

## Post Shorts

### Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Dec. 24 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



### Reduced gate hours for Christmas, New Year holidays

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

#### Christmas

The Harford Gate (Route 22) in APG North will close at 10 p.m., Dec. 21, and the Wise Road Gate in APG South will close at 8 p.m., Dec. 21.

Both gates will reopen at 4 a.m. Dec. 26.

#### New Year's

The Harford Gate will close at 10 p.m., Dec. 28 and the Wise Road Gate will close at 8 p.m., Dec. 28.

Both gates will reopen at 4 a.m., Jan. 2.

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

### Shop till you drop at PX Dec. 21 and 22

The PX opens at 9 a.m., Dec. 21 and will remain open until midnight Dec. 22. That's 39 hours of shopping mania.

There will be 36 drawings for gift cards valued between \$10 and \$100 between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. the morning of Dec. 22. There will also be 10-minute Manager's Specials from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. on Dec. 22 as well as drawings from 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Dec. 22 for a chance to purchase one of 18 Nintendo Wii's.

Scratch to Win cards will be given out to possibly win free medium fountain drinks, a \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift card or dollar amounts off total purchases. Trivia games will be announced for prizes too.

For more information, call 410-272-6829.

### Santa visits post housing

Santa Claus will visit housing residents in APG North, 4 p.m., Dec. 23.

Garrison and Deputy Installation Commander

See **SHORTS**, page 6

## Issue Highlights

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# OPUS East and APG break ground for new development

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground and OPUS East, L.L.C. officially broke ground for construction to begin on the Government and Technology Enterprise (G.A.T.E.), a 200-acre developable area for a state-of-the-art business and technology campus, during a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 17.

The G.A.T.E. project is part of the Army's Enhanced Use Lease, or EUL, program. Under the terms of the EUL, OPUS will lease each land bay for 50 years, allowing the Army to develop underutilized property and redirect the proceeds back into improvement of the installation.

The project calls for the construction of a 60,000 square-foot research and development facility and an 80,000 square-foot office building on the Maryland Boulevard site. As part of the EUL project the Maryland Boulevard picnic area will be relocated as a new recreational complex that will replace the existing assets at the Shore Pool area.

Scott Brody, OPUS East vice president and general manager, hosted the event



This rendering depicts part of the business and technology campus that will be built on Aberdeen Proving Ground by OPUS East L.L.C. as part of the Army's Enhanced Use Lease Program.

that included remarks by Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander; James Lee, president, OPUS East, L.L.C.; Ron Descheneaux, OPUS senior director of government programs; and Lou Lifrieri, senior vice president, CACI.

Brody said the agreement is "a one of a kind opportunity" to support the Department of Defense, the nation and the people who work at APG and that it is the largest EUL in the Army with the potentially largest impact to the Army.

He said that the advantage of the G.A.T.E.'s location is that it is inside the APG perimeter.

"That's what makes G.A.T.E. attractive to contractors," he said, adding that government contractors are the sites' anticipated tenants.

"We think we are building the preeminent business park," he said.

Weissman said that the EUL program has given APG the opportunity to allow the development of underutilized land. He said this is the first EUL project at APG and the first large

EUL land deal in the Army.

He said the project was the vision of Joe Craten, retired civilian deputy to the garrison commander, and Harry Greveris, director of Installation Operations.

"With Army funds diminishing for APG, these gentlemen saw an opportunity to engage APG in the Army's EUL program," Weissman said.

He said the project will help the installation realize its APG 2012 vision regarding Base Realignment and Closure and thanked the Garrison staff,

Army Corps of Engineers and OPUS East.

"This event represents not an end but a beginning," Weissman said. "We look forward to the benefits to be shared by the entire APG community."

Greg Kuester, APG Garrison EUL program manager, said the project has been challenging, calling for a tremendous amount of teamwork.

"This project will produce results that will benefit the garrison, OPUS and the local community," Kuester said.

See **EUL**, page 7

# Tools identify Soldiers' high-risk behavior

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

Army officials recently released two innovative tools designed to determine a Soldier's accident potential.

The 'Accident Risk Assessment for Individuals' allows Soldiers to determine their level of risk, while the 'Leader's Accident Risk Assessment of Subordinates' allows supervisors to assess their subordinates' level of risk. The tools promote interaction between Soldiers and their first-line leaders, the most effective risk assessment and risk mitigation tool the Army employs.

"As leaders, identifying and knowing those Soldiers who are high risk is essential in preventing accidents," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Pres-

ton. "Disciplined leaders engaged at all echelons immediately promote a safer operational environment."

Based on extensive research, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center reports that human error is the largest single component of Army ground, aviation and off-duty accidents, accounting for 80 percent of mishaps. The majority of findings in accidents investigated and reviewed by the USACRC include indiscipline, complacency, overconfidence and lack of training.

"We know, through all the accident data processed by the USACRC, that the engagement of leaders provides a direct, positive impact in the reduction of accidents caused by human error," said Brig. Gen. Bill Forrester, direc-

tor of Army Safety and commanding general of the USACRC. "Our goal is to use these assessment tools to raise awareness within our formations of who is our next accident victim."

The Accident Risk Assessment for Individuals is a self-awareness tool for use by every Soldier at every level within the Army. Upon completion of the assessment, safety officials are confident that Soldiers gain an enhanced comprehension of factors responsible for accidents.

"This tool will give Soldiers better awareness of previously identified high-risk events, empower them to assess their own activities and offer suggestions to adjust their actions to decrease the potential for disaster identified by the assessment," Forrester said. "As

always, the chain of command remains integral in the process and can mentor Soldiers with more difficult factors."

Using the Leader's Accident Risk Assessment of Subordinates, leaders have the knowledge to assess the risk level of their Soldiers, Preston said.

"First-line leaders know of the day-to-day events and stressors that affect the way their Soldiers perform," Preston added. "The Leader's Accident Risk Assessment of Subordinates serves as a catalyst for honest, frank discussions with individuals who you have identified at risk for an accident."

Visit the USACRC Web site, <https://crc.army.mil/riskassessments> to download and learn more about the assessments.

## WRAMC, DoD, Red Cross partner to deliver holiday cards to Wounded Warriors

### Unsolicited mail sent to WRAMC returned to USPS

WRAMC

America's support of its Wounded Warriors is as strong as ever this holiday season, and Americans are expressing that support by sending holiday cards to patients in military hospitals.

Due to Department of Defense security policies that are unavoidable in the post 9-11 world, Walter Reed Army Medical Center and other military medical centers cannot receive mail addressed to "Any Soldier" or "a recovering patient."

However, with the support of the DoD and WRAMC, and with help from Pitney Bowes Government Solutions, the American Red Cross will collect, review and distribute holiday greeting cards to wounded military personnel.

Holiday cards and letters, but not packages, may be sent until Dec. 27 to:

*We Support You During Your Recovery!*

*c/o American Red Cross  
P.O. Box 419  
Savage, MD 20763-0419*

Red Cross volunteers will receive and bundle the cards, which will be shipped by Pitney Bowes. Then, Red Cross volunteers at the medical facilities will distribute the cards throughout the holiday season.

Cards must be received no later than Dec. 27, and must have adequate postage. Cards received after this date will be returned to sender.

Again, senders are reminded that "care packages" are not part of the program--send only cards and notes. Also, refrain from using glitter or any other inserts that would not be appropriate in a hospital environment.

This collaborative effort began

recently, and cards that were sent earlier to "A recovering Soldier, c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center," have been returned.

Because their cards were returned, many people have objected to adherence to the policy that has been in effect since 2001.

"But we would rather be criticized for excessive care in protecting our patients than for negligence should something terrible happen," said a WRAMC spokesperson.

Military patients have on rare occasions received hate mail because of their participation in the Global War on Terrorism. And while thankfully rare, the use of the mail to send harmful substances to terrorize people is an all too familiar scenario.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center encourages as many patients as possible to spend the holidays at home with friends and Family. Patients who are not yet well enough to leave the hospital for the holidays have Family and friends who visit, and have extensive support (gifts, entertainment, holiday meals, and religious services) provided by hospital staff and by volunteers from the Red Cross and other volunteer organizations.

For more information, e-mail WRAMCPublicAffairs@amedd.army.mil or call 202-782-8474.

(CORRECTION: Recent media coverage indicated "Any Soldier" holiday cards received at Walter Reed last year were returned to sender or destroyed. No cards were destroyed by Walter Reed. Cards with return addresses were returned to sender, and cards without return addresses were returned to the U.S. Postal Service.)



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY ORDNANCE MUSEUM  
Along with overseeing the care and display of the museum's priceless and in some cases one-of-a-kind artifacts, Dr. William F. 'Jack' Atwater conducts tours of the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum for visiting politicians, military leaders, veteran organizations, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools classes and other groups. He also led quarterly tours of the Gettysburg National Park and Battlefield for students in the OC&S Officer Basic Course.

## Atwater retires, leaves museum

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

To many familiar with Aberdeen Proving Ground's U.S. Army Ordnance Museum, Dr. William F. Atwater seemed to be as much a fixture as the thousands of items of military artifacts he cared for during his 18-year tenure as the museum's director.

Atwater retired Nov. 30 and was hailed during a farewell ceremony led by Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, chief of Ordnance and commander of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools.

While reflecting on his years at APG, Atwater said he was proud of several accomplishments, including the addition of the 60-by-40 foot extension to the museum that houses its small arms collection and the multi-million dollar ongoing restoration project that will preserve all the vehicles and big

guns in the museum's archives.

"When I got here, all the small arms were stored in a bunker behind the fence," Atwater said. "It was hot in the summer and cold in the winter."

He said that coming across a black snake one day while conducting inventory in the bunker made him determined to have a better facility.

"I told them I would bring them a snake each week until we got what we needed," he chuckled.

Along with overseeing the care and display of the museum's priceless and in some cases one-of-a-kind artifacts, Atwater conducted tours of the facility for visiting politicians, military leaders, veteran organizations and other groups and led quarterly tours of the Gettysburg National Park and Battlefield for students in the OC&S Officer Basic Course.

Due to his expertise in military and

See **ATWATER**, page 15

# ECBC hosts reception for 20th annual Food, Toy Drive



Pvt. Andrew Carlisle, U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, right, hands Arcelio Alleyne, Army Community Service financial readiness manager, left, a box of donated gifts for installation Families received from the Holiday Food, Toy and Gift Drive at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center Dec. 12.

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

The Edgewood Chemical Biological Center celebrated its 20th year of the Holiday Food, Toy and Gift Drive Dec. 12.

Jim Zarzycki, ECBC technical director, opened the program with holiday greetings for all. Commenting on "the history and tradition of ECBC," Zar-

zycki noted that the organization was celebrating its 90th anniversary along with the installation and that the food drive was celebrating its 20th year after its start in 1987.

"Back in those days it was really a group of people who were making stuffed toys," Zarzycki said, adding that volunteers also collected and repaired used toys.

"Every year it keeps expanding, and the items have expanded in scope," he said.

He acknowledged the other commands that have joined the drive over the years, including the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency and the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, which stood up on APG Nov. 28.

Zarzycki said that this year

food and toy drive organizers partnered with Harford County Parks and Recreation, which would distribute many of the items to the Harford County Department of Social Services.

Other recipients included Army Community Service and three Families from a unit organizers adopted, the 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort).

Zarzycki commended the committee members, who were led by longtime co-chair, Barbara Knapp.

"There's a lot of good that you all have done," Zarzycki said. "You certainly have the Christmas spirit in your hearts."

Organization representatives also shared remarks and well wishes.

Kevin J. Flamm, ACWA program manager, said that despite inflating prices and personal responsibilities, "everyone seemed to have the right spirit of giving."

"The way you all opened your hearts and wallets is amazing," Flamm said. "I just want to commend everyone for your generosity and wish you all happy and safe holidays."

Conrad Whyne, CMA deputy director, said that orga-

nization leaders and staff "feel strongly about the importance of giving back to the community."

"At this time of year, it's important to share our blessings with those in need of help" Whyne said.

Col. Mark Grotke, chief of staff of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, commented on the huge show of support by the APG community, as evidenced by the mountains of donated toys and food items that lined the room's wall, and said that it exemplified a kind and caring workforce.

"I'm very impressed with the turn out," he said. "It proves that love drives our fellow man. Thank you very much and best wishes to you all."

Arcelio Alleyne, ACS financial readiness manager, accepted donations on behalf of the APG Soldiers and Family members they will go to.

"We know our nation is fighting a War on Terror, and at this time of year it's nice to know people still care," Alleyne said.

With three Families of their own benefiting from the community's kindness, Maj. Adam

Cubbage, commander, Company A, 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), added his thanks.

"This is truly inspiring," Cubbage said. "You gave your time, your resources and your money. We are very inspired that you would do so much to help us out, and that inspires us that much more."

Recreation specialists, Meghan Hayes and Lisa Emge, accepted donations on behalf of Harford County Parks and Recreation.

Hayes said that 50 Families totaling 186 people would benefit from the donations.

"I was amazed at the size of the donation," she said. "Thank you on behalf of all the Families of Edgewood and Joppatowne. This will make a lot of Families happy."

Knapp, who was introduced by Zarzycki as the "driver for this event for well over a decade," added her thanks to the committee for another successful drive that was "well orchestrated."

"It's a wonderful thing we do here," she said. "There are a lot of caring hearts who go out of their way to make this happen every year, and I know it will continue."



Photo by MATT BUTTON, THE AEGIS  
Sgt. Michael Mills, 16th Ordnance Battalion, helps his son Mikeil, 15 months, open a present during the annual gift-giving program hosted by General Physics and local sponsors in the unit's orderly room Dec. 13.

## General Physics brings holiday cheer to ordnance Families

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

For the fifth consecutive year, the employees of General Physics continued their efforts to "give back to those ensuring the nation's freedom," with its holiday gift-giving program for Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldiers and their Family members.

Six 16th Ordnance Battalion Families benefited from this year's project.

Joanne Fleming led the group of GP employees who gathered at the Headquarters and Headquarters Company orderly room to present the gifts to the Soldiers and their Families Dec. 13.

Fleming credited company commander Capt. Michelle D. Nambure and the unit's senior noncommissioned officers with selecting those who would benefit most from the project.

She thanked all GP employees "who give so generously every year," and this year's sponsors who included the Aberdeen Ironbirds and Frito-Lay.

"The Ironbirds have helped us out every year, and this year Frito-Lay was a huge contributor with donations and gift cards," Fleming said.

Huge gift bags awaited the Families, most of whom said they were surprised by the amount of presents.

"They will definitely have a better Christmas," said Sgt. James McCray of his five children, all of whom were in school and could not attend the presentation. "A lot of

times I'm away during the holidays, and this is one of the few Christmases that we're all together," he said.

He thanked his battalion and unit for their support.

"They believe in Family first, and they take extra steps to do Family-oriented things," he said, adding that the unit held a Family holiday party the day before.

Sgt. Michael Mills, who accepted bags of gifts along with his wife Pamela and three of their five children, said the donations meant a lot to his Family.

"It means there are people out there who really care," Mills said. "We're really grateful for what they've done. We knew they were doing something but we didn't know it would be to this magnitude."

Karen Thorpe, GP chief Environmental Division, led the presentation of the gifts to the Families.

"We're excited at the opportunity to give back to the military," Thorpe said. "We're glad you're here, and we want to wish you all a merry Christmas."

The 16th Ordnance Battalion commander Lt. Col. Karen Jordan presented commanders' coins and ordnance key chains to the GP employees and corporate donors and offered her thanks for their support.

"Thank you all for this wonderful opportunity to give to our Soldiers," Jordan said. "You are all a part of our Family. Have a wonderful Christmas."

See PHYSICS, page 9

## WOA donates funds to Post Chapel

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

The Aberdeen/Edgewood Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association made a holiday donation of \$2,500 for military Families during a presentation at the APG South Chapel Dec. 12.

The donation was made on behalf of a member of the association who wishes to remain anonymous.

Ray Gouty, chapter president; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dwarka Singh, vice president; and Pete Hill, WOA Northeast regional director, presented the check to Chaplain (Col.) Ruben Colon, APG Garrison, and Sgt. 1st Class Irether Gaines, chaplain's assistant, noncommissioned officer in charge.

Singh is a professional development instructor/writer with Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion and Gouty and Hill are military operations analysts with the U.S. Army Material Systems Analysis Activity.

Gouty said that the chapter was happy to make the donation on the donor's behalf.

"He [the donor] is in a position where he and his wife are doing well, and they feel like it's time to give something back," Gouty said, adding that they donated \$2,000 last year.

"He does it through our association which helps us and also helps APG and the military Families in the area," he said. "When something like this comes along, it's just super, and we're extremely honored to make this donation."

Colon and Gaines thanked the association members and said that the gift would be distributed among APG units.

"We will disperse the funds to the garrison command sergeant major who will distribute it to company first sergeants," Gaines said.



Photo by CONRAD JOHNSON, RDECOM  
Quilts made by members of the group, Quilts for Broken Heroes, sit on display during a Christmas Open House at the APG South Chapel Dec. 3. Twenty of the quilts were delivered to Walter Reed Army Medical Center for distribution to wounded service members Dec. 7.

## APG group delivers quilts to WRAMC

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Members of the quilting group, Quilts for Broken Heroes, held a Christmas Open House Monday, Dec. 3, then delivered 20 of the hand-made quilts they displayed to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C., for distribution to wounded service members Dec. 7.

Carol Hansen is the founder of Quilts for Broken Heroes, a non-profit organization whose members meet weekly at the APG South chapel.

She, her husband Dean Hansen and a group member, Brenda Aleman, delivered the quilts to the WRAMC Family Assistance Office.

Hansen said that for only the second time, group mem-

bers actually met one of their recipients.

"As a rare and unexpected treat, we were introduced to one of the Soldiers, and we were given the opportunity to present him with one of our quilts," Hansen said. "That is such a wonderful experience since privacy rules prevent our meeting most of them. Only on one other occasion have we had that opportunity."

She said the Soldier chose "a beautiful red and black pinwheel quilt made by quilter Damon Smith of Havre de Grace as well as a NASCAR quilt for his roommate, made by Dottie Kreutzer of Joppa."

She said that events like the open house increase awareness of and attract new members to Quilts For Broken Heroes, and

she thanked those who helped out, particularly Conrad Johnson of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command who photographed the quilts for the group's scrapbook.

"About eight of our quilters were there either finishing up quilts for the December delivery or starting new quilts for January," Hansen said.

She added that with the awarding of its non-profit status, participation in veterans-related events and several deliveries to WRAMC, Quilts For Broken Heroes enjoyed an eventful year in 2007 and that its members look forward to an even better year in 2008.

For more information about Quilts For Broken Heroes, e-mail Hansen at cshansen@comcast.net.

# APG News

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# Artfully Done serving APG customers



Certified picture framer Dave Stelzig measures items to be included in a plaque inside the Artfully Done custom framing and engraving shop in building 2407.

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

The new framing shop, Artfully Done, is already filling holiday orders for Aberdeen Proving Ground clients.

Artfully Done, Harford County's oldest picture framing shop, opened its second location in the Arts and Crafts building 2407.

The new concession is a private company owned by Barney Bonsall, who opened the first Artfully Done store in Bel Air 26 years ago.

Bonsall said that customers can expect the same services that were offered by the old frame shop that was operated by Morale, Welfare and Recreation, including custom framing and engraving services.

"We will offer greater frame and matting selections and walk-ins are welcome," Bonsall said. "We just want people to know we are here and that we can meet all of their framing needs."

Artfully Done is a fully-equipped, fully staffed operation. The company spe-

cializes in custom framing of photographs, paintings, memorabilia, shadow boxes, needlework and just about anything that can be framed and provides an engraving service for plaques, awards and gifts.



One wall in the Artfully Done custom framing and engraving shop in building 2407 holds beautiful samples of framed paintings, photographs and certificates.

Staff members include two certified picture framers, Pete Reinmann who has been framing for 12 years, and Dave Stelzig who has 17 years experience in the business.

Stelzig said the best part about

Artfully Done is their shared desire to produce quality work.

"We truly know what we're doing," Stelzig said, adding that he once owned his own framing shop in Morgantown, W.V., before retiring several years ago.

"My motto then was 'When the difference is quality,' and that's the same for this oper-

ation," he said. "You can get framing done at a lot of different places but [people] should come to Artfully Done because we believe quality really does make a difference."

Artfully Done business hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday. For more information, call 410-278-4207.

## Outdoor Recreation offers winter ski specials

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

With winter fast approaching, Outdoor Recreation's Equipment Resource Center is offering season-long ski and snowboard specials.

All season long, weekend rentals, Friday thru Monday, will equal a one-day rental, according to ERC manager Ken Singleton.

"Anyone who returns their equipment by two in the afternoon on Monday will only be charged for one day," Singleton. "This applies to cross country skis, downhill skis and



Bane Lawson, a certified equipment technician, readies for a busy ski season using a waxing machine to remove wax buildup on a ski in Outdoor Recreation's Equipment Resource Center in building 2407.

snowboards and all the necessary equipment that comes with them. It also includes snow tubes

[for children]."

Daily rental fees are \$15 for cross country skis; \$25 for

downhill skis; \$25 for snowboards and \$3 for snow tubes.

Season-long rentals for skis are \$90 for cross country and \$150 for down hill.

"Season rental fees include three free tune-ups," Singleton said.

"If your equipment gets scratched up due to lack of snow for example, and it's a season rental, you can bring it in for tuning at no charge up to three times," Singleton said.

Tuning fees for non-season rentals are \$10 for hot wax; \$15 for wax and edge and \$20 for wax, edge and P-Tex (wax filler).

The ERC ski and snowboard season lasts thru March 31.

For more information or to reserve equipment, call 410-278-4124 or visit the ERC in building 2407.

In addition, MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center has discount ski lift tickets for Bear Creek, Blue Mountain, Camelback, Jack Frost/Big Boulder ski resorts as well as Ski Liberty, Ski Roundtop and Whitetail.

For more information, call 410-278-4907/4011, visit building 3326 or e-mail [mwr\\_registration@apg.army.mil](mailto:mwr_registration@apg.army.mil).



# Legally Speaking

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at [http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/Staff\\_Judge/index.html](http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/Staff_Judge/index.html)

## APG Tax Center offers free tax preparation beginning Jan. 23

Story by  
**SANDI WILLIAMS**  
OSJA

The Installation Tax Assistance Program, directed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, provides free tax assistance each year to qualifying active duty service members, retirees and Family members. Active duty service members are those military members currently holding an active duty ID card.

Reserve component service members who are not mobilized are not eligible for services and should contact their individual units for assistance.

The OSJA will host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for the 2008 Tax Assistance Program 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Jan. 23, at the Tax Center's new location, building 4311, Boothby Hill Road, behind the Janet Barr Soldier Support Center. Commanders or their designees are invited to preview the facility and talk with the Tax Center staff members.

The Tax Center doors will be open to the public Jan. 24 through April 10. Hours of operation will be 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; and tax returns will be prepared noon to 6 p.m.

### About the staff

Civilian personnel have been assigned to work at the Tax Center on a full-time basis and will be trained in federal and Maryland state income tax return preparation. An Internal Revenue Service examination at the end of the course certifies each preparer for the Volunteer Return Preparation Program.

### Tax returns

Tax Center staff will only be preparing simple and intermediate level tax returns. Complex tax returns outside the scope of the Volunteer Return Preparation Program will be referred to professional providers.

### Being prepared

It is extremely important to gather the information needed to

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

### Information needed

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

**For those who itemize deductions or own a home, bring materials such as:**

- Mortgage interest statements (Form 1098)
- Medical receipts
- Investment statements
- Charitable contribution receipts (name and address of charitable organization, date of contribution and bank receipts for cash contributions)

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

### Obtaining W-2s online

Defense Finance and Accounting Service myPay is a secure, DFAS-operated Web site that lets active duty, National Guard and Reserve military members, civilian employees and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online.

Soldiers and civilians can access my/Pay by going to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

2007 Tax Statements (W-2 and 1099) will be available on myPay as follows:

- Retiree 1099R – Dec. 18, 2007
- Annuitant 1099R and 1042S – Dec. 18, 2007
- Air Force, Army and Navy Reserve W2 – Jan. 2, 2008
- Civilian W2 – Jan. 4, 2008
- Marine Corps Active and Reserves W2 – Jan. 7, 2008
- Savings Deposit 1099INT – Jan. 18, 2008
- Air Force, Army and Navy Active W2 – Jan. 22, 2008
- NAF Civilian W2 – Jan. 11, 2008

### Tax Forms

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

### Electronic filing

Free electronic filing is also available through the APG Tax Center. However, staff must prepare the tax return at the Tax Center in order to electronically file the tax return. Electronic filing enables the taxpayer to receive their refund by check or direct deposit into their bank account rather than having it mailed. The average return time is approximately three weeks for a check mailed and about 10 days for deposits made directly into a taxpayer's checking or savings account.

For further information and assistance with tax preparation and/or electronic filing, contact the APG Tax Center, building 4311, 410-278-2020 beginning Jan. 24.

## Chapel News

### Commentary: Christmas is here, what are you waiting for?

By  
**CHAPLAIN (COL)  
RUBEN D. COLON JR.**  
Installation/Command Chaplain,  
APG

There is an ancient story I used to share with my children when they were younger, and it tells of a little fish swimming along the edge of the river.

Nearby on the river bank a science teacher has assembled his class for an instruction on "water." As the fish swims by, it hears the teacher speak: "Water is absolutely necessary to life."

"Golly," said the fish. "Without water, we would all perish within a week's time. If what that man said is true, I'd better find some of that substance called 'water' or I shall die in a few days," little fish said.

It asks every other little fish it sees where water could be found, but none of them knows.

Then it puts the question to some older, larger fish, but they are more interested in food for the day. Some think the little fish is crazy.

"Go away and let us alone,"

they said in fish language.

From stream to stream the frightened fish carries its quest, but in vain, until finally it comes upon a fish who seems wiser than the rest.

"Please, where can I find the substance called 'water' that will give me life?" little fish asks.

"Water?" replies the wise old fish. "You are in water this very minute. You were conceived and born in water. Water is your environment. Water supports your very life. Draw on it, and you will live."

We, too, are immersed in a precious substance called 'grace' on which our life's fulfillment depends. Like that little fish, we are born and conceived in it, our lives are sustained by it, we eat, sleep, work and play in it -- we are immersed in it.

Like that little fish who couldn't see the water for the river, we fail to recognize it and we wait longingly to encounter it ... and we wait ... and we wait.

But now the time is here...

God's Grace is here for you, that life-giving substance that continually does for us everything we need to have done for our life's fulfillment -- whether we know it or not, whether we appreciate it or not, whether we are worthy of it or not, whether we recognize it or not, grace is constantly keeping us alive.

In the Christmas deed, God's love entered into the mainstream of human existence when we see relationships that never seem to grow stale.

The Christmas treat is that God has immersed himself in the human condition. The supreme mystery of our faith is that the God of grace offers us the new life we're all waiting to discover, and then he waits for us to respond. He doesn't force us. He doesn't manipulate us. He waits. And we have difficulty understanding this.

"Where is God," we wonder. "Is he hiding? Has he withdrawn? Where is he?"

God is there, waiting. But we have to respond in order to discover his presence. We have

to intend to use the new life he is offering, or it is offered in vain. We have to intend to walk as people of 'grace' in order to resolve to live a new life now.

You can intend to become a full human being now. You can accept the grace of enlightenment and the courage to pay the price now.

Or you can postpone it.

If you decide to wait God out, so to speak, then Christmas will come and go meaninglessly.

He is waiting there to be discovered. But until we have discovered him in a spouse, in a child, in a parent, in a friend, in a stranger, or yes even in an enemy, we have not really discovered his presence in the world.

Christmas is an invitation to discover God's 'grace.'

What are you waiting for?

# Community Notes

## FRIDAY

### DECEMBER 21 BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

A Blue Christmas Worship Service will be held at the Mount Carmel Chapel, located at the corner of Emmorton and Wheel Roads, 7 p.m. The service is for those who are feeling a little blue or have suffered a loss this year.

## SATURDAY

### DECEMBER 22 CRITTER DINNER TIME

Come watch turtles, fish and snakes eat and learn more about these fascinating creatures. The program begins 10:30 a.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For more information or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

## SATURDAY

### DECEMBER 29 BEADED SNOWFLAKES

Create magical beaded snowflakes that glisten and shine. Warm up with hot cocoa and music while making special gems to make winter decor that sparkles. The program will be held 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 12 to adult. Cost is \$8 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

## SUNDAY

### DECEMBER 30 MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special.

The program begins at 1

p.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For more information or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

### HAVRE DE GRACE CHURCH TOUR

The Ninth Annual Christmas Open House of historic 19th and 20th Century Havre de Grace churches will take place 2 to 4 p.m. The self-guided tour includes St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, First Baptist Church, Grace Reformed Episcopal Church and Havre de Grace United Methodist Church.

Brochures are available at Tour Headquarters, Havre de Grace United Methodist Church located on 101 S. Union Ave., 410-939-2464 and Havre de Grace Tourism and Visitors Center located on 450 Pennington Avenue, 1-800-851-7756.

## MONDAY

### DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

American Legion Post #17 located on 415 Edgewood Road, will host a New Year's Eve Party, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Cost is \$25 per person or \$40 per couple and includes music by Club 66, cash bar, draft beer, soda, vegetable and cheese trays, meatballs, wings, chips, pretzels, desserts and champagne toast at midnight. Open bar from midnight to 1 a.m. Proceeds benefit chair replacement fund.

For more information, call 443-506-6561.

## THURSDAY

### JANUARY 17 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JOB EXPO

The Susquehanna Workforce Network will hold a Science

and Technology Job Expo, 3 to 7 p.m., at Ripken Stadium, 873 Long Drive, Aberdeen.

Businesses include Booz Allen Hamilton, Custom Direct, Dynamic Science, Inc., Bowhead Technical and Professional Services, SAIC, U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, Smith's Detection and more. In the event of inclement weather, the date will be Jan. 18.

For more information, call Stacey Lambert, Susquehanna Workforce Network, 410-939-4240, e-mail slambert@swnetwork.org or visit [www.swnetwork.org](http://www.swnetwork.org).

## FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

### JANUARY 25 THRU 27 SEVEN SPRINGS RESORT SKI TRIP

Harford County Parks and Recreation has scheduled a ski trip with lodg-

ing in the base lodge at the Seven Springs Resort, Seven Springs, Pa.

Four adults per room costs \$325 per person; three adults per room costs \$350 per person; and two adults per room costs \$380 per person. Add \$20 per night for slope side rooms. Cost includes round trip transportation, hotel accommodations, smorgasbord buffet breakfast and buffet dinner on Jan. 26. Lift tickets are included in price for day and night skiing. Vouchers are also available for indoor and outdoor activities for non-skiers.

Only 20 rooms have been reserved - a 2.5 person per room ratio must be maintained. A \$100 deposit per person is due no later than Nov. 16.

For more information or to register, contact Mike Stritzinger, McFaul Activity Center, 410-638-3528, or e-mail [mstritzinger@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:mstritzinger@harfordcountymd.gov).

## Post Shorts

Col. Jeffrey Weissman and Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez will join Santa and hand out coloring books.

### Holiday closings around post

The APG North and South Badging Office will be closed Dec. 31. It will open for normal business hours Jan. 2.

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday; Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for the New Year's holiday; and Dec. 28 for end of month inventory.

The clinic will be open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 20, 21, 26 and 27.

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

The U.S. Army Ordnance Museum will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 29 thru 31 and Jan. 1. Due to minimum staffing there may be a need to open late or

close early Dec. 26 thru 28.

For more information, call 410-278-2396/3602.

The APG Thrift Shop will close its doors for the holiday at 2 p.m., Dec. 20 and will reopen Jan. 16.

The entire staff thanks everyone for their patronage throughout the year so that the community can be better served through donations from the shop.

Top of the Bay will be closed through the holidays and reopen Jan. 3.

Donna's Pit Beef will be closed for the holidays and reopen Jan. 3.

For a complete listing of MWR facility closings, see page 10.

### Holiday refuse pickup schedule

Refuse pickup and recycling for all residential areas will be rescheduled for the

coming holidays.

Dec. 24 – trash pickup  
Dec. 31 – trash pickup

All Christmas trees will be picked up on Jan. 7, 2008.

### Gala photos on APG News Web site

A photo gallery is available at the APG News Web site [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) to view the APG 90th Anniversary Gala opening ceremonies, entertainment, including the ChalleNGe cadets, poet and dancers, as well as the exhibits and socializing.

For more information, call the editor Debi Horne, 410-278-1150.

### Tax Center opens

The Installation Tax Assistance Program, directed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, provides free tax preparation and electronic filing for qualifying active duty service members, retirees and Family members.

The center will officially open with a ribbon cutting ceremony 1:30 p.m., Jan. 23, at building 4311 on Boothby Hill Road behind the Janet Barr Soldier Center.

Tax service will be provided 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., tax returns will be prepared noon to 6 p.m., Jan. 24 to April 10.

For more information, call 410-278-1583/2020.

### MLK Commemorative Prayer Breakfast Jan. 17

Aberdeen Proving Ground will sponsor a Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Prayer Breakfast, 7 to 9 a.m., Jan. 17, at Top of the Bay. Tickets cost \$7.75 per person. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Eva Taylor.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, RDE-COM, 410-436-4810; 1st Sgt. Larry Tyson, APG, 410-278-

3000; Sgt. 1st Class Michael Jones, 61st Ordnance Brigade; James Rivera, APG EEO, 410-278-1100; or Linda Patrick, CHPPM, 410-436-1023.

### Mark the date-- National Prayer Luncheon Feb. 22

Aberdeen Proving Ground will host its annual National Prayer Luncheon 11:30 a.m., Feb. 22, at Top of the Bay. The guest speaker will be Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, archbishop of Baltimore.

For ticket information, call 410-278-4333.

### APG Railroad Club open house

The Model Railroad Club, building E-5173 on Webster Road in APG South, will be open to visitors, 7 to 9 p.m., each Thursday in December. The HO scale model railroad display simulates railroad operations as they occurred in the 1960s with a variety of freight and passenger trains connecting eastern U.S. cities.

### CPR and AED classes available

Beginning January 2008, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Service will offer CPR and automated external defibrillator classes in APG North and South.

Two classes will be held 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month.

In APG South, classes will be held at the Gunpowder Club, building E-4650 in the Osprey Room, on Feb. 20, April 16, June 18, Aug. 20, Oct. 15 and Dec. 17.

In APG North, classes will be held at the Post Theater, on Jan. 16, March 19, May 22, July 16, Sept. 17 and Nov. 19.

Class size will be limited to 30 participants and will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Pre-Registration will be required.

For more information or

to register, call Raymond Campbell, 410-306-0566, or e-mail [Ray.Campbell@apg.army.mil](mailto:Ray.Campbell@apg.army.mil).

### Education Center conducts in-process briefings

The APG Education Center, located in building 4305, second floor, room 213-B, will conduct a monthly in-process briefing for Soldiers within their first 30 days of assignment to APG. The briefings take place 8 to 9 a.m. on the last Monday of each month and are designed to inform Soldiers, enlisted and officers, of programs and services available to meet the requirements of their educational goals and plans. The briefing also will provide information to help establish or recertify the Soldier's long/short-term education goals.

For more information, call Tressie Stout, 410-306-2042.

### NCO Academy 8th Annual Anniversary Dining Out

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy will hold its 8th Annual Anniversary Dining Out Feb. 29 at Top of the Bay. The evening will honor past NCOA commandants from 1987 to present.

Tickets cost \$35. Call to make a reservation by Feb. 25.

For more information or to RSVP, call Sgt. 1st Class Francis Cruz, 410-278-9129 or e-mail [francis.cruz@apg.army.mil](mailto:francis.cruz@apg.army.mil) or [lilly.dillon@apg.army.mil](mailto:lilly.dillon@apg.army.mil).

### Nominations open for Employer Support Freedom Award

The Department of Defense has opened nomination season for the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. National Guard and Reserve members and their Families are

eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of military employees.

The award is the U.S. government's highest recognition given to outstanding employers.

Recipients will be announced in the spring and honored in Washington, D.C., at the 13th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony on Sept. 18, 2008.

Nominations will be accepted at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) through Jan. 21, 2008.

### CBRNIAC offers technical inquiry service

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Information Analysis Center, or CBRNIAC, provides a technical inquiry service.

The service offers up to four hours of technical analysis service at no cost to authorized users from Department of Defense agencies, other federal government agencies, DoD and federal contractors, state and local governments and emergency response organizations. The service covers the full range of CBRN defense and related homeland security topics.

To take advantage of CBRNIAC's Inquiry Service, complete the "Submit an Inquiry" form on its Web site, <http://www.cbrniac.apgea.army.mil/info/inquiry.php>, or call James M. King, 410-676-9030.

### Reminder: Vehicle storage in housing areas

Personnel occupying quarters on Aberdeen Proving Ground are reminded that in accordance with APGR 190-5 and APGR 210-8 it is prohibited to store recreation vehicles, utility trailers and watercraft within the APG housing areas. Vehicles in violation are subject to impoundment at the owner's expense.

### Warrant officers needed

The U.S. Army is seeking highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen to fill its Warrant Officer ranks. Positions are open in all 41 specialties if the applicant qualifies.

Current application shortages include Military Intelligence, Special Operations, Ammunition Technician and many more.

For more information on how to apply, visit Web site [www.usarec.army.mil/](http://www.usarec.army.mil/) or call 502-626-0328/0466/0484/0458/0271/ 1860, fax ext. 0938. The DSN prefix is 639. The toll free number is 1-800-223-3735, ext. 6 and the last four of the phone number.

(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Shorts.)

## APG closing announcements

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

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

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

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

Station	Frequency	Location
WAMD	AM 970	Aberdeen
WXCY	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WARM	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WBAL-TV	Channel 11	Baltimore
WMAR-TV	Channel 2	Baltimore
WBFF-TV	Channel 45	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13	Baltimore

# 2008 U.S. Army Soldier Show headed in new direction

Story and photos by  
**TIM HIPPS**  
FMWR

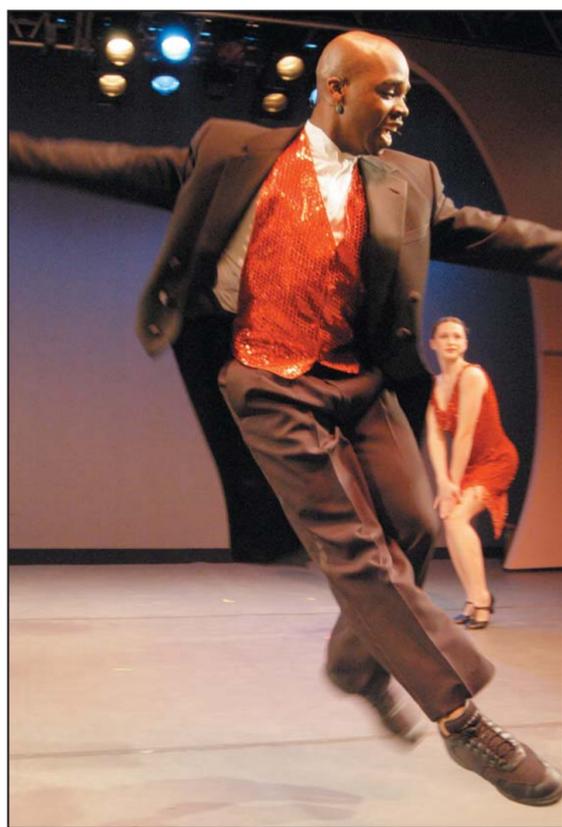
The 2008 edition of the U.S. Army Soldier Show is headed in a new direction – in more ways than one.

Tim Higdon will take the director's chair from fellow Soldier Show alumnus Victor Hurtado, who has directed the Army Entertainment Division's marquee production for the past seven years. The show will feature a more militaristic format and employ an unprecedented number of dancers.

The whole experience will resemble a battlefield environment.

"When the audience walks into the theater, we want them to feel like they're sitting in Baghdad watching Soldiers come off of work to perform for them – with a lot of field-environment-type stuff: camo nets, sandbags, pillboxes. The program is going to have a field-manual look. You're going to hear tanks and helicopters and convoys going by. Since we're not taking the show to Baghdad, we're bringing Baghdad to the show.

"Everything from the printed program to the opening number, you're just going to get the sense that you're there with Soldiers and they're taking some time off to entertain. We're just driving home, from the opening to the finale, that they're Soldiers who are going to perform, then go back to being Soldiers."



Talented dancers like Spc. Donte Davies, who brought ballet to the 2003 U.S. Army Soldier Show from Bamberg, Germany, are being recruited for the 2008 edition of the Soldier Show. December 28 is the deadline to apply for a live audition. Instructions are available on the Internet at [www.ArmyMWR.com](http://www.ArmyMWR.com) by clicking on Recreation & Leisure, Entertainment, and U.S. Army Soldier Show.

The performance will continue to feature plenty of contemporary song and dance. Higdon also plans to employ five Soldier-dancers, another

first for the show.

"We don't care if they can sing," he said. "We just want them to be able to dance, and dance really well, so we can

bring a lot more of those elements into the production."

All told, the cast and crew likely will consist of 12 vocalists, five dancers and six technicians – ranging from stage and costume managers to audio and light technicians.

"A lot of experience isn't necessarily required – just a willingness to work and a willingness to be a part of a team that has a unique mission, and willing to do the time," Higdon said. "We hope to make the whole thing very high-tempo and high-energy, with a lot of entertainment that people can get into and have a good time with."

The change in directors might not be noticeable to those who appreciate "entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier," the working motto of Army Entertainment Division.

"It's a pretty seamless transition," Higdon said. "Victor Hurtado and I work very closely together and have for many years. Two-thousand-and-eight marks the twentieth anniversary of when Pfc. Higdon was in the show as a performer and technician and that's when I met Victor Hurtado. We were both performers and roommates on that tour back in 1988.

"Even when he was directing, he and I would often sit down and collaborate," Higdon continued. "I give him ideas. He gives me ideas. So, yeah, I'm in the director's chair, but I don't think functionality-wise there's going to

be any difference whatsoever.

"We have different styles of leadership, but for the most part we both were born and bred under the Soldier Show tradition. We know what it's all about and we know what its mission and goals are, so we're going to adhere to those like we always do and come up with a format for this year's show that is very entertaining and high-energy and just knocks peoples' socks off."

Hurtado is confident that Higdon will carry on the tradition established by Soldier Show founder Irving Berlin.

"Tim, for the last seven years, has been an unsung muse for me," Hurtado said. "He usually sneaks in during production and sits down and talks to me, and he usually has some music or ideas that he shares. This is a good chance for him to be able to put those ideas to life. He has a brilliant technical mind, as well, so that will come into play. I have really high expectations for the visuals of the show, in addition to the content."

Hurtado, who will focus on recruiting and developing talent for AED programs, felt the timing was right for Higdon to move into the director's chair.

"I realized the Soldier Show wasn't my baby – it's the Soldiers' baby," Hurtado said. "And that baby has had different fathers, starting with Irving Berlin."

Hurtado was a Soldier Show performer from 1986 to 1989 and served as assistant direc-

tor from 1990 through 1992. From the fall of 1992 through 2001, he attended college and worked with recording artists in Santa Barbara, Calif.

"I remember when the Soldier Show came to Fort Irwin and Sergeant Higdon was the production manager, in charge of the whole enchilada, and the show was fantastic," Hurtado recalled. "The 1993 show was just magical, and here he was running things after he got back from the first Gulf War, where he was a tanker. He was just a regular ole E-five and running things. So all of that's been in the back of my mind."

"On one particular evening when I was really, really tired during production this year, I thought: 'I'm going to talk to Tim about taking the reins because he knows how and because he can.' And he readily accepted. ... It was one hundred percent viable for him to take over."

Live auditions for the 2008 U.S. Army Soldier Show, which will tour Europe and installations across the United States, are set for mid-February. The show will hit the stage in late April.

December 28 is the deadline for Soldier-performers or technicians to apply for an audition for the 2008 Soldier Show. Instructions are available on the Internet at [www.ArmyMWR.com](http://www.ArmyMWR.com) by clicking on Recreation & Leisure, Entertainment and U.S. Army Soldier Show.

## Army to launch Wounded Warrior Sports Program



Courtesy of [WWW.JOHN REGISTER.COM](http://WWW.JOHN REGISTER.COM)

John Register, former U.S. Army World Class Athlete and current associate director of Outreach and Development for the U.S. Paralympic Committee skis the slopes of Snowmass, Colo., at a Veterans Affairs/Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in winter 2005.

Story by  
**TIM HIPPS**  
FMWR Public Affairs

The U.S. Army will launch a Wounded Warrior Sports Program for active duty Soldiers with life-altering injuries in January, giving them the opportunity to compete at the national level.

The Army will pay for the athletes' registration fees, transportation, lodging and per diem while they compete at selected events. Athletic attire

participate in sports. This is an avenue for them to continue their athletic dreams."

The program was designed for Soldiers injured at war – primarily amputees – who have remained athletically active at the installation level, where finding suitable competition can be difficult.

"We're trying to help keep these Soldiers active," Army sports specialist Mark Duniwan said. "We want to give them the same opportunity that the able-bodied Soldiers would have to compete in a sport."

The Soldier-athletes must meet established standards to be considered for support in their respective sport. U.S. Paralympic officials served as advisors to help create the program and recommended the qualification criteria.

"Everybody is not going to be a Paralympic athlete, nor does everybody want to be, but everybody wants to be active," said John Register, associate director of Outreach and Development for the U.S. Paralympic Committee. "This program allows for an avenue that is more greatly needed than the Paralympic side of the house."

Register was a U.S. Army

World Class Athlete Program competitor in track and field before a hurdling accident led to the partial amputation of his left leg. He competed in swimming at the 1996 Summer Paralympics in Atlanta and won a silver medal in the long jump at the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

"The Army is providing opportunities that are not special or different or unique – it's just opportunities that it would provide to anybody else," Register said. "The Army has All-Army Sports programs on its calendar. This is just a seamless transition onto the All-Army calendar that is just taking care of our own. Whether you have the physical disability or not, the opportunity is there for you to participate, and it's no different if you're an able-bodied athlete."

"For WCAP to add this program is phenomenal. It's taking care of Soldiers, and that's the right thing to do. It's for all those troops on the ground that need some place to continue their sports," he added.

The first event is for adaptive skiers, scheduled for Jan. 24 through 28 at Winter Park, Colo. An adaptive snowboarding competition follows at the

2008 USA Snowboarding Association National Championships March 31 through April 7 at Copper Mountain, Colo.

Archery, air rifle and pistol shooting, swimming, track and field and weightlifting competitions are available for disabled athletes April 17 through 20 at the Desert Challenge Regional Games in Tempe, Ariz.

The Mid-America Games will play host to track and field competitors May 2 through 4 in Stillwell, Kan. The Endeavor Games, scheduled for June 5 through 8 in Edmond, Okla., will offer archery, basketball, pingpong, shooting, swimming, tennis and weightlifting.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games, scheduled for July 25 through 29, offer the aforementioned sports, along with air-gun shooting,

nine-ball, softball, quad rugby, bowling, handcycling, power soccer and wheelchair slalom.

The 60th National Amputee Golf Championships, slated for Aug. 19 through 22 in Castle Rock, Colo., is the final event on the original list, which is subject to change. A half-marathon and triathlon likely will be added soon.

Instructions for the application process to participate in the Wounded Warrior Sports Program are accessible on the Internet at [www.ArmyMWR.com](http://www.ArmyMWR.com) by clicking on Recreation & Leisure, and then clicking on Sports & Fitness.

For more details, contact Duniwan, [mark.duniwan@us.army.mil](mailto:mark.duniwan@us.army.mil) or 719-526-3908 or Peggy Hutchinson, [peggy.hutchinson@us.army.mil](mailto:peggy.hutchinson@us.army.mil) or 703-681-7211.

## EUL

From page front

Greveris said that speculation began five years ago after they realized the Army was looking for a site for a conference center and hotel complex.

"We thought EUL would be one way to do it," he said. "With funding shrinking for a lot of things that need to be fixed around here, we had to look at ways to get revenue we could count on."

Craten said consideration for the project started years before BRAC and that the "driving force" was the office complex.

"We certainly saw it as a place where contractors could be in a secure location," Craten said. "That was the drawing force."

The program's guests included Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Maryland delegates Dan Riley and Dion Guthrie; members of the Harford County and Aberdeen City councils and a representative from Maryland Congressman Dutch Rupersberger's office.

Col. Peter Mueller, commander, Baltimore Army Corps of Engineers, called the EUL "a great partnership between the Army and private companies" and said that around the nation, another nine EULs are in negotiation while another 14 are being looked at.

"This truly is a cutting edge project," Mueller said. "It enhances the mission of APG and RDECOM and what they do for the Army and the nation. It makes good sense for private industry and the federal government."

Bob Penn, ACOE EUL project director, said that the project will deliver more than \$500 million to the Army and that those moneys will be returned to the APG community.

"There are tons of things that they will be able to get done on this installation," Penn said. "And for the community, it means the installation remains vital as money is pumped back into it."

"It's also a win for the Pentagon," he added.

Lou Lifrieri, senior vice-president of CACI, said that the partnership and teamwork that got the project to this point was "unbelievable."

"CACI is looking forward to being an enabler and joining the community, command and OPUS facility," he said.

Ron Descheneaux, OPUS senior director of government programs, said the main purpose is to "enhance the entire community."

He said the R&D facility will be completed in "seven to eight months" and that both buildings are being constructed as speculative projects.

"We are actively looking for tenants," he said.

James Lee, OPUS East president and CEO, said "We support the Army mission, and we are here to do anything in our power to further that mission."

He added that the business and technology campus within APG's secure perimeter is an attractive and desirable location with its easy access to major cities such as Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston as well as to I-95, AMTRAK and major airports.

"APG is an irreplaceable asset and a true gem," Lee said.

### The G.A.T.E. facilities and Opus East L.L.C.

The first building to be built on Aberdeen Proving Ground under the G.A.T.E. project, also known as the Army's Enhanced Use Lease program, will be a 60,000 square-foot single story research and development facility expected to complete and ready for occupancy by summer 2008.

The R&D building is designed to provide flexibility for tenants with multiple glass entries along the façade. The building's 18-foot ceiling will provide additional flexibility for tenants requiring high bay space.

The second building to be constructed, an 80,000 square-foot office building, has a contemporary design with architectural precast panels, metal accent elements and large windows. The building's two entry points are highlighted with full height curtain walls and metal canopies. After the initial groundbreaking, a similar office building is expected to begin construction in 2008.

OPUS East L.L.C. is headquartered in Rockville, Md., with an office near Philadelphia and another in Stamford, Conn.

OPUS East has developed more than 13 million square feet since starting in 1994 and currently has 4.9 million square feet in planning or under development.

The OPUS Group employs more than 2,100 people in 28 offices in the United States and Canada.

A community steward since its inception, The OPUS Group is committed to the long-term development of people and communities by contributing 10 percent of its pre-tax profits to community organizations. For more information visit, [www.opuscorp.com](http://www.opuscorp.com).

Your health is KUSAHC's goal



# Leadership changes at MEDCOM

Story by  
**JERRY HARBEN**  
U.S. Army Medical Command

Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker assumed command of the Army's largest medical organization during a ceremony at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Dec. 13.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody passed the flag of the U.S. Army Medical Command to Schoomaker, who replaces Maj. Gen. Gale S. Pollock, acting commander since March. Pollock now serves as deputy surgeon general for Force Management.

As MEDCOM commander, Schoomaker has command authority over Army fixed-facility medical, dental and veterinary units in the United States and Europe.

Earlier in the week he was promoted and sworn in for his "second hat" as Army Surgeon General. In that capacity, he has Army staff responsibility for all Army medical, dental and veterinary missions, including those of deployable and Reserve Component units.

Medical Command is one of 11 Direct Reporting Units in the Army. It includes approximately 27,000 military personnel and 28,000 civilian employees. It provides medical care for more than 5 million beneficiaries — active duty service members, retirees and their family members.

"I pledge to be tireless in my efforts to have all Soldiers and Family members live long and stay young in mind, body and spirit," Schoomaker said during his remarks.

"Through two hundred and thirty two years of our history, a history that began six weeks after the Army itself was formed and very shortly after the Declaration of Independence, courageous and gifted Soldier-medics have kept faith with those who place themselves in harm's way. The essence of our professionalism and ethos is embodied in our Warrior medics," he said.

Cody praised Army medical personnel, calling them "the people who stare death in the face and say 'not on my watch.'"



**Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Green Dixon**



**Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker**

He spoke of presenting Purple Heart medals to 1st Lt. Jabari White and Staff Sgt. Victor Dominguez, both severely injured and recovering at Brooke Army Medical Center. He described how White refused to receive his medal in bed, but dressed and stood for the ceremony despite severe burns, and of how Dominguez, with 90 percent of his body bandaged, "fought to salute me."

"When people think of 'Army Strong' it's only natural to think of Fort Benning or Fort Jackson or the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan, where Soldiers soldier, pushing themselves physically and mentally, weapons and platforms all about them, doing the job that Soldiers do so well. When I think of 'Army Strong,' I think of Lieutenant Jabari White and Staff Sergeant Victor Dominguez. I think of them and their doctors and their nurses and their therapists and technicians," Cody said.

Schoomaker previously served as the commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command. He has also commanded U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Md.; Southeast Regional Medical Command and Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center; the 30th Medical Brigade

headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany, and Evans Army Community Hospital at Fort Carson, Colo.

He also has held the position of chief of the Army Medical Corps.

In 1979 he began his Army career as a research hematologist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. He also has served as assistant chief and program director of the Department of Medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; medical consultant to the Headquarters of 7th Medical Command at Heidelberg, Germany; deputy commander for clinical services at Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany; chief and program director of the Department of Medicine and director of primary care at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash.; director of Medical Education for the Office of The Surgeon General/Headquarters USAMEDCOM conducting a split operation between Washington, D.C., and Fort Sam Houston, Texas; director of Clinical Operations at MEDCOM Headquarters; and command surgeon for U.S. Army Forces Command.

In 1970 he graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, was commissioned a second lieutenant as a Distinguished Military Graduate, and awarded a bachelor's degree. He received his medical

degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1975 and completed his doctorate in human genetics in 1979.

He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., from 1976 to 1978, followed by a fellowship in hematology at Duke University Medical Center in 1979.

He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in both internal medicine and hematology.

His military education includes completion of the Combat Casualty Care Course, Medical Management of Chemical Casualty Care Course, AMEDD Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (with oak leaf cluster), the Legion of Merit (with four oak leaf clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He has been honored with the Order of Military Medical Merit and the "A" Proficiency Designator and holds the Expert Field Medical Badge.

During a later ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Green Dixon became the top noncommissioned officer of MEDCOM.

Dixon previously served as the command sergeant major of North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and WRAMC in Washington, D.C. She also has held the same position at the Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Md., and at the Southeast Regional Medical Command and Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Schoomaker passed Dixon the NCO sword representing her position. Schoomaker then recounted how he has come to rely on Dixon as they served four previous assignments together.

"Our Army has changed much over the last thirty years since I was

a private, but two basic responsibilities of a noncommissioned officer have not changed ... accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers," Dixon said. "What has also not changed is how noncommissioned officers make this happen. We make this happen by sticking to the basics; we make this happen by enforcing standards; we make this happen by holding people accountable."

Earlier in her career, Dixon served at Medical Department Activity Alaska, Letterman Army Medical Center, 7th Medical Command, 36th Medical Battalion, 68th Medical Group, 30th Medical Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and the 25th Infantry Division.

While assigned to the 30th Medical Brigade, she deployed to Bosnia as part of the Implementation Force, and served as the brigade operations sergeant major during Operation Joint Endeavor.

Dixon received the Gen. Ralph E. Haines Award for Outstanding Student Research when she graduated from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy. She also has completed the Combat Medical Specialist Course; Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Course; Battle Staff NCO Course; Joint Deployment Officer Course and all levels of the NCO Education System.

Other professional achievements include her selection as the 1983 Health Services Command (now U.S. Army Medical Command) Soldier of the Year and membership in both the Sergeant Morales and the Sergeant Audie Murphy Clubs.

Dixon holds a master's degree, and is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. She is also a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit.

Her awards and decorations include the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Legion of Merit, seven awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, four awards of the Army Commendation Medal, four awards of the Army Achievement Medal, the NATO Medal and numerous service medals.

## Commentary: Strategies for healthy holidays

By  
**CAPT. JULIE C. RYLANDER**  
MEDDAC Bavaria

The holidays are upon us and here come the goodies. It seems as it's almost expected for us to over indulge during the holidays and then make New Year's resolutions that commit us to improving our health. Seems a bit contradictory, huh?

Don't just commit to being healthy for 46 weeks of the year while permitting yourself to holiday indulgences for six weeks; enter the holidays with an attitude that you don't need to deprive yourself of special holiday foods — but you don't need to eat huge portions to enjoy them either.

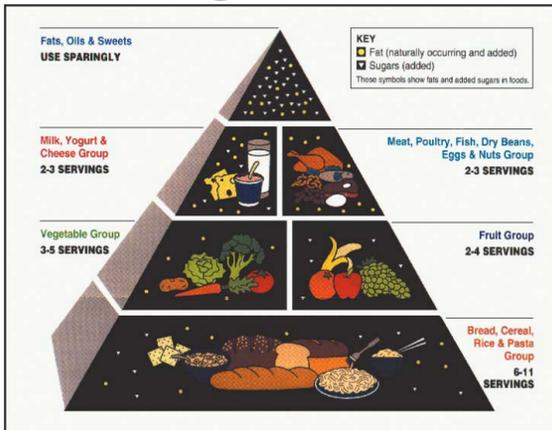
When it comes to enjoying special foods, keep it to just the holiday. Parties and

celebrations present a healthy eating challenge with ample opportunities to indulge and overeat.

Here are some strategies to achieve balance and moderation in your eating habits:

**Don't starve.** Saving up calories during the day to indulge a little at the main meal is okay; however, don't starve all day in order to splurge later. Prevent over-indulgence by eating lighter meals during the day and have a healthy snack, such as a piece of fruit or veggies, to curb your appetite before the main meal.

**Have a plan and choose wisely.** At a party buffet, browse the choices before you start filling up your plate to determine which foods you will indulge and which you can skip without feeling deprived.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:USDA\\_Food\\_Pyramid.gif](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:USDA_Food_Pyramid.gif)

Instead of nibbling throughout the event, fill up a small plate and eat in a location away from the food tables.

**Pace, don't race.** Focus on enjoying the foods you've selected and savor them. Eating quickly easily leads to getting second helpings. Socialize with friends and Family, putting the emphasis on the people with whom you are spending the holidays instead of the food.

**Limit alcohol.** Mixed drinks may contain up to 500 empty calories. Plus, alcohol tends to increase your appetite, feeding the temptation to overeat. If you drink, choose light wines and beers and use non-alcoholic mixers such as water or diet soda. Limit your intake to one (women) or two (men) drinks per day. Also, watch out for other high calorie holiday beverages: fruit

punch, eggnog and sodas.

**Be a good example.** If you are the host, offer your guests healthy options. Tasty choices include: veggies with low fat dip, fresh fruit bites, whole grain crackers with low fat cheeses, carved roast turkey, and stir-fry veggies. Delicious desserts include fresh fruit, angel food cake, and low fat pudding and mousse.

**Be active.** Turn up the holiday tunes and get moving to burn extra calories. Rather than retreating to the couch after a large meal, gather a group and take a walk, enjoying outdoor holiday decorations and lights. This also gets you away from the view and smells of food that might otherwise encourage more eating.

### Choosing wisely

Remember, there are no "good" or "bad" foods; it's only our eating habits that are good, bad, or a little of both.

Taking a look at the Food Guide Pyramid you'll see that grain products, vegetables, fruits, low-fat dairy products, lean meats, fish, poultry and dry

beans all have a place and will encourage a positive holiday spirit by providing constant, stable energy; repairing and restoring the body; and assisting with stress management and preventing mood swings.

What matters most is the total amount and types of foods you eat over several days. The pyramid shows we should choose more fruits, vegetables and whole grains which are packed with vitamins, minerals and fiber.

At the same time, we should limit our intake of high-sugar and high-fat foods. Excess weight gain during the holidays often comes from eating too much of the foods that the pyramid tells us to limit.

Remind yourself daily why you want to be healthy. Enjoy the holidays without regret. With strategy, foresight and a plan of action, you'll come through in good health for the coming year, able to focus on continuing to improve your health rather than undoing the bad habits and effects of overindulgence.

## LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Ronda McKinney, 410-278-8988, or e-mail [rondamckinney@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:rondamckinney@usag.apg.army.mil).

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

Neoma Amberman  
Karen Blades  
William Bond  
Debra Bonsall  
(daughter has brain tumor)  
Henry Cason  
Donna Cianelli

Joyce Clark  
George Colletta  
Barbara Crossley  
John Daigle  
Wayne Doyle  
Lisa Foust  
Betty Genuardi  
Hester Hayes

Jerome Hesch  
William Horn  
Beverly King (caring for husband)  
Glenn Kresge  
Coby Lantry  
Cindy Orwig  
Melvin Showell

Gloria Scott  
Donna Sexton  
Mark Shipman  
Willie Stevenson  
Charles Young

# Using turkey fryers warrants extra precautions

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is issuing safety tips for preventing fires and burns when using turkey fryers.

Since 1998, the CPSC has reports of 75 incidents that involved fires, flames, or burns associated with turkey fryers. Twenty-eight of these incidents were reported for 2002 to include house fires associated with turkey fryers leading to injuries and property damage; ignition of oil used with turkey fryers, which was often related to oil reaching excess temperatures or oil contacting the open flame of the fryer; and splashing of hot oil, causing burns.

The majority of reported incidents occurred while the oil was being heated, prior to adding the turkey. For this reason, it is very important that consumers monitor the temperature of the oil closely. If any smoke is noticed coming from a heating pot of oil, the burner should be turned

off immediately because the oil is overheated.

There is a risk of injury resulting from splashing due to the cooking of partially frozen meats. Thoroughly thaw and dry all meats before cooking in hot oil. One reported burn incident occurred when partially frozen chicken wings were added to hot oil in a turkey fryer.

CPSC staff is working with industry and voluntary standards organizations to improve the safety standard for turkey fryers.

CPSC staff recommends that consumers who choose to fry turkeys should follow these safety guidelines:

- Keep fryer in full view while burner is on.
- Place fryer in an open area away from all walls, fences, or other structures.
- Never use in, on, or under a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or any structure that can catch fire.
- Raise and lower food slowly to reduce

splatter and avoid burns.

- Cover bare skin when adding or removing food.
- Check the oil temperature frequently.
- If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn gas supply off.
- If a fire occurs, immediately call 911. Do not attempt to extinguish fire with water.

#### Guidelines for preparing to use fryer

- Make sure there is at least two feet of space between the liquid propane tank and fryer burner.
- Place the liquid propane gas tank and fryer so that any wind blows the heat of the fryer away from the gas tank.
- Center the pot over the burner on the cooker.
- Completely thaw (USDA says 24 hours for every four to five pounds) and dry the turkey before cooking. Partially frozen or wet turkeys

can produce excessive hot oil splatter when added to the oil.

• Follow the manufacturer's instructions to determine the proper amount of oil to add. If those are not available:

- Place turkey in pot; fill with water until the turkey is covered by about 1/2 inch of water; remove and dry turkey; and mark water level. Dump the water, dry the pot and fill with oil to the marked level.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline, 800-638-2772, or CPSC's teletypewriter, 800-638-8270, or visit CPSC's Web site, [www.cpsc.gov/talk.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html).

To join a CPSC email subscription list, go to [www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp). Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site, [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

## Celebrate this holiday season with trees

### Tips for buying and giving holiday trees

American Forests

When President Bush lit the National Christmas Tree on Dec. 5, he continued a long-standing tradition that began with a gift from American Forests in 1924. That gift, accepted by President and Mrs. Coolidge, was a 40-year-old, 35-foot Norway spruce, and it became the first living symbol of Christmas for the entire nation—the National Community Christmas Tree.

Today, officials predict 30 million to 35 million Families will bring home a cut Christmas tree this year. In addition, Christmas trees also provide benefits from the time they are planted until after the holiday season when they can be recycled.

For decades, American Forests has encouraged the commercial growing of Christmas trees and the planting of living trees. The gift of a living National Christmas Tree was American Forests' way of urging the use of living Christmas trees as a conservation measure. Before the Christmas tree industry, people cut trees from the wild, sometimes illegally, and always with little consideration for the continuance of the forest.

#### The benefits of Christmas trees

It takes a Christmas tree an average of five to 16 years to grow, and as they grow, Christmas trees support life by absorbing carbon dioxide and other gases while giving off fresh oxygen. Every acre of Christmas trees planted gives off enough oxygen to meet the needs of 18 people. Today in America there are enough Christmas trees planted that 18 million people a day are supplied with oxygen. Also, the farms that grow Christmas trees stabilize soil, protect water supplies, and provide a refuge for wildlife while creating a scenic view.

Often, Christmas trees are grown on soil that will not support any other crops.

In addition, according to the National Christmas Tree Association, when one Christmas tree is cut down, one or two are planted in its place—an average of 56 million trees each year.

#### Keeping a live Christmas tree

American Forests recommends enjoying live Christmas trees because of the many environmental benefits of planting trees. If there is space for a "ball and burlapped" or containerized tree, and extra care can be given for the type of tree, it's well worth the additional cost and effort. First, decide where to plant the tree, and prepare the area. Remember, the Christmas tree will be a full-grown tree someday. To care for a living Christmas tree, keep the root ball of the replantable tree moist at all times. After 7 to 10 days of indoor appreciation, move the tree to a protected place outdoors for several days to help it make the adjustment from a warm house. A local nursery should be able to answer any questions concerning the care of the tree. As soon as possible, plant the tree in the hole previously prepared (if the area is frost-prone). If space is not available, check with a local tree-planting group to see if it has a program to accommodate the tree.



#### Purchasing, care, and disposal of a cut Christmas tree

##### The seven basic rules:

1. Buy a fresh tree, checking the condition of the needles—fresh needles bend rather than break with gentle pressure.
2. Shake the tree gently to check for loss of needles. Losing needles may mean the tree is too dry and could be dangerous for the home.
3. Check the cut end of the trunk. A fresh tree should be sticky with sap rather than smooth and dry.
4. Trim the end of the trunk before placing it in water. This allows a fresh route for water to travel into the trunk.
5. Check the water level every other day, adding more if needed. If the water level drops below the trunk, a seal will form, preventing the tree from absorbing water.
6. Keep the tree away from heat sources such as a heating duct or television set.
7. Recycle the tree. If unsure of how to recycle, call a local municipal trash collection office for options. Mulch the tree for the garden. It's important to note: Never burn a Christmas tree in the fireplace; the pitch content in the bark and needles can cause them to burst into flames from the intense heat.

#### The Christmas tree tradition

Trees haven't always been a part of the Christmas tradition. Some historians believe the Egyptians and Romans used some form of an evergreen to decorate their homes. It is generally agreed that the first use of a tree as part of the Christian Christmas celebration was started more than 400 years ago by the Germans.

Eventually, the Christmas tree came to America by Hessian mercenaries, paid to fight for the British during the Revolutionary War. In 1804, Soldiers stationed at a fort near Chicago hauled trees to their barracks during Christmas, and in 1842, a German named Charles Minnegerode introduced the custom of decorated Christmas trees in Williamsburg, Va. His tree was described as being "splendidly decorated" with strings of popcorn, nuts and lighted candles. By 1900, one in five American Families decorated trees during Christmas and by 1930, the tree had become a nearly universal part of the American Christmas tradition.

#### Give the gift of trees

To give the gift of trees this year, plant trees with American Forests to restore damaged forest ecosystems around the world. Planting trees give us cleaner air and clearer water. If builds life in our communities and provides animals with homes and nourishment.

Let American Forests plant some trees in the name of the people on your holiday gift list. We'll send your gift recipient a personalized certificate. Choose to plant trees on the hurricane-damaged areas of the Gulf coast, of wildfire-burned areas of California, or to protect the Mexican habitat of the Monarch butterfly. Visit [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org), or call 800/545-8733.

## Recalls announced

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



#### Starbucks recalls coffee mugs due to burn hazard

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, Dec. 6 announced a voluntary recall of Starbucks Fusion Coffee Mugs manufactured by lab921 in Seattle, Wash., and imported by Starbucks Coffee Company of Seattle, Wash. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

The plastic handle can detach from the body of the mug when filled with hot liquids, posing a minor burn hazard to consumers.

Starbucks has received 23 reports of handles detaching from the mug, including nine that resulted in minor burns.

This recall involves two styles of Starbucks 14-ounce Fusion Coffee Mugs. The mugs are white and have a black plastic handle and a stainless steel base. The cups have "Starbucks Coffee" printed on a black stamp or a brown original Starbucks logo stamp.

Manufactured in: China

Mugs with the "Starbucks Coffee" stamp were sold at Starbucks stores nationwide from February 2007 through November 2007 for about \$11. Mugs with the original logo stamp were sold only at Starbucks Pike Place store in Seattle, Wash., during the same period and for the same price.

Consumers should immediately stop using the mugs and contact Starbucks for instructions on returning the cups for a full refund. Starbucks is also offering a free beverage as an

incentive to return the recalled mugs.

For additional information, contact Starbucks at 800-624-8678 or visit the Web site [www.starbucks.com](http://www.starbucks.com).

#### Black & Decker® Brand toasters recalled due to fire hazard

The U.S. Consumer

Product Safety

Commission, in

cooperation with

Applia Consumer

Products Inc., of Mir-

amar, Fla., Dec. 5

announced a voluntary

recall of Black

& Decker® brand

Infrawave™ Toasters.

Consumers should stop

using recalled products and unplug the unit

immediately unless otherwise instructed.

An electrical component in the toaster can

overheat and ignite the circuit board, posing a

fire hazard.

Applia has received two reports of the toast-

ers igniting, including one report of fire that

damaged a kitchen countertop and cabinets.

There have been no reported injuries.

The recalled two-slice toaster is black with

stainless steel trim and has a digital display

below the toaster lever. The Black & Decker®

brand name is on the top of the toaster. Model

number ST2000 is printed on the rating plate

on the bottom of the toaster.

The appliance was sold at home improvement

and discount department retailers nationwide

from March 2007 through November 2007 for

about \$50.

Consumers should stop using the recalled

toaster, unplug it immediately, and contact

Applia to receive a refund.

For additional information, contact Appli-

ca 800-556-9439 between 8:30 a.m. and 5

p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or log on

to the firm's Web site [http://www.acpre-](http://www.acpre-call.com)

[call.com](http://www.acpre-call.com).



## Physics

From page 2

Geoff Hammond, traffic manager, and Lara Mayhew, warehouse manager, represented the Frito-Lay company. They said they collected about \$550 from their employees for the project.

"They were very enthusiastic about supporting our Soldiers," Hammond said.

JoAnn Reynolds, office coordinator for the Ironbirds, said that along with donating funds, they added Ironbird hats, T-shirts and other promotional items to the gift bags and that the organization also adopted four Families to support from the city of Aberdeen.

"One of our goals is to grow in community involvement," Reynolds said. "Showing support for APG and its Soldiers and Families is a big part of that."

Fleming thanked the GP committee members in attendance that included Darlene Malick, Carl McLane, Guy Simpson and Erica Beard, who she credited with holding fundraisers and shopping



Photo by MATT BUTTON, THE AEGIS  
Brandon Scott, 4, left, and his sister Felicity, 8, open some of the presents they received during the General Physics gift-giving program in the 16th Ordnance Battalion orderly room Dec. 13.

for many of the gifts.

"I enjoy doing it," Beard said. "This gets bigger every year. The best part is watching the kids and seeing their happiness. That makes it all worthwhile."

"For me, this is what Christmas is all about," Simpson said, adding that being a bachelor, with no relatives nearby, allows him to "really focus on this every year."

"This is my celebration," he

said. "It means a lot to me."

Along with Simpson, McLane is a former member of the 16th Ordnance Battalion. A retired sergeant first class, McLane said he used to help organize the gift-giving projects.

"It's very rewarding to give back to Soldiers for what they do for all of us," McLane said. "I can remember a few Christmases away from my Family so I'm really proud of what they do."



# MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

## Holiday hours

ACTIVITY	THU 20-DEC	FRI 21-DEC	SAT 22-DEC	SUN 23-DEC	MON 24-DEC	TUE 25-DEC	WED 26-DEC
ARTFULLY DONE FRAMING	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED
ARTS & CRAFTS EA	CLOSED	NOON - 8 p.m.	NOON - 8 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ATHLETIC CENTER	6 a.m. - 8 p.m.	6 a.m. - 8 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
AUTO CRAFTS CENTER	3 - 7 p.m.	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	NOON - 5 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ODR RENTAL CENTER	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
FITNESS CENTER AA	5:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
HOYLE GYM/FITNESS CTR	6 a.m. - 8 p.m.	6 a.m. - 8 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
LIBRARY	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
MWR LEISURE TRAVEL	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER AA	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
TOP OF THE BAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
BOWLING	11 a.m. - 10 p.m.	5 p.m. - 10 p.m.	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
GOLF	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	CLOSED	regular hours
CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES	regular hours	regular hours	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

ACTIVITY	THU 27-DEC	FRI 28-DEC	SAT 29-DEC	SUN 30-DEC	MON 31-DEC	TUE 1-JAN	WED 2-JAN
ARTFULLY DONE FRAMING	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
ARTS & CRAFTS EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
ATHLETIC CENTER	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	regular hours
AUTO CRAFTS CENTER	3 - 7 p.m.	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	NOON - 5 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
ODR RENTAL CENTER	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
FITNESS CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
HOYLE GYM/FITNESS CTR	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	CLOSED	regular hours
LIBRARY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
MWR LEISURE TRAVEL	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
RECREATION CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
RECREATION CENTER EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	regular hours
TOP OF THE BAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
BOWLING	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	5 p.m. - 10 p.m.	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
GOLF	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	regular hours	CLOSED	CLOSED
CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES	7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	CLOSED	7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

### Activities/Events

#### Medieval Times offers "Kids Free" admission in November, December

Medieval Times Dinner and Tournaments offers "Kids Free" admittance tickets with each paid adult admission to customers who purchase adult admission tickets at on-post ITR

and ITR offices for performances scheduled through Dec. 25. The offer is available at all Medieval Times Castles in North America. "Kids Free" tickets are only available for children 12 years of age or younger.

Families who want to book reservations should call MWR

Leisure Travel Office, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

#### Discount ski lift tickets available

MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center has discount ski lift tickets for Bear Creek, Blue Mountain, Camelback, Jack Frost/Big Boulder Ski Resorts and Ski Liberty, Ski Roundtop and Whitetail.

For more information, call MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center, 410-278-4907/4011, building 3326, or e-mail mwr\_registration@usag.apg.army.mil.

#### Scrapbooking Crop

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a Scrapbooking Crop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 26, at Top of the Bay.

For any seasoned scrapbooker or those who would like to try scrapbooking, come and "Crop Till You Drop."

Cost is \$22 per person and includes lunch, door prizes and welcome gifts for everyone. Vendors will have items for all scrapbooking needs; optional

classes will be offered; and a massage therapist will be available for an optional massage. This will be a stress-free day for all with plenty of pampering.

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

#### Christmas in New York

MWR has scheduled several trips to New York City – eight hours for sightseeing, shopping, watching a Broadway matinee, venturing into China Town and more. Trips will take place Dec. 22 and 29. Cost is \$40 per person. The bus will depart 7:55 a.m. and return 10 p.m. Open to all DoD card holders.

For more information or to register, call or visit

MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR\_Leisure.

#### Grease on Broadway

Sandy and Danny reunite once again. See Grease, 2 p.m., May 17, 2008, on Broadway. Tickets cost \$165 each and include bus transportation and Broadway play. This event is open to all DoD ID card holders. Purchase tickets in advance, or purchase tickets as a Christmas gift.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@

apg.army.mil.

#### Choice of shows at The Hippodrome Theater

MWR Leisure Travel Services has discounted tickets for several shows at The Hippodrome Theater, located at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, 12 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore.

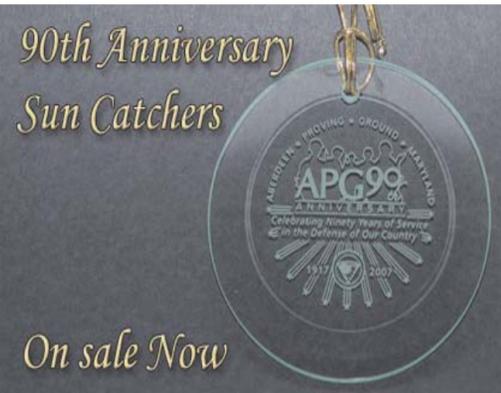
#### Shows include:

- "Cirque Dreams," 2 p.m., Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, 2008
- "High School Musical," 2 p.m., Feb. 23, 2008; and 8 p.m., Feb. 29, 2008
- "Camelot," 2 p.m., March 29, 2008
- "The Color Purple," 2 p.m., May 3, 2008; 2 p.m., May 10, 2008; and 6:30 p.m., May 11, 2008.

Tickets are available for a limited time – purchase them now. Tickets range in price from \$33 to \$87. To order tickets, visit [www.eventusher.com](http://www.eventusher.com); enter the special password: 105MWRAPGMD and follow the instructions on the ordering page.

Price includes show ticket only, no transportation is provided. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit the MWR Leisure Travel Office located in APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.



### APG 90th Anniversary ornaments on sale

Unique and memorable ornaments for the Christmas tree or windows are on sale at Ruggles Golf Course, ITR, Hoyle Fitness Center/Gym and the Bowling Center for \$12.50 each.

## ACS upcoming events

All scheduled events will be held at the Army Community Service Center, building 2754, Rodman Road unless otherwise noted.

A Support Group for Survivors meets 6 to 8 p.m. each Tuesday. The topic is "Talking It Out." The support group is open to adults affected by unhealthy relationships including domestic and/or sexual violence.

The ACS Employment Readiness Program in partnership with Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union and Harford Community College Small Business Development Center sponsors Smart Start Your Business seminars. This free 90-minute orientation program provides an overview of the ways to start a business, the skills and duties of a successful entrepreneur and how to write a strategic business plan. Other services offered by the SBDC will also be discussed.

For more information, call 410-278-9669.

The Waiting Families Support Group is scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays, at ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road. This group is designed to provide resource information to assist spouses and Family members

remaining behind while the military sponsor serves on unaccompanied tours, extended TDY or deployments.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road, 410-278-9669/7572.

A Support Group for Survivors meets 6 to 8 p.m. each Tuesday. The topic is "Talking It Out." The support group is open to adults affected by unhealthy relationships including domestic and/or sexual violence.

A Support Group for Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse will meet 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. "Let's Talk About It" provides emotional support, begins the healing process and shares experiences and resources.

Family Information Network Meeting, or FIN, support group meets 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month. It is designed to provide education, information and support to those Families who are living with or caring for an exceptional Family member.

Victim Advocacy APG 24-Hour hotlines: Domestic Violence-410-652-6048; Sexual Assault 1-410-322-7154.

### Gift wrapping schedule through Dec. 24

December	Organization
20, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Catholic Women of the Chapel
21, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	BOSS
22, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	29th CAB
23, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	HHC USAG
24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	MRICD

For more information, contact Marilyn Howard, Army Community Service, 410-278-9669.



## Holiday golf sale at Ruggles

Stop by Ruggles Pro Shop and save on a great selection of men's and ladies apparel and equipment.

The golf sale is effective through Dec. 24 and includes 50 percent off of all Ashworth Outerwear and mock tees. Footjoy socks are on sale, 5 for \$10. Greg Norman Outerwear and

mock tees are 20 percent off. Assorted men's short sleeved shirts are 25 percent off.

Also choose from a select group of irons, wedges and woods at great prices.

For more information, call Ruggles, 410-278-4794. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

## APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

#### Week of Dec. 17

Special #1: Turkey club sub with bacon, cheese, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$5.95.

Special #2: Ham and cheese sub with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$4.95.

#### Week of Dec. 24

There will be no lunch specials from Dec. 24 through Jan. 4.

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



# AAFES NEWS

## AAFES December savings move into the fast lane

AAFES

With Thanksgiving in the rear view mirror, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is revved up for sales and savings.

The holiday deals are now in high gear with a myriad of electronic specials that include big savings on Sharp Aquos LCD HDTVs: \$300 off the 52" model, \$200 off the 42" version or \$100 off a 26" model. Additionally, the portable, voice prompted Garmin Nuvi 200 GPS Navigator, regularly \$299.95, will be available for just \$169.95.

Last minute gift ideas will also be in abundance during the white knuckle days leading up to the holidays with 45 percent off a Sound Pod digital alarm clock for iPods priced at \$59.99 or \$40 off a Tom-Tom One XL GPS unit. For those shopping for new HDTVs or DVDs and accessories, the BX/PX will also offer 55 to 80 percent off select DVDs, as well as 10 percent off all currently marked down TVs, DVD players and portable DVD units from Dec. 21 through 24. Finally, the Fujifilm FinePix

camera will be going fast, marked down \$30 to \$149 with a \$10 gift card included with purchase.

If, despite all of these specials, a better deal is found elsewhere, AAFES will ensure that authorized customers always "take the checkered flag" and save with the "We'll Match It!" program. Military customers who see a price differential of less than \$10 can tell the cashier who will match it on the spot. For price differences greater than \$10, customers need only to bring a current local competitor's ad to receive the reduced price. In either case, the competitor's item must be identical to the item in the AAFES store.

"We're supercharging the exchange benefit this holiday season," said Chief Marketing Officer Richard Sheff. "Military Families will find savings at every turn, making it quick, easy and affordable to find that perfect gift at just the right price."

*(Editor's note: Some items may not be available by the time this article is printed.)*

## Shoplifting decreases while costs to the military community go up

AAFES

The state of shoplifting on military installations is becoming a good news/bad news proposition as sophisticated anti-shoplifting measures work to decrease incidents, while increasingly aggressive thieves increase costs for all exchange shoppers.

The good news is that upgraded camera systems capable of recording to DVR as well as a 2002 amendment allowing federal retailers to pursue losses and administrative costs related to shoplifting, produced a decrease of occurrences for Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) BX/PXs of 12 percent, from 8,537 in 2005 to 7,542 in 2006.

The bad news is that while occurrences decreased, the average cost of products involved in detected cases increased AAFES-wide from \$99 per incident in 2005 to \$119 in 2006. This resulted in increased costs for the military community last year as the amount of merchandise went up from \$848,293 in 2005 to \$898,851.

With a dual mission to provide quality goods and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support

Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, AAFES, which has contributed more than \$2.4 billion to military quality of life programs in the past 10 years, continues to focus efforts on reducing theft.

"Shoplifting at the exchange results in a reduced return on investment to our primary shareholders -- the entire military community," said AAFES' Director of Loss Prevention Col. Jorge Garza. "Because AAFES is a command with a mission to return earnings to MWR activities at Air Force and Army installations, shoplifting at the BX or PX, in my mind, is the same as taking money directly from the pockets of military Families."

In an effort to protect the MWR dividend and reduce shoplifting incidents, AAFES Loss Prevention associates proactively identify store display areas that tend to have high theft rates. These areas include electronics, sporting goods and cosmetics which offer small, high value items. All AAFES exchanges have camera surveillance systems manned by detectives to monitor these areas, and with new DVR capability, review more than 100 hours of recording on all

cameras. Most exchanges also have Electronic Article Surveillance systems that alarm when un-deactivated tags on unpaid merchandise attempt to leave the store. A highly successful partnership by major retailers has created a win-win by having most manufacturers tag merchandise at the source.

"No one likes catching shoplifters," Garza said. "In fact, a major effort by Loss Prevention is to educate the public on our capability to monitor and record suspicious activity as a tool to deter shoplifting before it ever happens. It's our hope that individuals who might be considering theft will see the security measures and think twice."

If shoplifting is suspected, AAFES Loss Prevention associates turn the issue over to military police. In addition to possible disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act, which began March 1, 2002, allows AAFES to enact a flat, administrative cost (Civil Recovery) of \$200. There may be further fees, in addition to the Civil Recovery Program, depending on the condition of the stolen merchandise.

## 'Gifts from the Homefront' support does 'double time' for military communities

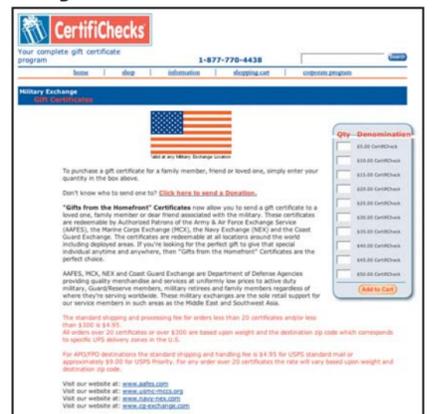
AAFES

Military advocates across America are making their support work twice as hard with Army & Air Force Exchange Service "Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates. While assistance sent through this troop support initiative provides for the immediate needs of troops throughout Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, revenue generated from the redemption of the BX/PX gift certificates also strengthens important quality of life efforts for military Families closer to home.

"AAFES' dual mission to serve America's troops and generate funds to support military Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs means that resources dedicated to 'Gifts from the Homefront' not only improve the morale of deployed troops, but Families minding the home front as well," said AAFES' Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton. "These gift certificates not only make sending support easy, but also provide immediate assistance to uniformed personnel while generating a long term benefit for military Families."

Started in March 2003 as an option that allowed any American to leverage contingency exchanges on behalf of deployed Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors, it soon became apparent that "Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates offered the added benefit of additional support for MWR efforts, such as youth services, armed forces recreation centers, post functions and more, that are enjoyed by military Families the world over.

"Gifts from the Homefront" can be sent to deployed troops by logging on to <http://www.aafes.org> or calling 877-770-4438. From there, BX/PX gift certificates are sent to individual service members (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to "any service member" through the Air Force Aid Society, American Red Cross, Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, Fish-



er House, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Operation Homefront, Operation Interdependence® or USO.

"As the holidays approach, many American's thoughts turn toward military Families who will spend the 'most wonderful time of the year' far from parents, spouses and children," Eaton said. "'Gifts from the Homefront' not only can make an immediate impact on the morale of those in uniform, but can also help improve military communities where troops' spouses and children live, work and anxiously await the return of loved ones."

"Gifts from the Homefront" can be redeemed at exchange facilities worldwide including more than 50 base and post exchanges throughout Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Since the effort's inception, troops have redeemed 60,633 gift certificates for movies, snacks, Military Exchange Global prepaid phone cards and more. As a military command with a retail mission, roughly two-thirds of AAFES earnings are paid to MWR programs. In the past 10 years, AAFES has contributed more \$2.4 billion to military quality of life improvements.

## AAFES hosts online video contest Chance to win \$2,000 shopping spree

AAFES

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is giving military shoppers a chance to show off their video making skills (and maybe even win one of three possible shopping sprees) with the "It's My Benefit" video contest.

Now through Feb. 15, authorized AAFES shoppers are invited to produce a 30-to 60-second commercial about their military exchange and Morale, Welfare and Recreation benefits. The Internet audience as well as AAFES leadership will judge submissions.

The winner of the "It's My Benefit" contest will have the choice of an Apple G5 Computer with software or a \$2,000 online shopping spree. Runner-up contestants will receive a \$1,000 and \$500 online shopping spree.

"I can't wait to see the entries," said AAFES' Chief Marketing Officer Richard Sheff. "As this is our first ever user-generated online contest, I think it's going to be fun and engaging for both participants and judges."

A complete description of the "It's My Benefit" contest rules can be found online at [www.aafes.com/Patriot\\_Family/videocontest.asp](http://www.aafes.com/Patriot_Family/videocontest.asp).

The contest is open to all authorized shoppers of the military exchange. Entries must be received by Feb. 15. No purchase is necessary to win.



## Rising costs make commissary 'Gift of Groceries' a practical gift this holiday season

Story by  
**CAROLINE WILLIAMS**  
DeCA

The rising cost of living means it's harder than ever to put food on the table to feed a Family, let alone stock the pantry.

Charitable food banks report an increased incidence of working people needing assistance. This is according to a recent Associated Press article by Dan Sewell and Doug White-man, in which they cite the rising costs of food, housing, utilities, health care and gasoline as causes for increased demand at food banks.

The struggle is often multiplied for military Families, especially Guard and Reserve, who suffer the loss of income when a spouse is deployed.

"Food is always a welcome gift for your military neighbor next door," said Rick Page, acting director of the Defense Commissary Agency, "or for a military Family stationed anywhere in the world."

A great way to give the gift of food to a military Family is through the Defense Commissary Agency's "Gift of Groceries" program. The gift certificates, also known as "CertifiChecks," can be purchased online or by phone for a small handling fee, which pays for printing and mailing. They can also be purchased in a commissary for a \$1 service charge. The checks are



ideal for parents, grandparents and friends to give to young service members and Families as holiday gifts or "just because."

The gift certificates – good at any of DeCA's 258 commissaries worldwide – can be given directly to a service member or donated to a military non-profit organization that assists military Families in need. Anyone – civilian or military – can purchase or donate them, but only authorized shoppers can spend the gift certificates.

**Four ways to purchase a 'Gift of Groceries' gift certificate**

- Visit the customer service representative at the local commissary to buy \$25 gift certificates.

- Surf onto <http://www.commissaries.com> to buy gift certificates in denominations of \$5 to \$100 using CertifiChecks secure online order form.

- Call 877-770-4438 (toll free) and place an order with a customer service representative.

- Mail or fax the gift certificate request using a special order form, available through a link on DeCA's "Gift of Groceries" Web page at <http://www.commissaries.com/certifiCheck/index.cfm>. Print the form, fill it out and mail it to the CertifiCheck address on the form.

To donate gift certificates to any of the five military nonprofit organizations that participate in the "Gift of Groceries" program – Air Force Aid Society, Fisher House Foundation Inc., Operation Homefront, Operation Interdependence and the USO (United Service Organizations) – through a secure CertifiCheck Web page, click the "Donate Online" link on DeCA's "Gift of Groceries" Web page.

"Since the commissary benefit saves shoppers an average of thirty percent or more over commercial grocery stores, redeeming the 'gift

of groceries' means needy military Families can put more food in the cupboard than if they used a similar gift program to shop outside the gate," Page said.

"CertifiChecks have made a huge difference in the lives of many military Families in crisis situations," said Amy J. Palmer, executive vice president of Operations for Operation Homefront and CinCHouse.com. "In 2007, Operation Homefront collected nine thousand four hundred forty dollars through the 'Gift of Groceries' program."

Jim Weiskopf, executive vice president of Communications for Fisher House Foundation, Inc., reported that the charity has received about \$15,000 in gift certificates this year.

"We provide them to the managers of the Fisher Houses," he said, "and they in turn distribute them, with a priority to the Families of combat casualties. We used grant money to purchase an additional ten thousand dollars in gift certificates, specifically for the Families at the four Fisher Houses at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas."

DeCA's "Gift of Groceries" program is possible through a business agreement with CertifiChecks, Inc. The Defense Commissary Agency does not derive any profit or income from the service.

## Commissaries now accepting applications for 2008 scholarships for military children

Story by  
**CAROLINE WILLIAMS**  
DeCA

Applications for the Defense Commissary Agency's 2008 Scholarships for Military Children Program are available now in commissaries worldwide or online through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

The program kick-off each year in November coincides with "National Military Family Month," and the scholarships are a great way for commissaries to get involved with the

community and demonstrate support and respect for the contributions of military Families.

The program has awarded more than \$5.5 million dollars in scholarships to 3,532 of the best and brightest children of military Families since it began in 2001, according to Richard Page, DeCA's acting director and chief executive officer.

"We take enormous pride in the scholarship program," Page said, "because it's a great opportunity for commissaries to make a difference in the communities they serve. DeCA is

committed to education and increasing opportunities for the children of military Families."

With college costs soaring, students and their parents appreciate every available scholarship to help defray the cost, and the scholarships enable many Families to afford the tuition and provide an incentive for students to work hard.

The \$1,500 scholarships are available to unmarried children under the age of 21 (or 23, if enrolled in school) of military active duty, retired, and Guard and Reserve service

members. Most of the funds are donated by manufacturers, brokers and suppliers that sell groceries in commissaries, and every dollar donated to the program by industry or the general public goes to fund the scholarships. The program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation.

Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an

accredited college or university full-time in the fall of 2008 or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants must submit an essay arguing for or against the following statement: "Every able-bodied citizen should be required to serve a two-year period of time in the military. Why or why not?" Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business on Feb. 20. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.



# ASAP address drunk and drugged driving issues

APG Army Substance Abuse Program Office

The Army Substance Abuse Program continues its prevention education efforts during December as part of the National Drunk and Drugged Driving Campaign (3D).

There are important definitions the community needs to know. Driving While Under the Influence (DUI), Driving While Impaired (DWI) by Alcohol and/or Drugs and Blood Alcohol Content (BAC).

Community members need to understand the consequences they face if they refuse to submit to field sobriety testing and the standard type of field sobriety tests that are administered by law enforcement.

The ASAP Prevention Coordinator, Cynthia Scott, said that "to understand the drunk and drugged driving laws you have to start at the beginning."

Driving Under the Influence is having a BAC level of .08 or more, and a BAC level of .07 is DWI, Scott said.

The effect of a Breath Test in Maryland has significant legal ramifications.

"If the result is .08 or more BAC the driver is per se (by itself) under the influence," Scott said. "If the test result is .07 or more BAC, but less than .08, it is considered prima facie (sufficient in law to establish a case or fact) evidence the driver is impaired by alcohol. If the test result is more than .05 but less than .07 BAC, the test evidence is considered neutral. If the test result is .05 or less BAC, the driver is presumed not to be under the influence of alcohol."

Scott explained that a person stopped by police and being investigated as a possible drunk driver does not have to submit to field sobriety tests.

"Those who refuse to take field sobriety tests are normally arrested and will have their driver's license suspended for one hundred and twenty days, and the individuals' refusal to submit to a breath or blood test for alcohol can now be introduced as evidence during court proceedings."

"What are field sobriety tests?" is a question that Scott is often asked.

"Maryland officers commonly administer three field sobriety tests that are approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the investigation of drunk driving cases," Scott said.

The horizontal gaze nystagmus test detects the involuntary jerking of the eye caused by consumption of alcohol.

"Throughout the one leg stand test, the officer is looking for putting the foot down, hopping, swaying, and raising the arms more than six inches," she said. "During the walk and turn test, the officer is looking to see whether the person started before the instructions were complete, was unable to stand with one foot in front of the other while being instructed, failed to touch heel to toe on every step, failed to stay on the line, stopped walking, raised arms more than 6 inches, took the wrong number of steps, or turned improperly."

Once the officer has determined that there is sufficient evidence to charge the driver, tickets are issued.

Maryland has five different offenses that fall within the generic term - drunk driving and as of October 2001, officers are required to write separate tickets for each offense.

The five offenses include: driving while under the influence of alcohol because of substantial impairment of normal coordination, driving under the influence of alcohol per se because of a test result of .08 or more, driving while impaired by alcohol, driving while impaired by drugs, or drugs and alcohol, and driving while impaired by controlled dangerous substances.

Drunk and Drugged Driving charges vary based on BAC level and other legal issues.

Scott developed a chart to explain the various charges and penalties in a user friendly format. (See below.)

Armed with the definitions and the consequences of Drunk and Drugged Driving, everyone is equipped to make a choice and a difference.

### When in Maryland

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration maintains two driving records on all drivers, a semi-private complete driving

record, and a private probation before judgment record. When a person refuses the test, all entries go on the complete driving record and may be picked up by insurance companies.

All entries relating to a first offense of submitting to the test go on the PBJ record and will not be picked up by any insurance company.

The penalty for submitting to the test in Maryland and recording a test result of .08 or more is 45 days for a first offense and 90 days for a subsequent offense. On a first offense, typically the person gets a work restricted license for 45 days. Additionally, the test result may constitute persuasive evidence of guilt at the court proceeding.

### Attorney advice on testing or not testing

The law on this varies from state to state. In Maryland, there is a right, if the person requests it, to consult with an attorney to decide whether to take or refuse the breath test for alcohol, so long as it does not interfere with or unreasonably delay the testing process. The test must be taken within two hours of apprehension.

However, this right does not necessarily exist on federal property in Maryland which is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service and patrolled by the United States Park Police. Those areas are under the jurisdiction of the federal courts, and under the National Park Service Regulations a refusal is a crime punishable by up to 6 months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

### No option on which test

In Maryland, the driver has no choice as to the type of test to be taken. The test is the test of breath unless the driver is injured and taken to a hospital, is unconscious or incapable of refusing the test, or if the equipment for conducting a breath test is not available. Under those circumstances, the officer may direct medical personnel to withdraw a blood sample.

The officer will usually issue a 45-day temporary license that allows the person to drive prior to a hearing. The administrative license suspension proceeding has no bearing on the disposition of charges in court.

### What is the punishment for drunk driving?

Generally speaking, a conviction for a first offense may involve a fine, a license suspension or restriction, attendance at a DUI education course for a period of time, and supervised probation for one to three years. A short jail sentence may or may not be required; for a second or third offense, it often will. Additional punishment may involve community service, ignition interlock devices, AA meetings, and MADD victim impact meetings. On a second or subsequent offense, the MVA may seek to take the driver's license a second time, after the court proceeding is over, although the courts do not call this punishment. Many judges now impose jail time on a second offense. The range can be from one weekend to a couple of weeks in jail. A third conviction usually carries a significant jail sentence, with or without work release, and with supervised probation upon release.

## Maryland drunk driving charges and penalties

CHARGE	BAC	PENALTY	FINE	POINTS
Driving While Under the Influence (DUI)	.08	Maximum 1 year in jail	Maximum \$1,000	12
DUI and Transporting a Minor	.08	Maximum 1 year in jail & referral to Child Protective Services	Maximum \$1,000	12
Driving While Impaired (DWI) by Alcohol and/or Drugs	.07	60 days in jail	\$500	8
DWI and Transporting a Minor	.07	60 days in jail & referral to Child Protective Services	\$500	8
Homicide by Motor Vehicle While DUI .08 BAC Act of Negligence and Death Involved	.08	5 years in jail	\$5000	12
Homicide by Motor Vehicle DWI .07 BAC Act of Negligence and Death Involved	.07	3 years in jail	\$5000	12

## Impaired driving is a deadly problem

APG Army Substance Abuse Program Office

Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest problems.

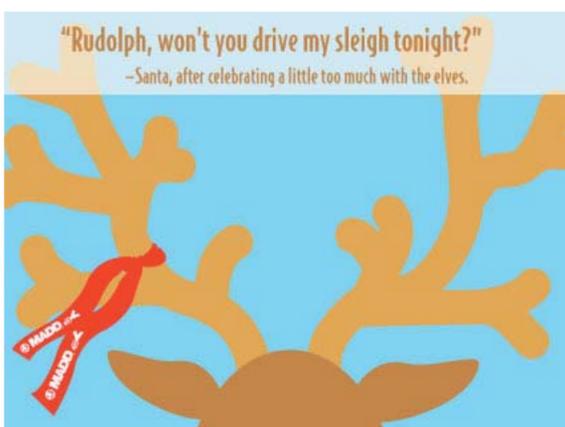
Nationally, in 2003, more than 17,000 people died in alcohol-related highway crashes. Hundreds of thousands more were injured.

Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone in America dies in an alcohol-related crash.

"This means you, your friends, your Family are regularly at risk," said Cindy Scott, APG ASAP prevention coordinator.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives.

"Although national alcohol-related highway fatalities during 2003 declined slightly in for the first time in several years (down three percent from 2002), there is still much more work to be done," Scott said. "Too many people still don't understand that alcohol,



drugs and driving don't mix. Impaired driving is no accident - nor is it a victimless crime."

Since 1981, every president of the United States has proclaimed December as "National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month" to help underscore the public's commitment to preventing impaired driving and promoting the use of designated drivers and sober ride programs.

Legislators and law enforcement officials are becoming

even more vigilant in combating impaired driving. 2004 marks the first year that .08 blood alcohol content laws have been enacted in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The month of December and the New Year's Eve holiday are also often highlighted by significant increases in state and local law enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving such as the use of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

## Impaired driving creates serious consequences

APG Army Substance Abuse Program Office

The tragedies and costs from drinking and driving impaired do not just end at the potential death, disfigurement, disability and injury caused by impaired drivers.

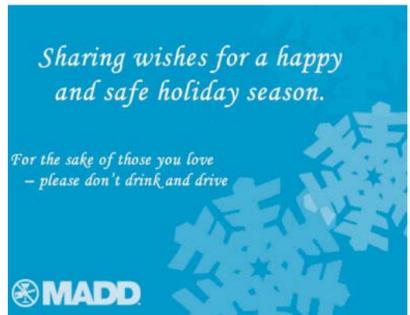
"Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is not worth the risk," said Cindy Scott, ASAP prevention coordinator. "The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant and not the way you want to spend your holiday season."

Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses from attorney fees, other fines and court costs, car towing and repairs, lost time at work, etc.

Plus there is the added embarrassment,

humiliation, and potential loss and consequence after informing Family, friends and employers.

"So remember, this holiday season, if you catch a buzz, catch a ride. Designate a sober driver before any holiday celebrations," Scott said.



## Holy Days worship services

APG North Chapel		Dec. 31	Worship	noon
<b>Catholic</b>		Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Watch night service	10 p.m.
Dec. 23	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.		
Dec. 24	Vigil mass	6 p.m.		
Dec. 25	Christmas mass	8:45 a.m.		
Dec. 30	Holy Family mass	6 p.m.		
Dec. 31	Vigil mass	6 p.m.		
<b>Protestant</b>				
Dec. 23	Advent worship	10:15 a.m.		
Dec. 30	Worship	10:15 a.m.		
<b>Gospel</b>				
Dec. 23	Christmas worship	noon		
Dec. 25	No service			
APG South Chapel				
<b>Catholic</b>		Dec. 23	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 25	Christmas mass	10:45 a.m.		
Dec. 30	Holy Family mass	10:45 a.m.		
Jan. 1	Holy Day mass	10:45 a.m.		
<b>Protestant</b>		Dec. 23	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve candlelight service	8 p.m.		
Dec. 30	Worship	9:15 a.m.		

## Commentary: 'The Christmas Message'

By **CHAPLAIN (COL) RUBEN D. COLON JR.**  
Installation Chaplain, APG

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

My youngest son Omar was nine years old and in second grade when most children his age were fourth graders. He was big for his years, and a bit clumsy, and although a slow learner, he's always had a big and loving heart. Omar has always been a hopeful, willing, smiling lad, a natural defender of the underdog, and he was well liked by his classmates at the Hanua Elementary school in Germany.

Of course, being a chaplain's child, we always encouraged him to audition for the annual chapel Christmas play. Omar always wanted to be a shepherd. But one year he was given the role of the innkeeper.

The director reasoned that Omar's size would lend extra force to the innkeeper's refusal of lodging to Joseph. During rehearsals, Omar was instructed to be firm with Joseph. And when the play opened, no one was more caught up in the action than he.

So when Joseph knocked on the door of the inn, Omar was ready. He flung the door open and asked menacingly, "What do you want?"

"We seek lodging," Joseph replied.



"Seek it elsewhere," the innkeeper said in a firm voice. "There's no room in the inn."

"Please, good innkeeper," Joseph pleaded, "this is my wife, Mary. She is with child and is very tired. She needs a place to rest." There was a long pause as Omar looked down at Mary.

The prompter whispered Omar's next line: "No! Begone!"

Omar remained silent as if he were thinking about it all. Then the forlorn couple turned and began to slowly move away. Seeing this, Omar's face creased with concern.

To this day, I believe I detected actually seeing tears welled up in his eyes.

Suddenly, he called out, "Don't go. You can have my room."

For Christians during this season's celebration, Jesus Christ comes into the world to open up for us the door to eternal life; God invites us into his space, the place where he lives. God is calling us into the kingdom prepared for us where there is always room for one

more -- always room for you.

The creator of the universe and the source of all of life wants us to share in his own life.

So awesome is this reality that we cannot deal with it intellectually. The sheer wonder of this revelation takes it beyond the ability of our finite minds to grasp.

Nevertheless, the invitation is intended to evoke a response--a faith response. God wants us to say "Yes!" on the level of faith!

The Christmas story assures us that our deep longing for genuine fulfillment is not misguided; that it is built into our very humanity; that it is a manifestation of God's will for our life's destiny; that the great God almighty wants to heal our wounds, make us whole, grant us peace.

God wants us to experience, supremely and eternally, the unspeakable joy of His life of love. In other words, God loves you! That is the Christmas message. That is the good news that is celebrated during this time of the year.

(Author's note: Omar recently graduated from American Musical and Dramatic Academy of New York with a major in fine arts. He's been working in the theatre ever since he left Hanua and continues with a passion for the stage by working with companies in New York, Georgia and Tennessee. He recently studied theatre in England and is now 22 years old.)

# Baltimore Ravens, M&T Bank host ChalleNGe Academy during Raven's game

M&T Bank/Baltimore Ravens

Nearly one-hundred young people from Aberdeen Proving Ground enjoyed attending the Ravens game against the New England Patriots, Dec. 3, after being selected as Honor Rows Program recipients.

The Ravens' 8th Annual Honor Rows Program, presented by M&T Bank, salutes youth groups or organizations that provide outstanding volunteer service to communities.

Cadets from the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy, located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, perform "Service to the Community" projects in Maryland annually. In 2006-2007, the cadets contributed 9,280 hours of service to areas in Maryland, including planting trees with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, maintaining the Bosely Conservancy and manning booths at National Guard Unity Day. This is the fourth consecutive year that this group has been recognized by the Honor Rows program.

Master Sgt. Kelvin Chandler, assistant commandant, said the academy's entire class of 86 cadets attended the game.

"We actually went down on the field while they were practicing," Chandler said. "It was great for the



Cadets and cadre of the Maryland Army National Guard's Freestate ChalleNGe Academy pose together on the field at M&T Bank stadium prior to the Baltimore Raven's Monday night game versus the New England Patriots Dec. 3.

kids. They were real excited. For most of them, it was their first [NFL] game and it's one they'll always remember."

During each Ravens home game throughout the 2007 regular season, the winning groups receive up to 100 tick-

ets to a game, an on-field pre-game tour, Honor Rows T-shirts, official in-game recognition on the SMARTVISION screens, and are featured in a public service announcement on Baltimore's WBFF Fox 45 and The CW Baltimore in the week following the game.

Honorees are selected from a panel of youth service leaders with the assistance of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism and Ravens and M&T Bank staff.

"M&T Bank is continually encouraged by the high level of community

involvement from young people in Maryland," said Atwood (Woody) Collins III, president of M&T Bank's Mid-Atlantic region. "These youth groups are truly deserving because these students work hard to make our communities stronger."

## U.S. Army All-American Bowl Selection Tour underway

Army Community Relations

High school senior football players await their fate as the Army travels the nation to name 84 players for its All-American Bowl, an all-star game held Jan. 5, in San Antonio, Texas.

Those selected for the bowl will follow in the footsteps of some of the country's top college and professional players and have the elite opportunity to highlight the skills and values they share with Soldiers in the United States Army.

Players are selected by a committee of national recruiting experts and are placed on the East or West team.

The 138 stops on the selection tour bring Army representatives to each player's high school, where a game day jersey is presented before the player's peers, parents, coaches, athletic directors and principals.

This important opportunity allows the Army to communicate the important tie between athletes and Soldiers-- their strength, dedication,

teamwork and values.

To track all of the Selection Tour stops through early December, visit [www.usarmyallamericanbowl.com](http://www.usarmyallamericanbowl.com).

As an added bonus, the Army will inaugurate its U.S. Army All-American Marching Band program, which recognizes the integral role band members play in the traditional, high-school football experience. Ninety-one outstanding marching musicians from across the country were selected to participate in

the 2008 All-American Bowl, and each will have the opportunity to showcase his or her talents before a national audience.

As a tribute to our men and women in uniform, more than 80 Soldiers from across the country will be honored as part of the week-long schedule of festivities for the 2008 Army All-American Bowl. These Soldier Heroes, who are doing the "heavy lifting" for our nation, are the strength of the nation - the ulti-

mate instrument of national resolve. These brave men and women represent the hundreds of thousands of Soldiers currently serving around the world. The honored Soldiers and football players will be paired and participate in a series of events together during game week, illustrating their shared ideals of leadership, courage and strength on and off the field. In additions, Soldiers will be honored during pre-game activities for their commitment and service.

## U.S. Army launches Virtual Judge recruitment for eCYBERMISSION

### Volunteers needed to support Web-based youth science, math, technology competition

eCYBERMISSION Volunteer Program Office

The U.S. Army's eCYBERMISSION program announced the launch of its Virtual Judge recruitment campaign for the 2007-2008 competition year on Nov. 1.

Dr. Michael Doyle, eCYBERMISSION program manager, urged American's to serve their country by registering to volunteer.

"America's future competitiveness and national security rests partly on our leadership in science, math and technology. eCYBERMISSION Virtual Judges are in a position to encourage



science, math and technology skills among the next generation of America's leaders."

Virtual Judges have varying backgrounds in science, math and technology disciplines and work in the academic, private industry, government and non-profit sectors. They are of vital importance to eCYBERMISSION's success, volunteering because they:

Believe promoting science, math and technology to young students is important to our nation's continued global competitiveness

Enjoy supporting education-related community service activities

Want to contribute their expertise in a fun and unique way to the next generation of America's leaders

Want to learn how today's students apply math, science and technology

Enjoy the flexibility of volunteering on-line at any time from any location with Internet access when it fits into their schedule

"eCYBERMISSION volunteers contribute their expertise in a fun and unique way to the next generation of America's leaders. It's a great way to support both the U.S. Army and your country, and I urge Americans to Volunteer," Doyle said.

eCYBERMISSION is a free, Web-based science, math and technology compe-

titition for students in grades 6 through 9 sponsored by the U.S. Army. On April 27, 2001, Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki established eCYBERMISSION with the vision of creating "a science fair for the nation."

To compete, teams of three or four students identify a problem in their community, formulate a hypothesis and conduct research and experiments in one of four competition categories. Students then collect and organize their data, interpret the results and submit an on-line "Mission Folder"

documenting the process

Since its inception, more than 35,000 students from U.S. and DoDEA schools have competed in the eCYBERMISSION, which has awarded more than \$4.6 million in prize money in support of science, math and technology leaders of tomorrow.

Prospective Virtual Judges can learn more and register to volunteer at [www.ecybermission.com](http://www.ecybermission.com) using code SUPPORT. More information is also available by calling 1-866-GO-CYBER or e-mailing [volunteerprogram@ecybermission.com](mailto:volunteerprogram@ecybermission.com).

## Atwater

From front page

ordnance history he was much sought after as a subject matter expert and frequently appeared on national and international television programs such as The Learning Channel, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, the United Kingdom British Broadcasting Corporation network and on French TV.

Atwater said that the biggest challenge facing the Ordnance archives is the projected move to Fort Lee, Va., under the Base Realignment and Closure initiative.

"The museum and the collection will move," he said. "What's not certain is how much will be left behind."

Some items, like the museum's 60-inch gun, will have to go despite the difficulty of relocation only because of their status as the last in existence, he said.

"Federal law states that if you have the last of anything you have to preserve it. The barrel is not the problem; it's the size of the base. We'll probably end up cutting it in half. The barrel is one-hundred and fifty tons and it will probably go by rail."

He said he anticipates leaving about 40 pieces on site at APG. The current plan for the new facility in Virginia calls for a 129,544 square foot facility to house the entire collection indoors. Construction is slated to begin in March 2010 and be completed within 18 months, Atwater said.

Although he won't be around, he said he has provided planners with guidance on the new facility. He asked for a polished floor with no expansion joints which would allow



Dr. F. William (Jack) Atwater, director of the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum stands near a 155mm 'Long Tom' gun on the museum grounds as he welcomes veterans and family members of the 515th Field Artillery Battalion during a dedication ceremony naming the gun in the units' honor Sept. 18

for the use of air lifts that will make it easier to move heavy equipment.

"One man will be able to move seven tons," he said. "That means that instead of dragging tanks, you can easily airlift them and place them within a few millimeters of each other."

Atwater said that he is most proud of the restoration project, which began as an environmental project and developed into a preservation of the archives. The project calls for the restoration of the aging tanks and guns in the museum's collection. The intricate process calls for equipment to be rebuilt from the inside out and often requires the rebuilding of especially worn parts, the removal of rust and paint using high pressure water hoses, and researching the signs and insignia that originally appeared on the item for the repainting process.

The restoration is financed by the U.S. Army Center for Military History and conducted by contractors with Engineering Design Systems Inc.

"They are first rate and they do a lot of things not required in the contract, like replacing wooden handles on weapons" Atwater said. "It's the little things they do that make them a cut above the rest."

Although he has received much of the credit for the achievements during his tenure, Atwater said that he owes it all to the museum's staff.

"Any success that I have enjoyed is due to their professionalism and dedication," he said.

He named Ed Heasley, Judy Powell, Tim Tidwell, Ken Powers, retiree Al Killigen and the late Armando Framarini as "the one's whose efforts are unheralded but much appreciated."

"This staff is not like what you'd

find in a normal working atmosphere," he said. "It's more like a group of friends working together."

"I tried to give everybody as much leeway as possible to excel, and they have. They have always exceeded expectations, whatever goal was set for them," he added.

"Unlike most jobs, you can see and measure their work and because you can see it, you can judge it for yourself."

"I get a lot of the credit but the credit really goes to them. I was just here to take the blame for anything that goes wrong."

He thanked, Heasley, Ordnance historian Dr. Kindsvatner, retired Col. Ned Libby, a longtime friend and donor to the Ordnance Museum Foundation and Ordnance Foundation chairman of the board retired Col. Cone Brugh for

their "unwavering professionalism," and praised current and past commanders for their support.

"Since I've been here I've gone through three generals," he said. "All of them have given nothing less than complete support to the museum. I have enjoyed the kind of command support which a lot of my colleagues do not have, and that says volumes about the Ordnance Corps."

Atwater and his wife plan to retire to Puerto Rico. He said he doubts he will stay inactive very long.

"I may look at teaching, the sky's the limit," he said. "I'm just looking forward to the next adventure."

**Dr. William F. Atwater**

Atwater holds a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Berea College, Ky., and a master's and doctorate in military history from Duke University.

He served as director of the 101st Airborne/Air Assault Divisional Museum from 1985 to 1989 before assuming the directorship of the Ordnance Museum.

Atwater served in the Marine Corps for 10 years, including tours in Vietnam during which he earned the Purple Heart Medal, a Navy Commendation Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

A published author as well, his latest work appears in the Oxford Companion to American Military History. Atwater has appeared as a firearms and ordnance expert on the History Channel, The Learning Channel and The Discovery Channel as well as on several foreign stations including the British Broadcasting.

His civilian awards include an Excellence in Federal Service and Superior Civilian Service Award, the Commander's Award and the Order of Samuel Sharpe.

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

# RDECOM showcases technologies



Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, utilizes the Crew-Integration and Automation Testbed, developed by RDECOM's U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, at the RDECOM display at the 2007 Interservice/Industry Service Training, Education and Simulation Conference in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 27.

Story by **ANDRICKA THOMAS**  
RDECOM

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command showcased its various technologies at the 2007 Interservice/Industry Service Training, Simulation and Education Conference in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 27 to 29.

Attending RDECOM elements included the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, the Simulation and Training Technology Center and the Tank-Automotive Research, Devel-

opment and Engineering Center.

IITSEC promotes cooperation among the armed services, industry, academia and various government agencies in pursuit of improved training and education programs, identification of common training issues and development of multiservice programs.

At the event, AMRDEC displayed the video game "America's Army." The game introduces players to today's Army, from basic training, airborne school, weapons training to field exercises when engaged with enemy forces.



Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, examines Tactical Digital Holograms, developed by RDECOM's Simulation Training and Technology Center, at the 2007 Interservice/Industry Service Training, Education and Simulation Conference.

STTC featured the HapMed, a game-based simulation training system designed to support combat medics complete with manikin body parts. STTC also featured the Tactical Digital Holograms, which addresses the need for visualization tools that provide a bridge between complex battlefield imagery data to Soldiers to facilitate mission planning, execution operations and debrief activities. The Modeling Architecture for Technology, Research and Experimentation display was a system wherein a collection of multi-fidelity models, simulations and tools are integrated into an established architecture to conduct analyses, experimentation and technology trade-offs for RDECOM and others.

TARDEC is showcasing the Crew-Integration and Automation Testbed. The CAT ATD addresses Future Combat System requirements through development of advanced vehicle crew stations to test technological capabilities of two and three-man crews.



Todd Lazarus, Institute for Simulation and Training, demonstrates the RDECOM Army Simulation Training and Technology Center's HapMed for Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin, RDECOM command sergeant major, at the the conference.