

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, April 23, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

OSJA sponsors annual Law Day Luncheon

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will sponsor the annual APG Law Day Luncheon, May 1, 11:30 a.m. at Top of the Bay. Guest speaker will be James Wyda, Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland.

Cost of the luncheon is \$12 per person, and is payable by check to Susan G. Grendahl, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Building 310, Wing 2, APG, MD 21005-5055. Seating is limited. R.S.V.P. by April 25, no exceptions.

Online resource for Operation Iraqi Freedom

An online reference for frequently asked questions about Operation Iraqi Freedom, to include supporting soldiers, mail, family related issues and locating soldiers is at <http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html>.

Badge/ID, Vehicle Registration offices have new hours

Beginning April 21, the new hours for all services for the Badge/ID and Vehicle Registration offices at both the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas will be Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon, and 12:30 to 4 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3 p.m.

On Fridays following payday and all federal holidays, the offices will be closed.

For more information, call 410-306-1150.

Transportation Office hours

The APG Transportation Office located in building 4302, Boothby Hill Road, will be open from 7 to 11:15 a.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 12:15 to 4 p.m. on Fridays.

The telephone number for HHG Inbound Transportation is 410-278-2992, the telephone number for HHG Outbound Transportation is 410-278-3897/4084 and the tele-

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Army News

MCSC revives 'Sons in Service Flag' tradition



From left, Karen Chambers, Cheryl Bester and Bonnie Lobner, members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Military and Civilian Spouses Club, iron fabric before cutting out the pattern for flags the spouses club is making for 'Operation Gold Star Flags.'

'Blue star represents life, gold star paid ultimate sacrifice'

Story and photos by
Sonya P. Reynolds
APG News

More than 30 members of Aberdeen Proving Ground's Military and Civilian Spouses Club joined forces to assemble service flags at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Chapel, April 9.

Service flags made with a blue star are presented to families of service members who are active duty, retired, or served in the military.

Gold star flags are presented to the family of a service member who died in the line of duty.

Elaine Valentin, chief executive officer of 'A Military Wife,' an organization that makes service flags, joined the

See FLAGS, page 14

Ozone action days will be here soon

Watch for red and orange

Indra P. Batra
DSHE

Ozone Action Days are most likely to occur at Aberdeen Proving Ground from May through September when ozone levels exceed the federal health standard limits for air quality.

Ozone Action Days usually occur on hot, humid, and hazy days with little or no wind when atmospheric temperatures reach into the 90s, and air pollutants produce ground-level ozone that approaches unhealthy levels.

Ozone, a colorless gas, is naturally found in the upper atmosphere and provides a shield from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Ground-level ozone, better known as smog, is produced by a release of compounds from a variety of sources including cars, motorboats, lawnmowers, paints and solvents. When these compounds react with the sun's ultraviolet rays, they combine to form ground-level ozone, a serious air quality problem throughout Maryland.

At ground level, ozone interferes with

breathing and is harmful to children, the elderly, and those with asthma or other respiratory problems.

Some symptoms of breathing ground-level ozone are chest pain, coughing, nausea, throat irritation and congestion. It may also aggravate bronchitis, heart disease and emphysema.

High ozone levels can cause damage to lung tissue and intensify heart and lung diseases. Ozone is also harmful to adults involved in outdoor physical exercise or manual labor.

Since 1996, APG has participated in the Ozone Action Days Program becoming one of the first members of Endzone Partners, a group of government representatives, businesses, private organizations and individual citizens taking extra steps to reduce ground-level ozone.

Color codes have been assigned to alert citizens to the amount of ozone in the air and its anticipated health affect.

Red denotes the most unhealthy ozone situation, characterized by hot, humid and hazy conditions, with little or no wind and temperatures

See OZONE, page 5

AFAP looking for suggestions

Fred Posadas
ACS

Anyone with suggestions on improving well-being at Aberdeen Proving Ground should submit them for consideration at the APG Army Family Action Plan Symposium.

This year's symposium will be held June 9 to 11 at the Post Chapel, building 2485.

The symposium is held to identify well-being issues, which will become the APG Army Family Action Plan XVIII.

This plan serves as the management tool for implementing initiatives identified at the symposium. The purpose of the plan is to define soldier, civilian, family member and retiree concerns,

determine actions, and assign agencies to resolve the issues.

Many problems that surface during the symposium are local in nature and are resolved at the installation. Others, deemed to serve the Army as a whole are forwarded to the U.S. Army Materiel Command and then on to the Department of the Army for consideration at the Army Family Action Plan Planning Conference.

Some issues are low cost with a high payoff and receive immediate action while other initiatives have a high cost and need to be studied to determine the specifics for implementation.

To be effective, the AFAP needs community input. Opinions need to be

See AFAP, page 5

Army Well-Being newsletter to debut this month

Wayne Hall
Army News Service

As part of the Army's Personnel Transformation Initiative, soldiers and family members will no longer be able to find copies of the "Army Families" quarterly newsletter - which has kept Army families informed of family-related issues for more than a decade.

Instead, a re-engineered publication - designed to serve all constituents of Army Well-Being (active duty, National Guard, Army Reserve, civilian employees, retirees, veterans and families) - will be available in April, as the inaugural issue of the

"Army Well-Being" newsletter will appear in its place.

"We're going to continue to build upon the success of 'Army Families,'" said David G. White, chief of the Army Family Liaison Office, the organization that produced both publications. "For the past 15 years soldiers and their families have come to rely on 'Army Families' as a source for valuable news and information pertinent to maintaining a high quality of life in the Army. In doing so, they have made 'Army Families' a very successful publication.

"We are seeking to build upon that success, and while 'Army Well-Being' is taking the place of

'Army Families,' it is not a replacement but an enhanced mechanism for providing valuable information to all members of our Army community," said White, who's office assists Army leadership with its constituent communities to ensure the effective delivery of Well-Being programs to the Army. "'Army Well-Being' will continue to provide the same family-specific information, which is also available at the AFLO Web site, www.aflo.org, however it will now also provide even more valuable information."

"Our Army is transforming - and it is happening at

See NEWSLETTER page 5

OCS Board announced

Deborah Craten Dawson
SBCCOM Adjutant

On June 5, the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Meade, will convene a board for soldiers applying for attendance at the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School.

Along with the United States Military Academy and the Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Officer Candidate School remains an important source of commissioned officers for the Army.

Recently the Army has increased the number of soldiers who may attend Officer Candidate School.

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

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

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Have a GT score of 110 or higher.
- Pass the Army Physical Fitness Test score 180.
- Pass the Scholastic Aptitude Test with a minimum

score of 850 or American College Test with a minimum score of 19. -

- Have at least 90 semester hours of college study.
 - Achieve a score of 80 or higher on the English Comprehension Level Test; if primary language is not English.
 - Be at least 18 years old and less than 30 (can waiver age up to 35). Have a complete physical exam six months prior to date of application.
- Completed packets must be submitted to the SBCCOM Military Personnel Office not later than May 1.

See OCS, page 11

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.

Deployment News



Photo by CAPT. TRINA POWELL
Capt. Phillips works with the High Volume sampler at Camp Udairi.



Photo by CAPT. THOMAS SHERBERT
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine members set up instrumentation for air sampling at Camp Arifjan.

Health team assesses hazards for soldiers

Maj. Annette Hildabrand
CHPPM-EUR

A team from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine is currently deployed to Kuwait to conduct environmental health assessments.

The team, consisting of service members and Department of Defense civilians, advises commanders on occupational and environmental health hazards and makes preventive medicine recommendations to minimize exposures. The team provides real-time assessment of environmental hazards while troops are deployed in theater.

These environmental assessments, which are required by DOD directives, consist of collecting, analyzing and assessing

potential health hazards associated with the deployment of soldiers.

To date, the team members have collected air, soil and water samples from eight troop locations in Northern Kuwait. The environmental health assessments are part of a comprehensive force health protection plan.

Preliminary site surveys were done at several locations, but with the expansion of base camps and increase in troop numbers, more comprehensive surveys were needed. The team looks at a wide variety of environmental hazards such as heavy metals, pesticides, potential radiation sources and occupational hazards. The team also measures the size and amount of dust particles in the air.

The CHPPM team comes with a variety of specialties including environmental engineering, environmental toxicology, veterinary, preventive and environmental medicine, epidemiology and health physics.

The team has direct reading instrumentation to give on-site commanders immediate results. Team members also collect samples for shipment back to accredited environmental laboratories in Germany and the United States for thorough analysis. Results are then transmitted via e-mail to the team at Camp Doha, Kuwait.

The CHPPM team is currently based out of Camp Doha and will conduct occupational and environmental assessments in forward deployed locations after coalition forces secure these areas.

American Legion donates calling cards to soldiers

E.C. Starnes
OC&S

Some soldiers can now call home for free thanks to the American Legion Mason Dixon Post 194 in Rising Sun.

Members of the local post donated \$1,300 to purchase telephone calling cards for service members.

Neil Eller, commander of the Post, in a letter to Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Ayers, Ordnance Corps Regimental command sergeant major, noted: "We are extremely proud of the job that America's servicemen and women are doing to protect freedom throughout the world."

Ayers, along with Col. Mardi Mark, garrison and deputy installation commander, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Stallings, met with Eller to arrange for the purchase of the calling

cards for use by soldiers deploying at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Additionally, the Legion Post requested that cards be sent to several Rising Sun servicemen deployed overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We wanted to be able to do something to show our appreciation and thanks," Eller said. "When someone mentioned the idea of purchasing phone cards for our servicemen and women, the members agreed that this would be something that we thought they would appreciate."

"Once the people in our community heard what we were doing, they responded in overwhelming numbers," Eller said. "It seemed that everyone wanted to make sure that they were able to donate to such a worthy cause. The response in our community was such that we raised more than

\$1,300 in just four days."

And, the money continues to come in. Eller explained that they brought in the \$1,300 now even though they continue to accept donations.

"We wanted to make sure that the funds raised to date would get to the troops who were serving in the various parts of the world," Eller said.

The Legion Commander said that they will be donating additional funds in the future to ensure that the members of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard "will be able to use these cards to keep in touch with their loved ones."

Anyone interested in more information, or to donate to the fund, can contact Eller at the Mason Dixon Post 194 in Rising Sun at 410-658-9078.

Soldier named Optimist educator of the year

Story and photos by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

A soldier and school teacher with the 400th Military Police Battalion, an Army Reserve unit assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground pending deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, was named the educator of the year for her school during a ceremony in Fairfax, Va., April 10.

Sgt. Ann Mazur, a sixth grade elementary school teacher at Providence

Elementary School in Fairfax, received the award from William Page Johnson, II, chair of the Fairfax Noonday Optimists, a local branch of Optimists International.

School principal Joy Hanbury, who nominated Mazur, called her a devoted instructor and shining example of what a teacher should be.

"She has earned the love and respect of both her students and colleagues," Hanbury said during the buffet luncheon.

See **TEACHER**, page 13

APG News

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

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

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For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 324, Second Floor, AMSSB-GIM, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; fax it to 410-278-2570; or e-mail it to editor@usag.apg.army.mil.

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

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LAW DAY DISPLAY



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

The Statue of Liberty, the Scales of Justice and a wall of law books highlight the Law Day 2003 display in the lobby of building 310 near the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. Law Day will be observed May 1, 11:30 with a luncheon at Top of the Bay. The guest speaker is the honorable James Wyda, Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland. For more information, call Nora Farrell at 410-278-1107. See 'Shorts,' page 4, for more information.

Commentary

Proud of the military

Debbie Treadway
Directorate of Contracting

I wish people would realize how very fortunate we as Americans really are. The people over in Iraq are so excited about being freed from Saddam.

I am really sick of hearing about all these people who think we shouldn't be over there. (Yes, my middle son is over in Iraq and we haven't heard from him since March 13.)

First off, if it wasn't for the military and APG, we would not have civilian jobs here.

People forget too easily about the Sept 11 tragedy and how terrorism can be in the USA. If we never got involved in the overseas crisis, where do you think we would be today?

I really wish people would stop and say a prayer that we live in such a free country and are able to do the things we do.

I am very proud to be working for the military and I am VERY PROUD OF OUR SOLDIERS.

I will always get choked [up] when I hear the Lee Greenwood song, "I'm proud to be an American."

I have worked for the government for 29 years and I thank the military everyday for my job and for my freedom.

God bless our soldiers and the USA.

(Editor's note: Debbie Treadway is a purchasing agent with the Directorate of Contracting.)

Local school students make a difference 'Pennies for Patients' receives donation

Gale Shipley, RN
Special Contributor

Students at Roye-Williams Elementary School, of which two thirds of the student body are military dependents living on Aberdeen Proving Ground, participated in a fundraiser called "Pennies for Patients."

According to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, "Pennies for Patients" is a fun way for children to help others their own age and in their own community, who are fighting leukemia, the number one disease killer of children ages 1 to 14. The society's mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and to improve the quality of life of patient's and their families.

Most schools received literature from the society asking for assistance with

their annual campaign.

Students were shown a video explaining the disease, and they took it from there, raising more than \$1,200 for the cause.

"The incredible thing is that the school's goal was to collect \$500. The students are so caring and generous, they more than doubled the goal," said Susan Osborn, principal of the school.

The top earning class won a pizza party. Students in Mark Joslin's homeroom will enjoy a pizza party for collecting the most money—\$200.97.

A prize was awarded to prekindergarten student, Adrian Gutierrez, who contributed \$140 on his own. Gutierrez' father, Jesus, is a drill sergeant in Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion. Sgt. Gutierrez teaches Advanced Individual Training at the U.S. Army

Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School.

Gutierrez' mother, Nora, said that the family has been contributing to the Cancer Society for some time now that this is their way of helping those who are ill with this disease.

The second through fourth place classes were given candy treats for their efforts. They included Jennifer Egan's prekindergarten class, Jennifer Drumgoole and Craig Rando's third grade class and Jason Knight's fourth grade class.

"Every class participated and they are so proud of themselves, as well they should be," Osborn said. "I just wanted to make sure that our students are recognized for their caring and concern."

Letter to the editor

Editor:

The Junior Girls Unit and Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post #10146 would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the DEFRACTIONS - a local classical and contemporary jazz band (John Jones, Sam Frazier, and Greg Mrozinski), the North Harford High School Madrigals (William Morton, Randy Doak, Jason Hess, Matt Heaps, Caitlin Swords, Holly Phipps, and Erika Huber), and other community vocal artists such as Nick Doak, Brittany Debelius, Christina and Samantha Heere-Beyer, and Marty Coffman for their support of the USO Show held on March 29, 2003 at the Darlington-Dublin VFW. With your support the show was a complete success.

In addition, we would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations: Wal-Mart (Aberdeen and Abingdon), Food Lion (Churchville), Weis Markets (Bel Air and Constant Friendship), Frito-Lay (Aberdeen), Harford Rental, Dollar General (Edgewood), Good Stuff Cheap (Bel Air), Bel Air Bakery, Giant (Forest Hill), and Kliens (Forest Hill).

We'd also like to thank the APG News staff, The Aegis staff, and WXCY for assisting us in advertising this event to the community.

A special thank you to Senator Hooper for his attendance at the show. He took the time out

of his busy schedule to speak and visit with our troops.

It was an awesome display of patriotism to see the community pull together and support OUR troops. Eighty-one community representatives attended and with their support as well as the others previously mentioned, we were able to serve the troops free of charge. To the military personnel who attended the show, I invite you to come to VFW Post #10146 anytime. You can contact us at 410-457-5461. We are here for you!

Thank You,
Carol Brown
President, Ladies Auxiliary
VFW Post #10146



Photo by SONYA P. REYNOLDS

Soldiers Forum gives soldiers a voice

Army News Service

The Soldiers Forum was created to give soldiers a voice on ArmyLINK. Soldiers worldwide are invited to submit stories, commentaries and other articles to arnews@hqda.army.mil.

Articles can also be mailed to: Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, ATTN: SAPA-CI (Soldiers Forum), Room 2B720, 1500 Army Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310-1500.

OCPA retains the right to edit articles and will post only those that have Army-wide interest. Questions will not be answered.

The purpose of the site is to share ideas laterally. Complaints will not be posted unless they include thoughtful suggestions or solutions. Reflections on everyday Army life are welcome, so are discussions of more controversial topics affecting soldiers and their families.

This program is being run on a trial basis. **Here is an example of a current posting:**

Dear Soldiers:

I've been trying to find someplace to express my thanks to all of you fine folks who are serving this nation.

I see that this is a forum for soldiers to write to relate stories, etc.

I am no longer a soldier in the Army though I was a "Regular Army" enlisted man who served stateside and in Vietnam.

There are many of us here in America and we all think the world of you all!

My family and I applaud your willingness to give of yourselves for the safety and freedom of the rest of us.

I know the damage that is done to morale when the liberal folks in this nation voice their opinions against the military actions that are undertaken by our government. I want to tell all of you that those people really are the minority and the rest of us love and appreciate each of you. We value your sacrifice and thank you for our precious freedoms.

Our family is praying for you and for a fast and effective victory that will help the rest of the world to see that what we have said is the truth.

Stay courageous and faithful. Live your lives to bring honor to God, country and family.

God bless each of you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The Bill Piller family
mwp121573@jymis.com

POST SHORTS

phone number for Pass-enger Travel is 410-278-3858/5695.

The Administrative Offices and TC-ACCIS Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday (closed on alternate Fridays). The phone number for the Transportation Officer is 410-278-3896 and for the administrative assistant is 410-278-5384.

TC-ACCIS is available to all units.

Law Day observance set for May 1

Aberdeen Proving Ground will observe Law Day with a luncheon at Top of the Bay, May 1, 11:30 a.m. The 2003 theme is "Celebrate your freedom: Independent Courts Protect Our Liberty."

The guest speaker is James Wyda, federal public defender, District of Maryland.

The cost of the luncheon is \$12 and fees are due by April 25. Checks must be made out to Susan G. Grendahl, not to the Staff Judge Advocate. For more information, call Capt. Julie Caruso at 410-278-1109.

Orientation for newcomers scheduled

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Community Information Forum, formerly APG Newcomer Orientation, will be held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, April 24, 1 to 3 p.m. All military and civilian personnel, retirees and their family members are invited to

attend.

More than 55 representatives of support agencies/organizations will be present to discuss the latest information on their activities. Give-a-ways will be available and door prizes awarded.

For more information, call Godofredo Posadas, Family Well-Being Program manager, Army Community Service, 278-2453/7474.

RAB meeting scheduled

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its next monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting on April 24, 7 to 9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road.

The topics will include updates on the Lauderick Creek CWM Removal Action, Canal Creek Study Area, operations security discussion and Munition Destruction System.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited. For more information, call the Information Line at 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

Moving Wall opens Thursday

The American Veterans' Traveling Tribute known as the Moving Wall begins a four-day exhibit at Harford Community College today.

The exhibit includes a four-fifths scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., educa-

tional displays, a bronze replica of the Vietnam Women's Memorial and a 40-foot POW/MIA flag.

On April 19, a memorial service begins at 1 p.m. Guest speakers include retired Army Col. Walter R. Mueller, Jr., deputy director, Maryland Emergency Management Agency and Everett Alvarez, Jr.

A POW for more than eight years, Alvarez was the first American aviator shot down over North Vietnam. He also is the former deputy director of the Peace Corps and former deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration.

The display will be open for visitors 24 hours a day while at the college.

For more information, call Norman Boskind, chairman, Harford County Veterans Commission, at 410-893-0337.

Technology Expo April 24

The U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Information Management and The Corporate Information Office SBCCOM are again co-hosting the Annual Spring Information Technology Products and Services Expo on April 24, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Top of The Bay on Plumb Point Road.

Exhibitors include ACS; ASAP Software; Brocade Communications; CCS Presentation Systems; CDW-G; Data Base Connection; Decision Systems Technologies; Dell; Deployable Systems Inc.; ForeScout Technologies; Force 3; Gateway; GMR; GovConnection; GTSI; HP; IBM; iGov; Insight Public Sector; Intellidyne; MEDI; Metro Office Products; MPC (formerly Micron PC); NCI Information Systems; NEC; Mitsubishi; Network Appliance; Newark Electronics; Office Eagle; Panasonic; PC Mall Government; Profes-

sional Products Inc.; Research in Motion (Blackberry) Sharp Electronics; Staples; STI Systems, Inc.; Sun Microsystems; Westwood Computer; Wrightline; Xerox, and more.

The expo is open and free to Defense Department government or contractor personnel. Refreshments will be served.

For more information call Federal Direct Access Expositions toll-free at 1-877-332-3976.

Days of Remembrance set for April 29

The annual Days of Remembrance observance will be held April 29, 10 to 11 a.m. at the Post Theater.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has designated "For your freedom and ours" as the theme for the 2003 Days of Remembrance observance in honor of those who took a stand for freedom in 1943 against overwhelming odds.

The guest speaker is holocaust survivor Ruben Szatjer. Born in Klobuhtz, Poland, on Feb. 28, 1926, Szatjer's journey began when the Jews were evacuated at the start of the war. Many returned or were sent back after a few months. Szatjer lived in the Klobuhtz ghettos from 1940 to 1942.

From April 1942 to June 1943, Szatjer lived and worked at Markstadt, a forced labor camp, then he was transferred to Funfteichen Concentration Camp where he was forced to participate in death marches. Szatjer was eventually shipped to Bergen Belsen in 1944 and remained there until the British liberated the camp on April 15.

For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Serino at 410-278-1534.

ASAP offers training materials

The Army Substance Abuse Program has updated training materials in video, pamphlet, booklet and CD format. Topics include alcohol, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, and more.

Training materials can be used in meeting the mandatory four hours of military training and the three hours of required training for all civilians.

Anyone with questions about preparing for a class should call Troy Denson, Prevention coordinator, 410-278-3137.

ADAPT Course

The Army Drug and Alcohol Prevention course will be held April 21 to 24, 5 to 7 p.m. and April 25, 5 to 9 p.m. All military families and civilian employees are invited to attend.

For more information, call Troy Denson at 410-278-3137.

Coping and Dealing with Stress class offered

Parents are invited to attend an evening of stress relief 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., April 23 at the AA Chapel. Child and Youth Services Outreach Services will sponsor Coping and Dealing with Stress. Guest

speakers, hands-on exercises, handouts and goodies will be available.

For more information, call Pat Palazzi, 410-278-7479, or e-mail him at Pat.Palazzi@usag.apg.army.mil

Free Baltimore Inner Harbor Seaport Day Passes

With an active duty military ID, up to four family members (all with military IDs) may obtain a full day pass on the Seaport Taxi and visit the USS Constellation and the Baltimore Maritime Museum (includes U.S. Coast Guard Taney, U.S. Submarine Torsk, Lightship Chesapeake and Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse).

Passes are available at the Constellation Center or the National Historic Seaport ticket booth on the Aquarium Pier.

For more information or for hours of operation, visit www.constellation.org, or call 410-539-1797; or visit www.baltomaritimemuseum, or call 410-936-3453. The free day pass offer is valid through April 30.

KUSAHC offers Take Care of Yourself Class

Classes are held on the first and third Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. All patients enrolled in TRICARE Prime are eligible to attend. The purpose of the class is to teach patients how to treat minor illnesses and injuries at home, and when to see a doctor.

The classes will be conducted by a Registered Nurse using the Take Care of Yourself handbook that was given to each patient enrolling in TRICARE Prime.

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.

This class and pharmacy privilege is limited to TRICARE Prime patients only.

To sign up for the class, call 410-278-1964.

CWF hosts trip to Broadway

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring a trip on May 17 to see "Gypsy" on Broadway. This show is a revival of the 1959 musical based upon the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee. Prior to the show, there will be time for shopping and lunch.

The price is \$120 per person, which includes charter bus transportation and ticket for the show.

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

Free medical billing class

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program will offer a free Medical Billing class, 1 to 4 p.m. every Monday, through May 12, in the Army Community Service Classroom.

The class provides a fundamental understanding of med-

ical insurance billing and the life cycle of an insurance claim in relation to the physician's practice.

Attendees must attend ALL sessions to get a certificate of completion from Harford Community College.

Topics include: introduction to claims, preparation and submission, overview of major insurance carriers, insurance and accounts receivable management, overview of the use of information systems in the reimbursement process.

The class is open to all military family members with valid I.D. cards.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, Employment Readiness Manager, ACS, building 2754, 410-278-9669/7474. Anyone interested must register at the ACS building.

Federal Trade Commission Military Sentinel project

Information from the Federal Trade Commission about its Military Sentinel complaint database is available at <http://www.consumer.gov/military/>. The complaint database is specially designed to accommodate the needs of military personnel and their families.

The previous link to the reprintable Military Sentinel article did not work correctly because the group that wrote it changed the article's location on its Web site.

The correct link is <http://www.napsnet.com/safety/56766.html>.

ACS hosts Waiting Families Support Group

Army Community Service is sponsoring Waiting Families Support Group for family members whose sponsors are on extended temporary duty or on an unaccompanied tour stateside or overseas.

The support group will meet the fourth Monday of every month from 7 to 8 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 2754, Rodman Road.

The next meeting is April 28. To arrange for child-care, call in advance, space is limited.

For more information, call Cheryl Harris, relocation assistant, at 410-278-7474.

APG Telephone Directory update

The Directorate of Information Management is currently validating the Garrison and Tenant information in the Aberdeen Proving Ground Telephone Directory.

The purpose of this validation is to ensure that the Emergency Response System (911) has electronic access to accurate information.

DOIM representatives will be calling individual numbers to verify that the name, building, floor, and room number on record for the circuit are correct.

The Caller ID feature on telephones will display "APG TELE MGMT" for these authorized information requests.

For more information, call Janet Brown, 410-306-1315.

Fact of the Week

Nearly 200 million worn passenger tires are generated each year. Some are recycled into products like rubber mats or footwear, while others are burned as fuel or retreaded and sold again. Recycling and retreading keeps millions of scrap tires out of landfills.

- Maryland Department of the Environment, Recycling Division.

Safety & Health

What's new on the TRICARE Web site

webmaster@tricare.osd.mil

Notification to beneficiaries about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

The Department of Defense, through the Military Health System, is actively involved in monitoring the outbreaks of a respiratory disease that is rapidly spreading in the Asian continent and isolated cases in Europe and North America, and supporting both international and U.S. health authorities as needed. More information on this subject is available at <http://www.ha.osd.mil/asd/message.html>.

TRICARE Fundamentals Course online registration

Online registration is now available for the TRICARE Fundamentals Course, which has replaced the TRICARE Basic and Advanced Student Course. The intent is to start offering TFC in the different regions beginning in June 2003. Class dates by region will be posted with instructions on how to register by 1 May 2003. For more information, visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/training/tfc/>.

Reciprocal health care agreements

The United States has entered into agreements with other countries to provide health care for active duty personnel and their dependents on a reciprocal basis. To view a list of participating countries, visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/recip/>.

Using the TRICARE Dental Program overseas

The TRICARE Dental Program, administered by United Concordia Companies, Inc., is offered outside of the continental United States service area. The OCONUS service area includes all other countries, island masses, and territorial waters not in the continental United States service area (the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands). More information is available at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/factsheets/index.cfm?fx=shows&file_name=Dental%5FOverseas%2Ehtm.

Little known facts

Active duty military families who live overseas can choose how to get their health care under TRICARE—TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Standard. Military retirees and their families who live overseas can't enroll in TRICARE Prime, but they can use TRICARE Standard.

Medicare-eligible uniformed-services retirees and their eligible family members

must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to receive TRICARE benefits. This also applies to overseas residents, even though Medicare doesn't pay for services received outside the U.S and its territories.

Under TRICARE Prime, active duty eligible families who live overseas must enroll as they would stateside. Enrollment in TRICARE Prime for active duty families overseas is not automatic. Military sponsors must take action to enroll their families in TRICARE Prime. Active duty families pay no enrollment fees, cost shares, or deductibles while overseas.

Overseas TRICARE Prime enrollees traveling in the United States will have the same priority for available appointments at Military Treatment Facilities as TRICARE Prime enrollees who live near these facilities.

Persons who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime overseas may call toll free 1-888-777-8343 for assistance during normal business hours.

Need more help? The DOD Worldwide TRICARE Information Center toll-free number is 1-888-363-5433 or 1-877-363-6337. Operating hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday (EST).

President visits war wounded at Walter Reed

Michael E. Duker

Army News Service

President George W. Bush thanked wounded soldiers for their sacrifices and dedication made during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan during an April 11 visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Bush presented six Purple Hearts to soldiers for combat wounds sustained while serving in the war on terrorism. He spent more than an hour at Walter Reed before heading to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

The visit, Bush said, was to thank the troops for their dedication, courage and service to country.

"I came today to thank the troops and their families and their loved ones for their sacrifice. I also want to thank the staffs of these hospitals, the leadership, the doctors and the nurses, the people who care for those who have been hurt, for their extraordinary service to their fellow Americans," Bush said.

One Purple Heart recipient, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Douglas, from the 7th Special Forces Group at Ft. Bragg, N.C., said with a grin he thought the president's visit was "incredible."

Douglas, who is being treated at Walter Reed for combat wounds received in Afghanistan, said he appreciated the president "taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the wounded."

"This victory in Iraq, when it happens, will make the world more peaceful," the president said.

He said he reminded the soldiers and Marines he visited that, "Their sacrifices really had to do with the security of our country; that Saddam Hussein and his terrorist allies are threats to America, threats to our people because of what we believe in.

"And so their sacrifices, as I told them, were worthwhile," the president said. "It's an honor to have spoken to them and to have been with them and their families today."

Editor's note: Michael E. Duker writes for the Stripe newspaper at Walter Reed.

Ozone

From front page

in mid-90s to 100 degrees F. During code "red" days, children, the elderly and people with respiratory ailments should limit or postpone outdoor activities. Those without health problems should limit strenuous outside work activities.

Orange denotes a situation approaching unhealthy levels with temperatures in the upper 80s to low 90s.

On a declared "red" or "orange" day the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment will notify the installation of an Ozone Action Day via e-mail and by hanging the ozone flag, a big orange sunburst with a white background, at the APG entrance gates and various locations across the post. The ozone daily forecast notification is also posted on the APG Web page.

In addition to hanging the ozone flags on code "red" or "orange" days, APG reduces or eliminates operations of paint spray booths, military testing using smoke and obscurants and jet engine testing, and government gas stations are closed.

APG encourages the curtailment of grass

mowing operations on these days. The installation has significantly reduced the areas where grass is cut. Many areas are designated as "natural areas" which do not require mowing.

APG has also acquired numerous vehicles operated with compressed natural gas.

For more information on ozone or Ozone Action Days, please call DSHE at 410-306-2278 or fax 410-306-2261.

Recommended ways to reduce smog on Ozone Action Days

- Limit driving. Try ride-sharing, carpooling, walking or biking, using public transportation and combining errands.
- Defer lawn and gardening chores that use gasoline-powered equipment.
- Use gas grills instead of charcoal.
- Postpone use of oil-based paints, solvents and household cleaners that release fumes or evaporate easily.
- Do not refuel vehicles on an Ozone Action Day. If necessary, do so after dusk.
- Avoid excessive idling while driving, and keep vehicles well tuned.
- Conserve electricity by setting air conditioners to 78 degrees F.

Newsletter

From front page

a pace you never would have believed possible just four years ago," said Lt. Gen. John M. Le Moyne, deputy chief of staff, G-1. "This transformation is much more than adopting new weapon systems, modernizing vehicles and improving equipment.

"The centerpiece of this transformation is focused on the heart and soul of our organization ... its people, and how we develop leaders, foster self-reliance, and meet their personal needs and aspirations," Le Moyne said. "In short ... how we take care of our people.

Army Well-Being has quickly become the centerpiece of the Personnel Transformation process in the Army's transformation initiative.

"A critical pillar of our Personnel Transformation initiative is Well-Being. Well-Being transforms the human dimension of Army life for soldiers (active, Guard, and

Reserve), retirees, veterans, civilians, and families," Le Moyne said. "The Well-Being process provides significantly improved capabilities to enhance the overall well-being of the Army family - it is the right thing to do, and we are cutting through the bureaucracy to get it done!

"We are excited about the pace of change and positive results we are already seeing," said Le Moyne, whose Human Resources Policy Directorate oversees the Well-Being Program. "This transformed Army Well-Being newsletter is the logical result of these changes - a way to improve on the Family Liaison Office newsletter by expanding to cover all Well-Being programs and the entire Army family.

The newsletter will focus on the Well-Being areas of the Army ethos, pay and compensation, healthcare, housing and workplace environment, education, family programs, and cohesion, Le Moyne said.

(Editor's note: Wayne V. Hall is a public affairs officer for the Army Family Liaison Office at the Pentagon.)

AFAP

From front page

expressed on actions to improve the welfare and morale of America's Army family.

Topics to address could include medical, dental, commissary, AAFES, housing, youth, education, employment, safety and relocation.

To describe suggestions, the following questions must be answered in submission to the AFP:

- What is the problem?
- Why is it a problem?
- What is the solution?

All suggestions must have name and telephone number in order to be considered. Send them to building 2754, Room # 208, ATTN: AFAP Coordinator, or FAX 306-2293 no later than May 19. A sample form is pictured.

Anyone wishing to participate in the symposium or would like more information on the AFAP process should call 410-278-2453.

Community Notes

FRIDAY APRIL 18 EDGEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH EASTER CAN- TATA

The Edgewood Baptist Church located on 422 Edgewood Rd., invites the community to attend "The Love of Jesus," a free Easter cantata, at 7:30 p.m. The Edgewood Baptist Church Choir will perform the cantata.

SATURDAY APRIL 19 BOOK SIGNING

A former APG employee, Alice H. Deck, will have a book signing for Women in History at the Barnes & Noble in Bel Air from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 410-879-6520 or 410 838-4234.

(Editor's note: See the March 29, 2001 archive issue of the APG News at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil for an article on Deck and her book.)

BOWL-A-THON TO FIGHT LUPUS

The Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post #6054 will sponsor a Bowl-A-Thon at 3 p.m. at Harford Lanes, 20 Custis Street, Aberdeen. A portion of the proceeds will go to the LUPUS Foundation.

For more information and donation sheets, call 410-575-7473.

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Water Witch Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will be held at the VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10, and are available by calling Anne Gibson, 410-939-1937, Stephanie Gibson, 410-378-2672, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SUNDAY APRIL 20 APG COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SER- VICE

The Community Easter Sunrise Service will be held 7 a.m. at McBride Field in the Edgewood Area. The guest speaker will be Tom Bisset, general manager of the Christian radio station, WRBS. Performances by several choirs and a special duet by Chaplain Shawn McCammon and his wife are part of the planned activities.

EDGEWOOD EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

The Edgewood Baptist Church and the Lord of Life Lutheran Church invites the community to attend Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at the Flying Point Park in Edgewood. For more infor-

mation, call Edgewood Baptist Church at 410-676-5838.

EDGEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH EASTER CANTATA

The Edgewood Baptist Church located on 422 Edgewood Rd., invites the community to attend "The Love of Jesus," a free Easter cantata, at 11 a.m. The Edgewood Baptist Church Choir will perform the cantata.

FRIDAY APRIL 25 BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit Bakerfield Elementary PTA will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, Aberdeen. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and are available by calling Sandy Pierce, 410-273-7184, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY APRIL 26 BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit VFW Post 8185 will be held at the VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and are available by calling Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or 410-939-1937, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

FREE INNER HARBOR SAILING ADVENTURE

Sierra Military Health Services, Inc. and The Living Classrooms Foundation will offer a free Baltimore Inner Harbor Sailing Adventure for Region 1 military families. Children in grades four through 12 will participate in the Sailing Program aboard the Mildred Belle Buy Boat, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration deadline is April 21. Students are transformed into crewmembers, marine biologists and scientists as they raise and lower sails, trawl for marine life, perform scientific tests and explore the ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay. Bring a lunch.

Reservations are required via e-mail ssmith@natlhistoricseaport.org or call 410-783-1490, Weinberg Education Center, The Living Classrooms Foundation 802 S. Caroline Street, Baltimore. For directions and information, visit www.livingclassrooms.org. Active duty military ID required for each student on day of program.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY APRIL 26, 27 SHOOT THE HEART OUT OF HUNGER

Deer Creek Archery, International Bowhunting Organization, and Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry will host a 3D shoot to raise money to help feed the hungry. The cost of the shoot is \$25 for the IBO

world qualifier with \$10 going to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry and \$5 going to IBO. The cost for the fun shoot is \$20 with \$10 going to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. All registrants will be eligible for Shoot prizes, door prizes and auction items donated by Deer Creek Archery, archery manufacturers, and friends of Deer Creek Archery. Muzzy, country music star Andy Griggs, Wildlife Research Center, Inc. and others have donated prizes and auction items. For an updated list, visit Web site www.deercreekarchery.com.

Anyone wishing to donate money, advertising, prizes or auction items should call George Bennett, 410-734-9554. To register for the shoot, visit Deer Creek Archery, 3021 Churchville Road, Churchville, or visit www.deercreekarchery.com.

FRIDAY MAY 2 BASKET BINGO

American Legion Post 194, 336 E. Main St., Rising Sun, is sponsoring a basket bingo at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 for 20 games. Proceeds will benefit Boy Scout Troop 28. For more information call 410-658-3915, or e-mail basketbingors@aol.com.

COUNTRY HOE DOWN

The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, sponsors country western dancing the first Friday of the month at the American Legion located on Parke Street in Aberdeen. Dancing is held from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Cost of admission is \$8; cash bar and no lessons. For more information, call 410-272-8318.

PRE- K/KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Roye-Williams Elementary School will hold its annual pre-kindergarten/kindergarten registration for the 2003 to 2004 school year, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kindergarten registration packets may be picked up at the school beginning April 14 for completion and return on registration day for children who will be five years of age as of Nov. 30, 2003.

Pre-kindergarten registration packets may be picked up after 9 a.m. on May 2 for children who will be four years of age as of Oct. 31, 2003. When application forms are received, they will be checked for completeness and stamped with the date/time they were received. Parents who register their child for pre-kindergarten prior to June 17 will be notified prior to June 30 of their child's acceptance/non-acceptance into the program.

Parents are requested to bring their child's birth certificate or verification of birth, Social Security card and all immunization records. The school also requires proof of residency, which can be in the form of a copy of a property tax bill, rental lease, or utility bill (dated within the last two months prior to registration), which contain your

MOVIES

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



OLD SCHOOL

Friday, April 18, 7 p.m.

Starring: Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell

The story of three guys in their early 30's who try to relive their old college glory days by moving into a large house near their old campus. They inadvertently form an unofficial fraternity where students can enjoy all the riches of the partying lifestyle. (Rated R)

DAREDEVIL

Saturday, April 19, 7 p.m. (FREE ADMISSION)

Starring: Ben Affleck, Michael Clarke Duncan



Matt Murdock is the son of a boxer who gets killed by petty criminals for refusing to take a dive. This drives young Matt to fight crime, despite a childhood accident that robbed him of his sight. (Rated PG-13)



THE HUNTED

Saturday, April 19, 9 p.m.

Starring: Tommy Lee Jones, Benicio del Toro

Tommy Lee Jones is an FBI deep woods tracker who captures an assassin who makes a sport of killing deer hunters. When the killer escapes in the city, Jones must team up with another agent to hunt down this thrill killer before he starts to hunt them. (Rated R)

name and address.

SATURDAY MAY 3 WAC ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

The Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association, Chesapeake Beacon Chapter 114T, will sponsor the 60th WAC Anniversary Luncheon, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Four Points Sheraton, Aberdeen. Guest speaker will be Col. Mardi U. Mark, garrison commander, APG. Entertainment will be provided by the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) Woodwind Quintet. Cost of the luncheon is \$20 per person.

Reservations must be made not later than April 23. For more information or to make reservations, call Wanda Story, 410-272-5040

SUNDAY MAY 4 WAR OF 1812 RE- ENACTMENT AT HAVRE DE GRACE

The Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace ("The Lock House") will hold the annual re-enactment of the British attack on Havre de Grace in the War of 1812. Camp will open at 10 a.m. Activities include a cannon demonstration and firing, a lecture by Chris George, the British attack on Havre de Grace, the Star Spangled Banner Flag demonstration, lecture by Vince Vaise, a "Fracas at Rodgers Tavern" and the British plunder of houses on Green Street. The encampment will be open to visitors at 5 p.m. Free admission. For more information, call Jeff Miller, 410-939-1873; Charles Hiner, 410-

939-9928, or the Susquehanna Museum at 410-939-5780.

SATURDAY MAY 10 SPRING FLING

Pastor Cheryl Hill of the Faith Partnership Council and members of Neighbors Interested in the Community of Edgewood, or N. I. C. E., invite members of the community to take part in The Annual Spring Fling - Nickel Day, noon to 4 p.m., Lake Serene, Edgewood. Rain date is May 31. To participate as an exhibitor, call Robin Rossbach, 410-638-3333 or e-mail rarossbach@co.ha.md.us.

For more information, call Cheryl Hill, 410-767-8896.s

HOME-BUYING WORKSHOP

Home Partnership, Inc., a non-profit agency, will hold a free workshop on How to Buy your Own Home at Chesapeake Community Church, 900 Trimble road, Joppa. Free lunch will be provided. Registration is required. Call 410-297-6700.

OMMS LIBRARY

The Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School Library's new operating hours are Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8:45 p.m. and Friday, noon to 4:30 p.m. The library is located in the basement of building 3071. For more information, call 410-278-4991.

Sports

HHC 16th sweeps Company A 16th, 21-7; 21-12



Mike Lombardo, 13, HHC 16th Ordnance Battalion, watches a volley over the net from Company A 16th Ordnance Battalion's Houdine Moore, 20, as his teammates Chris Garibay, 14, and Will Thomas, 50, move in to back up the play.

Story and photo by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Despite a few good plays and a lot of heart, Company A 16th Ordnance Battalion fell to Headquarters and Headquarters Company 16th Ordnance Battalion in a two-match loss, 21-7; 21-12 during an American Division intramural volleyball match-up, April 9.

HHC 16th player-coach Diane Kennedy said the team is focused on making the playoffs.

"We lost our first two games because we didn't have all our players," Kennedy said. "Now, we're taking over."

Company A 16th coach Melvin Dusharm said that despite a 0-3 start, the team was benefiting from the learning process.

"We're improving everyday, working out and practicing every morning," Dusharm said. "It will come together eventually."

During the second match, HHC 16th jumped

out to a 6-1 lead with Daniel Nelson serving. Company A 16th tried to come back but was plagued by an uncoordinated offense and costly misplays.

Pauline Mark provided one standout performance for the team, serving up three consecutive points to close within seven points at 15-8. The game ended with a 21-12 HHC 16th win.

Kennedy cited the team's key players, Albert Jones, Camilla Gisa, Yolanda Goff and Mike Lombardo as the reasons for their success adding that they keep her off the floor.

"I play if they need me but I just love to coach," Kennedy said.

Jones, who also is a licensed referee in Harford County, added that the team's main challenge is to stay focused.

"We're trying to keep it together," Jones said. "So far, we're doing pretty good."

Volleyball update

The following results were reported from the APG Sports Office for intramural volleyball for the week ending April 11.

American Division

Results

April 7
USMC defeated Company C 16th, 21-12; 21-17
HHC 16th defeated USAF, 21-10; 21-3
1-246 defeated Company B 16th, 21-11; 16-21; 15-11
April 8
NCOA defeated Company A 16th, 21-9; 21-5
Company E 16th vs. HHC 16th rescheduled
Company C 16th defeated 1/246th, 21-13; 21-16
April 9

NCOA defeated USMC, 2111; 21-14
Company B 16th defeated USAF, 23-21; 21-14
HHC 16th defeated Company A 16th, 21-7; 21-12)
April 10
1-246 defeated USAF, (21-13; 23-21
NCOA defeated Company C 16th, 21-12; 21-9
USMC defeated Company E 16th, 21-14; 21-7

Schedule

April 17
6:30 p.m., USAF vs. NCOA
7:30 p.m., Company C 16th vs. Company E 16th
8:30 p.m., USMC vs. Company B 16th
April 21
6:30 p.m., Company B 16th vs. Company A 16th

7:30 p.m., 1/246th vs. HHC 16th
8:30 p.m., NCOA vs. Company E 16th
April 22
6:30 p.m., 1/246th vs. NCOA
7:30 p.m., HHC 16th vs. Company C 16th
8:30 p.m., USMC vs. USAF
April 23
6:30 p.m., Company A 16th vs. USAF
7:30 p.m., USMC vs. HHC 16th
8:30 p.m., Company B 16th vs. Company E 16th

Edgewood Division

Results

April 7
CHPPM defeated HHC 143rd, 21-16; 2-18
MRICD defeated Company B 143rd, 21-7; 21-8

MRICD#2 defeated Company A 143rd, 21-6; 21-4
April 9
MRICD#2 defeated HHC 143rd, 21-5l 21-8
Company C 143rd defeated MRICD, 17-21; 21-14; 15-13
CHPPM defeated Company B 143rd, 21-12; 21-8

Schedule

April 21
6:30 p.m., CHPPM vs. MRICD
7:30 p.m., Company C 143rd vs. HHC 143rd
8:30 p.m., Company B 143rd vs. MRICD #2
April 23
6:30 p.m., MRICD vs. HHC 143rd
7:30 p.m., Company B 143rd vs. Company A 143rd
8:30 p.m., Company C 143rd vs. MRICD #2

Youth Services junior golf classes

Junior golf classes will be held June 23 to Aug. 6 on Mondays and Wednesdays at Exton Golf Course. Scheduled classes will take place 8 to 9 a.m. for ages 7 to 10 and 9 to 10 a.m. for ages 11 to 14.

Registration is by appointment only May 15 to 19, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at building 2752; May 7, 6 to 8 p.m., building 2752; and May 14, 6 to 8 p.m., building E-1902.

All participants must be current Child and Youth Services members. Fees cost \$55 for eligible youths (military, DoD civilian personnel,

and retired personnel) and \$60 for all others.

Intensified Junior Camps will be offered 2 to 5 p.m. (date to be announced). If interested, call Tom Green, 410-278-9452, or e-mail Tom.Green@usag.apg.army.mil.

For more information, call Bill Kegley, 410-306-2297 or e-mail William.Kegley@usag.apg.army.mil. For daytime registration appointment, call Christina Keithley, 410-278-7571, or e-mail Christina.Keithley@usag.apg.army.mil.

MWR • Morale, Recreation & Welfare

Activities

May Golf Tournament

An individual net tournament with USAG handicap will be held May 4 at Exton Golf Course. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$22 for patrons, \$27 for authorized and \$33 for all others. The fee includes golf, cart and prizes. Register by May 2. For more information, call Gene Harris at 410-436-2213 or e-mail gene.harris@usag.apg.army.mil.

Cinco de Mayo nighttime golf tournament

This is a captain's choice tournament that starts with the first nine holes played before sunset. The second nine holes will be played in total darkness. Glow balls, sticks and glow necklaces will be provided, as well as a Mexican Buffet. The tournament will be held May 3 with a 5 p.m. tee off. Register by April 21. The cost is \$35 for patrons, \$45 for authorized, and \$55 for the public.

For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil.

Introduction to golf

This two-hour class will help take the fear out of the game for the first time golfer. The class includes a brief tour of the clubhouse, a demonstration on how the ball machine works, golf etiquette and the difference between golf clubs. Each participant will receive a special gift.



Class will be held May 3 at Ruggles Golf Course from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$30. Register by April 25.

For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil.

Golf School for beginners

This four-week series of classes takes the intimidation out of the game for first-time golfers. Every aspect of golf will be covered from the correct stance, grip, clubs, and etiquette, to the swing. The first class will be held May 3 at Ruggles Golf Course, 11a.m to 1p.m, but subsequent classes will be one hour. Cost for the series of classes is \$55. Register by April 25.

For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil.

Flea Market Mall Shopping Trip

Anyone who loves great finds, will not want to miss this trip to Englishtown, N.J., May 3, for more than 40 acres of outdoor shopping and great deals. Purchase tickets by April 25. Cost is \$25. The bus will pick up passengers from Ames Shopping Center in Edgewood at 7:30 a.m. and Ollies Shopping Center in Aberdeen at 8 a.m.

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

Tai Chi

Discover the ancient form of martial arts that teaches the integration of the body, mind and spirit using breathing and balance to relax and renew the mind and soul. Dr. Rocky Farley will teach Tai Chi martial arts classes on Monday and Wednesday, May 5 to 28, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Russell Gym, building 3330, and on Tuesday and Thursday, May 6 to 29, 6 to 7 p.m. at the Edgewood Area Fitness Center, building E-4210. This is an all levels class in the Tai Chi Chuan.

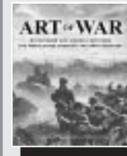
Register by April 28, at MWR Registration, building 3326, or call 410-278-4907, or online at www.apgmwr.com.

For more information, contact Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or Stacie.umbarger@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.

A few of the new books available at the APG MWR libraries are:



Art of War: eyewitness U.S. combat art from the Revolution through the twentieth century by H. Avery Chenoweth

This book is lavishly illustrated with more than three hundred full-color and black-and-white reproductions of drawings, sketches, and paintings, as well as scores of archival photographs; packed with intimate biographical profiles of both military and civilian artists, including details of their service and firsthand experiences in the heat of battle.



Multitool Linux: practical uses for open source software by Michael Schwarz and others



Atkins for Life: the complete controlled carb program for permanent weight loss and good health by Robert C. Atkins



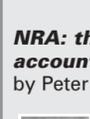
Burnside's Bridge: the climatic struggle of the 2nd and 20th Georgia at Antietam Creek by Phillip Thomas Tucker



Adobe Photoshop 7.0 (part of the Classroom in a book series)



Barnyard in your backyard: a beginner's guide to raising chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits, goats, sheep, and cattle edited by Gail Damerow



Outgunned: up against the NRA: the first complete insider account of the battle over gun control by Peter H. Brown



1421: the year China discovered America: the incredible true story of the discovery of America before Columbus was even born by Gavin Manzi

To receive a complete listing of the library's new materials via e-mail and also reserve items electronically, call the library at 410-278-3417.

Child Youth Services presents 'Passport to Adventure'

Child and Youth Services is sponsoring a Spring Fling, Passport to Adventure, May 3, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the Edgewood Youth Services building E-1902.

Parents and children of all ages are invited to join the free festivities.

There will be music, entertainment and free give aways. Activities include arts and crafts, 50-yard dash, relay races, Punt, Pass and Kick competition, a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog, a helicopter landing, the "Nothing Up My Sleeve" clown

with free balloon sculptures, face painting, bounce house and more.

Enjoy free hot dogs, chips, popcorn and lemonade. Door prizes will be given away every half hour but participant must be present to win.

Program displays and registration information will be available. For more information, call Outreach Services at 410-278-7479.

BOWLING ACTIVITIES AND STANDINGS

Activities

The Bowling Center would like to congratulate all those who qualified for the Pepsi Cola Tournament that was held at APG Bowling Center the last two weekends in March.

APG had two youth bowlers move on to the finals at Easton Lanes. Heather Miller finished in fourth place overall in the Girl's 12 and Older Division and Christopher Denardi finished 38th overall out of 80 entries in the 12 and Older Boys.

Upcoming events at the Bowling Center include a nine-week Summer Adult/Youth League that starts June 28. Bowling begins at 9:30 a.m., the cost is \$5 per person per week, skipping the July 4th weekend.

Summer leagues coming soon include an eight-week Wednesday Doubles League, starting May 7, 6 p.m., for \$10 per week; an eight-week Thursday Doubles League, for \$10 per week, starting at 6 p.m., and an eight-week Friday Trio League, for \$10 per week, starting at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in signing up for the leagues should stop by the Bowling Center or call 410-278-4041.

The APG News will post other bowling specials throughout the summer.

Standings

Tuesday Intramurals Week of April 8

Final Bowling Standing

Men's high series scratch,
Brandon Dusick, 658
Johnny Jones, 557
Men's high series handicap
Andy Child, 745
Brandon Dusick, 727
Men's high game scratch
Brandon Dusick, 233
Dale Ahern, 212
Men's high game handicap
Andy Child, 302
Jeffery Bailey, 275
Women's high series scratch
Nicole Washington, 517
Rachel Carlisle, 364
Women's high series handicap
Nicole Washington, 682
Rachel Carlisle, 651
Women's high game scratch
Nicole Washington, 195
Rachel Carlisle, 136
Women's high game handicap
Nicole Washington, 250
Rachel Carlisle, 240

Wednesday Night Mixed

April 2
Men's high series scratch
Stuart Thacker, 587
Don Donnelley, 576
Men's high series handicap
Terrance Harris, 725
Tim Anderson, 710
Men's high game scratch
Stuart Thacker/Don Donnelley, 225
Bob Shimek, 219
Men's high game handicap

Tim Anderson, 282
Stuart Thacker, 280
Women's high series scratch
Barbara Thibault, 522
Ann Thacker, 513
Women's high series handicap
Kathy Anderson, 705
Ann Thacker, 701
Women's high game scratch
Ann Thacker, 202
Marian Nelson, 193
Women's high game handicap
Ann Thacker, 301
Betty Wyman, 278

Thursday National Guard Mixed

Week of April 3
Men's high series scratch
Bill Morton, 572
Michael Murphy, 537
Men's high series handicap
Jeff Finkel, 755
Phillip Murphy, 748
Men's high game scratch
Bill Morton, 234
Michael Murphy, 211/199
Men's high game handicap
Jeff Finkel, 307
Frank Mitchell, 286
Women's high series scratch
Barbara Osborn, 514
Fay Christy, 506
Women's high series handicap
Lucy Montanez, 816
Mary Jo Smith, 727
Women's high game scratch
Barbara Osborn, 208
Fay Christy/Shelly Burmeister, 173
Women's high game handicap
Lucy Montanez, 293
Shelly Burmeister/Lynn

Sims, 289

Thursday Lunch League

Week of April 10
Men's high series scratch
John Brown, 383
Don Donnelley, 360
Men's high series handicap
Jeff Swab, 505
Don Donnelly, 475
Men's high game scratch
John Brown, 211
Don Donnelly, 201
Men's high game handicap
Jeff Swab, 268
Brad Davis, 260
Women's high series scratch
Dawn Gardner, 351
Sue Spagnuolo, 293
Women's high series handicap
Chris Lockhart, 457
Ronda Taylor, 436
Women's high game scratch
Dawn Gardner, 182
Sue Spagnuolo, 158
Women's high game handicap
Chris Lockhart, 261
Jane Fortes, 234

Friday Night Mixed

Week of March 21
Men's high series scratch
Richard Trimble, 607
John Jones, 589
Men's high series handicap
Virgil Mills, 842
Brian Henz, 749
Men's high game scratch
Virgil Mills, 224
John Jones, 221
Men's high game handicap
Virgil Mills, 295

Johnny Jones, 276
Women's high series scratch
Tasha Taylor, 590
Ronda Taylor, 503
Women's high series handicap
Tasha Taylor, 771
Ronda Taylor, 737
Women's high game scratch
Tasha Taylor, 217
Ronda Taylor, 179
Women's high game handicap
Ellen Hopkins, 270
Christine Wachter, 270

Saturday Youth League (upcoming stars)

Week of April 5
Boy's high series scratch
Chance Gosnell, 120
Boy's high series handicap
Chance Gosnell, 555
Boy's high game scratch
Chance Gosnell, 46
Boy's high game handicap
Chance Gosnell, 191
Girl's high series scratch
Elizabeth Kempton, 135
Girl's high series handicap
Elizabeth Kempton, 807
Girl's high game scratch
Elizabeth Kempton, 299
Girl's high game handicap
Elizabeth Kempton, 444
Saturday Youth Rising Stars
Week of April 5
Boy's high series scratch
Dauvon McCormick, 340
Zackary Gosnell, 339
Boy's high series handicap
Bobby Davis, 705
James Ables/Eric White, 656
Boy's high game scratch

Zackary Gosnell, 133
Eric White, 123
Boy's high game handicap
John Keegan, 255
Johnathan Pace, 249
Girl's high series scratch
Magan Pace, 325
Jessell Cons, 323
Girl's high series handicap
Amanda Anderson, 663
Jessell Cons, 654
Girl's high game scratch
Jessell Cons, 125
Magan Pace, 117
Girl's high game handicap
Jessell Cons, 238
Amanda Anderson, 230
Saturday Youth League - Shooting Stars

Week of April 5
Boy's high series scratch
Curtis Swauger, 515
Luke Lepard, 491
Boy's high series handicap
Chad Milton, 759
Curtis Swauger, 752
Boy's high game scratch
Luke Lepard, 202
Curtis Swauger, 184
Boy's high game handicap
Curtis Swauger, 306
Chad Milton, 303
Girl's high series scratch
Ashley Taylor, 413
Heather Miller, 313
Girl's high series handicap
Ashley Taylor, 686
Angela Kerner, 653
Girl's high game scratch
Ashley Taylor, 141
Heather Miller, 114
Girl's high game handicap
Ashley Taylor, 265
Heather Miller, 239

APG SCHOOL LIAISON

Financing education

Students and parents of college bound students can get a free copy (while they last) of The You Can Guide to Financing Your Education, 2003/2004. New and updated, pursue education with more knowledge and confidence. Find out more with this guide on planning, financing and maximizing education. Learn how to put goals within reach. This

resource guide is sponsored by the Army National Guard.

For a free copy or for more information, contact Ivan Mehosky, School Liaison/Youth Education Services Director, building 2752, Room 200, or call 410-278-2857.

Stay involved

For a free copy of the Military Child Education Coalition's (MCEC) booklet, "How

To Prepare Our Children and Stay Involved In Their Education During Deployment," contact Ivan Mehosky, School Liaison/Youth Education Support Services Director at 410-278-2857.

Family reading club

A new reading program is being used as a means to help close the achievement gap for Black and Hispanic students. The idea encour-

ages parents, since they are considered a child's first teacher, to create a multi-cultural family reading club that offers lessons in reading strategies along with books that would engage students and parents.

To obtain more information or if interested in starting a multi-cultural family reading book club that would meet once per week in the evenings, contact Karen Brown at Karen_K_Brown@mcps.k12.md.us.

Spring clean up, speeding on post, stockpile update highlights April CAC

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The Community Action Council meeting was held April 3 in the Garrison Conference Room. Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander chaired the meeting.

Mark warned that speeding on post would earn speeders severe penalties should they hit a pedestrian.

"I'm sick and tired of it," Mark said. "God help whoever hits one of my service members or one of my kids."

Remarking on the APG role in mobilization, in which hundreds of National Guard and Reserve troops process through APG enroute to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Mark acknowledged it has been a difficult period.

"We will get through this period," Mark said. "I can't say enough about these citizen soldiers."

Spring clean up

Attendees received details of the 2003 Spring Clean Up.

In the housing areas, clean up is April 14 to 21, which includes common areas used by all organizations and normal police areas.

Clean up for all units except the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School runs from April 22 to 28 and OMMS clean up is April 29 to May 5.

Garden equipment, trash bags, grass seed and fertilizer are available in the Re-Nu-It Centers, building 5413 (Aberdeen Area) and building E-5185 (Edgewood Area).

The Directorate of Installation Operations will pick up trash and leaves, April 21 starting at 7 a.m. Tree and bush trimmings and yard waste should be placed on the curb the night before.

Emphasis for clean up

Senior area coordinators and area coordinators are responsible for clean-up operations in the housing areas. All areas will be raked, edged, trimmed and eliminated of trash and debris. Curbs and pavement will have grass removed from cracks.

In non-housing areas, clean up is the responsibility of units assigned to the police areas.

Equipment issue

Equipment for installation housing areas issued April 14 must be returned by noon, April 21.

Equipment issued to non-OMMS units on April 22 must be returned by noon, April 28.

OMMS units issued equipment on April 29 must return it by May 6.

Personnel and residents should contact their area coordinators or unit representative for more information.

KUSAHC services

A Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic representative reported that with the majority of rotation commitments completed, and the facility regaining about 60 percent of normal operation, patrons are asked to remain patient as providers make every effort to serve them in a timely manner.

DFAS Commissary

The post commissary will close Easter Sunday. A block party in conjunction with the Post Exchange will be held May 15 to 17. Units desiring large amounts of water or supplies should apply 24 hours in advance.

Heat pumps discussed

In response to several inquiries, Gary Testerman, Directorate of Installation Operations, briefed on the geothermal heat pump units now used in the housing areas, handed out flyers to explain the new fixtures, and recommended reminders be mounted near the unit controls inside homes.

After much discussion it was determined that residents need to be better informed about operating the pump properly.

Army Community Service

Celestine Beckett, director ACS, reported that the ACS Yellow Ribbon campaign continues, the community information forum, formerly the newcomers briefing, is April 24, at the Post Recreation Center, and the Army Family Action Plan Forum is set for June 9 to 11.

Beckett said that more than 60 organizations will be on hand for the briefing. Mark encouraged anyone with less than six months at APG to attend.

Public safety

With the reemergence of spiders and ticks that can cause serious illnesses and death, employees and resident are encouraged to learn prevention and first aid.

Stockpile drawing down

Representatives from the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility detailed the start of the accelerated disposal of the Edgewood Area mustard agent stockpile.

Miguel Monteverde, public outreach manager for Bectel Aberdeen, presented displays and explained the accelerated process. Monteverde said at the projected rate, the stockpile would be eliminated two years before originally scheduled.

"Work accelerated rapidly after Sept. 11," Monteverde said, adding that the EA facility has undergone "extensive tests to ensure safety," over the past several weeks.

He explained that at first the facility will process only one container of mustard agent at a time to ensure the operation is sound.

"At full speed, we will handle 12 containers in a 24-hour period," he said.

A major change to the original plan is the shipment of the byproduct of neutralization, called hydrolysate, to the Dupont treatment facility in New Jersey.

Monteverde said the hydrolysate is made up of 92 percent water, seven percent tiodiglycol, a chemical found in pens and paints, and a small amount of salt, minerals and organic compounds.

The disposal facility expects to transport the hydrolysate several times a day in special tanker truck from a fleet with drivers contracted to remain throughout the project.

"We anticipate an October/September timeframe to finish with the live agent, then address the containers. Employees and residents should expect to see these trucks periodically," Monteverde said. "We are very pleased that Maryland will be the first of eight states to have their stockpiles eliminated."

Questions and concerns from the floor included communicating plans to area schools.

Monteverde said the office maintains a continuous dialogue with local schools and works hand-in-hand with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program to keep the community informed.

Mark encouraged all to visit or call the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office for more information. at 410-676-6800.

The next CAC will be held May 15, 1 p.m. in the Garrison Conference Room, building 305.

Chapel notes

Morning prayers and reflections

Bible readings, reflection and prayer will be held Monday mornings through May 19, 6:30 to 7 a.m., at the Aberdeen Area Chapel.

For more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Ernest L. Vermont, Garrison chaplain, 410-278-4333.

PWOC offers Bible studies

The APG Protestant Women of the

Chapel invite everyone to attend Bible Study every Monday at 7 p.m., or every Thursday at 9 a.m.

On Monday, study Joyce Meyer's, Battlefield of the Mind, Winning the Battle in Your Mind. On Thursday, choose from four new Bible Studies: Restore My Heart, by Denise Glenn; Professionalizing Motherhood, by Jill Savage; Calm My Anxious Heart, by Linda Dillow; or Fruit of the Spirit, by Beth Moore.

Child care is provided on Thursday mornings, but not available on Monday evenings. These studies do not meet on federal holidays or when the schools are closed due to inclement weather.

For more information, call the APG Chapel at 410-278-4333.

Organist/choir director needed

The Edgewood Chapel Protestant

Congregation is in need of an organist/choir director for the 9:15 a.m. Sunday morning service and weekly Wednesday evening choir practices.

The successful candidate will be able to meet the logistical, administrative and programming needs of the Protestant religious musical program. This is a contract position.

For more information, call the APG Chapel, 410-278-4333.

Win \$300 for Mother's Day essay contest

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

Each participant must write an essay of 500 words or less entitled, "Why My Mother Should be Honored on Mother's Day." The contest is open to all active duty enlisted personnel assigned to the greater Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area through May 11. Essays will be judged on originality, thoughtfulness and content.

All entries must be submitted by April 18 to: USO-Metro, Attn: Essay Contest, Bldg 405, 228 McNair Road, Ft. Myer, VA 22211.

Upon request, non-winning essays can be forwarded to the entrants' mother so entrants should include their mother's home address with their entry.

The winner of the contest will be awarded a \$300 cash prize and receive two round trip airfare tickets to the Washington-Baltimore area from any major airport in the continental United States, for his/her mother and guest.

On May 11, the winner, his/her mother and guest will be recognized at the annual USO-Metro Mother's Day celebration. Hotel accommodations and limousine transportation will be provided.

The winner will be notified on April 22. For more information, call 703-696-2552

OCS

From front page

Each application should consist of one packet containing all original documents, and three photocopies of the original packet.

Additional information may be found in Army Regulation 351-5 (Officer Candidate School) or the OCS Web page <http://www.armyocs.com/home/>.

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

APG Catholic Community Lenten schedule

Lenten schedule

Aberdeen Area Chapel

APG Catholic Community

April 17, 11:45 a.m.

Holy Thursday mass

April 18, 11:45 a.m.

Good Friday service

April 20, 8:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday mass

APG Protestant Community

April 6, 10:15 a.m.,

Children's Easter Program

April 13, 10:15 a.m.

Palm Sunday Cantata/Service

April 17, 6:30 p.m.,

Living Last Supper



April 20, 10:15 a.m.,

Easter Sunday Worship Service

Gospel Community

20 April, 12:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship Service

Edgewood Area Chapel

APG Catholic Community

April 17, 7 p.m.

Holy Thursday mass

April 18, 11:45 a.m.

Good Friday mass

April 19

Easter vigil, 8 p.m.

April 20, 10:45 a.m.

Easter Sunday mass

Ecumenical Community

April 20, 7 a.m., Edgewood Area

Sunrise Service McBride Field

April 18, noon, Grace United Methodist

Church, Aberdeen

Good Friday Ecumenical Service

LEAVE DONATION

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within

agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). Employees leaving the program should contact Ronda McKinney, 410-278-8988, to complete a termination form.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Mary A Banaszak
Fay Walker Banker (hip replacement)
Mildred T. Becker (surgery)
Marian Bellis
(fracture of left tibia)
Gretchen E. Blethen
Robert J. Boonstoppel (surgery)
(liver transplant)
Tammy Budkey
Jane E. Calahan (surgery)
Patricia D. Choate
Geraldine S. Cragg

Dawn M. Crouse (surgery)
Rene de Pontbriand
Messina Enderlein
Wayne Erb (wife is ill)
Patty Gibson
Edgar W. Greer
Fern L. Hitchcock (surgery)
Melanie A. Hoffman
(parasinusitis, fibromyalgia condition)
Stephen Howard (bone marrow transplant)
Beverly King (caring for husband)

William Klein
Anita L Koller (care for husband)
Carrie L. Lambert
Angela R. Little (neck and shoulder injury)
William B. McLean (kidney failure)
John E. Mogan (surgery)
Calvin E. Peake
Karen S Pense
Mary E. Pettitway
Linda M. D. Queen
Michael Reynolds (care of

mother)
Cheryl L. Roark
Teresa L. Shores
Jorja V. Thomas-Murcia
Sandra M. Wachter (surgery)
Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant)
Ludilina O. Valarao (surgery) (brain tumor removed)
Wanda L. Waldon (surgery)
*Colleen Waller (care for elderly parents)

For information about donating annual leave, call Ronda McKinney at 410-278-8988 or fax 410-278-7652. (*An asterisk indicates employees working at the APG office of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory. Call Susan Goldberg, 301-394-1080, regarding ARL employees.)

Army News

Army to merge PERSCOM, Army Reserve Personnel Command

Army News Service

The Army announced April 9 that it will create a single command to perform the functions of the current U.S. Total Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, Va., and U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command in St. Louis, Mo.

PERSCOM and AR-PERSCOM will retain their respective names and unit insignia until a date to be determined, Army officials said.

The new command will integrate the two existing organizations as a multi-component field operating agency under the Army G-1. The Army National Guard will integrate functions, where possible, and the Civilian Personnel Operations Center Management Agency will realign into this FOA at a later date, officials said.

The merger is a result of a recommendation from an Army-level Human Resources Integrated Process Team, or HRIPT, that convened last year. That task force made several recommendations affecting FOA-level operational support that have since been approved by Army Secretary Thomas White.

In February, the G-1 directed the establishment of a multi-component task force to oversee the implementation of the secretary's decision. The Human Resources Transition Task Force will "concentrate on process re-engineering to support mergers and re-alignment," said Lt. Gen. John Le Moyné, the deputy chief of staff, G-1.

The HRIPT recommendations are far-reaching, complex, and involve the active Army, Army Reserve, National Guard, civilian employees and contractors, Le Moyné said.

"This will have long-lasting impacts on our Army's future and our support operations," Le Moyné said of the merger. "This is not an easy task."

"The organizational realignment of PERSCOM and AR-PERSCOM is a historical milestone in Army Transformation," said Lt. Gen. James Helmly, the chief of Army Reserve. "This integration will serve as the foundation for changing the manner in which we care for the Army's most valuable resource and foundation, its people."

"We are excited about the opportunities this realignment represents and will work energetically to fully realize the immense potential improvement this will bring," Helmly said.

"We see a tremendous opportunity to improve the quality of personnel support to our soldiers, families and civilian workforce as we transform the Human Resource functions of our Army," said Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, the director of the Army National Guard. "We believe we can team where appropriate and integrate some of the personnel systems of all Army components to improve customer service while at the same time protecting the state control of our Army National Guard as exercised by the governors and state adjutants general."

"Establishing a single command for civilian personnel opera-

tions will allow for more efficient and effective servicing of the Army's workforce," said David Snyder, the assistant G1 for Civilian Personnel Policy. "While we will face many challenges in making this change, the hard work ahead is the right thing to do for all Army civilian employees worldwide."

"This is an opportunity to demonstrate we are 'The Army' and a step closer to being on the objective when the Objective Force arrives," said Maj. Gen. Dorian T. Anderson, executive agent for the effort, during a discussion with the HR Transition Task Force.

The HRTTF will plan and execute actions related to postal operations, personnel and civilian pay functions, and other human resource functions.

Other human resource realignments include: realigning Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers and Civilian Personnel Operations Centers under CPOCMA, and consolidating policy and operations from all Senior Executive Service personnel under the assistant secretary of the Army (Manpower & Reserve Affairs).

More information on the merger is available at <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/hrc>.

(Editor's note: Information taken from a Department of the Army news release.)

Captain promotion pin-on point increased to 40 months

Bruce Anderson
Army News Service

The Army has raised the time-in-service requirement for promotion to captain from 38 months back to 40 months, effective April 1.

With the increase, the Army begins an incremental return to the 42-month requirement that existed prior to October.

"The higher requirement provides more time for junior officers to prepare for the responsibilities associated with the rank of captain," said Maj. Patrick T. Budjenska, personnel policy integrator.

In October, the Army started promoting officers to captain after only 38 months of service. The Fiscal Year 2002 Defense Authorization Act authorized the promotions after 36 months, but the Army opted for 38 months to give junior officers as much training as possible before promoting them to captain.

This accelerated promotion was one facet of the Army's campaign to alleviate a shortage of captains. The shortage was the result of an under-accession of lieutenants in the early 1990s, which was compounded by attrition during the booming economy of the late 1990s, said personnel officials.

The Army can begin the move back to longer development for its lieutenants because it has

exceeded its goal for the number of captains on active duty.

In the six months since reducing the pin-on point to 38 months, 700 more captains elected to remain in the service than was the case in previous years.

While stop-loss has contributed in a minor way to the increase of the Army's overall officer strength, the major causes for the increase in the number of captains are the accelerated promotion of first lieutenants, lower attrition rates among captains, and an increase in the number of captains returning to active duty.

"Officers are foregoing opportunities offered in the civilian job market to remain in the Army and contribute to securing our country," Budjenska said.

Commanders also had a lot to do with many of the officers' decision to remain on active duty, Budjenska said.

"The increase in retention can be attributed to mentorship and counseling by commanders and leaders at all levels," Budjenska said.

One other factor in the increase in the number of captains is a marked increase in those who previously separated from the Army and have elected to return to active duty. Since the end of fiscal year 2001, more than 200 captains have returned to active duty.

Three Armed Forces hotels in Europe to close early

Harriet E. Rice
Army News Service

Three Armed Forces Recreation Center hotels in Germany - two at Lake Chiemsee and one in Garmisch - will close a year earlier than planned, Army officials announced.

Remaining AFRC-Europe facilities in Garmisch will stay open while the new 330-room hotel on Sheridan Kaserne is under construction and proceeding on schedule to open in October 2004, when the Army originally planned to end all operations in Chiemsee and the hotel operations in Garmisch.

"Because of the world situation, we've had to adjust our operations," said Pete Isaacs, chief operating officer at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, which operates four Armed Forces

Recreation Centers.

"Many of our customers in Europe are deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom and their families are taking care of business at home. Understandably, vacations are on hold. As a result, current and predicted occupancy has fallen dramatically," Isaacs said.

The Von Steuben Hotel in Garmisch will close on April 15. The Chiemsee Lake and Park Hotels will remain open through Labor Day and close permanently Sept. 2. This will allow for a full summer of Lake Chiemsee operations, which will be heavily promoted for those who look forward to one last chance to enjoy the lakeside resort, officials said.

"We know this is a disappointment to those who love Lake Chiemsee, but we can't continue to operate at a substantial financial loss," said

Isaacs, who was stationed in Germany while on active duty and is well aware of the sentiments attached to the historic hotel and grounds.

Another factor that impacts operations is increased force protection, which also tends to reduce vacation travel.

"And we've had to deal with a 19-percent devaluation of the dollar against the Euro, which is the currency used to pay for 50 percent of our operating expenses," Isaacs added.

Like the other three AFRCs in Orlando, Hawaii and Korea, money to sustain operations and fund new construction is derived from customer income. None of the AFRC hotels are funded with taxpayer dollars, officials said, explaining that they must be financially self-sufficient.

The closures will reduce
See HOTELS, page 14

Country hit inspired in Afghanistan sparks controversy

Lee Elder
Army News Service

A December trip to Afghanistan gave country singer Darryl Worley a renewed appreciation for America's Army along with a chance to see the frontlines of the nation's war on terrorism. It also provided him with the inspiration for what might be a new hit song.

A DreamWorks recording artist, Worley released the single "Have You Forgotten?" on Feb. 24. The song is already taking off on country radio, but that's not why Worley said he penned the song along with Wynn Varble.

"It was on my heart to do something to honor those guys since I got home," Worley said. "I needed a way to say, 'This is what I experienced.'"

"I'm on a mission. I knew I had to come back and do this." Worley said he hopes the song will make Americans better appreciate their Army.

"Our soldiers are the best," Worley said. "They do great things every day that people never know about, but they don't care."

"I just thought it was time somebody spoke out for them." Worley, 38, had never been overseas prior to his USO tour to Afghanistan. He said the trip he made with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley and others gave him a new sense for the rigors of military life.

"The whole experience completely changed my life," Worley said. "That's what this is all about. It's all about those soldiers."

The song's bridge pays homage to the soldiers serving in harm's way.

It says, "I've been there with the soldiers who've gone away to war/And you can bet that they remember just what they're fighting for."

The song is also very outspoken. It has even been called a pro-war song.

It's a charge Worley flatly denies. He said he was concerned that the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks were starting to fade in the public's memory.

"I don't want to forget it as long as we live," Worley said. "When we forget about these things, that's when we become vulnerable again."

"We can't get too comfortable and let our guard down. There [are] quite a few people who would like to see the United States crumble and fall."

Worley said the song was not aimed at those who oppose U.S. action in Iraq. He acknowledged the song could be a risky career move.

"I'm not doing this to come against other people," Worley explained. "I'm not trying to create a huge controversy. At the

same time, I'm not trying to be politically correct.

"It's a message people need to hear. I don't think we accomplish anything unless go out on a limb and take some risks."

The week since the new single was released was a busy one for Worley. He is gearing for a summer on the road that will promote his new album which will be called, "Have You Forgotten?"

Just two days earlier, Worley had been featured in USA Today and that same morning he did a live interview on NBC's Today Show. Later in the evening, he was scheduled to appear with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist at a Nashville pro-America rally.

Worley worked his way into the industry playing in bars and honky tonks on weekends while working jobs ranging from a contractor to a school teacher. The Savannah, Tenn., native burst onto the country music scene in 2001 with the release of his debut album, "Hard Rain Don't Last."

The album netted the 6-foot-6 Worley a Top 10 single, "Good Day To Run," while three other singles got extensive airplay.

Last year, Worley scored his first No. 1 single with the title cut from his current album, "I Miss My Friend."

The trip to Afghanistan was just the latest in Worley's association with the U.S. Army.

In June 2001, Worley and fellow country music singer Craig Morgan performed tandem jumps with the Army's Golden Knights at Fort Campbell, Ky. The pair also impressed soldiers at Fort Campbell's Sabalauski Air Assault School with their agility on the school's obstacle course.

"I had forgotten about that," Worley laughingly recalled. "Where I come from, we do that kind of stuff for fun."

Worley has also visited Army recruiters in central Kentucky where he recorded a public service announcement.

After returning from Afghanistan, Worley debuted "Have You Forgotten?" on WSM-AM radio's "Grand Ole Opry" broadcast.

The response was immediate from both the crowds and the Opry's huge radio and Internet audience.

"He hit a chord with the song," said a WSM staff member. "We got calls immediately requesting we play the record and people wanted to know where they could buy it."

"It's gotten a tremendous response." Radio stations around the nation have responded similarly, according to Scott Borchetta, DreamWorks' senior executive of promotions and artist development. He predicted the single could be a Top 20 song during its first full week of release.

"It's extremely rare these days," Borchetta said. "They are treating this like a superstar release. 'This is extremely huge.'"

While some stations have given the label negative feedback, Borchetta said the overwhelming majority of feedback has been

enthusiastic. A music industry veteran, he likened the record's response to chart-toppers from the past by the likes of George Strait, Reba McEntyre and Toby Keith.

"The kind of airplay we are getting immediately is unbelievable," Borchetta said.

There's a reason for the impassioned response, Borchetta said. "One of the reasons the song is so captivating is that it conjures up how people felt on 9-11 right up front and center," Borchetta said. "It was crystal clear when they saw those planes going into the building."

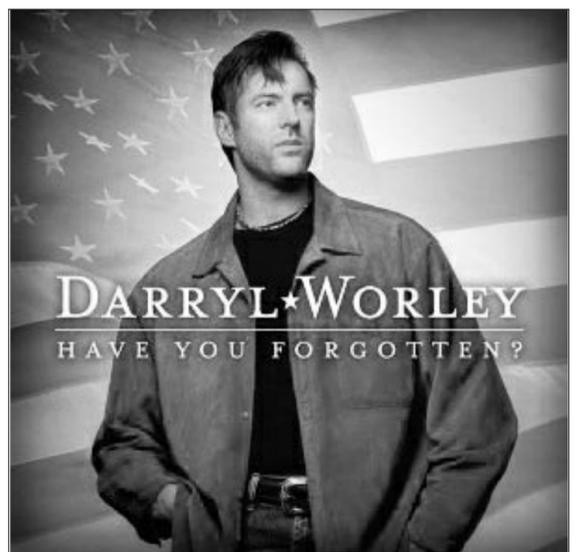
"It's like, 'Hey guys this wasn't just movie-of-the-week stuff.' It really choked a lot of people up."

Worley was philosophical when acknowledging the furor "Have You Forgotten?" could bring.

"If this were to end my career and I had to go back home and build houses, what a way to go out," Worley said. "If I go out standing up for the people who make this country what it is, that suits me fine."

"I don't have any fear, though, because I have confidence in this nation."

Editor's Note: (Lee Elder is a member of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command public affairs team.)





Sgt. Ann Mazur admires a red, white and blue banner wishing her well that hangs outside the front office at Providence Elementary School.



Kelsey Wagner, right, a sixth grader at Providence Elementary School in Fairfax, Va., shows Sgt. Ann Mazur, left, one of several yellow ribbons she and friends tied to trees on the school property to honor Mazur, a teacher who is currently activated with the 400th Military Police Battalion from Fort Meade, and is in training on Aberdeen Proving Ground for pending duty supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Teacher

From page 2

She highlighted her point by reading remarks Mazur's students wrote to her in response to her pending deployment. "I miss you so much. You must have a lot of courage to do this," one remark read. "You should stuff me in your duffel bag," read another. And Hanbury's favorite, "You're doing the right thing but sometimes the right thing stinks." Mazur accepted the award, accompanied by close friends, Jon Hurd and Diane Willen. In a moving tribute to Mazur, Kelsey Wagner, an 11-year old sixth-grader, initiated a yellow ribbon campaign in which trees on the school property were decorated with ribbons in honor of Mazur and the rest of the nation's armed forces. Wagner presented flowers to Mazur on behalf of the student body.

"I just felt we needed to do something," Wagner said. "We all will miss having her here." Florence B. Marsh, the group's president, remarked that award recipients must be educators who excel in personal and professional development. "Personally and professionally, she is most deserving of this award," Marsh said. Before departing the city, Mazur stopped at the school for a final goodbye to her students. They were thrilled as she joined them in song during their chorus class and mobbed her with kisses and hugs. "This is what it's all about," Mazur said. "I loved these kids and want the best for them. They pick up on that and it shows in their work." Of her military responsibility, Mazur said she has no problem with it. "It comes with the uniform," she said. "My life will still be here for me when I get back, though I will miss all 100 of my kids." The 400th Military Police Battalion is from Fort Meade, Md. Elements of the unit include the 352nd MP Company from

Rockville, Md. An Optimist Club is a voluntary organization of civic-minded people banded together for progressive thought and action in community service. Membership, which is by invitation only, is composed of citizens from business, industry, agriculture, and the professions. Members are committed to contribute to the community in which they and their families live. Optimists throughout the U.S. budget millions of dollars thousands of youth and community service projects annually, serving more than 3,000,000 young people each year. Club services include Youth Appreciation Week, held in November, when Optimist clubs recognize the positive achievements of youths in society; the Oratorical Contest, one of the largest of its kind in the U.S. and Canada in which one boy and one girl from each district wins \$ 1,000 scholarships each year; and the Essay Contest, which is designed to sharpen high school students' writing skill, district winners are awarded an expense-paid trip to a specially developed seminar held at Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge. For more information about Optimist International or to locate an Optimist Club, check the Web site <http://optimist.org>.

'To Our Soldiers' provides direct link to GIs

Bruce Anderson
Army News Service

The Army has established a new Web link that makes it easier to send a greeting to soldiers serving in the War on Terrorism. The link, called "To Our Soldiers," is on the Army HomePage. People interested in sending a message to a soldier can also access the program directly at <http://www.army.mil/tooursoldiers/messages/1.html>. While similar Web sites for sending messages to service members in general already exist, there was no way to send a message specifically to someone in the Army. "This link gives people a way to be connected directly to soldiers," said Lt. Col. Mark H. Wiggins, Web director for the Army HomePage. "To Our Soldiers" was launched the night of April 8 and enjoyed immediate resonance. Within minutes of being launched, more than 20

messages were received, and by morning, the number of messages was more than 200, Wiggins said. "The numbers are not the important thing," Wiggins said. "What is important is providing the capability for people to get their message to soldiers." "To Our Soldiers" is designed for posting a message to an individual soldier or to a group, but is not designed to be a letter writing service, instant-messaging service, e-mail service, bulletin board or general chat service. Each message is viewed individually, and may be edited or deleted if the content violates operational security, privacy or propriety. (Editor's note: Army HomePage is the preferred spelling and usage for the Army's official Web site.)

Corporate donations go to soldiers' families

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

At least two companies are aiding deployed troops by honoring the sacrifices of their family members with donations of gifts and volunteer hours. Mary Kay Cosmetics has donated items such as sun block and lip balm to troops through their families and Home Depot has pledged household repairs. Home Depot pledged \$1 million and 1 million volunteer hours to make general household repairs for the loved ones of deployed troops. "Project Homefront" was first organized to assist the family members of the more than 1,700 Home Depot employees that have been mobilized, but since has been extended to include family members of all deployed active-duty military. Extending the project was made possible officials said by a partnership that includes "Rebuilding Together," a volunteer organization that restores low-income houses and communities, and USA Freedom Corps, a White House council that's working to get more Americans to volunteer. Not only is Home Depot willing to help with general home repairs, the company is adorning homes with military memorabilia. Blue Star Service Banners, which were designed in 1917 to be displayed by families who have loved ones serving in the Armed Forces, will be given to each of Home Depot's 1,700 mobilized employees. Each blue star represents one family member serving in the Armed Forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signify-

ing that five members of that family are currently on active duty. For more information on Project Homefront and Blue Star Service Banners, visit <http://www.projecthomefront.org/>. Mary Kay Cosmetics could not send tubes of shaving cream, sun block, lip balm and lotion to the troops in Kuwait because of mailing restrictions to safeguard against terrorist threats. However, the company shipped 60,000 items to family members at the 3rd Infantry Division rear at Fort Stewart, Ga. The Georgian infantrymen are in one of the units currently occupying Baghdad, and they have captured thousands of enemy forces, including key members in the Special Republican Guard. "How could we do anything less for these troops?" said Michael Lunceford, Mary Kay's senior vice president for government relations. "I'm a sponge for news, and I could see that the 3rd ID was going to be the tip of the spear going into Baghdad." This is the second Gulf War where Mary Kay has made contributions. In 1991 50,000 tubes of sunscreen were delivered to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and then later transported to the Persian Gulf, Lunceford said. On April 3 donations rolled onto Fort Stewart in an 18-wheeler tractor-trailer, which brought on "shock and awe" for some onlookers. "I was so impressed with Mary Kay's desire to want to do something for the families that have been left behind," said Susan Wilder, the mobilization, deploy-

ment manager for the local Army Community Service. "As a military spouse, I know that sometimes we're forgotten, and this donation was so sweet." The gifts will be given to families in the form of goodie bags, Wilder said. Spouses will most likely share the gifts by sending some items to the front lines, she said. Only family members and close friends of deployed troops are able to send mail to Kuwait or surrounding countries, and programs that allowed the general public to send mail addressed to "Any Service Member" were cancelled more than a year ago after anthrax hit the mail. However, an Army contractor who wanted to help end boredom for soldiers in Kuwait was able to get temporary assistance from the American Red Cross. James Kratzer, a contractor at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory in White Sands Missile Range, N.M., enlisted the help of some of his colleagues and started "Paperbacks for Troops." "It became obvious they were bored at times," said Kratzer. "The soldiers spent most of their time cleaning their rifles or playing cards, but there was nothing for them to read. That planted a seed in my mind." After collecting 3,500 books, the Red Cross delivered half of them to Camp Doha, Kuwait. The rest of the shipment has been curtailed to allow existing military support carriers to focus on combat-specific shipments, said an official from the American Red Cross.

Automated system tracks 2,100 deployed civilians

Bruce Anderson
Army News Service

More than 2,100 civilians are now deployed in support of contingency operations around the world, and the Army's new automated civilian tracking system, CIVTRACKS, is keeping track of their location. CIVTRACKS maintains data on employees such as their deployed location, the operations being supported, dates of deployment and redeployment, and information on who is entering the data. The deployed civilians being tracked by the system include nearly 900 Army employees and more than

1,200 non-Army employees, such as contractors, Red Cross employees and AAFES workers, Feagins said. The Army implemented CIVTRACKS May 31, 2002, to overcome a need that was identified after Desert Storm, Feagins said. CIVTRACKS was designed primarily to capture data on deployed Army Appropriated Fund and Non-appropriated Fund employees and Red Cross employees, Feagins said. He said the system now also is being used to track deployed contractors and deployed employees from other Department of Defense agencies. If some health hazard is determined to be associated with a specif-

ic deployment, Feagins said the tracking system helps the Army know who was in the area at the time in question. The program is Web-based, and allows input of the tracking data from any location where there is Internet access. Employees must log onto a Web site and input data each time they change duty location during the deployment. This requirement includes the initial move from the employee's home station. Officials at the employee's home station, the Continental United States Replacement Center and the deployed location are required to ensure the input of data into CIV-

TRACKS, Feagins said. The employee's home station is required to give the employee a logon user ID and password for the system. Deploying personnel may receive a wallet-size deployment card with their CIVTRACKS user ID, password and related instructions. Deployment cards should also be available at the CRC and in theaters of operations for employees already deployed. An alternate source for the same information printed on the cards is the Army Knowledge Online Web site. The information is posted in the AKO Collaboration Center, under the "Civilian Personnel" Community.

CIVTRACKS generates a number of standard reports based on the inputted data. The reports allow officials at the major commands and higher to see the data sorted by country, operation or MACOM. The Army's long-term plan for the system includes using the Common Access Card as the input tool, Feagins said. Eventually, he said, employees will be able to swipe their card upon departure from one location and upon arrival at the next. The swipe of the card should cause the transmission of all the required information back to a centralized, headquarters Department of Army database.



Kati Haggard, 10, paints the dowels that will be placed on the ends of the gold star flag she's making in honor of Deago Rincon, her former gymnastics coach and the first fatality of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Elaine Valentin is the founder of 'A Military Wife,' an organization that brought back the tradition of 'Sons in Service Flag.'

Flags

From front page

MCSC in 2001. Another member, Melanie Galinger, knew of Valentin's organization and offered assistance from the MCSC.

Starting from scratch, the women formed an assembly line of ironing, measuring, cutting and sewing to complete the flags, also known as 'Sons in Service Flags.'

"It takes about two hours to complete the blue star flags and more than five hours to complete the gold star flags," Valentin said.

The participants performed chosen duties in the spirit of camaraderie.

Cheryl Bester, MCSC member, expressed her reason for participating in such an event.

"It is an opportunity to keep our arms around the people who serve our country. This is the only way we can show our support," said Bester.

Kati Haggard, 10, from Atlanta, Ga., was visiting APG and heard about the event. She said she wanted to make a flag for her gymnastics coach, Diego Fernando Rincon, 19, from Stewart, Ga., who was killed after a car bomb exploded at an Army checkpoint. He was one of the first fatalities of Operation Iraqi Freedom, she said.

Her mother, Sherri said Rincon joined the service after 9-11.

"Kati is excited because of helping out," Sherri said. "He was one of the first that died and she is making a flag and dedicating it to his family."

As the volunteers worked, they shared stories about retirees, veterans or spouses currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"My husband's unit is deployed. It means a lot to me to be able to come out and do this," said Liz Schreckhise. "It's a small contribution in the big pool of things."

By day's end, nearly 100 flags were completed and another 100 cut out.

According to Valentin, each flag costs about \$33 to assemble, just in materials.

She said she got the idea to make the flags when her grandfather tried to locate the medals he earned while in the service. She said it was a long paper trail with the Department of the Army, and by the time it was sorted out, her grandfather had passed

away.

During her search she came across information about service flags. In honor of her husband, who is active duty, and her grandfather, she decided to make flags for immediate family and friends.

"I researched the Internet, found out the sizes, colors and legalities of flags and contacted the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and they gave me verbal approval," Valentin said.

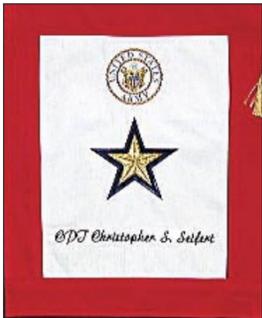
She said the OSD asked her how far she would be willing to go with the project and she told them as far as necessary.

"I will sell the blue stars and donate the gold stars," Valentin said.

As a result, Operation Gold Star Flags was born.

Valentin said that as Operation Iraqi Freedom continued, it inspired her to increase the output, thus calling for assistance from military wives.

Individuals interested in helping, can write to MCSC, c/o Operation Gold Star Flags, 2806-A McCloskey Rd., Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005 or for more information visit the Aberdeen Proving Ground Military and Civilian Spouses Club at www.apgmcsc.org.



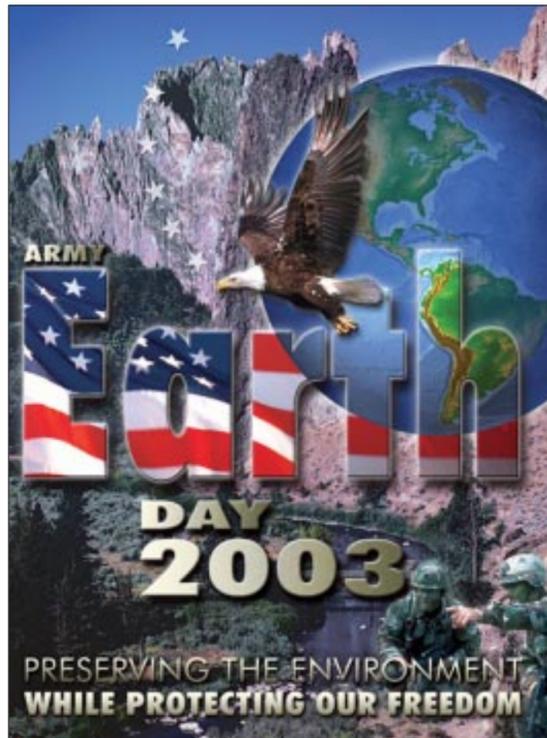
Harford County Earth Day April 19

The Harford County Earth Day 2003 celebration will take place on April 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Swan Harbor Farm, 401 Oakington Road, located approximately two miles past Roye-Williams Elementary School in Havre de Grace.

Some of the organizations from Aberdeen Proving Ground scheduled to exhibit at this year's event are the U.S. Army APG Environmental Cleanup Program, Aberdeen Test Center and the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office.

Sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation, the event is open to the public and will be held rain or shine.

More than 30 earth-friendly booths will be featured along with kids' activities, live entertainment, nature walks, a tree planting, seedling giveaways, food and a scholarship award presentation. The Upper Western Shore Tributary Team will be



available to answer questions about the environment.

Offering fun for all, organizers are hoping for another

successful earth day.

For more information, call Swan Harbor Farm, 410-939-6767.

Hotels

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the number of available AFRC-Europe guest rooms from 343 to 119.

"During peak seasons, if we need additional rooms, guests will be referred to commercial hotels in Garmisch at rates comparable to those of the AFRC hotel," said Isaacs.

In Garmisch, the Patton Hotel, the Alpenblick Golf Course, the outdoor recreation equipment checkout

center, tours, and the campground will remain in operation.

The adjustment will also affect dozens of employees, who will be separated with severance pay or provided return transportation to the United States in accordance with personnel policy, officials said.

"We deeply regret having to separate employees, both Germans and U.S. citizens, who so capably and enthusiastically serve the customers of AFRC Europe," Isaacs said. "We will do everything possible to assist them with their relocation needs. I am

confident that our new hotel will achieve the kinds of operating efficiency and customer appeal that will ensure financial stability to support the military community stationed in the European theater of the future," he said.

The Armed Forces Recreation Centers are open to all Department of Defense ID-card holders, active duty, reserve component, retirees and their families.

(Editor's note: Harriet Rice is the public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va.)