

## POST SHORTS

### Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Sept. 3, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

### Holiday closings

Both Re-Nu-It Centers will be closed for Labor Day weekend, Aug. 29 and 30.

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will observe a training holiday on Aug. 29. There will be limited staff to handle acute appointments only between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. For nurse triage scheduling, call 410-278-1751.

KUSAHC will also be closed on Sept. 1.

The Post Theater will be closed Aug. 29 through 31.

### Medical clinics to close early Sept. 5

On Sept. 5, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic (including the Pharmacy), the Edgewood Troop Medical Clinic, the Dental Clinic, and the Veterinary Clinic will close at noon for their annual organization day. All clinics will open at the regularly scheduled time and the Edgewood Troop Medical Clinic will remain open in a limited capacity to support the post chemical mission.

### RAB meeting scheduled

The Installation Restoration Program is holding its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting Aug. 28, 7 to 9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road.

The topics will include updates on the Westwood Study Area and the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. 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.

### DSHE will sample water in EA

During the week of Sept. 7, Aberdeen Proving Ground will conduct lead and copper sampling throughout the Edgewood Area.

Lead and copper sampling of the water distribution system is mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Cooperation and assistance is vital to completing this task.

The Directorate of  
**See SHORTS, page 4**

# Dump truck snags line and pole

Story and photo by  
**Yvonne Johnson**  
APG News

A powerline and a telephone pole were slightly damaged during an altercation with a dump truck on the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aug. 18.

While offloading a load of gravel for a parking lot under construction on Schaefer Road, Paul Tuckel Sr., a contractor with Dixie Construction, pulled forward between two telephone poles with the bed of the truck still raised.

The bed caught the two lower wires stretching as the truck rolled forward, causing one phone pole to lean at a precarious angle.

When Tuckel heard what he described as "a loud scraping noise," he stopped the vehicle and got out to see what had happened.

"I didn't know what it was at first," the shaken driver said. "I saw power lines to my left but I thought they were back too far. As soon as I heard the noise, I stopped."

Emergency responders from the EA police and fire department were on the scene within minutes, cutting off traffic to the area while Directorate of Installation Operations personnel surveyed the damage and determined repair procedures.

"The line crews will have to kill power to this area before the truck can be moved," said Capt. John Robinson, EA fire chief.

He said the power loss would affect "the entire



A dump truck from Dixie Construction sits in place after damaging power lines and causing a telephone pole to lean near Schaefer Road on the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aug. 18.

block," but that it would only be for a short time.

"Our units will remain in place until the truck is out of there," Robinson said.

The installation experiences three or four incidents a year involving power lines, he

added.

"It's not that unusual. People just forget the powerlines are there," Robinson said.

High voltage electrician Rick Phillips was one of several DIO employees who

responded to the accident site.

"Luckily the ground is wet and there's a high water table here so the pole just leaned," Phillips said. "Otherwise, it might have broken off. We'll just straighten it up and tap it back in."

He said that while the telephone and cable lines, which sit lower on the pole, might have suffered some damage in the mishap, the high voltage lines, which run above the lower two, were untouched.

## Two awarded Soldier's Medals for heroism

### E.C. Starnes

U.S. Army Ordnance Corps

Two soldiers were honored Aug. 12 for their heroic efforts 15 months prior that saved the lives of a married couple involved in a fiery car crash.

Maj. David Jones and Staff Sgt. Paul Cottingham were presented with the Soldier's Medal, the highest peacetime award for heroism, for their bravery at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Ball Conference Center by Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, the Army's chief of Ordnance.

"Here in the Home of the Brave, these are the brave," Stevenson said. He noted that personal courage is one of the values of the U.S. Army and the two were examples of

courage at work. "It took a lot of guts to do what they did."

"The real heroes are in combat right now," Jones said, who is assigned to the Command and Staff Department of the Ordnance Center and Schools.

Cottingham, from the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion, echoed Jones' thoughts. "The real heroes are risking their lives right now."

The story sounds like a script right out of a television show — a burning car, people trapped inside, a tanker full of a hazardous liquid, and four strangers that immediately stopped to render aid.

But for Ed and Jo Ann Schaffer it was all too real. Driving near the junction of

**See HEROISM, page 9**

## West Nile Virus: Are you at risk?

### Erica Bamgbopa

Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

You are standing in the backyard, eating barbecue chicken, chatting with friends and family, having a good time. Meanwhile, a female Culex pipiens mosquito is looking for her next meal — blood. She needs the protein to produce several hundred eggs.

She bites; you scratch your arm. A few days later, you have a fever, headache and body aches; typical symptoms of the flu. You visit your doctor and the diagnosis is a mild form of West Nile Virus. Your doctor treats the symptoms, and a few days later, you feel as good as new.

Until preventative measures like vaccines are discovered, surveillance and common sense are the best course of action to avoid infective mosquito bites.

"We try to make everyone aware of the disease and where it exists," said Lt. Cmdr. Gary Tetreault, medical entomologist at the Naval Environmental Health Center, Portsmouth, Va.

Most people bitten by an infected mosquito never experience symptoms, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Twenty percent of those who do get bitten

experience flu-like symptoms.

In rare, severe cases, the disease can be life threatening with symptoms including high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis.

People over 50, and adults and children with weak immune systems are most at risk.

By following some general guidelines, people can reduce the risk of being infected. Consider staying indoors at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active. If that isn't possible, wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors, and use bug repellent containing 5-24 percent DEET. Also, drain standing water, such as birdbaths and wading pools, because this prevents mosquitoes from laying their eggs.

In 1999, when the virus first appeared in the United States, there were 62 cases and seven deaths, according to CDC. In 2002, more than 4,100 people were infected and 284 died.

For more information about West Nile Virus, visit the CDC Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

For related news, visit the Navy Medicine Navy NewsStand page at <http://www.news.navy.mil/local/mednews>.

## MRICD welcomes new commander



Photo by STEPHANIE FROBERG  
Incoming commander Col. Gennady E. Platoff Jr. accepts the unit flag from Maj. Gen. Lester Martinez-Lopez, commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

### Cindy Kronman

MRICD

In a traditional, outdoor ceremony that included the 389th Army Band ("AMC's Own"), Col. Gennady E. Platoff Jr., assumed command of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Aug. 7.

Maj. Gen. Lester Martinez-Lopez, commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, presided over the ceremony as the host commander.

Martinez-Lopez commended outgoing commander Col. James A. Romano Jr. for his tenure at MRICD.

"As commanders, it is our job to push the organization to a higher level of performance. This is what Col. Romano has done as coach of this great team," said Martinez-Lopez. Romano called the change

of leadership "an opportunity for the lab to reinvent itself."

"The change of command is surrounded by a euphoria that will present you with an opportunity to dream of future accomplishments," Romano said. "Dream almost free from real-world constraints. Take the opportunity during this time to capture these dreams and crystallize them in thought and, with Col. Platoff's help, determine actions that will help you achieve these dreams."

Romano became the MRICD commander in 2000, after serving two years as the deputy commander. He also served previously as the institute's chief, Drug Assessment Division.

In an awards ceremony prior to the change of command, Romano received the Legion of Merit for his service

as commander; and his wife, Candy, was recognized with the Commander's Award for Public Service.

Romano leaves MRICD to serve as deputy commander of MRMC at Fort Detrick, Md.

Martinez-Lopez welcomed Platoff to the command team and told the audience "the institute's new leader is someone capable, someone ready to push the organization to even higher ground."

Like Romano, Platoff assumes command after having served as the institute's deputy commander since June 2000.

Upon taking the podium and thanking the assembled guests for their attendance, friendship, and support, Platoff shared his vision for the MRICD.

"My vision will continue to  
**See CHANGE, page 2**

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VFW ladies auxiliaries honor local president

# Deployment News

## CPOC employee volunteers, deploys

Story and photos by  
**Sonya P. Reynolds**  
APG News

The Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center held a welcome home barbecue, July 22 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, in honor of Branch Chief, Susan Parker, who volunteered for duty in Kuwait during the war in Iraq.

Because of a desire to give back to the military, Parker put her name on the volunteer list to assist with human resources.

Not expecting to be selected, she was in for a big surprise. "I didn't think I would get picked. Leslie called me into her office and told me that I had been selected," Parker said.

She added that she was feeling a little uneasy when she first got the news and was not sure if she had made a wise decision.

Leslie McGlothlin, director, CPOC, gave her the confidence she needed to proceed with the journey.

"This is an important thing that you're doing for the customers, the Army and the country," McGlothlin said. "We will fill in and take the necessary steps to assure that your duties are done while you are away."

Parker said that her husband was worried about her going to Kuwait but was very supportive of her desire to do so.

On March 31, there was no turning back for Parker; it was time for departure to a country in the midst of war.

At the beginning of her journey, Parker arrived at Camp Doha, where she would reside over the next 90 days.

She said she had to go through two alerts within the first 24 hours, that included putting on a gas mask and chemical suit and getting into bunkers.

Parker said this procedure scared her so much that she had to ask herself, "What am I doing here?"

"I had never gone through anything like that before," Parker said. "If I had seen an airplane, I would have grabbed hold of the wheels and took off."

Parker said after that, she was okay with being there, adding that the presence of many other civilian volunteers made her feel comfortable.

Parker explained how all volunteers were assigned to different camps and the one she stayed in was comprised of soldiers and civilians.

"I slept in an open bay camp. It was like a warehouse with bunk beds. There were 88 females in the bay with me. Most of them were military. There were eight showers across the street.

"Camp Doha was very nice and had a very nice dining facility, where we ate most of our meals. Other times we had

MRE's, [Meals Ready to Eat]," Parker said.

She said during the regular course of the day she wore a military uniform just like the soldiers.

She said it was just like being in the military, adding that she had no interaction with the people of Kuwait.

She said her days consisted of accountability of civilians and providing assistance to civilian employees if they had problems, assisting supervisors and conducting town hall meetings to include going over policies, procedures and guidelines.

On rare occasions Parker left the camp, but the rules for leaving were restrictive.

"When we were allowed to leave the camp on official business, we had to travel in groups of four. Sometimes the soldiers were armed and sometimes not. I was not allowed to carry a weapon," Parker said, adding that they were safe where they were and the likelihood of something happening was slim to none.

She said she got a chance to ride in a helicopter to Baghdad. "Those were the only times I left the camp," Parker said.

"I have a son in the Army and a brother in the Marines, both in Kuwait. I had an opportunity to visit with my brother about four times and my son twice," Parker said.

She said there was not much there in the way of fun and entertainment but they did get a little pleasure.

"The last month I was there they opened the movie theater and they had a couple of USO [United Services Operations] shows, but that was it," Parker said.

Parker said that she was not afraid during her visit and that she slept well considering what was going on around her.

"I slept pretty good. I got about four hours of sleep every night, which is how much I sleep when I'm at home," Parker said. "I did not sleep as hard but I slept well."

Parker said it felt like time was going by so slow.

"The 90 days went by slow at first but when the time came to leave, it seemed like it went by fast," adding that by then, she considered extending her stay.

"I wanted to extend my stay but my family and friends would have been upset with me," she said.

Parker said she was able to talk with her husband on a regular basis.

"I was lucky, I was able to talk with my husband every morning. It was good to let each other know that everything was all right," Parker said.

She added that it was more difficult for her husband than it was for her because he was worried about her.



Courtesy of SUSAN PARKER  
Susan Parker, stands next to her ride, a Chinook CH-47, after stopping to refuel on the way to Baghdad.

"My husband served in Vietnam and Desert Storm so we were used to him being away. It was tough on him [my being away], but calling him every day helped."

From her visit, Parker said she learned what it was like to be a soldier.

"I learned what an important role the civilian contingency is, how the military is and what they do. It was more than an experience; it was an eye opener, seeing what soldiers go through," she said, adding that if she had the chance, she would do it all over again.

More than 320 attendees from CPOC were present to celebrate Parker's return and conduct their quarterly meeting.

"It's a combination of quarterly awards and welcoming-home-Susan celebration," said Linda Faison, Resume Processing Center, CPOC. "It's hard for every member of our organization to get together at one time so we do it once per quarter. This is a production oriented organization so it's not often we can get together at one time."

## Change

From front page

emphasize that ICD will be a laboratory confident of its place in the world and a national treasure, the recognized leader in medical chemical defense research, a lab that will continue to possess a robust and energetic publication output, a lab that will provide the finest medical chemical casualty care course, instruction, and information for health care professionals, emergency response personnel...a lab that will continue to advance quality medical chemical defense products, and a lab that draws its strength and success from the people who work at this research institute.

"My primary goal," he continued, "is to meet the ever-changing needs of this institute, the military, and our country. I pledge that I will do my very best to support you, to defend you, and to provide you with the tools you need to do

your jobs."

Succeeding Platoff as deputy commander is Col. Michelle Ross. A former principal investigator and chief of the Drug Assessment Division at MRICD, Ross returns after a tour at MRMC as the research area director for the Medical Chemical Defense Research Program.

### Col. Gennady E. Platoff Jr.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Platoff received his ROTC commission in 1973 after earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut. He completed a master's degree in clinical chemistry at Quinnipiac College, Hamden, Conn., in 1976. In 1981, he obtained a master's degree in health care administration and, subsequently, a doctorate in forensic toxicology from the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

Platoff has served as a clinical laboratory officer, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C., from 1976 through 1977; assistant chief, chemistry/chief, Department of Defense Drug Abuse Testing Service/Detachment Commander, WRAMC, Fort Meade, Md.,

from 1978 through 1981; chief, Toxicology and Clinical Chemistry, 2nd General Hospital, Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center, Germany, from 1981 to 1985; Student Detachment, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, from 1985 to 1989; and chief, Technical Services/Litigation Support, US Army Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory, Fort Meade, Md., from 1989 to 1993.

From 1993 to 1996, he served as chief, Pharmacology Division at MRICD. Assignments at the MRMC, Fort Detrick, Md., included intern/staff officer, Plans, Programs and Budget; executive officer; and Research Area Director, Medical Chemical and Biological Defense Research Program. He also served two assignments at the Pentagon as an intern/staff officer, Office of the Assistant Surgeon General for Research and Development, SARDA and director, Medical Research, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology).

He has authored and co-authored numerous research articles and three book chapters.

He is a graduate of the AMEDD Officer

Basic/Advanced Course, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Personnel Management for Executives, and the Army Force Management School.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Army Superior Unit Award. He wears the Air Assault Badge, has been awarded the Army Medical Department's "A" Designator, and is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit.

Platoff and his wife, Ann, reside in Millersville, Md. Their son, 2nd Lt. Timothy, a recent graduate of Mount St. Mary's College, is an infantry officer at Fort Benning, Ga. He participated in the change of command ceremony by serving as the second detachment commander.

Their daughter, Larissa, begins college in September.

## APG News

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

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## FILL'ER UP -- WITH WATER THAT IS



Photo by SPC. ALAN DAVIS

Spc. Yazaira Ramos fills water bags on a donkey for Iraqi children at a water distribution point in central Iraq April 8. (Davis is assigned to the 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Office.)

# Army officer from Harford County retires after nearly 3 decades of military service

Mike Cast  
DTC

Miriam Rodriguez  
White Sands Missile Range Public Affairs

A retirement ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground July 29 recognized Col. Lawrence "John" Sowa for his service to the Army and the United States during a career that spans nearly three decades.

Sowa, who officially retires in November, joined the Army in 1974 after graduating from the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in government. Although a native of Pennsylvania, Sowa grew up in Harford County while his father served as an officer at APG. His arrival in August 2001 to serve as the chief of staff for DTC, following various leadership assignments in the United States and abroad, was a homecoming for him.

DTC's commander, Brig. Gen. Keith McNamara, lauded Sowa for his leadership throughout his assignment as chief of staff at DTC, as well as for his willingness to take on a demanding assignment at White Sands, N.M., although he was on the threshold of retirement.

Sowa was asked to extend his career to fill a temporary command vacancy at White Sands, McNamara explained, adding that Sowa readily took on the challenge of managing this complex and high-profile national test range that, like DTC, is a key player in the Army's transformation.

"His career has demonstrated selfless service to the Army and a diversity of assignments that enhanced his professional expertise," McNamara said. "We asked him to do this because we were convinced he was the right person for the job at a critical time for the Army and ATEC [the Army Test and Evaluation Command]."

ATEC, which oversees all of the Army's test and evaluation programs for new weapons and equipment, including the developmental testing by DTC, was able to rely on Sowa's leadership during a time when the Army needed it most, according to Maj. Gen. Robert Armbruster, ATEC's commander. In his speech during the July 17 ceremony marking Sowa's replacement by Brig. Gen. Robert Reese, Armbruster stressed Sowa's care for soldiers, civilians and family members during a time of war. He lauded Sowa for leadership as the missile commander range and noted its importance during a critical period.

"In a time when our nation is at war, the commitment every day to leadership and caring for our soldiers and our communities grows in importance," Armbruster said.

He also stressed the personal qualities that defined Sowa's leadership during 29 years of service to the Army and the nation in other assignments, noting that he is the kind of leader who personified duty through his actions and accomplishments as a soldier wherever he served. Armbruster said Sowa's commitment to the mission and the welfare of soldiers made him the right choice to bridge the gap in command between Reese and Brig. Gen. William Engel, who retired after Sowa arrived to assume command.

Sowa's enthusiasm for his temporary assignment at White Sands also helped fill the void left by the retirement of George Orlicki, the range's technical director, said Larry Furrow, public affairs officer for the missile range.

"We knew we had a solid commander five minutes after the flag was passed," Furrow said. "He jumped right into the job with both feet and demonstrated enthusiasm for it right away. From the way he operated and took responsibility for this assign-

See SOWA, page 10



Photo by MIKE CAST  
Col. Lawrence "John" Sowa, wearing the Legion of Merit medal, talks about his experiences as a soldier during nearly three decades of military service. The U.S. Army Developmental Test Command hosted a retirement ceremony for Sowa, who served as the chief of staff for DTC and temporary commander of White Sands Missile Range, July 29.



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The Empty Stocking Fund is sponsored by Homestead Publishing Co., publishers of The Aegis, The Record, Weekenders, APG News and Harford Business Ledger and covers all administrative expenses. Every penny donated to The Empty Stocking fund is used to help families during the Christmas holidays.

## POST SHORTS

**From front page**  
Safety, Health, and Environment has selected numerous housing units and buildings within the Edgewood Area for sampling. Not all households/buildings will be asked to participate. The APG Housing Division or DSHE will contact those residents/tenants selected to participate. Sample bottles and instructions will be delivered the day before the test date and picked up after collection.

For more information or if residents feel that they cannot participate due to scheduling conflicts, call Richard Wiggins, DSHE at 410-306-2279.

### Ordnance Museum hours

The U.S. Army Ordnance Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. daily, and closed all holidays except Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day.

For more information, call 410-278-3602 or visit Web site [www.ordmusfound.org](http://www.ordmusfound.org).

### Sobriety check points planned

The Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security will conduct "sobriety checkpoints" during the upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend, Aug 29, 30 and 31, in both the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas. The goal is to reduce the number of impaired drivers and save lives.

For more information, call Maj. Joseph J. Darabasz, chief, Police Services Division,

DLES.

### Commissary holds case lot sale

AAFES and the post Commissary will hold a case lot sale Sept. 4 and 5, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Springfield Boulevard will be closed Sept. 3 and throughout the sale.

Some items included in the case lot sale are frozen and dry foods, paper and canned goods, sodas and pet food. The Commissary will remain open during the sale.

For more information, call 410-278-3926.

### Opportunity to earn money

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory is conducting several studies on hearing. Paid listeners must be 18- to 28-years old with normal hearing. Listening time is five hours or more. Each listener will be paid \$10 per hour. Qualified listeners can participate in one or more studies.

Interested volunteers should contact Paula Henry, 410-278-5848, e-mail [phenry@arl.army.mil](mailto:phenry@arl.army.mil), or Martha Dennison, 410-278-5918, e-mail [mjdennis@arl.army.mil](mailto:mjdennis@arl.army.mil).

### Meeting of the Chesapeake Beacon, Chapter 114, WACVA

The Chesapeake Beacon, Chapter 114, of the Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association will hold its monthly meeting at Sept. 11, 6

p.m., at the Aberdeen Senior Center, 7 Franklin Street.

The chapter meets once a month to discuss ways to be of assistance to veterans and active duty personnel, along with giving assistance to the community when needed.

An ongoing membership drive welcomes all women veterans from all services.

WACVA is the only national female veterans' association that holds a Congressional Charter providing a voice in policies affecting veterans.

For more information about dates, times, and locations of meetings, or for more information about the association, contact Wanda Story at 410-272-5040; e-mail [OkieGirlMD@aol.com](mailto:OkieGirlMD@aol.com); or check the chapter Web site at [www.wacva.com](http://www.wacva.com).

### Blue Cross/Blue Shield service visit

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit Aberdeen Proving Ground on Sept. 9, to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

The representative will be available in the Aberdeen Area only from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in building 305, room 236 (second floor); and in the Edgewood Area, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in building E-4140, Recreation Center.

For more information, contact Teri Wright, 410-278-4331, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

### Mail Handlers service visit

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative from Mail Handlers to visit Aberdeen Proving Ground on Sept. 9, to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

The representative will only be available in the Aberdeen Area from 1 to 3 p.m. in building 305, room 236 (second floor).

For more information, contact Teri Wright, 410-278-4331, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

### Breast cancer awareness training at KUSAHC

To recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month join the staff of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic on Sept. 24, noon to 1 p.m., for a Lunch and Learn training session.

Light refreshments will also be provided.

For more information or to register, call Milgaros Borrero-Ruiz at 410-278-1774, Peggy Horne at 410-278-1772 or Cheri Whiting at 410-278-1908.

To assist in the observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 1, we will have the following early deadlines for the **Wednesday, September 3** and **Friday, September 5** editions of **The Aegis**:

## EARLY DEADLINES

### Wednesday, August 27 • Noon

- Real Estate

### Thursday, August 28 • Noon

- PP&T, Business
- Legal/Auction Ads
- Space Reservations For All Sections

### Friday, August 29 • 10 AM

- Auto Marketplace
- Classified Display, APG News, Weekender
- PP&T- Friday 9/5 Edition

The Business Office and the Classified Department will be closed Monday, September 1, 2003.

The Classified Line ad deadline will be Tuesday, September 2, 10 AM.

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# Community Notes

## MOVIES

The movie theater will be closed Aug. 29 through 31 for the Labor Day holiday.

### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3 DAV BEL AIR CHAPTER 30

The Disabled American Veterans Bel Air Chapter 30 will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. at American Legion Harford Post #39 upper hall, 500 Conowingo Road. DAV Chapter 30 meets on the first Wednesday of each month.

For more information, call 410-642-6932.

### VFW LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING

The Havre De Grace Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Post 8126, Union Street, hosts its meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Members are committed to working for programs that facilitate helping youth and veterans.

For more information, call the Post Home at 410-939-4578.

### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5 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. A cash bar is available but no lessons will be given. For more information, call 410-272-8318.

### THURSDAY AND SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11 AND 13 EFFECTIVE BICYCLING CLASS

The League of American Bicyclists "Road I" course helps cyclists develop bicycle handling and traffic skills. Given by a certified instructor from One Less Car, Maryland's bike advocacy group, the class teaches cyclists how to ride safely in traffic and on multi-use trails and to fix the most common mechanical problems.

The class will be held Sept. 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Sept. 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Bel Air United Methodist Church on the corner of Route 924 and Linwood Avenue. Cost is \$28, payable to One Less Car.

Bring a bike and helmet. The course is designed for those age 14 and older.

Pre-registration is required; call Jeff Springer at 410-638-8812, or e-mail at springjk1@comcast.net to reserve a spot in the class.

### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7 OPEN HOUSE

The Christian Education Department and the St. James A.M.E. Church School of 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, are hosting an Open House at 9:15 a.m. Activities will include introduction of church school staff, registration for new students and a discussion forum. Light refreshments will be served.

The Church School has classes for everyone ages 3 through adult. For more information, call 410-939-2267.

### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 PADDLER FOR SIGHT

The Chestertown Lions Club will hold the Second Annual Paddle For Sight at 9 a.m. at the Chestertown American Legion Hall just east of town off Morgnec Road.

All kayak and canoe paddlers of all experience levels are invited to participate. The cost to participate is \$20 and includes a map, morning beverage, certified paddlers for safety, a food stop

### WET BASEMENTS STINK !!

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# Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

## Ruggles Golf Course Club Championship Tournament



Defending champion Patrick Hinch, takes a swing during the Annual Club Championship Tournament at Ruggles Golf Course, Aug. 22. Hinch went on to win the 2003 tournament, followed by Wayne Doyel in second and Mike Myirski in third.

Story and photo by  
**Tom Green**  
MWR

The Annual Club Championship Tournament, held at Ruggles Golf Course Aug. 22 and 23, turned out to be more of a runaway horse than everyone thought it would be.

The field included the defending champion, Patrick Hinch,

and another past winner of the event, Wayne Doyel.

The course was set up extremely difficult and the entire field of players was up to the challenge.

Hinch jumped out to a commanding 8 stroke lead the first day, playing around the 7,092 yard Ruggles Golf Course layout in even par 72 strokes.

Doyel was tied with three others: Joe Iacovelli, Mike Myirski, and David Gaskill, all with a score of 80 at the halfway point of the tournament.

Hinch showed the rest of the field that there would be no catching him on this day as he posted a one-over-par 73 besting the field by 9 strokes on the second day and 17 overall.

Doyel followed in second place with a two-day total of 163. Finishing in third place was Mike Myirski with 166, and David Gaskill in fourth with 171.

In the First Flight, Sam Smith led the way with a 156 gross score followed by Bob Glenn with 165. Norm Phillips won the net division with a score of 140, followed by Doug Smith in second with 147.

In the Second Flight, Gil Gentry led the way with a 165 gross score followed by Jack Buettner with 174. Luke Mark won the net division with a score of 138, followed by Ben Gizarra in second with 149.

In the Ladies Club Championship, Sue Delicio led the way with a 168 gross score followed by Diana Buettner with 201. Louise Gentry won the net division with a score of 153, followed by Joanne Wilson in second with 156.

In the Junior Club Championship, for those annual patrons under 18, David Pennington came away with the victory with a score of 160. Second place went to Jeff Chiles, third place was Casey Taylor, and fourth place went to Brady Collins with 180.

### 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.

The following is a list of some of the new AUDIO CASSETTES at the APG MWR libraries:



**Lost in a Good Book** by Jasper Fforde.

The inventive, exuberant and totally original literary fun that began with *The Eyre Affair* continues with this new Thursday Next adventure. Jack Schnitt is trapped in *The Raven and the Goliath Corporation* wants him back. Literary detective Thursday Next must figure out how to enter Poe's unruly text to spring him free.



**Absolute Rage** by Robert Tanenbaum

**Dead Aim** by Iris Johansen



**Executive Power** by Vince Flynn

**Flirting with Pete** by Barbara Delinsky



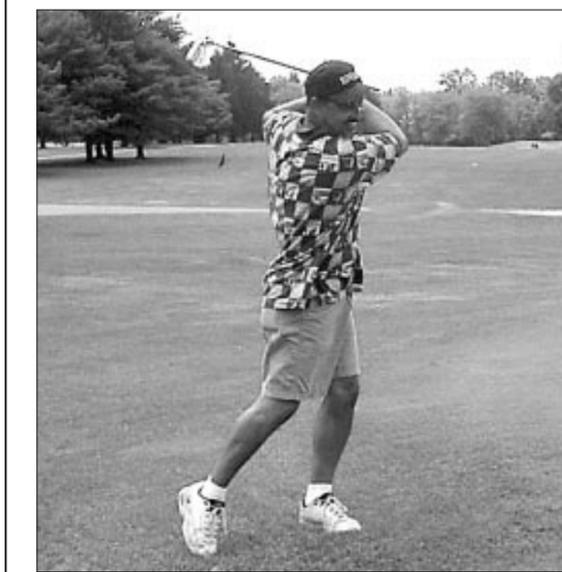
**The Guardian** by Nicholas Sparks

**Late for the Wedding** by Amanda Quick



**Wild Orchids** by Jude Deveraux

The library's online catalog can be accessed at [www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html](http://www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html).



### Hole in One

Photo by TOM GREEN  
Congratulations to retired Sgt. Humberto Quinones, formerly of the Special Warfare Training Group currently residing in Elkton, for a Hole in One. He used a 5 wood at 203 yards on the 8th hole, Aug. 17 at Ruggles Golf Course.

## Activities

### Angels and Spirit Guides

The instructor will lead discussions on topics including ghosts, angel readings and spirit guides. Classes will held on Thursdays, Sept. 11 through Oct. 6 at the AA Recreation Center, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Register by Sept. 4. Cost is \$40. For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail [stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Self Defense Workshop for Women

This workshop teaches women basic self-defense techniques to use in real life situations using martial arts. Practice punching, kicking, striking, and releasing techniques. Class is Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Russell Gym. Register by Aug. 29. Cost is \$40. For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail [stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Putt for Dough

This class will help intermediate and advanced players improve their putting strokes. Class will be held Sept. 13, 3 to 4 p.m. at Ruggles Golf Course. Cost is \$15. For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail her at [stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Solid Iron Play

Intermediate and advanced players can get tips on how to improve iron shots Sept. 17 at Ruggles Golf Course, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$15. For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail [stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Beginning Applique Quilting

Class will be held on Thursdays, Sept. 4 to 25, 6 to 8 p.m. at Russell Gym. Students will learn seven different ways to appliqué including needle-turn, reverse, freeze paper, machine, fusible, stuffed and buttonhole appliqué. Students will also make a miniature quilt. Register by Sept. 2. Cost is \$40. For more information, call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868 or e-mail him at [charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Military Salute Basket Bingo

The Aberdeen Fire Hall will host Military Basket Bingo Sept. 19. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the games start at 7 p.m. Cost is \$10. There will be food, drinks, and baked goods available too. Purchase tickets at MWR Registration or at the door. For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail [stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil).

### For relaxation, take yogilates class

The Community Recreation Division will hold yogilates sessions 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 9 through Oct. 2 at the AA Fitness Center, building 320. Pilates is strength through grace and flexibility. Yogilates is the integration of pilates mat work and hatha yoga. It is an effective workout that will improve muscle tone, flexibility, coordination and balance. Yogilates is also good for stress reduction. Cost to join is \$30 per person. Register by Sept. 8 at the AA Fitness Center or call 410-278-9759. For more information, call Mercedes Ashby at 410-278-9759 or e-mail her at [mercedes.ashby@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:mercedes.ashby@usag.apg.army.mil).

## APG SCHOOL LIAISON

### PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Military and civilian personnel who are involved with partnering in public schools, private schools, Christian schools, or supporting home school groups are encouraged to attend a meeting or send a representative on Sept. 3, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Main Conference Room, building 305. Partnering can be a unit, group or an individual in such activities as mentoring, tutoring, reading, fund raising, or special events, for example. It is important to know and be able to report who's doing what, when, where, and how often.

Nancy Spence from Harford County Public Schools will be on hand. To confirm attendance or if unable attend but desiring to forward information involving partnering, call Ivan Mehosky at 410-278-2857.

### NEW APG "YOUTH OF THE YEAR" PROGRAM

Starting Sept. 1, teenagers of military and civilian employees of Aberdeen Proving Ground, who are in grades 9 through 11 and maintain at least a "C" average in school, and are members of or want to join the youth center on post, are encouraged to participate and compete in the APG "YOUTH OF THE YEAR" Program, in cooper-

ation with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year Program.

The heart of the program is character, leadership and service. During the period September to December, teens are encouraged to pick up a program packet at their local youth center and start the process.

The official nomination form is due by the first week of December. In competing for the honor of APG "Youth of the Year" from the Aberdeen and Edgewood Youth centers, teens will have the opportunity to show why they should be selected.

In completing the application, teens will seek the support of their family, and school, community and youth services personnel. When filling out the official nomination form, teens will be asked to give examples of how they demonstrated leadership and service in the home and family, demonstrates moral character and spiritual values in daily life, how they have demonstrated leadership and service in community activities, in school leadership and service, in service to the youth center, and setting and achieving long and short term goals.

Applicants are also required to write two

essays, one on what the youth center means to him or her, the other on why a post-high school education is important to him or her. Once all applications are collected, nominees will be interviewed by an adult selection panel comprised of personnel from various directorates of the Garrison.

All participants will receive a certificate, attend a leadership dinner, and participate in an awards ceremony to honor the youth of the year from each youth center.

The APG "Youth of the Year" from the Aberdeen Youth Center and the Edgewood Youth Center will receive a Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement, a \$1,500 college scholarship, and other awards of recognition. Youth of the Year winners will be invited to Annapolis in March to compete in the State of Maryland Boys and Girls Clubs of America "Youth Of The Year" competition.

For more information, call Ivan Mehosky at 410-278-2857 or stop by the Aberdeen Youth Center, building 2522 or the Edgewood Youth Center, building E-1902 and pick up a packet.

## Bowling scores

### Wednesday Doubles Lunch League

Week ending Aug. 23

**Men's High Game Scratch**  
Dan Snoha, 195  
Steve Cornelison, 187  
**Men's High Game Handicap**  
Steve Cornelison, 259  
Jeff Swab, 251  
**Men's High Series Scratch**  
Dan Snoha, 359  
Jack Kelly, 333  
**Men's High Series Handicap**  
Dave Spagnuolo, 483  
Dan Snoha, 469  
**Women's High Game Scratch**  
Betty Taylor, 193  
Sue Spagnuolo, 174  
**Women's High Game Handicap**  
Chris Lockhart, 268  
Dawn Gordner, 257  
**Women's High Series Scratch**  
Betty Taylor, 332  
Dawn Gordner, 310  
**Women's High Series Handicap**  
Chris Lockhart, 497  
Kathy Anderson, 491

**Thursday Doubles Lunch League**  
**Men's High Game Scratch**  
John McLaughlin, 200  
Jamie King, 190

**Men's High Game Handicap**  
Gordon Brown, 265  
John McLaughlin, 258  
**Men's High Series Scratch**  
John McLaughlin, 330  
Jamie King, 323  
**Men's High Series Handicap**  
Marshal Childers, 471  
Terry Bonine, 459  
**Women's High Game Scratch**  
Tasha Taylor, 168  
Sandy Dowell, 155  
**Women's High Game Handicap**  
Tasha Taylor, 248  
Sandy Dowell, 243  
**Women's High Series Scratch**  
Sandy Dowell, 308  
Tasha Taylor, 307  
**Women's High Series Handicap**  
Tasha Taylor, 489  
Sandy Dowell, 464

### Friday Adult/Youth

**Men's High Game Scratch**  
Larry Waggoner, 184  
Rusty Kerner, 175  
**Men's High Game Handicap**  
Larry Waggoner, 242  
Rusty Kerner, 236  
**High Series Scratch**  
Larry Waggoner, 519  
Rusty Kerner, 496  
**Men's High Series Handicap**

Larry Waggoner, 633  
Rusty Kerner, 619  
**Women's High Game Scratch**  
Kathy Anderson, 184  
Dianne Swauger, 142  
**Women's High Game Handicap**  
Dianne Swauger, 227  
**Women's High Series Scratch**  
Kathy Anderson, 495  
Dianne Swauger, 402  
**Women's High Series Handicap**  
Diane Swauger, 621  
**Boy's High Game Scratch**  
Ryan Anderson, 175  
Curtis Swauger, 154  
**Boy's High Game Handicap**  
Curtis Swauger, 246  
Ryan Anderson, 241  
**Boy's High Series Scratch**  
Ryan Anderson, 453  
Curtis Swauger, 423  
**Boy's High Series Handicap**  
Ryan Anderson, 663  
Curtis Swauger, 614  
**Girl's High Game Scratch**  
Angie Kerner, 103  
**Girl's High Game Handicap**  
Angie Kerner, 193  
**Girl's High Series Scratch**  
Angie Kerner, 286  
**Girl's High Series Handicap**  
Angie Kerner, 556



## APG MCSC wants you!

The Military and Civilian Spouses' Club invites spouses to join their membership.

Those eligible to join include spouses or surviving spouses of the armed forces of the United States on active duty or retired and spouses or surviving spouses of Department of Defense civilians and DoD civilians.

Join the MCSC for trips, tours, luncheons, Playgroup, Sit n' Stitch, Book Club, Bunco and more.

The MCSC is more than

just a social club - each year, MCSC contributes thousands of dollars and volunteer hours to deserving local and national organizations.

In the Aberdeen Area, sign up will be held Sept. 8, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Ruggles Golf Course; in the Edgewood Area, sign up will be held Sept. 9, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 4670 Parrish Road.

For more information, visit [www.apgmcsc.org](http://www.apgmcsc.org) or call Katie O'Connell, membership chairperson, 410-297-6872.

## Correction FWP awards

The \$300 scholarship given at this year's annual Women's Equality Day Awards ceremony, Aug. 14, to Caroline Hall, a historian preservation planner from the U.S. Army Environmental Center, was presented by the local chapter of Federally Employed Women (FEW) (FEW Maryland Tri-County Chapter 331). In addition to the scholarship, the winner also gets a one-year membership to the local Tri-County Chapter 331.

The commander of U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Chemical Defense is Col. Gennady Platoff and the deputy commander is Col. Michelle Ross.

APG News regrets the errors in last week's paper.

## Heroism

*From front page*

U.S. Route 40 and State Route 543 in Abingdon, Md., about 20 miles north of Baltimore, their car was crushed under a tractor-trailer full of Clorox Bleach in May 2002.

Maj. David Jones, Staff Sgt. Paul Cottingham, Coast Guard Ensign John McGowan and Larry Steele banded together to organize a rescue. As they approached the car it burst into flames. The four managed to temporarily douse the flames with fire extinguishers gathered from bystanders.

But the flames returned as fuel lines ruptured. The driver of the tractor-trailer was able to move his vehicle enough to permit access to the car.

Jones was able to wedge open the rear door behind the driver only to find that Mr. Schaffer's legs were trapped under the steering wheel. As Steele worked to wedge the driver's seat back, Jones crawled head first through a hole in the windshield.

After some pulling and twisting, he was able to free the driver's legs, and Steele and Cottingham teamed up to pull Mr. Schaffer out through the rear of the vehicle.

Cottingham and McGowan had already pried open the passenger door and worked to get Mrs. Schaffer out of the vehicle. They had moved her to safety away from the burning vehicle before Cottingham returned to help rescue Mr. Schaffer.

Volunteer rescue crews arrived to take over the scene and the patients. No more than 30 seconds after Mr. Schafer was pulled out, the entire car erupted into flames and ignited the trailer of the truck.

The Schaffers were then flown via Medevac to the Shock Trauma center in Baltimore within the next 10 minutes.

The local fire department arrived within minutes after the extraction and Maryland State environmental response units cut open the trailer and were able to extinguish the fire in less than an hour.

During the rescue, Cottingham injured his right shoulder and was taken to a medical center for treatment. Jones sustained minor cuts and abrasions and strained his lower back.

The Schaffers sustained multiple broken bones and internal injuries. Mr. Schafer has undergone several reconstructive surgeries on his legs and face.

The Soldier's Medal was established by Congress to honor a soldier who distinguishes himself by heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy.



Photos by RALPH BROTH  
Maj. David Jones, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, top, and Staff Sgt. Paul Cottingham, 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion, bottom, are presented the Soldier's Medal by Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, chief of Ordnance and commanding general, OC&S, for rescuing a couple from a burning automobile in May 2002.

# Sports

## HHC 143rd takes intramural softball crown Underdogs defeat USMC, 14-12; 18-17



Home plate umpire Tim Molle, left and USMC catcher Jake Abbe, center, rush for a better view after HHC 143rd's Tony Vasquez sends a dribbler to the pitcher during the first inning of game one of the intramural softball championship, Aug. 18.

Story and photo by  
**Yvonne Johnson**  
APG News

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 143rd Ordnance Battalion wrenched what looked like a certain win away from the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment to win the intramural softball post championship on Shine Sports Field, Aug. 18.

Playing in the losers bracket, and needing two wins to claim the championship, HHC 143rd overcame a 10-0 deficit to win the first game, 14-12, then held off a seventh-inning rally by the Marines to win the deciding game, 18-17.

"We did okay in the play-offs up until yesterday," HHC coach Tony Vasquez said

before the game, noting that the team lost to the Marines 16-7 then defeated Company A 16th, 10-7 to advance to the finals. "Our chances look pretty good today. We got some guys we lost back and we're ready to roll."

USMC coach Paul Walters, noting that the team went undefeated through the play-offs, said they were sticking to the same strategy.

"We plan to play the same game we played yesterday," Walters said.

The game started out decidedly in the Marines favor. With two on and one out in the bottom of the first inning, Elmer Estes batted in the game's first run with a line drive to center field for an RBI single, and

Walters followed with a two-run triple.

Still, with only one out, HHC 143rd pitcher David Cook walked USMC's Jake Abbe and the next batter, William Cowger, took advantage with a double to drive in another run.

USMC batted around for what proved to be a long inning for Cook with USMC's Orlando Robinson Jr. putting the hurt on with a 2-run single to put the Marines up, 9-0.

The HHC 143rd bats were silent in the second inning as the Marines tacked on one more for a 10-0 lead, but things changed for the underdogs in the top of the fourth.

Donnie Skinner started the team off with a grounder that

skipped down the right field line and got him in for a double. Then, Cook helped himself with a 2-run homer that landed well beyond the fence and landed him a team greeting at home plate. Encouraged now, HHC 143rd's James Brown launched a single up the middle then stole second base during the throw in and Vasquez blasted a high ball to center that dropped in for an RBI double. The inning ended with HHC 143rd closing the gap, down 10-5.

Cook went on to pitch a masterful game, nearly shutting the USMC bats down as his teammates kept the rally going. Thanks to big blasts by the 520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory's Nate Brown, Skinner and Thomas Weathers, HHC 143rd kept chipping away to finally tie things up, 10-10, in the bottom of the fifth inning with Brown's second homer of the game.

As HHC 143rd fans cheered, USMC players chanted, "New game."

Things stayed pretty much the same, however, as USMC mustered only two more runs and HHC 143rd batters tapped USMC pitcher Walters for four more for a 14-12 win to force the double-header.

"I knew it was my pitch," Brown, who would go on to be named the game's most valuable player, said during the break. "We just appreciate them letting us [520th TAML] play so we can help them take the championship back to HHC 143rd."

"I was worried with the big lead, but I knew our team effort would bring us back," added Cook who pitched both games. "After the first inning, I just settled down and pitched my game."

Game two was much closer and more intense with fans on their feet throughout, trying to shout each other.

USMC jumped out to a 5-3 lead when in the bottom of the third inning, Cook again connected for an RBI triple to make it 5-4. Brown's sacrifice fly to center field drove in Cook to make it 5-5, and Weathers followed with a two-run homer for a 7-5 lead.

HHC 143rd went up 10-5 in the fourth before USMC responded.

A bullet to center field by the Marine's Cowger led off the inning. Cowger was out at second, however after a slow roller to second by Enderle.

Walter Circles kept things going with a grounder that rolled into right field for a double that put runners at first and third and Stephen Greulich's grounder up the middle was good for a two-run double to close the Marines within three at 10-7.

The teams tied 10-10 in the fifth inning but HHC 143rd pulled away again in the sixth with an RBI triple from Vincent McCormick and an RBI single by Alan Hammond to take a 12-10 lead.

USMC regained the lead in the bottom of the sixth to go up 14-12.

Guarding the fence lines to protect against the long balls,

and intentionally walking most of the big bats cost the Marines in the seventh as HHC 143rd took advantage with grounders by Troy Scurlaril, Steven Noonan, McCormick, Alan Hammond, Skinner, whose home run was called back, and a sacrifice fly by Cook to take an 18-14 lead.

USMC made it close with a two-run homer with one out by Greulich and an RBI double by Estes with two outs that had their pumped-up fans smelling the victory, but the team fell short with a ground out to end the inning and the game.

Walters said things might have been different had the games been played with 44 core softballs.

"They switched balls on us," he said. "We played with 44 core balls all season. Tonight we played with 47. It's not the only reason we lost but it sure made a difference."

Good sportsmanship was exemplified, however as the two teams high-fived each other as their names were called to accept their trophies.

"It was a great team effort," said Lt. Col. Robert Pastorelli, battalion commander, after accepting the championship trophy. "They jelled when they had to and played with confidence. I'm just glad to be here to share in their great victory."

"My guys played with heart, stuck together, and won," Vasquez added. "The team that sticks together, wins the game."



### Commander's Cup point standings

The Commander's Cup is awarded each December to the unit that scores the most points in intramural sports during the year. Units garner points in basketball, the bench press competition, the 3-on-3 basketball tournament, racquetball, volleyball, softball, golf, the deadlift competition, soccer and football. Points are awarded for unit participation and division and post championship wins in each event. The following units currently lead in Commander's Cup point totals.

Current standings as of Aug. 25	USAF	61
USMC	HHC 61st	57
Company C 16th	Company B 16th	46
MRICD	1/246th Infantry	43
NCOA	Company C 143rd	36
HHC 16th	CHPPM	26
Company E 16th	203rd MI	14
HST	389th Band	13
HHC 143rd	Company A 143rd	12
Company A 16th	KUSAHC	10
Company B 143rd	520th TAML	7
	SBCCOM/TEU	6

### Youth dance classes

Registration and fees for ballet, tap and jazz dance classes will be announced at a later date via APG News, e-mail, flyers, etc. for students 3 to 18 years old.

Classes will be one hour each and will be held at the Aberdeen Youth Center, building 2522, and Edgewood Youth Center, building E-1902. Classes are projected to start on or about the week of Sept. 29.

Classes will be Tuesdays,

Wednesdays and Fridays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This 32-week program will conclude with a dance recital the last week of May 2004.

For more information about the youth dance program, call Ivan Mehosky, School Liaison/Youth Education Support Services, at 410-278-2857, or e-mail: ivan.mehosky@usag.apg.army.mil.

### Lonestar concert approaching

Aberdeen Proving Ground Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting country western band Lonestar, with special guest Trace Adkins at this year's summer concert on Sept. 12. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance, and \$25 at the gate.

Tickets can be purchased from the Hoyle Fitness Center, MWR Registration in building 3326, Ticketmaster, or at the

MWR Web site [www.apg.mwr.com](http://www.apg.mwr.com).

For more information, call Gwen Meadows, MWR marketing director, 410-278-4497.

For information about volunteering for concert jobs contact Ruth Overbay, 410-278-9536, or e-mail [ruth.overbay@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:ruth.overbay@usag.apg.army.mil). For general information, call 410-278-4907/4011, TTY 410-278-4110.

### Softball update

The following is the results and final standings for the 2003 intramural softball post-season tournament, held Aug. 15 to 18, as reported by the APG Sports Office.

#### Results

Aug. 15  
USMC, 1; Company B 143rd, forfeit  
Company A 16th, 24;  
Company E 16th, 4  
MRICD, 11; HST, 9  
HHC 143rd, 12; HHC 16th, 1  
Aug. 16  
USMC, 17; USMC #2, 3  
Company A 16th, 15; NCOA, 11  
USMC, 10; Company A 16th, 1  
MRICD, 1; 398th Chemical, forfeit  
HHC 143rd, 12; Company B 16th, 6  
HHC 143rd, 6; MRICD, 5

Company B 143rd, 1; 398th Chemical, forfeit  
Company B 16th, 15;  
Company E 16th, 3  
HST, 21; USMC #2, 0  
NCOA, 20; HHC 16th, 15  
Aug. 17

Company B 16th, 14;  
Company B 143rd, 1  
NCOA, 16; HST, 15  
Company A 16th, 10;  
Company B 16th, 6  
MRICD, 14; NCOA, 7  
Company A 16th, 9; MRICD, 6  
HHC 143rd, 10; Company A 16th, 7  
USMC, 16; HHC 143rd, 7  
Aug. 18  
HHC 143rd, 14; USMC, 12  
HHC 143rd, 18; USMC, 17

\*Company A 16th finished the season in third place and MRICD fourth.

## Sowa

From page 3

ment, I would have thought he was going to be here two or three years, not 11 weeks. He was a great commander, and we miss him at White Sands Missile Range."

Mario Correa, director of Information Operations at the missile range, was impressed at how quickly Sowa delved into resolving personnel issues affecting staffing of his organization and his efforts to find funding for procurement of equipment needed by Information Operations to conduct its mission.

"His leadership was unquestionable and exemplary in dealing with all levels of personnel across 'Team WSMR,'" Correa said.

During remarks at the recent change of command, Sowa said the assignment at White Sands appeared challenging when he accepted it, but the team spirit there made it seem more like a "routine."

Running the world's largest range with a turnover of key personnel, including the commander and the technical director, seemed a "daunting" assignment, Sowa said during his

remarks at the change of command ceremony.

A wave of inspections, a National Guard rotation and the need to provide continuing support to the global war on terrorism presented additional challenges for him as missile range commander.

"As it turned out, these challenges became routine. . .because what I encountered at White Sands was a special blend of leadership, technical talent, community support and a burning desire to get it done right," Sowa said. "White Sands employees worked shoulder to shoulder to support the war effort and never once questioned the workload or extended hours."

Like any married soldier, Sowa has been supported throughout his career by his spouse, Gale. They met in the mid 1970s when he was a battery commander in the 1/32 Field Artillery in Hanau and she was a teacher at the Department of Defense school there.

During Gale Sowa's nearly three decades as a soldier's wife, she has not only supported her husband's career but made countless contributions of her own to the Army, according to McNamara, who "strongly and wholeheartedly" nominated her for the "Outstanding Civilian Service Award."

In the award nomination, McNamara wrote that her "caring, concern and relentless pursuit

of excellence will long be remembered" at APG and at every other assignment the Sows shared over the years.

Her volunteer activities for the Army began more than 25 years ago in Hanau, Germany, where her husband was a platoon leader and battery commander with 1/32nd Field Artillery. In Hanau and in numerous other military communities, she devoted much time and energy to issues and activities on behalf of soldiers and their families.

Her volunteer efforts included counseling and tutoring for family members while a teacher in the DoD school system, support for fundraisers to improve Army facilities, providing community support services for laid-off Army employees, and participation in the Army Family Action Plan Symposium at APG.

Before his assignment at APG, Sowa was a strategic planner for the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.; the U.S. Army Munitions and Armaments Command at Rock Island, Ill.; the Crane Army Ammunition Activity in Crane, Ind.; and the Louisiana and Longhorn Army Ammunition Plants in Marshall, Texas.

He also served as chief of production and logistics for the Director, Conventional Ammunition, Alexandria, Va., as well as the

nuclear-weapons materiel management officer for the Defense Nuclear Agency in Alexandria. He managed the tank-ammunition program for the U.S. Army Munitions Production Base at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

Sowa also served as a field artillery staff officer for Combat Developments at Fort Sill, Okla., and as an operations officer and battery commander with the Field Artillery Center and School at Fort Sill.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with two clusters, two Defense Meritorious Medals, five Meritorious Service Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Defense Service Medals, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and two ribbons for overseas service.

While in the military, Sowa earned a master's degree in procurement and contracting from the Florida Institute of Technology.

His military education includes advanced courses in military artillery, munitions management and Army logistics, as well as study at the Army's Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

# VFW auxiliaries hail local president

Story and photos by  
**Yvonne Johnson**  
APG News

More than 200 representatives of Veterans of Foreign Wars ladies' auxiliaries from around the state attended a homecoming for Bernice Shimizu, state president, Department of Maryland Veterans Auxiliary, VFW, at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace, Aug. 10.

Shimizu, of Weedon-Elliott VFW Post #8126, Havre de Grace, assumed the office of state president in June. She has been involved in auxiliary activities since 1978.

The homecoming kicked off her upcoming tour of auxiliaries in Maryland and the eastern states, from Maine to Washington, D.C., which concluded with the national convention in San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 23.

Guests in attendance included Havre de Grace Mayor David Craig; Albert Harrison, manager of the Bethesda, Md., Fisher House and his assistant, Deanna Wharwood, and Raymond Shipley, VFW deputy commander for the state of Maryland.

Sylvia Schmidt, a member of the Havre de Grace auxiliary and a longtime friend of Shimizu's, hosted the ceremony. She noted the presence of members from Cambridge, Ellicott City, Ocean City, Western Maryland, and Owings Mills.

"Our thanks to all of you for traveling so far to show your support of our president," Schmidt said.

In hailing the president's accomplishments and offering well wishes and continued support, the membership presented Shimizu with a proclamation from Craig and a citation from the Archdiocese of Baltimore signed by Cardinal William H. Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore.

"This is not just my day," Shimizu said in acceptance. "This is our day because without you, there would be no me."

She thanked her many supporters and her son William, "for his invaluable help," and encouraged all to continue supporting her programs.

"I've always had that pride and desire to help veterans," she added, noting she began her activities shortly after her husband's return from Vietnam.

"This is not a dying organization," Shimizu said. "Together, we can help so many veterans, youths, and service members."

Harrison said Shimizu's efforts benefit both Fisher Houses, one at Bethesda and the other at Andrew's Air Force Base.

"All monies raised through their fundraisers go to the families of our inpatients," Harrison said, adding that the facilities host about 360 families of critically ill children annually.

Active-duty military and veterans have preference to the facilities and currently, four families from Operation Iraqi Freedom are in residence, he added.

"We are a non-profit organization so we can't solicit funds," Harrison said. "The auxiliaries help us tremendously."

Many guests agreed that Shimizu works tirelessly to advance the interests of the organization.

"She's a go getter," said Blair Cross, former chair of the Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs. "She has worked very hard for the auxiliaries. This award is well deserved."

"She's a hard worker. Not just with the VFW, but with the church and schools as well," said Rose Marie Sevorowski of Bel Air. "She's just an all around good person."

"Her first priority is to put veterans first," added Sandi Kriebel, public relations chair from Ellicott City.

"She has dedicated her life to helping and fulfilling the needs of veterans everywhere."



Above, Bernice Shimizu, right, state president, Department of Maryland Veterans Auxiliary, VFW, accepts congratulations from a fellow auxiliary member during her homecoming celebration at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace, Aug. 10.

Above right, The Beacon of Hope lapel pin features the Havre de Grace lighthouse and a pink cancer awareness ribbon.

Kriebel noted the various projects, local and national, that Shimizu promotes. They include the Buddy Poppy program that awards scholarships to high school youths; the Junior Girls program that promotes future membership among girls ages 5 to 16; Operation Uplink, which provides telephone calling cards to deploying service members; the Voice of Democracy, a script writing audio contest for youths that pays a \$25,000 college scholarship; and several other programs that promote patriotism among youths and provides assistance to veterans and service members.

Shimizu's pet projects include fundraisers for the Fisher House and for the Baltimore Rehabilitation/Extended Care Center for veterans near Loch Raven, Kriebel said.

"We provide seeds, flowers and soil for the greenhouse attached to the hospital and ensure funds are set up to maintain this," she said, adding that doctors promote the greenhouse project as a therapeutic contributor to patients' recovery.

In addition, Shimizu initiated

the Beacon of Hope campaign to benefit the American Cancer Society. Funds are raised through the sale of lapel pins designed with the Havre de Grace lighthouse and a pink cancer awareness ribbon.

The pins sell for \$3 and funds go to cancer research in the state of Maryland.

"A beacon of hope for America's veterans is my theme and the lighthouse is my symbol," Shimizu said.

She said that following her tenure as president, she will continue work on veterans and youth issues.

"I will return to help my church and my post," Shimizu said, adding her personal motto of "peace, kindness, and love," inspires her to continue.

"Kindness toward one another, love for one another, and peace around the world, are what motivate me," she said.

"Her devotion keeps me close to her," added Shimizu's son, William, whom she praised as her "most valued assistant." "It's hard to describe how busy she is," he said. "I do whatever I can to help her."



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