

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Sept. 20, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Domestic Violence exhibit comes to APG

The Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program invites everyone to the unveiling of an exhibit, "Living With the Enemy," presenting the chronicles of domestic violence on the nation's men, women and children Oct. 3 at the Mezzanine Room, Top of the Bay. Guest speaker and award-winning photojournalist Donna Ferrato will speak on her exhibit 1 to 2 p.m. and will be available to the public until 5 p.m. Additional viewing of the exhibit will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 4 and 5, and 9 to 11 a.m., Oct. 6.

RSVP by Sept. 29. For more information or to RSVP, call 410-278-7478 or 410-278-2435.

Convoy trainer available

A Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer has become available for use by military units from Aberdeen Proving Ground and other installations. Units within the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools have priority use of the trainer for Advanced Individual and Officer Basic training.

Available schedules include 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. Hours can be negotiated for daytime training from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To schedule training, contact the 61st Ordnance Brigade S3 Office, 410-278-4920/5770.

Family child care providers needed on, off post

For anyone who loves children and wants to be home with their own, this is a great opportunity.

Become a part of a worldwide network of mobile military professionals who can work at home and contribute to the family income.

Family Child Care training will be conducted Sept. 18 thru 21 at Community Youth Services on Rodman Road, building 2752. Free child care is provided during the training.

Applicants who are interested in providing home-based child care on

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Ordnance School hosts 9-11 remembrance ceremony

Story and photo by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

On the fifth anniversary of the worst attack on American soil since Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools hosted its second 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony at Ordnance Circle Sept. 11.

The ceremony hailed the courage and sacrifices of America's armed forces as well as those of its emergency responders - firefighters, law enforcement officers and the thousands of Department of Defense civilians and contractors who have become partners in the defense of the nation - during the War on Terror.

Maj. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, commander of OC&S and Chief of Ordnance, hosted the ceremony, assisted by OC&S Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Eubanks.

On behalf of Boles, OC&S and the 61st Ordnance Brigade led by Col. Bobby A. Towery and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Slater, the program's narrator, Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Strifolino, welcomed all to the memorial and retreat ceremony, "honoring all warriors, and especially those ordnance warriors who have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of others."

"We honor these warriors and others who have given the ultimate sacrifice and their selfless service to the United States armed forces and our nation," Strifolino said.

OC&S chaplain Douglas Duerksen delivered the invocation.

Boles thanked all for attending the ceremony, particularly singling out the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) which provided music and the many organizational leaders,

local politicians, OC&S employees and family members in attendance, as well as a group of first and second graders from the Aberdeen Youth Center.

"All of you, by your presence here make this all the more special," Boles said.

He noted that the memorable song, "Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning," by Alan Jackson came out shortly after 9-11.

"With that song, like so many other dates in our history, 9-11 had marked itself," he said.

Quoting the speech President Bush made among the rubble of Ground Zero in the days following the attacks, Boles said that "terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our buildings but they cannot shake the foundations of America."

"Today's ceremony provides us the opportunity to remember and it provides us the opportunity to commit to never forget," he said.

Reminding listeners that civilians have also lost their lives serving alongside warriors in the War on Terror, Boles added, "Let us never forget those national treasures who gave so much for us. They believe your security; your freedom is worth their sacrifice."

The ceremony was highlighted by a roll call of the ordnance warriors lost in the War on Terror. Command Sgts. Maj. Eric Williams, NCOA; William Hart, 16th Ordnance Battalion; Luis Rivera of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion and USMC 1st Sgt. Felix Acosta of the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment called the roll. As each name was called, Soldiers and Marines from the U.S. Army

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A Marine from the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School's U.S. Marine Corps Detachment places a set of dog tags on a memorial to fallen ordnance warriors during the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony at Ordnance Circle Sept. 11.

APG military spouse organizes Sept. 11 Freedom Walk

Story and photo by **HEATHER TASSMER**
APG News

The spouse of a Maryland Army National Guard staff sergeant was the main organizer of an *America Supports You* Freedom Walk on Sept. 11 in Oxford, Pa., in honor of those who sacrificed their lives to save others five years ago and those who continue to do so today.

Sarah DalPorto, the wife of Staff Sgt. Gene DalPorto with Company B, 3/126th Aviation, in Edgewood, came up with the idea for the Freedom Walk for her hometown.

Sarah provides volunteer support to the MDARNG's Family Readiness Program.

She said she decided to plan the Freedom Walk because she was "looking for something that the family support group could do" to serve military

families and the community.

"I stumbled across the *America Supports You* Web site and [read about the Freedom Walks]," she said. "I thought 'what a good idea.'"

Sarah said that she wanted to "instill patriotism" in the members of the Oxford community.

She said she also wanted to recognize the "hometown heroes" such as the military, firefighters and police officers who sacrifice their lives to save others.

She talked to her neighbor, Lin Mannion, vice president of the Oxford Borough Council, and other members of the borough council about holding the event. They formed a committee to organize the Freedom Walk.

The Freedom Walk started at the Oxford Diner with Maj. Scott Willens, a veterinarian with the U.S. Army Medicine Research Institute of

Chemical Defense, singing the national anthem and the honor guard from American Legion Post 535 presenting the colors.

Willens' wife, Melanie, and their two daughters, Haley, 8, and Emily, 6, also attended the event.

Pennsylvania Congressman Joe Pitts made a speech about the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

"We should never forget September 11 [2001] when innocent people were killed for no good reason...just for being American," Pitts said.

He said also that Americans should remember the firefighters who died in the twin towers.

Pitts said that gathering together for Sept. 11 also reminds the community of the "debt of gratitude [Americans] owe to the military."

He also commended those who gathered for the event.

"You've all taken a stand for freedom today," Pitts said.

Pennsylvania Rep. Arthur Hershey also had a few words to say about the day.

"It changed the nation forever and the wounds are too fresh to heal, but we must always remember [those Americans who lost their lives on Sept. 11]," Hershey said.

After the speeches, everyone walked to Memorial Park where several leaders of the community made additional speeches.

Willens sang Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up," Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" and "God Bless America."

During "God Bless the USA" he invited retired and present military to come and sing with him.

The freedom walk was a "good,"

See OXFORD, page 2

City of Aberdeen hosts first America Supports You Freedom Walk

Story and photo by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

To commemorate the fifth anniversary of the 9-11 attacks, the city of Aberdeen hosted its first Freedom Walk in collaboration with the St. Joan of Arc School.

Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander served as the master of ceremonies for the program which was hosted by Dr. Jane Towery, the school's principal.

The *America Supports You* Freedom Walk is a memorial to victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks and a show of support for those serving in the military.

The Department of Defense organized the first *America Supports You* Freedom Walk last year. More than 15,000 people participated in the walk from the Pentagon to the National Mall. This year, hundreds of towns and cities across the nation organized their own Freedom Walks.

In Aberdeen, teachers led the school's students on a walk to Festival Park where they were greeted by Wright and Mayor Fred Simmons. The APG Fire and Emergency Services Division color guard, consisting of Capt. Howie Travers; Andre' Fournier, fire prevention specialist; Chris Starling, fire inspector and firefighter



Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, addresses children from the St. Joan of Arc School during the Freedom Walk festivities at Festival Park in Aberdeen Sept. 11.

George Dorbert, carrying the Maryland and U.S. flags, escorted the children.

Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance and talked to the youngsters about patriotism and supporting the military.

"Those of us in uniform today serve not only for ourselves but for all of you," he said. "We wear the flag on our uniforms to remind us every day of our solemn responsibility to you, our nation and our liberty."

To demonstrate their connection to the military, Wright told all children to

stand who had a parent in the armed forces. From there he asked for everyone who had a family member, a neighbor or a friend in the armed forces. Finally, he asked for anyone who had a parent who works on APG and just about every child was standing.

"Look at the strength of our country with your parents, your relatives, your friends and your neighbors supporting our military," Wright said.

The guest of honor was retired New York City firefighter Capt. Arthur

DePew, who was at Ground Zero just hours after the 9-11 attacks.

A veteran whose father served on APG during World War II, DePew said that he was not working on 9-11 but that he went in when he learned of the attacks.

"When I saw those towers on fire, time stopped for me," he said. "I went in and called my division and by 11 a.m. there was a total recall of all firefighters in New York."

He said he didn't reach Ground Zero until later that evening and was struck by the sheer size of the rubble.

"We are trained to react under stress but I tell you everyone there was in shock. Everyone was in awe," DePew said.

"Twenty-five thousand people were evacuated out of the towers before they collapsed, making it the greatest rescue in history," he said, adding that he lost dozens of friends, including 70 firefighters and several police officers.

"What can we do about it?" he asked the children. "We can remember and never forget those who died to keep this country great."

The older children got their chance to express their feelings about 9-11 during the reading of three essays, which were part of the school's

See ABERDEEN, page 3

Military Idol competitor places second in finals

Story and photo by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

A military employee with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense took second place in the Military Idol finals at Fort Myer, Va., Sept. 7 in the Spates Community Club.

Maj. Scott Willens, a veterinarian with a doctorate in pharmacology, sang Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up" during his last round of Military Idol. He dedicated the song to those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, from the terrorist attacks.

The judges gave Willens many positive comments on his performance.

"I was very touched by it," said Jeff Westerman from Fort Myer's Directorate of Logistics. "You have great stage presence but I'd still like to see more personality."

"You raised my spirits up. It is a pleasure to hear you sing," said Leah Rubalcaba from Fort Myers Public Affairs Office.

More than a dozen people attended the round to cheer him on including his wife, Melanie, their children Matthew, Emily and Haley, coworkers from MRICD and longtime friend Rich Davis from West Chester, Pa.

This wasn't the first time Davis had heard Willens perform. Davis said he heard Willens sing the national anthem on "Philadelphia's

WPHT 1210 AM."

Davis shared his opinions on the outcome of Military Idol 2006 winner Spc. Vicki Golding with the National Guard's 257th Army Band in Washington, D.C. He was disappointed Willens didn't win.

"Scott had a better voice and was the most talented of the three," Davis said. "He also had a better song."

Willens received a check for \$250 for coming in second place.

Although Willens didn't win Military Idol this year he still has a positive attitude.

"I'm very grateful of my family, my unit and others who voted for me and supported me," he said.

"I wish Vicki Golding the best," Willens said. "I think she should stick with her 30s swing style."

He said the outcome of Military Idol is not what matters for him but the opportunities it brings.

Because he has participated in Military Idol, he has had the chance to sing the national anthem for several ceremonies and become involved with other musical events.

"Military Idol gives me more opportunities to serve," he said.

During the Aug. 31 round at Fort Myer Willens performed Air Supply's "All Out of Love."

He said he sang the song



Maj. Scott Willens with the Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense sings Air Supply's "So Lost Without You" during the Military Idol semifinals on Aug. 31 at the Spates Community Club in Fort Myer, Va.

because the band is Australian and his friend, Capt. Scott Hahn with the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, came along to watch him perform.

His family and coworkers were there again to cheer him on.

After Willens sang the classic rock song, the judges said that he exuded confidence and his performance was "very mature."

Willens and Staff Sgt. Venus Sims, a drill sergeant with Company C, 16th Ordnance

Battalion, also performed on Aug. 24., during which Willens sang "This is the Moment" from "Jekyll and Hyde."

Willens said that the words were arranged for the 231st Army Ball performance that gave it a patriotic tone.

This is the second year of Military Idol for Willens.

"It's nice to have some recognition," Willens said, commenting on his second time around. "Sinbad is the same DJ from last year and he

is very personable. The same Morale, Welfare and Recreation people are involved. Some are judges."

Last year Willens made it to the Army-wide competition in Fort Gordon, Ga., after singing classic rock songs like Styx's "Babe" and Bon Jovi's "Blaze of Glory."

He sang Billy Joel's "Lullaby" for the a cappella [first] round of Military Idol 2006 while holding his 1-year-old son, Matthew.

"One judge said he almost fell asleep," Willens said. "The other two judges said it was the perfect song to sing a cappella."

Sims was the last of 10 contestants to perform and was eliminated during that round.

"I'm not as nervous as last time but the closer it gets for me to perform the more nervous I get," Sims said.

During this round she sang "Full Moon" by Brandy.

"I think I'm kind of taking a risk with a fast song," she said. "But I wanted to sing something more upbeat."

Philip Key, an assistant adjutant officer at the Pentagon attended the Aug. 10 and Aug. 24 rounds to watch the Soldiers perform.

"She [Sims] has an excellent voice," Key said. "She has the potential to be the next Military Idol."

After Sims performed, the judges said she had "the right attitude for the song" and her singing was enjoyable.

The downside was that the judges couldn't hear her voice over the music.

Sims asked Patricia Jacobs, MWR marketing director of Fort Myer, to have the audio people turn down the music.

Sims said it didn't seem like they turned down the music enough.

"It's okay," Sims said. "I'm not sad. It was a good and fun experience. I might compete next year."

APG Soldiers continue work for fallen comrades

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Noncommissioned officers of the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School's 143rd Ordnance Battalion are continuing a commitment to ease the recovery process for fellow service members wounded in the War on Terror.

The NCOs have held three car washes - Aug. 19 and 26 and Sept. 9 - in the parking lot of Precision Tune on Route 40.

The effort was conceived by Sgt. 1st Class Troy L. Weaver, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company instructor, and his wife Kelly.

The couple led a fundraiser within the battalion and on Kelly's job, DaVita Dialysis in Baltimore, two months ago that netted thousands of dollars in cash and merchandise that was donated to the Red Cross at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for use by hospitalized warriors and their family members.

"So far we've raised \$750 from the car wash benefits and \$850 in donations from Davita

Dialysis and Day-Timers, Incorporated," Weaver said.

He and the group made another drop off run to the WRAMC Red Cross Sept. 11 led by battalion commander Lt. Col. Linwood Clark who also visited recovering Soldiers on the wards.

"The battalion commander has been behind us one-hundred percent," Weaver said.

He thanked the members of Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course Class 33-06 for helping with the car wash and the staff of Precision Tune for "so graciously letting us use their parking lot and water,"

and he encouraged anyone interested in donating to the effort to contact him.

In addition, Roger Thompson from the OMMS Directorate of Instruction provided coolers and bottled water for the volunteers.

The Red Cross provided a list of items needed by service members hospitalized at WRAMC, and Weaver said the money raised will be used to purchase those items.

"But we also need a lot of help," Weaver said. "A lot of

people want to do something for our wounded warriors but they don't know what to do so we just want to get the word out that there is something they can do to help make a difference in the quality of life for these Soldiers and their families who have given so much for our country."

Items can be dropped off at Downer Hall in the Chief Instructor Office. The group also plans to deliver baskets to hospitalized Soldiers during the Thanksgiving holidays.

To make a donation, contact Weaver at 443-866-2096.

According to the WRAMC Red Cross Patient Representative and Red Cross Liaison, the following items are needed for service members rehabilitating or recovering from injuries:

- Portable DVD players
- Portable CD players
- Electric shavers (male and female)
- Batteries
- Solid black backpacks/book bags
- Squishy neck pillows (filled with the soft small conforming beads preferably)



Photo by SGT 1ST CLASS TROY L. WEAVER, OMMS
Members of Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course Class 33-06 wash cars in the Precision Tune parking lot on Route 40 during a 143rd Ordnance Battalion fundraiser Aug. 26 for wounded service members recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

- Tennis shoes, male sizes 8-13, preferable Velcro closures
- Athletic shorts
- Boxers/briefs
- Ankle socks
- Sunglasses
- Postage stamps

- Restaurant coupons
 - International phone cards
 - DVD's and CD's
- Monetary donations can be made with a check or money order made out to the American Red Cross, placed inside an envelope with a note

saying the donation should be used for the wounded Soldiers from OIF/OEF at WRAMC.

The Red Cross Liaison will provide a receipt for all monetary donations for tax purposes.

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.

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Oxford

From front page

well rounded tribute to [Emergency Medical Services], firefighters and military" who sacrificed their lives on Sept. 11, Willens said.

"I was honored to be a part of it," he said.

In addition, Willens talked about his memories of Sept. 11.

He said that at the time he was attending North Carolina State University for his Ph.D in pharmacology.

"I was up late the night before studying for preliminary exams," Willens said. "I slept in until 10:30 a.m. the next day and watched reruns [of the planes crashing into the twin towers.]"

He said that a few days later he attended a candlelight vigil where people spoke only about our tolerance of "others."

The leaders of the vigil "did not address the fears and anxieties of the students" and that is what bothered him the most about it, Willens said.

He said Sept. 11 is what made him join the military.

"After the Holocaust everyone said 'never again,'" Willens said, noting that Americans were killed just because of their beliefs just as the Jews were in the Holocaust. "But after watching the replays [of the Sept. 11 footage] I knew I had to do something to keep it from happening again."

DalPorto said about 750 attended the Freedom Walk and the committee plans on organizing another Sept. 11 America Supports You freedom walk next year.

She said she was thankful for those from APG who came to the Freedom Walk and are thankful for those in the service who protect Americans.

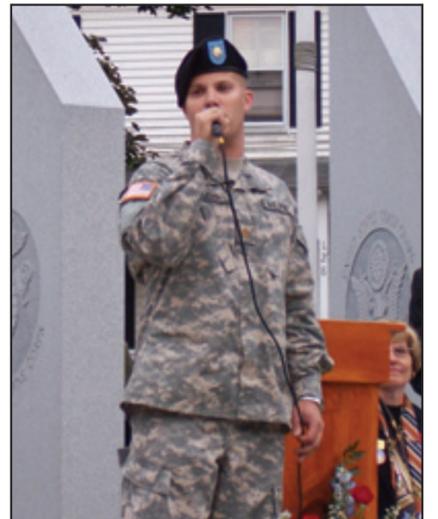
"I just want everyone to thank a Soldier for

serving the United States when they see them," DalPorto said.

In addition to Willens' singing and the Freedom Walk, the MDARNG Havre de Grace provided a high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle display at Memorial Park.

Freedom Walks are a "new national tradition," according to the America Supports You Web site, <http://www.americasupportsyou.mil/americasupportsyou/index.aspx>.

America Supports You is an "ongoing, nationwide program of the Department of Defense that helps showcase Americans' support for the men and women of the armed forces and their families," states the Web site.



Maj. Scott Willens with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense sings Josh Grobin's "You Raise Me Up" at a Sept. 11 America Supports You Freedom Walk at Memorial Park, in Oxford, Pa. Willens was a finalist in the Military Idol 2006 competition.

Remember

From front page

Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School stepped forward and placed dog tags on the traditional military symbol of a lost comrade - a helmet, weapon and a pair of boots that stood near a plaque containing the tags of the 93 warriors honored during last year's ceremony.

After placing the tags, each Soldier and Marine delivered a slow salute, executed a crisp left turn and marched slowly away to rejoin their comrades in formation.

A lone bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace," in the distance added to the solemn grace of the procession.

Boles and Eubanks laid a wreath at the memorial to conclude the tribute.

The OC&S Firing Team delivered a 21-gun salute and the band played "Taps," followed by the Retiring of the Colors by the OC&S Color Guard. All remained standing as a joint Flag Detail made up

of Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, a firefighter, a police officer and a Department of Defense civilian marched onto the field to recover the flag which was at half staff. As the band played "Retreat", the detail raised and then lowered and folded the flag, and marched away in unison.

"God bless America and God bless our military and the civilians who support our great nation," Striffolino said as the program ended. "Thank you for attending today's ceremony to honor those great warriors who gave the ultimate sacrifice."

After the ceremony Boles praised Striffolino for spearheading the event.

"This means so much to him and he puts his all into it," Boles said. "The [61st Ordnance] brigade got it right, presenting a very simple, yet elegant program."

Striffolino said the coordination and practice took weeks of preparation but that it was all worthwhile.

"This is about honoring those who sacrifice their lives

to keep our country free," he said. "They do it because they know if we stop terrorism before it comes to us we won't have another 9-11."

Joint Flag Detail

The event marked the first time a Joint Flag Detail was used in an OC&S ceremony. The noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. 1st Class Lester Dowdell, an instructor with the Basic NCO Academy, formed the detail soliciting volunteers from OMMS units and the APG Fire and Rescue Services Division as well as the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security. Dowdell said that there was no problem in obtaining volunteers or in rehearsing the participants.

"There was no hesitation," he said, adding that the group, which stood at attention in front of the headquarters building throughout the ceremony, practiced together "about five times."

"They only needed a few hours practice and it was smooth sailing from there," he said.

The members included

police Capt. Nicholas Stamos, firefighter Loren R. Brown Jr., Staff Sgt. Justin Erickson, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Morris, Sgt. Fredrick Carpenter, Sgt. Vascorey Smith, Sgt. Lawson Carr, Marine Lance Cpl. Bernard Soto, USAF Staff Sgt. Clint Haynes and civilian Theresa Logan, a training specialist with the School of Military Packaging Technology.

Logan, an Army veteran, wore the desert brown uniform she wore while deployed to Kuwait in 2004 with SMPT as an instructor for troops preparing to redeploy.

"This was truly an honor for me," she said of her participation in the detail. "I jumped at the chance. I hadn't done this since basic training but Sergeant Dowdell worked us hard and it all came together. I think all of us will stand a little taller after this."

Aberdeen

From front page

observance, by Olivia Webster, 6th grade, Olivia Dunbar, 7th grade and Phillip Loi, 8th grade.

Fifth graders Sydney Stone, 10 and Emily Cassidy, 10, commented that they remembered that day.

"I was at home that day," Stone said. "I remember being surprised, then everyone was scared and sad."

"I was in kindergarten," Cassidy added. "I remember being sad with all my friends and I think my mom cried."

In the kindergarten class, Tammy Wright, the wife of the garrison commander who works as a teacher's assistant, said that most were too young or were not even born in 2001.

"We've been talking about what happened and they understand," she said. "Many

of them have relatives in the service. One's father is a firefighter and another's is a drill sergeant," she said, adding, "Mostly we talk about our feelings and we pray."

America Supports You

America Supports You is an ongoing nationwide program launched by the Department of Defense to recognize citizen

support of America's armed forces. Since its launch in November 2004, the program has welcomed more than 225 grassroots organizations and more than 25 corporate team members. To plan a Freedom Walk or to learn more about the program, visit the Web site at www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil/freedomwalk.



Using the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy

TRICARE Management Activity

The TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy is a convenient and easy way to get prescriptions taken regularly (such as those to lower blood pressure, or to treat asthma or diabetes) because they are delivered directly to the home.

Filling a prescription

Step 1: Register to use the TMOP.

The first time using the TMOP patients must fill out a TMOP mail-order registration form and send it to Express Scripts, the TMOP contractor, along with their prescription and copayment. The form has to be completed only once, unless the patient's health condition changes. If a patient has registered at TMOP online recently or mailed a registration form, they do not need to re-register.

There are three ways to register:

- Call Express Scripts:
Worldwide: 1-866-363-

8667 or 1-866-275-4732; or

TDD (for the deaf and hard of hearing): 1-877-540-6261.

Patients may also access a registered pharmacist who is available to answer questions about their prescription at any time by calling one of the above toll-free numbers.

- Download and mail the form from the Express Scripts Web site, www.express-scripts.com/custom/dod/ben_message/.

- Register on-line at the Express Scripts Web site, www.express-scripts.com/custom/dod/ben_message/.

Step 2: Ask the provider to write a prescription for up to a 90-day supply with up to three refills, if possible.

If a patient must begin a prescription medication right away, ask the provider to write two separate prescriptions for the same medication:

1. A one-month supply to fill immediately at a local

retail network pharmacy; and

2. A long-term supply to fill through the TMOP.

Note:

- While waiting for the mail-order shipment, begin taking the medication obtained from the local retail network pharmacy.

- Certain medications may have a 30-day quantity limit and/or require medical necessity or prior authorization from the provider.

Patients may refer to www.tricareformulary-search.org to confirm the formulary status of their medication and to check the copayment amounts due before sending their prescriptions and copayment.

Step 3: Mail the health care provider's written prescription with the registration form and copayment to Express Scripts, P.O. Box 52150, Phoenix, AZ 85072-9954. Enclose a copayment for each prescription being sent to the TMOP. For example, if the patient is an active duty family member or retiree sending the TMOP two separate prescriptions for generic medications, the total cost would be \$6 (i.e., two \$3 copayments).

Patients may pay by check or money order, payable to Express Scripts. The easiest way to ensure paying the correct copayment is to authorize TMOP to bill patient's Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express account. Patients do not have to pay shipping or handling.

Note: If on active duty, there are no copays to use the TMOP.

Step 4: Allow about 14 days from the day Express Scripts receives the initial prescription to the time the medication arrives at patient's door.

Refilling a prescription

Patients may request a refill by mail, telephone or the Express Scripts Web site. Check the label of the current TMOP medications for the date to request a refill.

Patients must pay for orders placed by telephone or online by check or credit card. The TMOP delivers the medications usually within 14 days from the date it receives the refill request.

If a patient forgets to request a refill on time, he/she may request expedited shipping and handling services for an additional charge.

TMOP, other health insurance

Patients may only use the TMOP with other health insurance (OHI) if they meet one of the following conditions:

If the medication needed is not covered by other health insurance. To get medicine submit the prescription with the other health insurance's explanation of benefits (showing that the medication is not covered) to Express Scripts. If the drug is available from TMOP, Express Scripts will fill the prescription.

If the patient has reached the other health insurance's benefit cap, to get the medicine the patient must submit a copy of the insurance company's cap notice to Express Scripts with the prescription. If the drug is available from TMOP, Express Scripts will fill the prescription until the other health insurance pharmacy benefit is renewed.

If the OHI has a pharmacy benefit, use a TRICARE retail network pharmacy to maximize the TRICARE pharmacy benefit. Ask the pharmacy if they will process the prescription with the OHI first, then TRICARE second. In most instances, patients will leave the pharmacy with no out-of-pocket expenses and no claim to file. If the pharmacy cannot coordinate the OHI and TRICARE pharmacy benefits, the patient must file a claim to get full or partial reimbursement for their out-of-pocket expenses. Patients must mail a completed TRICARE Claim Form DD2642 and the other health

See PHARMACY, page 5

OPMS briefing scheduled for officers

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Department of the Army G-1 will present a briefing on the sweeping changes Army-wide to the Officer Personnel Management System 2 p.m., Sept. 21, at the Post Theater.

The 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-yield Explosives) will host the event.

All officers and warrant officers are highly encouraged to attend this train-the-trainer type briefing.

The Army is taking steps to broaden officer development with the new OPMS Developmental Model and Functional Design. The steps involve changes to shift career paths to be less prescriptive or timeline driven, incentives for retention, revised definition of command and other issues.

Department of the Army G-1 personnel will

present a 90-minute presentation with a 35-minute question and answer period. The focus will be on the steps the Army is taking to broaden officer development, grouping skills functionally to meet Army requirements and growing multi-skilled leaders for the 21st Century while maintaining the strengths of OPMS.

Specifically, leaders will get an introduction to the new OPMS Developmental Model, the new OPMS Functional Design and the impacts on individual officers.

For more information, contact Maj. William Mott, G-1, 20th Support Command (CBRNE) at 410-436-0382, DSN: 584-0382, or e-mail him at bill.mott@us.army.mil.

Background and an overview of the design are on the Senior Army Leader page in an information paper at [https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal.do?\\$p=129362](https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal.do?$p=129362). Only colonels and above can access this site.

Pharmacy

From page 4

insurance's explanation of benefits showing payment to: Express Scripts, Attn: TRICARE Claims, P.O. Box 66518, St. Louis, MO 63166-6518.

A patient has one year from the date purchased to file for reimbursement with Express Scripts.

For more information, call 1 . 8 6 6 . D O D . T R R X (1.866.363.8779). Customer service representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

TMOP requirements for beneficiaries living overseas

The TMOP cannot mail prescriptions to any private foreign address. If patient resides overseas, they must meet the following requirements to receive mail-order delivery:

- Have an APO/FPO address; if assigned to an official U.S. embassy and do not have an APO/FPO address, use the official embassy address to get a prescription; and

- Request that a U.S. licensed provider write the

prescription.

Note: The TMOP will not ship refrigerated medications to any APO/FPO address. If patient requires refrigerated medication, talk to a licensed overseas provider about

alternatives.

For more information

A licensed pharmacist is available to answer questions about medications 24 hours a day at 1-866-363-8667; or TDD at 1-877-540-6261.

Transportation Security Agency sets new screening procedures

www.tsa.gov

The Transportation Security Agency has changed security screening procedures at all U.S. airports, banning liquids and gels at security checkpoints and aboard flights.

No liquids or gels are permitted past the screening checkpoint or on board, with a few exceptions.

TSA does allow small doses of liquid medications through the security checkpoint and onboard airplanes, a slight adjustment from the original ban, which was implemented on Aug. 10.

All liquids and gels including shampoo, toothpaste, perfume, hair gel, suntan lotion

and all other items with similar consistency should be packed in checked baggage to minimize any delays at the screening checkpoint.

In the event a security officer identifies a prohibited item in carry-on baggage, the passenger will be required to either place that item with their checked baggage or dispose of it at the checkpoint.

In addition, beverages purchased in the boarding area beyond the screening checkpoint will not be allowed on board, and must be consumed before boarding.

All footwear must be removed and X-rayed along with the individual's carry-on

bags.

Prohibited items

Prohibited items obviously include weapons, explosives, and incendiaries, but also items that are seemingly harmless and may be used as weapons like hammers, bats, or mace. Do not bring these items to security checkpoints. Bringing a prohibited item to a security checkpoint - even accidentally - is illegal.

Carrying liquids of any sort to the screening checkpoint will cause delays, and will most likely result in the item being confiscated.

When planning to fly, remember that most items can be placed in checked baggage without a problem.

These policies apply to all flights departing from or arriving in the United States. For flights to the United Kingdom, TSA security officers will perform an additional physical inspection of all carry on baggage at the departure gate. For all other flights, random gate inspections will be conducted.

Please note that for flights originating in the United Kingdom, local policies regarding carry on baggage will apply. These policies tend to be more stringent than U.S. policies. Travelers should check with their air carrier for additional details on United Kingdom requirements.

To learn more and avoid unnecessary delays visit the TSA Web site at www.tsa.org.

Permitted items

Passengers should familiarize themselves with TSA guidance on prohibited and permitted items before coming to the airport. The following items are permitted:

Small amounts of baby formula or breast milk if a baby or small child is also traveling,

Liquid prescription medicine with a name that matches the passenger's ticket.

Up to 5 ounces (148 ml.) of

See TRAVEL, page 7

Travel

From page 6

liquid or gel low blood sugar treatment.

Up to 4 ounces of essential non-prescription liquid medications including saline solution, eye care products and KY jelly; gel-filled bras and similar prosthetics; gel-filled wheelchair cushions; and life support and life sustaining liquids such as bone marrow, blood products, and transplant organs carried for medical reasons.

While baby formula, breast milk, and certain medications will be permitted past the screening checkpoint and on board, these items will be subject to physical inspection.

Electronic devices

Laptop computers, cellular phones, iPods, and other portable electronic devices are allowed on board an aircraft. These items must still be screened at the security checkpoint.

Cosmetic items

Some solid or powdered cosmetics are permitted past the checkpoint; however, this is left to the discretion of the security officer. Although solid cosmetics and personal hygiene items such as lipstick, lip balm and similar solids are permitted, these items must be solid and not liquid, gel or aerosol. To minimize delays, it is recommended that all cosmetics be packed in checked baggage.

Before the airport

Do not pack or bring prohibited items to the airport. Do not pack any liquids or gels in carry-on baggage. Place these items in checked baggage.

Place valuables such as jewelry, cash and laptop computers in carry-on baggage only. Tape a business card to the bottom of the laptop.

Avoid wearing clothing, jewelry and accessories that contain metal. Metal items may set off the metal detector alarm.

All footwear must be removed for screening by the X-ray machine.

Put all undeveloped film and cameras with film in them in carry-on baggage. Screening equipment for checked baggage will damage undeveloped film.

Declare firearms and ammunition to the air carrier and place them in checked baggage.

Use a TSA-recognized lock to lock baggage.

Do not bring lighters or prohibited matches to the airport.

Do not pack wrapped gifts and do not bring wrapped gifts to the checkpoint. The TSA may have to unwrap packages for security reasons. Wrap upon arrival or ship gifts prior to departure.

At the airport

Adult travelers should keep their airline boarding pass and government-issued photo ID readily available until exiting the security checkpoint. The

absence of proper identification will result in additional screening.

Place the following items in carry-on baggage or in a plastic bag prior to entering the screening checkpoint:

- Mobile phones
- Keys
- Loose change
- Money clips
- PDA's (personal data assistants)
- Large amounts of jewelry
- Metal hair decorations
- Large belt buckles

Take laptop and video cameras with cassettes out of their cases and place them in a bin provided at the checkpoint.

Remove all outer coats, suit coats, jackets and blazers for screening.

Following these tips will help reduce wait time at airport security checkpoints.



Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Family Child Care providers host Back to School party

Story by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

Two Family Child Care providers held a "Back to School Bash" on Aug. 25, which gave children one last time to play and see each other before the school year started.

Tiphonie Simpson and Rosetta Thomas held the party at Simpson's Aberdeen Proving Ground home.

About 25 children and 10 adults attended the event, according to Beverly Hartgrove, FCC training and curriculum specialist.

"The Back to School event allowed the providers to do a lot of networking," Hartgrove said. "It was a nice activity to have before school started."

She said several of the children were of pre-kindergarten or kindergarten age.

Some of the activities included science projects, musical towels and water play in a sprinkler.

Simpson's two sons, Terry and Vince, and Hartgrove conducted a science project with bottles and tornado tubes. They helped children mix oil, water, glitter and shapes to create science bot-



Photos by BEVERLY HARTGROVE, CYS
Rosetta Thomas, left, a Family Child Care provider helps her son, Darius, 6, right, make a science project.

cles, crayons and other school supplies to children to make sure they were prepared for the first day of school.

Sabrina Tacey, another FCC provider, introduced a game of musical towels to the children. The game is similar to musical chairs.

In addition, APG Community Policing Officer Mike "Big Mike" Farlow stopped by with a McGruff puppet. Hartgrove said he talked to the children about school safety and handed out safety stickers.

Simpson and Thomas handed out bags full of pen-

cils, crayons and other school supplies to children to make sure they were prepared for the first day of school.

The hosts were pleased with the participation from the event. Providers from both Edgewood and Aberdeen attended the "Back to School Bash."

"Everyone came together and supported each other," Simpson said. "The kids had fun running around and doing their own thing."

She said she was thankful for the help of the staff, her family and other providers.

"Their help made it a fam-

ily event and working as a team is what made it fun," Simpson said.

Thomas echoed Simpson's remarks.

"I felt good about [all of the Family Child Care staff members] and other providers coming out for the event," she said.

Thomas said the staff members and providers helped with activities and getting the children ready for lunch.

She said she was also "enthused about the McGruff puppet."

"All of the kids loved it," Thomas said.



Mike "Big Mike" Farlow, community policing officer, performs a puppet show with McGruff at the Family Child Care Back to School Bash on Aug. 25.



Active duty, National Guard and Reserve Component Soldier-entertainers have until Dec. 31 to apply for an audition for the 2007 U.S. Army Soldier Show. Audio, video, lighting, costume and stage technicians also are needed for the song-and-dance extravaganza that provides "entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier" during a six-month tour of Army installations.

Soldier Show accepting applications for 2007 auditions

Story and photo by
TIM HIPPS
USACFSC

Soldier-entertainers have until Dec. 31 to apply for an audition for the 2007 U.S. Army Soldier Show. Audio, video, lighting, costume and stage technicians also are needed.

Active duty, National Guard and Reserve Component Soldiers are eligible to participate in the song-and-dance extravaganza that provides "entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier" during a six-month tour of Army installations.

Audition packet must include:

- A 10-minute DVD or VHS tape demonstrating Soldier's talent. The audition DVD or VHS should include at least two different styles of vocal performance, along with other talents, such as dance or the ability to play musical instruments. Be mindful that the Soldier Show is a family-oriented production.
- A copy of the results of Soldier's most recent Army Physical Fitness Test, including height and weight
- A copy of Soldier's updated Enlisted Record Brief
- An entertainment resume

• A Department of the Army photo or similar photo in uniform

• A letter of intent for release from Soldier's chain of command. The letter must state that if the Soldier is selected to become a cast or crew member for the U.S. Army Soldier Show that his/her unit agrees to release the Soldier for a temporary duty assignment to Army Entertainment Division for the duration of the tour, which usually runs from early March until late November. It must be signed by the Soldier's company commander.

Nomination packets should be mailed to U.S. Army Soldier Show, Attention: 2007 Selection Committee, P.O. Box 439, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060. Express courier deliveries should be sent to U.S. Army Soldier Show, Attention: 2007 Selection Committee, 6091 Sharon Lane, Building 1434, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

Although the 2006 season is winding down, Army Entertainment officials urge applicants to attend a Soldier Show and discuss auditions with folks familiar with the process. This year's performance schedule and more information are available at www.armyentertainment.net. Specific questions e-mailed to soldiershow@cfsc.army.mil will be answered.

Activities

All services, classes and events are available to DoD cardholders, military, civilian, contractors, retirees, family members and guests. For information on these or any other events, please check out www.apgmwr.com.

Social Hour moves to Ruggles Club House

Evening socials at Ruggles Golf Course will be held the last Friday of each month and is open to all members of the APG community.

For more information, call 410-278-4794.

Army Community Services is located in building 2754, Rodman Road. For information about these or any other services that ACS offers, call 410-278-7474/2453.

Play Mornings

ACS offers a weekly play group on Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. for parents and children under 6-years-old to meet other parents while their children socially interact with each other. This is an ongoing program and play groups are held in the APG Chapel, room 5.

Parent Information Exchange (PIE)

This program is for Exceptional Family Members and is 6 to 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. This support group is designed to assist military families who have family members with special needs. Its goals are to improve the members' ability to cope and discuss community resources. Free child care is available; call in advance if needed.

For all SKIESUnlimited programs contact Central

Registration for details and registration. An additional \$18 Central Registration Fee will apply if not already enrolled in the Child and Youth Services Program. Call 410-278-7479/7571 for an appointment to register.

Volunteers needed

Anyone interested in teaching classes such as kindermusik, history, grammar, reading, and mommy and me tumbling, should call Sarah Behl, 410-278-4589.

For more information call 410-278-4589.

Basic automotive maintenance classes

Hands on training on basic vehicle maintenance is scheduled for the third Thursday of each month for men, women, or teenagers 16 and older. For \$5 participants will learn basic automotive maintenance to help keep a motor vehicle operating and recognizing early maintenance problems associated with every day use. The class will include changing and discarding of oil and oil filters, changing and rotating tires, checking fluid levels and filling and using lifts and equipment available all while observing safety while working on vehicle. Sign up at the Automotive Center, building 2379.

Babysitting classes

Training to become a Red Cross Certified Babysitter will be held 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 28, Jan. 22 at Army Community Services, building 2754. Bring a bag lunch.

Participants must be between the ages of 13 and 15.

Martial arts classes

This Chinese style of martial arts will provide discipline, while physically developing and mentally preparing students to learn how to defend themselves. They will learn basic movements and progress to advanced techniques. The system also provides an extensive workable knowledge in the art of self defense for children, women and men of all ages. The instructor has 34 years of experience in the martial arts and is the owner and Master Instructor of the Scarlet Dragon Lung-Fu-Do System. Classes are held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, through Oct. 18, at the Aberdeen Youth Center. No class on Oct. 9. Participants must be 7 to 18 years of age. Cost is \$70. For more information, call instructor Michael Gilbert, 410-272-2712 or 410-306-1120.

Home Buying, Selling Seminar today

This seminar will be held 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 14 at the Aberdeen Recreation Center.

Attend this workshop to discuss housing as the major focus of relocation, from list to settlement as well as:

- a step-by-step look at home buying and selling
- learning what questions to ask when selling and buying a home
- learning how to improve the credit score to buy a home

- working with real estate agents
- knowing the rights
- selling a home for top dollar
- home buying, renting and leasing options
- qualifying process
- preparing a home for the market
- determining the asking price

An experienced realtor, banker and home inspector will be available to answer questions.

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

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Week of Sept. 18

- Special #1: Five butterfly shrimp, French fries, cole slaw, cookie and soda for \$7.35.
- Special #2: Meatball sub with provolone cheese, onion rings, cookie and soda for \$7.55.

Week of Sept. 25

- Special #1: Tuna sub (choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles and onions), chips, cookie and soda for \$5.25.
 - Special #2: Chicken cheese steak sub (choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, pickles, onions, hot peppers, sweet peppers, mushrooms), French fries, cookie and soda for \$7.65.
- For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.



SCHOOL LIAISON

Understanding, coping with ADHD

The Highlands School will present the first of seven presentations in a series for parents wishing to learn more about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, 7 to 9 p.m., Sept. 20 at the Highlands School Foundation Office located at 2014 S. Tollgate Road, Suite 102. Martha Schumacher, a parent-to-parent volunteer presenter for Children & Adults With Attention Deficit Disorder, will give an overview of ADHD.

For more information, contact Beth Maahs-Hoagberg, 410-836-1415.

Domestic violence exhibit comes to APG

The Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program invites everyone to the unveiling of an exhibit, "Living With the Enemy," presenting the chronicles of domestic violence on the nation's men, women and children, Oct. 3, at the Mezzanine Room, Top of the Bay.

Guest speaker and award-winning photo-

journalist Donna Ferrato will speak on her exhibit 1 to 2 p.m. and will be available to the public until 5 p.m. Additional viewing of the exhibit will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 4 and 5, and 9 to 11 a.m., Oct. 6.

RSVP by Sept. 29. For more information or to RSVP, call 410-278-7478 or 410-278-2435.

Community Notes

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 16
PHOTOGRAPHY
NATURALLY**

Join local outdoor photographer Curt Howard for a morning shoot full of individual instruction and a hands-on learning workshop that will concentrate on basic composition and photography strategies. Bring a camera (digital preferred, but film is fine), a tripod (optional), some old clothes

and questions and ideas. This program is from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for ages 12 to adult and costs \$15. Registration is required. For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**PRIZE BINGO
LUNCHEON**

The Pilottown Rod and Gun Club, located on Belle Manor Road, Conowingo, will hold a Prize Luncheon Bingo to ben-

efit the Ladies Auxiliary to the Rod and Gun Club. Doors open at 11 a.m., bingo begins at noon. Tickets cost \$15 and includes paper packet for 20 games and lunch; extra packets cost \$5. Cost for children 10 years of age and under is \$10 with no extra packets. Tickets are available at the door. Door prizes, refreshments, raffles and more will be available. All children must be accompanied by an adult. No smoking is permitted in the club.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-378-2221, 410-658-5628 or 410-378-0096.

**GRANDPARENT AND
ME - WALK AND TEA**

Children, bring a grandparent for a fall flower discovery walk followed by tea and cookies on the deck. This program is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 4 to 104 and costs \$2. Registration is required. For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, extension 1688.

HIGHTIDE MOBILE

Search the shore for material to build an estuary mobile. This program is from 2 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult,

8 to 12 with an adult and costs \$4. Registration is required. For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, extension 1688.

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Susquehanna Shrine Club will be held at the Jarrettsville VFW located on 1714 Morse Road. Doors open at 6 p.m., bingo starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 per person for 20 regular games. Food and refreshments can be purchased. Door prizes and specials will be available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Doug,

410-557-8529 or Joyce, 410-557-7468.

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit VFW Post 8185 will be held at the VFW, Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors open at 6 p.m., Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per person for all paper cards. Food, beverages, baked goods, door prizes and raffles will be available. No smoking is allowed.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson at 410-378-3338, Kathy at 410-378-3594, or VFW Post 8185 at 410-642-9297.

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

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"

**TALLADEGA NIGHTS:
THE BALLAD OF RICKY
BOBBY**

Friday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
Starring: Will Ferrell, Sacha Baron Cohen, John C. Reilly

Ricky Bobby (Ferrell) is a NASCAR racing sensation whose "win at all costs" approach has made him a national hero. He and his loyal racing partner and childhood friend, Cal Naughton Jr. (Reilly), are a fearless duo, thrilling their fans by finishing most races in the top spots - with Bobby always leading the pack. When a flamboyant French Formula One driver, Jean Girard (Cohen), challenges him for the supremacy of NASCAR, Bobby must face his own

demons and fight for his place as racing's top driver. (Rated PG-13)

**BARNYARD: ORIGINAL
PARTY ANIMALS (FREE
ADMISSION)**

Saturday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
Animated

"Barnyard" is a lighthearted tale centering around Otis, a carefree party cow, who enjoys singing, dancing and playing tricks on humans. Unlike his father Ben, the respected patriarch of the farm, and Miles, the wise old mule, Otis is unconcerned about keeping the animals' humanlike talents a secret. But when suddenly put in the position of responsibility, the "udderly" irresponsible cow

finds the courage to be a leader. (Rated PG)

ZOOM

Saturday, Sept. 16, 9 p.m.
Starring: Tim Allen, Courteney Cox, Chevy Chase, Spencer Breslin

When Earth is faced with certain destruction, over-the-hill superhero Jack Shepard (Allen) is called back to work to transform an unlikely group of ragtag kids into superheroes at a private academy. Shepard is charged with the task of training four super-powered kids to harness their powers and save the planet in an out-of-this-world comedy adventure for the whole family. (Rated PG)



'Walk Thru the Bible' seminar coming

Everyone is invited to an innovative, entertaining, creative presentation of the Bible focusing on the Old Testament 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sept. 23, at Main Post Chapel.

The presenters, Timothy Heritage from Lancaster, Pa., and Cindy Benedict from Havre de Grace, will use a mix of hand signs, catch phrases, group reviews, drama, audience participation and a bit of humor to make the Bible come alive. In just six hours, virtually anyone is able to master a survey of the Old Testament, even if they have very little prior knowledge of the Bible.

Two million people can't be wrong. That's how many men, women and children have already participated in "Walk Thru the Bible."

This ecumenical (for all denominations/faith groups) Bible seminar is for active duty families (children grades 1 thru 6 will have a

separate seminar), singles, Soldiers, youth (grades 7 thru 12), young adults and all persons attending APG chapels.

Registration forms are located at Main Post Chapel lobby or register by e-mailing Gerri Merkel, APG director of Religious Education, gerri.merkel@apg.army.mil or calling 410-278-2516/4333 by Sept. 18.

Religious education classes begin Sunday

Religious Education Classes at APG Chapel will begin on Sept. 17 for the Catholic and Protestant congregations and resume for the Gospel congregation.

Children should be registered as soon as possible. Registration forms can be picked up from the APG Chapel or by e-mailing Gerri Merkel, APG director of Religious Education, gerri.merkel@apg.army.mil or calling 410-278-2516/4333.

POST SHORTS

APG or off post in Harford or Cecil counties are encouraged to apply.

For an application, visit the FCC office or call 410-278-9832/7140 or /7477.

**Dining facilities
serve Hispanic
Specialty Meal**

The Hispanic Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Edgewood dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Sept. 19.

During this event all military personnel, family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$3.55 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate

of \$3.05 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The menu includes chicken and rice, beef and bean chimichangas, quesadillas, enchiladas, beef tacos (soft and hard shell), Puerto Rican style roast pork (cerdo al horno), Spanish rice, steamed rice, refried beans, Mexican corn, greens with bacon, Mexican style cornbread, assorted breads, assorted pastries, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

**RAB meeting
scheduled**

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its

monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Sept. 28, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Westwood Study Area.

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.

**Enrollment open for
ILE Phase II**

Army Reserve officers (captains promotable and majors) can now enroll for Intermediate Level Education Phase II which runs October 2006 through May 2007. To be eligible, service member must have completed a two-week ADT Phase I instruction at Fort Dix, N.J.

ILE is the new version of the Command and General

Staff Officer Course. While many of the general topics and subjects of ILE will look similar to those of the old CGSOC course, the methods of learning are quite different. The course relies heavily on the student officer's ability to learn and study independently. ILE students will earn Military Education Level 4 and Joint Program of Military Education Level 1. These credentials qualify an officer for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Contact an ATRRS representative to enroll in Class 302. Active duty officers are also eligible to attend the non-resident ILE course without having to leave their current duty assignments.

For more information or for help with enrollment, call or e-mail Lt. Col. Mark Valeri, 443-243-8473 (cell) or 410-638-7578, mark.valeri@u.s.a.rmy.mil or contact the 10th

Battalion Headquarters command, 410-584-0970.

**Cub Scouts hold
recruiting drive**

Cub Scout Pack 651 is looking for 1st through 5th grade boys and their parents to join its Scouting family.

Multiple camping trips, Pinewood Derby races, hikes and much more are planned for this year.

Meetings will be held on Fridays at the Gunpowder Club on APG South.

For more information call Paul Sigler, 410-612-0185 or Duvel White, 443-655-7461.

**Thrift Store to
disburse funds**

The APG Thrift Shop will accept requests for donations from service organizations and military units through Oct. 31.

The request should include the name of the organization,

point of contact, address, telephone number, amount requested and specific details on what the funds will be used for.

In the past, donations have been granted to area Boy Scouts, Army Community Service, the APG Fire Department and veterans' organizations.

Mail or drop off requests to APG Thrift Store, building 2458, APG, MD 21005-5001. For more information, call the store during operating hours, which are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the first Saturday of the month, 410-272-8572.

Consignments are only taken 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday.

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



Channel 21 features Pentagon Channel programming

The Pentagon Channel will feature the following programs on Channel 21. These programs are subject to change each week and will be updated accordingly.

Monday

ATS Reloaded, 5:30 a.m.
American Veteran, 9:30 a.m.
Army Newswatch, 11 a.m.
Inside Afghanistan/FJ Iraq, 1 p.m.
Around the Services, 5:30 p.m.
Focus on the Force, 10 p.m.

Tuesday

Around the Services, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
RECON, 11 a.m.
Focus on the Force, 1 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 3 p.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq/Inside Afghanistan, 4 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Around the Services, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
American Veteran, 1 p.m.
Inside Afghanistan/Freedom Journal Iraq, 2 p.m.
RECON, 3:30 p.m.

Focus on the Force, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Around the Services, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq/Inside Afghanistan, Noon
Focus on the Force, 1 p.m.
RECON, 3:30 p.m.
American Veteran, 5 p.m.

Friday

Around the Services, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 10:30 a.m.
RECON, Noon
American Veteran, 2:30 p.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq/Inside Afghanistan, 4 p.m.
Focus on the Force, 6:30 p.m.
ATS Reloaded, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Around the Services, 5:30 a.m.
News Reel Anaconda, 7:30 a.m.
American Veteran, 1:30 p.m.
Army Healthwatch, 2 p.m.
ATS Reloaded, 5:30 p.m.
Battleground, 7 p.m.
RECON, 8 p.m.

Sunday

ATS Reloaded, 5:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Freedom Journal Iraq, 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Today's Military, 1 p.m.
Around the Service, 7:30 p.m.
Army Newswatch - Bi-weekly report on the men and women of the Army.

Around the Services - From the Pentagon Channel NewsCenter, daily half-hour program featuring military news from top defense officials and the military services from around the world.

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

Your Corps - Monthly view of the men and women of the Marine Corps.

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

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

Opportunity Showcase - A monthly program dealing with a variety of subjects

that benefit small business owners, transitioning military members and other subjects of opportunity-produced by the U.S. Air Force.

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

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

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

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

ATS Reloaded - ATS-Reloaded revisits the best of the week and keeps viewers updated on information that's important.



TAC Sergeant (Staff Sgt.) Yolanda Vaughters
Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion

Drill Sergeant (Sgt. 1st Class) Alfonso L. Branch
Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion

Ordnance Soldiers conduct TAC Sergeant Pilot Program

Story by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

Trainer, adviser, counselor--these may seem like three separate jobs but in an Army pilot program underway at Aberdeen Proving Ground, they are all rolled into one.

The Army is conducting a TAC Sergeant Pilot Program to see if TAC sergeants can replace drill sergeants at the Advanced Individual Training level. The U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School is conducting the program within its 143rd Ordnance Battalion.

Along with APG, the TAC Sergeant Pilot Program is being conducted at Fort Lee, Va., Fort Jackson, S.C. and Fort Sill, Okla.

Drill sergeants began a four-week training period for TAC sergeants, regular noncommissioned officers who were selected for the program by their commanders, in May. During the last two weeks of the training, the drill sergeants observed the TAC sergeants as they instructed and led their troops.

The TAC sergeants have the same duties and responsibilities as drill sergeants.

"They let us know if we were doing anything wrong or needed to make a change," said Staff Sgt. Yolanda Vaughters, a TAC sergeant with Company C 143rd.

Some people volunteered to be TAC sergeants, according to the battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Luis Rivera, who said that he and battalion commander Lt. Col. Linwood Clark, chose others for the positions.

"TRADOC leadership will make the ultimate decision whether or not to approve" replacing drill sergeants with TAC sergeants, Rivera said, referring to the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command which oversees all Army schools.

TRADOC leadership will use two methods to evaluate the TAC sergeant program after the program ends in December.

One way will be based on the level of Soldier misconduct during the program, Rivera said.

Looking at feedback from each graduating class will be another way the leadership will evaluate the program.

Rivera discussed how the replacement of drill sergeants would be beneficial for the Army.

"The position will be given back to the operational Army," he said.

Rivera said he and Clark would like the TAC sergeants to receive formal training if TRADOC decides to eliminate the drill sergeant position.

"It would be the same kind of training that drill sergeants

receive," Rivera said.

In addition, TAC sergeants would go through the same kind of background checks as drill sergeants.

"We didn't have the opportunity to do that with the TAC Sergeant [Pilot] Program," Rivera said.

He said that time did not permit background checks to be conducted and the checks were not planned to be conducted during the development of the program.

"With background checks we can avoid harassment and other issues," he said.

Overall, the program is "a good intent but it just needs to be planned and organized," Rivera said.

A day in the life of a TAC sergeant

Vaughters and the other TAC sergeants in the battalion conduct physical training five days a week.

After physical training is finished and the Soldiers shower and eat breakfast, they attend classes during the day. When the TAC sergeant is not teaching, he or she completes administrative work.

One of the tasks Vaughters has to complete is in- and out-processing of Soldiers.

She also counsels them and gives them the do's and don'ts of their stay at APG.

"We give them a courtesy inspection and walk them through how their rooms should be set up," Vaughters said.

TAC sergeants also discipline Soldiers who do something wrong just as drill sergeants do.

"If someone does something wrong we give them extra [physical training] and we talk to them and counsel them," Vaughters said.

She talked about what it was like to have the position in the program.

"You have your good classes and bad," Vaughters said. "It gives you the opportunity to instill something in the Soldiers. Hopefully they learn something that you taught them and make a difference."

Although she said the program was interesting, the job can be challenging at times due to the different backgrounds of the Soldiers.

"Some Soldiers haven't had a good relationship with their mom and dad," Vaughters said. "Some never have had physical training or played sports before they joined the Army."

She said she also has to "motivate those who are unmotivated."

NCOs share their opinions

Vaughters said she believes a normal NCO could do the job of a TAC sergeant.

"I still think TAC sergeants need the same kind of formal training that a drill sergeant gets," she said, adding that

leaders have different styles of teaching and "formal training provides consistency."

Before she became a TAC sergeant, Vaughters was an Operations NCO. She was selected by Rivera and Clark to participate in the pilot program.

Another TAC sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Dexter Trotter, shared his opinions on how TAC sergeants differ from drill sergeants.

Trotter said since times are changing so is the Army.

"The Army is trying to transition to becoming more gentle and friendly," Trotter said.

These changes come from the Soldiers being in Generation X and today's parents not spanking their children to discipline them, he said.

Trotter said TAC sergeants still discipline Soldiers if they are doing something they're not supposed to but don't yell as much.

"We try to listen to their problems and talk to them as a person," Trotter said. "When I was a private you didn't need to yell to get your point across."

Trotter said the Soldiers "should be treated like the adults they are."

"They joined the Army during wartime and go straight to Iraq," he said. "They should be shown respect."

TAC sergeants are someone Soldiers can turn to when they have a problem, Trotter said.

On the other hand, Vaughters said "all NCOs are approachable."

"I've seen Soldiers go to drill sergeants when they need someone to talk to," she said.

Vaughters does just that for Soldiers, according to Pfc. Warren Martinez.

"She's one of my favorite TAC sergeants," Martinez said. "I like how she gets things done. If you have a problem, she'll help you out with it."

When Martinez was asked what Vaughters has done to prepare him for war he said that the Soldiers have gone through a lot of weekend training including "warrior lanes."

"Warrior lanes set you up to see what it's like during an ambush," he said.

Martinez also said he notices a difference between a drill sergeant and a TAC sergeant.

"With TAC sergeants you can go up to them and talk about your problems," he said.

He said drill sergeants aren't as available to talk to as TAC sergeants are.

Spc. J. White has a different view on TAC sergeants.

"I think [TRADOC] should keep drill sergeants," White said. "Privates respect drill sergeants more than TAC sergeants."

White said this is because the privates just came from basic training and they are used to the drill sergeants.

Drill sergeants' pride is in the final 'product'

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Most Soldiers who attend drill sergeant school don't go there willingly--they are selected by the Department of the Army then issued orders requiring them to prepare to attend one of the Army's toughest schools--like it or not.

The Drill Sergeant School consists of a nine-week, 45-day course that intentionally strains the endurance and mettle of those who would train America's future warriors.

Not everyone goes there willingly, but those who emerge are arguably the sharpest non-commissioned officers in the Army.

Drill sergeants take their mission of training the Army's Basic and Advanced Individual Training Soldiers seriously. They realize that they are training future warfighters and that commanders count on them to produce quality 'products.'

"We are the hallmark of training," said Drill Sgt. Alfonso L. Branch, a sergeant first class with Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion. When not training troops, Branch is overseeing the unit's other drill sergeants or tending to administrative duties, often serving as acting first sergeant.

Branch completed the nine-week Drill Sergeant Course at Fort Jackson, S.C., nearly two years ago. He said he wears the distinctive drill sergeant hat proudly.

"We represent the [noncommissioned officer] corps as far as these young Soldiers are concerned, and it's our duty to train them more than just physically," he said. "We train their minds."

"I love being a drill sergeant," he said. "Out of every job I ever had, this is the most rewarding. Our job picks up where the basic training drill sergeant left off. It's up to us to make sure that when these young Soldiers get to permanent party they have the right discipline and motivation."

For this and other reasons Branch and other 'drills' have "reservations" about the TAC Sergeant Pilot Program underway in Company C, 143rd. In the experimental program, ordinary NCOs are tasked to receive four weeks of training and then perform the same tasks as drill sergeants,

in regard to training and supervising troops.

"The intent is to see if the TAC Sergeant can do the job of the drill sergeant and produce the same result," Branch said, adding, "but the TAC doesn't go to drill sergeant school which means he misses out on valuable information and training that is tailored to the Soldier."

The same view is shared by Company B, 143rd commander Capt. Hurcules Murray.

"Our drill sergeants are outstanding professionals and some of the best Soldiers I ever worked with,"

Murray said. "It would be a huge blow to the AIT community," he added, noting that the TAC sergeant has to become proficient in executing and teaching required training in a much shorter amount of time.

"The TAC just doesn't get the nine weeks of training the drill sergeant does and that could be a big disadvantage," Murray said.

"They don't wear the hat, they don't get the patch, they don't get the pay," Branch added. "But most importantly, they don't receive the same amount of training that teaches you how to interact, communicate and empathize with Soldiers because sometimes you have to be able to put yourself in their shoes," he said.

Sgt. Richard Castillo is a drill sergeant in training who is attached to the unit. He applied for, was accepted and will attend Drill Sergeant School at Fort Jackson in October.

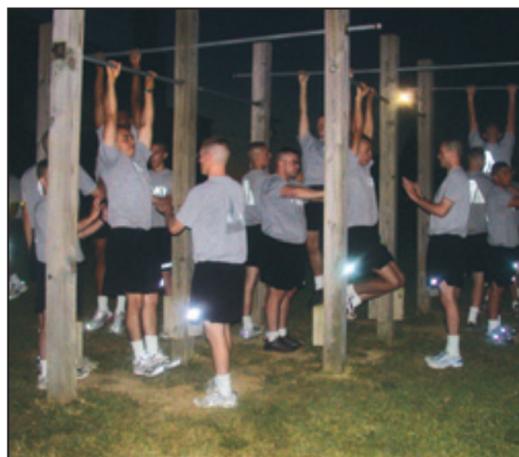
"The bottom line to me is that NCOs are programmed to work and drill sergeants are programmed to train," Castillo said.

"We don't have a 9-to-5 job, and we have to put our best foot forward at all times," he said, adding that the level of discipline doled out by TAC sergeants will be "extremely different."

"Discipline is not about punishment," he said. "It's about what the Soldier accomplishes on his own when nobody's watching. Creating that disciplined mindset is what the drill sergeant is trained to do."

Another Company B, 143rd drill sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Horace Jackson, added a different perspective.

"A drill sergeant is still an NCO and an NCO is going to do his job, regardless," Jackson said. "I think Soldiers respond better to drill sergeants, but as an NCO you are still going to demand discipline."



Advanced Individual Training students in the 143rd Ordnance Battalion perform pull-ups during morning physical training.



Drill Sergeant (Staff Sgt.) Michelle Bryant, Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, keeps time as she leads Soldiers in sit-ups.