

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The residential and recycling pickup schedule for May 3, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags, and place them on the curb.

RAB meeting scheduled tonight

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting, 7 to 9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be a continuation of the Canal Creek Study Area update.

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 800-APG-9998.

Hydrant flushing begins in May

Fire hydrant flushing in the Aberdeen Area of APG is scheduled for May 1 through June 16. The City of Aberdeen will perform their annual hydrant flushing starting with the family housing area starting at 4 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week.

May 1 through 5, flushing will include blocks 2900, 2700, 2500, 2800, 3700, 3800, 3900 and 2400.

May 8 through 12, flushing will include blocks 2400, 2300, 2200, 2100, 200, Plumb Point Housing, 300 Block and Spesutie Island.

May 15 through 19, flushing will include blocks 1000, 700 and 500.

May 22 through 26, flushing will include blocks 300, 200 and 400.

May 30 through June 2, flushing will include blocks 600, 3000 and 4000 blocks.

June 5 through 16, flushing will include blocks 3000 and 4000.

APG thanks volunteers

Once a year, APG recognizes the contributions of its volunteers. The caring individuals who volunteer all over the installation and in surrounding areas all have one thing in common - a heart for the community.

The APG community will formally thank those volunteers at a recognition ceremony and reception in their honor at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at Top of the Bay.

Col. John T. Wright, Garrison and Deputy Installation Commander,

See SHORTS page 4

'Heroes honor heroes' at grueling desert march

Story by
Mike Cast
DTC

What kind of person would shoulder a 36-pound pack and voluntarily trudge 26.2 miles across desert terrain, much of it rugged and uphill, to complete one of the world's toughest marathons? Brig. Gen. Michael Combest, commander of the Army Developmental Test Command, is that kind of person. So is his aide-de-camp, Capt. Michael Lind, and DTC Command Sgt. Maj. Allen Fritzsching.

The three men represented DTC as they completed the 17th annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico on March 26. It was the second such march for Combest and Lind, who participated last year, and the first for Fritzsching, who was recently assigned to DTC.

Combest finished first in the men's military heavy category, age group 50-59. His two DTC companions for the march also fared well. Lind finished the march in 6 hours and 20 minutes, making him ninth to cross the finish line out of 118 finishers in his category and age group, 20-29. Fritzsching completed the march in 7 hours and 47 minutes, making him the 12th-place finisher out of 35 in the military men's heavy category, ages 30-39.

The annual White Sands event pays tribute to the American Soldiers and their Filipino allies captured by the Japanese in their invasion of Philippines in April 1942 and forced to march 90 miles through steaming jun-



Photo by MIKE SMITH
Patriotism ran high during the 2006 Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range. Many participants carried flags to honor the nation and contributions of American warfighters.

gle to a rail terminus, where the survivors were shipped to a prison camp. Thousands of prisoners didn't survive the ordeal because they fell victim to disease along the way, or could not withstand the rigors of marching six days in the tropical heat on small rations and no fresh water, or because they were executed by their captors for falling back or disobeying orders. It was a hellish experience that earned a war-crimes conviction and execution for the Japanese commander in charge of the march.

The nearly 3,900 Soldiers and civilians participating in this year's Bataan Memorial Death March represented the U.S. Army and all 50 states as well as the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and South Korea. Fritzsching said. Survivors of the infamous World War II march were present and received recognition for their service and sacrifices.

Team and individual marchers competed in various categories such as military men's heavy for military members willing to shoulder rucksacks weighing 35+ pounds and military men's light for those who wore a pistol belt and web gear instead of a rucksack. Civilian marchers competed in similar categories.

"We were physically and mentally ready for the most demanding marathon in the world," Lind said. "Meeting those ex-POWs and hearing their stories and trials gives fighting for freedom a much higher meaning. We are a part of the greatest Army in the

See MARCH, page 10

Soldier volunteers to 'continue to support a grateful nation'

Story and photo by
SANDY SANTIAGO
CERDEC

The late President John F. Kennedy once said, "...Ask not what your country can do for you... ask what you can do for your country."

A Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center Soldier asked exactly that.

Staff Sgt. Amador Pena recently made the decision to extend his term of service to the Army, after having already served for six years as a signals support systems specialist.

With the U.S. Army Materiel Command retention poster reading, "We are a nation at war ... Are you doing all you can?" and the words "reenlist and continue to support a grateful nation," inadvertently serving as a backdrop to the poster, Pena met with AMC career counselor, Sgt. Maj. Elisabeth Jones; Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Lane and Sgt. 1st Class Valerie Kitchens, CERDEC operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge to extend an additional 30 months.

This 30-month extension allows Pena to enter the Army's Bonus Extension and Retraining program, which allows eligible Soldiers to extend their term of service to attend training in critical Army military occupational specialties. Upon graduation, the Soldier reenlists and receives a Selective Reenlistment Bonus.

Through this program Pena will be able to attend the Army's six-month human intelligence collector training in Fort Huachuca, Ariz., starting in May 2007. The collector training will be followed by 18 more months of training at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Monterey, Calif., where he hopes to be assigned to Arabic language classes.

As part of the BEAR program Pena's MOS will go from his 25U designation, to the 97E designation.

Pena has been a signal support system maintainer assigned to CERDEC's Space & Terrestrial Communications Directorate since February 2005. He was deployed to Iraq prior to being assigned to CERDEC, and was looking to redeploy to Iraq during 2006 to further support the mission.

It was this desire to re-deploy early this year that prompted him to volunteer for the BEAR program that would ultimately transfer him to the 97E designation, and eventually to Iraq.

"I tried to deploy back to Iraq this month, where I was going to reenlist, but [the Army] told me that I couldn't go back so soon," Pena said. "I was going to reenlist anyway so I saw the BEAR program as an opportunity to become trained as an Arabic interpreter so that I could definitely redeploy to Iraq."

Pena said he was surprised when he learned that based on the March 2007 start date of his 97E training, his desire to redeploy would have to be placed on hold.

Although Pena is eager to redeploy,



Sgt. Maj. Elisabeth Jones, Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command Sergeant Major, explains the terms of the Army's Bonus Extension and Retraining program to Staff Sgt. Amador Pena.

he doesn't mind the wait because he sees the value in his service while assigned to CERDEC.

For six years he has gone where the Army has needed him, serving both his fellow Warfighter and the Army that he feels has given him so much in return.

A man of few words, the sergeant shies away from the large commotion made over his decision to reenlist. He said he is looking for neither praise nor recognition over the decision.

Although he appreciates the Army gym bag containing such Army paraphernalia as towels, a ball cap, a mug,

picture frame, wallet, and polo shirt, all of which sport the logo 'Stay AMC...Stay Army Proudly Serving,' he does not consider them necessary as perks for extending his service. His "perk" is simply that of being able to continue doing what he has successfully done for the past six years.

"I love what I do for a living. I love the Army and I couldn't imagine doing anything else," Pena said.

(Editor's note: Trinace Johnson of the Research, Development and Engineering Command contributed to this article.)

Army's BEAR program aims to fill understaffed specialties

Story by
LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

The Army has made changes to the bonuses for enlisted Soldiers who are considering switching jobs and entering one of the Army's critically short career fields, according to changes in the Bonus Extension and Retraining program.

Soldiers who qualify to enter the program, better known as BEAR, can extend their re-enlistment while they attend school to learn one of 21 designated "shortage" jobs, such as Special Forces medic or Arabic language interrogators.

Once their schooling is finished, BEAR members re-enlist and are given a Selective Re-enlistment Bonus lump-sum payment — from \$10,000 to as much as \$40,000.

The BEAR program is unique because it "is the only way a Soldier can get money for changing their MOS," or military occupational specialty, according to Sgt. Maj. James

Bragg, the Army's Re-enlistment Management bureau chief.

The Army is currently offering Selective Re-enlistment Bonuses for 126 out of about 188 MOSs.

But while Soldiers always are allowed to try to switch from one MOS into another when they re-enlist, unless they are qualified to perform the new job, they can't earn a Selective Re-enlistment Bonus, Bragg said Monday.

The BEAR program, however, lets Soldiers retrain under their current contract, then re-enter the Army as if they had been working in the shortage MOS all along, Bragg said.

On Feb. 7, BEAR program managers issued an updated list of eligible MOSs and the "multipliers" are used to compute bonuses.

Multipliers are associated with the length of time a Soldier in each of the three ranks — specialists (E-4s), sergeants (E-5), and staff sergeants (E-6) — has served, which falls into one of

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Spring arrives at APG



Photo by Yvonne Johnson
Cherry trees decorate the road to Ruggles Golf Course welcoming the arrival of spring to APG.

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Mortuary Soldiers perform mission with respect, reverence

Story by
Master Sgt. Will Ackerman
Army News Service

Tucked away in an obscure building at Sather Air Base, Iraq, a group of Soldiers hopes today is a slow one.

Although most people like to have lots of work, these Puerto Rico Army Reserve Soldiers are content not to have business. When they are busy, it means someone has died.

"When there is nothing, it's a good thing," said Sgt. Jose Vega, 311th Quartermaster Company Mortuary Affairs technician. "It's better to stay that way than working."

However, when they do process human remains for the flight back to the United States and to the family of the deceased, they perform their mission with "respect and reverence," added Spc. Juan Mendezvega.

"We treat (each person) as an individual."

The mortuary affairs team processes the remains of American and Coalition forces, contractors and Iraqis who have died in Iraq. They document the condition of the remains at the time of death on an anatomical chart, listing wounds, tattoos, scars or identification marks.

"We write down anything identifiable," said Mendezvega.

Although the Dover Air Force Base, Del., mortuary is responsible for positively identifying the individual, the mortuary affairs team's meticulous work often provides "tentative" identification. "We look for a person's ID tags so we can provide a tentative ID to Dover," said Vega. "This can help them in notifying the family (of the deceased) as soon as possible."

Getting personal

One way they tentatively identify the remains is taking any "personal effects," documenting them on a form and placing them in a container or bag that travels in a transfer case with the remains.

Although the team processes hundreds of remains, the hardest emotional challenge is when they find a family photo.

"One of the worst parts is seeing pictures of the family," Vega said. "It reminds us



they had people waiting back salute.

Photo by MASTER SGT. WILL ACKERMAN
Sgt. Jose Vega, 311th Quartermaster Company, completes a form used to help provide identification of a deceased person at the mortuary at Sather Air Base, Iraq, recently. The team prepares human remains for shipment to regional mortuaries in Kuwait and Dover Air Force Base, Del.

home."

The remains are placed in an aluminum transfer case in the condition they were received from the field along with a "case file" that includes the anatomical chart, personal effects list and a death certificate from a medical authority. The remains are sent on a military aircraft to a regional mortuary in Kuwait. There, remains are then packed on ice for the journey to Dover AFB, where they are embalmed.

The team has processed more than 135 U.S. remains since September 2005. They've also processed 27 insurgent and detainee remains and 63 third-country nationals.

Respect for all

Although there is no requirement to do so, the team leads a brief ceremony as they load the remains onto the aircraft to pay respect for the individual's service. They and volunteers carry the flag-draped transfer case onto the aircraft while a small military formation presents a final

"The (person) made the greatest sacrifice for the cause," said Mendezvega. "I try to go every time and pay my respects."

Although handling human remains from the battlefield is challenging, the Soldiers' morale is high. Vega said they all volunteered for the career field. Additionally, many have been together for years in the Army Reserves. If one person has a problem, they all work together to deal with it.

"We can talk about anything," added Mendezvega. "We are like a small family."

Because they can receive remains at any time of the day or night — never knowing when they will have "downtime," they take advantage of the quiet periods by playing basketball, watching movies or just talking.

The mortuary affairs career field is one that takes a special kind of person, Sgt. Vega said. But every member of the team volunteered.

"To me, I wouldn't be doing any other job in the Army," Mendezvega said.

Army develops new tracking system for petroleum, water systems

TACOM Life Cycle Management Command

The Army's Product Manager of Petroleum and Water Systems, or PM PAWS, has developed a fielding tracker application that provides quick access to pertinent fielding information for petroleum and water systems and 24-hour customer support which is located on AKO (Army Knowledge Online).

"The system was originally developed to be a useful tool for fielding team members, but has been quickly adapted as a PM logistics tool to track and access all the fielding related information and quality deficiency reports for all systems developed by PM PAWS," said P. K. Horton, a systems acquisition specialist with PM PAWS.

When information on a petroleum and water system is desired or a question needs to be addressed, a user can quickly access AKO and input the desired question on the discussion forum. The question will be automatically forwarded to the appropriate contact and an answer will be posted for all to see.

"This discussion thread opens a whole new door to information sharing and quick solution turn around," Horton said.

It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from anywhere in the world. A user no longer needs to remember a contact name, phone number, or e-mail address and can now easily find Petroleum and Water on AKO.

To access, enter the "Acquisition" link under "Files" in the AKO knowledge center. Once there, go down the organization tree to find "PM PAWS." Click on "PEO CS&CSS" which will display the related organizations. Next find "PM FP" and click on it entering the Force Projection knowledge center. (If not already subscribed, user may need to subscribe to a

knowledge center before continuing. The subscribe button is located at the top tool bar.) Click on the PM PAWS link, subscribe if prompted, and there will be a list of all of PM PAWS systems including a cabinet for FIELDING.

Since the support forum is related to PM PAWS' fielding, the forum is located under the cabinet called FIELDING. At this time click on the FIELDING cabinet to display the MFP (Materiel Fielding Plans), NMIB (New Materiel Introductory Briefs), and Fielding Tracker folders. Under the Fielding Tracker

folder there is PM PAWS Fielding Tracker, which can be downloaded to the desktop for viewing and tracking of all petroleum and water fieldings. Next to the Fielding Tracker folder there is a comment balloon. This is the discussion forum. Click the balloon to start a discussion. When first looking at the discussion or support forum users will see the systems threads.

To subscribe, select the system or create a thread to ask a question. Users can also reply to any other question making this an open forum for discussions and solutions that anyone can use for helpful information.

"The process is simple and the location is easy to find making the support forum a very useful and valuable tool for PM PAWS and the units in the field using the equipment," Horton said. "It is important to have an open channel of communication to resolve issues as they arise. The support forum opens these lines of communication and allows communication from anywhere in the world with little to no effort on the users end."

For more information, contact P.K. Horton from PM PAWS at patricia.horton@us.army.mil or 586-574-8027.



Army seeks to fill ammo WO vacancies

Story by
Retired Warrant Officer Alvin Rose
Special contributor

The ammunition technician warrant officer, or MOS 890A, plays a key role in keeping the ammunition flowing to and from the end user. Referred to as an ammo warrant, they are among the finest Army warrant officers and are the focal point, though usually low key, in any ammunition supply and maintenance operation. An ammo warrant possesses the technical skills and knowledge to properly ship, issue, receive, store, segregate, inventory, classify, substitute, maintain, account for and document all ammunition transactions.

From the time of accession and first assignment ammo warrants may be responsible for the highest dollar value (multimillion dollars), highest tonnage (thousands of short tons), most critical asset in any theater of operation. Ammo warrants serve in positions such as accountable officer, responsible officer, operations officer, division ammunition officer, maintenance officer, acting commander, platoon leader, staff level, or perhaps a combination thereof.

Often, ammo warrants wear multiple hats as the accountable officer, maintenance officer, acting commander or platoon leader in a company, detachment or team. Generally, they ensure ammunition is at the ammunition storage facility in accurately recorded quantities in the highest serviceable condition in order to support combat and combat service support units. In a tactical environment, it is not unusual for an ammo warrant to assemble a convoy and act as the convoy commander to deliver ammunition to forward areas and reclaim pre-

positioned ammunition no longer needed, exhausted rocket pods, empty shipping and storage containers, pallets, debris and ever elusive tie-down straps. Reclamation is central to retrograde and maintenance operations. It also reduces battlefield signature.

The Army acquires Soldiers to fill ammo warrant billets from two sources. A prospective warrant must have an ammunition peculiar background. It is the ammunition specialist (MOS 89B) or an explosive ordnance disposal specialist (MOS 89D) that qualifies. The prerequisites are a minimum of an interim secret clearance, GT score of at least 110, four years of ammunition field service, be in the grade of E-5 or above, a Basic NCO Course graduate and recommendations from your chain of command.

Currently, due in part to the growth of ammunition warrant officer positions in modularity, this military occupational specialty is short of officers.

Once selected, the candidate attends a six-week, four-day warrant officer basic course at Fort Rucker. Upon successful completion, the candidate is pinned in a formal ceremony. Next, the new WO 1 attends a 10-week, three-day ammo tech basic course at Redstone Arsenal. The ammo warrant then embarks upon his or her career.

Interested individuals should visit the U.S. Army Recruiting Command Web site, www.usarec.army.mil for exact information or contact the ordnance proponent chief for MOS 890A. The contact is Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs, 256-842-6864, DSN number, 788-6864; or e-mail harry.hobbs@us.army.mil.

BEAR

From front page

three "zones," A, B and C.

The number next to the A, B or C is the multiplier, which, with the duration of the re-enlistment, is part of the calculation of bonus.

Since Feb. 7, a total of 22 multipliers have increased since the BEAR was last updated in June 2005, according to the updated list.

And one MOS — 19D, cavalry scout — was added to the list.

But multipliers in two of the BEAR list's MOS categories — 21U, topographical analyst, and 88M, motor transport operator — will be decreased as of March 9, Bragg said.

Program managers are giving the decreases extra time to take effect "in case there are any fence-sitters out there" who are thinking about switching to those jobs but have been waiting to commit to the program, Bragg said.

In fiscal 2005, more than 1,000 Soldiers joined BEAR, Bragg said.

In fiscal 2006, which began Oct. 1, so far there are 525 BEAR members, "so we are on track with last year," Bragg said.

In order to partake in BEAR, Soldiers have

to qualify for the MOS they have selected, and be within 24 months of their estimated termination of service date.

And not every rank is eligible for a bonus in every BEAR job. For example, 91W, health care specialist, is open only to specialists who are not promotable.

Finally, Soldiers who are already working in a shortage MOS are not allowed to join the BEAR program — with a single, new exception: Soldiers whose enlistments are scheduled to end in fiscal 2006 (on or before Sept. 30) can enter BEAR no matter what their MOS may be, Bragg said.

Deployed Soldiers who are stop-lossed are eligible to join BEAR as soon as their stop loss runs its course, as long as there is a training seat available in the school associated with their desired MOS, according to Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Nagle, the Army's re-enlistment Training program manager.

Nagle recommended that stop-lossed Soldiers who are interested in BEAR visit their deployed battalion or brigade career counselors as soon as possible to determine eligibility for the program.

Other Soldiers should also see their career counselors to find out whether they qualify for BEAR and how much money their Selective Re-enlistment Bonus might be worth.

APG News

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Preventing substance abuse on APG



Lt. Col. Sharon Hoffman, Safety and Occupational Health monitor for the Md. Army National Guard, left, and Cindy Scott, Army Substance Abuse Program prevention coordinator discuss alcohol awareness during the ASAP Alcohol Screening at the Edgewood Area Shoppette April 6.

ASAP tests alcohol knowledge

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Army Substance Abuse Program tested the community's knowledge of alcohol awareness during two screening sessions at the Post Exchange and Edgewood Area Shoppette April 6.

Cindy Scott, ASAP prevention coordinator, hosted the event that featured a questionnaire on participants' alcohol intake and their knowledge of the effects alcohol has on the body.

"We want to educate people about alcohol-related health risks as well as to let them know the services available through ASAP for those fighting addiction," Scott said, noting that services are open to active duty military, retirees, government civilians and contractors and their family members.

"We've gotten a good response from a lot of Soldiers and a number of retirees," Scott said.

She pointed out that many people are unaware of the risks alcohol poses for those taking prescription or over-the-counter medications.

"The results from mixing alcohol with medications can be deadly," she said, "which is why we encourage participants to take and read the information we have available."

The display included brochures on how to talk to children about alcohol, tips on men's and women's health, drinking and pregnancy and how to get help for a friend or family member. In addition, the connection between alcohol and stress is explored as well as information on alcohol content and determining individual health risks.

"As we focus on issues we try to obtain as much information as possible to keep the community informed," Scott said, noting that additional information can be found on the ASAP Web site, www.apg-intra.apg.army.mil/apg/asap/.

The ASAP office is located in building 2477.

"We prefer an appointment

but anyone in crisis is welcome to just walk in," Scott said.

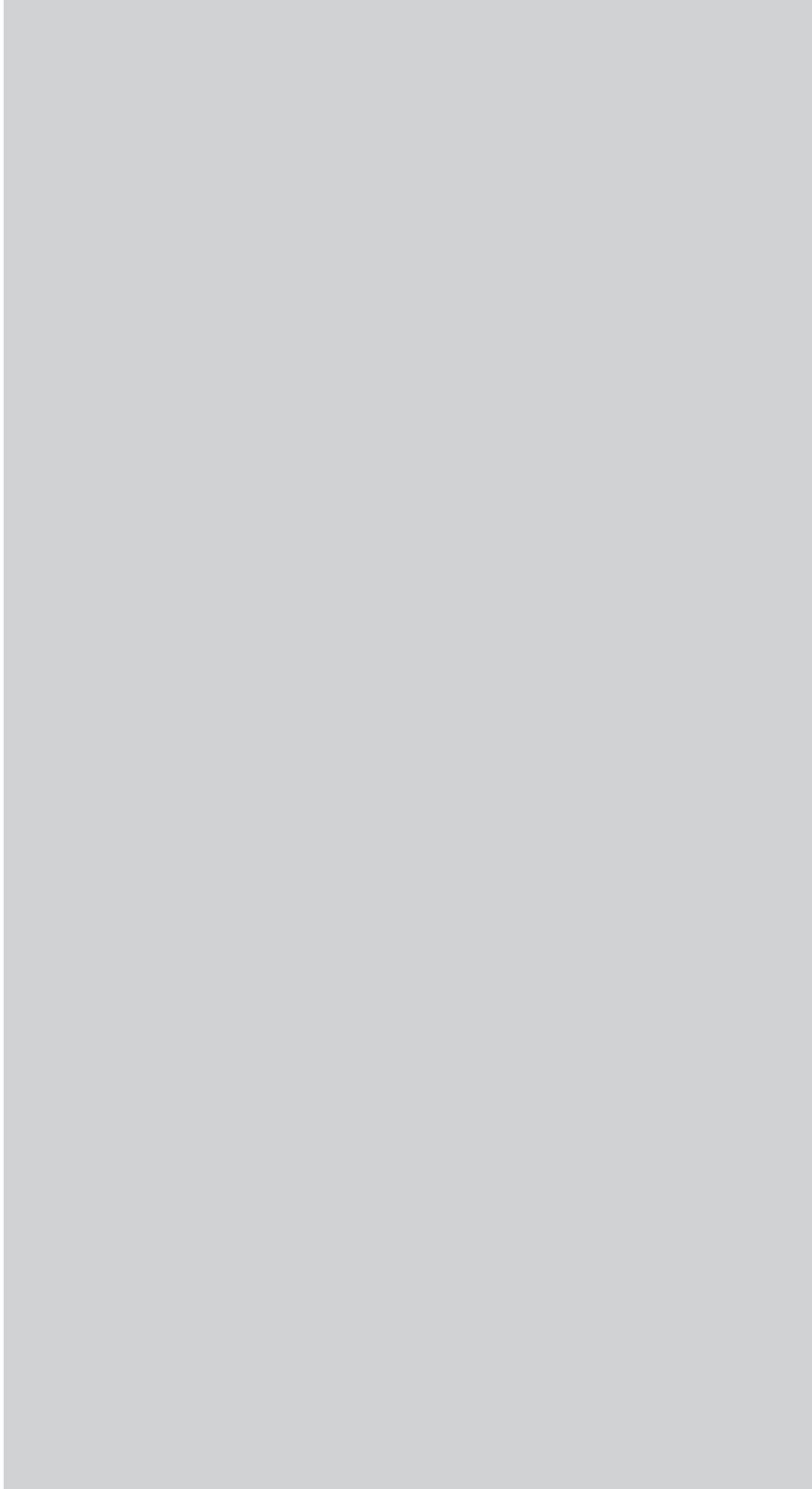
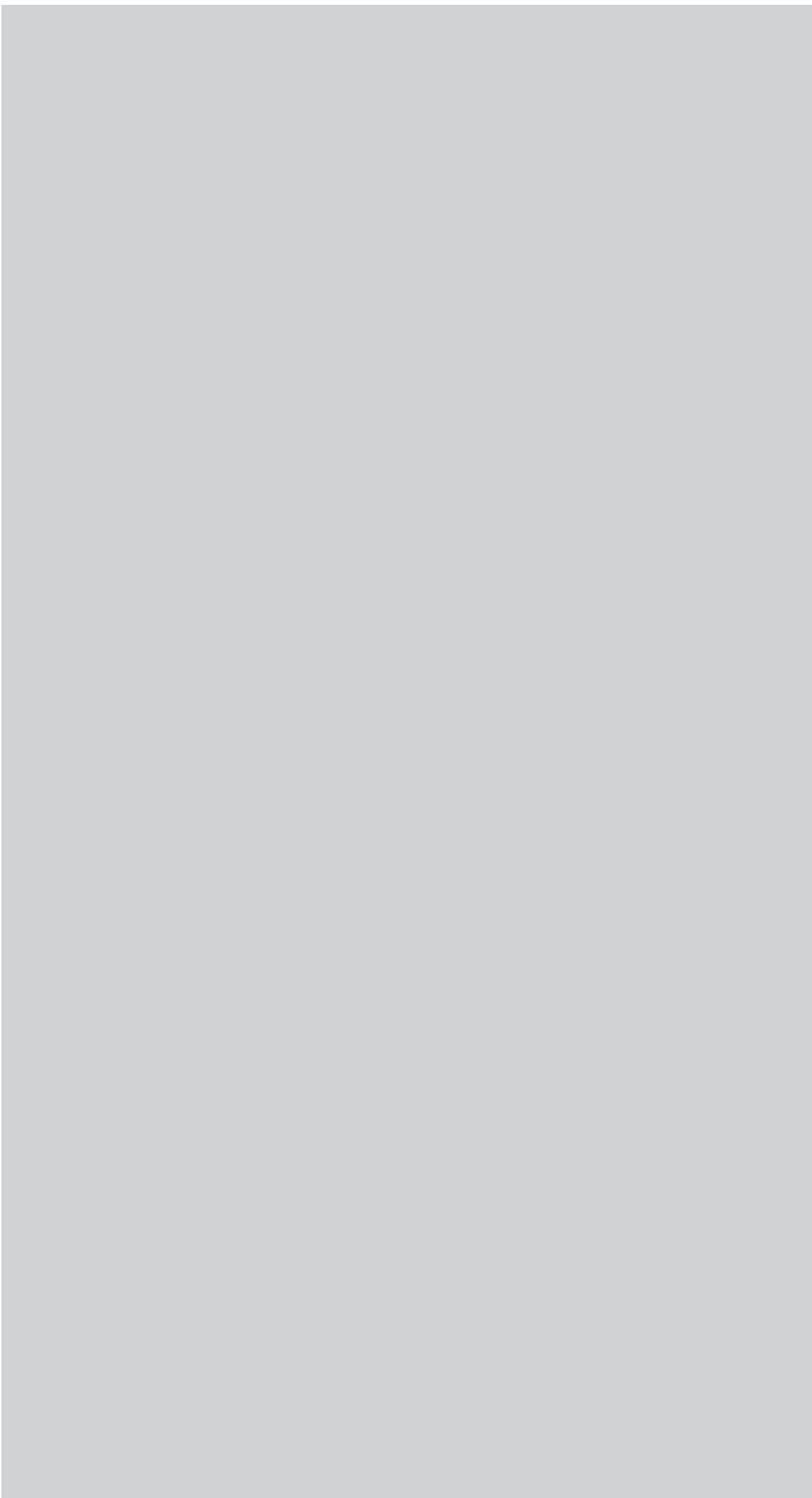
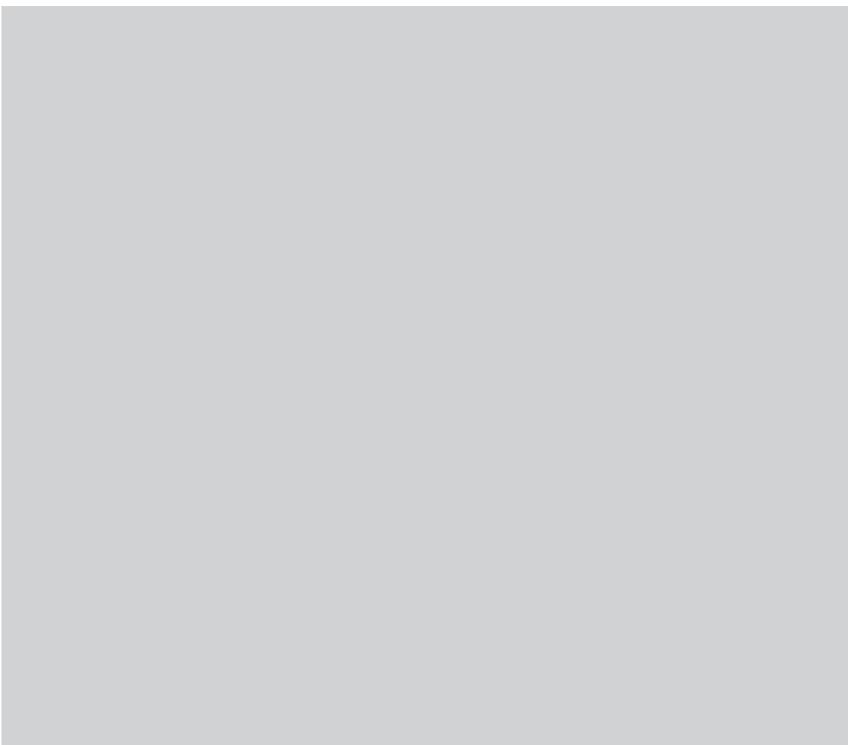
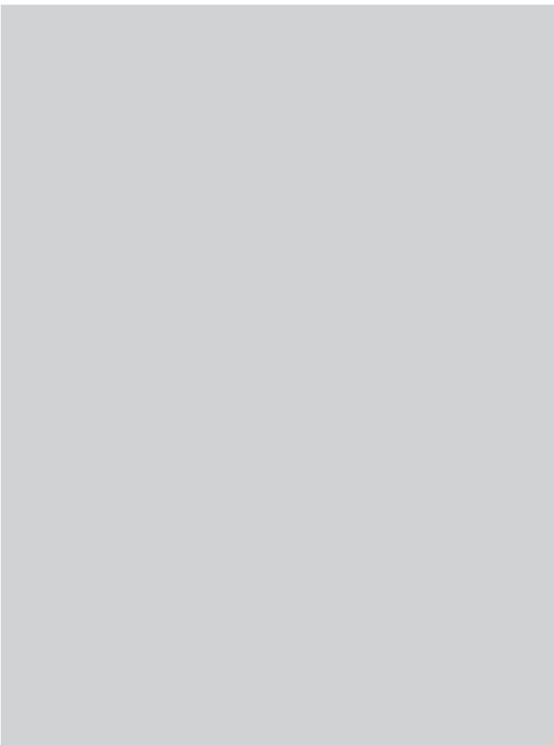
"This information is vital to maintaining an informed and healthy community," said Lt. Col. Sharon Hoffman, Safety and Occupational Health Monitor for the Maryland Army National Guard, as she admired one of the props Scott displayed of a car inside a Martini glass.

"I can really use things like

this," Hoffman said. "It really helps get the point across. If I can't order one I plan to make one."

As he filled out a questionnaire, Maj. William Mott, adjutant, 20th Support Command, said that the screening was "a great reminder."

"It's good for awareness," Mott said. "Its positive impact keeps the public conscious of the dangers of drinking."



POST SHORTS

will host the program and recognize nominees and selected winners in the categories of Military, Family Member, Retiree, Civilian and Youth Volunteer of the Year.

The event is free and everyone is invited to attend.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, 410-278-9669.

SAME Chesapeake holds meeting

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post monthly meeting will be held 11:30 a.m., April 27, at Top of the Bay. The featured speaker will be James Daniel, chief of the Cleanup Division, U.S. Army Environmental Center. Daniel will present a briefing on "Army Cleanup Strategy and Program."

RSVP NLT April 21 to Donna Vereb at 301-670-5485 or Tony Price at 301-732-1154.

Teachers workshop April 28

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Education Center will host a Troops to Teachers/Spouses to Teachers Workshop in building 4305, classroom 243-B, 10 a.m., April 28.

All active duty, retirees, National Guard and Reserve, their spouses and college-aged children are encouraged to attend. The workshop will provide an overview of the program focusing on eligibility, registration and financial assistance opportunities.

Supporting institutions on-hand will include Harford Community College, The University of Maryland Baltimore Campus, the College of Notre Dame, Towson University, and Goucher College

For reservations, call James Vanduyne, education services specialist, 410-306-2042 or e-mail him at james.vanduyne@apg.army.mil.

Updated CAC PIN reset information

The APG DOIM is providing CAC PIN reset operations at APG 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week through June 1 at the Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140,

located at the corner of Wise and Austin roads; and at the Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326 on Erie Street.

For more information and to have the CAC reset on non-scheduled days, contact Irving Sherrod, 410-278-3193 or Edna Lobodzinski, 410-278-4012.

Register for the 2006 Army Birthday Ball

Celebrate the Army's 231st Army Birthday Ball, 5:30 p.m., June 10, at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C.

All U.S. Army Soldiers, family members, Department of the Army civilians, contrac-

tors, retirees, veterans and their guests are invited to attend the event. Tickets cost \$70 each and include dinner and entertainment.

A limited number of discounted tickets of \$40 each will be available for E-6s, GS-7 civilians and below.

For more information, or to register for the 2006 Army Birthday Ball, visit Army Knowledge online at www.us.army.mil and follow the link to the ball. Seats are limited.

(Editors Note: More shorts can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Shorts.)

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."

FAILURE TO LAUNCH

Friday, April 28, 7 p.m.

Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Sarah Jessica Parker, Zooey Deschanel, Justin Bartha, Bradley Cooper

A slacker dude in his 30s (McConaughey) is lured into finally leaving home when his parents (Bates, Bradshaw) hire a hottie (Parker) to pose as the girl of his dreams and lure him out of the house. (Rated PG-13)

SHE'S THE MAN (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, April 29, 7 p.m.

Starring: Amanda Bynes, Channing Tatum, Laura Ramsey, Robert Hoffman

This movie, actually, is a modernization of the original "Twelfth Night, or What You Will" by William Shakespeare. When her big brother decides to ditch for a couple weeks in London, Viola (Bynes) heads over to his elite boarding school, disguises herself as him, and proceeds to fall for

one of her soccer teammates. Little does she realize she's not the only one with romantic troubles, as she, as he, gets in the middle of a series of intermingled love affairs. (Rated PG-13)

V FOR VENDETTA

Saturday, April 29, 9 p.m.

Starring: Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving, Stephen Rea, Stephen Fry

In totalitarian Great Britain, a mild-mannered young woman named Evey (Portman) is rescued by a masked terrorist known only as V (Weaving), who urges the citizenry to rally against their tyrannical government. As Evey uncovers the truth about V's mysterious background, she also discovers the truth about herself - and emerges as his unlikely ally in the culmination of his plot to bring freedom and justice back to a society fraught with cruelty and corruption. (Rated R)

Community Notes

**SATURDAY
APRIL 29
BASKET BINGO**

Basket Bingo to benefit the Port Deposit Heritage Corporation will be held at VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors open at 6 p.m., bingo starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 per person for all paper cards. Food, beverages, baked goods, door prizes and raffles will be available. No smoking is allowed.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or Joanne Bierly, 410-378-3320.

**MONDAY
MAY 1
TOASTMASTERS**

Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562 will meet at 11:40 a.m. at the Gunpowder Club E-4650, on Parrish Road.

The daytime club offers an opportunity for people from APG and the local community to improve their communications, leadership and speaking abilities and to overcome their fear of public speaking. Lunch will be available.

For more information, call Len Kolodny at 410-734-6573.

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND
SUNDAY
MAY 5, 6 AND 7
HAVRE DE GRACE
DECOY FESTIVAL**

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum will hold its annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival at the Havre de Grace High School and Middle School, 6 to 9 p.m., May 5; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 6; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 7.

More than 140 artists from all over the country will exhibit their work. Events include carving competitions, the 4th Annual J.

Evans McKinney Old Decoy Contest, retriever demonstrations, children's decoy painting session with "Mother Goose," silent auctions and more.

Passes cost \$6 for one day or \$10 for the weekend. Children ages 12 and under enter free with a paying adult.

Free shuttle bus service will be available. The Decoy Festival is handicapped accessible.

For more information or to purchase passes, call 410-939-3739.

**SATURDAY
MAY 6
JOHN ARCHER SCHOOL
SPRING FESTIVAL**

The John Archer School, located at 100 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air, will hold its annual Spring Festival, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit funding the purchase of special equipment and programs that otherwise would not be available to students.

Activities will include student performances, a silent

auction, games, bake sale, raffle, crafts, food, gourmet treats and a visit from the Raven's NFL Ultimate fans, Fan Man, Raven Maniac and Poetic Justice with the Ultimate Fan Bus, 10 a.m. to noon.

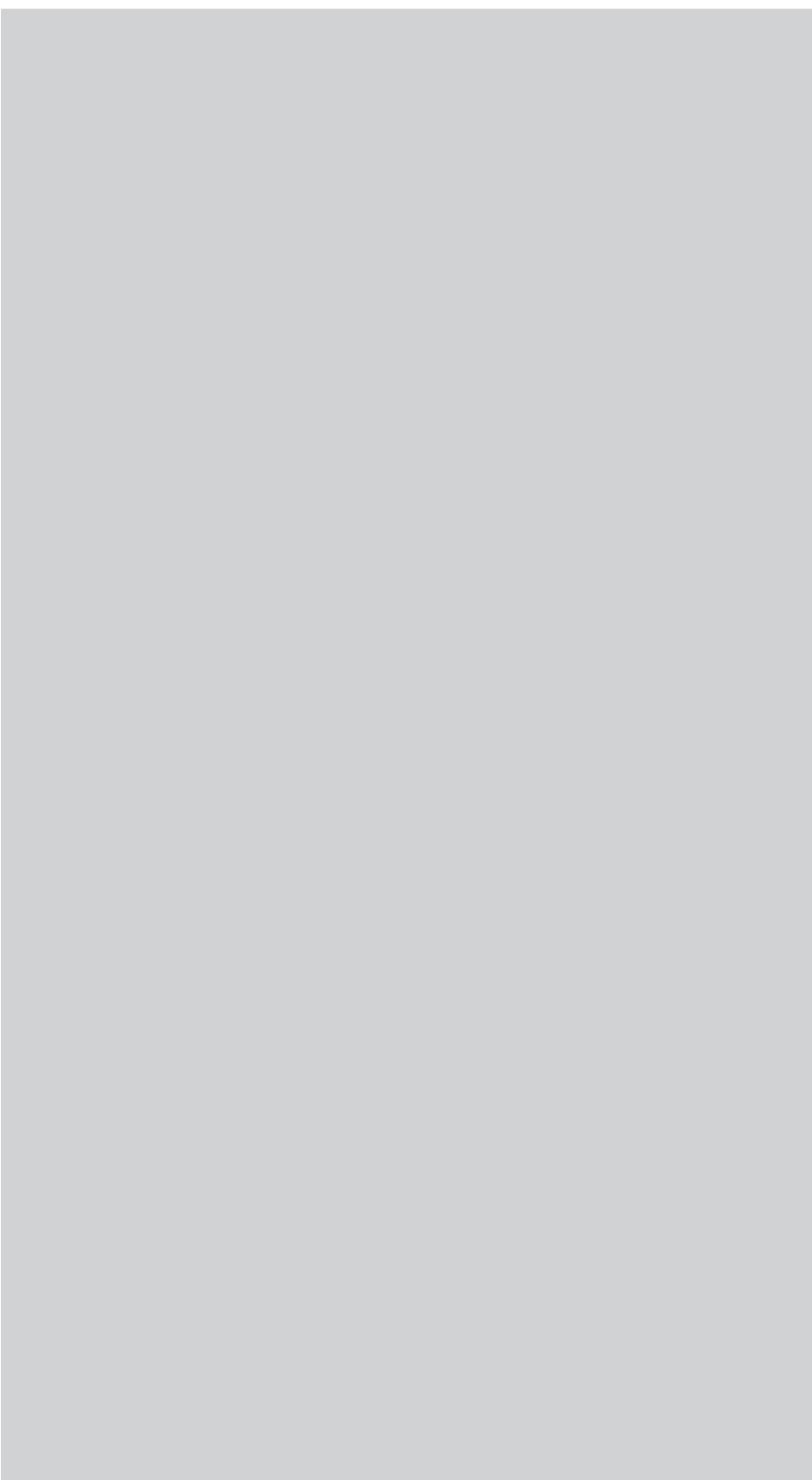
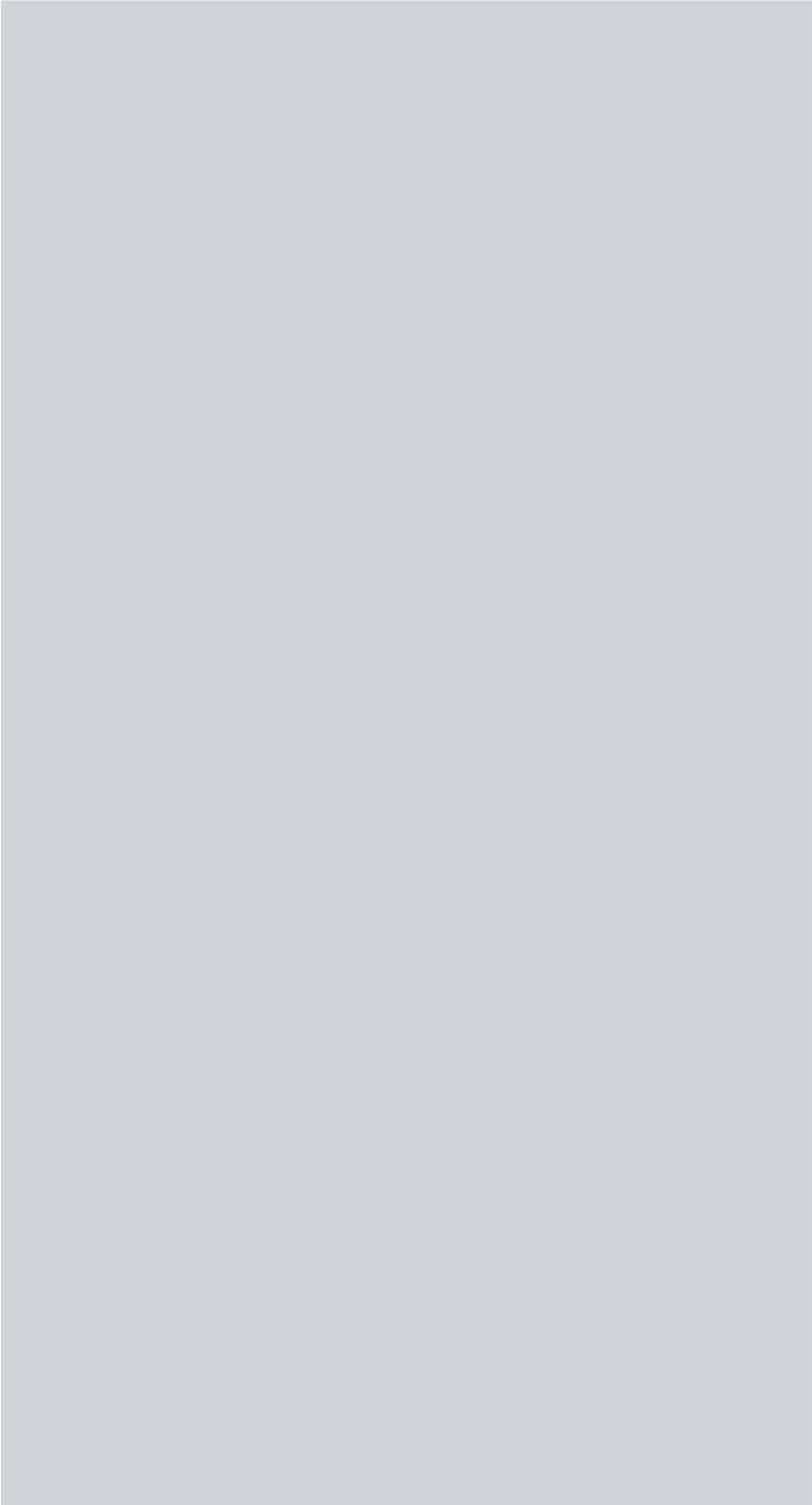
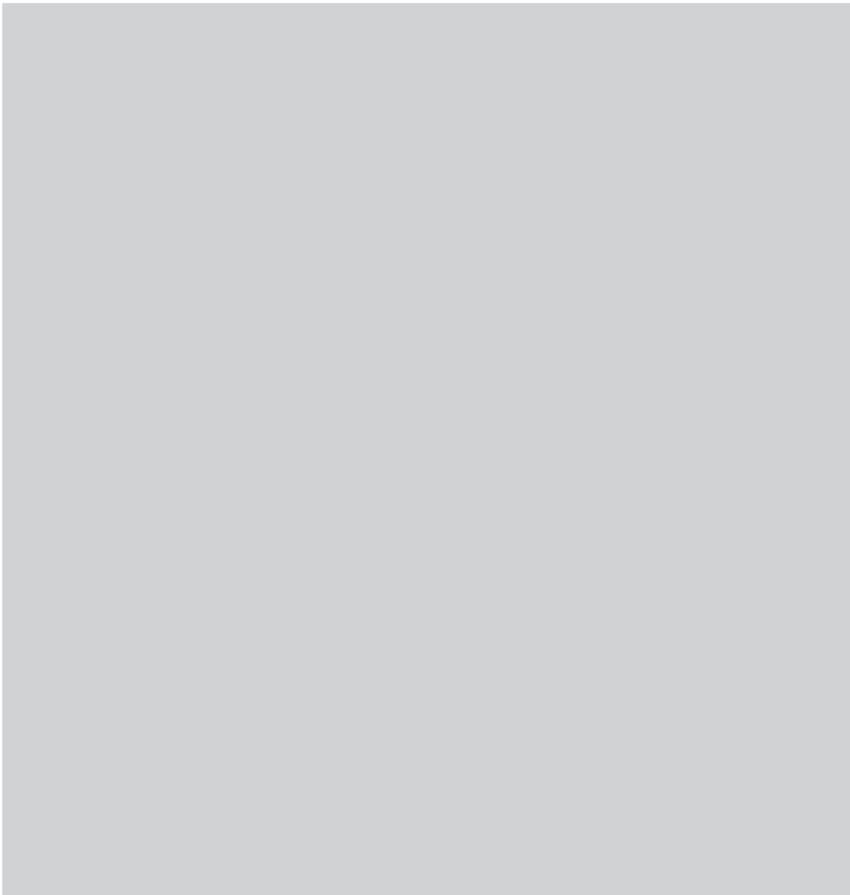
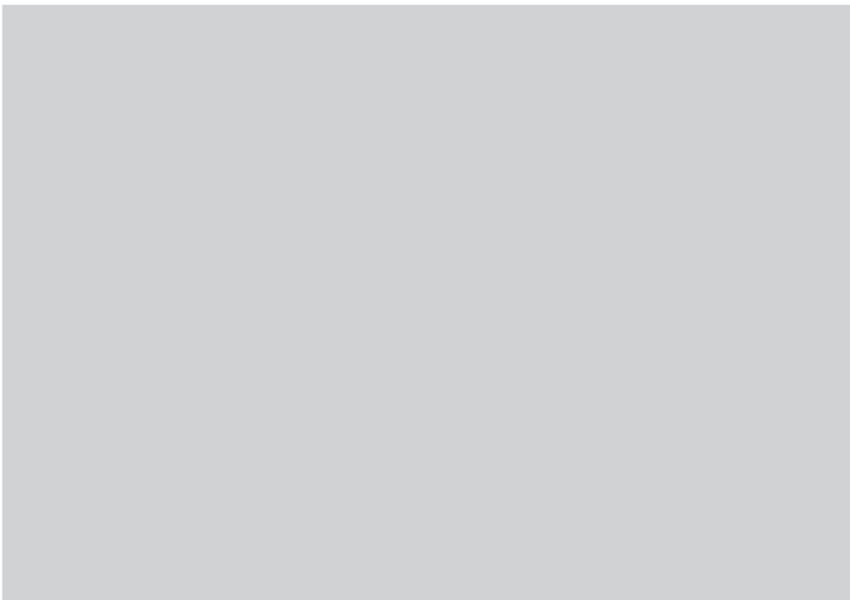
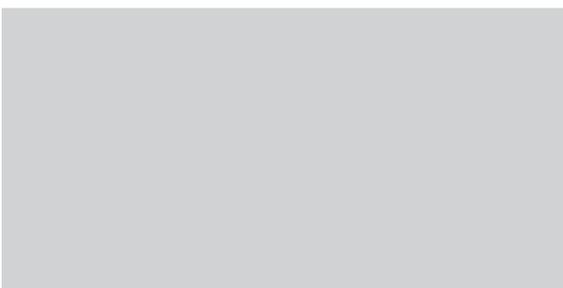
For more information, call 410-638-3810.

**SUNDAY
MAY 7
BASKET BINGO**

Basket Bingo to benefit the Relay for Life will be held at VFW Post 6027, Route 272, Turkey Point Road, North East. Doors open at 2 p.m., bingo starts at 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 for all paper cards. Extra packs cost \$5 each. Food, beverages, baked goods, door prizes and raffles will be available. No smoking will be allowed.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or Susan Twigg, 443-206-2016.

(Editors Note: More calendar events can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Cmt. Notes.)





Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Activities

Business Operations Division reservations can be made by calling 410-278-3062 /2552/5195, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Golf

For more information on this or any other event at the Golf Course, contact Ruggles Golf Course, building 5600, 410-278-4794.

Link Up 2 Golf

Link up 2 Golf is back and will be held at Ruggles and Exton Golf courses.

The program is designed to welcome new and returning golfers to the game.

At Ruggles Golf Course, five consecutive classes will begin May 2, 5:30 to 7:30 on Tuesdays and May 6, 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. At Exton Golf Course, class begins May 3, 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Cost is \$99 for E1 through E5, \$119 for authorized players and \$139 for the public.

Fee includes seven hours of instruction time, three hours on-course, free use of rental clubs, range balls and additional range tokens during sessions.

For more information or to sign-up, call Ruggles Golf Course at 410-278-4794, or Exton Golf Course, 410-436-2213, or call Dave Correll, 410-278-4794.

For more information on MWR activities, call 410-278-7474 or visit Web site www.apgmwr.com.

Parent Information Exchange

This program is for Exceptional Family Members and is held 6 to 7 p.m. the second Tuesday every month.

This support group is designed to assist military families who have family members with special needs.

Improving a member's ability to cope and discuss community resources is the goal. Free child care is available, but call in advance if needed.

Play Mornings

This weekly play group for parents and children under 6-years-old meets 9:30 to 11 a.m., Monday and Wednesday.

Have fun and meet other parents while children socially interact with each other.

This is an ongoing program and play groups are held in the APG Chapel, room 5.

For information on any SKIESUnlimited program or if interested in teaching classes, contact Sarah Behl, 410-278-4589. To register for classes, contact Central Registration, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479.

One-on-one math tutoring

A variety of math tutoring sessions will be

given each Tuesday through the end of the school year--everything from 6th grade math to pre-calculus.

Sessions are scheduled on a monthly basis. Sign up for a four-week session with a certified teacher who has more than 22 years of experience. Space is limited.

Driver's education

Driver's education classes are being taught on both Aberdeen and Edgewood for students 15 through 18 years of age. Class includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours in-car instructions.

Student must have a learners permit. Parents, guardians or mentors must attend the first class with the student.

For information on these or any other classes, contact Charles Heinsohn, 410-278-3868. To sign up for the class, visit MWR Registration in building 3326, call 410-278-4011/4907, e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil or visit Web site, www.apgmwr.com.

'Spring Blast' racquetball tournament

There will be a Round Robin Singles Racquetball Competition 6 p.m., April 27, at the Aberdeen Athletic Center.

Trophies will be presented to the top three competitors in each division based on win/loss percentage. Participants may enter only one event.

Carpentry for the novice

Receive hands-on instruction in the art of carpentry from a licensed carpenter and contractor 6 p.m., Thursdays, beginning May 4 at Woodshop Arts and Craft in Edgewood.

Classes will teach the skills necessary to become proficient in wood working procedures.

For information on these or any other division of sports and fitness, contact Ralph Cuomo, 410-278-2812.

All-Army Sports

Soldier-athletes can now apply to participate in All-Army Sports via the Internet. Any qualified participant with Internet access and an Army Knowledge Online account can apply for the program by visiting <https://armysports.cfsc.army.mil>.

The Web site provides detailed information about the program, competition calendar, selection criteria and points of contact in the

MWR Registration, Tick-ets and Leisure Travel is located in building 3326. They may be contacted at 410-278-4011/4907, by e-mail at mwr_registration@apg.army.mil or on the Web site, www.apgmwr.com.

Tickets to Baltimore Orioles baseball games

The Baltimore Orioles are back and are ready for a great season.

There are a limited number of tickets available for Baltimore vs. Seattle on April 28. The tickets cost \$48 each.

MWR has baseball tickets

Purchase tickets to see the Baltimore Orioles play the Seattle Mariners, 7:05 p.m., April 28. Tickets cost \$48 each. Seats are located in Section 40, Row WW, seats 11 to 12 and Row XX, seats 11 to 12.

The Baltimore Orioles will play against the Detroit Tigers, 7:05 p.m., May 11. Tickets cost \$48 each. Seats are located in Section 40, Row WW, seats 11 to 12 and Row XX, seats 11 to 12.

Cape May Victorian era tour

Take a glimpse into the lifestyles of the rich and famous Sunday, April 30 with a tour of the lavishly restored 1879 Physick Estate and three artfully restored Victorian inns. A tour guide will point out highlights of the gingerbread trimmed architecture along the Trolley Tour Historic District. Tour will leave around 7 a.m. Space is limited. Cost is \$88 and includes transportation, tour and lunch.

Shop till you drop

Enjoy the day in New York City May 13. There is no set agenda--spend the day seeing a show, shopping, site seeing or anything else.

The bus will leave at approximately 8:15 a.m. and return around 10 p.m. The cost is \$39 and space is limited. Reserve space early.

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 are a few of the new titles available at the APG MWR Library:

The Brief History of the Dead, by Kevin Brockmeier

A deadly virus has spread across Earth, cutting off Laura Byrd at her crippled Antarctica station from the rest of the world. Meanwhile, the planet's dead populate "the city," located on an Earth-like alternate plane, but their afterlives depend on the memories of the living. Forced to cross the frozen tundra, Laura free-associates to keep herself alert; her random memories work to sustain people in the city.

Challenger Park, by Stephen Harrigan

Astronaut Lucy Kincheloe is waiting for a mission while leading a mundane domestic existence with husband Brian, an astronaut with two missions under his belt, and their children. When Lucy is assigned a routine resupply mission, the interest of training team leader Walt Womack, draws Lucy to him, leading to a secret affair. About three-quarters of the way into the novel, a minor accident maroons Lucy on the space station for months.

The Good German, by Joseph Kanon

Jake Geismar is a journalist who arrives in Berlin, in 1945, ostensibly to cover the Potsdam Conference. In reality, he's consumed with finding his prewar lover, Lena. Before he finds her, however, Geismar becomes intrigued by the murder of an American soldier whose body washes ashore near the conference grounds.

Gone: an Alex Delaware novel, by Jonathan Kellerman

The Los Angeles psychologist looks into the murder of Michaela Brand, an aspiring actress. Soon after Michaela and a fellow acting student achieve their 15 minutes of fame by staging their abduction, their hoax is exposed and Michaela turns up dead in circumstances reminiscent of her faked assault.

Divine, by Karen Kingsbury

In this modern-day parable of Mary Magdalene, Karen Kingsbury uses gut-wrenching emotion to show how only a divine love can rescue us from the depths of depravity and victimization, and the redeeming transformation that is possible when we finally . . . finally embrace that love.

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.

SCHOOL LIAISON

Harford County public schools prekindergarten and kindergarten guidelines

NEWS RELEASE

Harford County Public Schools, April 7, 2006

Prekindergarten

Beginning in fall 2003, prekindergarten enrollment was affected by two state and federal acts: 'No Child Left Behind' and 'Bridge To Excellence.' Based on those acts, economics became an important factor in determining prekindergarten eligibility. Other factors that qualify a child for prekindergarten are also considered. These include month of birth, speech and language status, medical history, and family background.

To be eligible for pre-kindergarten in fall 2006, a child must turn four years old by Sept. 1 (born on or between Sept. 2, 2001, and Sept. 1, 2002). Interested families may pick up an application at any Harford County elementary school. The completed application must be submitted in person to the elementary school with the pre-k program for which the parent or guardian is applying. A family may submit an application to only one pre-k site. If more than one application is submitted, the child's eligibility will be jeopardized.

The first prekindergarten application period will be held in each of the schools listed below, with the pre-k teacher available only on Friday, May 5, beginning at 9 a.m. The first pre-k application process will end 4 p.m., June 9. The second application period extends from June 12 through 8:30 a.m. on the first day of school in August. To apply and have his or her child considered for pre-k, a family member must answer all questions on the application, providing complete accurate information that can be verified. The attendance notification and parent-teacher conference form must be signed. A copy of the family's current income tax form, the child's birth certificate, and proof of residence is also required as part of the application process. The health inventory is not required until the child is accepted into the program. No application will be considered complete until all documentation is submitted. Completing the application is necessary for a child to even be considered for prekindergarten, but it does not guarantee acceptance.

Children attending a pre-k program in their school attendance area may ride the

school bus to and from pre-k. Parents of children living outside the school attendance area must provide transportation for their child if he or she is accepted. If transportation interferes with regular attendance or with a child being picked up on time, the child may not continue in the program. Harford County elementary schools with a pre-k program include: Abingdon, Bakerfield, Bel Air, Church Creek, Darlington, Dublin, Edgewood, George Lisby at Hillsdale, Hall's Cross Roads, Havre de Grace, Homestead-Wakefield, Joppatowne, Magnolia, Meadowvale, North Harford, Prospect Mill, Riverside, Roye-Williams, William Pace/Old Post Road, and William S. James.

The purpose of pre-k is to prepare at-risk children for kindergarten. Through a structured educational program that consists of instruction in language arts and mathematics, theme-related project work, self-directed activities in learning centers, literature and outdoor play, children acquire the work habits, academic knowledge, and social skills needed for kindergarten readiness. Pre-k operates in two half-day sessions: from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. each day. Children must attend regularly. Parents must make the commitment to their child's early education by ensuring that their child attends regularly and by participating in two parent-teacher conferences a year.

Kindergarten

To be eligible for kindergarten in fall 2006, a child must turn five years old as of Sept. 1 (born on or between Oct. 1, 2000, and Sept. 31, 2001). Countywide kindergarten registration day is May 5.

Children may be registered on May 5 or any weekday thereafter, Monday through Friday. Documents needed for kindergarten registration are: child's birth certificate, social security, immunization record, and parents' proof of residency. It is recommended that parents contact the elementary school in their area by phone for further information before registering children.

For more information or to obtain assistance in completing the pre-k application, contact an elementary school with a pre-k site or the Office of Early Childhood, 410-588-5362.

Newcomer Orientation scheduled

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Newcomer Orientation will be held 1 to 3 p.m., May 17, at the Recreation Center, building 3326.

All military, family members, civilians and retirees are invited to get acquainted with the military and civilian community at APG.

Representatives of support agencies/organizations will be present.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, Army Community Service, 410-278-9669.



And special guest

June 24, 2006

7 p.m.

Aberdeen Proving Ground - Shine Sports Field

Tickets:

MWR Ticket Office Bldg 3326

Hoyle Gymnasium E4210

Phone 410-278-4907/4621/4011

TTY 410-278-4110

email: mwr_registration@apg.army.mil

www.apgmwr.com

\$30 Advance

\$35 Day of Show

98ROCK



DOC announces PR cutoff dates for 2006

ACADOC

The Army Contracting Agency Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Contracting has established its fiscal year 2006 cutoff dates for submission of purchase requests.

Early customer support in identifying and submitting PRs by or before the dates shown below greatly enhances the ability of the APG DOC to meet customer needs. Early planning and coordination remain the keys to a successful year-end.

Offices are advised to submit year-end requirements as early as is reasonable to minimize the possibility of funds going unobligated at year end.

The following schedule has been established for the submission of PRs for FY 06 and maintenance for FY 07:

- Noncommercial Items over \$100,000 – July 1*
- Noncommercial Items between \$2,500 and \$100,000 – Aug. 1
- Commercial items between \$100,000 and \$5 million – July 1
- Commercial Items under \$100,000 – Aug. 15
- Services Over \$100,000 – July 1

- Delivery Orders and Task Orders Under Existing Contracts – Aug. 1
- GSA Schedule Procurements – Aug. 1
- Short-of-Award over \$2,500 – June 15**
- Maintenance for FY 2007 – July 1 (FY 07 Contract Modifications and Options for Existing Maintenance Contracts)

* 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.

**Customers submitting "short-of-award" PRs, especially for services requirements, must seriously consider whether funding will materialize. A substantial amount of effort is expended to prepare these pending actions and they must be prioritized after PRs that are funded and PRs that are subject to the availability of funds.

Purchase requests awarded "subject to the availability of funds" must be funded as soon as funds become available. The work must start and the contractors must be paid - this is not accomplished until the funds are certified.

The above lead times can be affected by various factors so be sure you review these and other

guidance on the DOC web page located at <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/aca/>. The requirements for submission of PRs are located at this site under "Announcements, News, and Notes." For customer assistance, use the recently added link, "Customer Corner," for guides, templates, formats and helpful Websites.

Preparation of PRs

When preparing PRs in PRWEB (formerly known as Acquiline):

Do not use any dashes or spaces in the PR number.

When preparing attachments for any electronic document to be used by contracting, submitters **must** use 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.



TRICARE launches Healthy Choices for Life Programs

TRICARE Management Activity

The military community is not immune to the health issues caused by being overweight, using tobacco products and excessive drinking.

TRICARE Management Activity, the DoD agency responsible for the health care of 9.2 million beneficiaries, has created two demonstration projects and one pilot program to test multiple education and prevention initiatives to help service members and their families battle the dangerous effects of obesity, tobacco use and excessive drinking.

TRICARE plans to launch weight management, tobacco cessation and alcohol programs within the coming months. These projects will involve service members and their families who volunteer to participate.

"Weight management, tobacco cessation and the responsible use of alcohol are health priorities targeted by the Department of Defense for active education and prevention," said Dr.

William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and director of TRICARE.

The demonstration projects and pilot program will span three years and the sole pilot program will cover two years from start-up. They will help identify ways to deliver the best possible benefit for TRICARE beneficiaries.

Demonstration programs or pilot project participation criteria:

Weight management demo project

Non active duty TRICARE prime beneficiaries

ages 18 to 64 not receiving Medicare or enrolled in the TRICARE extended care health option and living within 50 miles of the research centers in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois

Tobacco quitline demo project

TRICARE Prime beneficiaries ages 18 to 64 not receiving Medicare or enrolled in the extended care health option and living near military treatment facilities in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Minnesota

Alcohol prevention pilot program

Active duty service members ages 21 to 25 assigned to the following installations; Hurlburt Air Field, Fla., Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Sill, Okla., Norfolk Naval Base, Va., Naval Base Ventura County, Calif.,

Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, S.C., and Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The demonstration projects are scientifically-based studies that will help DoD determine the effectiveness of behavior-modification programs that may be used

throughout the military health system.

"Preventing these unhealthy behaviors is critical to the readiness of our forces and the health of our nation as a whole. I am pleased by the successful programs already in place in the military services and the innovative approaches to prevention, education and treatment that TRICARE is pursuing for their families," Winkenwerder said.

For more information about the demo projects launch dates, visit TRICARE's Web site, www.tricare.osd.mil/healthychoices.



AHLTA debuts at KUSAHC

KUSAHC

The Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application is providing a comprehensive store of outpatient encounters and eventually inpatient care.

The [old] CHCS I system allowed the Military Health System to electronically manage appointments, medications, laboratory tests, x-rays, and consults as well as code visits for future database reference. Yet, the system lacked the capability to input patient medical history, diagnosis and treatment plans, all of which were recorded on paper at most military hospitals and clinics.

"Training is now complete, and patients will notice more availability in appointments with their primary care team," said Lt. Col. Patrick Barrett, deputy commander for Administration. "There will be noticeable differences at your next visit."

Vital signs, medical history, and the provider's notes will all be maintained in computerized format.

"This gold mine of information will allow the military to reap benefits far beyond any benefits available in the original system," Barrett said.

The need for paper medical records will be virtually eliminated.

"Every member of your healthcare team will document all information in the computer. Ultimately, this will make us more efficient and productive, but while we are still learning the system, the visit may go a little slower than normal.

"Remember, your medical record will now go with you around the world," Barrett said.

March

From front page

world, not just because of how we fight, but why."

During the opening ceremony, Col. Don Gentry, the garrison commander at White Sands, referred to the Soldiers participating in the memorial march as "heroes honoring heroes," Fritzsching said, because an Army that is currently at war recognized the heroism of their World War II comrades in arms.

Among those heroes of the current war were several Soldiers who had lost limbs as a result of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq and came to White Sands from Walter Reed and Brooks Army medical centers. They marched together as the "Amputeam."

Soldiers' annual participation in the White Sands march not only honors the victims and survivors of the atrocities in the Philippines but also demonstrates that today's military, like that of World War II, is tough and prepared to accept a challenge, Fritzsching said. That was evidenced by the participation of the Amputeam, he added.

While the march was demanding, it was also rewarding, Fritzsching said. "It was great just to be out there with folks from White Sands and the surrounding area," he explained. "Seven hours is a long time to be walking, so it was grueling, but then sometimes you would come up next to somebody and start talking to them. I met a banker. I met an Army officer. I walked for about five miles with a young ROTC cadet who was getting ready

to graduate and go become a tanker at Fort Hood (Texas). You meet all these people while you are walking - you know, spouses, moms. I ran into folks who were walking in memory of a Soldier killed in Iraq, someone I personally knew. You run into a variety of folks out there as you are walking, and it was kind of a neat experience to get that opportunity."

Volunteers at stations set up approximately every two miles along the route provided the marchers with much-needed water, fruit and other nutritional items, something that was greatly appreciated, Fritzsching said.

Although marchers who were ready for serious physical and mental challenges tackled the 26.2-mile course, White Sands Missile Range also has a 14.2-mile course that isn't exactly a piece of cake because both courses take marchers through desert terrain. The longer one, however, includes a severe challenge at Mineral Hill, where marchers make an elevation gain of more than 1,000 feet.

Asked whether Mineral Hill was especially grueling, Lind said, "It doesn't look that way, but when you start running it, it feels like you are running straight uphill. I ran hard for 11 miles hoping to win. After getting a bloody nose, getting sick and pulling a hamstring, the hardest part was finding the motivation to keep limping the last 15 miles to the finish. Coming in ninth, although an accomplishment, was disappointing because I trained to win. I was actually mad that I wasn't going to finish as fast as I wanted to. You almost forget how bad you hurt during the race. For most of the marathon, you promise yourself you will never put

your body through that pain again, but as soon as you cross that finish line and the feeling of accomplishment overwhelms you, you can't wait to tackle that race again next year."

The stamina needed for a marathon march over rough terrain comes from exercise and training, and plenty of it. The three Soldiers, who trained together and separately, carried packs that weighed between 35 and 40 pounds when they road marched and ran varying and increasing distances in the vicinity of Aberdeen Proving Ground. One of their training routes covered a nearly 19-mile distance, something the three of them completed three times before the White Sands event. Not content to merely speed march with a rucksack, Lind ran that distance carrying his 36-pound pack, finishing after about 3 hours and 20 minutes.

"We trained differently this year than last year," Combust explained. "Last year we did a whole lot of shorter marches from six to eight or nine miles. This year we did fewer of them, but they were a lot longer. We did three 19-milers, five 12-milers and a handful of 10-milers. That made a difference. It was less pounding on my feet, my joints and my legs. The other thing I found that was very helpful was to take the rucksack, put 40 pounds in it and get on the Stairmaster."

The three Soldiers said the challenging training regimen gave them a considerable edge during the event at White Sands. Lind's accomplishment was exceptional, according to Combust, because the 26.2-mile march is a test of endurance even for people who are in peak condition, and Mineral Hill

is a torturous obstacle.

"You start it at mile 9, and you crest it at mile 14, so that's 5 miles up, and then there are intermediate hills on the way back down, so it is almost an 11-mile hill," Combust said. "I try to walk it fast with some intermittent running, but Mike (Lind) runs it. So he gets to mile 11, which is about 2 miles up the hill, and he just keeps running. We didn't have the advantage of being out there (at WSMR) for about four or five days this time, so he didn't have the time to get used to it. Membranes in his nose burst, and he is bleeding out the nose and drinking blood, so he stops to take care of that. He has to puke out blood, and he bends over to do that and pulls a hamstring. Even though he has to walk the last 15 miles, he still comes in at 6 hours and 20 minutes to finish ninth in his category. That's unbelievable."

Mineral Hill was by no means the last test of endurance. After the marchers reached a level, flat surface again, they confronted another daunting obstacle at about mile 20. This part of the course takes marchers across about one and one-half miles of loose sand, several inches deep, Fritzsching said, noting that the plodding pace through loose sand is a great strain on calf muscles. It made their rucksacks seem heavier with each step, he added.

Despite the travail on the trail, Combust, Lind and Fritzsching enthusiastically recommended the Bataan Memorial Death March to any military member or civilian looking for a physical challenge. It made a believer out of Fritzsching, who plans to repeat the experience. "I will definitely be doing it again next year," he said.

SPRING FEST CONQUERS DRIZZLY WEATHER

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The overcast skies and steady rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of those who came out for the Aberdeen Proving Ground Spring Fest at Capa Field April 8.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff members had to adjust event locations, moving everything under the pavilion canopy, and the athletic events had to be cancelled, but participants still seemed to have a good time.

“We’re grateful to all who braved the weather,” said Pat Palazzi, MWR.

She thanked the event’s special guests who included Dora the Explorer, Spiderman, Ferrous the Ironbirds mascot, Sparky the Fire Dog and the Easter Bunny “for helping to still make this a success.”

“We put out more than 4,000 Easter eggs and the children had a wonderful time,” Palazzi said.

“Everyone had a good time despite the weather,” added Celestine Beckett, Army Community Service director. “We’re glad they enjoyed what we had to offer and we look forward to doing this again next year.”

“Beckett thanked the ACS staff and offered special thanks to Maj. William Mott, 20th Support Command’s Adjutant, who purchased coffee for all the volunteers and staff members.

“It got a little cold when the wind picked up and he took it upon himself to do that,” Beckett said. “Everyone really appreciated that. It’s a true example of the APG family spirit.”

Displays and activities presented were from MWR, ACS, Aberdeen Youth Services, the Veterinary Treatment Facility, Community Police officer Mike “Big Mike” Farlow’s D.A.R.E. program, the Army Substance Abuse Program and the APG Fire Department.

In addition Family Child Care provider Ferneda Morelos presented a Native American Display and Usborne Books held a book fair to benefit Aberdeen Youth Services.

Sponsor displays included the Aberdeen Ironbirds, Bank of America, the APG Federal Credit Union, Pampered Chef, Johns Hopkins TRICARE and the Harford County Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center.



Dreyk Inman, 7, poses with the Easter Bunny.

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON



Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security Police Officer Geoffrey Gray strikes a law enforcement pose with Spiderman.

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON



Hai-Van Nguyen, 5, adds to her collection of eggs during the Easter Egg hunt.

Photo by RENEE MAIN



Jeff Madere, 7, looks at the Elementary School level books at the Usborne Books display.

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON



Desiree Jones, 12, left, and July Thompson, 12, try their hand at Stackers, a speed stacking game at the Aberdeen Youth Services display.

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON



Customers look over the large selection of books provided by the Usborne Books Book Fair.

Photo by TIFFANY PURIFOY

APG boasts large turnout for Sunrise service

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Bright sunshine matched the theme of the early morning celebration of the Resurrection during the Easter Sunrise Service held at Fanshaw Field April 16.

Soldiers from the 143rd and 16th Ordnance Battalions joined worshippers in uplifting

prayer and song making it the largest gathering for the service in recent memory.

Aberdeen Proving Ground chaplains and Unit Ministry Teams collaborated with the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools in hosting the program which featured an Easter Message by Capt. Anthony Taylor, 143rd Ordnance Battalion chaplain, remarks by Maj. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, OC&S commander, scripture readings by Col. Francis R. Merritt and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Slater of the 61st Ordnance Brigade, musical selections by the gospel and protestant choirs and a Eucharist ceremony led by the 61st Ordnance Brigade Unit Ministry Teams. OC&S Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Eubanks offered the morning prayer and Maj. Charles Fields, OC&S Ethics Instructor, gave the Call to Worship and Benediction.

A highlight of the event was a performance on guitar by Command Sgt. Maj. Sammy J. Brinson, commandant of the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, who sang the song "Wonderful Jesus" which was written by his uncle, and closed with "God's got a Blessing," which brought attendees to their feet, clapping and singing along.

In addition, Eva Mims, administrative assistant to APG commander Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, closed the program, leading the singing



Command Sgt. Maj. Sammy J. Brinson, commandant of the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, sings during the Easter Sunrise Service at Fanshaw Field April 16.

of "God Bless America," which received a hail of "Hooahs" from the Soldiers.

In his opening remarks, Boles commented that Soldiers need uplifting messages to bolster their commitment to winning the War on Terror.

"I was especially touched by the fact that we are doing this for Soldiers," Boles said. "Fifteen years ago during Desert Storm we celebrated Easter on a hillside in Iraq. We are here today in the belief that good will overcome evil in all its forms."

Taylor's message encouraged listeners to remember the peace and comfort that result-

ed from the Resurrection.

"Life with the risen Lord is life that is free from anxiety and fear," he said. "Jesus' words 'Peace be unto you' were very calming. Today, we know that Jesus is our comfort because He was arisen after having taken all our problems and fears with Him to the grave."

"Happiness is a variable but joy is consistent," he added. "Jesus brings a peace that surpasses all understanding. Rejoice because Christ is alive."

Taylor thanked all who had a hand in presenting the service particularly the 61st Ordnance Brigade, the 20th Support Command and the Unit Ministry Teams.

"They all stepped forward and worked hard together to do this for the community," Taylor said.

Soldiers from Company B 143rd Ordnance Battalion praised the program as being "surprisingly inspiring."

"I thought it was beautiful," said Pvt. Ashley Pardee.

"It was nice to see so many people here and I thought Command Sgt. Maj. [Sammy] Brinson was amazing."

Fellow Soldier Pvt. Anthony Garrett said he enjoyed the morning's message.

"He said so many things you could identify with," Garrett said. "It made me want to go home."

Pfc. LaQuisha Smith agreed, noting that Taylor's message taught her, "the difference between happiness and joy."

"I wasn't sure what to expect and [the service] was more than I thought it would be," Smith said. "I liked it because it made me feel good."