

## POST SHORTS

### Recycling schedule



The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Jan. 26, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

### RAB meeting scheduled Jan. 26

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Jan. 26, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Drive. The topic will be an update on the Carroll Island and Graces Quarters Study Areas.

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

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

### 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 recruiters to visit

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

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Youth art exhibit  
KUSAHC

# MLK remembered during commemoration

Story and photos by

**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

A "powerful message" delivered in a passionate style reminiscent of the man it honored was the highlight of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community's celebration of the legacy of slain civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. held at the Stark Recreation Center Jan. 12.

Minister Teresa Samuel of Zion Temple Apostolic Church in Havre de Grace was the guest speaker for the program hosted by APG Garrison Equal Opportunity advisors and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby gave welcoming remarks and introduced the guest speaker, as "a true woman of God."

Samuel said she was "honored to be here this morning to speak about this man who laid a foundation for us all."

She spoke about the power of freedom, how it has evolved since the Civil Rights movement and the need to reiterate its value to future generations.

"With great power comes great responsibility and freedom is the greatest power on Earth," Samuel said. "I often think about what my life would be like without the liberties I've grown accustomed to. Freedom is a gift that has been given to the American people, and though we are not yet where we are going to be as a nation, thank God, we are not where we used to be."

She said that as the pastor of her church's Youth Ministry, she often encourages

**"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."**

**Martin Luther King Jr.  
March on Washington speech  
Aug. 28, 1963**



Illustration by NICK PENTZ

Claudia Denise Coleman, center, of the Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center, leads her dance students, from left, Gisele Spencer, 13, Shera' Ford, 14 and Ziaire Rhames, 10 in a spiritual dance tribute during the commemoration for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. held at the Stark Recreation Center Jan. 12.

youths who complain about "obstacles in their way," that "you have been given a great power. Take it and begin to cause change for this and future generations."

"Your past does not determine your future and where you came from does not determine where you are going," she said. "If you utilize what you have, you can make a dif-

ference not only in your home and in your school, but in this great nation."

Samuel told the audience "I want to stir your hearts and minds so when you leave here you know you have the power," adding "Freedom is a terrible thing to waste."

"As I look around the room I see that Dr. King's dream lives on," she said in closing.

"Let freedom ring from your homes, your communities and in your family."

After a standing ovation from the audience, Irby presented Samuel with a commemorative APG Garrison plaque.

"What a powerful message," Irby said, adding that Samuel's speech was inline with the program's theme that

challenges all to "remember, celebrate and act by making a conscious effort to follow Dr. King's example."

The program included a spiritual dance tribute led by Denise Coleman of the Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center.

After introducing the three dance students who performed with her, Coleman dedicated

See MLK, page 9

# 20th Support (CBRNE) commander gets first star

Story by

**BARRY NAPP**

20th SUPCOM (CBRNE)

Brig. Gen. Kevin R. Wendel, Commander, U.S. Army 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives or CBRNE), one of the Army's newest command and control headquarters organizations, was promoted at Aberdeen Proving Ground by Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, Commanding General, Fifth U.S. Army, January 13.

"I know from personal experience serving with Kevin Wendel that he is a special leader, a hands-on commander who cares for Soldiers and

their family members," said Clark. "This is a proud moment for me to be a part of this important milestone in the Wendel family. Promotion to general officer just doesn't happen very often and he is truly deserving of the additional trust and confidence that comes with this position."

Approximately 150 family members, friends, Soldiers and civilians attended the event and wished the Army's newest general officer and his family well.

"This promotion is a special event for both me and my family. They have given me unwavering support and encouragement during my entire career," said Wendel. "I

consider myself very fortunate to have served with our Nation's finest Soldiers, NCOs and officers; it is they that have directly impacted on any successes I may have had in the past, or will experience in the future. They challenged me to do my duty better. I was trained, retrained and allowed to make mistakes, but never allowed to fail."

The 20th Support Command (CBRNE) activated in October 2004 is a major subordinate command under U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM). Present subordinate units include 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) and 110th Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort),

with both units scheduled to fall under the future 48th Chemical Brigade headquarters. The recently activated 71st Ordnance Group (EOD) provides command and control of three ordnance battalions, with one more battalion scheduled for future activation. The 71st Ordnance Group (EOD) also joins the already established 52d Ordnance Group (EOD), and additional future growth of the command is scheduled to include activation of an Analytical and Remediation Directorate.

The command is also responsible for managing DOD technical support to consequence management operations and provides CBRNE

technical advice and subject matter expertise. The unique organization has technical expertise to conduct sensitive site exploitation, disablement, disposition, demilitarization and consequence management operations as well as support U.S. Secret Service and Department of State operations protecting the president and other designated very important persons.

"Lots of people are responsible for this promotion," said Wendel. "They have my special thanks, my respect and gratitude for the support. I am proud and thankful to continue serving Soldiers, DA civilians and their families in the bro-

See STAR, page 9

## ACS holds job fair



Photo by REBECCA J. CHISHOLM

The APG Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program's Community Job Fair offered those seeking employment the chance to meet with prospective employers at the Aberdeen Recreation Center Jan. 12. Several dozen representatives, including the Harford County Public School System, Harford Community College, Log.Sec., Constar, Baltimore County Police, the Harford County Sheriff's Office and Upper Chesapeake Health met with job candidates and exchanged resumes and business cards during this four hour long event.

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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.

# APG Tax Center offers free tax preparation

Story by  
**SANDI WILLIAMS**  
OSJA

The Installation Tax Assistance Program, directed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, provides free tax assistance each year to qualifying active duty military members, retirees, and family members. Active duty members are those service members currently holding an active duty ID card. National Guard or reservists not mobilized are not eligible for services and should contact their individual units for assistance.

The Tax Center, located on the second floor in Building 310, Wing 9, will open for service on Monday, Jan. 23.

Hours of operation will be 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Walk-in hours for easy returns will be 7 to 11 a.m. More complex returns may require an appointment.

## Trained volunteers

A number of Special Duty Soldiers have been assigned to work at the Tax Center on a full-time basis and will be trained in federal and Maryland state income tax return preparation. An IRS examination at the end of the course certifies each Special Duty Soldier as a Volunteer.

## Being prepared

It is extremely important to gather the information needed to file an accurate return. Information needed

includes:

- Copy of the last tax return (2004)
- Original W-2 statements
- Form 1099 stating interest, dividends or capital gains, distributions from pensions and IRAs
- Social security cards for yourself, spouse, and all dependents
- Alimony information
- Child care expenses and provider identification and address
- Power of attorney signed by the spouse if either party plans to sign the spouse's name on a joint tax return
- Blank check with bank routing and account number for a refund directly deposited into a bank account

For those who itemize

deductions or own a home that is rented to others, bring materials such as:

- Mortgage interest statements (Form 1098)
- Medical receipts
- Rental reports
- Investment statements
- Charitable contribution receipts

For stock sold this year, the taxpayer must establish the sales price and the cost basis of the stock before coming to the tax center. Volunteers cannot calculate these figures.

Documents needed depend on each individual situation. The Tax Center cannot prepare a return unless the taxpayer brings all necessary documentation. Inaccurate tax returns caused by incomplete/faulty information may incur IRS

penalty and interest assessments.

## Obtain W-2 online

Defense Finance and Accounting Service myPay is a secure, DFAS-operated Web site that lets active duty, National Guard and Reserve military members, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online. Soldiers and civilians can access myPay by going to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

## Tax forms

Federal tax forms are available at the APG Tax Center, public libraries, post offices and at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). State tax forms are available online at the taxpayer's state department of revenue Web site.

## Electronic filing

Free electronic filing is also available through the APG Tax Center. However, volunteers must prepare the tax return at the Tax Center in order to electronically file the tax return. Electronic filing enables the taxpayer to receive their refund by check or direct deposit into their bank account rather than having it mailed.

The average return time is approximately three weeks for a check mailed and about seven to ten days for deposits made directly into a taxpayer's checking or savings account.

For more information and assistance with tax preparation and/or electronic filing, contact the APG Tax Center, 410-278-2127, beginning Jan. 23.

# ATEC commanding general receives second star

ATEC

Maj. Gen. James R. Myles, commander of the Army Test and Evaluation Command received his second star and promotion to major general from Army Vice Chief of Staff General Richard A. Cody, in ceremonies at ATEC headquarters in Alexandria, Va. Jan. 4.

ATEC headquarters is scheduled to relocate to Aberdeen Proving Ground, a result of the most recent BRAC action.

Myles, 53, has commanded ATEC since June 2004. He previously commanded ATEC's Operational Test Command, Fort Hood, Texas.

In addition to the headquar-

ters, the command includes APG's Developmental Test Command, the Operational Test Command, and the Army Evaluation Center, Alexandria, Va. With test centers at APG, Dugway Proving Ground, Utah; White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico; Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.; Fort Huachuca, Ariz; Fort

Rucker, Ala.; Redstone Arsenal, Ala.; Fort Wainwright, Alaska; and Operational Assessment Teams deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, ATEC is the premier DoD test and evaluation organization.

A nationwide command, ATEC is responsible for all Army developmental and

operational testing. It plans, conducts, and integrates developmental testing, independent operational testing, independent evaluations, assessments, and experiments in order to provide essential information to decision makers to ensure that war-fighters have the right capabilities for success across the entire spec-

trum of operations.

Following his promotion, Myles said "this promotion allows me to continue to work for our Soldiers in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan." He further explained that ATEC testers and evaluators "no longer work for just the decision makers, you work for the commanders and Soldiers in combat."

# 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), to include Active Army, Reservist and National Guardsmen worldwide.

The Clothing & Heraldry Services Office 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 Clothing & Heraldry Services Office is the Executive Agent for the Department of Army (G-4) on all matters relating to Army Military Clothing Sales Stores (AMCSS), Clothing Initial Issue Point (CIIP), Central Issue Facilities (CIF) and Heraldry programs worldwide.

They write policies such as AR 700-84, Issue and Sale of Personal Clothing, and provide input to other regulations pertaining to clothing and individual equipment. The office is also responsible for developing and updating the Individual Clothing Request,

DA Form 3078, Sample Booklet. They also conduct Management Assistance Visits to provide advice, guidance and administrative information to customers.

The CHSO office provides Army procedural guidance to 100 Clothing Sales Stores, 56 CIF's and five central initial issue points worldwide. They also serve as the functional and technical expert on AMCSS matters providing on-site assistance to associates and Soldiers as well as technical assistance through their MAV program and online website at: <http://tri.army.mil/LC/CP/CSO/index.htm>.

Ron Sickles is the chief of the CHSO which employs 14 individuals. As the Executive Agent for the DA, his operation is "the eyes and ears in the field."

They provide all clothing to the Soldier's including dress blues, Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE) in accordance with appropriate CTA's, Sickles said. CHSO responsibilities include meeting the needs of Active, Reservist and National Guard units during peace time and deployments.

"With only 14 people assigned to the clothing mis-

sion, it means CHSO staff travel approximately 40 percent of the time providing assistance to their customers," Sickles said.

He said his staff must be knowledgeable of the laws and regulations when conducting assistance visits.

The office processes approximately one million individual transactions annually which in return saved the Army about \$3 million annually, he added.

"Our number one priority is to make sure the Soldiers have what they are entitled to (clothing bag Items) during peace times and deployments," Sickles said.

The CHSO, assigned to the Clothing and Heraldry Team in Philadelphia, is responsible for the supply, control and issue of all flags, guidons and streamers, general officer and VIP items (including the Presidential, Vice-Presidential and White House flags) and the replacement of medals, decorations and awards for veterans and their next-of-kin. The mission also includes providing the funding for the supply of these items to active Army, Army Reserve and ROTC. Clothing and Heraldry also controls the issue of

heraldic items to the National Guard, however NG units pay for their items out of state funds.

Visit the website at [www.heraldry.army.mil](http://www.heraldry.army.mil) to request flags, guidons or streamers or to check the status of a requisition. For more information, contact Ms. Ramoni at 215-737-2504.

How to request medals

Army veterans or their next-of-kin (un-remarried widow, eldest child, parent, eldest sibling, and eldest grandchild) may request a set of authorized medals and decorations by sending a written

request along with a copy of the service member's DD Form 214 or other discharge papers to the National Personnel Records Center 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO. 63132-5100 Or, visit the NPRC Web site at: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

If medals were never issued, the request will be processed free of charge. If medals are a replacement set, there is a nominal fee. Only one request will be honored for next-of-kin. Visit their website for more information at [www.veteranmedals.army.mil](http://www.veteranmedals.army.mil).

The Heraldry Team is located on the Naval Inventory Control Point in Northeast Philadelphia. The address is U.S. Army Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate, Veteran's Medals Unit, Building 6B North, Room 328, 700 Robbins Avenue, P.O. Box 57997, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5096. Telephone number is 877-827-9026. Email address is [usarmyheraldry@dla.mil](mailto:usarmyheraldry@dla.mil).

For additional information you may contact Sickles at 410-436-9722 or email [Ronald.Sickles@US.army.mil](mailto:Ronald.Sickles@US.army.mil).

# APG community donates blood to Armed Forces



Ginger Neal, the commander's secretary for Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, donates blood in the APG Blood Drive, Jan. 11 at the Chapel taken by Trinidad Basilio, a civilian medical technician with the Armed Services Blood Bank Center. Behind them, Directorate of Safety Health and the Environment's safety and occupational health specialist Chris Sollers has his blood drawn by Hospital Apprentice Matthew Swanson, a corpsman with the Armed Services Blood Bank Center.

Story and photo by  
**REBECCA J. CHISHOLM**  
APG News

Members of the Armed Services Blood Bank Center, operating out of the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, poked and prodded Aberdeen Proving Ground blood donors at the Post Chapel Jan. 11.

Over 80 community members donated blood to be used by the Armed Forces in operations all over the world, said Maj. Jeffrey Winston, HHC commander.

The military use their own blood, as any received from the American Red Cross costs the services \$300 a pint. Thus, 99 percent of blood donated to the Armed Services Blood Bank stays within the military. Any excess is offered to other needy groups.

Because of strict regulations on who can donate, most Soldiers are unable to give blood due to spending time overseas, said Naval Cmdr. Brian Williamson of the Armed Services Blood Bank Center. New rules have decreased the amount of blood able to be donated by 50 percent.

"The numbers are harder and harder to meet," he said. "But, we do fairly well, militarily."

To help the services obtain more blood, Department of Defense employees are urged to donate at military blood drives, but also to give to the Red Cross. Employees who tell the Red Cross they are with DoD will be able to earn credits that the military can use to purchase blood from the Red Cross if needed.

Blood drives here on post will now be held quarterly, the next on April 12.

## 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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For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 2201, IMNE-APG-PA, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to [editor@apg.army.mil](mailto:editor@apg.army.mil).

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

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# Defense Commissary Agency streamlines return check process

Story by  
**RICK BRINK**  
DeCA

New streamlined processing procedures for returned checks are viewed as a win-win situation for commissary shoppers and for store employees looking for better ways to provide customer service.

Shoppers win because the new centralized returned-check

processing doesn't affect the way they write checks.

Commissary employees win because the process eliminates the return to the commissary of all paper checks for insufficient funds.

Returned checks normally routed back to commissaries for collection are instead routed to a centralized processing site run by a business that has success-

fully performed this service for a variety of businesses that process a high volume of transactions, said Pam Conklin, DeCA's chief financial executive.

Instead of commissary employees having to contact customers who wrote insufficient-fund checks, the centralized processor electronically deducts the amount of the checks from

the customers' checking accounts and starts procedures to assess the insufficient fund administrative fee. These deductions have a high success rate because pay cycles have sufficiently replenished customers' accounts to cover the checks.

This more efficient process, which doesn't cost customers any more money in insufficient-fund service charges, standardiz-

es redemption processes within commissaries and allows store employees to devote more time to customer service, said Conklin, who called it a "win-win situation."

A handful of continental U.S. commissaries initiated the process in 2003, and last year European stores came on line. Remaining stateside stores and commissaries in the Far East and

Iceland wrapped up worldwide implementation in November 2005.

The new process results from a collaborative effort between DeCA, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the U.S. Department of Treasury, Bank of America and Solutran, the firm that provides the returned check processing services.

## Frequently asked questions

**1. Who can I call at the Defense Commissary Agency if I have questions on the status of my account with the centralized processor?**

Questions about the program and the collection process on the account can be addressed to the Agency's customer service liaison, Judy Blair or J.D. Littman, toll free at 1-866-893-5015. Their e-mail addresses are judy.blair@deca.mil, john.littman@deca.mil or rcmprogram@deca.mil. Customers may contact Blair or Littman between 6 a.m and 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Customers should allow five to seven business days for the check to reach the processing center.

**2. How is the money taken from my checking account?**

The central processing center will use Represented Check Entry (RCK), which utilizes the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network to transmit ACH debit transactions to a customer's bank once a check has been returned for insufficient or uncollected funds.

**3. Is this legal?**

Yes, it was approved by NACHA (National Automated Clearing House Association) in 1998 and the Code of Federal Regulations (31 C.F.R. Part 210).

**4. Do I need to be notified of an RCK transaction?**

Notice is required to be posted at the point of sale stating that in the event that a check returns for insufficient or uncollected funds, it may be converted to an electronic format for representation.

**5. Can I be charged a service fee on RCK Items?**

Yes, because the check was originally cashed as a paper item, the transaction is viewed as a Uniform Commercial Code transaction and thus the ability to charge a service fee is legal. The collection for the administrative fee will be implemented during the deployment of the new program.

**6. How will this appear on my bank statement?**

Currently it is regulated by NACHA as "REDEPCHECK," the company name (DFAS) and the check number prints on the consumer's bank statement.

**7. Can I stop the RCK from being presented against my account?**

No, by writing a check at the commissary after having the opportunity to read the notice at the point of sale, the customer agrees that if their check is returned for insufficient or uncollected funds that the check may be collected electronically.

**8. Will my bank send the NSF (Non-Sufficient Funds) check back through a second time?**

No, under the RCK process if a check fails to clear a customer's account the first time it will be forwarded using the Automated Clearing House process to the central processing center. Remember to allow five to seven business days for the check to reach the clearing house before making inquiries.

**9. If I wrote a NSF check at the commissary a few months ago, how would I tell if I am on the bad checklist?**

DeCA uses the term "negative check file." Ask the cus-

tommer service department to make an inquiry into the system or call the RCM toll free number at 1-866-893-5015.

**10. How will I know when my check writing privileges are suspended?**

Customers will know when they receive notification from their bank that the original payment to the commissary was unsuccessful.

**11. Once the NSF face value of the check has been electronically collected, can I resume writing personal checks?**

Customers can resume check writing at the commissary, 60 days from receipt of their NSF check by the centralized processor, assuming the collection on the face value of the NSF check has been obtained.

**12. What if my account does not have sufficient funds to honor the first electronic presentment for the value of the check?**

If the first electronic collection attempt on military payday is unsuccessful, a second electronic representation will occur on the next military payday. Presentation dates cannot be altered. If the second attempt is unsuccessful, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Columbus, Ohio, will start collection action. Check writing privileges are suspended until resolved.

**13. What if I already have an outstanding NSF check with the commissary?**

All NSF checks written prior to the start of program will be handled under collection procedures at the commissary where the check was written, or after 30 days at DFAS, Columbus, Ohio (1-800-635-6045). Customers will be notified by the commissary or DFAS on the procedures for collection.

**14. If I mistakenly write a check on a closed account, or have to stop payment on a check, what will happen?**

Checks returned due to a closed account or a "stop payment" request will be forwarded by the central processing center directly to DFAS-Columbus for their collection actions. DFAS will continue to collect the face value of the check, the \$25 DeCA administrative fee and the \$15 DFAS fee. Questions may be addressed to the customer service liaison (see question No. 1). Check writing privileges will be suspended until the situation is resolved.

**15. If my bank causes the error, how do I recover the \$25 administrative fee and get off of the negative checklist?**

In the event of a bank error, DeCA will follow the standard commercial banking practice, which requires the customer to recover the \$25 administrative fee from their bank. In the event of a documented bank error, DeCA's return check management office will remove the customer's social security number from the negative check database upon receipt of bank notification. It is the customer's responsibility to obtain and provide to this office the bank notification, which must include the customer's name, and account, routing and check numbers. The customer or store is to fax or mail this letter to the return check management office. This address is for bank error letters only, not payments. Customers can contact this office between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday.

## POST SHORTS

is a contract position, but can lead to a permanent state position.

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

### Revised hours at Stark Recreation Center

Edgewood Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140 is open 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

### Summer Intern Program

The User Productivity Enhancement and Technology Transfer (PET) initiative of the Department of Defense (DoD) High Performance Computing Modernization Program announces its 2006 Summer Intern Program in High Performance Computing. The goal of this program is to encourage college students to consider careers in HPC research within the DoD. Summer intern students will work with a DoD mentor and

gain experience in one of many exciting areas, such as computational science, information technology, computer science, scientific visualization, and computer simulation. The 2006 Summer Intern Program is a ten-week appointment beginning after May 15 and ending before Aug. 20. Actual start and end dates vary with location.

Students applying must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program while pursuing a degree in science, engineering, or mathematics at a university or college, and must be planning to continue their education in the fall. Interns should have, at minimum, completed their sophomore year by the beginning of the program, although exceptions can be made for outstanding freshmen. Interns must be U.S. citizens. Students will receive a salary, lodging, and transportation to/from their work location. Salaries range from \$10-\$16 per hour (40 hrs/week), depending on the student's

academic level. The application deadline is Feb. 6.

If you have a student in mind and would like to know more about the program, please contact Angela Fischer (angela.fischer@arl.army.mil) for additional information.

### 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. 25.

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

### APG Community Information Forum scheduled

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

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

Representatives of support agencies/organizations will be present to discuss their activities.

For more information, call

Marilyn Howard, Army Community Service, 410-278-9669.

### Re-Nu-It centers hours

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

sion is March 1 and winners will be notified in May.

### 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 civilians, 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.



**ENERGY MATTERS**  
**Cooking**

[www.socalgas.com](http://www.socalgas.com)

Don't preheat a gas oven unless necessary. If baking breads and cakes, pre-heating the oven may be necessary. But for most foods, like casseroles and broiled items, pre-heating isn't necessary.

Don't open the oven door while food is cooking. This can lose up to 50 degrees Fahrenheit in temperature and waste energy.

Cover pots when cooking.

Use pots and pans that fit the burners. Pans that fit a burner absorb more of the energy, reducing the amount of heat lost.

Cook by time-and-temperature guides.

Cook several meals at the same time.

Keep oven and burners clean. A clean oven uses energy more efficiently.

Never use the gas range for room heating. It's not designed for this purpose.

## MOVIES

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

**To verify listing, call 410-272-9008, or visit [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) and click on "Movie Listing"**

### IN THE MIX

Friday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

Starring: Usher Raymond, Chazz Palminteri, Emmanuelle Chriqui

This musical drama follows an aspiring music producer (Usher) who works as a bodyguard for a Mafia boss (Palminteri). Trouble brews when the producer falls for the Mafioso's daughter (Chriqui). (Rated PG-13)

### SYRIANA (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.

Starring: George Clooney, Matt Damon, Amanda Peet, Tim Blake Nelson

This political thriller is set in the Cold War era during a global fight for control over

the world's oil supply. The stories of a CIA operative (Clooney), an up-and-coming oil broker (Damon), a prince and a corporate lawyer collide as the fighting for the world's most valuable resource heats up. (Rated R)

### ICE HARVEST

Saturday, Jan. 21, 9 p.m.

Starring: John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton, Connie Nielsen

Vic Cavanaugh (Thornton) teams with a strip-club proprietor (Nielsen) and a dim mob lawyer (Cusack) to steal money from Kansas City's mob boss Bill Guerrard (Quaid). Little does the lawyer know that he's in for some serious double-crossing and Christmas chaos. (Rated R)



# 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](http://www.apgmwr.com).

### Babysitting Class

Child and Youth Services and SKIES Unlimited will hold a Babysitting Class, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Jan. 23, at Army Community Service, building 2754. Participants must be between the ages of 13 to 15 years of age. Bring a bag lunch. The class is free for members of CYS, nonmembers pay \$18 Central enrollment fee per year. Make a reservation by Jan. 20.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 410-278-4589.

### Adult Chess Tournament

An Adult Chess Tournament will be held 9 a.m., Jan. 28 at the Recreation Center, building 3326. Competitors will participate in Double-Elimination, Military

and Open Divisions. Winners will be selected based on the point system (Games will be 30 minutes long unless decided earlier by Checkmate). Trophies will be presented to the top three Competitors in each category.

Cost of entry is \$10. Register by Jan. 25.

### See the Washington Wizards play the Atlanta Hawks

Catch some NBA action with the Washington Wizards vs. Atlanta Hawks, 7 p.m., Feb. 4, at the MCI Center, Washington, D.C. Tickets cost \$36 for lower level and \$13 for upper level. All DoD ID card holders are eligible to purchase tickets. Order tickets now; the last day to purchase tickets is Jan. 27.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact MWR Registration, Tickets, & Leisure Travel, building 3326, at 410-278-4907/4011 or [mwr\\_registration@apg.army.mil](mailto:mwr_registration@apg.army.mil).

### Basic Plumbing Class

This course will teach participants how to make plumb-

ing repairs at their home or business including how to repair pipes and stop leaks, what steps to take in emergency situations, and when to look for warning or danger signs and why. The proper way to care for and maintain existing fixtures and other plumbing apparatuses will also be covered. Cost is \$25. Register by Jan. 30.

Classes will be held 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays, Feb. 1 through 22, in the Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326.

### 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 Jan. 24 through March 7. Boaters who were born after July 1, 1972 and plan to operate a boat in the Maryland, must have completed a Maryland Boating Course and received a certificate issued by Flotilla 13-04 CG Auxiliary. The CG Auxiliary offers several classes each year.

The cost to attend the Boating Course is \$20. Classes

will be held Jan. 24 to 26; Feb. 14 to 16; and March 7 through April 20. The cost to attend the Coast Guard Boating Skills and Seamanship Course is \$40. The education unit will come to a group of 10 or more students. Reservations are required for all classes.

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

### Learn the basic skills of volleyball

"Inside the Lines," a Volleyball Skills Clinic will be held Thursdays, 6 to 7 p.m., from Feb. 2 through 23, at Russell Gymnasium, building 3330. Cost is \$20 per person. Participants will learn basic hitting techniques and how to employ defensive and offensive strategies of ball control such as serving, returning, blocking, setting, and spiking. Better practice techniques will also be covered.

Register by Jan. 31.

### Ballroom Dancing

Learn to dance like Fred and Ginger. Ballroom Dancing will be taught Feb. 6 through 27, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the

Recreation Center, building 3326.

Instructional classes designed to enable the student to become proficient in ballroom dancing.

The course will consist of hands-on instruction with emphasis on current and popular dances.

Beginner and intermediate students will learn and master the basic steps and sequences required for performing the dance routines in the program.

The cost is \$60 per person, or \$100 per couple. Register by Feb. 3. Open to all DoD card holders.

### "Laugh 4 Ever" Comedy Show

Enjoy a night of comedy and fun. Two "Laugh 4 Ever" Comedy Shows will be held Feb. 4, at the Post Theater, building 3245. A show for military only will be held 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) and a show for the general public will be held 9 p.m. (doors open 8:30 p.m.) The show will feature comedians Joe Recca with Matt Kazam and Doug Karpf. Tickets for military cost \$10; tickets for the public cost \$15. This program contains adult

content. A cash bar will be available.

To purchase tickets, call 410-278-4011/4907 or E-mail [mwr\\_registration@apg.army.mil](mailto:mwr_registration@apg.army.mil).

For more information, call Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854 or email [earlene.allen@usag-apg.army.mil](mailto:earlene.allen@usag-apg.army.mil).

### Edgewood Area Arts and Crafts

Hours are Friday and Saturday, noon to 8 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday and holidays, closed. Edgewood Arts and Crafts is located in building E-4440.

For more information, call 410-436-2153

### Aberdeen Area Arts and Crafts

Hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, closed. Aberdeen Arts and Crafts is located in building 2407.

For more information, call 410-278-4207

Programs for APG Arts and Crafts centers are open to all DoD employees, contractors and their guests.

## LEAVE DONATION

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and

OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency).

For more information, call Ronda McKinney, 410-278-8988, or e-mail [rondamckinney@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:rondamckinney@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Michele Amrhein  
Sarah Blevins  
Jeanie Bowman  
Robert Brown  
Andrew Buchanan  
Leroy Carter  
Barbara Cascio  
Barbara Crossley  
Sharon Daemer  
Lola Daniels  
Shelia Davison (benign paroxysmal positional vertigo)  
Geraldine Eaton  
Gregory Fox  
Renee Gaffney

Kay Gilbert  
Susan Gorhan  
Shirley Gross  
Melanie A. Hoffman (parasinusitis, fibromyalgia condition)  
Lydia Langley  
Robyn Lee  
Michael Lewis  
Wayne Kaiser  
Beverly King (caring for husband)  
Priscilla Kelly  
William B. McLean (kidney failure)  
Sandra Miller

Patricia Milwicz  
Mary Pettitway  
Tess Ramos (total hip replacement)  
William Sebra  
Barbara Seker  
Cynthia Shelton  
Linda Shoaf  
Tomika Silver  
Alison Tichenor  
Gary Tudor (heart valve replacement)  
Jerry Williams  
Billie Wooten  
Gerard Yursis

## SCHOOL LIAISON

### Geography Challenge

A 'geography challenge' program has been set up at the school liaison office for APG military and civilian students in grades one through twelve. The challenge is designed to create more interest in a subject field United States students sadly lag far behind the rest of the world in understanding the physical features of the earth. Using a practice map and a 50 question test sheet, students use maps and a world globe to find and record the correct answers. Upon completion of the test and scoring, students are a trophy or medallion. The program is administered after school in building 2752, conference room, second floor.

To sign-up for an appointment, please call Ivan Mehosky at 410-278-2857.

### The C.S. Lewis 'Narnia' Reading Award

The Child and Youth Services school liaison office will award the C.S. Lewis 'Narnia' Reading Award to encourage children of all grades to read after school and on weekends. Using the highly acclaimed and popular C. S. Lewis 'Narnia' series, students are encouraged to sign-up up and participate by reading the first book, 'The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.'

Upon completion of the book, a parent or guardian will signify that their child completed reading the entire book (seeing the movie does not count). The parent or guardian will then call the school liaison office at 410-278-2857 for an appointment and accompany their child for a discussion of the book. The child will then receive a medallion for a reading accomplishment in the reading program.

Once the first book is completed and the student has earned a medallion, they are to then start on the next book of the 'Narnia' series and follow the same procedures to earn a second medallion and continue until the books entire 'Narnia' series has been completed. Each book read and completed has its own medallion award.

## 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:

**Think!: why crucial decisions can't be made in the blink of an eye** by Michael Legault

**War Law: understanding international law and armed conflict** by Michael Byers

**March of the Penguins** by Luc Jacquet

**The Complete Houseplant Survival Manual: essential know-how for keeping (not killing) more than 160 indoor plants** by Barbara Pleasant.

**The Great War for Civilization: the conquest of the Middle East** by Robert Fisk

**Creating Web Sites: the missing manual** by Matthew MacDonald

The library's Web site, [www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html](http://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.

**Cold outside?  
Come inside and  
work out with MWR**

## 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](mailto: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

# Art exhibit brings out the finest in APG youths



Dashay Williams, 7, poses with the painting she entered in the Watercolor 9 and under category during the Aberdeen Youth Services Fine Arts Exhibition at Top of the Bay Jan. 6.

Story and photo by

**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Using paper, paints, pencils and a little imagination, Aberdeen Proving Ground youths produced an array of artistic designs for Aberdeen Youth Services Division's 2nd Annual Fine Arts Exhibition

held at Top of the Bay Jan. 6.

More than 3,700 military youth clubs and Boys & Girls Clubs of America organizations across the country participate in the National Fine Arts Exhibit program, said Norma Warwick as she welcomed participants and parents to the program.

"This is our second year

participating in the national exhibit," she said.

Sixty-four youths in four age divisions and in seven categories submitted artwork for the exhibit, totaling 140 pieces of art, Warwick said, adding that the top entries from each category would be forwarded for "participation at the regional level."

Warwick thanked staff members Katie Knoph and Pamela Surette for planning and coordination of the exhibit and the evening's program, and judges Lisa Hammond of the Aberdeen BGCA and Debbie Brooks-Harris of Morale, Welfare and Recreations' Arts and Crafts Center.

"Finally, I'd like to thank the parents for coming to tonight's event and for all the support you give your children," Warwick said. "Let's continue to work together to foster our youth's creative spirit. As I look around the room I can say that you are all winners."

The young artists escorted their family members as they took in the drawings, paintings, collages and sculptures that were displayed on doors, windows, walls and tables around the room.

A colorful watercolor painting of a house with roses in the yard and a little girl's face in the window was submitted by 7-year old Dashay Williams in the Age 9 and Younger category.

"I'm a little girl and I live in a house," she said when asked what inspired her theme.

"I just like to paint," she added.

Fifteen-year old Brandon Banks, a 9th grader at Aberdeen High School was selected to move on in the Monochromatic Drawing, Age 13 to 15 category for his untitled pencil drawing.

"Sometimes I just draw without thinking about it," Banks said. "This one took me about 45 minutes."

All participants of the APG exhibit received certificates of merit.

Those selected to advance to the BGCA Regional Exhibit included:

**Collage**

Rose Wamack, 16-18; Aubrey Cross, 10-12; Timothy Neyens, 9 and younger

**Mixed Media**

Tanaje Williams, 13-15; Dominique Gibson, 10-12; Deandre Drisdorn, 9 and younger

**Monochromatic Drawings**

Brandon Banks, 13-15; Timothy Neyens, 9 and younger

**Multicolored Drawings**

Kierra Kenion, 13-15; Trevor Rajopa, 10-12; Devin Beatty, 9 and younger

**Pastels**

Natalie Rymarz, 10-12;

Tiffany West, 9 and younger

**Sculpture**  
Kierra Hemmeain, 9 and younger

**Watercolor**  
Caitlyn Wamack, 10-12; Romina Mitchell, 9 and younger

The National Fine Arts Exhibition program is an annual event that provides children with artistic education, promotes creativity, and encourages skills and cultural enrichment. Young people are encouraged to create artwork in monochromatic drawings, multicolored drawings, sculpture, watercolor, collage, pastels or mixed media.

One piece of art per age class and category is then selected from each local exhibit by qualified judges for display and competition at the regional level. Selected artwork from each regional exhibits is then considered for inclusion in the National Fine Arts Exhibit, showcased at the BGCA National Conference and then tours the United States, Europe and Asia for one year.

Regional finalists will receive a certificate of appreciation.



Photo by Mr. CONRAD JOHNSON, Data Imaging, U.S. Army Photo CSM Marvin W. Womack, Sr., U.S. Army 20th Support Command (CBRNE) unfurls the general officer flag of BG Kevin R. Wendel, Commander, U.S. Army 20th Support Command (CBRNE) during a recent promotion ceremony held Aberdeen Proving Ground.

## Star

From front page

erhood of arms."

BG Wendel was commissioned in 1979 as an Infantry Second Lieutenant and is a graduate of Valley Forge Military Junior College and Furman University. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Strategic Studies. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

His prior assignment was Chief of Strategy, and Assistant Deputy Director Strategy and Policy, J5, The Joint Staff, Pentagon.

gets better and better."

Claudia Coleman, a CHPPM library technician, has been involved with the program since 1988 and was its first chairperson.

"Overall this program was excellent, from the dancers to the wonderful speaker," Coleman said. "It was a compliment to the capabilities of this committee."

"The program was shorter but the message was there," added CHPPM records management officer Brenda Clayton, coordinator of the Black Employee Program.

She said the Edgewood Dining Facility which hosted a breakfast for attendees "did a wonderful job. They have really worked with us every year."

CHPPM chaplain Orman (Wayne) Boyd presented the invocation and benediction, and the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment honor guard posted and retired the colors.

## MLK

From front page

the tribute "to Dr. King as well as to our service members serving in harm's way to protect our freedom."

Master of ceremonies, Master Sgt. Lennox Wildman closed the program, recognizing Linda Patrick of CHPPM "for her tireless efforts to bring this program to the community."

Organizers and guests agreed the presentations were "inspiring."

"I thought it was great," said Pvt. Kendrick Richardson, Company A 143rd Ordnance Battalion. "I loved the message."

"It really touched everybody," added fellow Soldier Pvt. Kenneth Pitts. "It really made you look at how much has changed."

"I especially liked the displaying of talent by our youth," said BethAnn Cameron of CHPPM.

"We were very pleased with the diversity of the audience and the enthusiasm of the speaker," said Kathleen Crosby, Garrison equal employment opportunity counselor. "I remember how things used to be and she [Samuel] made you really understand Dr. King's message of diversity, freedom and better opportunities. We are living and breathing it today."

Patrick thanked the committee members who included Crosby, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Serino, Garrison equal opportunity advisor, and CHPPM's 1st Lt. Douglas Barrickman, Staff Sgt. Trenholm Rice, Sgt. Reagan Gardley, Brenda Clayton, and Claudia Coleman.

"They did a great job," Patrick said. "Every year this



Photos by YVONNE JOHNSON  
To honor the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, preschoolers from the Aberdeen Proving Ground Child Development Center presented bulletin board themes honoring the slain civil rights leader. Class 9 presented a "We Have A Dream" display featuring their own photographs and thoughts on what they want to be when they grow up, and Class 10 featured the children as crayons in a box who learn how to work together regardless of their color. Leslie Carpenter and Michelle Sheriff are the class leaders for rooms 9 and 10, respectively.



## 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.

## Soldier fights for deployment

Story by

**TOBI EDLER**

Tikrit, Iraq

Army News Service

The American Diabetes Association has created a teddy bear in honor of a diabetic patient who fought to deploy to Iraq after being medically excused.

After Sgt. 1st Class Mark Thompson discovered that he had type one diabetes in 2000, he had to begin a strenuous health regimen.

"I'm on an insulin infusion pump, with a catheter that goes through my stomach and gives me insulin shots every nine minutes through the day and every six minutes during the night," said Thompson. "I have to change the catheter out every three days."

Stationed in Germany with the 1st Infantry Division, Thompson was originally slated to be part of the rear detachment when the division was called up for duty in Iraq.

"I wanted to go and they said no," said Thompson. "I

didn't like that answer and I told (my supervisor) that."

Thompson said he needed to gain approval from the division surgeon before he could be considered for deployment because insulin can only be effective if it stays below 86 degrees.

"I found out that I could slip my pump inside of special coolant pouches and that would keep it safe in temperatures up to 110 degrees," he said.

Thompson got his wish and was able to deploy after a long process in front of medical boards, and dealing with his chain-of-command and the surgeon.

"I took an eight month supply of everything with me: catheters, lancet and testers," said Thompson. "So along with everything else included in normal battle rattle, I was carrying a duffel bag full of medical supplies."

The career counselor did have to activate his contingency plans during his deployment because his pump broke. As a result, he

had to switch back to using needles, which was crushed underneath his interceptor body armor.

Even with his complications, Thompson said he can't imagine having been a part of the Army and not going into combat because, "it would be like being on a basketball team and sitting on the bench the whole time."

The teddy bear created in his name wears a battle dress uniform and has an insulin pump. The inscription on the bear reads: I am Staff Sgt. Thompson, I am serving my country and I am a type one diabetic. Since then Thompson has been promoted.

"I could have easily gotten out of the Army, but I always wanted to be a Soldier," Thompson said. "People assume that a diabetic or a person with a medical condition can't deploy. But I did, and I was there, and it was worth it. From that I get a sense of pride and accomplishment."

## Third Party Collection Program

Story by

**TAMSEN DI BLASIO**  
KUSAHC

Are you covered by Health Insurance? Do you only have TRICARE? The staff at KUSAHC needs to know. Why should you provide this information? It will avoid delays in receiving pharmaceuticals, medical services, or referrals. Federal Law requires patients to divulge other health insurance (OHI) coverage. The

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) evaluates this data in its periodic survey to ensure strict compliance.

Providing accurate and complete health insurance information will:

**HELP YOU-**

Allows the value of services to be applied towards meeting your yearly deductible.

**HELP US-**

Allows recovery of funds to improve onsite facilities and medical services.

**EVERYBODY WINS!**  
Report to Patient Administration to indicate no insurance coverage or provide information on your primary health insurance, supplemental, and/or pharmacy plan(s). Our staff will issue you an Insurance Verification Card good for 2006. If you should have any questions please call 410-278-1729.