

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

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



Reduced gate hours for holiday weekend

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Labor Day holiday.

On Friday, Aug. 29, the Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area will close at 10 p.m. and the Wise Road Gate in the Edgewood Area will close at 8 p.m.

Both gates will reopen at 4 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 2.

The Maryland Gate in the Aberdeen Area and the Route 24 Gate in the Edgewood Area will be open throughout the holiday period.

Kirk closes for holiday

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed for a training holiday Aug. 29 and Sept. 1.

For emergencies, call 911; KUSAHC does not have an emergency room. After hours and federal holidays, call 410-278-1725 and ask for Staff Duty.

No walk-in service at Client Services Division today

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, will not see walk-in clients for attorney consultation on Aug. 28.

For more information, call 410-278-1583, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Blood Drive today

Save lives and donate blood at the Armed Services Blood Program blood drive, noon to 4 p.m., Aug. 28, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, Erie Street.

For more information, call Alan Smith-Hicks, 410-306-1206; for appointments, visit the Armed Services Blood Program Web site www.militarylifeforce.com.

RAB meeting tonight

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration

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Prevention, communication rank as the two top priorities at Force Health Protection Conference



Photos by BEN BUNGER, CHPPPM

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine marketing officer Allison Bruno used the CHPPM exhibit at the Force Health Protection Conference to conduct a client satisfaction survey of those who use CHPPM services.

Story by
LYN KUKRAL
CHPPPM

Non-battle injuries are the single greatest cause of medical evacuations from the U.S. Central Command, with more than a third of

all evacuations attributed to NBI. Sports and physical training injuries cause more of these injuries than any other category.

In theater, gastrointestinal illness sidelines service members more often than

any other class of disease.

Hearing loss and ringing in the ears due to noise exposure lessen battle effectiveness and consistently rank among the top injuries combat veterans face when they come home.

Secretary re-emphasizes Army stance on sexual assault

Story by
J.D. LEIPOLD
Army News Service

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren told senior leaders July 1 that the Army will be launching new sexual assault prevention initiatives that he believes will eventually help change society.

Geren opened the sexual assault prevention and response refresher training session telling a full Pentagon auditorium that sexual harassment and sexual assault is not just problematic in the Army, "it's a

national problem, a problem of society."

He said the Army will lead the way in prevention and envisions someday every man and woman who enters the American work force will be confident that they will never experience sexual harassment or sexual assault.

"We're a large enough organization that the progress we make in the Army can help shape society, where we as an Army can be a leader in society shaping societal values which shape the work place and

the work force in all of our country," he said.

The secretary called on Army leaders to make sexual harassment and assault prevention a priority and to think of ways in which they can help to change the climate in the Army, to make a climate that sets an example for America that is hostile to sexual harassment and to any attitudes or activities which foster or allow sexual assault to happen.

"The Army will be launching some new initiatives, creating the right cli-

mate, prosecuting Soldiers and civilians who don't live up to the standards our Army holds people to," he said. "We will work in the area of sexual assault prevention, not just responding to the tragedy of sexual assault, but we want to be a model in how we prevent sexual assault."

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program stood up in 2004 as part of the Army's effort to eradicate sexual assault through training, prevention, education and awareness programs. In cases

where prevention measures fail, victims are assured that a system is in place to provide responsive, caring support, while holding offenders accountable.

The SAPR office is planning an Army Sexual Assault Prevention and Risk Reduction training summit Sept. 8 through 11 in Alexandria, Va., to discuss ideas and possible initiatives for improving sexual harassment and assault prevention techniques and the processes by which reports and prosecutions are handled.

Getting the idea that prevention of these conditions could significantly affect the nation's ability to fight and win wars?

All of these lead to the theme of the Army's 11th annual Force Health Protection Conference held Aug. 9 through 15 in Albuquerque, N.M., "Prevention is the Key" and hosted by the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

Thousands of doctors, nurses, chaplains, psychologists, environmental scientists, engineers, epidemiologists, chemists, health physicists and other health professionals built on that theme in a week of study, debate and planning how best to promote and sustain physically, mentally and spiritually healthy Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.

The conference is the largest conference devoted to public health and preventive medicine in the Department of Defense. This year,

it drew more than 2,200 public health and healthcare professionals from around the world. Attendees had 735-plus presentations and 25 workshop topics to choose from—more than ever, and most with continuing medical education credits/continuing education units. The FHP Conference offers one of the highest concentrations of CME/CEU credit in DoD.

The conference's plenary session boasted top DoD leaders who emphasized the idea that keeping service members well is better for all concerned—the individual, the individual's Family and the military health system—and better than making them well after an injury or illness has been sustained.

"It all starts with healthy Soldiers," according to Deputy Army Surgeon General Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein, who led the plenary session.

See **HEALTH**, page 3

C4ISR Forward employees welcomed to APG

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Nineteen U.S. Army Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence and Reconnaissance Forward employees, or Army Team C4ISR, reported for their first day of work at Aberdeen Proving Ground Aug. 18 and were greeted with a welcome meeting and refreshments.

These employees previously worked at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and volunteered to be among the first groups of employees to move to APG. The relocation of Army Team C4ISR is result of the implementation of a 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decision.

"There are ninety-five Army Team C4ISR employees on site today (Aug. 18)," said Col. Augustus Owens, deputy commander (forward), CECOM Life Cycle Management Command and the point of contact for all Army Team C4ISR transitioning workers. "By September 15, 2011, the entire Army Team C4ISR workforce, which currently numbers well over five thousand government positions, will be relocated to APG."

Owens added that more transitioning Army Team C4ISR employees are reporting to work at APG every week. By the end of September it is estimated that more than 250 Army Team C4ISR employees will be working at APG. Owens said that Aug. 18 represented the largest group to date of Army Team C4ISR employees reporting for their first day of work, and he wanted to have a welcome meeting to greet them, give them important information and answer questions they might have.

Owens opened the meeting by greeting the Army Team C4ISR Forward employees.

"I am glad to see you all

here," he said. "If you have any problems with the transition, don't hesitate to call me. What you are doing [here] is very important; ultimately, it will positively impact Soldiers and their Families during this wartime effort."

"This transition requires teamwork," Owens added, "and an open mind."

Mark Flaherty, director of Business Relations for the APG Directorate of Information Management, welcomed the newcomers and briefed them on how to get information technology services, expressing that the goal is to make the transition as smooth as possible for incoming employees.

Stacey Lockhart, from the Army Team C4ISR Logistics and Readiness Center, gave the newcomers important information on claims regarding expenses during their move, and Michael Lombardi, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command program manager, gave employees a BRAC update and thanked the transitioning employees for volunteering to be among the first Army Team C4ISR groups to move to APG.

"If you need anything, my door is always open," Lombardi said. "I will help answer any questions you have about the APG community and the community at large."

Mary Jane Jernigan, a resident of Aberdeen, was present at the meeting to welcome newcomers and to give them Motor Vehicle Administration information and forms so that they can register their vehicles in the state of Maryland and apply for a Maryland state license.

"I just wanted to offer my support to newcomers. I moved from Texas to Maryland so I know how difficult a transition can be," she said.

See **C4ISR**, page 12

Airlines modify excess baggage fees for military travelers

Defense Travel Management Office

Major airlines recently modified their excess accompanied baggage policy for military members traveling on official business.

Military members are required to show military ID to check up to three bags with no charge. Weight allowance and size restrictions vary by airline.

Some carriers have included dependents and other carriers never had a third-bag fee policy for excess accompanied baggage.

Bags that exceed the weight and size restriction may also be subject to additional charges.

Travelers can take the following actions:

- Military services should ensure that members who require excess accompanied baggage have "excess accompanied baggage" authorized on travel orders in accordance with the service's excess baggage guidance.

- Military members who do not have a travel charge card or personal charge card are strongly advised to request an advance if such charges are anticipated.

- Travelers should review airline policies on their respective Web sites to ensure compliance with weight and size restrictions.



Photo by CARY SISOLAK
U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense incoming commander Col. Harry F. Slife Jr. accepts the unit flag from Maj. Gen. George Weightman, commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, during the change of command ceremony July 10.

Slife takes command of MRICD

Story by
CINDY KRONMAN
MRICD

The staff of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, along with distinguished guests, gathered on the lawn of the institute July 10 as Col. Harry F. Slife Jr. assumed command of the organization from Col. Timothy K. Adams, Adams, who became com-

mander only last July, was recently selected to be the next chief of the Veterinary Corps, with promotion to brigadier general, as well as the next commander of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. Slife has served as MRICD's deputy commander since 2006.

See **MRICD**, page 11



Photo by JOE O' ROURKE
Married couples Javinia and Staff Sgt. Jerry Downes, left, Sgt. Windsor and Shalanda Corbin, center, and Sabrina and Sgt. 1st Class Garvin Jackson, right, practice communication techniques during the Strong Bonds Conference, a marriage conference for active duty military and their spouses, held at Bob Pascal's St. Michaels Harbour Inn Marina and Spa July 30 through Aug. 1.

Military couples strengthen marriage through Strong Bonds

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Nine Aberdeen Proving Ground couples participated in a Strong Bonds conference at Bob Pascal's St. Michaels Harbour Inn Marina and Spa located in the picturesque waterfront town of St. Michaels, Md., July 30 through Aug. 1.

The Strong Bonds conference is an Army wide conference for active duty military and their spouses that is designed to help couples deal with communication issues and the stress of a modern day military at war.

The conference was paid for by the Chief of Chaplains office so that couples could attend the conference expense free (excluding transportation costs).

"The United States Congress set aside millions for Strong Bonds Army wide to build the Family Army Strong," said Chaplain (Maj.) Fred Townsend, APG chaplain resource manager and one of the conference presenters. "They know that Army Strong equals strong Families, and one does not occur without the other."

On Wednesday, Townsend began the conference by welcoming the couples and giving them an overview of the conference.

Townsend introduced the other presenters: Aida Rivera, Army Community Service Family advocacy program manager; Joe O' Rourke, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, chief of Behavioral Medicine; and Denise Stout, ACS deployment manager. Sgt. Luiz Rodriquez, a funds clerk for the installation chaplain's office was also present to help with the conference.

"We really believe in this program," Townsend said. "We want to help couples connect by giving them the tools to communicate effectively. Some of these tools [everyone] already instinctively knows. We want you [the couples] to walk away with something useful and become more skilled at communicating when you get home."

Rivera and Townsend took turns giving presentations and began each morning with communication exercises.

Rivera asked the couples how long they have been in partnership, stressing that marriage is a partnership working towards common goals.

She said that in that way, a marriage partnership is similar to a business partnership.

"Marriage is two people from totally different backgrounds working together as one unit," Rivera said. "Two people working towards the same goal makes

a marriage great."

Rivera said that there are some aspects that put stress on a relationship that couples cannot change, like hurt from past relationships, parental divorce or different religious beliefs. She said that couples should not focus on these factors, but rather focus on issues that can be changed, like attitude.

Townsend said that one of the goals of the Strong Bonds program is to create an environment where couples feel safe and can communicate freely.

"We [the presenters] wanted to model an environment where couples feel safe opening up," he said. "We want them to go home and create a safe environment for communication." Townsend added that from his observations he feels that the presenters successfully created an environment of trust.

Townsend added that some of the topics covered in the Strong Bonds conference were designed to "dig and stir up" issues. The presenters would ask couples questions like "What does it take to make a good marriage?" or "Describe a time your partner made you feel invalidated." Couples would then talk among themselves and share their answers with the group.

Townsend added that one of the goals is to have couples learn from one another. Although some of the questions were personal, all of the couples agreed to participate and share with the rest of the group.

Rivera talked about effective communication during arguments. She pointed out that too many couples are so focused on winning an argument that they lose sight of the bigger picture, their relationship.

"The key to a successful relationship is to create win-win situations," Rivera said. "If you don't, you both lose. Learn to fight for your marriage."

Rivera told the couples of a helpful communication technique where the person speaking holds a card giving that person the opportunity to talk without interruption. It also teaches couples to repeat what the other person said for understanding and clarification.

"What makes good communication is listening, body language [closeness], acknowledgement and feedback," Rivera said.

During the day, the group leaders presented the couples with questions for them to discuss and allowed them time to practice communication techniques. The leaders went around to the couples to help them work on communication issues.

During Townsend's presenta-



Photo by RACHEL PONDER
Spc. Luis Gutiérrez and Jackeline Ibónéz work on communication techniques during the Strong Bonds conference while Aida Rivera, Army Community Service Family advocacy program manager, observes their conversation and counsels the couple.

tion, he talked about how beliefs affect actions. He added that everyone has a different perspective, and sometimes these different perspectives can cause conflict.

"Live in the now, give your spouse the benefit of the doubt, and learn to imagine good possibilities," Townsend said.

On Thursday night the couples ate together at Characters Café, a cozy restaurant located on St. Michael's main street. During the two evenings that the couples stayed at Harbour Inn they also enjoyed shopping downtown, boat rides, biking, swimming, or just relaxing by enjoying the view of the harbor from the deck of their hotel rooms.

O'Rourke gave a presentation about how military life can affect a marriage.

He said that many couples have trouble connecting after a spouse returns home from a deployment. Sometimes it may seem like their personality changed.

The service member might be experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder.

"A service member should not feel forced to talk about their war experiences, even with their spouse," O'Rourke said. "If they want to talk about it, they should be given opportunities to talk about it in an environment where they will not be judged."

Couples who attended the conference said that they learned communication techniques that

they will use at home.

Staff Sgt. Jerry Downes, who works for the 143rd Ordnance Battalion, and Javinia Downes, a teacher's aide, have been married eight years. They said that they came to the conference to improve on their communication skills.

"This conference was very worthwhile. The presenters gave us the [communication] tools and the forum to express ourselves," Jerry said.

"We were able to work through some of our issues. This was a hard yet fulfilling day," Javinia added, referring to Thursday, when the couples spent the most of their time working on their communication techniques.

Master Sgt. Lonzia Hawkins Jr., who works for APG's Joint Personnel Effects Depot, and Evelyn Hawkins, a stay-at-home mother, have been married for 26 years. They said that they decided to come to Strong Bonds to enhance their relationship.

"One of the things that intrigued me was when Aida [Rivera] asked how long we have been in a partnership," Lonzia said. "I love my wife and would marry her all over again, but for the first twelve years of our marriage I wasn't in a partnership with my wife. When I attended the equal opportunity advisors school that I had to attend to become a supervisor, we were taught communication skills, and I began to understand that I really needed to improve my marriage and work on communication with

my wife. Before, my first priority was my work, now it is my marriage. Now I understand that it is important to work on our marriage which is why we wanted to attend the conference. I think this conference is especially good for men. Men usually do not want to ask for help, but this conference reminds us that we need help in improving our communication skills. I definitely recommend this conference to other people."

Evelyn added, "I felt like the conference was very informative. At home we get so busy with Family that we put [issues] in the back of our mind. This conference showed us to be mindful about togetherness; you have to work to stay together. This conference also showed us that even after years of marriage you should remember the reasons why you started dating, the initial attraction. When you say 'I do' you don't always understand the work behind it. Marriage requires work."

"I also enjoyed interacting with other couples. Hearing what they are going through showed us that we share some of the same problems," Evelyn said.

Lonzia added, "I would like to thank my unit that supported our decision to come to the conference. Army life is very stressful, and it affects Families. [Having programs like] Strong Bonds shows us that the Army values promoting and supporting a strong Family. Strong Families mean strong Soldiers."

APG News

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

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Batman technologies mirror those of Warfighter

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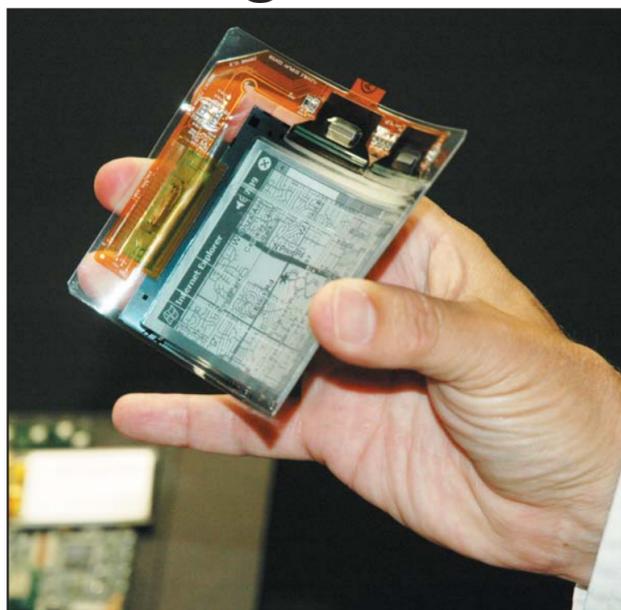
Batman's needs for increased capabilities parallel those of today's Soldiers as do some of his gadgets. "The Dark Knight" has emerged once again in theatres with his futuristic technologies to help capture the infamous Joker.

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command labors to answer the needs of the nation's Warfighters. Among those needs are increasing maneuverability, decreasing weight carried during a mission and enhancing technological capabilities and communication advantages when engaging enemy forces.

One answer to those needs is the Flexible Display Screen.

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory has partnered with academia to develop a screen that will replace glass based display screens in the Soldier Flex Personal Digital Assistant. The screen could one day be used in wearable computer applications as part of a larger computer system.

"Just changing the screen can significantly reduce the weight of a piece of equipment," said Dr. David Morton, ARL cooperative agreement manager for the Flexible Display Center at Arizona State University. "By replacing that glass screen with a



The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's Army Research Laboratory and Arizona State University have partnered to develop a flexible display screen with more flexibility than the existing glass screens presently used in Soldier equipment. The flexible screen is lighter, will bend and potentially roll up for a Soldier to carry easily in a ruck-sack. It may also have the potential to be used with wearable computer applications.

plastic, rugged, flexible display, the weight of the display may be reduced to only five pounds with two pounds of mounting hardware."

Technologies like the Flexible Display Screen aim to increase Soldier efficiency and decrease the amount of weight the Warfighter carries, which increases mobility of the Soldier.

The ARL is looking at reflect-

ive and emissions technology for the screens to be integrated in human portable applications. This would allow the Soldier to see the screen without the use of backlighting, so as to not give away his location. By replacing the current liquid crystal glass-based display, the amount of battery power used drops by at least half, and the display is less likely to break while on a mission.

This screen will allow the Soldier to download the information, disconnect and use for activities such as mission rehearsal and planning and land navigation.

Just like Batman found it necessary to expand his technological capability when he designed a 3-D Sonar tracking device to search for the Joker, RDECOM looks for ways to amplify the technological advantages of Soldiers.

The U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center has a contract with RallyPoint, Inc., to further develop and test the Handware Computer Input Device, or HCID. The device is a rugged, sensor-embedded glove designed to be a convenient interface to a Soldier's electronic devices, like a computer or two-way radio. Ideally, while on a mission, a Soldier could keep his weapon engaged, while signaling hand gestures that translate into computer commands. Gestures are recognized through a suite of sensors that send hand posture and orientation. These voiceless commands will enable Soldiers to communicate with each other without compromising their position when engaging the enemy. The glove could one day feed information to a wearable computer application, giving Soldiers an informational and technological edge.

While saving hostages in a building, Batman demonstrated the

capability to look through floors of a building, enabling him to locate and engage the enemy. The U.S. Army Communications- Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center is developing a similar product called Sense through the Wall Technology.

"Our skilled engineers with CERDEC's Intelligence and Information Warfare Directorate are working with industry partners to assess, develop and transition technology that will allow Soldiers to detect and locate hidden combatants," said Wilber Chin, team lead, MASINT Branch, Information/Network Operations Division, Intelligence & Information Warfare Directorate.

With STTW, the Warfighter can identify and locate enemy forces and equipment hidden behind walls, doors and other obstructions in an urban terrain. STTW uses radar technology, and will increase the Soldier's situational awareness, force protection and survivability.

For decades, Batman has vanquished villains with his intellect, gadgets, skill and muscle. For centuries, Soldiers have been America's heroes, sworn to protect and defend its citizens. Just like Wayne Enterprise's chief scientist Lucius Fox, who develops many of Batman's gadgets, RDECOM scientists and engineers work to steadily improve the equipment of its knights, our nation's Warfighters.

Health

From front page

Rubenstein emphasized that building and sustaining warrior health starts at the top.

"The leadership absolutely has a direct impact," he said. "Whether it's through training the Soldiers they control or turning them over to [preventive medicine experts], they have the ability to reduce disease and non-battle injury."

With much internal and public focus on the quality of the Army's clinical and rehabilitative care, Rubenstein acknowledged that the medical community has to continue to "sell" preventive medicine and health promotion as critical to the Army's mission.

Ellen P. Embrey, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Force Health Protection and Readiness, needs no selling to convince her of the value of prevention.

"Optimizing human performance and maximizing fighting strength is a DoD goal to which we contribute significantly," she said. "DoD increasingly recognizes our importance to the mission. ... Prevention is key to mission support, and we do it by maintaining a healthy force; building healthy and resilient individuals, Families and communities; by educating and training and through research."

Embrey listed strategic goals for the unity of effort among force health protection professionals, emphasizing the importance of sharing priorities despite separation around the globe.

"We must work together on key goals, which is hard to do with all of us working in our local areas," she said.

Among the goals she said preventive medicine experts should focus on are communicating consistently across the system of care, sustaining warrior health throughout entire careers, creating healing environments, continually evaluating outcomes and quality of services, expanding humanitarian and disaster relief capabilities to build "the bridge to peace," promoting both patient choice and accountability, developing personnel and strengthening medical education and research even further.

DoD's top health communicator also emphasized communication as a top priority.

"We are a nationally rec-



Photo by BEN BUNGER, CHPPPM
Registrants line up to check in and get their schedules at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Force Health Protection Conference in Albuquerque. More than 2,200 Department of Defense, government, academic and foreign public health and preventive medicine experts attended.

ognized leader in prevention and health promotion ... we have a responsibility to share information about what we do," said Dr. Michael E. Kilpatrick, the deputy director for force health protection and readiness programs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, and the director of Strategic Communications for the military health system.

Kilpatrick set three strategic communication priorities for conference attendees: educate audiences about the military health system, inform them about what the MHS is doing and personalize the MHS for audiences.

Conference attendees had ample opportunity for informal communication as well as the formal communication gained from participating in the professional sessions.

Brainstorming sessions and networking are among the "non-credit" benefits of Force Health Protection.

Many took the advice of Deputy Surgeon General Rubenstein: "Know at least one new colleague, learn one new skill, plan to do one new project, and get one new contact—a Web site, book, etc.—to expand your capabilities."

The 2009 Force Health Protection Conference is scheduled for Aug. 15 through 21 in Albuquerque.



Commentary: Taking care of our own

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

There is a lot going on in our Army. In more than six years of sustained combat operations on two fronts, brave Soldiers continue to answer the call of our great nation. There's one thing going on in our Army, however, that does not make sense – losing Soldiers to accidents.

I will be the first to admit I don't have all the answers. Two trends in particular we need your help with.

First, summer, more specifically the last quarter, which is, historically, the deadliest time of year for Soldiers. Second should be no surprise, privately owned vehicle and motorcycle accidents are on the rise and have claimed more

than 90 Soldiers' lives so far this fiscal year. We need to reverse these trends and get a handle on these senseless losses.

Recently, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center opened a forum on the Army Battle Command Knowledge System called Army Safety Net which allows leaders and safety professionals to share information affecting our force. Brig. Gen. William H. Forrester and I pose questions over the Army Safety, NCO and warrant officer nets to draw from the experience of our force, and we thank all who participate. Awesome points are being made, and I agree that we [the Army] need to take action. We need to carry these discussions over to our formations and educate the force, especially about motorcycles. Gas prices are to the

point, I dare say, of making most everyone a potential motorcycle buyer or knowing someone who is. Banning motorcycles, as I have heard some prescribe to, is not the answer.

Education is key; motorcycle mentorship programs and riding with groups that abide by the law are great ways to make motorcycle riding a life skill. More importantly, mentorship and group rides show motorcyclists taking responsibility for their sport.

Leaders - every Soldier in my mind - need to take the hard right over the easy wrong. Make on-the-spot corrections; everyone in our Army is a safety officer/noncommissioned officer and can tactfully exercise general military authority on and off duty. Some advocate Line of Duty investigations

and AR 600-8-4 outlines the rules governing LOD and misconduct determinations. A LOD can be the hammer, but there are other effective tools, ones with less drastic consequences, we can implement.

When it comes to motorcycle accidents, where do we put the onus? On riders? Or with those who turn their heads and let accidents happen? How many of you have seen Letters of Reprimand or Article 15s used for violations? Wouldn't these be relevant for Soldiers not riding with personal protective equipment or driving recklessly?

Although I'm referring to motorcycles, similar issues exist with POVs and should not be overlooked when taking action to move left of the boom.

We continually receive great suggestions and here

are a few received via the Army Safety Net:

Installations could hold a one-day motorcycle safety stand down for riders. Ask them how they would solve the problem of motorcycle mishaps and publish the recommendations in the installation newspapers for awareness.

Fort Drum conducted a motorcycle rally in conjunction with a division run. Motorcyclists were not only exempt from the run; they also led the division during the run. Afterward, riders conducted a ride and returned to a barbecue, where leaders conducted professional development about motorcycles.

I visited Fort Campbell and learned the installation imposes a \$30 fine to Soldiers who aren't wearing their PPE on post.

We need to take care of our own. If we make

it too tough for Soldiers to ride on the installation, they will find other places where we can't police them. What are we doing to bring it back where we can get our arms around it? Leaders are engaging at all levels. U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Headquarters and other commands have conducted motorcycle mentorship rides, including the SMA and V Corps CSM.

What are we not doing or what can we do better?

This summer, longer days directly impact the level of fatigue we experience when trying to cram well deserved time off into short periods of time. Don't push yourself beyond the limit, manage your time off and have fun this summer. Your nation, Family and Army need you.

Army Safe is Army Strong!



Commentary: Summer's last hurrah

By
BILL ARMSTRONG
*APG Wildlife and Marine Law
Enforcement Division*

Labor Day! Shuck the corn, put on the crabs and ice down the drinks; it's time for one last fling before Jack Frost comes nipping at your nose.

All in all it's been a pretty quiet summer thus far for the guys in the Marine and Wildlife Law Enforcement Section. As one of the old timers back home used to say when I'd ask him how he was doing, "Well, 'pard, I ain't had no calamities, and as far as I know there ain't been no disasters, so I guess I'm doin' okay." That's about the way it's been for us this year.

Unfortunately, elsewhere this year in the state of Maryland there have been a number of serious boating accidents and fatalities associated with water activities, so how about a couple of reminders before you head out on the water this holiday weekend?

Leave the booze at home. If there's one thing that we won't tolerate out there on the water, it's someone operating a boat while under the influence

of alcohol or drugs. Not only are you putting yourself at risk, you're endangering everyone else around you. If you're dumb enough to be out there drinking and operating a boat, keep this in mind: We're gonna be looking for you, and when we catch you, "You're gonna be in a heap of trouble!"

Life jackets----wear them! And make sure the kids are wearing them! Those life jackets won't do anybody a bit of good if they're stuffed up underneath the seat or sealed up inside of a garbage bag because you're afraid they're gonna get dirty.

Make sure you let someone know where you're going and what time they can expect you back. It's kinda tough for us to find you if you're overdue and we don't know where to start looking.

And please remember folks, the waters surrounding APG are littered with all kinds of stuff. That's the nature of our business here, and it makes our waters just a wee bit "special" if you know what I mean.

So pay close attention if you're out there boating and

enjoying the good life. To help keep you safe while you're out there, we've got a few rules you need to keep in mind. These rules are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, and if you're interested and want to look them up on the Internet for yourself, just Google "33 CFR 334.140." If you don't have access to the Internet, the following is an excerpt from that regulation:

"Authorized use: Authorized use as used in this section is defined as fishing from a vessel, navigation using a vessel to traverse a water area or anchoring a vessel in a water area. Any person who touches any land, or docks or grounds a vessel, within the boundaries of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, is not using the area for an authorized use and is in violation of this regulation. Further, water skiing in the water area of Aberdeen Proving Ground is permitted as an authorized use when the water area is open for use by the general public providing that no water skier touches any land, either dry land (fast land) or subaqueous land and comes no closer than 200 meters from any shoreline. Further, if any person is in the water area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, outside of any vessel (except for the purposes of water skiing as outlined above) including, but not limited to, swimming, scuba diving, or other purpose, that person is not

using the water in an authorized manner and is in violation of this regulation."

Entry onto land. Entry onto any land, either dry land (fast land) or subaqueous land (submerged), within the boundaries of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Reservation as defined in this section is prohibited at all times. Entry onto the land is punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

Which means in so many words, if you are in APG waters, you aren't allowed to get out of your boat unless you are water-skiing, and even then you're not allowed to come closer than 200 meters from our shoreline. So listen up; no wading, no swimming and no coming up on the shore.

Boy, that was a mouthful, wasn't it? Just recently I had a Family tell me as we did a safety check on their boat, "We're from down in Middle River and we come up here because we know that you guys are out on the water every day. My Family and I feel safer up here knowing that you guys don't put up with the drunks and crazies."

Folks, that's the way we like it here.

Take it from me: pulling bodies out of the water ain't no fun. We've been real lucky this year at APG and there haven't been any serious incidents to speak of, so whatta ya say? Let's all "knock on wood" and be safe this Labor Day weekend.



Your health is KUSAHC's goal



KUSAHC group talks to Aberdeen CDC youth about shots and gives demonstration

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

The back to school season at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic means an increase of children visiting the clinic needing immunizations which are required before admittance into schools or childcare.

William Robinson, a lab technician who works at KUSAHC, said that many children and some adults fear getting immunizations or their blood drawn for lab work. This anxiety can make it a difficult procedure for both the patient and the health care professional.

"The fear of the unknown can cause a lot of anxiety," Robinson said.

Robinson, who has a child who attends the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center, decided to put together a demonstration for children who attend the Aberdeen CDC on July 29 to show them that getting immunizations or drawing blood is a routine procedure.

"What a great way to



Sgt. David Manning, who works at the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic Immunization Clinic, used a puppet called "Mr. Teddy" to talk to the children about the importance of getting immunizations at the Aberdeen Child Development Center on July 29.

show the kids that shots are not scary," Robinson said.

"We are demonstrating

this to them in their own environment, and showing

them that it is not a traumatic

experience."

Most of the children who attend the CDC are

also patients of KUSAHC, so the demonstration was a chance for the children to become familiar with the technicians who might give them a shot in the future.

Robinson, along with Staff Sgt. Laurentino Benitz, a KUSAHC lab technician, and Sgt. David Wright and Sgt. David Manning, who both work at the KUSAHC Immunization Clinic, talked to the children about the importance of immunizations and lab work.

As part of the demonstration, Robinson and Benitz gave a live demonstration of drawing blood in front of the children. Although several children commented that they were afraid to see blood drawn, after the blood was drawn the children witnessed that it was a quick procedure, and that the patient was not in pain.

After Robinson and Benitz's demonstration, Wright and Manning talked to the children about the importance of getting immunizations. Man-

ning used a puppet called "Mr. Teddy" to capture the attention of the children. "Mr. Teddy" asked Wright questions about immunizations, and received a shot from Wright.

"This [demonstration] will not eliminate the problem, but it will hopefully make the process easier," Manning said. "Our group wanted to do something that will educate the children and help the community."

After the presentation, Darlene Ford, assistant director of the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center, said, "I think it was a great presentation and that the kids really enjoyed having the KUSAHC group visit. It is common for people, even adults, to be scared of shots. Having them demonstrate shots to the children takes some of the mystery out of the procedure. They [KUSAHC staff members] volunteered to come here and they put together the whole presentation, and I really appreciate it."

County offers free tobacco cessation classes

The Harford County Health Department will offer free stop tobacco classes for anyone who wants to quit. A six-week class will be held in Bel Air, Havre de Grace, Aberdeen and Edgewood. Pre-registration is required. The Pre-Quit Class is mandatory for all first-time participants. For more information or to register, call 410-612-1781 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Bel Air

A Pre-Quit Class will be held 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Sept. 29, at the Lounge at the McFaul Activity Center located on 525 West MacPhail Road. Regular classes will be held 6:30 to 8 p.m., every Monday, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 3.

Havre de Grace

A Pre-Quit Class will be held 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Sept. 30, at the Havre de Grace

Activity Center, Room 4, located on 351 Lewis Lane. Regular classes will be held 6:30 to 8 p.m., every Tuesday, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28 and Nov. 4.

Aberdeen

A Pre-Quit Class will be held 1 to 3 p.m., Nov. 10, at the Community Services Building (Harford County Health Department), located on 34 North Philadelphia Boulevard (Route 40). Regular

classes will be held 1 to 2:30 p.m., every Monday, Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8 and 15.

Edgewood

A Pre-Quit Class will be held 6 to 8 p.m., Nov. 10, at the Harford County Health Department, Conference Room, 1321 Woodbridge Station Way. Regular classes will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m., every Monday, Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8 and 15.

Community Notes

**THURSDAY
AUGUST 28
FREE CAREER PATH
WORKSHOPS**

Open Doors Career Center Women's Employment Program will hold a free Career Path Workshop for women who are unemployed and age 35 and older. Workshops will be held 10 a.m. to noon, Aug. 28 (Job Hunting and Six Areas of Readiness). Registration is required.

For more information or to register, call Linda, 410-297-6590.

**THURSDAY THRU
MONDAY
AUG 28 THRU
SEPT 1
CAR SHOW,
SALE BENEFITS
VETERANS**

The 29th annual Bel Air New Car Dealers Labor Day Weekend New Car Show and Sale is being held at the Festival at Bel Air on Route 24 in Har-

ford County, 5 to 9 p.m., Aug. 28; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Aug. 29 and 30; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sept. 1.

For every automobile sold, \$20 will be donated to the Harford County Commission on Veterans' Affairs to help needy veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The New Car Show, which features gifts and prizes, free moonbounce and more than 300 cars on the lots with better than 30 mpg, is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit www.BelAirCarShow.com or call 410-893-1700.

**WEDNESDAY THRU
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 3
THRU 7
OUTWARD BOUND
WAR VETERANS
EXPEDITION**

Outward Bound Wilderness offers veterans expeditions for those who served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Course Number CEC910 expedition will be held in Leadville, Colo., and includes backpacking and rock climbing in the Colorado Rockies. Under this program, all Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans, including current and former members of the active and reserve components of the U.S. military are eligible to participate. It doesn't matter what current military status is (active, inactive, discharged, retired) as long as Soldiers deployed in support of OEF or OIF combat operations while in the military.

For more information or to call an admissions advisor, call 866-467-7651, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., MST, or visit http://www.outwardboundwilderness.org/email_us.html.

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 6
CHILDREN'S
GARDENING
- SENSATIONAL
SALSA**

Have fun growing food and flowers. Enjoy crafts, games, and science disguised as fun while learning about seeds, life cycles, and growing food and flowers in a watershed-friendly way. The program will be held 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 5 to 10. Cost is \$4 per person. Registration is required.

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

**PADDLE AND
PICNIC**

Paddle Otter Point Creek

and stop on Snake Island for a picnic. (Bring a bag lunch.) This program will be held 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. Cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

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

**MIGRATION,
WHAT'S YOUR
DESTINATION?**

Where is everyone going? Why are they leaving so soon? Come learn why going south

is so important. Bring a picture of something that migrates, and know where it spends the winter. This program will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 7 to 10. Cost is \$3 per person. Registration is required.

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

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Good Shepherd Catholic School will held at the Good Shepherd School, 810 Aiken Avenue, Perryville, 7 p.m. Doors

open at 6 p.m.; Early Bird Cash at 6:45 a.m. Tickets cost \$12 per ticket and includes 20 games and all paper cards. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available. Bring a non-perishable food item for a chance on a special drawing. No smoking is allowed.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332 or call the Good Shepherd School, 410-642-6265.

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

Chapel News

The Main Post Chapel is currently taking registrations for the 2008 - 2009 Religious Education Programs.

Protestant

- Children's Church (all year round)
- Sunday School – Pre-School to Adult
- Protestant Youth Group
- Protestant Women of the Chapel
- Protestant and Gospel Men of the Chapel

Gospel

- Children's Church
- Sunday School – Pre-School to Adults
- Gospel Youth Group
- Women of Grace (Protestant and Gospel)
- Bible Studies

Catholic

- Religious Education Classes (Pre-School to Adult)
- Sacramental Classes – Penance/Eucharist/Confirmation/Baptism
- Catholic Youth of the Chapel
- Catholic Women of the Chapel
- Prayer Group (also Prayer Chain)

Groups of all faiths sponsor retreats,

pilgrimages/excursions to religious sites, music festivals, the "Halleluja Harvest" (alternative Halloween), social and fellowship events such as "Taste of Home" meal for all military, St. Patrick's meal, Hispanic dinner, German Octoberfest, Italian celebration, Seder Meal and more. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with any of the programs. Religious Education Training is available for all volunteers.

For more information, call Gerri Merkel, APG director of Religious Education, 410-278-2516 or DSN 298-2516, e-mail gerri.merkel@conus.army.mil.

Themed Sundays

The Aberdeen Area Protestant service will host monthly themed Sundays during which a post unit or organization will be celebrated.

- Sept. 7, U.S. Marine Corps Detachment
- Oct. 5, U.S. Air Force Detachment
- Nov. 2, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic
- Dec. 7, U.S. Army Materiel Command Band

Worship schedule

Aberdeen Area

Main Post Chapel, building 2485

Catholic

Confession 8 a.m.
Sunday mass 8:45 a.m.

Protestant

Worship 10:15 a.m.

Gospel

Sunday School 11 a.m.
Worship service noon

Edgewood Area

building E-4620

Catholic

Confession 10 a.m.
Sunday mass 10:45 a.m.

Protestant

Worship 9:15 a.m.

For more information, call 410-278-4333.

POST SHORTS

Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Aug. 28, 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 the Information Line, 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998.

Defense Technology, Intelligence Career Fair Sept. 4

The Army Community Services Employment Readiness Program and the Aberdeen Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association will co-host a Defense Technology and Intelligence Career Fair, noon to 4 p.m.,

Sept. 4, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

Job seekers with any security clearance, information technology, technical scientific, military, government, chemical/biological warfare, contractor or intelligence background are highly encouraged to attend. Participants can meet with many different employers and recruiters.

For more information or to see a list of exhibitors and jobs being offered, visit www.TransitionCareers.com.

Main Exchange offers Buddy List

Customers can now sign up at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Main Exchange to be on a "Buddy List." Customers that sign up on this list will receive "Buddy Messages" via e-mail every Friday, alerting them of weekend sales and happenings in the store and online at www.affes.com.

Heart screening at KUSAHC, through Sept. 4

Walter Reed Army Medical Center Cardiac CT mobile will visit the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, through Sept. 4. Call today to schedule a screening, which is a 15-minute non-invasive process.

Those who will benefit from a heart screening include men and women over 50; individuals with high cholesterol, diabetes, or high blood pressure; individuals who have smoked in the past or still smoke; individuals who have had Family members with heart disease, heart attack, or stroke; and individuals who are obese or sedentary.

If anyone answers yes to one or more of these questions, then call KUSAHC today for a screening, 302-731-4402.

Home Ownership Workshops begin tonight

Army Community Service will offer free Home Ownership Workshops, 1 p.m. every Thursday, through Sept. 25 at the ACS, building 2754, Rodman Road. Participants may sign up for any scheduled classes: Aug. 28; Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 25.

These free educational workshops are designed to guide military Families and DA civilian employees through most of the financial and administrative hurdles of purchasing or selling real estate.

Topics of Discussion include Learn Effective Ways To Buy and Sell Real Estate; New and Exciting First Time Buyer Programs; The Four Keys to Home Ownership; Competing Successfully in Today's Market; Breaking Through the Down Payment Barrier; The Home Financing

Process, Selecting an Area; and more.

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

Thrift Shop holds \$2 bag sale in September

The Thrift Shop will hold a \$2 bag sale in September for all items displayed in the parking lot.

The shop will be closed Sept. 6.

For more information, call 410-272-8572 during store hours: Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of the month.

Consignments are taken 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursdays.

Registration now open for UMUC Fall 2008

Registration has begun for the University of Maryland University College Fall Semester.

Online session 2 runs Sept. 8 to Dec. 14

Online session 3 runs s Sept. 21 to Dec. 14

Online session 4 runs Oct. 5 to Dec. 14

At Aberdeen Proving Ground HRMN 300 Human Resource Management will be offered.

Students are advised to register early, as some classes fill quickly. For more information or to register, visit the APG office of UMUC in building 4305, room 210, or call 410-272-8269 or 410-306-2048.

Information about UMUC is also available online at www.umuc.edu.

Acquisition Corps briefing Sept. 4

Lt. Col. Robert Marion, the Branch Chief of Acquisition Management Branch, and members of his staff, will conduct an Acquisition Corps briefing 9 a.m., Sept. 4, at the RDECOM Conference Center, building E-4810 auditorium. This information session is open to all members of the Acquisition Workforce, both civilian and military.

For more information, call John King, RDECOM G-1 office, 410-436-4141.

Blue Cross/ Shield 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 Sept. 9. The representative will be available 9 to 11:30 a.m. in building 305, room 211 and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in building E-4520, Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, Edgewood Area, to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

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

Free American Sign Language class offered

A free American Sign Language class will be taught 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday, Sept. 16 through Dec. 16. The class will be held at Edgewood Area building E-2100 Conference/Classroom. Sign language will be taught for beginners and more advanced students.

Students are welcome to bring their lunch and eat it during class.

To receive credit for the class, students may submit form DD 1556. Students must complete at least 10 classes in order to receive credit.

For more information or to register, call BethAnn Cameron, 410-436-7175.

Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 18

Aberdeen Proving Ground will host the annual Retiree Appreciation Day activities 8 a.m. to noon at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, Oct. 18.

The APG Retiree Council will hold a meeting, 12:30 to 2 p.m., Aug. 30 in the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

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

17th Signal Battalion Reunion planned

The 17th Signal Battalion Association is planning a reunion Sept. 18 to 21, at the Shilo Inn Suites Hotel, Killeen, Texas. The reunion will emphasize a military

theme, and will include a memorial service and a golf outing.

The 17th Signal Battalion Association is a designated World War II commemorative Community, according to Arlo Janssen, vice president for Public Affairs of the association.

For additional information contact Janssen, by mail: 9919 Longford CT, Vienna, VA 22181, by phone, 703-281-3170 or e-mail adjanssen@aol.com.

Vet clinic closed Mondays

Until further notice the post Veterinary Treatment Facility, located in building 2479, will be closed on Mondays. Regular hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call ahead for an appointment.

The clinic closes for lunch, federal holidays and on the last business day of the month.

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

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



FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Wrapping up the FMWR/CYS Summer Sports program



Photo by RACHEL PONDER
Kam'Ron Taylor, 7, far left, Asha Thomas, 6, center, and Andrea Redding, 9, right, watch Caleb Campanella, 7, prepare to kick the ball during a game of soccer.

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

Child and Youth Services Sports hosted several sporting events this summer for Aberdeen Proving Ground youths.

This article is a wrap-up of the summer events, plus upcoming events.

Soccer Camp

The Challenger British Soccer Program in conjunction with CYS Sports held a day camp for 40 APG youths ages 5 to 14 on the CYS soccer field, July 28 through Aug. 1.

Coaches from the Challenger British Soccer Program were Mike McMillen, Barney Spencer-White and Ryan McNeil. This summer these coaches, who are all from England, traveled throughout Pennsylvania, Virgin-

ia and Maryland to coach at a different location every week.

According to the Challenger British Soccer Web site, www.challengersports.com, "the goal of the British Soccer Program is to deliver quality coaching with a unique British cultural twist."

"This summer there are seven hundred and fifty Challenger British Soccer coaches who have held camps in forty-nine U.S. states," Spencer-White said. "In England soccer is the main sport; almost everyone plays soccer there."

The children who attended the camp were divided into four teams. The Camper's teams were referred to as countries: Lithuania, Hungary, Madagascar and Switzerland.

Campers competed to earn "World Cup" points on the soccer field by playing soccer games. The

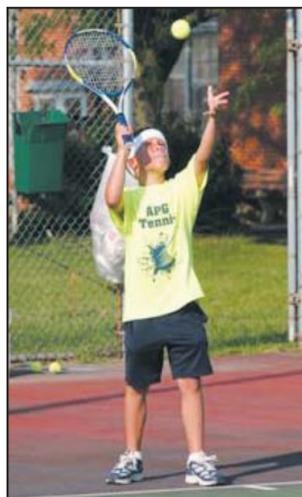


Photo by CHRISTY FOLEY
Joseph Foley, 10, prepares to hit a tennis ball during a tennis tournament held Aug. 4. Christopher Felts, 9, beat Joseph Foley 3 games to 1 in a best of 5 games match in the Singles tournament that took place on Community Recreation Division courts in the Aberdeen Area.

Campers were also given "homework" to research the countries they represented to earn extra points. Some of the Campers made flags or painted their face to represent their country to earn extra points.

The children who attended the camp worked on different soccer techniques while learning about good sportsmanship and most of all having fun.

"This is my fourth year attending the camp," said Kam'Ron Taylor, 7. "It has been a good year. I met new people, and learned new techniques."

"I think I have become a better soccer player by attending this camp because I have learned new techniques that

have helped me with my game," said Danielle Petty, 11.

"I learned more about soccer and countries," added Jake Kegley, 4.

Tennis Tournament

On Aug. 4, Christopher Felts, 9, beat Joseph Foley, 10, in 3 games to 1 in a best of 5 games match in a singles tournament that was held on the Aberdeen Area tennis courts.

Junior Golf Tournament

The Junior Golf Tournament was held at the Ruggles Golf Course, Aug. 4.

Results

5 Holes

7-9 Boys

1st Timmy Jang 27
2nd Hunter Keithley 28
3rd Andrew Crouse 33

7-9 Girls

1st Audrey Moon 37
2nd Julianna Richard 39
3rd Danielle Eubanks 41

7 Holes

10-11 Boys

1st Christopher Felts 40
2nd Joseph Foley 41
3rd John Meissner 42

10-12 Girls

1st Tatyana Moon 37
2nd Katie Jang 39
3rd Lindsay Sheridan 43

12-13 Boys

1st Matthew Elliott 38
2nd Ty Heasley 43
3rd Matthew Mengel 48

9 Holes

13-15 Girls

Michelle Smith 48
Nicole Leonard 51
Jessica Jang 55

15-16 Boys

Michael Smith 46
Chase Eberle 48

Steven Sheridan 50

Upcoming CYS Sports Events

Punt, Pass, Kick Competition

This free football competition will be held at the Edgewood Youth Center 1 p.m., Sept. 20. Punt, Pass, and Kick Competition is for boys and girls ages 8 to 15.

Participants must fill out an entry form, show proof of age at registration, and a parent's signature is required.

Participants can register now through Sept. 18 at the Aberdeen and Edgewood Youth Centers, or visit the Web site, www.nfyouthfootball.com, and click on Punt, Pass and Kick, click on forms, fill out the liability/waiver form and fax to Bill Kegley, CYS Sports director at 410-278-4658.

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

Boys, Girls Basketball

Register at the Aberdeen Youth Center weekdays Oct. 15 through Nov. 9 by appointment only. Call 410-278-7571/7479 to set up an appointment. Walk in registration is 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. in building 2752 Rodman Road.

Edgewood Youth Center registration is 2 through 6 p.m., building E-1902 Scully Road. Call 410-436-7131.

All sports physicals are due at registration.

Anyone interested in coaching, refereeing or scorekeeping should contact the CYS Sports Office.

League games begin January 2009. For more information, call Kegley, 410-306-2297.

Activities/Events

Sesame Street Live

Tickets for "Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Green Thumb" will be held 10:30 a.m., Sept. 12; 7 p.m., Sept. 12; 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Sept. 13; and 1 p.m., Sept. 14, at 1st Mariner Bank Arena, located on 201 W. Baltimore Street,

Baltimore. Tickets cost \$17 each. Tickets must be pre-ordered on Sept. 4. No sales will be made after Sept. 4.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call FMWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building

3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail Mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

Infant/Child First Aid, CPR Class

An Infant/Child First Aid and CPR class will be held 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., for ages 13 and older, Oct. 17, building 2752, Child

and Youth Services administration building. The class costs \$5 per person.

Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire tickets available

Tickets are available for the 2007 Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, located on 2775 Lebanon Road, Manheim, Pa.

Tickets cost \$22.50 each for adults and \$9 for children ages 5 through 11. The Renaissance Faire will be held on weekends through Oct. 26. Enjoy a marvelous trip back in time to the days of yore featuring 35 acres of Jousting Knights and Royal Delights. Tickets are good for any day entrance to either the Celtic Fling & Highland Games or the PA Renaissance Faire.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the FMWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR_registration@apg.army.mil.

tion@apg.army.mil.

Free babysitting course

Become a certified babysitter after taking the free 4-H/Army Child and Youth Services babysitting class for ages 13 and older.

The class will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 3 and 4 at the EA Child and Youth Services, building E-1902. The objectives are to familiarize participants with the responsibilities of babysitting. This class is open to all DoD ID card holders.

For more information, to register or for an appointment, call Central Registration Office, 410-278-7571/7479.

York County Fair (Grandparent's Day)

Treat the grandparents to a day of midway games, local and Amish food and fun. End the day at Crackers Barrel Sept. 7. Cost is \$37 per person. Bus departs Golden Ring Terminal at 9:10 a.m.

Contact FMWR Leisure Travel Services for more information at the AA Recreation Center, building 3326, calling 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mailing mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

Dolphin Watch and Wildwood, N.J.

Come watch the playful dolphins of Cape May, Sept. 4. Enjoy a two-hour cruise with free coffee and danish. Finish the day off with a nostalgic stroll down the boardwalk. Have lunch and do a little shopping before heading back home. Cost is \$59 per person and includes roundtrip bus transportation, dolphin watch and trip to Wildwood.

The bus will depart Best Western at 6:45 a.m. and return at approximately 8:30 p.m.

For more information, call FMWR Leisure Travel services, 410-278-4011 or visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/trips.html>.

The Course at APG



GOLF SPECIAL

Open to Authorized users and Harford County residents.

Thru September 30, 2008

Save and Play the Golf Courses at Aberdeen Proving Ground:

Ruggles Golf Course: \$30
Exton Golf Course: \$20

Monday thru Friday (weekends after 2:30 p.m.) Includes greens fee with cart

**Must present coupon for special; coupon not valid with any other discount; cut here or go to www.apgmwr.com for coupon

Eligible patrons are: active duty military, retirees, veterans, DoD civilians, APG contractors and Harford County residents.



For more information
call 410-278-4794
or 410-436-2213



Employment Readiness Program offers free classes

Computer Basics Class

Thursdays through Aug. 30, 6 to 8 p.m., this hands-on class is designed for those with little or no background in computers. Learn the basics skills needed to operate a computer.

Computer Basics Class

Sept. 9 thru 18, Tuesday and Thursday, 6-8 p.m.

This hands-on class is designed for those with little or no background in computers. Learn the basics skills needed to operate a computer

Seating is limited. Must register at ACS. For more information call Marilyn Howard, 410-278-9669 / 7572

Smart Start Your Business

All sessions 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. ACS classroom, Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 19.

This class is sponsored by APG ACS Employment Readiness Program in partnership with Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union and Harford Community College SBDC. This 90-minute orientation program provides an overview of the ways to start a business, the skills and duties of a successful entrepreneur and how to write a strategic business plan. Other services offered by the SBDC are also discussed.

To reserve seating, call Marilyn Howard, 410-278-9669/7572. Space is limited.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

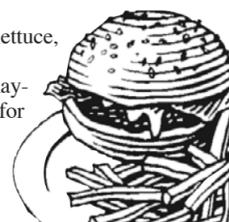
Building 2342

Week of Aug. 26

Special #1: Chicken salad on toast, choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, potato chips, cookie and soda for \$4.95.

Special #2: Double cheeseburger with bacon, choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, 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.



Reports of electrical hazards overblown

Story by
JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

Reports of electrical hazards caused by negligence in Iraq are overblown, a senior Defense Department spokesman said July 29.

Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell spoke at a news conference on the eve of testimony before the House Government Reform Committee. Acting DoD Inspector General Gordon S. Heddell is one of four Pentagon officials expected to testify, according to House officials.

The hearing will examine allegations that KBR, a large defense contractor responsible for building and maintaining much of the U.S. infrastructure in Iraq, and the Army have caused deaths among American service members in Iraq through negligence.

"We certainly understand and appreciate Congress's concern for the well-being of service members and other U.S. person-

nel deployed in Iraq, but there seems to be a misperception out there that our facilities in that theater are replete with electrical hazards that have caused hundreds of fires and multiple fatalities," the press secretary said.

"What's more, some seem to believe that this department and one of the Army's lead logistical support contractors are so negligent or callous that we have failed to address these dangers," he continued.

Morrell said the characterization is "flat-out wrong."

"We care far too much about our men and women in uniform, as evidenced by the tens of billions of dollars we spend on force protection equipment, to knowingly allow them to live or work in an unsafe environment," Morrell said. "Our civilian and military leadership would simply not tolerate that."

He acknowledged that 16 service members have been killed in electrical accidents since March 2003.

"We grieve for each and

every one of them," he said. "But it is wrong to suggest that all these deaths were the result of shoddy workmanship by defense contractors or lack of oversight by the Pentagon."

Of the 16, eight deaths occurred outside military bases and are attributable to service members accidentally making contact with live power lines. This is a constant risk in the cities and villages of Iraq, where people hook up their homes to the power grid with any kind of wire possible - including barbed wire. Overhead wires also often are lower than 10 feet off the ground.

"Three more troops were killed while working with electrical generators that were not properly grounded," Morrell said. Another was electrocuted in a pool that once belonged to deposed dictator Saddam Hussein.

"The remaining four deaths do seem to stem from wiring problems, but only one of them involves work done by KBR, although the inspector gener-

al is still looking into all these incidents," Morrell said.

A total of 10 U.S. troops have been electrocuted outside Iraq and Afghanistan since 2002, he noted.

Every death is a tragedy, Morrell said, adding that he is not attempting to diminish them.

"But they should be viewed in proper context," he said. DoD has several investigations under way into this issue.

In the meantime, "every facility our troops operate out of in Iraq is undergoing a safety inspection," he said. "That's nearly five thousand buildings in all."

U.S. officials in Iraq have created a uniform electrical code for military facilities in the country. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multi-national Force Iraq, has appointed Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale as his chief safety officer. McHale also serves as the command's director of Personnel, Logistics and Resources.

Local retiree named Freedom Team ambassador

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Freedom Team Salute, an Army program that recognizes service members, veterans and their Families for their service to the nation, appointed a local retiree as its ambassador for the Aberdeen Proving Ground community in June.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ricky C. Godbolt said he will be available to assist groups in recognizing Army veterans and offer Soldiers an opportunity to thank their parents, spouses, employers - those who support them as they serve.

Godbolt said that the goal of Freedom Team Salute is to formally recognize Army veterans of all generations for their sacrifices while serving the nation.

"The U.S. Army has decided to recognize Soldiers and those who support Soldiers and as ambassadors, we go out and help people say thank you to those who serve," Godbolt said.

"We also want to honor the support network of all Soldiers - active, National Guard and Reserve - because we understand the importance of their contributions and sacrifices," he added.

A resident of Belcamp, Godbolt is the program director of the Construction and Development Institute at Prince Georges Community College.

He said that anyone interested in arranging a Freedom Team Salute presentation to a Soldier, veteran, spouse or employer should contact him at ricky.godbolt@us.army.mil.

"This program gives me the opportunity as a retiree to continue serving," Godbolt said. "There's nothing like the satisfaction of seeing the eyes of veterans and parents light up when they receive their thank you."

In addition, to his Freedom Team Salute responsibilities, Godbolt is hoping to revitalize the APG Retiree Council.

Military retirees wishing to serve on the council should contact Godbolt at ricky.godbolt@us.army.mil or jatraino@aol.com.

Freedom Team Salute
www.freedomteamsalute.com

Freedom Team Salute is an official program sponsored by the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff. The program gives active duty, Reserve and National Guard

Soldiers the opportunity to recognize and honor a parent's service, a spouse's commitment and an employer's long-standing support with a commendation package tailored to their contribution.

Freedom Team Salute also gives everyone the opportunity to recognize Army veterans with a commendation package for their dedicated service and continued support of today's Soldiers.

Anyone in the general public as well as all service members can submit the names of an unlimited number of U.S. Army veterans to Freedom Team Salute by contacting a Freedom Team Salute ambassador or registering on the Web site, www.freedomteamsalute.com, and submitting a name. Commendations will be delivered in four to six weeks.

MRICD

From front page

Maj. Gen. George Weightman, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, presided over the change of command ceremony.

"Command of this lead laboratory for DoD [Department of Defense]," began Weightman, after acknowledging Adams, Slife, their Families, MRICD's staff, and assembled guests, "with its role of developing medical countermeasures against chemical threat agents, is a demanding task because it plays a vital role in ensuring that the leaders in DoD and, in fact, throughout the United States, understand what we need to do to prepare for chemical threats and chemical attacks.

"The threat has never been greater; therefore, the mission that we have dedicated this command to has never been more relevant," asserted Weightman.

"Colonel Adams has distinguished himself by taking over the challenging task of leading this organization, and he's done it with superb leadership and certainly technical expertise," Weightman said. "During your tenure here, Tim, ICD has actively participated in strategic planning communications with DoD chemical defense policy makers and helped direct a program mutually beneficial for the Warfighter and our country."

Enumerating Adams's other accomplishments, Weightman highlighted his efforts in programs to recruit and retain qualified individuals, his cultivation of collaborative efforts with other government agencies, industry and academia, thus bringing greater flexibility and resources to tackling the problem of chemical defense and his work to ensure the recapitalization of the institute.

"Thank you and Sandy for your outstanding dedication to commitment to excellence and constant service to your com-

munity. The scientific community has greatly benefitted from your vision, your energy and your leadership and support to both the community and the Soldiers and service members here," he said.

Then addressing Slife, Weightman said, "Your credentials in the Medical Service Corps and with the AMEDD are impressive, Harry, and we have no doubt that you will continue to lead this organization to new and better achievements. Your considerable military experience and demonstrated leadership qualities posture you very well for success.

"I wish that you keep focused on continuing ICD's world class work in medical countermeasure research and development. Your organization's highly technical services will remain in great demand and our nation will need your very best," concluded Weightman.

Following Weightman's lead and mindful of the Soldiers on the parade field on the lovely, but still warm, July morning, Adams and Slife both kept their remarks brief.

"As I look back on my time spent here at ICD, which totals three different assignments, each has been brief, brief but extremely rewarding," said Adams as he took the podium. "Each time I've had the good fortune to lead and watch grow an incredible program, as ICD continues to develop and maintain its place as a national asset and world leader in medical chemical defense research, education, and training, and as it provides subject matter expertise to the DoD and interagency and plays a pivotal role in medical chemical defense policy, preparedness, and response capabilities.

"I'm confident that I leave you in the very best of hands," Adams said, acknowledging Slife. "I could not have asked for a better deputy commander, and now Colonel Slife is your commander, and no better, more qualified commander is there to take ICD forward during these very challenging times."

"It is an honor to be asked to assume command of the Insti-

tute of Chemical Defense that has played such a significant role in my professional life over the past ten years," began Slife, "and to occupy the same office that has previously been held by great officers that I consider friends and mentors."

Looking back to his first association with the institute, Slife recalled the day he met with then commander Col. James Little to discuss possible positions at the MRICD, which led to his first assignment at the institute as a division chief.

"My focus on that day is the same as my focus today," said Slife, "and that is the desire to be part of accomplishing the mission of this institute, which is the mitigation of the effects of chemical warfare agents through our research, consultation, and education core competencies.

"I can think of no greater calling than to render aid to a fallen comrade," Slife continued. "That is our calling, that is our mission. We are proud to answer that calling as an institute."

Addressing the staff of MRICD, Slife said, "I salute your dedication to duty and your accomplishment of the mission. I ask for your continued support as we take this institute forward, maintaining the pace set by Colonel Adams and his expert guidance.

"Major General Weightman," concluded Slife, "I am humbled by your confidence in my ability to lead this great institute, and I commit to you to give my very best and nothing less."

Col. Harry F. Slife Jr.

Slife is from Youngstown, Ohio. He attended Youngstown State University on an Army ROTC scholarship and graduated in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in applied science. He completed an internship at the Youngstown Hospital Association Medical Technology Program and was accredited as a medical technologist by the American Association of Clinical Pathologists in 1982.

He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Chemical Corps in August 1982.

Slife earned a master's degree in laboratory medicine from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1990 and a doctorate in biochemistry from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Md., in 1999.

Slife was first assigned to the 2nd Armored Division (FWD) in Garlstadt, Germany, where he served as a chemical specialty staff officer at both the battalion and brigade level, spending the majority of his time with the 4/3 Field Artillery. In 1986 Slife transferred to the Medical Service Corps and was reassigned to the 5th General Hospital in Bad Cannstatt, Germany, as the clinical laboratory manager, where he met his wife, Leslie. Subsequent assignments include assistant laboratory manager, Walter Reed Army Medical Center (1988-1989), chief of Clinical Chemistry, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center (1990-1994), deputy director of Laboratory Sciences, USACHPPM (1998-2000), Pharmacology Division chief, MRICD (2000-2003), research area director (chemical and biological) at MRMCM (2003-2006).

Slife is a graduate of the Chemical Corps Officer Basic Course, the AMEDD Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, The Combined Arms Services Staff School, and the Command and General Staff School. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (4OLC), The Army Commendation Medal (1OLC), The Army Achievement Medal (2OLC), The National Defense Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He has obtained the Expert Field Medical Badge, is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit and has been awarded the Surgeon General's "A" Proficiency designator in Biochemistry.

He is married to the former Leslie Martel of Baltimore, who served as an active duty Medical Service Corps health care administrator. They have three children, Caitlin, 16; Carolyn, 15; and Jacob, 11.



APG Forum

Commentary: You do not need lots of money to make a big difference

Fifteen low-cost or no-cost energy conservation measures

By
DON JUHASZ
Army Energy and Utility Branch

Not long ago, in a meeting with the senior leadership of the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the Installation Management Command about energy security, I was asked what installations could do right now to make a difference in energy consumption. I responded that, off the top of my head, I could state 15 ways to reduce energy caused by wasteful behaviors and practices.

I wrote down the 15 and realized that I had many more. However, for this article, I will concentrate on these first 15. I will address additional opportunities when I receive a report that an installation has implemented all of these.

The first 15

1. Computers and monitors should be turned off every day when not actively in use (Army Regulation 420-1, chapter 22). If the equipment is Energy Star rated as required by statute and regulation, then it has a sleep mode. If the sleep mode is activated after any 20 minutes of inactivity, then the equipment is not required to be turned off when not in active use.

However, few computers or monitors are enabled for the sleep mode even though they have the capability. Our computer support personnel disable most, as there are not any consequences for doing so. Disabling energy reducing capabilities in any equipment is paramount to waste and abuse of Army resources.

(Note: Users should comply with Directorate of Information Management guidance.)

2. Stop idling government vehicles when unattended or waiting for more than 30 seconds. Installation commanders should add this as a violation that is ticketable with a warning and then a consequence for second and follow-on violations.

3. Turn off all interior lights in

any and every unoccupied area, even when one intends to return immediately. If funds are available, install occupancy sensors in hallways, common areas and individual offices. Until occupancy sensors are installed, have procedures to turn off light switches or circuit breakers. Sometimes circuit breakers are the only way to turn off lights, as is the case in many maintenance and mess facilities.

4. For scanners, copy machines, faxes, printers and other office equipment, program the sleep modes to activate automatically when not actively in use. All of this equipment is required to be Energy Star rated and have a sleep mode by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and AR 420-1. Purchase of equipment that does not meet Energy Star requirements should have a consequence to the manager and agent who authorized it.

5. Use setback temperatures on all heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, including window air conditioners. If automated controls are not installed, activate procedures for manual adjustment of all heating and cooling equipment at the end of the every work day and for any periods an area is unoccupied during work hours (such as locker rooms, lunch and break rooms). Required setback temperatures are found in AR 420-1, chapter 22.

6. Turn off all outside lights during the day. Guardhouses, access points, gas stations, maintenance areas and storage areas are common locations where outside lighting is left on during daylight hours because of lack of attention, education and consequences. Vending machines should be delamped whether they are inside or outside. Seek changes to the contracts with vending machine owners paying a utility charge for connecting to government-supplied energy.

7. Doors and windows between conditioned spaces and

non-conditioned spaces are not to be propped or left open. Active management of doors and windows that control conditioned spaces is critical to reducing energy waste.

In addition, heating and cooling of vestibules (entry areas) should be eliminated except to prevent freezing of pipes in those areas. Thermostats for heating of vestibules should be set at no higher than 45 degrees and, in most cases, can be set at 40 degrees where the weather stripping is properly installed for entry doors. Air conditioning of vestibules should be shut off.

8. All motors and pumps that have automatic controls should be operated in the auto mode and not in the manual mode that causes them to run 24/7. Very few systems require 24/7 operation, and a review of the requirement can reduce the operating hours of many pumps and motors.

Disable systems such as domestic hot water circulating pumps that run 24/7 in facilities where the hot water is not required immediately at the faucet. Consider timing controls for the pumps motors during high-use or high-demand times, such as early mornings and/or late afternoons, which allows the motors or pumps to be off during non-occupied or low-use times.

9. Remove all incandescent lights from the installation. Prohibit lamps and fixtures that have incandescent lights from offices, maintenance areas, boiler rooms and janitor closets. Require existing incandescent bulbs to be replaced with compact fluorescent, fluorescent, LED or Energy Star-rated laminars. Remove all incandescent lights from supply inventories and prohibit the purchase of incandescent replacement bulbs.

10. Eliminate and remove all extra refrigerators, microwaves, coffeepots and other appliances that service only one or two persons except as permitted by AR 420-1, chapter 22. Permit only the quantity of appliances need-

ed for the number of personnel. Remove non-Energy Star appliances from the workplace by requiring all appliances to bear the Energy Star label by Sept. 30, or provide another date this year after which compliance is mandatory. Remove non-complying appliances, cut off their cords and remove them from the installation so that they do not find a home in another office. Prohibit personally owned appliances in the workplace and provide a date by which they must be removed.

11. Replace all exit lighting with LED lighting fixtures.

12. Install or replace all weather stripping on every entry way where a gap or light is visible. Calk all joints, window frames, door jambs and any penetrations from the outside of the building. Infiltration, including propped doors and open windows, is one of the main causes of wasted energy in conditioned spaces.

13. Rewire all indoor lighting that is on 24/7, except LED exit fixtures required by code, to be on either switches or motion sensors. If there is a security or safety issue, motion sensor control meets the requirement.

14. Replace the filters and check the tension on fan drive belts where installed every 30 days during the heating season — normally November through March but varies based on climatic region — and the same during the air conditioning season — July through September based on climatic region. For non-heating and non-cooling months, replace and check every 90 days as a minimum.

15. Replace all motors and pumps with high-efficiency Energy Star equipment every time a replacement is required. Prohibit rewinding or replacing with the same efficiency. Do not yield to the arguments that it is more convenient or less costly to rewind or replace with in-kind as the extra energy used by the less-efficient motors will pay the difference usually in less than five years and, usually, in less than three years.

Inexpensive ways to save

The first 10 recommendations can be accomplished with no additional costs other than behavioral changes and the involvement of installation command and management at all levels and among all tenants. No entity, manager or person is exempt from application of these 10 no-cost efforts.

The last five require an investment that in most cases is recovered in less than two years and in nearly every case in less than five years. Reduction in energy consumption of 15 to 20 percent is easily reachable by the application of these recommendations and, at some installations, as much as 30 percent is reasonable when the setback temperatures are applied to all HVAC systems.

However, command involvement makes or breaks the potential energy reductions by endorsing and enforcing programs that reward those who make an effort and provide consequences to those who do not comply.

Energy managers need to create a program of auditing — walking through facilities with a check list — and providing commanders and managers with reports of building-by-building, facility-by-facility compliance. Competitions and time-off awards for those found in compliance, and reporting in the installation newspaper the building numbers and organizations that are not complying can be the difference in an installation accomplishing its energy reduction goals.

All these efforts go a long ways in making our country and our Army energy secure.

For more information, call me, 703-601-0374, or e-mail don.juhasz@hqda.army.mil.

(Editor's note: Author is chief of the Army's Energy and Utility Branch, Operations Division Facility.)

Letter to the Editor:

In a time of "Going Green" trees are being cut down for "progress." I have been on this post for 34 years now and have seen buildings come and go, but my question to you is when all the building is done, are trees being replaced?

I was very sad to see those old trees go on the "main drag" (as us oldtimers know it). Those trees have been here for 34 years and then some. My concern is also for the wildlife on this post. I know there are plenty of other wooded areas not affected, but a lot of birds will go back to the same spot to nest. Unfortunately, the trees are gone.

Boothby Hill Road had major trees cut down, will there be trees replaced at some point in time?

I am hoping that all this was taken

into consideration when this BRAC [base realignment and closure] plan went into affect.

I am not a tree hugger but our environment is in desperate need of these trees.

I am also in favor of progress but at what expense?

Debbie Treadway

Mission & Installation Contracting Command
Enterprise & Installation Operations Directorate
of Contracting APG

Response:

Although BRAC is mandated by Congress and will support the continued missions here at Aberdeen Proving Ground, environmental stewardship remains a top priority and actions are being taken to

minimize BRAC impacts.

We all enjoy the natural beauty of APG and steps have been taken to ensure that the APG 2012 vision includes continued care of the environment.

Forest protection planning and design began last year. The first step was to have a Maryland licensed forester perform a Forest Stand Delineation of the affected forest. This action provided valuable flora information such as categorizing exotic or invasive species and threatened or endangered species. The study also pointed out environmental features in the area such as non-tidal wetlands and steep slopes so measures could be taken to prevent soil erosion.

Using this information, a Forest Conservation Plan was created which included not only the affected forest area but also

the non-affected forest. It is important to maintain the beauty and natural wildlife habitats at APG; therefore, the plan also includes a mitigation planting plan, or flora replacement plan. By following the mitigation plan, a new forested area will provide replacement habitat for wildlife.

One of the sites selected for the mitigation planting is located at the corner of Gadsden Road and Gadsen Road, in the 3600 Block of the Aberdeen Area. The trees were planted this spring and more reforestation are planned and will take place in the near future providing valuable habitat for APG wildlife for years to come.

Thank you for your concern.

APG BRAC Office

C4ISR

From front page

Owens wrapped up the meeting by taking questions from attendees and thanking them again for volunteering to be among the first Army Team C4ISR groups to transition to APG.

"You are part of a new frontier and are pioneers, we are depending on you," Owens said. "Over the next two years you will see changes everyday."

Owens added that currently the Army Team C4ISR Forward team is working out of 15 buildings between the APG main post and Edgewood Area while the new C4ISR campus is being built on the Aberdeen main post.

Four government vehicles are provided to employees who need to shuttle between the two areas and to Fort Monmouth for business purposes.

Owens concluded the meeting by urging attendees to contact him if they have any problems with their transition, adding that they want to resolve these problems to make the transition smoother for Army Team C4ISR employees in the future.

"This is kind of like building an airplane while in flight," Owens said. "Some problems we have to deal with as they come along."

After the meeting, Barbara Greenwood Scott, an Army Team C4ISR supply technician who moved to Havre de Grace this summer, said that for her, the

transition to APG is a "win-win" situation. She added that she realizes that some Army Team C4ISR employees are having difficulties facing this transition.

"I lived in the same house in New Jersey for eighteen years, and yes it was a difficult decision to decide to leave, but I was looking for a change," Scott said. "I came here for the possibility of career advancement, and I have a positive attitude about what is in store for me at APG."

Scott said that she received a sponsor through Army Community Service who welcomed her when she moved to Maryland and answered questions that she had about the local area.

"I really appreciate the welcome I received from

the sponsor. I recommend that all newcomers work with a sponsor. It helped me transition to this area more smoothly," she said.

Scott added that although she is positive about the move, there are adjustments that she and her family have to make. She said that her son, who is 18, is having difficulties adjusting to the new move. He is currently looking for a job and checking out local colleges.

"I think the move affects the family members the hardest," Scott said. "I would like to see a group formed for kids moving from Fort Monmouth to Maryland, because they are going through some of the same situations, like trying to adjust to a new place and meeting new people. They

need to have a place where they can share their experiences and concerns, as well as having fun activities for them to do."

Scott added that newcomers should be prepared and that there are also some costs associated with moving, like registering vehicles and getting new tags with MVA.

Scott concluded by saying that the people she has met have been very welcoming, and her transition to her new job has been smooth.

"When I arrived to work my computer network was set up for me, and I was ready to work that day," Scott said. "The people that I have met at APG have been extremely helpful."

Harry McKasson, a CECOM Life Cycle Management Command tech-

nical writer, who has been working at APG a week, said that people are volunteering to be part of the Army Team C4ISR Forward for different reasons.

"Most of the employees that are part of C4ISR Forward want to be part of the spearhead," McKasson said. "But there are unlimited reasons as to why they decided to come to APG."

McKasson said that he requested to move to APG because he already had a house in Harford County. McKasson worked at Fort Monmouth for a year in an internship, while his wife stayed in Harford County.

"Although the transition is difficult, I am happy to be back in Harford County and working at APG," he said.

CERDEC conducts largest future force C4ISR, networking technology demonstration to date

Story by
EDRIC THOMPSON
CERDEC

The U.S. Army showcased more than 100 new and current technologies tested in the largest integrated exercise of its kind at Fort Dix, Aug. 5 to 7.

Product Manager Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance On-Move kicked off its annual exercise (E08) in April in collaboration with the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, other government labs and industry partners.

PM C4ISR OTM Presentation Days is the culmination of a "test/assess-analyze-fix" process used to support risk mitigation and reduction for Future Combat Systems concepts, future force capabilities and quicken the development of technology into the current forces, determine technology readiness, evaluate emerging industry technologies and quantify end-to-end performance and combat effectiveness.

Throughout the four-month exercise, E08 incorporates various live communica-

tions, sensor and battle command systems. Hosted in a battlefield-like environment, a brigade-sized element is replicated through real Soldiers and virtual and constructive simulation, providing realistic conditions relevant to Soldiers.

The goal is to evaluate the system against specific performance criteria and then facilitate maturation by providing honest feedback to the developing organization throughout the demonstration and at its conclusion.

Activities conducted at PM C4ISR OTM's lab or field sites are constructed to expose systems to conditions not ordinarily available within their individual development environments, facilitating validation of technology readiness levels and serving as a technology transition venue.

E08 will provide the Army and sister services with a venue for quantifying integrated C4ISR, technology transition and risk mitigation for future developmental and operational tests.

For more information, contact 732-427-1594 or edric.v.thompson@us.army.mil.



Courtesy of CERDEC

A member of PM C4ISR OTM checks equipment being tested by Soldiers in the exercise.

Newport Chemical Depot confirms VX stockpile neutralized

Story by
GREGORY MAHALL
U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency

Personnel at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility confirmed the last ton container of VX nerve agent had been successfully neutralized, marking the completion of stockpile elimination at Newport Chemical Depot, Ind., Aug. 8.

The achievement marks the latest in the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency successes in destroying the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile. CMA has destroyed more than 55 percent of the total chemical agent in the U.S. stockpile.

NECD is the third site to complete operations, following Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System in 2000 and the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at Aberdeen Proving Ground in 2006.

"This day marks a tremendous milestone for the workers at Newport, the citizens of Indiana and the rest of the world," said CMA Director Conrad Whyne. "Newport's stockpile has been safely eliminated, which brings the United States one step closer to fulfilling the commitment of destroying our nation's chemical weapons."

For nearly 40 years, workers at the depot safely stored 1,269 tons of liquid chemical agent VX in 1,690 steel containers.

"Teamwork and dedication are at the core of each person on site," NECD Commander Lt. Col. William Hibner said. "I am proud and honored to be a part of a work force whose mission to eliminate the Newport stockpile was completed safely and successfully."

"We have always emphasized our focus and commitment to safety," said Site Project Manager Jeff Brubaker. "Employees at Newport operated with care and concern for themselves, local communities and the environment, which has led us to our milestone today."

The U.S. Army used a neutralization process to destroy the VX stockpile at

Newport. This process involved mixing the VX with heated sodium hydroxide and water in a reactor. The resulting neutralization product, known as caustic wastewater, is shipped to Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas, for final disposal.

The Army receives Chemical Weapons Convention treaty credit for chemical destruction when the caustic wastewater is transferred from shipping containers at Veolia. The last of the caustic wastewater will be transported to Veolia and destroyed within the next few weeks, and the United States Army will apply to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons at The Hague, Netherlands, for a final treaty inspection to verify complete elimination of the Newport stockpile.

Neutralization operations at Newport began May 5, 2005. It took three years and three months to drain and neutralize the VX agent. The site will now enter a closure phase to dismantle buildings and equipment, and dispose of various wastes related to the destruction project. These operations are expected to take 18 to 24 months.

The public is invited to attend a ceremony to commemorate the completion of the stockpile elimination 10 a.m., Oct. 25. Distinguished guests will speak in the auditorium of the South Vermillion High School in Clinton, Ind. A short reception in the school cafeteria will follow.

CMA successes at the agency's other stockpile sites include the Pine Bluff, Ark., facility, which completed VX nerve agent disposal operations in June and has begun preparations to destroy its blister agent (mustard) chemical agent munitions. CMA's Umatilla, Ore., and Anniston, Ala., chemical agent disposal facilities are destroying VX nerve agent munitions. Their final agent campaigns also will be blister agent. The Tooele, Utah, facility is continuing to destroy its chemical stockpile.

For additional information, visit <http://www.cma.army.mil/newport-completion.aspx>.

Blacks in Government offers professional opportunities, benefits to members

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

The local chapter of Blacks in Government, the Susquehanna Chapter, is recruiting new members.

The organization offers many opportunities for members such as training, professional growth and development, counseling and representation, community service, networking, job opportunities, awards program and advocacy.

BIG is a national advocacy roots organization that promotes and supports the well-being, education and professional development of African Americans in the federal, state, county and municipal sectors.

BIG is a non-profit organization to help minorities receive ethical treatment and is supported by the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense.

BIG is open to all ethnic groups. Individuals that do not work in the government work sector can join as associate members and enjoy many of the same benefits.

According to BIG's Web site, www.bignet.org, "BIG's goals are to promote equity in all aspects of American life, excellence in public service and opportunity for all Americans."

"Anyone can be a member, if the individual desires to promote fair treatment in the government work sector," said Larry D. McCaskill, public affairs officer at the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Com-

mand, and the Susquehanna Chapter president. "BIG is an advocacy group. Its basic tenet is to ensure fair and ethical treatment of African Americans in the local, state and federal government work force."

The Susquehanna Chapter has been actively involved with different projects to serve the community. The chapter has conducted membership drives, held prayer breakfasts, collected food for the homeless, held work seminars for professional development and conducted a "shoebox" ministry, where members collected toiletries for the less fortunate.

BIG is also involved in the annual local celebration of Juneteenth, a celebration in honor of the day the last slaves were freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, June 19, 1865.

The chapter wishes to add new members so that they can do more community projects.

"For me, being a member of BIG is not about what the organization can do for me, it's about giving back and sharing my experiences working for the government with others," McCaskill said. "BIG is a great opportunity to help others."

McCaskill also stressed that BIG is a great opportunity for mentorship.

"My mentor was a member of BIG. He showed me how to be a responsible employee and gave advice on my career. I wouldn't be here [in this job position] without his advice. In turn, I try to share the knowledge that he gave me."

Johnita Pitts, administrative assistant to RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin, has been an active member of BIG for 14 years. She said that BIG helped her learn vital information that helped her progress in her career. She said that when she was starting her career she received valuable advice from people that had experience in her field.

She was also able to attend classes, like computer training, so that she could improve her job skills. Now that Pitts has experience, she is eager to pass on what she knows to younger members.

Pitts has held many leadership positions within BIG and is involved in planning 2009's annual BIG training conference that will be held for the first time in Baltimore.

This week-long conference is for members to network and gain information on various topics such as: leadership training, government benefits, retirement, health awareness, communication skills, financial advancement, communication skills, information technology, job advancement and equal opportunity employment issues. The conference also features a job fair and an awards and recognition banquet.

The Susquehanna Chapter aims to increase membership before the conference so that they can help with organizing. Meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at the Aberdeen Public Library.

For more information, contact McCaskill, 410-218-5829.

MRICD employee recognized by professional society

Story by
CINDY KRONMAN
MRICD

An animal care technician at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense has been awarded the first 2008 National Capital Area Branch of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science Technician Award, which is presented by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare.

Erika Weaver was selected to receive the award based on a paragraph she submitted to explain "why the animal care technician is an important part of the research team."

In her submission, Weaver called animal care technicians "the foundation for any successful research mission," because their daily diligence in caring for the animals, in observing the health of the animals, and in monitoring for problems in

their environment is key to preventing the introduction of "unwanted variables... into an experiment, potentially making the final outcome invalid."

"Valuable time, effort and the lives of animals could be wasted as a result of these variables," wrote Weaver.

In a congratulatory e-mail to Weaver, Col. Peter Schultheiss, MRICD's new deputy commander and a Veterinary Corps officer, expressed his appreciation for Weaver's accomplishment.

"Erika, you make us all proud," Schultheiss said. "To be recognized this way speaks volumes about your knowledge and dedication. Your paragraph captures the technicians' vital contributions to both animal welfare and good science. Thank you for your daily devotion to your work and also for your beautiful

articulation of the difference technicians make to this institute and to the animals."

As part of the award, SCAW will provide Weaver with one registration for the two-day 34th National Capital Area Branch of AALAS Seminar, which will be held at the Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, Md., in September. She will also receive one night's hotel accommodations and a ticket to the seminar banquet.

Additionally, the national AALAS is considering the possibility of including Weaver's paragraph in their upcoming revision of the Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician Manual.

"These training manuals are used around the world to help prepare laboratory animal care technicians for AALAS technician certification," explains Maj. Shannon Stutler, chief of

MRICD's Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Branch.

According to Weaver a strong desire to work with animals led her to apply for an animal care technician job she saw advertised in the newspaper, shortly after graduating from high school in 2001. She didn't realize at the time that

she was making a career choice.

"While working in this field I began to realize just how important animal research really is," said Weaver. "I also became aware of how important the animal caretaker's role is in making sure that each and every animal receives

the best care possible."

Her first job was with the National Institute of Drug Abuse in Baltimore. In 2005, She accepted a position as a breeder technician at The National Institute of Aging, also in Baltimore. Weaver began working under contract at MRICD in January 2007.

"Animal care technicians are an essential aspect of any successful research program. It is imperative that all laboratory animals, large and small, have conscientious and compassionate people behind them to meet all of their needs on a daily basis. The animals depend on the diligence of their caretaker. Without their continual attentiveness to detail, unwanted variables could be introduced into an experiment, potentially making the final outcome invalid. Valuable time, effort and the lives of animals could be wasted as a result of these variables."

Serving as the eyes, ears and voices of the animals, the animal care technicians are the primary ones who evaluate animal health, detect problems with environmental conditions, and notice any other abnormalities on a daily basis. They are the first and last ones to come into contact with the animals each day. While being challenged by continuous changes and facility issues that are beyond their control, it is imperative that they continually strive to initiate efficient and effective ways of completing their tasks. Animal care technicians are the foundation for any successful research mission."

- Erika Weaver



Army News

Night vision IED Interrogation Arm makes difference for Warfighter

Story by

ERICA FINEMAN-BERTOLI

U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development & Engineering Center

The U.S. Army is confronting a new kind of warfare. The current Iraq War, held in contrast to the Gulf War of the early 1990s, has spawned an environment where unconventional warfare has become the norm. One ever-present characteristic of this new brand of warfare is the indiscriminate use of Improvised Explosive Devices by enemy insurgents.

"In 1991, you had two armies facing off across an empty desert," said Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate mechanical engineer Stephen H. Bennett. "But when you have two large armies going at each other, there is less concern for civilian casualties, as there aren't as many civilians around. This time, you have a very narrow area in which you can conduct your operation where the goal is not only to be victorious over the insurgents, but at the same time to not disaffect the civilian populous."

It is in response to this shift in engagement that the NV&ESD developed the Interrogation Arm for the RG 31 and Husky Vehicles.

According to NV&ESD Team Lead Larry Jackson, the arm was designed for use by Route Clearance Teams who are charged with detecting and neutralizing potentially deadly IEDs.

"There are several vehicles that are used for route clearance missions," Jackson said.

These missions, during which Soldiers attempt to find as many IEDs along the roads as possible, are critical to those who will need to travel those roads safely later in the day.

Previously, a vehicle called the Buffalo was the primary IED interrogation vehicle. However, accord-



Photo courtesy of CERDEC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ongoing collaboration with Soldiers in theater resulted in functional features such as a pivot point that allows the arm to examine hard-to-reach areas.

ing to Jackson, the Buffalo, while effective, wasn't always available.

"The word we got back from theater is that the Soldiers often don't have the Buffalos when they need them. The vehicle is in high demand, and there just aren't enough of them," he said.

So in collaboration with the team at NV&ESD, discussions began for a new technology that could be quickly developed and fielded.

"We said we would like to provide a similar arm capability to vehicles such as the Husky and the RG-31 which were being used in security missions but had no arm attachment that would allow for IED interrogation," he said.

The new arm, which was initially fielded in Iraq in May 2007 and Afghanistan in July 2007, capitalizes on the IED interrogation capabilities of the Buffalo. Designed as an independent component, it is able to be attached to existing vehicles already in theater. Additionally, the arm is light weight, easily mounted and repaired, easy to use and significantly less expensive than the Buffalo, Jackson said.

Bennett, who was present in Iraq last spring to support deployment of the new Arm,

reported a positive reaction to the technology.

"The feedback has been positive, and the troops like it," he said.

As the Interrogation Arm continues to be refined, there is constant communication with the Soldiers on the ground, providing engineers with first-hand guidance on functional improvements.

"It is an ongoing process to give it more usability and make it more functional for the troops," Jackson said.

It was as a result of this ongoing collaboration with the Soldiers who use the arm that functional advancements were made, including the ability to examine hard to reach areas behind guard rails.

"We got this information back from the theater and realized we needed to put a pivot point in the middle of the arm so that if there is a guard rail, you can reach out and dip down behind the guard rail to do the interrogation," Jackson said.

The danger and disruption caused by IEDs requires constant vigilance, according to Jackson, who said that because of the inexpensive, flexible nature of IEDs, they have become the ide-

al weapon of a much weaker enemy.

"IEDs can be almost anything. They are inexpensive and adaptable," Jackson said. "There is no limit to the form and shape they can take, so it makes it very easy for the enemy to put it out there."

"The Interrogation Arm is primarily used by combat engineers whose job it is to go out and find the IEDs. The more of them that we can find and eliminate, the better the morale of the entire military organization in theater. Convoys have to use these roads to get supplies or weapons from point A to point B. Units have to go out on patrol. If they have the threat of an IED on their minds, it makes their job that much more difficult," Jackson said.

The success of the Interrogation Arm was recently honored through its inclusion as one of the Top Ten Army Technologies for 2007. At an event held in Crystal City, Va. June 12, Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command thanked all of the recipients for their critical contributions to modern warfare.

"When you talk to the units in the fields, they know about them," he said of the honored inventions. "They use them."

In the case of NV&ESD's Interrogation Arm, after initial fielding in both Iraq and Afghanistan, additional units have been ordered in growing quantities to be used in theater. To this end, NV&ESD has been working with PM Countermeasures to feed the continually growing demand.

"We have been asked to adapt it to different vehicles and we are getting more and more applications in the field," Jackson said.

After 28 years as a civilian engineer for the U.S. Army, Jackson continues to take satisfaction in knowing his work helps to protect our troops.

"The satisfaction of getting this piece of equipment into theater where it is helping to save Soldiers' lives is very rewarding," he said. "For me, this has been the most satisfying project I have worked on in my career."

Bennett agrees.

"There is a satisfying feeling you get when you design something that makes a significant difference," Bennett said. "We didn't choose this war; this war was chosen for us. But this is one war that we can't postpone. We have to win. And I am glad I was able to make a difference through this program."

Soldiers train on new Stryker vehicles

Story by

DON KRAMER

'Northwest Guardian'

New Stryker vehicles arrived at 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment in May, fueling morale and firing thrusters on an already rocketing training schedule.

Soldiers and leaders of the Buffalo Battalion spent the first weeks of June at Yakima Training Center, at Fort Lewis, Wash., getting to know their new vehicles, pivoting instantly to employ them in day and night combat operations.

In the course of one busy YTC deployment, the battalion conducted operator-and-new-equipment training on its Strykers, then transitioned immediately into platoon-level evaluated exercises.

The compressed time lines served to do more than acquaint 1-17 Infantry Soldiers with their combat vehicles, according to Company A Commander Capt. Eric Schwartz. As it turns out, "familiarization" applies to Soldiers and their leaders also.

Small unit leaders got the opportunity to demonstrate their infantry skills with the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Jonathan Neumann, supervising and acting as lead observer/controller during the blank-and-live-fire exercises.

"You learn who [your platoon leaders] really are in something like this," Schwartz said. "Back in garrison with day-to-day business, you don't really understand your subordinates until you take them to the field and put them in a scenario like this."



A Stryker from 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1-17 Infantry maneuvers at the Yakima Training Center during a platoon live-fire exercise.

Photo by JASON KAYE

After platoon leaders received the company operations order, they in turn devised their own plans for assaulting a walled terrorist camp and briefed them to Neumann with Schwartz looking on.

On the morning of June 18, it was 1st Lt. Thomas Ash's turn at the sand table, detailing his scheme of maneuver in leading 3rd Platoon on a dismounted approach through the wadi leading to the objective. Neumann asked questions throughout that guided Ash's plan for neutralizing an intermediate objective, a small bomb-making facility, and emplacing Strykers in support-by-fire positions on ridges overlooking the enemy compound.

The platoon went through a dry-fire rehearsal in the morning, then a blank-fire run leading to a live-fire assault in the late afternoon, with after-action reviews following each.

Though Schwartz and Neumann provided ample feedback, the consensus was that the platoon performed well.

"Most of the lessons here are about synchronizing the whole platoon attack," Neumann said. "The individual parts are pretty smooth, but it's the synchronization of everything [that is important]. That's why we're doing a platoon deliberate attack with a lot of separate pieces. It stresses that platoon leader, makes him plan for all [contingencies]."

Having walked with the dismounted platoon through each phase of the daylong exercise, Schwartz was satisfied that at this early stage, his Soldiers had demonstrated the necessary competencies. Subordinates at all levels had shown they were anxious to get things right.

"Definitely there are things overall with all the platoon leaders that I'm very happy with," Schwartz said. "Every single one of my platoon leaders, for every flaw he has, he's pulling out lessons on how to get better. If there is a problem we address it, see how we're going to fix it, go back and work on it to make it better

and better."

Most of the Soldiers of Company A took as a challenge the grueling schedule of platoon evaluated exercises following directly on the heels of Stryker OPNET and gunnery. With two days left in their Yakima deployment, most 1-17 Infantry Soldiers were tired but upbeat.

"We get to really see what we're made of," said Sgt. Kenneth Mitchell, a team leader in 3rd Platoon. "We kind of put [our Soldiers] to the test. Back there (in garrison) we were just getting the basics. They don't show us what the vehicle is fully capable of, and that's what we do out here."

The Fresno, Calif., native served a tour with XVIII Airborne Corps in Taji, Iraq, but re-enlisted to move from light infantry to a Stryker unit.

"I like it because you have the light mentality with it," Mitchell said. "It takes you where you're going, you get out and do what light infantrymen do. That's why I like it so

much. I trust it more than any vehicle right now."

Finally getting into the vehicle they've heard so much about buoyed Soldier morale at Yakima. All their training finally came together at YTC last week for Company A Soldiers.

"It's been fun riding around in Strykers, learning what their capabilities are and how they operate," Spc. Jeremy Nevil said. "It's been neat to see how they play into what we've been taught. We've acted like a light unit until last week and it's been good to pull those two worlds together. The more that we get our hands dirty and get into the vehicle, the more we'll appreciate it."

Even the squad and platoon leaders learned a lot about the vehicles in a short time, with OPNET, gunnery and platoon evaluations all coinciding.

Staff Sgt. Erik Knight arrived at Company A in January. His entire background was also light infantry, from the 82nd Airborne Division, with which he deployed in 2003 to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vicenza, Italy. The squad leader, a veteran of combat in Fallujah, is likewise enjoying learning more about the capabilities of the combat platform.

"It was my first time on the vehicles," Knight said. "It's a big transition, but I like it a lot. I still don't know what it can take in combat; I've heard a lot of stories from both sides. I'm still getting used to the Stryker vehicle but I definitely am getting to appreciate it."

The battalion training

plan was designed to quickly bring Soldiers without Stryker or mechanized experience up to speed.

"Most of our experience is light," said Maj. Conrad Harvey, the 1-17 Infantry Battalion operations officer. "We haven't had too many Stryker veterans or mechanized veterans. So integrating mounted operations with vehicle-mounted support by fire and dismounted operations is the battalion commander's training goal. His training intent is to really stress that, and they're being stressed."

"Colonel Tunnell (the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division commander) has thought of everything from soup to nuts as far as sustained counter-guerilla operations," Harvey said. "He's very knowledgeable."

To add to Tunnell's personal knowledge gained as commander of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment early in the current Iraq conflict, the brigade will borrow from the experiences of the two other Fort Lewis-based Stryker brigades to incorporate realistic scenarios involving interactions with local officials, village sheikhs and civilians on the battlefield, all requiring interpreters and language-enabled Soldiers.

"We have very innovative, out-of-the-box Soldiers and leaders," Harvey said. "They just need a little more seasoning and we'll be ready to roll into the National Training Center and then Iraq."

(Editor's note: Don Kramer is a reporter with Fort Lewis' "Northwest Guardian.")

APG YOUTHS PARTICIPATE IN 4-H ART EXHIBIT DURING HARFORD COUNTY FARM FAIR



Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Youths from the Edgewood Area Youth Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground made an impressive showing during the 4-H Club Home Arts exhibit at the Harford County Farm Fair July 31 through Aug. 3.

Twenty-seven youths participated and several received first, second and third-place ribbons, according to Norma Warwick, facility director.

"This was the first time in APG history that our kids participated in the Harford County Farm Fair," Warwick said. "What made the difference this year is that we had people on hand who were really passionate about it and who really bent over backwards to make this happen for us."

The 4-H Clubs is one of three partnerships with Child Youth Services that promote positive youth development and education for military children, Warwick said.

Entries included a banner display which the youths combined efforts on and which won a first-place ribbon, and a 55-gallon drum trash can project which came in third overall. They then submitted individual artwork in the categories of mixed media, home environment, fine arts, jewelry and crafts.

"Some had as many as three entries," Warwick said.

On Aug. 1, Warwick and the youths visited the Farm Fair to see how their entries fared. They were met by Matthew Mundy, 4-H project coordinator for

the region. Mundy said he works with military installations across the state, including Forts Meade and Detrick and Andrews Air Force Base and that he recently entered into an agreement with the U.S. Navy.

"We're [4-H Clubs] on every installation in the country as well as in Germany and Korea," Mundy said, adding that one goal is to provide a sense of stability for mobile military Families.

"Even moving from location to location, 4-H is something they [military youths] can find no matter where they go," he said.

He said he was impressed with the Edgewood Area Youth Center exhibit.

"This is one of the nicer ones," he said. "You can tell the dedication of the people who work with the children by exhibits like this."

All entries received first, second, third or fourth place ribbons or ribbons for 'participation.'

Several of the young artists said they were surprised to do so well.

Catelynn Murphy, 10, whose cattails watercolor came in third place in the fine arts category, said she got the idea while visiting the wildlife area outside the youth center.

"I decided to change the background," she said, adding that she liked the result.

Rebecca Jackson, 11, who submitted a charcoal drawing of a flower in a vase, said she simply likes to draw.

"I drew it from a picture I liked," Jackson said.

A 4-H member for two years, Tatyana Moon, 10, also submitted a cattails watercolor.

"I was surprised to win anything," she said. "This was just a fun project for me."

"I love to paint and I hope to do it again next year," added Lucinda Gasu, 12, whose painting of multiple pink flowers was drawn from a single flower display.

Marangely Quinones, 11, whose pencil drawing of butterflies, hearts and flowers won second place said the event boosted her confidence.

"I love to draw on my own," she said. "When I saw the ribbon I thought I must have done okay."

Warwick said that 20 youths also entered art projects in the Maryland Kid's Day festivities at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium Aug. 22.

Some made more than one entry and the group came away with 27 ribbons, from first to tenth place, Warwick said.

The top winners were:

Blue Ribbon
Carmen Jones, color pencil drawing; Rebecca Jackson, flower in vase drawing.

Second Place
Emily Desautels, pencil drawing

Third Place
Rebecca Jackson, Oatmeal cookies; Marangely Quinones, pencil drawing

Photo by EDWIN REMSBERG, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Youths from the Edgewood Area Youth Center look over the center's art competition display at the Harford County Farm Fair.



Photo by EDWIN REMSBERG, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Marangely Quinones points out the artwork she submitted in the Edgewood Area Youth Center display at the Harford County Farm Fair.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS
This 55-gallon drum decorated by Edgewood Area Youth Center youths won third-place overall in the drum category. The patriotic drum features a plane with the "Army Strong" theme and Child Youth Services on one wing, an information phone number on the other wing, and a bald eagle, symbolizing Aberdeen Proving Ground. The other side of the drum features a "Welcome Home" message to American troops returning from war.



Photo by NORMA WARWICK, AA YOUTH CENTER

The Edgewood Area Youth Center display at the Harford County Farm Fair art competition is dominated by an American flag with a 4-H Club logo surrounded by other artwork submitted by the center's youths. The flag received a first place blue ribbon.

4-H military partnerships



www.4hmilitarypartnerships.org

The National 4-H Headquarters at the United States Department of Agriculture has established formal partnerships with Air Force Services Family Member Programs, Army Child and Youth Services and Navy Child and Youth Programs to support positive youth development education for youth whose parents are serving in the military.

These 4-H Military Partnerships bring the resources of the Land Grant University - youth development professionals, research based curricula, and high quality training

and technical assistance -- to the youth programs of the military. University and county 4-H staff serve as project directors, 4-H Military Liaisons and as specialists on assignment to the Army, Air Force and Navy.

National 4-H Headquarters relies upon the Land Grant University Extension System across the country to build strong partnerships with Army, Air Force, Navy, National Guard and Reserve to provide technical assistance and training for military staff and establish 4-H Clubs for military youth living on and off post as well

as those whose parents are serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

As military Families move frequently and experience the difficulties surrounding lengthy and frequent deployments, 4-H provides predictable programming and a safe and nurturing environment for military kids.

Programs exist on every military installation Army wide. For more information, visit Child Youth Services or the 4-H military partnerships Web site, www.4hmilitarypartnerships.org.