

APG News

www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

Published in the interest of the people of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

January 3, 2008 Vol. 52, No. 1



Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Jan 9 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



Noise alert

The Aberdeen Test Center will support a training exercise Jan. 7 through 11.

Residents and boaters in the surrounding community may hear weapons firing and aircraft as well as observe aircraft flying at low altitudes. Illumination devices may create flashes of light visible off post.

Activity may take place in the installation's restricted waters and/or in the air, over both land and water, and may include weapons and use of air and watercraft.

For complaints or more information, call 410-278-1147/1153 or 1-800-688-8705.

MLK Commemorative Prayer Breakfast Jan. 17

Aberdeen Proving Ground will sponsor a Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Prayer Breakfast, 7 to 9 a.m., Jan. 17, at Top of the Bay. Tickets cost \$7.75 per person. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Eva Taylor.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, RDECOM, 410-436-4810; 1st Sgt. Larry Tyson, APG, 410-278-3000; Sgt. 1st Class Michael Jones, 61st Ordnance Brigade; James Rivera, APG EEO, 410-278-1100; or Linda Patrick, CHPPM, 410-436-1023. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.

Tax Center opens

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.

The center will officially open with a ribbon cutting ceremony 1:30 p.m., Jan. 23, at building 4311 on Boothby Hill Road behind the Janet Barr Soldier Center.

Tax service will be provided
See **SHORTS**, page 11

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The stories that shaped 2007



Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG NEWS

This year, the *APG News* takes a pictorial look back at the year's most memorable photos and the stories, great and small, that shaped the community during 2007.

While there is typical military fare, like changes of command, the focus is more on the people – children, service members, military spouses, veterans and employees – who make up the Aberdeen Proving Ground community.

From community events, like the Army Community Service spring and fall festivals and the Family Child Care 'Stand for Children Day,' to community

service projects and local school partnerships with APG military units and organizations, it is the 'regular folks' who make the community what it is.

The year 2007 should not only be remembered for the year-long celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the proving ground that culminated with the gala at Ripken Stadium Nov. 10, but also for its progress and achievements over the last 90 years.

In the face of the impending changes about to take place with the Enhanced use lease project and base realignment and closure, hopefully, the 90-year observance will last beyond the year 2017 when the installation will celebrate a century of supporting the defense of the nation.

See **REVIEW**, page 2

Accident prompts boost in safety message

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG NEWS

Due to a fatal accident involving a former Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldier who was home on leave en route to an assignment in Korea over the Thanksgiving holiday, safety officials are reemphasizing the importance of thinking safety whether in uniform or out, on the job or off.

According to a Fatal Accident Review Board, the 19-year-old private had excelled while assigned to the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School as an Advanced Individual Training student. While assigned to APG he was awarded the Army Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Expert Marksmanship Badge.

The Soldier was home on leave when he made a fatal decision that cost him his life as well as the life of one passenger, according to Bob McNabb, U.S.



Army Ordnance Center and Schools' safety officer. "He was an interesting kid who was well on his way career-wise," McNabb said. "He received several awards while he was here and he was highly regarded by his peers, NCOs [noncommissioned officers] and commanders."

A series of poor decisions led up to the accident, and weather was not a factor, he added.

The Soldier's unit, battalion and brigade adhere to very stringent safety criteria and briefing require-

ments for holiday leaves and Soldiers departing for other duty stations, McNabb said. They included official holiday safety briefings for the Veterans Day weekend and another for the Thanksgiving holiday, just three days before the Soldier departed the installation. In addition, the Soldier had received a Driver Awareness Briefing.

Despite his command's best efforts, the accident occurred and leaders are concerned that Soldiers may not be getting the message.

McNabb said that because the accident was "completely preventable," there is an important lesson to be learned and that he'd like Soldiers to consider the circumstances and then ask themselves, "Could this have happened to me?"

The accident occurred in the early afternoon. The weather was clear and dry. The 19-year old Soldier was driving a 1991 sedan belonging to a friend.

See **SAFETY**, page 3

SFACs on track to be fully operational in January

Story by
THERESA ZAHACZEWSKY
Army News Service

Key personnel responsible for the establishment of the Army's new Soldier and Family Assistance Centers on Installation Management Command garrisons gathered the week of Dec. 3 to train for the new mission and to discuss the way ahead for SFAC implementation.

The three-day conference covered a diverse array of topics ranging from legal issues to post-traumatic stress disorder, to casualty and mortuary affairs to Social Security and health insurance. Attendees included the new SFAC directors and Army Community Service directors from the installations where SFACs reside.

Brig. Gen. John Macdonald, IMCOM's deputy commanding gen-

eral, told participants that, in standing up these SFACs on their installations, they will be taking a unique place in history.

"No one will have a greater impact on the culture of these SFACs than you - the people who are first on the ground, in setting up SFAC operations," Macdonald said. "We have the opportunity here to create a climate - a loving, warm, healthy, healing climate that makes our heroes, our wounded warriors, want to get better."

Earlier this year, the Army Medical Action Plan directed IMCOM to establish 29 SFACs located on installations in the continental United States that have military medical facilities and are home to Warriors in Transition Units. These WTUs and SFACs were established to provide critical support services to Soldiers who have sustained injuries

See **FAMILY**, page 8

CFC campaign exceeds goal by more than 110 percent

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG NEWS

After a week-long extension in an effort to meet the installation goal of \$425,000, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Combined Federal Campaign concluded Dec. 20 with a whopping \$449,066.66 in donations, exceeding the campaign goal by 112.27 percent.

The elated CFC staff members attributed the surge to the combined efforts of installation and tenant organization leaders and CFC keyworkers who "pulled together right at the end," according to Pete Leon Guerrero, the CFC chairman who said he emphasized "teamwork" throughout the campaign. "We feel everyone had an impact," Leon Guerrero said. "Everyone worked toward our objective which was to reach our goal and be a beacon of hope."

He thanked CFC staff members who included Nelder Smothers, his assistant from the Directorate of Installation Operations who will chair the 2008 campaign, and administrative assistant Nancy Sewell, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Additional thanks went to Cathey Starkey of the



Army Contracting Agency for sharing her story of how her family benefited from CFC donations and to Garrison commander Col. Jeffrey Weissman and Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez for emphasizing the importance of the campaign to garrison and tenant organizations.

Also, Leon Guerrero thanked the 2006 CFC chairperson Michael Graziano, Directorate of Information Management, for assisting the CFC staff with "helpful guidance."

"He's really devoted to the campaign, and he was behind the scenes assisting us all the way," Leon Guerrero said. "He really stepped up to the plate. The whole staff can be proud because they worked together as a team. We had a very positive result, and we set the tone for next year."

See **CFC**, page 10

Army creates new branch for logistics officers

Story by
C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

The Army plans to develop a new corps of multifunctional logisticians with creation of the new Logistics Branch.

Today, captains from transportation, quartermaster and ordnance branches must complete the Combined Logistics Captains Career Course or the Reserve-Component Captains Career Course. Beginning Jan. 1, all officers completing that coursework will gain a new primary military operational specialty, 90A, that indicates their competence in all three logistics areas, said Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, commanding general of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command.

"In the twenty first century, we need logistics officers who are mul-

tifunctional - officers not just focused on particular fields in logistics, but who are competent in all those fields," he said.

By joining the officers of the three logistics regiments into one branch, officers will expand and broaden their abilities to meet the needs of the modular Army, Stevenson said.

"No longer is it enough to be skilled in one particular area," he said. "We have got to be good across the board. And the more senior you get, the more we are going to focus you on enterprise organizations - where you are thinking not in terms of what is going on in your particular area or operation, but knowing how the entire supply chain works. You'll need to understand the effects of one part of the chain on another part of the chain."

See **LOGISTICS**, page 11

President names acting under secretary of Army

Army News Service

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren expressed his appreciation Dec. 4 for President Bush's intent to designate Nelson M. Ford to be the acting under secretary of the Army.

Ford concurrently will continue serving as the assistant secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, the position he held since October 2006. Previously he was principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Controls in the Office of ASA (FM&C) from 2005 to 2006.

From 2002 through 2004, he was deputy assistant secretary for Health Budgets and Financial Policy in the Department of Defense, where he was responsible for financial management, policy development and program evaluation for the Defense Health Program.

Prior to returning to Federal service, Ford held senior management positions in academic medicine, medical manufacturing and health insurance. From 1997 to 2000, he was president and CEO of Clinipad, a manufacturer of disposable medical products. During the 1990s, he was chief operating officer of Georgetown University Medical Center, with responsibility for Georgetown Hospital and financial oversight of faculty practice plans, research activities and the medical and nursing schools.

Earlier in his career, Ford was a partner with Coopers and Lybrand, providing strategic and financial consulting services to a wide range of healthcare clients. During the 1970s, he was the executive secretary of the Health Care Financing Administration and worked on health policy matters in the Office of Management and Budget. He has served on many not-for-profit boards and advisory committees.

Ford holds a bachelor's in history from Duke University, a master's in education from the University of Delaware and has completed additional professional training at the University of Pennsylvania.

The stories that shaped 2007

Salute honors former president



Jan. 11

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Howitzers from the 16th Ordnance Battalion salute battery, led by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Fitzalbert Gordon, officer in charge, and Staff Sgt. Akai Snorton, noncommissioned officer in charge, light up the sky during a 50-gun salute held in honor of the late President Gerald R. Ford who died Dec. 26 and was laid to rest in his home town of Grand Rapids, Michigan earlier in the day.

APG Police honor Police Officer of the Year



Jan. 18

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
2006 Police Officer of the Year Community Policing Officer Mike "Big Mike" Farlow, far left, is shown here helping 10 year-old classmates, from left, Stephanie Williams, Chevon Borden and Alexis McFarlane, with their workbook assignments during a D.A.R.E. class at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Youth Center.

Logo introduced for APG's 90th anniversary

USAG

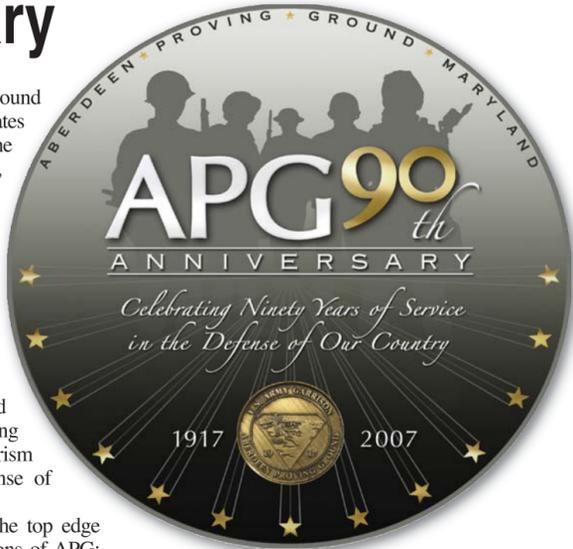
The Aberdeen Proving Ground 90th Anniversary logo celebrates nine decades of support for the nation, its citizens, Soldiers, the U.S. Army and the entire Department of Defense community.

- The five Soldiers silhouetted in the background reflect the Soldiers of 1917-2007, from left to right, World War II, Korea and Vietnam, World War I, Panama and Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and the contemporary Soldier serving in the Global War on Terrorism throughout the world in defense of freedom.

- The flanking stars along the top edge signify the three primary missions of APG: chemical defense, ordnance training and research, development, acquisition, testing and evaluation. Additionally, they represent the legacies of the former Fort Hoyle, Edgewood Arsenal, and Sandy Hook Proving Ground, N.J., which are executed today at APG.

- The U.S. Army Garrison APG coin is in the central position. The coin's logo was designed in celebration of APG's 75th Anniversary. The bald eagle soaring above the Chesapeake Bay symbolizes our national heritage and environmental stewardship.

- The 13 streaming stars lining the bottom edge reflect the 13 original colonies that joined together to form the United States; APG is juxtapose in the mid-Atlantic region, an area important during the formation of the United



States and the fight for freedom.

The logo is approved for use by all APG tenants on their letterhead and is available electronically from the garrison Directorate of Information Management Visual Information Services Division.

The banner featured at the top of this page will be used in future editions of APG News to indicate that the articles on a particular page are about the 90th Anniversary of APG.

(Editor's note: The logo was designed by Jim Bridges, Visual Information Systems Division, Multimedia, Directorate of Information Management, in collaboration with Ken Masoner, former APG 90th Anniversary Celebration chairman, and Col. John T. Wright.)

ATC annual awards recognize 56 employees



Jan. 25

Photo by ERIKA JORDAN, ATC
A Stryker Mobile Gun System fires its 105-mm cannon at ATC's Trench Warfare 1 Firing Pad. The Mobile Gun System Data Collection Team received the 2006 ADST Excellence in Data Collection Award at the ATC Annual Awards Ceremony.

Former APG leaders hold 90th Anniversary reception



Feb. 1

Photo by HEATHER TASSMER
Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, second from left, shakes hands with former employee Carrie Lawrence during the 90th anniversary reception at the Ordnance Museum Jan. 26. Looking on are RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Eloy Alcivar, far left, Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby.

Ordnance Soldier receives multiple awards



Feb. 8

Photo by SPC. FABYAN LOPEZ
Col. Bobby A. Towery, commander, 61st Ordnance Brigade, left, pins Bronze Star recipient, Sgt. 1st Class David Holmes, during a ceremony at the Ball Conference Center, Jan. 22. Holmes also received a Purple Heart and a Combat Action Badge during the ceremony.

Combat Lifesaver Course prepares Soldiers for battlefield life saving



Feb. 22

Photo courtesy of DSHE
Two Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldiers treat a "casualty" during Combat Lifesaver Course training at the Military Operations on Urban Terrain site as part of the new Combat Lifesaver Course which is administered jointly by the APG Fire and Emergency Services EMS Division and Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

APG News

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

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

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Preventing substance abuse on APG

Managing the keys to control during playoffs

APG ASAP Office

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program Office would like to remind everyone that the football play-off games are every bit as dangerous as Super Bowl Sunday. Pass the Keys to a sober, designated driver before the Play-off games begin.

There are five playoff dates prior to Super Bowl XLII on Feb. 3:

- Wild Card Playoffs - Jan. 5 and 6
- AFC & NFC Divisional Playoffs - Jan. 12 and 13
- Conference Championship Playoff - Jan. 20

Each of these game days is as dangerous as Super Bowl Sunday on the nation's roadways

due to impaired driving.

Fifty-one percent of all traffic fatalities during the playoff and Super Bowl weekends are due to impaired drivers with blood alcohol concentration levels of .08 and higher. But alcohol-related crashes—and fatalities—can be prevented. Designating a sober driver before the playoff games and Super Bowl party will make the difference and help save lives.

If hosting a playoff party:

- Remember, the host can be held liable and prosecuted if someone served ends up in an impaired driving crash.
- Make sure all of the guests designate their sober drivers in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers.

- Serve lots of food—and include lots of non-alcoholic beverages at the party.

- Stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game and begin serving coffee and dessert.

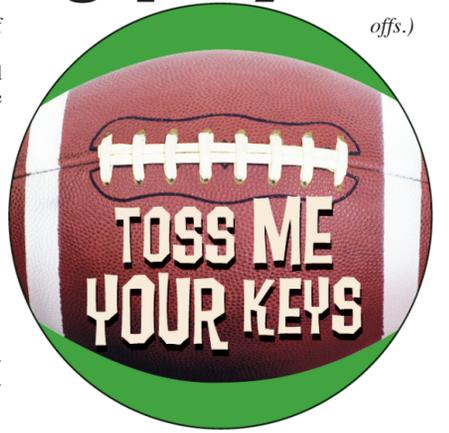
- Keep the numbers for local cab companies handy, and take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving while impaired.

For more information contact Cindy Scott, ASAP prevention coordinator, 410-278-DRUG or e-mail Cynthia.Scott1@apg.army.mil.

Pass Your Keys to a sober, designated driver before the play-off games begin.

(Editor's note: APG News will run similar articles with helpful hints to get through the play-

offs.)



20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) Soldiers promote safety on APG

Story by

JONI PLATT

U.S. Army 20th Support Command (CBRNE)

The hazards posed by unexploded ordnance are a concern around the world and the nation, but in few places does that threat touch home as it does at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

On average, explosives ordnance disposal technicians from the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and High Yield Explosives) respond to unexploded ordnance incidents 10 times a week nationwide, said Capt. Christopher P. Bartos, operations EOD officer, 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE).

Current and former military installations where live-fire training or testing of weapons or munitions takes place, such as on APG, are most likely to contain UXO.

The 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) of the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) provides the first response element to the site of reported UXO



Photos provided by SGT 1ST CLASS GARRICK L. HIPSKIND, 22D CHEM BN (TE) Five MK II hand grenades found on APG during UXO sweep of the installation.

on APG and to local communities throughout the area.

In November 2007 EOD technicians from the 22d Chem Bn (TE) responded to an incident involving two 155mm projectiles and eight MK II hand grenades found during UXO sweeps of the installation.

"The 22d Chem Bn (TE) and APG have an outstanding working relationship," said Sgt. 1st Class Garrick L. Hipskind, EOD operations NCO, 22d Chem Bn (TE). "When a UXO is found on the installation, the UXO is reported through the [911] system and the 22d Chem Bn (TE) EOD

team is notified. Once we're notified we dispatch an EOD team regardless of the time or day. We have a requirement to respond within thirty minutes during the duty day and one hour after duty hours."

Once the team arrives on site coordination is made with the fire department and post safety to conduct operations. The team's role is to identify and mitigate the hazard.

Since October 2007, the 22d Chem Bn (TE) has responded to 14 incidents on APG alone.

The Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange, or DENIX, makes it a point to help inform the public about the dangers of UXO and the best ways to protect against them.

UXO comes in many shapes and sizes. Some look new and others old and rusty. Some look like bullets or bombs while others resemble like pointed metal pipes, soda cans, small balls, or even an old car muffler.

Some UXO may be clearly visi-

ble, but most likely the UXO will be partially or completely buried in the ground, submerged in water, or hidden by high grass, bushes, sand or snow.

UXO may be easy or virtually impossible to recognize as a military munition. UXO may look like a bullet or bomb, or it may be in many pieces. After use and over time, as military munitions are exposed to weather conditions, the paint will wear off or fade.

According to DENIX, when encountering UXO, always follow the 3R's of explosive safety:

- Recognize the munition.
- Retreat from the munition. Do not touch or disturb it, but move carefully away, walking out the same path the area was entered.
- Report the munition and its location.

For more information on UXO safety, visit the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange's UXO Safety Education Program Web site www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety.

Independent AAFES testing leads to recall of four toys

AAFES

An aggressive supplemental testing program of the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Quality Assurance department is working.

As a supplement to the command's normal testing for safety and performance, AAFES has been routinely and randomly sending toys to independent labs for supplemental lead testing. These additional tests have revealed problems with the following four "Soldier Bear" toys:

- Wooden Pull-Along Learning Blocks Wagon (alphabet blocks in a wooden wagon), UPC 6320 834162002158

- Time Teacher (magnetic shapes and clock in pull cart), UPC 6231 834162002646

- Wooden Riding Horse, UPC 6349 834162003698

- Vehicle Playset (blue military vehicle with action figures), UPC 1007 4895130810072

Consumers should immediately take these

recalled toys away from children and return them to the nearest AAFES store for a full refund.

"After being notified of elevated levels of lead by our contracted lab partners, AAFES immediately pulled the products from BX/PX shelves and contacted the Consumer Product Safety Commission," said AAFES' Director of Quality Assurance Tom Rebman. "Today, CPSC and AAFES are voluntarily recalling

about 11,400 toys."

Manufactured by First Learning Company Ltd. and Toy World Group Co. Ltd, both of Hong Kong, the affected wooden and plastic toys were sold under the "Soldier Bear" logo in AAFES stores worldwide from August 2006 through October 2007.

Consumers with questions regarding this recall can contact AAFES at 800-866-3605 or visit www.AAFES.com.

Safety

From front page

There were two passengers in the car, ages 19 and 16. The Soldier was in possession of a learner's permit, not a driver's license. In the state in which the accident occurred, the law requires that there must be a 21 year-old licensed driver in the front seat of the vehicle with a driver in possession of a learner's permit. Furthermore, none of the vehicle's occupants were wearing seatbelts, which also is a state requirement.

In an area with a posted speed limit of 55 mph, the car was estimated to have been traveling approximately 70 to 80 mph at the time of the accident. While trying to negotiate a sharp curve in the road, the Soldier lost control of the vehicle and traveled off the west shoulder of the road. He continued traveling north in a ditch for 224 feet and 11 inches until the car struck a utility pole on the rear door of the driver's

side of the vehicle. After striking the pole, the vehicle flipped and struck the top of vehicle against the pole. The vehicle then rotated around to the north side of the pole, coming to rest on the driver's side facing west. One passenger was ejected and called 911. Medical personnel arrived on the scene about 11 minutes later. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene as was the 16 year-old rear seat passenger. The front seat, 19 year-old passenger survived and was transported to a nearby hospital with non-life threatening injuries and was released the same day. Responding state troopers stated that no skid marks were found.

The victims tested negative for alcohol and drugs.

The tires on the car were noted by the state trooper to be "worn." Contributing factors were excessive speed, worn tires and the inexperience of the driver, along with the learner's permit violation and the failure by all occupants to wear seatbelts. The reasons for the accident appeared to be

"poor judgment" and "lack of experience."

McNabb said that Army leadership is concerned about each and every Soldier. Leadership provides safety briefings to all its members, experienced and inexperienced.

"We give them the necessary tools to go out and do the right thing," he said. "With these tools we can only hope that they make sound risk decisions."

In response, the command is increasing efforts to impress upon Soldiers that "this can happen to you," he said.

New safety programs or initiatives instituted since the accident include:

- Brief the accident and reinforce the reason for seatbelt use and possible consequences of non-use;

- Post the one-hour Drivers Training video on eOrdnanceU;

- Incorporate Introductory Training Course I into in-processing and out-processing at battalion level;

- Utilize Safe Driver's Contract requiring privately

owned vehicle inspection to be attached to Soldier's [DA 31] leave form;

- Establish OC&S Safety Policy letter formalizing training requirements;

- Print 'Lessons Learned' article in the APG News;

- Present Introductory Training Course I as a continuous loop on DFAC television;

- Establish squad leader mentorship program for high risk activities and identify high risk Soldiers.

The leader mentorship program is the initiative of the 61st Ordnance Brigade command sergeant major McNabb said, adding that high risk applies to more than just driving.

"If you have a Soldier that you know who participates in high-risk activities, you want to sit that Soldier down for a one-on-one safety discussion," he said. "This sends the message that the leader is interested in what you're doing and cares enough to make sure you're aware of the risks as well as how to avoid accidents."

He said that risk management can be as simple as asking yourself, "What if?"

Soldiers should learn from this and like incidents, become more diligent in preventive measures and ask themselves "What if" they had not taken those measures.

"When you complete a visual inspection on your car

before a trip and find a lug is loose, ask yourself, "What could have happened to me and my loved ones if I hadn't taken the time to inspect my vehicle?" he said.

"Ask yourself, "What would happen if I push myself while driving? What if I fell asleep while driving? What could happen if I don't wear a seat belt or demand my passengers to do so? Take measures to prevent that from happening," he said. "Because if you don't take the little time it takes to make risk assessments, and you don't ask yourself "What if?" after you have made that assessment, then ask yourself this: "Could this happen to me?"

The stories that shaped 2007

22nd Chemical Battalion NCO becomes Sgt. Audie Murphy Club's newest member



Feb. 22

Photo by AMBER SOWARDS, RDECOM DATA IMAGING
Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, places the Sgt. Audie Murphy medallion around Staff Sgt. Crystal Triplett's neck during a Sgt. Audie Murphy Club induction ceremony at the APG Conference Center Feb. 12.

Local NCO re-ups in Afghanistan



Mar. 8

Courtesy of MASTER SGT. WARREN PRESTON
Maryland Army National Guard Master Sgt. Warren E. Preston stands next to an AH-64A Apache helicopter on the Quick Reaction Force ramp at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, as he takes the Oath of Enlistment from Capt. Steve Sherrill Jan. 26.

APG chaplains hold national prayer luncheon



Mar. 1

Photo by HEATHER TASSMER
From left, Pvt. Carlos Carela, 16th Ordnance Battalion, left, and Pvt. Israel Galvan, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, right, bow their heads during the National Prayer Luncheon Feb. 8 at Top of the Bay.

OC&S celebrates 34th Annual Wilbert Davis Gospel Night



Mar. 8

Photo by ANDRICKA THOMAS
From left, dancers with the Praise In Motion Dance Ministry Takara Taylor, Taleya Taylor and Bricana Lewis, perform at the 34th Annual Wilbert Davis Gospel Night at the Post Theatre Feb. 25.

New company activates



Mar. 8

Photo by JONI PLATT, 20TH SUPPORT COMMAND (CBRNE)
Maj. Wayne Hale, 22d Chemical Battalion (TE), unfurls the colors of the newly activated Company B he commands assisted by Lt. Col. Patrick Terrell, commander, and 1st Sgt. Robert Mollohan, both of the 22d Chemical Battalion (TE).

Army Environmental Command team supports literacy



Mar. 22

Photo by DEBORAH ELLIOTT, USAEC
AEC employee Matt Andrews reads to Edgewood Elementary School second graders Eddie Fitzgerald Jr., Razell Fogle and Marvin Crews during the school's Read Across America Day activities.

Subway holds grand opening



Mar. 15

Photo by HEATHER TASSMER
From left, Leo Bitner, general manager for Fort Meade Consolidated Exchange; Ray Burrows, president of Burrows Management; Harry Middlebrooks, Subway franchisee; John T. Shiroky, business services manager of Fort Meade Consolidated Exchange; Col. John T. Wright, APG garrison and deputy installation commander; Joseph Craten, APG deputy to the garrison commander; and APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby cut the ribbon to the new Subway Restaurant during its grand opening at ceremony at the APG North Shoppette March 9.

School holds Career Day



Mar. 22

Photo by JONI PLATT, 20TH SUPPORT COMMAND (CBRNE)
Capt. Chris Kelly, 20th Support Command (CBRNE), helps a student at C. Milton Wright High School with equipment during Career Day Feb. 20.

Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility closes



Mar. 22

Photo by CONRAD JOHNSON, RDECOM
Shears demolish the ABCDF plant which closed its doors for good March 12.

Practice makes perfect APG firefighters rescue dog from ice



Mar. 29

Photo by DAN TOMPKINS, APG FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
Firefighters Scott Dickson, left, and Brian Cully, right, retrieve Max, a 1-year-old Akita, from Canal Creek Feb. 11, after he fell through the ice.

Commentary: Enforcing pest management on APG

Story by **ABDUL SHEIKH**
Directorate of Installation Operation

The holiday season ushers in many things we love; time with Family and turkey and stuffing dinners, decorated trees and gift giving, much needed time off and possibly that winter vacation to warmer climate.

It also is a time of year when our favorite critters want to get into warmer climates. If they can find ways to enter facilities they will. And that means other animals that call Aberdeen Proving Ground home like mice, foxes, raccoons and skunks.

Mating season for these animals occurs this time of year and that may add to the problems.

Which animal follows man everywhere without being discovered?

Which animal has such a stealthy lifestyle that makes watching or meeting it in the wild almost impossible?

Which animal is the most popular and yet still a mystery?

Which animal is admired for all its charm, slyness and beauty?

It's the fox!

Foxes are interesting because they seem to have characteristics of both dogs and cats. Some of their cat-like characteristics include: vertical slit eyes, partially retractable claws, light body weight, and a stalking and pouncing style of hunting. Foxes are even good tree climbers, especially the gray fox.

Foxes live on large territories, which they mark by scent -- urine or musk from several glands on their body. In a town, foxes can also occupy a smaller territory or even accept other foxes in their territory. Foxes may share their territories with wolves and eagles; they sometimes even follow wolves to catch leftovers from their prey. Coyotes however are avoided by foxes. Wolves, coyotes, lynx and eagles are natural enemies and may kill him when they find him -- to save their own territories. The eagle even kills foxes for food.

During December and January, females, or vixens, leave scent marks that tell the male, or dog fox she is out looking. Once a fox has discovered the message, he will follow the marks until he finds her. Unfortunately, during this courtship period, and the two month dispersal period just preceding it, is when most foxes are killed -- mostly by cars. It is also during this early winter period foxes are hunted because their fur is at its fullest. The courtship between the dog fox and the vixen is very short,

because the vixen is only fertile for about a one week period each year.

Gestation is about 60 days for the red fox. Litter sizes are normally one to six. The dog fox helps the vixen raise the cubs during the first two months. For the first month or so, the vixen depends entirely on the dog fox to bring her food. After about three months, the dog fox will go back to its solitary lifestyle, but he will try to find the same vixen again when the mating season comes back.

September brought the Directorate of Installation Operations' Pest Management Shop not only the end of a new fiscal year but an unwanted visitor in building 321. A fox had fallen through the suspended ceiling into the office area below. Stan Futch, APG Pest Controller, responded to the call and removed the animal.

Little did we know that simply removing the animal would not solve the problem, after all, never before had anyone reported a fox in the drop ceiling.

A few weeks later, the building residents reported hearing something moving about in the ceiling tiles. Upon inspection a few things were discovered: When the tile was lifted to get a good look into the ceiling, another pair of beady little eyes was staring back at Futch from a distance away. Quickly, the fox disappeared behind the wiring and ductwork.

To complicate things, the insulation ranged in thickness from 6 inches to a few feet due to installers stacking rolls on top of each other. This provided a cushion and muffling of sound for any animal walking around. The design of the ceiling area is such that access is difficult at best and the building, being the former commissary years ago, had numerous leftover items not removed during renovation.

Assisting the pest controller, Sunnie Hawkins, LB&B contractor, began the building assessment to identify a point of entry. Upon first look one was not readily obvious. Enlisting support from DPW, and the Army Research Laboratory, in looking at the building, the roof, the foundation, under the facility (we found tunnels leading from one building to the next, but that's a different story!), everyone involved was stumped. Sunnie suggested purchasing motion-sensitive cameras, installing them in several locations in the ceiling and identifying the path of entry that way. The cameras were put in place on Thursday and by Monday we had a clear idea of how the fox was entering and



Photo courtesy of CLIP ART

exiting the building.

From there it was just a matter of making sure the ceiling was animal free and sealing up the hole he was getting into. While this is a most unusual case, you should know some facts about the common critters on post. The most common is assuming an animal, specifically a fox or raccoon, is rabid.

Raccoons, skunks, foxes and coyotes are terrestrial animals most often infected with rabies in the United States. According to Bill Armstrong, APG game warden, "no confirmed cases of rabies have been identified on post this year, however we have had confirmed instances of rabid animals here in the past."

All bites by such wildlife must be considered a possible exposure to the rabies virus. Signs of rabies among wildlife cannot be interpreted reliably; therefore, any such animal that exposes a person should be euthanized as soon as possible (without unnecessary damage to the head) and the brain should be submitted for rabies testing. If the results of testing are negative, the saliva can be assumed to contain no virus, and the person exposed does not require additional treatment.

What should you do if you are exposed? Rabies is a medical urgency not an emergency, but decisions must not be delayed. Any wounds should be immediately washed and medical attention from a health care professional should be sought for any trauma due to an animal attack before considering the need for rabies vaccination.

The need for rabies vaccination should be evaluated under the advise-

ment of your physician and/or a state or local health department official.

Decisions to start vaccination, known as post exposure prophylaxis (PEP), will be based on your type of exposure, the animal you were exposed to, as well as laboratory and surveillance information for the area where the exposure occurred.

The Center for Disease Control reports that any mammal can be infected with rabies.

In Maryland, foxes and skunks usually each comprise 5 percent of the confirmed rabies cases. Raccoons make up 85 percent of the confirmed rabies cases in Maryland. Once an animal is infected, the disease is fatal. Animals usually die within 10 days once the signs of rabies are evident. It is important to avoid physical contact with wild animals and immediately report any animal bites to your local health department.

The most common diseases seen in animals on APG are mange and distemper.

Distemper is a common virus, similar to measles, affecting pets and treated with a vaccination. Symptoms are goopy eye and nose discharge, fever (which often comes and goes unnoticed), poor appetite, coughing and the development of pneumonia. Often an animal will seem disoriented and walk with a staggering gait. These animals may have distemper.

Parasitic mites cause mange. Pets, wild animals and birds that live around people can carry around their own complement of parasitic mites. Some animals are obviously adversely affected by these mite infestations

squirrels, coyotes and other animals sometimes get patchy coats of fur from mange mite infestations.

When people say, "that mangy dog!" they are referring to its appearance and matted and patchy fur.

What should be done to minimize exposure to any of the diseases carried by animals?

Avoid direct contact with unfamiliar animals:

- Enjoy wild animals (raccoons, skunks, foxes) from afar. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home. Do not try to nurse sick animals to health. Call animal control or an animal rescue agency for assistance.
- Teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly. "Love your own, leave other animals alone" is a good principle for children to learn.
- When traveling abroad, avoid direct contact with wild animals and be especially careful around dogs in developing countries. Rabies is common in developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America where dogs are the major reservoir of rabies. Tens of thousands of people die of rabies each year in these countries.
- Before traveling abroad, consult with a health care provider, travel clinic, or your health department about the risk of exposure to rabies, preexposure prophylaxis, and how you should handle an exposure, should it arise.

The stories that shaped 2007

20th Support Command (CBRNE) Chemical Soldiers win NCO/Soldier of the Year



Staff Sgt. Norman Maniscalco and Pfc. Eric Wieland of the 110th Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort, Fort Lewis, Wash., win NCO and Soldier of the Year honors during a selection board at the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) in March.

April 5

Photos courtesy of 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE)

Former OC&S general inducted into Aberdeen High School Hall of Fame



Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, commanding general of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee, Va., (left), and Megan Smith, an Aberdeen High School senior, sit onstage next to a portrait of Stevenson during the 2007 Aberdeen High School Hall of Fame induction ceremony. A former commander of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools and 1970 Aberdeen High School graduate, Stevenson was one of three to be inducted into the hall for his contributions to the Aberdeen community.

April 12

Photo by ANDRICKA THOMAS, OC&S

D.A.R.E. program graduates 90 students



Rebecca Jackson, 9, 4th grader, high fives D.A.R.E. mascot Daren on her way to receiving her D.A.R.E. certificate from Angie Chronister, School Age Services middle school lead, during the D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony at Top of the Bay April 12.

April 26

Photo by NORMA WARWICK, APG SOUTH YOUTH SERVICES

Marines, JPED dominate MWR deadlift competition



Dwilette Wilkes of the Joint Personal Effects Depot, deadlifts 300 pounds on her way to winning the women's 165-pound division and best overall female lifter during the intramural deadlift competition at the Aberdeen Athletic Center April 21.

May 10

Photo by DONNA COYNE, MWR

Legally Speaking

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/Staff_Judge/index.html

New recordkeeping requirements for charitable cash contributions

By **SANDI WILLIAMS**
OSJA

A charitable contribution is a donation or gift to, or for the use of, a qualified organization. It is voluntary and it is made without getting, or expecting to get, anything of value.

Do you make cash contributions to your favorite charity or throw money in the offerings basket at your place of worship? Do you perform annual "spring or fall cleanups" throughout your home or garage and then donate the items to a local charity? If so, your contributions can be tax deductible, but only if you maintain the proper records to support your deduction. Due to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, the rules on record-keeping for charitable contributions became a little more strict beginning in January 2007.

You cannot deduct a cash con-

tribution, regardless of the amount, unless you keep as a record of the contribution a bank record (such as a canceled check, a bank copy of a canceled check, or a bank statement containing the name of the charity, the date, and the amount) or a written communication from the charity. The written communication must include the name of the charity, date of the contribution, and amount of the contribution.

Under the previous rules, records such as personal bank registers, diaries or notes made around the time of the donation were often acceptable as evidence of cash donations. Personal records like this are no longer sufficient.

Here are some tips to help you deduct your charitable contributions on your 2007 federal tax return.

- Charitable contributions are deductible only if you itemize deduc-

tions using Form 1040.

- Contributions must be made to a qualified organization. You can ask any organization whether it is a qualified organization, and most will be able to tell you. You can also check IRS Publication 78, which lists most qualified organizations, or call the IRS at 1-877-829-5500.

- To deduct charitable contributions of noncash items valued at \$250 or more you must have a written acknowledgment from the qualified organization.

- Used clothing and household items such as furniture, linens and appliances must be in good condition. You must include with your return a qualified appraisal of any single item of clothing or any household item that is not in good used condition or better and for which you deduct more than \$500.

- To deduct charitable contribu-

tions of items valued at \$500 or more, you must complete IRS Form 8283, Noncash Charitable Contributions, and attach the form to your return.

- If you donate a car or a boat to a charitable organization, its fair market value (FMV) must be determined. Vehicle donations are subject to special rules.

There is no single formula, rule or method that always applies when determining the value of property. You must consider all the facts and circumstances connected with the property, such as its desirability, use, and scarcity. The price that buyers of used items actually pay in used clothing stores, such as consignment or thrift shops, is an indication of the value. Used household items, clothing and other personal items are usually worth far less than the price you paid for them. A good resource is IRS Publication 561, Determining

Value of Donated Property.

You can deduct "out-of-pocket expenses" if you do volunteer work for a qualified organization. However, you cannot deduct the value of your services or time. You can deduct the costs of gas and oil that are directly related to getting to and from the place where you are a volunteer. If you do not want to figure your actual costs, you can deduct 14 cents for each mile. You can also deduct the cost of buying and cleaning your uniforms that are not suitable for everyday use and that you must wear while performing donated services for a charitable organization.

For more information, refer to IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions, found on the IRS.gov web site, or call the Client Services Division, 410-278-1583, or visit Client Services Division on the third floor, building 4305.

Certain payments to disabled veterans ruled 'tax-free'

IRS

Payments under the Department of Veterans Affairs Compensated Work Therapy program are no longer taxable and disabled veterans who paid tax on these benefits in the past three years can now claim refunds, the Internal Revenue Service announced Dec. 12.

Recipients of CWT payments will no longer receive a Form 1099 from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Disabled veterans who paid tax on these benefits in tax-years 2004, 2005 or 2006 can claim a refund by filing an amended return using IRS Form 1040X. According to the VA, more than 19,000 veterans received CWT in fiscal

year 2007.

The IRS agreed with a U.S. Tax Court decision issued earlier this year, which held that CWT payments are tax-free veterans' benefits. In so doing, the agency reversed a 1965 ruling which held that these payments were taxable and required the VA to issue 1099 forms to payment recipients.

According to the VA, the CWT program provides assistance to veterans unable to work and support themselves. Under the program, the VA contracts with private industry and the public sector for work by veterans, who learn new job skills, re-learn successful work habits and regain a sense of self-esteem and self-worth.

IRS works to quickly, accurately implement AMT patch

IRS

The Internal Revenue Service announced Dec. 20 it will immediately begin the final reprogramming steps for its income-tax processing systems to prepare for the upcoming tax season following final passage of the Alternative Minimum Tax "patch" Dec. 19 by the House.

"Our people will do everything they can to quickly update our systems for this major change and make this filing season as smooth as possible for everyone," said Linda Stiff, IRS acting commissioner. "Our goal is to process tax returns accurately and to issue refunds to taxpayers as quickly as possible."

The AMT and AMT-related tax calcula-

tions affect a number of core IRS processing systems that will need to be updated. The IRS is continuing to aggressively explore options for the 2008 filing season in order to minimize the impact of processing delays on taxpayers. Additional details will be available to the public as soon as plans are finalized.

To help the tax professional and software communities prepare for the upcoming filing season, revised copies of the 12 tax forms impacted by the AMT legislation will be posted to IRS.gov within 72 hours after the AMT patch is signed into law.

As more details on the AMT situation develop, the IRS encourages taxpayers to visit IRS.gov for more information.

Procedure unveiled for reporting violations of the tax law, making reward claims

IRS

The Internal Revenue Service outlined Dec. 20 ways informants can report violations of the tax law and possibly claim a reward based on the amount of additional tax, penalties and interest that is owed.

"Since Congress enacted new procedures increasing award amounts last year, informants have come forward

with information on alleged tax noncompliance amounting to tens of millions of dollars, and in some cases hundreds of millions of dollars," said Stephen Whitlock, director of the Whistleblower Office.

Since the Whistleblower Office was created in December 2006, the IRS has received about 80 claims, half of those submitted in just the last two

and a half months.

To make a claim, an informant must file new Form 211, Application for Award for Original Information, which asks informants to provide an estimate of the tax owed, the pertinent facts in the case and an explanation of how the informant obtained the information.

The IRS' Whistleblow-

er Office will make the final determination about whether an award will be paid and the amount of the award for claims that it processes. Awards will be paid in proportion to the value of information furnished voluntarily with respect to proceeds collected.

Under the new procedures, the amount of award will be at least 15 percent, but no more

than 30 percent, of the collected proceeds in cases in which the IRS determines that the information submitted by the informant substantially contributed to the collection of tax. The award percentage may be reduced in some circumstances, which are described in IRS guidance.

To be eligible for an award under the new procedures,

the tax, penalties, interest, additions to tax, and additional amounts in dispute must exceed \$2 million for any taxable year and, if the taxpayer is an individual, the individual's gross income must exceed \$200,000 for any taxable year in question.

All awards will be subject to normal tax reporting and withholding requirements.

The stories that shaped 2007

APG firefighters mentor Challenge cadets



May 31

Photo by TOM STANFORD, DSHE
Freestate Challenge Academy cadet Keith Bryant, right, looks on as Aberdeen Proving Ground firefighter Ernie Little demonstrates putting out a fire with a fire extinguisher during the academy's job shadowing program at APG May 8.

APG helps county dedicate memorial to war dead



June 7

Photo by MATT BUTTON, THE AEGIS
Sgt. Maj. Michael Striffolino, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, touches the military branch emblems on the Harford County Public Schools Student Memorial after its dedication ceremony in Bel Air May 24.

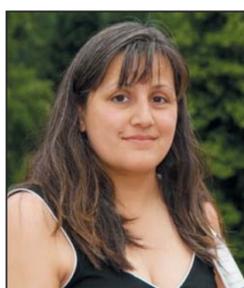
APG police join local law enforcement agencies in Special Olympics torch run



June 14

Photo by HEATHER TASSMER
Members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground police run along Route 40 with local law enforcement agencies during the Maryland Special Olympics Torch Run June 5.

APG names its 2006 volunteers of the year



May 31

Photo by APG PHOTO LAB
APG's top volunteers are named during the annual Volunteer Recognition ceremony at Top of the Bay May 16. The honorees are Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Valadez, Military Volunteer of the Year; Elisa A. Paolucci, Family Member Volunteer of the Year; Luis Felipe Fernandez, Civilian Volunteer of the Year; Diana Stanley, Youth Volunteer of the Year; and Barry Decker, Retiree Volunteer of the Year (not pictured).

AAFES NEWS

AAFES custom fits future facilities

AAFES Catering to shoppers known for their consistency, it stands to reason that the military's oldest and largest exchange service, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, would embrace standardization of its stores' design and layout.

Unfortunately, unique constraints at each Army and Air Force installation AAFES serves has made uniform designs difficult to implement for much of the command's 112-year history. Realizing that a mobile customer base that is often asked to

move every few years would welcome consistent floor plans, AAFES has been engaged in an aggressive "prototype" effort that is bringing much needed uniformity to global BX/PX operations.

Nearly five years in the making, hundreds of authorized exchange customers were contacted to develop AAFES prototype models based on military shoppers' unique needs. Certain shopping center design features rated as highly important included larger stores/malls that have all categories of merchandise and services.

Authorized shoppers also stressed that exchanges need to be neat and clean, well organized and well lit.

These surveys and various benchmarking studies resulted in the creation of seven prototypes ranging from 70,000 to 320,000 sq. ft. in size. "Various sizes will help AAFES meet the needs of every installation," said AAFES' Senior Vice President of Real Estate Dan Metsala. "While the dimensions will vary due to demographics and space, amenities such as warm neutral colors, high-vaulted ceilings and wider mall widths will

remain constant."

Featuring a consistent food court, concession mall and main store area layout, AAFES prototypes will provide familiar exchange floor plans to military Families whether they are stationed at Holloman AFB, New Mexico or in Grafenwoehr, Germany. While the core designs will be similar, Metsala says the exchange is not taking a "one size fits all" approach.

"The prototype modules have a sixty-five percent design package," Metsala said. "The remaining thirty-five percent of the design can be

adapted to each specific location."

AAFES' first prototype officially opened to rave reviews at Holloman AFB in July, 2006. Since then, prototypes at Los Angeles AFB, Peterson AFB, Stuttgart and Grafenwoehr, Germany, have opened.

Construction of prototypes is ongoing for a 223,000 sq. ft. PX in Fort Benning, Ga., a 165,000 sq. ft. BX at Offutt AFB and a 120,000 sq. ft. PX at Fort Riley, Kan. Future AAFES prototype projects include new exchanges at Little Rock AFB, Randolph AFB and Fort Polk, La.

The stories that shaped 2007

Star unveils APG inspired cake



From left, U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody; Lt. Col. Burl Randolph, commanding officer, Baltimore Recruiting Battalion; Baltimore Orioles pitcher Jamie Walker and Orioles' general manager Mike Flanagan look on as the star of Food Network's "Ace of Cakes" Duff Goldman ignites his latest creation, a cake replica of an M1A2 Abrams Tank, in honor of the Army's 232nd Birthday. The celebration was held during pre-game festivities at Camden Yards June 14. Goldman created the cake after touring Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum June 11.

Robinson assumes command of APG, RDECOM



From left, Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, former commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command and Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., salute the colors during the change of command ceremony installing Robinson as the new APG and RDECOM commander at Fanshew Field June 19.

Leadership of APG Garrison changes hands



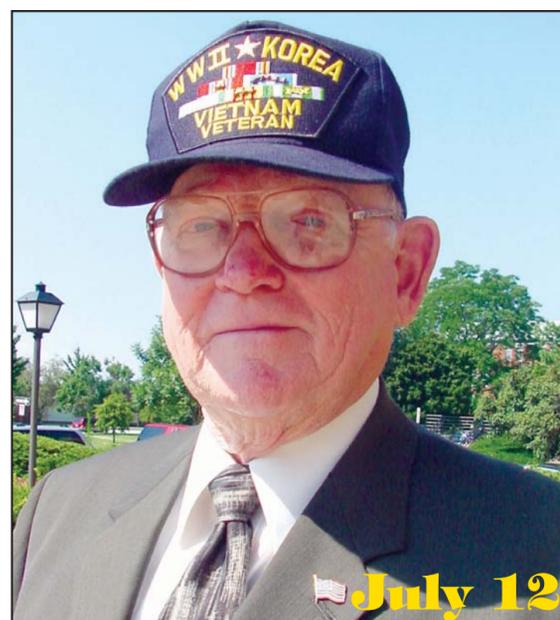
Diane Devens, director of the Installation Management Command - Northeast Region, left, passes the Garrison colors to incoming Garrison and deputy installation commander, Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, during his change of command ceremony at Fanshew Field July 12.

20th Support Command celebrates Army birthday



Col. Barry Lowe, chief of staff, 20th Support Command (CBRNE), and Spc. Beth Roussell, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, cut the cake to kick off the Army birthday activities during the organization's celebration at the headquarters building June 14.

APG mainstay Charles Shadle dies at 85



Retired Col. Charles McCall Shadle, a fixture in the Aberdeen Proving Ground military retiree and boating communities died June 29 at St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson. Services were held July 2 and internment was in the Bel Air Memorial Gardens. Shadle was 85.

143rd Ordnance Battalion welcomes new commander



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

APG nurse killed in Iraq remembered at memorial service



A fallen Soldier memorial, consisting of boots, a helmet, a mock M-16 and dog tags, stands in the Aberdeen Proving Ground chapel, July 18, for Capt. Maria I. Ortiz, a former Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic nurse who was killed in Iraq July 10. Ortiz was the first nurse to die in a combat zone since the Vietnam War.



MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

SCHOOL LIAISON

LIONS Homeschool Co-op meetings

The LIONS Homeschool Co-op needs students in grades one through 12 to participate in art and other classes. The LIONS Homeschool Co-op meets 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., every Wednesday at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center and welcomes all government ID card holders. Parents can pick and choose the classes that meets their children's or family's needs. The Co-op offers support for the families who are just beginning homeschooling or for the veteran homeschooler. Check out the LIONS Homeschool Co-op.

For more information, call Chel Shupp, 443-655-0271 or E-mail ccttshupp@comcast.net.

Parent notification of school delay/cancellation due to weather

Harford County Public Schools will notify all parents of a school delay/cancellation due to snow or hazardous weather using the Alert Now System (automated phone messaging.)

All parents will receive phone calls at 5:45 a.m. on the morning of the school delay or cancellation. Please be sure that the schools have up-to-date phone numbers.

Traditional media outlets (TV, radio) will remain in effect as well.

If using the Internet, visit www.schools-out.com to get emergency information or other important school system information.

Families can also arrange to have emergency information sent directly to their e-mail addresses for a small fee.

Open house at St. Joan of Arc school

Join St. Joan of Arc School for its open house 9 to 11 a.m., Jan. 25. Prospective parents and students can see first-hand all of the wonderful things happening at St. Joan of Arc School in Aberdeen.

For more information, call the school office, 410-272-1387.

Fifth Annual College Night Feb. 19

The Fifth Annual College Night will be held 6 to 8 p.m., Feb. 19, at C. Milton Wright High School, located on 1301 N. Fountain Green Road, Bel Air. Snow date is Feb. 20. College Night is free to all Harford County public school students and parents.

For more information, call 410-638-4110.

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

ACS upcoming events

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

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.

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

For more information, call 410-278-9669.

The Waiting Families Support Group is scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays, at ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road. This group is designed to provide resource infor-

mation 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.

MWR hosts 'Losers ARE Winners' weight loss competition

A new weight loss competition will start Jan. 14 and end 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.

Registration will begin Jan. 14 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 Pettway, 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.

Body Worlds 2 Exhibit

MWR Leisure Travel Services offers tickets to The Body Worlds 2 Exhibit at the Maryland Science Center, from Feb. 2 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.

Scrapbooking Crop

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a Scrapbooking Crop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 26, at Top of the Bay.

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

Cost is \$22 per person and includes lunch, door prizes and welcome gifts for everyone. Vendors will have items for all scrapbooking needs; optional classes will be offered; and a massage therapist will be available for an optional massage. This will be a stress-free day for all with plenty of pampering.

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

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 Lei-

sure Travel Services, Aberdeen 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:

- "Cirque Dreams," 2 p.m., Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, 2008
- "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; enter the special password: 105MWRAPGMD and follow the instructions on the ordering page.

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

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

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 personnel, Family members, Reservists, National Guard, DoD civilians, retirees and DoD contractors working at APG. Children under the

age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult regardless of the movie rating.

- Jan. 5, 7 p.m., 30 Days of Night (Rated R)
- Jan. 6, 2 p.m., No Reservations (Rated PG)

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

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Week of Jan. 7

Special #1: Chicken salad sub with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$7.35.

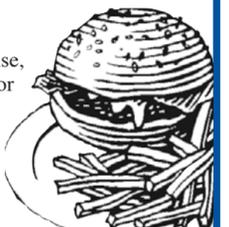
Special #2: Chicken tender sub, with mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, cheddar cheese, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$5.95.

Week of Jan. 14

Special #1: Grand Daddy Burger with bacon, cheese, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips, one cookie and soda for \$7.85.

Special #2: Grilled cheese with the soup of the day, one cookie and soda for \$4.25.

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



Family

From page 8

or combat wounds while serving in defense of the nation.

Europe will also serve a widely-dispersed population of warriors in transition through garrison assets, officials said, operating under guid-

ance from three SFAC directors at critical sites.

SFACs are a holistic approach to the needs of wounded warriors and their Families, officials said, because they consolidate the most frequently-needed services in one location to reduce the time required to access programs aimed at helping Soldiers heal. Those services include providing information and referral services to Soldiers and their Families; tran-

sition and employment assistance; social services; legal assistance; military personnel services; pastoral care; education services; invitation travel claims for Families; and numerous others.

"The SFAC will not be a place where broken people come for help," Brig. Gen. MacDonald said. "It will be a place where strong, brave, proud men and women come to rebuild and reclaim their lives. We will give them

our sensitivity, not our pity. We will be partners in their progress, not their deterioration."

Installations are currently building or renovating structures that will become the SFAC hubs. The facilities, often referred to as campuses, are intended to provide a positive and user-friendly environment where officials said warriors in transition and their Families can devote all their energies to the mission of heal-

ing and transitioning - either back to their units or to new lives as productive citizens. Most of the SFACs report being on track to operate fully by January and IMCOM officials said any with challenges will get help as the command monitors and enables the process.

(Editor's note: Theresa Zahaczewsky serves with the Installation Management Command Public Affairs Office.)

The stories that shaped 2007

Bald eagles dropped from endangered list



July 26

Photo by JOE ONDEK, ATSS/ATC
Silhouetted by the setting sun, an Aberdeen Proving Ground bald eagle rests on a tree limb while watching another bird in flight.

OC&S honors three retiring 'Warriors'



Aug. 9

Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO LAB
Soldiers forming the color guard and flag detail retire the flag during a Retreat Ceremony honoring U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools retirees Col. Francis P. Merritt, Sgt. Maj. David E. Crump and Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Striffolino at Ordnance Circle July 26.

Harford native helping round up insurgents in Iraq



Aug. 16

Photo courtesy of MAJ JOE SOWERS, 3RD HBCT
Aberdeen native, 2nd Lt. John Lorme of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team scans nearby buildings for a suspected sniper while on patrol east of Baghdad Aug. 1. At the time the photograph was taken, Lorme was actively involved in efforts to eliminate insurgent and al-Qaida-related activities in the region.

The stories that shaped 2007

OC&S remembers 9-11 on sixth anniversary of attacks



Sept. 20

Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO STUDIO
From left, Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Eubanks and Col. Bobby Towery, commander of the 61st Ordnance Brigade, salute the "Fallen Soldier Memorial" during the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools 9-11 Memorial and Retreat Ceremony on Ordnance Circle Sept. 11.

BOSS members visit, speak with Armed Forces Retirement Home veterans



Sept. 6

Photo by HEATHER TASSMER
Sgt. Eugenia Richards, president of APG's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program, chats with veteran Earl Sherman during a visit to the Armed Forces Retirement Home Aug. 15.

ECBC named Army's Laboratory of the Year for 2007



Sept. 27

Photo courtesy of ECBC
A scientist examines material under a microscope in the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's Biological Safety Level 3 laboratory which was named Laboratory of the Year for 2007 by the Army Laboratory Assessment Panel.

Tanks removed for construction



Oct. 10

Photo by HEATHER TASSMER
Employees from the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison's Directorate of Installation Operations remove tanks from Maryland Boulevard for relocation at the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum, Aug. 29, in preparation for upcoming construction in the area. Sixteen tanks were relocated.

CFC

From front page

A total of 2,053 personnel donated to the campaign with the average donation totaling \$218.74. The breakdown for incentives consisted of 611 Bronze; 165 Silver; 57 Gold and 18 Gold Plus.

William Bowman, the CFC loan executive from the Social Security Administration who oversees Central Maryland campaigns, came to APG to close out the campaign Dec. 20 and had high praise for APG.

Bowman, who is deaf, shared his comments in writing.

"APG was unbelievable," Bowman wrote. "They were lagging behind from last year and then they started to close the gap as it [neared] the end."

He credited APG and campaign leaders with the campaign's success.

"The leadership at APG has been instrumental to its success," he wrote. "Col. Weissman and campaign coordinator Pete [Leon] Guerrero are to be commended for their outstanding leadership."

He wrote that the overall campaign is near its goal of \$6.2 million and that pledges are still coming in.

"We are confident this will be another successful campaign," he wrote.

"APG is a truly outstanding installation and it has been one of our staunchest supporters of the CFC," he added. "They should be proud of their accomplishments year after year because they make a difference in [others'] lives."

He said that he would be happy to serve as a loan executive in 2008 as long as APG is involved.

"It has been so much fun working with the wonderful people here," he wrote. "They are so committed to

this worthy cause. I cannot thank [Pete Leon Guerrero] enough for his hard work. His teamwork effort with his committee has paid a huge dividend. On behalf of the CFC community, we salute APG for its continued support of the Combined Federal Campaign."

The following units and organizations exceeded their goals during the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign:

- 1st Area Medical Laboratory
- 20th Support Command (CBRNE)
- USAAA
- Army Contracting Agency
- CHRA
- AMC Band
- U.S. Army Material Systems Analysis Activity
- U.S. Army Evaluation Center
- U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center
- Chemical Materials Agency
- Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
- U.S. Army Dental Activity
- DHR
- Headquarters and Headquarters Company
- 61st Ordnance Brigade
- IRAC
- Joint Personnel Effects Depot
- Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic
- U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense 16th Ordnance Battalion
- U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools Non-commissioned Officer Academy
- PAIO
- U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Acquisition Center
- Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
- U.S. Air Force Detachment
- U.S. Army Developmental Test Command
- Directorate of Installation Operations

Community Notes

SATURDAY

JANUARY 5 WEE WONDERS IN WINTER

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center will sponsor Wee Wonders in Winter, 2 to 3 p.m. for ages 1 to 4 accompanied by an adult. Discover the world of winter with the wee ones. Will visitors play in snow or warm sun? Come explore Leight Park in winter dressed for the weather. The program is free but registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

JANUARY 6 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

The Ladies Auxiliary of Harford County Memorial VFW Post 5337 will host Breakfast, 8 to 11 a.m. at VFW Post 5337, located on 3705 Pulaski Highway, Abingdon. The breakfast costs \$6 donation per person and includes eggs (any style), bacon, sausage, chipped beef gravy, home fries, toast, pancakes, French toast sticks, grits, cereal, fresh fruit, coffee, milk and orange juice. Proceeds support VFW programs.

For more information, call

410-459-1149 or e-mail lindamac55@comcast.net.

DISCOVERY WALK

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

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

NATURE TALES

Come explore nature through a story – the topic is snow. Listen to a tale about an animal or a habitat. Story time may include meeting a live critter, a simple craft or acting out the story. This free program will be held for all ages at 1 p.m. No registration is required.

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

AMERICAN LEGION BINGO

American Legion Edgewood Service Post 17, located on 415 Edgewood Road, will hold Bingo every Sunday. Doors open 5 p.m., Bingo begins 6:15 p.m. Food, cash awards available, and guaranteed jackpot of \$500.

For more information, call 410-676-1167

MONDAY

JANUARY 7 TOASTMASTERS MEETING

Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562 will meet 11:40 a.m. at the Gunpowder Club, building E-4650, Parrish Road in the Edgewood Area. The club is open to anyone on or off post who wants to improve their communication, leadership and listening skills and overcome the fear of speaking in public.

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

SATURDAY

JANUARY 12 IF YOU FEED THEM, THEY WILL COME

Join birder Phil Powers to learn what birds frequent backyards in Harford County and their feeder and food preferences. This free program will be held noon to 1:30 p.m. for all ages (Families). Registration is required.

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

CRITTER DINNER TIMES

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat and learn more about them. This free program will be held at 1:30 p.m. for all ages. No registra-

tion required.

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

SUNDAY

JANUARY 13 WINTER TREE AND SHRUB HIKE

Hike with forester Frank Lopez on a winter walk to discover the trees and shrubs in the woods and learn fascinating tree lore. Enjoy hot cocoa after the hike. Be sure to dress warmly. This free program will be held 12:30 to 2:30 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.

MEMORY QUILT

Have a favorite Estuary Center memory? Put a personal touch on a memory quilt to be displayed in the lobby. This is not a traditional quilt and no experience is necessary. Bring memories and creativity. Materials, refreshments and a warm fire provided. This free program will be held 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 8 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.

AMERICAN LEGION BINGO

American Legion Edgewood Service Post 17, located on 415 Edgewood Road, will hold Bingo every Sunday. Doors open 5 p.m., Bingo begins 6:15 p.m. Food, cash awards available, guaranteed jackpot of \$500.

For more information, call 410-676-1167

THURSDAY

JANUARY 17 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JOB EXPO

The Susquehanna Workforce Network will hold a Science and Technology Job Expo, 3 to 7 p.m., at Ripken Stadium, 873 Long Drive, Aberdeen.

Businesses include Booz Allen Hamilton, Custom Direct, Dynamic Science, Inc., Bowhead Technical and Professional Services, SAIC, U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, Smith's Detection and more. In the event of inclement weather, the date will be Jan. 18.

For more information, call Stacey Lambert, Susquehanna Workforce Network, 410-939-4240, e-mail slambert@swnetwork.org or visit www.swnetwork.org.

SATURDAY

JANUARY 19

LIVING GREEN WORKSHOP
Sick of high energy bills? Heard all the talk about "green living" but not really sure what that means or how much it would cost? Hear what it means to "live green" and how easy it really is. This free program will be held 10 a.m. to noon for adults. Lunch will be provided. 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.

BLUEBIRD NEST BOX

Prepare for the February arrival of bluebirds and brush up on woodworking skills. Build a nest box, learn where to place them, and have fun. Bring a cordless drill and Phillips screwdriver. The program will be held 1 to 2 p.m. for ages 8 to adult; ages 8 to 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$5 per box. 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.

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

Post Shorts

11 a.m. to 7 p.m., tax returns will be prepared noon to 6 p.m., Jan. 24 to April 10.

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

Gala photos on APG News Web site

A photo gallery is available at the APG News Web site www.apgnews.apg.army.mil to view the APG 90th Anniversary Gala opening ceremonies, entertainment, including the ChalleNGe cadets, poet and dancers, as well as the exhibits and socializing.

For more information, call the editor Debi Home, 410-278-1150.

Mark the date-- 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.

CPR and AED classes available

Beginning January 2008, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Service will offer CPR and automated external defibrillator classes in APG North and South.

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

In APG South, 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 APG North, classes will be held at the Post Theater, on Jan. 16, 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.

Education Center conducts in-process briefings

The APG Education Center, located in building 4305, second floor, room 213-B, will conduct a monthly in-process briefing for Soldiers within their first 30 days of assignment to APG. The briefings take place 8 to 9 a.m. on the last Monday of each month and are designed to inform Soldiers, enlisted and officers, of programs and services available to meet the requirements of their educational goals and plans. The briefing also will provide information to help establish or recertify the Soldier's long/short-term education goals.

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

NCO Academy 8th Annual Anniversary Dining Out

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy will hold its 8th Annual Anniversary Dining Out Feb. 29 at Top of the Bay. The evening will honor past NCOA commandants from 1987 to present.

Tickets cost \$35. Call to make a reservation by Feb. 25.

For more information or to RSVP, call Sgt. 1st Class Francis Cruz, 410-278-9129 or e-mail francis.cruz@apg.army.mil or lilly.dillon@apg.army.mil.

Nominations open for Employer Support Freedom Award

The Department of Defense has opened nomination season for the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. National

Guard and Reserve members and their Families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of military employees.

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

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

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

CBRNIAC offers technical inquiry service

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

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

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

Reminder: Vehicle storage in housing areas

Personnel occupying quarters on Aberdeen Proving Ground are reminded that in accordance with APGR 190-5 and APGR 210-8 it is prohibited to store recreation vehicles, utility trailers and watercraft

within the APG housing areas. Vehicles in violation are subject to impoundment at the owner's expense.

Warrant officers needed

The U.S. Army is seeking highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen to fill its Warrant Officer ranks. Positions are open in all 41 specialties if the applicant qualifies.

Current application shortages include Military Intelligence, Special Operations, Ammunition Technician and many more.

For more information on how to apply, visit Web site www.usarec.army.mil/ or call 502-626-0328/0466/0484/0458/0271/1860, fax ext. 0938. The DSN prefix is 639. The toll free number is 1-800-223-3735, ext. 6 and the last four of the phone number.

Volunteers needed for research studies on hearing

The U.S. Army Research

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

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

Freedom installs new ATM at Ruggles

Freedom Federal Credit Union has installed a new ATM at the Ruggles Golf Course clubhouse located on APG North just inside the gate accessed from Routes 40 and 715. This cash dispenser is available to everyone during clubhouse hours.

Freedom members may use the machine free of charge, while non-members will be assessed a fee.

Hours for APG Army Education Center

The new hours of operation

for the APG Army Education Center in building 4305 are Monday thru Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; closed on RDO Friday.

For more information call Tressie Stout, education services specialist, 410-306-2043.

Official Travel Office has moved

The Official Travel Office has moved from the APG North Recreation Center, building 3326, to building 4305.

MCSC looking for a few good spouses

The Military and Civilian Spouses' Club is now accepting half-year memberships (January through June) for \$10. Membership is open to any spouse of military or civilian associated with APG.

For more information, call Dawn Kilmon, 410-297-6727, or visit www.apgmcsc.org.

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

APG closing announcements

If the installation is closed, is experiencing a delay in opening or if liberal leave is in effect due to weather or other emergency situations, check for postings on the local television and radio stations, WAPG-TV Channel 21 (on Aberdeen Proving Ground) or call 410-278-SNOW (7669).

A recorded telephone message will contain updated information and should begin at about 5 a.m.

Announcements about federal offices in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to Aberdeen Proving Ground; listen for those that name APG specifically.

For general information, call the APG Public Affairs Office, 410-278-1147.

Station	Frequency	Location
WAMD	AM 970	Aberdeen
WXCX	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WARM	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WBAL-TV	Channel 11	Baltimore
WMAR-TV	Channel 2	Baltimore
WBFF-TV	Channel 45	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13	Baltimore

Logistics

From front page

Stevenson said what the Army is doing with logistics officers is similar to what private industry is doing with its own supply-chain managers.

"The commercial industry is now hiring and training supply-chain managers," he said. "And our logisticians also need to be supply-chain managers. They must understand things like distribution centers, such as what the

Defense Logistics Agency runs for all the services, and how they impact our ability to support operations in the middle of Northern Iraq."

The Army has chosen to begin development of officers into multifunction logisticians at the grade of captain. Stevenson said the decision was made to start multifunctional training at the grade of captain because it is at that level where officers become exposed to units that require them to be much more diverse in their capabilities.

"What we find is that by the time

you make full colonel, about seventy-five percent of the positions in the Army call for multifunctional expertise," he said. "At the grade of captain, that number is already at about fifty percent."

Stevenson said captains from all components of the Army, including the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, will be affected by the creation of the Logistics Branch and the development of multifunction logisticians officers.

"From the beginning, we knew that whatever we did, we wanted to

ensure it applied across the board, because we have one total Army," he said. "Given the way we use the reserve components these days, and plan to into the future, it is important that all officers are trained and developed the same."

Currently, there are three Army logistics schools: the Quartermaster School at Fort Lee, Va.; the Transportation School at Fort Eustis, Va., and the [U.S. Army] Ordnance [Center and] Schools at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

As part of a directive from the

Base Realignment and Closure Commission, all three schools must be consolidated at Fort Lee by 2011. Training for officers in the Logistics Branch will occur there.

While the Army will create the new Logistics Branch to merge officers in the three existing logistics branches - transportation, quartermaster and ordnance - those branches will not be eliminated. The Army will still have those career fields for our enlisted Soldiers and warrant officers. Additionally, lieutenants may continue to enter the Army in one of those three branches.



Your health is KUSAHC's goal



Suicide Prevention: programs available to those in need

Compiled by **JON CONNOR**
Public Affairs Office Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, Texas

Suicide is preventable, and recognizing a problem is the first step to getting help. Everyone needs to be involved in suicide prevention efforts because -- everyone matters.

The Department of Defense is offering service members and their Families the opportunity to take free, anonymous online and telephone mental health self-assessments for depression and other related disorders. After completing the self-assessment, the caller is provided with information on where to turn for a full evaluation, including services provided by the DoD and Veterans Affairs.

The mental health self-assessment is available at www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org or by calling 1-877-877-3647. The program, available 24/7, includes self-assessments for depression, alcohol problems, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder and post traumatic stress disorder.

It is crucial for Soldiers to recognize that seeking help during times of stress is a sign of strength, not weakness. Leadership involvement is key in creating healthy environments where Soldiers are encouraged to seek help.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among Americans between the ages of 15 and 24 and the second leading cause of death among those between the ages of 25 and 34. It is often the result of untreated depression and other mental health disorders.

Facts about suicide

- Seventy-nine percent of those who die by suicide tell someone about it in advance, and most are not

in treatment.

- Those who have made serious attempts are at much higher risk for actually taking their lives. Between 20 to 40 percent of people who die by suicide have previously attempted suicide.

- Nearly 50 percent of suicide victims have a positive blood alcohol level.

- Although most depressed people are not suicidal, most suicidal people are depressed.

The warning signs

People who are considering harming themselves may try to reach out -- sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly. Be especially alert for warning signs:

- Talking about suicide or death; giving direct verbal cues, such as "I wish I were dead" and "I'm going to end it all; or giving less direct verbal cues, such as "What's the point of living?" and "You'd be better off without me."
- Isolating oneself from friends and Family
- Expressing the belief that life is meaningless or hopeless
- Giving away cherished possessions
- Exhibiting a sudden and unexplained improvement in mood after being depressed or withdrawn
- Neglecting one's appearance and hygiene

Failed relationships, legal and financial problems, and occupational and operational issues are consistently cited as the main stressors/risk factors that lead to suicide.

Army prevention programs

The Army has instituted numerous programs and resources to provide for Soldiers and Families in need.

- The Deployment Cycle Support

Process is an initiative to provide a tool for Active Army and Reserve Component Soldiers, their Family members and Department of the Army civilians to synchronize services available to deal with the stress associated throughout the deployment cycle.

- In March 2007, the Army Medical Department stood up the AMEDD Suicide Prevention Office, which is committed to translating the results of surveillance and intervention into prevention and treatment programs. It launched a Web site, <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil/>, which is intended to be a comprehensive venue for Soldiers and Family members to get information on a variety of mental and behavioral health issues and resources available.

- Installations and units continue to implement local intervention programs with the assistance of the Community Health Promotion Council, Suicide Prevention Task Force, or Suicide Prevention Coordinators

- Soldiers and Family members in need have ready access to existing and new services; all they need to do is ask their chain of command, chaplain, leader, buddy, or person trained in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) or Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) for help.

- Highly trained behavioral health providers serving side by side with our combat troops, providing the highest quality of care and service to U.S. Soldiers in the field.

- A comprehensive network of behavioral healthcare providers who render services to all beneficiaries.

- Combat stress and operational control teams in place since the beginning of the Global War on Terror. They were among the first wave of forces in theater.

Additional prevention actions

The Army has taken additional actions to improve the suicide prevention program within the Army.

- Organized a HQDA-led Suicide Prevention Task Force to integrate and synchronize initiatives and resources across the Army, identify trends, and provide recommendations to senior leaders, as appropriate.

- Developed new suicide prevention training tools, incorporating real world scenarios depicting military personnel, and introducing training support packages that focus on intervention skills for use at the small unit level, where training has the greatest impact.

- Prevention measures have been adapted at the unit level. For example, when a Soldier displays suicidal ideation, a "unit watch" plan is instituted to provide monitoring at all times to ensure they are provided necessary support, escort them for health care or counseling, and encouragement to facilitate a healthy recovery.

- Another prevention technique is called "buddy care" which strongly encourages Soldiers to confide in and talk to friends and members of their unit particularly when personal problems arise. Soldiers with suicidal tendencies give clues and try to reach out, even if they don't directly state they are considering suicide. It is then the commander's responsibility to ensure that these individuals are sent to support agencies for appropriate help.

Suicide prevention is a leadership responsibility and a commander's program to manage. This could range from an installation commander coordinating the various staffs and support agencies, to a company commander who ensures that his or her Soldiers are properly trained and for setting the proper environment for address-

ing personal issues.

- Deploying Soldiers undergo pre-deployment health assessments, post-deployment health assessment during the redeployment process, and post-deployment health reassessment three to six months after redeployment. Additionally, screenings are done throughout the deployment phases to make sure all mental health needs are met.

Soldiers who are assessed by their buddies and leaders to be "at risk" may be sent to the chaplain for pastoral counseling, but if that does not meet the Soldier's needs, they are referred to behavioral health professionals. Both sets of professionals are trained to screen at-risk Soldiers and provide follow-on counseling and care.

Chaplains are currently working with military couples to help them develop tools for building and maintaining strong marriages and other relationships through their Strong Bonds Program.

Reference material

Army Regulation 600-63, Army Health Promotion Program

Army Web site, www.army1.army.mil/hr/suicide.asp

Other resources may be found at the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine's Web site, <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpw/Readiness/suicide.aspx>.

(Editor's note: This article was constructed by the Fort Hood CRDAMC Public Affairs Office from the following sources: Katherine L. Cruise, communications manager, Screening for Mental Health, Inc. (<http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org>) and Office of the Chief of Public Affairs Media Relations Personnel Team, Pentagon.)

The stories that shaped 2007

Soldiers draw sabers for school gala



Oct. 18

Photo by HEATHER TASSMER, APG NEWS
From left, Alexia, Austin and Lisa Dill smile while walking through an arch of drawn sabers by Soldiers from the 16th Ordnance Battalion during the Roye Williams Elementary School Top Hat Gala Sept. 20. The battalion posted the colors for the program and the audience watched the movie 'Happy Feet.'

BOSS beautifies 22 gate



Oct. 18

Photos courtesy of SGT EUGENIA RICHARDSON, BOSS PRESIDENT Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez, second from front, plant mums at the Route 22 Gate Sept 15. BOSS members and APG leaders planted more than 150 mums at the gate.

Fall Fest highlights fire prevention



Oct. 25

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Aberdeen Proving Ground firefighters respond to a vehicle fire during one of several demonstrations at the APG 90th Anniversary Community Awareness Day Fall Fest Oct. 13.

APG Soldier named AMC Soldier of the Year



Nov. 1

Photo by MIKE STRASSER, FORT LEE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Spc. Samuel Yoo, a pianist with the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band and AMC Soldier of the Year, focuses on his next challenge during the Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills event at the Department of the Army Best Warrior competition at Fort Lee, Va., Oct. 4.

APG confirms Army Family Covenant



Nov. 15

Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO LAB
During the Army Family Covenants Signing ceremony at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Recreation Center Nov. 8, Command Sgt. Maj. Hector G. Marin, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, signs the Army Family Covenant. Installation leaders, Soldiers and Family members looking on include, from left, Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, Brig. Gen. Kevin R. Wendel, commander of the 20th Support Command who was representing APG and RDECOM commander Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson, Spc. Lyle Haller, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Jones, 22d Chemical Battalion and his wife Antoinette and daughter Arlasia, 5. Not shown is APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez.

The stories that shaped 2007

M/VISC exhibit draws accolades at AUSA convention



Nov. 21

Photo courtesy of M/VISC
The Future Force Warrior storefront highlights the U.S. Army Materiel Command exhibit designed and constructed by the Directorate of Information Management's Multimedia Visual Information Services Center at the 2007 Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition held Oct. 8 through 10 in Washington, D.C. Blake Voshell, M/VISC design and production lead, created the original design for the U.S. Army Materiel Command exhibit, titled 'Any Small Town USA,' which resembles an average American main street complete with storefronts, park benches, a fruit stand with real fruit and street lights. The exhibit measured 4,200 square feet and took up a 60 by 70-foot area in the Washington Convention Center where the convention was held.

AMC Band receives Iraq Campaign streamer



Nov. 29

Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG PHOTO LAB
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frederick Ellwein, director of the AMC Band, right passes the Iraq Campaign streamer to Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, left, during the streamer ceremony at the band's headquarters Nov. 21. The band was awarded the campaign streamer in recognition of its 2003 deployment to Iraq on a morale and spirit-lifting mission during the first holiday season after the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Holding the guidon is Sgt. Levi Graves, one of two remaining members of the group that deployed.

VFW Post 5337 honors POW's/MIA's



Nov. 21

Photo by ANDRICKA THOMAS, RDECOM PAO
Staff Sgt. Rebecca Hanner, RDECOM operations noncommissioned officer, lights a candle on the POW/MIA table in remembrance of prisoners of war and Soldiers missing in action at a ceremony at a Veterans Day ceremony at VFW Post 5337 in Abingdon Nov. 12.

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



Nov. 29

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS
Visitors to the 90th Anniversary Open House, held Nov. 9 at the Post Theater, board buses that were waiting outside to transport them to tours of Aberdeen Proving Ground organizations. The Open House was a precursor to the APG 90th Anniversary Gala that was held the next day at Ripken Stadium.

Community enjoys ACS holiday tree lighting and extravaganza



Dec. 13

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Hali Picciano, center, and her daughters Kara, 1, left and Lana, 2, right, receive gifts from Santa and Mrs. Claus during the Army Community Service holiday tree lighting and extravaganza at the Post Recreation Center Dec. 6. Hundreds attended the annual event which includes games, a buffet dinner, face painting, a complimentary meal and refreshments, door prizes and gifts for every child.

APG celebrates 90 years with gala



Dec. 6

Photo by ROB KAUZLARICH
Re-enactors from the World War II Recreation Association stage APG's first firing welcoming visitors to the Aberdeen Proving Ground 90th Anniversary Gala at Ripken Stadium Nov. 10. From left, Gail Kelly as Mrs. Edward V. Stockham of Aberdeen who pulled the lanyard on the first gun fired on APG Jan. 2, 1918; Maj. Christopher Kelly, 20th Support Command (CBRNE), and his father John Kelly as the firing crew.

Marines celebrate 232 years



Dec. 13

Photo by STAFF SGT DUANE BREMILLER, USMC
Gunnery Sgt. Todd McMahon reads the U.S. Marine Corps commandant's birthday message at the Marines' 232nd Birthday Ball at Top of the Bay Nov. 10. Other Marines pictured include from left, Sgts. Richard Lentz and Bradley Rollins.

USMC wins third consecutive Commander's Cup



Dec. 13

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS
Capt. Gerald Habiger, executive officer of the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, right, and Gunnery Sgt. Todd McMahon, the detachment's sports representative, pose with the 2007 Commander's Cup trophy and the detachment's Marines during a presentation ceremony at the Ball Conference Center Dec. 7.

Fifth AVCRAD earns bragging rights in theater



Dec. 13

Photo by SPC ELIZABETH JONES, MDNG
Maryland Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Glen Reisinger and his granddaughter Samantha Harper exchange laughs during the unit's return home in July from support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom where it resumed its role as the command and control cell for the four Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depots located throughout the United States.

OPUS East and APG break ground for new development



Dec. 20

Photo courtesy of OPUS EAST L.L.C.
This rendering depicts part of the business and technology campus that will be built on Aberdeen Proving Ground by OPUS East L.L.C. as part of the Army's Enhanced Use Lease Program.