAN PRODUCED BY VICTORIA BURROWS DIRECTED BY ANDREW JACKSON
 COSTUME DESIGNER: WETA LTD. NZ MAKEUP ARTIST: JIM RYCHIEL MUSIC BY HOWARD SHORE EDITOR: ANNIE LENNOX EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JAMIE SELKIRK PRODUCED BY GRANT MAJOR BASED UPON THE BOOKS BY J.R.R. TOLKIEN
 PRODUCED BY RICK PORRAS JAMIE SELKIRK EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MARK ORDESKY BOB WEINSTEIN HARVEY WEINSTEIN PRODUCED BY ROBERT SHAYE MICHAEL LYNNE PRODUCED BY BARRIE M. OSBORNE FRANK WALSH PETER JACKSON
 PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13
 INTENSE EPIC BATTLE SEQUENCES AND FRIGHTENING IMAGES
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MOVIE
 America Online Keyword: Lord of the Rings www.lordoftherings.net www.LOTRshop.com Moviefone



Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

2003 MWR Holiday Schedule

Activity	Friday Dec. 19	Saturday Dec. 20	Sunday Dec. 21	Monday Dec. 22	Tuesday Dec. 23	Wednesday Dec. 24	Friday Dec. 26
Arts & Crafts AA	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed
Arts & Crafts EA	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Athletic Center	5 a.m. to 10 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Auto Crafts	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bowling Center	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.	1 to 10 p.m.	1 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 to 10 p.m.
Equipment Rental Center	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed
Exton*	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 2 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fitness Center AA	5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Closed	Closed	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Closed
Hoyle Gym/ Fitness Center	5 a.m. to 10 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Ticket and Registration	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Library AA	Closed	1 to 5 p.m.	1 to 5 p.m.	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Closed	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Closed
Library EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center AA	10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Ruggles*	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

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

SCHOOL LIAISON/YOUTH EDUCATION

SCHOOL LIAISON/YOUTH EDUCATION UPDATE

How Do I Pay For College? A Guide To Financial Aid tri-fold is now available at the School Liaison/Youth Education Office, Room 200, Bldg. 2752, or by on-post mail by e-mailing your name, organization, building number to ivan.mehosky@usag.apg.army.mil. Topics of information include: a description of financial aid, types of aid, steps to

obtaining aid, facts about financial aid, information on scholarship scams, and a listing of financial aid contacts and sites.

A limited number of copies of the 2003/2004 "The You Can Guide to Financing Your Education" are available at the School Liaison/Youth Education Office. Call Ivan Mehosky, 410-278-2857, for a copy.

Parent-Student resources are currently available at

the School Liaison/Youth Education Office: "How To Prepare Our Children and Stay Involved In Their Education During Deployment," "Parent Guidebook to the U.S. Army Secondary Education Transition Study," "Put Reading First-Helping Your Child Learn To Read (Preschool through Grade 3)," and "Chart Your Course: Planning a Successful Journey Through High School and Beyond." For more information, call 410-278-2857.

Outdoor Recreation offers special

Rent an item on Dec. 24 and return it on Dec. 29 and only pay for a two-day rental. For more information, call the Equipment Resource Center at 410-278-4124 or e-mail outdoor_recreation@usag.apg.army.mil.



LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

Operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library, building 3320, are Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Edgewood Area library is open Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For information, call 410-436-3589.



In the Name of Science by Andrew Goliszek

From the moment the first plague-ridden corpse was heaved over the fortifications of a besieged medieval city to the use of cutting-edge gene therapy today, the ethical limits governing the use of the human body in experimentation have been breached, redefined and breached again.

Healing and Hope by Betty Ford

From Emeril's Kitchens by Emeril Lagasse

Real Men Do Yoga by John Capouya

One Vast Winter Count by Colin G. Calloway

A complete annotated listing of the library's new material can be found on the Internet, as well as the library's online catalog www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html.



Finances top priority for Army Family Action Plan

Victoria Palmer
Army News Service

Personal financial concerns are this year's top priority for Soldiers and their families, according to the votes of 103 delegates to the 2003 Army Family Action Plan Conference. All of the top five new AFAP issues directly relate to pay benefits and personal expenses.

Survivor Benefit Plan offset headed the list of new issues-ahead of mortgage relief for mobilized reserve-component service members and death benefits for stillborn infants (tied for second), lodging and subsistence for family members of hospitalized service members and weight allowance for permanent change of station moves.

During the 20th annual Department of the Army AFAP conference Nov. 17 through 21 in Alexandria, Va., delegates representing every demographic segment of the Army worked in eight groups addressing 24 issues in areas such as family support, force support, logistical support, employment, entitlements and medical/dental.

Each work group elected a spokesperson to brief its top three issues at week's end to an audience of senior Army leaders that included Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. and his wife Sheila; Reginald J. Brown, assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace, director of the Army Staff, and his wife Gail; Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard; Brig. Gen. James Snyder (who represented Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve) and Mrs. Helmly; and the conference host, Brig. Gen. Robert L. Decker, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center commander.

After all of the issues were briefed, delegates voted for the top five from the conference, the six most critical active AFAP issues and the most valuable community services.

Help for surviving spouses of retirees was the focus of the #1 issue: Survivor Benefit Plan offset. Spokesperson Tracey Dougherty, Fort Polk, La., explained that SBP, a voluntary, annuity-type plan paid monthly by military retirees, provides 55 percent of the service member's retirement pay to the surviving spouse when Social Security is not yet payable and a 35 percent benefit when it is (at age 62). The age of receipt for maximum Social Security benefits has increased but the SBP offset remains at age 62.

The Entitlements I work group recommended delay of the start of the second-tier level of SBP benefits from age 62 to 72 and increasing the level of benefits from 35 to 40 percent.

Entitlements II spokesperson Capt. Chris Moore, Fort Jackson, S.C. made impassioned pleas for his work group's issues through compelling storytelling, of which two resulted in a tie for the #2 new issue: mortgage relief for mobilized reservists and death benefits for stillborn infants.

Moore explained that approximately one-third of mobilized reserve-component service members suffer a significant decrease in pay, which impacts their ability to meet mortgage obligations. The work group made the recommendation that the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act be amended to allow Soldiers to defer the difference between the existing mortgage obligation on the family's primary residence and the Basic Allowance for Housing for the duration of mobilization.

In briefing death benefits for stillborn infants, Moore illustrated the issue with an emotional comparison of two families experiencing the joy of pregnancy and birth but which then undergo the heart-breaking loss of a child. But while a child who dies even shortly after birth is covered under Family Supplemental Group Life Insurance, a stillborn child is not, compounding the Soldier's and family's emotional trauma with financial hardship.

The work group recommended that this could be addressed by changing the FSGLI to include a death benefit for stillborn infants.

Dougherty also briefed the #4 issue: lodging and subsistence for family members of hospitalized service members. Current policy authorizes transportation costs for two family members when a Soldier is hospitalized. Dougherty explained that Congress has authorized per diem for families of Soldiers injured in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, but when a Soldier is seriously ill or injured in circumstances other than war, family members must incur the costs of lodging and food expenses. The work group recommended travel and per diem be provided to families of all Soldiers hospitalized with serious illness or injury.

Facilities and Relocation spokesperson Maj. Nora Marcos, Yongsan, Korea, whose husband is an Army lieutenant colonel, briefed the #5 issue: weight allowance for Permanent Change of Station moves. Marcos explained that failure to review and adjust weight allowances has resulted in the application of out-of-date weight tables that have not increased since the 1980s, resulting in Soldiers having to dispose of personal items or paying out of pocket to cover moving expenses.

The work group recommended weight allowances periodically be reviewed and

adjusted based on modern-day households.

Affordable continuing education for family members continues to remain a hot issue, as delegates voted for the top six critical active issues introduced into the AFAP process in preceding conferences.

Allowing all Soldiers with at least 10 years of service to distribute their Montgomery GI Bill benefits to their dependents was voted the top active issue, followed by in-state college tuition status for military family members, which was the number one 2002 AFAP conference new issue. This would allow for military family members residing in a state on military orders for the last and current duty assignment to be eligible for in-state tuition and to retain in-state tuition status once established.

In-state tuition status tied with pay table reform for second in the top six critical active issues, followed by modification of the Permanent Change of Station weight allowance table, retirement Dislocation Allowances and shipment of household goods.

This year's delegates identified the most valuable services as medical/dental, the Army Family Action Plan, Army Community Service and the commissary.

The Army Family Action Plan grassroots process has identified issues affecting Soldiers' and families' lives to the Army senior leadership level since 1983. Over the past 20 years, AFAP has raised more than 542 issues resulting in 82 changes to legislation, 130 revised policies and 140 improved programs or services.

AFAP successes include the Military Thrift Savings Plan that allows military members to participate in the Federal Thrift Savings Plan; TRICARE for Life, which extends TRICARE eligibility to military Medicare-eligibles; tour stabilization for Soldiers with high school seniors; and uniform DoD reserve-component family member identification cards.

"We find ourselves in the AFAP 20th year, supporting an Army at war," said Casey. "At no time in my recent memory has a program like AFAP been more important to the overall success of our Army."

AFAP is a family support program of the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va., and is one of more than 50 programs CFSC provides for Soldiers and families worldwide. Further information is available at the Army MWR Web site, www.armymwr.com.

(Editor's note: Victoria Palmer is the deputy public affairs officer for CFSC.)

Religious service Christmas schedule

Catholic services

Saturday Dec. 13

6 p.m., after 5 p.m. mass - Advent penance service AA

Saturday, Dec. 20

7 p.m. - Stable mass, EA

Wednesday, Dec. 24

5 p.m. - Children's pageant mass, EA

Wednesday, Dec. 24

11 p.m. - Music cantata, AA - followed by midnight mass

Christmas, Dec. 25

10 a.m. - mass, AA

Christmas, Dec. 25

11 a.m. - mass, EA

Wednesday, Dec. 31

5 p.m. - New Year's Eve mass, AA

New Years Day, Jan. 1

11 a.m. - mass, EA

Protestant services

Sunday, Dec. 14

9:15 a.m. - Advent service, EA

Sunday, Dec. 14

10:15 a.m. - Christmas cantata service, AA

Sunday, Dec. 14

10:15 a.m. - Farewell pot luck for

Chaplain (Capt.) Shawn McCammon, EA

Sunday, Dec. 14

1 p.m. - Farewell pot luck for Chaplain (Maj.) Stephen Russ, AA

Monday, Dec. 15

6 p.m. - Caroling and refreshments, EA Headquarters, 143rd

Tuesday, Dec. 16

6 p.m. - Caroling and refreshments, EA Headquarters, 143rd

Sunday, Dec. 21

9:15 a.m. - Advent service, EA

Sunday, Dec. 21

10:15 a.m. - Advent service, AA

Wednesday, Dec. 24

6:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve candlelight service, AA

Gospel services

Sunday, Dec. 21

12:30 p.m. - Sunday services, AA

Sunday, Dec. 21

5 p.m. - Youth Christmas Program, AA

Group seeks teddy bears for military children

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

It's not easy being a kid whose mom or dad is deployed overseas to a combat zone. It can be confusing and lonely, and sometimes, downright scary.

That's why a California-based nonprofit group wants to put into every affected military child's hands that quintessentially American yet internationally understood symbol of comfort and friendship: the teddy bear.

Operation TeddyCare, the labor of love of a disabled Vietnam veteran and his wife, already has donated 2,500 teddy bears to military children of deployed service members. Each bear, presented through military family service centers, comes with a personalized certificate of appreciation "for being brave and helpful while your parent served in the line of duty."

Family service centers are so enthusiastic about the program that they've already requested another 6,500 teddy bears - but Operation TeddyCare has no bears left to donate.

"We've gotten to the point where we are flat-out of teddy bears," said Barbara Moran, who runs the program with her husband, psychologist Dr. Bob Baker. "And if there's one word in our vocabulary we hate when we get requests from military bases," Moran said, "it's 'no.'"

To help meet increasing requests for teddy bears, Operation TeddyCare is soliciting donations of teddy bears as well as checks to purchase teddy bears and cover the cost of printing certificates of appreciation and shipping.

Moran and Baker go to great lengths to get teddy bears to military children. At once point, they drove two carloads of bears from their home near San Francisco to Camp Pendleton, Calif., when Operation TeddyCare had run too low on shipping funds to mail the requested bears.

"It's a wonderful thing they're doing," said Hugh Cooper, deputy assistant chief of staff for community services at the base. "The kids here really appreciated getting the bears."

"They were a big hit," echoed Robin Colangelo, family readiness coordinator for the Air National Guard in Phoenix, who presented teddy bears to children of the 161st Air Refueling Wing.

"Operation TeddyCare is such a nice program, because it recognizes that kids share in the hardships when their parents are deployed," said Colangelo. "It's especially hard on the very young ones, because they really don't understand what's going on."

Moran said Operation TeddyCare is committed to recognizing these children's sacrifices. "Military children are expected to be extraordinary - to be brave, to do their homework, to do their chores, and to handle the stress of their parent being away from home," Moran said. "Operation TeddyCare is a way to express appreciation to these kids, and to tell them, 'You're being a great kid.'"

But Moran said the teddy bears convey more than just appreciation. "Teddy bears are all about comfort," she said. "They're good listeners, and they're nice to hold. They're so associated with America, with comfort, with friendship, and with both celebrations and consolations."

"We all know that when the going gets tough, it really helps to hug a teddy bear."

Baker recognized the therapeutic power of teddy bears in his practice as clinical coordinator of the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, where he worked until his retirement.

Since then, he and Moran continue to spread those healing powers. Since 1995, Operation TeddyCare has distributed more than 30,000 teddy bears donated by local citizens to counselors, police officers, firefighters and other emergency workers. They, in turn, present the bears to children affected by conflicts, war, violence, abuse, neglect, natural disasters, accidents or life-threatening illness.

The effort has moved into high gear during crises, beginning in 1995 when Operation TeddyCare sent teddy bears to children in Kobe, Japan, after a 6.9 magnitude earthquake left almost 5,500 people dead. Since then,

Operation TeddyCare has donated teddy bears for children affected by the Oklahoma City bombing, the World Trade Center attacks, and most recently, Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Moran said she's even heard from service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, asking if there was a way to get teddy bears for the local children.

"I guess you could say we've become the Red Cross of teddy bears," she said.

To contribute, send teddy bears or checks to: Operation TeddyCare, Suite Q, 80 N. Cabrillo Highway, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019. Designate contributions "For military kids."

For more information about the program, visit <http://teddycare.coast-side.net>.



CAC

From front page

"All slots are full but interested groups hoping for a vacancy should contact me at 410-278-9669," Howard said.

Retiree Day

Retired Lt. Col. Charles Shadle said the annual Retiree Appreciation Day was the installation's most successful in years. "Thanks to supporting agencies, we had nearly twice the normal attendance," Shadle said.

He announced that he had received a letter designating him as a charter member of Homeland Security.

Decker added that Dave Burdick and the Retirement Services office "helped tremendously" and noted that the MOAA holds general meetings that are open to the public and is looking for new members.

DIO

Bert Scott, Directorate of Installation Operations, briefed on holiday safety, including precautions and cold weather tips with relevant emergency phone numbers that should be kept handy. Regarding the current budget, Scott said funds were cut 40 percent of what they were last year.

"For the most part, everything will be approved subject to available funding. Things that can be delayed will be delayed," Scott said.

Mark added that personnel should take care of their equipment as best they can.

"In the meantime, get your work orders in so I can show why it is I need more resources," Mark said.

The installation has received approval to begin painting Plumb Point and Hopkins Loop and plans are underway for the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools barracks, Scott added.

Cold weather tips

- Disconnect exterior hoses on outside faucets to prevent freezing
- To prevent freezing water lines, keep water running at a slow drip when the outside temperature is 32 degrees or below. Open cupboard doors to provide heat to pipes.
- Minimize on street parking when show or ice removal is required.
- Clean or replace furnace filters monthly.
- Service Order Desk phone num-

bers: 410-306-1400 (AA) and 410-436-3731 (EA).

Holiday safety

Susie Ashby, Installation Safety Office, provided the following holiday precautions.

Decorations

- Gift wrap may contain lead and other toxic metals that are dangerous when burned or chewed and swallowed by children. Discard wrapping in the trash as gifts are opened.

- Avoid placing lighted candles close to wreaths or ribbons or other flammable materials.

- Holiday plants such as Poinsettia, mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherries, amaryllis and others can cause severe gastrointestinal illnesses. Keep them out of reach of toddlers and pets.

Christmas trees/decoration

- When purchasing a live tree, make sure it is fresh. Pull lightly on the needles. They should be tightly attached to the branch. Also, shake the tree vigorously. If needles fall off, choose another.

- Check the cords and wiring of tree lights for fraying or cracks in insulation. Replace lights that are defective, worn, or lack the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) seal of safety. Do not overload the string, extension cord or wall outlets. Use extension cords only for the purpose recommended by the manufacturer.

- For infant, toddler and pet safety, avoid placing colorful bulbs or ornaments near the bottom of the tree.

In addition, the Installation Commander's Memorandum for occupants of family quarters stipulates that:

- Live trees must be kept well watered.

- Candles or other flame-producing devices will not be used on or near the tree.

- Only UL listed electric lights are permitted on trees, and around windows and doors. Do not staple or nail through the wiring.

- Interior decorative lights, including lights on Christmas trees, will not be left on when the occupants are not at home or have retired for the night.

- Exterior lights will be installed in a way, not to create a trip hazard for those entering or exiting exterior doors. Do not attach decorations to the roof with nails or other fasteners that will damage the roof.

- Only one extension cord may be

used per electrical outlet.

- Lights must be turned off by 11 p.m. with the exception of Christmas and New Years eve when they may be left on until midnight.

Holiday parties

- If hosting a party, always serve food first if serving alcoholic beverages. High protein items like meat and cheese help block alcohol absorption into the bloodstream.

- Have soft drinks, tea, water, or coffee on hand for drivers as an alternative to alcoholic beverages.

- Do not allow an intoxicated guest to drive. Call a cab, let someone take them home or let them stay overnight, but don't let them drive drunk.

Winter driving

- Clean off all windows, head and taillights before starting to drive.

- Allow the car to warm up before driving.

- Approach stop signs and traffic lights slowly to avoid skidding into oncoming traffic.

- If skidding, take your foot off the gas and turn your wheels in the direction of the skid to regain control.

- Maintain plenty of distance between you and the car ahead of you.

- Allow plenty of time to reach your destination.

- Install all-weather radial tires on your car with sufficient tread for traction.

- Fill windshield washer reservoir with fluid guaranteed not to freeze to at least 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Carry jumper cables.

- Carry a shovel to dig yourself out and a 10-pound bag of kitty litter for traction if you get stuck.

Snow, ice alleviation plan

Butch Grzanka, installation operations office, said that only the installation commander has the authority to close the entire installation and place all assigned personnel in an excused absence or standby status.

"Disregard any closures not specifically mentioning APG," Grzanka said. "The decision is made by 5 a.m. and we put it out to radio and TV, including APG Channel 3, as expeditiously as possible."

Scott added that crews are on hand through the night monitoring the situation.

"Our first priority is to keep the main arteries open, then to get the parking lots cleared," Scott said.

"They make the decision at 5 a.m., but we are here all night to aid in that decision."

Snow removal operations

Robert Weaver, DIO, said the snow removal priorities are main roads and emergency facilities. Challenges that hinder these operations include vehicles parked on streets and in parking lots.

"Plan and execution is situation dependent," Weaver said. "Parking lots are always a challenge. Participation and cooperation from the community is essential."

Exodus

Col. Paul Meredith, OC&S, announced that Exodus will take place Dec. 19 to Jan. 3, noting that the troop return from holiday leave will take place on a Saturday.

The proposal to close Boothby Hill Road and all roads south from 5:30 to 5:30 a.m. for OC&S physical training runs is still pending a decision from the garrison, Meredith said.

Other pending actions under review included additional weekend barbers, removal of a fallen tree from the EA cemetery, additional directional signs to the AA Thrift Shop, and additional signs to help people find their way off post.

Resolved issues

- Missing pavement by steam vents in the EA. Temporary repairs will be made permanent by the Baltimore Army Corps of Engineers when the steam line is completed.

- EA Deer Run quarters tested for mold. The Housing Division is awaiting results from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. Verbal results state that the buildings are safe for occupancy.

- Austin Road trees need trimming and removal. Work is still pending completion.

- Patriot Village storm water culvert grates. The project is 65 percent completed.

- Repainting of wooden quarters in the AA. The project is funded yearend fiscal year 2003. Work was scheduled to begin in November with completion in spring/summer 2004.

- Playground lights in Bayside Village and Skippers Point. A request for cost estimates has been submitted.

The next CAC is Jan. 15, 2004, 1:30 p.m. in the conference room, building 305.

Health & Safety

Preventing, caring for cold weather injuries

Pfc. Demetrius Williams
KUSAHC

During the next few months, it is important that leaders guard their personnel against cold injuries.

Cold injury is defined as tissue trauma produced by exposure to cold. The type of injury produced depends upon the degree of cold to which the body (or its parts) is exposed, the duration of exposure, and certain environmental factors.

To prevent cold injuries, leaders must ensure that their personnel are following the enclosed wind chill temperature chart and staying out of the elements as much as possible.

Hypothermia

This is caused when the body temperature falls and the body cannot produce heat as fast as it is being lost. Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition in which deep-body temperature falls below 95 F.

The symptoms are lack of shivering, drowsiness, mental slowness, and lack of coordination. It can progress to unconsciousness, irregular heartbeat and death.

Get the patient to a medical facility as soon as possible. All hypothermia victims, even those who do not appear to be alive, must be evaluated by trained medical personnel. To administer first aid, treatment should

start with preventing further cold exposure by removing wet clothing. Initiate CPR, only if required. Rewarm the patient by covering with blankets, sleeping bags, and by body-to-body contact. Handle gently during treatment and evacuation.

Chilblain

This is caused by repeated exposure of bare skin for prolonged periods to temperatures from 20 to 60 F. It is a nonfreezing cold injury, which, while painful, will cause little if any permanent impairment and can develop in only a few hours on skin exposed to cold.

The symptoms are that the area appears as red, swollen skin that is tender, hot to the touch, and may itch. This can worsen to an aching, prickly ("pins and needles") sensation, and then numbness.

Trenchfoot

This develops when skin on the feet is exposed to moisture and cold for prolonged periods of time (12 hours or longer). The combination of cold and moisture softens skin, causing tissue loss and, often, infection. If untreated, trench foot can eventually lead to amputation.

Often, the first sign of trench foot is itching, numbness, or tingling pain. Later the feet may appear swollen, and the skin mildly red, blue, or

black. Commonly, trench foot shows a distinct "water-line" coinciding with the water level in the boot. Red or bluish blotches appear on the skin, sometimes with open weeping or bleeding. The risk of this potentially crippling injury is high during wet weather or when troops are deployed in wet areas. Individuals wearing rubberized or tight-fitting boots are at risk for trench foot regardless of weather conditions, since sweat accumulates inside these boots and keeps the feet wet.

First aid for chilblain and trench foot is to prevent further cold exposure. Remove wet or constrictive clothing. Gently wash and dry injured area and elevate it. Cover the injury with layers of loose, warm clothing and allow to re-warm. Pain and blisters may develop. Do not pop blisters, do not apply lotions or creams, do not massage, do not expose to extreme heat, do not allow victim to walk on the injury. Seek medical attention.

Frostbite

This is caused by freezing of the tissue. The skin freezes at about 28 F. Parts most often affected include fingers, toes, ears, and other facial parts.

As frostbite develops, skin will become numb and turn to a gray or waxy-white color. The area will be cold to the touch and may feel stiff or

woody. With frostbite, ice crystal formation and lack of blood flow to the frozen area damages the tissues. After thawing, swelling may occur, worsening the injury.

To prevent further exposure, remove wet, constrictive clothing. Wash and dry the injury gently. Rewarm gradually by direct skin-to-skin contact between injured area and non-injured skin of the victim or a buddy. Evacuate for medical treatment (foot injuries by litter) and do not allow injury to refreeze during evacuation. If not treated properly, frostbite can lead to gangrene and amputation.

NOTE: Do not re-warm a frostbite injury if it could refreeze during evacuation. Do not re-warm frostbitten feet if victim must walk for medical treatment. Do not re-warm injury over an open flame. Susceptibility to cold injury is increased by substance abuse, exhaustion, hunger, dehydration, hypoxia, impaired cardiovascular function, and contact with moisture or metal. The elderly, the very young, and persons intoxicated with alcohol are particularly at risk.



CPSC chairman warns holiday shoppers about hazardous recalled toys, launches new Web site

CPSC

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman Hal Stratton warned holiday season gift buyers Nov. 25 to be on the lookout for recently recalled toys and children's products that pose serious safety threats to youngsters. To provide consumers easier access to all recall announcements, Stratton also announced the launch of a new federal government inter-agency Web site — www.Recalls.gov.

"Before purchasing or giving any gift, particularly one intended for a child, double-check to make sure it does not pose a hazard," Stratton said. "Visit CPSC's Web site to determine if it has been recalled. Another option is to go to the easy-to-remember Web address www.Recalls.gov. It's a 'one-stop shop' for the latest information on all federal government recalls."

The new site provides links to all federal agencies with statutory authority to issue recalls, including CPSC, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Visitors can easily find information about all federal government recalls, regardless of the jurisdiction of the agency or the nature of the recall.

"We're confident visitors will find www.Recalls.gov to be a convenient portal to important safety information covering consumer goods, automobiles, boats, drugs, cosmetics and environmental products," Stratton said. "I want to thank our federal partners, including the General Services Administration, which manages www.firstgov.gov, for their cooperation. I also want to acknowledge many corporate and trade association partners for their efforts to make Americans aware of www.Recalls.gov (list of partners). By working together, we can save countless lives and prevent injuries," Stratton said.

While considering product safety when shopping for new gift items, Stratton urges Americans to examine older toys and products in their possession that can pose hazards. He urges operators of daycare centers and thrift stores to be especially vigilant in removing previously recalled items such as older baby cribs, baby walkers, and high chairs from their premises.

Consumers can get the list of recalled toys and children's products by going to the CPSC Web site, www.cpsc.gov, or by calling toll-free 1-800-638-2772.

Recent recalled children's products

Woody Dolls distributed by Walt Disney Parks and Resorts at the Disney Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Disney's Vero Beach Resort, Magic of Disney and Flight Fantastic shops at the Orlando International Airport, and Disney's Worldport shop at Pointe Orlando have buttons on the doll's clothing that can detach, posing a choking hazard for young children. Walt Disney Parks and Resorts received one report of a child removing a button from the Woody doll, but no injuries were reported. Call Walt Disney Parks and Resorts at 866-228-3664 or visit www.waltdisneyworld.com to receive a refund.

Little People Animal Sounds Farm distributed by Fisher-Price has two small metal screws that hold the toy "stall doors" in place and can come off, posing an aspiration or choking hazard to young children.

Fisher-Price received 33 reports of the screws coming off the toy, including four reports of a screw that was found in the child's mouth and one report of a child who aspirated a screw into his lung. This case required the child to be hospitalized and undergo emergency surgery to remove the screw from his lung. Call Fisher-Price toll-free at 1-866-259-7873 to receive a free repair kit.

Log on to www.service.mattel.com to determine if your product is one of the recalled models and to order the free repair kit.

Drumsticks sold with toy drum sets distributed by Battat Incorporated have a screw at the end of the drumstick that can loosen and detach, posing a choking hazard. Battat and CPSC have received about 240 reports of drumsticks breaking and children mouthing the small pieces, including one report of a child who began to choke. Call Battat toll-free at 1-800-247-6144 to get a replacement set of drumsticks.

Scoters and Mini-Bikes distributed by Fisher-Price have motor control circuits that can malfunction causing the scooters and mini bikes to continue to run after the power or throttle button is released, posing a risk of injury to children. Fisher-Price received 56 reports of incidents with scooters and 24 reports of mini-bike incidents, including a broken arm and one report of a leg laceration. Call Fisher-Price toll free at 1-800-528-7153 or log on to www.service.mattel.com to receive information on how to have the toys serviced for free at a certified Power Wheels Service Center.

The Cosco "Arriva" and "Turnabout" Infant Car Seats/Carriers distributed by Dorel Juvenile Group Inc. has a seat that when used as a carrier, the plastic handle locks can unexpectedly break or release from the carrying

position, causing the seat to unlatch or flip forward. When this happens, an infant can fall to the ground and suffer injuries. Dorel Juvenile Group received 416 reports of the handle locks breaking or unlatching, resulting in nine injuries to children.

Consumers may continue to use the product as a car seat but should stop using it as a carrier. Call Dorel at 1-800-880-9435 to get a free repair kit, or visit www.djgusa.com.

"Spit Smatter" Spray Foam, distributed by JAKKS Pacific Inc., aerosol cans can forcefully break apart, posing a risk of serious injury. JAKKS received four reports of the aerosol cans breaking apart, including one incident that resulted in a laceration injury to a consumer and several incidents involving property damage. Call JAKKS Pacific at 1-800-554-5516 or visit www.jakkspace.com to get instructions on disposal and how to receive a refund.

Magic Start Crawl'n Stand distributed by Playskool, is a toy designed to encourage crawling babies to pull themselves up and stand. It can tip over during use and strike falling babies in the head, face or neck, resulting in injuries. Playskool received 44 reports of the toys tipping over during use. There have been 26 reports of babies suffering injuries, including one minor concussion, and various bumps, bruises, black eyes and cut lips. Call Playskool at 1-800-509-9554 to get information on how to return the product to receive a free replacement item of similar value.

"Pack 'n Play" portable play yards with raised changing tables distributed by Graco Children's Products should be used for one purpose at a time. When children are placed in these portable play yards when the changing table is still in place, they can crawl under and lift the table up. If this occurs, a child's head and neck can become trapped between the changing table and the play yard rail, causing a strangulation hazard. A 13-month-old girl strangled when her neck became trapped between the Pack 'n Play rail and the raised changing table. Consumers should never place a child in these portable play yards when the changing table is still in place. Contact Graco to receive a free warning label to be affixed to the changing table. Call 1-800-233-1546 or visit www.gracobaby.com.

Evenflo "Happy Camper," "Happy Cabana," and "Kiddie Camper;" Century "Fold-N-Go" Models 10-710 and 10-810; Baby Trend "Home and Room" and "Baby Express;" and Kolcraft "Playskool Travel-Lite Model" are playpens that can collapse and entrap a child in the V-shape folded top rails. The top rails must be

turned to set up the playpen. CPSC is aware of 15 deaths to children when the top rails of playpens collapsed.

A new industry standard requires that the top rails of these playpens automatically lock into place when the playpen is fully set up.

CPSC also issued a safety warning about "All Our Kids" Models 742 and 762 playpens imported by a firm that is out of business.

Multicolored Sidewalk Chalk imported by Target Corporation contains high levels of lead, posing a risk of poisoning to young children. The sidewalk chalk was sold at Target stores from March 2003 to July 2003 for about \$1 per package. Consumers should return the multicolored sidewalk chalk to Target stores for a refund. Call Target Corporation at 1-800-440-0680 between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday or visit Web site www.target.com.



Some of this holiday season's recalled gifts.

Obtaining TRICARE over the holidays

Sierra Military Health services, Inc.

While traveling, whether on duty, at college or on vacation, a family member may need medical care.

Emergencies

TRICARE covers care for medical, maternity or psychiatric emergencies that would lead a prudent layperson to believe a serious medical condition exists or that the absence of treatment would result in a threat to the person's life, limb or sight. This includes situations of severe pain. Examples of medical emergencies include heart attacks, poisoning, convulsions and other acute conditions. Follow these steps in case of emergency:

- No prior authorization is required.
- Call 911 or seek the nearest military or civilian hospital emergency room.
- Notify the primary care provider of

the ER visit. Follow-up care requires a referral from a primary care provider.

Urgent care (non-emergency)

Urgent care refers to medical attention for a condition that is not life-threatening but could become critical if not treated. Examples of urgent care may include eye, ear or suspected bladder infections and high, continuous fevers. If possible, check with the Health Care Information Line for the most appropriate course of action. Call 1-800-308-3518, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Follow these steps to make sure the claim is paid correctly.

- Before receiving care, call SMHS at 1-888-999-5195, and choose the "urgent care/out-of-area" option to obtain an authorization.
- After receiving care, call SMHS and choose the "urgent care/out-of-area"

option to provide information on the services received in order for the claim to pay correctly.

Also, if not located near a Military Treatment Facility, there are rules to follow to avoid Point-of-Service charges. Remember, routine care is not covered when traveling outside the Prime Service Area.

In addition, services may need to be paid up front. If so, pay the bill and submit a Claim Form for reimbursement. A form can be downloaded by clicking on the "Forms" link at <http://www.sierramilitary.com>.



T R I C A R E

Safety tips for choosing appropriate toys

Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.

For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts, which could pose a fatal choking hazard.

Look for sturdy construction on plush toys, such as tightly secured eyes, noses and other potential small parts.

Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points, especially for children under 8 years old.

Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children under 8 years old.

Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age and safety recommendations and use that information as a guide.

Check instructions for clarity. They should be clear to the adult, and when appropriate, to the child.

Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys before they become deadly playthings. Plastic wrappings can cause suffocation.

Self-care saves time, money

General Leonard Wood
Army Community Hospital

During the fall and winter sports seasons, outdoor and indoor activities lead to an increase in cuts and scrapes.

Many people think that an injury or illness must be treated at the doctor's office, clinic or hospital. In the national quest for a symptom-free lifestyle, people make millions of unnecessary visits to the doctor.

Many other appointments are made for minor cuts that do not require stitches and minor scrapes or burns that do not require a trip to the doctor, according to a new best-selling health guide, "Take Care of Yourself."

This guide assists people evaluating a situation to determine whether a condition can be treated at home, or if professional attention is recommended.

The installation community is encouraged to attend self-care classes and receive a free copy of the "Take Care of Yourself" manual and a pharmacy card that allows patients to receive medications to aid in their self-care treatment.

The book covers emergencies, how to avoid health problems, the 20 things people ought to keep in their home pharmacy and how to work with their doctor.

Common injuries discussed in the book include cuts, scrapes and burns. These injuries are painful and if not treated properly, the open wound can become infected. The best way to treat a wound is to first learn about the different types that occur.

What is a wound?

• A scrape is when the skin is rubbed away leaving nerve endings exposed. There is usual-

ly very little bleeding.

• A cut is when the skin separates. The edges of the skin may be smooth or jagged. Most of these affect only the skin and the fatty tissue beneath and heal without permanent damage, bleeding may be very little or heavy.

• A puncture wound results when a narrow, sharp object pierces the skin. Puncture wounds rarely bleed much.

• A burn is a skin injury produced by heat, chemicals or radiation. Burns are classified according to depth. A sunburn that turns the skin red is superficial and is a first-degree burn. Second-degree burns usually cause blistering and pain. Third degree burns destroy all of the skin and extend into the deeper tissues.

Treating minor burns

• Cool the burn immediately. Apply clean cloths soaked in cool water or submerge the injured part in a sink or bucket of cool water, or apply an ice pack for five minutes at a time for the first hour.

• Treat a minor burn like a minor cut or scrape. Clean and cover it with a loose dressing.

• Do not apply butter, oil, or ointment on a burn. This retards healing and increases the chance of infection.

• Do not break any blisters or peel away the skin from a broken blister. Blisters help protect the healing skin underneath.

• See a health care provider if a burn is larger than your palm, deep, yet painless and charred, or is on the face or hands.

Caring for minor cuts, scrapes and puncture wounds can be done at home.

Following these few simple steps to protect yourself from further injury or infection will

make healing a faster process:

• Control bleeding by applying pressure directly to the cut or scrape. Allow a minor puncture wound to bleed to remove any foreign material unless there is severe blood loss or a "pumping" type bleeding. This may indicate an artery has been injured - see a health care provider immediately.

• Clean the wound with soap and water and be sure to remove all traces of dirt and debris to prevent infection. A puncture wound should be soaked in warm, soapy water several times a day for four or five days to keep the wound open and allow any debris to drain out.

• Close the edges of the wound with a butterfly bandage. This will speed healing. If the edges of the wound cannot be closed, see a health care provider.

• Cover the cut or scrape with an adhesive bandage or clean gauze.

Burns and scrapes can be very painful. Self-care medications such as acetaminophen, aspirin or ibuprofen can eliminate some discomfort. Aspirin should not be given to any child under 18 years. Pain that continues for more than two days needs to be evaluated by a health care provider.

Patients need to check their immunization record to ensure that tetanus immunizations are current. If there is any doubt about immunization status, seek information from a primary care clinic.

When to seek medical advice

• When bleeding can't be stopped.
• The wound is extensive, deep, involves tendons or bones.
• Eyes or ears are burned or injured.

• The burn is on the face, neck, back of the hand, or groin.

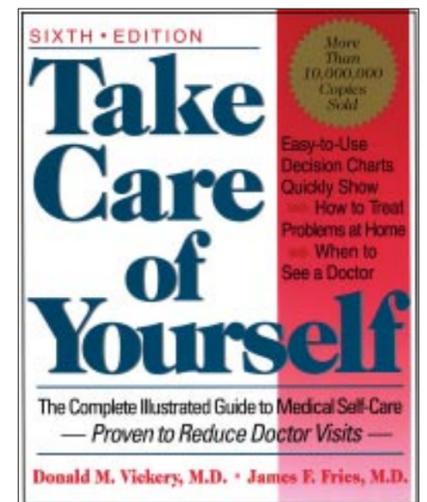
• A puncture wound is caused by a dirty or rusty object.

• There are signs of infection: fever, pus, pain, or redness.

• It has been 10 years or more since the last tetanus shot.

"Take Care of Yourself" classes are held at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to noon. Following each class, medication cards are given out which allow patients to pick up specific medications without a prescription.

For more information on the classes, call KUSAHC at 410-278-1724.



Four Family Child Care Providers awarded child care credentials

Beverly Hartgrove
FCC

Family Child Care Providers at Aberdeen Proving Ground received Child Development Associate Credentials in recognition of outstanding work with children. The Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C., awarded credentials to Tracy Zapata, Haley Johnson, Tamara Shamlee and Penny Humphrey, Dec. 4.

Since the Military Child Care Act of 1989, the Department of Defense has been unrelenting in its efforts to provide high quality care, continuing to use a 13 module competency-based training program to prepare personnel to implement developmentally appropriate practices with children. As a result, all of the military child development programs have been accredited. Further, the DOD remains committed to ensuring that all of their personnel work toward and receive the Council's CDA Credential.

In the civilian world, CDA is

one of two national efforts to improve child care by evaluating and recognizing the skills of individuals providing care. The first credential was awarded 24 years ago, and now 46 states plus the District of Columbia include CDA in their child care licensing regulations.

"Working on my CDA gave me a chance to evaluate and use my knowledge from previous modules to improve my program," Humphrey said.

Parents who use childcare are especially concerned today about their children's welfare. With this in mind, as part of the CDA assessment process, every candidate for the CDA credential is observed working with young children by an early childhood professional.

In addition, the candidate must demonstrate the ability to work with families to develop children's physical and intellectual capabilities in a safe and healthy learning environment.

The DOD has been singled out

by the president of the United States as an example of high quality childcare. The council is proud to share with the Army, and the other branches of military, in the professional development of their child care personnel.

"At any given time there are 65,000 children being taken care of in Army childcare programs," said M. A. Lucas, program manager for Child and Youth Services at the Community and Family Support Center. "We look at childcare as a life cycle and our mission is caring."

For CDA information, contact a training and curriculum specialist, Child & Youth Services, who serves as a CDA Adviser and representative.

Further information is available from the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition at 2460 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009-3575, or call 202-265-9090 or 1-800-424-4310.

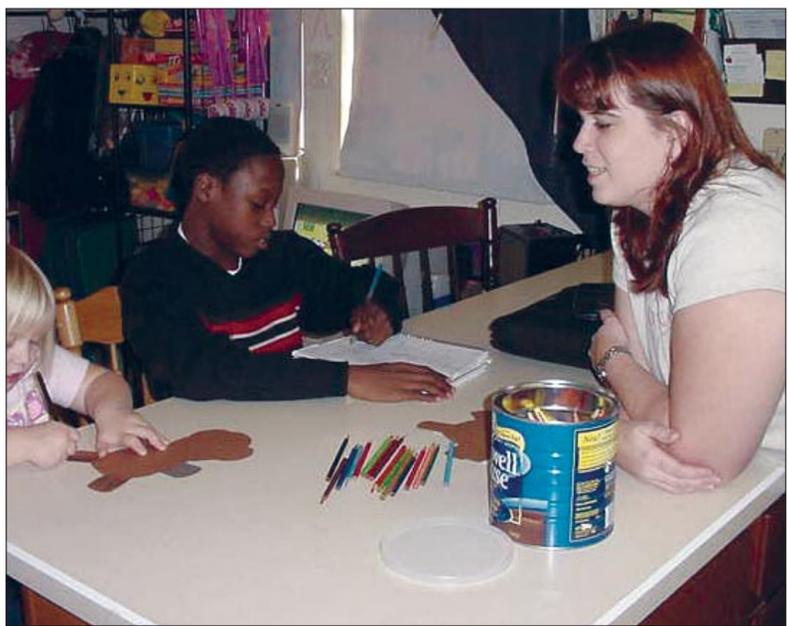


Photo courtesy of AA CDC
Penny Humphrey, FCC Provider, helps Aaron Gilkes, 14, do homework while her daughter, Courtney, 4, colors a teddy bear.

Taxes

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all dependents

- Alimony information
- Child care expenses and provider identification and address
- Power of attorney signed by the spouse if the servicemember plans to sign the spouse's name on a joint tax return
- Blank check with routing and account number for a refund directly deposited into a bank account

For those who itemize deductions or own a home that is rented to others, bring materials such as:

- mortgage interest statements (Form 1098)
- medical receipts
- rental reports

- investment statements
- charitable contribution receipts

For stock sold this year, it is imperative that the sales price and the cost basis is calculated in the stock prior to coming to the tax center. VITAs cannot calculate these figures.

Taxpayers who received an advance child tax credit payment should keep the IRS notice of the advance payment amount in order to properly complete the 2003 tax return. The advance amount received will be subtracted from the total amount (up to \$1,000 per child) when figuring the 2003 credit.

Documents needed depend on each individual situation. The Tax Center cannot help prepare a return unless the individual brings the needed documentation. Failure to produce any of the above documents can lead to an inaccurate tax return and IRS penalties against the taxpayer. If the necessary documents are not brought to the appointment, VITAs will be forced to reschedule the appointment.

Obtain W-2 online

Defense Finance and Accounting Service myPay is a secure, DFAS-operated Web site that lets active duty, National Guard and Reserve military members, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online. Effective Sept. 17, 2003, DFAS implemented software in myPay

to eliminate the hard copy W2s from being printed and mailed for military personnel that have a MyPay Personnel Identification Number. Military members with a myPay PIN will ONLY receive an electronic W2 (approved by IRS) UNLESS they elect to still receive a hard copy. Soldiers and civilians can access myPay by going to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

Tax forms

Tax forms can be obtained at the library, the post office, or at the Taxpayer Assistance Center. The Tax Center also provides out-of-state tax forms.

Electronic filing

Free electronic filing is also available through the Taxpayer Assistance Center. However, VITAs must prepare the tax return at the Tax Center in order to electronically file the tax return. Electronic filing enables the taxpayer to receive their refund by check or direct deposit into their bank account rather than having it mailed. The average return time is approximately three weeks for a check mailed and about seven to ten days for deposit into a checking or savings account.

For further information and assistance with tax preparation and/or electronic filing, contact the Taxpayer Assistance Center, building 310, Wing 9, 410-278-1208/1583.

Sports

Still kicking! Soccer-loving sergeant earns slot on All-Army team

Karen Fleming-Michael
Fort Detrick Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Bryon Pieper took a chance last spring, and by fall he was living a dream.

In October, the biological research assistant at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense learned he was one of 30 players who landed a tryout for the All-Army soccer team.

"Ever since I left college, I wanted to pursue the next level—whether that was semi pro or pro—I just wanted to give it a try," the 28 year old said. "But I met my wife, Brittany, and we decided that it was better to focus on having a family than play a sport. There's not much stability unless you're a pro, and the money for playing soccer at the time wasn't that great."

Though he hadn't played at the

competitive level he was accustomed to at University of West Florida in Pensacola—where he was a four-year starter and had a partial scholarship—he stayed around the game. He refereed for youth teams and high schools and played on indoor teams and the intramural soccer league at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"It's something that's in my blood—it's fun, it's exciting, the adrenaline rush, the competition," said Pieper, a Jacksonville, Fla., native.

A sprinter, Pieper prefers to play up front but usually ends up playing the central midfielder position.

"It's a good position to play because you have to have eyes for the field and know a couple plays in advance what's going on," he said.

After learning he'd earned a tryout, he also realized he had less than two weeks to get ready for the camp

at Fort Eustis, Va. After getting encouragement from his wife and 28-month-old daughter Ashlyn and then gaining permission from his command to be away from his job for a month, nervousness set in.

"You've got to prove something," he said. "There's a lot of talent."

With just two and a half weeks in Virginia to gel as a team, the players had to be on top of their game or expect to leave, said Pieper, who's played on at least 30 teams since he started sporting shin guards and cleats at age 5.

"You have to know the game. You have to be in shape. You have to know what you're doing," he said. "If not, the coach sees it, and you'll be cut."

After surviving three rounds of cuts, Pieper and 17 teammates learned they'd made the team just one day before the three-day Armed

Forces soccer tournament held in Millington, Tenn. just north of Memphis, Nov. 4 through 10.

During their six games in the tournament, Soldiers twice took on teams of Marines, sailors and airmen to vie for the championship. The Army started off with a win against Air Force, tied Navy and beat the Marines for their first three day's work. With a 2-0-1 record going into the fourth day of competition, Army lost 4-3 to Air Force, the 2002 soccer champs.

"Everybody seemed down, but only for a little while. Then we picked our heads up because we still knew we had a chance to win the gold. We just had to beat the Navy," he said.

The win against Navy wasn't to be, so the sailors took first in the tournament, Nov. 10, and the Army team proudly headed home with a second-

place finish.

"We knew we had the talent and the fitness level to beat anybody. During unfortunate lapses in the game, we gave up some goals that hurt us," he said.

Though Army wasn't the victor, Pieper said he'd play with the team again if he were given the chance.

"There's something within soccer players—or any sport for that matter when you're around a lot of people who've played it all their lives as well, it doesn't matter who they are, you're going to click, you're going to have fun and enjoy the sport," he said.



Sgt. Bryon Pieper

OC&S recognizes Native American themes

Story and photos by Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools recognized contributors to its Native American History Month theme competition during a ceremony at its headquarters, Nov. 20.

Col. Kevin Smith, deputy commander/chief of staff, presented certificates of achievement, plaques and coins for the best displays and essays with a Native American theme.

Smith said the contests, held in conjunction with ethnic observances throughout the year, add to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding in the military.

"If we continue to recognize each other we can make this a better Army," Smith said.

The awardees included Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Academy Class 512-03, display winner; Patsy Lewis, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools academic records section, essay winner; Sgt. 1st Class Charles Marrs, ANCOG Class 511-03, essay runner up; and Ruth Rivera, Aberdeen Middle School media technician, display runner up.

Sgt. Trina Garner, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade received an honorable mention for her display that included artifacts and literature from family members. Her display was set up in the Central Issue Facility. In addition, De'Anthony Williams, an 8th grader from Aberdeen Middle School was singled out for his drawing of a Native American warrior titled "Hope of reasons, honor in heaven." Williams is the son of Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Williams, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion.

Also recognized for displays were Sgt. 1st Class Steve Meade, HHC 16th; Staff Sgt. Darrell Arnold, HHC 16th; and Pfc. Stephanie Mullen, Company C 16th Ordnance Battalion.

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Bunker, BNCOC small group leader, also contributed an essay.

For many of the awardees, the contest was a learning experience.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Rowland, ANCOG class 512-03, who oversaw the assembly of the winning display in building 4507, said the class members chose to focus on Native American contributions to the armed forces. The display includes Native American artifacts, weaponry and jewelry, a listing of Medal of Honor recipients and a tribute to Pfc. Lori Piestawa, the Native American soldier who became the first female killed in action during the Iraqi War.



Above, animal pelts, jewelry, beads, and a buffalo dancer (left) are part of a Native American display designed by Ruth Rivera, Judith Circles and Tonia Rogers that was named display runner-up in the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools display and essay contest.

Hispanic Heritage Month Essay and Display Contest winners honored

E.C. Starnes
OC&S

The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools honored three soldiers and a civilian employee for their winning essays and displays for National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Col. Kevin Smith, deputy commander/chief of staff, presented plaques to Staff Sgt. Jason Appleton, an Army reservist attending BNCOC for the winning essay, "Honoring Our Past, Surpassing our Present, and Leading our Future." Appleton graduated from BNCOC Oct. 28.

Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Jennings, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade, won the runner-up essay; Paulette Cantos, a contractor training coordinator won for the best display; and ANCOG Class 33-03 had the runner-up display. The class graduated Oct. 16 and the small group leader accepted the award.

Honorable mentions went out to Pfc. Vanessa Harris, an Advanced Individual Training student assigned to Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion; Marcelo Armandariz, an instructor with the Tactical Support Equipment Department, and Ruth Rivera, Aberdeen Middle School.

The next theme, for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, will be announced at a later date.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Arbel Connor, 410-278-2529, Fax 410-278-8875; Sgt. 1st Class Peggy McCormick, 410-278-9146, /Fax 410-278-2736; or Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Yelder, 410-278-2529, Fax 410-278-2736.

Veterans

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Telfer said she gets referrals from social workers and from Walter Reed, and the Bethesda Naval Hospital. She said she helps service members once they leave the hospital and head to home.

"I contact the VA closest to their home. Before they leave here, they know when their appointment is, and they're enrolled with the VA," she said.

"In the past, we were fairly passive. We'd let the service member know about the benefits,

but it was largely up to them," Kussman said. He said the transition team works to improve communication between the branch of service and the VA.

Kussman said the transition team is working to establish a memorandum of agreement with the Army's Disabled Soldier Liaison team.

"We're trying to codify what we've been doing," he said. "We want this not to be specific just for OEF/OIF, but to be able to treat everyone who is injured the same way, whether that is in Iraq, or in training at Fort Benning," Kussman said.

(Editor's note: For more information, visit http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story_id_key=5360.)

Boy Scouts induct newest Eagle Scout

Story and photo by Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Members, leaders and friends of Boy Scout Troop 429 gathered at the Ordnance Museum to witness the induction of the troop's newest Eagle Scout during a Nov. 7 ceremony.

Sean Hannon, the son of Marine Staff Sgt. Pat Hannon, an instructor with the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' Marine Corps Detachment, took the rite of passage to the rank of Eagle Scout, joining the ranks of such notables as former U.S. president Gerald Ford and journalist Walter Cronkite.

Bob Beam, district advancement chairman, presided over the ceremony and Dr. F. William Atwater, Ordnance Museum director, was the guest speaker. Scoutmaster Jeff Mathis, a staff sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade, hosted the program.

"He's a great young man who is responsible and fully deserving of this honor," Mathis said.

Atwater said Hannon achieved a personal standard of excellence that only four percent of all scouts achieve.

"Achieving the Eagle rank puts him in distinguished company," Atwater said. "The mission of scouting is to prepare young men to make ethical and moral choices by instilling in them the scouting law."

He invited all to examine the Army Corps of Values posted in the museum lobby.

"I invite you to compare those values to scouting values," he said. "Sean is living proof of the scout oath and law," he added. "His accomplishment speaks volumes about his ability to stick to a plan. By developing these skills he has made himself invaluable to any field he wishes to enter."

"Forge ahead and be prepared," he told Hannon.

The ceremony included the lighting of candles representing the scouting laws conducted by Hannon's fellow troop members.

At its conclusion Hannon's father and mother, Judy, a former Aberdeen Proving Ground volunteer of the year, came forward to affix his scarf and new rank as Hannon stood at attention.

Congratulations from attendees and a meal followed the ceremony.

Hannon thanked his family and fellow scouts for their support of his endeavor.

"I feel proud knowing I've joined the ranks of so many distinguished people," Hannon said.

He added that he plans to attend the University of Miami, Ohio, majoring in computer science and playing on its hockey team.

"We are really proud of him," Hannon's father added. "We've been with him through it all and we enjoyed every minute of it."

"Scouting is a priceless investment," added Judy Hannon, a former advancement coordinator with the troop. "I encourage parents to get involved with their children. Those are the ones who do well."

Dan Patrick Hannon, Hannon's grandfather, traveled from Ohio to attend the ceremony.

"He's always been a go-getter, the elder Hannon said, adding that Sean's younger brother, Joshua, who also is a member of the troop, shows promise as well. "I hope we've instilled a strong family value base for them to carry on," he said.

For his accomplishment, Hannon received letters of congratulations from such notables as President George Bush and first lady Laura Bush; Vice President Dick Cheney; Secretary of State Colin Powell; former President Gerald Ford; Major League Baseball commissioner Allen Bud Selig; the John Glenn Institute and the Boeing Corporation.

Famous Eagle Scouts

Bill Alexander, U.S. Representative from Arkansas
Gary Anderson, U.S. Representative from New York
Charles Bennett, U.S. Representative from Florida
William Bennett, former Secretary of Education
Bill Bradley, pro basketball star and New Jersey Senator
Milton Caniff, comic strip artist "Steve Canyon"
William Dannemeyer, U.S. Representative from California
Arthur Eldred, (First Eagle Scout)
Gerald Ford, 36th president of the U.S.
Murphy J. "Mike" Foster, Governor of Louisiana
James Lovell, astronaut
Richard Lugar, U.S. Senator from Indiana
Sam Nunn, U.S. Senator from Georgia
Ellison Onizuka, Challenger astronaut
J.J. Pickle, U.S. Representative from Texas
Samuel Pierce, former secretary of HUD
Harrison Salisbury, Pulitzer Prize winning author
William Sessions, former FBI director
Steven Spielberg, film director/producer
Wallace Stegner, Pulitzer Prize winning author
Percy Sutton, chairman of CBS
John Tesh, TV celebrity
James Stewart, actor
James Brady, former press secretary to President Reagan
William C. DeVries, M.D., transplanted first artificial heart
Walter Cronkite, journalist, T.V. commentator
J. Willard Marriott Jr., president, Marriott Corporation
H. Ross Perot, Chairman, EDS Corp.
Daniel J. Evans, former U.S. Senator and Washington state Governor
Gerald Ford, 36th president of the U.S.



Sean Hannon, left, affixes a parent's pin to his father, Marine Staff Sgt. Pat Hannon's lapel following the Eagle Rank ceremony that promoted the younger Hannon to the Rank of Eagle Scout in the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum, Nov. 7.

Boy Scouts thank veterans Pennsylvania troop conducts retreat ceremony



Youths from Boy Scout Troop 133 in Chalfont, Penn., fold the flag in front of the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School headquarters building during a retreat ceremony to honor veterans, Nov. 21. Col. Paul Meredith, OMMS, arranged the event upon a request from the troop's scoutmaster, Michael Goodwin, as thanks for allowing the scouts to camp on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Sgt. 1st Class Michael Leyden, OMMS training noncommissioned officer, led the retreat ceremony.