

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Nov. 15, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Veterans Day weekend gate hours

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Veterans Day holiday.

The Harford Gate (Route 22) in APG North will close 10 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9, and the Wise Road Gate in APG South will close at 9 p.m.

The Maryland Gate in APG North and the Route 24 Gate in APG South will be open throughout the holiday weekend.

The Harford gate and the Wise Road Gate will reopen at 4 a.m., Nov. 13.

NAF open season underway

The Nonappropriated Funds Limited Open Season for regular full-time and part-time employees ends Dec. 1.

Department of the Army NAF Benefits has forwarded information to qualified employees at their home address. All changes must be processed before the close of business Dec. 1.

To make an appointment to make changes to benefit elections or for answers to questions, call NAF Human Resources, 410-278-8994/5127.

ACS announces 'Holiday Sponsor Program'

With the holiday season fast approaching and the nation still fighting the War on Terrorism, the APG community is constantly reminded of the sacrifices of the men and women in the U.S. armed forces.

During these stressful times, some military families are experiencing financial difficulties and require additional assistance.

Army Community Service works closely with these families providing supportive services throughout the year.

To help make this holiday season brighter for some of these families, ACS will collect donations from individuals or groups desiring to sponsor a military family.

For more information, call Arcelio V. Alleyne, ACS Financial Readiness **See SHORTS, page 8**

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Community Day draws hundreds

Ordnance Corps welcomes new chief

Story by **ANDRICKA THOMAS HAMMONDS**
OC&S

Gen. William S. Wallace, commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, bid farewell to Maj. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, out-going chief of Ordnance and commandant of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools Oct. 30, welcoming Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, former commanding general for 3rd Corps Support Command, during a ceremony Oct. 30 on Ordnance Circle.

A 13-cannon salute honored Boles, who was among the 31 general officers in attendance that day.

Wallace captured the major accomplishments in Ordnance during Boles' two-year tenure.

In the last two years, OC&S trained over 40,000 Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Department of the Army civilians, he stated in his remarks.

"In an Army at war, nothing is more important than the task faced by the Ordnance Center and Schools' leadership to prepare our great Soldiers and leaders for the complex and uncertain challenges of combat," Wallace said.

Wallace commended Boles' contributions to the Ordnance Corps and said the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command is not anxious to see him leave the TRADOC family.

"A visionary leader, his [Boles] efforts set the stage for the future for the Ordnance Corps," Wallace said. Boles has done a magnificent job instilling pride and esprit de corps in the mind of every Soldier trained by the OC&S, he stated.

"You [Boles] have inculcated the 'Warrior Ethos' through realistic and rigorous training," Wallace said.

Wallace did not fail to mention the contributions incoming commandant Halstead would bring to the Ordnance Corps.

"Halstead's reputation of service is legendary," Wallace said. "She has served and led teams in combat. The Ordnance Center and Schools and our Ordnance Corps is blessed to have her experience and caring leadership.

"This Soldier [Halstead] understands that leading Soldiers is a privilege, a sacred trust and an affair of the heart," Wallace said. "I personally vouch for her abilities, her talent and



Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO LAB
Gen. William Wallace, commander, U.S. Training and Doctrine Command, passes the colors from Gen. Vincent E. Boles, former chief of Ordnance to new Chief of Ordnance and Commandant of the Ordnance Center and Schools, Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead Oct. 30 at the Change of Command Ceremony in Ordnance Circle at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

her leadership."

Halstead graciously accepted the responsibility of being named the 34th chief of Ordnance.

"I am honored, humbled and privileged to be the 34th chief of Ordnance," Halstead said. "To train a representation of America's sons and daughters, those willing to die for us, is an honor."

The local Aberdeen community was

represented by S. Fred Simmons, mayor of Aberdeen.

"We have a rich history with Ordnance," Simmons said. "It is what defines our city, it's on our flag." Simmons said that Ordnance needed a face, and Boles became that face with his involvement in the community. He [Boles] helped us understand the Ordnance mission, the warfighter and the sacrifices they make."

Boles will continue his Army career as the assistant deputy chief of staff to the Army, G-4 (logistics) at the Pentagon.

Before leaving, Boles gave a few key words emphasizing the new Army Strong campaign.

"They [Soldiers] go for us, not for riches, glory or fame. They go for you. My name is Boles and I am Army Strong," he said.

Always a Soldier program pairs veterans with jobs

Story by **BETH MUSSELMAN**
AMC

The U.S. Army Materiel Command provides more than spare parts, bullets and food to warfighters – it provides jobs, too. The Always a Soldier program provides disabled veterans opportunities to seek employment within AMC, career advancement, job mobility, family well-being and greater financial security.

"The goal of the program is to provide continuing support to warfighters beyond their active-duty service," said Jonathan Herst, program coordinator. By providing jobs for these veterans, AMC can clearly benefit by tapping into the valuable experience and commitment that our men and women in uniform embody."

While finding jobs for injured veterans is the program's primary mission, the staff also assists Soldiers and their families with purchasing food and clothes, explaining job-application processes and providing veteran resource information.

Most veterans recruited through the program served in operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, but the program is open to Soldiers wounded in all conflicts, Herst said.

The program benefits AMC and veterans alike. By employing former service members, AMC gains a dedicated employee who is already familiar with the military, someone with practical, hands-on experience with respect to the equipment that AMC develops and procures for the military, Herst said.

In turn, wounded veterans have the opportunity to stay in the fight and stay close to the military, where their sacrifices will always be honored, he added. As well, AMC works to accommodate the challenges presented by veterans' injuries.

Herst has firsthand knowledge of program benefits. On Aug. 3, 2005, then

Sgt. Herst was on his second tour in Iraq with the 25th Infantry Division when he was injured by an improvised explosive device. Although severe, the amputation of his left leg wasn't the worst of his wounds. He also suffered a hole in his bladder, half of his colon was severed, and a major artery in his right leg had been cut. In less than two months Herst received more than 15 surgeries.

Through a contact with the Veterans Administration, he began communicating with then Always a Soldier Coordinator Steve Clark. Herst volunteered for three months with Clark as his mentor. Clark then suggested Herst as his replacement and assisted him with the application process. On June 1, Herst officially took over as program coordinator.

"I knew I wanted to continue working with Soldiers," Herst said. "The job they offered me here allowed me to work directly with Soldiers and see the results. I wanted to let Soldiers know that I know what they're going through."

Since the program's inception in June 2004, 17 Soldiers have been hired through the program and AMC hopes to hire more Soldiers from referrals received through the Army Wounded Warrior Program, the Military Severely Injured Joint Operations Center and the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, for which there is a memorandum of understanding.

AMC offers wage-grade positions involving trades and labor; the Student Career Education Program providing job experience and related education; internship programs providing monitored or supervised work/training experience with learning goals; and various general schedule, or GS, full performance positions.

For more information about the Always a Soldier program and to apply on-line, visit www.amc.army.mil/alwaysasoldier or call 703-806-8140.



Pentagon reviewing medals criteria

Story by **LISA BURGESS**
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon is launching a major review of its military awards and decorations manual, to update the awards process to match the global nature of the current War on Terror and to ensure that each service is handing out the same medals for the same reasons, service officials said on Sept. 11.

"The evolving nature of warfare demands that we review policies," David Chu, undersecretary of defense for Personnel and Readiness, said in a press release.

A working group that includes representatives from each military service, the Joint Staff and the DOD's Institute of Heraldry are conducting the review, which will take six to eight months, said Maj. Stewart Upton, a Pentagon spokesman.

Their work will lead to a revised version of the Defense Department's Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, he said.

The last revision was in 1996, although there have been additions and changes made since that time, Upton said.

The review will involve only decorations and awards that are offered by all the services, like the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, not those that are unique to a particular service, Upton said.

Reviewers will focus on three

major areas, including expeditionary medals, the release said.

"We need to define what, exactly, makes up the battlefield," and qualifies a member for an expeditionary medal, Upton said. "How about the guy flying the plane that is dropping bombs over a battlefield? And what about the guy who's putting the bombs on that plane back in Ohio?"

A second focus will be honor and valor awards, for which "we must clarify criteria, including a review of boundaries that increasingly extend far beyond a particular combat zone, yet involve direct threats to American lives," Chu is quoted as saying in the release.

Service members also have raised concerns about consistency when it comes to the award of the 'V' device for valor, Upton said.

"They want to make definitions consistent across the board in regards to the V device," Upton said. "You want to be sure that if you see someone with a Bronze Star with a V, that everyone knows what that person did in order to rate that."

A third area is whether the Pentagon should authorize multiple awards of the Iraq and Afghanistan campaign medals, or otherwise develop a process for service members to show multiple tours in either theater, Upton said. Right now, "there's no way to show these consecutive tours."

BOSS visits Armed Forces Retirement Home



Homer Rutherford, an Armed Forces Retirement Home resident, listens to and talks with Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers members during their visit on Sept. 21. During this particular conversation, Rutherford and the BOSS members were in the AFRH's wood shop where the residents make various items and fix walkers and battery powered vehicles.

Story and photos by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, an organization of single Soldiers from Aberdeen Proving Ground, visited the Armed Forces Retirement Home campus in Washington, D.C., Sept. 21.

Beer vending machines, a fishing hole and a bowling center aren't usually what come to mind when one thinks of a retirement home but these are just a few of many things at the AFRH in Washington, D.C., that is home away from home for veterans.

AFRH employees want the residents to think of the home as "not a place to live but a place to live more," said Sheila Abarr, an AFRH public relations specialist.

"We don't want veterans to think that the retirement home is the last place they go before they die," Abarr said.

AFRH employees encourage residents "to travel and visit family members throughout the world but they know the AFRH will always be a place to come home to," Abarr said.

The BOSS mission promotes Soldiers getting involved with leisure events and community service.

Visiting AFRH was an opportunity to reach out to various veterans and take part in community service.

Abarr was the group's tour guide

for the day. She gave them a tour of the physical therapy center where the residents are treated for lower back pain, neurological and other health issues. The physical therapy center contains an underwater treadmill called an Aquaciser that helps them exercise.

The facility doesn't have a pool so the Aquaciser serves as the replacement, said Lynn Holt, director of Rehabilitation Services.

AFRH residents have a variety of choices when it comes to entertainment or recreation. Some of the indoor activities include bowling and a theater.

The residents also partake in pet therapy in the recreation hall. During BOSS' visit it was "Greet a Dog Day" in the recreation hall. Residents could watch and pet a Yorkshire Terrier.

"The pet therapy programs are wonderful," Abarr said, noting that it cheers up the residents since they aren't allowed to own pets there.

"Several of the residents enjoy petting and hugging all the pets, which is a great way for the residents to show how much love they have to give," Abarr said.

In addition to golf, bowling and pet therapy, the residents can also partake in games of Bingo and checkers.

There is also a wood shop and a craft area to do ceramics. The residents have made pen holders and other crafts in the wood shop area. In

the ceramics area, the residents make anything from holiday items to something as skilled as chess pieces.

Residents wishing to access the crafts area may do so with their own key, Abarr said.

Also, there are cameras in each craft room in case of an emergency.

The retirement home provides independent living as well as assisted living. AFRH provides independent living "for those residents who are still active and don't need daily assistance," Abarr said.

"Assisted living is for residents who can still live somewhat independently but need additional help in their daily lives," she said.

Assisted living and independent living residents have an emergency call system through the in-house telephone system.

In addition, if a resident wants to sleep in instead of waking up for breakfast, they can notify the staff members so they won't wake the resident up or call, she said.

The ages of the residents vary, Abarr said. The residents are Pearl Harbor, World War II and Desert Storm veterans. The youngest resident is 45 years old and the oldest is 101.

Boss members expressed their enthusiasm and surprise about what they saw during the visit.

Sgt. Kenneth Whitmore with the Joint Personal Effects Depot said he

was pleased with all of the programs and activities AFRH has to offer.

He said that "older people lose enthusiasm" and think that there isn't anything for them to do, but AFRH "promotes activities and togetherness" through all of the social activities.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby also attended the visit.

"It was a great trip," he said. "Young Soldiers could see the retirement home for themselves and what it was all about by talking with the residents."

Spc. Briana Akens, a flute player with the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own), said the AFRH was better than APG.

"There are a lot more activities to do there," Akens said.

She also talked about how she felt about the AFRH visit.

"The residents remind me of my grandparents," she said. "They are the same generation as my grandfather because he served in World War II."

History of AFRH

"The Soldiers' Home" was established in 1851 as an asylum for old and disabled veterans, according to the AFRH Web site.

Two buildings on the AFRH grounds, Quarters 1 and the Lincoln Retreat, "served as the summer White House for U.S. presidents Chester Arthur, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Buchanan, and most notably Abraham Lincoln," claims the Web site.

The Lincoln Retreat was built from 1842 to 1843 as George W. Riggs' home. Riggs was the same man who established the Riggs National Bank in Washington, D.C.,

in 1851. This was the same year the government bought the land to develop AFRH.

Although the Soldiers home was called an asylum, it is not that way today. There is a waiting list to get into the retirement home, Abarr said.

The future of AFRH

During the BOSS visit to AFRH, Abarr discussed the future of the retirement home. One of the administration's goals is to make residency eligible for the veterans' spouses.

Abarr said a Congressional law would have to be changed to achieve this goal.

"The military has changed over the years," she said. "Family is an important part of the military force. We need to look at this change as well. As the military has changed so should [the retirement home] in order to support the family."

The AFRH Gulfport site was damaged in Hurricane Katrina's path.

AFRH and the U.S. General Services Administration are working on a Memorandum of Agreement for the Gulfport retirement home's site, Abarr said.

Out of all of Abarr's job responsibilities, she said she likes working with the residents.

"I know each and every day I can make a difference in residents' or prospective residents' lives," she said.

She said she and the other employees laugh every day but they laugh with the residents.

"I smile more than anything because I know I am in a free America because of veterans such as the ones that live in AFRH," Abarr said.

About the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Program

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Program involves engaging Soldiers with three mindsets. These mindsets or goals are quality of life/well-being, recreation and leisure and community service.

Quality of life/well-being involves the Soldiers becoming proactive with issues that concern the morale, living environment or personal growth and development of single Soldiers.

BOSS members are also in charge of planning some recreational and leisure events. These events may be part of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The visit to the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C. was just one of many community service days that the BOSS members take part in.

Sgt. Eugenia Richards, BOSS president at APG, Sgt. Robin Beatty and the other representatives are working on revamping the program to get more Soldiers involved.

Richards discussed why the BOSS program is beneficial to get involved in.

"We would like more Soldiers to come and support the BOSS program because it is truly a rewarding experience," Richards said. "If one has never experienced the feel-

ing after helping someone less fortunate or someone who has no family members, it's a joy."

She said that joining BOSS is also "an opportunity for leadership experience."

Any single Soldier who is a single parent or is "unaccompanied" can become a BOSS member. The BOSS meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. in the APG North's Recreation Center.

Future goals of BOSS at APG

The BOSS members are working to have all APG units get involved with the program, Richards said.

She said they are also working on a newcomer's packet and a link for APG's Web site "where an incoming Soldier could sign in and be designated a sponsor within the BOSS program."

"We would like to see more Soldiers volunteering to do community service events with us and planning recreational activities that they would like to be participate in," Richards said.

Richards said the members also want to make it so that "even married Soldiers would like to join in."

For more information on BOSS, contact Richards. 410-278-2709.



Among the many recreational and helpful items in the retirement home are beer vending machines, a ceramics room, a bowling alley and an Aquaciser, an underwater treadmill.

APG News

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Army activates IMCOM to improve support to Soldiers

Story by
NED CHRISTENSEN
HQDA

The Army activated the Installation Management Command Oct. 24 to consolidate and strengthen installation support services to Soldiers and their families through the full authority of command.

Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson assumed the IMCOM command at a Pentagon ceremony hosted by Lt. Gen. James Campbell, director of the Army Staff.

The new command places the former Installation Management Agency, the former Community and Family Support Center and the former Army Environmental Center under a single command as a direct reporting unit.

"Today we take the next step in the evolution of Army installation management...in order to create a more efficient, effective and agile organization to ensure the best Army in the world is supported by the best installations in the world," Wilson said.

In keynote remarks, Campbell drew a parallel between IMCOM and the new Army advertising slogan, "Army Strong." He defined "strong" as the ability to take stand up for oneself, while "Army Strong" is the ability to stand up for everyone else.

"In my mind, the Installation Management Command shows that it is Army Strong each and every day," Campbell said, "with the strength to make an installation a community; a set of quarters a home; and complete strangers, friends.

"[IMCOM has the strength] to ease separation and connect the Soldier on point with a family at home; the strength to genuinely care for the loved ones back home so that young Soldier facing life and death can focus on the mission at hand."

As IMCOM commander, Wilson is dual-hatted as the Army's assistant chief of staff



Photo by STEVE OERTWIG
Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, center, and Command Sgt. Maj. Debra L. Strickland, right, unfurl the new Installation Management Command flag at the activation ceremony held Oct. 24 at the Pentagon. Wilson became IMCOM commander at the ceremony. New flags for the Army Environmental Command and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command also were unfurled. AEC and FMWRC are subordinate commands of IMCOM. The guidon bearer is Sgt. Justin Devine from the Old Guard.

for Installation Management, reporting directly to the Army chief of staff. Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald, former IMA director, became IMCOM's deputy commander.

Under IMCOM, CFSC is renamed the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, and becomes a subordinate command of IMCOM, commanded by Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney, with its own flag.

The AEC is now the Army Environmental Command—also a subordinate command, commanded by Col. Michael O'Keefe, and with its own flag.

The flag casings and uncasings were a symbolic focal point of the activation ceremony and the three gold and red flags, standing together in a rank, seemed to further underscore the unity of purpose inherent in the new organization.

"The Army has never been in greater need of installations as flagships of readiness than it is now," Wilson said, citing the

construction, personnel and equipment realignments required to support Base Realignment and Closure, Army Modular Force, and Global Defense Posture Re-positioning.

He said BRAC alone accounts for more than 1,200 actions that impact the IMCOM mission.

The Army announced the establishment of the Installation Management Command as a direct reporting unit in August. This initiative is part

of Army efforts to reorganize its commands and specified headquarters to obtain the most agile command and control structures to support the expeditionary, modular force.

The full authority of command is vital to effectively direct the vast resources necessary to support troop deployments while meeting the needs of their families, Army officials said in announcing the decision to form IMCOM. Consolidating the

See IMCOM, page 14

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program manager, 410-278-2450/7572, fax, 410-278-9685 or e-mail, arcelio.alleyne@us.army.mil.

Visit the CFC Booth, Nov. 14, 15

A CFC information booth will be set up at the AAFES post exchange lobby, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Nov. 14, and at the Recreation Center building 3326, for Newcomers Orientation Day, 1 to 3 p.m. Nov. 15.

CDC, CYS opens for special hours

For those parents who want to get a jump on their holiday shopping, APG North Child Development Center and Youth Services will be open 1 to 8 p.m., Dec. 2 and APG South CDC and Youth Services will be open 1 to 8 p.m., Dec. 9. Special activities, dinner and snack will be provided for \$25 for the first child and \$20 for each additional sibling.

Register by Nov. 21 for APG North and Nov. 28 for APG South.

All children must be registered members of CYS.

Registration fee is \$18 per child with a maximum of \$40 per family for those children who are not CYS members.

To make an appointment, contact Central Registration, 410-278-7479/7571.

There is a minimum of 10 children required per site for this special opening. Spaces are limited, so register early.

Veterans Day refuse pickup schedule

The following changes will be made to the refuse removal throughout the family housing locations.

Nov. 8 – Recycling
Nov. 9 – Patriot Village
Nov. 10 – No trash removal.

Blood drive rescheduled for Nov. 14

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison installation blood drive previously scheduled for Oct. 23, is rescheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Edgewood Chapel.

The Blood Drive is open to everyone. Appointments are encouraged in order to

decrease wait times; but walk-ins are welcome.

The drive is sponsored by the Armed Services Blood Program and all blood collected will only be distributed within the military community.

To make an appointment or for more information, call Ruby V. Ferrer, 410-278-3000.

Upcoming Veterinary Clinic closings

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will be closed Nov. 10 for the Veterans Day holiday; Nov. 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving, and Nov. 30 for inventory.

For more information, contact the VTF, 410-278-3911/4604.

Planning a scholarship 'shopping' trip

Check <http://www.commissaries.com> for information on how to apply for a \$1,500 scholarship in the 2007 Scholarships for Military Children program. For general information on what it takes to qualify, go to <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. The SFMC

program has awarded more than \$4 million to nearly 3,000 military children worldwide over six years of existence.

Administered by the Fisher House Foundation, the program is funded by the various suppliers and manufacturers selling groceries in commissaries worldwide. The program is also receiving increased donations from outside the commissary industry, including a \$20,000 donation from the Hearst Foundation for 2007. The public can also donate to the scholarship program through the www.militaryscholar.org Web site.

VSOs hold Veterans Day ceremony

Fitzgerald-Moore Catholic War Veterans Post 1841, Bernard L. Tobin American Legion Post 128, Aberdeen Memorial Post 10028 VFW, and Korean War Veterans Chapter 271 will hold the annual Veterans Day Service 11 a.m., Nov. 10 at Festival Park in Aberdeen. The public is invited to attend.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the Aberdeen VFW.

For more information, call 410-272-1218.

NFFE sets meeting dates

Future meeting dates for National Federation of Federal Employees Local 178 are Nov. 16 and Dec. 21 in building E-4415; Aberdeen-South. They are held twice each day, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 4 to 5 p.m.

For more information contact the union, 410-436-3942.

APG Newcomer Orientation scheduled

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Newcomer Orientation will be held 1 to 3 p.m., Nov. 15, at the Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326.

All military, civilian personnel, retirees and their fami-

lies 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.

Block parties promote safety

The APG Fire Department will hold two block parties in Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South.

In Edgewood, the block

party will start 6:30 p.m., Nov. 17, in the parking lot of E-1950, Schaefer Road. The block party in Aberdeen begins 6:30 p.m., Nov. 18, in the playground area, building 3800 block of Veteran Court and Patriot Way Road.

Holiday safety tips and information include party safety, Christmas trees, lights and candles, fire prevention in the kitchen and more.

For more information, call fire inspector Doug Farrington, 410-306-0523.

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



Chips, cookies, condiments and utensils are available along with the salads and turkey, ham and beef wraps, all prepared fresh daily, at Top of the Bay's Grab-and-Go for diners on the run.

Grab & Go offers lunchtime variety

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Need a quick lunch that's not deep fried? Stop by the Grab & Go at Top of the Bay. Conveniently located near the ballroom entrance across from the sandwich bar, the Grab & Go offers turkey, ham & cheese and roast beef wraps, chef and garden salads, cookies and chips for those who don't have time for a sit-down meal.

"Everything is made fresh daily," said Top of the Bay business manager Louise Glose. "With the colder weather coming we will be adding hot soup and chili but we'd also like customers to let us know what they'd like to see on the Grab and Go," Glose said.

Customers can grab a bag, napkins and utensils as well as condiments without having to go any deeper into the dining area, she added.

"It's fast and convenient," said APG Garrison secretary Vera Wyatt and she and Jane Lee, a garrison administrative specialist grabbed orders for co-workers.

Although she had yet to taste one, Wyatt said the wraps were popular among her friends. "They like the fact that they make them fresh everyday," Wyatt said.

90th anniversary, Veterans Day are main topics at October Well-Being Council

Story by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground's 90th anniversary celebration and Veterans Day were two main topics discussed at the Oct. 19 Well-Being Council meeting at the Main Post Chapel.

Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, said that he and the other garrison staff were in the process of planning for APG's 90th anniversary celebration.

The kickoff of the celebration will be a reception at the Ordnance Museum on Jan. 26.

"The 90th anniversary will be celebrated throughout an 18-month period," Wright said. "We will be utilizing community events and EEO [Equal Employment Opportunity] observance days to celebrate 90 years of the proving ground."

He said the celebration will culminate in 2008 with a reen-

actment of the first cannon on APG.

In another observance of the 90th Anniversary Celebration, an Eagle Scout will be working on a project to develop a historical trail on APG.

The project will include the development of "appropriate signage that will be placed at various elements around the installation," Wright said.

In addition, Wright gave an overview of Veterans Pride, a Veterans Affairs initiative promoting veterans to wear their medals on their left side to show their honor for other veterans. R. James Nicholson, the secretary of VA, is encouraging veterans to show their pride. For more information, visit www.1.va.gov/veteranspride.

Rob Krauer, director, Law Enforcement and Security, informed attendees that McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants would be honoring veterans with a com-

plimentary entrée from a special menu. For more information about the entrees or the seafood restaurants, visit www.mccormickandschmicks.com.

Wright discussed another project in the works at APG. He said it was "recently announced that the master lease for the Maryland Boulevard enhanced use lease development was signed by the Army and the developer."

He said that this work is to begin in the spring of next year and more than 400 acres of land will be developed.

"You will see establishment of a new recreation area in the vicinity of the Shore Pool, reinvigorating of the boating and fishing operations, the establishment of a new nature trail and future plans for the establishment of an RV park, possible cabins and a tent campground," Wright said.

Wright also discussed the progress with the APG banner project, a Military/Civilian Spouses Club, AAFES and other organizations developed project. Wright said he received the proofs from the vendor.

KUSAHC

Lt. Col. William Rice, commander, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, apologized for issues with the automatic call distribution system.

"We went through an upgrade but upgrade isn't always better," Rice said.

The patients were experiencing these issues because the system goes down from time to time, Rice said.

"If you can't get through when you call, you can make an appointment by going on the TRICARE Web site, www.tricare.com," he said.

Rice said that one must register first on the Web site in order to make an appointment. He also said that KUSAHC is still in the process of getting all appointments online. He said this should come into play in the next couple of months.

He addressed the issue that people had trouble getting appointments during the past six months because of the lack of staff.

"We had been down to one-

third of our staffing for adult healthcare," Rice said. "We are digging ourselves out of that hole."

German holiday items such as cookie tins are available at the commissary. Anne Morrison, a manager at the

He said the reduction in the deer population "isn't getting any better" even with the hunting program at APG.

"Please pay close attention to the roads during the early morning," he said.

He also talked about other dangers that the fall weather brings. He said that ground fog and wet leaves are two other hazards that drivers should be cautious with.

"Ground fog is very dangerous," Krauer said. "It may be difficult to see deer and children waiting for the bus stop if there is ground fog around."

He also emphasized bicyclists and motorcyclists to be cautious when the wet leaves are on the road.

He said that bicyclists and motorcyclists are especially at risk because they have less traction.

MWR

Regina Dannenfels acting director MWR, discussed Community Awareness Day, an event held on Oct. 14 and said that "it was a huge success." She said that approximately 1,000 people attended, and thanked everyone for their support.

"The fire and police departments did an outstanding job," Dannenfels said. "It gets better every year."

She also reminded everyone to be aware of the spring event that will also be part of the 90th Anniversary Celebration.

November is Military Family Appreciation Month. In observance of this month, families can go see a free animated film, "Cars" Nov. 16 at the post theater.

Housing

Pat Hector with the Directorate of Installation Operations Housing said she has received end of year funding for maintenance and repair and to buy appliances. The funds were also used to purchase pillows, blankets, mattresses and furnishings for Soldiers.

The next Newcomer Orientation is 1 to 3 p.m., Nov. 15 at the Aberdeen Recreation Center.

The Army Community Service Holiday Extravaganza, which includes the tree lighting, will be Dec. 5.

At the next Well-Being Action meeting 9:30 a.m., Nov. 16, at the Main Post Chapel, Wright will update attendees on the budget.



Several new doctors have joined KUSAHC's staff. These doctors' profiles will appear in a future issue of APG News.

"We appreciate all of your patience," Rice said.

Rice also discussed the availability and types of flu shots. He said the clinic has nasal flu shots and will be getting the injectable flu shots in about two weeks.

The nasal shots are available to enrolled beneficiaries ages 5 to 49 because those are the only ones eligible for that type of flu shot, Rice said.

If patients would like to check on the availability of the injectable flu shot, they can call the flu hotline at 410-306-3588. Also confirm with the immunization clinic by calling 410-278-1746.

Rice also gave an update on the pharmacy, noting that KUSAHC is one or two months away from expanding the pharmacy.

"The pharmacy will be two and a half times its size," he said.

As the pharmacy is being expanded, patients can go to its temporary location at the rear of the health clinic.

Commissary

The commissary will be open during its normal times during Veterans Day weekend. Thanksgiving and Christmas hours have not been determined yet.

Commissary, advises customers to buy what they like now because as the season goes on, the selection lessens.

AAFES

AAFES will hold a gift wrapping program for the holiday season beginning Thanksgiving Day when AAFES will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The gift wrapping program will be conducted at the store through Dec. 24.

In addition, AAFES representatives plan to improve the Buddy List, an e-mail distribution system that updates customers on promotions. The goal of these e-mails is to "increase the customer base."

December AAFES promotions will be sent through the Buddy List.

AAFES plans to incorporate coupons into the Buddy List at this experimental stage. AAFES headquarters employees will evaluate this service to see how many coupons the customers are using.

Wright told the meeting attendees that another branch of The Cup will be opening in the Shoppette in APG South.

"The Cup [at APG North] is doing quite well," Wright said.

He said that The Cup's employees say business is slow in the mornings.

DLES

Krauer reminded meeting attendees to be safe on the roadways to and from the proving ground.

Attention departing card holders, billing officials

ACA APG DOC

When a cardholder or billing official is being reassigned, separated from federal service or retiring, a written request must be submitted by their office to the APG Directorate of Contracting GPC Agency/Organization Program

Coordinator no later than 30 days prior to their departure. In extraordinary situations, when an unscheduled departure is less than 30 days, notification of the departure shall be made as soon as it is known.

The cardholder shall stop all purchase activity no later than

30 days prior to their departure and ensure their account balance is paid in full prior to their job reassignment, separation or retirement. The Billing Official is responsible for destroying the card and notifying the A/OPC when the card or billing account has been paid in full. Termination of the billing official's account will also result in the termination of all cardholder accounts assigned to the Billing Official.

The Civilian Personnel Clearance Forms, EAP 1132 and DA Form 137-1R, include the requirement for Billing Officials and cardholders to obtain the signature of the A/OPC or the Alternate A/OPC prior to terminating post employment.

The APG DOC A/OPC and alternate are located in the Robert Morris Building at 4118 Susquehanna Avenue and are available from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday to sign clearance forms. To ensure availability, call Diane Schneider, 410-278-0848 or Dennis Bolen, 410-278-0849 for an appointment.

For additional information regarding the Government Purchase Card Program, visit the APG DOC Web site, <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/Restricted/aca/index.html>.

Community Notes

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 SEASON FINALE CANOE TRIP

Cruise the marsh as fall colors fade into winter. This program is \$10 and is from 11 to 1:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult, under 13 with an adult. Registration is required. For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

BASKET BINGO

The Geriatric Assistance and Information Network will sponsor Basket Bingo to benefit the Harford County Senior Emergency Fund at the Aberdeen Fire Hall located on Rogers Street. Doors open at 6 p.m., Bingo starts 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 each in advance and \$12 each at the door. Additional sets of three cards costs \$5. Cost of the ticket includes food, a dessert table, drinks, door prizes, special games and raffles.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Jean, 443-375-8679, Karen, 410-838-3222, or Barbara, 410-420-7950.

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Harford County Senior Emergency Fund will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street. Doors open 6 p.m., Bingo starts 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 each in advance, or \$12 at the door. Additional sets of three cards costs \$5. Special games, food, dessert table beverages, door prizes and raffles will be available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Jean, 443-375-8679, Karen, 410-838-3222, or Barbara, 410-420-7950.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12 DISCOVERY WALK

Join a naturalist on a nature

walk to discover what creeps, crawls and flies around Leight Park. This program begins at 10 a.m.; drop in, no registration, free. For information or directions to the Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 13 MILITARY APPRECIATION MONDAY

Golden Corral will honor all active duty and retired military personnel with a free "thank you" dinner and beverage at any Golden Corral restaurant, 5 to 9 p.m. Beverage is included, dine in only. No identification is required. (See photo below.)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16 GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

To promote the American Cancer Society's Great American SmokeOut, the

Harford County Health Department will offer a free, two-hour "Quick-Quit" Stop Smoking Class, 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. at the Health Department, located at 119 S. Hays Street. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, 410-638-8405.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17 OWL PROWL

Come for a night hike in the bottomland forest to search for the owls that call this marshy forest home. This program is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for ages 10 to adult and is \$3. Registration is required. For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18 WHITE-TAILED DEER SURVEY

Harford County seems to be experiencing explosive population growth - and not just with humans. Help to determine if the deer population of Leight Park is a healthy size. Join park personnel to get the scoop on poop and conduct pellet (deer scat) counts on the trails to determine how many deer call the park home. This program is

from 9 to noon for ages 16 to adult and is free. Registration is required. For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

ALL TIED UP

Have fun with cordage and try some basic knots. Scouts may find this useful. This program is from 3 to 4 p.m.

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

Pilot 'wanna be' salutes hero in Hawaii Will welcome vets to Aberdeen Golden Corral



Photo by DEBBIE LUCAS

Chase Lucas, a repeat APG News celebrity, salutes and thanks Pearl Harbor survivor retired Command Sgt. Maj. Sterling Cale of Halawa during Lucas' visit to Hawaii, which was a gift from Ellen Degeneres when he was a guest on her show earlier this year. Lucas will be welcoming local military personnel to the Aberdeen Golden Corral free dinner buffet 5 to 9 p.m., Nov. 13.

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."**

**The Post Theater
will close Nov. 10
for Veterans Day.**



**AAFES PRE-SCREENING
HAPPY FEET (FREE
ADMISSION)**

Saturday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.

Animated

In the great nation of Emperor Penguins, deep in Antarctica, you're nobody unless you can sing - which is unfortunate for Mumble, who is the worst singer in the world. He is born dancing to his own tune - tap dancing. Together with Lovelace and the Amigos, Mumble sets out across vast landscapes and, after some epic encounters, proves that by being true to yourself, you can make all the difference in the world. (PG)



MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

APG golf aides swing into Md. high school golf tournament

Story by
ANN WAMACK
MWR

Two recreation aides at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Ruggles Golf Course qualified for the 2007 annual Maryland State High School Golf Tournament this year.

Visitors to Ruggles are apt to encounter Anthony Vincinti and Vickey Branscome working in the pro shop, cleaning golf carts or out on the course as marshals.

Every year since 1971, public high schools across Maryland have held an annual golfing tournament governed by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association. This year's tournament was held Oct. 23 through 25 at the University of Maryland College Park golf course.

High school students from nine districts around Maryland are selected to meet and compete for this event. Qualification for participation is based on golf scores. Awards are given to one boys' individual champion, one girls' individual champion and one school champion team. Pat Hinch of Aberdeen won the boys' individual championship last year.

Currently a junior at Aberdeen High School, Vincinti has been playing golf since he was seven years old. When asked how a seven-year-old acquired an interest in golf, Vincinti confided that his father and several other family members were keenly interested in golf and their enthusiasm led him to take up the game.

Although his current focus was on playing his best in the state tournament, he spoke about his goals of completing high school and attending college "somewhere south" and perhaps winning a golf scholarship.

Branscome is a senior at Harford Tech where she attends classes at her high school in the mornings and works in the afternoons at Ruggles Golf Course. When she was very young, she idolized her big brother. Since her brother enjoyed playing golf, Branscome wanted to play too, and so she began playing golf at the age of six.

She competed in the state tournament last year and was looking forward to this year's competition.

Branscome said she wants to attend college next year and is considering attending McDaniel College or Mount St. Mary's College. She plans to study business or veterinary technician.

"I know both of these kids," said Bill



Photo courtesy of LINDA BRANSCOME
Vickey Branscome shoots a few practice balls in preparation for her state tournament competition. She has been playing golf with the Child and Youth Services Sports program for more than 10 years.

Kegley, head of APG's Junior Golf Program, a summer class for APG children ages 7 to 17. Kegley teaches the children golf etiquette and the rules of the game, as well as the skills and techniques for playing golf.

He said that most of the children enjoy the classes and frequently come back year after year, but that "Vickey has probably come back [to play golf with the Junior Golf Program] more summers than any other student" that he has ever had.

"She really enjoys what she does," Kegley said.

This past summer, both Vincinti and Branscome were volunteers with the Junior Golf Program.

Vincinti played in the semi-finals held on Oct. 23 while Branscome was scheduled for the Oct. 24 semi-finals. Anthony qualified for the finals on Oct. 25 when he scored 166 but failed to finish in the top rankings.

The Ruggles Golf Course has been a popular destination with Harford County golfers for many years. Located near the Maryland Gate, this facility includes an 18-hole championship course, a driving range and a practice bunker.

For hours and information on Ruggles Golf Course, call 410-278-4794. For more information on the Junior Golf Program, call 410-278-7571.

APG 10-miler team recognized by Garrison

Story by
JONI PLATT
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

Runners representing the installation at the 2006 AUSA Army ten-mile run received a coin from Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby for their accomplishments during a ceremony Oct. 23.

Two teams composed of 14 men and women Soldiers were APG's first official teams to represent the installation at the 22nd Army 10-miler run held Oct. 8, in Washington, D.C.

Irby praised the team members on behalf of Col. John T. Wright, garrison and deputy installation commander and Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, commander, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, for their dedication and hard work.

"This is not the prettiest of coins but I like it because on the reverse side of the coin there's the American Flag and underneath it there's a Soldier surrounded by civilians, family members...everyone that makes up the APG community," Irby said.

"Our slogan 'You make a difference' indicates our desire to express our appreciation to you. You all definitely made a difference, and we appreciate your efforts in getting this team together," he continued.

Irby concluded by saying "Continue to do great things for our Soldiers, the installation and the Army, and next year let's bring home gold!"

The teams are the result of the hard work and diligence of Capt. Kirk Pietsch, one of the team captains and commander of Company A, 143d Ordnance Battalion.

"We are proud to be the first APG team representing our installation in an Army-wide competition, running next to world-class runners," said Pietsch.

The Army 10-miler is not new to Pietsch as this was his third time competing. Pietsch started training on his own three months out.

"The teams members were unable to train together nor establish a training schedule because of conflicts in their work and family schedules so the runners trained on their own," Pietsch said. "Participating in the run wasn't just a matter of winning; just being part of the race made it all worthwhile."

A native of Philadelphia, Pietsch, has been assigned to APG for 2 and a half years. Running is one of his favorite hobbies; he normally runs 6 to 8 miles, three times a week.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored the team. Ralph Cuomo, APG Sports and Fitness Director and Donna Coyne, APG

Intramural Sports coordinator made it all possible.

"I'm fairly new to the installation myself," Cuomo said. "Captain Pietsch approached me a few months ago with his vision about having an APG team to go to the Army 10-miler. I thought it was a great idea and went through my approval channels to get funding for the uniforms and entry fee for the run."

Pietsch is hoping the installation will be able to fund uniforms, transportation and TDY costs for the teams for future races.

A native of Puerto Rico, Capt. Jaime Arizmendi, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion, held the highest score of the team. This was his first time participating in the race.

"It was a great experience to see 24,000 people competing in such an event," he said. "Running is my favorite hobby and the race motivated me to keep on running."

"I couldn't expect anything better from the race. The weather was perfect, and the motivation from the competitors was high. I'm happy with the APG team results. The team trained hard and represented the post with dignity," Arizmendi said.

"We have to appreciate the hard work of Captain Pietsch, one of our team captains and the person who put this all together," he added.

"There are so many running events in the area...I would like to see organized races on APG in order to increase the number of Soldiers competing in running events," Arizmendi said.

Arizmendi plans to participate in future races and the AUSA 10-mile race again.

Members of the two teams representing APG at this year's ten-miler were: 1st Lt. Charles Davis, Sgt. 1st Class Javier Cordova, Staff Sgt. Marion Castro, Capt. Scott Thompson, (Captain of team 2) and Staff Sgt. Sterling Pinto from the 143rd Ordnance Battalion; Staff Sgt. Corey Baker, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Campbell, Capt. Song Huynh, and Staff Sgt. Claude Turner from, 16th Ordnance Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Heiat Hakim, HHC, 61st Ordnance Brigade and Maj. Claudia Henemyer-Harris, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense.

The U.S. Army 10-mile race is sponsored by the Association of the United States Army and produced and supported by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington.

The world class event starts and finishes at the Pentagon passing through famous historical landmarks. All proceeds from the Army 10-Miler go to Soldier and Soldier family MWR programs.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Week of Nov. 13

Special #1: Double cheeseburger with bacon (choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles and onions), French fries, one cookie and soda for \$6.85.

Special #2: Sampler meal: Two chicken tenders, two wing dings, two cheese sticks, French fries, one cookie and soda for \$6.75.

For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 am.

Holiday closings

FACILITY	FRI, 10 NOV	SAT, 11 NOV	SUN, 12 NOV	MON, 13 NOV
Arts & Crafts, AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	1000 - 1700
Arts & Crafts, EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Auto Crafts	CLOSED	0900 - 1700	0900 - 1700	CLOSED
Library	CLOSED	1300 - 1700	1300 - 1700	1130 - 1830
Recreation Center, AA	1200 - 2300	1200 - 2300	1200 - 2300	1200 - 1800
Recreation Center Snack Bar, AA	1200 - 2300	1200 - 2300	1200 - 2300	1200 - 1700
Recreation Center, EA	1200 - 2300	1430 - 2300	1200 - 2300	1200 - 1800
Recreation Center Snack Bar, EA	1400 - 2200	1430 - 2200	1430 - 2200	1200 - 1700
MWR Registration/ITR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0900 - 1700
Health & Fitness Center, AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0530 - 2000
APG Athletic Center	1000 - 1800	1000 - 1800	1000 - 1800	0500 - 1800
Hoyle Gymnasium/Fitness Center	1000 - 1800	1000 - 1800	1000 - 1800	0500 - 1800
Outdoor Recreation Equipment Center	CLOSED	0900 - 1500	CLOSED	1100 - 1800

SCHOOL LIAISON

HCPS announces American Education Week activities

American Education Week, Nov. 12 thru 18, is observed annually in the Harford County Public School System as a time to promote an increased awareness about the schools. The theme this year is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility." Parents, grandparents, and guardians are invited to visit their public school during its observance of American Education Week.

A special invitation is extended to grandparents and senior citizens to visit schools on Monday, Nov. 13, the day HCPS has designated "Grandparents/Senior Citizens Day."

Workshop for parents: Everyday math made easy

A math specialist at Roye-Williams Elementary School is eager to share the new Everyday Math curriculum adopted by the Harford County Public School system 6 to 8 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Aberdeen Youth Center on APG North.

Pamela Tabor will explain the new algorithms in a simple yet thorough manner providing Homework Help and information on how to prepare for and interpret the assess-

ments. Additionally, parents will know whether their child is just beginning, developing or secure in their understanding of the concepts tested.

Visitation schedule

Nov. 13 - all classes open for visitation
Nov. 14 - grades Pre-K, K, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12
Nov. 15 - grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11

For more information, contact the school to be visited or the Office of Public Information, 410-588-5203.

Parents will be given information about how to be sent, via e-mail, links to special Web sites complete with Everyday Math games for concept development.

For more information, call 410 278-4995 or 410 278-2857.

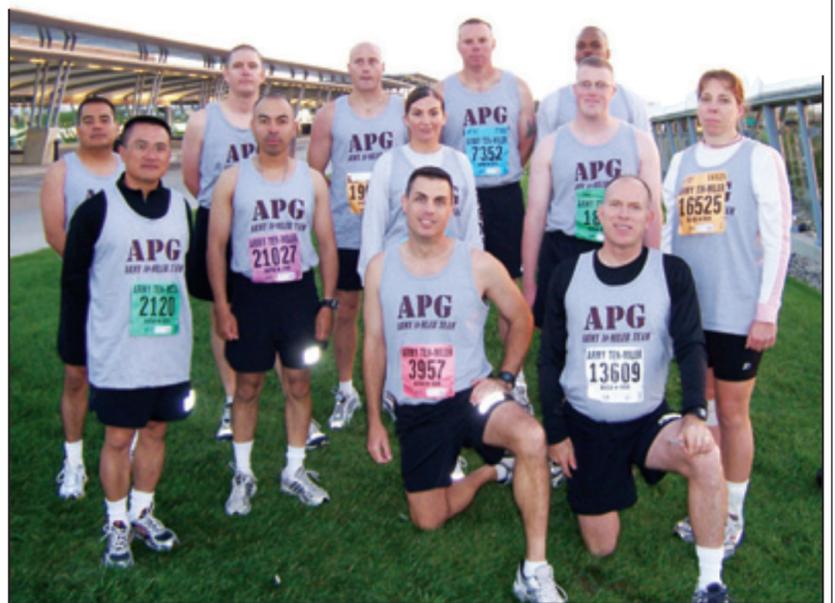


Photo by MAJ KIMBERLY WHITTEN, MRICD
From left to right in front row are Capts. Kirk A. Pietsch and Scott W. Thompson; second row Capt. Song V. Huynh, Staff Sgt. Marlon A. Castro, Sgt. 1st Class Heiat Hakim, 1st Lt. Charles D. Davis and Maj. Claudia Henemyer-Harris; and third row Staff Sgts. Sterling L. Pinto and Corey L. Baker, Sgt. 1st Class Gregory A. Miller, Staff Sgt. Claude Turner and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin K. Campbell. Not in photo, Capt. Jaime L. Arizmendi and Staff Sgt. 1st Class Javier A. Cordova.

Fall fitness classes

Aberdeen and Hoyle Gym and Fitness Centers will hold fall fitness classes through Dec. 21.

Aberdeen Fitness Center, building 320

LUNCHTIME CLASSES, 11:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

Monday, Step and Kick
Tuesday, Fitness Yoga
Wednesday, Body Sculpt
Thursday, Chinese Aerobics

EVENING CLASSES, 5 TO 6 P.M.

Monday and Wednesday, Step

Hoyle Gym and Fitness Center, building E4210

LUNCHTIME CLASSES, 11:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

Monday, Step Aerobics
Tuesday, Weight Aerobics
Wednesday, Cardio Class

EVENING CLASSES, 5 TO 6 P.M.

Thursday, Yoga

Fitness classes cost \$5 per class or \$32 for unlimited classes through Dec. 21. Classes are open to all ID card holders, including DoD and contractors and their family members. Family members without ID cards must be registered by the ID card holding sponsor upon first visit.

For more information, call 410-278-9725 or 410-436-7134.

Three retire during October ceremony

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Two Soldiers and one civilian were honored as 'dedicated professionals' during the monthly retirement ceremony held at the band practice facility in building 2184 Oct. 25.

Brig. Gen. Kevin R. Wendel, commander of the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives), hosted the event assisted by 1st Sgt. Montonya Boozier.

The honorees included Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth P. Wise, 143rd Ordnance Battalion; Staff Sgt. Humberto Quinonez, 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) and Rufus Zackery, Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment.

Wendel extended a welcome to retirees and guests and thanked the band's brass quintet, under the direction of Staff Sgt. Robert Bauerle, "for providing as always, world class support."

"These dedicated professionals have served our nation during peacetime and wartime and have made significant contributions spanning nearly 84 years of service," Wendel

said of the retirees.

He credited Wise with being "one of the primary builders of the 143rd warrior training facility," commended Quinonez with holding down the jobs of retention noncommissioned officer and Combo leader along with his regular duties, and praised Zackery's "extraordinary list of talents" that included having enlisted in the Army during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 and retiring in 1984 before completing his civil service career.

"These three great individuals have dedicated their lives to help build today's Army and have been a part of every transformation over the last 40 years," Wendel said.

He commended their spouses and family members for their support and said that he would not refer to the honorees as retirees.

"I prefer [to say] 'former Soldier' because Soldiers never really retire," he said. "Today you simply pass the task of training and leading on to others. We wish you and your families health, happiness and continued success."

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth P. Wise

Wise ends his career as a drill sergeant with Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, 61st Ordnance Brigade, U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School. He retires March 1, 2007, with nearly 21 years of service. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement and the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation.

Wise said he enjoyed his three years at APG as well as his 20 years in the Army.

"I want to thank my wife, my mom and my dad for all the years they supported me," he said.

He enjoys woodworking and NASCAR and he said that his plans for the future include enjoying his family, hobbies and civilian life and pursuing employment.

His wife, Dawn M. Wise, received the DA Certificate of Appreciation from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker.

Wise and his wife have one son, Matthew.

Staff Sgt. Humberto Quinonez

Quinonez retired Oct. 31, with 20 years of service. While a member of the band, he also served as a Latin music

NCOIC, writing, arranging and performing vocals.

He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, DA Certificate of Retirement and Presidential Certificate of Appreciation.

An accomplished trumpet player, he was credited with performing in more than 2,500 musical commitments, during peacetime and wartime, and with playing "TAPS" more than 300 times to render honors to fallen warriors.

Marie Quinonez received the DA Certificate of Appreciation signed by Schoomaker.

Quinonez and his wife have two children, Adrian and Katherine, both of whom are also Soldiers and attended the ceremony with the couple's three grandchildren.

Spc. Katherine Quinonez is stationed on APG with the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion and Spc. Adrian Quinonez is an Army Reservist with the 237th Combat Support Team, Fort Totten, N.Y.

"It was great to have them both here for this," Quinonez said, adding that the best part of his career was playing for deployed troops in Iraq.

"That was probably the most fulfilling time for me,

giving something to fellow Soldiers to make them happy if only for a little while," he said.

His future plans include obtaining a master's in education from Towson University and eventually becoming a teacher.

He thanked his commander, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert L. Larsen, and the band members for "two unforgettable years," as well as his mentor, Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston, Sergeant Major of the Army, whom he served under while assigned to the V CORPS in Germany.

"He helped me to grow as an NCO," Quinonez said. "It's good to have him as a friend."

Rufus Zackery

Zackery retired Sept. 28, after 43 years of federal service including 22 years in the Army. He began his civilian career in 1985 as an industrial hygiene technician with the U.S. Army Environmental

Hygiene Agency, now known as the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. At the time of his retirement he was serving as the asbestos and lead-based coordinator for remediation and maintenance and the aviation safety representative for the APG Garrison Installation Safety Division, Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment.

Zackery was awarded the DA certificates of retirement and appreciation and his wife, Barbara Jean, received the APG Certificate of Appreciation signed by Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander.

Zackery said he simply plans to keep a low profile.

"I hope to travel and see the country, and just relax and do nothing," he said with a smile.

The Zackerys have one son, Wayne, and one grandson, Adam.

*America's Freedom
Purchased by the Blood of Patriots*



November 11th is Veterans Day!



Throughout America's history, military veterans served their country with honor, commitment and courage.

As thousands of Americans in uniform wage war against terrorism around the globe, let us never waiver in our support for them and their families.

To all veterans, from all wars, we say, "Thank you."

VETERANS DAY 2006

Saluting America's Veterans - Past and Present!



The AMERICAN LEGION

this publication

P.O. Box 1055 Indianapolis, Ind.
www.legion.org

Correction

On the cover of the Nov. 2 issue of the *APG News*, the daughter of Sgt. Joseph Beale, Sara, age 5, was incorrectly identified as Mary, age 4. The *APG News* regrets the error.

Veterans' voices

Wounded Warrior Symposium: Soldiers, families stitch lives back together

Story by
MATT MCFARLAND
Pentagram staff writer

Some of the wounds are still healing. Some losses, like limbs, can never be replaced. At the Army's Wounded Warrior Symposium in Arlington, Va., Oct. 23 thru 27, 55 severely injured Soldiers and their families opened up about the most painful, trying events of their lives.

They can empathize with Soldiers who may find themselves on a gurney with a bloody stump, or wake up in a hospital bed with a breathing tube shoved down their throat. There isn't bitterness or anger, just ideas of how a difficult road could be a little smoother.

The Army Wounded Warrior Program helps severely wounded Soldiers and their families resolve problems and overcome obstacles they may encounter.

The intent of this symposium — the second one in the last six months — is to understand and prioritize these issues as families navigate the maze of benefits throughout hospitalization, recovery, rehabilitation and transition back into the Army or their civilian community.

The two-year old program started with only five employees and has grown to more than 60 employees, with Soldier family management specialists at major military installations, military treatment facilities and Veterans Administration medical centers. More than 1,400 wounded warriors and their families are served.

Staff Sgt. Johnathan Holsey, who lost part of a leg in Iraq, criticized the program for not being proactive about alerting Soldiers of services.

"You've got younger

Soldiers who don't really know and are not as proactive, and they don't really know about much. And they don't really care because they just want to get out," Holsey said.

Army Wounded Warrior Program Director Col. Mary Carstensen acknowledged the young program is transitioning from a reactive to a proactive unit. Families are now assigned Soldier family management specialists, essentially personal assistants who help manage the many services government agencies offer.

Holsey spoke warmly of his time at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"Everything you could have ever needed, anything you thought you needed, they made sure it was there for you," Holsey said.

Like many Soldiers with new prosthetics, he wondered how active and athletic he could be with his left leg amputated below the knee.

Before the injury Holsey could run two miles in 13 minutes. At Walter Reed, he decided he would run two miles in 14 minutes. Three days a week at the hospital's track a therapist would run behind him, shouting suggestions of how Holsey could sharpen his new stride.



Photo by STEVE HARDING

Injured Soldiers watch as Army Wounded Warrior Program Director Col. Mary Carstensen delivers opening remarks at the symposium. Oct. 23 thru 27 in Arlington, Va.

bother him.

He recently reported to the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course. At weigh-in Holsey noticed his peers eyeing his leg. The stares didn't bother him.

"I made people comfortable, I would say stuff like 'I'm gonna put my other leg

on later," Holsey said.

He has four. Each with a specialty: swimming, running, walking or high-impact. The high impact leg is his favorite.

"You walk on it, play ball on it, play tennis, it's an everyday leg," Holsey said.

He said he is as active now

See **WARRIOR**, page 14

CFC: Assistance dogs serve veterans in need

Story by
KELLY FORESTER
Canine Companions for Independence

Canine Companions for Independence is proud to serve U.S. war veterans across the country. With an increase in wounded veterans who could benefit from an assistance dog, CCI is dedicated to reaching out to even more individuals who have served their country in current and past conflicts.

Jack Carroll is one such veteran whose life has been enriched by a CCI hearing dog. Carroll served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and was shot in the chest and left hand during a military battle. His hearing was also permanently damaged.

As he grew older, his hearing capabilities progressively declined, though he was unaware of the degree to which his hearing loss had compromised his social interactions. Phone calls and doorbell rings would go unanswered. He would frequently miss the attempts of friends, family and strangers to get his attention.

Many of these individuals would incorrectly assume that he was ignoring them, unaware of his hearing deficiency.

But with CCI hearing dog Stella III's arrival, things changed. Stella was trained to recognize and respond to auditory signals such as human calls and telephone rings. When someone calls Carroll's name, Stella "alerts" him to the source of the sound. Stella's CCI hearing dog vest and orange leash provides a visual signal to the public that Carroll is hard of hearing, which facilitates constructive communication between Car-

roll and others.

Carroll's social interactions have vastly improved as a result.

"Now that I have Stella, people approach me more, take the time to communicate and have more patience with me," Carroll said. "Before Stella, you could say I was invisible. Stella has made me a visible interacting person in society."

Stella's arrival not only provided an important bridge of communication with others, but it has also given Carroll a greater sense of independence and security.

When his wife is away, he (and she) can rest assured that Stella will notify him of certain environmental sounds such as a smoke alarm, a kitchen timer or an alarm clock.

During training, hearing dogs are taught to respond to behavioral commands and to "alert" their partners to a core set of sounds.

In addition to ways Stella has improved Carroll's ability to detect voices and sounds in his environment, she also is loving and uplifting for Carroll, and for all those she meets.

Carroll is grateful for the gift of his canine companion on many levels.

"Stella's presence has improved my quality of life in ways I hadn't even imagined," Carroll said. "Every morning I awake to Stella nudging my shoulder and wagging her tail...so I can't help but start the day with a smile."

In addition to hearing dogs, CCI trains service dogs, skilled companion dogs and facility dogs. These four types of assistance dogs can help

veterans suffering from various injuries and disabilities gain greater independence.

For more about CCI's commitment to veterans like Carroll or to learn how to help, visit www.cci.org/veterans. Government employees who wish to contribute, should use number 1804 in the CFC Contributor's Guide.

CCI has been awarded the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence. Upon rigorous independent review, CCI has been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual

basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness. These standards include those required by the U.S. government for inclusion in the CFC, recognized as the most exclusive fund drive in the world.

Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this seal.

Veterans Day

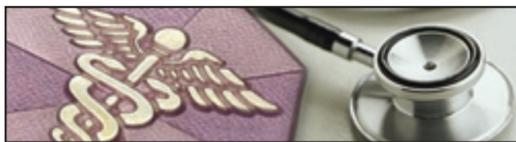
*As you go your merry way today,
I've got something I'd like to say.
You may not know it or even care,
There are millions of vets out there.*

*Most are doing well, but many hurt,
Some spent tours hugging the dirt.
At the time they thought only of you,
And military duty they had to do.*

*Today many are lonely, sick and old,
Their war stories have all been told.
It would mean so much if they knew,
Their efforts were appreciated by you.*

*So take the time this Veterans Day
To look up a veteran and to him say;
"Thank you, Friend, for your best,
Serving this country for me and the rest!"*

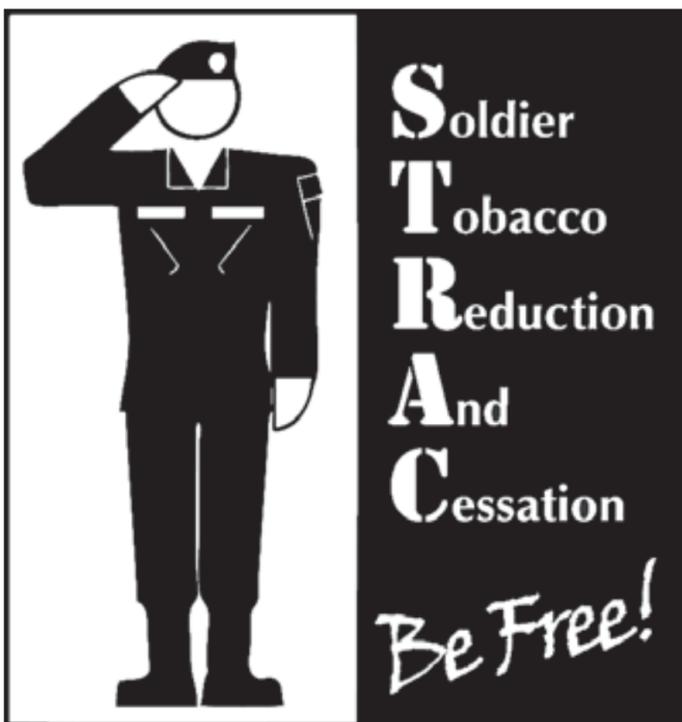
Buddy W. Maxwell



Your health is KUSAHC's goal



Commentary: Tobacco—it's an addiction



By
BRAD TAFT
USACHPPM

As a Soldier, you are a warrior trained to fight and win against all enemies. Tobacco is not often thought of as an enemy. An enemy takes control and forces you to do things that you don't want to do.

But using tobacco is a personal choice, isn't it? Well, not really.

Research indicates that a Soldier who uses tobacco probably started before joining the Army and has kept on using just to fit in with the group and to satisfy a craving for tobacco. This Soldier has probably tried to quit a couple of times, but couldn't because not using tobacco felt really bad. So the Soldier went back to using tobacco just to feel better.

This sounds like an addiction. A drug addict is physically addicted to what he or she craves, has specific triggers that bring on the urge to use the drug, and will put out a lot of time, money and effort to use the drug and satisfy the craving.

Sound like any smokers you

know? Does it sound like you?

Soldiers who smoke are most likely addicted to tobacco. Addiction takes away freedom. If you are addicted to tobacco, you are not truly free.

But you may not believe that you are addicted to tobacco. You may think that it is a personal choice—you like smoking and so you do it of your own free will.

Well, try this. Nov. 16 is the Great American Smokeout. Just stop smoking for a day, 24 hours. No big deal.

If you make it through the 24 hours without getting fidgety and crabby, and wanting a cigarette more than anything else—then hey, you're probably not addicted.

But if you can't make it 24 hours without getting all bent out of shape, you probably are addicted, and, you need to make a plan to beat the addiction and become tobacco free.

There are a lot of resources to help you become tobacco free. The Army healthcare team stands ready to help. Let your healthcare providers, your friends and your family know that you are going to fight tobacco addic-

tion. Decide that no matter what it takes, you are going to beat tobacco—you are going to win.

Here are some online resources to help you:

The Truth About Tobacco Products, Soldiers magazine, <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpw/Populatio/HotTopicsTobacco.pdf>

Freedom from Smoking, the American Lung Association's free tobacco cessation program, <http://www.lungusa.org/site/apps/kb/home/login.asp?c=dvLUK900E&b=38973>

Five Common Myths About Quitting Smoking, from the U.S. Surgeon General, <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/5myths.htm>

Online Guide to Quitting, a U.S. government site, <http://www.smoke-free.gov>

Spitting into the Wind: The Facts About Dip and Chew, a National Institutes of Health site, <http://www.nidr.nih.gov/health/pubs/chew/main.htm>

Just do it. Be free!

Reactivated? Don't lose TRICARE Prime coverage

TRICARE Management Activity

The families of National Guardsmen and Reservists enrolled in TRICARE Prime under the Transitional Assistance Management Program are automatically switched to TRICARE Standard when their sponsors are recalled to active duty. But new rules allow them to keep their Prime coverage when they re-enroll up to 30 days after the sponsor's activation.

TAMP offers TRICARE Prime coverage for 180 days to some service members leaving active duty and their eligible family members. But if National Guard or Reserve members are recalled to active duty during TAMP, they and their families lose their TAMP coverage and family members are dis-enrolled from TRICARE Prime.

In the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System these family members revert automatically to TRICARE Standard. Before the new policy, even if the service member reenrolled the family members right away, TRICARE Prime coverage did not start right away. For example, enrollment after July 20 would reinstate Prime coverage beginning Sept. 1.

"That situation could cause a break in cover-



age, which seemed unfair to our National Guard and Reserve family members," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity. "So we've changed the policy to allow for a seamless transition from TRICARE Prime coverage under TAMP to the same coverage as an active duty family member."

The new policy authorizes a 30-day retroactive TRICARE Prime enrollment period for transitioning family members. As long as the family gets reenrolled in TRICARE Prime within 30 days of the member's reactivation, Prime coverage remains unchanged, with coverage back to the date the sponsor was recalled to active duty. A TAMP fact sheet explains details of this policy at www.tricare.osd.mil/Factsheets/viewfactsheet.cfm?id=317

Maryland veterans may be eligible for free flu shots

VA

VA Maryland Health Care System medical centers and outpatient clinics will offer free flu shots for eligible veterans.

Veterans enrolled with the VA Maryland Health Care System can get free flu shots at the following VA walk-in clinics:

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m., Baltimore and Perry Point VA Medical Centers and the Loch Raven, Glen Burnie and Fort Howard VA Outpatient Clinics

Mondays and Wednesdays, noon to 4 p.m., Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Cambridge VA Outpatient Clinic; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Pocomoke City VA Outpatient Clinic.

The VA Maryland Health Care System will offer a free Drive-Thru Flu Clinic for enrolled veterans, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 4 in the parking garage at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. Eligible veterans should bring their VA identification card and VA flu shot invitation letter to the Drive-Thru Vaccine Clinic to expedite the process.

Maryland veterans who are not enrolled for VA health care can contact the Enrollment Center for the VA Maryland Health Care System, 1-800-463-6295, ext. 7324, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 1-800-463-6295, ext. 7273.

Warrior

From page 10

as before the injury.

Dressed in a suit and tie, 1st Lt. David Folkerts talked openly about his journey back from the improvised explosive device that blew him 20 feet into the air, then left him in a pool of his own blood.

"I was squirting out like a sprinkler," Folkerts said.

Medical care implanted a vein from his leg to save his left arm, but nerve damage to his left hand remained.

"I'm used to being the athlete. I'm used to doing the harder stuff in the Army," said the Ranger School graduate. "I want to be that leader who leads from the front," Folkerts said.

He was told he might never have use of his hand again.

"I told them, 'No, no I'm gonna keep fighting,'" Folkerts said.

The lieutenant painfully sat in Walter Reed, hearing updates from his buddies still in Iraq. He felt guilty for not being there. Slowly, he regained some feeling in his hand.

For a time, he dodged the situation.

"I kind of refused and

almost denied that I had problems last year because I didn't want to talk to anybody about it," said Folkerts, who moved into an apartment on Fort Riley after leaving Walter Reed.

But he grew tired of feeling down about himself. So he visited family on weekends. Slowly, he began to accept and be comfortable with his disabled left arm.

"Just to be back in my unit and back in uniform and actually contributing really helped me out because I felt like I was part of the team again," Folkerts said.

Also helpful was sharing an apartment with two officers who returned from Iraq.

His on-going journey brought him to the symposium to raise issues affecting injured Soldiers.

He's heard from Soldiers with internal injuries that aren't covered through Traumatic Service Group Life Insurance.

He also mentioned that injured Soldiers are awarded \$25,000 every 30 days that they fail to perform daily living activities. They can receive up to \$100,000. This quirk in the system gives Soldiers a disincentive to heal, he said.

"The ones that do know,

milk the system and keep waiting and waiting," Folkerts said.

Nearby, Spc. Venasio Sele walked through the symposium, curious of the services available to him.

It's the latest Army program to catch his eye. Sele joined the Army to learn technologies he didn't know as a trade school instructor. Sometimes he would get calls from an old friend at work, asking about a new technology.

"We've already tested it," a proud Sele would say.

In Iraq his engineering unit patched damaged roads and chauffeured convoys out of Mosul. The convoys included two fuel tankers, which were needed to refuel the vehicles during the nine-hour missions. He rode as the gunner on the last high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle.

An hour into the trip, Sele heard an IED detonate under the fuel tankers. The commander ordered him to guard the tankers as engineers determined whether the tankers could still be driven.

Then, from his perch atop the HMMWV Sele spotted a small car approaching.

"Hey, I got a suicide bomber coming in," Sele shouted.

IMCOM

From page 3

installation management structure under IMCOM optimizes resources, protects the environment and enhances well-being of the Army community. IMCOM will provide fast, efficient and agile support to commanders in the performance of their tactical

and strategic missions.

The new command, currently headquartered in Virginia and Maryland, will relocate in 2010 to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in accordance with requirements of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure round. The deputy commanding general will locate in Texas, while the commanding general and ACSIM functions remain at the Pentagon.

The new command also will consolidate the four Installation Management Agency regions within the continental United States into two as required by BRAC. The Western Region will stand up in November at Fort Sam Houston, with consolidation taking place over the next few years. The Eastern Region will locate at Fort Eustis, Va., in 2010.

"Are you sure? Shoot a warning shot," said his commander. Sele shot the warning shot. The car kept coming.

He was ordered to shoot.

Sele's fire killed the driver, flattened the tires and silenced the engine. But the momentum of the vehicle continued toward the fuel tankers.

As Sele fought to get out of his harness, he heard the beeping sound of a detonator.

The explosion of both fuel tankers launched him a half mile.

"Till now I still hear that beeping sound," Sele said.

The HMMWV's spare tire shielded him, saving his life. And he was lucky to land on the forgiving sand. But flames from the burning rubber licked the left side of his unconscious body.

Later his brigade commander visited him in the hospital. "Sir don't worry about it. They're just gonna patch me and the doctors are gonna send me back," Sele told him.

"You crazy? The doctors say you're severely injured," said the commander. Sele said he still loves his job and he said he wants to stay in the Army.

At the symposium, Sele sat with Staff Sgt. John Noel. Both are visiting from the

Brooke Army Medical Center.

Each Soldier at the convention has a story, perhaps none more difficult than Noel's. Although in some ways, Noel was very lucky.

Four days after the 4th of July, he rode with another unit on an ant-eater mission, essentially identifying IEDs in a vehicle with a V-shaped hull, which is designed to deflect anti-tank charges.

It was near midnight, and the four-man team peered outside the vehicle, looking for suspicious packages with wires attached. Then a 250-pound IED went off.

"Two hundred fifty pounds of explosives isn't going to be deflected," Noel said.

He remembers waking up in a fog and hearing people scream. "Get him out! Get him out!" He tried to move his arms and legs but couldn't. Then he blacked out. His next memory was rolling out on a gurney from a tent hospital.

The 250-pound IED had broken two of his ribs, one femur, both ankles, his scapula, cut his spleen and collapsed a lung. Everyone else died.

Following surgery to install a titanium support in his backbone, he should be able to leave the wheelchair behind.

Noel hopes to return to Texas with his son, who is currently living with his grandmother in Washington state.

He's gained an appreciation for those who will never walk again.

"Even going to a restroom in some places can be difficult in a wheelchair," Noel said.

He's encouraged parents to make their home more handicapped accessible so that it'll be livable for a greater part of the population.

Noel reported no problems with the Army's services for injured Soldiers but has heard stories of guys who have.

"I hope to come away from this with the knowledge to be able to help somebody else out," Noel said.

Later this year the Army will release the ideas developed out of the symposium to help treat future wounded warriors.

The success of the symposium depends on the Army's ability to listen to and make changes based upon Soldiers' input. That will require the active participation of many organizations and agencies, including the Army's Human Resources Command, the G-1, Office of the Surgeon General, MEDCOM and the Veterans Administration.



Photo by DOUG FARRINGTON, FIRE INSPECTOR

Community day draws hundreds to APG

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

A message of safety and fun was delivered to the nearly 1,000 people who turned out for Community Awareness Day festivities at Aberdeen Proving Ground Oct. 14.

The annual event is presented by the APG Garrison and hosted by the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment's Fire and Emergency Services Division. Community Awareness Day features safety, well-being and entertainment related activities by Garrison and tenant organizations as well as civilian law enforcement and health organizations.

This year's theme, "Watch what you heat," was designed to create awareness about kitchen fire prevention and featured fire demonstrations [kitchen and bedroom] and first aid demonstrations by APG firefighters and paramedics, said Doug Farrington, fire inspector and one of the lead organizers.

"This is getting bigger every year," Farrington said. "The turnout of over 900 people was the biggest we've had."

He thanked the more than 30 organizations that presented displays and demonstrations.

Special guests included the Baltimore Blast cheerleaders, medical personnel and MEDIVAC helicopters from the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Army National Guard, the Mason Dixon Rescue Dog service which presented K-9 rescue demonstrations, and the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) brass quintet which provided music for the event.

Special displays included law enforcement and special operations equipment and apparatus by officers from the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security and a Stryker vehicle from the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center.

The day featured something for everyone, from arts and crafts and a book fair to hayrides and a tug of war contest.

In addition, children gleefully welcomed McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog, Elmo, Dora the Explorer, Smokey the Bear and Ferrous, the Ironbird mascot.

From Army Community Service to the Military and Civilian Spouse's Club, just about every organization got involved.

One highlight for children included the

Firefighter Combat Challenge. Children donned firefighting gear, climbed a ladder to rescue a dog, crawled through a smoke-filled tunnel to rescue a fellow firefighter from a burning building and drag him to safety, and finally use a hose to put out the fire.

Feedback was wonderful, Farrington said. "Everyone seemed to enjoy the interactive learning activities."

He noted that people who signed in came from as far away as Pennsylvania and Delaware.

"It's surprising that more than just the APG community is coming out," Farrington said. "Hopefully we can continue to do this for the community."

Exhibitors included Morale, Welfare and Recreation; the Army Substance Abuse Program; the Post Chapel; APG Child Development Center; APG Federal Credit Union; AAFES; Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood (ACCYN); APG Environmental Restoration Program; Child Youth Services; TRICARE; Veterinary Treatment Facility and Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

In addition, APG paramedics John Williamson and Scott Manglass marked

National EMS Week with a display of training aids and demonstrations of how to clear the airway, perform chest compressions and other emergency life-saving measures.

Several parents seemed to have as much fun as their children.

"This is our second time here and they seem to have a lot more information and activities than last time," said Margo Washington, a budget analyst with the U.S. Army Evaluation Center, as she watched her three youngsters, Jordan, 13, and twins Noble and Mecca, 9, choose gifts of coloring books and toys from the ACS table.

"There's lots of good information here," added Staff Sgt. Darrin Regina, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade, while his son Darrin Jr., 14, looked for information about diabetes for a project he was working on at the KUSAHC Community-based nurses table.

"She had a great time today," added Sgt. Shelly Ryan, 9th Area Medical Laboratory, as her 16-month old daughter Aiden hugged 'Elmo.'

"In fact, we all did," Ryan said.



Photo by DOUG FARRINGTON

Cody Smith, 6, son of Assistant Chief APG Fire Department Dave Smith, drags a fellow firefighter to safety during the Firefighter Combat Challenge.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

A handler from the Mason Dixon Rescue Dogs looks on as a K-9 demonstrates agility while performing a search and rescue task on a pile of rubble.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Jack Hamilton, 4, the son of John Hamilton, a future force technology specialist with the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, colors butterflies in his journal at the interactive Environmental Restoration Program display presented by the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment.



Photo by DOUG FARRINGTON

Parents, children and Soldiers enjoy a hayride during the Community Awareness Day festivities at Aberdeen Proving Ground Oct. 14.