

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Jan. 19, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

Community Job Fair scheduled

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program will hold a Community Job Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 12, at the Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326.

A number of local employers have full or part-time positions available. Job seekers can talk to representatives from government agencies, high tech corporations, law enforcement agencies, security companies, financial companies and temporary agencies.

The fair is free and open to all members of the armed services, their family members, retired military and DoD civilian personnel.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, Employment Readiness Program, building 2754, 410-278-9669.

CBRNE commander promoted

Gen. Dan K. McNeill, commander, U.S. Army Forces Command will promote Col. Kevin R. Wendel, commander, U.S. Army 20th Support Command (CBRNE), at 2 p.m., Jan. 13, at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, building E-4516.

Activated in 2004 at APG, the command under FORSCOM brings together command and control of the Army's most specialized weapons of mass destruction operational assets. It provides a single point of contact within the Army for DoD to contact when a coordinated response to the threat or use of WMD is needed anywhere in the world.

For more information, call Barry Napp, 410-436-0400.

Italian specialty meal

The Italian Specialty Meal will be held Jan. 17 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. for military personnel, family members, Department of

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Photo by MAJ CHARLES KOHLER, MDARNG
Friends and family members anxiously await their returning Soldiers from Detachment 1, 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) assigned to the General Warren D. Hodges Armory located at Aberdeen Proving Ground on New Year's Eve.

Returning unit welcomed at armory

Story by
RICK ROTH
MDNG Public Affairs

A Maryland Army National Guard unit located on Aberdeen Proving Ground received a special gift just in time for the holidays--39 Soldiers making-up Detachment 1, 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) returned home Dec. 23 after a year of active duty service in Iraq.

"It's great to be back in the states," said 1st Lt. Angela Hubbard, who served as a forward support team leader while the unit was deployed.

Departing Maryland on Dec. 8, 2004, the unit proceeded to Fort Dix, N.J., where it mobilized for active duty and

then proceeded to Iraq.

With the specific mission of aero medical evacuation service, pioneered during the Korean War, the 1159th, composed of pilots, crew, flight medics and mechanics, provided timely evacuation of critically injured Soldiers from the battlefield.

Besides personnel, the unit deployed with six Maryland Army National Guard UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopters, which it heavily relied on.

Operating in Northern Iraq the unit logged over 4,000 flight hours while performing their mission. This pace makes aircraft readiness critical.

"You always have to be there for that 24/7 support," said Hubbard, who joined the

1159th in 2004 and spent most of the year preparing the unit for its deployment.

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of Soldiers," she said. "If the families could have seen their Soldiers in action, they'd be just as proud."

Several unit members from Maryland received medals while deployed. Chief Warrant Officer Milton Walker and Sgt. Jerome Shai were awarded the Air Medal with Valor for their heroic actions. Sgt. Robert McColligan was awarded the Bronze Star for his service.

Returning to the United States on Dec. 23, the aviation unit members were immediately placed on leave for the Christmas holiday. After

Christmas, unit members proceeded to Fort Dix to complete their out-processing from active duty. On New Year's Eve the Soldiers finally returned to their home armory [General Warren D. Hodges Armory] located in the Edgewood area of APG where a host of friends and family members eagerly received the returning Soldiers.

"We weren't sure we'd be home in time for Christmas until we got on the plane," said Sgt. 1st Class Paul McClain regarding the good timing of their return trip from the Middle East. McClain, an Edgewood resident and 19-year veteran of the unit, serves as a senior flight crew chief.

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Photo by MAJ CHARLES KOHLER, MDARNG
Sgt. 1st Class Paul McClain is surrounded by family members after returning to the Armory on New Year's Eve. Names of family members are withheld upon request.

APG office controls Army clothing and heraldry

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

A little known organization at Aberdeen Proving Ground is responsible for clothing and textiles, individual equipment and heraldic items for the Department of the Army, (G-4) including active, reserve and National Guard worldwide.

The Clothing and Heraldry Services Office, CHSO, located in building E-5027, is part of the Integrated Logistics Support Center, ILSC, under the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command.

The office is the executive agent on all matters related to Central Issue Facilities, Clothing Initial Issue Points, Army Military Clothing Sales Stores and Heraldry programs worldwide.

The office provides Army

procedural guidance to 100 Clothing Sales Stores, 56 CIFs and five initial issue points worldwide.



wide. It also serves as the functional and technical expert on AMCSS matters and provides

assistance to store managers, associates and Soldiers as well as technical assistance through the Management Assistance Visits program and online Web site at <http://tri.army.mil/LC/CP/CSO/index.htm>.

Ro n Sickles is the chief of the CHSO which employs 14 individuals. As the executive officer for DA, he said his operation is "the eyes and ears of the field."

"We provide all clothing to the Soldier including dress blues and organizational clothing and individual equipment," Sickles said.

CHSO responsibilities include seeing to the needs of active, reserve and National Guard units during peace time and deployments.

"With only 14 people assigned to the clothing mission, that means CHSO staff members travel about 40 percent of the time," Sickles said. "Because our regulation is mostly governed by law, the staff must be knowledgeable in the laws and regulations

when conducting assistance visits."

The office processes about one million transactions annually saving the government about \$3 million, he said.

"Our number one priority is to make sure the Soldier has what they're entitled to," Sickles said.

For more information, contact Sickles at 410-436-9722 or email at ronald.sickles@us.army.mil.

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MLK celebration set for Jan. 12

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

With the theme, "Remember, Celebrate, Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off," Aberdeen Proving Ground commemorates the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a celebration ceremony 8:30 a.m., Jan. 12, at the Edgewood Stark Recreation Center, building 4140.

Minister Teresa A. Samuel of Zion Temple Apostolic Church is the guest speaker.

"Everyone is invited to join us for breakfast in the Edgewood dining facility located in building E-4225 before the program," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Serino, APG Garrison equal opportunity advisor.

Breakfast starts at 7:30 a.m. and costs \$1.75 per person. For more information, contact

Serino at 410-278-1534 or call Sgt. Reagan Gardley, 410-436-8075; Kathleen Crosby, 410-278-1137; or Linda Patrick, 410-436-1023.

Minister Teresa A. Samuel

Samuel has been a Harford County resident for 11 years and a member of Zion Temple Apostolic Church for 10. She has served with the church's Women's Ministry, Community Outreach program, and youth and singles ministries. She currently serves as the youth pastor under the direction of Dr. L. LaMont Turner, pastor.

Samuel attended public school in Camden, N.J., and she is currently pursuing a degree in theology through Enon Bible College and a degree in psychology through Harford Community College.

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Awareness is key! Everyone is a sensor.

Do: Observe and report:

- Unusual or suspicious activity or suspected surveillance.
- Unusual questions or requests for information relating to capabilities, limitations, or operational information.
- Unusual vehicles operating in or around the installation.
 - Unusual phone calls, messages or e-mails.
 - Unusual contacts, on or off post.
- Unusual aerial activity near or around installation.
- Any possible compromise of sensitive information.

Do not:

- Discuss any aspect of military operations or planning.
- Discuss military capabilities or limitations.
- Discuss FP measures, capabilities or posture.
- Disclose any information related to unit deployments.

Report any suspicious activity immediately to the APG Police:

Aberdeen, 410-306-2222, (4-2222)
Edgewood, 410-436-2222, (5-2222)

Off post in Maryland, 1-800-492-TIPS (8477) or call 911.

Your call may save lives.

Note - Do not take this card with you when on travel outside of the United States.

Officers clean up installation graveyards



Photos courtesy of DLES
These American revolution era plots were covered with weeds and displayed crooked and broken markers before clean up work began in APG's Edgewood Area in November.

Story by
REBECCA J. CHISHOLM
APG News

The law enforcement officers of the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security's Marine, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement Division took it upon themselves to do some much needed clean up and repair work in some of the more remote areas of the APG in late November.

"We're out in the bushes almost every day," said Bill Armstrong, special agent. "Over the years we've noticed that some of the old cemeteries at Edgewood had deteriorated to the point that in some cases they were hardly recognizable as the final resting place of APG's early settlers."

Thus, Armstrong, along with officers Larry Merrill, Charles Voltz and George Roberts worked together to tend to the grounds. Many graves were overgrown with vines and underbrush, with fallen trees and broken fences.

"They were in pretty bad shape," Armstrong said. "We gathered up our chain saws and post-hole diggers and went to work."

The grounds of APG came from thousands of acres of old farmlands, home sites and graveyards, that were not maintained. Some of the sites date back to the 1600s and 1700s.

"APG is a fascinating place, history-wise," Armstrong said. "So, it was pretty gratifying. There's a lot of history here at APG. This land was someone's home before it became a part of APG. These folks deserve our respect and our appreciation for their sacrifices. It was the least we could do."



New fencing around several graveyards on APG are evidence of work done by law enforcement officers of the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security Marine, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement Division.

Scout project helps Rock State Park

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

A member of Bel Air Boy Scout Troop 777 conducted an environmental project that should propel him to the coveted rank of Eagle Scout during his Leadership Service Project held at Rocks State Park Aug. 2 to 5.

Luke Dumm, 18, the son of Larry Dumm, chief of the Visual Information Services Division of the Directorate of Information Management, led the project, which consisted of researching, designing and coordinating the construction of four interpretive signs along the park's hiking trails.

The interpretive signs identify and preserve the historic importance of the park sites that include the La Grange Iron Works, the Stone Quarry, the King and Queen Seat which features towering rock outcrops and vistas, and the Colliers Pit, which was used in charcoal making.

Dumm said he got the idea while talking to park Ranger Eric Cook.

"He suggested it and said he thought I would be capable of doing a very good job," Dumm said.

Along with planning, organizing and recruiting volunteers for the project, as well as coordinating with the park's staff and rangers and documenting

every move, Dumm had to research the sign plaques with the Harford County Historical Society. When completed, they were authenticated by the Department of Natural Resources Historian in Annapolis.

The project consisted of 427 project service hours during which about 15 volunteers, friends and members of Troop 777, constructed the signs from project materials provided by the Rocks State Park management. In addition,



Photo courtesy of LARRY DUMM
Pictured clockwise, Adam Fauerbach, Jon Santora and Luke Dumm, volunteers and members of Bel Air Scout Troop 777, mix cement in a five-gallon bucket to set the posts for a new interpretive sign at Rocks State Park in August 2005 as part of Dumm's Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

Dumm clocked an additional 127 hours in planning and execution.

He thanked his parents, fellow scouts, Rock State park staff and park ranger Jerry Skrzytiec in particular for their help and support.

A freshman at Gettysburg College, Dumm has been a member of Troop 777 for seven years. His Eagle Scout project went before the rank board of review Oct. 10 and his Eagle rank was approved last week.

Larry Dumm, who served as an adult coordinator on the project, said that he was impressed with the sense of purpose by the volunteers who braved the August heat to help on the project.

"It was a pleasure to be an adult coordinator with this project," Dumm said. "The volunteers were all super."

"Needless to say I am very proud of Luke and his personal commitment to pursue this accomplishment. He has made a real contribution to the Rocks State Park hiking trails system.

He added that Eagle leadership projects require a tremendous amount of planning, execution and evaluation, all done according to thorough Scout standards.

"Now that Luke has reached the rank of Eagle Scout, it is easy to see why only a percentage of the scouts ever reach this level of accomplishment," he said.

OC&S awards safety and environmental honors

Story by
KHAALID WALLS
OC&S

More than 20 Soldiers and civilians were recognized Dec. 14 at the Ball Conference Center during the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' annual Safety and Environmental Awards ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Vincent Boles, chief of Ordnance and the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools commander, applauded their individual commitment to upholding high safety and environmental standards and implored them to let their efforts resonate.

"It's not just about the folks in this room," he said. "It's about all the individuals you're going to go out and touch."

Boles also emphasized the need for the constant emphasis of safety in the field, where, he said, many Soldiers are being lost because of preventable accidents.

"Forty percent of our Soldiers are not coming home because of accidents. Safety is not

just about rules, checklists and clipboards. It's about leadership and setting an example for others to follow."

The message of the ceremony's keynote speaker, Col. Tony Francis, commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Center, was a simple one: "It's not easy being green."

Francis centered his remarks on the words of a popular children's television character to draw emphasis on the unseen efforts of maintaining high environmental and safety standards.

"It's not easy being green, because it seems you blend in with so many other ordinary things," Francis said, quoting lyrics from a Kermit the Frog song.

Francis said it was important to recognize individuals who take a leading role in upholding environmental standards because they are often overlooked.

"Environmental stewardship is much more than a saying. Because of your commitment to applying environmental stewardship, the Army is sustaining an environment for a secure future," he said.

Awardees

Green Star
Drill Sgt. Israel Salgado, 143rd Ordnance Battalion
Staff Sgt. Theodore R. Greer, Advanced Automotive and Recovery Department
Jesus Rosario, Advanced Automotive and Recovery Department
Staff Sgt. Douglas A. Norton, Advanced Automotive and Recovery Department
Christopher L. Akins, Advanced Automotive and Recovery Department
Sgt. 1st Class Byron K. Williamson, Advanced Automotive and Recovery Department

Staff Sgt. Roboam Brea
Staff Sgt. Shadrick L. Brown
Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Burks
Staff Sgt. Mark A. Garcia
Sgt. 1st Class Timothy W. Hill
Staff Sgt. Michael J. Slaughter
Sgt. 1st Class Robert O. Starner
143rd Ordnance Battalion, Company A
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Barcena
Staff Sgt. Oneil D. Bogues
Sgt. 1st Class Petra Casarez
Staff Sgt. Paul W. Chambers
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Kammerling
Sgt. 1st Class Gregg S. Silvers

Green Cross
Elijah Stevens, Advanced Automotive and Recovery Department
Staff Sgt. David G. Conroy, Tactical Support Equipment Department
Sgt. Aaron Enns, US Marine Corps Detachment

Commanding General's Annual Safety, Occupational Health and Environmental Awards
Company E, 16th Ordnance Battalion

2005 Outstanding Company
73rd Ordnance Battalion

U.S. Army Motor Vehicle Driver Safety Award
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade
Staff Sgt. Gerald F. Benitez

2005 Outstanding Battalion
School of Military Packaging Technology
2005 Outstanding Individual
Staff Sgt. Delores J. Franklin

APG News

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

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

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

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ATC holds annual awards ceremony

Story by
Susan Hagan
ATC

The U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center held its annual awards ceremony Nov. 8 when 31 government and contractor employees were presented awards.

"What I want to do today is recognize those individuals who have excelled in what we've asked them to do," said Col. John Rooney, ATC commander. "For every one that we recognize, there are lots of people behind them, and the nomination process that came forward was not an easy decision as to who the winners were, and how we were going to decide the winners."

The Commander's Quality Award, presented to an ATC work group or team for sustained high achievements, was awarded to the Chemical Analysis Sampling Team, made up of John Courts, Judith Galloway, Paul Marsh, Gwendolyn McKinney, James Sellare, Kathleen Swam, Bridgett Harris, Valerie Young

and Tasha Merritte.

The team implemented a quality system based on ISO Guide 17025, resulting in accreditation in the area of petroleum, oils, lubricants and fuels. The ATC Chemistry Laboratory is now listed in a national database identifying it as an accredited laboratory.

The Groak Award, which recognizes employees providing various types of test support, without which the ATC technical mission could not be accomplished, was presented to Larry O. Evans. Evans' ability to organize and execute a wide variety of critical tasks has permitted missions to be met and equipment to be released to the war effort in an optimal and timely manner.

The Crozier Award, presented to a Soldier for excellence in technical test project management and test support, was awarded to Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Freeman, the primary accuracy shooter in the XM8 developmental test program.

His insight into the tactics,

techniques, and procedures for the way the weapon system was to be deployed in a tactical environment provided the project manager with valuable insight into how to improve the weapon system.

The Fritter Award, presented for exceptional contributions by employees whose jobs provide administrative support to ATC, was awarded to Michael J. Knoblauch.

Knoblauch's extensive knowledge and understanding of all aspects of the federal budget processes have made him a widely recognized authority in his field.

The Nichols Award, which recognizes the effort of ATC technicians, without whom the ATC technical mission could not be accomplished, was awarded to James Andrews. His support and conduct of the many tests for the Multi-Role Anti-Armor Anti-Personnel Weapon System and the AT4CS Weapon System has involved him in the develop-

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3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment troopers in Iraq receive Air Medals with Valor

Story by
SGT. 1ST CLASS DONALD SPARKS
3rd U.S. Cavalry PAO

Thanksgiving Day for several troopers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment included turkey, dressing, sweet potato pie and medals for valor.

Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, who commands the Multinational Corps Iraq, paid a visit to Forward Operating Base Sykes to personally commend the troopers for their acts of heroism and to thank the troopers of the regiment for their sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

"Some time today on television, a sports announcer will talk about the hero of a football game," Vines said before a for-

mation of nearly 150 3rd ACR troopers. "Well these Soldiers standing before me are the true heroes of our nation. It's an honor to spend this Thanksgiving with you, and I'm proud of what you're doing for our country and the people of Iraq."

Capt. Daniel Anderson, Chief Warrant Officer Milton Walker, Sgt. Jerome Shai, and Sgt. Kevin Doyle were pinned the Air Medal with Valor for their heroic actions on Aug. 29.

Assigned to 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), 36th Medical Evacuation Battalion, the aeromedevac team conducted a mission, under direct enemy fire without concern for their personal safety, for two urgent-surgical pilots from a downed OH-58D

Kiowa Warrior aircraft in the city of Tal Afar.

In less than seven minutes from notification, the crew, Smuggler 62, lifted off under night vision goggle conditions.

Their aircraft received small arms fire to the rotor blades and inside the pilot and crew compartment.

Shai, from Gambrills, Md., was the first of the crew to identify and report the small arms fire and the location of the [shooters]. Maintaining strict composure, Shai rapidly assessed the aircraft for damage and reported to the pilot commander, Anderson, that the aircraft was capable to continue the mission.

Anderson, from Sacramento, Calif., and Walker, from Bel Air, Md., immediate-

ly executed emergency procedures to avoid the continuing volley of fire from the ground.

With concern for the pilots on the ground, Smuggler 62 continued to fly toward the downed aircraft. Once on the ground Anderson instructed the crew chief to conduct a physical inspection of the Smuggler 62 aircraft which identified multiple indications of small arms impact and bullet fragments within the aircraft.

After exiting the aircraft, Doyle, from Peabody, Mass., began searching for the location of the casualties. Doyle, armed with his M-4, ran to two Bradley Fighting Vehicles near the landing zone and received negative confirmation on the location of the casualties.

He identified two dismount-

ed Soldiers and ran to their location. Upon his arrival to their location, enemy small arms fire was heard and they assumed protective fighting positions.

Doyle continued the pursuit across open ground, within enemy small arms range, to locate the injured pilots, and located the patients in a third Bradley where he organized two litter teams and loaded them onto the aircraft.

"The bravery and the courage of these air crew members of the 1159th Air Medevac exemplifies what is good about Army Aviation and the efforts of our troopers here in Iraq," said Maj. John Scott, commander, Longknife Squadron, 3rd ACR. "I'm extremely proud of them."

Return

From front page

"I love aviation," McClain said. "After all the years of training we were now doing it for real," he said looking back on the medevac mission.

McClain said that their medics would track the Soldiers they transported even after they were out of their care and continuously update pilots and flight crews on the patients' medical status. This, he said, filled them with a sense of accomplishment because they could see how their efforts paid off.

Asked how he personally felt about performing such a critical mission McClain replied, "Being able to help save lives, and the feeling it gives you...that's not something you can put into words."

Awards

From page 2

ment of new munitions for the system.

The Technical Directors Award, which recognizes authors within ATC for outstanding technical papers or reports on topics pertinent to the test and evaluation community, was awarded to Wayne T. Strine. He developed a prototype test report format that provides test directors and ATC customers numerous advantages by making the document more user-friendly.

The Commander's Award, presented to an ATC civilian or Soldier for outstanding individual achievement on a technical project or study resulting in significant advances in testing technology or outstanding project management, was awarded to Thea C. Blunt-Henderson. She

serves as the lead developer of the Versatile Information System Integrated ONline (VISION) Digital Library System, as well as exercising managerial oversight and responsibility.

The Individual Safety Award recognizes performance by an ATC civilian or military employee that sets an example to fellow employees by continually demonstrating safe work habits and an excellent attitude towards safety, or employee performance of specific actions that created safe working conditions and enhanced the safety environment in the workplace. The Individual Safety Award was awarded to Steven Benjamin. His knowledge and management directly impacts every test and every training exercise conducted on ATC ranges, water and airspace.

The Group Safety Award recognizes performance by a group of ATC employees that have demonstrated continuous, outstanding and signifi-

cant contributions to the safety program by providing personnel with safety training, hazard identification and abatement, accident prevention efforts, and improvements in the occupational health environment of the workplace. The Group Safety Award was awarded to the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle Test Team, made up of Samantha Berti, Timothy Bouchelle, Douglas Griffin, Bill Mullis, Robert Puckett and Robert Wirtanen. Through constant emphasis on safe operations and adherence to ATC safety standards, the EFV team has successfully managed their program with no accidents or injuries.

In addition to presenting the annual awards, Rooney presented commander's coins to two ATC employees who were recipients of the Harford County Disability Employee of the Year award, which is given by the Harford County Committee on Employment of people with disabilities to an individual with a disability

who has exhibited exceptional ability and determination in entering or re-entering the workforce in Harford County.

The 2004 winner was Deana Boyd, a highly competent technical administrator and an excellent computer based forms, graphics designer and Web developer. She has been involved in the ATC and APG Disability Program for over 10 years and serves as a co-chair on the APG Disability Committee.

The 2005 winner was Tom Martin, a lead technician at the Electromagnetic Interference Test Facility responsible for ensuring that equipment is in compliance with the established military specifications before being used in a combat environment. He has volunteered at APG in writing a newsletter concerning 'overcoming disabilities' and 'technology helps disabled in performing their jobs'.

Aberdeen Test Support Services (ATSS), one of the main mission support contrac-

tors at ATC, presented four awards to ATSS employees.

The ATSS Annual Safety Leadership Award, presented to an ATSS employee who demonstrates outstanding safety practice and leadership was awarded to Robert K. Towson. Towson was recognized for his constant enthusiasm and leadership towards the ATC/ATSS safety program.

The ATSS Annual Safety Leadership Award for a group, presented to an ATSS group of employees who demonstrates outstanding safety practice and leadership was awarded to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Support Team. The EPA Support Team, made up of Kevin J. Kiger, Dr. Elizabeth Sagan, Christopher L. Shires and Stephen R. Tapp, was recognized for their unparalleled dedication and contributions to the EPA Heavy Duty Diesel Engine Emissions Test.

The ATSS Excellence in Test Support Award, presented

to an ATSS employee or employees who demonstrate outstanding support of ATC, was awarded to Carl E. Johnson.

Johnson was recognized for his unparalleled dedication and uncompromised work ethic in support of testing being conducted by the Military Environmental Technology Demonstration Center (METDC) for the Environmental Quality Technology Program and METDC's critical homeland defense efforts.

The Team ATC - ATSS' Annual Hindman Driving Excellence Award, presented to an ATSS heavy truck driver who epitomizes the values and performance of Michael Hindman, was awarded to Robert L. Barnhart.

Barnhart was recognized for his impeccable driving support during the M113A3 enhanced armor protection program. He worked long hours to ensure the test was completed on time and without incident.

Post Shorts

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 Italian Specialty Meal Menu includes: minestrone soup, spaghetti with choice of meatballs or Italian sausage, baked meat lasagna, baked chicken cacciatore, veal parmesan, marinara sauce/alfredo sauce, assorted pizza and calzone, garlic mashed potatoes, roasted Italian vegetables, deep fried eggplant, Italian style green beans, toasted garlic bread, pasta salads, mixed olives and pepperoncini peppers, assorted salad bar, 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.

CCASA meets for lunch

The Chesapeake Chapter of the American Statistical Association will sponsor Dr. Michael J. Cushing of the U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity for a lunch meeting at the Old Baltimore Room of Top of the Bay on Jan. 18.

He will discuss "An Approach and Tool for the Implementation of Usage-Based Prognostics," focusing on methods in reliability analysis that enable tracking of remaining component lifetimes, and the identification of optimum replacement ages to minimize life cycle costs.

The meeting is open to the public and starts with a pay-as-you-go lunch at 11:30 a.m.

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

SOLE holds first meeting at APG

APG's chapter of The International Society of Logistics will hold its first meeting 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 24 at Top of the Bay. Col. John T. Wright, Garrison commander, will be the guest speaker. All are invited to attend. Those interested in SOLE membership can contact Paul Nelson, acting chapter vice chair for Administration, 410-436-4575.

Warrant Officer briefings scheduled

The Warrant Officer Recruiting Team from Headquarters, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky., are scheduled to visit APG to give briefings on qualifications and application procedures to applicants interested in becoming U.S. Army Warrant Officers 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Jan. 27, at the Soldier Support Center, building 4305, room 243A.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Elijah Mobley, installation career counselor, 410-652-6483.

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.

Special Forces recruits

Special Forces - Sine Pari

"without equal"--it says more about an individual than an individual can ever say about themselves.

A briefing for joining the Special Forces will be held 1 and 5 p.m., Jan. 18, at the Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326, the NCO Room. A PT test is also scheduled for 7 a.m., Jan. 19, location to be announced.

For more information, call the Special Forces Recruiting Team, Fort Bragg, N.C., DSN 306-2769, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Stenovitch, 1-877-840-8596 or e-mail joseph.stenovitch@usarec.army.mil, or call the APG Retention Office, 410-306-2769.

Volunteers needed for Minority College Team

To meet the minimum requirements outlined by DA, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Minority College Team needs volunteers.

The team meets quarterly to develop and administer aggressive outreach strategies that promote beneficial collaborative partnerships and relationships with minority serving institutions.

Anyone interested in joining the team should e-mail APG-MCRT@apg.army.mil.

Spring fling scheduled

APG's second Community Festival will be held April 8 at Capa Field. All community groups are invited to participate in the Spring Fling with a booth and/or activities.

Planning meetings are held Wednesdays, the next being Jan. 18.

Anyone interested may contact Pat Palazzi, event chair, 410-278-4685.

Re-Nu-It centers hours

The Aberdeen Re-Nu-It Center hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Thurs-

day, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday. The Edgewood Re-Nu-It Center hours are, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday.

MOAA offers scholarships

The Military Officers Association of America is offering 25 scholarships worth \$1,000 each to dependent children of active, Guard and Reserve service personnel from the Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, as well as the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Applications are available on the MOAA Web site, <http://www.moaa.org>. The deadline for submission is March 1 and winners will be notified in May.

Colorado ski resort hosts Armed Forces Week

"They gave their life fighting for our country...now it is our turn to take care of their children!"

Support the children of fallen heroes and enjoy a fun-filled ski week in Vail, Colorado.

The [VailArmedForces.com](http://www.VailArmedForces.com) and Vail Chamber and Business Association will sponsor Armed Forces Week, Jan. 29 through Feb. 3, in Vail. All members, past or present of all military service branches, U.S. Public Health Services, defense contractors, firefighters, law enforcement, civilians, family and friends are invited to recognize America's fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending our country.

This event will raise money for the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and Naval Special Warfare Foundation supporting the surviving families and children.

There is 25 percent off discount on lodging/lift ticket packages with prices starting from under \$400 to \$1100 per person for five days lodging and four days skiing; a 10 percent discount of all Frontier Airlines roundtrip published fares; and a 25 percent on ski/snowboard rental equipment. Door prizes, raffles and various events are planned for the week.

For more information or to make reservations online, visit <http://www.vailarmedforces.com/reservations.cfm>.

For two or three night stays, call 1-800-730-4827 for availability and mention Vail Armed Forces Week.

Updating DEERS info

Failure to update information in DEERS may result in future denial of office visits, specialty care, laboratory testing and pharmacy services including medication refills as

well as denial of pending claims. To update DEERS records, contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, 1-800-538-9552. To update an address only in DEERS, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp.

Marine Corps Fund offers scholarships

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is looking for a few good students to apply for scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$10,000.

Anyone interested can download applications from the MCSF Web site, <http://www.mcsf.org>, on Jan. 1.

To qualify for a scholarship, an applicant must be the child of a Marine on active or reserve duty, or the child of a retired or deceased Marine.

The children of Navy corpsmen who are serving or have served with the Marines are also eligible for scholarships from MCSF.

For more information on the eligibility requirements or how to make a donation to MCSF, visit <http://www.mcsf.org> or call 1-800-292-7777.

Women service members sought for registry

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc. needs you. The memorial, at the Ceremonial Gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, is the nation's only major national memorial honoring all women who have defended America from the Revolutionary War to the present.

The memorial's computerized Register guarantees each registered woman's individual story a permanent place in America's history - and every service woman's story is important.

The foundation is seeking names, addresses, photos and memorable experiences of women who have served to be included in the Memorial's Register. Family members, friends and organizations can register deceased service women from any era or those civilian women who served with other civilian organizations. To register or for more information, visit the Memorial's Web site, <http://www.womensmemorial.org> or call 703-533-1155 or 800-222-2294.

Submitting Hometown News

Telling a story is the main purpose of the Hometown News Program.

The program informs the public of activities and accomplishments of Soldiers and Department of Defense civil-

ians, and helps project a positive image of the Army.

In addition, relatives and friends get to share the pride of the accomplishments when a Hometown News Release appears in local newspapers.

For more information, call Lynn Witkowski, 410-278-1151.

South Dakota veterans eligible for bonus

The state of South Dakota is paying a veterans bonus of up to \$500 to certain military personnel who were legal residents of the state for no less than six months immediately preceding entry into the armed forces, who are currently on active duty or were honorably discharged from the armed forces, and who served on active duty during one, or both of the following periods:

For service between Jan. 1, 1993 through Sept. 10, 2001 payment will be made only to those who served overseas and were awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal, Southwest Asia Service medal, Kosovo campaign medal or any other U.S. campaign or service medal awarded for participation in combat operations against hostile forces.

All active duty between Sept. 11, 2001, through a date to be determined, qualifies for a bonus payment.

Application forms may be obtained by writing to SD Veterans Bonus, 500 E. Capitol, Pierre SD 57501, by calling 605-773-7251, or request a form through e-mail at john.fette@state.sd.us. Be sure to include name, street or P.O. Box number, city, state and zip code. Jean Futti, 410-278-8993.

Applying for Mansfield Fellowship in Japan

Federal employees with a strong career interest in issues of importance to the U.S. Japan relationship now have the opportunity to apply for a Mike Mansfield Fellowship.

During the two-year program, Fellows spend a year working full-time in Japanese government offices, preceded by a year of full-time rigorous language and area studies training in the U.S.. After completing the program, Fellows return to their U.S. agencies with proficiency in Japanese and practical, firsthand experience with Japan and its government that enables them to contribute to their agencies' Japan-related work.

For more information, visit www.mansfieldfdn.org or contact Niharika Joe, joen@mansfieldfdn.org, 202-347-1994 or toll-free 800-803-1106. Application deadline is April 3.

The Mansfield Fellowship Program is administered by The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation with the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, as grantor.

NAF military spouse program

Nonappropriated Fund military spouses will not lose their spousal preference until they either accept or decline a regular full-time or regular part-time position.

A military spouse will be able to accept a Flexible position and retain her/his preference. This permits changing from one flexible job to another while retaining preference until a RFT or RPT position is accepted or declined.

Military spouses currently employed by NAF are eligible to use their spousal preference as vacancies are announced provided they have not held a RFT/RPT position or declined a RFT/RPT position since relocating to APG.

Each time a spouse claims preference, she/he must complete the Spouse Employment Preference form in addition to the standard application forms.

For more information, call 410-278-8994/8992/5127.

Community Notes

**FRIDAY
JANUARY 13
BASKET BINGO**

Aberdeen High School Soccer Parents will sponsor Basket Bingo to benefit the AHS Boys' Soccer Teams at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers St. Doors open 6 p.m., Bingo begins 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per person for 20 games/three card sets. Additional sets of three cards cost \$5. Food, drinks, door prizes, special games and raffles will be available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Diana Jackson, 410-273-5057 or Debbie Leadore, 410-272-6157.

FISH AND CHICKEN DINNERS

The women of St. James A.M.E. Church, 615-617 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will sell fish and chicken dinners from 10 a.m. until sold out. Each dinner costs \$7. The proceeds will

benefit the annual women's day Program on March 26.

For more information or to place an order, call 410-939-2267.

SUNDAY

**JANUARY 16
TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS**

NeAnni Ife, actress, playwright and author, will perform 10:30 a.m., to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Ames United Methodist Church, located at 112 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air. The performance will pay tribute to Rosa Parks, early civil rights pioneer, whose refusal to vacate a seat on a city bus launched the civil rights movement.

For more information, call 410-838-0161.

**SUNDAY
JANUARY 22
BASKET BINGO**

American Legion Post 194,

336 E. Main St., Rising Sun, is sponsoring a basket bingo. Games start at 3 p.m. The cost is \$10 for 20 games.

For more information, call 410-658-3915, or e-mail basketbingo@zoominternet.net.

Proceeds will benefit Boy Scout Troop 28.

**SATURDAY
JANUARY 28
BASKET BINGO**

Basket Bingo to benefit Krafty Survivors Relay for Life will be held at VFW Post 8185, located on Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors open 6 p.m., Bingo begins 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per person for all paper cards. Extra packs cost \$5. Refreshments, door prizes and raffles will be available. This is a non-smoking event.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or Pat Job, 410-378-0096 or 410-658-5628.



**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.
FJ Iraq/AF Prime Time, 1 p.m.
State Department Briefing, 3 p.m.
Around the Services, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

Around the Services, 5:30 a.m.
FJ Iraq/AF Prime Time, 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Engineer Update, 1:30 p.m.
Opportunity Showcase, 3 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 5:30 p.m.
Battleground, 7 p.m.
Recon, 8 p.m.

Sunday

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

Army Newswatch – Bi-weekly report on the men and women of the Army
Around the Services – From the Pentagon Channel NewsCenter, daily half-hour program featuring military news from top defense officials and the military services from around the world

RECON – A monthly information television program providing an in-depth look at a variety of topics, highlighting the accomplishments of U.S. Military men and women.

Your Corps – Monthly view of the men and women of the Marine Corps

Freedom Journal Iraq – A daily news program produced by American Forces Network Iraq. The program focuses on military missions, operations and U.S. military forces in Iraq

Navy Marine Corp News – A weekly look at the men and women of today's sea service.

Opportunity Showcase - A monthly program dealing with a variety of subjects that benefit small business owners, transitioning military members and other subjects of opportunity-produced by the United States Air Force

The American Veteran - A half-hour video news magazine designed to inform veterans, their families and their communities about the services and benefits they have earned through their service to America and to recognize and honor that service

Battleground - Every weekend, this series features historic films from WWII, Korean War, and the Vietnam War. A Pentagon Channel Original Series

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

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."

SAW II

Friday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.

Starring: Donnie Wahlberg, Shawnee Smith, Tobin Bell

Serial killer Jigsaw is back, only this time instead of locking up two people in a room, he's got eight victims. They're all complete strangers and must play a disturbing game to determine who, if any, survives. (Rated R)

AEON FLUX (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.

Starring: Charlize Theron, Marton Csokas, Jonny Lee Miller

Four hundred years from now, disease has wiped out the majority of Earth's population, save for the residents of Bregna, a city-state protected by a giant wall and ruled by scientists. Aeon Flux (Theron) is an operative for the Monican Rebellion, an underground group led by the Handler (McDormand), who wants Aeon to kill the

government's leader. (Rated PG-13)

JUST FRIENDS

Saturday, Jan. 14, 9 p.m.

Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart, Chris Klein, Anna Faris

A womanizing music exec (Reynolds), who became a player after the girl he longed for in high school (Smart) told him she just wanted to be friends, reconnects with the woman as an adult and is determined to win her over. (Rated PG-13)

APG closing announcements

If the installation is closed, is experiencing a delay in opening or if liberal leave is in effect due to weather or other emergency situations, check for postings on the local television and radio stations, WAPG-TV Channel 21 (on Aberdeen Proving Ground), or call 410-278-SNOW (7669).

A recorded telephone message will contain updated information and should begin at about 5 a.m.

For general information, call the APG Public Affairs Office, 410-278-1147.

Announcements about federal offices in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to APG; listen for those that name APG specifically.

For general information, call the APG Public Affairs Office, 410-278-1147.



Lighting

www.socalgas.com

Turn off lights (and other appliances) when they are not being used and when leaving a room.

Replace regular incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. Although they cost a little more up front, savings will be significantly in the long run.

Save up to 10 percent on lighting costs by installing dimmer switches or lighting motion sensors.

Wherever possible, use low wattage light bulbs.

Consider ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent lights - they can reduce lighting costs by up to 75 percent and last up to 10 times longer.

Replace halogen torchiere lamps with fluorescent ENERGY STAR® torchieres.



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.

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.

Snack Bar changes hours

Effective Jan. 18, the Stark Recreation Center Snack Bar will be open 5:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, call

410-436-2713.

ACS Community Job Fair scheduled

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program will hold a Community Job Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 12, at the Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326.

A number of local employers have full or part-time positions available. Job seekers can talk to representatives from government agencies, high tech corporations, law enforcement agencies, security companies, financial companies and temporary agencies.

The fair is free and open to all members of the armed services, their family members, retired military and DoD civilian personnel.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, Employment Readiness Program, building 2754, 410-278-9669.

Lego Mindstorms Robotic Club

Join the Lego® Mindstorms™ Robotics Club and learn how to program and create a robot.

The Robotics Club will meet 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, through May 30 at Aberdeen Youth Services, building 2522.

Club members will learn to design and program real robots that can do what they tell them to do. With the Robotics Invention System club members can create everything from a light-sensitive intruder alarm to a robotic rover that can follow a trail, move around obstacles and even duck into dark corners. Club members also get to participate in the USFIRST competitions, which are sponsored by NASA. Club members should have strong math skills, basic algebra and some geometry, as math is used to program the robots. CYS Membership is required.

Register by Jan. 6 at CYS Central Registration, 410-278-7571/7479

Military cruise specials

Carnival Cruise Lines "The Fun Ships" offers cruise specials for military personnel and all DoD card holders through March 3, with cruises leaving from selected ports. Cruises that sail from three days to eight days are available. Carnival ships include the Fascination, Fantasy, Elation, Conquest, Victory, Liberty and more.

For more information on Carnival Cruise destinations and dates of departure, visit the APG MWR <http://www.apgmwr.com>, and click on the Special Offers page, linked with the Special Offers gold coins icon; or visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/specialoffers.html>. Under Special Tickets and Other Offers page, scroll down to Military Cruise Specials.

For more information or to book a cruise, call MWR Registration and Leisure Travel Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4497, e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil or visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/recreation/travel.html>.

All day Scrapbook Crop

Seasoned scrapbookers or those who've always wanted to try scrapbooking are invited to "Crop Till You Drop" at Top of the Bay, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 15.

Participants should bring their pictures and supplies.

The cost for a full day of cropping is \$22 per person.

Vendors will have items for sale, for all scrapbooking needs. Optional classes will be offered and a massage therapist will be available for an optional massage for a stress-free day with plenty of pampering.

The cost for a full day of cropping is \$22 per person.

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

CWF sponsors European vacation

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring a trip to Europe, from May 18 through 28.

Tour some of Europe's most beautiful cities. Tour sites will include Germany's "secret capital," Munich, Germany. See the Olympic Stadium, 1,000-foot-high television tower, Nymphenburg Palace and Marienplatz; in Prague, Czech Republic, see the 1,000 year-old Hradcany Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Town, the Jewish ghetto and the Astronomical Clock; other cities include Budapest, Hungary; Vienna and Salzburg Austria.

Cost per person is \$3,225 for a single occupancy, \$2,825 for double-occupancy and \$2,775 for triple-occupancy and includes accommodations, tours, nine buffet breakfasts, five three-course dinners, one special lunch, airfare, and airport transfers. Optional travel insurance costs \$109 per person.

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



MWR announces new Web site

MWR

The new and improved MWR Web site can be viewed at www.apgmwr.com where visitors can:

- Shop online for gifts, flowers, cars and more.
- See what classes are being offered and register for them.
- Book vacations and take advantage of special deals and coupons.
- Get the scoop on upcoming events and programs.
- There is something here for everyone.

The site is up to date with all the events and coming attractions to APG.

SCHOOL LIAISON

Mentoring support needed

The APG School Liaison Program is currently seeking an APG organization that would be interested in mentoring elementary age students in grades 1 through 5 at the George D. Lisby Elementary School at Hillsdale in Aberdeen. The need is great and the reward immeasurable.

Anyone interested in providing support that can make a big difference in the life of a student, should contact Ivan Mehosky, 410-278-2857.

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 1.

For more information or to apply for the scholarship, call Ivan Mehosky, 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 items available at the APG MWR Library:

The Brooklyn Follies, by Paul Auster.

Nathan Glass, a retired life insurance salesman estranged from his family and facing an iffy cancer prognosis, is looking for a quiet place to die. Someone recommended Brooklyn. What he finds, though, in this ebullient novel, is a vital, big-hearted borough brimming with great characters.

Mad River Road, by Joy Fielding.

In the nail-biting suspense novel, a trio of women trapped in a web of lies, danger and self-revelation must confront their deepest fears.

Sex Wars: a novel of the turbulent post-civil war period, by Marge Piercy.

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.

In 1868, thousands of immigrants streamed into New York City in search of the American dream and instead found crushing poverty. Among this influx is recently widowed Freydeh, a Russian Jewish girl who must learn how to survive and finance her family's passage to the United States by herself.

Beasts of No Nation, by Uzodinma Iweala.

Have you ever wondered how children become enlisted as soldiers, and men become desensitized to slaughter? Iweala's aptly titled debut takes us into the belly of the beast from the perspective of the school-aged Agu.



Winter Fitness Classes

\$48 Unlimited Classes Begins Jan. 9 - March 30

We also offer Personal Training
Civilian Fitness Program
Fitness Assessments

**Power Step
AB LAB (free for active duty)**

Cardio Kickbox

Total body conditioning

Step

Power Circuit

Yoga

Cardio Pump

And many more!

Contact us for more information.
mercedes.ashby@us.army.mil



Aberdeen Area Fitness Center

Bldg 320

410-278-9725

APG Athletic Center

Bldg 3300

Hoyle Gym & Fitness Center

Bldg E4210

410-436-7134



DoD updates its uniform formulary

OSD

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs and director of TRICARE Management Activity approved the addition of three therapeutic classes of medications used to treat benign prostatic hypertrophy (enlargement) and cardiovascular disease to the TRICARE Uniform Formulary. Additionally, he approved moving 16 medications to non-formulary status over the next few months.

The TRICARE Uniform Formulary is a set of medications approved by the Department of Defense for distribution throughout the Military Health System. Drugs are grouped into three tiers: formulary generic (tier one), formulary brand name (tier two) and non formulary (tier three). Beneficiaries' copayments are based on a medication's grouping within the UF.

The UF process involves the review of different classifications of FDA-approved medications on the basis of their clinical and cost effectiveness. After careful analysis, the Department of Defense Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee recommends medications as formulary or non-formulary. The P&T Committee is composed of physicians, pharmacists and representatives from the Services and the Veterans Administration.

The Beneficiary Advisory Panel, whose membership includes representatives of active duty families and retirees, civilian health care professionals and those supporting the health care benefit through contracts, comments on the P&T Committee's recommendations. The BAP

expressed concern about the selection of ramipril (Altace®) for non-formulary status. After a thorough assessment, the P&T Committee determined that while Altace® is important in the treatment of some patients, it is no more clinically effective than the alternatives in a majority of patients.

"The selection of Altace® for non-formulary status was the single most difficult decision at the Committee's August meeting," said Captain Patricia Buss, chairperson of the P&T Committee. "The committee did recognize that there is an important role for Altace® in the treatment of some high-risk patients with a history of cardiovascular disease and the drug will be available at the formulary cost share if medical necessity is documented."

Beneficiaries may refer to this chart displaying the different formulary drugs and the corresponding non-formulary equivalents.

TRICARE beneficiaries will pay \$22 for up to a 30- or 90-day supply for non-formulary medications, depending on whether they fill the prescription at a TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacy, or TRRx, or through the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy, or TMOP. Beneficiaries will pay the higher of \$22 or 20 percent in retail non-network pharmacies.

Patients currently using the newly designated non-formulary medications may wish to consult their doctor about formulary alternatives or if a medical necessity is appropriate for them. If medical necessity is established for using non-formulary medications, patients may qualify for the \$9 copayment for up to a 30-day TRRx supply or up to a 90-day TMOP

supply. Military treatment facilities will no longer carry these or other non-formulary medications on their local formularies. Non-formulary medications may be available at MTFs only when medical necessity is established and the prescription was written by a MTF provider. Active duty members have no copays and, unless medical necessity is established, they may not obtain non-formulary drugs. Medical necessity forms are available on the TRICARE Pharmacy Web site, www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/medical-nonformulary.cfm. Procedures for completing and submitting medical necessity information may be found on these forms.

Eligible beneficiaries may fill prescriptions for non-formulary and covered medications through the TMOP and TRRx pharmacies. Beneficiaries may reduce out-of-pocket expenses by filling prescriptions through the TMOP where beneficiaries may receive up to a 90-day supply of medicine for the same cost as a 30-day supply in the TRRx.

For more information about TMOP, eligible beneficiaries may visit the Express-Scripts Inc. Web site, www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/tmop_contact.cfm or call 866-DOD-TMOP, 866-363-8667. Beneficiaries may also contact the TRRx customer service line at 866-DOD-TRRX, 866-363-8779, or visit www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/trrx_contact.cfm.

For additional information about various medications, their availability and cost, beneficiaries may use the TRICARE Formulary Search Tool at www.tricare-formularysearch.org/dod/medicationcenter/default.aspx.

KUSAHC ensures privacy of patient information

KUSAHC

Kirk U. S. Army Health Clinic is committed to ensuring the privacy and security of protected patient health information.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act was implemented nationwide by congressional mandate in 2003.

"Protected Health Information" is individually identifiable health information. This information includes demographics, for example, age, address, e-mail address, and relates to your past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services.

"KUSAHC is required by law to make sure your protected health information is kept private, give you notice of legal duties and privacy practices related to the use

and disclosure of your protected health information, follow the terms of the notice currently in effect, and communicate any changes in the notice to you," said Lt. Col. William Rice, commander KUSAHC. "To support this, KUSAHC will ensure that the appropriate steps are taken to properly identify and secure individuals' protected health information as required by HIPAA. KUSAHC will provide a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices and ask for a signature verifying receipt of these privacy practices."

If a patient believes these privacy rights have been violated, they may file a written complaint with the KUSAHC Privacy Officer.

For more information about special privacy practices or the complaint process, call 410-278-1987.

AHLTA to make debut at KUSAHC

KUSAHC

The new Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application, or AHLTA, will be implemented at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic in the near future. This automated database will be the repository for patient information.

Under the old system KUSAHC electronically managed appointments, medications, laboratory tests, x-rays, and consults as well as code visits for future database reference. Yet, the system lacked the capability to input patient medical history, diagnosis and treatment plans, all of which were recorded on paper.

AHLTA will provide a comprehensive store of outpatient encounters.

While many civilian health care providers continue to rely on paper-based medical and dental records, the military is implementing this computerized system that will bring improved continuity of care to the military health system with universally accessible medical

records.

"All patient record information will be stored in the AHLTA system's clinical data repository, establishing a data "gold mine" that will allow the military to reap benefits far beyond any benefits available in the original system," said Lt. Col. William Rice, commander, KUSAHC. "The CDR will improve patient safety by eliminating medical errors that are intrinsic to paper-based systems, improve continuity of care, enhance patient outcomes research, and serve as a medical surveillance system."

Initially, as providers and staff become familiar with the new technology, beneficiaries may experience fewer appointments and a slight increase 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," Rice said.

Regular eye exams can save sight

www.glaucomafoundation.org

January is glaucoma awareness month.

The evidence grows stronger with each new study: regular comprehensive eye exams and continuing treatment are the keys to controlling glaucoma, the leading cause of preventable blindness in the United States.

"Early diagnosis is critical," said Dr. Gregory K. Harmon, chairman of The Glaucoma Foundation.

Glaucoma is often called the "sneak thief of sight," because if it is not caught early and treated effectively, it can lead to blindness. In fact, primary open angle glaucoma, the most common form of the disease in the U.S., is now considered the third-leading cause of blindness among Caucasians, the second-leading cause among African Americans, and the leading cause of blindness among Hispanics.

Glaucoma can affect anyone, at any age. But, the important message, Harmon stresses, is that the disease can usually be controlled and sight preserved with early detection, and a doctor's ongoing care.

Glaucoma is actually a group of diseases that can lead to damage of the eye's

optic nerve and loss of vision. Most of these diseases are characterized by increased fluid pressure inside the eye.

In 2002, a major government-funded national Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study confirmed what doctors have long believed--that the use of prescription eye drops by patients with elevated eye pressure, but no signs of glaucoma damage, was effective in delaying or even preventing the onset of glaucoma.

The study also confirmed certain other risk factors that physicians must consider when determining whether a patient can benefit from early treatment. Risk factors include age, African descent and family history, as well as certain ocular factors, including intraocular eye pressure. One of the surprising findings involves the relationship between corneal thickness, eye pressure and the development of glaucoma. Among patients with elevated eye pressure, those with thinner central cornea thickness were found to have a higher risk of progressing to glaucoma.

"This new finding is significant and is changing the way doctors evaluate the glaucoma risk in any individual person," Harmon said. "It enables us to offer these



patients treatment early, thus lowering their risk of developing glaucoma damage and loss of sight."

The Glaucoma Foundation suggests yearly eye examinations for anyone 45 or older with risk factors, and every two years for individuals under 45 with risk factors or over 45 with no risk factors.

For more information, visit www.glaucomafoundation.org.

Obesity, high blood pressure impacting many U.S. adults

www.cdc.gov

Half of Americans aged 55 to 64 have high blood pressure – a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke – and two in five are obese, according to Health, United States, 2005, the government's annual report to the President and Congress on the health of all Americans.

The report was prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics from data gathered by state and federal health agencies and through ongoing national surveys.

The report features an in-depth look at the 55-64 age group, which includes the oldest of the baby boomers. In 2011, the oldest of the boomers will be eligible for Medicare, and by 2014, the ranks of Americans ages 55 to 64 will swell to 40 million, up from 29 million in 2004.

"Controlling high blood pressure and obesity is crucial for health, and particularly for baby boomers as they grow older," said HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt. "It's time to act against both conditions so more Americans can live longer, healthier lives."

Dr. Julie Gerberding, CDC director, urged 55-to-64-year-olds to take careful stock now of their health, including such vital measures as weight, cholesterol level, blood pressure, risk of heart attack and any signs of diabetes.

"The late 50s and early 60s are

While many adults in their late 50s and early 60s enjoy good health, others are dealing with chronic and debilitating diseases and lack of health insurance. The report finds that

Eighty-three percent of married adults ages 55 to 64 had private health insurance, compared to 60 percent of widowed, separated, divorced or single adults in that age group.

The report also outlines how the United States spent \$1.7 trillion—15 percent of the gross domestic product—on health care in 2003. That works out to \$5,671 for every man, woman and child.

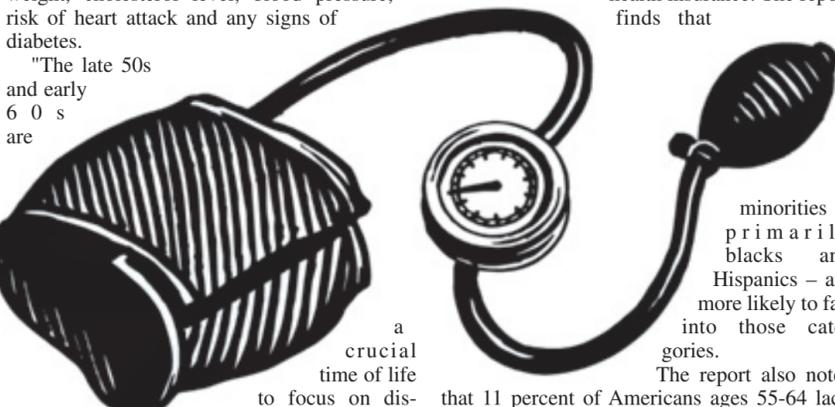
Other highlights:

- More than a quarter of all adults suffered lower back pain in the past three months. Fifteen percent dealt with severe headaches or migraines (more commonly a problem for women). Fifteen percent had neck pain.

- Life expectancy at birth in 2002 reached 75 for males and 80 for females. At age 65, life expectancy was almost 82 for men and 85 for women.

- Two-thirds of high school students exercised regularly but only one-third of adults were physically active in their leisure time.

Health, United States, 2005 is available at www.cdc.gov/nchs/hs.htm.



a crucial time of life to focus on disease prevention. It's never too late to adopt a healthy lifestyle to enjoy a longer, healthier life," she said.

minorities – primarily blacks and Hispanics – are more likely to fall into those categories.

The report also notes that 11 percent of Americans ages 55-64 lack health insurance—compared to the national average of Americans under age 65 without health insurance (16.5 percent).

KUSAHC Shots

KUSAHC offers Self Care Classes

Community Health Nursing at the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will conduct self care classes on the third Thursday of the month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Readiness and Training Center on the first floor of the clinic.

These classes will teach how to treat minor

illnesses/injuries and when to see a provider.

Upon conclusion of the class, attendees will receive a Med Card which can be used to get over the counter medications from the KUSAHC pharmacy without having an appointment.

Classes are available to all KUSAHC Prime beneficiaries.

Participants can register with Community Health

Nursing by calling 410-278-1774/1964.

KUSAHC repairs problem with appointment line

KUSAHC

Intermittent problems with the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic Call Center appointment line, 410-278-5475, are being investigated.

"We are working diligently to repair the Automated Call Distribution system causing the problem," said Lt. Col. William Rice, KUSAHC commander. "Our staff is monitoring the appointment line and focusing on implementing a more user friendly automated attendant."

If a patient cannot navigate the automated attendant to make an appointment, call the

Managed Care Administrator, 410-278-1804, and report the problem.

"We apologize this has caused and ask your patience and understanding until all repairs have been made," Rice said.

New hours for Allergy and Immunization

Beginning Jan. 15, the

Allergy and Immunization Clinic will be open on Monday, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Friday, 1 to 4 p.m.

The clinic is closed from noon to 1 p.m. each day for lunch.

To reach the Allergy/Immunization Clinic, call 410-278-1746.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE TRACKS



A train makes its way through one of two paper mills built on the Edgewood Model Railroad Club's train display.

Story and photos by
REBECCA J. CHISHOLM
APG News

In an unassuming building on Aberdeen Proving Ground, between a white spewing smoke stack and an old loading dock, a white side door marked with an X leads to an amazing display of miniature buildings, cars, people and an elaborate system of model trains.

Opening their doors to the public for the holiday season, the Edgewood Model Railroad Club spent Thursday evenings in December showing off their massive railway system and talented operators.

The club recently took over building E-5173 that formerly housed the locomotive shop for the railroad that once operated around the post.

With their move and the celebration of the club's 50th year, the members of the informal group decided to open the 'Tidewater and Allegheny Railroad' to the public, though hopefully not too many folks, said longest club member, Dave Renard.

While the old railroad location was good for visitors, the new club space is smaller, thus a tight fit for a crowd. Plus, the railroad the group has constructed is more for members than for showing off.

The club recently acquired computer software that creates train orders that the members spend their evenings carrying out. The computer knows what trains, stations and products the railway has, and makes the orders tailored to the rail system.

Though this activity provides hours and hours of enjoyment to the club members, Renard said, it's something that is "fun to do, not necessarily to watch."

Thus during open houses, the members show off the buildings they have created from kits and from scratch, the trains themselves, and the amazing two to three tiered landscape they built.

"The whole purpose is to try to simulate an actual railroad," Renard said.

Simulating a railroad from 1966 is great, he said, because it was an ideal time in railroading. There was no Amtrak, freight trains had cabooses and the 1950s and mid 1960s had such distinctive looking locomotives.

"We're trying to keep it authentic and to a time period," he added.

Some kit structures were "kit bashed," where the builder takes the parts from a kit and builds something entirely different. Many structures were built from numerous kits to make them fit the scale of the railroad.

As the railroad traverses land from the mountains to the ocean, as is common to Maryland, many typical area industries are found along the tracks. A Coca-Cola plant makes soda, several coalmines operate, two paper plants churn out product and a power plant makes it all run.

These different industries require different train cars, making the process of carrying out orders more interest-

Not being bound to an actual railway allows club members to decide what industries they want to feature, and what geographic location would have had them.

Renard, a 45-year veteran of the railroad club, has seen the "very informal" group grow and shrink in membership. Currently with eight active members, the club always has a number of prospective members, all of which ebb and flow with the comings and goings of an active military post.

The club was started by active duty Army officers, who knowing that they wouldn't be around for too long, opened the membership to anyone interested, whether active, retired or civilian.

Because of the flexibility of membership, the club maintains a flexible attitude. At one point in the past they had a budget, from the civilian welfare fund, but budget cuts stopped that. Now the members just split whatever costs occur, Renard said.

This relaxed attitude is something hard to find on a military installation, according to the members.

With the lack of funding, many of the trains used in the simulation belong to the members, while some are outside donations from the community.

The group has purchased a number of new locomotives, all currently gray, which wait to be painted with the Tidewater and Allegheny colors once they are decided.

Renard is a retired DA civilian, who also spends his time teaching model railroading at Harford Community College. Many new members come from his classes there.

The Edgewood Model Railroad Club, which meets every Thursday night, not only runs a working model railroad, but travels as often as possible. The group recently went to the Strasburg Railroad, and is planning a trip to the National Model Railroad Convention in Philadelphia this July.

For such a small, informal group, the railroad club maintains a professional look. But, the railroaders enjoy their relaxed environment and look to keep the status quo.

"Somebody once asked us for our bylaws," Renard laughed. "We had to write some quick."



Dave Renard, who has been a member of the railroad club longer than any other, adjusts his train.

ing. Boxcars, chemical transporters and trains loaded with wood chips, logs and coal traverse the tracks on a regular basis, taking supplies and finished products to each factory.

The Tidewater and Allegheny Railroad the club built is not modeled after any particular system ever in existence. A "freelance" railroad, it was built to traverse a variety of terrains, from the tidewater pools of a place similar to Havre de Grace, to the mountains that resemble those in Western Maryland.



Eli Sotirakos, son of Erika Sotirakos of the Science Applications International Corporation, longs to play with the locomotive that he can almost reach while perched on his dad, Peter's, shoulders. "He loves trains," Erika said.



Club member Dick Schwanke of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory flips a switch to avoid a train collision.

Proposed automotive test track at ATC seen as crucial for high-speed combat driving



Courtesy of U.S. ARMY
ATC Munson Stryker: None of the existing automotive test tracks at the U.S. Army's Aberdeen Test Center can adequately support sustained high-speed testing of military vehicles. ATC envisions a test facility that will give it enhanced automotive test capabilities.

Story by
MIKE CAST
DTC

Roadside bombs and other attacks in Afghanistan and Iraq underscore the need for military vehicles that can travel rapidly, often on unpaved roads, while carrying the weight of added armor. This change in doctrine poses a potentially serious problem for the U.S. Army because many of its vehicles were originally designed to travel at significantly slower speeds than today's missions demand, and with no additional armor.

The Army Test and Evaluation Command and its technical staff in the Developmental Test Command and DTC's

Aberdeen Test Center are seeking to address that problem by constructing an Automotive Technology Evaluation Facility at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The planned facility would be used to test military vehicles at sustained speeds of 70 miles per hour or faster, a capability ATC currently lacks, despite operating a variety of test tracks at the proving ground, said ATC's Randy Babcock, one of many people striving to make the ATEF a reality.

None of the currently existing courses on the installation can support sustained-high-speed testing, he said, adding that ATEF is a capability desperately needed so DTC can

evaluate test vehicles in ways in which they are employed by soldiers in the field.

Testing would then be able to identify possible safety and reliability issues to allow safe and effective use of vehicles in theater.

According to Army sources, U.S. Soldiers in the combat zone do 90 percent of their driving on roads - both paved and unpaved - and at maximum possible speeds. They put a great deal of mileage on their vehicles, often from 500 to 2,000 miles per mission.

Insurgent attacks have also made it necessary to drive vehicles with armor they were not designed to carry. The weight of added armor on convoy vehicles negatively

impacts both reliability and performance characteristics. The ATEF would enable testing that reflects these realities, Babcock said. Additionally, ATC engineers see this facility as essential to the Tactical Vehicle Reset Program, the Army's program for reconditioning tactical military vehicles that have undergone heavy operational use in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"ATC has tested numerous vehicles with armor kits in the past two years at Aberdeen facilities, but we haven't been able to do all of the testing we wanted to perform because of the inability to perform sustained high speed operations and because of accelerated timetables for getting these systems fielded," said ATC's Todd Morris, also involved in the project. "ATEF will give us that capability. Right now, our only high-speed track is a bi-directional, two-lane paved roadway with short-radius circular turnarounds at each end to return traffic to the straight section of the course. Traffic at each end of the course must slow to 25 mph to negotiate the turns before getting back up to the desired test speed. Once they get back up to speed, you only have a minute at maximum speed, really, before they have to slow down to turn around at the other end. ATEF is designed to keep that speed up throughout."

The facility as currently planned would consist of a tri-oval test track with a 57-foot wide roadbed containing two paved and two gravel lanes that loop around the Phillips Army Airfield in the northwest section of the proving ground. The track would be 4.5 miles long and have curves with at least a 1,600-foot turning radius to enable safe turns with a minimum of banking. The course would also have 75-foot runoff shoulder areas on the edge of the track to allow vehicle drivers to safely stop or control vehicles in the event of a mechanical failure. The ATEF is designed to not only permit safe testing at high speeds for vehicles the Army currently uses but also to provide safe sustained-high-speed testing of future military vehicles such as those being developed for the Army's Future Combat Systems, Babcock said.

The facility's proximity to the Phillips Army Airfield, in an area selected for minimum environmental impact, would not pose an aviation safety problem or interfere with the airfield's operations, Babcock said.

"There are a lot of guidelines and practices you need to follow whenever you build something close to an airfield, and we have coordinated the location of the track to maximize test use while minimizing the effect of our operations on the airfield. Traffic control systems will be in place around the track to assure safe operation around Phillips Army Airfield and on the test track," Babcock said.

The ATEF project has a history that goes back nearly two decades and includes a variety of studies. To complete a site feasibility study, an independent firm examined 10 other Department of Defense installations across the United States and four private-industry sites in Arizona, California, Nevada and Ohio. ATC has been designated as DoD's Automotive Center of Excellence, and has expertise valued throughout the Department of the Army.

For this and a variety of other reasons, ranging from lack of adequate size to a lack of security, the study indicated that APG would be the best location for the facility.

Although the current war is taking place in the desert, the temperate climate in Maryland is absolutely necessary for realistically testing Army vehicles that might be used anywhere in the world in the future, said ATC's J.P. Moore, a mission support contractor closely involved with the project.

"The environment at Aberdeen Proving Ground replicates 80 percent of the world's climatic conditions," Moore said. "Other places don't have that. APG is the Army's only temperate-climate Major Range and Test Facility Base (MRTFB)."

An initial study ruled out several areas of the proving ground because of their use as active ranges or because they were within areas containing roads or buildings.

The airfield area stood out as the most logical location for

the ATEF because it is in an area of the proving ground where the track would have the least impact on wetlands.

The proposed course for the ATEF was altered more than once to lessen the environmental impact, reducing it to about 17.5 acres of wetland impact. To mitigate that impact, the Army is planning to create or enhance wetlands in other locations. The Army Corps of Engineers, which is close to completing a 10-percent design of the ATEF, is including wetland mitigation measures in the design.

The Corps of Engineers projected two years ago that ATEF would be a multi-million dollar project, a sum ATEC and DTC will have difficulty funding without congressional support, said Morris.

Although the ATEF is scheduled for construction funding in 2011, DTC commander Brig. Gen. Michael Combest, sees the facility as crucial to the war effort under way, now that high-speed driving is the norm in the combat zone.

To build a facility that will directly support soldiers, Combest is pushing for funding and construction three years ahead of the current schedule.

"The track has been conceptualized; it has been laid down in a rough position around Phillips for the last five to eight years," Babcock said. "In the last eight or nine months we've been working really hard to address the aviation safety issues, minimize impact to the wetlands, and to go out and talk to every (proving ground) tenant that has operations adjoining the ATEF track, to alleviate people's concerns. We actually bumped the track here and there to be outside of the explosive safety arc around the new NGIC facility."

The road ahead for the ATEF may be bumpy due to the cost of construction, but its proponents at DTC and ATC believe very strongly that this added test capability will ultimately pay off in a big way for U.S. Soldiers.

Its location near ATC's diverse test tracks would greatly facilitate other types of vehicle testing, according to Babcock and Morris.

DFAS offers tips on avoiding charge card problems

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Historically, the Department of the Army experiences a significant increase of government travel charge card delinquencies during the holiday season.

To heighten awareness for cardholders, the following common causes of delinquencies and guidelines to follow to avoid becoming delinquent are provided.

Misuse/nonpayment of travel card

The government travel charge card is to be used for official travel expenses only and should never be used for personal use. Cardholders are responsible and accountable for the timely payment of undisputed travel card charges. The obligation of cardholders to pay their travel card balance is not contingent on receipt of reimbursement from their settlement voucher.

Split disbursement not annotated on settlement vouchers

Split disbursement is mandatory for all government travelers. Cardholders must keep accurate records of their travel card transactions and annotate a sufficient amount for split disbursement to cover the total outstanding charges on travel card accounts.

Payment from settlement voucher insufficient to reimburse cost of travel card transactions

Prior to departure for TDY, determine the per diem rate (meals, incidentals and lodging costs) to ensure travel card charges do not exceed the cardholder's allowable TDY reimbursement. Cash advances should be limited to costs that cannot be paid with the cardholder's travel card. If the cardholder charges the meals and incidentals on their travel card, they can not obtain cash advances for these M&I costs.

Untimely filing of settlement vouchers

ment vouchers

Cardholders must prepare and submit their voucher within five days of completion of travel and before departing on holiday leave. Since organizations may be short-handed as a result of employees on leave, cardholders should allow longer voucher processing time at DFAS. Remember that DFAS has 30 days from the time of receipt of the voucher to make reimbursement.

Interim/partial settlement vouchers not filed during extended TDY

Interim vouchers should be filed every 30 days for long-term TDYs over 45 days. Cardholders should request assistance from their organization in filing and submitting cardholder vouchers during extended TDY.

There are several options available to cardholders when making payments to their

Bank of America travel charge card account.

- Payment by check or money order can be mailed to: Bank of America, P.O. Box 60075, City of Industry, CA 91716-0075.

- Payment can be made at the BOA Web site, www.MyEasyPayment.com, in three easy steps and will be posted to the account within two to three business days. The routing number of the financial institution as well as the checking account number is required.

- Another alternative in making a payment is to use BOA's Payment by Phone Option, but each transaction will be subject to a fee not to exceed \$10, which will be added to the amount of the payment. Although Payment by Phone transactions normally occur on the date the request is initiated (if requested prior

to 6 p.m.), occasionally it could take 24-48 hours for the payment to be posted to the account.

- Payment can be made at any Bank of America in the local area. The travel card will have to be presented to process this transaction, but there is no fee or cost.

For more information or assistance regarding the processing of travel settlement vouchers, call DFAS-Indianapolis Customer Service at 1-888-332-7366. Questions or assistance with the government travel charge card program should be directed to the agency/organization program coordinator or the supervisor or chain of command.

If the cardholder does not know or is unable to contact their A/OPC, call Carrie Williams, 502-624-2248, or Laura Bates, 502-624-3241 in G-4/Directorate of Resource and Logistics Management.