

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for July 25 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



Well-Being Council meeting July today

The next Well-Being Council meeting will be 9:30 a.m., today, at the Post Chapel.

OSJA Client Services changes hours

In order to better serve the APG community, the Client Services Division will change its hours to Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning July 23. For questions, call 410-278-1583.

SOLE holds luncheon

The International Society of Logistics (formerly Society of Logistics Engineers) will hold a luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 23, in Top of the Bay's Gunpowder Room featuring guest speaker David Shaffer, deputy to the commander, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command. Seating is limited.

For more information, contact Larry Seed, 410-297-9550, larry.seed@msaincorp.com, or Paul Nelson, 410-436-4575, paul.nelson@us.army.mil.

ACS holds Job Fair

The ACS Employment Readiness Program in partnership with the APG Military Transition Assistance Program will hold a Job Fair, 1 to 5 p.m., July 24, at the Aberdeen North Recreation Center. There will be various employers for full and part-time positions available. The Job Fair is free and open to the public.

For more information, call the Employment Readiness Program, building 2754, 410-278-9669.

ACS to celebrate its 42nd Birthday

Army Community Service will celebrate its 42nd Birthday with a picnic, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 26, at Maryland Boulevard Park. Free tickets are available at the APG North ACS, building 2754

See SHORTS, page 7

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2... Meet new leaders on APG

Page 3... Volunteer receives presidential notice

Page 5... Sports - 22d Chemical reigns as volleyball champs

Page 6... Community Notes

Page 8... MWR

Page 12... KUSAHC Health Notes

Page 13... Soldier and two contractors place in APG Talent Search

Page 14... Thrift Shop bargain yields valuable artwork

Leadership of APG Garrison changes hands

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

In a dual exchange of leadership among the top two military positions in the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison, Col. John T. Wright and Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby turned over their responsibilities during a change of command ceremony at Fanshew Field July 13.

A picturesque day with a cool breeze and low humidity was the backdrop as Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman assumed command of the APG Garrison from Wright who is retiring after a 26-year career, the last three spent as the garrison commander.

Also, Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez formally assumed responsibilities from Irby.

The ceremony's host was Diane Devens, director of the Installation Management Command - Northeast Region, and former APG commander Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, commander of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, presided over the retirement portion of the ceremony.

Instead of Soldiers, a display of garrison assets filled the parade field, representing a broad spectrum of the support provided by the garrison. They included heavy duty equipment from the Directorate of Installation Operations; police officers

and vehicles from the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security; a rescue boat and fire engine from the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment's Fire and Emergency Services Division; and equipment from Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Directorate of Information Management.

"The equipment on display today is a representation of the broad spectrum of support provided [by the APG Garrison]," said the program narrator, APG Adjutant Janet Dettwiler.

Nadeau awarded Wright the Legion of Merit and his wife Tammy received the Commander's Award for Public Service.

Wright also received the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement, Presidential Certificate of Appreciation and a White House Letter of Appreciation.

Devens credited Wright with overseeing numerous accomplishments and transitions, most notably the Enhanced Use Lease and the initial preparations for the upcoming Base Realignment and Closure initiative.

"From saving money to bald eagles, Colonel Wright's command was marked by enthusiasm and hard work," she said.

She offered words of support to Weissman, saying that the two of them will continue "support of APG Soldiers and



Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO LAB
Diane Devens, director of the Installation Management Command - Northeast Region, left, passes the organization colors to Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison and deputy installation commander, during his change of command ceremony at Fanshew Field July 12.

their Families."

"The future will be exciting and challenging," Devens told Weissman. "I urge you to enjoy every moment of your command time."

Nadeau said that he was honored to participate in the program and commended Wright on his professionalism. He said one of Wright's best

qualities was that he was able to rally those who otherwise would not play team sports to work together.

"He was better than most with the ability to take dollars available and keep things running in the absence of monies that did not come," Nadeau said. "He was the foundation for what will happen in the

next four years to put us all on the right track to the future."

Wright thanked Nadeau, Devens and former APG commander, Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg "for their confidence in me the last few years."

He commended the men and women of the Garrison, saying, "they are the men and

See COMMAND, page 2

American Red Cross warns of area blood shortage

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Due to a significant decline in blood donations, Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Region Blood Services of the American Red Cross has issued an urgent appeal to eligible blood donors to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE as soon as possible.

According to Dr. Ben Edelman, professor of pathology at the University of Maryland, blood donations typically decline this time of year due to family vacations and nice weather, and the declining donations put a major strain on the blood supply.

"As a doctor, I cannot imagine having to tell a patient that blood needed to treat them is not available," Edelman said. "If blood donors do not come out and give, that type of situation may become a reality."

According to Jillian Agnew, Red Cross marketing and communications specialist, declined blood collections put

a major strain on the blood supply and make it difficult for the Red Cross to be prepared for emergency needs.

"Countless trauma victims, cancer patients, premature babies and those with surgical needs rely on the availability of transfusions each day," Agnew said. "Without volunteer blood donors, these patients' lives are on the line."

"We want to get the word out that the current supply is in a critical shortage," she added. "Donations go down during the summer months because people are busy and because of that, the need goes up."

The American Red Cross is asking individual members of the community to take the time to donate blood and it encourages businesses and community groups to schedule and organize blood drives.

Groups interested in scheduling a drive or obtaining further information can call 1-800-787-9282 ext. 4925 or visit <http://www.my-redcross.org>.

Who can donate blood

www.my-redcross.org

Most people can be blood donors, but only 5 percent of the eligible population actually donates. A caring community can change that.

About donating blood

Generally, any person age 17 or, in the state of Maryland only, 16 years of age with parental consent, weighing 110 pounds or more, in general good health, who has not received a tattoo within the past year, and has not donated in the last 56 days is eligible to donate blood.

People can donate blood if they:

Have high blood pressure as long as their pressure is below 180/100 at the time of donation. (Note: Blood pressure medications do not disqualify a person from donating.)

Have diabetes (controlled by diet or medication).

Have completely recovered from surgery.

See BLOOD, page 11

DIO crews clean up storm damage



Photo by HEATHER TASSMER
High voltage electrician specialists from the Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Installation Operations Utilities Branch team up to remove damaged electrical poles and replace them with new ones in the 4500 Block July 17. See more photos on page 13.

Army chaplains celebrate 232 years of service

USAGAPG

Army Chaplains celebrate 232 years of service to Soldiers and Family members July 29.

From its establishment on July 29, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress, the Army Chaplaincy has had a long and inspiring record of service for God and country. The Army Chaplaincy is the oldest of the American Military chaplaincies, predating the Declaration of Independence by almost a year. It has grown to be the largest diversified military chaplaincy in the world with chaplain and chaplain assistant deployments to every continent during its 232-year history.

Almost 14 percent of all Army chaplains have received battlefield decorations while serving as noncombatants in America's wars and conflicts. Some 400 chaplains have given their lives for their country. Six chaplains have been awarded the Medal of Honor and four others received posthumous special gold medals from Congress for heroism during the sinking of the troop ship, *Dorchester* in 1943.

Embedded in the Chaplaincy's history are not only stories of incredible dedication, commitment and selfless service by individual chaplains and chaplain assistants, but also accounts of adjustments to organizational changes that enabled the Army Chaplaincy to endure. A few examples of the challenges the Chaplaincy has had to meet as an organization illustrates this side of its history.

At the beginning of World War II, the Army Chaplaincy faced perhaps its greatest challenge. Only a generation old as a branch, the Chaplain Corps had barely 120 chaplains on duty in 1940. Chaplain (Col.) William Arnold was Chief of Chaplains. In April of that year, "the Carolina Maneuvers, an Army training exercise with 70,000 Soldiers, began at Camp Croft near Spartanburg, S.C. It was clear that the United States was prepar-

ing for war and would need a dramatic increase chaplains and assistants to provide religious support for Soldiers.

The attack of Pearl Harbor and Germany's declaration of war began a process of explosive expansion in numbers of American military personnel. Between 1940 and 1945 some 16 million men and women served in the U.S. armed forces, four times as many as in World War I. The Army Chaplain Corps grew to a total of 9,117 chaplains, 80 percent of whom had no prior military experience.

The challenges to the World War II Army Chaplaincy in terms of personnel expansion, doctrinal development, training, logistics and organization foreshadowed later challenges of the same type but with lesser magnitude.

Ramping up the Chaplaincy for service to Soldiers in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Southwest Asia, the Balkans and in more than 100 other deployments from the Pentagon and World Trade Center attacks on 9-11 to Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom has engaged the attention of 15 Chiefs of Chaplains over the past 55 years.

The current transformation of the Army, which began in 1999, has launched both the Army and the Army Chaplaincy into a new revolution in military affairs. Fortunately, this transformation began just two years before the War on Terrorism began.

The occasion of the 232nd anniversary of the Army Chaplaincy is a celebration of the Constitutional right of Soldiers, and of all Americans, to the free exercise of religion even when serving in difficult and challenging parts of the world.

The motto of the Chaplain Corps in "Pro Deo et Patria," that is, "For God and Country," signifying duty and loyalty to its highest ideals.

The chapel invites everyone to join in celebrating the services of the chaplaincy.

New garrison commander discusses goals

Excited about facing challenges, working with community

Story by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

The new garrison and deputy installation commander is no stranger to Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Col. Jeffrey Weissman was assigned to APG from 2003 to 2004 at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools as an ordnance proponent officer.

Weissman said he is thrilled to be back and that he and his wife Vickie had a positive experience when they lived at APG before.

"The short period of time that Vickie and I spent here...we really enjoyed the community. It's a wonderful community. We are really excited to come back," he said. "I never expected to come back as a garrison commander, but I am absolutely ecstatic about doing it."

He said since he has just started, he is still working on specific, short-term goals.

His goals during the next several years include making base realignment and closure a successful process, he said.

"My goal is to ensure Aberdeen Proving



Ground Garrison supports all the tenants that are coming as well as leaving...that we are well prepared to execute the BRAC plan," Weissman said. "That includes working with all of the ten-

ants that are here and are coming here, working with the community both on post and off post to ensure that as we execute BRAC, we create a great environment for all of our tenants."

He said his second major goal is to "continue to provide first class support to all of the garrison's tenants and the community and continuously improve on that support."

"Our major function here is to support our customers which are our Soldiers, our civilians, our contractors and all of our Families," he said.

Other projects that the garrison will be working on are the privatization of housing and leasing efforts between the garrison and commercial corporations during the next several years.

With the increased responsibility of the garrison and deputy commander position comes new challenges. Weissman discussed what the new challenges are for him.

"This [job] is different than any other position I have held in a lot of different ways," he said. "I've gone through my military career as kind of a customer of the garrisons that I've

been assigned on over the last twenty-four years. Now being a leader in the garrison is completely different--working on the support team side and not the supported side."

Another change is working with the combination of military, government civilians and contractors. He said he is used to working in units or organizations that are mostly military personnel.

Working at the Pentagon in G-4 [Logistics] gave him some exposure to working with civilians who made up 50 percent of the workforce, he said.

"I'm excited about [working with civilians] because my experience was very good," Weissman said. "Our government civilians and contractors who support us are a phenomenal part of our military team."

Weissman said he devotes his spare time to his family, golfing and boating.

Weissman and his wife have six children: Erin, Benjamin, Nicole, Rachel, Ashley and Joseph.

He said three of them are in college and the other three will be entering college soon.

143rd Ordnance Battalion welcomes new commander



Lt. Col. Mary A. McPeak, second from right, leads her command team and the 143rd Ordnance Battalion as they pass in review during her change of command ceremony at McBride Parade Field July 13. Behind McPeak from left are Maj. Charles Seay, 1st Lt. Scott Hubbard, 2nd Lt. Todd Heightshoe and Capt. Germaine Simon.

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School and 61st Ordnance Brigade welcomed its newest battalion commander during a change of command ceremony at McBride Parade Field July 13, as Lt. Col. Mary A. McPeak assumed command of

the 143rd Ordnance Battalion from interim commander and executive officer Maj. George E. Davis.

Col. Bobby A. Towery, commander 61st Ordnance Brigade, led the ceremony which consisted of the traditional passing of the unit guidon, assisted by battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Luis Rivera.

Towery complimented the

battalion's Soldiers who lined the field in four formations as well as the color guard, telling Rivera, "the troops look good and the colors performed flawlessly."

"There is no doubt in my mind that the Soldiers who walk out of Donner Hall are some of the best trained Soldiers in the nation," Towery said. "These Warriors standing

before you represent the thousands walking proud for our nation."

Towery told Davis that he has "done well" as interim commander and offered words of welcome to McPeak.

"I know you will lead this battalion and their Families with distinction," he said.

Davis thanked his command team, his superiors and his family for their support.

"It was an experience I'll never forget," he said. "The [143rd] looks forward to your leadership, mentorship and guidance," he told McPeak.

McPeak thanked Davis for "a smooth transition," and former commander, Lt. Col. Linwood Clark, "for setting the stage."

"I am deeply honored to be the new commander of this outstanding organization," McPeak said. "I am humbled by this awesome opportunity to make a difference in the readiness of our nation's sons and daughters as they prepare to support America at war."

She thanked God for the opportunity to lead Soldiers and told her husband and children, "Our Family just got bigger."

The 215th Army Band, Massachusetts Army National Guard, led by Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Girard, pro-

vided the ceremony's music.

Lt. Col. Mary A. McPeak

Born in Quito, Ecuador, McPeak moved to the United States in 1985 at age 17. In 1989, she was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps after earning bachelor's degrees in international studies and spanish from the University of Denver.

McPeak is a graduate of the Ordnance Officer Basic Course, Ordnance Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Service Staff School (CAS3) and the Command and General Staff College.

Her past assignments include Germany; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Lee, Va., Fort

Leavenworth, Kan.; and Saudi Arabia and Iraq during Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

McPeak's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (OLC), the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, the Southwest Asia Ribbon with three bronze stars, the National Defense Service Medal and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

McPeak is married to Lt. Col. Bruce McPeak, G4 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives). They have two children, Sam and Haleigh.



1st Sgt. Jeffery Hyde, right, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Girard, far left, salute as they lead the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 215th Army Band pass in review.

Command

From front page

women behind the men and women behind the guns."

"Your innovation and perseverance will see us through to achieve our goals," he said.

He wished Weissman and his Family well.

"It's a great command. Good luck to you," he said.

Weissman said he was "truly honored to represent this great organization."

"I'm committed to providing the best possible for the defense of the nation," he said.

He thanked his Family for their support and the IMC for trusting him.

"To the Soldiers and civilians of APG, I look forward to working with all of you in partnership," he said.

Garrison chaplain Lt. Col. Ruben D. Colon delivered the invocation.

The 215th Army Band from the Massachusetts Army National Guard provided the ceremony's music and closed the program with the 90th Anniversary March - "Pio-



Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO LAB
Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, left, smiles as he hands the Garrison colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez as the two assume the leadership of the APG Garrison.

neers in Proving," an original song written by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frederick Ellwein and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Baerle of the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) whose members were on block leave.

Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman

Weissman was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and raised on Long Island. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant, Air Defense Artillery, in 1983 from the U.S. Military Acad-

emy at West Point. He comes to Aberdeen Proving Ground after serving in the Pentagon G4 as the chief of Maintenance Policy for the Army. He first served at APG as the ordnance proponent officer at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools from 2003 to 2004.

Past assignments include Fort Bliss, Texas; Germany; Redstone Arsenal, Ala.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; U.S. Army Europe Headquarters, Heidelberg, Germany; Fort Jackson, S.C.; and in Baghdad, Iraq as the Multi-National Forces-Iraq Base Closure and Transition Chief.

Weissman's military education includes Air Assault School, Airborne School, the Ordnance Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's in strategic studies.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Commendation Medal with 4 OLC, the Army Achievement Medal with 2 OLC, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the

Army Superior Unit Award, the National Defense Service Medal, the South West Asia Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Medal and the Overseas Service Medal with OLC.

Weissman and his wife Vickie have six children, Erin, Nicole, Benjamin, Ashley, Rachel and Joseph.

Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez

Rodriguez comes to the APG Garrison after serving as the command sergeant major for the 22nd Chemical Battalion (Tech Escort) in APG South.

His past assignments include Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Dugway Proving Ground, Utah; Johnston Island Atoll; Germany; Saudi Arabia and Iraq in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm and in Bosnia for Operation Joint Endeavor.

He has served in virtually every enlisted position of responsibility to include squad leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant and installation sergeants major (Dugway Proving Ground).

His military education includes the Primary Leadership Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, First Sergeant Course, Garrison Sergeants Major Course and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.

Rodriguez's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (1 silver leaf oak leaf cluster), Army Commendation Medal (1 silver and 2 bronze OLC), Army Achievement Medal (4 OLC), Good Conduct Medal (9th award), the National Defense Service Medal, Superior Unit Award (with 1 oak leaf cluster), NATO Medal, Global War on Terror Medal, Southwest Asian Service Medal, and Kuwaiti Liberation Medal.

Rodriguez is a member of the Sergeant Morales and Sergeant Audie Murphy clubs, and he is a recipient of the Ancient Order of the Dragon and the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment Leonard Award.

Rodriguez is married to the former Marjorie Torres of New York City. They have three sons, Pedro and Sebastian, who are both in the Army, and Bernardo.

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 8,900.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit

factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

Editorial content is prepared, edited and approved by the APG Public Affairs Office. The APG News is printed by Homestead Publishing Company, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with APG. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Homestead Publishing Company of the products or services advertised.

For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 2201, IMNE-APG-PA, APG, MD

21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to editor@apg.army.mil.

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

Staff

APG Commander Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson
APG Garrison Commander Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman
Public Affairs Officer George P. Mercer
Editor Debi Horne
Editorial Assistant Marguerite Towson
Contract Photojournalists Yvonne Johnson
..... Heather Tassmer
Graphic Designer/Web Designer Nick Pentz
Web site www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

APG employee receives presidential recognition for volunteer service

Story by
AMY VIARS
ORAU

For some, volunteering is simply a desire to help others in need. But for Donna Averion-Laird of Oak Ridge Associated Universities' office at Aberdeen Proving Ground, volunteering has a special significance close to her heart.

Averion-Laird was recently presented the President's Volunteer Service Award for volunteering more than 4,800 hours with the Abingdon Fire Company.

A project manager for the ORAU Science Education Program located at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, she has been pulling 12-hour shifts in the evening at least once-a-week with the Abingdon Fire Company as an emergency medical technician, intravenous specialist.

Averion-Laird said that she was inspired to earn certification as an EMT after learning her daughter was born with a cardiac problem.

"Shortly after receiving [my] certification, my daughter was given a clean bill of health," Averion-Laird said. "Not wanting to let all of my hard work go to waste, I thought surely there must be people in the local community I could help."

In 2003, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. The award recognizes individuals, Families and groups that have achieved a certain standard, which is measured by the number of hours served over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned throughout

the course of a lifetime.

As a member of the Abingdon Fire Company, Averion-Laird has been recognized as one of the top 10 emergency medical services responders and has responded to 1,768 calls since 1995. She served as an EMS lieutenant from 2001 to 2004 and was selected as the Abingdon Fire Company EMS Person of the Year in 2002.

This year, Averion-Laird was selected to be the company's vice president.

Averion-Laird's manager, Joanne Rasnake and Abingdon Fire Company Crew Chief Bill Dousa nominated her for the award. Dousa wrote in his nomination that Averion-Laird "has not only served as a top EMS responder, but also as a leader, trainer, mentor and role model for new

members. During her tenure at the Abingdon Fire Company, Donna Averion-Laird has represented the pinnacle of public service, spending much of her time caring for those in need of emergency medical services in her community and enhancing the continuance of the EMS service."

Humble about her work, Averion-Laird said she was surprised to hear that she had been selected for the award.

"Every volunteer is so deserving. I didn't think I would be one of them," she said, adding that she plans to continue to volunteer with the Abingdon Fire Company, as well as with various church-sponsored events in her community.

She said she's seen and treated everything from nose

bleeds to heart attacks. She thanked her husband and her three children for their support and patience.

"It's so rewarding to help others," she said, adding that calls have often taken her away from her family or "out of my warm bed."

"But volunteers go willingly because there are people out there who really need us and who are genuinely grateful," she said.

ORAU is a university consortium leveraging the scientific strength of 98 major research institutions to advance science and education by partnering with national laboratories, government agencies and private industry.

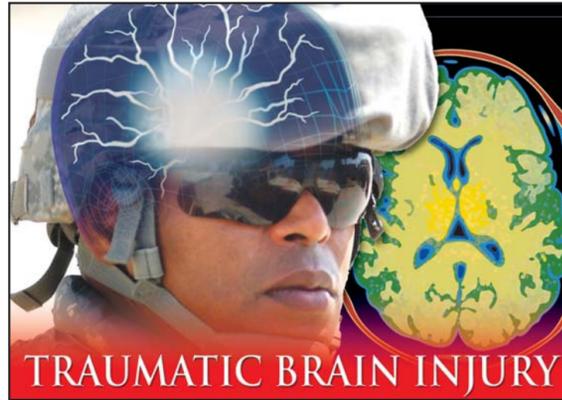
ORAU manages the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Center houses experts in military traumatic brain injury

Story by
KAREN FLEMING-MICHAEL
U.S. Army Medical Research & Materiel Command

(Author's note: This second article in a series of three explains the increased emphasis on screening for TBIs in theater and upon return, the work being done at the Defense Veterans Brain Injury Center to address TBIs and the research the center is undertaking to better diagnose and treat these injuries. See APG News dated July 5 for the first article in the series.)

Although traumatic brain injury seems to be a relatively new concept in the mainstream media, a team of pros have



Graphic designed by MATT STALEY, FORT DETRICK VISUAL INFORMATION OFFICE

been studying it closely for the military for more than 15 years.

The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, headquartered at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, was created in 1992 after the first Gulf War to learn more about head injuries in the military.

"We didn't know if TBI was an issue in Vietnam or the Gulf War because we

weren't looking for it and we weren't methodically evaluating patients," said Kathy Helmick, acting deputy director of Clinical and Educational Affairs and Manager of the Office of Clinical Standards for the DVBIC. "We are highly suspicious that things like shell shock from World War II and some post traumatic stress complaints could have been closed mild brain injuries."

With a staff of military, civilians and contractors, the DVBIC treats patients with mild, moderate and severe TBI, develops guidelines for care, gathers data on the prevalence of TBI in the Army and conducts research to help future patients. Three of the center's sites are located at military treatment facilities, four are at Veterans Affairs medical centers and two are private, contracted sites to assist with rehabilitation and community re-entry continuum of care.

The center's staff is multidisciplinary. Physician assistants, case managers, research coordinators, physiatrists, neuropsychologists, neurologists, medical and rehabilitative medicine doctors, physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists all keep the center running. Helmick said TBI doesn't fit nicely into one medical specialty nor are people specifically trained in it, so the staff also trains and consults with non-DVBIC sites interested in providing care for patients with TBIs.

"It's sort of one of those things you learn on the job. It's not like you have a course on traumatic brain injury in any curriculum," she said.

The military's knowledge in the TBI arena, especially with mild TBI, grew exponentially in the past decade with the increased attention on sports concussions.

"People who keep getting knocked out and hit in the context of football and hockey, that's where we have the most scientifically sound and rigorous data," Helmick said.

Concussion is generally synonymous with a traumatic brain injury, said Dr. Deborah Warden, director of the DVBIC.

"Concussion is well known by people because we talk about sports concussion," Warden

See TBI, page 5



Sports

22d Chemical repeats as volleyball champs

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

After a perfect season, the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) eliminated Headquarters and Headquarters Company 16th Ordnance Battalion to claim its second consecutive intramural volleyball championship.

Led by coach Michael Brown, the team went undefeated throughout the regular season and the playoffs.

Brown said the unlikely achievement was due to "playing together and complimenting each others' strengths and weaknesses," as well as wanting a repeat in this, the players' final season as a team.

"Repeating was definitely on our minds," Brown said. "This was our last hurrah so we said 'let's finish strong with back-to-back wins.' Everybody showed up and played well."

He said that after the [U.S. Marine Corps Detachment] beat them in the finals in 2005, the team brought its "A-game" to every match after that.



Photo by DONNA COYNE, MWR
Team members from the 22d Chemical Battalion volleyball team pose with the championship trophy after winning the intramural volleyball post championship. From left front row, Ellen Gilg, Pedro Rodriguez and April Miller; from left back row, Vince Cepero, Patrick Terrell, coach Michael Brown, Richard Davidson and Timothy Trimberger.

Brown thanked his first sergeant, Richard Davidson and battalion Command Sgt. Major Ellen Gilg, who he called "a great addition to the team and a great cheerleader on and off the court."

reason for the team's success.

Honorable mention went to Pedro Rodriguez, crediting them with packing a "one-two punch" and being the main

"My hat's off to HHC 16th because they were the only team that gave us trouble," Brown said. "I think they were the best team after us, but this was our year, and it was fantastic."

TBI

From page 4

said. We don't talk about sports mild TBI," she said.

Helmick said that the center's staff rigorously gathers statistics on how patients fare after TBIs. The military population may have an advantage.

"We know from the literature that the older you are and the more medical conditions that you have before you're injured, the more this will impact recovery and ultimate outcome," she said. "Because the military is young with very few medical conditions, they have better outcomes than the general population. You're already starting physically sound and fit."

Helmick recalled a recent e-mail she received from a severely brain injured patient she took care of five years ago.

"He's in college now, taking courses, and he drives. He's got some minor deficits, but he's recovered nicely," she said.

The difference between TBI and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is a question the center addresses frequently.

"It's impossible not to be changed by having gone to war," Warden said. "Parsing out what parts of this are a stress reaction and what parts have to do with a previous concussion is difficult even in someone who does not have a full diagnosis."

Both TBIs and PTSD share common symptoms -- difficulty concentrating, memory problems, irritability -- but each has its own set as well. With a TBI, symptoms can also include headache, dizziness and balance problems. Someone with PTSD may have nightmares, re-experience traumatic events and have anxiety symptoms that get worse. A person with PTSD -- unlike a patient with a TBI -- remembers what happened.

"There's no amnesia," Helmick said. "That's why they get stressed. They process everything."

Another difference between the two is when the diagnosis is made. With a TBI, diagnosis is usually made when the person is first injured.

"You have some kind of change in your neurological status right there at the time of injury. It's likely that you've sustained a concussion," Helmick said. "Diagnosis is made at time of injury. Symptoms may or may not follow. They usually do."

The good news, Helmick said, is the treatment for both a TBI and PTSD is the same. "You're not going to do any harm if you rest them, give them adequate sleep, a good diet and have support," she said. "Those are the three top things you do for both. In a sense we can get stuck in this, but the bottom line in taking care of the patient is that treatment ... is very similar."

Community Notes

THURSDAY

JULY 19 SUNSET CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$12 for children under 10 years of age. The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats and upper Chesapeake Bay. Reservations can be made with credit card. Call for departure times.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

CAREER FAIR FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND SPOUSES

The military-to-civilian firm RecruitMilitary will present a Career Fair for military veterans and spouses, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the ballroom at Patapsco Arena, located on 3301 Annapolis Road, Baltimore.

Admission is free.

The event is open to veterans who already have civilian work experience, men and women who are transitioning from active duty to

civilian life, members of the National Guard and reserves and military spouses.

More than 30 veteran-friendly organizations will conduct one-on-one interviews with job seekers. Organizations include corporate employers, law-enforcement agencies and other government employers, educational institutions, veterans service agencies and veterans associations.

For more information, call Drew Myers, president, RecruitMilitary, LLC, 513-683-5020 or e-mail drew@recruitmilitary.com.

FRIDAY

JULY 20 MARTHA'S TREASURE HUNTERS

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a cruise, 9 to 11 a.m., for children only, ages 6 to 10. Tickets cost \$15 per child and reservations are required. Children become pirates of the Bay aboard the skipjack Martha Lewis in search of sunken treasure. Children will read a map and help navigate the boat to find the treasure.

For more information or to make reservations, call 410-939-4708.

SATURDAY

JULY 21 LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a narrated Lighthouse cruise, noon to 3 p.m., aboard the Skipjack Martha Lewis in Havre de Grace. Tickets cost \$30 per person and include a bag lunch, beverage and water views of Concord Point, Turkey Point and Fishing Battery Island.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

CAPT. JOHN SMITH MARKS 400TH IN PORT DEPOSIT

Port Deposit will recognize the 400th anniversary of Capt. John Smith's arrival, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Events include the arrival of Smith's recreated shallop (open boat); reenactment groups in a timeline history event spanning 1608 through 1946; Native American displays; period exhibitors; vendors; demonstrations; entertainers; genealogical assistance; artisan dis-

plays and sales and more. Parking will be available at House #2 of the Water Witch Volunteer Fire Company on Jacob Tome Highway, which will be clearly marked. Shuttle bus service will be provided to a Center Street bus stop and a Marina Park bus stop throughout the day.

For more information, call Erika Quesenbery, 443-553-3137 or visit Web site www.portdepositcc.org.

SUNDAY

JULY 22 SUNSET CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$12 for children under 10 years of age. The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats and upper Chesapeake Bay. Reservations can be made with credit card. Call for departure times.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

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

APG offers basic, experienced rider's courses

The Basic Rider Course and Experienced Rider Course is free and mandatory for any Soldier, civilian, retiree, Family members or contractor who wants to operate a motorcycle on post. Basic and Experienced Rider Courses are scheduled through the next several months at building 5442, Range at Susquehanna and Havre de Grace Street, across from building 3073.

BRC, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., is designed for the novice rider who holds a learner's permit and has his/her own motorcycle. Dates are: July 31; Aug. 1; Sept. 5 and 6; Oct. 2 and 3; Nov. 12 and 20

ERC, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., is designed for the licensed motorcyclist who wants to sharpen his/her riding skills and has thier own motorcycle. The motorcyclist should have at least been riding one season. Dates are: Aug. 2 and 3; Sept. 7; Oct. 2, 3, 4 and 5; Nov. 1, 2 and 23

For more information or to register, call H. Mike Allen, Installation Safety Division, 410-306-1081 or e-mail mike.allen@apg.army.mil.

Cooling stations available in Harford County

The Harford County Department of Community Services has made several senior centers available as cooling stations for Harford County residents in need of relief from the heat. The centers are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Centers include the Havre de Grace Activity Center located on Lewis Lane, Havre de Grace; the Edgewood Senior Center located on Gateway Drive, Edgewood; the Aberdeen Senior Center located on Franklin Street, Aberdeen; and the McFaul Activity Center located on MacPhail Road, Bel Air. In the event it is needed, arrangements will be made to extend the hours.

Outreach staff from the Harford County Office on Aging will contact frail and infirmed clients to monitor their comfort and safety throughout extraordinarily high temperature weather events.

For more information, call 410-638-3354.

POST SHORTS

and the APG South ACS, E-4630. For more information, call 410-278-4372.

Volunteers needed for research studies on hearing

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory is seeking normal hearing volunteers between the ages of 18 to 35 to participate in listening studies. Listening time is up to five hours. Each listener will be paid \$20 per hour for their time. Qualified listeners can participate in one or more studies.

Interested volunteers should contact Martha Dennison, 410-278-5918, or e-mail mjdennis@arl.army.mil.

RAB holds meeting

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., July 26, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Bush River 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.

CBRN Defense Course offered at Fort Bragg

The Fort Bragg CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) Defense School unit CBRN Defense Course is open to all military personnel regardless of rank. The target audience is personnel that currently or will fill the positions of unit CBRN officer, noncommissioned officer or enlisted alternate.

Units are encouraged to send additional Soldiers.

The course consists of classroom instruction and hands-on training in chemical and biological agent identification, toxic industrial chemicals and toxic industrial materials identification, CS chamber operations, CBRN room operation, reporting, and equipment operation. A new addition to the course is a scenario-driven CBRN exercise.

To attain slots contact the CBRN Defense School, 910-396-8991/9143 (DSN 236) or a unit schools NCO. For more information, visit the CBRN Defense School Web site, <https://airborneteam.bragg.army.mil/cbrn>.

Registration closes three days before course start date.

Course number	Course dates
07-07	July 26 to Aug. 10
08-07	Sept. 7 to 21

Chaplaincy celebrates anniversary July 27

There will be a Chaplain Corps 232nd Anniversary Celebration at the Main Post Chapel, 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

July 27. For more information, call the chapel, 410-278-4333.

Hunter safety classes offered

Hunter Safety classes will be held Aug. 6, 8 and 11. Registration deadline is July 27.

There is no fee for this class, however donations are accepted. Hunter Safety classes fill quickly, so early registration is recommended.

An independent study class will be offered Sept. 16 for students ages 16 and older. Students will receive a student manual and work book on Aug. 19. Students must complete the workbooks by Sept. 16.

For more information or to register, students should call Nita Snyder, 410-671-9070 and leave a message with a name and phone number.

An instructor will contact students to verify their space in the class and obtain additional registration information. Directions to the classroom will be provided at that time.

Army bands perform locally

The U.S. Army Field Band, Fort Meade, will perform 7 p.m., Aug. 15, at the Humbert Band Shell, Hickory Avenue, Bel Air. For more information, call the band at 301-677-5349.

The 389th Army Jazz Band (AMC's Own) will perform 7 p.m., July 31, in Festival Park, Aberdeen. In the event of inclement weather, the performance will be held in Aberdeen Middle

School's multi-purpose room.

Veterinary Clinic closings

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will be closed July 31 for end of month inventory. For more information, contact the VTF, 410-278-3922/4604.

Top of the Bay price increase

Top of the Bay has redesigned its lunch program. The sandwich and salad bar remains the same. The hot buffet is self-serve and includes a side salad, fruit punch or iced tea, rolls and butter and costs \$7.95 per person. Carry out buffets cost \$8.25 per person.

Improving English skills

The Army Community Service Relocation Assistance Program will offer free English for Speakers of Other Languages classes for those needing a refresher course or for those with little English speaking and writing skills.

Classes will be held every Friday, 6 to 8 p.m., through Aug. 24 at ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road.

The course is open to military personnel, APG civilians, retirees, and adult Family members age 18 and older.

The class is also designed to provide foreign-born adults an opportunity to improve their English com-

prehension, speaking, reading, and writing skills. An instructor from Harford Community College will teach the class. Attendees must attend all eight sessions. Seating is limited, so register early.

For more information or to register, call the Relocation Readiness Office, 410-278-7474/2453.

Adult American citizenship class

The Army Community Service Relocation Assistance Program will offer a free class for military personnel or Family members, preparing to take the test for American Citizenship given by Immigration and Naturalization.

The class will be held every Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon, through Aug. 25 at ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road.

The class covers citizenship procedures, explain how to fill out the application, basic American history and the Constitution.

Attendees must attend all eight sessions to receive a Harford Community College certificate for attending a Citizenship Class. Seating is limited, so register early.

For more information or to register, call the Relocation Assistance Program, 410-278-2464/7572

WIC clinic meets weekly

The Army Community Service, in conjunction with the Harford County Health Department, operates a Women, Infants and Children Clinic every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in building 2754. Eligible mothers and children can receive health screenings by a registered nurse, formula and food vouchers, nutrition counseling, breast feeding instruction and more. For more information, call Diana Hayes, Parents and Children Together coordinator, 410-278-4372.

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



BOSS News

"Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers"

All Soldiers are welcome to attend events. For more information on BOSS events, call Sgt. Eugenia Richards, 410-278-2709.

White water rafting/paintball trip
BOSS is going on a trip to the Poconos for white water rafting and Skirmish Paintball Aug. 18. The one-day trip costs \$54.95. Price includes all safety equipment for both rafting and paintball. Lunch can either be purchased or brought from home. Transportation will be provided. For serious inquires, a \$15 deposit is required to hold the date and the rest of the payment is due two weeks prior to trip. The deadline is Aug. 3.

Community service
The quarterly trip to visit the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, D.C., is Aug. 15. The starting point is at the APG North Recreation Center at 6:30 a.m. The group will return no later than 5 p.m.



MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Visit the King Tutankhamun Museum exhibit

Spend a day with MWR in Philadelphia, Aug. 18, beginning with a visit to see King Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs Exhibit at

the Franklin Institute Science Museum. Other historical areas of interest in the beautiful city of Philadelphia will be available.

Cost of the trip is \$60 per person and includes bus transportation and admission to the

King Tut exhibit.

For more information or to make reservations, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Do-it-yourself New York City tours

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 July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20 or Nov. 17. Cost of the trip is \$40 per person. The bus

will depart 8:25 a.m. and will return 10:30 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_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Disney High School Musical on ice

Tickets are available for Disney High School Musical: The Ice Tour, Nov. 2 through 4, at the 1st Mariner Arena, Baltimore.

For more information, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-

278-4011/4907, or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

Beat the summer heat with 'Links to Lanes'

Nine holes of golf, two games of bowling with a bowling center meal ticket costs \$20 per player during July and August. Participation in APG North and South must be completed within the same week. The golf portion may be played Monday through Friday after 4:30 p.m. The bowling portion may be completed anytime the lanes are available.

For more information on this special, call 410-278-9452 or 410-278-4041.

Aberdeen Ironbirds tickets

Tickets are available for the following Aberdeen Ironbirds games:

- Staten Island Yankees (Military Appreciation Night), 7:05 p.m., Aug. 16,
- Oneonta Tigers, 7:05 p.m., Sept. 6

Tickets cost \$13.50 per person and include a complimentary Ironbirds hat.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call MWR Leisure Travel Services at APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil or visit Web site www.apgmwr.com.

Tickets available for Jolly Roger Amusement Parks

Yo-ho-ho mateys! MWR Leisure Travel Services offers passes for the Jolly Roger Amusements in Ocean City, Md. Passes are available for Jolly Roger Amusement Park, Jolly Roger at the Pier, Speedworld, Splash Mountain Waterpark, Jungle Golf and Treasure Golf. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

For more information or to purchase passes, call 410-278-4011/4907.

SCHOOL LIAISON

Sports physicals for 2007-2008 interscholastic athletics

Students from any school may take advantage of these athletic physical services. All physical exams require an appointment. No walk-ins will be taken.

Call the school hosting the physical to get an appointment with the doctors providing the physicals.

July 19 Harford Primary Care, call 410-638-8900 4 p.m., Dr. McClure, \$20 cash only	6 to 9 p.m., Dr. Litwak, \$20 cash or check
Aug. 6 North Harford High School, call 410-638-3650 4 to 7 p.m., Dr. Sparks, \$20 cash only	Aug. 9 Havre de Grace High School, call 410-939-6600 3:45 p.m., Dr. McClure, \$20 cash only
Aug. 6 Fallston High School, call 410-638-4120 6 to 9 p.m., Dr. Litwak, \$20 cash or check	Aug. 9 Bel Air High School, call 410-638-4600 3:30 p.m., Dr. Sparks, \$20 cash
Aug. 7 Edgewood High School, call 410-612-1500 3:30 p.m., Dr. McClure, \$20 cash only	Aug. 13 Aberdeen High School, call 410-273-5500
Aug. 8 Fallston High School, call 410-638-4120	3:30 p.m., Dr. McClure, \$20 cash only

For more information on any APG school related information, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857 or e-mail eileen.campbell@apg.army.mil.

Maryland Renaissance Festival tickets available at MWR

Discount tickets for the Maryland Renaissance Festival cost \$14 for adults ages 16 and older and \$7.75 for children ages 7 to 15. Prices at the gate cost \$18 for adults and \$8 for children.

The festival is open weekends, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Aug. 25 through Oct. 21. The Maryland Renaissance Festival is located on 1801 Crownsville Road in Annapolis. Handicapped parking is available next to the main gate. When entering the parking lot, follow the signs to the designated handicapped parking area.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4907/4011.

Upcoming golf events

Senior Golf Special

Ruggles Golf Course is offering a Senior Golf Special to golfers age 55 or older: play Monday through Thursday until 2:30 p.m. for \$33. This special may not be used with any other discounts. Tee time registration is recommended.

For more information, call 410-278-4794 or e-mail david.correll@us.army.mil.

Summer Scramble

Ruggles Golf Course will hold a Summer Scramble open to all golfers, July 21 with an 8 a.m. start. Entry fee costs \$30 for annual patrons, \$45 for authorized patrons with a value card, and \$55 for guests and includes range balls, cart, hot dog with soda on turn, appetizers with beverages and prizes.

For more information or to register, call 410-278-4794, or visit the Pro Shop at Ruggles.

ACS upcoming events

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

The ACS Employment Readiness Program in partnership with Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union and HCC SBDC will sponsor 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.

Seminars will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 19, Oct. 31 and Nov. 14.

For more information or to RSVP, call 410-278-9669.

Job vs. Career classes for teens, ages 13 through 18, will be held 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Aug. 15, at ACS Classroom building 2754.

Today's workforce offers many challenges and rewards. Teens will learn the benefit of a career over a job. The ACS Employment program and Tina Mike, APGFCU Education director, will help guide teens through the job and career preparation process so they can achieve their own employment success.

Topics include:

- what employers are looking for
- how to apply for a job
- tips on resume writing
- interviewing experience

For more information or to enroll teens in this free class, call Marilyn Howard, ACS Employment Readiness, 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.

Meetings will be held Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5.

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

The Parenting Lunchbox will be held 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., on Tuesdays through July 31, for parents of children from ages birth to 16. This workshop is for parents, whether experiencing difficulties or simply searching for a fresh approach to effectively communicate with children.

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, starting Aug. 7. "Let's Talk About It," provides emotional support, begins the healing process, and shares experiences and resources.

The Relocation Program will hold a Home Buying and Selling Seminar class, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 18, at the Aberdeen North Recreation Center, building 3326.

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.

ACS will celebrate its 42nd Birthday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 26, at the Maryland Boulevard picnic area.

Another Dynamic Huggable Delightful Child is a six-week series planned for August. The focus will be to educate parents on ADHD, behavior modification and communication techniques.

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

Sports

Registering for Challenger Soccer Camp

Challenger Sports' British soccer camps are the largest camps in the U.S. The camp includes individual skill development, professional British coaching staff, programs for all levels, daily world cup style tournament, free soccer ball, free T-shirt and a bonus British

soccer Jersey if youths register 45 days before the camp.

Soccer Camp is scheduled for July 23 through 27.

Camp for ages 4 and 5 will be held 8:30 to 10 a.m., and costs \$72 per child; ages 6 through 14 will be held 10:10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and costs \$102 per child. Camp will be held at the Youth soccer field (APG

North) on Bayside Drive.

For registration, go to www.challengersports.com and click on find a camp, click on type of camp (British Soccer camps) type in the APG zip code (21005) and click on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

For more information, call Bill Kegley, 410-306-2297.

Army Entertainment and Aberdeen Proving Ground MWR present



MONTGOMERY GENTRY

with Special Guests
Saturday, September 29

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Tickets On Sale Soon.
Watch for Early Bird
Ticket Specials...
Show starts at 7 p.m.

For details go to
www.apgmwr.com



No endorsement by the U.S. Army is implied.

APG 90th Anniversary: Dawning of a new era in APG's 90-year history

90th Anniversary Celebration Calendar of Events

(All dates are subject to change and weather conditions.)

- July**
 - 26, Army Community Service Birthday Picnic, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- September**
 - 29, Army Concert Tour
- November**
 - 10, APG 90th Anniversary Gala, Ripken Stadium, 7 to 11 p.m. Ticket sales begin Aug. 21. Exhibitors welcome. For more information, call 410-278-1150.
- December**
 - 5, ACS Christmas Party/Tree Lighting Ceremony, 410-278-4372, 6 to 9 p.m.
- 15, Military Family Movie, ACS, 6 to 9 p.m., 410-278-4372.

(Editor's note: This calendar will be updated as necessary. New or changed items will appear in italic bold print.)

Edgewood Acquisition Center announces purchase request submission schedule

RDECOMAC

The Edgewood Contracting Division of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Acquisition Center has established its Fiscal Year 2007 Cutoff Dates for Submission of Purchase Requests.

Early customer support in identifying and submitting purchase requests by or before the dates shown below greatly enhances the ability of the Edgewood Contracting Division to meet customer needs.

Early planning and coordination remain the keys to a successful year-end.

Organizations are advised to submit their year-end acquisition requirements as early as is reasonable to minimize the possibility of funds going unobligated at year end.

FY 2007 Schedule

- Noncommercial Items More than \$100,000 - July 1
- Noncommercial Items More than \$100,000 (Competitive) - too late this year - need minimum of six months; however, there may be exceptions. Requests will be considered on an individual basis.
- Noncommercial Items between

\$2,500 and \$100,000 - Aug. 1 (Competitive and Noncompetitive)

- Commercial Items between \$100,000 and \$5M (Competitive and Noncompetitive) - Aug. 1
- Short of Award over \$2,500 - action brought up to point of award pending receipt of funds - July 1
- Commercial Items Under \$100,000 (Competitive and Noncompetitive) - Sept. 1
- Task Orders/Delivery Orders between \$2,500 and \$100,000 (Competitive and Noncompetitive) - Sept. 1
- Task Orders/Delivery Orders between \$100,000 and \$1 mil (Competitive and Noncompetitive) - Aug. 15
- Task Orders/Delivery Orders more than \$1 million (Competitive and Noncompetitive) - July 1

Requests received after the scheduled dates will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will require approval by the director, Edgewood Contracting Division.

For more information, call Gwen Johnson, 410-436-3352, or Carol Edmead, 410-436-4388.

Blood

From front page

Have had a baby six weeks prior to donation.

Receive shots for allergies.

Have finished taking antibiotics prior to donation.

People cannot donate blood if they have:

Had hepatitis (a liver infection) on or after age 11.

Have AIDS or have tested positive for HIV (the AIDS virus).

Taken clotting factor concentrates for a bleeding disorder.

Taken illegal drugs-even once-by needle.

Have a sore throat, fever, flu, or productive cough on the day of the blood drive.

Are pregnant.

Or, if in the last 12 months, have had a tattoo.

Been treated for syphilis or gonorrhea.

Been in close contact with someone who had viral hepatitis.

Had sex with a prostitute.

As a woman, had sex with a man who has had sex with another man, even once.

Had sex with someone who has taken

illegal drugs by needle, taken clotting factor concentrates, or has tested positive for AIDS.

Or, if since 1977 have ever taken drugs or money in exchange for sex.

Are a male who has had sex with another male, even once.

International travel and/or residency restrictions apply to those who:

Have spent a total time that adds up to three months in the United Kingdom from Jan. 1, 1980, through Dec. 31, 1996.

Have had a blood transfusion in any country(ies) in the United Kingdom from Jan. 1, 1980, to present.

Were a member of the of the U.S. military, a civilian military employee, or a Family member of the U.S. military who spent a total time of six months on or associated with a military base in any of the following areas during the specified time frames:

From 1980 through 1990 - Belgium, the Netherlands (Holland), or Germany.

From 1980 through 1996 - Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Italy or Greece.

Have spent a total time that adds up to five years or more in any combination of country(ies) in Europe from Jan. 1, 1980 to present.



Channel 21 features Pentagon Channel programming

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

Monday

ATS Reloaded, 8 a.m.

Fit for Duty, 10 a.m.

Around the Services, 12:30 p.m.

State Department Briefing, 2:30 p.m.

Around the Services, 5:30 p.m.

Freedom Journal Iraq, 7:45 p.m.

Tuesday

RECON, 9 a.m.

Fit for Duty, 10 a.m.

Around the Services, 12:30 p.m.

Army Newswatch, 3 p.m.

Around the Services, 5:30 p.m.

Freedom Journal Iraq, 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday

Army Newswatch, 9:30 a.m.

Fit for Duty, 10 a.m.

Around the Services, 12:30 p.m.

American Veteran, 1 p.m.

Around the Services, 5:30 p.m.

Freedom Journal Iraq, 7:45 p.m.

Thursday

Army Newswatch, 9 a.m.

Fit for Duty, 10 a.m.

Around the Services, 12:30 p.m.

Focus on the Force, 1 p.m.

Army Newswatch, 3 p.m.

Around the Services, 5:30 p.m.

Freedom Journal Iraq, 7:45 p.m.

Friday

Focus on the Force, 9 a.m.

Fit for Duty, 10 a.m.

Around the Services, 12:30 p.m.

Army Newswatch, 3 p.m.

Around the Services, 5:30 p.m.

Freedom Journal Iraq, 7:45 p.m.

Saturday

Tales of Glory, 9 a.m.

Fit for Duty, 10 a.m.

Around the Services, 12 p.m.

Battleground, 3:30 p.m.

ATS Reloaded, 5:30 p.m.

RECON, 8 p.m.

Sunday

Around the Services, 8 a.m.

Fit for Duty, 10 a.m.

Army Newswatch, 12 p.m.

Today's Military, 1 p.m.

The Face Behind the File, 6 p.m.

Army Newswatch - Bi-weekly report on the men and women of the Army.

ATS Reloaded - Revisits the best of the week and keeps viewers up to date on important information. Includes stories that have touched service members stationed around the world.

Battleground - Features historic films from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Fit for Duty - Takes viewers through a high-energy 30-minute workout led by service members.

Focus on the Force - A production dedicated to telling personal stories of military men and woman supporting the missions of each Unified Combatant Command.

Freedom Journal Iraq - Focuses

on military missions, operations and U.S. military forces in Iraq.

RECON - Provides an in-depth look on a variety of topics from real world operations, missions, military events/history and other subjects highlighting the accomplishments of U.S. military men and women.

The Face Behind the File - A series of special programs profiling veterans and their stories.

Today's Military - Profiles the careers of men and women in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, including their respective Reserve and National Guard formations.

Tales of Glory - A report from Multi-National Division-North and Task Force Lightning in northern Iraq.



Your health is KUSAHC's goal



TRICARE Service Center assists beneficiaries

Story by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

Located on the first floor of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, the TRICARE Service Center is available to beneficiaries who have questions or issues with their insurance.

TRICARE is separated into three healthcare regions: North, South and West. TRICARE North's system is operated by military health contractor Health Net Federal Services. Health Net Federal Services also facilitates the TSC.

When beneficiaries first arrive at the TSC, the first point of contact is Ann Marie Bonomolo, the liaison between TRICARE, the military treatment facility and network pro-

viders. Her duties include reviewing the patients' situations and advising them on what steps are needed to resolve their issues. Bonomolo also helps beneficiaries with claims' resolutions and portability issues.

The center also has a community representative. Etoi Upchurch-Jones is the primary point of contact for new providers to the TRICARE network. She educates providers by maintaining critical business and working relationships helping to ensure quality health care is provided to all beneficiaries.

Upchurch-Jones monitors any gaps in coverage if providers are no longer participating and conducts contract negotiations. She also accompanies the health benefits advisor for

briefings throughout APG, targeting audiences such as new Soldier units.

Jackie Daniels is the clear, legible report advocate with Health Net for TRICARE. She receives and coordinates medical reports and consults from outside providers to make sure all patient data is available for follow-up care with the beneficiary's medical care.

Enrollments, referrals and authorizations for surgeries can all be completed at the center, said Margaret Gibson, manager of the TSC.

Gibson recommends that beneficiaries visit the Health Net Federal Services Web site, <https://www.hnfs.net>, in addition to using the TSC.

"It is important that beneficiaries read up on their benefits before they

get sick," Gibson said. "They need to be knowledgeable before a crisis happens."

The Web site also offers valuable services such as viewing and paying bills online and providing information on diseases such as diabetes, she said.

One of the main reasons beneficiaries come to the center is because they have questions about explanations of benefits statements they receive after an appointment that breaks down the insurance benefits that were covered or didn't cover.

"Some people do not know how to read the explanations and don't understand that they are not bills," Gibson said.

Gibson said some retirees aren't

aware they have TRICARE because they use other types of insurance.

When retirees have other health insurance, those companies are billed first.

"If their other insurance doesn't pay in full, TRICARE picks up the remainder of the bill to their doctor," Gibson said.

Concerns regarding dental benefits or outside pharmacy coverage such as Express Scripts can be answered by the health benefits advisor at KUSAHC. Health Net does not manage these benefits.

For more information about benefits, call Health Net Customer Service 1-877-874-TRICARE (1-877-874-2273) or visit <https://www.hnfs.net>.

TRICARE beneficiaries can skip copay during over-the-counter test

DoD Military Health System

TRICARE beneficiaries already experience low copayments on convenient mail order prescription drugs, now there is something even better—free.

A two-year test authorized by the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act allows TRICARE beneficiaries to substitute over-the-counter versions of certain prescription drugs without a copayment. For now, the test includes the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy only.

Plans call for expansion to retail network pharmacies once program details are ironed out.

"The drugs included in this test initially are among the most widely prescribed—those treating gastro-intestinal disorders," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity.

Known as "proton pump inhibitors," this class of medication includes the prescription drugs Nexium, Prevacid, Aciphex, Protonix, Zegerid and Prilosec.

Under the test, beneficiaries receiving a prescription proton pump inhibitor are eligible to receive Prilosec OTC, the only proton pump inhibitor available over the counter. The Department of Defense Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee found there is no significant clinical difference between Prilosec OTC and its prescription-only counterparts.

"By requesting that their doctors prescribe the OTC version, beneficiaries can

save money on their copay, and there is the additional potential to save the government money as well," Granger said. OTCs are generally less expensive—by as much as 400 percent in some cases.

Once the OTC test works its way to retail pharmacies, beneficiaries should not expect to walk into any drug store and get OTC products for free at the register, caution TRICARE officials. Beneficiaries will still have to get a prescription from their doctor for the OTC drugs.

Beneficiaries already taking the selected prescription proton pump inhibitors through the mail order pharmacy will get a letter telling them about the new program whenever they order medications that qualify them to participate in the OTC test project.

TRICARE encourages beneficiaries who haven't used the mail order pharmacy in the past but are taking medications included in the test, to get information on how to sign up at <http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy/tmop.cfm>.

"Through the mail order program, initially beneficiaries can get up to a ninety-day supply and have it delivered right to their mailbox. Remember, it's free so it saves money for beneficiaries and potential savings to the government may help sustain the TRICARE benefit," Granger said.

Medication classes under consideration for future testing include topical anti-fungals and non-sedating antihistamines.

TriWest Resource Center provides online support to Guard, Reserve

Story by
ELIZABETH PERRINE
DoD Military Health System

TriWest Healthcare Alliance announced the launch of an online Guard and Reserve resource center, designed specifically for members of the National Guard and Reserve June 9.

Due to their often-times distant proximity to military bases, many National Guard and Reserve members and their Families are not able to access the resources and support networks built into an active duty military community. For that reason, TriWest's Guard and Reserve Resource Center, found at www.triwest.com, was developed with a virtual library of information for West Region TRICARE beneficiaries serving in the National Guard and Reserve, their Families and leadership.

"We understand the unique challenges faced by members of the Guard and Reserve and their Families," said TriWest President and CEO David J. McIntyre Jr. "Just trying to understand how TRICARE works or what to do throughout the stages of mobilization, deployment and reintegration can be challenging, especially if you don't know where to go for answers, or even what questions to ask."

The resource center offers the following resources for members of the Guard and Reserve and their Families:

- Streaming video outlining TRICARE benefits for Guard and Reserve members
- Guard and Reserve-specific news and updates, including TRICARE On Point, a quarterly e-newsletter
- Post-deployment support and behavioral health resources for the entire Family
- Links to more than 80 support agencies and programs
- Resources for military leadership

"Our nation's citizen warriors have been required to play a crucial role in the nation's defense," McIntyre said. "Creating a convenient resource that's accessible whenever they need it is another way TriWest can support these brave men and women and their Families."

TRICARE is the health care program for the military, administered by TriWest Healthcare Alliance throughout its 21-state West Region. For more information about the Guard and Reserve Resource Center or TRICARE benefits, visit www.triwest.com.

Commentary: Who were those Marines at the National Naval Medical Center?

Story by
S. WARD CASCHELLS
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs

Recently, I visited the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and noticed a number of Marines whose passion for their work in assisting patients and Family members was unmistakable.

As a former Army guy, and now as a purple-suiter, I was curious to find out who they were.

They are part of the next generation of the Marine For Life program for injured support - the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

The Wounded Warrior Regiment provides support and assistance under a unity of command to ill, injured, or wounded Marines, Sailors who serve with Marines, and their Family members. Many Marines who support the regiment have been combat wounded themselves and are dedicating their lives to helping fellow Marines and Sailors through their recovery process.

Marine Commandant Gen. James Conway announced the new regiment on April 1. His vision is to provide outreach to all Marines who have served in the Global War on Terror since 2001.

As a future goal, the regiment intends to call on these

Marines individually each month and ask them if they need any healthcare assistance or other services.

Today, the regiment's focus is on the approximately 547 Marines who are on inpatient and outpatient status at Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs facilities across the country.

Wounded, injured, or ill Marines and Sailors need a lot of resources and referrals, and sometimes, non-medical care can be just as important to the healing process as medical care. To prevent gaps in benefits, Marine Liaisons of the Wounded Warrior Regiment do such advance work as checking ahead to see if VA facilities are ready to receive patients - and if they are not, liaisons can extend a Marine's active service.

Marine liaisons manage patients using a single database that tracks them through their recovery and return to duty or to their hometowns. When patients and Families return home, the support continues with 135 reserve helpers who serve as Hometown Links throughout the United States. These helpers have already registered 7,500 employers and 2,000 mentors who are ready to embrace ill, injured, or

wounded Marines and sailors, and help them find meaningful employment.

The regiment ensures patients accountability in the management of non-medical phases of transition, according to Wounded Warrior Regiment Commander Col. Gregory Boyle.

While that is true, I would add that knowing the Wounded Warrior Regiment is there is as comforting to patients as a physician's touch. The new paradigm of care combines medical and non-medical case management and services, and most important, puts the patient and Family at the center.

After learning about the newly established Wounded Warrior Regiment, I now understand the passion and caring I saw that day at NNMC. It came from somewhere deep within those Marine Liaisons. They wore their shared values on their hearts.

One of my goals with this column is to inspire shared values in military health system staff. We have core values, and I will be writing about them soon. In the meantime, think about how you can find your inner passion to achieve job satisfaction. I have no doubt your passion will be linked to the shared values I propose.

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.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

James Addas	Shelia Davison (benign failure)	Sandra Miller
Karen Blades	paroxysmal positional vertigo)	Karen Moss
Sarah Boats	Marc Devecchio	Gloria Morales
William Bond	Wayne L. Doyel	Trudie Norman
Sandra Boyd	Dawn Folck	Cindy Orwig
Debra Bonsall (daughter has brain tumor)	Cathleen Holmes	Lester Pilcher
Jeanie Bowman	David Harding	Judith Rembold
Teresa Bridges	Ira Hines	Barbara Seker
Linda Brown	Carolyn Johnson	Donna Sexton
Rogelio Chevannes	Reginald Johnson	Joyce Spies
Brett Christy	Beverly King (caring for husband)	Alison Tichenor
George Colletta	Cathryn Kropp	Elizabeth Usmari
James Craven	Joyce Mauldin	Louis Winters
Ruth Cunningham	Louis McCarter (kidney failure)	Sharon Woods
John Daigle		Charles Young



Story by
LORI YERDON
U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

With 81 percent of all U.S. households owning a charcoal, electric or gas grill, practicing a little common sense and adhering to safe barbecuing practices will reduce the chance of serious injury while grilling.

According to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, 60 percent of grill owners use their grills year-round; with 47 percent grilling at least one to two times per week during peak summer months.

The most popular grilling

occasions are Fourth of July, Memorial Day and Labor Day, but an increasing number of grillers report using their grills during the winter, too.

"Being responsible with grills, especially around children, is important," said Deidra Darsa, public relations & media relations manager for HPBA. "Always read the owners manual before using your grill, and follow specific usage, assembly and safety procedures."

Everyone must realize that when people are grilling, they're working with fire, and there's always a chance of get-

ting burned, added Darsa.

In May, while trying to light a grill, a Soldier was burned on his face and arms. He used an excessive amount of lighter fluid on some charcoal then closed the grill cover. When the Soldier attempted to light the grill a few moments later, it exploded resulting in first and second degree burns.

"Grilling-related accidents send numerous individuals to emergency rooms each year," said Col. John Campbell, command surgeon for the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center. "By understanding safe techniques and precautions, the number

can be drastically reduced."

The HPBA offers the following safety tips to help keep grilling a safe and enjoyable experience:

- Use barbecue grills outdoors, only. Never barbecue in a trailer, tent, house, garage or any enclosed area because carbon monoxide may accumulate and cause a fatal injury.
- Ensure that grills are in an open area that is away from buildings, overhead combustible surfaces, dry leaves or brush.
- Use barbecue utensils with long handles, forks, tongs, etc., to avoid burns and splatters.
- Wear clothing that does not

have hanging shirt tails, frills, or apron strings that can catch fire, and use flame-retardant mitts when adjusting hot vents.

- Use baking soda to control a grease fire and have a fire extinguisher handy.
- Never leave a grill unattended once lit.
- Use grill pads or splatter mats, which are naturally heat resistant, usually made of lightweight composite cement or plastic, and will protect decks or patios from any grease that misses the drip pan.
- Don't allow anyone to conduct activity near the grill when in use or immediate-

ly following its use. The grill body remains hot up to an hour after being used.

• Never attempt to move a hot grill. It's easy to stumble or drop it.

"Soldiers, their Family members and friends should always exercise caution when grilling," Campbell said. "Don't let your safety guard down...enjoy, but stay safe."

Visit www.hpba.org and www.fsis.usda.gov for more information on grilling safety. For more information on the 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign, visit <https://crc.army.mil>.

Grilling—keep it safe, enjoyable

Country-singing Soldier wins APG Talent Search



Courtesy of MIKE BROWN, DOIM VISD
Corey Sims sings "Help Pour Out the Rain" on his way to winning first place in the APG Talent Search held June 23.

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

A Soldier from Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion charmed the judges and the audience with a soothing country ballad then sauntered away with the first place prize during the Aberdeen Proving Ground Talent Search held at the APG North Recreation Center June 23.

Pvt. Corey Sims sang Buddy Jewell's "Help Pour Out the Rain," a touching song about a little girl asking her father if she can help the angels help pour out the rain when she gets to heaven.

Second and third place went to civilians Justin Brown and Ashley Ramirez. Brown wowed the audience with two gospel rap songs he wrote himself and Ramirez took third with her rendition of "When it Rains" by Gretchen Wilson.

The first-place prize was \$250 while the second and third place prizes were \$175 and \$100, respectively.

Earlene Allen, MWR special events coordinator, thanked the show's emcee, 1st Sgt. James Bell, "who did a wonderful job," and Mike Brown

and Mike Miller from the Directorate of Information Management "for providing their usual professional sound and video support."

"Also we want to thank the Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union for sponsoring the event with the prize money," Allen said.

"Another talent search is being planned for January 2008 so all the singers and musicians out there can start getting ready now," she added.

The show's judges were Debi Horne, editor of the *APG News*, Charles Heinsohn, Morale, Welfare and Recreation programmer; Staff Sgt. Venus Sims, Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion; and Spc. Amanda Justice, 389th Army Band (AMC's Own). Guest judges included Joe Leavell, director of Army Festival of the Performing Arts and Army Entertainment consultants Darryl Allara and Ken Freehill.

Corey Sims

A singer-songwriter from Indiana who's been singing all his life, Sims said his musical inspirations are George Strait and Clay Walker.

He said he was surprised by the

audience's enthusiastic reaction to his song as well as by his first-place finish.

"I was shocked," he said. "There were so many talented people performing that night. The honor was just being in it [the show]."

Married with two children, Sims said that most of the singing he does these days is for his family.

"But there's nothing like a live audience," he said. "It was wonderful."

Justin Brown

Brown is a government contractor and technical support specialist with SoBran Inc. The 22-year old has been writing and performing his personal style of gospel rap for three years.

"I started through my church," Brown said, adding that he is looking for other opportunities and would like to pursue a recording career. Brown performed two original songs, "Holy Ghost Party" and "Right Now."

Ashley Ramirez

A contractor with the installation cleaning services, Ramirez said that she is a Karaoke enthusiast and that singing is as much a part of her as



Justin Brown raps his original gospel song "The Holy Ghost Party" to win second place.



Singing Gretchen Wilson's "When it Rains" earns Ashley Ramirez a third-place finish.

breathing.

"I've been singing ever since I was able to use my voice," Ramirez said, adding that she started out in church and "then it went from there."

She said she sings Karaoke regularly in a local club and plans to participate in a national championship in Orlando in August.

She said she enjoyed participating in the talent search.

"It was so much fun. When I see people get up and dance or sing along

I just love it," she said. "I absolutely cannot imagine myself living without music."

The rest of the performers included Sgt. Sabachthony Queen and Pvts. Eric Joachim-Rehorst, Crystal-lyne Matthews, Paul Kazelis, Cosby Carter, Derek Roberson, Jeremy Simmons, Brandon Coke, Brook Parker and Kevin Boyd. Civilian performers included Cynthia Hairston and Courtney White.

Storm damages more than trees at APG



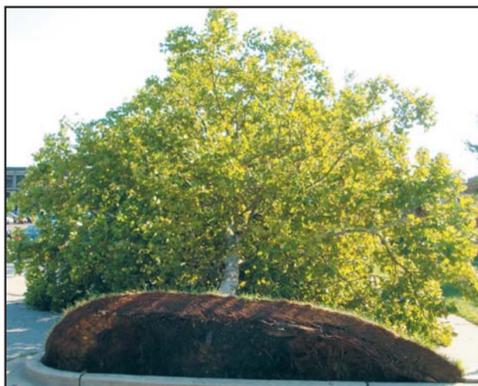
Photos by JEFFREY DEAL, DIO
Daryll Nunez, with the Directorate of Installation Operations conservation branch saws a downed tree that fell at Quarters 81.



This shed had been anchored in a parking lot about one block away from its final resting place.



Only the mast of a sunken sailboat is visible about 100 yards off shore near Woodpecker Point.



The storm also uprooted this large tree near the Chesapeake Challenge amusement park.



Several trees were downed in the Plumb Point Loop housing area but with no apparent damage to any quarters.



Luckily this tree fell between two housing units leaving the houses, road and power lines undamaged.



Patty Jepsen revisits the APG Thrift Shop, the site of her bargain purchase—a Picasso print worth more than \$8,000.

Thrift Shop bargain yields valuable artwork

Story and photo by
MARGUERITE TOWSON
APG News

An old saying goes “one man’s junk is another man’s treasure,” and at least one piece of ‘junk’ turned into unexpected treasure for one lucky shopper at the APG Thrift Shop.

A piece of artwork that sold for \$1 turned out to be a valuable Picasso print titled “Petit Fleurs” that appraised at \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Patty Jepsen was shopping at the Thrift Store in September 2006 when she strolled into one of the back rooms and looked at some of the paintings and pictures. One particular piece of artwork caught her eye.

“I recognized the picture because I’m an artist and have taken art classes. But I didn’t put two and two together that it was a Picasso,” she said. “The print was sitting in a corner inside a broken glass frame that was dusty and dirty. I asked what the price of the print was and was told I could have it for \$1.”

Jepsen realized she may have a valuable print when she removed the broken frame and noticed a sticker on the back of the artwork stamped with the year “1958” and “New York.”

“I did some research and found out that after Picasso made original oil paintings, he would have signings at a New York Gallery where he would sell prints of the original oil paintings,” Jepsen said.

Last October, Jepsen traveled to California to visit her brother and happened to enter an art gallery in Beverly Hills.

“Inside the gallery, many Picasso prints similar to the kind I owned, were displayed on the walls,”

she said. “They were selling for \$6,000 and up. So I decided to have the artwork appraised when the Antique Road Show visited Elkton.”

The appraisers from the Road Show told Jepsen that the print was worth between \$8,000 to \$10,000. According to Jepsen, the Elkton appraisers said they had never seen anything that valuable.

“The appraisers advised me that I should go to New York City to see a reputable art appraiser and that would be official proof of the Picasso’s value,” she said.

Call it someone else’s junk or cash in the attic, shoppers never know what they will find in a thrift/consignment shop.

The Thrift Shop, located in building 2458, sells furniture, jewelry, dishes, shoes, clothing, books, children’s toys, DVDs, television sets, nick knacks and sometimes Picasso prints. Racks of jeans of all sizes, dresses, shirts, skirts, coats and sweaters in good condition also are available.

The Thrift Shop is currently holding a \$1 Bag Sale during regular business hours through August. Sale items are mainly men’s, women’s and children’s clothing.

All the money goes back into the military community. A total of \$1,000 in phone cards was donated in 2005 and 2006 for Soldiers in Iraq. Money is also donated to the VA Medical Center at Perry Point.

The Thrift Shop hours of operation are Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, call 410-272-8572 during business hours.