



Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Dec. 5 is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



Military Family Movie tonight

Army Community Service presents Military Family Movie Night, 6 p.m., Nov. 29, at the Post Theatre, building 3245, free admission to see "Ratatouille" (animated).

Remy is a young rat in the French countryside who arrives in Paris, only to find out that his cooking idol is dead. When he makes an unusual alliance with a restaurant's new garbage boy, the culinary and personal adventures begin despite Remy's Family's skepticism and the rat-hating world of humans.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, 410-278-9669.

RAB meeting tonight

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Nov. 29, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on performance-based contracts. 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.

Give the gift of life - blood drive Friday

Support the troops by donating blood. The U.S. Army Research Laboratory will sponsor an Armed Services Blood Program blood drive, noon to 5 p.m., Nov. 30, at the Aberdeen North Recreation Center, building 3326. The blood drive is open to everyone.

For more information, call Patty Howell, 410-278-5217 or visit Web site www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

CFC reaches toward goal

The APG Combined Federal Campaign has reached \$206,983 of its \$400,000

See **SHORTS**, page 12

Issue Highlights

- Page 2...** Veterans' Voices
- Pages 3...** Employee suggestion adopted
- Pages 4...** APG News introduces new column: Traffic safety
- Page 5...** AAFES News
- Page 6...** Chapel News
- Page 7...** KUSAHC Health Notes
- Page 8...** MWR
- Page 12...** Community Notes
- Page 13...** Off-post providers offer options
- Page 14...** DIO team managing APG forests

AMC Band receives Iraq Campaign streamer

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

In recognition of its 2003 deployment to Iraq on a morale and spirit-lifting mission during the first holiday season after the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band was awarded an Iraq Campaign Streamer during a ceremony at the band's practice facility in building 2184 Nov. 21.

Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frederick Ellwein, AMC band commander, presided over the ceremony.

Robinson said the streamer "represents devotion to duty" and that he was honored to present it to the organization for its contribution to "the quality of life" for deployed troops.

"It's amazing how something as simple as music can have such a dramatic impact,"

Robinson said. "I can't thank you enough for the difference you make everyday to our fellows in arms, and I know you will continue to uphold the position you represent to our nation's armed forces."

Ellwein shared a "brief historical sketch" of the band's history and the Army Band Mission and said that the award is "a milestone that few Army bands achieve."

"The reason is that [the band] holds the distinction of being the only Army command band to deploy," Ellwein said.

He said he was proud to represent Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert Larsen, the band's commander during its 2003 to 2004 deployment.

"This award is testament to his vision; his vision executed with professionalism and dedication by the Soldiers and noncommissioned officers assigned to the band during the stated time period," Ellwein said.

He added that two remaining members of the band, Sgts. Levi Graves and Jose-



Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO LAB
Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, left, affixes the Iraq Campaign streamer to the AMC Band guidon as the band's commander, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frederick Ellwein, looks on. Holding the guidon is Spc. Samuel Yoo, AMC Soldier of the Year.

phine Diglia, were "present with us today."

"Without a visionary leader or professional NCOs to make the vision a reality, we wouldn't be gathered

here today," Ellwein said.

"As we prepare to celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving, it is an appropriate moment for me to give thanks for the professionals that make

a commander's vision a reality."

Robinson presented Ellwein with the band's revised Lineage and Honors certificate.

See **AMC BAND**, page 3

APG leaders serve service members, their Families for Thanksgiving

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

In a show of support for Warfighters and their Families, Aberdeen Proving Ground leaders saw to it that 100 Families had a bountiful and memorable Thanksgiving.

The project started with donations from the parishioners of the APG chapels, according to APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez.

"The chapels collected more than ten-thousand dollars in donations, and we were able to give [one hundred dollar] checks to one-hundred

Families," Rodriguez said. "Along with [twenty-five dollar] gift certificates from the Post Commissary, some free hams and coupons, they were able to stretch that money out even more," he said.

The Commissary set aside turkeys at \$.45 a pound for the Families and opened at 6 a.m. the Monday before Thanksgiving just for the Family members to shop.

In addition, members of the APG Sergeants Major Association served as baggers, Rodriguez said.

"The community gave phenomenal support," he said. "We couldn't have done it without everyone work-

ing together."

He said that recipients included Soldiers, Marines and Airmen serving on the installation and that the incentive was to make them feel "special."

"We wanted them to know that this was not a hand out but a helping hand as thanks for what they [service members and their Families] do every day," he said.

He said that because the project was so successful, he'd like to see it become an annual event at Thanksgiving.

He called the entire event 'heartwarming' and thanked the leaders, parishioners, Commissary staff mem-

bers who volunteered to open early for the Families, and Garrison and chapel staff members who contributed, particularly Sgt. 1st Class Irether Gaines of the chapel staff who organized the chapel donations.

"She organized the chapel; I organized the installation," he said. "We had every sergeant major that was in town, some retired sergeants major as well as several first sergeants packing grocery bags for service members," Rodriguez said. "They even pushed the carts to the cars and loaded them for them. I'll never forget the looks on those service members' faces."



Visitors to the 90th Anniversary Open House, held Nov. 9 at the Post Theater, board buses that were waiting outside to transport them to tours of Aberdeen Proving Ground organizations.

APG hosts 90th Anniversary Open House for current, past workers

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

In celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Aberdeen Proving Ground, post organizations held an Open House for current and past Soldiers and employees and their Family members with a reception at the Post Theater Nov. 9.

Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, hosted the gathering at the theater, which included a premier of the APG 90th Anniversary video and an APG 2012 briefing which was broadcast televised at the Edgewood Conference Center in APG South.

Weissman said the purpose of the gathering was twofold: in preparation for the 90th Anniversary Gala to be held the following evening at Ripken Stadium and because APG commander, Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, wanted to invite those who worked at APG to come back and see how the organizations have changed.

He said that buses would be provided to transport visitors to their organizations and invited all those not signed up for tours to visit Fanshaw Field to view APG Garrison assets which included equipment and vehicles from the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment's Fire

and Emergency Services Division; the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security and the Directorate of Installation Operations.

Noting that the celebration also fell on Veteran's Day weekend, Weissman thanked the veterans in attendance.

"We appreciate your service to our nation," he said.

Prior to the showing of the video, Weissman told attendees that the film was "a first draft" and that it covers APG history from its earliest days.

"We have an exciting future ahead of us as well," he said, adding that after the film he would talk about APG 2012, "and how we plan on bringing APG into the future."

The video included narration, photographs and film footage of APG beginning with when its lands were first annexed for purchase during World War I and moved through the establishment of the munitions testing mission and the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools. It showed how APG had established ballistics, research and testing missions by the 1930s and how those missions increased tenfold during World War II as women took over jobs originally held by men, resulting in the Women Ordnance Workers or WOWs.

"When the war ended in 1945, APG assumed the peacetime role of research and development,"

See **OPEN HOUSE**, page 11

APG needs input

APG Army Family Action Plan Conference XXII, Feb. 26 to 28

ACS

Input is needed from Soldiers, civilian employees, Family members, retirees and youths for the APG Army Family Action Plan Conference XXII, Feb. 26 to 28.

The Army Family Action Plan processes reviews, prioritizes, and resolves issues solicited from the community. Members of the community submit issues and participate in prioritizing them at the annual AFAP Conference. Issues beyond the scope of the local level are sent to the Regional AFAP Conference.

Issues may be in any area affecting members of the military community. An issue is any area an individual feels is important to well-being.

Suggestions may be submitted one of four ways: through the APG Web site, <http://www.arp.army.mil>; e-mail to Marilyn.E.Howard@us.army.mil; fax, 410-278-9685 or mail to AFAP, Army Community Service, Building 2754, Room 203, APG, MD 21005-5001, by Feb. 8.

For more information, call Marilyn

Howard, 410-278-9669 or e-mail Marilyn.E.Howard@us.army.mil.

Some suggested functions for consideration in developing issues

- Medical benefits to include general medical issues, TRICARE and dental.
- Wounded Warriors Program
- Veterinary services
- Army Substance Abuse Prevention
- Housing office to include Family housing, barracks, and Army Lodging
- Transportation to include POV shipments and household goods.
- Unit Family readiness groups, unit Family care plan
- Unit sponsorship
- Unit deployment and mobilization
- Military pay, allowances and entitlements
- Stabilization
- Casualty assistance
- Life insurance
- Retirement dislocation
- Montgomery GI Bill
- Army Education Center to include

See **AFAP**, page 14

CFC: Donating to youth charities

Story by **NANCY SEWELL**
CFC Office

Members of Daisy Troop #851, Brownie Troop #1503, Junior Girl Scout Troop #2709 and Cadet Troop #881 awoke early on Nov. 24, earlier than they would for school.

Their goal for that day, with help from parents and troop leaders, was to bake more than 100 loaves of pumpkin bread and give one to every police officer and firefighter in the city of Aberdeen for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The "Spread the Bread" project was part of the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland community service. Each girl helped with all phases of the bread from greasing pans, using the mixer and filling pans with pumpkin batter.

It was, as one mother put it, "four hours of organized chaos."

The Girl Scouts meet with Trudie Norman at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church and at her home in Aberdeen. Most of them have been selling Girl Scout cookies with the ultimate goal of a trip to Savannah, Ga., to celebrate the



90th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts.

Throughout the year, the Scouts will learn from each other as they explore other cultures, participate in community projects, and earn badges and patches in many areas.

A donation to Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (CFC #83032) stays in the area and helps girls ages 5 to 17.

The counterpart to the Girl Scouts is the Boy Scouts of America, Inc., Baltimore Area Council (CFC #33972). The Boy Scouts also teaches values and educational activities to boys for self-reliance, leadership and patriotism.

Another local program which helps local children is the Aberdeen Proving Ground Child and Youth Services (CFC #41787). This program runs the Youth

See **CFC**, page 6



Veterans' Voices

20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) supports local Veterans Day celebrations

Story by
JONI PLATT
U.S. Army 20th Support Command (CBRNE)

Soldiers from the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives) took some time away from the office to support local community events honoring Veterans Day throughout the area.

Col. Raymond T. Van Pelt, deputy commanding officer of the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE), spoke at the Veterans Day assembly at Roye-Williams Elementary School in Aberdeen Nov. 11.

"Veterans Day is the day we thank and honor those who served in the military," Van Pelt said. "Whether they are currently serving, or served in the past, whether they volunteered or were drafted into the military, this day is set aside as a special 'thank you.'"

Approximately 600 kindergarten through fifth grade students were in attendance at the assembly. They listened and asked questions as Van Pelt spoke about Veterans Day and what it means to this nation.

"I enjoy talking to students because, especially in times of war, we need to get the Army message out and teach our children to develop an appreciation for the sacrifices made by our Soldiers and veterans for the nation," Van Pelt said. "This is true for all schools, but especially for schools like Roye-Williams Elementary where sixty percent of the students are connected to the military."

The school has been asking Soldiers from APG to speak at Veterans Day assemblies for the past few years. Andrea J. Johns, school counselor at Roye-Williams, started this tradition.

"I organized the first Veterans Day assembly four years ago at our school partially because so many of our students have active duty parents, or parents who work at APG," Johns said.

All Soldiers participating in the event were presented with thank you cards and Veterans Day cards made by the students which the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) displayed in its new headquarters building in APG South.

The 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) also works with other local schools in the Aberdeen, Churchville and Baltimore area supporting events for students and schools.

In another recent event, 2nd Lt. Sarah M. Wood, from the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) Intelligence and Security section, volunteered to be part of a Career Day at George Washington Elementary School in Baltimore City Nov. 14.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with doctors, lawyers and teachers, she spoke to the students about the various careers available to Soldiers in the Army.

Col. Leslie A. Smith, assistant chief of staff for Operations, 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE), was the keynote speaker on Nov. 11 at the Maryland Korean War Memorial ceremony hosted by Maryland Chapter #33 of the Korean War Veterans Association.

"I believe leaders of all types, but especially Army leaders, have a responsibility to tell our story so that those who do not regularly interact with service members know what we stand for," Smith said.

Speaking at this event had a special meaning for Smith. He was stationed in Korea for two years with his Family and his father fought in the Korean War.

"The uniform I wear today and many of you wore in your own time, sets us apart. It identifies us as people who truly understand what a pledge to duty, honor and country means," Smith said in his speech. "We understand tragic losses as a result of war. We understand sacrifice. We understand the cost of peace. We understand the cost of freedom."

The Korean War has often been referred to as the "Forgotten War," historically overshadowed by World War II and the Vietnam War. More than 34,000 American service members lost their lives in three years during the war.

The Maryland Korean War Memorial located in Baltimore was dedicated in 1990 to the more



Photo courtesy of ROYE-WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Col. Raymond T. Van Pelt, 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE), receives a commemorative display of handprints of Roye-Williams' kindergarten students from Briagio Hawthorne, left and William St. Onge at the conclusion of the Veterans Day Assembly at the school Nov. 9.

than 500 Marylanders who died in the war. Smith concluded his speech by thanking the Soldiers and Veterans.

"Thank you for your service, thank you for your sacrifice, and thank you for all you have done and are doing for our nation," Smith said. "Whether it's Soldiers honored at small ceremonies,

entire towns participating in welcome home ceremonies or individual hand shakes and mumbled thanks from strangers in airports, rest assured our nation today supports its troops. Today and every day, the prayers of the American people are with those who wear our country's uniform and all of our veterans from every era."

All veterans honored in welcome home celebration



Photos by MATT BUTTON, AEGIS STAFF
Marine Corps veteran Daniel Donnelly, right, of Towson, offers a hand shake and sincere thank you to Army veteran Anthony Averella during a welcome home celebration sponsored by Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System Nov. 10. Averella served as a Soldier in Afghanistan from November 2003 through August 2004.

Story by
AMANDA BRENNER
Special contributor from The Aegis

Many local veterans and Family members turned out in honor of Veterans Day at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen Nov. 10 for a welcome home celebration hosted for the first time by the Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System.

Nearly 700 veterans registered for the event that honored those returning from military service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Those who have fought in the War on Terrorism were supported with the attendance of veterans of past wars, friends and Families.

Not only was this an opportunity to show gratitude for those who gave all, but also a chance to provide Maryland's returning military members with important information

about their VA benefits.

Booths were placed throughout the walkway of the stadium as representatives from the VA and community agencies were able to assist returning veterans.

The VA aids were stationed at the booths in efforts to teach them about health care, education and employment opportunities and benefits.

TRICARE provides information and opportunities concerning health support for those in the military, retirees and their Families.

Registered returning veterans and their Families were invited to enjoy free meals, games and had the opportunity to meet with players from the Baltimore Ravens and the Baltimore Blast.

Throughout the day, the sounds of local talents, Mr. Greengenes and

Blues Unchained, were offered to those in attendance.

Patricia Murray and her two children, Chelsea and Chris, of Rosedale, came out to show their support for those who have come back from the wars, but mostly to honor their husband and father, Sgt. Michael Murray.

Murray started his second tour in May and is currently serving in Iraq. Patricia Murray said her children like being around the veterans and military atmosphere because it makes them even more proud of their dad.

"I'm proud of him. He's a good guy. All of them are," she said.

Bob Lockman, 70, lives in Perryman and served in the Vietnam War. He said he came out to meet a friend at the event to show their appreciation for the veterans.

"When they come back, they should get some recognition. They really deserve it," he said.

Sandra Burnett was making good use of the various stations at the stadium. She said she is currently on medical hold and trying to get medical retirement benefits.

"This is great. This really makes me feel good that they recognize us," said Anthony Averella of Glen Burnie.

Averella served as a Soldier in Afghanistan from November 2003 through August 2004. During his time there, he contracted Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) which is a motor neuron disease.

In full uniform and decorated in several honoring pins, Averella sat in a wheelchair surrounded by friends, Family, VA representatives and even strangers who lined up to offer their gratitude for his sacrifices.

"It's a devastating disease with a two-year life expectancy but I'm progressing, and I'm just enjoying life," he said.

To help set the ambiance of military support, a Black Hawk utility helicopter flew in from Aberdeen Proving Ground and was available for the part of the day as a static display.

"It was a quick flight. I think it only took seven minutes to get here," said

maintenance test pilot Pat Fallon.

On board was Staff Sgt. Kelly Thomas of APG South who was the crew chief of the aircraft. The 28-year old has 10 years in the military and served in Iraq from 2005 to 2006.

"It feels good to be home," Thomas said. "After seeing how bad the conditions are over there, it's really good to be home."

Veteran Jack Mummert of Bel Air served two tours in Vietnam and said he spent all of his life in uniform as he also worked for the federal police upon his return home. The 63-year old said he wanted to come out for the event to honor not only the returning veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, but more importantly to honor those who have fallen.

"I just wish the guys I left in Vietnam could have come back [to witness] this. They would have really appreciated [it]," he said.



Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Kelly Thomas, left, gets a hand from Stephen Williams Sr. right, offering a poster to young Stephen Williams II.

APG News

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Installation adopts suggestion by APG employee

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News



An Aberdeen Proving Ground employee's suggestion that was recently adopted by the installation also could be adopted Army-wide.

Dennis Overbay, with the Construction Division of the Directorate of Installation Operations' Engineering and Construction Branch, suggested the use of an ice inhibitor after clearing post parking lots and sidewalks.

Overbay said he got the idea after researching a company in Maine that regularly tackles big ice storms and hazardous parking lots.

"I first suggested it fourteen or fifteen years ago but it was turned down because it was too difficult to obtain," Overbay said. "Today it's more available so they were more open to the suggestion."

He said the crew of about 55 contractors will begin using the compound, which is designed to keep ice from forming on cleared areas this winter.

Overbay's suggestion is called Geomelt 55 Anti-icing fluid and is environmentally preferable

because it does not contain any hazardous materials.

It is de-sugarized sugar beet molasses.

The sugar is extracted from the sugar beet for food grade products and Geomelt 55 is made out of the remaining pulp, carbohydrates and amino acids, according to Overbay.

The implementation of this suggestion will reduce labor and equipment costs by 50 percent.

The net savings for the installation will be about \$41,000 for the first year, Overbay said.

Overbay submitted his idea through the Army Suggestion Program on AKO. As with all suggestions, this was evaluated locally with final approval by the garrison commander. The suggestion was forwarded to the Department of the Army where it could be adopted Army-wide.

"The outcome proves the system works and that employees should not hesitate to make suggestions," said Marge Sexton, installation Army Suggestion Program coordinator.

The mission of the Army Suggestion Program is to

encourage Soldiers and civilians to submit ideas that increase the efficiency and productivity of the Army, improve morale by providing individuals with the opportunity to voluntarily take part in the improvement of operations and the quality of life within the Army.

"Overbay's suggestion is a great example of increased efficiency and improvement of operations," Sexton said.

All employees with ideas that could benefit their organization or the installation should submit their suggestion through the AKO Web-based U.S. Army Suggestion Program, <https://armysuggestions.army.mil>.

For more information about the Army Suggestion Program, contact Sexton, 410-278-0944 or e-mail marjorie.sexton@us.army.mil.

AMC Band

From front page

"This document constitutes the unit's birth certificate, its service record and its deed to organizational properties," explained Sgt. Steve Lah, the program's narrator. "The Lineage and Honors Certificate is a permanent official document prepared by the Force Structure and Unit History Branch of the U.S. Army Center of Military History. This certificate reflects the newly added Iraq Campaign Participation Streamer."

By order of the Secretary of the Army, the certificate was signed by Lt. Col. Sylvia A. Bennett, chief, Military Awards Branch.

The program closed with the singing of 'The Army Song' and 'Arsenal for the Brave,'

the AMC Song that was written by AMC Band members Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bauerle and Spc. Amanda Justice.

AMC Band

The AMC Band has deployed each year in support of the Warfighter in the Global War on Terrorism. The band has performed numerous

times throughout Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The unit's other awards are the Meritorious Unit Commendation, streamer embroidered Fort Monmouth, 1944 - 1945, and the Army Superior Unit Award, streamer embroidered 2004.

Traffic SafetySPEED
LIMIT
25

ONE WAY

Commentary: Drivers responsible for reporting injury, fatal accidents

By
JOSEPH L. DAVIS
DLES

(Editor's note: The Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security is introducing this new monthly column in APG News, intended to educate and brief the APG community on current and new traffic laws. Watch for this banner to indicate the column.)

The driver of a motor vehicle is required by the Maryland Transportation Article and APGR 190-5 to immediately report the collision to the police, whether operating a privately owned or government vehicle. The collision must be immediately reported.

I have observed a trend on APG. Accidents are being reported to supervisors first then the police.

The law does not state report the accident to your supervisor and then the police. I am aware of the reporting procedures on APG (which I'll cover in another article); however, the APG Police must be notified immediately.

Specifically, Title 20 of the Maryland Transportation Article states, "The driver of each vehicle involved in an accident that results in bodily injury to another person immediately shall stop the vehicle as close as possible to the scene of the accident, without obstructing traffic more than necessary."

This section also codifies a driver's responsibility if the accident involves the death of another person.

Just what is your immediate responsibility if you're involved in bodily injury or fatal accident? Section 20-104 of the Maryland Transportation Article states, "The driver of each

vehicle involved in an accident that results in bodily injury or death of any person or in damage to an attended vehicle or other attended property shall render reasonable assistance to any person injured in the accident and, if the person requests medical treatment or it is apparent that medical treatment is necessary, arrange for the transportation of the person to a physician, surgeon or hospital for medical treatment."

This section also requires the driver of each vehicle involved in an accident that results in bodily injury to or death of any person or in damage to an attended vehicle or other attended property shall give his name, his address, and the registration number of the vehicle he is driving and on request, exhibit his license to drive, if it is available, to any person injured in the accident and the driver, occupant of, or person attending any vehicle or other property damaged in the accident.

If a police officer is on the scene of the accident, then the driver of each vehicle is required to give the same information (described above) and upon request, exhibit his license to drive.

In the event a police officer is not present and none of the specified persons is in condition to receive the information to which the person otherwise would be entitled, the driver after stopping and rendering aid, immediately shall report the accident to the nearest office of an authorized police authority and provide information as outlined above.

The sections of the Maryland Transportation Article I've covered can be found in title 20 Vehicle Laws - Accidents and Accident Reports.

Next month I'll cover property damage accidents.

Be safe and look before you back up.

Commentary: 'Best Practices' will provide us consistency to defeat accidents

By
**COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
TOD L. GLIDEWELL**
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/
Safety Center

We ask our leaders to guide and mentor their Soldiers, including training them to be safe both on and off duty. Looking back on our accident statistics from fiscal 2007, we see some areas where our fatality numbers came down from the previous fiscal year.

Sadly, however, the overall fatality numbers increased—

that is an unsettling trend. The struggle against accidental fatalities—a threat that stalks our Soldiers whether in combat or at home station—is a never-ending battle.

So, how do we win this battle? What strategies will enable us, as leaders, to reduce these needless losses? I believe sharing of "Best Practices" is sometimes the best approach.

First, Best Practices are not new to many of our organizations.

What do I mean by Best

Practices? A Best Practice is a countermeasure put into place to eliminate, or used to mitigate, the risk of an accident. It can be as simple as setting out a "Wet Floor" sign, or as complex as requiring special skills or the collaboration of others. Best Practices offer the insight and suggestions of others who are dealing with similar hazards that many of us face. Unfortunately, sometimes they're slow to be disseminated from post to post and throughout our

See ACCIDENTS, page 11

AAFES NEWS

Click, find and save to beat the crowds this holiday season

AAFES

The Exchange Services are making it easier than ever to shop and save during this busy season with a host of online specials and deals through the Exchange Online Store at [aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), <http://www.usmc-mccs.org>; <http://www.navy-nex.com> and <http://www.cg-exchange.com>. "Cyber Monday," the Nov. 26 ceremonial kickoff of the online holiday shopping season, was the start of a full month of savings at the Exchange Online Store and the Exchange Mall.

Specific deals through Nov. 29 will include a 50 percent savings on an 11-

piece knife set with cutting board, great gift ideas for under \$50, as well as a variety of specials on wine accessories. The online specials will continue into December with a massive toy sale and book discounts, along with savings on games and puzzles. Dec. 7 through 13 highlights will include a 10 percent Dooney & Bourke coupon in addition to big savings on custom apparel from BetaDesigns, Christmas and wedding ideas from Personal Creations, as well as personal embroidered or screen printed military clothing from USPT Gear.

In addition to weekly specials, Exchange Online purchases will receive free standard shipping through Dec. 31. During

the week of Dec. 14, military shoppers will find exclusive savings on jewelry and toys, as well as a wide variety of additional specials. For last minute shoppers, the final days leading up to Christmas (Dec. 21 through 24) will offer great deals on fitness equipment and accessories, building materials, power tools, appliances, garden supplies and much more.

"New specials and promotions will be cycling in daily," said Chief Marketing Officer Richard Sheff. "With more than seventy three party sites in the Exchange Mall and tens of thousands of products in the Exchange Online Store, military shoppers will have lots of opportunities to find that perfect gift."

No name, no address, no problem—'Gifts from the Homefront' routes support to 'any service member'

AAFES

When issuing suggested holiday mailing deadlines for military care packages, the United States Postal Service made sure to highlight that "all packages and mail must be addressed to individual service members, as required by U.S. Department of Defense regulations," <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/XMAS07.swf>.

Since the DoD suspended mail addressed to "any service member" nearly six years ago, individuals and organizations back home, as well as troops deployed to the contingency theater, have devised a variety of cumbersome, and sometimes potentially dangerous, methods to circumvent security and transportation concerns that originally led to the cancellation of the program.

Noting the great lengths being taken, including posting the full name and rotation dates of Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors to the Internet or sending enough feminine and oral hygiene products to meet the needs of an entire battalion

to the attention of one person, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service began working to create a program that would allow any American to safely send support to "any service member."

The resulting "Gifts from the Homefront" program today makes it possible for anyone to leverage services and products already "on the ground" and available at military exchanges throughout Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom through lightweight gift certificates that can be routed to "any service member" without compromising safety or creating additional demands on the military postal system.

Some four years after the launch of "Gifts from the Homefront" in March 2003, the American public has sent 92,240 "BX/PX" gift certificates totaling nearly \$2 million.

"The outpouring of support has been very encouraging," said AAFES' Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton. "It's understandable as the effort is a win/win for all involved; the sender saves

money on postage and doesn't need a direct point of contact while the recipients can go into an exchange and redeem the gift certificate for exactly what they need."

"Gifts from the Homefront" can be sent to deployed troops by logging on to <http://www.aafes.org> or calling 877-770-4438. From there, the gift certificates are sent to individual service members (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to "any service member" through the Air Force Aid Society, American Red Cross, Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, Fisher House, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Operation Homefront, Operation Interdependence® or USO. "Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates can be redeemed at exchange facilities worldwide. Recent reports indicate troops shopping their contingency exchanges are reaching for movies, snacks, Military Exchange Global prepaid phone cards and more.

AAFES launches revamped 'Mission, News & More' page

AAFES

Who owns AAFES? What is the PX's return policy? Where does the exchange's "profit" go?

A couple of clicks through the "blogosphere" are all it takes to find a wealth of questions regarding the 112-year-old military command troops and their Families know as the Army & Air Force Exchange Service.

"When I see some of the concerns and misinformation posted online or sent through our comment program, I worry that the military community isn't getting the information it needs to know what AAFES is and why it is a critical part

of military Families' benefits," said AAFES' Chief of Corporate Communications Lt. Col. Dean Thurmond. "Seeing the same questions repeatedly made it clear that the organization had to do a better job of making information concerning benefits, structure and mission easier to find and understand."

To ensure authorized shoppers and the American public are up-to-date with policies and information concerning the Department of Defense's oldest and largest exchange service, AAFES has unveiled a revamped "Mission, News & More" <http://www.aafes.com/pa/default.asp> page at <http://www.aafes.com>.

Content rich and easy to navigate, the updated page contains the latest news, recalls and facts pertinent to AAFES, as well as a history overview, leadership bios, contact information, video clips and more.

"We gathered all of these tools and put them in front of the firewall to ensure anyone who wants to know more about the exchange can find it with just a few clicks of the mouse," Thurmond said. "Now, one stop is all it takes for current and future vendors, shoppers and associates to find accurate, up-to-date information concerning AAFES."

Anyone can access the new and improved "Mission, News

& More" page by clicking the red box on the top right hand side of the AAFES homepage at <http://www.aafes.com>.

AAFES to give away deluxe Disney Vacation

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has partnered with Disney watch maker Seiko Instruments to offer military Families an opportunity to experience the magic of a Disney vacation with an exclusive, military-only sweepstakes.

Now through Dec. 24, exchange shoppers can enter to win the "Disney Sweepstakes" at BX/PX locations worldwide. No purchase is necessary to enter and entrants do not have to be present to win.

The winner of the "Disney Sweepstakes" will receive a vacation for four, including five-day-four-night deluxe hotel accommodations, airfare from any city in the world and a four-day pass to a Disney World amusement park, all with an

estimated value of \$10,000.

"This Family-friendly giveaway is sure to ignite the imaginations of holiday shoppers who will be coming to the BX/PX over the next few months," said AAFES' Chief of Communication Lt. Col. Dean Thurmond. "Opportunities like this sweepstakes reaffirm AAFES' and its vendor partners' commitment to military Families."

The only requirement to enter is a military identification card authorizing contestants to shop at AAFES. See entry forms for complete details.

The "Disney Sweepstakes" drawing will take place February 2008. AAFES will award prizes within 30 days of the drawing.

Chapel News

Commentary: What is Advent? On waiting and watching

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

*"Be on guard! Be alert!
You do not know when the
time will come." Mark 13:32*

I was on a flight home after months of deployment. The plane was filled to capacity and all the military personnel on board sat back for a flight that would last roughly 36 hours.

After an hour into our flight, I noticed one particular Soldier who for the whole flight kept going to one particular window and looking out followed by a glance at his watch.

Every so often I would dose off for a nap and would awake only to find this same individual near that window followed by the same routine. In fact, to this day, I never knew whether he slept or not during that flight.

But then it occurred to me that there are two kinds of responses occurring in anticipation of our return home after a long year. While he was watching, I was only waiting.

Advent is the period just before Christmas. It invites us to a similar active response. Do we watch or merely wait for Christmas?

Advent calls us to take courage and allows us to hope in a truly faithful way. The Gospel of Mark 13:33, calls us to a vigilant watch. The key word is "watch." Watching brings more rewards than waiting.

Going back to the illustration above, that Soldier had the right idea as he was actively watching for his return home, whereas I was merely waiting.

In Advent, "watching" implies a readiness where waiting connotes something of a relaxed atmosphere. Waiting implies a sense of doubt that maybe we would be diverted to another conflict and never get home.

To make Advent a time for just admiration and pleasure seeking is wrong and superficial. To do so is like giving up on all the hopes and promises the Christ child comes to bring us at Christmas.

The core of the Christian faith is an active anticipation of the divine. It is a joyous time for celebration, but if the celebration of Christmas is over shadowed by its commercialism, then it just becomes a fable. We watch for the Christ of Christmas.

As the father has so promised us, he will so deliver us through the Christ child.

Therefore, Advent which begins the Christmas year, is

really a reminder to all believers that God has come into our world through the Christ child and also a reminder that we need to be on the alert for his appearance in our lives.

The joyous experience of his salvation for all people is like counting on someone who will always be with you.

That Soldier in the above illustration knew that his Family was there for him. He anticipated the passion and desire of his arrival to his Family much like what we anticipate the arrival of the Lord Christ.

We may be forgotten by the people and the things of this world, however we are not

abandoned.

Once again God has come to us and keeps coming. We are not on an endless and perhaps fruitless search. We are actively watching for the appearance of God in our world and in our individual lives.

During Advent, be an active watcher rather than a passive waiter. It is a season of vigil, during which Christians actively anticipate the coming of the Messiah. Just as the shepherds and the wisemen and all those who were finally lead to the manager, could declare "Blessed be the Lord, and glory to God in the highest and peace and good will toward men."

Holy Day worship services

An Ecumenical celebration will be held 5:30 p.m., Dec. 15, at the APG South Chapel. Events include supper, 5:30 p.m.; procession and caroling, 6:30 p.m.; Post Stable Nativity reading, 7 p.m.; and a hot chocolate social, 7:45 p.m.

APG North Chapel

Catholic

Dec. 2	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.
Dec. 7	Holy Day mass	6 p.m.
Dec. 9	Holy mass	11:45 a.m.
Dec. 16	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.
Dec. 23	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.
Dec. 24	Vigil mass	6 p.m.
Dec. 25	Christmas mass	8:45 a.m.
Dec. 30	Holy Family mass	6 p.m.
Dec. 31	Vigil mass	6 p.m.

Protestant

Dec. 2	Advent worship	10:15 a.m.
Dec. 9	Christmas cantata	10:15 a.m.
Dec. 16	Advent worship	10:15 a.m.
Dec. 23	Advent worship	10:15 a.m.
Dec. 30	Worship	10:15 a.m.

Gospel

Dec. 2	Worship	noon
Dec. 9	Worship	noon
Dec. 16	Worship	noon
Dec. 23	Christmas worship	noon
Dec. 25	No service	
Dec. 31	Worship	noon
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Watch night service	10 p.m.

APG South Chapel

Catholic

Dec. 1	Advent wreath social	6p.m.
Dec. 2	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 8	Holy Day mass	noon
Dec. 9	Advent mass	7p.m.

Dec. 16	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 23	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 25	Christmas mass	10:45 a.m.
Dec. 30	Holy Family mass	10:45 a.m.
Jan. 1	Holy Day mass	10:45 a.m.

Protestant

Dec. 2	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Dec. 9	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Dec. 16	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Dec. 23	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve candlelight service	8 p.m.
Dec. 30	Worship	9:15 a.m.

Jewish services

Hanukkah, Dec. 5 thru 12
Services held at Harford Jewish Center,
N. Earlton Road, Havre de Grace,
www.harfordjewishcenter.org



Songwriting contest for Soldiers

OSD

A songwriting contest will give Soldiers an opportunity to express themselves.

The Dallas Songwriters Association with assistance from the Office of the Secretary of Defense America Supports You Program presents Songs from the Soul Service songwriting contest through Dec. 31. The contest is open free of charge to amateur songwriters who are current U.S. military service personnel.

Participants may also submit original songs on behalf of an immediate Family member, fallen comrade, or a fallen comrade's immediate Family member.

Winning songs will be announced in spring

2008 and will be recognized with prize awards, a concert and inclusion on a compilation CD of the best songs.

All entries must be received no later than Dec. 31. Category winners will be notified by Feb. 15, 2008. Overall grand prize winners will be notified in May 2008.

Interview opportunities are available upon request by contacting William K. Brown, Ph.D., The Dallas Songwriters Association, 817-808-7469 or e-mail William@songs-soulservice.org; or Barbara McMillen, Dallas Songwriters Association, 214-750-0916, or e-mail info@dallasongwriters.org.

For more information or to download an entry form, visit www.songssoulservice.org/.

CFC

From front page

centers and Child Care centers on Aberdeen Proving Ground, and the quarters-based child care centers for children aged 6 weeks to 18 years.

Two other charities worth noting locally are the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland (CFC #90596) and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County (CFC #70005). Big Brothers and Sisters recruits, matches and supervises adult volunteers to help children who will benefit from the influence of a positive adult role model. The Boys and Girls Clubs especially benefits children from disadvantaged circumstances with help with homework, computer skills and special events.

These are just a few of the 3,000 charities available.

All civilians, military and contractors employed at Aberdeen Proving Ground are encouraged to fill out their pledge cards and become "A Beacon of Hope."

Visit
APG News
online at
www.apgnews.apg.army.mil



Your health is KUSAHC's goal



AIDS: Protect yourself, stop the pandemic

Story by
MAJ KIRSTEN ANKE
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion
and Preventive Medicine

On June 5, 1981, the first case of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome was reported. By 1984, the cause of this deadly syndrome was identified as human immunodeficiency virus.

During the past 26 years around the world, an estimated 65 million people have been infected, and an estimated 25 million people have died of AIDS, according to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization.

Think HIV and AIDS are "over there?" In the United States every year an estimated 40,000 people become infected with HIV. An estimated 1 million people live with HIV infection, including a small number of military service members. So far in

the United States, half a million people have died from HIV/AIDS.

Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day.
Identifying the difference between HIV, AIDS

HIV is human immunodeficiency virus. This is the virus that causes AIDS. AIDS is acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. When a person is infected with HIV, the body's defense (immune) system cannot fight off infections or diseases. This inability to fight may result in life-threatening health problems.

Transmission of HIV

HIV is passed from the blood, semen or vaginal secretions of an infected person to an uninfected person when these fluids come into contact with the uninfected person's thin mucous membranes. These membranes are found on body parts such as eyes, nose,



mouth, genitals or rectum. Women who are infected with HIV can pass the virus to their baby during pregnancy, delivery or when

breast-feeding. Transmission could also occur if individuals shared needles or syringes with infected individuals or if they received contaminated blood via an open cut or a transfusion.

HIV is not an airborne or food-borne virus. HIV does not survive well or live long outside of the body.

Protection from HIV

Choose not to have sexual intercourse, or choose to be with only one person who tested negative for HIV. Do not use intravenous drugs or share needles with anyone, and use latex condoms correctly with every sexual act.

Being tested for HIV

Speak with a health care provider about HIV and AIDS.

In the Army, HIV testing is mandatory. See Army Regulation 600-110, "Identification, Surveillance and

Administration of Personnel Infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus," for testing requirements for the active and reserve components.

To find the nearest HIV testing site, visit the National HIV Testing Resources Web site, <http://www.hivtest.org> or call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention toll-free 24 hours/day at 800-CDC-INFO (232-4636), 888-232-6348 (TTY), in English, or Spanish. Both of these resources are confidential.

For more resources and information, visit the CDC at www.cdc.gov; www.nih.gov, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS at www.unaids.org and the World Health Organization at www.who.int.

To review AR 600-110, visit the Army Publishing Directorate, www.apd.army.mil.

New Web site allows TRICARE beneficiaries to manage health care information from home

TRICARE

TRICARE Prime and Prime Remote beneficiaries in the United States including Hawaii and Alaska can enroll online with the new Beneficiary Web Enrollment.

"The new online system may be one of TRICARE's most convenient tools to date," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity. "Beneficiaries can manage some of their health care information from the comfort of home twenty four hours a day, seven days a week."

Prime and Prime Remote beneficiaries can log on to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/> to enroll, disenroll, choose primary care managers, transfer regions, update personal information, add other health care information and request enrollment cards. BWE allows standard beneficiaries to update personal information, add other health care information and enroll in Prime.

BWE's link to the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System allows beneficiaries to update their personal information for

both TRICARE and DEERS at the same time. Sponsors and Family members can access their TRICARE information by using their Common Access Card, Defense Finance and Accounting Service "myPay" Personal Identification Number or Family Member Account PIN.

Enrollments and PCM changes are pending until approved and approval may take up to six calendar days. Beneficiaries can log on to the site to view the status of their account anytime and can cancel pending enrollments and/or PCM changes within 48 hours of initiating the transaction.

To date, the US Family Health Plan, a TRICARE Prime option, is not available for enrollment on the BWE Web site. In addition to the new Web service, enrollment forms are still available at <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/Enrollment/WebEnrollment> to fill out and mail to a TRICARE regional office. Beneficiaries can also visit a TRICARE Service Center to enroll and get assistance with other health care needs.

New Military Health System Web site 'Connects the Docs' with interactive features

U.S. DoD Military Health System

If anyone has ever wanted to contact military medical leaders and tell them about a successful program implemented in their clinic or hospital or share important research, the new Military Health System Web site at <http://mhs.osd.mil> is just the place to do it.

The MHS has entered the progressive world of "Web 2.0" with a comprehensive Web site where military and civilian health care professionals can submit questions, share ideas and recognize peers – interactively.

Anyone who wants to keep up with what's happening in the Military Health System is welcome to share their input.

"We developed the Web site to go beyond being 'joint,' to being connected," said Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. S. Ward Casscells. "We've had meetings with a number of our partners, and we're excited about improving our own organization, just as we are excited about improving military health-care worldwide."

The new Web site includes a "blog" located

off of the main page where Casscells engages in an open discussion about military medicine. Readers can leave comments at the end of each daily entry.

"Pulse Check" asks questions about the Military Health System. The answers will be used to make improvements and inform others about decision-making processes. There are also areas for feedback to recognize people for making that "extra effort," or for visitors to let leadership know if they aren't getting the entire story.

Something to look forward to down the road: visitors will be asked for feedback in creating a Military Health System motto, logo and a theme song.

"We want to thank you for your medical professionalism on and off the battlefield," said Casscells in an e-mail blast to the MHS and other health industry professionals, both in and out of government. "Because of you, we are medically ready – and ready medically. With the MHS Web site we are committed to breaking down barriers and supporting creativity and innovation."

LAW

IRS has \$1.3 million in refund checks looking for a home in Maryland

IRS

The Internal Revenue Service is looking for 1,701 Maryland taxpayers who are due refund checks worth over \$1.3 million after those checks were returned as undeliverable.

The refund checks, averaging about \$812, can be claimed as soon as taxpayers update their addresses with the IRS. Some taxpayers have more than one check waiting.

"Taxpayers should not miss out on getting their money back," said IRS spokesman Jim Dupree. "The IRS makes it as easy as possible for taxpayers to update their addresses and claim their refunds."

The "Where's My Refund?" tool, <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96596,00.html>, on [IRS.gov](http://www.irs.gov) enables taxpayers to check the status of their refunds. A taxpayer must submit his or her Social Security number, filing status and amount of refund shown on their 2006 return. The tool will provide the status of their refund and in some cases provide instructions on how to resolve delivery problems.

Taxpayers can access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling 1-800-829-1954.

Most refunds

The number of undeliverable refunds each year is a relatively small portion of all refunds returned to taxpayers. So far in 2007, the IRS has processed nearly 105 million refunds, totaling about \$240 billion, either by mail or direct deposit.

Undeliverable refunds account for less than one-tenth of 1 percent of all refunds, or about one in a thousand.

A refund check is normally returned as undeliverable when a taxpayer moves without updating his or her address with either the U.S. Postal Service or the IRS.

Telephone tax refund

The list of Maryland taxpayers due undeliverable refunds this year rose about 6.3 percent from 1,599 last year. This increase is due in part to the Telephone Excise Tax Refund, <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=164032,00.html>. The refund is a one-time payment available on 2006 federal income tax returns. It was designed to return to taxpayers previously collected long-distance telephone taxes. Individuals, businesses and tax-exempt organizations are eligible to request it.

Updating an address

Refund checks are mailed to a taxpayer's last known address. Checks are returned to the IRS if a taxpayer moves without notifying the IRS or the U.S. Postal Service.

Taxpayers can update their addresses with the IRS on the "Where's My Refund?" feature. Also, taxpayers checking on a refund will be prompted to provide an updated address if there is an undelivered check outstanding within the last 12 months. Taxpayers checking on a refund over the phone will be given instructions on how to update their address.

A taxpayer can also ensure the IRS has his or her correct address by filing Form 8822. Change of Address <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822.pdf>. Download the form from [IRS.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or request it by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Those who do not have access to the Internet and think they may be missing a refund should first check their records or contact their tax preparer, then call the IRS toll-free assistance line,

1-800-829-1040, to update their address.

Direct deposit can stop lost refunds

Signing up for Direct Deposit can put an end to undelivered refunds, as well lost or stolen refund checks. Taxpayers

can receive refunds directly into personal checking or savings accounts. Direct Deposit is available for filers of both paper and electronic returns. Taxpayers can sign up for direct deposit on their tax form.



MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

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

Medieval Times Dinner and Tournaments offers "Kids Free" admittance tickets with each paid adult admission to customers who purchase adult admission tickets at on-base ITR and ITT offices for performances scheduled through Dec. 25. The offer is available at all Medieval Times Castles in North America. "Kids Free" tickets are only available for children 12 years of age or younger.

Families who want to book reservations should call MWR Leisure Travel Office, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Travel to New York City to see the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes.

- Dec. 1, 11:30 a.m. show cost \$173 each (orchestra seating); bus departs 7:10 a.m.
- Dec. 2, 11:30 a.m., show costs \$130; bus departs 7:10 a.m.
- Dec. 9, 5 p.m. show costs \$130.
- Dec. 14, 4 p.m. show costs

- \$130.
- Dec. 15, 5 p.m. show costs \$143.
- Dec. 16, 5 p.m. show costs \$130.

Seats are limited, register early. Cost includes charter bus transportation and a ticket for the show. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

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

Choice of shows at The Hippodrome Theater

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

Shows include:

- "Avenue Q," 2 p.m., Dec. 15
- "Cirque Dreams," 2 p.m., Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, 2008
- "High School Musical," 2 p.m., Feb. 23, 2008; and 8 p.m., Feb. 29, 2008
- "Camelot," 2 p.m., March 29, 2008
- "The Color Purple," 2 p.m., May 3, 2008; 2 p.m., May 10, 2008; and 6:30 p.m.,

May 11, 2008.

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

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

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

Christmas in New York

MWR has scheduled several trips to New York City – eight hours for sightseeing, shopping, watching a Broadway matinee, venturing into China Town and more. Trips will take place Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Cost is \$40 per person. The bus will depart 7:55 a.m. and return 10 p.m. Open to all DoD card holders.

For more information or to register, call or visit MWR Leisure Travel Services, APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR_Leisure.

Sports

Fall Aerobics classes at the APG North Fitness Center, building 320

Fee for individual classes is \$4 per session. For more information or to set up an aerobics class for a group, contact Jeff Pettway, 410-278-9725.

Barbara's step-weight aerobics, 20 sessions

Classes will be held 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, thru Dec. 20. Cost is \$44.

Joe's cardio pump, 20 sessions

Classes will be held 5 to 6 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, thru Dec. 19. Cost is \$44.

SCHOOL LIAISON

Harford County Public Schools Winter Concert schedule

- Dec. 3, 7 p.m., Aberdeen High School, chorus, orchestra
- Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Aberdeen High School, band
- Dec. 6, 9:15 a.m. and 7 p.m., Edgewood Elementary School, Beginner and Advanced Orchestra/Band and combined fourth and fifth grade chorus
- Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m., Meadowvale Elementary School, fourth grade chorus; 7:30 p.m., fifth grade band, chorus, orchestra
- Dec. 11, 2 and 7 p.m., Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School, fourth and fifth grade chorus, strings
- Dec. 11, 2 and 7 p.m., Havre de Grace

Elementary School, fourth and fifth grade chorus, orchestra

- Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Edgewood High School, percussion ensembles and concert band
- Dec. 12, 7 p.m., Havre de Grace High School, chorus and orchestra
- Dec. 13, 9:30 a.m., 1:30 and 6:30 p.m., Roye-Williams Elementary School, fourth and fifth grade band, chorus, orchestra
- Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Havre de Grace Middle School, Chorus, orchestra

(For the complete listing, click on 'Community Notes' on the side menu bar on the APG News Web site, www.apgnews.apg.army.mil.)

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

ACS upcoming events

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

Military Family Movie Night tonight
Army Community Service presents Military Family Movie Night, 6 p.m., Nov. 29, at the Post Theatre, building 3245, free admission to see Ratatouille (animated). Remy is a young rat in the French countryside who arrives in Paris, only to find out that his cooking idol is dead. When he makes an unusual alliance with a restaurant's new garbage boy, the culinary and personal adventures begin despite Remy's family's skepticism and the rat-hating world of humans.

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

During these stressful times, some military Families are experiencing financial difficulties and require additional assistance. Army Community Service works closely with these Families providing supportive services throughout the year.

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

For more information, call Arcelio V. Alleyne, ACS Financial Readiness Program manager, 410-278-2450/7572, fax, 410-278-9685 or e-mail, arcelio.alleyne@us.army.mil.

The ACS Employment Readiness Program in partnership with Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union and Harford Community College Small Business Development Center sponsors *Smart Start Your*

Business seminars. This free 90-minute orientation program provides an overview of the ways to start a business, the skills and duties of a successful entrepreneur and how to write a strategic business plan. Other services offered by the SBDC will also be discussed.

For more information, call 410-278-9669.
The Waiting Families Support Group is scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays, at ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road. This group is designed to provide resource information to assist spouses and Family members remaining behind while the military sponsor serves on unaccompanied tours, extended TDY or deployments.

A meeting will be held Dec. 5. For more information, call Marilyn Howard, ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road, 410-278-9669/7572.

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

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

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

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

Gift wrapping schedule through Dec. 24

November	Organization
29, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Company B, 16th Ordnance Bn
30, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Warrior Training Center/NCOA
December	Organization
1, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Catholic Youth of the Chapel
2, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Edgewood Youth Center
3, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	9th AML
4, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Company C, 16th Ordnance Bn
5, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	MRICD
6, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Audie Murphy Club
7, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.*	CBRNE (EA 20th SUPCOM)
8, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	HHC 16th Ordnance Bn
9, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Aberdeen Youth Center
10, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	KUSAHC
11, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	CBRNE (EA 20th SUPCOM)
12, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	ANCOA
13, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Chapel: Religious Education
14, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	MCSC
15, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Chapel: PWOC
16, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.	CSM Association
17, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Company B, 22nd Chem
18, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	BOSS
19, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Company B, 22nd Chem
20, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Catholic Women of the Chapel
21, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	BOSS
22, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	29th CAB
23, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	HHC USAG
24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	MRICD



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

Holiday golf sale at Ruggles

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

The golf sale is effective through Dec. 24 and includes 50 percent off of all Ashworth Outerwear and mock tees. Footjoy socks are on sale, 5 for \$10. Greg Norman Outerwear and mock tees are 20 percent off. Assorted men's short sleeved shirts are 25 percent off.

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

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



APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

Week of Nov. 26

- Special #1: Whole cheese pizza, three cookies and one pitcher of soda for \$14.50.
- Special #2: Two hot dogs, French fries, one cookie and soda for \$4.25.

Week of Dec. 3

- Special #1: Nine wing dings or wing zings, French fries, one cookie and soda for \$5.85.
- Special #2: Cheeseburger sub with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, French fries, one cookie and soda for \$6.95.

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



Open House

From front page

according to the film.

Appearing in the video is Dr. William F. Atwater, director of the Ordnance Museum, who described various ordnance milestones and Harry L. Reed, retired director of the former Ballistics Research Laboratory, who described the evolution of super computing that began with the ENIAC, which was first operated by BRL at APG.

"Today, the immense defense mission assumed by more than sixty tenant organizations establishes Aberdeen Proving Ground as a vital component to the defense of the nation," the film concluded.

Weissman called the video "a great representation of how we got where we are today."

The briefing included information about APG's current status and anticipated changes due to the Base Realignment and Closure initiative which will bring about 8,000 new employees and jobs to APG and the Enhanced Use Lease agreement that will result in new administrative and lab space in the Maryland Boulevard picnic area and new recreational facilities in the Shore Pool area.

Regarding environmental concerns as the installation undergoes these changes, Weissman said that the post's commitment to the environment will not change.

"Over the last twenty years APG is well known for its environmental stewardship," he said, adding that range sustainment is "a very big priority for us," and noting that, "APG enjoys one of the largest eagle populations on the Chesapeake."

He said that APG's current status includes a multi-faceted force protection mission that includes a Department of Defense accredited Police Academy; very balanced and diverse missions that include training, test and evaluation, research and development and acquisition missions, as well as an infrastructure of 14.7 million square feet of building space.

Weissman said that under BRAC the OC&S will move

to Fort Lee, Va., and the U.S. Army Environmental Command will move to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

APG will gain Team C4ISR from Fort Monmouth, N.J., as well as 400 personnel from the Army Test and Evaluation Command at Alexandria, Va., and others from the U.S. Army Research Institute at Fort Knox, K.Y.

"At the end of the day, BRAC will increase the research and development and test and evaluation missions at APG," Weissman said.

He said that "an incredible effort has to be made to care for those [incoming] organizations and that the timeline calls for changes to be complete by fiscal year 2011.

"Those changes will include improvements to the infrastructure, including roads and buildings," he said.

They include a new C4ISR campus where the OC&S complex stands today as well as several road projects in APG South.

He said he wanted listeners to understand that the transformation is not just about BRAC. Other factors include tenant's reorganization and growth, an evolving workforce and demographics; facility revitalization; and the growth in non-DoD customers as well as the Enhanced Use Lease.

"APG will transform at an aggressive rate thru 2012," Weissman said, adding that changes will include an increase in infrastructure support for information technology and will focus on quality of life, infrastructure and human services issues.

"[The Garrison] will be substantially enhancing its support of those who live and serve at APG," he said.

He said the Army Family Covenant signing program that was held the day before was indicative of the Army's commitment to the community.

"This is one initiative I'm pleased to support," he said. "We made our commitment last night. APG will continue to be critical to the Army and its Warfighters."

The rest of the day included tours of APG organizations, and lunch at Top of the Bay or the APG recreation centers with musical entertainment by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band.

Accident

From page 4

Army. For that reason, if you have Best Practices that work for your organization, send them to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. We will post them on our site and disseminate them through safety channels. I will keep the unit confidential if you wish. However, I hope through information sharing we can save a life. Here at the Combat Readiness/Safety Center we collect, store and analyze accidental loss data on fatalities for our

Army. We know our accidental losses, but what we can't tell you is how many lives we save. I believe the Best Practices program will provide us some measurement of success in saving Soldier's lives. We serve in one of the most noble and respected professions in our nation. Our ranks are tired, stretched and worn thin, but we must remain committed to our force, believing that even one preventable loss is too many. Through the sharing of intel and ideas, I'm confident we can defeat the enemy that stole 247 lives from our ranks last year.

Army Safe is Army Strong.

Best Practice examples

Topic: Motorcycle safety

Unit: 10th Mountain Division

Description: Individuals owning a motorcycle may ride their bikes in lieu of running in the division 4-mile run. Participants will lead the run and then, immediately following, participate in a 52-mile motorcycle ride to promote safety and esprit de corps.

Event will be followed by a barbecue.

Result/effectiveness: Event fostered an environment to promote motorcycle safety, education and mentorship through engaged leadership. The unit has seen a significant reduction in Class A through C accidents since the event took place.

Topic: Holiday safety brief

Unit: 96th Aviation Support Battalion

Description: At first formation of the day before the Christmas holiday exodus, the commander commanded "Fall In" and "Taps" played. At the completion of the music, he explained the Army typically loses several Soldiers during the holiday season. Then he explained that he did not want to return from the holidays to hear that music.

Result/effectiveness: The unit did not suffer a single loss during the Christmas holiday period. Drawback: The technique may trigger uncomfortable memories or post-traumatic stress disorder in some Soldiers.

Correction

In the Nov. 21 issue of the *APG News*, an exhibit by the Multimedia Visual Information Services Center was incorrectly identified as a Shingo Prize winner, which it was not. The *APG News* regrets the error.

Community Notes

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 1 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Mt. Ararat Masonic Lodge #44 located on 136 East Gordon Street, Bel Air, will host Breakfast With Santa, 8 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under and includes a gift from Santa, candy and door prizes. Photos with Santa cost \$3. Tickets are available in advance or at the door.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-420-1002.

HIBERNATION WALK

Who is awake, who is asleep, and who has migrated to warmer weather? Discover the answers while taking a walk in the woods. This free program will be held 1 to 2:30 p.m. and is for all ages. Registration is required.

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

HAWAIIAN LUAU

American Legion Edgewood Post 17, located on 415 Edgewood Road, will hold a Hawaiian Luau, 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple and includes a hula show by "Pacific Islanders," soda, roast pig, barbecue chicken and ribs, pansit, shrimp pattie, potato salad, cole slaw, fruit tray and desserts. Proceeds will benefit the roof repair/replacement fund.

For more information, call 443-506-6561.

OWL PROWL AT SWAN HARBOR FARM

Search Swan Harbor and determine which species of owls live there. This free program will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m. and is for ages 8 to adult and Families. Registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 2 LADIES AUXILIARY OFFERS SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Ladies Auxiliary of Harford County Memorial VFW Post 5337, located on 3705 Pulaski Highway, Abingdon, will host Sunday Breakfast, 8 to 11 a.m. Breakfast costs \$6 per person and includes choice of eggs, omelets, sausage, bacon, pancakes French toast sticks, home fries, grits, cold cereal, fresh fruit, coffee, juice or milk.

For more information call the Post Home, 410-676-4456.

NATURETALES

Come explore nature through a story – the topic is hibernation. Story time may include meeting a live critter, a simple craft or acting out the story. This program will be held 1 p.m. and is free for all ages. No registration is required.

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

TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY WREATH

Craft a decorative wreath to adorn a wall or door. Bring candles to create a candle wreath if desired. This program will be held 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 12 to adult. Cost is \$8 and registration is required.

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

MONDAY

DECEMBER 3 TOASTMASTERSTABLE TOPICS CONTEST

Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562 will hold a Gag-Gift Chinese Fortune Table Topics Contest 11:40 a.m., at the Gunpowder Club, building E-4650, Parrish Road in APG South.

Everyone should bring a holiday spirit wrapped gift. Chinese For-

tune Table Topics will be provided and each person picks someone else's gift to explain how it matches the fortune statement.

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

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

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 8 WINTER BAZAAR

Aberdeen Middle School, located on 111 Mount Royal Avenue, will hold a Winter Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All parents and the community are invited to attend. Events include free kid's crafts, prize bingo, photos with Santa, craft vendors, games and more.

For more information, call Katie Scarborough, 410-273-5510.

NATURAL ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

Use nature's bounty to create unique decorations to take home. Enjoy hot cocoa, cookies and seasonal music. This program will be held 2 to 4 p.m. for all ages but those 10 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$5 per person or \$12 for a Family. Registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 9 THIS HOLIDAY IS FOR THE BIRDS

Create holiday treats for wildlife using cones, seedpods and other natural treats. This program will be held 2 to 3 p.m. for all ages. Cost is \$3 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight

Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold a Children's Christmas Party, 2 p.m. The event will include pictures with Santa, presents and refreshments.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

American Legion Post 17, located on 415 Edgewood Road, Edgewood, will have Breakfast with Santa, 9 a.m. to noon. An all-you-can-eat buffet will be served. Children eat free, cost is \$6 for adults. Photos with Mr. And Mrs. Claus are free.

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 15 WHITE-TAILED DEER SURVEY

Harford County seems to be experiencing explosive population growth, and not just with humans. Help is needed to determine if the deer population of Leight Park and the Bosely Conservancy is a healthy size. Come get the scoop on poop and conduct pellet (deer scat) counts out on the trails to determine how many deer call the park home. The survey will be held 9 a.m. to noon for ages 16 to adult and is free. Registration is required.

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

WINTER TREE MYSTERY

Hike the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center's trails and use clues to identify common trees. The program will be held 11 a.m. to noon for ages 6 to adult and is free. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight

Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

HOLIDAY PAPERMAKING

Make festive paper from recycled papers and turn it into cards and decorations for the holidays. The program will be held 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. Cost is \$5 per person. Registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 16 DISCOVERY WALK

Join a naturalist on a nature walk to discover what creeps, crawls and flies around Leight Park. This program begins at 10:30 a.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

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

ALL TIED UP

Have fun with basic knot tying. Scouts may find this useful. The program will be held 3 to 4 p.m. for ages 8 to adult and is free. Registration is required.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The House of Resurrection in Jesus Christ, located on 1915 N. Singer Road, Joppa, will hold a Youth Ministry Christmas Program, 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Denise Corbett, 410-436-5157.

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

POST SHORTS

goal. Twelve organizations exceeded their goal, but only one organization has reached 100 percent participation.

Congratulations to the following organizations for exceeding their goal: 1st Area Medical Laboratory, 20th Support Command (CBRNE), the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, Army Contracting Agency/APG/DOC, the U.S. Army Office of Assistant G-1 (Civilian Personnel Management Division), the Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Battalion, the U.S. Air Force Detachment and the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, the Plans and Integration Office and the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. Special thanks to IRAC who achieved 100 percent participation.

December 14 is the last day for accepting pledges. For more information, or to make a contribution, contact a CFC key worker, visit the APG CFC Office in building 2752 (Rodman Road), or call 410-278-1399/5320/5327.

Artfully Done frame shop opens in building 2407

'Artfully Done', Harford County's oldest picture framing shop, has expanded to Aberdeen Proving Ground and is open for business in the Arts and Crafts building 2407.

'Artfully Done' provides the same custom framing and engraving service that was offered through the former MWR operation.

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

'Artfully Done' has been in operation for more than 26 years. It is a fully-equipped, fully staffed operation with two certified picture framers and one Larson Juhl's trained graduate.

Owner Barney Bonsall

invites the community to visit the store and view its framing selections and other services.

"We just want people to know we're here and that we can meet all their framing needs," Bonsall said.

Operating hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For more information, call during business hours, 410-278-4207.

AMC Band to perform at Cecil College

The U.S. Army Materiel Command Band will perform a Holiday Concert, 7 p.m., Dec. 11, at the Cecil College Auditorium, located on One Seahawk Drive, North East.

The 'Holiday Traditions' concert is free and open to the public, however tickets are required. For free tickets, mail a self-addressed stamped envelope to AMC Band Holiday Traditions, 2201 Aberdeen Blvd., APG, MD 21005 or tickets may be picked up at building 2184 Swan Creek Drive (AMC Band Hall). Tickets will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis. Limit 6 tickets per request.

For more information, call 410-278-8769.

RDECOM/CMA holds Holiday Food, Toy, Gift Drive

Through Dec. 12, the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and Chemical Materials Agency is holding their annual Holiday Food, Toy, and Gift Drive for non-perishable foods and new or clean, gently-used toys for children. Toys are needed for infancy through teen-aged years. All items should be clean and in good working order. Donation sites are located in 27 buildings in APG South.

The drive will end with a ceremony at 10 a.m., Dec. 12, in building E-3549 (Berger Laboratory Cafeteria). Donations will be presented to Army Community Service and the 20th Support Command for distribution to the Families of APG Soldiers. Also, the Harford County Parks &

Recreation Center will be distributing donations to needy Families in the Edgewood community. All are invited to attend and enjoy holiday music and refreshments.

Office Products Expo Dec. 4

The Directorate of Contracting, U. S. Army Contracting Agency will host its annual Office Products Expo 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 4, in the Aberdeen Proving Ground Recreation Center, building 3326, Erie Street. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Dennis Bolen, ACA, 410-278-0849, DSN 298-0849 or e-mail dennis.bolen@us.army.mil.

Veterinary Treatment Facility closings

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will be closed Nov. 30 for end of month inventory.

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

Holiday Extravaganza, tree lighting ceremony

Army Community Service will host the annual Holiday Extravaganza and tree lighting ceremony 6 to 8:30 p.m., Dec. 6 at the APG North Recreation Center, building 3326.

The tree lighting is at 6 p.m. inside the APG North Recreation Center. Free photos with a "special guest" in his red suit, starts at 7 p.m.

Since this is a ticketed event, tickets can be picked up from ACS building 3326 only.

For more information, call 410-278-4372/7572.

"Persian Ghost" book signing at the PX

Maryland author Warren Gray will discuss and sign his latest book, "Persian Ghost," 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dec. 9, at the APG North Main Exchange.

Gray is a former military intelligence officer with experience in special operations and counterterrorism,

For more information, see the author's Web site, www.freewebs.com/warrengray.

FEHB open season

FEHB, FEDVIP open seasons run through Dec. 10.

Rates for the 2008 Federal Employees Health Benefits and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program rates have been posted. New rates will be effective Jan. 6, 2008.

To view FEHB rates, visit <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/08rates/index.asp>; to view FEDVIP rates, visit <http://www.opm.gov/insure/dentalvision/08/vision.asp>.

There is no icon, click on the words, "dental" or "vision."

Employees must contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) or Web site www.abc.army.mil or call 1-877-276-9287.

'Retired Federal Employees' meets Dec. 18

Susquehanna Chapter 1522 of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association for Harford and Cecil Counties will meet 11 a.m., Dec. 18, at the Bayou Restaurant, Route 40, Havre de Grace. 11 a.m. to noon will be social time; noon to 1:15 p.m., buffet; 1:15 to 1:30 p.m., announcements; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. will be entertainment and sing-a-long. Reservations are required.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-3973.

Holiday refuse pickup schedule

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

Dec. 24 – trash pickup

Dec. 31 – trash pickup

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

Education Center conducts in-process briefings

The APG Education Center, located in building 4305, second floor, room 213-B, will

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

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

CBRNIAC offers technical inquiry service

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

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

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

Nominations open for Employer Support Freedom Award

The Department of Defense has opened nomination season for the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. National Guard and Reserve members and their Families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of military employees.

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

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

Nominations will be accepted at www.esgr.mil through Jan. 21, 2008.

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.

Reminder: Vehicle storage in housing areas

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

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 years old 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 mjdennison@arl.army.mil.

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

Off-post providers increase child care options

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

While many Aberdeen Proving Ground service members and civilians utilize Family Child Care providers who live on the installation, there are many FCC providers who live off post as well.

Aphrodite Corsi, FCC director, said she wants people to know that certified providers can also be found in the surrounding communities of Havre de Grace, Aberdeen, Bel Air, Edgewood and North East in Cecil County.

"An advantage of an off-post provider is that they aren't being transferred to another installation," she said. "They are rooted right here."

Corsi said that the office currently has 13 "Homes Off Post" and hopes to have 15 by year's end. Two such homes, one in Edgewood and the other in Aberdeen, are examples of the "superior care provided by FCC-certified providers."

One is Karen Gabel, who received her FCC certification in June after just over a year with the state.

She keeps two 3-year olds, including her son Derek, a 1-year old and a 4-year old in her Edgewood home. Gabel said she applied for FCC certification after a friend recommended it.

"The military is a little more structured with more oversight," she said, noting that while the state visits her home twice annually, FCC inspects twice quarterly.

"Everyone has been very nice and very supportive," Gabel said of the FCC staff. "They give great referrals and all of the parents are military or [Department of Defense] civilians. If I didn't have FCC, I would only have one child."

One room in Gabel's home as well as the enclosed porch resembles a classroom/playroom environment, and the backyard is a playground complete with jungle gym and sandbox. Gabel said their days include trips to the Edgewood Library as well as other fun activities.

"I want them to have a welcoming, fun, friendly and nurturing environment that encourages socialization," she said.

Most of the children in her care are "part-timers" but she also can provide full-time, extended and overnight care,



Three year-olds Jayla Hart and Derek Gabel play together in the playroom of off-post FCC provider Karen Gabel's home.

Gabel said.

"I have a military mom and dad who are both active duty so I know what their needs are," she said.

Gabel is a Sunday school teacher and her husband is a registered nurse in a local nursing home. She said this is their first involvement with the military and that she's "very glad I went with FCC."

"I'm not going to go out and join the Army but I can watch their children," she said. "It's my way of serving."

Teresa Mayo is another

FCC provider who cares for six children in her Aberdeen home. Mayo has earned both her Child Development Association and National Accreditation. The wife of a retired Soldier formerly stationed at APG, Mayo has more than 20 year's experience working with children. She served as a Head Start teacher at Fort Gordon, Ga., and as an FCC provider in Germany and on post at APG in 1999 before moving to Florida upon her husband's retirement and then returning

to the APG area.

"What was great about having Teresa join was she'd already been in the system," Corsi said. "She's a mentor and a great resource to other providers."

Being an off-post provider, Mayo understands the need for sharing and comparing

experiences.

"I learned the importance of communication while I was in Germany," she said, noting that unlike on-post providers, off-post providers are "spread out and the only conversation they get is from FCC."

Mayo recently held a social off-post for all providers at

her home with the purpose of allowing them to get to know each other and network.

"It gives a sense of togetherness," Mayo said. "Now we can talk to each other, mentor each other and help each other with any problems."

She said that she continually advises other providers and that networking is the key to communicating ideas and recommendations for others.

The lower level of Mayo's house is a "learning center" of sorts with brightly decorated walls, desks and chairs, a small library and a toy-filled play area.

"I call it a 'Yes' environment because that's the first thing parents say when they see it," she said.

Corsi said the best thing about FCC providers is that they love caring for children, but that they help each other as well.

"If you're helping someone, everyone benefits," Corsi added. "You can tell when a person likes what they're doing."

Becoming a provider

Off-post provides have the same privileges as those on post, which includes use of the Lending Library, free training, FCC program events on and off post, and more.

If anyone is interested in becoming a provider or registering their children in an FCC home, they should contact FCC, 410-278-7477/7140.



Off-post FCC provider Teresa Mayo transformed the lower level of her home into a colorful play and learning environment.



Off-post FCC provider Karen Gabel feeds 1-year old Dillon Elkins his lunch in the kitchen of her Edgewood home.

OWN the EDGE SAFETY

Leading on the Edge

Emphasizing safety in the office, housing over holidays

USAGAPG

It's that time of year when the hustle and bustle of the holiday season can overshadow the necessity of safety concerns. Here are some reminders to help keep holidays accident-free and safe.

Guidelines for offices



Trees, decorations for use inside of buildings

No live Christmas trees are permitted in barracks, offices, warehouses, shops, laboratories, aircraft hangars or instructional buildings.

Artificial trees are permitted; however, trees or displays will not be positioned in a way that would obstruct or block any aisle way, corridor, hallway or exit.

Decorations or trees must not be placed near any heat-producing device. Under no circumstances will candles be used, other than in a place of worship.

Live decorations such as holly and other greens are prohibited in office buildings, warehouses, instructional buildings, industrial buildings, aircraft hangars and barracks. Live decorations may be permitted in places of assembly, provided that they do not dry out, and must be removed from buildings by the close of business Jan. 4. All other decorations must be labeled "flame retardant."

Lights

Electric lights will be permitted on trees as

long as they are 'UL' [Underwriter's Laboratory] listed. If wiring has a short or has bare wires, the set will not be used. All electrical decorations must be unplugged every night.

Extension cords can be used with the electric lights, provided that the cord is not installed in the path of travel. The extension cord must be rated to carry the electrical load of the appliances.

Guidelines for housing Christmas trees

Live trees are permitted provided they are kept well watered. If they appear to be drying out, remove them immediately. Trees must be removed from quarters no later than Jan. 6. Trees should be placed by the curb for pick up on Jan. 7.

Support the tree well. Keep it away from stoves, radiators, fireplaces and other sources of heat. Do not place the tree so as to block exits, corridors or stairways.

Candles or other flame-producing devices will not be used on or adjacent to the tree.



Electrical

Electric lights will be permitted on trees, around windows or doors as long as they are UL listed and not stapled or nailed through the wiring. Use caution to prevent damage to the quarters by using tiny nails, screws, etc. If wiring is bad or bare on electric lights - throw them

away, do not use.

Interior decorative lighting, including lights on Christmas trees, will not be left burning when the occupants are not home or when the occupants have retired for the night.

Exterior lights shall be installed in a way, not to create a trip hazard from entering or exiting the exterior doors. Do not attach decorations to the roof with nails, screws or any other fastener that will damage the roof. Only one extension cord may be used to connect lights to an outlet. Christmas lights must be UL listed and turned off when the occupants are away or have retired for the evening.

For energy conservation purposes, restrict the amount of exterior lighting. Lights must be turned off by 11 p.m. with the exception of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. On these evenings, lights may be left on until midnight.

Guidelines for everyone

Fireplaces

Do not try to burn evergreens or wreaths in the fireplace or in a wood stove to dispose of them. They are likely to flare out of control and send flames and smoke into the room.

Also, do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace because it often contains metallic materials that can be toxic if burned.



Plants

Small children may think that holiday plants

look good enough to eat but many plants can cause severe stomach problems.

Plants to watch out for include mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach.



Toys, gifts

Be especially careful when choosing toys for infants or small children.

Be sure anything they are given is too big to get caught in the throat, nose or ears.

Avoid toys with small parts that can be pulled or broken off.

When several children in one family are given toys, consider their age differences and the chances that younger children will want to play with or will have access to the older children's toys.

Stress

The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year. Because stress cannot be avoided completely, allow time for some relief. Allow enough time to shop rather than hurry through stores and parking lots. Plan to do only a reasonable number of errands.

When shopping, make several trips out to the car to drop off packages rather than trying to carry too many items.

Take time out to relax, read or enjoy a favorite hobby.

DIO team clears 50 acres during forest management project

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

A forest management project on Aberdeen Proving Ground resulted in clearing of construction areas such as the Automotive Test Track, areas around Phillips Army Airfield and other building sites at no cost to the government and income to the Department of Defense Forestry Program through forestry product sales.

Roger Stoflet, an agronomist/forester with the APG Garrison Directorate of Installation Operations, led a three-man crew in logging operations that cleared overgrown brush and trees.

“Utilizing the APG Forestry Program through sales of forest products is a method of clearing areas for new construction without cost to the government,” Stoflet said.

“This also releases the crowding of trees for better growth,” he said.

The U.S. Army Environmental Command, in coordination with U.S. Army Information Command Northeast Region, provided logistical support.

“This is a win-win project for the Army,” said Scott English, USAEC. “APG has the trees removed at no cost to the government, and forty percent of the revenue will be returned to Harford County to be used for schools and roads.”

Stoflet said the operation took about two and one-half months and that the affected areas, once considered 220 percent populated were reduced to 90 percent population.

Kim Kern, Gary Garman and Darren Hoke were the three employees from the Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company, Spring Grove, Pa., who worked the project with Stoflet.

Hoke worked the skidder, a massive vehicle with its giant arm and claw that picks up trees like they’re weightless, and Kern worked a loader, an even larger machine, equipped with a saw buck and limb stripper which removes the branches, saws the trees to the desired length, and with its giant arm and claw, places them on a logging trailer. Garman ran the a specialized machine that cuts the trees.

“A majority went out as pulp which gives you paper products and in turn upgrades your forest at no cost to the government,” Stoflet said.

He added that APG has “roughly five-thousand acres of manageable forest.”

“There are more than twenty thousand [acres] overall but most can’t be managed due to firing ranges or other testing,” he said.

Additional sales of forest products for timber stand improvements are planned in the future according to Stoflet.



A wood-harvesting loader, equipped with a saw in the center and a limb stripper on the right and operated by Kim Kern, a contractor from the Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company, lifts freshly cut trees before loading them onto a flatbed truck during the final day of a Directorate of Installation Operations forest management project Oct. 31.

AFAP

From front page

tuition assistance, opportunities for training and career development

- Privacy Act
- Army Community Service, to include Exceptional Family Member Program, Volunteer Program, Army Family Team Building, Army Family Action Plan, Outreach, Employment Readiness, Relocation Assistance, Army Emergency Relief, Family Advocacy Program, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program.
- Child/Youth Services to include Child Development Centers, Youth Centers, and Family Child Care, APG School Liaison, home alone policy and Child Development Service.
- Community Recreation to include sports, social leisure, fitness, food and beverage operations and special events.
- Army/Air Force Exchange Service
- Safety
- Law Enforcement and Security
- Emergency Services
- Roads and utilities
- Maintenance of facilities (workplace and housing)
- Civilian Personnel to include, paybanding, use of overtime and compensatory time, Department of Defense National Security Personnel System (NSPS) and Thrift Savings Program
- Honorary and monetary award systems
- Chaplain activities and services

Issue for consideration by APG Army Family Action Plan Conference XXII, Feb. 26 to 28

(Print clearly and provide detailed information. Use additional pages if necessary.)

What is the problem? _____

Why is it a problem? _____

How can it be fixed? _____

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, 410-278-9669 or e-mail Marilyn.E.Howard@us.army.mil. Name and contact information will allow program administrators to ask questions if needed. Incomplete issues may not be considered.