



Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Oct. 3 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



RAB meeting tonight

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Sept. 27, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Westwood Study Area.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited.

For more information, call 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998.

Veterinary Clinic closings

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will be closed Sept. 28 for end of month inventory. For more information, call the VTF, 410-278-4604/3911.

Concert parking

The PX will close at 4 p.m. and the Commissary will close at 3 p.m. Sept. 29 to allow for more parking for the Montgomery Gentry concert.

Combined Federal Campaign celebration Oct. 1

The Combined Federal Campaign will kickoff with a celebration 9 a.m., Oct. 1, at the Post Theater. The CFC celebration will feature a cake cutting ceremony, a jazz performance from the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) and donation booths.

For more information, contact Pete Leon Guerrero, CFC chairman, 410-278-1399 or the vice chairman, 410-278-5320.

Blue Cross visits APG

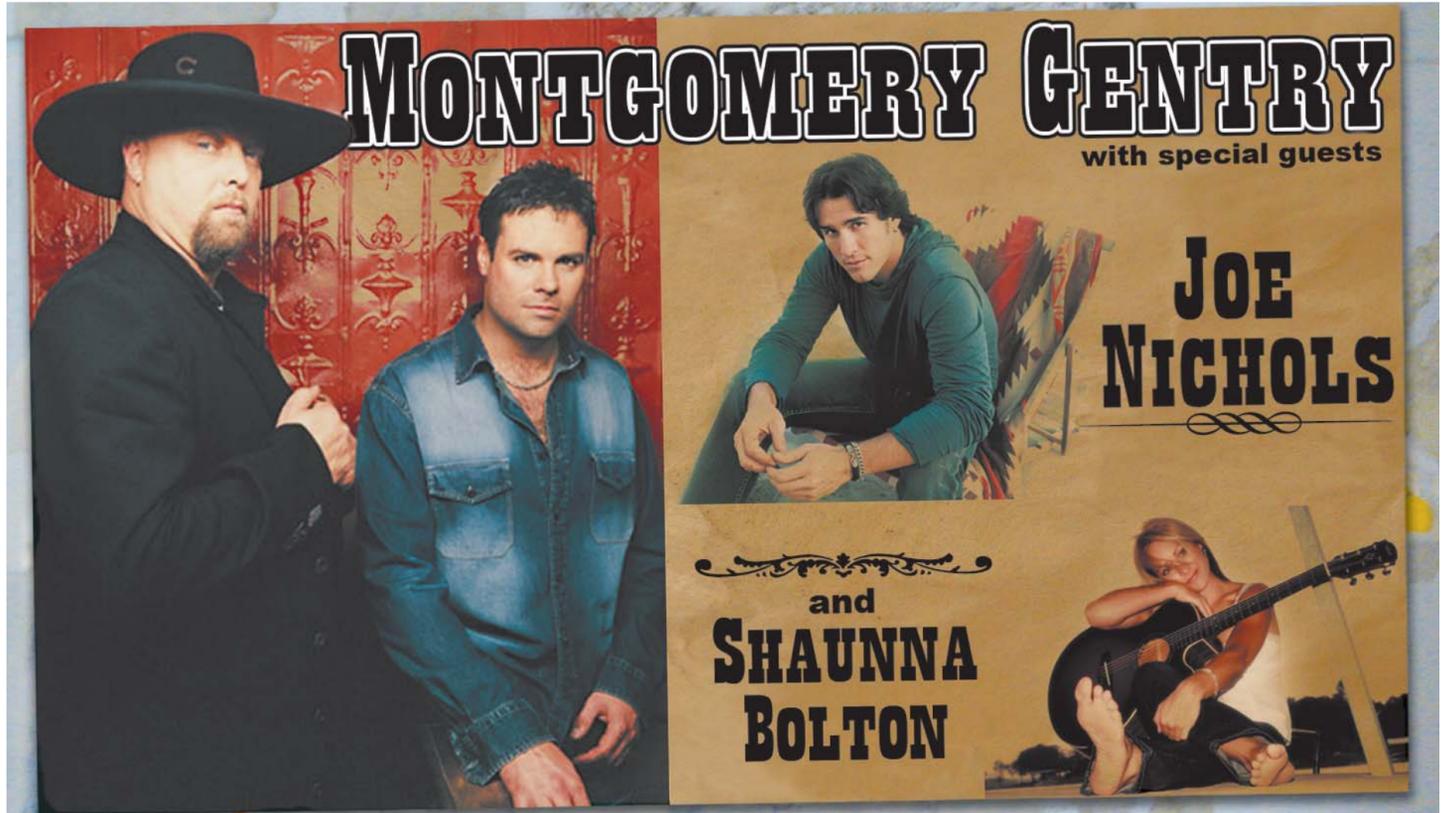
The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit APG Oct. 2. The representative will be

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Issue Highlights

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Tickets still available for Montgomery Gentry concert



The 2007 Army Concert Tour featuring Montgomery Gentry, Joe Nichols and Shaunna Bolton is set for this Saturday, Sept. 29, at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Shine Sports Field. Tickets are still available through Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Ticketmaster outlets. See story on page 10.

Illustration by NICK PENTZ

101

Critical Days of SUMMER

May 28 - Sept. 3

Never Give Safety A Day Off

Results positive during 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign

Story by **LORI YERDON**
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

During this year's 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign, the Army experienced a decrease in fatalities compared to last year, for the same timeframe.

"Unfortunately, forty two Soldiers were lost to off-duty accidents during this year's campaign," said the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Executive Officer Lt. Col. William Zaharis.

"While losing just one Soldier is tragic, an encouraging trend we observed during this campaign is that our number of accidental fatalities decreased."

Forty-four Soldiers died during last year's 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety campaign and of that number, 40 of the fatalities involved privately owned vehicles.

This year's campaign timeframe showed a 27 percent reduction in Soldiers that were killed in POV accidents.

"Soldiers are looking out for each other, and this is one of several factors that we believe contributed to the decrease," said USACRC Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell. "Leaders are truly engaging their

Soldiers and Soldiers are engaging their peers. Additional contributing factors are the use of the Army's tools and programs, and ultimately, Soldiers embracing the composite risk management concept."

To date this fiscal year, not just during the campaign, the Army's overall POV fatalities are down 20 percent from last year and motorcycle fatalities have decreased by 35 percent.

"Year round, the Army and safety professionals remain dedicated to improving combat readiness and preserving combat power," Zaharis said.

"This year's 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign is just one example of how Soldiers and engaged leaders can make a difference by taking ownership of safety."

"Leaders and Soldiers need to realize that we have lost over one hundred and fifty Soldiers to accidents outside of theater to date, this fiscal year.

Although this is significantly lower than last year, it's essential that we never give safety a day off," added Lt. Col. Randall K. Cheeseborough, chief, Ground Task Force for USACRC.

ECBC named Army's Laboratory of the Year for 2007



Photo courtesy of ECBC
An Edgewood Chemical Biological Center scientist examines material under a microscope in its Biological Safety Level 3 laboratory.

ECBC

Edgewood Chemical Biological Center was recently named the Army's Laboratory of the Year for 2007.

ECBC received the Laboratory of the Year designation in the small development laboratory category of the annual award program that evaluates Army laboratories on their accomplishments in research, development, management, and on contributions to the Global War on Terrorism.

"The enormous technical ability of ECBC's scientists, engineers and other specialists was the most significant factor in ECBC winning this award this year," said Dr. Joe Corriveau, acting director for Research and Technology.

The ECBC research accomplishment this year was for significant advances in biological standoff detection.

"Indeed, advances in algorithm development, technology optimization, and test methodologies at ECBC have allowed scientists to demonstrate for the first time ever the ability to detect-to-warn standoff biological aerosol identification," he said.

Development of an on-the-move surface contamination detection capability based on Raman spectroscopy was nominated as ECBC's technology accomplishment.

This work, which is taking place under the Chemical Biological Radiological Unmanned Ground Reconnaissance program will allow Warfighters to conduct reconnaissance activi-

Post reminds hunters of common sense precautions

APG Public Affairs Office

The Aberdeen Proving Ground environmental staff is reminding on-post hunters to take appropriate common sense precautions when handling a harvested white-tailed deer.

Ralph Cardenuto, director of Safety, Health and Environment, said the reminder is being made because there has been a small increase in deer mortality on post.

"In the past several weeks our staff has noted a number of deer that appeared to be sick or dying from disease," he said.

"The entire southeastern United States, including Maryland and surrounding states, is experiencing an epidemic outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease [a disease outbreak affecting a group of animals] in white-tailed deer," Cardenuto said. "We have been working closely with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to monitor and sample these animals. So far the results from sampling have been inconclusive concerning EHD or any other disease, but we think it's prudent to remind hunters how they

See HUNTING, page 4

APG to host Retiree Appreciation Day

Aberdeen Proving Ground will host the annual Retiree Appreciation Day activities 8 a.m. to noon at the APG North Recreation Center Oct. 20.

Scheduled speakers include Maj. Gen. Fred Robinson, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and Col. Jeffrey Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander.

The guest speaker will be James Adkins, Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

In addition, panel discussions will be held by APG activities serving the retiree community such as the Commissary, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security, and others. Combat service-related conditions and the APG 90th Anniversary Gala Nov. 10 at Ripken Stadium, also will be discussed.

Lunch will follow in the building 4503 dining facility.

For more information, contact Janet Dettwiler, APG adjutant general, 410-306-2301.

ties at operational tempo, a capability that has not been possible in the past.

The top ECBC management accomplishment was the successful partnership between Department of Homeland Security, FBI and ECBC in designing and constructing the CBR Sample Receipt Facility. This accomplishment resonated with the Army Laboratory Assessment Group, which is charged with choosing each year's winners, because of the interagency collaboration and project cost savings.

"That we've been able to bring together three very different agencies to collaborate on one mission under one roof is an enormous achievement," said Jim Zarzycki, technical director of ECBC. "This makes it possible for law enforcement and military units to coordinate their investigative efforts. And, by sharing a facility instead of building two, we are being good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars."

The development of a test bed for biological detectors in support of the Department of Homeland Security's BioWatch program was submitted as ECBC's contribution to the Global War on Terrorism. The test bed will provide vital support to the development of the next generation biological detection capability for our homeland.

"Overall, our contributions to the Warfighter in 2006 were significant," Zarzycki said. "I am pleased that the Army Laboratory Assessment Panel agreed. The scientists, engineers and specialists at ECBC are doing incredible work. This award recognizes and honors that contribution," he said.

Air Force celebrates 60th anniversary

Story by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

The U.S. Air Force 361st Training Squadron Detachment I at Aberdeen Proving Ground celebrated 60 years of service at Ordnance Circle Sept. 18.

Airmen saluted and lowered the flag during a retreat ceremony and then celebrated the anniversary with cake and refreshments.

The detachment was established on APG in 1974 "to provide the support and basic operating functions for staff personnel and students," according to the APG Web site, www.apg.army.mil.

Maj. Louis Cumming, detachment commander, said he was happy to celebrate the anniversary.

"It's pretty awesome," Cumming said. "We are the youngest of the services, and I think we have done a lot in a short amount of time."

He said he has been serving in the USAF "for just over ten years."

"I like everything [about the Air Force]," Cumming said. "What I like best is



Photos by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO STUDIO
Cadets Airmen First Class from left Lloyd K. Davis, Benjamin R. Reich, Stephen A. Nicholls and Dennis A. Kenton, and Airmen Basic Nickolas J. Clarey carefully fold the American flag during a retreat ceremony to celebrate the Air Force's 60th anniversary at Ordnance Circle Sept. 18.

working with the people and making sure our mission is accomplished."

For more information about the detachment, visit www.apg.army.mil.

History of the USAF

"On June 20, 1941, the Department of War created

the Army Air Forces as its aviation element and shortly thereafter made it co-equal to the Army Ground Forces," according to the AF Web site, www.af.mil.

"Much as it did a quarter century before, the United States immediately demobilized its armed forces after World War II," according to the Web site. "Based on the AAF's wartime achievements and future potential, however, the U.S. Air Force won its independence as a full partner with the Army and the Navy on September 18, 1947."



Airmen lower the flag during the retreat ceremony at Ordnance Circle.

Army Distributed Learning System wins 2007 Army Knowledge Award

The AKA program recognizes DLS in the e-Army Initiative category

Story by
MEGGAN KRING
Distributed Learning System

The Army Knowledge Award program has recognized the Distributed Learning System, a program of the U.S. Army's Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems, as the e-Army Initiative winner for 2007.

This category of the award focused on the use of technology to improve the way an organization serves its customers, optimizes internal processes and streamlines processes

end-to-end.

The annual AKA program was established to recognize strong knowledge management initiatives that support enterprise solutions (applicable at the Major Army Command, functional community or Army level) focused on improving situational awareness and decision-making. The program selects one winner in each of three categories and provides Army-level recognition for initiatives that deliver knowledge-based capabilities for the enterprise, highlighting those that

have achieved tangible success related to Army knowledge management goals and objectives. The Army CIO/G-6 is the Headquarters Department of the Army staff proponent for the AKA program.

As the e-Army Initiative winner, DLS excelled in the areas of collaboration, impact, transformation and integration with Army Knowledge Online. DLS received its award Aug. 22, during a luncheon at the LandWarNet Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"The impact of DLS is tremen-

dous," said Lt. Col. Robert A. Bean, product manager for DLS. "Not only does it boost the morale of the Soldiers through enabling them to spend more time at home with their families, it allows for a standardization in the quality of training across the board—from our deployed Soldiers to DA civilians and everyone in between."

Streamlining the training process from start to finish, DLS is the infrastructure responsible for delivering distributed learning through its Web-based, state-of-the-art technology

that enables training for the Solider to occur anytime, anywhere—24/7. Available to more than 1.2 million Army personnel, DLS provides training through one of five supported components: Digital Training Facilities, Enterprise Management Center, Army Learning Management System, Army e-Learning and Deployed Digital Training Campuses.

For more information about Army e-Learning and the entire Distributed Learning System, visit www.dls.army.mil, or log on to Army Knowledge Online at www.us.army.mil.

Army Materiel Command dedicates 9-11 memorial

Story by
DIANA DAWA
AMC

United States Army Materiel Command Purple Heart and Defense of Freedom Medal recipients were recognized at a ceremony held at AMC head-

quarters Sept. 11.

The ceremony was a commemorative dedication with an unveiling of an educational display honoring 12 award recipients. Four honorees attended the event.

Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin,

AMC commanding general, and AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel K. Elder, with the assistance of recipients Maj. Luis Cotto-Arroyo, William Burnette, Cleveland Rogers and Kevin Rohm, unveiled the display.

During remarks, Griffin asked those in attendance to remember and honor the sacrifices AMC personnel have made in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"This is a key part of our history — our legacy of people who went forward and were wounded or sacrificed life," Griffin said.

The educational display recognizes the many contributions the AMC workforce makes in support of the Warfighter and especially highlights the contributions of individuals who have paid a price for their efforts, said Dr. William Moye, AMC History Office.

"AMC Soldiers, civilians and contractors are forward with deployed Soldiers, supporting them every day, and the display is intended to highlight this," Moye said. Cotto-Arroyo said he was humbled and very appreciative of the opportunity to be included in the event. He received the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained while in Iraq serving in the Contracting Office in 2003.

"I thought about my office in Iraq. It's hard not to get a little emotional," he said when describing what went through his mind during the ceremony. "I think this will give future generations pause and maybe think about the sacrifices great Americans have made for our country. Many have paid the ultimate price."

The display is made of gran-



Photo courtesy of AMC

The front side of the AMC Purple Heart/Defense of Freedom Educational Display located in front of AMC headquarters, Fort Belvoir, Va.

ite and consists of three pillars. On the front of the two outside pillars, individual bronze plates display the name, location and date of incident for which awardees received their Purple Heart or Defense of Freedom Medal. There are 12 names on the display:

- Maj. Luis Cotto-Arroyo
- Maj. Darren Tate
- Sgt. Maj. Enoch Godbolt
- Master Sgt. Adrain Torrez
- Staff Sgt. Ricardo Zamora
- Staff Sgt. Robert Hodge
- Sgt. Michelle Hufnagel
- William Burnette
- Cleveland Rogers
- Kevin Rohm
- Thomas Ironside
- Linda Villar

On the front of the center pillar are presentations of the medals. Under each medal is a short narrative. Also on the front is a replica of the AMC shoulder sleeve insignia with the words "Global War on Terrorism, Supporting the Warfighter" inscribed below the insignia.

The reverse side of the left

pillar contains a short history of AMC. The reverse right side describes AMC's global commitment. On the reverse side of the center pillar is a history of the medals and plates representing AMC's major subordinate commands.

Producing the display was a group effort, Moye said.

"We coordinated a working group of representatives from within AMC; the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel and Logistics G-1, Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management G-8, Secretary of the General Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations G-3 and the Legal Office," Moye said. "We also worked with Fort Belvoir's post facilities and Phil MacKenzie, Visual Information Services Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. We worked up designs, briefed it to General Griffin and put possibilities out to the work force for comments as to design and

location. We refined the proposal and sent it back up. With the approval, we did a Statement of Work and awarded a contract to Roberts-Shields Memorials Company of Marietta, Georgia. We worked through the Fort Belvoir Department of Public Works on the contract for the display's foundation."

Elder said it took more than two years of planning to bring it about.

"I am excited to see that it is finished, and it was just luck that it got done so close to 9-11 so we could unveil it on the sixth anniversary of the attacks that led our entry in to the Global War on Terrorism. It is appropriate that we dedicate it on that day," Elder said.

"The working group helped get all the great ideas and suggestions of the workforce to properly commemorate the tribute to those injured or killed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. I hope we never have to add another name to the display," Elder added.

Aberdeen Proving Ground
90th Anniversary Gala

★ ★ ★ **November 10, 2007**

Ripken Stadium
Club Level
7-11 p.m.



open to the public
Music, Food, Entertainment

Advanced tickets on sale from Aug 21 - Sep 30
Advanced tickets are \$45
Regular tickets are \$50

Call 410-278-4603 for more information.



No endorsement by US Army implied.

To purchase tickets for the APG 90th Anniversary Gala
7 to 11 p.m., Nov. 10 at Ripken Stadium

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ Credit card number _____
Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Pay by check. Make payable to Civilian Welfare Fund.

Mail to the Civilian Welfare Fund, ATTN: Angela Keithley, Building 2227, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5001, or call 410-278-4603.

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MRICD's scientist appointed chair for national certification board

Story by
CINDY KRONMAN
MRICD

A scientist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense recently received another honor in his long career.

Dr. John Petrali has been appointed chairman of the National Certification Board of Electron Microscopy Technologists, which functions under charter with the Microscopy Society of America.

The appointment was finalized during the recent international meeting of the Microscopy Society of America and the Microanalysis Society, which was held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in early August.

This distinction recognizes Petrali's many contributions to the field of electron microscopy.

In addition, Petrali has been re-appointed visiting professor in the Department of Dermatology and Dermatopathology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. His appointment requires input to the theoretical and practical ultrastructural and immunohistochemical concepts of skin disease. Petrali's participation will be limited to that which complements the MRICD mission interests in vesication and related skin pathologies.

A member of MRICD's Comparative Pathology Branch, Petrali has designed and conducted primary research to detect

the mechanisms of chemical threat agents and to identify those that may be predictive or diagnostic of a given pathogenesis.

His work has led to a number of breakthrough discoveries, including the effects of nerve agents on the blood-brain barrier as being convulsive-dependent and the sequential pathogenesis of sulfur mustard-induced blister formations in exposed skin.

His discoveries have led to the development of specific immunodiagnostic tests and to new treatment regimens following exposure.

Petrali is author of more than 120 peer-reviewed scholarly articles, eight book chapters and 31 technical reports.

Gunpowder Toastmasters celebrate 50th anniversary

Story by
HEATHER TASSMER
APG News

Toastmasters celebrated 50 years of its Gunpowder Club with a recognition ceremony at the Golden City Super Buffet in Edgewood Sept. 7.

Toastmasters is a club in which members can improve their public speaking and leadership skills.

A highlight of the night was the attendance of Able Toastmaster Theo Berenthien, who served as the model speaker of the evening.

Berenthien retired from Toastmasters in 2006 after a 42-year membership, but still holds the title, "President Emeritus Gunpowder" that was awarded to him in 1987.

Before introducing Berenthien, emcee Roger Staso described the model speaker as like the dad he never had.

Staso said he and Berenthien had grown close while they worked at APG together.

Berenthien's speech was titled, "Life's Lessons," and focused on two main lessons that he had learned and wanted to share with members: "get your priorities straight" and "others are very important."

See **TOASTMASTERS**, page 15



Photo courtesy of STEPHEN FINE
Former Toastmaster Theo Berenthien delivers a humorous speech at a past Toastmasters meeting. Berenthien served as the model speaker for the Gunpowder Toastmasters' 50th anniversary celebration Sept. 7 at the Golden City Super Buffet in Edgewood.

Planning the way ahead to save lives

Story by
KELLY WIDENER
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

The U.S. Army must continue its transformation and cultural change in relation to safety if it is to decrease accidental losses and protect Soldiers said Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. during a visit to Fort Rucker and the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Sept. 19.

The cumulative effect of six years of sustained war results in combat-experienced warriors. However, the Army still needs to focus on arming its Soldiers with the education and tools necessary to protect themselves from not only the everyday hazards they face, but from themselves as well, the general said.

This fiscal year, the Army experienced the loss of 230 Soldiers to accidents. Army senior leadership remains resolute on a continual focus of engagement and implementation of safety programs and initiatives.

"We, as an Army, have stepped up and embraced safety as an essential and required function of our missions," said Brig. Gen. Bill Forrester, director of Army Safety and commanding general of USACRC. "The impact of engaged leaders is seen in the decrease of fatalities as well as the increasing safety awareness and integration of safety programs and tools."

The CSA's visit included the discussion of tools such as the Army Readiness

Assessment Program, which provides commanders an inside look at their formation's safety climate allowing them to identify the strengths and weaknesses that might lead to accidents or mishaps. Since the program's implementation, more than 2,606 units have registered and more than 869,354 service members have completed assessments.

These types of initiatives are right on track in enabling our leaders and Soldiers to operate in an Army environment where risk awareness is constantly present, both on and off duty, Gen. Casey said.

"Additionally, installations both here and overseas have wrapped their arms around initiatives such as the Motorcycle Mentorship program," Forrester said. "These types of programs help Soldiers foster a safety climate as well as embrace the 'Band of Brothers' concept – a feeling of belonging to something bigger than yourself. This powerful concept empowers each member, each leader and each teammate to look out for and protect one another. While our Soldiers adhere to this concept while in combat, there is a tendency to let it go when they get back or when they are off duty. Programs such as MMP reinforce that concept and environment so they remain strong and influences actions, decisions and involvement with our peers."

In addition to valued Army programs, senior leadership is also looking at the differences within each generation of Sol-

diers and leaders in the force.

Our Soldiers are entering the Army from a different generation and force than we grew up in, noted Forrester. Each generation is unique in its perceptions, communication and actions. These differences, between experienced Soldiers in one generation and new Soldiers in another, further emphasize the necessity to engage with proactive measures in communication and embrace concepts such as the "Band of Brothers," both on and off duty.

The USACRC's visit with Gen. Casey further supported the Army's commitment for the well-being of Soldiers and their Families.

"We have a combat-seasoned force," Gen Casey said. "Now we need to consider the way ahead to further protect them on and off duty. Look at what safety issues they are up against and make sure they are aware and ready."

The USACRC and the Army Safety Office support this way ahead by collecting all accident information, conducting detailed analysis, and providing worldwide communication of Army safety efforts. Ultimately, this mission supports leadership to continue improving the safety climate.

"The Army is committed to equipping our leaders with information to create and foster each formation's safety climate and work within these generation differences," Forrester said.

Simplicity Cribs recalled due to failures resulting in infant deaths and injuries

CPSC

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced Sept. 21 a voluntary recall with Simplicity Inc., of Reading, Pa., of about 1 million cribs.

The drop-side can detach from the crib, which can create a dangerous gap and lead to the entrapment and suffocation of infants.

CPSC is aware of two deaths in Simplicity manufactured cribs with older style hardware, including a 9-month-old child and a 6-month-old child, where the drop-side was installed upside down. CPSC is also aware of seven infant entrapments and 55 incidents in these cribs.

CPSC is also investigating the death of a 1-year-old child in a Simplicity crib with newer style hardware, in which the drop-side was installed upside down.

CPSC is warning parents and caregivers to check all Simplicity cribs to make sure the drop-side is installed right side up.

The drop-side failures result from both the hardware and crib design, which allow consumers to unintentionally install the drop-side upside down. This, in turn, can weaken the hardware and cause the drop-side

to detach from the crib. When the drop-side detaches, it creates a gap in which infants can become entrapped.

CPSC is also aware of two incidents that occurred when the drop-side was correctly installed with older style hardware, though the upside down installation greatly increases the risk of failure.

The recalled Simplicity crib models include: Aspen 3 in 1, Aspen 4 in 1, Nursery-in-a-Box, Crib N Changer Combo, Chelsea and Pooh 4 in 1.

The recall also involves the following Simplicity cribs that used the Graco logo: Aspen 3 in 1, Ultra 3 in 1, Ultra 4 in 1, Ultra 5 in 1, Whitney and the Trio.

The recalled cribs have one of the following model numbers, which can be found on the envelope attached to the mattress support and on the label attached to the headboard: 4600, 4605, 4705, 5000, 8000, 8324, 8800, 8740, 8910, 8994, 8050, 8750, 8760 and 8996.

The cribs, which were made in China, were sold in department stores, children's



<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prere/prrhtml06/06058.html>

stores and mass merchandisers nationwide from January 1998 through May 2007 for between \$100 and \$300.

As an immediate precaution, consumers should check to see if the drop-side is installed right side up. To do this, check to see that the slightly rounded rail with the decorative groove is installed at the top and the plain rail is on the bottom. Next, consumers should make sure the drop-side is securely attached to the tracks in all four corners.

If the drop-side is installed upside down or not securely attached, consumers should stop using the crib immediately. Incorrect installation can cause permanent damage to the hardware and re-installing the drop-side using the same hardware is unsafe.

Consumers should check to see if their crib contains the recalled hardware. Recalled hardware has a flexible tab at the bottom of the lower tracks and

See RECALLS, page 15

Hunting

From front page
can protect themselves."

Those precautions include:

- Avoid shooting or handling a deer that appears to be sick,
- Wear latex or rubber gloves when field-dressing or butchering deer,
- Remove all internal organs,
- Do not use household knives or utensils,

- Avoid cutting through bones or the spinal column, and
- Always wash hands and instruments thoroughly after dressing and processing game meat.

According to Cardenuto, these and other guidelines can be found in the DNR's "Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping" provided to all Maryland hunters when they obtain their hunting licenses.

According to that hunters' guide, EHD is an acute,

infectious, often viral disease that is often fatal to deer and elk. It is the most important endemic infectious disease of white-tailed deer in the southeastern United States.

EHD is not infectious to humans, dogs or cats.

Cardenuto also asks that hunters who do encounter sick deer notify the APG Hunting Program's deer shacks of the time and location of the encounter by calling 410-278-4843 or 410-436-2735.

Commissaries triple availability of organic foods

Story by
LYNDA VALENTINE
DeCA

(Note: September is National Organic Harvest Month, a celebration designed to focus attention on the benefits and practices of organic agriculture and to encourage consumers to increase their use of certified organic products.)

United States' sales of organic foods have grown between 20 to 25 percent annually for the past seven years. During that time, Defense Commissary Agency commissaries more than tripled the number of organic products available



on their shelves.

To be labeled "organic," food must be produced without using most conventional pesticides, fertilizers made with synthetic ingredients, bioengineering techniques or ionizing radiation. With regard to meat,

poultry, eggs and dairy products, organic means they come from animals that are given no antibiotics or growth hormones.

"To ensure our patrons have available the products they want, we keep an eye on trends. Because of this, you'll see organic selections on our shelves," said DeCA director and chief executive officer Patrick Nixon. "Organic alternatives are side-by-side with similar nonorganic items throughout the commissary."

To find organic products in a local store, look for the circular green and white "USDA Organic" seal, which is on

items where 95 to 100 percent of the ingredients are organic. Use of the seal is voluntary, so some products may simply state "organic" on the label without using the seal.

"If organic foods appeal to you, but their higher price takes a bite out of your food budget, make the commissary your first choice for purchasing organic," Nixon said. "Our overall price savings of thirty percent or more applies to organic products, too."

For more information on choosing and using organic foods, visit the DeCA Web site <http://www.commissaries.com>.

Commentary: Eating healthy as a Family - on the go

By
MAJ. KAREN E. FAUBER
DeCA

Families today are busier than ever with school, work, activities and errands. It is challenging to find time to enjoy healthy meals together. Yet with a little planning, preparation and commitment, it is possible to enjoy healthy meals and snacks whether on the run or sitting down together as a Family. At the same time, teens can learn the value of the commissary benefit and the 30 percent savings that can stretch any grocery budget.

Compared to teens who have frequent Family dinners (five or more per week), those who have infrequent Family dinners (two or fewer) are more likely to have used illegal drugs and alcohol according to a new report by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University and sponsored by The Safeway Foundation. CASA created Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™ to promote the importance of eating together during September each year.

To add to the significance of eating together as a Family, research from the University of Minnesota suggests that teenagers who eat with their Families have healthier eat-

ing habits as adults. As adults, they eat more foods with calcium, magnesium, potassium, vitamin B6 and fiber. All of these nutrients are important for good health.

Family meal planning

Make a meal plan for a week and put it on the refrigerator. Have each person in the Family sign up for something, to include planning the meals and snacks, buying the food, fixing the food and cleaning up. As part of your meal plan, consider the following tips:

- Keep a list of favorite foods and meals on the refrigerator to use for help with planning meals and snacks.

- Make the meal plan serve as a shopping list and the weekly menu. Include your children when shopping at the commissary for the foods on the meal plan.

Teach children about budgeting money for food. They can learn to plan the menu around your budget.

Commit to eating together as schedules allow. Aim for at least one night a week.

Easy Family meals in minutes

Of course, whipping up a five-course meal in a snap may be easy for a professional chef, but if you are a Family on the go, the dinner menu can be a challenge. So here are sever-

al ideas for home-cooked "fast food" to save the day:

- Chop cooked chicken breast or ground chicken and pasta and toss it with olive oil, garlic and sautéed spinach and tomatoes.

- Make a quick chili with black beans, northern beans, pinto beans, cooked, with or without lean ground meat and chili seasoning. Just heat and eat. For variety, drain and serve it on tortillas with a little cheese.

- Mix a bag of salad, chopped meat, salsa, a little

cheese and serve on tortilla chips or tortillas.

- Keep cooked pasta or rice in the refrigerator for a few days, mix together with beans, and spaghetti sauces. Heat and eat, on nights that are really busy.

For more information on Family meals or other nutrition topics, go to <http://www.commissaries.com> and visit the DeCA Dietitian forum. You can post your questions there or access other helpful information in The Dietitian's Voice archive.

Community Notes

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 27 SUNSET CRUISE

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

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

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 28 MARGARITA NIGHT

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer Margarita Night, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$35 per person (21 years of age or older). The historical oyster dredger will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area as margaritas are served and Jimmy Buffet tunes play. Also includes light refreshments and beer. Credit cards are accepted.

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

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30 HARVEST FESTIVAL AT STEPPINGSTONE

The Steppingstone Museum, located at 461 Quaker Bottom in Susquehanna State Park, Havre de Grace, will hold its annual Fall Harvest Festival and Craft Show, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Events include a fiddler's competition, historical craft demonstration, food, hay rides, apple bobbing and pressing, bluegrass and country music, cloggers, square dancing, scarecrow making and more. Cost of admission is \$5 for adults and children 12 years of age; free admission for museum members and children 11 years of age and under.

For more information, call 410-939-2299 or 1-888-4191762 or visit the museum's Web site www.stepingstonemuseum.org.

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 30 DRESS FOR BATTLE II

Ames United Methodist Church located on 112 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air, will host guest ministers' Pastor Melvin, Co-Pastor Carol Taylor; Word of Faith Outreach Ministries Choir; the Rev. Granderson Jones Jr. and White Marsh Charge UMC Choir at 4 p.m. Donations will be accepted. All proceeds will benefit the Ames Praise Sign Ministry.

For more information, call Lynn Boyd, 410-638-7882.

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 4 DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SPEAKS

The Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs will present Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England 6 p.m., in the Maryland Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel, located on 201 East Pratt Street, Baltimore. England will present "A Perspective on the Current Situation in Iraq and Security Challenges to the United States." Reservations are required. Members are free, non-members pay a \$15 fee. Membership is open to the public.

For more information, to make a reservation, apply for membership or to purchase tickets, call 410-727-2150, write to the Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs, World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Suite 1611, Baltimore, MD 21202, or e-mail bcfaprograms@verizon.com.

HARFORD COUNTY JOB FAIR

The 19th annual Harford County Job Fair will be held 2 to 6 p.m. in the Richlin Ballroom and Ramada Inn and Conference Center located

on 1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood. Organizations include healthcare, food service, finance and education, emergency services, communications, construction, utilities, manufacturing and distribution, APG Civilian Personnel Office and many BRAC and government contractors.

For more information, visit www.swnetwork.org for a list of participating employers.

LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE

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

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

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 6 SUNRISE PONTOON

Relax and take in the natural world as it awakens on the creek as the sun climbs over the horizon. This program will be held 7 to 8:30 a.m. for children weighing 30 lbs. to adult with a contribution of \$6 for adults and \$4 for ages 13 and under. Registration is required.

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

GERMAN/AMERICAN OKTOBERFEST

American Legion Edgewood Service Post 17, located on 415 Edgewood Road, will hold a German/American Oktoberfest. Doors open 5 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 per person and include music

by Eugen and Alfred Zeller, Mizzi the yodler, DNJ Angelika and cash bar. No BYOB. Menu includes schnitzel, jaegersauce, bratwurst, sauerkraut, puree, rolls, kartoffel salad, french fries and German beer. Shots at the bar cost \$4 each. Plum cake with whipped cream costs \$4 each.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Lis 410-676-1146.

TRAIL TREK: SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK

Enjoy a splendid 3- to 4-mile hike with volunteer Eugene Burg along the banks of the Susquehanna. Bring lunch. Meet at Susquehanna State Park - location to be determined. This program will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. The program is free but registration is required.

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

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Ames United Methodist Church, located on 112 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air, will hold a Community Yard Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Ames United Methodist Church school.

For more information, call Robin Smith, 410-803-9668 or e-mail rawasmith@comcast.net.

AMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HEALTH FAIR

The Rev. Winifred J. Blagmond, Pastor, Ames United Methodist Church, located on 112 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air, will hold Healing in the Body of Christ, Health Fair 2007, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Events include blood pressure screening, body fat

analysis, holistic medicine, children's activities and door prizes. Donations will be accepted.

Proceeds will benefit the Health and Welfare Ministry. For more information, call Robin Smith, 410-803-9668 or e-mail rawasmith@comcast.net.

X MARKS THE SPOT

Join a naturalist for a park wide scavenger hunt. Follow clues to explore the park, find what is on a list and then enjoy a snack. This program will be held 1 to 3 p.m. for all ages (Families). Cost is \$10 per Family, and registration is required.

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

MARGARITA NIGHT

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer Margarita Night, 5 to 7 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$35 per person (21 years of age or older). The historical oyster dredger will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area as margaritas are served and Jimmy Buffet tunes play. Also includes light refreshments and beer. Credit cards are accepted.

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

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 7 NATURE TALES

Come explore nature through a story. Listen to a tale about an animal or a habitat. Story time may include meeting a live critter, a simple craft or acting out the story.

This program begins at 1 p.m., the topic is bats, and is free for all ages. No registration required.

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

A-FOWL ON THE WATER

A mystery canoe trip on the creek will lead to clues to solve the murder. This program will be held 3 to 5:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. Cost is \$10 and registration is required.

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

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 10 AFTERNOON TEA

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer an Afternoon Tea Cruise, 2 to 3:30 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$30 per person. Dainty sandwiches, scones and desserts will be served. Credit cards will be accepted. Reservations are required.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 410-939-4078.

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 13 VFW FLEA MARKET

VFW Post 5337, located on 3705 Pulaski Highway, Abingdon, will hold its annual flea market, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Outside tables cost \$10 each and inside tables cost \$8 each.

For more information or to reserve a table, call Tammy, 410-297-6964 or call VFW Post 5337, 410-676-4456.

NATURE'S PUMPKINS

Come search Leight Park for natural items to create a natural pumpkin. This program will be held 11 am to 12:30 p.m. for all ages. Cost is \$5 and registration is required.

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

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

Chapel News

Women of Grace Ministry

Women of Grace Ministry meetings, an APG Gospel service, will be held 7 p.m., on the first Friday of each month, APG North Chapel, classroom 4. The book "Confident Women," by Joyce Myers will be read. All women are invited to attend. Childcare will be provided upon request.

The Women of Grace Ministry will meet 10 a.m., Oct. 13, at the APG North Chapel for a fellowship gourmet tea and brunch. All women are invited to enjoy fellowship and fun - design a hat and win a spa basket. Guest speaker will be Minister Eva Mims of the

New Destiny Evangelist Church, Edgewood. This event is free.

For more information or to register, call Renata Weaver, 410-272-6583.

The Women of Grace Ministry meet 10 a.m. the second Saturday of each month at a location to be announced.

For more information, call Renata Weaver, 410-272-6583.

Protestant Children's Church

PCC is conducted every Sunday during the 10:15 Protestant Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall at Main Post Chapel. All are welcome.

Catholic Women of the Chapel

CWOC invites all women to the first Friday of the month gatherings 10 a.m. and Monday evenings, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

All meetings are held at the Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall.

For more information, call Cathy Day, 410-937-2617,

Kathleen Santana, 410-273-7358, Librada Peters, 410-864-8815 or Bernadette Kovalsick, 410-322-5206.

Protestant Adult Bible Study

Protestant Adult Bible Study is held every Sunday, 9 to 9:50 a.m. at the Main Post Chapel.

Gospel Children's Church/Sunday School

Children's Church is conducted every Sunday during the noon Gospel Worship Service at Main Post Chapel. All are welcome.

Children and adults are invited to attend Gospel Sunday School 11 a.m. to noon at the Main Post Chapel.

For more information, contact Clarence Weaver, 443-567-8934.

Volunteers are always welcome and training will be provided.

For more information on Religious Education Chapel Programs, call Gerri Merkel, DRE, 410-278-2516.

POST SHORTS

available from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in building 305, room 236 and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in building E-4811 (seminar area of Conference Center) to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, call Teri Wright, 410-278-4331.

Celebrate Hispanic-American Heritage Month

The APG Garrison Hispanic Heritage Program will present "90 Years of Hispanic Heritage Military Service – Making a Positive Impact on American Society." The annual Hispanic-American heritage program will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oct. 2, at the APG Recreation Center, building 3326. Guest speaker will be Brig. Gen. Alberto J. Jimenez, deputy assistant adjutant general, Maryland Army National Guard. There will be food sampling, music and dancing.

For more information, call Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez, 410-278-1509, James Rivera, EEO Officer, 410-278-1161, Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, REDCOM, 410-436-4810 or Linda Patrick, CHPPM, 410-436-1023.

Harford County job fair

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program and the Susquehanna Workforce Network will join Harford County in presenting a job fair 2 to 6 p.m., Oct. 4, at the Richlin Ballroom, Ramada Inn and Conference Center on Van Bibber Road in Edgewood. Industry leaders in healthcare, food service, finance, education, emergency services, manufacturing, and other fields, as well as the APG Civilian Personnel Office and several government contractors will be on hand.

Dress for success, bring plenty of resumes and be prepared to fill out applications.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, ERP manager at 410-278-9669, or visit the Susquehanna Workforce Web site, <http://www.swnetwork.org>.

NFFE Local 178 holds monthly meetings

The National Federation of Employees NFFE-IAM, Federal District 1, IAMAW, AFL-CIO, NFFE Local 178 invites all bargaining unit members to attend monthly meetings 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., building E-4415 (REDCOM, ECBC, ECBC matrixed employees, MRICD, 22d Chemical Battalion and Acquisition Center government employees). Meetings will be held Oct. 18.

Topics include union health benefits, union member rights/benefits, legislative update and NSPS (National Security Personnel System) update.

For more information, call 410-436-3942 or e-mail local178@apg.army.mil.

Navigating technology transfer

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Federal Labs Consortium Mid Atlantic Region will be held 1 p.m., Oct. 22 thru 24, at Harbortowne Resort located in St. Michaels, Md. The meeting is designed to be useful to federal, industry, academic and economic development practitioners. A training session on technology transfer will be held 1 to 4:30 p.m., Oct. 22, followed by a networking reception in the evening.

Cost to attend is \$250 for early birds; after Sept. 28, cost is \$300; the training session costs \$40 extra.

The FLC Awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer and the Hot Technology contest will also be featured.

For more information or to register for the conference, visit http://www.flcmidatlantic.org/2007_annual_meeting.html.

The FLC MAR consists of the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the

District of Columbia. Select conference sponsorships with many valuable benefits are also available. For more information, visit http://www.flcmidatlantic.org/2007_annual_meeting_sponsors.html

Register for the 2007 Combatant Commanders Workshop

John J. Young Jr., acting under secretary, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and R. Paul Ryan, administrator, DoD Defense Technical Information Center will host the 2007 Combatant Commanders Workshop, Oct. 29 and 30 at the "Lighthouse," Center for Innovation, 8000 Harbor View Boulevard, Suffolk, Va.

The topic of the workshop is "Rapid Technical Support for the Warfighter." Military officers, colonels and above and civilians, GS-14 and above are eligible to attend. There is no registration fee associated with this workshop. Workshop attendees are responsible for travel and lodging costs.

The purpose of the workshop is to improve CoCOM awareness of technology information, and align force providers technical information needs with the DTIC tools, Research and Engineering Portal, Information Analysis Centers and Scientific and Technical Information Network.

Questions, issues or suggestions can be e-mailed to the workshop coordinator at DTICCoComWorkshop@dtic.mil.

For more information or to register, visit Web site <https://www.enstg.com/Invitation> and enter code 20069924.

Thrift Shop to disburse funds

The APG Thrift Shop will accept requests for donations from service organizations and

military units through Oct. 31.

The request should include the name of the organization, point of contact, address, telephone number, amount requested and specific details on what the funds will be used for.

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

Mail or drop off requests to APG Thrift Shop, building 2458, APG, MD 21005-5001. For more information, call the store during operating hours, which are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the first Saturday of the month, 410-272-8572. Consignments are only taken 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday.

Everyone is reminded not to use the area in front or to the back of the shop as a dumping site. The Thrift Shop only wants items that are in good as new condition.

Disability Employment Training Conference scheduled

The Federal Executive Board is sponsoring the annual Disability Employment Training Conference 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Nov. 8. The conference is being hosted by and at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Complex, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore (Woodlawn).

This one-day conference is for federal, state and local managers, supervisors, professionals, special emphasis program managers and employees, who work in the disability arena. The conference fee of \$50 includes a continental breakfast, lunch, breaks and a conference padfolio and materials.

For additional details and registration information, visit the FEB Web site <http://www.baltimorefeb.us> or send an e-mail to Baltimore.feb@verizon.net.

Purchase surplus Harford County government property online

The Harford County Department of Procurement now offers government surplus property on PublicSurplus.com. This site allows the public to bid on general merchandise including desks, chairs, file cabinets, electronic equipment and more. The county also will offer for sale several used police package vehicles. Following payment of merchandise through PublicSurplus.com, all purchased items must be removed from the county surplus warehouse within 14 working days.

For more information, call the Department of Procurement, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, 410-638-3550.

ACS hosts Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities

Oct. 1

Meet Me at the Gate: Army Community Service staff will greet commuters at all APG gates, 7 to 10 a.m.

Oct. 6 and 20

A domestic violence information booth will be set up at the commissary, 9 a.m. to noon.

Oct. 13

Cycle to the Fall Fest to 'End the Cycle' of violence and meet Captain America, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 18

Lights on Against Domestic Abuse, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Commuters are asked to drive with their vehicle lights on.

Oct. 22

Speakers Betty Ramirez Swinners, abuse survivor, and Sandra Ramos, founder of first battered women's shelter, will speak 1 to 4 p.m., at Top of the Bay. A shell 'memorial' ceremony will be held to honor victims of



domestic violence.

Oct. 2, 9 and 16

Freedom From Abuse 'Quilt' – "Talking it Out" support group, 6 to 8 p.m., at Army Community Service building 2754

Oct. 10 and 24

"Reviving Ophelia," a prevention movie for young women to help empower them and recognize signs of abuse will be presented 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Child and Youth Services.

Date TBA

"Soldiers Strong Against Domestic Abuse" 5K Run, location TBD.

For more information, call Aida Riviera or Lynda Fernandez, Army Community Service, 410-278-7478/2435.

2008 FEHB, FEDVIP rates posted

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season will be held Nov. 12 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 word "dental" or "vision."

More information on the Benefits Open Season will appear in future issues of the *APG News*.

Give the gift of life - blood drive Nov. 30

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, Aber-

deen 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.

TSP offers subscription service

The Thrift Savings Plan now offers an e-mail subscription service for plan news and information. To subscribe, go to www.tsp.gov under "NEW - Get e-mail updates."

CBRNIAC offers technical inquiry service

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

The service offers up to four hours of technical analysis service at no cost to authorized users from Department of Defense agencies, other federal government agencies, DoD and federal

contractors, state and local governments and emergency response organizations. The service covers the full range of CBRN defense and related homeland security topics.

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

Reminder: Vehicle storage in housing areas

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

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



Your health is KUSAHC's goal



TSGLI Army, VA review: Helping Soldiers, dispelling myths

Story by
LT COL KEVIN V. ARATA
U.S. Army Human Resources
Command

The U.S. Army along with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has completed their first review of Traumatic Service Members' Group Life Insurance since its start in 2005. The Congressionally-mandated insurance program has provided about \$250 million to traumatically-injured members of the armed services. Of that, about \$136 million was paid to Soldiers in the U.S. Army—more than twice the next highest service.

While those figures definitely represent success in working toward the program's mission to provide financial help for traumatically injured Soldiers, TSGLI still faces challenges with educating service members about the program and dispelling some myths that have grown around TSGLI during its short existence.

TSGLI was created to help servicemembers and their Families get through tough financial times that often happen when a service member is severely injured. Approved TSGLI claimants receive a one-time payment of up to \$100,000, based on the type and severity of the injury. That money might be the difference that allows a Soldier's Family to stay with him or her during recovery, help with unforeseen expenses or give them a financial head start on life after recovery.

From the Army's point of view, the program faces some interrelated challenges: ensuring that all Soldiers are aware of TSGLI, understand its purpose, and know how to file a

correctly prepared claim; and decreasing the claim processing time.

The average time to process a claim from receipt at Army through payment by Office of Service Members Group Life Insurance is 30 days, according to Col. John F. Sackett, who leads the TSGLI Division under the U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency.

Sackett believes both situations can be improved through outreach educating Soldiers, healthcare providers, counselors and advocates.

"Our main focus is on determining which Soldiers are eligible to receive this payment, based on the claim they file, and then making sure eligible Soldiers receive payment as quickly as possible, so this money is available while they recover from their injury," he said. "One of our biggest barriers is the lack of knowledge and general misconceptions that are out there regarding TSGLI. These barriers create situations where Soldiers who are not eligible file claims; or Soldiers who are eligible file claims without supplying the required documentation allowing us to adjudicate their claim quickly."

To reduce these barriers, the Army uses a robust outreach program including messaging, educational materials, media outreach, and a constantly updated dynamic Web site, along with numerous in-person appearances and briefings at significant military events (i.e. Army Medical Holdover Conference, AMSUS, AUSA, etc.) and repeated visits to military treatment facilities such as Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and Brooke Army Medical

Center in San Antonio, Texas. But more is needed, so Army TSGLI is working hard to place "boots on the ground" at major MTFs starting late this summer through this fall. TSGLI counselors will provide a full stance of claims assistance, medical staff and caseworker education, and extensive Soldier records procurement on behalf of the Soldier working through the Warrior Transition Units and Soldier Family Assistance Centers.

While the overall focus of the outreach program is on educating claimants and the people who care for them, specific messages have been created to help dispel five myths that have grown up around the program:

Myth #1: TSGLI is just for combat injuries.

False. Any qualifying injury incurred after Dec. 1, 2005, is eligible for TSGLI coverage—regardless of whether it was in combat or not. The only exception is the retroactive program, which covers Soldiers injured beginning Oct. 7, 2001, through Nov. 30, 2005, but only if they were injured in a Combat Zone Tax Exclusion area supporting Operation Enduring Freedom or Opera-

tion Iraqi Freedom.

Myth #2: A healthcare provider's statement is all that is needed to verify a TSGLI claim.

False. While TSGLI claims won't be approved without a certification from a healthcare provider, additional documentation must be provided to substantiate the certification. The documentation may include medical reports and tests that establish the type of injury and the time that the Soldier was incapacitated as a result. Specific information is available on the TSGLI Web site.

Myth #3: TSGLI replaces a traumatically injured Soldier's income.

False. TSGLI provides one-time, tax-free payments that can help a Soldier and Family member get through short-term difficulties related to his or her injury and has no effect on regular pay.

Myth #4: TSGLI is an entitlement to Soldiers incurring any traumatic injuries.

False. TSGLI provides an insurance benefit for one or more of a total of 44 scheduled physical losses due to external force or violence. These covered losses include amputation, burns, paralysis, brain

injury or coma, loss of senses (e.g. blindness), or temporary losses of two of six activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, dressing, continence, transferring, and toileting. It does not cover Post Traumatic Syndrome Disease.

Myth #5: TSGLI denies the first claim attempt automatically.

False. Good documentation is the key to a quick award of TSGLI. Loss Schedules #1 through 43 covers losses that have a defined and measurable loss. Loss # 44, the activities of daily living does not, and further requires the medical provider documentation to substantiate the duration (e.g. 30, 60, 90, or 120 days) of two or more ADLs in which the Soldier was completely dependent (defined as 75 to 100 percent care by another person).

By dispelling these five myths, TSGLI will be better positioned to help the Soldiers who are truly eligible for this benefit and do so in an even more timely manner.

"As claimants become better educated about TSGLI, it can't help but speed up our processes, which allows us to better accomplish our objective of helping heroes in times of need," Sackett said.

He and the outreach team rely heavily on the Web site and Web-based outreach e-tools to help in dispelling these myths and more.

"With a majority of the key information online, Soldiers or Family members trying to access the TSGLI programs benefits will better understand the eligibility and claims process. In addition, people who care for Soldiers, such as Family members, counselors and healthcare providers, will have information tailored specifically to their particular roles in the process," Sackett said.

The TSGLI Web site has an array of features including user-friendly graphics, detailed program information, outreach materials, program statistics that detail claims and dollars paid to date; and an online discussion forum, where users can log in, post questions or comments and interact with others to share best practices and answer common questions.

For more information about TSGLI, contact the U.S. Army TSGLI service center at 1-800-237-1336, e-mail TSGLI@conus.army.mil or visit web site www.tsqli.army.mil.

New program helps severely wounded warriors navigate health care

TRICARE Management Activity

The new Warrior Care Support Program in TRICARE's North Region provides wounded service members with one point of contact, taking stress out of military health care for beneficiaries and their Families.

"Programs like this are a great addition to the ongoing efforts within the military health care system to help our Families during a challenging time in their lives," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity.

The program identifies eligible severely ill or injured Service members to participate through military treatment facility referrals, records identification and service member requests. Criteria are not restricted to service related injury and the program is voluntary.

Upon acceptance in the program, a health care coordinator from a team of nurses, doctors and administrative staff will assist with a timely and seamless transition and coordination of physical and behavioral health care services from the MTF to the civilian sector or the

Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to coordinating care, the team assists the warrior and members by educating them on health care choices, providing specialized resources and assisting with claims resolutions and authorizations for medical equipment.

Health Net Federal Services, contractor for TRICARE North Region, incorporates the District of Columbia and 20 Northeast states plus portions of Tennessee, Missouri and Iowa.

For more information about Health Net Federal Services visit www.healthnetfederalservices.com.

TRS members must re-register for restructured program

Story by
BONNIE J. POWELL
Army News Service

National Guard and Reserve members participating in the TRICARE Reserve Select healthcare plan must sign up for the restructured TRS by Sept. 30, in order to continue their coverage.

TRS was authorized by Congress in 2005 as a premium-based healthcare plan for National Guard members and Reservists. The revamped version, effective Oct. 1, is affordable and simpler, with one premium level instead of the current three-tier system.

"There have been many improvements in reserve-component pay and benefits in the past few years," said Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas F. Hall. "TRS is a robust healthcare plan. It represents a substantial benefit available to our Reserve and National Guard service members and their Families."

Monthly premiums are \$81 for the service

member and \$253 for member-and-family coverage. TRS offers coverage comparable to TRICARE Standard and Extra.

The revamped program also includes expanded survivor coverage, continuously open enrollment and much more. Gone are service agreements and differing qualifications for each of the three tiers.

There are only two qualifications under the restructured program. First, service members must be selected reserve members of the Ready Reserve. Second, they must not be eligible for, or currently covered by, the Federal Employee Health Benefits program (either on their own or through Family members).

Reserve Affairs sent a letter in August to reserve-component service members currently covered by TRS, explaining the program changes and how to continue coverage. As of early September, only 15 percent of approximately 11,000 current members had completed and submitted

the new TRS request forms.

To continue TRS coverage, all current members must go to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/trs/>, print out the new TRS request form, sign it and return it to their regional contractors by Sept. 30. If payment is usually made by check, the first month's payment must also be included. Members who pay electronically do not need to include a payment if they meet the deadline.

For more information about the updated plan, National Guard members and Reservists should see the "My Benefits" portal at www.tricare.mil. Reserve-component points of contact - identified at www.defenselink.mil/ra/html/tricare.html - can answer additional questions.

(Editor's note: Bonnie J. Powell is the director of public affairs for TRICARE Communications and Customer Service.) TRS members must re-register for restructured program

LEAVE DONATIONS

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

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

James Addas
Karen Blades
William Bond
Debra Bonsall (daughter has brain tumor)
Henry Cason
Barbara Crossley
John Daigle

Shelia Davison (benign paroxysmal positional vertigo)
Wayne Doyle
Carolyn Johnson
Beverly King (caring for husband)
Jill Klishis

Coby Lantry
Victoria Little
Phillip Mellowship
Karen Moss
Gloria Morales
Cindy Orwig
Lester Pilcher
Virginia Pippen

Donna Sexton
Dianne Simmons
Joyce Spies
Christine Wheaton
Louis Winters
Sharon Woods
Charles Young



Veterans' Voices

Injured Soldiers celebrate life in HBO documentary

Story by
2ND LT. OLIVIA COBISKEY
Army News Service

Sgt. Bryan Anderson didn't hear the explosion that ripped his vehicle apart in southeast Baghdad.

"I didn't hear it. I saw the light and the flash," he said of the roadside bomb that changed his life.

The first thing he noticed afterward was his fingertip ... gone. Then he noticed his entire hand and his legs - also gone.

That was Oct. 23, 2005 - Anderson's "Alive Day."

"Everybody makes a big deal about your 'Alive Day,' especially at Walter Reed," Anderson said during the Aug. 30 premiere of HBO's "Alive Day Memories: Home From Iraq" at The Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago.

The documentary surveys the physical and emotional

cost of war through the memories of wounded Soldiers' "Alive Day," the day they narrowly escaped death in Iraq.

James Gandolfini, executive producer, interviewed ten Soldiers and Marines about their feelings on their future, their severe disabilities and their devotion to America.

This is HBO Documentary Films' third production focusing on the War in Iraq, following "Baghdad ER" and "Last Letters Home: Voices of American Troops from the Battlefields of Iraq."

"These men and women show us what true courage and heroism is," said Jon Alpert, who photographed and produced the documentary. "The film promises to tell you about the horror and heroism of war."

Alpert told the crowd of nearly 500 people gathered to view the documentary that for the first time in American history,

90 percent of those wounded are surviving their injuries. However, a greater percentage of these men and women are returning with amputations, traumatic brain injuries and severe post-traumatic stress.

Although many of the service members would prefer to return to their units, more than half of these injuries are too severe for service members to return to active military service.

Spc. Crystal Davis stayed on active duty after recovering from her injuries. The 23-year-old from Camden, S.C., is training to become a military physical therapist technician.

"... who better to help those in need than someone who has been there herself?" asked Davis, who was injured in Ar Ramadi Jan. 21, 2006, causing her right leg to be amputated below the knee. Every bone below her left knee, including

her knee, was also broken.

"For me to be a female below-knee amputee and still be active duty in the U.S. Army will be plenty of motivation for them to strive to succeed," she said.

The six Soldiers and four Marines who spoke with Gandolfini ranged from ages 21 to 41, and their injuries ranged from triple-limb amputations to severe traumatic brain injury and blindness.

"The fight doesn't stop when you get home. In our cases, it's just begun," Marine Cpl. Jake Schick told Gandolfini during the documentary.

Schick, who was wounded Sept. 20, 2004, near Baghdad, lost his right leg and has severe wounds to his left arm and leg.

At one moment in the film, 1st Lt. Dawn Halfaker, whose right arm and shoulder were amputated, is overwhelmed.

The 27-year-old from San

Diego, Calif., stares off into space and tears well up in her eyes.

When Gandolfini asked her what she was thinking she said, "I won't be able to pick up my son or daughter with two arms."

For others, just being alive is enough.

"If I can lose my legs and still be alive and be with my kids and wife then that's the way it's got to be," said Marine Staff Sgt. John Jones, 29, San Antonio, Texas. "God's given me a second chance."

Anderson, 26, lost his right leg at the hip, his left leg six inches below the hip and his left arm below the elbow. His right hand was also shattered. He became the fourth U.S. service member to lose three limbs in Iraq and survive. He stabilized enough to get to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where his rehab began.

While there, he received 40 operations in 13 months.

But being an amputee hasn't stopped him. He's tried rock climbing, wake boarding, white water rafting, water skiing and snow skiing. He even has aspirations of being a Hollywood stuntman.

When asked what he wanted people to take away from the film, Anderson answered, "We're all okay. We're living our lives and doing okay."

The documentary will be available on HBO on Demand through Oct. 8, and has been streamed on www.hbo.com since Sept. 10. The Web site will also include Soldier profiles, personal videos and blogs and exclusive portraits by photographer Timothy Greenfield-Sanders.

For more information on the Soldiers and Marines in the documentary, visit www.hbo.com.

Hire a Hero Program links veterans with jobs

Story by
SGT. 1ST CLASS ERICK STUDENICKA
Army News Service

Although much of the stress associated with a National Guard deployment concludes upon returning home, a new concern can surface for Soldiers and Airmen who return with no job waiting.

For those Soldiers, [Marines] and Airmen seeking work, there's a new Internet tool, Hire a Hero, that links military job-seekers with military-friendly employers.

"It's a site best described as where 'My Space' meets 'Monster.com' for the military community," said Dan Caulfield, the executive director of the non-profit organization Hire a Hero that operates the site. "It's a social network enabling veterans to connect with jobs."

Hire a Hero was designed to match employers searching for employees with military qualities and skills with job seekers looking for careers. More than 600 businesses have participated on the job board, and more than 180,000 individuals have registered at the site. The site also allows those in the military community to expand their networking abilities, especially in the Soldiers', [Marines'] and Airmen's home communities.

"When someone comes back from a military deployment, they want to go back to work in their home area usually," said Caulfield, a former Marine Corps infantry officer. "The networking features of Hire a Hero allows Soldiers, [Marines] or Airmen to talk to more people in their area."

Caulfield stressed that networking is an important aspect



of a job search, with success rates for jobseekers increasing dramatically with increased networking. He said a recent internal Hire a Hero survey found jobseekers who networked with more than six site users had a success rate of more than 30 percent.

"We know that the more people you talk to as you look for a job, the better your chances of finding a good job," Caulfield said. "We want to get you connected with people local to where you want to work."

Caulfield believes the Hire a Hero site will be especially effective for National Guard members, and said much of the potential for the site will stem from its use by National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

With that goal in mind, Hire a Hero signed a memorandum of understanding with the California National Guard to work with that state's public affairs, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and Family Services offices in an effort to assist in employment acquisition as well as recruiting and retention.

The initial statistics for the use of the site by California Guard members during the first

three months have been impressive. According to California Army Guard Col. Charlotte Miller, 694 California employers have posted more than 20,000 potential job opportunities on the site, and 706 connections between employers and California Guard members have occurred.

"It is important to us that our Soldiers are provided with quality civilian employment opportunities," said Maj. Gen. William Wade II, the California National Guard's adjutant general. "We are excited to be the first state to take part in this initiative."

Caulfield anticipates other states including Texas, New York, Florida and Pennsylvania will sign memorandums of understanding with Hire a Hero in the near future. Eventually Caulfield would like to sign MOUs with all 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

Before becoming the executive director of Hire a Hero, Caulfield was managing director of Helmets to Hardhats, a program that has helped about 60,000 military personnel transition into the construction industry.

(Editor's note: Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka writes for the National Guard Bureau.)

SRAP program offers combat vets opportunity to tell their stories back home

U.S. Army Recruiting Command Public Affairs

Active duty Soldiers, regardless of age or rank, who are veterans of Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom have the opportunity to tell their Army stories in their hometowns through the Special Recruiter Assistance Program.

"There's really no one better to tell the Army story to the American public than our Soldiers who have been the boots on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, commanding general of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

This initiative enables Families, friends, area schools, local organizations and community leaders to hear firsthand accounts of the war through the voices of their hometown heroes.

"They have incredible stories that deserve to be heard; they make our Army and nation proud," Bostick said.

Bostick said the Soldiers who serve on SRAP duty play an incredibly important role in assisting with the recruiting efforts and helping meet the Army's end strength. In addition,

Soldiers on SRAP duty are eligible for the Army's \$2,000 Referral Bonus if any individuals they refer end up becoming Soldiers themselves.

The Army is seeking as many Soldiers as possible to return to their hometowns for SRAP duty before the end of the year. SRAP volunteers may be located in the states or overseas, but cannot be currently deployed in support of contingency operations.

SRAP participants will serve in a temporary duty status for up to 14 days and may claim reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem for the TDY period.

While on SRAP duty, Soldiers will assist recruiters at the recruiting station(s) nearest their hometowns, participate in area recruiting events and activities and talk to people interested in learning more about what it means to be a Soldier.

Complete details about the SRAP and \$2,000 referral bonus programs are available online at www.2k.army.mil or by calling 800-223-3735 ext. 6-1538 or 6-0448, or 502-626-1538/0448.

South Dakota offers veterans bonus

State of South Dakota

The state of South Dakota is paying a veterans bonus of up to \$500 to certain military personnel who were legal residents of the state for no less than six months immediately preceding entry into the armed forces, who are currently on active duty or were honorably discharged from the armed forces, and who served on active duty during one, or both of the following periods. Individuals who have previously received the maximum \$500 payment, for one or both of these periods, are not eligible for any additional payment.

For service between the dates of Jan. 1, 1993 through Sept. 10, 2001, payment will be made only to those who served in an imminent danger pay area, or were awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal, Southwest Asia Service medal, Kosovo campaign medal or any other United States campaign or

service medal awarded for participation in combat operations against hostile forces. All active duty between the dates of Sept. 11, 2001, through a date to be determined, qualifies for a bonus payment.

This program also allows payment for active duty during the Desert Storm/Shield dates of Aug. 2, 1990 to March 3, 1991 and for individuals who served in an imminent danger pay area during the dates of March 4, 1991 to Dec. 31, 1992. Individuals who have previously received the maximum of \$500 for these dates

are not eligible for any additional payment.

Applicants living outside of South Dakota may obtain an application by e-mail at john.fette@state.sd.us. Include service member's branch of the military and dates of service. Service members may also request an application and instructions by writing SD Veterans Bonus, 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501 or by calling 605-773-7251.

Applicants living in South Dakota may apply through the nearest County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer.



MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Tickets still available for Montgomery Gentry concert

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Montgomery Gentry and special guests Joe Nichols and Shauna Bolton are set to bring a foot-stomping good time to Aberdeen Proving Ground's Shine Sports Field for the 2007 Army Concert Tour this Saturday, Sept. 29.

Gates open 6 p.m. and the show starts 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 in advance, \$30 the day of the show.

For tickets, visit the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Web site www.apgmwr.com; call 410-278-4907/4621/4011; TTY 410-278-4110; e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil; or call Ticketmaster at 800-551-SEAT.

The concert is lawn seating, rain or shine and no refunds.

Gate operations, security

The Route 22 Gate will open 3 p.m. for concert traffic. The Route 715 gate will be operational for government ID card holders as usual. Entry to APG requires a valid photo ID for ages 16 and older and drivers must present a valid drivers license.

The Post Commissary will close at 3 p.m. and the Main PX will close at 4 p.m. to allow for extra parking.

Alcohol, drugs and any types of weapons, cameras, recording devices, coolers and pets are prohibited. Fans may bring blankets and lawn chairs but no beach umbrellas.

Cars and possessions are subject to search by law enforcement and security personnel.

Montgomery Gentry

The Country Music Association announced Aug. 30 that Montgomery Gentry has been nominated for Vocal Duo of the Year.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed," said Troy Gentry when informed of the announcement. "We're coming off a good run with 'Lucky Man' being number one on the charts for two weeks, and our new single, 'What Do Ya Think About That,' has a lot of momentum behind it. So that sets us up great for the awards coming up in November."

The 41st Annual CMA Awards airs Nov. 7 on ABC.

The duo's roots spring from northern Kentucky. Eddie Montgomery

grew up in his Family's band where he and his brother John Michael spent their formative years singing in honky-tonks. The Montgomery brothers and Troy Gentry joined forces in a band called Young Country until John Michael landed a record deal. Eddie Montgomery and Gentry eventually found themselves on stage together at various charity concerts and they decided to get back together.

"It just seemed like the more we were playing together around town, the bigger our following got," Gentry said.

Nashville heard the buzz, and Columbia Records signed them. A string of hits followed, including "My Town," "Speed," "Hell Yeah," "Gone," "She Don't Tell Me To," "Something To Be Proud Of" and "If You Ever Stop Loving Me."

The duo has performed for more than a million fans and they have been named the Country Music Association's Duo of the Year and won Favorite New Country Artist by the American Music Awards. As impressive as their past has been, their future looks even brighter.

With their latest CD, Montgomery Gentry takes yet another important step forward.

"Some People Change," the title track, became their fastest-rising single. The CD's other songs include "Hey Country," "Tears Are Comin'," "Redder Than That," "Free Ride In The Fast Lane" and the father-son epic "Twenty Years Ago."

"If you look at the direction Montgomery Gentry has gone," said Gentry, "we started out with a hard-driving, in-your-face, honky-tonk, hell-raising style and carried that over into more of a working man's album on 'My Town.'"

"We spoke a lot about our military ... and songs Americans could listen to and identify with. This album goes even farther and brings it back to Family and religious beliefs, and keeps those ties to the military."

Montgomery Gentry drew more than 10,000 fans in their first sold out performance at APG in 2004.

Joe Nichols

"Real Things," Joe Nichols' fourth album for Universal Records South, presents the 30-year-old native of

Rogers, Ark., at the top of his vocal game.

According to Nichols "Real Things," is the album he would have made from the beginning, if he'd had the skills time has helped him accumulate.

Nichols said that past hits like "I'll Wait for You," "Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off," and "What's a Guy Gotta Do," were just a taste of what was to come.

"I don't think we've put it all together on an album like this before," Nichols said. "Musically, we've done what we've wanted to do."

"I've learned that when I look at people's faces when I'm singing, what touches them most -- what gets them to lean forward rather than lean back -- is when you show personality," Nichols said.

He said that on "Real Things" his persona comes though on songs like "Who Are You When I'm Not Looking," and "My Whiskey Years," in which he addresses the curse of addiction as though singing to an evil lover.

"Anything I do musically is a reflection of what I am doing personally," Nichols said.

"With 'Real Things,' I think I've recaptured some of the little boy who moved to Nashville, who had no opinion about how he would present himself to people. It was a boyish kind of naiveté. This album's not naive. But it's getting back to the purity I had before I had ever made a record."

Other singles on the CD include the hit single "Another Side of You," "If I Could Only Fly," a duet with Lee Ann Womack, "Let's Get Drunk and Fight" and "She's All Lady."

Shauna Bolton

Bolton lived in Baltimore for four years before moving to Nashville in 2006. She performed locally at the Tower Restaurant in Bel Air and at the Bayou Blues Café in White Marsh as well as for the Sunday in the Country concert series at Merriweather's in Howard County in 2004.

Currently at work on her first Nashville CD, Bolton is a self-described "Country-Pop-Soul" artist who writes her own music.

"I've always been a singer," she

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For more info 410-278-4907/4621/4011
TTY 410-278-4110
No refunds, concert is rain or shine, lawn seating

No endorsement by the U.S. Army is implied. MWR THE ARMY CHASE

said, when asked about the transition from songwriter. "But artists will always need songs and the artist side of me works hand in hand with the singer, although I've learned how to separate the two."

Bolton said that fans can expect a "grassroots blast" from her APG performance as well as from her upcoming CD.

"I can't wait to perform before the [APG] Soldiers and I hope this is the first of many opportunities," Bolton said, adding that it still thrills her to remember when she performed for injured Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"I'll always remember the appreciation in the eyes of those Soldiers," she said. "It was the most special night of my life."

Shauna Bolton is a singer/songwriter originally from Cleveland, Ohio. She is signed to EMI Music Publishing and she writes regularly in Nashville, New York and Los Angeles. Bolton's songs have been recorded by Jo Dee Messina, the Baha Men and Aaron Carter. Her song "Love Is," sung by young pop sensation, Angel Faith, was Angel's second single and has been released to radio. Also, her song "Beautiful In U" was placed in the Disney Channel's movie of the month, "Tru Confessions."

Shauna has opened for Jo Dee Messina, The Righteous Brothers, Chicago, Neil McCoy, The B-52's, Huey Lewis and the News, John Michael Montgomery and Montgomery Gentry.

Activities/Events

Sight and Sound trip

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a trip to Sight and Sound, Oct. 5 to see "In the Beginning," with dinner at Hershey Farms. Experience the dawn of creation as Sight and Sound Theatres presents the account of the creation of the world. Tickets cost \$93 for adults; \$69 for teens, ages 13 to 18 years; and \$47 for children, ages 12 years and under. Cost includes ticket, dinner buffet at Hershey Farms and charter bus transportation. The bus will depart 4 p.m.

For more information or for reservations, call Angela Keithley, 410-278-4603/4771.

Choose Phantom of the Opera or Les Miserables

MWR Leisure Travel Services has tickets for Phantom of the Opera or Les Miserables on Broadway, 2 p.m., Oct. 13. Tickets cost \$130 each for Les Miserables or \$115 each for Phantom of the Opera. Cost includes bus transportation and admission into each play. There will be time for shopping before and after each show.

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

Piano lessons

Piano I

Piano lessons for beginners with no prior experience or instruction will be held 6 to 7 p.m., on Mondays, Oct. 15 through Dec. 3 (no class on Nov. 12 for Veteran's Day).

Piano II

Piano lessons for students who can read music and had previous training will be held 7 to 8 p.m., on Mondays, Oct. 15 through Dec. 3 (no class on Nov. 12 for Veterans Day).

Learn to play the piano or the keyboard by mastering the basic skills required to read and play music. All equipment is provided.

Students will be responsible for purchasing the book pre-

scribed by the instructor for the course.

Classes cost \$60 per person and will be held at the Aberdeen Recreation Center Ballroom, building 3326.

For more information or to register, call the MWR Registration office, building 3326, 410-278-4907/4621.

Dog Obedience for Beginners

Get hands-on training and learn techniques that will help the dog respond to commands in a positive way.

Class will be held 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Thursday, Oct. 18 through Nov. 29 (no class Nov. 22) at the APG North Recreation Center, building 3326. Registration costs \$60.

For more information or to register, call MWR

Registration office, 410-278-4907/4621, building 3326.

Scrapbooking Crop

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a Scrapbooking Crop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 20, at Top of the Bay.

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

Cost is \$22 per person and includes lunch, door prizes and a goodie bag. Vendors will have items for all scrapbooking

needs and a massage therapist will be available for an optional massage. A stress-free day for all with plenty of pampering.

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

Basic Auto Mechanics

Sign up for Basic Auto Mechanics classes designed to enable the student to perform maintenance on a vehicle's engine and small engines including lawn mowers and some vehicle accessories.

Classes will be held 5:30 to 7 p.m., on Thursdays, Nov. 8, 15, 29 and 7, at the Automotive Crafts Shop, building 2379. Cost is \$45. The deadline to register is Nov. 6.

For more information or to register, call the MWR Registration office, building 3326, 410-278-4907/4621.

Your choice of shows at The Hippodrome Theater

MWR Leisure Travel Services has discounted tickets for several shows at The Hippodrome Theater, located on France-Merrick P.a.c., 12 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore.

Shows include:

- My Fair Lady, 2 p.m., Nov. 11
- 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 Aberdeen North Recreation Center, building 3326, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Disney High School Musical on ice

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

For more information, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907, or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

Sports

Ruggles holds Customer Appreciation Tournament this Saturday

Ruggles Golf Course will hold a Customer Appreciation Tournament, 8 a.m., Sept. 29. The tournament will be an 18-hole, two-person scramble. Minimum team handicap is 12. A continental breakfast will be served prior to the start and refreshments and awards upon completion of event.

Cost is \$20 for annual patrons; \$33 for authorized patrons; and \$40 for guests.

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

Units are set to duke it out in November

Another Amateur Boxing Night is set for 6 p.m., Nov. 17, in the parking lot of Hoyle Gymnasium, building E-4210. The 16th Ordnance Battalion will defend its title against the 143rd Ordnance Battalion.

Tickets cost \$5 for active duty military, \$10 for civilians and \$20 for ringside seats. Admission is free for children 6 and younger. The event is open to the public. Doors open at 4 p.m.

The event will be held inside the gym in case of inclement weather.

Purchase tickets at MWR Leisure Travel Services building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or Hoyle Gymnasium, 410-436-3375/7134.

Senior Golf special

Ruggles Golf Course is offering a Senior Golf Special to golfers age 55 or older: play Monday through Thursday until 2:30 p.m.

for \$33. This special may not be used with any other discounts. Tee time registration is recommended.

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

2007 Golf Club Championship results

Ladies Club Champion

Louise Gentry

Men's Championship Flight

Winner Patrick Hinch
Runner up Anthony Vincenti

Men's A Flight Champion Gross

Winner Dustin Spinnato
Runner Up Martin Sennett

Men's A Flight Champion Net

Winner Harvey Lee
Runner Up Hans Kruse

Men's B Flight Champion Gross

Winner Bob Glenn
Runner Up Edwin Delacruz

Men's B Flight Champion Net

Winner Bob Purkey
Runner Up Wyatt Arrington

Men's C Flight Champion Gross

Winner Gilbert Gentry
Runner Up Paul Demond

Men's C Flight Champion Net

Winner Thomas Bowman
Runner Up Jim Jewell

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Week of Sept. 24

Special #1: Breaded chicken patty sandwich served on a Bowlerburger bun with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$4.95.

Special #2: Chef salad with lettuce, tomato, onions, cucumbers, green peppers, cheese, pickles on the side, ham turkey, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$5.75.

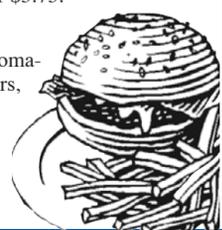
Week of Oct. 1

Special #1: Chicken cheese steak sub with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, sweet green peppers, mushrooms, jalapeno peppers, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$7.85.

Special #2: Double cheeseburger with bacon, 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.





Deployment News

Latest version of Army Combat Shirt debuts



Photo courtesy of PEO-SOLDIER

Story by
DEBI DAWSON
Army News Service

In response to Soldier feedback, Program Executive Officer-Soldier has designed the new Army Combat Shirt to be even more breathable.

The flame-resistant ACS is in development for use under body armor. It is designed to replace two layers, the Army Combat Uniform jacket and moisture-wicking T-shirt, thus reducing bulk and heat stress.

"As providers of the world's best equipment to the world's best Soldiers, we collect and rely on Soldiers' input and ideas to constantly improve all of our products," said Brig. Gen. R. Mark Brown, Program Executive Officer Soldier. "All of our clothing and equipment is battle-proven and live-fire tested. Those labels can't be earned in a laboratory."

The ACS features a mock-turtleneck, long sleeves in the universal camouflage pattern, flat seams that reduce bulk and chafing and built-in anti-abrasion elbow pads. The shirt

is moisture-wicking, anti-microbial and odor-resistant.

The latest version of the shirt includes upgrades based on Soldier feedback collected since the shirt was first distributed in the spring for limited-user evaluations.

"Even though we developed the Army Combat Shirt to be lighter, more comfortable and breathable, we listened to Soldiers who tested it and said they wanted it to be even more breathable and comfortable," said Maj. Clay Williamson, assistant product manager for Clothing and Individual Equipment. "The fabric that made up the torso of the ACS was replaced with a fabric that provides breathability that is off the charts."

However, to retain modesty, the original fabric was maintained in the mid-chest area. Both fabrics have a four-way stretch.

Another change that increased breathability was replacing the elastic cuffs designed to keep out sand with adjustable cuffs similar to ACU

jacket cuffs. The cuffs can be loosened for ventilation or tightened to keep out sand and other debris. Changes were also made to the neck band.

Although the ACS was designed to be worn under the Interceptor Body Armor, test participants noted the short breaks between patrols made it impractical to change into the ACU jacket. They wanted changes to the ACS that would identify them and their unit. In response, hook and loop tape was added to the right sleeve to accommodate a name tape, rank and infrared flag. The left sleeve also sports hook and loop tape for a unit patch.

The ACS with the most recent improvements will be available in late September for follow-on user evaluations. The shirt is still a developmental garment, and further fielding will be determined by the Department of the Army.

(Editor's note: Debi Dawson works for the PEO Soldier Strategic Communications Office.)

DoD reemphasizes commitment to service members with launch of new health reassessment program

OSD

With more than 200,000 Service members currently deployed worldwide, the Department of Defense continues to recognize the essential need for health programs which safeguard the well-being of our men and women in uniform.

In recent months, DoD has reemphasized this dedication to the health and fitness of U.S. servicemen and women. As a part of this ongoing commitment, DoD has launched the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment, or PDHRA. The goal of the program is to identify and recommend treatment for deployment-related health concerns after a service member's return from deployment.

Speaking directly to the troops, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs said, "America's success in its

international efforts is because of the resilience and dedication of our servicemen and women. The Department of Defense is committed to providing health care programs that improve your readiness, fitness and well-being before and after deployment."

The Post Deployment Health Reassessment program will be implemented on all military installations and will include active duty members as well as the armed services reserve components.

Research indicates that many deployment-related health problems may not arise until three- to six-months after a Service member returns from deployment. Defense Department officials stated that the program will allow Service members and health care providers the opportunity to identify potential health issues before they become chronic conditions and treat known health problems

before they affect a service members deployment status or career.

The PDHRA also empowers servicemen and women to proactively take charge of their health so that they receive the DoD and Veteran's Affairs sponsored health services they have earned through their service.

Each member of the armed forces who has been deployed since Sept. 11, 2001, will have the opportunity to complete the PDHRA and identify and address any post-deployment health concerns they may have.

Organizations/commanders that would like to receive materials or more information on PDHRA, should call 1-800-497-6261 or e-mail pdhraoutreach@deploymenthealth.osd.mil.

Q&A's on PDHRA

Why should I be a part of this process?

You are your own best health

advocate. By completing the PDHRA you have an opportunity to take charge of your health and take advantage of the health care and community services available to you. Identifying health concerns early allows us to treat your health concerns before they become chronic problems.

How do I complete the initial PDHRA questionnaire?

Your unit will contact you when it is time to begin the PDHRA process. You will receive instruction then about the next steps to take.

What happens after I complete the initial questionnaire?

A primary care provider will review your health concerns with you and discuss any deployment-related health questions you may have. If needed, the health care provider will refer you for further treatment or to additional resources.

New program helps severely wounded warriors navigate health care system

TRICARE Management Activity

The new Warrior Care Support Program in TRICARE's North Region provides wounded service members with one point of contact, taking stress out of military health care for beneficiaries and their Families.

"Programs like this are a great addition to the ongoing efforts within the military health care system to help our Families during a challenging time in their lives," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity.

The program identifies eligible severely ill or injured service members to participate through military treatment facility referrals, records identification and service member requests. Criteria are not restricted to service related injury and the program is voluntary.

Upon acceptance in the pro-

gram, a health care coordinator from a team of nurses, doctors and administrative staff will assist with a timely and seamless transition and coordination of physical and behavioral health care services from the MTF to the civilian sector or the Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to coordinating care, the team assists the warrior and members by educating them on health care choices, providing specialized resources and assisting with claims resolutions and authorizations for medical equipment.

Health Net Federal Services, contractor for TRICARE North Region, incorporates the District of Columbia and 20 Northeast states plus portions of Tennessee, Missouri and Iowa.

For more information about Health Net Federal Services visit www.healthnetfederalservices.com.

Service members urged to set up Family member accounts before deployment

TRICARE

Deployable and TRICARE Remote service members should consider setting up Family Member Accounts enabling their Family to access medical, pay and human resource Web sites in their absence.

The Family Member Account is a secure credential issued to sponsors and their family members that allows them to log on to other Department of Defense Web sites even if they don't have a Common Access Card or Defense Finance and Accounting Service PIN, also known as "myPay."

"The Family Member Account is especially useful to National Guard and Reserve members who mobilize quickly," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity. "It lets the Family handle business from home, taking stress off the sponsor during deployment."

To get a Family Member Account,

the active duty sponsor can log on to <https://sso.dmdc.osd.mil/famAcctMgr> using his or her CAC or DFAS PIN. Eligibility for an account is based on the Family's benefit status in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Dependent children older than 18 can get their own account. The sponsor selects which family members are eligible and then creates a separate account and a temporary password for each of them. Once the account is established, the sponsor gives Family members their numbers and temporary passwords.

Family Member Account numbers and passwords will be accepted on TRICARE's new Beneficiary Web Enrollment system launching later this fall. The new system will allow Prime and Prime Remote beneficiaries to easily enroll and manage their health care online.



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

Monday

Around the Services, 8 a.m.
Focus on the Force, 10 a.m.
Army Newswatch, 11 a.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq/AF Prime Time, 1 p.m.
AFN Europe, 6:30 p.m.
Around the Services, 8 p.m.
Focus on the Force, 10 p.m.

Tuesday

Around the Services, 8 a.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq/AF Prime Time, 10 a.m.
Focus on the Force, 1 p.m.
Around the Services, 5:30 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 7 p.m.
Freedom Journal Iraq/AP Prime Time, 10 p.m.

Wednesday

Around the Services, 8 a.m.
Army Newswatch, 9:30 a.m.
Focus on the Force, 2 p.m.
AFN News Europe, 6:30 p.m.
Around the Services, 8 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday

AF Prime Time/Freedom Journal Iraq, 10 a.m.
Around the Services, Noon
Focus on the Force, 1 p.m.

Channel 21 features Pentagon Channel programming

AFN News Europe, 1:30 p.m.
Around the Services, 8 p.m.
Focus on the Force, 9:30 p.m.

Friday

Around the Services, 8 a.m., Noon
Freedom Journal Iraq/AF Prime Time, 2:30 p.m.
Army Football, 4 p.m.
AFN News Europe, 6:30 p.m.
Around the Services, 8 p.m.

Saturday

Freedom Journal Iraq/AF Prime Time, 4 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 7:30 p.m.
Focus on the Force, 9 p.m.

Sunday

Focus on the Force, 11:30 a.m.
Army Healthwatch, 2 p.m.
Army Newswatch, 4:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Your Corps – Monthly view of the men and women of the Marine Corps

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

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

Opportunity Showcase – A monthly program dealing with a variety of subjects that benefit small business owners, transitioning military members and other subjects of opportunity-produced by the U.S. Air Force

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

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

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

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

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



Army News

DOD responds to recent cyber threats

Story by
SGT. SARA WOOD
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department receives many attempted cyber attacks each day and has measures in place to aggressively respond to and deter these attacks, a department spokesman said Sept. 4.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman addressed media reports that a computer system in the Office of the Secretary of Defense was hacked

into by the Chinese military earlier this year. Whitman confirmed that an attack did occur in June but declined to identify the origin of the threat.

It is often difficult to pinpoint the true origin of an intrusion into computer systems and even more difficult to tie the intrusion to a specific nation or government, he noted.

"Cyber or non-kinetic type threats to military computer networks are viewed as just as real and just as

significant as physical or kinetic threats," Whitman said. "The department aggressively responds to deter all intrusions to defend what is known as the GIG, the global information grid."

When the intrusion occurred in June, elements of an unclassified e-mail system in the Office of the Secretary of Defense were taken offline briefly, Whitman said. However, the department has redundant systems in place, so ongoing operations

were not disrupted, he said. The system was restored to full service within two or three weeks.

There are hundreds of attempted intrusions into the DoD computer network each day, the majority of which are detected and stopped, Whitman said. The nature of the threat is large and diverse and includes recreational hackers, self-styled cyber vigilantes, various groups with nationalistic or ideological agendas, transnation-

al actors, and nation states. When appropriate, the department turns cases over to law enforcement officials for investigation, he said.

"We continue to aggressively monitor our networks for intrusions," Whitman said. "We have appropriate procedures to address events of this nature."

Since the incident in June, Whitman said, he knows of no successful intrusions into the DoD computer system.

'Fratricide' reduction focus of NTC exercise

Story and photo by
CASEY BAIN
Army News Service

The U.S. Joint Forces Command joined coalition partners to conduct force-on-force operations at Fort Irwin, Calif., to assess combat identification to improve combat effectiveness and reduce fratricide.

The Joint Fires Integration and Interoperability Team, a USJFCOM subordinate command, was part of the 1,850-person team that participated in Bold Quest. The event included representation from all U.S. services, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as from NATO.

"Much like today, future conflicts will be fought by a coalition team," said Noel Cumbia, senior joint fires analyst for JFIIT and Bold Quest. "This exercise provides an incredible opportunity for coalition Warfighters to come together and improve combat identification in a realistic operational environment."

According Marine Corps Capt. Brad Sanders, the JFIIT project lead at NTC, combat identification is one of the most challenging and critical tasks facing today's Warfighters, and Bold Quest is an important step in solving the problem.

"We consider our efforts supporting Bold Quest to be a big success story," said Dan Myers,

lead NTC coordinator for JFIIT during Bold Quest. "We've faced many challenges putting together such an important and complex event, but when you bring together a superb team of professionals from the NTC, USJFCOM and industry, and include our coalition partners, we were bound to be successful - our service members fighting and sacrificing today deserve nothing less."

The Army provided key ground forces for Bold Quest, including units from the 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Irwin's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The exercise ended Sept. 19 and shifted focus from the NTC and force-on-force operations to primarily air-to-ground operations near Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

(Editor's note: Casey Bain works with the JFIIT Public Affairs Office.)



U.S. and Coalition vehicles await pre-combat checks prior to conducting a combat patrol as part of Bold Quest at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif.

Entering the APG 90th Anniversary coloring contest

Cut out and color the 'APG Fall Fest Celebrates 90 Years of History' poster using crayons or color pencils and turn it in at the Fall Fest registration table by 11 a.m. Oct. 13, or mail to Fire & Emergency Services, C/O Doug Farrington, Building 2200, APG MD 21005-5001. Be sure to mail entries early enough to be received by Oct. 12.

Winners will be chosen in three age groups: 3 to 5; 6 to 8; 9 to 12.

One trophy will be awarded per age group. Winners will be announced at noon, Oct. 13.

For more information, call Doug Farrington, fire inspector, 410-306-0523 or Angela Keithley, Civilian Welfare Fund, 410-278-4603.

USCIS launches toll-free help line for military

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Members of the U.S. military and their Families stationed around the world are now able to call U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for help with immigration services and benefits using a dedicated, toll-free telephone help line, 1-877-CIS-4MIL (1-877-247-4645).

"Thousands of immigrant Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have made extraordinary sacrifices for America," said USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez. "As such, at USCIS, we are committed to exhausting every effort to ensure that the application process for immigrant service members is convenient, quick and secure. These brave men and women, and their Families, deserve this service, and we are proud to assist."

"This hotline honors the more than 40,000 non-U.S. citizens serving in the military today. If you are willing to fight and die for America, you should be able to become an American," said Senator Barbara Mikulski. "I will continue to work to improve this process, because service members and their Families have enough to worry about."

USCIS customer service center specialists are available to assist callers Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (CST). Callers will receive assistance with:

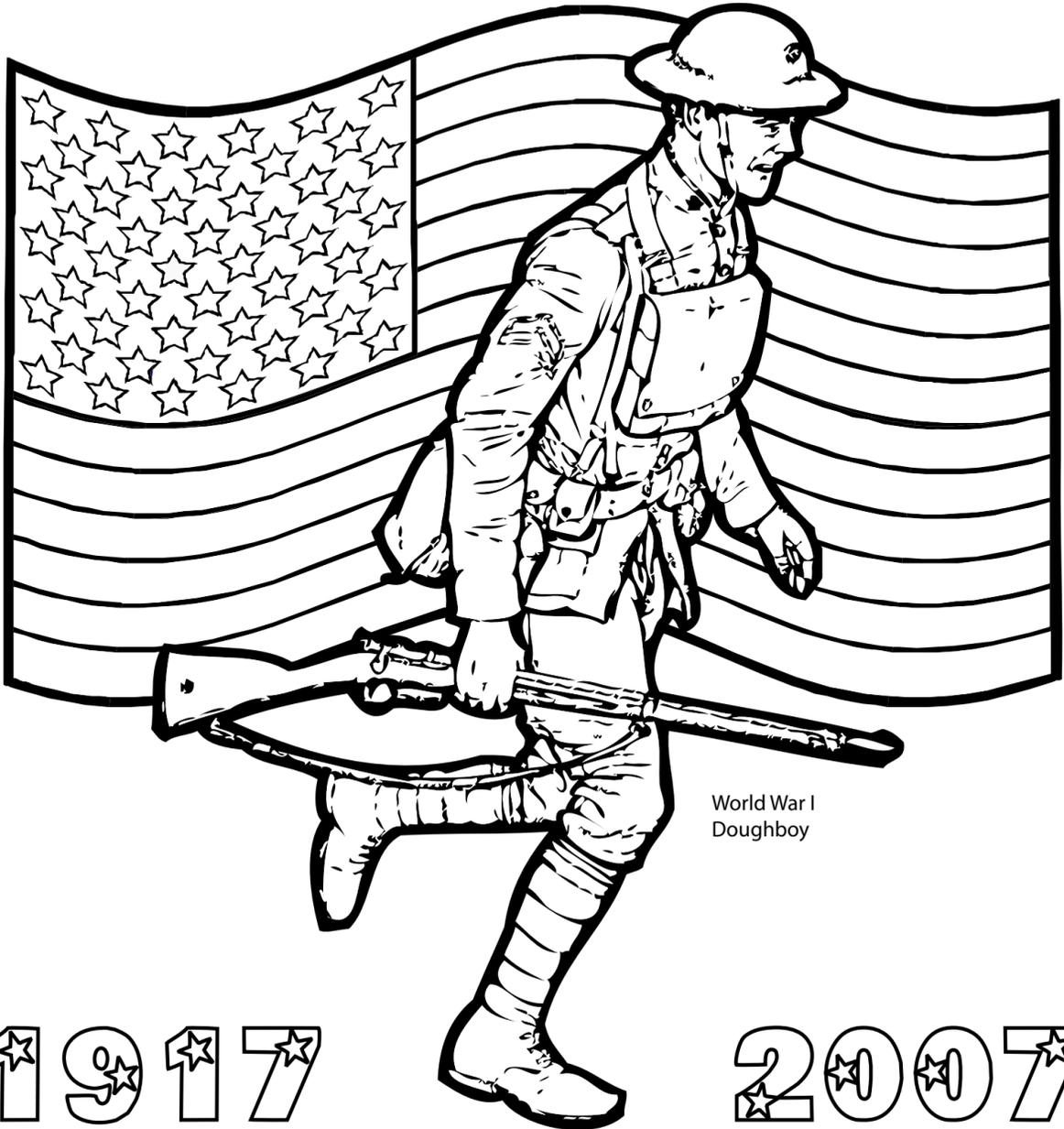
- Tracking their application for naturalization (Form N-400);
- Notifying USCIS of a new mailing address or duty station;
- Checking the status of an application or petition; Bringing a spouse, fiancé or adopted child to the United States;
- Obtaining posthumous citizenship for a deceased member of the armed services; and
- Submitting an application for expedited processing.

Service members and their Families stationed in the United States or overseas may access the help line using the toll-free number, through their base telephone operator or using the Defense Switched Network. After hours callers will receive an e-mail address that they can use to contact USCIS for assistance. Operators will ask members of the general public to call the main customer service line, 1-800-375-5283.

USCIS is working with the Department of Defense to ensure the military community has accurate and up-to-date information about immigration services and benefits. USCIS offices and the designated point-of-contact at each military installation will receive information about the Military Help Line and other immigration-related information and resources geared specifically for the military and their Families.

In addition to the help line, USCIS has developed a Web page, <http://www.uscis.gov/military> that contains information and links to services specifically for the military and their Families.

APG FALL FEST
CELEBRATES 90
YEARS OF HISTORY



World War I
Doughboy

1917

2007

ATC twin brothers serve in Iraq to support troops

Story by
MIKE CAST
DTC

Twin brothers who work as testers for the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground voluntarily deployed to Iraq, one after the other, to help Soldiers survive attacks from improvised explosive devices.

While serving on separate Forward Operational Assessment teams in Iraq, Doug and Dana Blankenbiller, both employees of ATC's Survivability/Lethality Directorate, assessed Soldiers' needs for armor improvements and other means to counter the IED threat. They provided the latest information from testers about system survivability to Soldiers and passed threat information from the field back to ATC and Army acquisition organizations, to update material solutions and keep testing current with the threats in theater.

Typical information sent back included battle damage assessments of vehicles involved in IED strikes, threat validations, threat dispersion analyses and details about Soldier-devised equipment fixes that require rapid test and evaluation stateside.

ATC provides the results of ballistic survivability tests and program status reports, which the Blankenbillers have disseminated to appropriate personnel in theater.

"The continuous exchange of information ensures that the test and evaluation and acquisition community conducts tests using relevant threats in realistic test scenarios and develops products that will meet the needs of the Soldiers," Doug said. "Information from the field ensures system developers can make informed decisions based on the current operational environment."

The Army Test and Evaluation Command established in 1999 to oversee all of the Army's test and evaluation programs, has sent several rotations of FOA teams to the combat theaters of Iraq and Afghanistan since it initiated the program in 2003. ATEC's Developmental Test Command, the technical tester that manages ATC and six other test centers across the country, has been a key player in the FOA program, as have the other two ATEC organizations, the Army Evaluation Center and the Operational Test Command.

Dana said he served on the FOA team with about 20 people, spread throughout Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The majority of them were from OTC, two of them were from AEC,



Photo courtesy of DANA BLANKENBILLER

While in Iraq, Dana Blankenbiller surveyed Soldiers and got a greater sense of their urgent need for vehicles that better protect them from roadside bombs.

and then there were three or four of us from DTC," he said.

Initial FOA team rotations in theater were for relatively short periods, but more recent deployments have been increasingly longer because that has made team members more effective, said Dana, who deployed to Iraq in March 2006 and stayed for eight months.

He volunteered to stay longer than he was initially assigned, said Frank Bartosik of DTC's Directorate for Plans and Operations.

"He broke the mold by saying, 'I'll stay for six months,' and then, 'I'll stay for another month,'" Bartosik said. "The test centers have been working to educate their workforce and to communicate to the people who would volunteer for the FOA mission that they really need to go for a full six-month tour, and they have been successful in communicating that message."

Doug's tour of duty is even longer. He arrived in Iraq Oct. 22, 2006, and returned Sept. 2.

Both of the Blankenbiller brothers, who hold mechanical engineering degrees, have worked and lived at U.S. Army camps in Baghdad, supporting U.S. Soldiers in theater by working long hours, seven days a week.

Though his mission was the assessment of survivability of all armored and tactical wheeled vehicles against the IED threat, the nature of the evolving attacks prompted Dana to focus on systems such as the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle

series, the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles, the M915 series of tractor-trailer rigs, the Palletized Loading System, and the Heavy Equipment Transport Truck.

"Basically, I answered questions from Soldiers, such as 'What truck provides better protection . . . or which of the multiple versions of the HMMWV provides better protection,'" he said. "I fed information back about the latest threats and what the requirements are from what I saw and heard . . . and some of the armored solutions that Soldiers were coming up with. I sent that back home, and then they [ATC] would test it there."

Doug said his mission in Iraq has included just about all the combat and tactical vehicles at one time or another. The primary vehicles he has focused on include the HMMWV, the Stryker and route-clearance systems such as the Buffalo, RG-31, Husky, and Cougar.

He recently worked to help the Army field Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected vehicles.

"I've dealt with many units, from platoon to corps level," he said. "Questions, requests for information, and requests for help come from all organizational levels. I try to give every one the same level of attention and detail, regardless of whether it is coming from an enlisted Soldier or a general officer. The goal is to provide accurate and usable feedback to requests for information, to support Army leadership and field commanders in the decision making process, and to provide technical assistance to individual units regarding issues or



Photo courtesy of DOUG BLANKENBILLER

Doug Blankenbiller, like his brother Dana, volunteered to help Soldiers in Iraq as a member of a Forward Operational Assessment team.

problems they have with their equipment. That is why we have a good reputation here and are considered friends of the Soldier."

He said the "most productive relationship" established during his tour was with a military police battalion.

"To quote a Soldier's e-mail, '... helping us out would really be appreciated and is literally a matter of life and death here in Baghdad.' Our first meeting was at a forward operating base in Baghdad. I did not have much good news to offer them during that meeting, but we laid out a plan of action, and although the task seemed nearly impossible at that point in time, I walked away with a determination to work with Aberdeen [Proving Ground organizations] to get them a product that would work."

"Six weeks later, Aberdeen had created a prototype armor system ready for test. Less than two months after that, initial testing was complete and a prototype was in the [theater]. One month after that, Aberdeen had fabricated and shipped a sizeable quantity of armor systems for evaluation under operational conditions. You can't give enough credit to the team at Aberdeen, DTC, ATC and the Army Research Laboratory. It was a tremendous accomplishment. It is a great feeling knowing that we have contributed to a project that will save lives."

Dana also understands the need to keep pace with the evolving threats because of his tour of duty in Iraq, where he worked 15-hour days to get Soldiers what they needed to survive attacks.

"I got a good feeling for their sense of urgency, and I think sometimes the pace back here, the sense of urgency back here, is a lot different from what the guys in theater have," he said. "When the guys in theater are hanging some kind of homemade armor system on their vehicle, it is because they need something, and they need it right away. Sometimes there is a disconnect between their sense of urgency and how we perceive it back here. It is definitely not a nine to five job for them over there, and so now that I'm back home, it is never a nine to five job. I think to myself, 'I know what those guys are doing, I know what they are going through,' and I adjust accordingly here."

The test programs at ATC to field solutions to the IED threat do not just concentrate on protection against ballistic threats, he noted. Adding armor that is too heavy for tactical vehicles impacts automotive performance, so automotive testing takes place in conjunction with ballistic tests. The Army is working on armors that are not only more protective but lighter.

"We work a lot with the Weapons and Materials Research Directorate at ARL, and they are really the armor designers," Dana said.

"There are a few new things out there, but it always gets back to the fact that some basic materials are included in the armor designs," Dana said.

He said he would gladly return to Iraq if asked because that type of support for the Soldier is so critical and personally satisfying.

Recalls

From page 4

the top of the lower tracks are open. Newer hardware, which is not subject to the recall, has the flexible tab located at the top of the lower track and a permanent stop at the bottom.

Consumers who have a crib with older style hardware can receive a free repair by immediately contacting Simplicity toll-free at 888-593-9274 between 8:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. ET Monday through Thursday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET on Friday, and between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, or by visiting the firm's Web site, www.simplicitymorchildren.com.

Consumers who have a crib with newer style hardware and have installed the drop-side upside down or have broken hardware, should also contact Simplicity immediately.

"The major concern is for

the safety of military and civilian children on and off the installation, who might be sleeping in these cribs," said Overton R. (Rick) Johnson Jr., chief, Installation Safety Division, Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment. "We need to get the word out to all parents to check the CPSC Web-site to ensure they don't have a recalled crib in their homes. Recalls such as this are extremely important as they identify risks that were missed by inspection teams."

Other recalls

In cooperation with the CPSC, the following recalls are announced.

Bongo Band Toys

Fisher-Price Inc., of East Aurora, N.Y., is voluntarily recalling about 8,900 Big Big World 6-in-1 Bongo Band toys. Surface paints on the toys contain excessive levels of lead, which violates the federal law prohibiting lead paint on children's toys.

Geo Trax Locomotive Toys

Fisher-Price Inc., of East Aurora, N.Y., is voluntarily recalling about 90,000 Geo Trax Locomotive Toys. Surface paints on the toys contain excessive levels of lead.

Various Barbie® accessory toys

Mattel Inc., of El Segundo, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 675,000 Barbie Accessory Toys. Surface paints on the toys contain excessive levels of lead which is prohibited under federal law.

Cribs

NettoCollection LLC, of New York, N.Y., is voluntarily recalling about 400 "Moderne" and "Loft" Cribs. The crib slats can separate from the side rails, posing an entrapment and strangulation hazard to young children.

Bunk beds

d-Scan Inc., of South Boston, Va., a subsidiary of Tvilum-Scanbirk, of Denmark, is voluntarily recalling about 500

Jubee Bunk Beds. The recalled bunk beds do not comply with federal safety standards and have wooden side slat supports that can separate from the bed frame causing the upper bunk to collapse.

Avant Yarde candles

The Hayes Company Inc., of Valley Center, Kan., is voluntarily recalling "Avant Yarde" Decorative Glaze Outdoor Candles. The candle's wax can catch fire causing a high flame, which poses a fire and burn hazard to consumers.

Reporting a product for recall

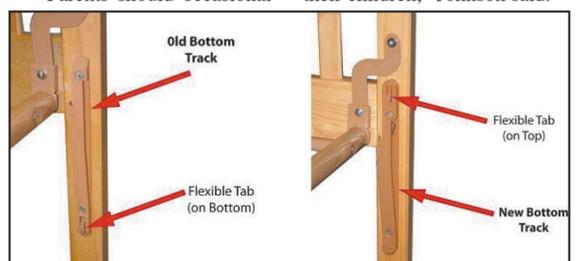
To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at 800-638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at 800-638-8270, or visit CPSC's Web site www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. To join a CPSC e-mail subscription list, go to www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx.

Consumers can obtain releases and recall informa-

tion at CPSC's Web site, www.cpsc.gov.

"Parents should occasional-

ly view the CPSC Web site as a proactive measure of safety for their children," Johnson said.



<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07307.html>

Old style hardware

New style hardware



Correctly installed drop-side

Incorrectly installed drop-side

Toastmasters

From page 3

"Work is not the most important thing in your life," he said, adding that people should put their spouses and Families first before a career.

He stressed "being honest with yourself and others."

Berentien said that people should reach out to their communities and volunteer because "others are very important."

He said that he has enjoyed being a Toastmaster and that the club helped him in many ways.

"It's so applicable to a job," Berentien said, adding that "the ability to express yourself" is very valuable.

He said that he enjoyed attending the 50th anniversary celebration because he had the opportunity to see people he had not seen for a while.

Since Berentien was no longer a member of Toastmasters, the members decided to roast ATM Stephen

Fine, the longest serving member of the Gunpowder Club.

Fine said he has been a member of the Gunpowder Club since 1984 and has served as president, Area 24 governor, and was president and a charter member of the Bel Air Toastmasters, Bel Air, Md., and is a charter member of Box Hill Toastmasters, Abingdon, Md.

Members joked about Fine's age, height, his children's free education at military service academies and many other subjects.

Fine had the opportunity for rebuttals and shared positive remarks about the club saying that he has enjoyed being a member, and it has helped him become a better Family man.

Fine, Vince Minichiello, president of the Gunpowder Club, and Len Kolodny, vice president of public relations, competed in a humorous speech contest.

Fine delivered a speech titled, "I don't need this job. I've got millions waiting for me," about the numerous spam e-mails that tell him he has won

millions of dollars.

"I've received e-mails that I won a lotto I've never entered," he said, "And if I send an e-mail back with my account and routing number and the money will come in."

Minichiello's speech, titled "What They Don't Tell You about Being a Parent," was about the reality that has set in now that he is a parent. He said his wife just had a baby girl, about a week before the 50th anniversary celebration.

Minichiello said when he and his wife were taking a class about parenting before the baby was born, they were shown an unrealistic video in which a woman giving birth was wearing makeup with just "one small bead of sweat" rolling down her face and not a whole lot of blood around her.

He joked that instead of the hospital showing the unrealistic video, the staff should show "slasher" films like "Halloween" and "Nightmare on Elm Street" with Freddy Krueger.

Kolodny delivered the win-

ning speech titled, "'You Know' and Health," focusing on words and the topic people would say over and over again when he talked to them while he rode the MARC train to Washington, D.C.

"That's the reason I joined Toastmasters," Kolodny said. "So I could get people to stop saying 'You know,' and call people out on it."

He said he joined a senior fitness class and all the people wanted to talk about was their health problems or their spouse's health problems.

"If you're lucky, everyone in here will be a senior citizen," he said. "You'll find age spots that weren't there before, everything hurts and what doesn't, doesn't work."

Local politicians who attended the 50th anniversary celebration included Joseph Cassilly, Harford County State's Attorney; Dan Riley, Maryland House of Delegates; Dion Guthrie, Harford County Council District A; and Veronica "Roni" Chenowith, Harford County Council District B.

Riley and Guthrie read prola-

mations and praised the Gunpowder Club.

About Toastmasters

A "self help" public speaking club began in 1924 and later became Toastmasters International.

About 211,000 people in more than 10,000 clubs in 90 countries are members of Toastmasters International.

APG has two Toastmasters Clubs: the Gunpowder Club and the Susquehanna Club.

The Gunpowder Club meets at the Gunpowder Conference Center on APG South every first and third Monday from 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. For more information, contact Kolodny, 410-734-6573, len@kolodny.net, or Fine, stephenfine@comcast.net.

The Susquehanna Club meets from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday at Top of the Bay.

For more information about the Susquehanna Club, contact Doug Strand, dstrand@arl.army.mil.

For more information about Toastmasters, go to www.toastmasters.org.