

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Feb. 22, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags, and place them on the curb.

Reduced gate hours

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground in observance of the President's Day holiday.

The Harford Gate, or Route 22, in Aberdeen, will close at 10 p.m., Feb. 16 and reopen 4 a.m., Feb. 21. The Harford Gate is closing one day earlier for the long weekend to allow required maintenance of the gate facilities. The Wise Road Gate, or Edgewood Road in Edgewood, will close 8 p.m., Feb. 17 and reopen 4 a.m., Feb. 21.

The Aberdeen Maryland Gate and the Edgewood Route 24 Gate will be open throughout the holiday weekend.

RAB meeting scheduled

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Feb. 23, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Military Munitions Response Program.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited.

For more information, call the Information Line, 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998.

Youth Center holds Valentine's Dance

The Aberdeen Youth Center Parents' Advisory Board will sponsor a Valentine's Day Dance at the Aberdeen Youth Center 7 to 9 p.m., Feb. 17. The cost is \$3 for children and \$6 for middle school and teens; parents are free.

For more information, call Cynthia Walker, president of the Parents' Advisory Board, 410-436-7171, 860-983-3781 or 443-528-0285.

Annual FWP training conference

To celebrate Women's History Month, the APG Equal Employment

See SHORTS, page 7

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2

Veterans' Voices

Page 3

APG children send Valentines to troops

Pages 6

Community Notes

Pages 8

MWR

Page 12

APG's 'Sgt. York' heads to museum in Texas

Page 13

Spouse assists in rebuilding

APG emergency responders receive award

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison and its Police and Fire Emergency Services divisions were awarded Maryland Pacesetter platinum awards for achieving 100 percent compliance for seatbelt usage among its employees during an awards luncheon at the BWI Airport Marriott Feb. 1.

Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, accepted the installation award several weeks ago at a separate ceremony and traffic supervisor Joe Davis accepted the award at the Marriott for the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security and Andre Fournier, fire protection specialist, accepted the award for the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment's Fire and Emergency Services Division.

Pacesetter Awards are presented to emergency responder organizations that report 90 percent or more of their populations were observed wearing seat belts on at least two occasions.

To qualify for the award, participants must conduct two observational seat belt surveys during regular business hours. The surveys must be spaced at least 30 days apart to indicate sustained usage rates and conducted in accordance with guidelines from the Maryland Highway Safety Office.

Mike Farlow, community policing officer, said that the awards covered the time period between April and June 2005.

"We conducted random seatbelt surveys of police officers coming into work and of firefighters rolling out on calls," Farlow said, adding that observers manned the Maryland and Harford Boulevard gates as well as

Gate 13 to check seat belt compliance. "We achieved 100 percent compliance," Farlow said.

Davis said it was the first time the DLES had surveyed its own department.

"It says a lot because they need to set the example for everyone else," Davis said.

DLES Director Robert J. Krauer said that the award confirms that the messages sent out during the department's Click-it-or-Ticket campaigns, which resulted in 92 percent compliance for the installation in 2005, is being reinforced by police officers and firefighters.

"This means our first responders take the safety aspect of seat belt use seriously," Krauer said, "and that they are setting the standard for the rest of the installation."

"It was only appropriate for us to

support this seat belt campaign," Fournier added. "Firefighters and paramedics are constantly on the road on APG and they need to set an example for the rest of the installation. Since we are the ones responding to vehicle accidents we can really appreciate the value of wearing seatbelts."

The Maryland State Highway Administration's Safety Office, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Committee for Safety Belt Use, Inc., recognized the awardees for exemplary seat belt use by their employees and members.

State Highway Administrator Neil J. Pedersen hosted the event.

"We know that using a safety belt is the best way to survive a motor vehicle crash - and thanks to the dedicated efforts of traffic safety agencies and advocates, more Maryland motorists are buckling up," Pedersen said.



Photo by MATT BUTTON, THE AEGIS

From left, Rick Bowlus, aka Poetic Justice, and a U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine employee; John Dognarra, aka Camo Man, Matt Andrews, aka Fan Man and a U.S. Army Environmental Center employee; Dale Davis, aka Maniac, and a Harford County government employee; and Alyson Berkshire, aka Princess Aly and ORISE employee at CHPPM, stand in the frigid waters of the Chesapeake Bay at Sandy Point during the Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 28 in support of Special Olympics.

CHPPM 'polar bears' take the plunge

Story by
JANE GERVASONI
CHPPM

Two U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine employees took part in the 10th anniversary of the Maryland Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Special Olympics Maryland Jan. 28.

Dale (Rick) Bowlus, an environmental scientist, and Alyson Berkshire, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education contractor, both "polar bears," raised over \$4,300 in donations from friends, family, and coworkers who wanted to see them shivering in the 39 degree water.

The event raised over \$1 million to support Special Olympics.

"It was one of those lifetime

experiences that you will not forget," Bowlus said of his early morning dip into the waters of the Chesapeake at Sandy Point State Park near Annapolis at the foot of the Bay Bridge. "To see the sea of people all energized to run into the icy water for such a great cause and to run side-by-side with celebrities, friends, families and the special athletes was truly a moving experience."

Dressed as a 'Baltimore Ravens Ultimate Ravens Fan' in purple and black makeup and other Ravens decorations, Bowlus braved the cold to support the cause of Special Olympics Maryland and the Special Olympians.

"I have supported the Special Olympics Maryland since about 1993, inspired by

Cal and Vi Ripken to get involved, as they were such supporters of SOMD. I started out as a hugger and donor," he said.

This was Berkshire's first year to take the plunge, but she really got into the spirit and raised plenty of money for Special Olympics. Dressed as "Princess Aly" in her Ravens black and shining tiara, she was all smiles jumping into the chilly water.

"It was really powerful being able to help others and seeing all the people who came out to support Special Olympics, but it was cold, too," Berkshire said.

As one of the 'Baltimore Ravens Ultimate Fans,' Bowlus and others were asked by the Special Olympics of

See PLUNGE, page 11

Workers finish cleaning, decontaminating emptied mustard agent containers

CMA

Workers at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility safely completed cleaning and decontaminating all 1,817 containers that once stored mustard agent at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground Feb. 7.

The Ton Container Cleanout process is the second and final phase of destruction operations at ABCDF. The first phase, destroying the stored agent, was completed in March 2005, when the last batch of the drained mustard agent stockpile was neutralized.

This made APG the first of the Army's eight chemical demilitarization facilities in the continental United States to remove the risk posed by its chemical stockpile to the community.

As a result of completing the final phase of destruction operations, ABCDF will now fully enter an anticipated two-plus year closure phase.

"We are committed to destroying the entire U.S. stockpile safely and expeditiously," said Chemical Materials Agency Director Michael Parker. "The end of operations at the ABCDF and its full-throttled launch into closure is evidence of this, and we are extremely pleased with these accomplishments."

During the final phase of destruction operations, con-

veyors moved empty ton containers through an 11-step cleaning process that included punching holes in the containers, cutting them in half, up-ending the container halves for a hot water high-pressure wash inside and out, followed by steam cleaning and drying. Sensors carefully monitored the containers to verify that decontamination was complete. The containers then were shipped off site for disposal as non-hazardous waste.

The TCC system design was based on Army development testing conducted in the mid 90s.

"Cleaning the mustard residue from the ton containers with high pressure water and steam had never been accomplished before," said ABCDF Site Project Manager Joseph Lovrich. "The TCC process lived up to the engineering excellence award the ABCDF team received last April for its outstanding design, fabrication and startup."

During the days that followed, workers flushed the TCC system piping and neutralized all rinse water.

Because the United States has joined nations around the world to rid the globe of dangerous chemical weapons under the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, once the last batch of hydrolysate is disposed of, the Technical Secretariat of

See MUSTARD, page 11

APG chaplains host Prayer Luncheon

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Hundreds of Aberdeen Proving Ground employees, service members and guests attended the National Prayer Breakfast observance during a luncheon at Top of the Bay Feb. 9.

Maj. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, commander of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools and chief of Ordnance was the guest speaker. The program featured remarks and scripture readings.

Chaplain (Maj.) Fred McLean, deputy installation chaplain, hosted the event and Col. James J. Jagielski, installation and Garrison command chaplain, gave the invocation.

"Be with us at this time of national prayer," Jagielski prayed. "And clear our minds and allow us to be open to your news."

Lt. Col. Dennis Proffitt, chaplain of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, offered a scripture reading

from the book of Matthew and Maj. Doug Duerksen, 61st Ordnance Brigade chaplain, introduced the guest speaker.

In addition, Col. Timothy Madere, 20th Support Command, offered the Prayer for the Nation and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony J. Slater, 61st Ordnance Brigade, read from the book of Proverbs.

Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander gave welcoming remarks.

"The most important guests we have here are our young Soldiers who are here to hear from a great leader," Wright said in reference to the Ordnance troops who came to hear Boles speak on the need for prayer in daily life.

He said that one of the most important things his mother told him was, "If you're going to worry, don't pray, but if you're going to pray, don't worry."

Boles addressed several issues he said he found while

See PRAYER, page 5

DoD ASA for Health Affairs visits MRICD

Story by
CINDY KRONMAN
MRICD

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs arrived at Aberdeen Proving Ground via helicopter to spend the day at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense Jan. 24 to evaluate the work being done at MRICD and to commend the institute's employees for the good job they are doing.

Accompanying Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr. was his principal deputy, Dr. Stephen Jones, Col. Michelle Ross, the director of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Medical Policy, and a former MRICD deputy commander, as well as several other members of his staff.

"It is such an honor that Dr. Winkenwerder has set aside his entire day to focus on our critical research mission," said Col. Brian Lukey, commander, MRICD.

Winkenwerder was looking for a better understanding of the institute's mission and how its research program is relating to the Department of Defense.

He got what he came for and left with the reaffirmation that MRICD is "a critically important national asset."

"It was a great visit," Winkenwerder said after a day full of briefings and tours of several MRICD laboratories. "There's really good stuff going on here."

He was particularly impressed with the uniqueness and significance of the institute's mission and capabilities.

"This is a one of a kind facility," Winkenwerder said. "There's no other like this in the U.S. military, or anywhere in the U.S.A."

See VISIT, page 5



Photo by Stephanie Froberg, MRICD
Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs, center, looks on as Dr. John Graham, right, demonstrates a portable diagnostic instrument during the secretary's visit to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense Jan. 24.

Veterans' voices

Vets rally in support of tax bill

Second hearing today in Annapolis open to public

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Military retirees from around the state held a Veterans Rally at the Maryland State House Feb. 6 to demonstrate their support for two tax bills that if approved, will exempt military retired pay from taxation by the state.

About 500 veterans representing all 26 Veteran Service Organizations were in attendance, according to Ed T. Kreiner Sr., chairman of the Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs and of Maryland's Retired Veterans Task Force.

"We were exceedingly pleased with the turnout," Kreiner said.

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. and Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele were in attendance, joined by members of the General Assembly and Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary George Owings III and Assistant Secretary James Adkins.

The rally was held immediately following a hearing before the House Budget and Taxation Committee during which sponsors of Senate Bill 22 and its companion bills expressed support for the legislation.

The committee is weighing the bill sponsored by Senator John Astle, a former Marine from Anne Arundel County, as well as the governor's bill which is retroactive, offering a tax credit dated back to last year.

Along with Astle, Senator Rob Garagiola, co-chairman of the Veterans Caucus; Marian Love, lead sponsor in the House of Delegates; Owings, Kreiner and VSO representatives testified before the committee.

"Testimony was succinct, direct and points were well made," Kreiner said, noting that they focused on benefits to the state and the impact on military installations and communities in the state.

"It means enticing veterans to Maryland and keeping them in Maryland," Kreiner said. "Not

one person testified in opposition of the bill."

Investigative committees appointed since the bills were first introduced have found that the gains for the state far outweigh the losses in revenue, he added.

"Maryland is one of a handful of states that tax military retirement pensions," he said. "Studies have shown that military retirees who remain in the state tend to become tax-paying homeowners who give back to their communities financially and through voluntary services, working in schools hospitals and other non-profit agencies.

"Military retirees are a resource Maryland can't afford to lose but we are losing numbers every day to states that don't tax retiree pay," he said.

The veterans braved chilly temperatures, standing shoulder-to-shoulder, most wearing ribbons, medals and insignias of their service, saluting as the national anthem played and cheering with each spoken reference to their branch of service or to the era in which they served.

The next stop for the bills will be testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee 1 p.m., Feb. 16, in the Lowe House of Delegates Office Building on College Avenue in Annapolis (across the street from the State House).

All retired and active duty military are encouraged to attend or to at least contact their representatives and voice their support for these bills, Kreiner said.

The bills, if enacted, will affect the income of military retirees who served at least 20 years in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard, for the Public Health Service Commissioned Officers, a World War II-era organization, or for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Anyone drawing a military retirement check should pay close attention," Kreiner said.

Maryland VA commits to veterans with national initiative

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System began the national initiative to create a better understanding and appreciation of veterans, known as Affirming the Commitment, during two presentations at its Perry Point and Baltimore VA medical centers Jan. 24.

Hosted by Dennis Smith, director, VAHCS at Baltimore and Perry Point, the programs featured former Special Forces Soldier retired Sgt. 1st Class Dana Bowman, who gained national recognition as the first double amputee to jump with the Army's Golden Knights parachute team.

"We are here more than just to listen to [Bowman]," Smith said. "We are making a resolution to reaffirm ourselves to our veterans just as they do when they take the oath reaffirming their commitment to our country.

"Our employees and volunteers are already committed but we can always do a better job to get to the next level."

Public Affairs officer Dave Edwards, said that one purpose of the initiative was to provide additional training for new personnel.

"Until recently, a lot of younger employees who have never served or have never known anyone who served had no appreciation of the veteran experience," Edwards said. "This initiative serves as an orientation for employees and volunteers to bring about an appreciation of what they go through as Soldiers.

"We feel that bringing in speakers like Dana on a regular basis will enhance customer service and enable them to see through different eyes," he said.

"Employees and volunteers are a key component to the organization," added Kenya Griffen, VA Baltimore public and community relations specialist. "We want to make sure everyone is in on the commitment."

Before an audience of about 100 employees and volunteers, Bowman shared his story of disaster and triumph.

He began with a film detailing how he lost his legs in an accident in Yuma, Ariz., in 1994 when he and his teammate Sgt. Jose Aguillon



Photo courtesy of www.danabowman.com

collided in midair during the team's annual training.

The two were practicing a maneuver known as the Diamond Track, which calls for the jumpers to streak away from each other for about a mile and then turn 180 degrees and fly back toward each other crisscrossing in the sky. Although they had performed the maneuver more than 50 times, things went very wrong that day, Bowman said.

"Rather than crisscrossing, we slammed into each other at a combined speed of 300 miles per hour," Bowman said.

Aguillon died instantly and Bowman's legs were severed from his body, one above the knee and one below the knee. His parachute opened on impact and after an agonizing landing he was taken to a hospital in Phoenix where doctors closed his leg wounds and stopped his internal bleeding.

After months of rehabilitation that included fittings and practice with prosthetic legs, Bowman became the first double amputee to reenlist in the Army. He did it airborne style, skydiving with his commander into the ceremony, making his dream to jump again a reality.

"Being an amputee amplifies your life and your service here amplifies the lives of our veterans," he told the audience. "From the bottom of my heart I thank you for opening your hearts to all of us."

Bowman retired from the Army in 1996. He spends most of his time working with other amputees and disabled or physically challenged people and sharing his story during public speaking engagements. He said his future plans are to continue to speak to the public and to

fly helicopters.

"There are a lot of incredible stories out there like mine," he said as he introduced his fellow spokespersons.

Both medically retired, they included a female amputee and former public affairs officer Capt. Leslie Smith and Staff Sgt. Karl Dorman, a former Maryland Army National Guard Infantry Soldier who lost his right leg above the knee after a motorcycle accident in 2002 while serving with security forces on Aberdeen Proving Ground during Operation Noble Eagle.

A resident of Cecil County, Dorman said he accomplished much of his rehabilitation, which included six operations, at Perry Point.

"I spent a lot of time talking to hospital employees," he said. "I'm here because I want to pass on how important it was to me to have people who cared helping me."

Smith said she lost her left leg above the knee three years ago after developing an allergic reaction from blood thinner medication administered to treat a blood clot. She had 12 years in the Army and she said she misses it "very much."

"The Army is a great organization," she said, "but what we are finding is that when you become a veteran, the VA becomes your family and that that support and friendship should last forever."

Dennis Smith thanked the speakers after their emotional presentations.

"Making a difference in people's lives comes from the heart," Smith said in closing. "After hearing stories like these you can better understand what a difference you are making."

Veterans to receive insurance dividends from VA

VA

More than 1.2 million veterans nationwide are in line to receive \$414 million in annual insurance dividends over the coming year, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The dividend payments from VA will be sent to an estimated 1,239,600 policyholders on the anniversary date of their policies.

Sent automatically through different payment options, the specific dividend amount will vary based on the age of the veteran, the type of insurance, and the length of time the policy has been in force.

Background

Dividends are paid each year to veterans holding certain government life insurance policies and who served between 1917 and 1956.

The dividends are drawn from the earnings on the trust

fund into which veterans have paid insurance premiums over the years, and are linked to returns on investments in U.S. government securities.

World War II veterans comprise the largest group receiving 2006 insurance dividend payments. One million veterans holding National Service Life Insurance ("V") policies are expected to receive total payments of \$322.6 million.

Another 45,000 World War II era veterans with Veterans Reopened Insurance ("J," "JR" and "JS") policies will share a dividend of \$11.4 million.

Over 186,000 Korean War era veterans who have maintained Veterans Special Life Insurance ("RS" and "W") policies can expect to receive dividends totaling \$79.1 million.

Dividends totaling \$1.2 million will be paid to 8,600 veterans holding U.S.

Government Life Insurance ("K") policies, which are held by veterans who served between World War I and 1940.

More on life insurance programs

VA administers a wide range of additional life insurance programs that provide comprehensive coverage and security for veterans and their families while not paying a direct annual dividend. They include special life insurance for disabled veterans, home mortgage life insurance coverage, and the widely utilized Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance programs.

Veterans who have questions about their policy may call the VA Insurance toll-free number, 1-800-669-8477; e-mail VAinsurance@vba.va.gov, or visit Web site, www.insurance.va.gov.

APG News

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Affirming the Commitment

www.vamhcs.med.va.gov

The "Affirming the Commitment, Opening Hearts to Veterans" initiative is a national program aimed at a better understanding and appreciation of veterans and their military service; creating a culture based on commitment and pride in serving veterans; and making the Veterans Health Administration a better place to work by reinforcing the importance of its service.

America's veterans have

made tremendous sacrifices to protect [this nation's] freedoms, and the VA is committed to providing these veterans with world-class service. VA responsibilities to them go far beyond humane and compassionate care. Affirming the Commitment will help the VA better understand and appreciate veterans and their service to [this] country.

Truly caring about veterans and making a difference in their lives will make

employees and volunteers feel good about themselves and veterans will benefit from high-quality care delivered by people who are truly committed to their jobs.

Affirming the Commitment empowers VA workers to seek greater meaning to their workday by opening their hearts to veterans.

For more information, visit the Affirming the Commitment Web site, <http://vaww.va.gov/atc>.

New museum seeks Purple Heart recipients

www.military.com

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is currently under construction in New York's Hudson River Valley at the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site. Its mission is to collect and preserve the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of the service and across the generations in an attempt to ensure that all recipients are represented. Their stories will be preserved and shared through exhibits, live and videotaped interviews with the veterans themselves and the Roll of Honor, an interactive computer program preserving the stories

of each individual. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is the first in the nation to recognize the more than 800,000 Americans wounded or killed in action while serving in the U. S. military.

For more information or to have a story preserved as a Purple Heart recipient, contact Michael J. Clark, Project Coordinator, National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site, P.O. Box 207 (374 Temple Hill Road), Vails Gate, NY 12584-0207, telephone 845-561-1765, or e-mail michael.clark@oprhp.state.ny.us.

New logistician society installs officers

Story by
REBECCA CHISHOLM
APG News

A new chapter of the International Society of Logistics, or SOLE, had its first official meeting to install officers and obtain a charter Jan. 24 at Top of the Bay.

Attending was Garrison Commander Col. John T. Wright, who told the logisticians that "it's an exciting time for a fledgling chapter on post," speaking of the impending population increase from the latest BRAC decisions. "There will be significant changes in the next four or five years. Congratulations, you've done a lot of work," he added.

Representing SOLE, the organization's president, Dr. Lloyd Muller, read the chapter's charter and presented each officer with a copy.

Installed by SOLE Executive Director Sarah James, the officers were sworn in and presented with certificates of membership.

The first officers of APG's SOLE Chapter include Chairperson, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Paul Thurston, 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion; Vice Chair, Finance, Terri Jenkins, Logistics Management Specialist, Headquarters US Army Chemical Materiel Agency; Vice Chair, Member Services, William Halke, chief, Ground Systems Division, U.S. Army Evaluation Center; Vice Chair Administration, Paul Nelson, project engineer, Homeland Defense Business Unit at Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center; and Vice Chair, Education, Dr. Atefeh McCambell, director of Aberdeen Graduate Center, Florida Institute of Technology.

Muller spoke of Thurston's dedication to the SOLE Chapter's beginnings.

"Paul said he was going to make this happen and he did," Muller said. "And when he was deployed, Terri helped pull the program through."

Saying 'thank-you' with valentines

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Children with Aberdeen Proving Ground's Child and Youth and Family Child Care services joined thousands of children across the nation in remembering America's warriors during Valentine's Day by participating in the national Valentine's for Troops project which sends heartfelt greetings to deployed service members.

Family Child Care provider Lee Mobley ran the project for CYS at the Aberdeen and Edgewood centers, helping children craft valentines and messages during their Gym Days sessions. She said she volunteered after receiving a request from CYS training and curriculum specialist Beverly Hartgrove.

"I thought it was a neat idea," Mobley said, adding that the children have "really gotten into it."

Many of the cards have 'thank you' messages while others simply say 'Happy

Valentine's Day.' All were constructed on brightly colored paper and had red, pink, white, gold or silver hearts glued to them.

schoolers, participated, creating more than 50 valentines.

"We don't have a total count yet because some FCC providers held projects in their homes," Mobley said.

Hartgrove said the valentines would be mailed to the campaign headquarters in time for the Feb. 12 cut off date.

"This is the first year we've done this project," Hartgrove said. "Lee [Mobley] offered to run it for us and it's worked out well."

"We think it's wonderful for the children to make them and it's even more special for the Soldiers who receive them," added Aphrodite Corsi, CYS director. "Who doesn't want a valentine?"

The Valentines for Troops campaign is a part of the Department of Defense "America Supports You" effort.

For more information visit www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil.



Well Being Counsel addresses varied issues

Story by
REBECCA CHISHOLM
APG News

The APG Well-Being Counsel met Jan. 19 at the post chapel to discuss Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, health and a number of other issues.

Before the meeting, Barbara Beckett, Maryland coordinator for the Safe Kids Program, presented Officer Mike Farlow with the 2005 Meritorious Award for the APG Police force's efforts in supporting traffic safety and seat belt use training. The APG police achieved a 97 percent compliance rate with the program.

Garrison Commander Col. John T. Wright thanked Beckett for the tribute and commended the police force for a job well done and the community for their support.

Rob Krauer, Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security, expressed appreciation to the community for support with the Traffic Safety/Seat Belt Use campaign.

He also praised Farlow for his work with the revised Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. Farlow has been working extensively to promote the program through Child and Youth Services programs.

MWR

Holly Shisler, MWR, spoke of the MWR Arts and Crafts Program. The Aberdeen Center, located in building 2407, is open Monday through Friday, for custom framing, plaques and engraving. The Edgewood center, located in building E-4440, is open on weekends, Friday to Sunday, and offers the full range of arts and crafts materials, equipment and services, including woodworking. Birthday and special occasion party rates and programs are also available.

Attendees were reminded that revenue generated

through MWR programs is used to supplement expenses of other APG community events, programs and facilities.

The APG Army Family Action Plan Symposium will take place in mid-March. Issues identified will be tracked through the Well-Being Council. (See Feb. 9 APG News issue for how to submit issues to the AFAP.)

KUSAHC

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic's new Web site, <http://www.narmc.amedd.army.mil/kusahe/>, includes information on policies, hours, the pharmacy, health class schedules, TRICARE updates and more.

A temporary fix has been implemented with the appointment line and the permanent fix should be in place within two months. Once implemented, patients will call one number, 410-278-KIRK, for all appointments. The phone line will offer menu options.

The KUSAHC staff is currently being trained on the new Electronic Medical Record system: the Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application, or AHLTA, a clinical information system that generates and maintains a comprehensive lifelong, computer-based patient record for each military health system beneficiary. During this time, availability of appointments will decrease up to 33 percent.

Pharmacy renovations will take place in March and April with little affect to users.

TRICARE Online can be used to obtain information and schedule appointments. Each eligible family member will be issued an individual password when using the system.

KUSAHC has recently conducted programs focused on diabetic patients. The next focus area is women's health.

The flu vaccine is now available for civilian employees. Civilians can report to

Occupational Health to obtain the vaccine. All others who desire the vaccine should go to the Immunization Clinic. A nasal vaccine is also available.

AAFES

Renovation continues in the main store with anticipated completion the end of March. Because of this, Anthony's Pizza is closed.

APG is sending a letter to AAFES HQ requesting replacement of gas pumps at the Shoppette. The pumps are old and broken and replacement parts are no longer available. The broken vacuum will also be addressed.

Church's Chicken is no longer projected for APG, however, a 'Subway' store should open within the next 6 months.

A new AAFES general manager will arrive Feb. 28.

Directorate of Installation Operations

To report problems caused by recent storms, call the work order desk, 410-306-1400 or on-post 4-1400.

Residents who have phone problems should seek service from VERIZON and provide their receipt to the Housing Office for reimbursement.

Repairs on the handicap door at the Post Office will take place when funding is provided.

Other garrison news

Military Appreciation Day is scheduled for May 18.

Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby is surveying playgrounds for repair and replacement and new location.

The next blood drive will be held in the Chapel, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 12.

Wright closed the meeting by informing all that APG is in the early planning stages for the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the installation.

The next Well-Being Counsel meeting will be at 9:30 a.m., Feb. 23 at the Chapel.

Visit

From front page

period. The work done here is very important to protect the military and, more importantly, the public against the threat of chemical weapons.”

Especially, added Winkenwerder, since our adversaries continue to develop such dangerous materials.

Ross concurred. “ICD is a unique national resource,” she said. “Many universities, other labs in the nation do biological research. For medical chemical defense, this is the only game in town. Even those universities that do such research using very dilute agent, do so under the oversight of this organization.

“It is a repository of scientific excellence,” Ross said. “The main resource is the personnel. The intellectual capital here is unequalled.”

MRICD’s personnel and the enthusiasm they have for their work also left an impression on Winkenwerder.

Dr. John Graham demonstrated the technologies his lab is using to measure the depth of burns caused by exposure to the blistering agent sulfur mustard and how they are testing diagnostic instrumentation

that can quickly, accurately and noninvasively evaluate such injuries in the field. In addition, Graham is evaluating wound dressings and debridement techniques that will facilitate the healing of sulfur mustard-induced skin injuries.

Dr. Thomas Logan showed off the institute’s recently renovated Chemical Exclusion Area, a unique facility for the storage, usage and distribution of both biological and chemical surety materials, such as chemical warfare agents and botulinum toxins.

Dr. Robert Kan and Tracey Hamilton demonstrated the advanced technology of the institute’s new JEOL 7401F Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope and presented current findings of the effects of chemical warfare nerve agents on the cellular components of the central nervous system.

A medical doctor himself, Winkenwerder was particularly interested in the training programs and materials developed by the institute’s Chemical Casualty Care Division.

Dr. Charles Hurst, chief of the division, provided an overview of the courses and materials the division provides to military and civilian health care providers, field medics, first responders and now hos-

pital personnel, with their newest course, the year-old Hospital Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive Incidents Course.

As part of the briefing, Hurst introduced the visitors to the division’s interactive Virtual Nerve Agent Casualty Assessment CD. In a real-time program, the video sets a chemical warfare agent exposure scenario and allows the viewer to participate in treating the casualty, said Hurst.

Equipped with a control pad with which to select their treatment options, Winkenwerder and his fellow visitors participated in one of the CD’s training exercises.

MRICD’s collaborative initiatives, such as its Interagency Collaborative Research Program, developed to aid researchers external to the institute in conducting chemical warfare agent studies, were given particular attention.

Dr. S. Randolph Long, director of Chemical Countermeasures, in the Science and Technology Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security, discussed initiatives for cooperation between MRICD and the DHS and Dr. George Famini presented information on the new Chemical Security Analysis Center, recently established at

APG to be a collaborative effort among DHS, MRICD, the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

Winkenwerder applauded MRICD’s efforts to reach out to and work with these and other government agencies and stated that such cooperation and sharing of government resources was a goal of health affairs.

“We’re trying to take a look at all the medical research across DoD,” Winkenwerder

said. “We’re looking at opportunities to more effectively manage our research portfolio. So much good work goes on across the services and at other

government facilities, such as NIH. One thing we want to pursue is how best to organize all those activities.”

Prayer

From front page

researching prayer. Some that stood out cited that “prayer is an elevated communication,” “no two individuals pray alike,” “prayer can provide a vital means to cultivate a deeper understanding of one’s self,” and that “the act of prayer is a personal transcending force.”

“As we have seen through the Global War on Terror we have to guard and ensure for the purity of purpose in our prayers,” Boles said. “Let’s ensure our purpose makes us better servants.”

“It’s about 8 p.m. in Iraq and Afghanistan right now and some chaplain is praying for Soldiers,” he said in closing. “Let’s keep them all in our prayers.”

McLean thanked the 389th Army Band (AMC’s Own) brass quartet for providing the music, the Unit Ministry Teams, and the program participants.

“Our thanks to all who took time out today to attend and to all the Soldiers who came today,” he said. “Let’s continue to pray for them.”

Maryland Army National Guard chaplain Lt. Col. William S. Lee gave the benediction.

“Thank you for the inspiration and encouragement you’ve given us here today,” he said. “May we always be a nation that seeks your guidance and may we always be one nation under you, our God.”

Attendees seemed to enjoy the service.

“I thought it was outstanding,” said Master Sgt. Elder Williams, sergeant major of

the Joint Personal Effects Depot. “Growing up, I remember how I learned to pray strenuously,” he said. “When I got away from it I always felt frustrated and angry. I really enjoyed every minute of this.”

“This was the first prayer luncheon I ever attended,” added Kelly Clester, JPED processor typist. “General Bole’s speech was wonderful. I really enjoyed it.”

Capt. Yun J. Kim, 143rd Ordnance Battalion chaplain, agreed. “The speech was so impressive,” he said. “And it was good to see so many young Soldiers in attendance.”

Garrison secretary Churon Ringgold added that she regularly attends the National Prayer Breakfast observances.

“Prayer is my foundation. Everybody needs it,” she said. “I enjoyed the sense of humor of the speaker and the entire speech.”

Sgt. 1st Class Israel Salgado, a 143rd Ordnance Battalion drill sergeant escorted 10 Soldiers from companies A, B and C to the event

“They all seemed to enjoy it,” he said of the Soldiers. “It was great to see everyone from all ranks come together in prayer.”

History of the National Prayer Breakfast

The purpose of the National Prayer Breakfast is to bring together the leadership of the United States in recognition of the moral and religious values upon which the nation was founded.

In 1942, Prayer Breakfast groups were inaugurated in the Senate and in the House of Representatives. Since then, these groups have continued weekly meetings to discuss spiritual needs.

In 1953, members of the Senate and House prayer groups gathered with President Eisenhower for prayer and worship to seek guidance for the national leadership and to reaffirm faith and dependence on God. The breakfast, known originally as the Presidential Prayer Breakfast, became an annual tradition.

Each year, soon after Congress convenes, the members meet for discussion and prayer for what is now known as the Annual National Prayer Breakfast.

In 1970, the name was changed to the National Prayer Breakfast to emphasize less the individuals involved and more the purpose of their gathering.

The president, vice president, the Cabinet, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, government officials, military leaders and others, normally attend the breakfast.

Since the inauguration of the breakfast the idea of men and women in positions of responsibility meeting together privately and without publicity has spread to every state, scores of cities, and to parliaments and congresses on every continent.

Community Notes

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 19
HOLY EUCHARIST
SERVICES**

The Church of the Holy Trinity, located at 2929 Level Rd. in Churchville, will hold Holy Eucharist services 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Join the church in the Parish Hall after the 10 a.m. Eucharist for fellowship and refreshment. The Sunday School will meet in the Parish House next door at 9:45 a.m. The children will join the service in time for Holy Communion. On the second Sunday the 10 a.m. service is a children's service Regular Sunday school is suspended.

For more information, call 410-836-2227.

**EVANGELIST SPEAKS
IN EDGEWOOD**

Pastor Stephen Schuessler and the congregation of Edgewood Assembly of God, 803 Edgewood Road in Edgewood, extend 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 the Rev. Jeremiah G. Williams, Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Baltimore, as a guest preacher at 3:30 p.m. 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
TOASTMASTERS
MEETS ON TUESDAY**

Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562, which usually meets on the first and third Monday's, will hold its meeting on Tuesday because of the President's Day holiday. The meeting will be held at the Gunpowder Club at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground at 11:40 a.m.

The club offers an opportunity for people on and off base to improve the communication, leadership, and to overcome the fear of public speaking. Lunch will be available.

For more information, call 410-734-6573.

**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.

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."

GRANDMA'S BOY

Friday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

Starring, Allen Covert, Shirley Jones, Shirley Knight, Jonathan Loughran, Doris Roberts

By day, 35-year-old Alex (Covert) is the world's oldest video game tester. But by night, he is privately developing the next big game for the X-Box generation. When one of his roommates (Loughran) spends all the rent money on Filipino hookers, Alex is kicked out of his apartment, and finds himself forced to live with his grandmother (Roberts) and her friends Grace (Jones) and Bea (Knight). (Rated R)

HOODWINKED (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

Animated

It's "Little Red Riding Hood" in reverse. Furry and feathered cops from the animal

world investigate a domestic disturbance at Granny's cottage, involving a girl, a wolf and an axe. The charges are many: breaking and entering, disturbing the peace, intent to eat and wielding an axe without a license. This case might be tied to the elusive "Goody Bandit" who has been stealing the recipes of goody shops everywhere. (Rated PG)

CASANOVA

Saturday, Feb. 18, 9 p.m.

Starring Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller, Jeremy Irons, Lena Olin
Notorious playboy Casanova (Ledger) meets his match in Venetian babe Francesca (Miller), who seems to be the only woman able to resist his charms. Through the clever use of disguise, Casanova gets closer to her, but he finds that pursuing Francesca might also endanger his life. (Rated R)

POST SHORTS

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/FWP_registration.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.

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 Newcomer Orientation

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Newcomer Orientation 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.

APG seeks volunteers

APG is currently seeking additional members for its Restoration Advisory Board.

Apply online at www.apg.army.mil by clicking on "Directorates," "Safety, Health & Environment," "Environmental Conservation and Restoration Division," "Restoration Advisory Board" and then "Application Form."

For more information and an application, call the Information Line, 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998 by March 15.

Pet walk-in clinic March 8

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility is holding a Walk-In Clinic for vaccinations and micro-chipping 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 8.

Available services will include rabies and distemper shots for dogs and cats, and tests for kennel cough, leukemia, fecal exams and more.

There will be no sick call that day.

Micro-chipping of pets is mandatory for those residing on Army installations. Pet owners who cannot attend the

Walk-In Clinic should call the VTF for an appointment.

The VTF staff would like to thank the community for all the donated pet food and cat litter it has received.

For more information, call 410-278-4604/3911.

Scholarships for military spouses

The National Military Family Association is 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/>.



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.

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.

Spring cheerleading

Spring Cheerleading begins the first week of April. Registration will be held through Feb. 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 is \$20. Classes will be held 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.

Play Blarney on the Green at Ruggles Golf Course

MWR will sponsor Blarney on the Green noon, March 17 at Ruggles Golf Course, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, rain or shine. Annual patrons pay \$25 each, other participants pay \$35 each. Cost includes greens fee with cart for 9 holes, food and beverages, prizes and bagpiper

entertainment.

For more information or to make reservations, call Ruggles Golf Course, 410-278-4794.

Youths can register for Tee ball/Baseball program

Child and Youth Services will hold registration for the Tee ball/Baseball program through Feb. 28. Cost of registration is \$40 for baseball, \$30 for tee ball 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.

Travel to Down Under

G'day mate. MWR will sponsor a trip to Australia, July 24 through Aug. 7. The trip lasts 15 days and 12 nights in Melbourne, Darwin and Sydney. Cost is \$4,512; a deposit of \$2,965 per couple or \$1,482 per person is due at the time of booking. Final payment is due by June 9.

Cost includes roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles, Calif., to Australia, three star hotel accommodations, a tour of Cleland Wildlife Reserve, Melbourne, and a tour of Darwin and Sydney. Prices are subject to change without notice.

Open to all DoD card holders.

For more information or to register, call 410-278-4907/4011, building 3326, or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

Arts and Crafts has ceramics parties

The Arts and Crafts Shop, building E-4440, offers ceramics parties for children's birthday parties or any special occasion. There are different packages to choose from. Parties include balloons, paints, brushes, ceramics to paint and instructions. Parties last about two hours.

For more information or to schedule a party, call 410-436-2153.

NAF Equipment Sale

The APG Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund has a 1992 Black Bear Shed, 12' by 32' with a treated floor and plywood exterior, for sale. Interested patrons can view it in the parking lot of building 2407.

The sale will be through sealed bids. The minimum bid is \$750. Payment may be received by cash or check. All bids should be mailed to MWR Fund, P. O. Box 627 and clearly marked Ruth Overbay, or, they may be turned into building 2727.

All bids must be received by 4 p.m., March 2. There will be no refunds and equipment is sold as is. Purchaser must remove item within five days after sale.




Social Hour

Every Friday
at Top of the Bay
in the Downunder lounge

5 - 9 p.m.

Free Snacks

Billiard room

Cash Bar

Games



Bldg 30
410-278-2552

Easter Sunday Brunch
April 16
and
Mother's Day Buffet Dinner
May 14

Aberdeen Youth Services to participate in ImageMakers national photo contest

MWR

Aberdeen Youth Services is joining a nationwide search to identify talented young artists for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's ImageMakers National Photography Contest.

Sponsored by the Circuit City Foundation, the contest is part of a comprehensive initiative encouraging artistic skills, cultural enrichment and creativity in the medium of photography.

As a participant in the ImageMakers National Photography Contest, AYS may submit members' photography in four age divisions and five categories, including color process, black-and-white process, alternative process, digital and photo essay.

Selected photos will compete at the regional level; regional winners will be judged nationally.

Forty-four national winners will be named and their pho-



Photo by DOMINIQUE GIBSON, ABERDEEN YOUTH CENTER
This photo of pandas at rest won for the age 9 and under 35 mm category in the 2005 Imagemaker's Contest. (See APG News archive edition May 12, 2005, for more examples of winning photographs, www.apgnews.apg.army.mil.)

graphy displayed in the ImageMakers National Photography Contest traveling exhibition and at special BGCA events throughout the year. Winning photographers will receive an award and letter of congratulations from BGCA President Roxanne Spillett. Regional finalists will

receive a certificate of participation.

"By introducing members to photography, we are giving them the priceless opportunity to express themselves in creative and unusual ways," said Norma Warwick, facility director, AYS. "Circuit City Foundation's support will

enable members to maximize their artistic talents and develop creative thinking to last a lifetime."

Deadline for admission into the contest is March 16.

For more information, call Pam Jones, 410-278-4995 or e-mail her at pamela.a.jones@apg.army.mil.

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 Secret Life of Cee Cee Wilkes* by Diane Chamberlain
- Lovers & Players* by Jackie Collins
- Irish Crystal: a Nuala Anne McGrail novel* by Andrew Greeley
- The Empress of India: a Professor Moriarty novel* by Michael Kurland
- The 5th Horseman* by James Patterson
- 7 Deadly Wonders* by Matthew Reilly

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

SCHOOL LIAISON

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>.

Sports



APG Police Officer and Martial Arts Grand Master Irving Soto, center, demonstrates a kick for his students during a class in the Aberdeen Athletic Center Jan. 31.

APG police officer receives second martial arts hall of fame induction in New York

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground police officer Irving Soto was inducted into the 2006 World Professional Martial Arts Organization during a ceremony at New York's Madison Square Garden Jan. 29.

It was the second induction for the martial arts grandmaster whose initial entry into the hall was in 2005. This year he was recognized in the Fantastic Instructor and Fighter and World-Renowned Instructor and Demonstrator categories.

The black tie event was hosted by WPMAO founder and martial arts promoter Great Grand Master Aaron Banks and attended by several well-known martial arts and boxing professionals. Boxing great Muhammad Ali made a brief appearance, and written congratulations from actor Chuck Norris appeared inside the program.

Former heavyweight boxer Gerry Cooney was in attendance and Shihan Robert Ornes, WPMAO executive producer, hosted the program.

Soto was inducted into the hall along with martial arts greats such as Grand Master Ron Van Clief, also known as the "Black Dragon," who has appeared in more than 15 martial arts movies since 1974; Harlem Karate Institute Founder and Grand Master Dr. Ernest Hyman; Dr. Christian Harfouche of California, a Grand Master and founder of the Shorite-Ryu Tai Jutsu, Victorious Hands Karate; and Great Grand Master Ronald Duncan, who is often referred to as the "Father of American Ninjitsu."

Other notable inductees included Grand Masters Billy Davis, Kaicho T. Nakamura and Louis Neglia.

"It was a big honor to be mentioned with the best in martial arts last year," Soto said, "But to receive this honor twice is overwhelming."

"I do this to help the community and to show kids that where there's a will there's a way," he said.

Working with the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security and with Soldiers is an honor in itself, he

added.

"They are the most important people," he said. "Where ever I go, I am proud to represent the APG community."

A Grandmaster 10th degree black belt, Soto has been studying the martial arts for 48 years. He is a world champion kick boxer and grappler as well as a champion in Kumite, a form of extreme Japanese fighting.

In addition to his regular duties with the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security, Soto is a volunteer instructor for Morale, Welfare and Recreation Jujitsu classes which are held at the Aberdeen Athletic Center, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday.

Charles Heinsohn, MWR programmer, said that the number of participants in Soto's classes is increasing as his reputation as an accomplished instructor spreads.

"Students seem very happy to learn from him," Heinsohn said. "We at MWR are very grateful for the service he provides for the APG community."

Soto is an eight-time World Kumite Undisputed Champion.

He has taught tactical defense at the APG Police Academy, as well as to officers from the Treasury Department, U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation and to members of the Navy Seals.

He has worked in television and motion pictures with top martial artists and stunt men and has authored four books. The native of Brooklyn, N.Y., said that one of his greatest pleasures is returning home every weekend to volunteer at a Manhattan youth center for at-risks youths serving as a mentor while training them in self defense.

"These kids live in low income housing and their parents can't afford these kinds of lessons," Soto said. "I do it to help them out and because I believe that children are the voices and leaders of tomorrow and that we have to spend time with them, teaching them and helping them grow."

Mustard

From front page

the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is expected to declare that all treaty requirements for the ABCDF have been met. At that time they will cease all verification activities at the ABCDF, where they have maintained a continuous presence since the start of destruction operations back in 2003.

Explaining next steps at the ABCDF Lovrich said, "Our work doesn't stop here. Now that we have reached the end of operations, we will focus our attention on safely closing the facility in accordance with all applicable public and environmental laws."

Reflecting on the path ahead, Bechtel Aberdeen Project Manager Mark Seely noted, "We began safe operations in April 2003. It's almost bitter sweet to now disassemble and close the facility,

but we are proud of our contributions to this mission thus far, and are ready to finish the job safely and efficiently."

To date, the Army has disposed of more than 38 percent of the nation's stored chemical agent and more than 47 percent of the stored chemical weapon munitions.

APG is the second out of nine chemical stockpile sites to have destroyed 100 percent of its stockpile.

The Army completed disposal operations at the

Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System, located 800 miles southwest of Hawaii, in 2000.

For more information about the end of operations at the ABCDF or closure activities, contact the ABCDF Public Affairs Office at 410-436-5253. For additional information, call the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Public Affairs Office toll-free phone number, 1-800-488-0648 or visit CMA's Web site, www.cma.army.mil.

Plunge

From front page

Maryland staff to support the Polar Bear Plunge by attending the kick-off Holiday Heroes Bash in December at the Downtown Merritt Athletic Club with Michael McCrary, former Baltimore Ravens football player, and Rex Ryan, Ravens defensive coach. McCrary and

Ryan were named celebrity hosts for the event.

That evening, the Baltimore community, Ravens' cheerleaders, several current Ravens players, and Special Olympic Maryland athletes and their families were in attendance. Most of those in attendance, especially the SOMD athlete, only know Bowlus and the Ultimate Fans as Ravens fans because of the football

outfits and painted faces. So the "fans" became part of the entertainment - autographing and handing out personal football cards and mingling with the audience.

They also supported SOMD this year by filming a Polar Bear Plunge commercial daring people to support this cause and the SOMD athletes. The commercial was shot at the Ravens Training Facility in early December with Jimmy Merrick, a well-known

SOMD athlete, one of the famous Washington Redskins "Hogettes," and McCrary. The commercial included Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich, Ryan, and many of the Ravens defensive payers. The commercial was shown on Comcast channels leading up to the 'Plunge.'

Both Bowlus and Berkshire plan to "plunge" again next year and encourage others to join in the fun.

'Sergeant York' bound for Texas

ARL

A small part of Army history, an old M247 "Sergeant York," had been setting around Aberdeen Proving Ground for almost 20 years until Jan. 23 when it was loaded onto a huge C-5A Galaxy airplane and flown to El Paso, Texas, where it now has a new home at the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery and Fort Bliss Museum.

The M247 "Sergeant York" was a self-propelled anti-aircraft weapon with a twin 40mm Bofors gun that was originally intended to share the battlefield with the M1 Abrams tank and the Bradley fighting vehicles. However, technical problems and cost overruns resulted in the program being canceled in December of 1986 after about 50 of the vehicles had been produced.

According to the U.S. Army Material Command History Office documents, three of the M247s were sent to APG for an "engineering shakedown."

After the program's cancellation, the M247 spent most of the next 20 years on Spesutie Island sitting in the woods near Air Base Range 6.

Based on the chassis of an M48 Patton tank, the M247 was briefly considered for possible use as a test bed for robotic vehicle development but wasn't used.

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory, which had possession of the vehicle, found a new home for the M247 with the Fort Bliss Museum, according to James Poole, ARL Survivability and Lethality Analysis Directorate.

Using an M60 tank, workers from the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center towed the Sergeant York to the airfield. It was then winched into the C-5A by members of the 433 Air Lift Wing, 68th Air Lift Squadron, Kelly AFB, San Antonio, Texas, who transported the Sergeant York to Fort Bliss.

James D'Angina, Fort Bliss Museum curator, said "The museum is very pleased to get the M-247 and it should be ready to go on display by the end of February."

Although it was never fielded, the "York" is still part of the Army's air defense artillery history, D'Angina pointed out.



Photo by BILL REKTORIK

"Sergeant York" is winched into the gaping mouth of the C-5A Galaxy, Jan. 23 headed for the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery and Fort Bliss Museum.

"The M-247 is the last true SPAAG (Self Propelled Anti-Aircraft Gun) developed for the United States Army's Air Defense Artillery Branch," D'Angina said. "We plan to have a text board describing its testing and more or less discussing its

technological advances over past SPAAGS."

One of the highlights of the museum's York exhibit will be documenting the actual movement of the M247 from APG to Fort Bliss, D'Angina added.



Army Nurse Corps celebrates 105 years

Story by
**COL. JANET L. WILSON AND
LT. COL. KATHLEEN WILTSIE**
KUSAHC

Despite the fact that there have been Army nurses since 1775, the Army Nurse Corps did not become an official part of the Army Medical Department until 1901. February 2 signifies the official birth of the ANC and 2006 marks the 105th anniversary of its establishment by Congress.

The distinguished contributions of female contract nurses during and following the 1898 Spanish-American War became the justification and demonstrated the need for a permanent female nurse corps.

When the United States entered World War II, there were about 7,000 nurses on active duty. By 1945, more than 57,000 Army Nurses were assigned to hospital ships, trains, flying ambulances, field hospitals, evacuation stations and general hospitals at home and overseas.

Today, there are fewer than 3,400 commissioned officers in the active component of the ANC. The U.S. Army Reserves and the National Guard Bureau with the active component, round out the total complement of Army Nurse Corps officers.

Recent years have seen Army



Photo courtesy of <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Aug1998/9808123k.jpg>
An Army nurse assists with treatment of a patient during World War I.

nurses active throughout the world both in armed conflicts and humanitarian endeavors. In 1983, they supported combat troops in Grenada, in 1989 in Panama and in 1991 in the Middle East.

Today, the legacy of these military nurses lives on. Currently, Army nurses serve throughout the world in support of multiple military and humanitarian actions and in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

It was not until 1955 that males became a part of the ANC. As part of the 84th Congress, Public Law 294 on Aug. 9, 1955, authorized male nurses to be commissioned in the

U.S. Army Reserve for assignment to the ANC.

Second Lieutenant Edward Lyon, a nurse anesthetist from Kings Park, N.Y., became the first male to be commissioned in the Army Nurse Corps Reserves. He entered active duty on Oct. 10, 1955.

Today male nurses represent 36 percent of the Corps. Brig. Gen. William T. Bester was the first male to be appointed to brigadier general in the corps and was sworn in as the 21st chief in 2000. He also served as commander of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Aberdeen Proving Ground

from 2002 until his retirement in 2004.

The corps' recent professional evolution reflects not only the requirement of a transformational Army but also its expanded roles in support of the health care needs of the nation.

Army nurses compete with other members of the Army Medical Department for command positions. For example, Maj. Gen. Gale S. Pollock is the first ANC chief to be appointed a two-star general and serves as the commanding general of Tripler Army Medical Center and the Pacific Regional Medical Command; the U.S. Army Pacific Surgeon; and the Lead Agent for TRICARE Pacific, Hawaii.

The ANC leads the way in civilian nursing education. A bachelor's of science in nursing is the minimum requirement to be commissioned in the active component of the ANC. In the general population of nurses in which military nurses are a part, fewer than 40 percent have obtained this level of education. Furthermore, 40 percent of the corps has obtained higher level degrees in nursing.

Additionally, the ANC represents a more diverse work environment than the general population of nurses. The most notable difference rests

within the Caucasian and African American ethnic groups. In the ANC, Caucasians and African-Americans represent about 68 percent and 18 percent of the Corps respectively, and 86 and 5 percent in the general population of nurses.

Whether it's in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bosnia, Iraq or APG, where there are Soldiers, Army nurses can be found.

Collectively Army nurses have unselfishly come to the aid of victims of disaster and disease throughout the world.

Over time, the mission has grown, yet there has been one constant—the devotion of the individual nurse in providing excellent nursing care.

Today, as Soldiers stand on point for this nation, defending freedom across the globe, one can rest assured, should they get wounded or become ill, they will have an Army nurse by their side.

Whenever called, ready, caring, and proud, Army nurses respond.

(Editor's note: Source used in preparation of this article was Army Nurse Corps Historical Collection documents summarized by Maj. Debora Cox, past ANC Historian, Aug. 1, 2001, updated and edited by Maj. Jennifer Petersen, current ANC historian.)

Taking care of children's teeth

Harford County component of the American Dental Association

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

Although fluoridated water supplies have reduced the prevalence of tooth decay for many youngsters, it's still important that parents and care givers teach children how to brush and floss. They should also pay attention to what they eat and how often they snack and schedule regular dental examinations.

"Children's teeth are meant to last a lifetime and a healthy smile is important to a child's self-esteem," said Lt. Col. Colleen C. Shull, commander, APG Dental Clinic Command. "With proper care, a balanced diet and regular dental visits, their teeth can remain healthy and strong."

Many parents across the country will issue a common refrain at dinnertime tonight: "You'd better eat that, it's good for you" There's another old favorite in the parental arsenal of dietary admonitions: "Don't eat that, it'll rot your teeth!"

"Now more than ever, we are faced with a bewildering array of food choices from fresh produce to sugar-laden processed convenience meals and snack foods. What we eat and when we eat it may affect not only our general health but also our oral health," Shull said.

Americans are consuming foods and drinks high in sugar and starches more often and in larger portions than ever before.

"It's clear that "junk" foods and drinks gradually have replaced nutritious beverages and foods for many people," she said.

Alarming, a steady diet of sugary foods and drinks can ruin teeth, especially among those who snack throughout the day. Common activities may be contributing to the tendency toward tooth decay. These include "grazing" habitually on foods with minimal nutritional value, and frequently sipping on sugary drinks.

When sugar is consumed over and over again in large, often hidden amounts, the harmful effect on teeth can be dramatic. Sugar on teeth provides food for bacteria, which produce acid. The acid in turn can eat away the enamel on teeth.

Almost all foods have some type of sugar that cannot and should not be eliminated from the diet. Many of them contain important nutrients and add enjoyment to eating. But there is a risk of tooth decay if the diet is high in sugars and starches. Starches can be found in everything from bread to pretzels to salad dressing, so read labels and plan carefully for a balanced nutritious diet.

Reducing the risk of tooth decay

- If choosing sugary foods and drinks, do so with meals. Saliva production increases during meals and helps neutralize acid production and rinse food particles from the mouth.
- Limit between-meal snacks. If craving a snack, choose nutritious foods and consider chewing sugarless gum afterward to increase saliva flow and help wash out food and decay producing acid.
- Drink more water.
- Brush teeth twice a day and clean between teeth with floss or interdental cleaner.
- See a dentist regularly.

Army recruiting for physician assistants

Story by
ANN ERICKSON
Army News Service

The Army is short about 100 physician assistants and is stepping up attempts to recruit both civilians and Soldiers to do the job.

This is the first time that the Army Medical Department, or AMEDD, has recruited certified civilian physician assistants to join the Army, said Capt. James Jones, Interservice Physician Assistant Program manager. He said the Army's modularity and high operations tempo contributed to this change.

"We have a recruiting mission to obtain 20 civilian physician assistants this year, but this is likely to rise to 60," he said.

The Army offers qualified officers, warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers an educational opportunity to become a physician assistant through the IPAP located at the AMEDD Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The Army trains alongside candidates from the Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard and U.S. Public Health Service, said IPAP officials.

"The Army plans on filling the shortages by increasing the number of students in the IPAP - this year we are training 92 Army students versus 60," Jones said.

Upon completion of the program, graduates earn a master's degree from the University of Nebraska and receive a com-

mission in the Army Medical Specialist Corps as a second lieutenant. Officer students receive constructive credit for their commissioned service in accordance with DOD Instruction 6000.13.

Graduates must pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam before they can provide healthcare to Soldiers, AMEDD officials said.

There is also a new program called the Requirements Completion Course that is designed to help Soldiers complete the program's prerequisite courses.

"This is another way that we are working to reduce the shortages while still maintaining the highest quality medical provider possible," Jones said.

Army physician assistants are frontline medical responders, said Jones.

"They are usually the first medical care that Soldiers receive before being transported to a hospital," he said. "They are a critical component of the Army."

Applications for the IPAP must be sent by March 1 to the program manager at: HQ, USAREC, RCHS-SVD-PA, 1307 Third Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40121-2726.

For more information about Army physician assistants or the IPAP and its requirements, visit <http://www.armypa.info>.

(Editor's note: This article was initially released stating information could apply for the IPAP and they cannot. Certified civilian physician assis-

APG spouse aids Katrina survivors

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

While the terrible scenes from the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina left many in the nation searching their hearts and wallets to find ways to help, an Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldier's wife decided that the only way she could make a difference was to go there and share in the rebuilding process.

Jennifer Aloisi, the wife of Staff Sgt. Michael Aloisi, a trombone player in the 389th Army Band, (AMC's Own), returned from what she says she hopes is not her last trip to the ravaged area Jan. 15.

Aloisi accompanied a group of volunteers, four women and seven men, from the Mountain Christian Church in Joppa, where the family worships, on a mission to help rebuild a church in Buras, La., about 90 miles south of New Orleans.

She said that once deciding this was what she wanted to do, she discussed it with her husband.

"Our first concern was for our children," Aloisi said, referring to the couple's five offspring.

she said, noting that the three youngest are not yet in school.

Aid trips to the region are announced on the church's bulletin board and organized by church members, she said. The trips last about a week and include joining in relief and rebuilding efforts with other churches from around the nation.

The Mountain Christian group worked with volunteers from the First Christian Church in Morris, Ill., Aloisi said.

Some had specific skills such as electricians and sheet metal workers and others just wanted to lend a hand.

Buras is located in Plaquemines Parrish, where Katrina's eye made landfall. With all of its towns and communities flattened, it was one of the most devastated areas in the region.

The group drove down in two vans, and upon arriving in New Orleans, got a close up look at many of the structures they had seen on nightly news broadcasts.

"There were buildings with tarps on the roofs and someone pointed out the Superdome. We were all just pointing and

quieter everyone got. By the time we got there, we were numb. It was just so much for the mind to comprehend."

They were unprepared for the widespread devastation in Louisiana's lower region, she added.

"There were houses, totally destroyed, cars on top of houses, houses on top of cars and even in the roads," she said.

The local pastor, The Rev. Max Latham, served as their guide.

"He would meet us for dinner at the end of the day and tell us stories about the people who lived there and the destruction left by Katrina," Aloisi said, noting that he pointed out that houses sitting close to one side of the road, in one area they passed through, had been in the road when the waters receded.

Upon their arrival, at the church property the group had to "start from scratch."

Housed in the fellowship hall of the Faith Temple Ministries Church in Buras, La., they had to construct their own living and sleeping area.

Other than the Red Cross and National Guard troops from Arkansas who patrolled

prevent looting.

"By sundown we had to be on the church property," she said.

"The men installed walls, showers, a hot water heater and built 19 bunk beds from wood donated from a lumber company made from trees downed by the hurricane," Aloisi said. "Some of the wood still had bark on it."

They obtained a generator, which was used to power the refrigerator and the hot plates on which their meals were prepared.

Every morning the groups received their mission for the day, she said. Restoration projects included cleaning debris from the hall's ceiling and light fixtures where the flood waters had topped out so that electricity to the fixtures could be restored; cleaning the walls, pews, chairs and other fixtures inside the Community Prayer Center where Latham was the pastor; repairing the three crosses in front of the structure; and bulldozing the parsonage for the Faith Temple Ministries, which included removing all salvageable items and placing the remains of the structure in a designated collection area.

The group used donated tools and construction equipment to accomplish their missions.

Group members worked from sunup to sundown, about 12 hours a day. The men worked inside the building and the women cleaned up outside. At day's end they enjoyed group meals, held sing-alongs, played cards and reviewed the day's activities.

"Mattresses arrived on Friday and it was the biggest thrill for us," she said. "We'd been sleeping on air mattresses all week."

The group members took it upon themselves to accomplish other projects in addition to the mission, she added.

Even the town's inhabitants don't actually live there. They come during the day to work on their property but have to leave by sundown."

The constant sound of bulldozers knocking down buildings or removing debris accompanied the daily efforts.



Photos courtesy of JENNIFER ALOISI
Mountain Christian Church volunteers Jennifer Aloisi, left, and Penny McReynolds clean mud and debris from the ceiling and light fixtures in the Community Prayer Center that was flooded by the hurricane.

Aloisi said that although the main mission was daunting, it was the little things they accomplished that made the biggest difference. For example, as a surprise for Latham, the women removed and restored the chandelier in the church lobby. They got the men to reinstall it and got it working in time to surprise him one evening.

"He was so surprised," she said. "He started crying and called his wife right away to come see it."

In addition, sheet metal workers and electricians were determined to restore the three crosses in front of the church.

"The pastor told us when we arrived that those crosses could be seen for miles and that if we could restore them it would bring such hope to the community," Aloisi said.

Once they were repaired and relit, the response was immediate, she added.

"Cars passing by would just stop. People would either get out of their cars and take pictures or come up to the church and thank us, many with tears in their eyes," Aloisi said.

The last three days of their weeklong stay, the pastor's family and members of the congregation prepared their meals, the final one of which was an old-fashioned Louisiana shrimp boil that she said was "absolutely delicious."

On their final day, group members took time off to tour the rest of the area.

"Shrimp boats were all over the place, on roads, most destroyed," Aloisi said, adding that in one area where they came upon a downed water tower, the group posed for pictures with it to serve as an example of the devastation.

One of the most memorable moments was leaving the area and returning to New Orleans, she said.

"Seeing people walking down the streets and cars driving down the roads, it was almost unreal," she said. "That area is not mentioned much in the news but once I got back I was telling anyone who'd listen that it's still terrible down there, and there's still a lot of work that needs to be done."

She said that she feels that in the short time they were there they accomplished a lot.

"We left a nice living area for groups to follow, and I like to think what we accomplished really helped the people of that area," she said.

"If I didn't have a family I would have stayed there. It was so inspiring to meet people whose lives had been totally destroyed and do little things to bring them hope."

Aloisi said she plans to return and participate in future efforts to help restore the Plaquemines Parrish region in the spring.



Volunteers from Mountain Christian Church in Joppa pose together on a water tower that was downed by Hurricane Katrina.

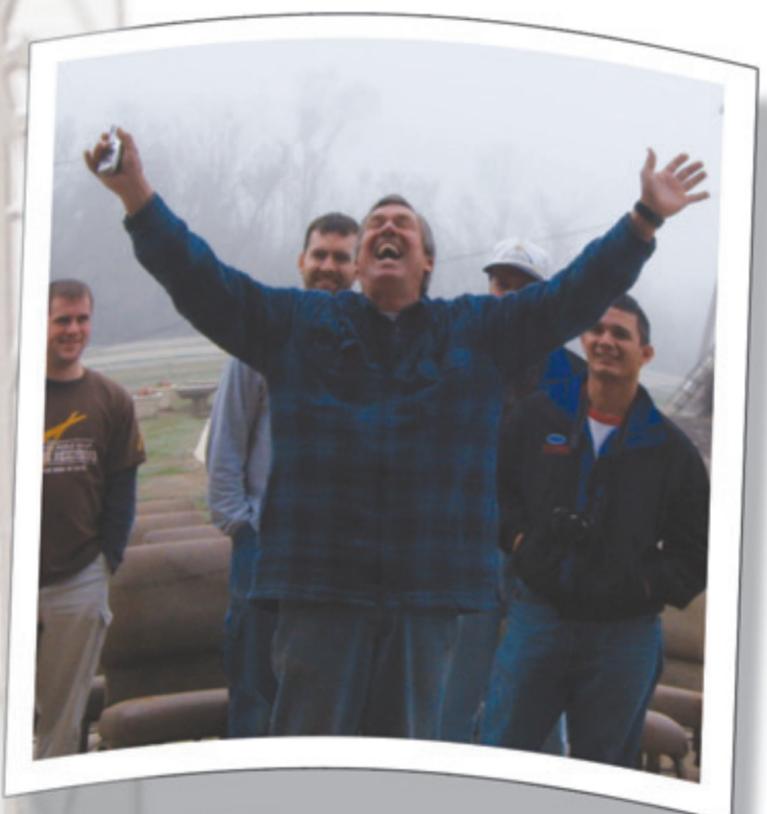
"We had to wait until he could take leave long enough to be able to look after them,"

talking," Aloisi said, "But the farther south we got, the more destruction we saw and the

the area, no other relief groups were in the area, she said. A curfew was still in force to



Mountain Christian Church volunteers work on repairing damage to the exterior of the Community Prayer Center in Buras, La.



Volunteer workers from Maryland and Illinois smile as the Rev. Max Latham, center, rejoices at the sight of a restored chandelier in the church foyer.

Background: Volunteers work on three crosses that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina in front of the Community Prayer Center in Buras, La. in January.

ILLUSTRATION BY NICK PENTZ