

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, July 20, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

Gate closure update

Aberdeen Proving Ground's Harford Gate (Maryland Route 22) will be closed for renovations beginning 10 p.m., Friday, July 22. It will remain closed for several weeks.

Beginning Monday, July 25, the Aberdeen Gate (APG Road/Aberdeen Boulevard) will be open for inbound traffic only from 4 to 9 a.m. It will be open for both inbound and outbound traffic from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Access at this gate will be restricted to government ID holders only. Trucks and visitors must use the Maryland Gate (Maryland Route 715).

Delays may be expected at various times.

APG Women's Equality Day Awards

In recognition of Women's Equality Day, APG will conduct an Awards Program, 10 a.m., Aug. 24, at the Ball Conference Center, building 3074, to recognize those individuals and organizations exemplary in their support of Federal Women's Program goals. Categories include Outstanding Woman of the Year, Outstanding Supervisor/Manager of the Year and Activity Most Supportive of FWP Goals.

The nomination packets should be forwarded to the Director, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, ATTN: AMSRD-ARL-O-AP-EG/Sheryl Coleman, building 433, or faxed to 410-278-5898, not later than July 15. An independent panel will evaluate the qualifications of each nominee against set award criteria.

For more information or to request an extension, call Sheryl

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Army News

AMC selects NCO, Soldier of the Year



Staff Sgt. Christine Shannon, 389th Army Band (AMC's Own), applies camouflage to her face prior to taking the common task test during the 2005 U.S. Army Materiel Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition. Shannon is the first female to be named NCO of the year to win at the AMC level in eight years.

Story and photo by
Tesia Williams
AMC

A 389th Army Band member (AMC's Own) was selected as the 2005 U.S. Army Materiel Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and a U.S. Army Soldiers Systems Center human research volunteer was recently selected as the 2005 U.S.

Army Materiel Command Soldier of the Year June 24.

Staff Sgt. Christine Shannon and Spc. John L. Wild, respectively, were announced for the top honors during an awards luncheon at the Fort Belvoir Officer's Club in Virginia. The banquet marked an end to a week-long series of events.

Shannon competed against

five AMC NCOs and Wild competed against three AMC Soldiers to win the 2005-2006 titles.

The participants went through three rigorous days of testing to include night and day land navigation, a physical training test, a written examination, and common task testing, which evaluates basic Soldier skills including first

aid, chemical decontamination, and enforcement of the Geneva and Hague conventions.

Soldiers were also graded on their oral expression, uniform appearance, familiarity with Army program fundamentals, drill and ceremony techniques, and knowledge of current events during a formal review board.

"We are recognizing a tremendous group of men and women who are the backbone of the Army," said Gen. Benjamin Griffin, commander, AMC.

"All of these Soldiers have worked hard and done some terrific things throughout the week," said AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Tyler Walker II. "Now it's time to start working so our Soldiers can win at the Army level."

"This competition helps Soldiers learn how to face different obstacles, teaches self-discipline, and builds self-confidence," said Shannon, who is the first female NCO to win at the headquarters AMC level in eight years.

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Shannon and her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Shannon, are platoon sergeants in the band. Her husband sponsored band member Spc. Jessica L. Lear who also competed in the Soldier of the Year category.

Shannon said she felt confident even though she only had two weeks to prepare for the competition. She thanked her husband and her chain of command for their support.

"He would take care of the kids in the evening while I locked myself in my room and studied," she said, adding that her husband also would test her with flash cards before bed each evening.

She said that when her name was announced during the luncheon hosted by Griffin and Walker, her mind "went

See AMC, page 2

Desert Storm veteran honored at 4th celebration



Photo by ADELMA GREGORY-BUNNELL, CECIL WHIG
Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, left, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and Elton native Air Force Col. Arthur Cameron, center, present veteran Bob Rodeheaver with an American flag July 4. Congressman Wayne T. Gilchrest arranged to have the flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of Cecil County's Salute to Veterans.

Jean Skillman
AEC

As Americans joined together this 4th of July to celebrate living in a free and democratic society, many citizens also took a moment to give thanks to the veterans who have served to maintain those freedoms.

"The men and women in uniform are the real heroes in American society," said Carol England, chairman of the committee for the Salute to Cecil County Veterans. "They have sacrificed their own personal safety and time away from

their loved ones to defend our country, time after time."

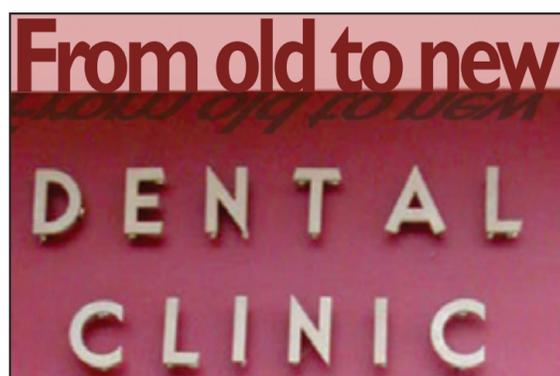
Before the Cecil County community of 15,000 gathered together to watch the fireworks, they paused to honor one of their own, retired Army Capt. Bob Rodeheaver, a Vietnam and Desert Storm Veteran. A committee, made up of Cecil County citizens, chose Rodeheaver to receive the tribute after he was nominated by his American Legion post as a well-deserving recipient of the award.

The Salute to Cecil County Veterans is a volunteer com-

mittee made up of citizens who decided it was time to demonstrate their support for the troops.

Each year, in preparation for the 4th of July, the county's five Veterans of Foreign War posts, four American Legion posts, DAV chapter, Vietnam Veterans and 29th Infantry Division associations (WWII) are asked to nominate one of their own to represent all of the troops from a specific era of service. The committee holds a ceremony at the county's 4th of July celebration recognizing that person.

Dental clinic celebrates new look, better services



Story and photos by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

After months of busing Soldiers to Aberdeen Area for dental care appointments while the renovation of the Edgewood Area Dental Clinic was underway, the clinic's doors reopened to a new and improved look and added services for Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldiers during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the clinic's front doors June

28.

Col. Marshall Cox, Dental Activity commander, and Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, led the ceremony.

The clinic, which is utilized for active duty and activated Reserve and National Guard only, received a cosmetic facelift along with a series of technology upgrades to better serve the deploying Soldier, Cox said.

"The Global War on Terror

impacted the deployment of our Soldiers," Cox said.

He said that 42 percent of new Soldiers are classified as Dental Fitness Classification 3, a non-deployable medical condition and that 30 to 50 percent of graduating Advanced Individual Training Soldiers are assigned to deployed or deploying units.

The U.S. Army Dental Command proposed increasing facilities to get Soldiers

See DENTAL CLINIC, page 12

Soldier from 22nd Chemical Battalion receives Purple Heart



Photo by CONRAD JOHNSON, RDECOM
Brig. Gen. Walt Davis, left, commander 20th Support Command (CBRNE), congratulates Staff Sgt. Robert Hodge who was awarded the Purple Heart medal for injuries sustained while deployed in Iraq.

Joni Platt
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

A 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives) Soldier was presented the Purple Heart, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious medals during an award ceremony held at Aberdeen Proving Ground June 27.

Staff Sgt. Robert E. Hodge received second degree burns to his face from a violent explosion in a building his team was assessing while deployed in Iraq. He also suffered damage to internal organs from debris from the blast.

In April 2004, Hodge deployed to Iraq with Disablement Team Four from the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit as the Decontamination Team noncommissioned officer in charge. His team was responsible for the exploitation of a suspected clandestine chemical production facility located in Baghdad.

The team was conducting the initial assessment of the site, when the building violently exploded. At the time of the explosion, unlike another of his team members, Hodge was assisting in securing the site. Hodge was not evacuated from Iraq, but recovered while continuing to perform his duties.

With his wife and sons at his side, Hodge thanked his command and paid tribute to the

men and women still serving in Iraq and fighting for this country.

In a voice choked with emotion, he added "You can't imagine what was going on with me at that time; the wounds, the scars, worrying about my family.

"Thank God I made it through," Hodge said. "Thank God the team made it back and nobody else got hurt."

Brig. Gen. Walt Davis, commander of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE), presented the medal.

"This is a great day for the Hodge family," Davis said. "It's the long awaited reward for wounds received in combat for actions that occurred in Iraq with Disablement Team Four."

Addressing Hodge's two sons, he said, "You two younger ones out there are old enough to appreciate this ceremony. As you get older, this will have even more significance for you because of what your father has contributed to the Army and our nation," he added. "You should be very proud of your father, as we are very proud of him and of everybody fighting this war, whether they are military or civilian."

Hodge joined the Army on Nov. 26, 1990. He came to the 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) in November 2003. His first assignment was with the 84th Chemical

See MEDAL, page 14

Veterans from 2nd Chemical Battalion return to APG for a special reunion

Walter J. Eldredge
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

Ten surviving veterans of a World War II chemical battalion, several widows, and family members of other veterans, laid a wreath at their battalion's monument near McBride Field on Aberdeen Proving Ground June 10.

A number of Soldiers from the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives) and 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) also attended the ceremony and banquet commemorating the 2nd Chemical Battalion.

The modern 2nd Chemical Battalion is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, but Edgewood

Arsenal was the traditional and often geographical home of its predecessor units since the First Gas Regiment returned from World War I. In 1950, the post was known as the Army Chemical Center although it was originally called Edgewood Arsenal.

During the lean years of the depression, when the entire Chemical Warfare Service consisted of a few hundred men, most of them were at Edgewood and trained to maintain the nation's ability to respond to threats of chemical weapons. On Sept. 15, 2000, exactly 50 years after the battalion left Edgewood for Korea, those remaining veterans dedicated a monument to "Those Who Did Not Return."

At the memorial banquet, Col. Tim Madere, chief of staff, 20th Support Command (CBRNE), thanked the veterans and spoke about today's chemical corps.

"You went before us, at great risk to yourselves, and we are grateful to you for the tradition that you established in those days when so much was at stake," Madere said.

One of the highlights of the banquet was the merging of the new and old.

Soldiers from today's 22nd Chemical Battalion joined the 2nd Chemical Battalion's veterans to learn some of the chemical corps' history and to hear World War II stories from those who had been there.



Photos by JONI PLATT, 20TH SUPPORT COMMAND (CBRNE)
Eleanor Eldredge, left, lays a wreath in front of the Red Dragon Memorial near McBride Field on APG. She is the widow of Paul Eldredge, who served in the 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion during the Sicilian and Italian campaigns. She is escorted by Sgt. Ralph K. Beamis, 20th Support Command (CBRNE). On Sept. 15, 2000, exactly 50 years after the battalion left Edgewood for Korea, its veterans dedicated the memorial to "Those Who Did Not Return."

AMC

From front page

blank."

"I felt I had done pretty well but I had no idea the status of everyone else," Shannon said, adding that, "Something like this really boosts your confidence.

"My Soldiers were really pulling for me and because they feel good, that makes me feel good for them," Shannon said. "And that's what it's all about."

Shannon received an associate's degree in 1998 from St. Leo University, Fort Lee, Va., and is currently working on

her bachelor's degree in management. She plans to attain a master's degree in health care relations to become a community health nurse and assist Army posts in implementing fitness programs for pregnant and post-partum Soldiers.

"This experience has helped develop me as a leader, and assist Soldiers in the future," she said.

Wild said he believed his strongest areas of the competition were land navigation and weapons maintenance.

He also went through five mock boards to prepare himself for the barrage of questions from board members.

"It's nice to have board

experience so you know what it feels like, and it's easier for future promotions," Wild said.

Wild, a 2003 graduate from North Rose Wolcott High School in Wolcott, N.Y., is an Infantry Soldier, currently enrolled at the University of Phoenix.

He aspires to be a flight warrant officer and retire from the Army.

He said the competition was "about what I expected."

"It was tough, the land navigation was the most challenging part," Wild said.

He said he felt he had done well overall and was pleased but not surprised to hear his name called.

"I prepared really hard," he said, adding that his sponsor, Sgt. Bahari Weston, and his supervisor, Sgt. Jeremy Whitsitt, deserved credit for getting him ready to compete.

"There was a ton of training, studying and bookwork involved and they gave me the time and encouragement I needed," Wild said.

He also thanked his platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Ramona Long.

"This was a chance of a lifetime, so I thought I should take it for my career," Wild said. "It makes people get better at what they do (in the field)."

Griffin and Walker presented Shannon and Wild each with a Meritorious Service Medal, a \$1,000 U.S. savings bond, a plaque, a certificate of achievement, a commander's coin and a command sergeant major's coin, an Army medal-

lion and other gifts from various sponsors.

In addition, Shannon received a Physical Training patch for obtaining the highest score among the NCOs.

Wild and Shannon will return to AMC in mid-July for additional training to prepare for the Sergeant Major of the Army's competition in the fall. (Editor's note: APG News reporter Yvonne Johnson contributed to this article.)



Photo courtesy of RDECOM
Staff Sgt. Christine Shannon
AMC NCO of the Year

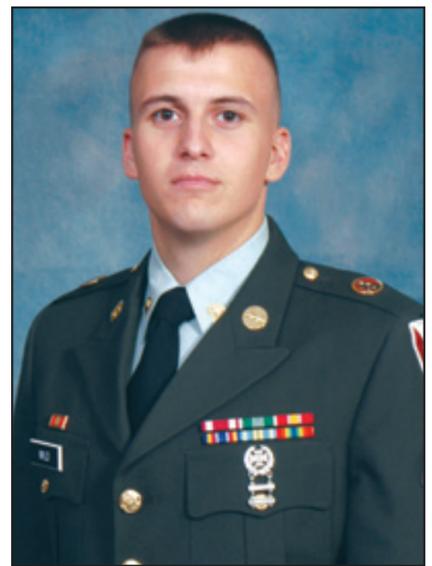


Photo by SARAH UNDERHILL, NATICK SOLDIER CENTER
Spc. John L. Wild
AMC Soldier of the Year



Photo by TESIA WILLIAMS, AMC
Wild gets into position for the "push-ups" portion of the physical training test. He beat out three Soldiers to be selected as win the 2005 AMC Soldier of the Year.

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMNE-APG-PA, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

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

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

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Juneteenth celebrated with breakfast, festival

Susquehanna Chapter of B.I.G.

The Susquehanna Chapter of Blacks in Government held its third annual Celebration of Juneteenth in Aberdeen on June 18.

With roots firmly planted in the origins and traditions of Galveston, Texas, the celebration of Juneteenth extends across the United States and beyond.

“Celebrations today not only honor the jubilant emotions and events of June 19, 1865, when the enslaved learned of their emancipation, but also capture the hearts of all races and nationalities in the spirit of unity, pride and achievement,” according to Web site, www.Juneteenth.com.

“The members of the Susquehanna Chapter of BIG wanted to bring the recognition of this celebration to the east coast and local community to include APG,” said Carol Bruce, president of the Susquehanna Chapter of B.I.G. and employee at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center & Schools.

The day’s festivities began with a prayer breakfast at the Holiday Inn in Aberdeen, and included a sermon by Dr. L. Lamont Turner of Zion Temple, Havre de Grace; musical selections by Helping Hands Ministries Youth Choir, Bread of Life Ministries and Command Sgt. Maj. Sammy Brinson, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools’ Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

Lamont reinforced the theme of this year’s celebration, “A time to heal, a time to pray.”

“In order for healing to occur we must first change the way we think, live and pray,” Lamont said.

He stressed the importance of avoiding the same mindsets when prayers are answered.

“When God answers our prayers and changes our situations and circumstances, we must be diligent to change the way we



Photo by BOBBY PARKER, THE RECORD
O.C. Griffin, left, world renowned Checker Champion, ties up a game of checkers with locally known player Elwood Shivers at the Juneteenth celebration in Festival Park in Aberdeen June 18.

think and live to avoid falling into the same situation/circumstances again,” he said.

Events also included a checkers exhibitions by O.C. Griffin, who has been in national competitions, and Elwood Shivers, a locally known player from Aberdeen at Festival Park; and performances by ‘Praise Dancers,’ Faith, Hope and Love, of AME United Methodist Church, Bel Air, and more.

“It was our [Susquehanna Chapter of B.I.G.] intent to focus on another phase of African American life and introduce the game that requires a high degree of concentration and skill,” Bruce said.

The speaker, Emil Cromwell, a local teacher from Havre de Grace, spoke on the impact of the slave voyage and the strength of those enduring the journey.

RDECOM recognizes disaster survivor



Story and photo by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

In recognition of the 60th anniversary of the 1945 explosion in a warehouse on the former Edgewood Arsenal that took the lives of 12 women workers, the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command issued a proclamation lauding one of the survivors of the incident as a local hero during a ceremony at the Edgewood Baptist Church May 29.

Lt. Col. Carol Vanschenkof, RDECOM chaplain, presented the proclamation to Charlotte Chase, an Edgewood resident, and a survivor of the explosion who was not expected to live due to her injuries.

The congregation of New Destiny Evangelistic Ministries, led by pastors Allen and Sylvia Bryant, arranged the surprise presentation, which was coordinated by Eva Mims, executive secretary to Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, RDECOM commander, and a member of NDEM, whose story about Chase’s ordeal was published in the March 27, 2003 edition of the *APG News*.

“When I realized this year marked the 60th anniversary I decided we couldn’t let this pass without recognizing her in some way,” Mims said. “Major General Nadeau and the APG post leadership agreed, and a local hero was born.”

See RDECOM, page 14

Charlotte Chase, a survivor of the 1945 munitions explosion at Edgewood Arsenal [now Aberdeen Proving Ground], gives an emotional testimony of her survival to the congregation of New Destiny Evangelistic Ministries after receiving a proclamation naming her a local hero from the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering and other APG commands during a surprise presentation at the Edgewood Baptist Church May 28.

Community Notes

**SATURDAY
JULY 16
BASKET BINGO**

The Warrior Brotherhood Veteran's Motorcycle Club will sponsor Basket Bingo at American Legion Post 17, located at 415 Edgewood Road, Edgewood. Doors open 6 p.m. and Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Food, beverages, baked goods, door prizes and raffles will be available. Tickets cost \$10 per person for all paper cards. All proceeds will benefit veteran's activities.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338, Carol Heard, 410-882-2328 or Carla Bloss, 410-676-0972.

SCOUTS HOLD BICYCLE RODEO

Boy Scout Troop 802 will hold a bicycle rodeo for youths 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at building 1570 on Wise Road.

It is open to the public and oriented towards safety while having fun. Participants should bring a bicycle, a helmet and a friend. Refreshments will be sold and profits will be sent to the Lance Armstrong Cancer Foundation. Bicycle registration will also be offered.

For more information, call 410-676-1850.

(Editor's note: This is an Eagle Scout project for Jay Weir; son of Lt. Col. Allen Weir; U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.)

**WEDNESDAY
JULY 20
AFTERNOON TEA
CRUISE**

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer

an Afternoon Tea Cruise, 2 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis.

Tickets cost \$30 per person. Delicate sandwiches, scones, dessert and hot or sweet tea and lemonade will be served. Credit cards will be accepted.

For reservations, call 410-939-4078.

**THURSDAY
JULY 21
SUNSET CRUISE**

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise, 7 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis.

Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 10 years of age.

The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats and upper Chesapeake Bay. Reservations are suggested but not required.

Available tickets go on sale at the dock beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Alternate dates are Aug. 4 or 18.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
JULY 22 AND 23
MARGARITA NIGHT**

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer Margarita Night, 7 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis.

Tickets cost \$30 per person.

The historical oyster dredger will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area as margaritas are served and Jimmy Buffet tunes play.

Light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages are available. Credit cards will be accepted.

For reservations, call 410-939-4078.

**SATURDAY
JULY 30
BASKET BINGO**

Basket Bingo to benefit USNTC Bainbridge Historical Association will be held at VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors will open at 6 p.m., Bingo starts 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 person for all paper cards; extra packs cost \$5 each. Food, beverages, baked goods, door prizes and raffles will

be available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-642-9297, or Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338.

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 27
SUBMERGED
AQUATIC VEGETATION (SAV) HUNT**

Ever wonder why some grass grows underwater? Join The Estuary Center for canoeing and underwater grass exploration 1 to 5 p.m.

This free event is for ages 12 and older. Youths 12 to 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Learn how to identify different plants, why they are an important resource to the Bay and what plants grow in the area.

For information, directions, or to make a reservation (required), call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, x1688.

**SATURDAY THRU
SATURDAY
AUGUST 27 THRU
SEPTEMBER 17
HARFORD COUNTY
HOLDS SENIOR
OLYMPICS**

The Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation will host the 10th Annual Senior Olympics - North Chesapeake Region at various locations throughout the county. The games are open to men and women in

age groups 50 to 54, 55 to 59, 60 to 64, 65 to 69, 70 to 74 and 80 and older.

Team competition and events include volleyball, 3-on-3 basketball, aquatics, archery, cycling, golf, horse-shoes, miniature golf, racquetball, track and field, football throw and more.

The deadline for registration is July 22. Application forms are available by calling 410-692-7820 or 410-612-1606.

For more information and/or to apply as a volunteer, contact the department at 410-692-7820 or 410-612-1606.

**SATURDAY, SUNDAY
OCTOBER 8, 9
COLUMBUS DAY SOC-
CER TOURNAMENT**

The Greater Harford Soccer Club is now accepting online registrations for the 8th annual Greater Harford Columbus Day Soccer Tournament. The tournament will be held in Bel Air. Approximately 200 teams including soccer clubs from New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland will participate.

The tournament is open to ages U-9 through U-19 for girls' teams and U-9 through U-15 in the boys' divisions.

For more information or registration, call Jeff Hess at 1-888-528-9009 (daytime), 410-806-0946 (evenings), e-mail Tourndir@ghsc.org, or visit www.ghsc.org/tourneys/tourney05.

MOVIES

**ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3.50, CHILDREN \$1.75
Building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard**

To verify listing, call 410-272-9008, or visit www.aafes.com and click on "Movie Listing"

MADAGASCAR

Friday, July 15, 7 p.m.

Animated

Alex the lion (Ben Stiller), Marty the zebra (The Rock), Melman the giraffe (David Schwimmer), and Gloria the hippo (Jada Pinkett-Smith) have spent their whole lives living happily in a zoo. Then Marty falls in with a crowd of devious penguins, who bring him along in their escape attempt. When Alex realizes his friend is missing, he leads a company of critters on a search that takes them all outside the zoo for the first time. But before they know it, they're captured, crated, and put on a ship traveling to Africa. (Rated PG)

**CINDERELLA MAN
(FREE ADMISSION)**

Saturday, July 16, 7 p.m.

Starring: Russell Crowe,

Renee Zellweger, Paul Giamatti

Depression-era boxer Jim Braddock (Crowe) is just a regular Joe who starts taking fights to feed his wife (Zellweger) and family, but as he piles up unlikely victories, he becomes a national hero whose spectacular comeback inspires the nation. (Rated PG-13)

SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS

Saturday, July 16, 9 p.m.

Starring: Amber Tamblyn, Alexis Bledel, America Ferrera

When four lifelong friends are about to be separated for the first time, they devise a plan to keep in touch over the summer: They purchase a pair of thrift-store pants that each one will wear for a week before sending them along for the next person to wear. (Rated PG)

Post Shorts

Coleman, FWP Chairperson at 410-278-5964, Charlotte Albro at 410-436-4611, Diane Siler at 410-436-4810 or Kathleen Crosby at 410-278-1137.

Gate construction update

The Wise Road Gate (Route 755) is closed until construction is completed. To support traffic flow, the Magnolia Gate has been opened.

The Magnolia Gate hours and entry control is identical to the Wise Road protocol—government ID only, no trucks or deliveries. The Magnolia Gate hours are 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday and closed on Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays.

Visitors should continue to use the Route 24 Gate, which is operational 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Visitors will not be permitted to enter through the Magnolia Gate unless accompanied by a government ID holder.

No other gates will be affected during this period.

Road closure continues

Grant Road at Skippers Point Road will be closed until the end of October.

The construction company C&R Environmental Associates will be readying the old family housing buildings for

demolition.

Occupants are asked to keep children and pets out of this area. Police will be patrolling the area to make sure unauthorized persons stay out.

For more information, call Richard B. Dunham, Directorate of Installation Operations, 410-306-1163.

BSA holds Bicycle Rodeo

Boy Scouts of America Troop 802 will hold a bicycle rodeo for youths 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 15 at building 1570 on Wise Road.

The rodeo is open to the public. There will be five different stations oriented towards safety and fun. Participants should bring a bicycle, a helmet and a friend. Refreshments will be sold and the profits will be donated to the Lance Armstrong Cancer Foundation. Bicycle registration will be offered.

For more information, call 410-676-1850.

(Editor's note: This is an Eagle Scout project for Jay Weir, son of Lt. Col. Allen Weir, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.)

\$1 Bag sale at Thrift Shop

A \$1 bag sale at the APG Thrift Shop will continue throughout August.

Customers will be provided a 13-gallon bag to fill from items displayed in the shop's parking lot.

Shopping hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday; and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aug. 6.

For more information, call 410-272-8572 during shop hours.

SAME Chesapeake holds meeting

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post monthly meeting will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., July 21, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Top of the Bay, Regimental Room.

The featured speaker will be Stacey K. Hirata, P.E. from Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Hirata is the deputy for Military Programs, Southwestern Division Regional Integration Team. He will focus his presentation on the Corps' responsibility for leading and managing the military and environmental program functions and activities and enhancing the district's ability to execute their missions.

RSVP by July 20 to Valerie Nichols at 301-721-2250 (voice); 301-309-1579 (fax) or valerie_nichols@urscorp.com.

ACS hosts family picnic

Army Community Service will host its annual family picnic 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 21 at the Maryland Boulevard picnic area. The picnic is open to all families in the APG community, and will be held rain or shine.

Free tickets must be picked up at the Aberdeen ACS office, building 2754, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or the South ACS office building E-4630, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

For more information, call 410-278-7572/4372.

TRICARE briefing

Military families are invited to a briefing on the US Family Health Plan at Johns Hopkins, a TRICARE option, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., July 28, in the APG Recreation Center television room.

For more information, to schedule a private consultation or to make a reservation, call 1-800-808-7347 or 443-287-2529.

KUSAHC closes for Organization Day

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will close at noon on Aug. 5 for Organization Day activities.

There will be no services available in the afternoon.

Donations needed for CDC Adopt-a-Unit care packages

The Aberdeen Child Development Center's Parent Child Care Association is sponsoring an Adopt-A-Unit Care Package Drive throughout the year. For more information, call Jan Harvin, 410-306-1121 or e-mail janet.harvin@apg.army.mil.

The PCCA adopted the 385th Signal Company at Camp Doha, Kuwait. Harvin's husband is assigned to this unit.

Many of the young Soldiers are in need of supplies, phone cards, and moral support through cards, letters, pictures, etc.

The following items are suggested for donation:

Clothing: shoe laces for gym shoes and boots, brown T-shirts, boot socks, underwear, hand warmers

Food: Chips Ahoy cookies, individual packages (big bags often fill with dust if not eaten right away), other kinds of cookies, pasta and sauce, spices, smoked oysters and sardines, squeeze butter, Pringles chips, individually-wrapped licorice,

microwave popcorn, ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, olives, pickles, peppers (lots of bubble wrap around these items), cereal bars, microwave pasta that doesn't need refrigeration, hot cocoa mix, soup mix, M&M's

Essentials: koozies to keep water bottles and cans cool, AA and D batteries, air freshener, stick-ups, Fabreeze, canned air to blow dust out of electronics, stress relief squeeze balls, sewing kit, Lysol wipes/wet ones, inflatable seat cushions, razors, ink pens

Entertainment: newspapers, magazines, DVD's, word puzzle books, paperback books, poker chips, board games

Health items: icy/hot patches, air activated heat wraps for sore muscles, foot spa, foot powder, vitamins

Miscellaneous: microwaveable plates and bowls, paper plates, holiday decorations, holiday cards and address books with entries for names and addresses.

16th Ordnance DOMINATES boxing rematch

Illustration by BLAKE VOSHELL



Kristina Gschelle, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, left, and Jennifer Shafer, 16th Ordnance Battalion, square off in the first round of bout 12 during the Amateur Boxing Tournament rematch held at the Aberdeen Athletic Center June 18.

Story and photos by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

They floated like butterflies and stung like bees. The Soldiers of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools 16th and 143rd Ordnance battalions put on a spectacular 'exhibition of toe-to-toe action during the Amateur Boxing Tournament held at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Athletic Center June 18.

Hosted by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and sponsored by the Aberdeen Holiday Inn, the tournament was a rematch of the first tournament that was held in February.

About 500 people attended the event, which was held in the center's parking lot.

"There was more room out here and it's not as hot as it would have been for everyone indoors," said Earlene Allen, MWR senior programmer.

She thanked battalion commanders Lt. Col. Robert Pastorelli, 143rd, and Lt. Col. Richard Parker, 16th, for their support, as well as the Holiday Inn for its sponsorship.

The 16th Ordnance Battalion boxers won a decisive overall victory, winning 10 of 15 regulation bouts. Five of the 20 bouts were exhibition only.

The boxers were trained and coached by Adoon Jordan of the 143rd and Raymond McFarland of the 16th.

Serving as the ring emcee, complete in a black tuxedo and bow tie was William Bravo, Company B 16th.

The event included ringside medical support from Capt. Martin Rose, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and emergency medical technicians from the APG Fire Department, two referees from USA Boxing in Washington, D.C., Billy Johnson and Kevin Langley, and round girls Nikita Doolen and Kylee McDevitt, who paraded around the ring between rounds holding up posters announcing the next numbered round as the Soldiers in attendance howled their approval.

Fists were flying throughout each action-packed round and more than a few boxers came away with bloody faces as the battalion's Soldiers yelled in support of their fighters. Four females participated in the event as well and all participants were novice boxers. Most agreed they were happy to participate and pleased with their performance.

"I surprised myself," said Joseph Young, Company A 16th, whose spectacular knockdown of opponent Bartholemew Nordman in the final heavyweight bout ended the tournament with a bang.

Young said he volunteered, "to have something to do," and that the team trained three times a week to prepare for the tournament.

"It was totally what I expected it to be," Young said. "Coach [McFarland] really worked us hard and got us ready to represent the 16th."

Young's teammate, Amber Sellers, agreed.

"I never tried boxing before and the training was really tough," Sellers said. "But I think I did really good. I was nervous but coach kept me focused."

Support for Maryland native Kristina Gschelle, of the 143rd, included her father and sister from Burtonsville, Md., who also were in attendance.

"I was looking for some kind of spark and someone suggested that I take up boxing, so I started practicing with the team," Gschelle said. "I'm glad I did it. I'm very happy with my overall performance tonight. In fact I amazed myself."

"We couldn't have asked for better training," added Steven Bridgeman, Company A 143rd. "I never boxed before and I'm feeling pretty good. I think we all outdid ourselves."

Jordan and McFarland agreed that their fighters gave their all.

"I told them they all are winners whether they came away with a win or not," Jordan said. "These Soldiers put it all on the line tonight and it showed. They did the 143rd Ordnance Battalion proud."

"There's not a quitter among them," added McFarland of his championship team. "I'm as proud of them as a father," he said. "They made it happen. I just showed them how."



Zach Norton, left, and Jeff Lake, two 16th Ordnance Battalion Soldiers, lock horns during a heavyweight exhibition.



Frederick Goodrich, 143rd, left, plants a right jab on the jaw of the 16th's Jason Rikkonen during round one of the 17th bout. Rikkonen rebounded to win the heavyweight match up.



143rd Ordnance Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Green, left and coach Adoon Jordan, right, celebrate as a victorious Kristina Gschelle, center, exits the ring with her gold medal.



Amateur Boxing Tournament participants

16th Ordnance Battalion	143rd Ordnance Battalion
Battalion Pedro Torres*	David Geiger*
Tomas Vazquez	Jimmy Victoria (Win)
Moses Diequez (Win)	Whitman Chan
Amber Sellers (Win)	Jessica Davidson
Steven Harris (Win)	Talos Arend
Dale Carter (Win)	Kyle Palm
Michael Tigerina	Jeron Wilds (Win)
Jose Ortiz (Win)	Vincent Gulley
Jenny Lor*	Cindy Enriquez*
Sam Sellers*	Kirtis Pettaway*
Anthony Henderson	Jorge Rodriguez (Win)
Jennifer Shafer	Kristina Gschelle (Win)
Justin Hill (Win)	Sylvan Shelton
Reid Forrester (Win)	Josue Cisneros
Zach Norton*	Jeff Lake*
Aaron Crumps*	Will Lewis*
Jason Rikkonen (Win)	Frederick Goodrich
Anthony Ward (Win)	Dustin Jones
Greg Kirkeeng	Steven Bridgman (Win)
Joseph Young (Win)	Bartholemew Nordman

*Exhibition bouts



Nikita Doolen, one of two round girls who participated in the Amateur Boxing Tournament, struts her stuff as she displays the placard for an upcoming round.

Boxer Cindy Enriquez, left, and coach Adoon Jordan contemplate the strategy of her opponent during a break between rounds.



Jenny Lor, 143rd, left, and Cindy Enriquez, 16th, right duke it out during an exhibition bout.





Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Activities

Operating hours

The MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the first and third Friday of every month.

If that is a training holiday, the office will be open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the Thursday prior.

For more information, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail mwr_registration@usag.apg.army.mil.

Registration

Register for any MWR event by visiting the specific facility for the event, mailing in a registration form found in an MWR Program Brochure, visiting MWR Registration, building 3326, or visiting online at www.apgmwr.com.

Friday Social at Top of the Bay

Free munchies, music and games are featured at the Friday Social, 4 to 8 p.m. in the Down Under.

Additional beverages and food are available for purchase.

Rock climbing, darts, cards and table tennis are now being featured. Participants could win prizes and trips.

Jujitsu

These instructional classes in the "ancient art of hand-to-hand combat" are designed to enable the student to become proficient in the art of self-defense.

The course includes learning take-downs, grappling, gripping, and ground floor fighting to subdue an opponent.

The instructor for this course will be World

Champion, Grandmaster Irving Soto, a 10th degree black and red belt, who has experience as an actor, stuntman, musician and was honored in the International Hall of Fame.

'Putt 4 Dough'

Go for the green on July 16 at Ruggles Golf Course with the Army Golf program.

Army Golf Courses will host a 'Putt 4 Dough' promotion this summer, in conjunction with the Summer Scramble.

Golfers and non-golfers can put their putters to the test. Someone at each Army installation could win \$10,000.

All it takes to win is to make three successive putts in a row from 10 foot, 25 foot and 50 foot and a golfer could win the \$10,000 prize purse.

The promotion is open to everyone.

Stop by the Ruggles Golf Course, 410-278-4794, or Exton Golf Course, 410-436-2213, for more details on how to 'Putt 4 Dough.'

For a copy of the official rules and a list of the participating locations, visit www.ArmyMWRGolf.com.

British Soccer Camp

Camp begins the first week of August, with a mini soccer camp 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and a half day camp 10:10 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. at the Youth Soccer Field.

Cost is \$69 for Mini Soccer and \$98 for half-day camp.

Register early and receive a free jersey. All participants will receive a T-shirt and soccer ball.

Registration runs through July 15.

Introduction to Cooking

Class teaches basic cooking procedures used in preparing home-cooked meals, special dinners, desserts, and other menu items. Cost is \$25.

Class meets on Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Aberdeen Recreation Center. Register by Aug. 8.

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

Operating hours of the Aberdeen Library, building 3320, are 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday and 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and closed on Friday. For more information, call 410-278-3417.

The following is a list of some new books available at the APG MWR Library:

Fire Sale by Sara Paretsky

Private eye V.I. Warshawski fills in for her old high school basketball coach in Chicago. She is soon investigating a missing 19-year-old and sabotage at a flag factory. The clues pile on but they don't add up, as she makes her way from a fundamentalist church, where the pastor goes to extremes for his flock, to the city dump, where villains try to bury their secrets.

An Ex to Grind by Jane Heller

Melanie divorces her husband, only to find out that she now has to support him. Her only hope is a clause in the settlement stipulating that if he cohabitates with someone for 90 days, her alimony stops. She finds him a new woman who then transforms him into the man whom Melanie tried to mold him into, and now

she wants him back.

The Athena Factor by W. Michael Gear

Bizarre celebrity thefts are occurring all over the world: a piece of hair from John Lennon, Julia Roberts' bed linens. An investigation reveals that a genetics firm has been kidnapping the best genetic scientists to use their expertise in a black market trade of celebrity DNA, and its mastermind will stop at nothing until the world is as beautiful as Hollywood's A-list.

The library's Web site, www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html, provides access to the library's online catalog and also has a complete annotated listing of the library's new material, as well as a list of available films on DVD.

APG Bowling Center news

APG lunch options

Recreation Center Snack Bar

Building 3326
Serves lunch Monday thru Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-2621.

Ruggles Golf Course

Sutherland Golf Clubhouse
Building 5600
Lunch is served Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday thru Sunday, 7 a.m. to dusk.
For more information, call 410-278-7263.

Top of the Bay

Building 30
Lunch is served Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-3062.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar

Building 2342
'Bowlerburger' with cheese and bacon, French fries, soda: \$6.75

Tuna Sub, chips, soda: \$4.85
For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 11 a.m.



Roberts

From front page

music. When we hear them today I'll say, "There's a white-truck song."

Roberts began performing in pre-school plays and school choirs and competing in numerous beauty contests.

She toured regionally in junior and high school, accompanied by her mother and aunt, playing festivals in North and South Carolina and Georgia.

She spent four summers working in music shows at Carowinds, a theme park in Charlotte and later at Dollywood in East Tennessee.

"That's when I realized I loved being onstage and playing live," Roberts said.

After moving to Nashville and graduating from Belmont University, Roberts took a job at Mercury Records to support herself while pursuing her goal of becoming a country singer.

A friend gave a copy of her demo to producer Brent Rowan, who was so impressed by her talent that he started working with her right away. She quit her day job in 2003

and released the single "Break Down Here" in 2004.

Her self-titled CD released in May 2005, opens with the song "Down Home", which celebrates people who keep their feet firmly planted in reality.

"We open my show with that, because it just immediately shows you who I am," Roberts said.

The second single, "Wake Up Older" painfully depicts the bad choices made by a woman after being left by her lover.

"What I've learned is that if one door closes or if something bad happens in your life, just stay positive and know that it happened for a reason," she said.

"I just look for lyrics that are real," she added. "That's the basis for all my songs. The lyrics have to mean something to me. When I listen for a song, I have got to know someone who has lived it or I have to have lived it myself, because I become that character for three minutes. I want every song to hit someone in some way, because they hit me."



Courtesy of www.julieroberts.com

Perryville American Legion hosts Soldier Support Rally AdoptaPlatoon volunteers honored

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Support for America's service members involved in the Global War on Terror continues to flourish in Veteran Service Organizations throughout Maryland and the nation.

From quilt making to letter writing, VSOs and their auxiliaries find ways to let troops know America is behind them.

One Cecil County organization delivers its own brand of support through the AdoptaPlatoon program, a support effort managed nationwide by volunteer mothers dedicated to ensuring that service members are not forgotten.

The Susquehanna American Legion Post 135 in Perryville held a Soldier Support Rally at its Cherry Street address May 28, Memorial Day weekend, to honor volunteers and members of its AdoptaPlatoon initiative while bringing in some of the top names in patriotic entertainment to help raise money for their cause.

The show featured music by Hank Brake, the Kory Brunson Band, Tony Diana, Sally Mudd, and the Delta Haze Band with Marshall Owen.

"This is a big event for us," said Terri Svendodi, an AdoptaPlatoon mom from the post's Ladies Auxiliary. Svendodi said she became involved in the effort when her son deployed to Kosovo with the Maryland Army National Guard in 2000.

"The group sends letters of support, sundry items, calling cards and other support articles needed by those service members we've adopted," she said.

The event included souvenir sales, an AdoptaPlatoon sign up roster, raffles and a food concession operated by the Sons of the American Legion.

"This is a legion fundraiser to support our AdoptaPlatoon efforts," said Eleanor Deal, the auxiliary secretary and membership chairperson.

The groups' special guest was the first Soldier they adopted, Sgt. 1st Class Chris Grisham of Fort Irwin, Calif. Grisham said he has been involved with the program since he was deployed to Kuwait two years ago.

See RALLY, page 12



Channel 21 features Pentagon channel programming

These programs are subject to change each week and will be updated accordingly.

Monday

Focus on the Force, 5:30 a.m.
American Veteran, 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 11 a.m.
FJ Iraq/AF Prime Time, 1 p.m.
State Department Briefing, 3 p.m.
Around the Services, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Around the Services, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Your Corps, 10:30 a.m.
Focus on the Force, 1 p.m.
State Department Briefing, 3 p.m.
FJ Iraq/AF Prime Time, 4 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 7 p.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News, 9 p.m.

Wednesday

Around the Services, 8 a.m.
Army Newswatch, 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
American Veteran, 1 p.m.
Focus on the Force, 2 p.m.
State Department Briefing, 3 p.m.
FJ Iraq/AF Prime Time, 4 p.m.
Your Corps, 5 p.m.
Around the Services, 8 p.m.

Thursday

Around the Services, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News, 11 a.m.
Focus on the Force, 1 p.m.
State Department Briefing, 3 p.m.
American Veteran, 5 p.m.

Friday

Around the Services, 5:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.
FJ Iraq/AF Prime Time, 9 a.m.
Recon, 12:30 p.m.
State Department Briefing, 3 p.m.
FJ Iraq/AF Prime Time, 4 p.m.

Saturday

Around the Services, 5:30 a.m.
FJ Iraq/AF Prime Time, 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Engineer Update, 1:30 p.m.
Opportunity Showcase, 3 p.m.

Army Newswatch, 5:30 p.m.
Battleground, 7 p.m.
Recon, 8 p.m.

Sunday

Army Newswatch, 5:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
FJ Iraq/AF Prime Time, 10:30 a.m.
Your Corps, 11 a.m.
American Veteran, 1 p.m.
Navy/Marine Corp News, 3 p.m.
Around the Service, 7:30 p.m.
Battleground, 9:30 p.m.

Army Newswatch – Bi-weekly report on the men and women of the Army
Around the Services – From the Pentagon Channel NewsCenter, daily half-hour program featuring military news from top defense officials and the military services from around the world
RECON – A monthly information television program providing an in-depth look at a variety of topics, highlighting the accomplishments of U.S. Military men and women.

Your Corps – Monthly view of the men and women of the Marine Corps
Freedom Journal Iraq – A daily news program produced by American Forces Network Iraq. The program focuses on military missions, operations and U.S. military forces in Iraq
Navy Marine Corp News – A weekly look at the men and women of today's sea service.

Opportunity Showcase – A monthly program dealing with a variety of subjects that benefit small business owners, transitioning military members and other subjects of opportunity-produced by the United States Air Force
The American Veteran – A half-hour video news magazine designed to inform veterans, their families and their communities about the services and benefits they have earned through their service to America and to recognize and honor that service

Battleground – Every weekend, this series features historic films from WWII, Korean War, and the Vietnam War. A Pentagon Channel Original Series
Focus on the Force – A weekly program highlighting missions, operations and people of the U.S. military.

Missing in action serviceman identified

Staff Sgt. Erika Ruthman
JPAC

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced that the remains of a U.S. Army service member from Fergus, Minn., who was missing in action from the Korean War, were identified on May 26.

The remains of Pfc. John O. Strom will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Born in Crookston, Minn., Strom was listed as missing in action after a mission in North Korea.

In the fall of 1950, Strom was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Strom's regiment was engaged in a battle just north of 'Camel's Head' in Unsan County, Democratic People's Republic of [North] Korea.

Regimental records show that Strom was missing on Nov. 2, 1950. He was placed in the military status of

missing in action and subsequently promoted to the rank of corporal. A military review board eventually changed his status to killed in action.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, based at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, recovered Strom's remains during field operations beginning as early as August 2002.

Investigators pieced together facts provided by a villager, who while digging on his land, found remains and an identification tag believed to be associated with a U.S. soldier. The villager reburied the remains, where it was later recovered.

JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory determined Strom's identity through several means including scientific analysis that involved mitochondrial DNA, analysis of skeletal remains, and analysis of artifacts.

The remains of Strom will be interred at the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Fergus Falls, Minn.

JPAC teams deploy to Vietnam

Staff Sgt. Erika Ruthman
JPAC

Five Recovery Teams, one Research and Investigation Team, and one Investigative Team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command will deploy from Hawaii in mid-July for approximately 30 days to conduct operations in Vietnam in hopes of accounting for Americans still missing from the war in Southeast Asia. This is the 82nd Joint Field Activity in Vietnam.

RTs will conduct operations of up to eight cases in six provinces; the RITs will investigate up to 15 cases in six provinces; and the ITs will investigate up to 15 cases in

five provinces.

Operations will take place primarily in the central highlands of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Today, there is one American still missing from the Gulf War, more than 1,800 from the Vietnam War, 120 from the Cold War, more than 8,100 from the Korean War, and more than 78,000 from World War II.

The U.S. government, the Department of Defense and the JPAC are committed to scientific excellence and the fullest possible accounting of all Americans still missing or unaccounted for in defense of this country.

Dental Clinic

From front page

better served and enhance the deployment mission, he said.

"The goal was that 95 percent of Soldiers need to be deployable in DFC I or II. With this facility upgrade, the important thing is that Soldiers leaving this area will be ready to go to war," Cox said.

In 2004, architects, after consulting with DENTAC, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, the Directorate of Installation Operations, and the Garrison, submitted their plans for the renovation.

"This was not an easy place to renovate," Cox said, noting that Lyndon Johnson was president of the United States when the facility was built, and that old pipes and electrical systems

and other dated material had to be torn out and replaced.

He thanked Col. Jack Wempe, former commander, KUSAHC; Mike Svoboda, architect; Sgt. 1st Class Karen Rooks, senior dental NCO; Staff Sgt. Mike Lewis, assistant NCOIC, and the Edgewood staff.

He presented supply officer Judy Callahan with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her service during the renovation process, which included ordering the furniture, artwork and other materials for the clinic.

He also thanked Contractors Keith McNair and Sam Robehmed from John J. Kirlin, Inc., Brian Donnelly and Bill Soltis of Donnelly Construction; the Health Facilities Planning Agency; Conrad Castro and Gary Gerdom, facility managers from Fort Meade and KUSAHC; and Joe

Brutsman, a quality assurance representative from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Cox led Wright on a tour of the facility, which included a demonstration of the clinic's new digital x-ray system, which allows for an instant display of a patient's oral cavity.

Mary Ann Banaszak, and Spc. Wonder Wright, dental assistants, performed the procedure on Wright, first placing a sensor in the his mouth, then taking the x-ray and evaluating the images displayed almost instantly on a monitor.

The system prints and interfaces with the Internet and once networks are established, will be able to communicate with other installation, said Dean Pomeroy, KUSAHC medical maintenance technician.

"The sensor sends information from inside the mouth in electrical

form then converts it to digital," Pomeroy said.

"This system eliminates the need for chemicals which makes it environmentally safer," Cox added. "And, what it means for the Soldier is no more sitting in the waiting room waiting for x-rays to develop."

There are seven digital x-ray units for the clinic's seven examining chairs.

"It's a definite increase to Soldier readiness," added Lt. Col. Robert Pastorelli, former commander of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion, the facility's primary user.

"Dental readiness is enhanced because total care needs can now be met," Pastorelli said, adding that it also eliminates travel time to and from the Aberdeen Clinic, which means less time away from the schoolroom.

snow storms that caused a state of emergency.

Recently retired from the military, Rodeheaver is soon to retire from a lifetime of civil service as well. Currently a systems analyst at the U.S. Army Environmental Center where he has been since 1989, he also worked for the U.S. Department of Justice-Bureau of Prisons in Morgantown, Va. When Rodeheaver retires at the end of this year, he plans to spend more time with his wife, Charlotte, participating in local charity events and going to local car shows.

Rodeheaver represents all of America's veterans, according to retired Air Force Col. Henry "Hank" Passi.

"Most people think of the fireworks on the 4th of July and not the principles behind the celebration," Passi said. "There is no better way to celebrate our nation's independence than by honoring our nation's veterans," added Passi, a Vietnam veteran and Elkton native who came home after retiring from the Air Force with a personal mission to support his fellow veterans.

"I was just humbled by all of the caring people," said Rodeheaver, after mothers, fathers and small children came up to him to shake his hand and personally thank him for his service to the nation. "It makes everything worth it."

"It's a win-win situation for everyone," he said.

Guests and employees agreed that the clinic has undergone a 100 percent improvement.

"This is by far the biggest and most profound change that's taken place in the time I've been here," said dental hygienist Judi Stavuzzo, a 16-year employee. "The building is just beautiful. It's nice to see the end result of such hard work and effort."

"We like the look," added Staff Sgt. Bridget Graham, dental noncommissioned officer in charge "because it's what you'd expect to find outside the gate, but the main difference is that now we can get more Soldiers ready for travel to overseas and CONUS."



Photo courtesy of EDGEWOOD DENTAL CLINIC

Much of the equipment in this photograph of a former x-ray room in the old Edgewood Dental Clinic is no longer needed as services have gone completely digital.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

An examining suite in the newly remodeled Edgewood Dental Clinic offers a modern look and technological upgrades to better serve deploying Soldiers.

Rally

From page 11

"I came across the site on the Web and submitted the names of my Soldiers," Grisham said. He said he made a point to keep in touch with those who supported his Soldiers since then.

"Now its come full circle," he added. "I actually adopt fellow Soldiers myself."

The highlight of the rally was obtaining the services of the entertainers, all of whom travel and perform in support of such efforts at no charge. They agreed that supporting America's armed forces during war was their motivation.

"I can identify with being separated from your loved ones," said headliner Hank Brake, and Army veteran and country music entertainer from Georgia.

Deal said that once she e-mailed Brake requesting his attendance, "He volunteered to do the lineup and kind of took that off our shoulders."

"The main thing is it's the right thing to do," Brake said. "Showing

by our actions more than words our support for our people, it means the world to our troops. I've been blessed to be able to do this for them and to have a son who knows what his daddy does for his country."

Brake sings the song, "Thank You," written by Daniel Smith, which has been distributed on CD to thousands of service members.

"It was a labor of love for me," Brake said. "The ultimate challenge for me is to have everyone in uniform hear that song so they know they are appreciated."

Brake travels the country promoting patriotism and support for the troops involved in the Global War on Terror. His upcoming appearances include the Military Appreciation Day concert in Colorado in October and the USO Veterans Day show in Las Vegas in November. For more information, visit Web site, www.hanbrake.com.

Nashville singer-songwriter Sally Mudd said she was inspired to get involved when she learned that, "So many service members receive no mail from anyone."

"I've never been exposed to the

military," Mudd said, "But one night I thought of 'The Soldier Song.'"

Originally written for the homeless, Mudd said the song became her personal 'thank you card' for Soldiers.

"This is a way to say thank you to any Soldier," she said. She added that her involvement in the AdoptaPlatoon program has opened her eyes.

"I'm amazed by it," she said. "I've learned how important it is to get involved. It's so important that they know we are supportive."

"I just want them to feel appreciated," added Tony Diana, the author of the song "Picture of You." A self-described 'military brat,' who traveled "all over Europe" with his Air Force father, Diana said he realizes the value of being away from home.

He distributes the CD with the song "Picture of You," along with a scarf, in desert camouflage colors with the lyrics printed on it.

"We send the scarves to Iraq and instruct Soldiers to let someone take pictures of you, then wrap them up in the scarf and send it home. The purpose is to lend greater meaning to the

photos and create a stronger support link," Diana said.

He said he always receives positive feedback from Soldiers and family members on his site.

"I'm always surprised when they tell me what it means to them," he said. "I do this because I love the troops and I love music," he added. "If 20 years from now I'm sitting on a front porch making people happy with my music, I'm happy with that."

For more information, visit Web site, www.tonydiana.com.

Chris Altman leads the band Delta Haze, which is made up of volunteer police officers, firefighters and emergency medical service workers from North Carolina. They wrote and recorded their CD in support of American service members and travel extensively on a volunteer basis, "to spread the word that we must never forget our troops," Altman said. The band members include Marshall Owen on vocals and lead guitar, B.J. Hassle on guitar and vocals, Ron Hassle on bass, Dean Everheart on drums and Matt Norris on guitar.

"Some of us are veterans," Altman said, "and we do this just to say 'we

appreciate you.'"

More than 1,000 copies of the CD have been distributed.

"We drove seven hours to come here and do a free show," Altman said. "We're not selling anything. We just can't stress enough the importance of supporting our troops and volunteering your services on their behalf."



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Country music artist Hank Brake performs for the Soldiers of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion upon their return from the Memorial Day holiday May 30.



Army News



Army e-Learning: Promoting professional, personal transformation

PMO DLS (Distributive Learning System)

Working eight hours a day, five days a week would be a luxury for most Department of the Army employees.

For example, Fort Gordon's Staff Sgt. Jasona Crawford attests to the long hours worked by Army personnel.

"My day starts at 4 a.m. I'm at work by 4:45 a.m., and I don't get off sometimes until 6 p.m.," Crawford said.

The Army workforce's workload is demanding, and the Army needs its personnel to demonstrate the dedication shown by Crawford in order to successfully accomplish its mission.

Yet dedication alone won't prepare the Army for the future. Training and education play a critical role in arming Army personnel with the professional and personal knowledge to succeed in the wars of today and tomorrow, as well as in their careers and personal life.

Until recently, the question that Army commanders and personnel faced was not whether training was important, but rather, "when can we fit it in?"

In order to answer the question, the Army created Army e-Learning, the latest component of the Distributed Learning System. Army e-Learning offers every active duty Soldier, Army Reservist, ROTC cadet and Department of the Army civilian employee free access to more than 2,000 commercial Web-based information technology, business, leadership, and personal development courses from anywhere with an Internet connection.

The Army wants to invest in continuing its employees' professional development, and by providing online courses, Army personnel can continue their education and training from their current location within their existing schedule.

Crawford lives the Army cliché.

"We do more before 9 a.m. than most people do all day," she said.

She serves as an instructor at the Army's Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Academy in Fort Gordon, Ga. Ironically, while she's responsible for helping extend training to students, her demanding schedule made personal education difficult. Army e-Learning changed that.

"Army e-Learning is helping me reach my professional and personal goals," she said. "When I have time, I sit down and take a course through Army e-Learning. It's very easy."

"Some courses are voice synchronous and walk you through the lessons, others you read at your own pace. I've learned a lot from Army e-Learning on topics as diverse as business, information technology, human resources and information assurance."

The Army is actively promoting Army e-Learning for personal and professional use. Just over a year ago, the Army's CIO/G6 sent a directive instructing all Army organizations and major commands to use Army e-Learning to satisfy workforce information technology (IT) requirements.

"To date, more than 213,000 users have accessed Army e-Learning, and the numbers continue to rise at a rate of 300-500 new users each week," said Stan Davis, project officer for Army e-

Learning. "Army e-Learning provides one stop shopping for IT training using the most up-to-date commercial applications industry has to offer."

"An Army Audit Agency report dated 25 February 2005 determined that over the last three fiscal years, the Army has saved approximately \$86 million. In FY 04, Army Soldiers and civilians completed over 159,000 courses, resulting in an estimated savings of \$47.6 million dollars. Assuming a constant rate of savings over the next three years, the Army would save an additional \$142 million," Davis said.

The Army's aggressive approach to training its workforce is unprecedented. Army e-Learning benefits include: enlisted personnel earning promotion points; access to training and personal mentoring for over 40 certification preparation programs such as MCSE, A+, CISSP, Cisco, Oracle and others; continuous learning points for civilian acquisition workforce; and college accreditation for a number of courses.

Providing opportunities through education

Army personnel turn to Army e-Learning for different reasons. Among the many reasons, some need to satisfy an immediate training requirement, others want to increase their likelihood of advancement, and quite frequently, many find their job description fundamentally changing, thereby necessitating training.

That's how Crawford was introduced to Army e-Learning. After hearing her service as a telecommunications operator maintainer would be ending in 2007 and she would have to reclassify to another specialty, she faced a choice.

"I could either go through a five-month course that included 17 weeks of formal schooling at Fort Gordon, five days a week in a class all day, or I could go through the lessons on Army e-Learning. Army e-Learning allows me to set my own pace while achieving the same objective. I preferred the Army e-Learning option. It's much less disruptive," Crawford said.

In addition to being less disruptive, Army e-Learning provides two critical benefits. First, it helps expedite getting a college degree, and second, it allows the Army workforce to diversify in their careers.

While creating Army e-Learning, the Army was careful to ensure that its courses could be accredited by the American Council on Education. People who take classes through Army e-Learning have been pleasantly surprised to find that many of their courses easily transfer into college credit, helping speed receiving a college degree.

"Before I enrolled in Franklin University, I informed my college advisor that I was enrolled in Smart Force (now Army e-Learning) and allowed him to review my transcript," Crawford said. "He told me that many of the classes I'd taken through Army e-Learning would transfer into college credit."

Army e-Learning also provides the opportunity to diversify within a person's career. Before Army e-Learning, Army employees had little opportunity to pursue a different career field or attend courses that weren't currently part of their duty position. Quotas were usually

prioritized based on the individual's current job series and employees weren't given the opportunity to attend training simply to learn something new or for their own personal development.

"Now, thanks to Army e-Learning, individuals can become more knowledgeable in other skill areas by completing training at home or anywhere there's an Internet connection," says Leslie York, IT Specialist, Army e-Learning Program. "It's helping Army professional to become more competitive in the job market."

From active duty to civilian

Army e-Learning plays a significant role in preparing active duty Soldiers for the transition to the civilian workforce. As an example, consider Carl Herbert, USMA-BOD-EMB/retired Air Force E7 who is now a telecommunications specialist for the West Point Military Academy.

"Army e-Learning provided me with the background and courses I needed to prepare for and better understand the position I decided to take at West Point," Herbert said. "Army e-Learning is a great tool. I've chosen courses to enhance my skills, because in today's world, those who rely on old technology will be passed by. With access to Army e-Learning, that won't happen to me. I've probably taken 25 to 30 courses thus far and have no intention of slowing down."

Herbert's use of Army e-Learning hasn't been for the sole purpose of professional development. He uses the system for business and personal development too.

"I design and build amateur radio equipment, write my own software programs using HTML and XML and design Web sites. I'm also a published writer," Herbert said. "This is all possible because of the free classes I'm taking through Army e-Learning. It's definitely a tremendous perk for all Army employees, and I'd encourage everyone to take advantage of it."

Army e-Learning doesn't stop at the boundaries of professional development. It goes a step further—offering courses that assist employees with managing personal finances, balancing life, time management and more.

While most organizations prioritize their training dollars based on job-specific training, the Army is covering the full spectrum.

Davis strongly believes that Army e-Learning can play a positive role in the lives of each and every Army employee. "The Army asks its people to dedicate their heart and souls to their jobs, and they do," Davis said. "In return, we have a deep responsibility to them. We have the obligation to provide Army personnel with the tools they need to succeed in their personal and professional careers within the Army and beyond. Army e-Learning is helping make that possible."

The Army is transforming the way it does business and an important factor is educating its workforce.

For additional information on how to access Army e-Learning, log onto <http://www.us.army.mil>; My Education; Army e-Learning portal page, or <http://usarmy.skillport.com>. Users must have an AKO account to access the system.

Troops remember military service with 2005 Military Pride Catalog

AAFES

The 2005 Military Pride Catalog is now available in military exchanges.

Packed with a wide range of military-themed items that pay tribute to the Armed Forces, both retired and active-duty service members will find great gifts, including military rings and jewelry, clothing, figurines, frames, military toys and display cases in this special 24-page catalog.

"We are very excited about our first-ever, Military Pride Catalog," said Marketing Senior Vice President Mike Westphal. "We are confident our customers are going to love the assortment and the prices."

The 2005 Military Pride Catalog is available for free at all main stores and online for authorized customers at [aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), [usmc-mccs.org](http://www.usmc-mccs.org), [navy-nex.com](http://www.navy-nex.com) or [cg-exchange.com](http://www.cg-exchange.com).

Prices in this all-services catalog are valid June 21, through Sept. 15. Active duty military members of the Army, Air Force, Navy,

Marines and Coast Guard, as well as military retirees, reservists, National Guardsmen, Department of Defense civilians stationed overseas, Exchange employees and their family members have all been authorized exchange privileges.

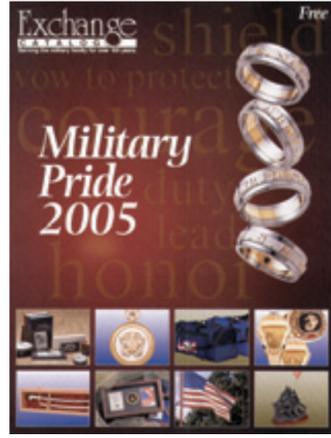
Orders can be placed by mail, fax or phone. To place orders toll free from the United States, Puerto Rico or Guam, call 1-800-527-2345. The Exchange Catalog center is open around-the-clock, seven days a week.

Complimentary international access calling is available from several countries. Please check the customer service area at your Exchange Online Store for details.

Earnings generated by purchases in the Exchange and Exchange Online Store as well as Exchange Catalogs such as the 2005

Military Pride Catalog are returned to the military community in the form of funding for Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities and programs.

In 2004, AAFES returned \$242.3 million to MWR and services programs.



One of several mini-catalogs available at post exchanges.

AAFES announces 'Find it Cheaper? Price Challenge'

AAFES

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service has announced it is raising its limit on verbal price challenges from \$5 to \$10.

"AAFES always aims to offer the lowest price," said AAFES Vice President of Store Operations, Phil Holifield. "Unfortunately, as much as we try, AAFES sometimes may not have the lowest price. When this happens we want to make the price challenge as easy as possible. Raising the verbal limit empowers AAFES cashiers and sales associates to immediately approve the price reduction."

If a customer finds a lower price*, all AAFES locations will now accept the customer's word and charge the lower price up to a difference of \$10**. The price reduction will be approved immediately. No competitor's ad or any other proof is required.

"Troops and retirees who shop at the exchange provide critical support to military Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs," Holifield said. "Because of this, it is important to ensure AAFES is maximizing the customers' dollars to get more people in the door and ultimately improve the exchange benefit. Bottom line, we want authorized exchange customers to buy products at AAFES facilities. Increasing the price chal-

lenge amount is just another way AAFES is combining outstanding customer service with great prices."

AAFES recently returned \$242.3 million to the services' MWR programs. For 2004, this dividend represented an average per capita dividend of \$277 for every Soldier and Airman, a 5 percent increase over the previous year.

* BX/PX Retail Program

1. AAFES retail stores will match a local competitor's current price on any identical stock assortment item for the customer who makes the price challenge. "Identical" is defined as: same brand, same manufacturer and same model number. For clothing, an identical item has to be the same size, color, brand and style.

2. AAFES retail stores worldwide will accept oral price challenges (based on the customer's word) on identical stock assortment items from local competitors. Price differences up to \$10 will be honored on the spot. A local competitor is defined as a retailer doing business in the community where the exchange is located. This includes Navy and Marine exchanges.

3. AAFES retail stores worldwide have a 30-Day Price Guarantee on any item originally purchased from AAFES and subsequently sold at a lower price by AAFES, or any local competitor.

4. AAFES retail stores worldwide will not accept

price match challenges from any outside retail catalog or outside internet site.

5. AAFES retail stores worldwide will match pricing on identical items found in the Exchange Catalog or www.aafes.com with the exception of the following categories: fine jewelry, collectible giftware, crystal and closeouts. In addition, Special Orders and www.CentricMall.com are excluded.

** PROGRAM EXCEPTIONS (PX/BX Retail, Exchange Catalog and www.aafes.com)

1. AAFES BX/PX Retail, Exchange Catalog and www.aafes.com will not match prices on refurbished goods, gray market items, unauthorized dealers and warehouse clubs.

2. AAFES BX/PX Retail, Exchange Catalog and www.aafes.com will not match Commissary, BXMart, PXMart or CXMart prices.

3. Other exclusions include: bonus or free offers, clearance prices and closeout prices. Exclusions also include special orders service contracts, automotive labor and services, special order automotive parts, installation, delivery or assembly services. Other items include mail in rebates, instant "In-store" rebates, double and triple coupon offers, flat percentage off items and gasoline.

4. In MCSS stores, official military clothing and accessories are excluded.

Education Center News

A College Fair will be held 4 to 6 p.m., July 26 at the APG Recreation Center, building 3326. More than 20 colleges including TESST College of Technology, Cecil Community College, Community College of Baltimore (Catonsville, Essex, Dundalk), Towson University, Johns Hopkins University graduate programs, Goucher College graduate programs, University of Phoenix, Liberty University, Morgan State University, Servicemember Opportunity College (SOCAD) and Army Green-to-Gold Program will be available. Also available at the fair will be a Troops-to-Teachers Workshop, 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.; and a Financial Aid Workshop at 5 p.m.

For more information or to register for workshops, call 410-306-2043 or e-mail Tressie.Stout@usag.apg.army.mil.

Online resources

Three Web sites supporting Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps service members and civilian employees provides 24-hour-a-day online access to a one-stop voluntary education shop where they can research their education goals, the related costs, and the steps they need to take.

For more information see the U.S. Army Library Education Center at www.army.mil/ako or www.petersons.com/army; U.S. Air Force Education Resource Center at www.petersons.com/airforce; or the U.S. Navy Library Education Resource Center at

www.nko.navy.mil.

Troops to Teachers – For more information, see www.proudtoserveagain.com.

VA Education Benefits – For more information on VA education benefits or policies, access the "Ask A Question" link on the Web site <http://www.gibill.va.gov>, call the VA toll-free at 1-888-442-4551 or e-mail ATLRPO@vba.va.gov.

College links

Harford Community College
APG Office, building 4305, call 410-306-2047 or visit <http://www.harford.edu>.

University of Maryland University College (UMUC)

APG Office, building 4305, call 410-306-2048 or visit <http://www.umuc.edu>.

Central Michigan University
APG Office, building 4305, 410-306-2046 or visit <http://www.cel.cmich.edu>.

Florida Institute of Technology APG Office, building 5442, 410-278-2742 or visit fit.Aberdeen@juno.com.

AARTS Transcripts – Review and order Army transcripts at <http://aarts.army.mil>.

Army Correspondence Course Program, visit www.atsc.army.mil/accep/aidnew.asp.

The Aberdeen Education Center is located in building 4305, 410-306-2043/2035/2037. The Gunpowder Neck Education Center is located in building E-4410, 410-436-2166.

Camp donates slots to military children

www.military.com

Camp Island Lake, a summer camp for children in Starrucca, Pa., is giving away 30 free spaces this summer to children of military personnel who have served overseas since Sept. 11, 2001. The program has been dubbed "Operation Thank You."

The free slots will be offered during the camp's 3rd session, which runs from Aug. 3 to Aug. 16 and normally costs \$2,100 per child. The camp is located in the Pocono Mountains in northeastern Pennsylvania. It sits on 550 acres of property that includes two large lakes where water-skiing and other boating activities are readily available.

Campers can play sports, perform in a circus,

or take part in theatre, music or dance productions.

The youths can also ride horses or skateboard in the camp's own skate park. The 20,400-square-foot athletic center includes ball fields, volleyball courts, an archery center, a hockey rink, a mountain-biking center, a batting cage, basketball courts, a gymnastics center, an Olympic-size swimming pool, and an 18-hole disc golf course.

The camp also offers tutoring in a variety of subjects at no cost, and older children can take a Stanley Kaplan SAT study course.

For more information, e-mail the camp through its Web site at <http://www.islandlake.com>.

Medal

From page 2

Company of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

He has been assigned to the 2nd of the 11th Field Artillery and the 71st Chemical Company in Hawaii, and the 2nd of the 15th Field Artillery at Fort Drum, N.Y. He also served in the Old Guard.

The Purple Heart was established by Gen. George

Washington at Newburgh, N.Y., on Aug. 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War. It was reestablished by the President of the United States per War Department General Orders 3 in 1932.

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an armed force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the

U.S. armed services after April 5, 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded.

The 22nd Chemical Battalion (TE), formerly called the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit, has over 60 years of experience in chemical/biological response, and has a long history of meeting the challenging needs of the nation.

RDECOM

From page 3

"Mother Chase is a national treasure as far as I'm concerned. Recognizing her in this way is the least that we as a community could do," she added.

Along with Nadeau, the commanders of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, and the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools signed the lengthy proclamation, which Vanschenkof read to the entire congregation.

"It is an honor and a privilege to present this proclamation to a true hero," Vanschenkof said.

Chase was surprised and overwhelmed by the gesture.

With tears running down her face she shared her story of the events that day, the injuries

she suffered, and overcoming the odds of making a full recovery.

"The doctors said I never would talk again but thank God that my God is real and I thank him that I can walk, I can talk, I can see and I can move today," Chase said.

In 1945, more than 3,000 women were employed on Edgewood Arsenal.

Many of them worked in the Ordnance Assembly Plant in building 509, adding igniter fuses to assembled grenades.

On May 25, 1945, a burster ignited in a workers' hand and the ensuing blasts ignited the entire building.

Several workers, along with Chase, were literally blown from the building.

Smoke and flames were everywhere.

Rescuers found Chase among a pile of rubble.

Her injuries included second-degree burns and severe tracheobronchitis.

Chase endured numerous surgeries to restore her voice and months of recuperation.

She was unable to speak above a whisper for years when one day, miraculously, her voice returned.

"It was the scariest thing in the world," she recalled. "One day I was trying to yell at my kids for doing something wrong and this horrible voice came out, so loud it scared me. I looked over my shoulder to see who it was that sounded so bad."

Besides the 12 women killed in the blast, 38 men and women were treated and released, and 21 were hospitalized with serious burns and other injuries.

Numerous safety regulations and operating procedures were implemented following the explosion, which resulted in a safer working environment for all employees.