

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Feb. 15, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

National Prayer Luncheon today

The annual National Prayer Luncheon will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 9, at Top of the Bay. Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, chief of Ordnance and Commanding General, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools. Tickets cost \$10 each and are available from unit command sergeants major. Menu includes baked chicken, beef a la burgundy, tossed green salad, rolls, tea and coffee.

For more information, call Chaplain Fred MacLean, 410-3-4333.

Anthony's Pizza temporarily closed

Anthony's Pizza in the AAFES Main Store will be closed through Feb. 10.

Blue Cross visits APG

The APG Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit Feb. 14, 9 to 11:30 a.m. in building 305, room 236, and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in building E-4811 (Seminar Area of Conference Center) to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

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

SAME Chesapeake holds meeting

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post monthly meeting will be held 11:30 a.m., Feb. 16, at Top of the Bay.

The featured speaker will be Harry Greveris, deputy Director, Installation Operations. Greveris will discuss installation master planning activities, BRAC perspectives and current as well as future initiatives.

RSVP by Feb. 14 to Donna Vereb, 301-670-5485 or Tony Price, 301-732-1154.

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Workers map hurricane zone



This used to be a residential area just south of New Orleans. Mike Melton of Redstone Arsenal's Warfighter Protection Lab took the photo during a three-hour helicopter survey of the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina and the post-hurricane flooding. See article on page 13, describing how a team developed new maps to support 5th Army's mission in the devastated area.

Photo by MIKE MELTON

2006 defense budget increases military pay, benefits

American Forces Press Service

President George W. Bush ushered in an across-the-board 3.1 percent military pay raise, effective Jan. 1 that included a variety of new or enhanced benefits for service members and their families when he signed the 2006 National Defense Authorization Bill into law Jan. 6.

In addition to a pay raise that's a half percent higher than the average private-sector increase, the new budget provides about 20 new or increased bonuses or special pays or benefits. This reflects a trend DOD officials emphasize is becoming increasingly

rare in the private sector.

The new law provides a variety of benefits designed to better compensate service members, improve their quality of life, bring reserve-component benefits more on par with those for the active force and promote recruiting and retention, said Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for Compensation.

"Not only does it contain the routine annual pay raise, which is one-half percent higher than the raise measured in the private sector, but it also includes a number of increases in ceilings on some very important pays," he said.

Among the law's most significant features are:

- An increase in the maximum reenlistment bonus offered, from \$60,000 to \$90,000;
- A higher maximum enlistment bonus, up from \$20,000 to \$40,000;
- A new ceiling on hardship-duty pay, from \$300 to \$750 a month;
- A doubling of the maximum assignment incentive pay for hard-to-fill billets or assignments, from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month, now payable either in a lump sum or installments;
- A new allowance to cover the first \$150,000 in service members' Group

Life Insurance premiums for troops serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom;

- A new bonus of up to \$2,500 for service members who agree to transfer from one service to another and serve for at least three years;
- An incentive pay of up to \$1,000 for service members who refer someone who enlists in the Army and successfully completes basic training;
- An average 5.9 percent increase in housing allowances, with authority to increase set levels temporarily by as much as 20 percent in areas affected by

See PAY, page 13

Army prepares nation for potential CBRNE terrorist attacks

MRICD

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense will offer the Hospital Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive Incidents Course (HM-CBRNE) at Aberdeen Proving Ground April 24 through 28.

Although developed to provide civilian healthcare professionals with state-of-the-art instruction in planning for and managing multi-casualty incidents resulting from CBRNE terrorist attacks, the course is open to military attendees.

Past military participants have included Reserve officers engaged in civilian response planning in their commu-

nities, as well as public health service personnel.

The institute has presented the course four times since December 2004, graduating a total of 248 military and civilian students.

The HM-CBRNE course features didactic classroom presentations and interactive discussion on chemical, biological and radiological agent effects and patient management, multi-casualty triage, personal protective equipment, decontamination, blast injuries, and hazard detection. Additional topics include epidemiology, the National Incident Management System and National Response Plan, and hospital emergency incident command and

management.

Instruction is also provided in the form of hypothetical scenario planning sessions and class interactions. The course culminates in a multi-hospital tabletop exercise simulating community response to a major non-conventional event, challenging students' ability to apply hospital incident management and other learned concepts. The tabletop requires professionals to manage limited hospital resources to meet the safety, patient care and other operational challenges of the hypothetical disaster.

The HM-CBRNE Course is hosted by MRICD's Chemical Casualty Care Division and is a joint venture of

MRICD, the Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, and the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute in Bethesda, Md.

To register for the April course visit http://ccc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in_house/cbrne.htm.

More information about the course is available from the Chemical Casualty Care Division, DSN 584-2230/3393, commercial 410-436-2230/3393, by e-mailing ccc@apg.amedd.army.mil, or by writing to Commander, USAMRICD, Attn: MCMR-CDM (Chemical Casualty Care Division), 3100 Ricketts Point Road, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5400.

Per diem rates raised in local areas

Story by DANIEL PULLIAM
www.GovExec.com

The General Services Administration has updated the per diem rates for several major metropolitan regions, including the Washington, D.C., area, where the seasonal rate for fall lodging will rise by \$32 to \$192 a night.

The rate changes will apply to all government travel starting Feb. 1, according to a Federal Travel Regulation per diem bulletin published in the Federal Register.

GSA adjusted the rates after determining that lodging and meals and incidental

expenses allowances for the localities failed to adequately reflect costs.

Much of the United States is covered under a standard rate, based on Consumer Price Index data, which is \$60 for lodging and \$39 for meals and incidental expenses. But a number of locations, including nearly all major metropolitan areas, are assigned per diem rates that differ from the standard.

Twelve areas were moved off the standard rate and assigned higher per diem rates, including: Butte County, Calif.; Richmond County, Ga.; Twin Falls, Idaho; the Indiana cities of Hammond,

Munster and Merrillville; Carson City, Nev., and Will County, Ill.

Meals and incidental expense rates were reviewed in locations in Illinois, Michigan, Montana and New Mexico.

The seasonally adjusted per diem rate for lodging in Washington was raised significantly for the fall months. From Sept. 1 through Nov. 30, it will be \$192; for Dec. 1 through June 30, the rate will be \$180; and the rate for July 1 through Aug. 31 will be \$150.

The adjusted rates cover hotels in the District of

See RATES, page 2

Individual responsibility is key to saving energy

DIO

With the nation facing a new energy crisis, the increased operations tempo caused by the Global War on Terrorism, and the effects of hurricanes Rita and Katrina, the Army has greater responsibility in being good stewards of the energy resources consumed in its operations.

The Department of Defense uses 62 percent of the facility energy consumed by the federal government. Within the

DoD, the Army consumes 36 percent of facility energy. The largest component of the Army's energy cost is electricity.

"While the Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Installation Operations is making strides on the supply side, there is much that each of us can do on the demand side," said Dale A. Knieriemen, director, DIO.

"The DIO is asking all Army and civilian personnel to

help in our efforts," he said. We all need to stop being wasteful and start using common sense actions to conserve energy.

"Start by taking a look at the lighting in and around your building," Knieriemen said. "If there is ample daylight in areas like stairwells or bathrooms which are often unoccupied, shut off the lights and make sure they are out when you leave for the day."

See ENERGY, page 5

OC&S hosts Wilbert Davis Gospel Night



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Members of the APG Gospel Service choir sing the hymn "It's Marvelous" during the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' 31st Annual Wilbert Davis Gospel Night concert, Feb. 22, 2005. Many of the same performers will return this year.

OC&S

Celebrating Black History Month, the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools will host the 33rd annual Wilbert Davis Gospel Night, 4 p.m., Feb. 26 at the APG Post Theater. Admission is free and open to the public.

The theme for this year's observance is "Reaching Out to Youth: A Strategy for Excellence" and will feature several local gospel groups including the Aberdeen Proving Ground Gospel Service; Command Sgt. Maj. Sammy Brinson from the Noncommissioned Officer Academy; the Aberdeen High School Gospel Choir; 3M Connection from Aberdeen; Sisters from Elkton; Sisters Singing with Anointed Voices from Aberdeen; Lisa Lyons, director of Aberdeen High

School choir; Bethany, a quartet, and True Praise, a dance step group, both from the Aberdeen area.

Gospel Night began in 1973 by then Maj. Wilbert Davis who personally nurtured the musical celebration of Black History Month even after he retired from the U.S. Army.

In tribute to his personal dedication and devotion to the project, Gen. Johnnie E. Wilson, the chief of Ordnance, named the annual event in Davis' honor on Feb. 9, 1992.

Access to APG for the performance is available at the Maryland Boulevard Gate, Route 715. An identification card such as a military or government civilian ID card or a driver's license is required.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Gail Brennan, 410-278-2529.

AIT Soldier saves classmate's life



Pvt. Daryl Zarkevics, left, looks at Spc. Jerome Blyden's coin of excellence in front of Aberdeen Proving Ground's Rozier Hall on Jan. 26. Blyden earned the coin after saving Zarkevics from nearly choking to death.

Story and photo by
KHAALID WALLS
OC&S

Student 1st Sgt. Spc. Jerome Blyden, 29, was selecting individuals in his class for clean-up detail during their 9:30 a.m. class break at Rozier Hall Jan. 26 when he noticed what he appeared to be a disgruntled Pvt. Daryl Zarkevics.

"I saw him with this angry expression on his face pounding his hand on the table," Blyden said. "I thought he was upset about being picked for the clean-up detail."

Blyden soon realized he had more on his hands than an upset Soldier. Zarkevics, the 19 year-old from Red Rock, Pa., was choking on a hot dog he had just purchased from a catering truck.

When Zarkevics stood up, I ran behind him and performed the Heimlich maneuver, and the food came out, said Blyden, who is a police officer in his native Virgin Islands.

Zarkevics said he was choking for a couple of minutes before classmates took him seriously. He said he was dizzy and starting to lose consciousness.

The near death experience didn't deter Zarkevics from finishing his original mis-

sion before the paramedics came to pick him up.

"After the food came out, everybody was clapping and Zarkevics sat back down and finished his food," said Blyden, with a chuckle.

Blyden's heroics earned him his first Army coin. He was awarded the Sergeants Major Coin of Excellence by Sgt. Maj. Chancey Alderman, who is the Tactical Support Equipment Department Sergeant Major.

Alderman said he's extremely proud of Blyden.

"It's outstanding. He saved a fellow Soldier's life. If it wasn't for Blyden, Zarkevics wouldn't be here now," Alderman said.

Alderman said a few more awards are in the works for Blyden.

Blyden, who has a bachelor's in science from the University of Virgin Islands, will finish AIT the second week in February and continue on to Officer Candidate School. He will become a physician's aid. His goal is to ultimately complete medical school.

With one life saved, he's well on his way.

Ed Center book drive benefits Partners in Reading

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

To emphasize American Education Week, which was held Nov. 13 to 19, 2005, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Education Center conducted a book drive for Harford County's Partners in Reading volunteer program netting nearly 1,500 books for non-profit organizations.

Many of the kindergarten through 5th grade level books were delivered to Sally Drumm, Harford County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program project director for

the Partners in Reading participants, said education counseling specialist Brook Elkins.

"Most are going to county libraries for used book fundraisers," Elkins said, adding that volunteers from the Education Center will transport most of the books which fill much of one office inside the center.

Soldiers and their family members dropped off everything from encyclopedias to cookbooks, including computer reference manuals, college text books, mechanics and how-to books as well as fiction and non-fiction novels, she

said.

"We thought it would be a good idea to do a drive for non-profit organizations," she added, "but I didn't expect this level of response."

Partners in reading is an initiative of the Retired and Senior Volunteers Program in Harford County sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service and Harford County government.

For information on volunteer opportunities or related projects, visit their Web site, www.harfordcountymd.gov/volunteer.

ARDEC receives Army's top award for excellence

Story by
PETE ROWLAND
ARDEC
JULIE CUPERNALL
RDECOM

The Army's top award for excellence is now at home at the U. S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey presented the Gold Army Performance Excellence Award to the center's director Dr. Joseph Lannon during a ceremony held in the Pentagon Auditorium Jan. 27.

Before giving the prestigious award to the ARDEC leadership, Harvey praised the center's dedication to the Army mission.

"We as the Army cannot be satisfied with the status quo," Harvey said. "ARDEC has taken decisive steps toward establishing a culture of continuous improvement."

During the award presentation, ARDEC's employees were recognized for their leader-

ship, strategic planning, customer and market focus, measurement analysis and knowledge management accomplishments during the year.

The Army Performance Excellence Award is presented each year to the organization whose overall performance and improvement efforts were, in the opinion of a panel of select judges, the best in the Army. Judging is based on the world-recognized Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria.

The APEA program recognizes organizations for their efforts and serves as a vehicle for sharing best ideas and practices across the Army. The criteria used to determine the winner of the Gold award closely parallel those used by world class organizations to assess performance at all levels.

ARDEC is the Army's principal researcher, developer and sustainer of current and future military armaments and munitions systems. Headquartered at Picatinny Arsenal, the center employs more than 2,500 personnel in five U.S. locations.

22d Chemical Battalion Soldiers, civilians recognized

Story by
JONI B. PLATT
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

Soldiers and civilians from the U.S. Army 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) were honored at a recent award ceremony held at the battalion's headquarters building, Aberdeen Proving Ground Jan. 19.

The ceremony honored 12 Soldiers and one civilian who recently were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brig. Gen. Kevin R. Wendel, commander, U.S. Army 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives) hosted the ceremony and presented the awards.

The Bronze Star Medal was awarded to six Soldiers for the leadership, professionalism, devotion to duty and personal courage they displayed while protecting U.S. forces in Iraq and at home.

Sgts. 1st Class Michael Cassin, Keith Smith and Alexander Leon; 1st Lt. Shane Pollard; Staff Sgts. Danny Rivera-Cruz and Toby Shirley received the medal for meritorious achievement as a result of their deployment in support of OIF.

"The missions they executed in theater conducting chemical and biological sampling, disablement of potential production facilities and destruction of enemy munitions was instrumental in providing for a safer Iraq," said Lt. Col. Patrick Terrell, commander, U.S. Army 22d Chemical Battalion (TE).

Sgts. 1st Class Victor Roman and Dameon

Walker, Staff Sgts. Crystal Triplett and Lester Triplett, and Sgts. Josef Sanders, and Akilah Williams received Army Commendation Medals and Charles Maddox, received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in recognition of his deployment.

"What makes awards ceremonies like this different from other Army battalions is that we are also recognizing civilians for their service along with Soldiers," Terrell said. "In today's operational environment, we depend on our professional civilian workforce more than ever."

The 22d Chemical Battalion (TE), formerly the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit has over 60 years of experience in chemical/biological response, and a long history of meeting the changing needs of the nation. The 22d Chemical Battalion (TE) has been deploying task organized, Military-Civilian teams into combat since the beginning of OIF.

About the Bronze Star

The Bronze Star Medal was established by Executive Order 9419, Feb. 4, 1944. It is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after Dec. 6, 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Future Toastmasters meet the challenge

Story by
LEN KOLODNY
APG Toastmasters Club

Fourteen students at Edgewood High School received certificates of achievements for completing a 12-week program on public speaking sponsored by the Gunpowder Toastmasters Club in a Feb. 1 ceremony at the school.

Valaria Bormani, an executive with VRJ, Inc, a firm that is a defense contractor and a leader in the community, said that she saw an opportunity for this type of program for youth in Edgewood High School, and with the cooperation of the school contacted Toastmasters at Aberdeen Proving Ground for assistance.

Col. Jesse Barber, youth leadership coordinator for the Toastmasters Club and project manager for Alternative Technologies with the U. S. Army's Chemical Materials Agency, jumped at the chance to work with the youth in the community.

"The youth Leadership Program was developed by Toastmasters International to help young people of today become leaders of tomorrow," Barber said.

"Students have applied themselves and demonstrated their skills as organizers and speakers, which is a tremendous accomplishment for today's teens," Bormani said.

The program was presented at Edgewood's Banking and Credit class at the school.

The students, Jennifer Aguirre, Lerease Clark, Keyana Dargan, Angela Fogle, Kendra Jordan, Todd Mason Jr., Rock Oldenburg, Ray Owensby II, Steven Pasta, Russel Reese, Malcolm Ridgley, Cecilio Suarez, Stephanie

Whalon and Alexander Wing, set up the structure, organization and conducted the meetings over 12 weeks.

Aguirre, who served as the club's first president, challenged her fellow students to "think outside of the box," and at every meeting the class met that challenge with thought provoking discussions and impromptu speeches.

The program uses materials especially adapted for youth from the regular Toastmasters International public speaking program.

"Today marks a momentous occasion," Barber said. "It is the culmination of 12 weeks of hard work and achievement on the part of young people who are committed to learn how to be leaders and to overcome the fear of speaking in public."

More than three million people have benefited from the adult Toastmasters program since it was first introduced in 1924, according to statistics compiled by the Public Relations Office of Toastmaster's International.

The Gunpowder Toastmasters Club, which meets in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, has made a commitment to host this program each year at Edgewood High School, according to Gunpowder President Carlton Phillips.

"Investing in today's youth is an investment in tomorrow's future," Phillips said.

There are five Toastmaster Clubs in Harford County and many more throughout the state of Maryland. For more information about times and places, visit the club's Web site, www.toastmasters-d18.org.

APG News

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Rates

From front page

Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax; the Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges.

GSA also announced some smaller increases.

The rate for lodging in Los Angeles, which includes Orange and Ventura counties and Edwards Air Force Base, was raised from \$96 to \$104 year-

round while Detroit's allowance rose from \$90 to \$93 for the year.

The seasonal lodging rates for Santa Barbara, Calif., were increased from \$100 to \$133 for Sept. 1 through June 30 and from \$117 to \$173 for July 1 to Aug. 31.

The yearlong lodging rate for Denver was raised from \$119 to \$124, and in Pensacola, Fla., it went from \$61 to \$68. The lodging rate for Minnesota's Dakota County increased from \$65 to \$78 year-round and in El Paso, Texas, the rate increased from \$66 to \$69. The Frederick, Md., rate went from \$71 to

\$78.

Arizona's Grand Canyon region, which was combined with the Flagstaff, Ariz., region, will have rates of \$60 for Nov. 1 through Feb. 28 and \$77 for the rest of the year. The old rate was \$68 for the entire year.

GSA last adjusted per diems in November when it announced changes to the 2006 rates published on Sept. 1, 2005.

All per diem rates are published on GSA's domestic per diem Web site. This document is located at <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0106/012306p1.htm>.

ChalleNGe Academy welcomes class number 26

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The offer of a second chance to obtain high school diplomas and more productive lives drew 108 at-risk youths to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Recreation Center for in-processing into the Maryland Army National Guards' Military Youth Corps/Freestate ChalleNGe Academy Jan. 15.

Col. Richard "Thunder" Young, MDARNG director of the academy, said that more than 150 youths were invited.

"We usually expect around 135 which is the standard amount but we usually graduate less than that, from 90 to 100," Young said, most of which are whittled down by the time the class rolls around.

The in-processing stations included drug testing, medical records and legal affairs as well as inventory of clothing and personal items.

Volunteers assisting the cadre and staff included 12 members of the Maryland Defense Force and seven ROTC cadets from Bowie who were led by MDDF Col. William Aleshire.

"Supporting this program is in line with the MDDF mission of helping communities," Aleshire said, noting that MDDF members include doctors, nurses and lawyers who deployed to New Orleans to assist in the cleanup after

Hurricane Katrina.

"We're here because we care about the kids and we care about this program," he said.

Other volunteers included former ChalleNGe cadets Chavonne Williams and Angelina Teel, both 18, who spent time helping out their "cadre friends" and encouraging the new cadets.

Williams, who graduated from the academy in June 2005, said she is taking college courses and working, "thanks to what they did for me here."

"When I came here I couldn't stand my parents," Williams said. "Now my mom is the closest person to me."

"They helped me academically and socially. Before, I wasn't even thinking about college, now all I want to do is come back here and help out and maybe even be a member of the cadre one day," Teel said.

"It's good for the academy and for these youngsters to have graduates come back and tell them 'I made it and you can too,'" Young said. "These two are just an example of what you can accomplish if you put your mind to it."

Along with the gray sweat suits, white T-shirts and sneakers they were instructed to wear, many of the ChalleNGe applicants wore looks of anticipation.

Seventeen-year old

Danielle Moore of Baltimore said that like most others, the chance to obtain a high school diploma drew her to the academy.

"I never went to high school," she said. "I want a diploma because I want to be a cop. My grandfather was a state trooper."

Vanessa Cabrera, a 16-year old from Prince Georges County, has even loftier goals.

She hopes to one day enroll in the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in California.

"I want to become a chef but I need my diploma first," she said.

Also from PG County, Lachaundra Mason, 17, added that after trying other "school programs," she's hoping this one works.

"I'm looking at becoming a paramedical technician, and

I'm willing to work hard for it," Mason said.

Kevin Mitchell, the father of cadet Connor Harris, 16, said that his son was looking forward to the ChalleNGe experience.

"I'm all for it," he said. "He wants to go in the Navy so this will be good for him."

"I did a few years in the Army," he added, "and I told him this won't hurt one bit."



Photo by GARY BROOKS

Cpl. Deleashia Jordan, a cadre member of the Maryland Army National Guard's Free State ChalleNGe Academy, left, directs cadet Kirteese Bowser, 16, of Lutherville at the inventory of equipment station during in-processing for Class 26 at the APG Recreation Center Jan. 15.

The APG Forum

Commentary—Book does its job

Book review: Remember Everything You Read—the Evelyn Wood 7-Day Speed Reading and Learning Program, by Stanley D. Frank

JOHN BRAND
Special contributor

I was exposed to Evelyn Wood's method for speed reading in 1962. It has benefited me enormously both academically and professionally and, incidentally, cost a fortune in whodunits.

There is, in addition to the basic discussion of methods for increasing reading speed, a great deal of material that may well make a person a more effective learner.

The cursory treatment of the Evelyn Wood technique for faster reading is probably appropriate given the essential simplicity of the method.

I find the rah-rah material about turning your life around by speed reading annoying, but it is probably needed for people unfamiliar with the techniques.

Becoming a more effective learner will benefit an individual both as a student and in the work force. Being a good learner has a lot to do with learning effective techniques for learning and then practicing them. No one expects to excel in sports without general preparation in strength and endurance, plus specific preparation in the techniques of that particular sport—you lift weights and run, as well as practice specific skills. Why in the world anyone would expect to really excel as a scholar without corresponding effort is beyond me.

The competitive advantage is clear: if you can skim material at 3,000 words a minute and read for near-total comprehension at several hundred words per minute, and no one else in your class or work group can, you have a real

edge over the competition.

Speed reading techniques are broken down into fast and really, really fast. That is, there is "subsonic" and "supersonic" reading. Both are useful in their place, and the author describes the techniques, how to practice them, and which technique is best for the task at hand.

I will not repeat them here; they may be found in the book, or one like it. I strongly suspect the invention of the mouse scroll button will be a great help to most folks in both forms of fast reading.

A caution—a person who does not read well may try these techniques to improve their performance.

If the reason they do not read well is a form of dyslexia, these techniques may be inappropriate. If so, try another method but never give up. Information on dyslexia (and dysgraphia and dyscalculia) may be found at the Web site for the International Dyslexia Society, formerly the Orton Society, <http://www.interdys.org/>.

A tremendously valuable feature of this particular book is the other material besides speed reading—advice on how to study, how to take notes, how to do a paper.

I particularly liked Chapter 3, Mapping Out Your Academic Flight Plan. The advice on studying, such as do it in a quiet place, is often ignored, but in my experience dead on (pp. 44 ff). Too many students

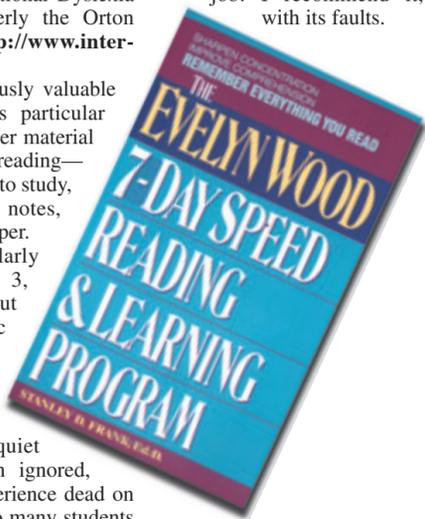
study by choice or necessity in environments that effectively prevent success. Then they become discouraged and stop trying.

The section on note taking is, I suspect, too complex to be really useful (pp. 125 ff).

The advice on writing (Chapter 8, Supersonic Writing) is absolutely correct, and involves simple things like starting early, revisiting the drafts, and so on. This is common sense advice that everyone hears in school and most people don't do. It is really effective though.

The real index of how I feel about this book is that I have bought copies for my summer students. The author can't buy a Mercedes on royalties from my purchases, but he can buy a soda and a hamburger, at the very least.

This book is not highly rated in the Amazon reviews—it is rated so-so at best. However, the book does its job. I recommend it, with its faults.



Letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing in concern over a traffic issue that seems to just be growing. It appears to me that people coming out of Gate 13, down Colleran [Road] and stopping at Longs Corner have gotten acclimated to pulling out halfway onto Longs Corner in the turn lane meant for people turning into Plumb Point Loop.

Being a resident of Plumb Point Loop, I cannot count the times I have been cut off by people leaving work and almost hitting me as I try to make my way home. Just before Christmas I witnessed an accident by someone pulling out from Colleran hitting someone traveling west on Longs Corner.

I realize that many people coming out of Gate 13 are just trying to cross lanes but their actions are hazardous to other drivers.

The only saving grace in this area is that the speed limit is 'supposed' to be 30 mph.

I understand a stop light is not economically feasible, but perhaps a study of the area would help ease this problem.

Sincerely,
Lisa Panozzo

Response:

As part of the Base Realignment and Closure movement to Aberdeen Proving Ground, there is a project in for \$47 million waiting for final funding in fiscal year 2007 to improve the infrastructure of APG.

As part of that project this directorate is planning to do a traffic study of most of the installation (this intersection included) that would then cause improvements and changes in the roads and intersections that currently exist on APG using part of that \$47 million.

I hope this answers your concerns.

Dale A. Knieriemen
Director
Installation Operations Directorate

AFAP Symposium - a chance to voice concerns

ACS

APG will host the Army Family Action Plan Symposium March 14 to 16 at Top of the Bay: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., March 14 and 15 and 9 a.m. to noon on March 16.

Input is needed from Soldiers, civilian employees, family members, retirees and youth. Issues may be in any area that affects members of the military community. Submit an issue in any area that is important to well-being.

Submit suggestions by e-mail to Sarah.Staats@us.army.mil, fax 410-306-2293, or mail to AFAP, Army Community Service, building 2754, Room 206, APG MD 21005-

5001. When submitting a topic, print clearly and provide detailed information answering the following questions: What is the problem? Why is it a problem? How can it be fixed? Add name, daytime phone number and an e-mail address. Use additional pages if necessary.

Names and contact information will allow Army Community Service to ask questions if needed. Incomplete issues may not be considered.

Delegates and volunteers also are needed for the symposium. Anyone interested should call 410-278-2464

Nine retire during January ceremony

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Two Soldiers and six civilians from five Aberdeen Proving Ground organizations concluded their service to the nation before fellow Soldiers, co-workers, family members and friends during the Garrison Retirement Ceremony at the Post Recreation Center Jan. 25.

Col. John T. Wright hosted the ceremony assisted by 1st Sgt. Carolyn A. Blair, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, APG.

"We have over 66 organizations that call Aberdeen Proving Ground home," Wright said, "It's great to see so many of those represented here today."

The retirees included Master Sgt. Johnnie C. Wilcox, USAG; Sgt. 1st Class Lishamarie Hunter and Carol P. Bruce, U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School; William R. Brankowitz, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency; Kirkman R. Phelps and Gary W. Wright, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center; Che-Ling C. Lee, U.S. Army Evaluation Center; and Morgan A. Toney, Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security. One retiree, Ernest J. Cramblit, DLES, who retired with 44 years of military and civilian service, was unable to attend the ceremony.

"The eight Americans we honor today are completing distinguished careers totaling 286 years of dedicated service to our nation and our Army," Wright said. "I congratulate and thank each of you for your years of loyal service."

Wright presented awards then praised each retiree for their accomplishments and wished them well.

Master Sgt. Johnnie C.

Wilcox

Wilcox ended his career of more than 31 years as the Garrison operations noncommissioned officer. He was awarded the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Department of Retirement and the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation. His retirement plans include pursuing a civil service career as a program specialist with the U.S. Army Evaluation Command and continuing his civilian education. Wilcox has one child, Spc. Johnnie C. Wilcox III, stationed with the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

Sgt. 1st Class Lishamarie Hunter

Hunter will retire March 1 with more than 20 years of service. She was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, DA Certificate of Retirement and Presidential Certificate of Appreciation. Her husband Ross was presented with the DA Certificate of Appreciation.

Hunter ended her career as a training specialist with the Directorate of Instruction, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade.

Her retirement plans include finishing her master's in psychology, becoming a teacher in Maryland and spending time with her family.

She and her husband have one son, Spc. Gabriel W. Nitschke and one granddaughter, Allyssia, 3.

William R. Brankowitz

Brankowitz retires with more than 34 years of service including service in the Army Reserve. He was awarded DA certificates of retirement and appreciation and his wife, Charmaine, received the APG Certificate of Appreciation.

Brankowitz began working at Edgewood Arsenal in 1972

on chemical demilitarization projects and he concluded his career with the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization as the deputy project manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel.

His past awards include the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, the Federal Executive Board Bronze Award for Excellence in a Federal Career and the Superior Civilian Service Award.

He and his wife have two children, Patricia, a teacher, and Michael, a pharmacist.

Kirkman R. Phelps

Phelps retires with 39 years of government service including two years as an Army chemical officer. He was awarded DA certificates of retirement and appreciation and his wife Susan was awarded the APG Certificate of Appreciation.

He began his civil service career at Edgewood Arsenal in 1967, serving in research, development and production of the chemical/biological detection effort, and retired as head of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center tech base detection effort in CB defense.

Phelps' past awards include two Meritorious Civilian Service awards. He and his wife Susan have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Carol P. Bruce

Bruce retires with 26 years of service. She was awarded the DA Superior Civilian Service Award and DA certificates of retirement and appreciation.

Bruce began working for DA after 12 years with the Maryland State Department of Social Services.

She began her federal career in Germany and moved onto Fort Polk, La., and Fort George G. Mead before com-

ing to APG.

She has been with the OMMS since 1991. As chief of the Resource Management Directorate, Bruce restructured the budget and manpower programs and was instrumental in managing the conversions of 63 military positions to civilian positions.

She is married to Done Bruce, a retired Army musician and the couple has three children and 11 grandchildren.

Che-Ling Cathy Lee

Lee retired Jan. 3 with 32 years of government service. She was awarded DA certificates of retirement and appreciation and her husband Joseph received the APG Certificate of Appreciation.

Lee grew up in Hong Kong. She came to the United States in 1962 and earned a master's in mathematics from Oklahoma State University.

Her career with the Army began in 1973 at the Army Environmental Hygiene Agency. She subsequently served with the U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Agency, and then the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command where she served for 20 years before her division was transferred to the Army Evaluation Center, where she served as an independent evaluator in the Combat Support Evaluation Directorate.

A past award includes the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

The Lees have two grown children, Chris and Michelle.

Gary W. Wright

Wright retires with 30 years of government service including four years in the Navy. He was awarded DA certificates of retirement and appreciation and his wife Ann received the APG Certificate of Appreciation.

A native of Harford County,

Wright began his career in 1979 as a physical scientist with the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency which later became the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. In 2003 he became the Radiation Safety Officer for ECBC.

Wright said his plans for retirement include enjoying photography, travel and volunteer work at his church.

Morgan A. Toney

Toney retires with 29 years of government service including two years in the Army dur-

ing the Korean War. He was awarded DA certificates of retirement and appreciation.

He worked for the City of Baltimore and a private trucking company before coming to APG as a civilian security guard in Edgewood in 1978. His many awards include a special citation from Baltimore mayor Martin O'Malley.

Toney has one son and three daughters, two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. His retirement plans are to travel, cook for his large family and to be a "great" grandfather.

Military spouses offered fellowships as financial counselors

www.military.com

Military spouses interested in the financial counseling field can apply for one of 200 fellowships being offered for the Accredited Financial Counselor Program. Applicants interested in the program must apply online at <http://www.nmfa.org> before the closing date of Feb. 14. Applicants must be current

or surviving spouses of active duty or retired Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Army or Air National Guard or reserve component service members. To apply for the Military Spouse Fellowship for the Accredited Financial Counselor Program, log onto <http://www.nmfa.org> and click on the Military Spouse Fellowship for the

Accredited Financial Counselor Program link Applications will only be accepted online. For more information contact Lillie Cannon, NMFA program manager, by e-mail cannon@nmfa.org or call 703-861-3126. Fellowship recipients will be notified by March 15. To learn more about Military Spouse Employment, visit <http://www.military.com/spouse>.

Energy

From front page

Exterior lights are often left on during the day.

"We ask that you shut off exterior lights and leave them off through the night, unless they are necessary for safety or

the security of vehicles and ammunition. Many automatic timers or photo sensors that control parking and building lights have been disabled. Facility managers should ensure that they are set correctly. We suggest that the timers be set to turn the lights on at 5:30 a.m. and off at 8:30 p.m. although the times can be

adjusted to suit the working schedule of your building's occupants," he said.

Photo sensors will ensure that the lights turn off during the daytime.

"These are just a few simple measures which can save energy at no cost to the garrison. If we can improve our energy efficiency by even a

small amount, we can have a big impact on the cost of operating this base," Knieriemien said.

Anyone can recommend an energy savings action or report an energy conservation issue seen, (such as street lights left on during the day) via the new DIO energy hotline, 410-306-1107.

POST SHORTS



Chapel services

Catholic
Main Post Chapel,
8:45 a.m.
South Post, 10:45
a.m.

Main Post Chapel,
noon

Protestant
Main Post Chapel,
10:15 a.m.
South Post, 9:15 a.m.

Gospel

Chapel holds mass of renewal, dinner

The APG catholic community invites married couples to renew their marriage vows at a Mass of Renewal followed by a sweetheart dinner Feb. 15 at the Bayou Restaurant, 927 Pulaski Highway, Havre de Grace. The mass will be held at 6 p.m. Dinner will follow at 7:15 p.m.

There will be a cash bar and the menu offers choice of: roast prime rib of beef, broiled crab cake or chicken cordon bleu. All meals will be served with seafood bisque, twice baked potato, green beans almondine and homemade pie, coffee and tea.

The cost for parishioners/spouses is \$12.50 per person; all other guests cost \$25 per person. Checks should be made payable to CTOF.

RSVP by Feb. 12 to Connie Richardson, 410-676-0179 or e-mail her at car0992@comcast.net.

Black History Month Specialty Meal Feb. 21

The Black History Month Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Feb. 21, for military personnel, family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests.

The standard meal rate of \$3.55 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$3.05 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Black History Month Specialty Meal menu includes: okra and shrimp gumbo, barbecued spareribs, fried chicken, southern fried catfish, baked chicken, barbecued beef brisket, ham hocks, steamed rice, baked macaroni and cheese, red beans and rice, collard greens, black eyed peas, green beans, corn bread, assorted salad bar, potato salad, cole slaw, assorted desserts, assorted breads, soft serve yogurt with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green, 410-306-1393/1398.

APG Community Information Forum scheduled

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Community Information Forum will be held 1 to 3 p.m., Feb. 22, at the Recreation Center, building 3326.

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

Representatives of support agencies/organizations will be present to discuss their activities. For more information, call Marilyn Howard, Army Community Service, 410-278-9669.

Annual FWP training conference

To celebrate Women's History Month, the APG Equal Employment Opportunity Office invites all APG civilian and active duty military employees to attend the free annual Training Conference 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Feb. 28, in the Edgewood Conference Center, building E-4810. Registration starts at 7 a.m.

The conference includes morning and afternoon sessions including a health fair and self-defense class from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Community Club building E-4650. Bring a bag lunch.

To register for classes visit <http://130.114.20.112/PG/EEO/FWP/FWPreRegistration.cfm>. The cutoff date for registration is Feb. 17. Register early. Training must be approved by a supervisor prior to submission.

For more information, call Diane Siler, 410-436-2681 or Sheryl Coleman, 410-278-5964.

Freedom Award nominations open

The calendar year 2006 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award nominations are open through the end of February.

This awards program was created to recognize American employers who provide exceptional support for their employees who serve the nation in the National Guard and Reserves.

The process is open for deserving companies and organizations in three categories, major organizations of 500 or more employees, small corporations of less than 500 employees and those private sector employers (federal, city, state, municipalities, police and other departments or any entity funded by tax dollars).

This year, Guard and Reserve personnel or their families, can nominate an employer. If someone other than those noted complete the nomination form, then it is important to advise the Guardsman or Reservist that they are considered the 'Official Nominator.'

The Web site, www.esgr.mil, is ready to accept nominations providing that all required fields of the

form are executed.

2006 USO Guide to Washington, Baltimore

The USO of Metropolitan Washington 2006 Guide to Washington and Baltimore is available. This 18th edition of the guide is an invaluable resource for service members stationed, or on temporary assignment in the Washington metropolitan area. It provides a comprehensive listing of USO and military resources, information on sight seeing and recreation, maps, and general information on living in the area.

The guide is provided free of charge to members of the military and their families. To arrange to pick up multiple copies, call Fort Belvoir, USO Warehouse, 703-806-3555 or BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, USO International Gateway Lounge, 410-859-3890.

Copies also are being distributed through area senior enlisted advisors. Single copies can be mailed for \$2 (shipping and handling).

For more information, call 703-696-4827.

Opportunity to earn money

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory is conducting several studies on hearing. Paid listeners need to be U.S. citizens between the ages of 18 and 28 with normal hearing.

Study time ranges from 2 to 4 hours. Each listener will be paid \$15 to \$20 per hour. Qualified listeners can participate in one or more studies.

Interested volunteers should contact Martha Dennison, 410-278-5918 or e-mail mjdennis@arl.army.mil.

Scholarships for military spouses

The National Military Family Association is now accepting applications for the NMFA's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships. Eligible applicants include any uniformed service spouse – active duty, retired, National Guard, or survivor – studying toward professional certification or attending post-secondary or graduate school. Applications will only be accepted online and must be submitted by midnight, April 15. Online applications are available at www.nmfa.org/scholarships2006.

For more information, visit <http://www.nmfa.org/>.

Eligible officers

encouraged to join PSYOPS

The Special Operations Recruiting Battalion (Provisional), Fort Bragg, N.C., is accepting applications for Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations officers candidates.

The PSYOPS Recruiting Battalion is searching for commissioned officers in year groups 1997 through 2003 to apply for Detachment Commands in Civil Affairs (38A) or Psychological Operations (37A). Both male and female officers from any career branch are encouraged to apply.

An Army Special Operations Forces Board (ARSOF) will convene in April 2006 to select the best candidates.

For more information, visit the Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Recruiting Web site, www.bragg.army.mil/CAPSYOP/.

Irish Specialty Meal March 16

The Irish Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m., March 16, for military personnel, family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests.

The standard meal rate of \$3.55 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$3.05 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Irish Specialty Meal menu includes: bean soup with ham, shepherd's pie, Dublin coddle (bacon and pork sausage), fish and chips, Irish stew, grilled Reuben sandwiches, steamed cabbage, shamrock green beans, seasoned carrots, boiled red potatoes, pickled beet and onion salad, Waldorf salad, assorted salad bar, hot rolls, assorted breads, assorted desserts, soft serve yogurt with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green, 410-306-1393/1398.

WANTED: Female Youth Supervisor

Females looking for a challenging career working with teens between the ages of 16 and 18 need look no further.

The National Guard Freestate Challenge Academy based at Aberdeen Proving Ground is currently accepting applications. The starting salary is \$11.73 hourly. It is a contract position, but can lead to a permanent state position.

Females interested should call 410-306-1839/1845.

Community Notes

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Pilottown Rod and Gun Club 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.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or Pat Job, 410-658-5628.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12 AUXILIARY OFFERS SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 5337, 3706 Pulaski Highway in Abingdon offers breakfast the second Sunday of each month, 8 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$6. The menu includes eggs and omelets to order, sausage, bacon, French toast, pancakes, creamed chipped beef, fried potatoes, breads, milk, coffee, orange juice and more.

Proceeds support hospitalized veterans at Perry Point Hospital, deployed troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and youth and senior programs in the community.

BASKET BINGO

American Legion Post 194, 336 E. Main St., Rising Sun, is sponsoring a basket bingo. Games start at 3 p.m. Cost is \$10 for 20 games. For more information call 410-658-3915, or e-mail: basketbingo@zoominternet.net. Proceeds benefit Boy Scout Troop 28.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15 LEARN MORE ABOUT SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS ACADEMY

Donna Clem, coordinator of the Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School, will speak on "The Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen" at the Gunpowder Room of Top of the Bay. Clem will focus on the four study programs for academic and career exploration that SMA students are exposed to in their junior and senior years, and describe volunteer opportunities for members of the professional scientific community.

Sponsored by the Chesapeake Chapter of the American Statistical Association, the meeting is open to the public and starts with a pay-as-you-go lunch at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Geoff Sauerborn, 410-278-9076.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19 EVANGELIST SPEAKS IN EDGEWOOD

Pastor Stephen Schuessler and the congregation of Edgewood Assembly of God, 803 Edgewood Road in Edgewood, extends an invitation to listen to Evangelist Richard Rochkind at the 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. services. Through his unique testimony, anointed music and powerful preaching Rochkind delivers encouraging words for weary hearts.

Office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 410-676-4455.

WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM

The women of St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will host an afternoon program at 3:30 p.m. The Rev. Jeremiah G. Williams, Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Baltimore, will be the guest preacher. The program will benefit the church's 98th Annual Woman's Day program scheduled for March 26.

For more information, call 410-939-2267.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21 CHORUS SEEKS MEN FOR BASS SECTION

The Bel Air Community Chorus rehearses 7:30 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday. All singers are welcome and men who sing baritone or bass are especially needed. No audition required.

The chorus sings show tunes, spirituals, folk songs and patriotic music.

For more information and location of rehearsal, call 410-734-4330.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24 BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Military and Civilian Spouse's Club will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, located on Rogers Street, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$10; additional sets cost \$5 each. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available. No smoking is allowed.

This is one of MCSC's main fundraisers and benefits various welfare requests from the community and also will provide the funds for scholarships awarded at the end of this school year.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Gloria Debery, 410-273-1926, Moria Kearney, 410-836-5937 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25 BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the USNTC Bainbridge Historical Association will be held at the VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors open 6 p.m.; Bingo begins 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per person for all paper cards. Food, beverage and 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, Carolyn Spencat, 410-378-3219 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SUNDAY MARCH 5 COMMISSION FOR WOMEN'S 22ND ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Harford County Commission for Women's 22nd Annual Luncheon, Silent Auction will be held noon to 2:30 p.m. at the Richlin Ballroom, Edgewood. This year's theme is Mentoring, Filling Baskets with Promise. Proceeds from the luncheon will fund scholarships for outstanding Harford County female students. Keynote speaker will be Penelope J. Taylor, former Vice Chairwoman, MBNA America Bank. Entertainment will be provided by Peabody Institute Student Harpist Elizabeth Ciavolino. Tickets cost \$25 per person and must be purchased by Feb. 21. Checks can be made payable to the Harford County Commission for Women. Mail checks to The Harford County Commission for Women, in care of Department of Community Services, Harford County Government, 220 South Main St., Bel Air, MD 21014.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Michelle Luce, 410-638-3389.

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."

MUNICH

Friday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.

Starring: Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Ciaran Hinds, Mathieu Kassovitz

In the aftermath of the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics by a Palestinian terrorist group known as Black September, the Israeli government recruits a group of Mossad agents 11 Palestinians believed to be responsible for planning the killings. Avner (Bana) is charged with leading the specialists brought together to execute the operation. (Rated R)

FUN WITH DICK AND JANE (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.

Starring: Jim Carrey, Tea Leoni, Richard Jenkins, Angie Harmon

After years of work, Dick Harper (Carrey) is finally promoted to vice president of media company, Globodyne. But after one day on the job, the company goes down in flames

in an Enron-style scandal, and Dick ends up being the fall guy. He and his wife Jane (Leoni), suddenly can't maintain their affluent lifestyle, and Dick's tarnished reputation leaves him unable to find a job. So they turn to a life of crime to pay the bills. (Rated PG-13)

KING KONG

Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 p.m.

Starring: Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody, Thomas Kretschmann

Arrogant filmmaker Carl Denham (Black) sails to remote Skull Island with his new leading lady, Ann Darrow (Watts), and crew, including screenwriter Jack Driscoll (Brody). Upon their arrival, native warriors kidnap Ann in order to sacrifice her to the great ape King Kong. Surprisingly, instead of eating her, the beast saves her. Later, Kong is trapped and taken back to New York City, where Carl puts him in a Broadway show, to disastrous effect. Soon, the huge animal is running amok in the city, looking for Ann. (Rated PG-13)

SATURDAY APRIL 1 CONFERENCE FOR CAREGIVERS

The Geriatric Assistance and Information Network, GAIN, and the Harford County Office on Aging will hold the 9th annual "Caring for Those Who Care" Conference for

caregivers, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the McFaul Activities Center, 523 West MacPhail Road, Bel Air.

This year's conference will focus on practical advice and tips for the caregiver. Mental Health Players will present Caregiving Chaos, a series of interactive skits.

The conference is free; space is limited. Free adult day care service will be available by reservation only. To arrange for this service, call Active Day Services of Harford, 410-676-0997. For more information or to make a reservation, call the Office on Aging, 410-638-3025.



Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Activities

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.

Hand quilting for children

Child and Youth Services and SKIESUnlimited will hold a Hand Quilting class for children ages 7 to 18, 5 to 6 p.m., Feb. 15 through March 8, at the Aberdeen CYS, building 2752 in the Conference Room.

Learn how to make a four patch mock log cabin block. The class costs \$40 per child and includes all materials needed. There is an \$18 Central Registration Fee per year if not already enrolled in the Child and Youth Services Program. Register by Feb. 10. For more information, call 410-278-4589.

Tribute to Frank Sinatra at Three Little Bakers Theater

Celebrate the most romantic month of the year with a new musical tribute featuring over 50 songs recorded by "Old Blue Eyes." A Tribute to Frank Sinatra will be presented Feb. 26 at Three Little Bakers Theater, Wilmington, Del. Tickets cost \$90 each and includes bus transportation, show and dinner. The bus will depart 11:15 a.m. and returns approximately 8 p.m. after a stop at the Delaware Park Casino. For ages 21 and over. Register by Feb. 13. Open to all DoD card holders.

Girls youth softball registration

Registration for girls' softball will be held through Feb. 28 at Central Registration. The Softball League age groups include 7 to 8 years of age, 9 to 10 years of age, 11 to 13 years of age and 14 to 18 years of age. Practices begin the first week in April; games begin the first week of May 1. Cost of registration for the Eastern Harford County League is \$40

per child. A registration fee of \$18 with CYS is required.

Practices and games will be held on weekdays depending on age group. The age determination date is Jan. 1, 2006. Sports physicals are due at registration.

Volunteer coaches also are needed. For more information, call Bill Kegley, 410-306-2297.

Register at the Aberdeen Youth Center by appointment only at CYS Central Registration, building 2752, 410-278-7671/7479. Register on Wednesdays at the Edgewood Youth Center, building E-1902.

BOSS Valentine's Day Dance

The BOSS, "Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers," Program will hold a Valentine's Day Dance, 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., Feb. 11, at VFW Post 10028, located at 821 Old Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen (by Wal-Mart). Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Live music will be provided by 6WR. Dress to impress.

The event includes food, door prizes and a Best Dressed Couples and Singles contest. This event is open to the public (ages 18 and over). No AIT students. Tickets can be purchased at the Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-2621 or through a BOSS representative.

For more information, call Sgt. Eugenia Richards, 410-278-2709, or Sgt. Leslie Moore, 410-278-9891.

MWR sponsors trip to Philadelphia Flower Show

Take time to smell the flowers at the Philadelphia Flower Show, March 5, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Cost is \$80 and includes roundtrip transportation, admission to the Flower Show and dinner at "The Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant." The bus will depart 7:15 a.m. and return at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy, learn and receive inspiration from the garden and landscape displays and

thousands of plants and floral designs. Floral exhibitions, demonstrations, lectures, culinary presentations, a marketplace and more will be available. The trip is open to all DoD card holders. Register by Feb. 12.

Spring cheerleading

Spring Cheerleading begins the first week of April. Registration will be held through February 28.

Cheerleaders will cheer for Aberdeen and Edgewood Youth Center APG flag football teams. Cost of the program is \$40 for youths ages 6 to 14. The age determination date is April 1. All games will be held at the Aberdeen and Edgewood Youth Centers. Practices are held twice a week and games are held every Saturday. Volunteer coaches also are needed to conduct the program. If interested in volunteering as a coach, call Bill Kegley at 410-306-2297.

Boating classes at Flying Point Marina

The Skipper and Gilligan won't be teaching this course. Flying Point Marina, located on 324 Flying Point Road, Edgewood, will hold Boating classes through March 7. Boaters who were born after July 1, 1972 and plan to operate a boat in the Maryland, must have completed a Maryland Boating Course and received a certificate issued by Flotilla 13-04 CG Auxiliary. The CG Auxiliary offers several classes each year.

The cost to attend the Boating Course is \$20. Classes will be held Feb. 14 to 16 and March 7 through April 20. The cost to attend the Coast Guard Boating Skills and Seamanship Course is \$40. The education unit will come to a group of 10 or more students. Reservations are required for all classes.

For more information or to make reservations, call 443-417-3173/410-663-9263, or E-mail thesmadge@yahoo.com.

To purchase tickets, call 410-278-4011/4907 or E-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

For more information, call

Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854 or email earlene.allen@usag-apg.army.mil.

White House tour

Visit Washington, D.C. during the Cherry Blossom Festival, March 25. The bus departs 6:30 a.m. The highlight of the day is an escorted tour of the White House (subject to cancellation by the White House due to unforeseen events). The tour also includes a visit to the World War II Memorial and free time to visit other sites in the surrounding area and the National Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport. Cost is \$30. Register by Feb. 21.

Party hardy at the Mardi Gras Ball

It's Fat Tuesday at APG – indulge in food and drink before Lent. The Civilian Welfare Fund will host a Mardi Gras Ball, 7 p.m. to midnight, Feb. 28, at Top of the Bay. Enjoy New Orleans cuisine and dance the night away to live music provided by "Fifth Avenue." Dress up and wear a favorite mask, or a mask will be provided. The Mardi Gras Ball costs \$45 per

person.

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

Youths can register for Tee ball/Baseball program

Child and Youth Services and SKIESUnlimited will hold registration for the Tee ball/Baseball program through Feb. 28. Cost of registration is \$40 and annual CYS registration fee of \$18 required.

Practices begin the first week in April. Tee ball includes boys and girls ages 5 to 6; kids pitch baseball includes children ages 7 to 8; and youth

pitch baseball includes children ages 9 to 10, 11 to 12 and 13 to 15.

The age determination date is April 30, 2006.

Practices and games will be held on weekdays depending on age group. Games begin the week of May 1.

Register Monday through Friday by appointment only at Aberdeen CYS Central Registration, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479.

Register on Wednesdays at the Edgewood Youth Center, building E-1902.

Sports physicals are due at Registration.

For more information, call Bill Kegley, 410-306-2297.

Volunteer coaches are needed.



Hole in one

Joe Peterson made a hole in one on hole #15 using the Perfect Club (the actual name of the club) Jan. 30. It was witnessed by Bud Corn, Jim Stallings and Augie Buckheitt.

Valentines Day

Brunch

at Top of the Bay
Sunday Feb. 12

1ST seating 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
2ND seating 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Adults: \$15.95
Children 6-11 \$7.95
Children 2-5 \$2
Children under 2 eat free

Breakfast items include omelettes made to order and a luncheon buffet with carving stations.

Call for reservations by

4:30 p.m. Feb. 10

410-278-3062 410-278-2552 410-278-5195

Between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Bring someone special

Easter Sunday Brunch

April 16

and

Mother's Day Buffet Dinner

May 14.

Family Child Care providers needed

Family Child Care training will be conducted March 20 through 24 at the Child Services building 2752.

Applicants who are interested in providing home-based childcare on Aberdeen Proving Ground are encouraged to apply.

Being a professionally trained provider in a home environment offers many benefits: potential for over \$500 per week; self employment; free training in a marketable profession; opportunity to market your business on the Army's FCC Online Web site; transferable credit to

Army installations worldwide; free use of lending library; free monthly newsletter; free workshops (nutrition, health, child development, safety CPR, taxes), participation in the National CDA credential program, the USDA food program and the National Family Child Care Home Accreditation program.

Providers are also eligible to receive college credit for Army child development training.

For more information and to pick up an application, visit the FCC office, building 2752, Rodman Road, or call 410-278-8720/7140.

SCHOOL LIAISON

NASA Space Camp applications being accepted

Applications are being accepted for the 2006 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp scholarship. Children of an active duty military parent enrolled in grades six through nine are eligible to apply. The scholarship is funded by the military Child Education Coalition.

Full tuition includes meals, lodging, program materials and transportation from the student's home base to nearest Space Camp.

The deadline for completed applications is April 3.

For more information or to apply for the scholarship, call Ivan Mehoskey, 410-278-2857, or visit the Web site <http://www.militarychild.org/SpaceCamp.asp>.

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 AUDIOBOOKS ON CD available at the APG MWR Library:

The Architect by Keith Ablow
The Camel Club by David Balducci
Death Dance by Linda Fairstein

The Scorpion's Gate by Richard Clarke
Sweetwater Creek by Anne Rivers Siddons
The Wave by Walter Mosley

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.

Sports

The following are results for intramural basketball as reported by the APG Sports Office. For inquiries regarding scores or standings, call Donna Coyne, intramural sports coordinator, 410-278-3929.

Aberdeen Division

Results

Feb. 1
KUSAHC, 89; HHC 16th, 39
Company E 16th, 53; HHC 61st, 47

Feb. 2

Company B 16th, 59; USAF, 35
Company A 16th, 58; Company C 16th, 38

Schedule

Feb. 13
6:30 p.m., Company C 16th vs. USMC
7:30 p.m., Company A 16th vs. HHC 61st

Feb. 14

6:30 p.m., Company E 16th vs. FSC
7:30 p.m., Company C 16th vs. HHC 61st

Feb. 15

6:30 p.m., KUSAHC vs.

Company B 16th
7:30 p.m., HHC 16th vs. Company A 16th

Standings

Company B 16th	5-1
KUSAHC	5-1
HHC 16th	4-2
Company C 16th	4-2
HHC 61st	3-3
Company E 16th	3-3
FSC	2-4
Company A 16th	2-4
USAF	1-5
USMC	1-5

Edgewood Division

Results

Jan. 30
229th MSB, 83; AML, 54
HHC 143rd, 60; CHPPM, 33

Jan. 31

CHPPM, 43; AML, 27
229th MSB, 59; HHC 143rd, 46

Schedule

Feb. 13

6:30 p.m., 229th MSB vs. Company C 143rd
7:30 p.m., Company B 143rd vs. 22nd Chem.

Feb. 14

6:30 p.m., Company C 143rd vs. 22nd Chem.
7:30 p.m., Company A 143rd vs. HHC 143rd

Feb. 15

6:30 p.m., AML vs. CHPPM
7:30 p.m., 229th MSB vs. Company B 143rd

Standings

HHC 143rd	5-1
Company C 143rd	5-1
229th MSB	5-1
22nd Chemical	3-1
Company A 143rd	2-4
CHPPM	2-5
AML	0-5
Company B 143rd	0-4

Applying for the All Army Sports Program

MWR

The All Army Sports program offers Soldier/athletes the opportunity to participate in over 20 sports at an armed forces or higher level of competition.

Interested participants can visit the Army MWR Web site, www.armymwr.com, select Recreation, and click on the Army Sports link to see what sports are available and view the criteria for selection.

The DA Sports Office has implemented a new procedure for applying to the All Army Sports Program. An on-line application process has been developed to allow for an easier, more efficient application process. The new All-army On-line application program is a Web-based information system that will allow any Soldier (Continental United States or outside the Continental United States), with Internet access, to apply for any All Army sport on-line. Soldiers simply need to go to <https://armysports.cfsc.army.mil> for a direct link to the All Army appli-

cation process. This link also provides detailed information about the program, the year's calendar, selection criteria, and points of contact at the DA Sports office.

This new process will simplify application submission for the Soldier and improve Army Sports office operations. This system will provide complete and accurate collection of applicant data, especially contact information. The database will also provide retrievable archival capability for historical purposes.

Current procedures still require applicants to fax or scan and e-mail additional qualifying sports info/results. Future upgrades envision allowing hard-copy or faxed applications to be converted to an electronic format automatically and allow athletes to attach competition video clips to further support their application.

Anyone interested should visit the web and check out the new look. But remember, to apply for the All Army Sports program, it must be done on-line.



Channel 21 features Pentagon Channel programming

The Pentagon Channel will feature the following programs on Channel 21. 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.
Inside Afghanistan, 1 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 3 p.m.
Around the Services, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Around the Services, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Focus on the Force, 1 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 3 p.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq, 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.
Inside Afghanistan, 2 p.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq, 4 p.m.
Navy/Marine Corp News, 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.
Focus on the Force, 1 p.m.
Navy/Marine Corp News, 3 p.m.
American Veteran, 5 p.m.

Friday

Around the Services, 5:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Around the Services, 12:30 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 3 p.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq, 4 p.m.

Saturday

Around the Services, 5:30 a.m.
Inside Afghanistan, 7:30 a.m.
American Veteran, 1:30 p.m.
Opportunity Showcase, 3 p.m.
Sun City Soldier, 5:30 p.m.
Battleground, 7 p.m.
Recon, 8 p.m.

Sunday

Sun City Soldier, 5:30 a.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq, 10:30 a.m.
American Veteran, 1 p.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq, 4:30 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.

Inside Afghanistan – Presents the latest from Operation Enduring Freedom, showing the activities of American Troops in country.

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.

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Focus on the Force – A weekly program highlighting missions, operations and people of the U.S. military.



AHLTA gives medical personnel access to medical records

Provides beneficiaries privacy and peace of mind, anytime anywhere

Story by
TERRY J. GOODMAN
TRICARE Management Activity

Medical records are the lifeline between physicians and their patients.

Hippocrates, an ancient Greek physician considered to be the father of medicine said, "But conclusions which are merely verbal cannot bear fruit." He realized more than 2,000 years ago the importance of documenting medical information and recommended that physicians record their findings and medicinal methods, so that these records may be passed down and employed by other physicians.

AHLTA, the Military Health System's global, electronic health record system, will make the archaic medical record Hippocrates introduced hundreds of years ago obsolete while ensuring beneficiaries receive quality health care.

"AHLTA will change the way beneficiaries receive their health care," said Dr. William J. Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs and director, TRICARE Management Activity, during a press conference Nov. 21 at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md. "It's a new era for the Military Health System."

The \$1.2 billion electronic health records system will allow health care providers to access data about beneficiaries' conditions, prescriptions, diagnostic tests and more information essential to providing quality care to TRICARE's 9.2 million beneficiaries.

"It is one of the most ambitious implementations of health information technology yet," said Michael Leavitt, secretary of Health and Human Services.

National Capitol Region medical centers and MTFs are now using

AHLTA to issue timely and accurate care to their patients.

When fully deployed in December 2006, 129,500 MHS personnel at the 411 medical clinics, 417 dental clinics and 70 military hospitals worldwide will use AHLTA.

In any given week, AHLTA currently supports 2.1 million prescriptions, 1.8 million outpatient encounters, 400,000 dental procedures, 19,500 inpatient admissions and 2,000 births for uniformed services members, retirees and their families.

AHLTA is more than just a repository of data; it allows medical personnel to prescribe the care needed without duplication, because they enter patient information immediately during the visit. When providers share the information with other MTFs, the systems interoperability ensures that costly tests, labs and scans are not performed needlessly, which ensures better patient care,

making the MHS more fiscally responsible by not prescribing unnecessary tests and procedures.

AHLTA is not just for use in medical centers and MTFs. Deployed medical personnel will also use AHLTA to ensure a continuum of care for service members on the ground, in the air or at sea. The electronic health record system also helps physicians in times of crisis when traditional medical records may not be accessible.

Following Hurricane Katrina, 57 hospitalized patients, including 31 mothers-to-be, were forced to leave without their medical records. Health care providers hundreds of miles away were able to access their medical records through AHLTA to continue their care safely and effectively.

Navy Capt. Robert Wah, who recently served as the director of Information Management for the MHS and is now the deputy national

coordinator in the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Department of Health and Human Services, said the system was designed to protect the privacy of patients.

"The system was designed with role-based security," Wah said. "Depending on an employee's role in the Military Health System, each is given a certain level of credentials to use the information in the system. Physicians have more access to data than a front desk clerk."

AHLTA is transforming the way medical personnel administer health care today as Hippocrates' introduction of the medical record did centuries ago, and more important, AHLTA gives beneficiaries peace of mind knowing their records are safe, secure and available when they are needed.

Sipping success: from baby bottle to cup

APG Dental Command

(Editor's note: This is the third in a series of articles for Children's Dental Month.)

As soon as teeth appear in the mouth, decay can occur. One of the risk factors for early childhood, caries (sometimes called baby bottle tooth decay or nursing mouth syndrome), is frequent and prolonged exposure of a baby's teeth to liquids, such as fruit juice, milk or formula, which all contain sugar.

Tooth decay can occur when a baby is put to bed with a bottle. Infants should finish their naptime or bedtime bottle before going to bed.

Because decay can destroy the teeth of an infant or

young child, parents should encourage their children to drink from a cup by their first birthday.

Many training cups, also called sippy or tippy cups, are available in stores. Many are "no spill" cups, which are essentially baby bottles in disguise. "No spill" cups include a valve beneath the spout to stop spills. However, cups with valves do not allow the child to sip. Instead the child gets liquid by sucking on the cup, much like a baby bottle. This defeats the purpose as it prevents the child from learning to sip.

Don't let the child carry the training cup around. Toddlers are often unsteady on their feet. They take an unnecessary risk if they try to walk and drink at the same time. Falling while drinking from a cup has the potential to injure the mouth.

A training cup should be used temporarily. Once the child has learned how to sip,

the training cup has achieved its purpose. It can and should be set aside when no longer needed.

For sipping success, carefully choose and use a training cup. As the first birthday approaches, encourage the child to drink from a cup. As this changeover from baby bottle to training cup takes place, be very careful:

- what kind of training cup is chosen
- what goes into the cup
- how frequently the child sips from it
- that the child does not carry the cup around

For more information, talk to a dentist. If the child has not had a dental examination, schedule a "well baby check-up" for his or her teeth.

The American Dental Association says that it is beneficial for the first dental visit to occur within six months of the appearance of the first tooth, and no later than the child's first birthday.

Addressing patient tardiness for appointments

KUSAHC

When scheduling an appointment at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic patients will be asked to report 15 minutes prior to their appointment time.

"This is a very important point to remember," said Lt. Col. William Rice, commander, KUSAHC. "It is our goal to accommodate each and every patient in a timely manner. But, patients, who report late, compromise each succeeding patient appointment."

Patients are considered late if they arrive 10 minutes after their scheduled appointment.

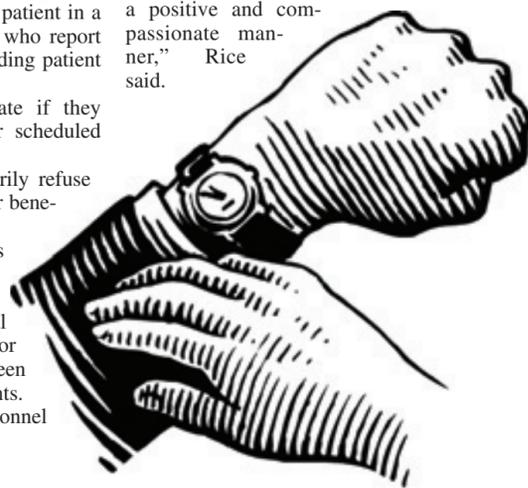
"The clinics cannot arbitrarily refuse care but provide options to our beneficiaries," Rice said.

Options for late arrivals include rescheduling the appointment, waiting for a possible opening in the normal flow of patients scheduled for that day, or waiting to be seen after all other scheduled patients.

"Providers and clinic personnel

are not required to stay after normal clinic hours (lunch or end of the day) to serve a late patient," he emphasized.

"We will be as accommodating as possible, realizing that we may not always be able to comply with the patient's wishes. Clinic personnel will explain the options available to late patients in a positive and compassionate manner," Rice said.



Understanding health privacy matters

KUSAHC

As of April 14, 2003, healthcare plans and providers were required to provide patients with a Notice of Privacy Practice.

"The notice describes how your medical information may be used and with whom it may be shared," said Lt. Col. Patrick C. Barrett, deputy commander for Administration. "It also describes your rights and how to file a complaint if you believe your rights have been violated."

The provision of the notice is a requirement of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

"Please take a moment to review the Military Health System Notice of Privacy Practices and

share it with members of your household receiving care at a military treatment facility or through the TRICARE managed care network," he said. "It is important to us that you are fully aware of how we may use and disclose your health information and that you notify us if you have any concerns."

Anyone needing a copy can contact the Kirk HIPAA Privacy Officer or access the KUSAHC Web site, www.narmc.amedd.army.mil/kusahc/ or www.tricare.osd.mil/tmaprivacy.

For a copy of HIPAA practices, mail a written request to TRICARE Management Activity, Privacy Office, Five Skyline Place, Suite 810, 5111 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3206.

Computerized paperless medical records in future

KUSAHC

In the very near future Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will begin converting medical data into an electronic medical data repository known as the Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application, a Department of Defense mandated program.

"Existing health information will remain in your medical record, but after implementation of this new system, our goal is to have computer-

ized paperless medical records," said Deputy Commander for Administration Lt. Col. Patrick Barrett. "Your medical information will be accessible anywhere in the world."

Initially, as providers and staff become familiar with this new technology, beneficiaries may experience fewer appointments and slight increases in the length of appointment times as their visit is documented in AHLTA. As the KUSAHC

staff becomes experienced with this new Clinical Information System, patients will see a return to more efficient schedules.

"KUSAHC asks everyone's patience while we train and implement this new program, which will improve us as a Military Treatment Facility and in military medicine," Barrett said.

The KUSAHC Web site, www.narmc.amedd.army.mil/kusahc/, will offer periodic updates.

KUSAHC enforces child, visitor safety during visits

KUSAHC

Concerns over child safety have prompted Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic to address a policy on non-patient children in the facility.

"These new policies will ensure a doctor's visit with the patient's full attention on the purpose of their visit without having to worry about their children," said Lt. Col. William Rice, commander, KUSAHC.

Children without appointments may not accompany a parent, guardian, or sibling into examination or treatment rooms. Children under the age of 11 years require adult supervision anywhere within the medical facility. There must be appropriate supervision by

someone 13 years or older during an appointment or emergency.

Patients presenting with non-patient children and no adequate supervision must reschedule their appointment unless the patient requires medical intervention on an urgent basis.

If the patient's reason for an appointment is not urgent, then the patient will reschedule the appointment.

Parents can use existing hourly childcare services on the installation. Parents must pre-register with the Child Care Center by calling 410-278-7571 for hourly care prior to use.

"Our concern is for that of all patients without any worries except their own health," Rice said.

Setting course for disaster relief

Story by
KARI HAWKINS
Redstone Rocket

How do you find your way through a city that has been destroyed? How do you keep your bearings in a place that is constantly changing? How do you locate people, buildings and landmarks in a city that is covered with toxic water?

In New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina's wrath made existing city maps null and void. And for the Soldiers of the 5th Army, knowing where things were and where Soldiers needed to travel was essential to their mission of locating, helping and saving victims of one of the nation's worst natural disasters.

It was obvious from the beginning of recovery efforts that new city maps were needed to help Soldiers move around the city, and to communicate the breadth of the disaster to President Bush and the nation. For the employees of Research Development and Engineering Center's Warfighter Protection Lab, supplying those maps became a way for them to contribute their skills in efforts to bring stability back to New Orleans.

The 5th Army "saw the value of some of the expertise we have in house here," said Dr. Dan Belk, manager of WPL, which is part of RDEC's System Simulation Directorate. The connection WPL had established over previous months with the 5th Army led to the once-in-a-lifetime assignment in New Orleans.

Before Hurricane Katrina, Belk and other members of his staff were preparing for an emergency exercise coordinated by Homeland Security, Department of Defense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other disaster agencies. The exercise, known as Vigilant Shield '06, was scheduled to take place in November as part of the nation's ongoing efforts to prepare emergency personnel for a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

"We [were] going to be a small part of the exercise," Belk said. "The 5th Army was going to use the Warfighter Protection Lab as a staging area for the operation center during Vigilant Shield."

Plans changed, though, with Hurricane Katrina. On Sept. 15, 2005, the 5th Army approved the travel of two WPL employees to ground zero in New Orleans to work on mapping efforts. Within 26 hours of getting the call, Belk and geospatial information system specialist Michael Melton were in New Orleans, having traveled through a landscape of flattened trees, smashed houses, toppled buildings, destroyed cars and unbelievable destruction.

The first glimpse they had of the devastation as they drove through south Mississippi amazed the two AMCOM workers. Melton took several pictures as they drove into the hurricane zone.

But by the time they finally reached New Orleans, the images of mass destruction had left each with a growing sense of sadness and doom.

"The devastation got worse and worse as we drove," Melton recalled. "Everything was linear. When we got as far as Slidell (Miss.) everything was just flattened. We saw the foundations of homes filled with water. We saw boats still intact sitting in the tops of trees. It looked like a war zone."

"When we got past the checkpoint into New Orleans, it was eerie," Belk said. "It was like nothing I'd ever seen before. There was nothing living. Trash was everywhere. Refrigerators were floating in water. Abandoned vehicles had their windows blown out. You couldn't drive in a straight line down the street because of all the debris."

Melton and Belk used a laptop with a global positioning system to



Photo by MIKE MELTON
Mike Melton of the Warfighter Protection Lab shot this image of the Superdome while surveying the New Orleans area in a Huey helicopter. He was in New Orleans to assist the 5th Army in plotting maps of the city after Hurricane Katrina.

help them find the 5th Army's Tactical Operations Center. But even with that aid, finding their way was difficult because of the changes in the city. Once they made a wrong turn and headed "down an off ramp toward a lake," Belk said.

At the Tactical Operations Center, the two were quickly immersed in mapping activities.

"We used GIS (geospatial information system) to develop maps with information from other sources," Belk said. "We received flood information from the National Geospatial Agency, and we received information from zip code areas, from de-watering stations and from police checkpoints. We would take all this data and merge it into a single map. Then we would merge the map into power point for briefings."

Maps had to be updated over and over again "because the situation was constantly changing," Melton said.

"As the situation changed, we would enter the information and plot a new plot. In order for the military to make accurate decisions they have to know exactly what they are looking at on a map, and in a four-hour time frame New Orleans would change dramatically."

Things were quick-paced and intense in the Tactical Operations Center, with much of the map plotting being done in real time.

"A lot of it is kind of a blur," Melton said. "We were going at such a pace and working double shifts. We did as much data gathering as we could and integrated it as quickly as we could to get the plots we needed. My goal was, if an officer asked for a map, I would have a copy in his hands within 15 minutes. Sometimes I succeeded, sometimes I didn't."

The maps created by Melton and Belk were used to brief top military, city and state officials on the conditions in New Orleans. One of Melton's maps was actually used to brief President Bush.

"They were all briefed with products put together in support of the 5th Army," Belk said.

At one point, Melton was assigned to take a helicopter ride over New Orleans, an experience he and others in the group were looking forward to.

"We were all talkative and excited about going up in a Huey," he said.

"But the three-hour helicopter ride showed us so much devastation. We weren't even slightly prepared for what we saw. When it was over, none of us were saying a word. That helicopter ride probably changed all of us forever."

From the helicopter, the group got a general survey of New Orleans. They were able to see the areas that were flooded and the areas suffering from large oil spills. Melton saw a storage container at one refinery that had been pulled totally away from its foundation.

Belk stayed in New Orleans for two days. Melton remained until Sept. 21, when he was redeployed to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, with the 5th Army to aid in recovery efforts after Hurricane Rita. He was joined at Fort Sam Houston by three other WPL employees – AMCOM engineer Joe Moran, and Intergraph contractor employees Bob Devlin, retired military, and Ed O'Malley.

"The idea was to be at ground zero when it was over," Melton said.

Moran, Devlin and O'Malley met Melton with a van borrowed from RDEC's Electronics and Computer Technology Division, Applied

Sensors, Guidance and Electronics Directorate, and equipped with a large scale plotter and laptops loaded with GIS software that could quickly be moved to ground zero after the hurricane. The van is now known as the Mobile GIS Production Vehicle.

"We took a concept that DoD uses for deployed units and adopted it for homeland emergency use," Belk said.

But the van wasn't needed, and much of the work done by the WPL crew occurred prior to Rita's landfall.

"In Texas, we had a lot lighter load," Melton said. "We had a good constant flow of information that we used in trying to assess where Rita would hit. We were projecting out by days so we could come up with a projected plan."

The team developed county maps, hurricane-tracking maps and helicopter flight maps to support several 5th Army missions as the area prepared for Hurricane Rita.

Local authorities were much better equipped to face Hurricane Rita, and the situation was quickly stabilized after the hurricane made landfall. As the hurricane's strength quickly diminished, WPL's capabilities were no longer needed and the team returned to Redstone Arsenal on Sept.

26. "New Orleans turned out to be a much greater emergency than the areas affected by Hurricane Rita," Belk said. "We never had to set up an operation center like we did for Katrina."

The WPL team learned a lot from their experience with hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The team is ready to respond to other national emergencies if and when needed.

"Part of our mission is to help the Soldier survive," Belk said. "What we did during the hurricanes with our mapping systems is a spin-off of the GIS expertise we use every day in our simulations. We are here to assist wherever needed."

November's emergency exercise was canceled. It is no longer necessary, Belk said, because of all the experience personnel gained from two of the largest hurricanes to ever hit the U.S.

"The actual event in New Orleans went far beyond anything we could ever prepare for," he said.

(Editor's note: Reprinted with permission from editor, Redstone Rocket, Redstone, Ala. For more information, e-mail staff writer Kari Hawkins at karihawk@knology.net.)



Photo by KARI HAWKINS
Mike Melton looks over a map he plotted that was used to brief government officials as part of the work WPL did to support the 5th Army's hurricane rescue efforts in New Orleans and, later, in Texas. One of Melton's maps was used to brief President George Bush on preparations in the face of Hurricane Rita.

Pay

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natural disasters or troop surges resulting from force realignments;

- An increase of 2,000 pounds in the household goods weight allowance for senior noncommissioned officers E-7 and above;

- Enhanced death benefits, resulting in a total of \$238,000 for all deaths not previously qualified for enhanced benefits, and the permanent institution of a policy that continues

the basic allowance for housing or government quarters for one year for families of deceased service members;

- Authority to pay the applicable overseas cost-of-living allowance to dependents who remain at their location outside the continental United States when a service member deploys from that location;

- Expanded eligibility or increased ceilings for special pays for designated medical and dental officers, and officers with nuclear qualifications;

- A bonus of up to \$12,000 per year for both active and reserve members with certified

language proficiency;

- Payment of travel and lodging for families of hospitalized service members wounded in combat zones or other designated areas.

The law also provides a variety of benefits specifically targeting members of the reserve components. These include:

- Full housing allowance payments for reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days, vs. the previous 140-day requirement;

- Income replacement benefits to help offset the pay loss some reservists and guardsmen experience when called to

active duty, based on specific guidelines provided in the law;

- Increases in the maximum payment for accession and affiliation bonuses, from \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively, to a consolidated \$20,000 for enlistment in the Selected Reserve;

- Boosts in the maximum affiliation bonus for officers in the Selected Reserve, from \$6,000 to \$10,000;

- A bonus that could total up to \$100,000 over a career for members with a designated critical skill or who volunteer to serve in a designated high-priority unit; and

- Extension of eligibility for

a prior-service enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Witschonke emphasized that the new law does not guarantee that all service members will qualify for these pays and benefits, or that those who do will receive the highest amounts authorized. Rather, the law gives defense and service leaders the flexibility they need to tailor the force to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

The 2006 authorization act, like those in recent years, reflects steady progress in compensating service mem-

bers and their families with increased benefits and opportunities, he said.

"Every year for the past several years, our service members have gotten larger pay, increased benefits and increased special incentive pays. This is a clear reflection of our Congress, our administration and our country wanting to take care of our service members and their families," he said.

"The members of our uniformed services should feel very good about this year's defense bill as a follow-on to those from past few years," he said.