

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Jan. 17, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Holiday gate hours

There will be reduced gate operations at APG in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday.

On Jan. 12, the Harford Gate (Route 22) in APG North will close at 10 p.m. and the Wise Road Gate in APG South will close at 8 p.m. Both gates will re-open for normal traffic 4 a.m., Jan. 16.

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

Final numbers reported for APG CFC 2006

The APG Combined Federal Campaign office would like to thank contributors for their generous donations to the 2006 campaign drive. A total of \$412,977 dollars in pledges was received, and 2,345 donors were contacted in 2006. APG broke every APG CFC record.

For more information, contact the CFC Central Maryland Office, 410-895-1499 or visit <http://www.cfccmd.org>.

MLK observance planned for Jan. 11

The APG Garrison Equal Employment Opportunity Office and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine will sponsor a Martin Luther King Day observance, 8:30 a.m., Jan. 11, in the Starke Recreation Center, building E-4140.

Guest speaker will be Turhan E. Robinson, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Maryland. Breakfast will be served 7:25 to 8 a.m.; cost is \$2 per person.

For more information, call Linda Patrick, CHPPM, 410-436-1023.

Veterinary Clinic closings

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will be closed Jan. 15 for Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday and Jan. 31 for end of month inventory.

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

See SHORTS, page 4

Salute honors former president



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Howitzers from the 16th Ordnance Battalion salute battery, led by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Fitzalbert Gordon, officer in charge, and Staff Sgt. Akai Snorton, noncommissioned officer in charge, light up the sky during a 50-gun salute held in honor of the late President Gerald R. Ford who died Dec. 26 and was laid to rest in his home town of Grand Rapids, Michigan earlier in the day.

Students without immunizations will be turned away

Complying with student immunization requirements

Story by **EILEEN CAMPBELL**
MWR School Liaison

As of Jan. 19 students that are not in compliance with the new immunization requirements will not be admitted to their schools.

"This has been an issue since spring 2006 when the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene changed the regulations," said Gail Shipley, Royce Williams Elementary School representative.

New regulations include:

- Pneumococcal vaccine (or PCV7 or "Prevnar") will be required for children in preschool programs.
- Varicella (Chickenpox) and Hepatitis B vaccines will be required for children entering preschool through ninth grades. (See schedule of clinics below.)
- Upon record review, a vaccine dose given less than or equal to 4 days before the minimum interval or age may be counted as valid.

For more information, visit www.EDCP.org or www.dhmm.state.md.us.

According to school records, 1,144 children are missing all or some part of the Hepatitis B (three doses are required to be administered several months apart), and 2,693 students do not have their Varicella (Chickenpox) histories recorded. If a child has had Chickenpox, it must be documented by their physician stating the month and year of the disease, have their titer drawn, or be vaccinated.

Varicella and Hepatitis B clinics

- Jan. 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Edgewood Middle and Southampton Middle schools
- Jan. 19, noon to 9 p.m., Bel Air High School
- Jan. 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., North Harford Middle and Aberdeen Middle schools

For more information, call a health care provider or the Health Department, 410-838-1500.

Introducing NERO ACES Army Education recent changes

APG Education Center

Army Education centers in the Northeast have streamlined services in order to better meet the present and future challenges of Army Education.

Information Management Command-Northeast ACES has reorganized into ACES Service centers, with hub centers that support one or more satellite installations.

This organizational structure is similar to that which is already used in Europe and in Asia.

Quality services, including person-to-person counseling, will continue at all installations, but management and administrative functions will be handled by each ACES Service Center hub.

The recent changes that will impact education centers are reorganization, new business practices, streamlining service processes, the develop-

ment of Northeast Region (NER) Army Education Web site, which consolidates and standardizes services and convenient, online services available to Soldiers.

The newly developed NER ACES Website www.nereducation.army.mil will provide Soldiers with the opportunity to find a wide variety of information relevant to Army Education programs and services. The NER education portal allows all soldiers, regardless of installation, to receive the high-quality education services they deserve.

Tressie Stout, counselor in the APG satellite center believes premiere educational programs such as basic skills, testing, academic institutions and counseling will always remain important to a Soldier's career development.

Stout is available to assist you in the Aberdeen Education Center Satellite, 410-306-2043.



APG announces 2007 Army Traffic Safety Training Program

DSHE

The Army Traffic Safety Training Program was developed by the Installation Management Command to attack the rising number of vehicle-related accidents and to standardize the Army's traffic safety education program.

IMCOM reports approximately 73 percent of accidental Soldier fatalities occur behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. The Army Traffic Safety Training Program targets the Secretary of Defense mandated 50 percent reduction in accidents and fatalities.

Courses conducted at APG

Local Traffic Hazards Course II

Civilians and Soldiers who are new to APG and unaware of local driving hazards are at increased risk of a roadway collision. Students will learn relevant information on local conditions to reduce crashes and fatalities. Class includes:

- Local statistics.
- Local case studies.
- Local driving and weather conditions.
- Driver's license manual, MVA Web site, and unique traffic laws for Maryland.
- Information on local training in the use of child restraints.
- Contact information for local support services for anger management, behavior health, drug and alcohol abuse, etc.

Who's required to take this program?

Army civilians, contract personnel and Soldiers shortly after arrival to Aberdeen

Proving Ground or anyone who is on temporary duty for 30 days or more.

Intermediate Course IIIA

Intermediate Course IIIA builds on the themes introduced during Introductory Course 1 and provides expanded opportunity for class interaction and discussion.

Who's required to take this program?

- All Soldiers shortly after arrival to APG.
- Army civilians and contract personnel are welcome but not required.

Directions:

From US Route 40 take 715 east. Once you pass the gate, travel about a half mile on Maryland Boulevard and turn right on Boothby Hill Avenue. Travel another mile and make a right turn on Student Drive. Once on Student Drive, make the first right and the classroom, (building 5442) will be the last building on the left. Drive around to the back of the building.

The first 30 minutes covers the Local Hazards Course II.

The last two and a half hours covers "Risk Management."

This is the Intermediate Driver Course IIIA. Classes are held noon to 3 p.m. in building 5442 on Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 12, April 2, 30, May 29, June 18, July 2, 30, Sept. 4, Oct. 1, 29, Nov. 19 and Dec. 13.

A completion certificate will be provided upon successful completion of the program. For class registration or further directions, contact Mike Allen, 410-306-1081.

University System of Maryland offers in-state tuition for BRAC transferees, families

USM

The University System of Maryland Board of Regents has approved the waiver of the 12-month residency requirement for civilian employees and defense contractors transferred to Maryland under the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

The waiver allows these categories of workers, as well as their spouses and dependent children, to qualify for in-state tuition immediately upon their transfer.

In addition, the board's action allows these categories to submit adequate documentation of a BRAC-related transfer (from the Department of Defense or the employee's military unit for the civilian employees, and from their employers for the defense contractors) in lieu of documentation of the criteria set forth in USM's standard policy on establishing residency.

For more information, including links to admissions information for USM's 11-degree-granting universities, visit <http://www.usmd.edu/newsroom/BRAC/> or visit the USM homepage, www.usmd.edu.

Military Housing Rates Boosted 3.5 Percent Overall

Story by **GERRY J. GILMORE**
American Forces Press Service

Service members will receive an average 3.5 percent boost in their basic allowance for housing compensation benefit in 2007, a Defense Department official said Dec. 18.

The planned BAH increase effective Jan. 1 works out to about \$300 million more than what was paid in 2006, officials said.

"The continued improvement in housing allowances represents our commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure which will provide members with a suitable and secure standard of living that will sustain a trained, experienced and ready force in the future," said Cynthia Smith, a DOD spokesperson.

Officials said military housing allowances are computed according to three key criteria: median current market rent; average utilities to include electricity, heat and water/sewer costs and average renter's insurance.

BAH rates also are based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms in a given area and then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without family members.

For service members with family members, average increases in the BAH are approximately \$44 per month. For example, a typical E-4 will receive about \$34 more in BAH than in 2006, while an E-8 will receive about \$42 more than this year.

The BAH rate system has built-in protections to ensure that an individual service member in a given location won't see his or her BAH rate decrease. This provision assures members who have made long-term lease or contract commitments are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

Some areas' housing costs have remained relatively stable, while others continue to rise. Most of the costliest housing in the United States with the highest BAH rates are clustered on or near the East and West coasts, and the state of Hawaii.

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2

APG Forum

Page 3

NCO earns Crozier award

Page 5

Community Notes

Page 6

MWR

Page 10

Legally Speaking

Page 11

ChallaNGe cadet

KUSAHC Health Notes

APG Soldiers benefiting from GoArmyEd

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

GoArmyEd, the Army's online gateway to tuition assistance and course enrollment that went into effect in May 2006 has already proven itself a valuable tool for Soldiers seeking to advance their careers.

Staff Sgt. Robin Beatty, an operations sergeant with the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command credits the system with enabling her to obtain her bachelor's degree in December.

Beatty departs the command Jan. 19 to attend Officers Candidate School at Fort Eustice, Va., where she will reclassify into the Transportation Branch and be reassigned to Germany.

"It's really been helpful as far as being able to do tuition assistance online," Beatty said of GoArmyEd. "It's a lot easier than hand-carrying paperwork back and forth to the education center or the school. It really eliminates all that running around."

Beatty graduated from the University of Maryland last month. She said she used GoArmyEd to enroll in five classes to complete her



final course requirements before the new year.

One was online with Harford Community College, another was online with the University of Maryland and three were individual one-credit classes with UM that she

attended at Fort Meade.

In the Army nearly seven years, Beatty added that she started taking courses "back when tuition assistance was only seventy-five percent."

"When it increased to one-hundred percent that really sped up the

process," she said. "Without the Army and GoArmyEd I wouldn't be where I am educationally right now."

GoArmyEd is the virtual gateway to request Tuition Assistance, or TA, online, anytime for classroom, distance learning and eArmyU online college courses, according to Tressie Stout, Aberdeen Proving Ground education services specialist.

"GoArmyEd is a one-stop location for managing college education using TA benefits, and it automates many of the paper-based processes formerly conducted with Army education counselors," Stout said.

Information on other Army Continuing Education System, or ACES, programs and services is also available on GoArmyEd.com

GoArmyEd is used by Soldiers to pursue their postsecondary goals; Army education counselors to provide educational guidance; and colleges to deliver degree and course offerings and to report Soldier progress.

GoArmyEd allows users to:

- Request and process all TA course enrollments and drops through GoArmyEd.com; no more paper TA forms.

- Select from many colleges and universities and from over 1,000 available degree plans listed in GoArmyEd.

- View available TA balance online,
- View SOCAD Student Agreement or documented degree plan online,

- View student record, class grades and current course enrollments online from personalized GoArmyEd home-page,

- Access Helpdesk 24/7 and Army Education counselor support and
- Take classes not listed in the GoArmyEd Integrated Course Schedule by completing the GoArmyEd TA reimbursement process.

To receive administrative and technical assistance, contact the GoArmyEd Helpdesk by creating a case in the portal or by calling 1-800-817-9990 (from continental United States locations).

From outside CONUS, toll-free numbers are available through the "Helpdesk" link on the GoArmyEd portal at www.GoArmyEd.com.

For more information, contact Stout at 410-306-2043 or e-mail her at tressie.stout@apg.army.mil.

Army Benchworks Leader Development Portfolio helps leaders

Story by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

Since feedback is vital to developing one's skills, a team of Army professionals created the online Leadership Development Portfolio and made it available to both military and civilian leaders.

The team, Army Benchworks, developed the online portfolio, located at www.benchworks.army.mil, that allows employees to give anonymous feedback to their leaders that won't go on a regular evaluation.

The Army Benchworks team is comprised of various employees at West Point, according to Col. Tom Kolditz, professor and head of the Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at West Point and a team member of Army Benchworks.

All leaders, staff sergeants and above, officers, and civilian GS-11s and higher need is an Army Knowledge Online account to get started, according to Army Benchworks.

"The Leadership Development Portfolio was originally designed to be a tool for senior Army officers," he said. Then the team made it available for all Army leaders in March 2006 and for civilian leaders in November 2006 "to develop self awareness," Kolditz said.

Users can create an online portfolio that is safeguarded so that their fellow employees can leave feedback on the 360 degree assessment tool that only the leader can see, according to the Army Benchworks Web site.

"Before, when personnel evaluated leaders, the file would go into a folder and people would dig it out of a filing cabinet later, rooting around for memories," said Leonard Wong, research professor with the Strategic Studies Institute, a research cell at the U.S. Army War College.

"The Leader Development Portfolio allows for storage and is ideal for developing yourself," Wong said.

Convenience or easy access to portfolios is a main benefit of the Web site, he added.

Before others can give the user feedback, the user must answer a series of questions to evaluate himself or herself.

Kolditz said while he and the team were developing the portfolio, they discussed questions with military and civilian leaders to see what they wanted to find out through assessments. This is how they came up with the questions such as "Do I listen when coworkers come to me" or "Do I give clear directions?"

After the leaders fill out the questions, then their coworkers fill them out about them.

"If the leaders would know who was saying what, people would only say nice things because they wouldn't want to get in trouble," Kolditz said.

Leaders do not have to be concerned about how this will affect their job because it is solely for them. The assessments do not go on their permanent records.

The personality assessments link is one of the upcoming components for the site that is

still being developed.

"Any leadership development tools in the Leader Development Portfolio--which could include instruments such as personality assessments, cultural awareness appraisals, or 360 degree assessments--will be simple enough to be administered online via AKO, but sophisticated enough to avoid misinterpretation of the results," Wong said. "The assessments will not only analyze aspects of leadership development, but also report back any analysis in a clear and understandable manner."

Col. John T. Wright, Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison and deputy installation commander, also had positive comments about the LDP.

"The Leadership Development Portfolio's assessments are another way for leaders and managers to determine if they are effective in communications and philosophy," Wright said. "The benefit becomes apparent after you have at least a half-dozen or more peer evaluations. I encourage every leader to take the self assessment and other personality type-style assessments to gain a broader self-awareness."

The personality assessment is a helpful tool because "if you discover you don't look outside of your thinking and you're retentive, you'll learn that you need to broaden your thinking," Wong said.

Another lesson users may learn from the personality assessments is that they don't take risks and that doing so may develop more leadership

skills, he said.

Behind the Army Benchworks name

The Army Chief of Staff Peter Schoomaker created the Army Benchworks to build "a bench of leaders able to think creatively at every level of war and able to operate with equal comfort in Army, joint, interagency and multinational environments." He said in order to be a good leader one must be adaptive and self aware.

These concepts are relative to Iraqi Freedom and the war in Iraq, Wong said.

"We need a bench of leaders who think strategically and logically," Wong added as he discussed how the LDP is beneficial to leaders.

He and other members of the Army War College came up with the idea of the Leadership Development Portfolio so that leaders could be assessed.

Kolditz discussed the outcome or the success of the LDP.

"It has been very successful," he said. "There are 11,000 360 degree assessments and 250,000 employees giving responses about their leaders."

The LDP is also inexpensive to operate, Kolditz said. "It costs less than \$300,000 to operate for a million people worldwide."

"The LDP has shown that it is a powerful cost-effective leader development tool," Wong said. "The next step is for the Army to institutionalize the LDP by resourcing it in the future."

The APG Forum

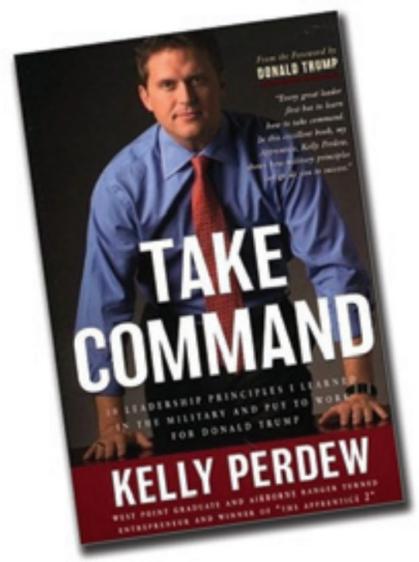
Commentary--Book review of 'Take Command: 10 leadership principles I learned in the military and put to work for Donald Trump,' by Kelly Perdeu

By
JOHN BRAND
Special contributor

This book is about extreme focus. The author is extremely focused and works in an organization that rewards—as long as you are always right. He was a very successful Soldier and a successful entrepreneur, before he became a star performer on Donald Trump's Apprentice. Remarkable. The author also has a great variety of illustrative success stories about his efforts and the efforts of other notable successes such as Ross Perot.

The 10 principles of success for the author are duty, impeccability, passion, perseverance, planning, teamwork, loyalty, flexibility, selfless service and integrity. The author provides lots of little stories illustrating success through utilizing these principles, and are without exception, interesting and invigorating. Initiative and inventiveness are key elements in nearly every story. Those characteristics are assumed, like a fish assumes water.

But—many of the examples of how these principles work in practice may be of questionable use to folks in lots of organizations. The examples assume that the organization is like a Trump affair. The big boss is expected to actu-



ally look at what the workers or team leaders actually do, as well as reading reports generated by middle management about what happened.

One world view is active (do) and the other

is passive but safe (happened). Trump actually looks at things.

So does a good commander. A friend of mine at Picatinny Arsenal recently had his two-star walk into his office and ask for a tour. No horseholders, no read-aheads, no layer upon layer of management accompanying the general to make sure the right answers were forthcoming. The ripple of morale from that simple act was astounding.

In an organization such as an industrial behemoth on its way down the tubes, the principal characteristic is an astonishing isolation of all layers of management behind abstractions generated by the layer beneath. Under those conditions the rewards of excellence as described in this book are likely to be nonexistent or negative, unless the worker has a backchannel to someone who is important enough to benefit the worker and powerful enough not to feel threatened by excellence. Interestingly, the book is full of little examples of the value of such networking, such as meeting a congressman or staffer who helps with the nomination to West Point (the author, p. 13; Ross Perot p. 89).

Like initiative, the networking is assumed, though examples of a deliberate setup to encourage networking are fascinating, such as

the Layoff Lounge (pp. 146-153).

Also, in all the little stories of very valuable experiences of very successful people, there were no examples of coping with dysfunctional organizations or dysfunctional leaders or coworkers.

I really liked the chapters on passion, perseverance, and planning. If you do nothing else, read those chapters.

The chapter on loyalty is also striking. In it the author recognizes that loyalty in most civilian organizations is either ignored, mocked, or assumed bottom to top.

Loyalty in the Army is the desired norm, usually goes both ways, and is amazingly successful. It also has to be worked at. Stories such as the way Donald Trump inspires and returns loyalty show what can be done (pp. 126-127). Integrity--everyone has seen examples of its presence or lack of it. In anyone's life the choice is always clear, but seldom easy. But you must make the choice, and refusal to choose is a choice.

I recommend this book most highly, but read it bearing in mind it may not apply well to your situation. If the contexts of the success stories look to you like excerpts from life on Mars, you might think about moving.

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMNE-APG-PA, Building 2201, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,800.

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

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Novad awarded civilian service honor

PMACWA

The technical director at the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, or ACWA, Program was recently recognized with one of the Army's most prestigious honors, the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Joseph Novad, of Bel Air, who has more than 25 years of civilian service at Aberdeen Proving Ground, oversees this

Department of Defense program with a mission to safely destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles located at Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., and Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky. ACWA is headquartered at APG South.

"Joe has successfully guided this technical program from its very beginning through his leadership, personal dedication and professional skills," said Michael Parker, ACWA program manager.

Novad was credited for his skill in identifying and evaluating safe and cost-effective technologies as alternatives to incineration for destruction of the Colorado and Kentucky chemical weapons stockpiles. Parker added that Novad's expertise in balancing cost, schedule and performance continues to successfully guide these unique chemical weapons destruction projects from concept to reality.

Aberdeen Test Center NCO earns Army's Crozier Award

Story and photo by
MIKE CAST
DTC

A noncommissioned officer in charge at the Aberdeen Test Center received the Army's Crozier Award in December for his diverse accomplishments.

The award is named after Maj. Gen. William Crozier, the Army's chief of ordnance from 1901 to 1917. It is bestowed on Soldiers who demonstrate professional excellence in support of test and evaluation programs.

"Sergeant First Class [Richard] Morgan is an outstanding noncommissioned officer and a role model for our Soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Allen Fritzsching, the Developmental Test Command senior NCO. "Through his leadership, he is a vital link to ensure that the equipment under test is safe, reliable and meets the needs of our warriors. He provides the Soldier perspective to the tester for the Soldier in the field. As the command sergeant major for the DTC, I depend heavily upon his feedback on systems and equipment being tested at Aberdeen Test Center. He absolutely deserves this recognition, and we're all proud of him."

The award citation lauded Morgan for his "stellar" efforts on behalf of the Project Manager for Unit of Action Equipment Demonstration and for his other diverse duties at ATC.

Along with ATC's test team, Morgan moved and set up test equipment numerous times, and he operated and monitored a variety of test items to help the Army acquire needed test data. His "commitment and flexibility" were cited as instrumental to the success of test programs at ATC.

The citation singled out some of Morgan's other test support, including his work for the Joint Mask Leakage Tester program. He participated as a test subject and system operator throughout the system's various test phases. His involvement with the Joint Chemical Agent Detector testing at various test sites was noted in the citation, as well as his support for ATC's Logistics Division and his "expansive" knowledge, organizational skills and leadership traits.

Morgan also was cited for his "selfless dedication and leadership" of Soldiers at ATC, and recognized for his "aggressive leadership" in establishing and overseeing



Sgt. 1st Class Richard Morgan (right) confers with Dave McOwen, another member of the Aberdeen Test Center team while visiting his shop.

Soldier readiness programs at the test center.

In his role as ATC's training NCOIC, he developed and implemented a unit training calendar, and he assisted all of

his Soldiers in taking Army correspondence courses. He encouraged them to enroll in a variety of applicable civilian training courses as well.

See CROZIER, page 5

POST SHORTS

Italian specialty meal Jan. 16

The Italian Specialty Meal will be held Jan. 16 in the APG North dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the APG South dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Military personnel, family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of

\$3.65 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$3.15 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The menu includes mine-strone soup, spaghetti with choice of meatballs or Italian sausage, baked meat lasagna, baked vegetable lasagna, veal parmesan, marinara sauce/alfre-

do sauce, assorted pizza and calzone, garlic mashed potatoes, deep fried eggplant, Italian style green beans, toasted garlic bread, assorted pasta salads, assorted salad bar, assorted desserts, assorted breads, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

RAB meeting

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its next monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting Thursday, Jan. 25, 7 to 9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Carroll Island Study Area. Board meetings are open to the public. All APG employees and citizens are invited. For more information, call the information line, 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998.

Former DoD secretary to speak at SOLE meeting

The Aberdeen Chapter of the International Society of Logisticians, SOLE, will hold its monthly meeting 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Top of the Bay Jan. 31.

The guest speaker is Louis A. Kratz, vice president and managing director of Focused Logistics at Lockheed Martin Corporation and former assistant deputy under secretary of defense (Logistics, Plans and Programs), with the office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness). The topic of discussion is "Logistics Transformation: An Industry View."

There is no cost to attend. Lunch is 'pay as you go.'

To register in advance, contact Chief Warrant Officer 3 Paul Thurston, 410-278-5554, or e-mail paul.thurston1@us.army.mil; Paul Nelson, 410-436-4574, or e-mail paul.a.nelson@us.army.mil; or Sharon Meirose, 410-306-0350, or e-mail sharon.meirose@atec.army.mil.

Military scholarship applications due

Now is the time to fill out and submit an application for a Scholarship for Military Children for \$1,500. Information and applications for the 2007 program are available at commissaries worldwide as well as online at the program Web site, <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

Administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by manufacturers and suppliers of groceries and services in the commissary system, the program has awarded more than \$4.6 million in scholarships to nearly 3,000 students since the first awards in 2001.

This year's essay topic is "If you were granted the ability to change the outcome of any event in history, what would you change and why?"

Completed applications must be turned in at any commissary no later than close of business on Feb. 21.

NCOA holds Dining Out

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy will hold its 7th Annual Anniversary Dining Out Feb. 9 at the Comfort Inn Richlin Ballroom in Edgewood.

The anniversary will honor past NCOA commandants from 1987 to present.

Ticket cost is \$30 per person, and an RSVP must be received by Feb. 5.

Tickets will be on sale until Feb. 7.

For information and RSVP, contact June Conley, 410-278-8904, DSN 298-8904 or e-mail june.conley@ocs.apg.army.mil or Spc. Calandra Guidry, 410-278-9127, or e-mail calandra.r.stovall@us.army.mil.

Trial Defense Service relocates

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Trial Defense Service has relocated from building 310 to building 305 on the first floor. Enter through the glass door, turn left past the elevator and follow the corridor behind the conference room. The office is on the left.

Telephone numbers will remain the same. For more information, call Nora Farrell, 410-278-2156/5389.

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

Community Notes

MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3.50, CHILDREN \$1.75 Building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard
To verify listing, call 410-272-9008, or visit www.aafes.com and click on "Movie Listing."

CASINO ROYALE

Friday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 13, 9 p.m.

Starring: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench

James Bond's first 007 mission takes him to Madagascar where he is to spy on the terrorist Mollaka. Not everything goes as planned and Bond decides to investigate, independently of the MI6 agency in order to track down the rest of the terrorist cell. Following a lead to the Bahamas, he encounters Dimitrios and his girlfriend, Solange. He learns that

Dimitrios is involved with Le Chiffre, banker to the world's terrorist organizations. Secret Service intelligence reveals that Le Chiffre is planning to raise money in a high-stakes poker game in Montenegro at Le Casino Royale. MI6 assigns 007 to play against him, knowing that if Le Chiffre loses, it will destroy his organization. (Rated PG-13)

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.

Starring: Wilmer Valderrama, Dyllan Christopher

It's Christmas Eve and a huge blizzard has just shut down the airport, threatening to ruin holiday plans for all stranded travelers. Snowed in enroute to their father's house, two "Unaccompanied Minors," or Ums, Spencer and his little sister, Katherine, are ushered to the airport's Unaccompanied Minors Room, a holding cell for dozens of stranded, parent-free children from all over the country. Caught in the crossfire of projectile cupcakes and juice boxes and desperate to escape, Spencer makes a run for freedom along with four other UMs, who couldn't be more different if they tried. (Rated PG)

SUNDAY

JANUARY 14

AUXILIARY OFFERS SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 5337, 3705 Pulaski Highway in Abingdon offers breakfast the second Sunday of each month, 8 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$6. The menu includes choice of eggs, omelets, sausage, bacon, pancakes, French toast, potatoes, grits, cold cereal, fresh fruit, coffee, juice or milk. Proceeds benefit VFW programs.

For more information, call Linda MacArthur, 410-676-4456.

TUESDAY

JANUARY 16

TOASTMASTERS

MEETING

Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562, which usually meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 16 because of the Monday federal holiday. The meeting will be held at the Gunpowder Club in APG South 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

The club is open to anyone on or off post who wants to improve their leadership and listening skills and overcome the fear of speaking in public. Lunch will be available.

For more information, call Len Kolodny, 410-734-6573.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY,

SUNDAY

JANUARY 19, 20, 21

MILITARY RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION TO MOTORCYCLE SHOW

The 24th Annual Baltimore International Motorcycle Show will offer free admission to all members of the United States military with military identification or wearing a uniform. The motorcycle show will be held noon to 10 p.m., Jan.

19; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Jan 20; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 21, at the Baltimore Convention Center. The show will feature new motorcycles, ATV and off-road dealers, discounts on new bikes and accessories, custom and antique motorcycle show and sports stars.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. will make a special appearance with his Number 8 car Jan. 19, and the U.S. Army drag racing team motorcycles will be

on display the entire weekend as well as a driver.

For more information, call 301-808-2233 or visit www.internationalmotorcycleshow.com.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY,

SATURDAY

MAY 10, 11, 12

34TH ANNUAL EAST COAST RALLY

The Washington Area

Collectors/Blue and Gray Military Vehicle Trust will host the 34th Annual East Coast Military Vehicle Rally, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Ripken Stadium. Admission is free.

For more information, visit <http://www.wacbgmvt.org/ecr/>, e-mail EastCoastRally@wacbgmvt.org or call 1-800-730-6621.

Authorized exception to dual compensation laws

Current appropriated and nonappropriated fund employees are eligible to keep their full-time position and also be employed as a NAF flexible employee for the following hard-to-fill positions:

- Bartender, NA-7405-03
- Cook, NA-7404-04
- Cook, NA-7404-05
- Custodial worker (trainee), NA-3566-01
- Custodial worker, NA-3566-02
- Custodial worker (leader), NL-3566-02
- Food service worker, NA-7408-01
- Food service worker, NA-7408-03
- Food service worker, NA-7408-04
- Gardener, NA-5003-04
- Motor vehicle operator, NA-5703-07
- Operations assistant, NF-1101-01
- Recreation assistant (aerobic), NF-0189-02
- Waiter (trainee), NA-7420-02
- Waiter, NA-7420-03

To apply for the above positions visit Web site, <http://acpol.army.mil/employment/naf.htm> for job listing and <http://cpol.army.mil/library/naf/jobkit> to apply.

For more information, call 410-278-8993.

Crozier

From page 3

Morgan's comprehensive knowledge of finance and personnel actions helped Soldiers in numerous ways, according to the award citation, which also recognized his meticulous attention to Soldiers' evaluation reports, finance reports, personnel actions and personnel-asset inventories. Morgan helped ATC locate several missing items, enabling the test center to undergo a successful command inspection.

"Sergeant First Class Morgan has consistently risen to every challenge with selfless support of the command and its efforts on behalf of the Soldier," read the award citation. "He has demonstrated superior knowledge, skill and leadership in test efforts, briefing senior decision makers, representing ATC at conferences and demonstrations, and executing test events and demonstrations at remote locations. Sergeant First Class Morgan has accomplished every mission autonomously and exceptionally."



MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Civilian Welfare Fund 2007 events

JAN. 27 – SCRAPBOOKING CROP

Whether a seasoned scrapbooker or someone who has always wanted to try scrapbooking, come and "Crop Till You Drop" at Top of the Bay. Lunch will be served, door prizes will be given out, and everyone will receive a goodie bag.

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

The price for a full-day of cropping, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., is \$22 per person.

FEBRUARY - TO BE ANNOUNCED

MARCH 31 – A TRIP TO BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY; "THE COLOR PURPLE"

Nominated for nine for Tony Awards, this soul stirring musical touches the heart. Alice Walker's diverse and unforgettable characters come vividly to life on stage, blending dance with blues, gospel, jazz, swing, rural roots and African music. "The Color Purple" is a saga of hope, inspiration and triumph. Price per person is \$135 and includes charter bus transportation and a ticket for the show. May be inappropriate for children aged 8 and under. Children under 4 years of age will not be admitted into the theater.

APRIL 9-13 – TRIP TO MYRTLE BEACH

Package includes motor coach transportation, lodging at the Sea Mist Resort, a guided tour of historic Charleston, Barefoot Landing, a visit to Broadway at the Beach, a performance at the Carolina Opry, four breakfasts, four dinners, plus all gratuities. Prices per person are as follows: single-occupancy \$589, double-occupancy \$489, triple-occupancy \$469.00, quad-occupancy \$459. Reservations accepted through Jan. 18, or until all seats are full.

APRIL 14 – TRIP TO BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY; "MARY POPPINS"

Disney has brought yet another timeless classic to the stage. Price per person is \$125 and includes ticket for the show and charter bus transportation.

MAY 18 – TRIP TO MEDIEVAL TIMES

Experience the adventure and romance of the Middle Ages with a four course medieval feast and live jousting performance. Trip will include charter bus transportation, meal and entertainment. Price per person is \$54.

JUNE 1 THROUGH 10 – TRIP TO EUROPE

European trip offered to Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, and France.

Join the Civilian Welfare Fund for the next

thrilling European Adventure enjoying the following itinerary:

Day 1 (Depart USA): overnight flight from BWI Airport, to London

Day 2 (Arrive in London): Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel for an afternoon of leisure to relax and shop.

Day 3 (London sightseeing): Enjoy a half-day on a London sightseeing tour, including all the major sights. The afternoon can be spent at leisure.

Day 4 (London-Amsterdam): The tour moves to Dover for a cruise to France. Belgium's Flanders Fields lead to Holland and the canals and bridges which make Amsterdam the "Venice of the North." An orientation tour shows Dam Square and the Mint Tower. Then a visit to a diamond-polishing factory to see diamonds being cut and polished before continuing to the hotel.

Day 5 (Amsterdam-Rhineland): In the morning the group will enter Germany to visit Cologne and view its Gothic cathedral then continue along the Rhine, via Bonn, to board a Rhine cruise at the charming town of Boppard. Relax while gliding past leafy vineyards, medieval castles and half-timbered houses. Rejoin the coach and see the Loreley Rock and Pfalz Castle on the way to the hotel.

Day 6 (Rhineland-Innsbruck): The group will drive south to the Bavarian Alps for views of "Mad" King Ludwig's fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein and then take the beautiful Fern Pass route into Austria to reach Innsbruck. Sightseeing here includes the Rococo Wilten Basilica, the Golden Roof and the Imperial Palace.

Day 7 (Innsbruck-Lucerne): Travel through spectacular Alpine scenery as the tour leaves the Austrian Alps for a stop in the capital of the small principality of Liechtenstein, dominated by Vaduz Castle. Then along the Walensee Lake to Lucerne to see the covered Chapel Bridge and the stirring Lion Monument, dedicated to the Swiss guards that died defending the French King. Later, there will be leisure time to explore the town or shop for that special Swiss timepiece or local chocolate, before reaching the hotel.

Day 8 (Lucerne-Paris): This morning the group will cross the Rhine at Basel to enter France and view the rich farmlands of Alsace and continue alongside the Jura Mountains to the wine growing Burgundy region. The destination is the city of Paris, the vibrant heart of French life. This evening, why not join an excursion to see the city's illuminations, the perfect introduction to one of Europe's loveliest cities?

Day 9 (Paris Sightseeing): With a local guide, see Garnier's Opera House, Napoleon's Arc

de Triomphe, the Champs Elysees, and the fabulous Eiffel Tower. Next, visit the Notre Dame Cathedral, located in the oldest part of the city – the 'Ile de la Cite.' Later, there will be time to discover the riches of this great capital. Perhaps explore the huge collection of art treasures at the Louvre Museum or browse among the elegant boutiques for Paris fashions. Tonight, there is the option of enjoying nightlife Parisian-style. Perhaps, enjoy a cabaret or a typical Parisian bistro.

Day 10 (Return to the U.S.A.): The tour ends after breakfast with a transfer to the airport.

Prices per person are single-occupancy \$3,250; double-occupancy \$2,850; and triple-occupancy \$2,775. Prices include airfare, tours, hotel accommodations, seven breakfasts, four dinners, travelers insurance, transfers, transportation in Europe, etc. Optional excursions will also be available. A deposit of \$250 per person is due upon reservation.

JUNE 21-24 – WEEKEND IN CAPE MAY

Spend a weekend away and experience this Victorian town on the beach. Oceanfront hotel accommodations will be at the Grand Hotel of Cape May. Prices will be announced. Price includes charter bus transportation and hotel accommodations.

JULY 21 – NEW YORK FOR THE DAY

Spend the day in the 'Big Apple' at leisure. The price per person for charter bus transportation is \$35.

AUG. 4-11 – HAWAIIAN CRUISE

Join the CWF in touring the highlights of the Hawaiian Islands. Fly from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, to Honolulu, where the group will board Norwegian's Pride of America. Itinerary includes:

Aug. 4 – Arrive in Honolulu, Oahu, and board the ship (departure at 8 p.m.).

Aug. 5 – Arrive in Hilo, Hawaii, at 8 a.m. (departure at 7 p.m.); evening Sail by Mount Kilauaea.

Aug. 6 – Arrive in Kahului, Maui, at 8 a.m.

Aug. 7 – Depart Maui at 6 p.m.

Aug. 8 – Arrive in Kona, Hawaii, at 7 a.m. (departure at 6 p.m.)

Aug. 9 – Arrive in Nawiliwili, Kauai, at 8 a.m.

10 August – Depart Kauai at 2 p.m.

11 August – Arrive back in Honolulu at 7 a.m. Take afternoon flight home.

Prices per person are:

Inside cabin, Category K - \$2,050 based on double-occupancy; 3rd and 4th person in cabin will cost \$1,450 each. The price will be \$3,150 for single-occupancy.

Ocean view cabin, Category FF - \$2,400

based on double-occupancy; 3rd and 4th person in cabin will cost \$1,525 each. The price will be \$3,875 for single-occupancy.

Balcony cabin, Category BG - \$2,725 based on double-occupancy; 3rd and 4th person in cabin will cost \$1,595 each. The price will be \$4,475 for single-occupancy.

All prices include round-trip airfare from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, transfers to and from the ship, seven-day cruise of the four islands (Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Hawaii), port charges, taxes and insurance. Shore excursions, gratuities, alcohol and sodas are not included.

SEPT. 15 - BROADWAY SHOW, IN NEW YORK CITY

To be announced.

OCT. 5 – IN THE BEGINNING, AT SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER

Trip to Sight and Sound, to see "In the Beginning," with dinner at Hershey Farms.

Experience the dawn of creation as Sight & Sound Theatres presents the account of the creation of the world. Prices are \$93 for adults, \$69 for teens (13-18 years old), and \$47 for children (12 years and under) and include show ticket, dinner buffet at Hershey Farms and charter bus transportation. Departure time is 4 p.m.

NOV. 23-25 – WEEKEND IN NEW YORK CITY

Spend a weekend in New York departing Friday morning and returning on Sunday evening. Included in the package are charter bus transportation, a ticket to see the "Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular" and hotel accommodations for a two-night stay. Prices will be announced. A \$50 per person deposit is due upon reservation.

NOV. 24 – "RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR"

A favorite among many, starring the famous Rockettes, the charter bus will depart Saturday morning and arrive in New York City where there will be time for shopping, sightseeing and lunch before the show. The price, to be announced, includes a ticket for the show and transportation.

DEC. 14 – THREE LITTLE BAKERS DINNER THEATER

Spend a delightful evening with the Three Little Bakers. Included in the price are charter bus transportation, a delicious meal, and their show, "Three Little Baker's Christmas Celebration 2007." The price per person will be announced. Departure time is 4:30 p.m.

For more information or to make reservations, call the CWF Office, 410-278-4603/4771.

Activities

Winter leagues forming

Winter Bowling Leagues now forming. For more information, call the APG Bowling Center at 410-278-4041 or visit www.apgmwr.com for details.

SKIESUnlimited

For more information and registration for all SKIESUnlimited programs, call Central Registration. An additional \$18 Central

Registration Fee will apply if not already enrolled in the Child and Youth Services Program.

For more information or to make an appointment to register, call 410-278-7479/7571.

Child and Youth Services

There are immediate full day openings for 3 and 4 year olds at the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center. All active duty military and

activated reservists, DOD civilians assigned to APG and contractors assigned to APG are eligible for services. The center is open daily, 6:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call Central Registration at 410-278-7571.

Beginning piano for adults

Beginner piano lessons for adults 18 and over will be held 7 to 8 p.m., Jan. 12 through March 7 at the Recreation Center, building 3326. Cost is \$60 per person and includes materials and supplies. Keyboards will be provided. Students will be responsible for purchasing the required books for the course. The deadline for registration is Jan. 18.

Introduction to acting

To learn how to act, don't miss this seminar. Introduction to acting will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Jan. 23, at the Recreation Center, building 3326. Find out what it takes to become a good actor from a professional. Cost is \$10 for active duty military, \$15 for

civilians. The deadline for registration is Jan. 18.

Learn to Swing Dance

Lessons include the bounce, six count basic (open position), closed position basic, rotating basic, ladies underarm turns, hesitation turn, skin pass, cakewalk, cuddle, reverse swap, pretzel, swivels, skaters hold and struts, sweetheart, man's underarm turn, sliding door, Texas Tommy, and hand to hand kicks. Classes will be held 6 to 7 p.m., Jan. 30 through Feb. 20 at the Recreation Center's ballroom, building 3326. The registration fee is \$40 for adults 18 and over. The deadline for registration is Jan. 25.

Learn to salsa

Salsa Dancing lessons will be held 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., from Feb. 6 through 21, Mondays at the Recreation Center's ballroom, building 3326. Salsa is the blend of essentially Cuban and Puerto Rican dance music. Learn the fast-paced Latin dances which are popular today. These high-energy movements

are perfect for the styles in use at most of the clubs in the surrounding area.

MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel is located in building 3326. They may be contacted at 410-278-4011/4907, by e-mail at mwr_registration@apg.army.mil or on the Web site, www.apgmwr.com.

NASCAR tickets for the Nextel Daytona 500

NASCAR tickets for the first 2007 NEXTEL Cup event, Feb. 17 and 18 are now available. Save over \$45 on a two-day ticket to the 49th Daytona 500 and the Daytona 300 NASCAR Busch Series race - just \$115. Pre-race/Nextel Fanzone passes are available for just \$75. Last day to purchase tickets is Feb. 2.

Chance-of-a-lifetime trip to Cooperstown, NY

MWR will sponsor a trip to the 2007 Baseball Hall of fame induction ceremony for Cal Ripken Jr., July 29. Cost is \$85 per adult and \$68 per child ages 12 and under (one child per each paying adult). Cost includes round trip transportation and admission ticket into Cooperstown.

There are a limited number of seats available. Open to all DoD card holders.

For more information or for registration, call MWR Registration, building 3326, 410-278-4907/4011, or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil or visit www.apgmwr.com.

Discount tickets for military families at Medieval Times

In honor of military families, MWR offers discount tickets to Medieval Times Dinner Theater and Show located in Hanover, Md. The cost of tickets for adults is \$40 per person, and \$34 for chil-

dren. A limited number of tickets are available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, 410-278-4097/4011 or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

Tickets available for Disney on Ice: 100 Years of Magic

MWR Leisure Travel Services has tickets for Disney on Ice: 100 Years of Magic, Feb. 7 through 11, at the 1st Mariner Arena in Baltimore.

Cost of tickets for ages two and up is \$17.25 each. Opening night tickets cost \$13.25 each. The last day to purchase tickets is Feb. 1. All DoD ID card holders are eligible to purchase tickets.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit MWR Leisure Travel Services, building 3326, call 410-278-4907/4011 or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

Comedy Explosion coming to APG

A Comedy Explosion and After Party event will be held 9 to 11 p.m., Feb. 3, at the APG Post Theater. Doors open at 8 p.m.

The show will feature comedians Andy Hayward, Antoine Blackman and Rich Carucci. Tickets for active duty military cost \$10, all others cost \$15.

An After Party will be held at the Recreation Center, building 3326, immediately following the show. Free entry with Comedy Show Ticket Stub or \$5. Open to permanent party and civilians only. Door prizes will be presented.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit or call MWR Leisure Travel and Tickets, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907, or Hoyle Gymnasium, building E-4210, 410-436-7134.

SCHOOL LIAISON

Parent notification of school delay/cancellation due to weather

Harford County Public Schools will notify all parents of a school delay/cancellation due to snow or hazardous weather using the Alert Now System (automated phone messaging.)

All parents will receive phone calls at 5:45 a.m. on the morning of the school delay or cancellation. Please be sure that the schools have up-to-date phone numbers.

Traditional media outlets (TV, radio) will remain in effect as well.

If using the Internet, visit www.schools-out.com to get emergency information or other important school system information.

Families can also arrange to have emergency information sent directly to their e-mail addresses for a small fee.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Week of Jan. 8

Special #1: Chicken cheese steak sub, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$7.85.

Special #2: BLT, french fries, one cookie and soda for \$5.75.

Week of Jan. 12

Special #1: Grilled cheese, soup, one cookie and soda for \$4.75.

Special #2: Two hot dogs, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$4.25.

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



Home buying, selling seminar

A Home Buying and Selling Seminar will be held 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 18, at the Recreation Center, building 3326.

Attend this workshop to discuss housing as the major focus of a relocation from list to settlement and other topics.

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

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

Amateur Boxing Night

Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host Amateur Boxing Night, 6 p.m. March 3 at Hoyle Gymnasium, 143rd vs. 16th. Doors open 5 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 for active duty military, \$10 for civilians and \$20 for front row seating. Admission is free for children six years of age and younger.

Purchase tickets at MWR Leisure Travel and Tickets, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or at Hoyle Gym and Fitness Center, building E4210, 410-436-7134.

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/Staff_Judge/index.html

APG Tax Center offers free tax preparation

Story by
SANDI WILLIAMS
OSJA

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

National Guard or reservists not mobilized are not eligible for services and should contact their individual units for assistance.

The OSJA will host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for the 2007 Tax Assistance Program 1 to 2 p.m., Jan. 22, at the Tax Center's new location, building 4117, near the intersection of Boothby Hill and Bel Air avenues. Commanders or their designees are invited to preview the facility and talk with the special duty Soldiers they have assigned to the Tax Center.

The center will open its doors to the public Jan. 23. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, with tax preparation from noon to 7 p.m.

The IRS will not process individ-

ual tax returns involving three tax deductions - the state and local sales tax, higher education tuition and fees, and educator expenses until February 2007. Due to this recent change, taxpayers who desire to claim these credits or taxpayers with more complex returns will have to wait until approximately Feb. 12 to have their tax return prepared.

The Tax Center staff is available during normal duty hours to help taxpayers determine if their return is simple, complex, or outside the scope of the Tax Assistance Program. Simple returns will be prepared on a walk-in basis, complex returns will be scheduled for an appointment after Feb. 12, and returns outside the scope of the program will be referred to paid professional tax preparers as appropriate.

Trained volunteers

A number of special duty Soldiers have been assigned to work at the center on a full-time basis and will be trained in federal and Maryland state income tax return preparation. An IRS examination at the end of the course certifies each special duty Soldier for the Volunteer Return Preparation Program.

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 last tax return (2005)
- Original W-2 statements
- Forms 1099 stating interest, dividends or capital gains, distributions from pensions and IRAs
- Social security cards for yourself, spouse, and all dependents
- Alimony information
- Child care expenses and provider identification and address
- Telephone Excise Tax (The telephone tax refund is a one-time payment available on your 2006 federal income tax return, designed to refund previously collected federal excise taxes on long-distance or bundled services. It is available to anyone who paid such taxes on landline, wireless, or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service. The IRS will refund to you the taxes on long-dis-

ance or bundled service billed to you for the period after Feb. 28, 2003 and before Aug. 1, 2006.)

- Power of attorney signed by the spouse if either party plans to sign the spouse's name on a joint tax return (or IRS Form 2848)

- Blank check with routing and account number for a refund directly deposited into a bank account

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

- Mortgage interest statements (Form 1098)
- Medical receipts
- Rental reports
- General sales tax receipts (if electing)
- Investment statements
- Charitable contribution receipts

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

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 employ-

ees, and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online. Soldiers and civilians can access myPay by going to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

Tax forms

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

Electronic filing

Free electronic filing is also available through the APG Tax Center. However, volunteers must prepare the tax return at the Tax Center in order to electronically file the tax return.

Electronic filing enables the taxpayer to receive their refund by check or direct deposit into their bank account rather than having it mailed. The average return time is approximately three weeks for a check mailed and about seven to ten days for deposits made directly into a taxpayer's checking or savings account.

For more information and assistance with tax preparation and/or electronic filing, contact the APG Tax Center, 410-278-2020 beginning Jan. 23.

Shipping of household goods: What to know before the next move

Story by
IAN A. WILKINSON
OSJA

Whether a Soldier has been on active duty for 10 years or one year, there is vital information every Soldier should know before packing up and shipping household goods.

Packing up

The most critical part of packing household items is proof of ownership and the value of the property. A person can accomplish this by taking a videotape of valuable items and the entire house prior to packing.

Another way to prove ownership is through receipts, credit card bills and statements from storeowners.

If someone cares about his or her property, the Soldier will take extra precautions to ensure that if the items are lost, damaged or destroyed, the Soldier can be properly compensated. For example, a Soldier who cannot prove the value of a figurine may only be compensated for a very small amount when in fact the figurine was worth a great deal more money.

Moving companies move people every day. They are accustomed to packing a bunch of items into one box and labeling it clothing, books, kitchen items, etc. This poses a huge problem if other items such as a coin collection, jewelry, and electronic equipment are placed into the box.

Make sure the inventory sheets accurately describe what is in the box with enough degree of accuracy to prove ownership. For example, if the inventory sheet states "pots

and pans," it may be quite difficult to be reimbursed for an expensive platter that was also placed into the same box.

Unpacking and time limits for filing a claim

A Soldier has a set amount of time to notify the carrier of any damaged or missing items -- 70 days from the date of delivery. This notification is completed by turning in DD Form 1840/1840R to a military claims office. The DD Form 1840 is the pink form provided to the Soldier by the driver at the time of delivery. Damages or losses identified at the time of delivery are noted on the DD Form 1840-side of the form, and damages found after delivery are noted on the DD Form 1840R side. The DD Form 1840/1840R should not be signed by the receiver until the driver has completed the delivery to the customer's satisfaction.

Filing the claim and more time limits

After filing the DD Form 1840/1840R, a Soldier must file the loss or damage within two years of the delivery date. A person with a power of attorney may also file for the Soldier. Note that a person should not dispose of ANY damaged items until advised to so do by the claims office. This is because the carrier may ask to inspect

the item before a claim is paid, and the government or carrier has the right to take possession of the item, for its salvage value, after payment of the claim is made. Remember, the faster someone files a claim, the faster the claim can be processed for a decision on payment.

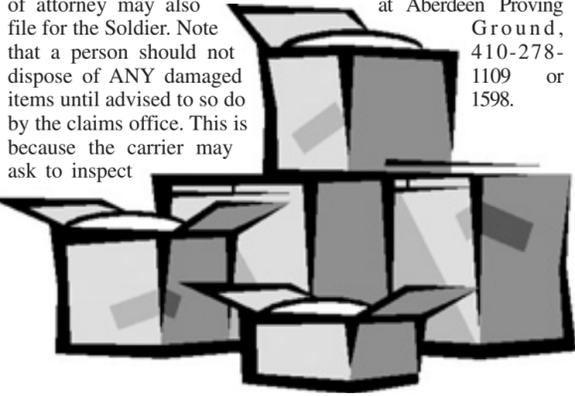
Private insurance an option

For many, private insurance is a good idea. Often, when claims are adjudicated, items are depreciated. Also remember that a household goods payment by the government is gratuitous in nature, it is not an absolute right.

Part or all of a claim may be denied for a variety of reasons. Taking responsibility for valuable items, safeguarding and insuring them is a person's best approach when it comes to moving and shipping of household items.

If a person does have private insurance, he or she must first file with the insurance company before filing with the government.

For more information concerning a household goods move, contact the Claims Office at Aberdeen Proving Ground, 410-278-1109 or 1598.



Tax statements available online for federal employees

American Forces Press Service

Service members, military retirees and annuitants and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service can expect to receive their 2006 tax statements beginning this month, DFAS officials announced Dec. 11.

DFAS customers with access to the secure, Web-based "myPay" system will be able to retrieve their tax statements electronically up to two weeks sooner than those relying on regular mail delivery, officials said.

The myPay system includes layers of defense against identity theft, officials noted, adding that its technology meets or exceeds security requirements in private industry worldwide.

"Tax statements are avail-

able online, allowing customers to view and print W2s and 1099Rs," said Patrick Shine, the DFAS operations director. "Whether anyone needs the statements to complete taxes or just want an extra copy for their records, the tax statements can be accessed and printed at any time. The printable statements are approved by the Internal Revenue Service."

Projected distribution dates for DFAS customers tax statements

- Retiree Annual Statement: Available on myPay Dec. 9, 2006, mailed via U.S. Postal Service Dec. 16 through 31;
- Retiree 1099R: Available on myPay Dec. 15, 2006, mailed Dec. 16 through 31;
- Annuitant Account Statement: Available on myPay Dec. 18, 2006, mailed Dec. 19

through 31;

- Annuitant 1099R: Available on myPay Dec. 18, 2006, mailed Dec. 19 through 31;

- VSI/SSB W-2: Not available on myPay, mailed Jan. 4 and 5;

- Active Duty Air Force, Army, Navy W-2: Available on myPay Jan. 22, mailed Jan. 23 through 29;

- Reserve Air Force, Army, Navy W-2: Available on myPay Jan. 2, mailed Jan. 5 through 8;

- Marine Corps active and reserve W-2: Available on myPay Jan. 5, mailed Jan. 9 through 10;

- Civilian employee W-2: Available on myPay Jan. 9, mailed Jan. 11 through 18;

- Savings Deposit Program 1099INT: Available on myPay Jan. 19, to be mailed Jan. 19

See TAX, page 11

IRS begins implementing extenders legislation

Works to help taxpayers during filing season

IRS

The Internal Revenue Service announced new guidance Jan. 3 to help tax filers in 2007 claim the extended deductions and other tax advantages in the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, recently signed into law.

The start of the 2007 filing season will begin on time. However, the recent changes in the law mean the IRS will not be able to process a small percentage of individual tax returns until early February, primarily involving three tax deductions — the state and local sales tax, higher education tuition and fees and educator expenses.

"The IRS is taking a number of steps to ensure taxpayers have the correct information on these deductions when they prepare and file their tax returns," IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson said.

Among the ways taxpayers can get information:

- Taxpayers will be able to visit IRS.gov for updated information on the late legislation.
- The IRS will conduct a special mailing of Publication 600, which will include the state and local sales tax tables and instructions for claiming the sales tax deduction on Schedule A (Form 1040), to 6 million taxpayers. Publication 600, State and Local General Sales Taxes, will be sent to taxpayers who will receive the 2006 Form 1040 package in early January. Publication 600 was posted to IRS.gov today, with the special mailing for taxpayers arriving in mid-January.
- For people using IRS e-file or Free File, tax software will be updated to include the three key tax provisions. E-file gets refunds to taxpayers faster than paper returns.

The IRS urged taxpayers to use e-file instead of the paper forms to minimize confusion over the late changes and reduce the chance of making extender-related errors on their returns.

"As we always do, we encourage taxpayers who think they may claim these deductions to file electronically," Everson said. "They will get their refunds faster through e-file. Even more importantly, e-file will greatly reduce the chances for making an error compared to claiming the deductions on the paper 1040."

This new legislation affects a number of areas of tax law, but the most significant effect on individual taxpayers involves the deductions for state and local sales tax, higher education tuition and fees, and educator expenses. The sales tax deduction was claimed on approximately 11.2 million tax returns filed in 2006 for Tax Year 2005. The tuition and fees deduction was claimed on about 4.7 million returns, and the educator expense deduction was claimed on 3.5 million returns.

The IRS will not be able to process tax returns claiming these extender-related deductions until early February. Based on filings earlier this year, only about 930,000 tax returns claimed any of the three extenders provisions by Feb. 1. This year, the IRS expects to receive about 136 million tax returns.

Form 1040 changes

The IRS also announced details today on how taxpayers can use existing lines on the current Form 1040 and other tax documents to claim the three major extenders provisions. The key forms (Forms 1040, 1040A, Schedule A&B, and instructions) went to

print in early November and reflected the law in effect at that time. The instructions contain a cautionary note to taxpayers that the legislation was pending at the time of printing.

The majority of taxpayers file electronically, but taxpayers using a paper Form 1040 will have to follow special instructions if they are claiming any of the three deductions. Form 1040 will not be updated. Instead, taxpayers should follow these steps:

State and local General Sales Tax deduction:

- The deduction for state and local general sales taxes will be claimed on Schedule A (Form 1040), line 5, "State and local income taxes." Enter "ST" on the dotted line to the left of line 5 to indicate you are claiming the general sales tax deduction instead of the deduction for state and local income tax.

- The IRS also will issue Publication 600 for 2006, which includes the state and local sales tax tables, a worksheet and instructions for figuring the deduction.

- This option is available to all taxpayers regardless of where they live, though it's primarily designed to benefit residents of the eight states without state and local income taxes.

Higher Education Tuition and Fees Deduction:

- Taxpayers must file Form 1040 to take this deduction for up to \$4,000 of tuition and fees paid to a post-secondary institution. It cannot be claimed on Form 1040A.

- The deduction for tuition and fees will be claimed on Form 1040, line 35, "Domestic production activities deduction." Enter "T" on the dotted line to the left of that line entry if claiming the tuition and fees deduction, or "B" if claiming both a deduction for domestic production activities and the deduction for tuition and fees. For those entering "B," taxpayers must attach a breakdown showing the amounts claimed for each deduction.

Educator expense adjustment to income:

- Educators must file Form 1040 in order to take the deduction for up to \$250 of out-of-pocket classroom expenses. It cannot be claimed on Form 1040A.

- The deduction for educator expenses will be claimed on Form 1040, line 23, "Archer MSA Deduction." Enter "E" on the dotted line to the left of that line entry if claiming educator expenses, or "B" if claiming both an Archer MSA deduction and the deduction for educator expenses on Form 1040. If entering "B," taxpayers must attach a breakdown showing the amounts claimed for each deduction.

The new law also affects an even smaller number of business taxpayers who don't use the Form 1040 series. There could be minimal processing delays for some of these business filers in January and early February.

January is the slowest part of the filing season for the IRS, with less than 6 percent of all individual returns coming in during the agency's first two weeks of processing. Typically, early returns are from taxpayers with simpler refund returns who do not claim the extender provisions. Earlier this year, the IRS had less than 2.5 million returns filed by Jan. 20. An additional 4.2 million returns came in by Jan. 27.

For more information on the extended tax deductions or other tax related issues, contact the Aberdeen Proving Ground Office of the Staff Judge Advocate's Client Services Division, 410-278-1583.

ChalleNGe cadet shadows APG firefighters



Fire inspector Howie Travers, left, watches as ChalleNGe cadet Robert Connor, 19, drags a hose toward a building during endurance testing at the Structural Fire Fighting Building that concluded his week of job shadowing with Aberdeen Proving Ground firefighters Nov. 15.

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

A cadet from the Maryland Army National Guard Freestate ChalleNGe Academy got an up-close-and-personal look at the demanding world of fire-fighting when he spent six days with Aberdeen Proving Ground firefighters as part of the academy's Job Shadow-

ing program. Robert Conner, a 19-year old resident of Joppatowne, spent six days with APG firefighters learning about fire codes, inspections and day-to-day operations. His mentor, firefighter Doug Farrington, said that Conner was the fourth cadet to job shadow with the unit. "They all enjoy it because they learn a lot," Farrington

said, noting that Conner was the first cadet to go through station training, an annual training requirement for firefighters held at the University of Maryland training facility near Philips Army Airfield Nov. 15.

Capt. Howie Travers and Jimmy Ray, emergency medical technician, led the day-long training that featured endurance testing at the Structural Fire Fighting Building.

The training included running up three flights of stairs with a fire hose, hooking the hose up to a stem pipe connection, pulling another hose on a rope up three flights from outside the building, running back down the stairs and dragging a 165-pound 'dummy' outside to safety, all while wearing 60 pounds of equipment.

"It's more realistic than previous training and it's done in full gear," Travers said. "Every firefighter and inspector will run through this today."

"This kind of course gives the guys a good idea of where they stand physically," Ray added.

Conner said that it was everything he expected.

"It was tough but it felt good to wear the gear, even though it's a little heavy," he said.

He thanked the firefighters for the week of instruction.

"They've been real nice," he said. "I felt right at home right away and I learned a lot."



Robert Connor, a 19-year old Freestate ChalleNGe Academy cadet, attaches a water hose to a stem pipe in the Structural Fire Fighting Building.



Competition at the American Indian Heritage month display contest was so competitive that it yielded a three-way tie for first place between several U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course students at the awards ceremony Nov. 30.

OC&S celebrates American Indian heritage month

Story and photo by
ANDRICKA THOMAS
OC&S

The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools celebrated American Indian heritage month Oct. 15 to Nov. 15 with an essay and display contest. The award ceremony was held at the Ordnance Corps Headquarters Nov. 30.

Sgt. 1st Class William E. Lenington from Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer's Course class 04-07 won first place in the essay contest, followed by runner-up Wallace Ciepela, a civilian employee with OC&S.

The display contest had a three-way tie for first place between Basic Non-Commissioned

Officers Course classes, 02-07, wheeled vehicle mechanic and machinist, 03-07, wheeled vehicle mechanic and class 04-07, track vehicle mechanic and metal worker. Staff Sgt. Durnier Young, 16th Ordnance Battalion, placed as runner-up to the three-way tie.

"The displays this year were outstanding, really inspirational," said Master Sgt. Gail Brennan, equal opportunity advisor. "It was obvious the work came from the heart."

Brennan said the classes conducted a lot of research and learned things they didn't know before.

"Broadening cultural awareness...that's what these events are all about," she said.

Tax

From page 10 and 20; and

- Vendor Pay 1099: Not available on myPay, to be mailed Jan. 27 through 31.

Shine added that current myPay account holders can eliminate the costs associated

with generating and distributing the tax statements immediately by signing up and using myPay. A personal identification number, or PIN, is required to use the system, and eligible users can apply for one at the myPay Web site, www.mypay.dfas.mil.

Users with military e-mail addresses—addresses in the

.mil domain—or a pre-registered personal e-mail address can receive their new PIN via e-mail. All others will receive their new PIN via mail in about 10 working days from the date of request, officials said.

Customers who already had obtained a PIN but have forgotten it can apply for a new one at the myPay site.

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 APG; listen for those that name APG specifically.

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

Your health is KUSAHC's goal



It's not too late for a flu shot

Flu vaccine open to TRICARE beneficiaries, federal employees

KUSAHC

The influenza vaccination is now available to all TRICARE beneficiaries at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

FluMist, the nasal flu vaccine, is the recommended vaccine of choice in healthy individuals for protection against the flu. In addition to the immunity provided by traditional vaccination, FluMist helps the body to develop antibodies along the respiratory tract which provides a greater defense along the main route of entry for the influenza virus.

Individuals should not receive FluMist if they:

- are less than 5 years old or 50 years of age or older
- have an allergy or history of allergic reaction to chicken eggs or egg products or any component of the vaccine
- are a child or adolescent who regularly takes aspirin, or products containing aspirin
- have a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome
- have a known or suspected immune deficiency disease or condition such as HIV infection, leukemia, or lymphoma or are undergoing treatments for cancer.
- have a history of asthma or reactive airways disease
- have medical conditions such as chronic disorders of the lungs, heart or kidneys; diabetes, or sickle cell disease
- are pregnant.



Vaccination by injection is available to those who are not eligible to receive the FluMist.

KUSAHC's Immunization Clinic is open Monday and Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to noon and closed in the afternoon; Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.; and Friday 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 410-278-1746. The Flu Vaccine Hotline number is 410-306-3588 (FLUV).

DoD expands mental health screening guidance for deploying troops

OSD

The Department of Defense has issued improved policy guidance for military personnel with deployment-limiting psychiatric conditions, and for those who are prescribed psychiatric medications.

The new policy satisfies many requirements established in the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act signed into law on September 29, 2006. Section 738 of the law requires the Department to specify conditions and treatments that preclude a service member from deploying to a combat or contingency operation.

"This new guidance will improve mental health screening by assisting our physicians to make the best possible decisions regarding the deployment of service members who experience mental conditions," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs. "Our finest clinical experts have worked on these guidelines for some time. We recognize them as a major step forward in helping our Service members and physicians. They also address important concerns of military family members and of Members of Congress."

Early identification and treatment of mental health problems are keys to continuation of active service and return to duty. Service personnel with psychiatric conditions in remission and without duty performance impairment are generally fit to deploy. However, these individ-

uals must demonstrate a pattern of stability without significant symptoms for at least three months prior to deployment. Some psychiatric disorders require extensive and long-term care and treatment. These conditions will cause service members to be unfit for duty and therefore routinely processed out of the military. Additionally, those deployed service members with conditions determined to be at significant risk for performing poorly or decompensating in an operational environment who do not respond to treatment within two weeks will be returned to home station.

While not altering or replacing existing accession, retention, and general fitness for duty standards, the new guidance standardizes deployment-related mental health policy across the service branches.

The guidelines stipulate that few medications are inherently disqualifying for deployment. However, lithium and anticonvulsants to control manic-depressive bipolar illness are considered disqualifying medications, as are antipsychotic drugs for psychotic, bipolar and chronic insomnia symptoms. Psychotic and bipolar spectrum disorders are also disqualifying.

"These are excellent guidelines that support our primary responsibility to ensure the health and wellness of our uniformed personnel," Winkenwerder said.

DoD health related policy documents are available online at <http://www.ha.osd.mil/policies/>