

## POST SHORTS

### Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, March 26, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

### OC&S hosts Women's History Month celebration

The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools will present a salute to "Women Pioneering the Future," March 25, 11:45 a.m., in the Ball Conference Center, building 3074, in support of Women's History Month.

Guest speaker will be Command Sgt. Maj. Edith Crofts, commandant of the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, who will discuss the contributions of female soldiers past, present and future.

There will also be a fashion show of female soldiers' duty, dress and PT uniforms from the 1970s to the present.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Arbel Connor at 410-278-2529.

### Tax Center open thru April 15

APG's Tax Center remains open thru April 15. All active duty, retirees and their spouses are eligible for free tax preparation and free electronic tax filing. Call 410 278-1208 for an appointment. 1040 EZ filers can walk-in without an appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 11 a.m.

### Top of Bay lunch hours

Top of the Bay will expand its lunch operation on a trial basis March 27 through April 30. The new lunch hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participation in the CWS or RDO every other Friday continues, therefore, no lunch.

For more information, call U. Doris Reitzle, 410-278-3062, or Louise Glose, 410-278-2552.

### Town Hall meeting rescheduled

The Town Hall Meeting formerly scheduled for March 24 has been rescheduled for April 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command Conference Center, building E-4810.

The meeting is open to the entire community. For those who are unable to attend, the meeting will

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## Phillips Army Airfield holds crash rescue drill

A Maryland State Police Medevac helicopter arrives on the scene of Phillips Army Airfield's simulated accident as part of the airfield's crash rescue drill Feb. 27. See story on page 14.

Photo by JOHN ALLISON

## U.S. troops better trained for chem-bio than Iraqis

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs  
Army News Service

Army chemical and biological defense experts told the Pentagon press corps that if Saddam Hussein uses weapons of mass destruction, U.S. soldiers are trained and better equipped than the Iraqis or anyone else.

"I don't want to overstate it, but we can operate 100 percent better in a chemical and biological environment than the Iraqis can," said Maj. Gen. John Doesburg, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command.

During the one-hour press conference, media wanted the three-man panel to answer questions ranging from: Is it true that there are defective chemical and biological suits? How will the Iraqi desert

climate and sand affect detection equipment? And is there still a problem with troops not being properly trained on how to operate their individual protection equipment?

Reporters also asked: "Will the Iraqi president really use such weapons?"

Over the past six years the Army has developed 19 new chemical and biological defense systems, to include detectors and individual protection systems, such as the suit and mask, said Brig. Gen. Stephen Reeves, program executive officer for Chemical and Biological Defense for the Department of Defense.

Chem/bio suits, referred to as the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology or JSLIST, is one improvement that has been made since the Gulf War. It's lighter than its predecessor, it dissi-

pates heat more quickly and protects against all known or suspected chemical or biological agents, Reeves said.

Every soldier being deployed is issued two suits, Reeves said. Before issuance each suit was checked three times for defects, he said, and there are zero defects in the stockpile.

Since the Gulf War, five new biological detectors have been produced. One of those detectors is the Standoff Chemical Agent Detector, which will detect chemical vapors out to five kilometers and is the first in the world, Reeves said. There's also the Portal Shield, which is a semi-automated detector that is used at fixed sites around ports, airfields and bases. It can detect up to 10 different biological agents and

See TROOPS, page 12

## IRS defers tax for deployed troops, not Army civilians

Army News Service

Soldiers deployed to Kuwait, Afghanistan and other countries in that theater, along with those in the Balkans, will be allowed extra time to file and pay their income taxes.

Soldiers will have at least 180 days after they redeploy home to file their federal tax returns, and no penalty or interest will accrue during this period. Army civilian employees and contractors deployed to a combat zone in direct support of the military are also eligible for these tax extensions.

Soldiers also do not pay any income taxes on the wages they earn while deployed in a combat

zone, nor do they pay taxes on hazardous-duty pay. Deployed civilians, though, are not eligible for this exemption.

IRS Acting Commissioner Bob Wenzel sent a letter last month to Secretary of the Army Thomas White urging tax compliance among civilian employees. The letter stated that almost 4.5 percent of the Army's employees had some type of federal income tax delinquency as of October.

"The rate of [tax] compliance among federal employees and retirees continues to be better than that of the general public," Wenzel said in

See TAXES, page 12

## DeCA streamlines returned check process

Rick Brink  
DeCA

New streamlined processing procedures for returned checks are viewed as a win-win situation for commissary shoppers and for store employees looking for better ways to provide customer service.

That's because the new centralized returned-check processing won't affect the way shoppers write checks

but will substantially reduce the number of paper checks returned to commissaries for insufficient funds.

Returned checks normally routed back to commissaries for collection will instead be routed to a centralized processing site run by a business that has successfully performed this service for a variety of businesses that process a high volume of low-value

See CHECKS, page 12

## 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 APG Police:

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



## Congressman visits APG

Photo by BRIAN KRISTA

James Fasig, right, technical director of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, points out some of the work being done by the center's automotive test staff to Rep. C.A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger, congressman for Maryland's 2nd Congressional District. Ruppertsberger visited the Developmental Test Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground March 3 to learn about its mission, programs and test capabilities. In addition to briefings, Ruppertsberger received an overflight of the installation and toured ATC's key facilities, including the soon-to-be-completed Roadway Simulator, a multi-million dollar system designed to replicate a wide range of roadway testing in a laboratory setting. The High Mobility Multi Purpose Wheeled Vehicle in the background is being used to exercise the machine and verify simulator performance.

# Army's Bridge Crossing Simulator reduces test costs

Mike Cast  
DTC

U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command technology at Aberdeen Proving Ground, which simulates the stresses and strains of military vehicles crossing a bridge, is enabling the Army to realize considerable cost savings when testing new tactical bridge designs.

Between fiscal years 1999 and 2001, the Army allocated some \$2.5 million for the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center to cut the ribbon June 18, 2001 on its new Bridge Crossing Simulator, a mechanical test and simulation system developed by MTS Systems, Inc., of Eden Prairie, Minn. The funding included costs for design, fabrication, site preparation and assembly.

As of Nov. 20, 2002, when the system had completed 12,000 simulated bridge crossings of military vehicles, the technology had paid for itself with cost savings.

In the past, ATC tested tactical bridges by having a variety of military vehicles bearing various weight loads cross them as they would be expected to do in the field. With the aid of computer-controlled hydraulic actuators and data about the forces exerted by tactical military vehicles under actual crossing conditions, the simulator can replicate the stresses that bridges under test might endure.

According to Pat Castaldo, a mechanical engineer with ATC, historical information indicates the Army used to spend about \$217 on average for each crossing by a military vehicle to test a bridge. Now a simulated crossing costs the Army about \$13. The cost reduction is possible because the Army no longer has to bear the expense of bringing military vehicles to Aberdeen for bridge testing, nor the expense of drivers, vehicle maintenance or fuel consumption. The cost avoidance for testing just the Army's Heavy Dry Support Bridge, which requires about 18,000 crossings, is more than sufficient to offset the cost of the simulator, Castaldo said.

Technical merit, in addition to cost avoidance, makes the Bridge Crossing Simulator a beneficial technology for the Army, according to Castaldo. The system is designed to impose vehicular rolling loads on a bridge structure through its system of hydraulic actuators and loading fixtures. The actuators are precisely controlled by a computer control system that applies load until strain measurements match the measurements taken with actual vehicles. The key to this novel application of existing technology, according to Castaldo, is an algorithm that controls the combination of actuator loads based on feedback from the



The Bridge Crossing Simulator at U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center replicates the stresses and strains that rolling military vehicles would exert on a bridge.

Courtesy of ATC

strain measurements on the bridge.

A key consideration in simulating bridge crossings is how the natural environment in the field would impact a bridge, Castaldo added. Soil types, moisture and temperature cycles could affect the life span of a bridge. The simulator is operated in an outdoor environment, adding to the realism of testing. Additionally, ATC is capable of operating entire mobile bridging systems - including the bridge, its launcher and transporter - on cross-country and road courses, as well as deploying bridges across terrain obstacles, to preserve the realism of field operations.

The Bridge Crossing Simulator could also be used to test bridges designed for civilian use, Castaldo said. Future highway bridges, for example, will probably be designed to be more earthquake and erosion resistant. This will prompt engineers to consider new or composite materials as a substitute for traditional steel and concrete structures. ATC's simulator will give the Army a competitive edge in testing reliable, lightweight bridges that can be deployed, Castaldo explained.

For more information, call Pat Castaldo at 410-278-8629 or e-mail pcastald@atc.army.mil.

# ATC breaks ground for Climatic Firing Facility



Photo courtesy of ATC

U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center's Climatic Firing Facility (artist's rendering) will permit the automated replication of a significant portion of the earth's climatic environment.

Susan Hagan  
ATC

The U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Climatic Firing Facility on Feb. 20. Unfortunately, the ground meant to be "broken" was under two feet of snow, so the ceremony was moved inside.

The facility will enable the test firing of weapon systems and the operation of other military materiel under the same weather conditions they will experience in the field.

It is more cost effective to perform such testing in an artificial environment because it eliminates delays waiting for the proper conditions and permits repeatability. In developmental items, it also allows for on-site vendor modifications to the materiel under study.

"The Climatic Firing Facility will permit the automated replication of a significant portion of the earth's climatic environments," said Col. Mary Brown, ATC commander.

Construction is expected to take approximately two years. When completed, the facility will be comprised of three state-of-the-art, controlled environment chambers.

One chamber is designed to test all calibers of direct and indirect weapons systems. The other two chambers will be used for testing

vehicles and other materiel.

Using the facilities' control systems, ATC will be able to remotely monitor the status of systems components, evaluate chamber conditions such as toxic fumes and combustible gasses, and take appropriate actions to protect test personnel and property.

All three chambers will be automated and capable of temperature extremes from -65 F to +165 F and up to 100 percent humidity.

"I think one of the design engineers summed it up best when he said 'We can provide whatever weather you want except for the lightning,'" Brown said, "although I have no doubt that with the incredible engineers we have here [at ATC] in a few years they'll be able to recreate the lightning too."

During the ceremony, six employees were awarded the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for their efforts on the Climatic Firing Facility: David Goad, ATC; Jo Cozby, U.S. Army Developmental Test Command; William Wilson, James Sweger and Carlos Muniz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District; and Raymond McDermott, Department of Public Works.

Roy Falcone, the original project officer, received the Commander's Award in February 2002 for his work on the facility.

## APG News

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

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## DREAMING OF PEACE



Photo by Spc. Andrew Kosterman, Camp Champion, Kuwait of the 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne)  
Soldiers from 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, sleep on a barge after completing training near the Kuwaiti coast.

# Dealing with contract employees

**Dave Scott**  
OSJA

The combination of contracting out and downsizing the federal workforce has required the federal government to become increasingly dependent on contractors to accomplish its mission.

The government is either entirely dependent on contracts for particular functions or contracts augment or duplicate functions performed with in-house personnel.

The bottom line is that mission requirements cannot be met without contracts and the people who perform under those contracts.

This reliance causes a widespread mixing of government and contractor personnel. Government and contractor employees interact on a personal level with little or no distinction as to their status.

The result is a blurring of the distinction between government and contractor personnel.

From the first day in federal service, government employees are taught to treat everyone equally. Not to do so will make the one who does not receive the perceived benefit unhappy.

Unhappy people lead to performance risk. The result is that the government does the "right" thing and treat all members of the "team" the same.

However, government employees must remain aware of certain limitations and restrictions in treating contract employees the same as government employees.

Government supervisors too often fail to keep in mind the differences in rights and responsibilities of the two groups.

Government employees have defined entitlements and duties that do not match those of contractor employees. Matters such as pay, leave, retirement, hiring, firing, promotion, education, and training all differ between government and contractor employees and differ between different contractors.

Contractor employees may gain employment without the same restrictions that apply to government employees. Rules that apply to government employees such as ethics rules do not apply to contractor employees. Both sets of employees must look to different sets of laws to determine rights and obligations.

Government supervisors all too often fail to remember this in an effort to cooperate to maximize efficiency and performance success.

Examples from actual cases where the distinction between government employee and contract employee was inappropriately blurred are listed below:

- To meet management's obligations to create a proper work environment, all government employees are required to go to annual prevention of sexual harassment training. It would be improper for the government to use tax dollars to send contractor employees to POSH training. The contractor should have their own discrimination training program. Sending contract employees to government training would indicate that we were treating government and contractor personnel the same without regard to contract requirements, which governs contractor entitlement. When this is done, the government

takes on one of the contractor's management duties and treats his employees as if they are a government responsibility.

- A contractor is working alone as a secretary in support of a government division. The only person with whom the contract employee works is the government supervisor. In enabling such isolated service, the government may cause a non-government employee to believe she was in fact working for the government despite the fact that her paycheck came from someone else.

- Every year, most organizations host holiday parties and picnics. Some feel it necessary to invite contractors to these non-official organizational events and pay them to go. To do otherwise would be to treat them differently and thereby harm the "team" spirit. This approach to treating all equally is inappropriate and results in the unsupported expenditure of tax dollars. The contract defines the duties of the contractor and the money to which he is entitled as a result of performing those duties. While an annual picnic and holiday party is authorized for government employees, no contract authorizes contractor employees to attend such functions at government expense.

- Each contract requires contractor employees to come to work fully qualified to meet contract requirements assigned to them by the contractor. Government employees lose sight of this responsibility and take on that responsibility by attempting to provide basic training to contractor employees. Again, this relieves the contractor of his responsibility

to assure his personnel are properly trained and transfers to the government the cost of such training. Again, it amounts to the government assuming management responsibilities properly assigned to the contractor.

- A supervisor has a folder full of applications filed by government personnel for a position opened by the departure of a contractor employee. The distinction between who was government and who was contractor was so blurred that the government employees did not even realize they were applying for a contractor position.

In the end, contractor employees owe their loyalty, not to the government, but to their employer. That is the way it is supposed to be. To manage a system whereby the loyalty is shifted is improper.

In trying to accomplish the mission, it is difficult to leave management of contractor personnel to the contractor. It is natural to try to give to contractor employees the same rights and benefits granted to government employees doing the same or similar work. It is more efficient for a government supervisor just to deal directly with contractor personnel rather than going through the contractor representatives. However, losing sight of proper chains of authority is improper.

The government and contractors are on different sides of the bargaining table with different loyalties. Does this mean that both sides cannot cooperate or work together efficiently? Does this mean that government employees and contract employees cannot be nice and polite to one another or be friends on an

individual basis?

No. It simply means government employees must remain aware of their responsibilities and limitations when dealing with contract employees.

## POST SHORTS

also be broadcast on APG Cable Channel 3. Briefing slides will be posted on the APG Web site on April 9.

Telephonic questions will be accepted during the Town Hall meeting via 410-436-7849. Prior to the meeting, questions will be accepted electronically. Send e-mails to linda.holloway@usag.apg.army.mil or call 410-306-4520.

### UPL Certification Course

The Unit Prevention Leader Certification Course will be held March 24 to 28, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Commanders are reminded that all nominees must have a background check initiated prior to attending the course. Slots are limited.

For reservations, call Cindy Scott at 410-278-3784 or Dadrain Willis at 410-278-3810.

### NECPOC hosts Capitol Hill Workshop

The NECPOC/HRD will be hosting the Capitol Hill Workshop: U.S. Public Policy in Times of Crisis, May 7 and 8, at Aberdeen. Specific course information may be found at <http://cpolrhp.army.mil/ner/hrd/03tp/crsdesc/capitolhill.doc>. Registration deadline is March 21.

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

### ACS holds 'Dad's Boot Camp'

Parents and Children Together invites all fathers to the "Dad's Boot Camp," March 31, at Army Community Service, building 2754 Roadman at Aberdeen Proving Ground. For more information, call Diana Hayes, Parents and Children Together Program coordinator, 410-278-4372. RSVP by March 28.

### 143rd Ordnance Battalion Talent Show March 21

All soldiers and their families are invited to the 143rd Ordnance Battalion Talent Show on, March 21, 7 p.m., at the Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140, Austin Street. First, second and third

place prizes will be awarded.

### Vet clinics available

The Veterinary Treatment Facility will conduct clinics on March 21 and 25.

The clinic hours are from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and are by appointment only. To schedule, call the VTF at 410-278-3911/4604.

On March 27, the VTF will conduct a walk-in clinic from noon until 7 p.m. for immunizations/vaccinations only. No "sick call" will be seen.

For further information, call the VTF.

### NAF employees to be recognized

The 8th annual Nonappropriated Fund Employee of the Year Awards ceremony will be held April 2, at Top of the Bay, 2 p.m.

The four categories to be recognized include administrative, trades and crafts, paraprofessional and supervisory.

All Aberdeen Proving Ground personnel are invited to attend.

For more information, call Jean Fuddy, 410-278-8993.

### 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 March 24.

To arrange for child-care, call in advance, space is limited.

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

### ROTC celebrates anniversary

On April 18, the Howard University Army ROTC Program will commemorate its 85th anniversary and annual military ball at the Hilton Hotel in Silver Springs, Md. The theme "Commemorating the Past, Present, and Future" promises to be an evening of fun, reflection and the coming together of various generations who have served, are currently serving or preparing to serve.

For more information, call Maj. Timothy F. Johnson, Ph.D., at 202-806-6785 or e-mail tfjohnson@howard.edu.

### 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.

### Names of deceased Vietnam vets sought

Officials of the Vietnam Memorial Fund are seeking the names of Vietnam veterans who died as a result of their service but not of injuries suffered in combat zones.

Those service members, whose names are not eligible for the wall, will be honored at the fifth annual In Memory Day ceremony April 21 at the memorial.

Anyone who would like their deceased loved ones to be honored should apply to the memorial fund by Feb. 28.

Applications can be obtained by calling 202-393-0090 or by visiting the fund's

Web site [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org).

A copy of the death certificate and military records showing service in Vietnam must accompany application.

### Vietnam Veterans present "Moving Wall" memorial in April

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Harford County Chapter 588, and Harford Community College will present the American Veterans Traveling Tribute known as the "Moving Wall," April 17 to 20 at Harford Community College.

The "wall" is a four-fifths scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The four-day event includes educational displays, locator computers for those wishing to find the name of a friend or relative on the wall, counseling services, a bronze replica of the Vietnam Women's Memorial and a 40-foot POW/MIA flag.

A service remembering Harford County service members lost during Vietnam will take place April 19, 1 p.m. The ceremony includes guest speakers who will provide insight on the historical aspects of the Vietnam War.

The display will be open for visitors 24 hours a day while at HCC. For more information, contact Norman Boskind, chairman, Harford County Veterans Commission, at 410-893-0337.

### RAB meeting March 27

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its next monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting on March 27, 7 to 9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road.

The topics will include updates on the J-Field and Canal Creek Study Areas and the Lauderick Creek CWM Removal Action. 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.

### 'Gypsy' on Broadway, in New York City

Take a trip to the Big Apple May 17 to see "Gypsy," a revival of the 1959 musical based upon the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee. Before 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.

### KUSAHC asks for patience

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is currently facing mission requirements that challenge staff assets.

Soldiers deploying require a medical clearance, which is integral to Soldier Readiness Processing in preparation for possible war. In response to presidential orders, an increasing numbers of soldiers need provider appointments, immunizations, etc.

These deployments are taxing KUSAHC resources and beneficiaries need to be aware that changes may occur in access during the next month.

To meet this challenge KUSAHC may be forced to curtail or even cancel routine appointments to prepare soldiers in the event of war.

Beneficiaries are asked to be patient during this time of unrest.

### After Hours Clinic

The After Hours Clinic at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is closed on Sundays and holidays. Patients needing advice on health care can call the Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-308-3518.

Anyone with an emergency problem should call '911' or go to the nearest hospital

emergency room.

### Reduction of veterinary services

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility is experiencing limited availability of a veterinarian. The VTF will not be able to publish scheduled appointments.

Anyone wishing an appointment with the clinic may phone the clinic at 410-278-3911/4575. However, appointment dates will be known only on a short notice basis.

The clinic maintains a waiting list, and as appointment dates become available, the clinic will call persons on that list on a first-come, first-served basis.

Pet owners should be prepared to visit a civilian veterinarian during this period. Personnel who need health certificates for PCS only should call the clinic for help in locating another VTF to obtain the certificate.

The VTF apologizes for any inconvenience

### Join the spouses club

MCSC membership is open to all spouses (or surviving spouses) and members of the armed forces of the United States on active duty or retired; spouses or surviving spouses of Department of Defense civilian employees; and DOD civilians.

The club's purpose is to provide a support system for MCSC members, to develop leadership, to create a sense of unity within the military community, to broaden and enrich the lives of its members and to promote the relationship between the military and surrounding civilian communities.

The club hosts monthly membership functions, which include both daytime luncheons and popular evening events, like the Fall Frolic and Beer Tasting.

The cost of a half-year membership is \$6.

For more information about MCSC, visit the club's Web site, [www.apgmcsc.org](http://www.apgmcsc.org).

### MCSC accepting scholarship applications

The Military and Civilian Spouses Club is accepting applications for scholarships until April 1. Applications are available at Web site [www.apgmcsc.org](http://www.apgmcsc.org).

For more information, call Katie McDonald, MCSC Publicity at 410-273-7477.

### MCSC holds book fair

The Military & Civilian Spouses' Club is having a book fair at Barnes & Noble in Bel Air on April 5, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

By obtaining an MCSC coupon, 20 percent of any purchase made will be donated to MCSC. Call 410-273-2476 to obtain a coupon or visit [www.apgmcsc.org](http://www.apgmcsc.org).

(The MCSC coupon does not entitle anyone a discount on their purchase, rather a part of the proceeds for their original purchase will be donated to MCSC.)

Crafts for the children, story time and a bake sale are part of the morning's activities.

### MCSC to donate funds

The Aberdeen Area Military and Civilian Spouses Club will donate funds to organizations and charities this spring.

Groups interested in placing a request for funds should do so in writing. Include name of organization requesting funds, the manner in which the funds will be used, list of other fund raising efforts, and a contact person for the organization (name, address and telephone number).

Requests must be post-marked by April 1. Submit requests to: MCSC Welfare Chairperson, #3 Plumb Point Loop, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005, or e-mail [thetorswb@aol.com](mailto:thetorswb@aol.com).

# Deployment is principal focus of CAC

**Sonya P. Reynolds**  
APG News

The Community Action Council meeting was held Feb. 20 at the Edgewood Area Conference Center.

Col. Mardi U. Mark, Aberdeen Proving Ground garrison and deputy installation commander opened by commenting on the unfavorable weather conditions and thanking attendees for their continued support and patience with the snow removal process.

## Health issues

Lt. Col. David Krieger, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, said appointments for family members are backed up because the priority is to take care of deploying soldiers. He added that some appointments had to be moved to accommodate the workload.

The clinic will accept emergency cases, but regular appointments will be offset.

Krieger stated that names are being placed on a waiting list and clinic personnel will begin calling them in for appointments.

Attendees asked if appointments could be

scheduled through TRICARE, and Krieger responded yes but said they wanted to keep as many appointments as possible on the schedule.

One attendee voiced concerns about the meaning of an "ASAP referral." Noting that a doctor's referral slip was issued, when the recipient attempted to use it for an appointment at KUSAHC, the slip was not honored.

Krieger said "ASAP referral" does mean as soon as possible but does not guarantee an immediate ticket to see the doctor.

He said in the event KUSAHC personnel refuse to make an appointment based on a doctor's referral, patients should call him at 410-278-1727.

## Dental needs

Cathy Cruz, a medical clerk at Dental Activities, said because they are performing Soldier Readiness Processing, customers should expect changes and disruptions in appointments.

She added that emergency dental treatment of soldiers would continue as scheduled.

## Commissary

Tammy Spickler, director, APG Commissary, said that due to school closures caused by poor weather conditions, there have been a few problems in getting student transcripts reviewed for scholarship applicants. She added that services would continue as usual as they work on getting student commissary scholarship applications submitted on time.

## Easter service

Easter Sunrise Service will be held April 20, 7 a.m., at McBride Field in the Edgewood Area.

## Recreation

Roy Ballinger, Directorate of Community and Family Activities, said the Olympic Pool replacement will not be complete by Memorial Day due to delays in construction caused by poor winter weather conditions. Ballinger added that the Shore Pool should open Memorial Day weekend.

## Miscellaneous

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Stallings intro-

duced newly arriving Command Sgt. Maj. James Barkley, U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, to the council.

Mark addressed a few concerns and noted that the support of everyone is needed, adding that mobilization is her first priority. Mark said that consideration should be directed to family members being left behind by deploying soldiers, adding that civilians will also be deploying.

She said that there are three major concerns of the Secretary of the Army: win the war on terrorism, transform the Army and the economical spending of every dollar.

In closing, Mark sympathized with concerns for a better installation.

"APG deserves a better installation but unfortunately it's not our turn in the barrel. It may be a couple of years but it's coming," Mark said. "With soldiers deploying, we are transforming the Army and it will not be in housing but other things so reach out and touch someone."

The next CAC will be held April 3, 1:30 p.m. in building 305 conference room.

## Cut-off dates for submitting purchase requests

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Contracting of the Army Contracting Agency has established the fiscal year 2003 cut-offs for submitting purchase requests.

Customer support in identifying and submitting purchase requests by or before the dates shown below greatly enhances the ability of the Directorate of Contracting to meet customer needs. Early planning and coordination remain the keys to a successful year-end.

### The following schedule should be used for the submission of purchase requests for FY 03 and maintenance for FY 04:

- Noncommercial Items over \$100,000 - May 15\*
- Noncommercial Items between \$2,500 and \$100,000 - June 15
- Commercial items between \$100,000 and \$5 million - June 15
- Short-of-Award over \$2,500 - June 15
- Commercial Items under \$100,000 - Aug. 15
- Maintenance for FY 03 - June 15

\* There may be instances where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. It is therefore required that these actions be coordinated with the branch chief prior to this date.

The Defense Department contracting automated system, PD2, is used at APG. Although the submission schedule has been increased to permit additional time to process actions through this system, requestors are advised to submit their year-end requirements as early as is reasonable to minimize the possibility of funds going unobligated at year end.

Submission of requests after the scheduled dates will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Refer questions to Joyce Roberts, Contracting Division, joyce.roberts@sbccom.apgea.army.mil, 410-278-0869.

### More specific questions should be referred as follows:

Facilities Branch - repair, alteration, construction, sale and removal of excess real property, services for base operations functions (including, but not limited to, utilities privatization, custodial, refuse,

underground utilities locating, etc.), equipment-in-place, and facilities - call or e-mail Martha Mitchem at martha.mitchem@sbccom.apgea.army.mil, 410-278-2362.

Services Branch - general and specialized services for mission support; range testing of vehicles, equipment, ammunition; lease, rental, and maintenance of equipment; full food services; environmental services; equipment-in-place, and other base operations services - call or e-mail Shirley Kelly, shirley.kelly@sbccom.apgea.army.mil, 410-278-0854.

Technology Branch - ADP equipment; word processing equipment; software; general, specialized, and test equipment; instrumentation; supplies; and, ADP maintenance and services - call or e-mail Ginny Corona at Ginny.corona@sbccom.apgea.army.mil, 410-278-0883.

The cutoff dates are also displayed on the Directorate of Contracting Web site <http://www.apg.army.mil/aca/> under "Announcements, News, and Notes."

## Preparing purchase requests in PRweb

- When preparing a purchase request in the PRweb system (formerly known as Acquiline), do not use any dashes or spaces in the purchase request number.

- Anyone preparing attachments for any electronic document to be used by contracting must use the following format: Normal, Times New Roman, 10. The contracting writing system used by contracting cannot format correctly if a font other than Normal, Times New Roman, 10 is used or if any special characters are used in the document.

- Do not use page breaks, section breaks, column breaks or special characters such as trademark signs, tm, ®, <, etc. in any document that will be used in a purchase order or contract.

# Community Notes

## THURSDAY MARCH 20

### VFW POST 6054 PRESENTS KARAOKE

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054 presents Karaoke featuring TC & Company from 8 p.m. to midnight. There is no cover charge. For more information, call 410-272-3444.

## THURSDAY TO SATURDAY MARCH 20 TO 22

### SCOUTING FOR FOOD

It is time again for the annual Harvest for the Hungry. This year Aberdeen Proving Ground's own Cub Scout Pack 924 and Boy Scout Troop 429 will be working with the local U.S. Postal workers to collect food for those less fortunate. The week of March 15 through 22 letter carriers will accept donations everyday. Another option is that on March 15 the Cub Scouts will be distributing door hangers to all of the quarters on post. Anyone wishing to donate should leave their donation on their doorstep on March 22, and the Boy Scouts will pick it up. No one will knock on doors so donators do not have to be home to donate. Since there is no food locker on post, the Scouts will take the donations to the churches in Aberdeen to add to their supplies for the needy. Any questions can be directed to Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Mathis at 410-278-5641.

## SATURDAY MARCH 22

### 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, 410-378-3338, Stephanie Gibson, 410-378-2672, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

### BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit Child Advocacy, sponsored by Friends of the Child Advocacy and CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and are available by calling Lynn Hale or Mary K., 410-638-4938 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

## FRIDAY, SATURDAY MARCH 21, 22

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

Protestant Women of the Chapel invite all women to their Spring retreat at the APG Main Post Chapel. Guest speaker Candy Davidson, director of Sandy Coves Ministries, will remind attendees that "nothing is impossible with God."

The retreat will include dinner and session on Friday night, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and breakfast, lunch and program from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Child care is available but must be reserved in advance. A \$20 donation and reservations must be in by March 14. Scholarships are available.

Contact Laura Keegan at 410-273-0161 or Shirley Huffman at 410-273-1497 for information or to register.

### DISCO AT THE VFW

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054 Disco will be held every Friday and Saturday, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Admission is \$5. Participants must be 21 with proper ID. For more information, call 410-272-3444.

## SUNDAY MARCH 23

### OLDIES BUT GOODIES NIGHT AT VFW

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054 hosts Oldies But Goodies every Sunday night 8 p.m. to midnight for the mature crowd. There is no cover charge. For more information, call 410-272-3444.

## TUESDAY

### MARCH 25 ABERDEEN LIONS CLUB PANCAKE DINNER

The Aberdeen Lions Club will host its annual Pancake Dinner at Aberdeen High School from 4 to 7 p.m. Club members are selling tickets for \$5.50 in advance for those 4 years and over (\$6 at the door); children 3 years and under are free. Price includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage and drinks.

For tickets, contact any club member or call 410-939-9082. The club will use profits from this fund raiser for their community service activities and scholarships.

## FRIDAY MARCH 28

### BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit Havre de Grace High School Athletic Boosters will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street. Bingo starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available by calling Sandy Hash, 410-939-7174, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

## SATURDAY MARCH 29

### USO SHOW TO HONOR THE MILITARY

The Junior Girls Unit of the Dublin-Darlington VFW Post 10146 is hosting a USO show to honor all past and present military to raise funds for Operation USO Care Package. The VFW is located at 3440 Conowingo Road (on Rt. 1 near Rt. 136) in Street.

The first show and buffet dinner at 2 p.m., specifically

## MOVIES

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

### SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

Friday, March 21, 7 p.m.  
Starring: Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson



Chon (Chan) and Roy (Wilson) head to London to find the rebel who murdered Chon's father and shake up Victorian Britain in the process. Chon's sister, Lin (Wong), also thirsty for vengeance, stumbles into what appears to be a conspiracy to off the royal family. (Rated PG-13)

### ABOUT SCHMIDT

Saturday, March 22, 9 p.m.  
Starring: Jack Nicholson, Hope Davis



Warren Schmidt (Nicholson) is forced to deal with an ambiguous future as he enters retirement.

Soon after, his wife passes away, and he must come to terms with his daughter's marriage to a man he does not care for and the failure that his life has become. (Rated R)

### THE RECRUIT (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, March 22, 7 p.m.  
Starring: Al Pacino, Colin Farrell



James Clayton (Colin Farrell) is one of the top prospects in the new crop of CIA recruits. His intelligence and unconventional attitude attract the attention of veteran Walter Burke (Al Pacino) who squires him through the agency's difficult training courses and helps him to quickly rise through the ranks. Clayton is then given a special assignment, to root out a suspected mole that has infiltrated the agency. (Rated PG-13)

for active-duty military and their family members, is free of charge. The second show and buffet dinner at 4 p.m. will be open to the general public at a cost of \$10 per person.

Performers include the local classic and contemporary jazz band Defractions, the North Harford High School Madrigals, and local vocal artists, performing several renditions of patriotic and pop music. In addition, the VFW Junior Girls Unit will perform several patriotic skits and songs. A karaoke machine is available for anyone else wanting to perform a selection.

To reserve a seat., call 410-457-5461.

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 2

### DAV BEL AIR CHAPTER 30 MEETING MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

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

The new location offers plenty of parking and a large hall with refreshments (buy your own) downstairs.

For information and transportation, call 410-838-8325 or 410-879-0861.

## FRIDAY APRIL 4

### BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, 21 North Rogers Street. Doors open at 6 p.m. and bingo begins at 7 p.m. There will be 20 games, door prizes and raffles. Refreshments will be sold. Proceeds will benefit Parent Child Care Association of APG/EA Child Development Center. Tickets cost \$10.

For tickets and information call Nancy Hofman, 410-569-9126 or Leeann Domanico, 410-836-5618.

### BASKET BINGO

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Edgewood Area Child Development Center will hold Basket Bingo at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, 21 North Rogers Street, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and include 20 games of bingo, door prizes and raffles. Refreshments will be sold; proceeds will benefit Parent Child Care Association of the APG/EA Child Development Center. For information or tickets, call Nancy Hofmann, 410-569-9126 or Leeann Domanico, 410-836-5618.

## 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.

## SATURDAY APRIL 5

### BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit Good Shepherd Catholic School will be held at the Good Shepherd School. Bingo starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available by calling the Good Shepherd School, 410-642-6265, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

## SUNDAY APRIL 6

### SPAGHETTI DINNER

Prince of Peace Church, 2600 Willoughby Beach Road, Edgewood, is having their annual Spaghetti Dinner 2 to 6 p.m. Homemade sauce and meatballs, salad and a beverage are included. Cost for adults is \$6, seniors cost \$5 and children (ages 6 to 11) cost \$5. Children 5 and under are free.

Call 410-679-5912 for more information.



Capt. John Pippy cleans his M16 in his barracks room on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Although he is a state senator from Pennsylvania, Pippy is set to deploy with his Army Reserve unit, the 332nd Engineer Company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## Pennsylvania legislator poised to deploy with troops

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

Thanks to the pending state of war, a recently elected state senator from Allegheny County, Pa., has a lot more than legislative procedures on his mind.

Capt. John Pippy is a member of the 332nd Engineer Company, a Pennsylvania Army Reserve unit assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground undergoing out-processing and training for pending deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom.

Along with the rest of his unit, Pippy was called to active duty Feb. 10 and has been on APG since Feb. 15.

Pippy, a former state representative, was elected to the senate March 11 during a special midterm election for a vacant seat in which he garnered 68 percent of the vote. Now in official leave of

absence status, the soldier-politician is set to deploy with his comrades, leaving an office staff to carry on his duties via phone and e-mail.

Pippy said it never crossed his mind to request an excusal.

"Everyone in the military understands the bond you form with co-workers," Pippy said. "This is a very real-world mission that matters. I can always go back to politics."

Having won the swing vote as a republican in a heavily democratic district, Pippy said his work ethic, which saw him through three years of active duty with the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas, and through a "very challenging" election process, will get him through the coming conflict and back home where he can resume his duties.

"Like the military, the voters in my district appreciate hard work," Pippy said. "People who know me know I

will always do my best. My work ethic carries the message."

Born in Thailand, Pippy worked hard to receive an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he graduated in 1992 with a bachelor's in environmental engineering.

A state representative for six years, he said he plans to finish the remaining two years of the term he was just elected to then run for reelection.

He said his personal philosophy lets him see his current situation not as an obstacle, but an opportunity.

"The key is to do a good job in any position you hold. You develop a good reputation and opportunities present themselves," he said.

Pippy lives near Pittsburgh with his wife, Katherine, and his children, Sean, 12 and Katelyn, 9.

## Taking charge of career highlights Women's History Month celebration

**Sonya P. Reynolds**  
APG News

In honor of Women's History Month, the Garrison Federal Women's Program held the 13th Annual Federal Women's Program Training Conference, 'Build-ing Tomorrow's Leaders Today,' March 5 at the Edgewood Area conference center.

Col. Mardi U. Mark, garrison and deputy installation commander, commented on the focus of the women's day celebration stating that topics discussed are designed to help promote growth professionally and personally.

"Today's workshops will focus on career development, cultural diversity in the work place, team building, ergonomics and overcoming fear of public speaking," Mark said.

Participants were provided instruction on resume preparation; the do's and don'ts, resume formats and '10 musts' for a resume.

Olivia W. Tennessee, Team Building workshop instructor, said she was very excited to

talk about something she preaches to her staff daily.

"I'm here to talk about what it takes to build a successful team. A lot of people don't have a clue," Tennessee said. "The first thing people must realize is that a team must be well organized."

She opened her workshop using Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery as an example. Tennessee said she focused on her because she carried a lot of might, not only escaping slavery single handedly, but returning to her homeland, organizing a team of 300 slaves and helping them escape as well.

"She rescued 300 slaves without losing a single one," Tennessee said. "That is a true expression of team [building] leadership."

The Career Development workshop instructor, Thomasine Adams, stated her objective was to teach people how to reach their goals. During one segment, 'Breaking the glass ceiling,' she told listeners to be knowledgeable about their shortcomings and to be prepared when that next posi-

tion becomes available.

"You need to know exactly what to do to push forward in a job," Adams said. "Make them tell you why you didn't get that job you applied for so you'll know what to do the next time around."

Participants were eagerly seeking answers and advice as to how to move forward in a current position or find positions outside their organizations.

One participant summed it up, offering helpful tips to attendees.

"The key to getting that interview is the resume," said Margaret Jones, staffing specialist, Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center. "Make sure your resume is flexible. We want you to have skills. You may not have the knowledge of the business but we want to know you can follow directions and that we can teach you."

Welcoming remarks, presented by Mark, included special thanks to those who organized the event.

"I want to thank Sheryl  
*See CAREER, page 14*

## Sierra introduces online enrollment, fee payment

Sierra Military Health Services, Inc.

TRICARE and Sierra Military Health Services, Inc. make it simple to enroll and pay TRICARE Prime enrollment fees any time, day or night. Just a couple of mouse clicks put users on the path to online enrollment.

To enroll online, visit [www.sierramilitary.com](http://www.sierramilitary.com) and click on the Enrollment link, then select Online Enrollment. It will prompt users through the entire enrollment process, including fee payment for retirees.

Enrollment fees must be paid using a valid credit card when using the Internet.

Active duty and retired sponsors can enroll themselves and their family members any time.

After completing the enrollment online, print out and sign the signature page and either

fax or mail to Sierra. Signature pages must be received before the 20th of the month in order for enrollment to be effective the first day of the following month.

Activated Reservists, National Guard members and their families are not eligible to enroll online as they are required to submit copies of their orders with their enrollment form.

Once enrolled, retirees can make quarterly or annual fee payments online.

Visit [www.sierramilitary.com](http://www.sierramilitary.com), click on Enrollment, then link to Pay Enrollment Fees. Have a credit card ready to use this secure payment system.

Visit [www.sierramilitary.com](http://www.sierramilitary.com) for more TRICARE information and to enroll in TRICARE Prime.



# Morale, Recreation & Welfare

## CYS requests survey completion

**Pat Palazzi**  
CYS

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Child and Youth Services Division must be proactive in determining in advance how it can support soldiers and families during times of mobilization/deployment and other emergency situations.

By filling out the survey below and returning it, participants will be helping

CYS to be ready to support the needs of the APG community when duty calls.

The time and effort spent filling out this survey will have a direct impact on CY's ability to provide viable support services for families, when and if the need occurs.

Surveys can also be picked up at the PX, commissary and Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

### Non-patron Needs Survey

This survey should be completed by all potential patrons of Child and Youth Services Programs, i.e. families who would only require services during deployment/contingencies.

The survey identifies requirements for additional hours/services/facilities that may be needed during deployment/contingencies.

Name of sponsor:

Last name First Name

Telephone # and e-mail:

Name(s) of child/youth and birthdates:

Type/hours of care needed:

Fullday Evenings Weekends  
Other:

Are you required to have a Family Care Plan?  
YES NO

Date FCP expires, if required: (Please attach copy)

To what unit or organization are you assigned?

Are you mission essential? YES NO

Is your spouse mission essential? YES NO

If yes, attach a copy of supporting documentation signed by the unit commanding officer, first sergeant or supervisor, as appropriate.

Return the survey and any necessary documentation to the Outreach Services Office, building 2752 or fax to 410-278-2582 by April 30. There is a mailbox outside of the Community Support Building, building 2752, for after-hours drop off.

## APG SCHOOL LIAISON

### Free Parent Guidebooks

The U.S. Army Secondary Education Transition Study 2001 has free copies of Parent Guidebooks available for parents of middle and high school students who move during the high school years. It contains ideas and suggestions to help make school transition smooth.

Key areas that will assist parents include transfer and interpretation of academic records; calendars and schedules; graduation requirements/planning; academic Passport; state tests; extracurricular participation; partnerships; social and emotional needs; and shared responsibility. To receive a free Parent Guidebook, call Ivan Mehosky, 410-278-2857, or visit building 2752, room 200.

### Stay-In-School initiatives

Stay-in-School Initiatives are activities designed to increase the proportion of students who graduate high school. These activities tend to concentrate on increasing students' level of motivation and sense of belonging as well as giving them personal attention to foster a supportive environment.

Mentoring can be an invaluable experience for youth at risk of dropping out of school.

The Army can support stay-in-school initiatives in different ways:

\* Soldiers can serve as mentors and role models for at-risk youth

\* Leaders can serve as motivational speakers to inspire youth

\* Army standards (such as discipline and fitness) and values can provide the framework for developing positive attitudes and programs

### Resources you can use

The Algebra Project ([www.algebra.org](http://www.algebra.org)) is a national mathematics literacy effort aimed at helping low income students and students of color-particularly black students - successfully achieve mathematical skills.

Reading is Fundamental (RIF) ([www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org)) was founded in 1966. RIF develops and delivers children's and family literacy programs that help prepare young children for reading and motivate school-age children to read regularly. RIF uses a national network to put new, free books in the hands and homes of children who need them most.

Math Counts ([www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org)) is a national math coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement in every state. It promotes student interest by making math achievement challenging, exciting and prestigious.

Math Olympiad ([www.moems.org](http://www.moems.org)) is a site that stimulates enthusiasm and love for math by interesting and challenging activities.

NEA's Read Across America ([www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)) is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for children all across America to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2. It also gives parents, members, caregivers and children the resources and activities they need to keep reading on the calendar 365 days a year.

## LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

The library's feature film collection includes most of the Academy Award winners from the last 60 years. Fifty years ago the Oscar for the Best Film was awarded to:



**From Here to Eternity**, a depiction of life in a Honolulu barracks at the time of Pearl Harbor. It was nominated for 11 Oscars and was the winner of 7.

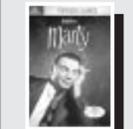
Other winners of the Best Picture designation, from the decade of the 1950's, which can be checked out of the library, include:



**All About Eve** (Betty Davis, Ann Baxter)

**An American in Paris** (Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron)

**On the Waterfront** (Marlon Brando, Rod Steiger)



**Marty** (Ernest Borgnine, Betsy Blair)

**The Bridge on the River Kwai** (Alec Guinness, William Holden)



**Gigi** (Leslie Caron, Louis Jourdan)

**Ben Hur** (Charlton Heston, Stephen Boyd)



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.

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.

## Joining the boat club

The Spesutie Island Boating Activity is accepting applications for the 2003 season. Membership is open to active duty military, full time Army National Guard, retired military, APG DoD/Nonappropriated Fund civilian employees, retired APG DA civilians, and long term contractors with government ID card.

Membership requirements include performance of eight hours of work and standing assigned security watches. Members must provide proof of identification, boat registration and liability insurance.

Costs are:

- moored boat with parking lot space for trailer is \$19 per foot
- moored boat (only) is \$11 per foot
- boat on trailer in parking lot space is \$8 per foot
- ramp access (only) is \$7.50 per foot

Applications can be picked up at the SIBA Club house, building 36 or at Outdoor Recreation.

For more information, call 410-278-4124.

## Carlson-Wagonlit introduces Enterprise rental agency to community

**Yvonne Johnson**  
APG News

The Carlson-Wagonlit Travel Office held an open house for Enterprise Rent-A-Car, marking the office's alliance with the company and the pending opening of its new Bel Air office.

Trish Mallin, Carlson-Wagonlit manager, said the office is delighted to be involved with the company.

"They are very pro-military with great service, great people and locations," Mallin said, adding that the open house was held to let people know there is another viable option for those in need of car rentals.

"Through April, the company will be providing free upgrades for those adding car rentals to their travel plans through our office," she said.

Mike McNulty, Enterprise area manager, led representatives from the Fallston, Edgewood, Aberdeen and Bel Air offices in

offering visitors complimentary snacks and brochures and sponsored a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate and free weekend rentals for local travel.

McNulty said they appreciated Carlson-Wagonlit's help in introducing them to the community.

"We are pleased to work hand-in-hand with Carlson and hope to provide services to those in need of rentals for official or unofficial business," McNulty said.

He added that the company offers discounts to government employees on unofficial business and that it carries various makes and models from compacts and luxury cars to SUVs and passenger vans.

"We also are on-site at the airport and charge no drop-off fees for those on travel orders," McNulty said.

The open house included representatives from Springhill Suites in Bel Camp and the Four Points Sheraton in Aberdeen.

Some visitors who were familiar with the company's services said they would use them again.

"I had a very pleasant experience with them before," said Daria Perrone, a U.S. Army Research Laboratory contractor.

"They [the cars] were very comfortable, [the company was] easy and convenient to work with and they were the first one I called when I needed a rental again."

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Butz, APG Garrison, said he stopped by to find out more about the company.

"I was impressed. They were very informative and took time to answer all my questions," Butz said.

The Enterprise Rent-A-Car Bel Air office opens April 4. In celebration, area offices will offer weekend specials starting as low as \$99 daily with 3-day minimum rentals.

## Activities

### Methods of registration

Registering for any MWR event can be accomplished by visiting the specific facility for the event, mailing in a registration form found in an MWR Program Brochure, visiting the MWR Registration, building 3326, or online at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

### NCAA Men's Basketball March madness

The Sutherland Clubhouse at Ruggles Golf Course is the place to be for NCAA Men's Basketball action. MWR will air every game of the tournament on television. There will be limited bar service, draft beer and food specials during the games. The action starts March 20 and runs through April 7; times will depend on the schedule of games. For more information, call Tom Green at 410-278-4794 or e-mail him at [tom.green@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:tom.green@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Easter egg decorating class

Give the Easter Bunny a break by learning how to design eggs for Easter and fill baskets with these special eggs. Discover the fun of coloring eggs with dye. Class will be held March 29, 1 to 2 p.m. in the AA Recreation Center. Cost for this class is \$10; all supplies will be provided. Register by March 25. For more information, call Chris Lockhart at 410-278-3904 or e-

mail [chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Indoor coed soccer league

This is an eight-week league that ends in a double elimination Championship Tournament with awards. League starts April 4, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Russell Gym. Cost is \$150 per team with 10-person roster, five-person play. Register by March 28. 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).

### Opening Day Scramble

Opening Day at Ruggles Golf Course features a Four player Captain's Choice scramble. Teams may enter as a team or individuals will be paired into foursomes. Lunch and prizes will be presented after the tournament. Event will be held on April 5 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Register by April 1. For more information, call Tom Green at 410-278-4794 or e-mail [tom.green@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:tom.green@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Beginner quilting

Students will learn fabric selection, basic machine use, cutting and sewing blocks, sashing, borders, quilting and finishing. Join MWR April 7 to 28, 6 to 8 p.m. for \$40 (8 hours of instruction) or April 10 to May 1, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. for \$60 (12 hours

of instruction). Both series will be held at the AA Recreation Center. Register by March 28. For more information, call Chris Lockhart at 410-278-3904 or e-mail her at [chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Yankees vs. Mets

To see one of the greatest games in this year's subway series in "The house that Babe Ruth Built," reserve a seat on the bus through MWR Registration. The game is on June 28 at Yankee Stadium. A bus will pick up passengers from Ollie's Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. and return at 9 p.m. Purchase tickets by June 14. Cost is \$81. 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).

### NASCAR racing in Dover

With a brand of racing that is as intimate as it is intense, there's no wonder people continue to flock to "The Monster Mile." Take a trip to Dover International Speedway on Sept. 21 and check out the NASCAR Winston Cup race. Tickets are on sale now for \$135. A \$65 deposit will reserve tickets. Final payments must be made 30 days prior to the event. Tickets must be purchased by Sept. 8 at MWR Registration. 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).



## Homeland Security guide lists everyday measures

**Jamie Danesi**  
Army News Service

A new online guide answers questions that many Americans have about the Homeland Security Advisory System, a color-coded system that depicts the current risk of terrorist activity.

The American Red Cross recently developed the on-line publication, "Homeland Security and You: A Guide to Disaster Preparedness." It lists specific things that people can do to prepare their families, schools, communities, and businesses for each level in the advisory system.

"We thought it would be helpful to the American public to answer the inevitable question as to 'What does going to orange or red mean to me or my family?'" said Carol Hall, manager of Red Cross' Weapons of Mass Destruction/Terrorism Program.

### Family disaster plan

The first thing every individual and family should do is develop a disaster plan and assemble a disaster kit, according to the guide. The plan should cover such information as:

- What community warning signals sound like
- Whether emergency shelters allow pets
- What disaster plans are in place at family members' schools and workplaces
- Where to meet if family members become separated during an emergency
- An out-of-state family contact person
- How to shut off gas and water lines to the house
- Escape routes from the house
- How to use fire extinguishers

The plan should be practiced every few months to ensure that everyone is familiar with it.

As part of the overall plan, families should assemble disaster kits. The disaster kit should contain enough water and non-perishable food for every family member for at least three days. The kit should also include:

- A first-aid kit
- Hand tools
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Personal hygiene items
- At least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person
- Extra glasses or contact lenses
- Prescription drugs
- Important family documents

### Specific steps for the advisory system

The disaster plan and supplies kit are just the first step in preparing the family for the possibility of a terrorist attack.

Red Cross has additional recommendations for each level of the Advisory System.

### Green-low risk of terrorist attack

Learn basic first aid and CPR

Examine volunteer opportunities in your community and choose an agency that provides disaster preparedness training

### Blue-guarded; general risk of terrorist attack

Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities

Review stored disaster supplies and replace items that are outdated

Volunteer and take advantage of additional volunteer training opportunities

### Yellow-elevated; significant risk of terrorist attack

Check telephone numbers and e-mail addresses in your personal communication plan and update as necessary

Develop alternate routes to and from work and school and practice using them

Contact your child's school and obtain its emergency notification and evacuation plans

Continue volunteering and taking additional training

### Orange-high risk of terrorist attack

Review your personal disaster plan and update as required.

Have materials on hand in case you are confined to your home during a disaster.

If a need is announced, donate blood at a blood collection center.

Prior to engaging in volunteer activities, contact the agency to determine its needs.

### Red-severe risk of terrorist attack

Listen to radio/television for current information and instructions.

Contact your office to determine the status of your work day or site.

Obey any travel restrictions announced by local government authorities.

Be prepared to "shelter in place" or evacuate if instructed to do so by local authorities.

Provide volunteer services only as requested.

### Volunteering

One recommendation the Red Cross lists for several of the advisory system levels is volunteering with local agencies that respond to disasters. This training not only can help the community as a whole if a disaster situation occurs, but it can help individuals feel more capable of their abilities to respond to disasters of any kind.

There are many organizations from which you can choose when considering volunteering. The American Red Cross, of course, provides disaster relief services and offers classes both at military

installations and in the community. Check with your local chapter for more information.

Another option is the Citizen Corps, one of several citizen-service organizations initiated by President Bush. The Citizen Corps is coordinated nationally by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; state Citizen Corps councils are coordinated by state emergency management agencies. Citizen Corps has several volunteer programs including Citizen Corps Councils, Neighborhood Watch Programs, Volunteers in Police Service, the Community Emergency Response Team and the Medical Reserve Corps.

A third option for volunteer organizations is the Civil Air Patrol, the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. Created in 1941, the Civil Air Patrol has a great deal of experience with emergency services missions. Homeland security operations are a new area of responsibility for this organization.

These are just a few examples of volunteer opportunities. Check with local communities for other options. Even if deciding not to volunteer, the guide states that disaster preparedness training obtained from these or other organizations can be invaluable if a disaster or terrorist attack occurs.

The important thing to know is that individual citizens are not helpless. There are things that can be done to prepare families and communities for a worst-case scenario. Developing disaster plans, assembling disaster kits and following the Red Cross' recommendations for actions to take at various terrorist threat levels are things that everyone can do to help ensure the safety of families, communities and the nation.

Resources available include American Red Cross publications such as Terrorism: Preparing for the Unexpected; Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit; and Your Family Disaster Plan

### Web resources include:

- American Red Cross - <http://www.redcross.org>
- Civil Air Patrol - <http://www.cap.gov>
- Citizen Corps - <http://www.citizencorps.gov>
- Department of Homeland Security - <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency - <http://www.fema.gov>

(Editor's note: Jamie Danesi is with U.S. Army Forces Command Public Affairs. Information taken from "Homeland Security and You: A Guide to Disaster Preparedness" at <http://www.redcrossatlanta.org/homelandsecurity>. Red Cross information is used with permission.)

## Large-Area Maintenance Shelter (LAMS) provides support to Enduring Freedom

Story and Photos by  
**Bob Whistine**  
AMC

The 1109th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot, a National Guard unit from Groton, Conn., has incurred an additional duty. Within a 72-hour notice it now places the foundations of helicopter repairs, a worldwide, deployable Large-Area Maintenance Shelter [semi-mobile] 'platform,' to support Operation Enduring Freedom in the Kuwaiti desert.

"It's like assembling a giant puzzle. You take all the parts out of the crates, lay them out and begin assembling," said Sgt. 1st Class William Cone, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 1109th AVCRAD. "This was the first time my soldiers assembled a LAMS. It took us about five days to set up the first LAMS."

His 11-man advance party is made of members of AVCRAD units from California, Missouri and Mississippi.

"Our main mission is to repair helicopters," said Cone.

"I was in the Gulf War One and we worked in a LAMS, but they were not constructed on concrete. This [LAMS] offers us a better work environment," he said. "They [LAMS] are more secure work area free of sand and dust. When we get this built, then we can begin working on helicopters."

LAMS are designed to support force projection and staging base operations for maintenance of aviation and ground combat vehicles. Each end of a shelter has a full-width, full-height clamshell-type door. Each shelter is supplied with equipment for lighting, ventilation and electrical door opening.

"You can put two Chinooks in one of these or several smaller-size helicopters and provide protection while you fix the problem," said Bob Abbuzzase, program leader for LAMS at the Soldier Center.

Semi-portable, corrosion- and weather-resistant, LAMS is designed to last up to eight years. An Aviation LAMS is 75 feet wide by 190 feet long and 30 feet high. Both end walls open to receive aircraft. The LAMS is designed to accommodate air conditioning or heat.

LAMS for vehicles are not quite as wide. It is 65 feet wide by 120 feet long and 30 feet high. It also has lights and electrical distribution systems in place. The end walls open, and it has two sidewall vehicle doors. The current plan is to have two LAMS in Kuwait.

"We hope they [LAMS] last up to six years in the environment," Abbuzzase said.

He added, "Coalition Forces Land Component Command funded the repair of these shelters."

"The [U.S. Army] Soldier and Biological Chemical Command is responsible for the shelters," said Karl



A Chinook helicopter waiting for repairs sits on the foundations of a Large-Area Maintenance Shelter [semi-mobile] 'platform,' currently supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in the Kuwaiti desert.

Wolf, SBCCOM's senior command representative in Kuwait. "CFLCC requested the LAMS through the U.S. Army Materiel Command."

LAMS have been used in Bosnia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Hungary, Italy, Honduras, Puerto Rico and now Kuwait. It offers aviation units an on-site facility that provides quick maintenance and return to the unit capability.

The 1109th AVCRAD is a subordinate unit of the Headquarters,

Aviation Depot Maintenance Roundout Unit which is a Maryland Army National Guard unit located at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The HQ ADMRU is the command and control organization for the four AVCRADs located in the United States. The HQ ADMRU and its four AVCRADs have the worldwide mission of providing U.S. Army Materiel Command with a deployable theater aviation maintenance program in support of combatant commanders.



A 1109th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot National Guardsman assembles a wiring harness on a Large-Area Maintenance Shelter, in Kuwait.

# Activity based costing and management - the Army way

**Tom Russell**

*Installation Management Agency*

One of the telling questions a manager needs to be able to answer is "how much does that activity cost?"

Cost management is the technique that enables a manager to answer that question and make sound management decisions associated with a particular activity. The principle underlying cost management is the ability to capture all the costs associated with a given activity or product. That means capturing the direct and indirect labor costs, the material costs, overhead costs, and any other attributable costs. Activity Based Costing and Management, or ABC/M, is the tool the Secretary of the Army has identified to conduct cost management throughout the Army.

ABC/M is based upon the premise that products are generated by actions and actions consume resources. From that principle a model can be constructed that tells the manager how much a process costs.

For example, consider the publication of this article in the *APG News*. The product is known as a "cost object" in ABC. Simplistically, the actions associated with publication of the article may be (1) research and writing, (2) review and edit, (3) insertion in the paper layout, (3) printing and binding, and (4) distribution of the paper. There are undoubtedly other actions, but to keep this example simple only these will be used.

Resources consumed by these actions are the reporter's research, interview and writing time, some apportioned personal computer time, the editor's review time and expertise, the specialized graphic design expertise necessary to layout the paper, the printer, paper products, ink, binding equipment, technical expertise and time it takes to produce the paper, the multiple distribution resources used to get the paper dispersed to home

delivery, base delivery, sales sites, etc.), and the portion of the newspaper's overhead attributable to the article.

For each of the resources the model has to know what portion of the costs is attributable to this article.

For example, for the reporter the model builder needs to know how long he or she worked on the article and what the reporter's salary and fringe benefit costs are. Printing and binding costs may include cost of the run times the ratio of column inches of the article to column inches of the paper.

By linking these resources to their associated actions that are in turn linked to the cost object the editor in our example, can determine the cost of the article. The editor can compare it with another article of similar size in a different department and perhaps conclude that articles written by sports writers are cheaper to run than those run by the members of the city desk. That is ABM - Activity Based Management.

And it does not answer the "quality" question. The editor could look at the comparative costs of distribution and make some decisions based on the findings. ABC/M gives the manager the tools to make better-informed, analytical decisions.

All the costs in our example are outlays, the editor may also want to look at what is the most efficient way to organize the paper's income stream.

The cost object in this case may be the published, revenue-earning ad. The actions may be soliciting ads, designing ads, placing the ads in the paper's layout, collecting and processing payment, and so on. The resources are ad income and the resources consumed in the actions.

Analyzing the results of that process may lead the editor to compare blind phone calls, to targeted phone calls, to visits to local merchants, to other ways of soliciting ad business. Or it

may say that the handling of checks is too expensive and the paper should only accept payment by credit card or electronic funds transfer.

The Army Installation Management Agency is the headquarters level agency that provides direction, management, and oversight to the Army's garrisons both in the United States and Overseas. Over the next 18 months the IMA is implementing ABC/M. At garrisons like Fort Mead the implementation will be a two-step process. By the end of September 2003 the garrisons will be conducting productivity improvement reviews that consider each of the garrison's directorates success in managing costs, satisfying the garrison's mission requirements, and other key indicators. The garrisons will be able to conduct these productivity improvement reviews with existing available information.

By the end of September 2004 the garrisons will be conducting productivity improvement reviews using ABC software that will improve the quality and sophistication of the productivity improvement reviews.

The implementation process will require a certain cultural change as garrison managers must take a more enterprise view of their processes than has been the practice in the past. ABC/M is up and running in several garrisons across the country and has shown promising possibilities for cost efficiency at these pilot sites.

The IMA goal is to use the lessons learned from these proven practitioners in implementing ABC/M in the rest of our garrisons army-wide.

For more information, contact IMA headquarters Plans Division, 703-602-3331.

## Army grants commercial license for topical skin protectant technology

**Cindy Kronman**  
*MRICD*

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command has granted a license for a patented topical skin protectant technology to DFB Pharmaceuticals Inc. and its affiliates Healthpoint Ltd. and DPT Laboratories.

The licensing agreement was signed in September 2002, and provides licensing fees and royalties on commercial sales to the MRMC.

The topical skin protectant was developed at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, a subordinate laboratory of MRMC, and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use by the warfighter as additional protection against exposure to chemical warfare agents when used in conjunction with chemical protective clothing.

Dr. Paul Mele, director, Office of Research and Technology Applications, at MRMC, said, "This is a positive business arrangement that

takes a product out of the government and into the real world."

The military product, available to warfighters in 2003, goes by the nomenclature SERPACWA, or Skin Exposure Reduction Paste

*"This is a positive business arrangement that takes a product out of the government and into the real world."*

*Dr. Paul Mele, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command*

A g a i n s t C h e m i c a l Warfare Agents.

The licensing agreement grants D F B Pharmaceuticals the right to develop the protectant cream into commercial products for consumers.

According to Paul Duesterhoft, D F B Pharmaceutical's vice president for New Business Development, such products would be developed "to reduce the reoccurrence of contact dermatitis associated with exposure to a variety of irritants, including allergens such as poison ivy, oak, and sumac, as well as solvents and bodily fluids."

DFB's Healthpoint affiliate will seek FDA approval for these consumer-based products and will also pursue approval of the current military product for use by first responders and consumers.

DFB's Healthpoint affiliate will seek FDA approval for these consumer-based products and will also pursue approval of the current military product for use by first responders and consumers.

## Edgewood CB Center wins two awards for technology transfer

**Timothy Lavery**  
*ECBC*

Two Edgewood Chemical Biological Center projects recently won awards from the Federal Laboratory Consortium for exemplary work in furthering technology transfer. The projects, known as "Design, Development, Training, Fielding and Continued Consultation for Mobile Laboratories" and "Antibody Engineering for Expression in Insect Cells and Larvae," received two of only 22 awards distributed nationwide by the FLC. Both projects involve application of government-developed technologies to commercial enterprises.

The mobile laboratory project relates to the design, development, training, fielding, and continued consultation for unique solutions for field analysis of chemical and biological materials. These laboratories and systems are now considered the state-of-the-art in laboratory design and will help integrate and standardize field sampling and analysis technologies supporting civilian first responders, military leaders, and federal agencies when responding to chemical, biological and radiological terrorism worldwide.

The antibody expression

project addresses an advanced method for manufacturing recombinant proteins in insect cells and larvae. This technology allows for study of the impact of biological threat agents on gene expression utilizing cells derived from insect larvae, which exhibit responses more similar to animal cells than do bacterial cells. This development allows researchers to realize more pertinent results in their work.

The FLC Awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer are awarded annually and recognize laboratory employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring a technology developed by a Federal laboratory to the commercial marketplace.

The panel that evaluates the award nominations consisted of technology transfer experts from industry, state and local government, academia, and the federal laboratory system. Entries are evaluated on the recipient of and need for the technology, technical expertise, details of the technology transfer partnership, innovative processes used during the transfer, time frame challenges, and any patents or publications associated with the transfer.

## Checks

*From front page*

transactions, said Jimaye Sones, DeCA's director of accounting.

Instead of commissary employees having to contact customers who wrote insufficient-fund checks, the centralized processor will electronically deduct the checks from customers' checking accounts and will start procedures to assess the insufficient fund administrative fee. These deductions have a high success rate because pay cycles have sufficiently replenished customers' accounts to cover the checks.

This more efficient process, which won't cost customers any more money in insufficient-fund service charges, will standardize redemption processes within commissaries and allow store employees to devote more time to customer service, said Sones, who called it a "win-win situation."

"Currently, the Aberdeen

Proving Ground commissary is spending approximately four labor hours a week doing the administrative work of the returned checks. It is not just labor intensive, but embarrassing for the customers, when they get to the registers and they are unable to cash a check," said Tammy Spickler, director, APG Commissary. "Hopefully, this will alleviate some of the customer hardship."

Only commissaries in the United States will institute the process, and it should be in place in all those stores by the end of summer.

The new process results from a collaborative effort between DeCA, the

Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the U.S. Department of Treasury,

Bank of America and Solutran, the firm that will provide the returned check processing services.

*(Editor's note: Rick Brink works in the Media Relations Department at the Defense Commissary Agency headquarters, Fort Lee, Va.*

## Troops

*From front page*

give results within 15 minutes.

Other items that are being used to increase the life span of soldiers during a nuclear, biological or chemical attack are stockpiled vaccines for smallpox and anthrax, which are the principal threats, Reeves said. Also, individuals who specialize in NBC reconnaissance, decontamination and biological detection have been embedded in deployed units as a force protection measure.

"[In Kuwait] every company commander has a specialist advising him on how to develop training programs, and in the case of an attack the specialist would advise the commander on what actions to take," said Col. Thomas Spoehr, the commander of the

3rd Chemical Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. "Then there are teams moving around the battlefield providing support wherever it's needed."

With a force that's so prepared for the worst, why would Saddam take the risk, reporters asked, waiting for a response that would be speculation.

"He's used them in the past," Doesburg said. "He probably has some grave reservations about using those chemical and biological agents, but we're going to be prepared."

"I had the displeasure of having been in Geneva, Switzerland, during the time that he was using chemical agents ... I will never forget the picture book that showed what exposure to mustard agent does ... Most disturbing was the women and children that were in that book," Doesburg said.

## Taxes

*From front page*

the letter. "However, our most recent data shows a significant number of potentially non-compliant federal employees and retirees.

"If the public perceives that federal employees do not maintain the highest level of tax compliance," Wenzel wrote, "public confidence in government will suffer."

The automatic extension of time for soldiers to file their taxes is based on service in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area. Afghanistan has been considered a combat zone since Sept. 19, 2001. Jordan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have also been designated as areas in direct support of combat for Enduring Freedom.

Kuwait was declared a combat zone in 1991, and that designation has never been lifted.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Kosovo are considered hazardous duty areas and soldiers serving there receive the same deferral on their taxes as those in combat zones, according to IRS rules.

Cassandra Charlton, an IRS senior analyst, said deployed soldiers are entitled to extensions because "they're putting their

lives on the line for us."

In addition to the extra time to file, soldiers in a combat zone do not pay any income taxes on the wages they earn while deployed in the area. For enlisted troops and warrant officers, if any part of a month is spent in a combat zone, then that entire month's wages are exempt. For officers, the exclusion is limited to the highest rate of enlisted pay.

Hostile fire or imminent danger pay is also excluded from income tax.

Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers called to active duty - even stateside duty - might also qualify for a deferral of taxes owed, if they can show that their ability to pay taxes was impaired because of their military service. The Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act provides this benefit.

This deferral is also available to new recruits, IRS officials said. It extends the payment deadline for taxes until 180 days after the first term of service ends. Soldiers must request this deferral, however. It is not automatic like the deferment for soldiers in combat zones.

Furthermore, if deployed soldiers did not file income-tax returns for 2001 or earlier, being in a combat zone will not exempt them from late penalties for past years, IRS analyst Charlton said.

The extension of time to file also applies to spouses of military members deployed to combat zones. On the other hand, if a family is owed tax refunds and

wants to get money back immediately, the spouse back home can file tax returns on behalf of the deployed soldier.

Upon returning home from a combat zone, soldiers normally have more than 180 days to file their returns. The tax deadline is also extended by the number of days between deployment and April 15. For example, if a soldier was deployed Jan. 15, then he would have had three months to file his taxes before the normal April 15 deadline. So upon returning home, he will have 180 days plus another three months to file.

When soldiers file their returns, the IRS advises them to attach a statement explaining what situation qualifies them for the extension. Or they can write in red letters "Enduring Freedom" on the front of their return if it applies.

The Internal Revenue Service also announced that changes in the Earned Income Tax Credit law will expand the number of military personnel who qualify for tax relief.

Among the significant changes for the 2002 tax year was a redefinition of what constitutes earned income. Now, earned income no longer includes nontaxable income such as military pay for housing, subsistence allowances or combat. The change will expand the number of military personnel who may be eligible for the credit, according to IRS officials.

## Test, Evaluation Days 2003 conference announced

**Sherry B. Hilley**  
*AMC*

The Test and Evaluation Management Agency will sponsor its sixth Army T&E Days 2003 - "Building Test Capabilities for the Future: Supporting FCS, The Objective Force, and the Next Generation Army," June 3 to 5, in Huntsville, Ala.

Panels highlighting The Changing T&E Environment, PM/PEO Feedback to the Community, Embedded Instrumentation, and T&E Philosophy of the FCS will be discussed during the conference.

An exposition will be held in conjunction with the conference. Government and industry organizations are encouraged to participate in the exposition with hands-on

demonstrations, booths and hardware.

The exhibit continues to be the focal point for the attendees, offering the exhibitors and the attendees an opportunity to network.

Jeanette Wilson, exhibit coordinator, 256-722-7200, jwilson@amtec-corp.com, is available to answer any questions about exhibiting at the event.

The Web site, [www.testeraldays.com](http://www.testeraldays.com), is updated weekly.

For more information, contact the conference hosts, Michael T. McFalls, michael.mcfalls@rdcc.redstone.army.mil, 256-876-3462, or Sherry Hilley, sherry.hilley@rdcc.redstone.army.mil, 256-842-6715.

# Sports



Robert Pope, a civilian instructor with the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, deadlifts more than 400 pounds on his way to winning the 220-pound division of the World Natural Powerlifting Federation Competition in Edison, N.J., March 1.

## APG weightlifters sweep tourney

**Yvonne Johnson**  
APG News

Five Aberdeen Proving Ground weightlifters attended the World Natural Power Lifting Federation competition in Edison, N.J., March 1 and all came away with first-place wins in their divisions.

Edgar Bautista won the 190-pound division, Anthony King won for 148-pounds, Matt Long took the 198-pound category, Margaret McLean, 160-pounds and Robert Pope outdid opponents in 220-pounds.

Pope said the daylong event, which lasted from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., consisted of competitions in the bench press, deadlift and squats.

"It was an intense competition," Pope said, adding that the group members usually train together in the Aberdeen Area Athletic center.

"We prepare three days a week, working on the upper body, back and legs," Pope said.

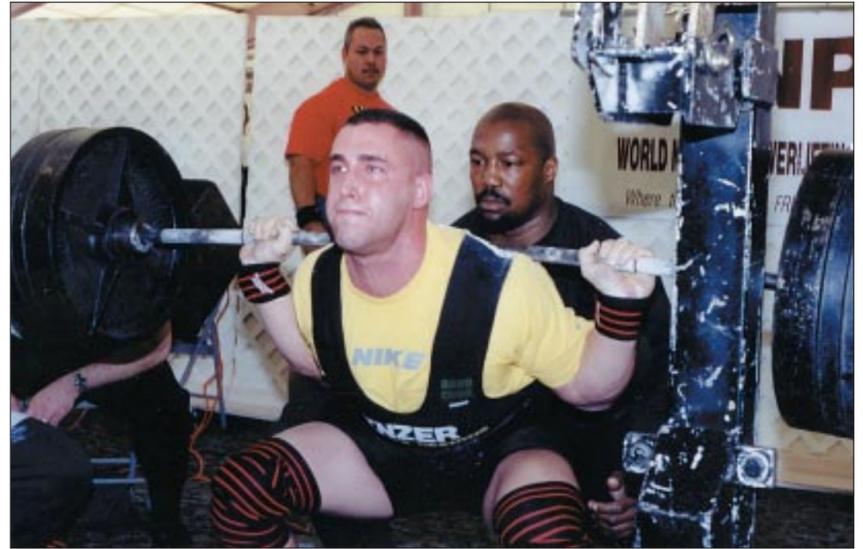
While all work hard, there is no clear leader, he added.

"We work out together with each being a part of the team," Pope said. "We're just a group of people trying to better ourselves."

The lifters plan to participate in the WNPFL national competition June 22 in Philadelphia.



Edgar Bautista, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade, masters a 300-pound squat for a first-place finish in the 180-pound division.



Matt Long, a military police officer with the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security squats more than 400 pounds to win the 198-pound division.

## Basketball update

The following results were received from the APG Sports for the intramural basketball post-season tournament for the week ending March 16.

**March 13**  
Company A 16th, 54; NCOA, 41  
Company B 143rd, 64; USMC, 49  
HHC 16th, 47; Company C 16th, 41  
Company E 16th, 51; HHC 143rd, 45

**March 14**  
Company A 16th, 60; MRICD, 55  
HHC 61st, 48; Company B 143rd, 47  
Company A 1/246th, 66; HHC 16th, 55  
Company E 16th, 44; Company B 16th, 41

**March 15**  
HHC 16th, 48; NCOA, 36  
Company B 16th, 47; USMC, 46  
MRICD, 34; Company C 16th, 23

HHC 61st, 50; Company A 16th, 37  
Company E 16th, 64; Company A 1/246th, 60

**March 16**  
HHC 16th, 53; Company A 16th, 48  
Company A 1/246th, 59; MRICD, 51  
Company E 16th, 53; HHC 61st, 47  
HHC 61st, 51; Company A 1/256th, 38  
HHC 61st, 54; HHC 16th, 47  
March 17th - Post Championship

## CWF softball league forming

The Civilian Welfare Fund is in the process of coordinating the Annual CWF coed Softball League.

Team fees will be collected to pay for umpires, softballs and awards. Practice will begin during the first week of April. Games will begin during the first week of May.

Teams interested in joining this league should contact the CWF Office at 410-278-4603/4771.

## APG Catholic Community Lenten schedule

### Aberdeen Area Chapel

**March 22**  
Adult Lenten retreat, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**March 26**  
Stations of the cross, 7 p.m.  
**April 2**  
Stations of the cross, 7 p.m.  
**April 5**  
Confirmation retreat, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**April 9**  
Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.  
**April 13**  
Palm Sunday mass, 8:30 a.m.  
**April 16**  
Ecumenical Tenebrae service, 7 p.m.  
**April 17**  
Holy Thursday mass, 11:45 a.m.  
**April 18**  
Good Friday service, 11:45 a.m.  
**April 20**  
Easter Sunday mass, 8:30 a.m.

### Edgewood Area Chapel

**March 20**  
Stations of the cross, 7 p.m.  
**March 27**  
Stations of the cross, 7 p.m.  
**April 3**  
Stations of the cross, 7 p.m.  
**April 10**  
Stations of the cross, 7 p.m.  
**April 13**  
Palm Sunday mass, 10:45 a.m.  
**April 15**  
Ecumenical Tenebrae service, 7 p.m.  
**April 17**  
Holy Thursday mass, 7 p.m.  
**April 18**  
Good Friday mass, 11:45 a.m.  
**April 19**  
Easter vigil, 7 p.m.  
**April 20**  
Easter Sunday mass, 10:45 a.m.



## Chapel notes

### Morning prayers and reflections

Bible readings, reflection and prayer will be held Monday mornings from 6:30 to 7 a.m. at the Aberdeen Area Chapel, March 24 through May 19.

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

### Organist/choir director needed

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

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.

### 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; *Professional-izing 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.

### Protestant Lenten devotionals

The APG Post Chapel will hold Protestant Lenten Devotionals in the Social Hall at noon, each Wednesday through April 9. The devotionals will be followed by a light lunch ending at 12:45 p.m. Call 410-278-4333 for lunch reservations two days prior to each day of attendance.

Holy Week Devotionals will be held at noon from April 21 to 23 at the Post Chapel. The devotionals will be followed by a light lunch ending at 12:45 p.m. Call 410-278-4333 for lunch reservations two days prior to each day of attendance.

### Contemporary worship service

A new, contemporary worship service will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. each Sunday at the Edgewood Area Chapel, building E-4620.

Musicians and singers are welcome. All are welcome to attend. For more

information, call Chaplain Shawn E. McCammon, 410-436-8695

### Good News Bears Starts May 8

Good News Bears is a Christian discipleship program for children ages 3 to 11 full of fun, stories, and lots of activities. The "Bears" (children) will have opportunities to earn a T-shirt and badges by completing various requirements.

The group meets at 6:30 p.m. at Skipper's Point in Edgewood.

To pre-register, call Julie McCammon at 410-569-6504.

### Women's Group starts May 8

The Edgewood Area Chapel will host a study that encourages women going through the transition and adjustment of moving. It is based on the book by Susan Miller, *"After the Boxes are Unpacked."* This thirteen-week class uses biblical principles and practical how-to's.

Meetings will be held for 13 consecutive Thursday nights beginning May 8, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The class runs simultaneously with the Good News Bears Club but is a separate function available to anyone who wishes to come.

Location to be announced. To pre-register, call Julie McCammon at 410-569-6504.

# Phillips Army Airfield holds crash rescue drill

Susan Hagan

ATC

Less than 10 minutes after the Mayday call was made, responders were on the scene after an Army UH-1 helicopter experienced a hard landing.

Fortunately, responders were not responding to a true emergency, but to U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center's Phillips Army Airfield crash rescue drill.

Annually, Phillips Army Airfield holds a crash rescue drill to evaluate their pre-accident plan, emergency response times and emergency personnel.

"Some of the things we look at are the time it takes for emergency personnel to contain a fire, and the time it takes to extract victims from the accident," said Allan Johns, airfield aviation safety officer.

To begin the exercise, a simulated emergency call, or Mayday, was made to the PAAF tower. The scenario for the emergency was that the helicopter had been hovering for take-off from a high hover altitude when the engine failed, resulting in a hard land-

ing. The pilot, Tom Skhal, remained conscious and secured the engine, but sustained neck and back injuries. The crew chief, Chris DeMarco, was unconscious in the cabin and also sustained neck and back injuries. A post-crash fire did not ignite, but fuel was leaking on the ground.

The tower immediately sounded the primary crash alarm, which alerted Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire Department and PAAF Operations. PAAF Operations Personnel immediately initiated the secondary crash alarm, checking phone numbers for accuracy and notifying appropriate personnel that a drill was in progress.

Fire trucks, ambulances and a crash truck from the GAPG fire department responded to the simulated accident.

Upon arriving, the firemen took precautions to prevent a fire while crash-rescue personnel attended to the helicopter's crew and prepared to extract them from the helicopter. The spill response team used a spill kit to contain the fuel leaking onto the ramp.

The Maryland State Police Medevac helicopter also arrived as a part of the drill. In the event of a true accident, the Medevac would be used to transport crash victims to an area trauma unit.

John Mullin, PAAF airfield commander, and Capt. Donald Collier, GAPG Fire Department, were present to observe response time and procedures as emergency responders arrived.

First Sgt. Patrick King, Maryland State Police Aviation Detachment, was present to observe the response by the Medevac helicopter.

In under an hour, the entire drill was completed.

Following the exercise, an after action review was conducted.

"We conduct the after action review to discuss all aspects of the drill, placing emphasis on areas that need to be changed or improved," said Johns.

According to Johns, the drill was considered a success, providing excellent training for all participants.



Photo by JOHN ALLISON  
Chris DeMarco, crew chief, is loaded onto the Maryland State Police Medevac helicopter as part of Phillips Army Airfield's crash rescue drill Feb. 27.

## OMMS AIT student certified by American Welding Society

E.C. Starnes

OC&S

He is the first. And the accomplishment will follow him throughout his career, whether it's in the military or in civilian industry.

Pvt. Nathan L. Henderson of Globe, Ariz., became the first student at the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School at Aberdeen Proving Ground to meet the American Welding Society SENSE (Schools Excelling Through National Skill Standards) Program standards and be certified by AWS.

Maj. Gen. Mitchell Stevenson, the Army's chief of Ordnance, joined Henderson's fellow students, cadre and instructors to honor his achievement in an informal ceremony at APG.

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Trzeciak, chief of the Metalworking Services

Department, noted, "This program is a tough, realistic enhancement to our training. It has raised the standards for both the students and the instructors. Those students [like Henderson] that have prior experience or training now have something to challenge them."

Stevenson explained that the AWS accreditation and certification program is just one of many programs completed or in the works to provide ordnance soldiers with professional recognition from civilian industry.

Henderson explained that he had some experience and training prior to coming to OMMS. In addition to training from his father, he had studied welding for three years in high school and two years in college. Prior to enlisting in the Army he worked for Bowen Construction and Phelps Dodge Miami Mining in his home state of Arizona.

He said he undertook the SENSE program because "it was a new challenge and I knew it could only benefit me. Later on in my career it will be an advantage for me and help me secure a position in the metalworking field."

Trzeciak explained that Henderson worked hard to achieve success.

"He was given a drawing, and without assistance, was required to fabricate and weld the assembly. He completed both Horizontal and Vertical Bend qualification tests and five workmanship qualification tests," Trzeciak said.

Henderson said it took about three weeks to complete the program. He recommends it to his fellow soldiers.

"Anything you can do and learn from it is worth doing and doing right," Henderson said. He also praised his Army training.

"I learned a lot about myself and gained a

new found respect."

Trzeciak explained that there are four other soldiers currently attempting certification.

He said that the process challenges the students "by raising the standards and produces better quality soldiers. Additionally it will make our soldiers more marketable upon leaving the military."

Henderson, who graduated from the Metalworker course (military occupational specialty 44B) on March 19, is headed to Fort Hood, Texas, for his first assignment.

In addition to the AWS Certificate, Henderson received a Chief of Ordnance coin from Stevenson and a 16th Ordnance Battalion Certificate of Achievement from Lt. Col. Thomas Keegan, battalion commander.

## Career

From page 7

Coleman from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, who is APG's Army Federal Women's Program coordinator, Diane Siler from the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, and the entire Federal Women's Program committee for their hand in orchestrating this conference," Mark said.

She also recognized and thanked soldiers for the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools who modeled military women in uniform, past and present.

Instructors aimed to fill attendees with knowledge to move forward in their careers or give them tools to further develop the skills they have. Tennessee said it gave her great pleasure to be a part of the event.

"I'm glad to be here presenting to a group of women who seem to be very interested," said

Tennessee.

Workshops geared towards career enhancement included Overcoming the Fear of Public Speaking by David Garcia, U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command; Career Development: It's Time for a Change, led by Thomasine Adams, diversity development specialist, U.S. Postal Service, Baltimore; Cultural Diversity in the Workplace by Paul Papp, executive director, Addiction Recovery and Related Therapies, Directorate of Safety Health Environment; Team Building: How Do You Fit In by Olivia W. Tennessee, marketing and communications manager, General Electric Network Solutions, Atlanta, Ga.; Ergonomics in the Workplace by John Pentikis, ergonomist, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and Resume Writing: More Than Buzz Words by Marilyn Howard, employment readiness program manager, Army Community Service.



Photo by SONYA P. REYNOLDS  
Soldiers from the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools model female uniforms, past and present, at the 13th Annual Federal Women's Program Training Conference, coordinated by 1st Lt. Claudette Blake. From left, Sgt. Vondria Pledger, 1975; Pvt. Camilla Gisa, Desert Storm; Spc. Tanya Townsend, Korean War summer; Spc. Fawna Richardson, 1960s and Spc. Kathrine Lipski, World War II.

## Taxes

From page 12

Both the income limits and the maximum credit have increased for the 2002 tax year with the automatic cost of living calculations. To be eligible for a full or partial credit, a taxpayer must have an adjusted gross income of less than:

( \$33,178 (\$34,178 married filing jointly) and two or more qualifying children;  
( \$29,202 (\$30,202 MFJ) and one qualifying child;  
( \$11,060 (\$12,060 MFJ) with no children.

The maximum earned income credit is \$4,140 for families with two or more qualifying children, \$2,506 for families with one qualifying child and \$376 for an individual without children.

For a complete list of EITC requirements, taxpayers can review Publication 596, which is available on IRS.gov or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). The IRS Web site, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), can also answer questions about income-tax requirements.

## Drought restriction eased slightly for APG residents

Barry Decker

DIO

All Drought Level One Restrictions that residents, employees, and contractors have been following since March 20, 2002 remain in place except residents of the installation housing areas may now wash their privately-owned automobiles, trucks, recreational vehicles and boats.

"The necessity of keeping the Aberdeen Proving Ground Drought Restrictions in place is partly a good neighbor gesture and to reduce water consumption while our neighbors outside the installation continue on Level One Drought Restrictions," said Col. Mardi U. Mark, garrison and deputy installation commander.

Harford County and City of

Aberdeen residents that are on municipally-owned systems still may not wash their privately-owned vehicles or boats while they are on Level One Restrictions. This is because they receive a portion of their water supply from the Baltimore Area Water Supply System that is still under state imposed Drought Level One Restrictions until their three reservoirs (Loch Raven, Liberty, and Pretty Boy) reach 88 percent of their capacity.

"If it becomes necessary for APG to get its water from the Harford County system, the installation will have to discontinue the washing of privately owned vehicles again," Mark said.

## Current APG Level One Restrictions

- No serving water at clubs, snack bars, or other restaurant-type facilities except upon request of patron.

- No serving water in troop mess halls except by self-help.

- No washing of paved surfaces (e.g., streets, sidewalks, stairs, and tennis courts).

- No watering of landscaped areas, lawns, athletic fields, trees, shrubs, or other outdoor plants. Exceptions are flowers

- and vegetable gardens, which may be watered on odd number days for odd numbered houses and even number days for even numbered houses. Minimum watering of newly planted trees and shrubs would be permitted to prevent loss.

- No use of water for ornamental purposes (e.g., fountains) unless it is a closed-loop system requiring no additional water.

- Only run dishwashers or washing machines with a full load.