

## Post Shorts

### Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Feb. 20 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



### Valentine's Day bake sale at PX today

The 9th Area Medical Laboratory Family Readiness Group will sponsor a Valentine's Day bake sale, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Feb. 14, at the PX. Treats include cookies, cupcakes and chocolate truffles. Donations will support the 9th AML FRG fund that is used to sponsor deployment packages for Family members, Family functions and FRG meetings.

For more information, call Mary Manglapus, 9th AML FRG leader, 301-943-9767.

### Reduced gate hours

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground in observance of the President's Day holiday.

The Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area will close at 10 p.m., Feb. 15. The Wise Road Gate (Edgewood Road) in the Edgewood Area will close at 8 p.m., Feb. 15.

The Harford and Wise Road Gates will reopen 4 a.m., Feb. 19.

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

### Tax Center closed Feb. 19

Due to the President's Day holiday, the APG Tax Center will be closed on Feb. 19. It will reopen for normal business hours on Feb. 20.

### OC&S presents 35th Annual Gospel Night Feb. 24

The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools will celebrate the 35th Annual Wilbert Davis Gospel Night, 4 p.m., Feb. 24 at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Theater. Admission is free and open to the public.

### New hours for the VTF

The Veterinary Treatment Facility will be open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, until further notice.

### KUSAHC closed Feb. 18

There will be no services, including pharmacy, at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic Feb. 18.

Arrangements should be See **SHORTS**, page 6

## Issue Highlights

**Page 2...** Bench Press puts Co C 16th in first

**Page 3...** KUSAHC Pharmacy introduces improvements

**Page 5...** IRS scams and peoperty tax credit

**Page 6...** Community Notes

**Page 7...** Safety

**Page 11...** AAFES News

**Page 12...** Applying for scholarships

**Page 13...** APG Forum

# Budget request funds 43,000 more Soldiers

Story by **C. TODD LOPEZ**  
Army News Service

The Army's budget request went forward to Congress Feb. 4 as part of President Bush's fiscal 2009 budget. The request includes funding for an across-the-board pay raise of 3.4 percent and money to increase the service's end strength by 43,000 Soldiers.

The request for the Department of Defense base budget this year exceeded \$515 billion, including some \$140.7 billion for the Army - an increase of about \$11.8 billion over what Congress enacted for the service in 2008.

Included in that budget is about \$51 billion for military personnel expenses, \$40.2 billion for operations and maintenance spending and \$24.6 billion for procurement.

The Army's \$51.8 billion request for military personnel funding represents a sizable increase over last year's request. That stems mainly from an increase in

end-strength of about 43,000 Soldiers for a total of about 532,400 by the end of fiscal 2009. In past years, funding for those extra Soldiers has been included in the supplemental budget request.

Also part of the personnel budget is an increase in National Guard end-strength of about 1,300, an across-the-board pay raise of about 3.4 percent and funding for other incentive programs. Many incentive programs to support recruiting and retention, however, will be included in the supplemental budget request, said Lt. Gen. David Melcher, the military deputy for budget to the assistant secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller.

"This budget supports many of the incentives that support the all-volunteer force, [including] the pay raise, although I will tell you that not all incentives for recruiting and retention are contained in the base [budget]," he said. "A pretty sizable amount of incen-



Photo by C. TODD LOPEZ

As part of its fiscal 2009 budget request, released Feb. 4, the Army hopes to purchase additional Stryker nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicles, like the one displayed Dec. 17, at the Pentagon. The Stryker NBCRV is an NBC testing lab on wheels. It is intended as a replacement for the Fox NBC Reconnaissance System.

tives are in the supplemental funding, attributable to the fact that in this particular period of time, given the stresses we are

under, we are having to pay a little bit more incentives to folks to come in and retain." Army operations and

maintenance funding in the 2009 budget request comes in at about \$40 billion. That See **BUDGET**, page 2

## Army Family support goes virtual

Story by **ELIZABETH M. LORGE**  
Army News Service

In an age of persistent conflict and geographically-dispersed Families, the Army is taking Family support to a new level with virtual installations and virtual Family Readiness Groups.

The Army Reserve considers its Family programs Web site, [www.arfp.org](http://www.arfp.org), a virtual installation where Families, who may live hundreds of miles from the nearest installation, can access the same support and resources as active duty Soldiers and Families, such as: TRICARE, child and youth services, counseling and chaplain's programs and financial and legal information.

"We need to retain these Soldiers and you do that by retaining the Families," said Laura Stultz, wife of Army Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz. "If the Families feel secure, the Soldier won't worry about them, and the Families will know that their problems will be looked into. They need the same services that active component Families have on

See **VIRTUAL**, page 11



Photo by SGT ROBERT J. STRAIN

Capt. Hwajin Hurt, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, III Corps, welcomes her husband Capt. Donnie Joe Hurt, the assistant operations officer for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Nov. 15, after he returned from a 15-month deployment in Iraq. New virtual programs make it easier for Families to get the support they need.

## IMCOM deputy reinforces Army Family Covenant MG Macdonald goes back to school

Story by **DEBORAH ELLIOTT**  
USAEC

Among the commitments of the Army Family Covenant, the service commits to improving Family readiness by ensuring excellence in schools.

Maj. Gen. John A. Macdonald, the deputy commanding general of the Installation Management Command and the new commander of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, got a close-up view of that commitment in action when he visited the U.S. Army Environmental Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground recently.

Madonald's visit included a tour of the Edgewood Elementary School, USAEC's community partner for the past 10 years. Edgewood Elementary, a Title I school, lies just outside the Edgewood Area of the post and provides educational services for three dozen military Families. About 20 percent of the school's student population consists of military Family members.

"The conversation I had with the students and leadership of Edgewood Elementary was one of the highlights of my day at APG," Macdonald said.

As deputy commander of IMCOM and commander of the FMWRC, bringing the Army Family Covenant to life will be one

See **COVENANT**, page 11

## Ordnance chief addresses prayer, faith on battlefield

Story and photo by **ROGER TEEL**  
U.S. Army Ordnance Center & Schools

The chief of Army Ordnance removed her rank as she addressed attendees at the U.S. Army Materiel Command's National Prayer Breakfast Jan. 31, stating "because God does not have favorites."

"He does not see us according to our rank or our accomplishments," said Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead. "He loves each of us individually, and desires to have a relationship with each of us."

Halstead, speaking on the 55th anniversary at Fort Belvoir, Va., of national prayer breakfasts, then took the 250

attendees on a 20-minute spiritually uplifting journey, beginning with Christ coming into her life at age 8 and culminating with war stories of how the power of prayer and faith comforted her and her Soldiers on the battlefields of Iraq.

"My comments this morning will be very personal," she said. "They are my experiences and my philosophical perspective of why I believe in prayer and why faith is central to my life."

Engaging the theme "The Power of Prayer and Faith," the general, who commands the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools at Aberdeen Proving Ground, and also serves as deputy commanding general for Ordnance, U.S.

Army Combined Arms Support Command, began with a brief history lesson. She noted that former President Dwight D. Eisenhower added the phrase "under God" to the pledge of allegiance in 1954.

"None of us are forced to be here today," she told those in attendance. "We are here on our own accord, because we either believe in the power of prayer and faith, or because we are seeking to believe."

Halstead commanded the Germany-based III Corps Support Command from September 2004 to September 2006, and spent a year in Iraq leading 20,000 Soldiers and more than 5,000 civilians in 200-plus

See **PRAYER**, page 11

## Authorized AAFES use explained Civilians have some privileges

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Due to an increase in questions regarding authorized use of Army and Air Force Exchange facilities, the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, in conjunction with AAFES, would like to advise the Aberdeen Proving Ground community of just who are the authorized customers of AAFES.

"Neither AAFES nor Aberdeen Proving Ground determine the qualifications under which individuals are granted AAFES privileges," said PX manager Debbie Armendariz.

"The House Armed Services Committee and Department of Defense directives determine who may shop in military exchange facilities," Armendariz said.

Army Regulation 60-20 and AFJI 34-21 explicitly limit privileges to active duty military, retirees, reservists, National Guardsmen, and dependent Family members of these categories, as well as 100 percent disabled veterans.

"This doesn't mean that civilian employees and contractors are any less important to the Army team," said Regina Dannenfeler, APG DFMWR director. "It means that DoD reserves privileges only for those facing the challenges implicit to military services."

The aforementioned regulations reads that AAFES privileges are only authorized for: "Active duty military, retirees, reservists, National Guardsmen, dependent Family members of the aforementioned categories, and other categories of individuals affiliated with the armed services (which includes 100 percent disabled veterans). Some government civilian employees have shopping privileges when they are assigned or TDY overseas--or they are "TDY and residing" in government quarters on posts/bases in the United States."

AAFES facilities at APG include the Main Exchange, Shoppette and gas station and Military Clothing Sales Store in the Aberdeen Area and the Shoppette in the Edgewood Area.

DoD Civilians and contractors are not authorized to purchase items or gas from these facilities with the exception of individual consumable items offered by vendors located in the Shoppette facilities and in the front (foyer area) of the Main Exchange.

At APG, guests, (any relative and friend of authorized customers) are permitted to enter AAFES facilities, but may not make purchases, according to Armendariz.

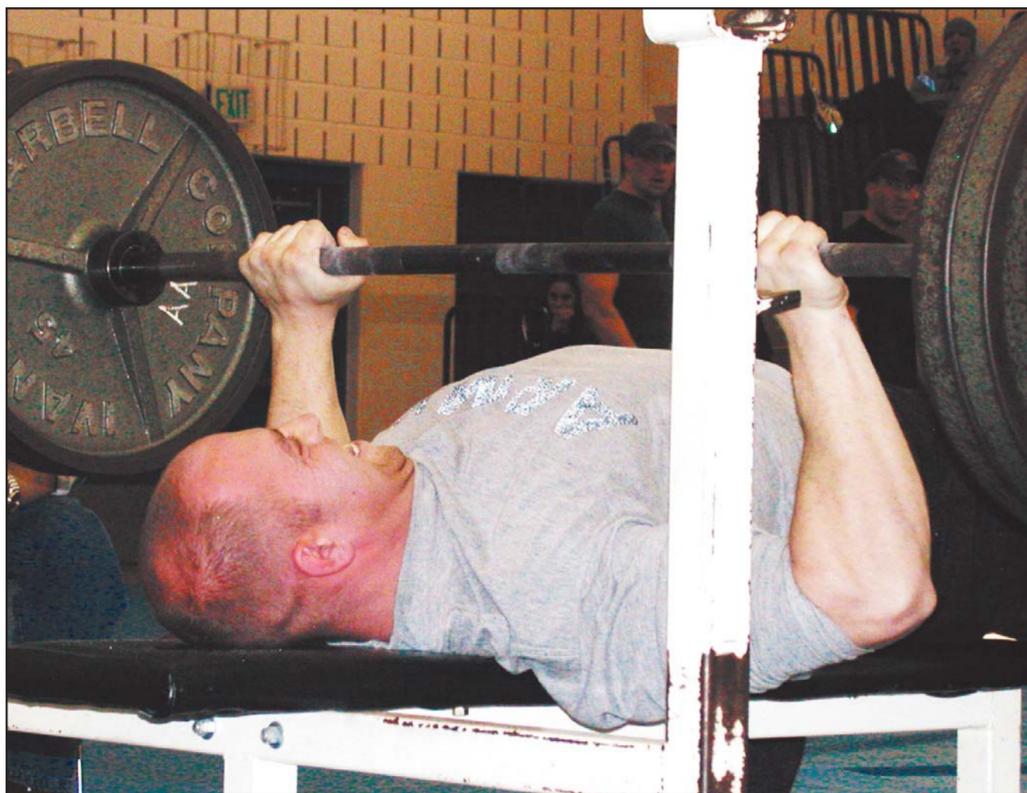
"The ID verification requirement is at the "point of purchase" areas of the stores," she said. "It is the responsibility of authorized customers to properly supervise any guests they bring into the stores. Additionally, authorized customers are entitled to make purchases only for personal use or as bona fide gifts."

Commanders may consider failure to properly supervise a guest, or the making of purchases for other than personal use or gifts, as an abuse of exchange privileges. They can See **PRIVILEGES**, page 7



Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, commander, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, delivers her remarks on the 55th anniversary of national prayer breakfasts at the Army Materiel Command headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Va., Jan. 31.

# Company C 16th wins 2008 Bench Press competition



Warren Thomas, Company C 143rd Ordnance Battalion, strains his way through a 275-pound bench press during the Intramural Bench Press competition at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center Feb. 2.

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

More than 60 competitors gave their all in a quest for Commander's Cup points and post bragging rights during the 2008 Intramural Bench Press competition held at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center Feb. 2.

Company C 16th Ordnance Battalion gained the most team points to win the championship followed by the Marine Corps Detachment as runner up.

Participants weighed in the day before then showed up an hour before competition began for regulation and safety briefings. Judges included award-winning weight lifters and former Soldiers Matt Long, Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security, and Sebastian Dokes, Garrison dining facility manager, building 4219, as well as George Lucas and Kenny Singleton of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Capt. Rori Alston, commander of Company C 143rd Ordnance Battalion, presented awards at the competition's conclusion.

Six females and three civilians rounded out the group of competitors who varied from novice to experienced lifters. All had to perform three lifts which were documented by scorekeepers, before being tabulated for final scores. Donna Coyne, DMWR intramural sports program manager, coordinated the event.

Company C 16th 1st Sgt. David Arbelle, who also competed, said he was very proud of his "extremely motivated Soldiers."

"I was looking for a way to get them together and brought [the bench press competition] up in formation," Arbelle said. "There's a lot of competition within the unit and we're looking to winning intramural bowling next."

USMC Staff Sgt. Matt Wolf credited Lance Cpl. Erik Coleman with encouraging maximum participation and leading unit's team.

"We came out with a small group and did the best we could," Coleman said.

Wolf, a machine shop instructor, said that the goal was to "take the commander's cup again."

"They came out and gave it their all, and I think they did very well," Wolfe said.

Win or lose, most lifters said they were happy with their performances.

"I'm not disappointed at all," said Shamina Fleming, Company C 16th. "Our first sergeant is a great motivator. I came out with my battle buddy and did my best."

"This is our first time but now that we know what it's all about we'll definitely be back," added Fleming's buddy Kristen Johnston.

Two other battle buddies, USMC's Gertrude Frasch and Christina Risher said they also thought they could have done better.

"I could have gone higher in weights," Risher said. "I was surprised at how light it was. I'll be back next year."

"I thought I could have done more and if I had practiced I would have done better," Frasch added. "But it was still fun."

Brandon Haskett and Kenny Martinez, Company B 143rd, who pressed 240 and 270 pounds, respectively, said they were just happy to represent their unit.

"We came out pretty confident," Haskett said.

"Generally we did well," Martinez added. "We had a lot of nervous excitement going for us."

Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Edwards, HHC 16th Operation NCO, said she underestimated her own skills.

"I think I cheated myself. I could have lifted a lot more," Edwards said.

Devron Bryant, a staff sergeant and instructor with Company A 143rd Ordnance Battalion who lifted a personal best of 315 pounds, said that he came out for the competition as "a personal test" and that he exceeded his own expectations.

"I think I did excellent," Bryant said. "I've never lifted that much in my weight class in competition. Overall it was very competitive and I'm looking forward to the deadlift [competition]."

After a successful 235-pound bench press, USMC's Brian Davis said that he lifted weights in high school and that he considered competing after his instructor, Wolf, encouraged him.

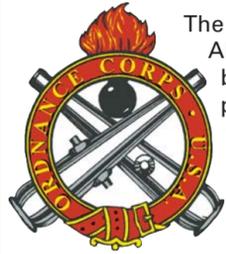
"I told a couple of buddies I used to lift weights and they signed me up," he said. "It was fun for me. I always love the competition."

A test officer with the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, Staff Sgt. Tony Meadows celebrated a successful 365-pound bench press although he missed a 400-pound attempt.

Meadows said that he lifts weights nearly every day in the facility's weight room, completing "about four-hundred repetitions a week."

"I just thought I'd come out this year and give it a try," Meadows said. "I could have gone higher but I defaulted on the last lift; I didn't go straight back up with it," he said. "Even though it was a waiting game to get to your weight class, the overall event was good."

## Commander's Cup



The Commander's Cup is awarded by the APG Garrison commander each December to the unit that scores the most points in intramural sports during the year. Units accumulate points by participating in Basketball, the Bench Press Competition, the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Racquetball, Volleyball, Softball, Golf, the Deadlift Competition, Dodge Ball, Bowling, Tennis, Soccer and Flag Football. Points are awarded for unit participation and division and post championship wins.

### Commander's Cup point totals as of Feb. 7

COMPANY C 16TH.....16	COMPANY E 16TH.....0
USMC.....14	HHC 143RD.....0
COMPANY C 143RD.....12	COMPANY B 143RD.....0
COMPANY A 143RD.....2	203RD MI.....0
USAF.....2	20TH SUPCOM.....0
KUSAHC.....2	AML.....0
HHC 16TH.....1	MRICD.....0
NCOA.....1	JPED.....0
ATC.....1	NATL GUARD.....0
CHPPM.....1	AMC BAND.....0
HHC 61ST.....0	
COMPANY A 16TH.....0	
COMPANY B 16TH.....0	

## APG Intramural Bench Press results

### Military Women

**132-pounds**

**Champion**, Kristen Johnston, Company C 16th, 45 pounds

**148 pounds**

**Champion**, Gertrude Frasch, USMC, 70 pounds

**Runner-up**, Christina Risher, USMC, 55 pounds

**165-pounds**

**Champion**, Kim Kerschner, HST, 85 pounds

**Over 165-pounds**

**Champion**, Lisa Edwards, HHC 16th, 85 pounds

### Civilian Men

**Lightweight**

**Champion**, Brian Cashman, 290 pounds

**Runner-up**, Daniel Holderman, 215 pounds

**Heavyweight**

**Champion**, Michael Day, 325 pounds

### Military Men

**135-pound**

**Champion**, Ngo Tho, Company C 16th, 210 pounds

**148-pound**

**Champion**, Brandon Haskett, Company C 143rd, 240 pounds

**Runner-up**, David Russell, Company C 143rd, 180 pounds

**165-pound**

**Champion**, Erik Coleman, USMC, 245 pounds

**Runner-up**, Eric Villarreal, Company C 16th, 235 pounds

**181-pound**

**Champion**, Brian Davis, USMC, 250 pounds

**Runner-up**, Zach Delabastide, KUSAHC, 230 pounds

**Runner-up**, Brian Garza, Company C 16th, 230 pounds

**198-pounds**

**Champion**, Devron Bryant, Company A 143rd, 315 pounds

**Runner-up**, Matt Wolf, USMC, 295 pounds

**220-pound**

**Champion**, Matthew Shearin, Company C 16th, 260 pounds

**Runner-up**, Thomas Warren, Company C 143rd, 250 pounds

**242-pound**

**Champion**, Tony Brunson, Company A 143rd, 325 pounds

**Runner-up**, Andrew Tellez, Company C 16th, 265 pounds

**Sub-master lightweight**

**Champion**, Christopher Turk, HHC 61st, 235 pounds

**Masters middleweight**

**Champion**, David Arbelle, Company C 16th, 290 pounds

**Masters heavyweight**

**Champion**, Tony Meadows, ATC, 365 pounds

**Team awards**

**First place**, Company C 16th  
**Second place**, USMC  
**Third place**, Company C 143rd

## Budget

From front page

funding supports recruiting and training, maintenance of equipment, and quality of life initiatives such as child care, youth programs and community services, Melcher said.

"These are some real increases in the amount of operations and maintenance funding available to the Army. Some of the things these accounts are doing is supporting the readiness of the forces and our combined arms training strategy," he said. "They support ten rotations at the National Training Center, ten rotations at the Joint Readiness Training Center, eight rotations at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center and also fund our battle command

training program. Also rolled in the account is funding for base operations and support."

The general said the greatest preponderance of the Army's operations and maintenance funding will be in the supplemental budget.

The Army has asked for about \$24.6 billion for procurement funding in fiscal 2009. Included in that is about \$6 billion for tactical and support vehicles, \$5 billion for new aircraft, \$5.3 billion for communications and electronics, and \$3.6 billion for weapons and tracked vehicles.

Some of the funding for aircraft has come from termination of the Comanche program, Melcher said, adding the Army has tried to keep those funds in the budget.

In the fiscal 2009 budget, the Army funds about 28 Army reconnaissance helicopters to

replace the ageing HH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter, 63 UH-60M/HH60-M Black Hawk helicopters, seven C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft, 32 AH-64 Apache helicopter upgrades and conversions, and 36 UH-72A Lakota Light Utility Helicopters. The service will also pay for the conversion of 23 CH-47D Chinook helicopters into F models and will also buy an additional 16 new Chinooks.

"There's a lot of money in here for Army aviation, which is of course needed and appreciated," Melcher said.

The Army has also wants to fund 108 Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missiles and two additional battalions of Patriot-3 to give the Army a total of 15.

"This gives us a sustainable rotational base upon which to implement our Army force generation model," Melcher said.

The fiscal 2009 budget request includes \$3.9 billion for weapons and tracked combat vehicle funding. That includes about \$330 million in Future Combat Systems procurement - a difference from past years where most FCS funding was for research, development, testing and evaluation, Melcher said.

"This is one of the things you begin to see in the '09 budget," he said. "Whereas FCS was previously mostly an RDT&E venture - and there is still about \$3.3 billion in RDT&E - this year you begin to see about \$330 million in procurement, which is principally oriented to the Non-Line-of-Sight Cannon and also some spinout we are looking to procure in order to test -- first at Fort Bliss with the evaluation task force we have forming down there, and then later to

go into units."

Additional weapons and tracked combat vehicle funding is aimed at Strykers -- including mobile gun systems for Strykers -- and the nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicle. The Army also hopes to procure Abrams system enhancements and 21 additional M-2A3 Bradley vehicles.

In fiscal 2009, the Army will pay for an additional 5,000 high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles, night vision devices, thermal weapons sights and funding for the Warfighter Information Network - Tactical.

One of the largest increases in the Army's budget request is funding for facilities. The total Army facilities funding request amounts to about \$11.3 billion. That money covers about \$5.4 billion for military construction, \$1.3 billion for Army

family housing and \$4.5 billion for construction related to Base Realignment and Closure.

"If you add that all up, it's really a pretty big year," Melcher said. "This is a big year for the Army, because we are trying to meet the BRAC timeline and get it done by fiscal 2011. We also have a pretty sizable plus-up to military construction - a lot of that attributable to 'Grow the Army.'"

The general also said the Army is on track with housing privatization and expects to privatize some 2,400 housing units in fiscal 2009.

"That brings the Army to about 86,000 homes that will have been privatized by the end of fiscal 2009," he said. "On balance, it has been a real success story for the Army, and we are giving a better quality of life to Soldiers and Families living in these quarters."

## APG News

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Your health is KUSAHC's goal



# KUSAHC Pharmacy introduces improvements

Story by

**DEBORAH DODSWORTH**  
KUSAHC

Surveys and patient suggestions are the reasons behind many of the newly implemented changes at the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic Pharmacy.

A number queuing system to pick up prescriptions at the pharmacy, similar to those in use at other military hospitals and clinics, is one such change.

The KUSAHC pharmacy has been using the system since Nov. 19, 2007.

"While there are still adjustments to be made, the system allows for patients to have a guaranteed place in line while relaxing in the waiting room watching television, reading KUSAHC provided magazines, or reading a book of their own," said Col. William A. Rice, commander, KUSAHC.

In addition, the system provides for privacy for the patients at the pharmacy window. "Long lines have been eliminated and names are no longer on the board for others to see," he said. "Experience so far shows that the best time to go to the pharmacy is during the morning hours. Customers who choose to visit the pharmacy during the noon hour or later, should plan on a longer wait, even for refill medications."

Fifty percent of KUSAHC patients are called to the [pick up] window within 10 minutes and 90 percent receive their medications within 30 minutes. The average wait time is 15 minutes, according to recent analysis of wait times.

"A survey of pharmacies in the local area revealed that only with full staff and no insurance discrepancies are they able to fill medications within twenty five minutes on average," said Andrew Cote, chief, KUSAHC Pharmacy Services.

While military treatment facilities don't usually have insurance problems, the KUSAHC pharmacy shares the same challenges regarding staffing shortages.

KUSAHC recently implemented a medication dispensing system that has many automated safety features.

"While reducing or eliminating the chance of medication dispensing errors, these safety measures are not intended to decrease waiting times and may slightly increase wait times in the interest of the patient's safety," Rice said. "With haste, there are more chances for mistakes to happen."

When patients are simply dropping off a prescription from a civilian doctor and coming back later to pick it up, they may go directly to the window when it is open.

"The patient will have to pick up an "A" ticket and wait for their number to be called," Cote said. "If there is someone at the window being helped, please remain several feet away to maintain patient privacy and move to the window when it becomes available. The pharmacy staff member will give the patient an approximate wait time to have the prescriptions(s) processed."

Button "A" is for ALL prescription business EXCEPT refill pick up. This includes civilian prescription pick up and prescriptions electronically entered into the system by military

treatment facility providers.

Button "B" is for refill pick up. There is a minimum 48-hour preparation time for all refills.

"It is strongly suggested that all patients call in refill requests within ten days of running out of medication," Cote said. "The only exception is for controlled substances which require a visit with the primary care physician for a new order."

"Lastly, we want to announce the arrival of "REX," a machine that dispenses certain medications refills only," Cote said.

REX is an auxiliary service to the

pharmacy and is outside the pharmacy area located in the lobby near the elevators on the first floor. REX cannot dispense controlled substances or medications that require refrigeration. Patients will be required to register with the pharmacy in order to have this option available to them.

"With REX, you can pick up your medications between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. without going to the pharmacy," he said.

"Your continued patience is greatly appreciated as we continue to improve our pharmacy services," Rice said.

## There's only one REX in the Army and KUSAHC has it

### REX automates prescription refill process

KUSAHC

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is delighted to announce the arrival of a new machine, REX, which will support the pharmacy by automating the refill process for certain medications.

REX is a large white machine similar to an ATM in appearance located across from the first floor elevators. By choosing to utilize REX patients will avoid waiting in line at the main pharmacy windows.

"It is our hope that REX will go a long way to improving pharmacy "wait" times and patient satisfaction," said Deborah Dodsworth, patient advocate.

Scott Hollis, contract representative for the Parata Company that makes the Automatic Product Machine (known as REX) stated that the Air Force has given rave reviews and are very satisfied with this service. Many of the Air Force machines are actually on the flight line.

Prior to utilizing REX, patients

had to complete a brief registration process at the KUSAHC pharmacy.

When accessing REX, patients will enter their Social Security number and a PIN number. Medications will be dispensed thru a blue door on the machine.

Security controls include a digital picture which is taken of each patient and the requirement to provide a signature on a digital pad.

The purpose of REX is only for medication refills, and REX cannot dispense controlled substances or medications that require refrigeration.

Medications will remain in REX for 10 days. When medications are not picked up, they will be returned to the pharmacy for disposal.

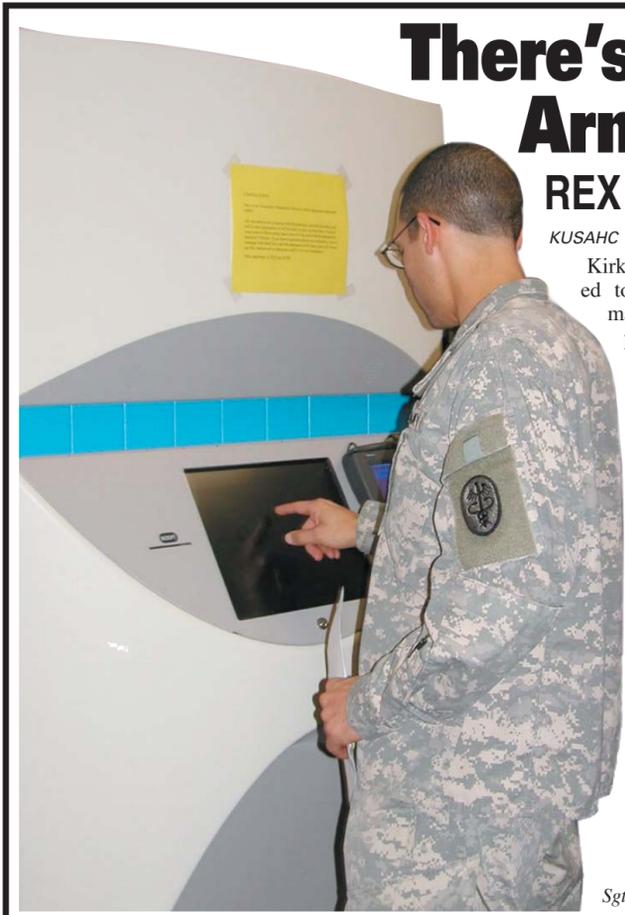
With REX, patients can pick up medications 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. without going to the pharmacy.

The KUSAHC Pharmacy staff anticipate that REX will be available by early March.

There are no future plans for more machines at this location.

Patients with questions about REX should call the pharmacy, 410-278-1945, or Dodsworth, 410-278-1724.

Photo by RACHEL PONDER



Sgt. David Wright saves time by using REX for medication refills.



## Law

# IRS warns of new e-mail, telephone scams using the IRS name

IRS

The Internal Revenue Service warned taxpayers Jan. 31 to be aware of several current e-mail and telephone scams that use the IRS name as a lure.

The IRS expects such scams to continue through the end of tax return filing season and beyond.

The IRS cautioned taxpayers to be on the lookout for scams involving proposed advance payment checks. Although the government has not yet enacted an economic stimulus package in which the IRS would provide advance payments, known informally as rebates to many Americans, a scam which uses the proposed rebates as bait has already cropped up.

The goal of the scams is to trick people into revealing personal and financial information, such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers, which the scammers can use to commit identity theft.

Typically, identity thieves use a victim's personal and financial data to empty the victim's financial accounts, run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, apply for new loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name, file fraudulent tax returns or even commit crimes. Most of these fraudulent activities can be committed electronically from a remote location, including overseas.

Committing these activities in cyberspace allows scamsters to act quickly and cover their tracks before the victim becomes aware of the theft.

People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years — and their hard-earned money — cleaning up the mess thieves have made of their reputations and credit records. In the meantime, victims may lose job opportunities, may be refused loans, education, housing or cars, or even get arrested for crimes they didn't commit.

The most recent scams brought to IRS attention are described below.

### Rebate phone call

At least one scheme using the word "rebate" as part of the lure has been identified. In that scam, consumers receive a phone call from someone identifying himself as an IRS employee. The caller tells the targeted victim that he is eligible for a sizable rebate for filing his taxes early. The caller then states that he needs the target's bank account information for the direct deposit of the rebate. If the target refuses, he is told that he cannot receive the rebate.

This phone call is a scam. No legislation has yet been enacted that would allow the IRS to provide advance payments to taxpayers or that determines the details of those payments. Moreover, the IRS

does not force taxpayers to use direct deposit. Those who opt for direct deposit do so by completing the appropriate section of their tax return, with bank routing and account information, when they file; the IRS does not gather the information by telephone.

### Refund e-Mail

The IRS has seen several variations of a refund-related bogus e-mail which falsely claims to come from the IRS, tells the recipient that he or she is eligible for a tax refund for a specific amount, and instructs the recipient to click on a link in the e-mail to access a refund claim form. The form asks the recipient to enter personal information that the scamsters can then use to access the e-mail recipient's bank or credit card account.

In a new wrinkle, the current version of the refund scam includes two paragraphs that appear to be directed toward tax-exempt organizations that distribute funds to other organizations or individuals. The e-mail contains the name and supposed signature of the Director of the IRS's Exempt Organizations business division.

This e-mail is a phony. The IRS does not send unsolicited e-mail about tax account matters to individual, business, tax-exempt or other taxpayers.

Filing a tax return is the only way to apply for a tax refund; there is no separate application

form. Taxpayers who wish to find out if they are due a refund from their last annual tax return filing may use the "Where's My Refund?" interactive application on the IRS Web site at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). The only official IRS Web site is located at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

### Audit e-Mail

Another new scam brought to IRS attention contains features not seen before by the IRS. Using a technique calculated to get almost anyone's attention, the e-mail notifies the recipient that his or her tax return will be audited. This is the first scam of which the IRS is aware that uses this to get the victim to respond.

Unusual for a scam e-mail, it may contain a salutation in the body addressed to the specific recipient by name. Most scam e-mails seen by the IRS are sent using the same technique used by spammers, in which hundreds of thousands of messages are sent to potential victims based on Internet address. Because of the volume, the typical scam e-mail is not personalized.

This e-mail instructs the recipient to click on links to complete forms with personal and account information, which the scammers will use

See SCAMS, page 7

## Tax assessment time: Understanding the Homestead Property Tax Credit

MD State Department of Assessments and Taxation

To help homeowners deal with large assessment increases on their principal residence, state law has established the Homestead Property Tax Credit.

The Homestead Credit limits the increase in taxable assessments each year to a fixed percentage. Every county and municipality in Maryland is required to limit taxable assessment increases to 10 percent or less each year.

To view a listing of homestead caps for each local government, visit [http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead\\_percent.html](http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead_percent.html).

Technically, the Homestead Credit does not limit the market value of the property as determined by the Department of Assessments and Taxation. Instead, it is actually a credit calculated on any assessment increase exceeding 10 percent (or the lower cap enacted by the local governments) from one year to the next. The credit is calculated based on the 10 percent limit for purposes of the state property tax, and 10 percent or less (as determined by local governments) for purposes of local taxation. In other words, the homeowner pays no property tax on the market value increase which is above the limit.

### Example

Assume that an old assessment was \$100,000 and that the new phased-in assessment for the 1st year is \$120,000. An increase of 10 percent would result in an assessment of \$110,000. The difference between \$120,000 and \$110,000 is \$10,000. The tax credit would apply to the taxes due on the \$10,000. If the tax rate was \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed

value, the tax credit would be \$104 ( $\$10,000 \div 100 \times \$1.04$ ).

### New application requirement

To prevent improper granting of this credit on rented or multiple properties of a single owner, a new law was enacted in 2007 that requires all homeowners to submit a one-time application to establish eligibility for the credit. The application form will be included in the assessment notice mailed to one-third of the homeowners at the end of December for the next three years. It also will be mailed to new purchasers of residential property.

### Conditions

The tax credit will be granted if the following conditions are met during the previous tax year:

- The property was not transferred to new ownership.
- There was no change in the zoning classification requested by the homeowner resulting in an increase value of the property.
- A substantial change did not occur in the use of the property.
- The previous assessment was not clearly erroneous.

- A further condition is that the dwelling must be the owner's principal residence and the owner must have lived in it for at least six months of the year, including July 1 of the year for which the credit is applicable, unless the owner was temporarily unable to do so by reason of illness or need of special care. An owner can receive a credit only on one property--the principal residence.

### Appeal rights

If a homeowner has been denied a Homestead Tax Credit and believes that they are eligible, contact the Central Office for the Homestead Tax Credit Program at the telephone numbers listed below. A final denial of a Homestead Tax Credit by the Central Office may be appealed within 30 days to the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board in the jurisdiction where the property is located.

For more information, call 410-767-2165 in the Baltimore metropolitan area or at 1-866-650-8783 toll free elsewhere in Maryland or visit the Department's Web site, [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us).

# Community Notes

## SATURDAY

### FEBRUARY 16 WHITE-TAILED DEER SURVEY

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

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

ter, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

### BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

Ames United Methodist Church, located at 112 Baltimore Pike in Bel Air, will host 'Experience the Spirit of Frederick Douglass,' a seminar by scholar Michael Crutcher on the principles that shaped the life of the famous statesman, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free. Seating is limited. For more information, call 410-569-6052; 410-272-0697 or 410-838-0161.

### BOSELY BIRDS AND BEAVER

Search high and low for signs of beavers and learn to use

binoculars to find and identify winter birds of the Boseley swamps and marshes. Meet at Boseley Conservancy. This free program will be held 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. Registration is required.

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

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17 MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This free program begins at 1 p.m. for all ages. No registration required.

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

### GRASSES TO THE MASSES WORKSHOP

Learn what submerged aquatic vegetation or SAV is, why it is important to the Bay and how to help restore bay grasses. In this free workshop, volunteers

will be given instructions, equipment, and plant material to grow SAV at home. Then, come back this spring to plant the SAV in Otter Point Creek. No experience is necessary. This free program will be held 2 to 4 p.m. for ages 6 to adult; ages 6 to 15 must be accompanied by an adult. 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.

### DAYTONA PIT PARTY

The Level Volunteer Fire Company, located on 3633 Level Village Road, will host a Daytona 500 Pit Party, 2 to 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 per person and includes viewing the Daytona 500 NASCAR race on a 10-foot projection screen and refreshments. Proceeds will benefit the Charlie Riley Community Service Scholarship Foundation.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-879-9320.

### BASKET BINGO

Prince of Peace Church

## Harford County Emergency Calendars available

The Harford County Emergency Calendar was mailed to all county residents. Anyone who has not received a calendar should contact Harford County Division of Emergency Operations, 410-638-4900.

If a disaster strikes Harford County, emergency officials will do everything possible to help residents recover. Those efforts may include telling residents to pull out their calendars and follow such printed instructions as listening for the sounding of sirens; turning to one of the three listed Emergency Alert System Radio Stations and Harford Cable Network; seeking immediate shelter; preparing for and following evacuation orders; caring for pets during an emergency; and taking other precautionary measures.

Residents should keep the calendar posted on their refrigerator, computer desk or keep it in a kitchen drawer, where it can be accessed quickly.

For more information or to receive a copy of the calendar, call the Harford County Division of Emergency Operations at 410-638-4900.

located on 2600 Willoughby Beach Road, Edgewood, will hold Basket Bingo 2:30 p.m. Doors open 1:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door. Cost includes 20 regular games, raffles, baked goods and refreshments; three special games will be sold separately. A "split-the-pot" coverall

will be offered. No smoking is allowed.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Joanne, 410-679-5912 or Delores, 410-679-1718.

(Editors Note: More Community Notes can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Comm. Notes.)

## POST SHORTS

made to pick up medications prior to these dates.

For more information, call 410-278-1724.

### Tax Center open

The Installation Tax Assistance Program, directed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, provides free tax preparation and electronic filing for qualifying active duty service members, retirees and Family members.

Tax service will be provided 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., tax returns will be prepared noon to 6 p.m., through April 10.

For more information, call 410-278-1583/2020.

### Thrift Shop holds \$2 bag sale

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Thrift Shop, located in building 2458, is holding a \$2 Bag Sale during regular business hours the second and third weeks in March. Sale items are mainly men, women and children's clothing.

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

The shop will be closed March 26 and 27.

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

### MCSC accepting welfare requests

The APG Military and Civilian Spouses' Club is currently accepting requests for welfare funds.

Throughout the year, the club raises funds to provide scholarships and welfare monies to local schools, organizations, non-profit agencies, etc.

In order to be considered for the welfare funds (which will be distributed in May), a letter, postmarked by April 15 should be mailed to MCSC-Welfare Chairperson, 2806-A McCloskey Road, APG, MD 21005.

The request letter should include: purpose of the funds, amount being requested and point of contact.

For more information, e-mail Susan Burnett, rhetorswb@aol.com.

### 'Retired Federal Employees' meets Feb. 19

Susquehanna Chapter 1522 of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association for Harford and Cecil Counties will meet 11:30 a.m. at the Havre de Grace Methodist Church social hall located on Congress and Union avenues. A light lunch with potluck will be served. A pre-

## Black History Month Lunch Time Movies

APG Black Employment Program presents Lunch Time Movies. Free movies will be shown 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326 and 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays, at the RDECOM Conference Center, building E-4811.

#### Aberdeen Area

- Feb. 14, Proud
- Feb. 19, Hotel Rwanda
- Feb. 21, Pride
- Feb. 26, Catch a Fire
- Feb. 28, Sarafina

#### Edgewood Area

- Feb. 14, A Soldier's Story
- Feb. 21, Hurricane
- Feb. 28, The Rosa Parks Story

For more information, call Irvin Howard, 410-278-7630, e-mail [Irvin.Howard@us.army.mil](mailto:Irvin.Howard@us.army.mil) or Bridget Smith, 410-278-0892, e-mail [Bridget.N.Rogers@us.army.mil](mailto:Bridget.N.Rogers@us.army.mil).

sentation, "Accent on Elder Law — A New Approach to Serving Maryland Seniors" will be given 12:45 p.m. A business meeting will follow at 1:15 p.m.

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

### National Prayer Luncheon Feb. 22

Aberdeen Proving Ground will host its annual National Prayer Luncheon 11:30 a.m., Feb. 22, at Top of the Bay. The guest speaker will be Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, archbishop of Baltimore.

For ticket information, call 410-278-4333.

### Dining facilities serve Black history month specialty meal

The Black History Month Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen and Edgewood Area dining facilities, buildings 4219 and E-4225, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Feb. 19. All military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$3.85 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$3.30 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Black History Month Specialty Meal menu includes: hearty vegetable beef soup, barbecued spareribs, fried chicken, southern fried catfish, baked chicken, simmered ham hocks, steamed rice, baked macaroni and cheese, sweet potato casserole, collard greens, black eyed peas, green beans, corn bread, assorted salad bar, potato salad, cole slaw, assorted desserts, assorted breads, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted condiments

and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

### CPR, AED classes available

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Service is offering CPR and automated external defibrillator classes on APG.

Two classes will be held 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month.

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Gunpowder Club, building E-4650 in the Osprey Room, on Feb. 20, April 16, June 18, Aug. 20, Oct. 15 and Dec. 17.

In the Aberdeen Area, classes will be held at the Post Theater, March 19, May 22, July 16, Sept. 17 and Nov. 19.

Class size will be limited to 30 participants and will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Pre-registration will be required.

For more information or to register, call Raymond Campbell, 410-306-0566, or e-mail [Ray.Campbell@apg.army.mil](mailto:Ray.Campbell@apg.army.mil).

### RAB meeting February 28

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Carroll Island and Graces Quarters Study Areas. 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.

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

# Commentary: Driving into that sun glare

By  
**JOE DAVIS**  
APG Police

You're on your way to work on a bright sunny morning, traveling east on Maryland Route 715. The time is approximately 7 to 7:30 a.m., traffic is moving well for this time of the morning, prior to approaching the APG Gate on Maryland Boulevard.

As you approach the hillcrest, you notice the sun is nearly blinding you

yet the traffic is still moving well. Just as you crest the hill, you suddenly observe traffic is completely stopped. You apply the brakes.....too late, you rear end the vehicle in front of you and drive it into the vehicle in front of it.

Unfortunately, this scenario has occurred too often within the last couple of weeks. These unintentional collisions will end up costing thousands of dollars for personal injuries and property damage.

Sun glare doesn't seem like a problem, because it isn't rain, fog, ice or snow. Most drivers will squint, pull down the front sun visor and continue to drive at the same speed, unaware of just how dangerous and unforgiving sun glare can be.

In the scenario above, three factors have to be considered in order to avoid a collision, rush hour (everyone is in a hurry to get to the office), a hill crest and sun glare. Each of these

conditions requires caution. The conditions can be written as an equation, rush hour plus a hill crest plus sun glare equals a traffic accident.

As a driver you are obligated to slow down and not drive faster than conditions warrant.

Most drive the same route to APG every day and are aware of the morning traffic hazards (sun glare and stop and go traffic) coming onto APG.

Another good tip, invest in a pair

of polarized sunglasses. Sun visors help, but be aware they may block your view. Common sense and slowing down may alleviate the potential for any traffic hazards.

Don't be blinded by the light. Slow down and consider the possibility that the worst possible thing that can happen may happen.

Be safe, buckle up and look before you back!

(Editor's note: Author is the DLES Traffic Supervisor.)

## Campbell Hausfeld recalls air compressors following fires

CPSC

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Campbell Hausfeld, of Harrison, Ohio, announced Jan. 31 a voluntary recall of Campbell Hausfeld and Husky Air Compressors. Consumers should stop using them immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Protective covers on the compressor's motor are not made from proper flame retardant material and can ignite, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

The firm has received 11 reports of fires. No injuries have been reported.

The recall involves the following Campbell Hausfeld and Husky brand air compressors:

Capacity	Model number	Serial numbers
8-15 gallon	HL410100 HL421000 HL421500 HL431500	The first four digits of the serial number indicate a date code from July 2005 (0705) through March 2007 (0307)
4 gallon	HL5402	Have a prefix of HY, KB, or HU followed by a date code from November 2006 (1106) through November 2007 (1107)

The model and serial number are located on the back of the tank.

Made in China, they were sold at home improvement and hardware stores nationwide from September 2005 through November 2007 for between \$170 and \$200.

Consumers should stop using the air compressor immediately



and contact Campbell Hausfeld for a free repair kit.

For more information, contact Campbell Hausfeld, 800-241-0448, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site, [www.chpower.com](http://www.chpower.com).

## Privileges

From front page

revoke or suspend the authorized customer's AAFES privileges, as well as take other appropriate corrective or disciplinary actions. Periodic "unannounced" ID checks are conducted at front entrances to ensure only authorized customers and their guests are entering AAFES stores.

### Family members authorized to shop in AAFES facilities

- Dependent children (adopted, stepchildren, and wards) who are 21 years of age or older, unmarried, and dependent for over half of their support from the sponsor, who are incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical handicap, or have not passed their 23rd birthday and are enrolled in a full-time course of study at an institute of higher learning,
- Dependent children (pre-adoptive,

adopted, stepchildren, foster and wards) under 21 years of age and unmarried, and dependent on the sponsor for half of their support,

- Lawful spouse, if separated, retains privileges until a final divorce decree is issued,

• Orphans (adopted or natural born) who are surviving unmarried children of a deceased uniformed service member or retired member of a uniformed service, and meet age requirements of the first two paragraphs above. The surviving children must have been dependents at the time of the death of the parent or parents.

- Parents who depend upon the sponsor for over half of their support. Parents include father, mother, stepparent, parent by adoption, and parents-in-law. Included is a surviving parent of a member of the armed forces who dies while on extended active duty.
- Surviving Family member who is a

child or parent of a sponsor, who is dependent on the surviving spouse for over half of their support.

- Surviving spouse, a widow or widower, of a sponsor who has not remarried or who if remarried, has reverted through divorce, annulment, or the demise of the spouse, to an unmarried status.

• Unmarried children (pre-adoptive, adopted, stepchildren, foster and wards) who meet age requirements of the two paragraphs above, and who are dependent on the sponsor for over half of their support.

- Un-remarried former spouse of a member or former member of the uniformed services who (on the date of the final decree of divorce, dissolution, or annulment) had been married to the member or former member for a period of at least 20 years, during which period the member of former member performed at least 20 years of service creditable for retired or retainer pay or equivalent pay.

## Scams

From page 5

to commit identity theft.

This e-mail is a phony. The IRS does not send unsolicited, tax-account related e-mails to taxpayers.

### Changes to tax law e-Mail

This bogus e-mail is addressed to businesses, accountants and "Treasury" managers. It instructs them to download information on tax law changes by clicking on a series of links to publications on businesses, estate taxes, excise taxes, exempt organizations and IRAs and other retirement plans. The IRS believes that clicking on a link downloads malware onto the recipient's computer. Malware is malicious code that can take over the victim's computer hard drive, giving someone remote access to the computer, or it could look for passwords and other information and send them to the scamster. There are other types of malware, as well.

The urls contained in the link are not legitimate IRS Web addresses. All IRS.gov Web page addresses begin with <http://www.irs.gov/>.

### Paper check phone call

In a current telephone scam, a caller claims to be an IRS employee who is calling because the IRS sent a check to the individual being called. The caller states that because the check has not been cashed, the IRS wants to verify the individual's bank account number. The caller may have a foreign accent.

In reality, the IRS leaves it entirely up to the individual

to choose to cash or not cash a paper check. The IRS has no business need to know, and does not ask for, bank account or similar information, except when taxpayers indicate on their tax return that they are opting for the direct electronic deposit of their refund. In that case, however, it is the individual's responsibility to provide the IRS with the correct bank routing and account numbers on the tax return; the IRS does not contact taxpayers to verify the information.

### What to do

Anyone wishing to access the IRS Web site should initiate contact by typing the IRS.gov address into their Internet address window, rather than clicking on a link in an e-mail or opening an attachment.

Those who have received a questionable e-mail claim-

ing to come from the IRS may forward it to a mailbox the IRS has established to receive such e-mails, [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov), using instructions contained in an article on IRS.gov titled "How to Protect Yourself from Suspicious E-Mails or Phishing Schemes" <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=155344,00.html>. Following the instructions will help the IRS track the suspicious e-mail to its origins and shut down the scam. Find the article by visiting IRS.gov and entering the words "suspicious e-mails" into the search box in the upper right corner of the front page.

Those who have received a questionable telephone call that claims to come from the IRS may also use the [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov) mailbox to notify the IRS of the scam.

The IRS has issued previous warnings on scams that use the IRS to lure victims into believing the scam is legitimate. More information on identity theft, phishing and telephone scams using the IRS name, logo or spoofed (copied) Web site is available on the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Enter the terms "phishing," "identity theft" or "e-mail scams" into the search box in the upper right corner of the front page.



# FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

## Activities/Events

### Exero World Wrestling Title Match

Live wrestling – the Xero World Title Match featuring Supreme Lee Grant vs. Julio Dinero is scheduled for 6 p.m., Feb. 23 at Edgewood Area Hoyle Gymnasium, building E-4210. Admission price is \$10 for active duty, general admission \$15, \$20 for ring-side seats, \$3 for youth ages 7 to 14 for CYS members, \$5 for non-members. Children ages 6 and under admitted free.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4011/4907 or 410-436-3375/7134.

### SKIES Unlimited Brazilian Jujitsu

A Brazilian jujitsu program will be held at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Three sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from March 11 through April 10; April 15 through May 15; and May 20 through June 19.

Beginner classes will be held 6 to 6:45 p.m.; advanced classes will be held 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.

Through the practice of jujit-

su and kickboxing, students will learn the best form of self-defense. Students will learn to defend themselves against bigger, stronger, and faster opponents and develop leadership and teamwork skills. All students will advance their skills no matter their gender, size, or natural ability.

Cost is \$85 per student, or \$240 per student for all three classes.

For more information or to register, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. For an appointment, e-mail stacie.umbarger@apg.army.mil.

### Do-it-yourself New York City tours

MWR has scheduled several day trips to New York City – eight hours for sightseeing, shopping, seeing a Broadway matinee, venturing into China Town and more Feb. 16, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18 and Nov. 15.

Cost is \$40 per person. The bus will depart 7:55 a.m. and will return 10 p.m. Open to all DoD card holders.

For more information or to register, call or visit MWR Lei-

sure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR\_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

### New York City Liberty Tours

MWR Leisure Travel Services offers two New York City Liberty Tours, March 29 and July 19.

Cruise aboard the famous Circle Line cruise ship down Manhattan harbor to the Statue of Liberty for the best view in the city. Following the cruise, enjoy lunch on the coach touring famous and not-so-famous New York sights narrated by a professional and friendly step on guide. Then explore and shop in midtown Manhattan. Shop for souvenirs, browse at Macy's or stroll Times Square.

Cost is \$90 per person and includes roundtrip transportation, cruise and lunch.

The bus will depart 7:20 a.m. and return 9:30 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit MWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907, or e-mail MWR\_LeisureTravel@apg.

army.mil.

### Body Worlds 2 Exhibit

MWR Leisure Travel Services offers tickets to The Body Worlds 2 Exhibit at the Maryland Science Center, through March 16.

Body Worlds 2 educates the public about the inner workings of the human body and shows the effects of poor health, good health and lifestyle choices.

Tickets cost \$20.50 for adults and \$14.50 for children ages 3 to 18. Cost includes entry into the Science Center exhibit hall and the Body Worlds 2 exhibit.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit MWR Leisure Travel Services located in the AA Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR\_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

### Amateur Boxing Night

The 16th and 143rd Ordnance Battalions face off for the first time in 2008 during the Amateur Boxing Night extravaganza March 15 at the Aberdeen Athletic Center, building 3300. Doors open 5 p.m., the event begins 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 for active duty military; \$10 for non-military; and \$20 for ring-side seats. Children under 6 are admitted free.

Purchase tickets at MWR Registration, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or Hoyle Gym, building E-4210, 410-436-3375/7134.

### Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus tickets on sale

Ladies and gentlemen, come see the greatest show on earth. Tickets are available for shows March 12 through 23 at the 1st Mariner Arena in Baltimore for \$18.75 for ages 2 and older. The last day to purchase is March 7.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit MWR Leisure Travel Services, AA Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or

e-mail

MWR\_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

### MWR hosts 'Losers ARE Winners' weight loss competition

A new weight loss competition began Jan. 14 and ends April 4. Participants must enter with a partner (groups of 3 will be accepted).

Participants will weigh in once a week. Participants who lose the most weight based on a percentage will win a prize.

Register at the AA Fitness Center, building 320 or Hoyle Gym and Fitness Center, building E-4210. Entry fee is \$5 per person.

For more information, call Jeff Pettit, 410-278-9725

### Discount ski lift tickets available

MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center has discount ski lift tickets for Bear Creek, Blue Mountain, Camelback, Jack Frost/Big Boulder Ski Resorts and Ski Liberty, Ski Roundtop and Whitetail.

For more information, call MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center, 410-278-4907/4011, building 3326, or e-mail mwr\_registration@usag.apg.army.mil.

### School age/middle school services summer program taking applications

The Aberdeen and Edgewood area's summer programs will run for nine weeks, June 16 through Aug. 15, Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The program is open to all qualifying children who have completed first through eighth grades. Parents can sign up for the weeks that fit their schedule.

Tuition fees are based on total Family income.

Waiting list applications may be picked up daily beginning 7:30 a.m., Feb. 19, at the Edgewood Area

Youth Services, building E-1902, the Outreach Services, building 2752 or faxed to 410-278-4658.

Applications will not be distributed or accepted at the Aberdeen Area Youth Service building.

Registration will be held Saturday, April 19, at the Edgewood Area Youth Services and Saturday, April 26, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Services for all sponsors who have been offered openings by the Central Registration office. Registration packets, an up-to-date physical and Family income information must be completed prior to the registration appointment.

A \$20 non-refundable deposit is required per child at the time of registration for each week a parent selects.

For questions or further information, call the Outreach Services Office, 410-278-7571/7479.

### Grease on Broadway

Sandy and Danny reunite once again. See Grease, 2 p.m., May 17, on Broadway. Tickets cost \$165 each and include bus transportation and Broadway play. This event is open to all DoD ID card holders. Purchase tickets in advance.

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

### Choice of shows at The Hippodrome Theater

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

#### Shows include:

- "High School Musical," 2 p.m., Feb. 23; and 8 p.m., Feb. 29

- "Camelot," 2 p.m., March 29

- "The Color Purple," 2 p.m., May 3; 2 p.m., May 10; and 6:30 p.m., May 11.

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

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

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

## Register for Spring APG Youth Sports Program

Youths can register for softball, baseball, tee ball, cheerleading, flag football and Start Smart basketball, through Feb. 28. Walk-in registrations will be held 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., weekdays, Central Registration, Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2752 Rodman Road. In the Edgewood Area, register by appointment after 10:30 a.m. at the EA Youth Center, building E-1902.

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

### Youth Baseball and Tee Ball

Register early – teams and spaces are limited. Boys ages 5 through 15 as of April 30 may register. Cost of registration is \$45 per child for baseball and \$35 for tee ball. Practice starts the week of April 1 and games will be held on weekdays.

### Youth flag football

Boys and girls, ages 6 to 8, 9 to 11 and 12 to 14 as of April 1, can sign up. Flag football practices begin the week of April 1, games begin May 3. Games will be held every Saturday at the Aberdeen Area and Edgewood Area Youth Centers. The fee is \$45 for the season. Coaches and referees are needed to make the program a success.

For more information, call Youth Sports office.

### Cheerleading

Cheerleading for ages 5 through 14 as of April 1 costs \$45 per child. Cost for shoes and socks are not included. Cheerleading squads will cheer for APG Flag Football teams. Practice will be held 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and starts the week of April 1.

### Start Smart Basketball

This program is for boys and girls ages 3 to 5 who want to play basketball and be coached by their mom or dad. Start Smart Basketball will be held Wednesdays, March 12 through April 16. Parent participation is required. Cost is \$40 per child. Each child will receive a T-shirt, basketball and award.

### Softball

Girls ages 7 to 8, 9 to 10, 11 to 13, 14 to 18 as of Jan. 1, can register for softball. Cost is \$45 per child. Practice begins the third week of March, games begin mid April.

Interested in being an umpire or a coach? The program will play in the Eastern Harford County league.

For more information, call 410-306-2297.

## ACS upcoming events

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

### Smart Start Your Business seminars

The ACS Employment Readiness Program in partnership with Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union and Harford Community College Small Business Development Center sponsors Smart Start Your Business seminars. This free 90-minute orientation program provides an overview of the ways to start a business, the skills and duties of a successful entrepreneur and how to write a strategic business plan.

Seminars will be held 11:30 to 1 p.m., July 30, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 22 and Nov. 19.

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

### Home Buying and Selling Seminar

A Home Buying and Selling Seminar will be offered by Army Community service, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 21, at ACS, building 2754, Training Room. All service members, civilians, Family members, retirees and contractors are welcome to attend.

The seminar will address housing as the major focus of relocation, from listing to settlement. Topics include a step-by-step look at home buying and selling; learn what questions to ask when buying a home; learn how to improve an individual credit score to buy a home; learn how to work with real estate agents; know what a homebuyer's/seller's rights are; how to sell a home for top dollar; learn home buying, selling, renting, and leasing options; how to prepare a home for the market; determining the asking price; and the qualification process.

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

### Job vs. Career classes for teens

Army Community Service will hold Job vs. Career classes for teens, ages 13 through 18, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., at ACS classroom

building 2754. Classes will be held March 25, June 18 and July 23.

Today's workforce offers many challenges and rewards. Learning has a tremendous impact on future earnings. Teens will learn the benefit of a career over a job. The ACS Employment Program and Tina Mike, APG-FCU Education director, will help guide teens through the job and career preparation process so they can achieve their own employment success. Topics include:

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

For more information or to enroll teens in this free class, call Marilyn Howard, ACS Employment Readiness, 410-278-9669.

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

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

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

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

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

## Easter Sunday Brunch

Top of the Bay will hold an Easter Sunday Brunch, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 23. Price is \$19.95 for adults, \$9.95 for children ages 5 to 11 and children under 5 eat free.

Two buffets, breakfast and lunch, will be available at the same time and diners can select from one or both.

The breakfast buffet menu includes an omelet station, French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon, biscuits with sausage gravy and home fries, smoked salmon, bagels, muffins and Danish.

The luncheon buffet includes a carving station with roast sirloin of beef and ham, chicken breast stuffed with sage and cranberry dressing, roast pork, baked cod, assorted vegetables, potatoes and rice.

Mimosas, juices, coffee and tea are included. Reservations are required by March 20.

To make reservations, call 410-278-3062 /2552/5195.



## Free movies at the Post Theater

MWR hosts free movies at the Post Theater, 7 p.m., Saturdays and 2 p.m., Sundays.

Movies are open to active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel and their Family members, retirees, DoD civilians and APG contractors. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult regardless of the movie rating.

For more information or movie schedule, call the Movie Hotline, 410-278-8000 or check the APG MWR Web site, <http://www.apgmwr.com>.

Snack Bar will be open for all performances.



## APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

### Building 2342

#### Week of Feb. 11

Special #1: Turkey club sub with bacon, cheese, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$6.25.

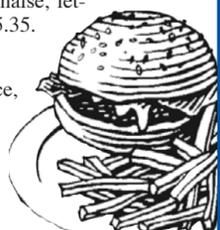
Special #2: Breaded chicken patty served on a Kaiser roll, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$5.35.

#### Week of Feb. 19

Special #1: Bacon, lettuce and tomato sub with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, curly French fries, one cookie and soda for \$6.75.

Special #2: Grilled cheese with garden salad: lettuce, tomato, onions and pickles, one cookie and soda for \$3.65.

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



## 18th Annual Federal Women's Program Training Conference

Conference Center Auditorium  
Bldg E4810, Edgewood Area  
Wednesday, 5 March 2008

# Women's Art: Women's Vision

Program	
Registration	0700-0900
Morning	1215-1250
Afternoon	
Conference Center Seminar Area, Bldg E4811	
Opening Ceremony	0600-0630
Conference Center Auditorium, Bldg E4810	
* J. Blair Miles, 70th Chairman	
Introductions and Welcome	
* Col Jeffrey S. Williams, 70th Chairman	
* Major General J. Blair Miles, 70th Chairman	
* Major General J. Blair Miles, 70th Chairman	
Administrative Remarks	
* J. Blair Miles, 70th Chairman	
Morning Workshops	0845-1145
Conference Center Seminar Area, Bldg E4811	
Lunch Break	
Writing What Women Need to Know 1145-1245	
Cheryl Deane, Training Faculty, Bldg E4810	
* Bring Your Lunch - Water and Salts provided	
* No Smoking - No Cell Phone Use	
* No Cell Phone Use	
Afternoon Workshops	1300-1600
Conference Center Seminar Area, Bldg E4811	

### Workshops

**A Writer's Workshop**  
Conference Center Seminar Area, Bldg E4811  
\* Cindy Sepulveda, CPAC and \* Renu Rastogi, ECBC

**Budget Workshop - Ways to Find Hidden Cash in your Budget**  
Conference Center Seminar Area, Bldg E4811  
\* Nancy Hill and \* Sonya Pietrogliacomo, APG Federal Credit Union

**The Peak Performance Commitment**  
Conference Center Seminar Area, Bldg E4811  
\* Kim Goad, Ovation, Inc.

**Emotional Intelligence**  
Conference Center Seminar Area, Bldg E4811  
\* Norma Tilton, HCC

**The Benefits of a Mentoring Relationship**  
Conference Center Seminar Area, Bldg E4811  
\* Margaret D. Cottrell, CHPPM

**Pick Up Registration Packets - 0700-1300**  
Conference Center Seminar Area, Bldg E4811

**Online Registration for Workshop**  
<http://www.apg.army.mil/akossoprompt/wfp.cfm>



Federal Women's Program

Illustration by AAMIR IGBAL, U.S. ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMAND

# AAFES NEWS

## Technology on the march at AAFES

AAFES

"Televisions are getting thinner, more feature-rich and less expensive. GPS, digital photo frames and Blu-Ray players will be growth categories in 2008 and convergence will be the buzzword for the year." These are just some of the findings from a team of Army & Air Force Exchange Service managers and buyers who recently returned from the world's largest consumer technology tradeshow, the annual Consumer Electronics Show.

"We will be selecting all of the latest and greatest gadgets to meet Military Families' wants in the coming year," said AAFES' Electronics Divisional Merchandise Manager Chris Burton. "Military shoppers are generally more ready to embrace the latest the marketplace has to offer. Because of this, our team is dedicated to staying one step ahead of the changes to ensure we are sufficiently meeting military Families' technology expectations. Our aim is to be leading edge."

As part of this effort, more than 20 personnel, including AAFES Commander Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood, converged on CES to get the scoop on the newest electronics available and get them to BX/PX stores shelves as soon as possible.

Beyond senior leadership and buyers for AAFES PowerZones, personnel from the Exchange Online Store, at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), and the Exchange catalog program also made the trek to Las Vegas to put their

hands, eyes and ears on the very best the electronic category has to offer in 2008.

"With a mobile customer base that includes active duty, retirees as well as Guard and Reserve members, we must find new and innovative ways to take the exchange benefit beyond a military installation's gate and into the homes of authorized customers," said AAFES' Direct Marketing General Merchandise Manager Bill Eddings. "With that said, catalogs and Web sites are not strictly about convenience. All of the merchandise offered has to contain the 'latest and greatest' products available in order for the exchange benefit to remain relevant to early adopters of technological innovations."

So, what's on the horizon for exchange shoppers? Whether in store, on line or over the catalog's toll-free number, the AAFES team that visited CES foresees TVs getting thinner this year (1.5") and even thinner in 2009 (0.75"). There will also be more networking and wireless capabilities throughout the home, office and automobile categories. Additionally, photo frames will deliver MP3 capabilities and wireless technologies as GPS units begin offering voice activation and traffic monitoring services.

AAFES saw consumer electronics grow considerably in 2007 as sales increased more than 9 percent and topped \$720 million year to date. The top selling electronic items at AAFES exchanges last year were LCD TVs, iPods and GPS units.

## Covenant

From front page

of the general's primary responsibilities.

It's a responsibility that he takes very seriously.

"The quality of life the Army provides to its Soldiers has to equal the quality of the service they provide to their country," he said.

USAE's environmental experts share their knowledge about the Army, its environmental programs, and the environmental sciences with the students of Edgewood Elementary.

"The activities the USAEC folks design and implement for us add to the educational experience of our students," said Lisa Sundquist, principal of Edgewood Elementary School. "They've stood with us in educational partnership for more than ten years, and the days they come to the school with one of their special activities are priceless to us."

"We provide several events each year that enhance the school's curriculum by engaging students directly in science and reading initiatives as well as unique efforts like mock trials with our legal staff," said Bob DiMichele, public affairs officer for USAEC. "The kids get excited about the learning

activities and the positive role models we provide."

In fact, the staff and faculty use camouflage eagle feathers to reinforce positive behaviors throughout the school. The feathers symbolize the Army, the environment and the school's mascot.

During the tour of the school, Macdonald met with APG's school liaison, Eileen Campbell, the county's school partnership coordinator, Michelle Shaivitz and had lunch with several students.

"It was great to see the challenges that face our military Families addressed so successfully here," Macdonald said. "Even the chicken nuggets were good."



Photo by NEAL SNYDER, USAEC  
Maj. Gen. John A. Macdonald, the deputy commanding general of the Installation Management Command and the new commander of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, gets a close-up view of the Army's commitment to excellence in education during a visit to Edgewood Elementary School as part of the U.S. Army Environmental Command's school partnership program. The general is dining with, from left, 4th graders, Ryan Braun, Darren Webster Jr., Thailand Lindsay and Jordan Goldrich.

## Virtual

From front page

an installation because their Soldiers are putting their lives on the same line as everybody else. They deserve the same degree of help and resources."

She added that they want to have a zip-code-based system online, where Soldiers and Families can enter their zip codes into the Web site and find the nearest place to get help and the nearest FRG, whether it is active duty, Reserve or National Guard.

The next step is to set up mini-Army Reserve centers in towns and cities across America, which would function like Army Community Service offices, repositories for community support, emergency relief and even places Families can go to renew their military IDs.

"I was just insistent that there be some place that you can have face to face meetings with people. A lot of people don't have access to a computer, or English is their second language, or they just don't know how to explain their needs on the

telephone. I wanted there to be offices or some place across the country where Families could go to and talk to somebody live.

"In my experience, there are veterans who say 'What can we do to help?' In some instances, all we'll need to get is a computer and a telephone hookup for them; and others it will be finding a place. Some towns we can use the National Guard centers or the veterans' halls, but if there's no place to put it, we might have to find our own office space, in a shopping center or something people can find easily. Hopefully in a few years, everyone will know where it is, just like they know where the post office is," Stultz said.

Right now, the Army Reserve is beginning focus groups with Families to see where they want these centers. The Reserves will begin building the centers near the heaviest Reserves population centers that are far from installations.

Located two hours from the nearest FRG with four young children during her husband's deployments to the Persian Gulf and the Balkans in the Nineties, Stultz knows how hard

it can be to fit crucial support meetings into busy schedules.

Per the request of Families, especially children and teenagers, she and the Army Reserve are looking to find ways to incorporate chat rooms on the Web site and plan to add this feature as soon as they work out security issues.

Chat rooms, blogs and instant messaging are also a goal of virtual FRGs, said Shaunya Murrill, the automation manager for the Family programs directory at the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command. She also runs a virtual FRG for her husband's Indianapolis Recruiting Battalion.

Tested in 2004 and launched Army-wide in 2006, virtual FRGs are paid for by FMWRC and are a way for commanders, rear-detachment commanders and Family readiness leaders to provide up-to-date information to Families, even if they are geographically spread out, as with the reserve component.

"It was never designed to replace the FRG, but it's an extension of it," Murrill said. "Family members can find out what's going on with their

unit by logging in. This is an opportunity for the commander to stay connected. I think it's been a valuable tool to my husband and his colleagues because they don't necessarily have the time to have a lot of meetings or the funding to bring in Families from across the state. So this is an opportunity for them to get relevant, pertinent and timely information out.

"If you want to get involved, you see what's available, you see the calendar, you jump in if you want to, and if you don't, you don't have to," she continued. "Before with the telephone tree, when people were doing it only the old way, people would leave and kind of fall off. Here, you come in and update your information with the automated telephone tree."

To date, there are about 1,200 sites and 117,000 registered users throughout the Army. Commanders at the battalion level and up simply must fill out an application at [www.ArmyFRG.org](http://www.ArmyFRG.org), provide a point of contact and some basic information, and Murrill and her team set up the site. They provide tutorials for the site manager and any necessary technical support.

The sites typically include news articles, photos, hyperlinks, frequently-asked questions and updates from commanders.

FMWRC is still working on the security issues related to blogs and chat rooms, but the sites can have monitored forums.

Virtual FRGs have undergone the Defense Information Technology Certification Information Accreditation Process and are completely secure.

Soldiers provide a list of loved ones in writing and the system automatically generates an invitation to the unit site, complete with hyperlink. The list can include anyone the Soldier wants: spouse, but also parents and siblings, for example.

Murrill said the most common feedback she receives are requests for more interactive features and comments that the Army waited too long to go virtual, but that she never hears anything bad about the virtual FRGs. The best thing, she said, is that instead of Families having to wait for their Soldiers to tell them about events or new initiatives, the Families are often updating the Soldiers.

## Prayer

From front page

units stationed at 55 different locations.

"You live life by the minute in the combat zone -- never knowing what you are going to face, what is going to be expected of you," she said.

She said she used the quiet of the morning to prepare her heart and mind for each new day.

"My morning prayers focused on my Soldiers and subordinate leaders. After all, they had the toughest duties. They were the ones in harm's way. They were the ones making split second decisions -- Shoot. Don't shoot. They were the ones trying to stay alert in the overwhelming heat, the unknown black of night, on the excruciating long convoys because of bad weather and enemy activity. And they were the ones delivering calm in chaos when attacked.

"Prayer was not confined to just my morning devotional time," Halstead continued. "In all honesty, I found myself praying most all of the time. But there were very deliberate opportunities that presented themselves, like before leaving the motor pool on a convoy or the helipad on a chopper. Those who wanted to join me were invited to do so, and we circled, held hands and asked God's divine protection on us and all those on mission."

The general said her chaplain was a central figure in her operations.

"I met weekly with my chaplain and treasured this very special time and relationship because the chaplain's sole focus is a focus on souls, dealing with our Soldiers' lives. There is nothing more important."

"So many times I have let life, my worldly life -- busy schedules, negative people, other priorities -- get in the way of my faith," Halstead continued.

"We had a Soldier involved in an IED attack on combat logistics patrol. The IED was filled with ball bearings, and a ball bearing was lodged in his brain. He was brought into the Air Force hospital near midnight and doctors began performing surgery.

"My chaplain went immediately to the hospital and gave us the initial reports -- the Soldier was not expected to live. But if he survived they were going to get him immediately to Germany. He was never conscious but the chaplain never left his side. She prayed for the doctors and their skilled hands; she kept us informed on his progress all night. He was in a coma and the doctors did not believe he would survive the flight. I decided, based on the reports, to not go to the hospital..."

Fighting back tears, her voice cracking, the general moved on.

"I have reflected back on that night a thousand times, and each time I have found myself rationalizing why I did not go to see him. He was in a coma. He would not even know I was in the room. What good would it have done?

I had a lot on my schedule. My going or not going would really make no difference....

"I believe to this day I was wrong not to go. I fell short on my true compassion for this Soldier and for those caring for him. I could have been an encouragement to the chaplain, the doctors, other patients. And how do we know for sure what one hears or feels when in a coma? Where was my faith? What was I thinking? This wasn't supposed to be about me, but yet somehow I let it get twisted that way. This should have been about putting all my trust, confidence, heart, soul, mind and faith in God, who has no quotas on healing, protecting, saving or comforting us.

"Oh, how I thank God today that my chaplain demonstrated her faith that night. Yes, the prognosis she was given was the same as given to me, but her actions were different than mine."

The Soldier survived the night and was medically evacuated the next day.

"We monitored the Soldier's progress every single step of the way -- to Landstuhl, to Walter Reed, to Palo Alto, Calif. He walked again. He kissed his wife and hugged his father.

"Friends, I recognize that none of us get it right all the time but that event was a turning point in my faith. The Lord reinforced for me that faith is more than mere words, that He uses all of us, not just one of us. He reinforced for me that we should share these burdens together, and He caused me to do a gut-check on my

own motives, and be certain they are centered on others, not myself.

"Yes, it was a faith wake-up call for me. I was humbled to my knees in prayer. That incident bolstered my obedience and matured my faith. Every day is a new opportunity to have our faith shaped.

"You cannot be in the military and not love acronyms, so here is one of my favorites -- JOY: Jesus (first), Others (second), Yourself (last). That's how I achieve true JOY in my life.

"None of us have to go to Iraq or Afghanistan to experience a combat zone," the general concluded. "There is combat zone against the soul in every person, in every home town, in every school, in every workplace, in every country. The good news is God is in all those places, too. He is available to us everywhere and all the time. He stands at the door and knocks. He desires your prayers and encourages you to step out in faith. So you may find and experience true JOY in your lives."

Halstead's comments were expressly welcomed by AMC chaplains Col. Kenneth Sampson and Lt. Col. David Hann, hosts of the National Prayer Breakfast.

"What a powerful message," Hann said. "Her comments add great relevance to what we chaplains are all about," added Sampson, noting that a video of the general's speech would be forwarded to the Army's Chief of Chaplains.

# Deadlines quickly approaching for scholarships; apply now

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Scholarships can help pay for tuition, books, and other living expenses, but deadlines are quickly approaching for the 2008-2009 school year.

"It is beneficial for students to spend some time doing scholarship research," said Eileen Campbell, school liaison officer for Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"As the school liaison, I stress that students really research the selection of their 'perfect school' first," Campbell said. The time of application and method can make all the difference in one's success in getting accepted and securing grants versus loans."

She said there are many scholarship opportunities specifically for military children.

"As a parent, I noted that most scholarships were given

in the most extraordinary cases. Socio-economics, Family background, athletic skill and extracurricular involvement are key," she said. "The school's search for a varied population may expand the number of scholarships offered to the average student. Opportunities for military children are much improved, particularly with the nation's concern for the heavy demands put on our Soldiers and their Families."

Scholarships not only help with monetary needs, but they can enhance a student's education and strengthen a resume, that later can help in the job selection process.

"When my daughter secured a scholarship at her small southern college, she was asked to be on committees, act as a tour guide, and even a spokesperson on occasion. The scholarship awarded her more than just

money, it provided leadership opportunities," Campbell said. "She also had to be more conscientious about her academic standing; she had to maintain at least a "B" average."

Not everyone is motivated to apply for scholarships. They might think that it takes too much time to gather all the information to complete the application, but keep in mind that the money earned through scholarships can decrease the amount of debt accrued in student loans after graduation.

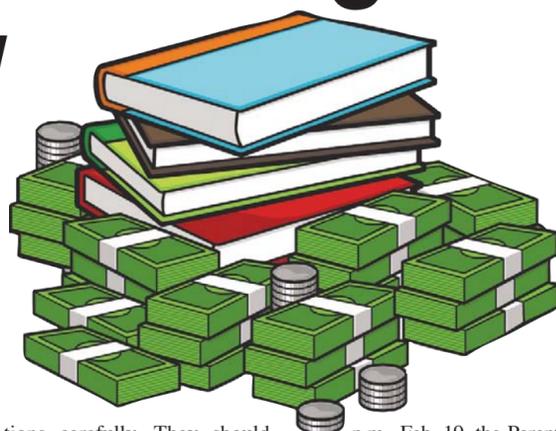
Campbell suggests that parents motivate their children to buy into the process. If students know their personal economics are involved, they will be more involved.

"One friend told me of a full scholarship that their son had been awarded at UMBC, [University of Maryland, Baltimore County] which the parents

discovered only after he had enrolled at Virginia Tech. The Family required only that their son pay for books, so he did not stress over college costs," Campbell said. "In hindsight the parents would have been wise to offer him some incentive to do the research (and accept scholarship money) possibly exchanging text book costs and/or spending money, for an award."

Another way to get free money is to apply through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA establishes whether or not someone is eligible for grant money. Students need to find out when their FAFSA deadline is for their individual college because it can vary from government deadlines.

When applying for scholarships, students should make sure they follow all the direc-



tions carefully. They should make a copy of everything they apply for and type all applications so that they can be easily read, Campbell said.

Scholarship boards tend to ask the same type of questions, so it will save time if students carefully save their work. They should take time to list all extracurricular activities and awards, to be notable.

Parents and students should also attend meetings and events that provide scholarship information. On Tuesday, 6 to 8

p.m., Feb. 19, the Parent Involvement Committee at C. Milton Wright High School will host its Fifth Annual College Night, free to all Harford County Public School students.

More than 80 colleges and universities will be present along with scholarship information for students. For information, contact the school, 410-638-4110.

Students can also use [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) to obtain a list of scholarships they can apply for that will be sent via e-mail.

## Some available scholarships

### For military/dependents only

#### ThanksUSA Scholarship Program

ThanksUSA is a charitable effort to thank the men and women of the United States armed forces.

**Amount:** \$1,000

#### **Eligibility:**

- Dependent children, age 24 and under (as of the May 15 deadline), and spouses of active duty U.S. military service.

- Applicants must plan to enroll full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, vocational school or technical school.

- Have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent on their academic record.

**How to apply:** Applications for ThankUSA's 2008 Scholarship will be open April 1 through May 15. Applicants can register for a scholarship notification by going to <https://www.thanksusa.org/main/secure/scholarship-reminder.html>.

**Deadline:** May 15

For more information: Visit <http://www.thanksusa.org/main/index.html>.

#### The Defense Commissary Agency's 2008 Scholarships for Military Children Program

The program is a way for commissaries to get involved with the community and demonstrate support and respect for the contributions of military Families.

**Amount:** \$1,500 each commissary

#### **Eligibility:**

- Unmarried children under the age of 21 (or 23, if enrolled in school) of military active duty, retired, and Guard and Reserve service members.

- Applicants must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2008. Students at community or junior college must be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer into a four-year program.

- Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database and have a current ID card.

- Applicants must submit an essay arguing for or against the following statement: "Every able-bodied citizen should be required to serve a two-year period of time in the military. Why or why not?"

**How to apply:** Scholarships are available in commissaries worldwide or online through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

**Deadline:** Feb. 20

#### Military Intelligence Corps Association Scholarship

Sponsor: MICA is the professional association of the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Corps.

**Amount:** In increments of \$500 and \$1,000

#### **Eligibility:**

- Must be a current member of MICA or a Family member.

- Applicants must be pursuing their first undergraduate (associate's or bachelor's) degree or a technical certification.

- Applicants already possessing an undergraduate degree or seeking a graduate degree are not eligible.

- Previous MICA scholarship recipients may compete for subsequent scholarships.

**How to apply:** Visit [www.micorps.org](http://www.micorps.org).

**Deadline:** May 15

#### Army Emergency Relief Scholarships

Sponsor: AER is a private non-profit organization whose mission is to provide financial assistance to Army Soldiers and their dependents in time of valid emergency need. They provide the Dependent Children Scholarship Program, the Overseas Spouse Education Assistance Program and the Stateside Spouse Scholarship Assistance Program.

**Amount:** Various amounts

**Eligibility:** Dependents of Army Soldiers

**How to apply:** Applications can be found at

[www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org).

#### Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouses Scholarship

**Sponsor:** National Military Family Association

**Amount:** Ranges \$500 to \$1,000

**Eligibility:** Any uniformed service spouse-active duty, retired, National Guard, or survivor.

**How to apply:** Visit [http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Spouse\\_Scholarship](http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Spouse_Scholarship). Applications will only be accepted online.

For more information visit <http://www.nmfa.org/>.

**Deadline:** March 15

#### Military and Civilian Spouses' Club Scholarship

**Amount:** Various amounts

#### **Eligibility:**

- Applicants must be either an MCSC member or dependent of a member.

- Open to high school seniors, undergraduate, graduate and non full-time certification, continuing education and technical program students.

**How to apply:** [www.apgmcsc.org](http://www.apgmcsc.org)  
The application for the 2008-2009 scholarship will be available soon. Once the application is completed, it can be mailed to 2806-A McCloskey Road, APG, MD 21010.

**Deadline:** April 10

For more information, call 443-345-1526.

#### Reilly Scholarship

**Sponsor:** The Reserve Officers Association

**Amount:** \$500

#### **Eligibility:**

- Graduate students who are ROA members.
- ROA membership is open to any officer (active, reserve, National Guard, retired or former) of the seven uniformed services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration.

**How to join ROA:** Call 1-800-9448 or go to [www.roa.org](http://www.roa.org)

**How to apply:** Visit [http://www.roa.org/site/DocServer/reily\\_grad\\_07.pdf?docID=1044](http://www.roa.org/site/DocServer/reily_grad_07.pdf?docID=1044)

**Deadline:** April 10

#### Marine Corps Scholarship

**Amount:** Scholarships range annually from

\$1,000 to \$10,000

#### **Eligibility:**

- A senior in high school or a high school graduate

- Currently enrolled as an undergraduate in an accredited college or university or enrolled in a post high school accredited vocational/technical school

- The son or daughter of a Marine on active duty or in the Reserve, retired or deceased

- The son or daughter of a Marine or Marine Reservist who has received an honorable discharge, medical discharge, or who was killed while in the service of our country

- The son or daughter of an active duty, reserve, or former U.S. Navy corpsman who is serving or has served, with the U.S. Marine Corps

- Family income is \$77,000 or less (the limit increases if siblings also apply)

**How to apply:** Applications are available at [www.mcsf.org](http://www.mcsf.org).

**Deadline:** Graduating high school seniors, March 3; the deadline for all other students is April 15, 2008.

#### The F. Edward Hébert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program

**Sponsor:** U.S. Army

**Amount:** Full-tuition for medical school, monthly stipend of \$1,600 or more. Required books, equipment and most academic fees will be covered.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Available for students pursuing advanced degrees in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, psychiatric nursing, optometry or psychology.

- Be a U.S. citizen with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited school.

- Depending upon student's specialty, be enrolled in or have a letter of acceptance or intent from an accredited graduate program located in the United States or Puerto Rico.

- Maintain full-time student status during the entire length of the program.

- Qualify as a commissioned officer in the United States Army Reserve.

**How to apply:** Call 1-800-USA-ARMY, or visit [www.healthcare.goarmy.com](http://www.healthcare.goarmy.com).

#### TheFilmSchool

TheFilmSchool is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to elevating the art of cinematic storytelling. An alternative to more traditional schools, TheFilmSchool offers an intensive three-week session, two times a year for writers, directors, actors and those with a story to tell.

**Sponsor:** TheFilmSchool, Seattle, WA, 206-709-2555, [info@thefilmschool.com](mailto:info@thefilmschool.com).

**Eligibility:** Operations Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans and active duty service members

**Amount:** \$2,995 for a three-week session (March 8-29, and July 5-26); partial scholarships are also available.

**Deadline:** Feb. 29 and June 6, respectively

#### For civilian or military applicants

#### The Francis Scott Key Chapter of the International Test and Evaluation Association Scholarship

**Sponsor:** The Francis Scott Key Chapter of the International Test and Evaluation Association chartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

**Amount:** \$1,500

#### **Eligibility:**

- Harford and Cecil County High School seniors who plan to pursue a degree in any of the physical sciences, engineering or mathematics.

- Must provide a copy of valid transcript.

- Criteria will be based on academic performance, with an emphasis on science and math courses, and participation in science and math related extracurricular school activities. Employment in science and math related industries will also be considered.

**How to apply:** Contact Brandy Jones, 410-278-1411, or e-mail [brandy.jones3@us.army.mil](mailto:brandy.jones3@us.army.mil) and ask for an application.

#### Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants Scholarship

**Amount:** \$1,000

#### **Eligibility:**

- Available to all high school juniors and seniors as well as all students currently registered in any accredited post secondary institution.

**See SCHOLARSHIPS, page 13**

## Searching for college funds online

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Need help writing essays? Turn to these Web sites for help.

#### **Tips for writing personal essays**

[http://essayinfo.com/essays/scholarship\\_essay.php](http://essayinfo.com/essays/scholarship_essay.php)

#### **Tips from fastweb.com**

<http://www.fastweb.com/fastweb/resources/articles/index/100037>

#### **Common essay questions**

<http://www.studentservices.com/fastweb/resources/articles/index/101142>

#### **Tips for choosing essay subject matter**

[http://www.internationalstudent.com/essay\\_writing/scholarship\\_essay.shtml](http://www.internationalstudent.com/essay_writing/scholarship_essay.shtml)

#### **Maximize your chances of winning a merit scholarship**

<http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/winning.phtml>

#### **Three award winning essays**

[http://www.jobseekersadvice.com/career\\_education/articles/scholarship\\_essay\\_examples.htm](http://www.jobseekersadvice.com/career_education/articles/scholarship_essay_examples.htm)

#### **Samples of scholarship essays**

[http://www.ivyedge.com/Admission\\_Home/Sample/sample.html](http://www.ivyedge.com/Admission_Home/Sample/sample.html)

#### **More scholarship essays**

<http://www.freonlinepaper.com/scholarship-essays>

#### **The scholarship writing process**

[http://www.scholarshiphelp.org/scholarship\\_essay.htm](http://www.scholarshiphelp.org/scholarship_essay.htm)

#### **Helpful Web sites**

Both <http://www.finaid.org> and <http://www.fastweb.com> will link to high-quality scholarship databases that are free on the Web. The former site has two calculators: a loan calculator and a financial aid estimation calculator. The latter site assists in creating a personal profile to match scholarships to students' interests/skills.

<http://www.collegeboard.org> will allow the college-bound student to register and prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test. Students can take practice tests and print a copy of essays written on previous tests taken.

<http://www.guareteed-scholarships.com> is a search engine for unique, specific types of scholarships.

<http://www.collegeparents.org> allows parents to enjoy the daily e-newsletters during their "Decade of Decision" or use of the Blog for College Parents called "Hoverings."

<http://www.students.gov> allows students to find information on federal directories, the U.S. government and its agencies, national parks and museums, military service and its branches, as well as career exploration.

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) provides information from the U.S. Department of Education on preparing and funding for college.

<http://www.collegesavingsmd.org> provides information about the tax deductible 529 savings plan. (Start a plan with as little as \$25 per month and the distributions to the universities are tax-free.)

<http://www.scholarships.com> is similar to Fastweb.com. Students register to have information sent to their individual e-mail addresses. Students can write a personalized scholarship application request letter at this site.

<http://www.salliemae.com> is the leading provider of student loans. This sight will be helpful in planning for, while going to college and years after the student is out of college.

<http://www.fafsa.edu.gov>, a free Application for Federal Student Aid, will be essential for applying for almost every scholarship available. Gather these documents: federal income tax returns (last year is okay, just update if the numbers are significantly different,) W-2 forms, records of untaxed benefits received, current bank statements, records of savings and investments. If the students and parents want to electronically sign the application, each of them should apply for a PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).

<http://www.act.org> is much like the SAT site: Collegeboard.org, but for the ACT reasoning test. Apply, practice and check test results here. Students may voice their viewpoints on the blog.

Stop by the School Liaison Office, room #111 at the CYS building 2752, to pick up an ACTIVE Prep CD-ROM, while quantities last.



# APG Forum

## Commentary: Harford County Young Marine says 'thank you' to APG Marines



By  
**DAIM AUGUSTYNIK**  
Special contributor

The Harford County Young Marines camped out with the Boy Scouts of America at Camp Spencer in Harford County Jan. 25 through 27 for Operation Icicle supported by 48 Marines stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The event was a medieval challenge between all of the Boy Scout Troops and The Young Marines.

One APG Marine, Sgt. Robert Robertson, is a training officer with our unit and helped plan the weekend activities. He helped the unit set up camp, kept us in formation during drill, and helped cut and gather the wood for our camp fire. He volunteers with our unit every other Saturday.

Lance Cpl. Benjamin Benevitez and Pfc. Austin Arnold helped us solve puzzles and games during our medieval adventure. These Marines spent the night with us in our camp and kept us laughing with stories. They guided us from activity to activity and lent a hand when we needed it. In the morning when we were leaving, they helped us tear down camp and pack up.

Other Marines traveled with the Boy Scouts and cheered

them on during the many events. I think the Boy Scouts were surprised that so many Marines showed up to help.

The weekend started Saturday morning with the raising of the flag and playing of "Taps." The rest of the day was full of events like building ladders to play the game "storm the castle," learning archery, crossing a moat, map reading, jousting, building and transporting fire and many others.

We slept outside Friday and Saturday night in tents. It was freezing cold. We learned to set up camp and work together as a team, take proper care of our feet and bodies, and to stay focused and have fun.

On Saturday night we had a church ceremony and an awards ceremony.

Three flags were burned in remembrance of those who have died in service, those currently serving and, for those

who will serve in the future.

I became a Young Marine in November 2007 because I thought it was a good way to meet friends, help others and learn values.

My mom and dad are both staff members of the unit. My dad is a former Marine and helps us perform PT and drill. My mom takes care of the paper work and makes sure it is in order.

Thank you to the Marines of APG for always supporting the Harford County Young Marines.

Semper Fi.  
(Editor's note: The 8-year-old author wrote this commentary to earn his communications ribbon in the unit. His mother, Kristine Augustyniak and father Dan Augustyniak work for the Aberdeen Test Center.)



U.S. Marines stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground Pfc. Austin Arnold, front, and Lance Cpl. Benjamin Benevitez demonstrate proper techniques during an archery session at the Medieval Challenge.



Photos by KRISTINE AUGUSTYNIK  
Front to back, Young Marines Chucky Aleveto, Jordan Baumiller, Chris Mentzer and Kyle Kamberger prepare their bows to shoot during the archery session of the Medieval Challenge between the Young Marines and the Boy Scouts Jan. 25 through 27 at Camp Spencer.

## Letter to editor: National salute to hospitalized veterans

Dear Editor:

Proud American men and women are serving and sacrificing for our freedom around the world as America's military defends us against terrorism. Many of these veterans are coming to the VA with special needs and challenges that require the hearts and hands of a new generation of VA volunteers.

The VA Maryland Health Care System invites citizens, young and old, to join us in honoring our veterans during National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week - Feb 10 through 16.

You can join our "Visit a Vet for Valentine's Day" program and help to remind Maryland's hospitalized veterans that their sacrifices have not been forgotten.

Every citizen can make a positive difference in the life of a hospitalized veteran.

Visits from school children and other community groups help to lift the spirits of our

hospitalized patients.

I invite every member of our community to participate.

To schedule a visit during National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, contact the Voluntary Service Office at one of the following VA facilities in Maryland:

Baltimore VA Medical Center, (410) 642-7100

Baltimore VA Rehabilitation & Extended Care Center, (410) 605-7000, ext. 5877

Perry Point VA Medical Center, (410) 642-1039

Our National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans program includes activities at each of our facilities through Feb. 16.

**Dennis H. Smith**

Director  
VA Maryland Health Care System

## Scholarships

From page 12

• Individuals between the ages of 16 and 30.  
**How to apply:** Visit [www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm](http://www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm).  
**Deadline:** June 20

### Hispanic College Fund Scholarship

**Sponsor:** Google.com  
**Amount:** 10,000 (The award includes internship opportunities and many other benefits.)

**Eligibility:**  
• Must be Hispanic or of Hispanic background.

• Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident residing in the United States.

• Must be studying full-time in the United States or Puerto Rico.

• Must have a minimum GPA of a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale

• Must demonstrate financial need.

• Must be a junior or senior undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a degree in computer science or computer engineering for the 2008-2009 academic year.

**How to apply:** Visit <http://scholarships.hispanicfund.org/applications/subsectionID.1.pageID.123/default.asp>.  
**Deadline:** March 15

### Army Aviation Association of America Scholarship

**Sponsor:** The AAAA Foundation, Inc.  
**Amount:** \$1,000 to \$10,000, given out as one, two or four year scholarships. Interest-free loans of up to \$4,000

(1,000 a year) are also available.

**Eligibility:**  
• One year membership by May 1 of previous year is required for scholarship to be awarded in upcoming year.

• AAAA members, spouses, unmarried children and unmarried grandchildren of current or deceased members.

• The applicant must be attending an accredited college or university or selected for fall-entry as an undergraduate or graduate.

• Applicants who will attend a service academy are ineligible for a grant or a loan.

**How to apply:** Scholarships are not available online.

Request by e-mail: [aaaa@quad-a.org](mailto:aaaa@quad-a.org), phone 203-268-5870 or fax 203-268-5870.

For more information visit [www.quad-a.org/scholarship.htm](http://www.quad-a.org/scholarship.htm)

**Deadline:** May 1

### Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund

**Amount:** Ranges from \$500 to \$2,500; five winners will receive an additional \$5,000 for the National Treasury Employees Union Scholarship.

**Eligibility:**  
• Current civilian federal and postal employ-

ees with at least three years of federal service and their dependent Family members (children and spouses).

• Dependent applicants are first eligible to apply during their senior year in high school.

• Employee applicants may only be part-time students, dependents may be full-time.

• Must be enrolled or plan to enroll in an accredited post secondary school in a course of study that will lead to a two-year, four-year, or graduate degree.

• Must have at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 grade scale.

**How to apply:** Visit [www.feea.org/scholarships.html](http://www.feea.org/scholarships.html)

**Deadline:** March 28

### Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program

The Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant program is for students who plan on working in specific career/occupational programs upon graduation. Eligible fields include: child care, human services, teaching, nursing, physical and occupational therapy and public service.

**Amount:** Varied amounts are:

Maryland community college: \$2,000 per year for full-time students; \$1,000 for part-time students.

Maryland four-year institutions: \$4,000 per year full-time students; \$2,000 per year for part-time students.

**Eligibility:** Students (who are dependents) and their parents must be Maryland residents.

**How to apply:** Applications for the 2008-2009 academic year will be available online in late March 2008.

For more information visit [http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/ProgramDescriptions/Prog\\_WSSAG.asp](http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/ProgramDescriptions/Prog_WSSAG.asp).

**Deadline:** July 1

### Other scholarships

#### The 5th Annual National Youth Alliance Convention Scholarship

The National Youth Alliance is a support group for people living with Huntington's disease to share their experiences.

**Sponsor:** The Huntington's disease Society of America

**Amount:** Travel expenses to attend the Huntington's disease Society of America National Convention in Pittsburg, Pa. The intent of this scholarship is to help active NYA members whom otherwise might not financially be able to afford attend.

**Eligibility:**  
• Applicants must be an active member of NYA.

• NYA is open to anyone ages 9 through 29 who is living with Huntington's disease in their lives. This can be a person with HD; someone who is at risk, a person who has tested negative, a caregiver, a friend or relative to someone with HD. Membership is free.

• Current members must re-register on their

new Web site

• Anyone that was awarded a full scholarship in 2007 is not eligible for a 2008 scholarship.

**How to apply:** To become a member of NYA go to: <http://www.hdsa.org/site/R?i=iROcEaOb26LLMe7nSC50Zw>

If already a member, download the Word format of the scholarship application at: <http://www.hdsa.org/site/R?i=E5p2SmR2OjW83GxgwVwmYQ>

**Deadline:** March 14

### The Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship

U.S. Space Camp is a five-day program that shows children what it takes to be an astronaut. Activities include simulated Space Shuttle missions, training simulators, rocket building and launches, scientific experiments and lectures on the past, present and future of space exploration.

**Amount:** The scholarship provides full tuition, including meals, lodging, program materials, and transportation from student's home base to nearest Space Camp and return.

**Eligibility:**

• Be a child of an active duty military parent

• Be enrolled in grades 6 through 9

• Write an essay why he or she should be selected

• Submit two letters of recommendation with contact information.

**Deadline:** March 10

**How to apply:** Visit <http://www.military->

[child.org/SpaceCamp.asp](http://child.org/SpaceCamp.asp).

### Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program

**Sponsor:** Kohl's department stores

**Amount:** \$50 Kohl's Gift Card on the store-level, \$1,000 on the regional level, and \$5,000 on the national level. In addition, Kohl's will contribute \$1,000 to a non-profit organization on behalf of each national winner.

**Eligibility:**

• Each nominee must be nominated by someone age 21 years or older, as of March 15, 2008.

• Nominees must be between the ages of 6 and 18 and not yet a high school graduate as of March 15, 2008.

• Nominees must be legal U.S. residents of a state in which a Kohl's store is located.

• Dependents of Kohl's employees are ineligible for nomination. Kohl's associates may nominate non-related children.

• Scholarship redemption is subject to recipient submitting verification of enrollment in an undergraduate program at an accredited two-year or four-year college. Scholarship money will be held until the recipient is accepted into a qualifying institution.

• Nominations should describe how the nominee has performed community service within the last 12 months.

**How to apply:** Visit <https://www.scholarshipamerica.org/i-applications/kohls/>.

**Deadline:** March 15

## UMD, MHEC general scholarship tips

Another way to prepare for scholarships is interviewing previous scholarship winners, according to the University of Maryland's scholarship Web site, <http://www.financial-aid.umd.edu/Scholarships/tips.html>.

Scholarship winners can provide students with new methods to the application process.

Students can find scholarship winners by looking at bulletin boards for workshops, campus libraries or contacting the scholarship organization, according to the UMD Web site.

Asking for letters of recommendation from teachers or professors is also part of the application process. The Web site suggests that students ask their references for the letters in advance of the deadlines and also provides them with a resume, writing samples or other work.

"The more information given, the more likely the letter will be substantial and persuasive," according to the Web site.

Many resources are available online to aid

students' and parents' searches for scholarships.

One of the many resources scholarship seekers can use is the Maryland Higher Education Commission's Web site, [www.mhec.state.md.us](http://www.mhec.state.md.us), which provides a listing of scholarships and allows the user to search through a database for more.

"Students should start researching scholarships the summer after their junior year," said Linda Asplin, MHEC program administrator.

She encourages students to look on the Web site for career-based scholarship programs.

Other scholarships available are legislative. High school, undergraduate and graduate students can contact their state senators or delegates in order to apply for a scholarship. To find out how to contact the state senators or delegates, call 410-638-3565. To be eligible for state scholarships and grants, senatorial and delegate scholarships one must apply for the FAFSA by March 1.

