

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for May 7, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



Commissary happenings

The APG Commissary will close at 4 p.m., May 4, and reopen May 7.

The caselot sale is scheduled for May 27 through 31.

For more information, call 410-278-3101.

Traffic signals return to full operating mode

The traffic signals at Maryland Boulevard and Bush River Road/Deer Creek Loop and Maryland Boulevard and Boothby Hill Avenue will be returned to standard red, yellow and green operations 5 p.m., May 2. This will be the permanent operating mode.

Motorists are asked to be especially vigilant adapting to the change.

For more information, call Jerry Norris, Directorate of Installation Operations, 410-306-1159.

ACS honors military spouses

In honor of "Military Spouse Appreciation Day," Army Community Service will have an information table, free Spouse Appreciation packets, gift bags and door prizes, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 8, at the Aberdeen Post Exchange.

Everyone is invited.

For more information, contact Marilyn Howard, ACS, building 2754, 410-278-9669.

May Well-Being meeting cancelled

The May 15 Well-Being meeting is cancelled.

The June meeting will be held at the Aberdeen Area Chapel Fellowship Hall, 9:30 a.m., June 19.

For more information, call Sheryl Speerstra, 410-278-4521.

Army holds qualifying Combatives Tournament, Friday

An Army Combatives Tournament is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., May 2. Final elimination matches will be held 2 p.m., May 3.

The tournament is open to all military men and women, including Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and any Coast Guard personnel assigned to APG. Weight classes for men

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RDECOM element presented Baldrige Award

Story by **ANDRICKA THOMAS**
RDECOM

The U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center was presented the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award April 23. The award is the nation's highest honor for organizational innovation and performance excellence.

Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez presented the award to five organizations, among them, ARDEC, the first Department of Defense recipient.

The Baldrige recipients were greeted by President George W. Bush in the Oval Office at the White House just prior to the awards ceremony.

ARDEC, located at Picatinny Arsenal, a 6,500-acre military installation located in the northwest corner of New Jersey, competed with 84 applicants for this honor. ARDEC is a subordinate element of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command located at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"It [ARDEC] has been repeatedly recognized for an amazing strength of innovative products that literally save and help our dedicated military personnel with battles," Gutierrez said.

"It is a tremendous honor to stand here today and accept this presti-



Photo by RON SACHS/CONSOLIDATED NEWS PHOTOS
President George W. Bush stands with the recipients of the 2007 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. From left, Eric Franks, Rowland McClellan, Kathleen S. Harris, W. Paul Worstell, Nancy Pratt, Norihiro Nakajima, Javon R. Bea, Michael W. Murphy, President Bush, Daniel L. Gross, Scott J. Brook, Vincent M. Boccard, Michael S. Levinson, Dr. Joseph A. Lannon, ARDEC director, Col. Russell J. Hrdy, ARDEC deputy director, and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology Dean G. Poppo.

gious award," said Dr. Joseph Lannon, ARDEC director. "The men and women of ARDEC have earned this distinction. Our workforce is the cornerstone for our success."

He said that the journey towards

achieving the Baldrige standard began 15 years ago.

During this year's Quest for Excellence Conference, the official conference for the award, ARDEC and other Baldrige winners, conducted

seminars focused on improving efforts towards performance results, leadership effectiveness, customer and employee satisfaction and process management.

The 2007 Baldrige recipients shared

See **BALDRIGE**, page 4

Chief outlines Army's construction request

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

The chief of staff of the Army visited Capitol Hill April 9 to discuss the Army's 2009 military-construction budget and how it's planned building projects are essential to helping the Army rebalance itself.

Gen. George W. Casey Jr. told the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and related agencies that military construction is an

important part of the Army's plan for the future.

The Army has requested \$11.4 billion to support readiness and transformation in the fiscal year 2009 budget. Active-Army growth, operational requirements, modular transformation and barracks modernization account for \$4.6 billion of that request; \$4.5 billion is earmarked for executing base realignment and closure, and Army stationing; and \$821 million is for reserve-component transformation.

With congressional support, he said, the Army will have completed 743 MILCON projects between FY 2006 and FY 2013, including 33 brigade-size complexes, 109,300 barracks units, 4,600 Family housing units and 133 child-development centers.

Accompanied by Keith Eastin, assistant secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, Gen. Casey emphasized that the Army isn't "hollow or broken," but because it is so focused on the

current fight, it cannot sustain the force or prepare for the future the way he would like. The Army isn't where it needs to be, he said, but it is still the best fighting force in the world.

It will require four imperatives to get back into balance — sustain, prepare, reset and transform — "and military construction has a key role in each of those areas," Gen. Casey said.

"We must sustain our Soldiers and their Families. They are the heart and soul of this

organization ... and the environment in which Soldiers train, civilians work and their Families live is key to attracting and retaining quality men and women... The core of our strategy is retaining Soldiers and their Families," he added.

The Army Family Covenant pledges to improve programs, services and housing, while the Army Medical Action Plan ensures special care for the Army's wounded.

According to Gen. Casey, MILCON projects under these

See **GEN. CASEY**, page 13

ACS helps parents develop skills

Army Community service

Raising children is no easy task. It requires lots of empathy, a sense of humor, skill, knowledge, love, compassion, the patience of a saint and the determination of a bulldozer.

The job description is endless. The instructions on how to get the job done right don't arrive with the baby when he or she is born, so most parents learn through trial and error.

All parents can use a little help, encouragement, and understanding in an atmosphere that lets them know that they are not alone.

The Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program provides the nurturing and positive learning environment parents need to foster successful parenting.

FAP parenting classes are designed to help parents learn effective communication, conflict-resolution, problem-solving, decision-making and behavior management skills.

They also help parents learn about self-awareness, empathy, the ages and stages of child development, the goals of misbehavior, natural and logical consequences and other discipline and child-rearing techniques.

"We want to ensure that parents have the tools necessary to create positive and productive child-parent relationships," said Lynda Fernandez, FAP Program specialist. "The more parents

know about effective ways to rear their children, the less stressed out they will be, the happier and healthier the Family will be."

FAP parenting sessions are scheduled to begin soon.

Anyone can help save a

child's life by reporting all known or suspected child abuse to the APG child and spouse abuse reporting point of contact at the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security, 410-306-2222.

FAP Parenting Class Series

General Parenting Skills

Series of four sessions utilizing the Systematic Training for Effective Parenting, or STEP, curriculum. For parents of children through age six.

- May 6-27, Aug. 5-26, Nov. 4-25

Family Wellness

Series of four sessions designed to teach parents how to create solid foundations, effective problem-solving and communication skills and various discipline techniques.

- June 17-July 15, Oct. 7-28

FAP One-day Parenting sessions

Parenting Teens

Class provides many effective ideas to assist parents in learning the skills of effective listening and communicating with their teen. Open forum will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss some of the obstacles parents of teens may be faced with, along with supportive ways to survive while still finding joy in every child.

- May 15, Aug. 21, Dec. 11

Raising Adults

A self-paced class designed to promote ways for parents to develop parenting skills and to develop techniques to promote responsibility, self determination and self reliance in their children.

- July 10, Oct. 9

Parenting with Half the Team

Session offers parents a forum to exchange ideas and lend support through the struggles of single parenting due to deployment, separation and/or divorce.

- June 5

All classes are scheduled to take place at the ACS center, building 2754 Rodman Road. To register for classes, or for additional information, call Lynda Fernandez, FAP Program specialist, 410-278-2435.

CCPS formalizes partnership with APG

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**
APG NEWS

The superintendent of Cecil County Public Schools signed the U.S. Army Secondary Education Transition Study's Memorandum of Agreement April 16 with more than 200 other school district's signatories who have committed to assisting military and military-connected children.

Superintendent Dr. Carl Roberts stated that the MOA is a commitment to develop or improve CCPS systems for transition predictability for military-connected children.

Military children face many unique challenges, one of the biggest is dealing with numerous relocations during their formative years. Academic problems and the social stresses of dealing with a new school, specifically in the case of high school students, could put them behind in their grades as they try to adjust to their new living situation, said Roberts.

"This signing helps all transitioning students, including gifted and talented as well as those with special needs," he said. "I want to pursue an on going dialogue with leadership at APG to make this partnership become a model

See **PARTNER**, page 12

Armed Forces Day Fun Fest set for May 17

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

A daylong celebration of Armed Forces Day is planned for the Aberdeen Proving Ground community May 17.

After a 10K run hosted by MWR and Charm City Run, the highlight of the day will be the Armed Forces Day Fun Fest, a fun-filled event for all ages featuring games, food and live music. Activities will be held 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park and Shine Sports Field on Springfield Avenue.

Festivities begin with an opening ceremony hosted by Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander.

Live entertainment, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., will be provided by RELEASE a band specializing in classic popular and country favorites and The Deep End Band, "a bluesy-type folk rock alternative band" according to Northeast In-Tune Magazine.

Attractions for children include a bounce house, climbing wall, obstacle course, balloon hats, face painting and pony rides as well as flag football, a 50-yard dash competition and other games. Also on hand will be clowns and special visitors like Sparky the Fire Dog, Dora the Explorer, McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog and one of the IronBirds mascots.

In addition, Child Youth Services hip-hop dancers will perform; the Army Substance Abuse Program will conduct a Drunk Driving Awareness Booth; and Outdoor Recreation will display camping equipment, trailers and other items available for rental during the spring and summer months.

Other exhibits will include an Ordnance Museum display that will include artillery pieces and Soldiers dressed in uniforms of the Army's major campaigns of the past and present and a car display by Jones Junction of Aberdeen.

See next week's *APG News* for more information or visit the MWR Web site at <http://www.apgmwr.com>.

Chesapeake Challenge

The Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park opens for weekend business only May 3 thru June 13. Weekday hours through the summer are Monday thru Friday, 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday 1 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday and holidays 2 to 7 p.m. Attractions include a go-cart track, \$6 for 5 minutes; batting cages, \$.50; miniature golf, \$3 adults, \$1.50 age 5 and younger; a game arcade, snack machines and snow cones.

Kenny Singleton, Community Recreation Division, said the facility offers two-hour private parties for unlimited guests.

"For private parties there's unlimited time for go-carts, in the batting cages and for miniature golf," Singleton said, adding that customers must make reservations in advance.

The park will be open during the Armed Forces Day Fun Fest and all attractions will be half-price, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., he added.

For more information, visit <http://www.apgmwr.com>.

Ordnance Corps inducts seven into Hall of Fame



Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Prather Jr.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Wynne



Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur E. Buford



Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip M. Hadden



Dr. William F. 'Jack' Atwater

U.S. Army Ordnance Center & Schools

Seven U.S. Army Ordnance practitioners will be inducted into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame for their noteworthy contributions to the Ordnance Corps during Ordnance Week activities at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, chief of Ordnance and commanding general of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, will honor two historical and five contemporary inductees in a May 8 ceremony at the Ordnance Museum.

Historical inductees

Col. Theodore T. S. Laidley

The name -- Colonel Theodore Thaddeus Sobieski Laidley -- was a name that kept cropping up as Ordnance Historian Dr. Peter Kindsvatter went about his business of collecting information on noteworthy ordnance Soldiers and practitioners.

Upon closer examination of Laidley's achievements, Kindsvatter nominated the 19th century Soldier for induction into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame.

"He was a typical Ordnance Corps pioneer," Kindsvatter said.

Laidley started at West Point and honed his scientific, engineering and technical skills at the arsenals where he served. Like other young ordnance officers of that era -- he was an inventor and a producer of ordnance. He held eight patents and had wartime experience in the Mexican and Civil Wars.

Born April 14, 1822, in Guyan-dotte, W.V., Laidley graduated from West Point in 1842 and served as an ordnance officer at the Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.; Washington Arsenal in Washington, D.C.; and the Allegheny Arsenal, Pa.

When war with Mexico broke out in 1846, he joined Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott's forces at Veracruz, fighting with distinction in the Battle of Cerro Gordo and the Siege of Puebla, Mexico.

Laidley returned to Watervliet and Fort Monroe, Va., arsenals, then briefly commanded Charleston, S.C., and North Carolina arsenals. In 1858, the Chief of Ordnance detailed Laidley to author an ordnance manual, and over the next three years he developed a 600-page document that became an essential ordnance officer guide.

During the Civil War, Laidley mustered forces in New Jersey, then commanded Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, where he expanded wartime production, designed a machine shop and laboratory and installed a rolling mill.

Designated "Inspector of Powder" in 1868, Laidley served on examining boards that tested, among other things, an early machine gun, the potential of gun cotton, a wrought iron rifled cannon and breech-loading rifles. One of Laidley's eight patents was for a rifle with an innovative rolling breechblock.

He commanded New York Arsenal on Governor's Island, supervising maintenance for hundreds of guns and carriages used in defense of the New York harbor.

His final command in 1871 was at Watertown Arsenal, Mass., which produced carriages, shot and artillery accessories for field, siege and sea-coast armaments. He went to Europe to study foreign ordnance operations and developed a versatile traveling forge for the U.S. Cavalry.

In 1877, the Chief of Ordnance

tasked Laidley to prepare a marksmanship manual. A Course of Instruction in Rifle Firing, published in 1879, was the Army's first marksmanship manual and included Laidley's designs for a revolving target, a practice rifle and an aiming stand.

Laidley retired in 1882 after 40 devoted years as an ordnance Soldier and technologist. He died four years later at the age of 64.

Lt. Col. Herbert H. Daubert

William Daubert was 11 years old when his father -- Lt. Col. Herbert H. Daubert -- died on active duty in October 1965 at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

He remembers meeting several Ordnance Hall of Fame members as a child.

"Some of them I knew as a kid -- Maj. Gen. Holger Toftoy, Brig. Gen. David Heister, Col. Raymond Costabile -- they all lived nearby," the younger Daubert said. "We lived near what is now Top of the Bay, back when it was the Officer's Club. And my dad also took me everywhere back then. After he died, the Army took care of our Family.

"After I graduated from Aberdeen High School, I went to the University of Baltimore to study engineering on GI Bill benefits," William said.

Before moving to California where he now works as an engineer for Lockheed, William Daubert worked at APG.

"I helped develop the first generation of Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks, or HEMTTs, Heavy Equipment Movers originally used to move Pershing II missiles during the Cold War.

"You could say I'm following my father's footsteps, in a way," he said as he recalled fond memories of his father.

William remembers little things about his dad --

"He told me at Bikini Atoll, where they tested the effects of nuclear weapons on Army equipment, they coined the acronym -- NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical).

"And dad and other men in the unit left their watches on the island before the blast, then recovered them later. They were, of course, radioactive.

"They eventually had to ask dad to not wear his watch to work because it kept setting off the radioactive warning devices at the Ballistics Research Lab," he said.

William Daubert now has that watch in safekeeping, as well as other mementos from his father's proud career.

Lt. Col. Herbert H. Daubert died on active duty, during the Army's buildup for Vietnam. His son included video footage of his father's funeral service in his Hall of Fame nomination packet.

"Troops lined both sides of Aberdeen Boulevard, from the chapel all the way to the main gate, in his honor. That doesn't happen very often any more," he said.

"Our father's induction to the Hall of Fame is important to my Family because it fulfills his destiny," William said. "We are extremely proud of his accomplishments and happy that the selection board recognized his contributions to Army Ordnance."

Contemporary inductees

Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Prather Jr.

When Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Prather Jr., entered the Army in 1962,

everyone was thinking about Cuba, the Bay of Pigs and the communist threat.

"I thought I'd just do my three years and get out," Prather said recently. "I had to extend one year to go to Germany, but I just wanted to do the best I could and then get out.

"And then... I decided to stay... because the Army and I got along. I liked the discipline part of it and the responsibility that it required. I also had good bosses, some great leadership starting out. I was like a sponge, learning as much as I could every step of the way.

"I was in ordnance right away," he said, "but I think I picked it for the wrong reason. I picked it because APG was close to home."

The general is from Washington, D.C., and said it was "a kinship of logistics, and I thought I could thrive."

He said it was difficult to peg his career highlights.

"I felt success in every job I had, but in every new job you had to prove yourself all over again. You know, in the Army, you can't rest on your laurels. So in every job I had, I worked hard because I wanted to be the guy everyone depended on.

"I was misunderstood a bit, because I'm really a quiet person. What people learned about me is that I'm just as determined as the guy with the big mouth.

"I miss the camaraderie most of all. That's the biggest thing any of us miss. I still have many great friends from the Army because we have developed a great deal of trust among each other -- they know how you operate.

"If there's one thing that sticks out about my Army career, well, number one, there was always a mission. And you must always take care of and depend on your people to get it done. You have to let people know that you appreciate what they do and continue to reinforce it."

Reflecting, the general said it's funny that he didn't get to spend much time at APG.

"One of the things I learned is that when you're in the Army, you're in the Army. You can't run home every weekend and take care of your parents. You're in the Army Family, and it needs you to be there.

Retirement is good, he said. He continues to exercise every day and has been working as a contractor and consultant with Gen. Johnnie Wilson since 2002, but added that he's trying to back off.

"I had no idea coming in that the Army was what I would be doing my whole life, but it's been a great life. Surely someone up there has been taking care of me," Prather said.

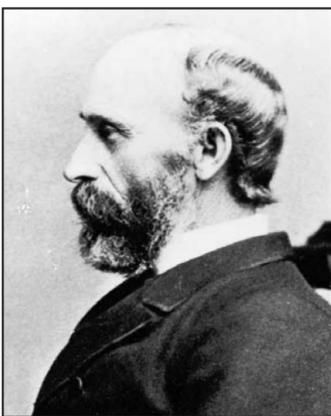
Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Wynne

"I was a kid out of high school from a Family where college was not an option" Chief James Wynne said recently of his youth.

"I had no sense of direction, so I joined the Army, which allowed me to get an education and gave me lots of opportunities to excel. And I enjoyed every minute of it!" he said.

Wynne's career highlights include being a member of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Combat Team in 2000.

"That's when the Army started to transform," he said. "We were the



Col. Theodore T. S. Laidley



Lt. Col. Herbert H. Daubert

first Stryker BCT and it was a busy time, but a good time. I was key in facilitating the turnover of vehicles (tanks for Strykers, heavy to light) and for developing a surrogate pool of equipment for the brigade."

His said his second career high-point was being selected as a study group leader on the Army Chief of Staff's (then Gen. Eric Shinseki) leadership development panel. It was an opportunity that gave him a unique look into Army culture.

"It was like peeling back an onion and looking at every level, every aspect of the warrant officer culture and the problems we were having," Wynne said.

He briefed senior leadership quarterly, and conducted many focus groups.

"It was an eye opener. We developed a bunch of strategic conclusions that were implemented. They helped, I think, shape the future force, the lifestyle and culture."

What does he miss most about active duty?

"Soldiers -- being around Soldiers," he said. "It's still all about the people and the relationships you have. I love the military. The job I do now is still around Soldiers -- and that's cool," he said.

"We're asking a hell of a lot from our Soldiers today. My son-in-law is an Army engineer, building roads in Iraq, and I worry about him every day."

Wynne and his wife, Freida, live in Sierra Vista, Ariz., where Frieda's Family migrated from California.

"It's great weather for golf," Wynne added, saying he dedicated his first year of retirement to chasing golf balls.

"But after a year, Frieda said it was time for me to get back to work," Wynne said with a chuckle.

Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur E. Buford

"The troops, surely the troops," is what CSM Arthur E. Buford misses most about being an ordnance Soldier.

"The troops are the ones who trust in you and believe in you as their leaders," he said.

"You can't really explain them, but they are the ones who make the Army go. And that's evident even today -- with all the current technology we have to fight the War on Terror -- it's the troops that make it work.

"As I look back," Buford continued, "I'm most proud that at Fort Hood my motor pool scored highest on automotive administration during an inspector general's inspection. Then at Fort Carson, my motor pool scored highest on combat vehi-

cles. That's where it matters most, at grades five, six and seven.

"In Germany, I took over the worst motor pool and made it the best. They wanted me to stay another year, but I had had my fill of Germany. And when I competed against my peers at the Sergeants Major Academy (Class 29), I was the distinguished grad," Buford added.

Buford recently retired -- from his "real" job -- as director of Fleet Maintenance for Bexar County, Texas, in San Antonio. He said what he learned as an ordnance Soldier is what allowed him to be successful in his civilian job.

"Beginning with the interview process, what was evident is that the management skills I possessed -- that I got in the Army -- allowed me to implement things that would have an immediate impact, from the way maintenance items were procured, to instituting a preventive maintenance program that created great dividends.

"These were basic things that I learned in the Army and I immediately applied them to my new job," he said.

"It means a lot," he said as he talked about his Hall of Fame induction, "just to be considered by your peers as part of the cream by people who know what you do. It is just a tremendous honor."

Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip M. Hadden

One of few Soldiers to pull three tours as a drill instructor -- on the front line, pushing troops -- Hadden said it's "hard to pinpoint" the high points of his career.

"I always liked working with Soldiers," Hadden said recently. "In fact, I miss my people."

Hadden was the first commandant of the Noncommissioned Officer School of Ordnance in 1985. He said his forte was "strength in training, and teaching Soldiers how to survive on the battlefield."

"We were training Soldiers to 'be all they can be' back then, but most important to me was ensuring they had the basic skills -- and I was always for the importance of basic skills -- so they would survive on the battlefield."

Hadden was also the first ordnance sergeant major to be class president at the Sergeants Major Academy in July 1987.

"They had always selected a combat arms sergeant major before then," he said.

Since retiring in 1990, Hadden has become involved in his Florida community. The Family runs a 70-acre ranch raising cattle. Hadden is also involved in the Bartow

See FAME, page 5

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMNE-APG-PA, Building 2201, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

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AMC Band Soldier goes beyond the 'Call of duty'



Courtesy of SGT 1ST CLASS STEPHEN SPOHN
Staff Sgt. Wendy Spohn, clarinet player with the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, walks in the 2007 March of Dimes walk in Abingdon with her son Lukas.

Story by
ANDRICKA THOMAS
RDECOM

When most Soldiers sign up to serve and protect, they do not think of throwing parties at the Ronald McDonald house in Washington D.C., as Staff Sgt. Wendy Spohn does.

A recent finalist of the 2007 Geico Military Service Award, Spohn serves as a clarinet player and chief, Safety Branch for the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band. The award spotlights the contributions of enlisted members of the armed forces. The annual award recognized six military recipients during a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Keeping her unit safe as the safety non-commissioned officer is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Spohn's passion and compassion for others.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Davis, senior drum major and chief of Plans, Operations and Training Division, AMC Band, put Spohn in for the award. He said there was no doubt in his mind that Spohn was the right Soldier to nominate.

"I learned of her dedication to community service when she eagerly took over as our unit lead volunteer for the Maryland Freestate ChalleNGe Academy mentor program," Davis said.

"I didn't have the greatest childhood, and I just want to do my part in making a positive mark in someone else's childhood," Spohn said.

A native of Alabama, Spohn reported to basic training in Missouri in 1995 and began her first assignment as a Reservist with the 313th Army Band playing the clarinet. Five years later she went active duty.

"I never thought that someday I would be playing for the AMC Band," Spohn said. "But I always knew I wanted to play

clarinet for the rest of my life."

Spohn has played clarinet since the sixth grade. She said she never thought she could join the Army and continue to be a musician. After joining, she instantly loved it and decided then that she would play and bring music to others for as long as she could. Serving in the Army was one way to make an impact on others' lives.

"Music moves people, and I love it," she said.

Spohn shares her love for music with her husband, the 2008 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Spohn, also in the AMC band, and their three-year-old son Lukas.

Spohn's compassion is best seen in her love for her "little sister," which she enjoys as a participant in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

Her "little sister," who lives in Alabama, visited Spohn and her husband and son this past December.

"In fact...I bought her [little sister] a dress for the prom, and she just sent a picture to my cell phone," Spohn said with a smile. She spoke about the conditions the young lady lives in, and that she only wants to share with her the possibilities in life.

"I want her to know that she can do and be anything she wants, and that the only person in her way is herself," Spohn said.

That attitude is also what drives her to work with 16- to 19-year old cadets from the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy located at APG. She works one-on-one with the cadets who are overcoming the effects of broken lives and Families. She said it is rewarding to help change the direction of a young person's life.

"If I can be an example to someone then I will," Spohn said. "It's the least I can do."

Teenagers are not the only children who benefit from Spohn's passion for service. Spohn, who suffered the loss of her 4-month old daughter Julia in 2006, has made it her personal mission to protect and serve sick and under-privileged children. As a result of her daughter's death, Spohn volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House in Washington, D.C. Spohn said she was a suffering parent barely hanging on to each passing day, and that is what motivated her to give back to Families with special needs children in the hospital.

"I was there not too long ago," Spohn said. "I just want to lend support to other parents who may fear for their child's life."

Her last contribution to the House was making gift bags and cooked meals for the Families at the hospital.

She plans to commemorate Julia's birthday, June 9, by throwing a party at the House for the children and parents who are still living day by day at the hospital.

"After her wounds mended from the loss of her child, she made it her passion to give back to the less fortunate," Davis said. "That to me is the epitome of undying selfless service."

Volunteering in the March of Dimes March for Babies walk is another way she gives back. Her Family of three raised more than \$1,200 and walked together April 20 wearing T-shirts honoring Julia. The shirts read "Julia's Family" and "Everything we do, we do for her," Spohn said.

"I know that when I do things like the March of Dimes, I'm helping a child like Julia have a chance at life," she said.

A Soldier, musician, wife, mother, big sister and mentor, Spohn does what she can to positively affect the lives of others. Spohn exhibits what it means for a Soldier to truly answer the 'Call of Duty.'

Baldrige

From front page

their practices and lessons learned during their journey to performance excellence.

"Our prescription for organizational excellence is very basic," Lannon said. "Everything we do is bound by a commitment to the customer, our Warfighters, whose lives depend on our work."

The Baldrige Award was established by Congress in

1987 to enhance competitiveness and performance of U.S. businesses.

Since 1988, 72 organizations have received the coveted award. The award program is managed by the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology in conjunction with the private sector.

The award recognizes small and large businesses, health care and educational organizations and nonprofit organizations that have achieved excellence in seven key areas: leadership; strategic plan-

ning; customer and market focus; measurement, analysis, and knowledge management; human resource focus; process management; and results.

"Government agencies are equally capable in being high performance, serving their customers, operating in a fiscally responsible and sound way," said Harry Hertz, Baldrige director. "...And ARDEC is the first one [government organization] to prove that it is achievable while delivering great products to the Warfighter."

The ARDEC leadership is

excited and confident in their role in maintaining industry excellence.

"ARDEC, [by] winning this award, demonstrates that government organizations can be competitive with the best industry has to offer," Lannon said.

ARDEC has an overall mission of improving already fielded items, developing new ones, maintaining a strong armament technology base in government, industry and academia and providing technical support to the Soldier in the field.

"We [ARDEC] listen to what the Soldier says and needs," said Col. Russ Hrady, deputy director, ARDEC. "We

provide the Warfighter with the most capable and best quality product that anyone can provide, so that when the Soldier uses the product, it's going to work right the first time."

ARDEC is internationally known for the advancement of armaments technology and engineering innovations.

"ARDEC provides ninety percent of the Army's suite of armaments," said Donelle Denery, chief, Strategic Management and Process Office.

ARDEC works on a variety of technologies and products supporting the current and future forces to include small, medium and large caliber

weapons, guidance systems, explosives, ammunition and related support systems.

The ARDEC organizational culture is customer-focused, team-based and dedicated to the continuous improvement and innovation through streamlined work system processes and practices.

Employees are focused on the needs of customers and rapidly developing the best products possible, said Denery.

"We are continuously improving our processes, and the journey doesn't end with this award, it is beginning," Lannon said.

April Well-Being meeting focuses on spring, summer activities

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The April 17 Well-Being Council meeting held at the Edgewood Area Chapel focused on upcoming spring and summer activities for the Aberdeen Proving Ground community.

Col. Jeffrey Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, welcomed attendees.

"This is the first time we have had the Well-Being Meeting in the Edgewood Area for quite some time, in a couple of years actually," Weissman said. "I am glad to see a lot of new faces, and I hope to continue to do this once a quarter so that we can talk to both sides of the installation.

"The purpose of this monthly meeting is to kind of get a chance to give an update of things that are going on, things that are coming up throughout the community, and to give you an opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns that you might have that we can address," Weissman said. "We always respond about how we resolved or how we dealt with the issues that you brought up. We see this meeting as very important to us as we see what is going on out there and what is happening."

He said that many new projects are going on at APG due to base realignment and closure and enhanced use leases. Some projects have already started and some things will be going on within the next couple of years.

Weissman said that APG received a Tree City USA award again this year.

"We do take the environment very seriously at Aberdeen Proving Ground. We are happy to get that recognition again. I believe this is our third year in a row," Weissman said.

Weissman added that a community garage sale, sponsored by Army Community Service, will be held this year. Details will be coming out in the *APG News* and through e-mails.

Weissman noted that the beautification program will be starting again soon.

"You will start seeing the lawn cutting, trimming of trees, hedging bushes and plants being planted by the Garrison workforce," Weissman said. "What we ask is that you participate and partner with us to make APG as beautiful a place as it can be. We are looking for volunteers to take pride in their areas where they work and live to ensure that the entire installation looks like a wonderful place to live, serve and play."

Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez added that spring cleanup is going well. He added that there will be flowers for the housing areas, which will be given out on a first-come-first-served-basis from the Re-Nu-It Center.

An e-mail will notify everyone when they can pick up flowers.

Weissman said that the Days of Remembrance Ceremony will be 10 a.m., May 7, at the Post Theater.

"This is a very moving ceremony remembering the Holocaust victims," he said. "All are invited to attend."

There will be a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony 7 p.m., May 15, at Top of the Bay.

"We could not do all the things that we do at APG without volunteers," Weissman said. "Volunteers provide a wonderful service to us and to our Families and retirees as well. They help us do things that we normally can't afford to do based on funding or that we can't legally do based on the types of money that we have. Volunteers are very important to us and I think that it is important that we spend the time to recognize those volunteers that always help the community."

KUSACH

Lt. Col. Ron Patterson, deputy commander for Administration at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, announced that on May 16 KUSACH lost power due to a small fire.

"We had absolutely a great response from the Fire Department and from the Directorate of Public Works who worked all day and late into the night to get our power back up," Patterson said.

He mentioned that some patients have been dissatisfied with the wait time at the pharmacy at KUSACH.

Patterson recommends that patients come to the pharmacy in the morning to avoid long wait times.

"Our pharmacy has been going through a lot of growing pains and staffing challenges, but I think recently it has been better," Patterson said. "Thursday and Friday afternoon is our peak time. The wait time could be thirty to forty-five minutes, from about two to four in the afternoon.

"We are very close to what industry standard is, and we have one more pharmacist vacancy to fill. That will make things even better for us," he said.

"The automated refill machine will help us with wait time. In order to use this machine, you will need to register with the pharmacist," Patterson said. Please let them know the next time that you go in for medication. They will give you a card to fill out to get you in the system."

Patterson recommended that patients call the KUSACH triage nurse Sarah Blevins at 410-278-1760 who can recommend the best course of action if they or their child are sick and aren't sure if they need to seek immediate medical attention.

Patterson added that patients should use TRICARE online,

www.tricareonline.com.

"This system is quite a convenience. TRICARE online is a great system, it works," he said.

Margaret Gibson, who represents HealthNet, said that the TRICARE center office is open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"We have forty staff members that can assist you on claims and enrollment, benefits and any kind of issues," Gibson said.

Rodriguez asked leaders present to let Soldiers know what kind of services TRICARE provides and that they should use the TRICARE Center for questions.

"If you have any questions regarding your TRICARE bill, they will help you," Rodriguez said speaking from personal experience. "It can be stressful when your Family gets a bill for a major surgery. They do a great service, they help me out all the time, please use them. They have come a long way. The TRICARE folks are great. Please let everyone know that this service is there."

Patterson said that students need to complete their school physicals early.

"We have already got a rush for school physicals; try to take care of it now," Patterson said. "Don't wait until August."

DLES

Robert Krauer, director of Law Enforcement and Security, presented Weissman with a proclamation stating that the APG Police will continue to enforce seat belt usage. This proclamation names May as 2008's Click-it-or-Ticket Safety belt enforcement campaign month, urging all citizens of the community and surrounding areas to always wear their safety belts when riding the roadways now and in the future. Weissman signed the proclamation during the meeting.

FMWR

Regina Dannenfelser, acting director of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said that The Armed Forces Day Funfest is 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., May 17.

"We have a really great day planned for everyone and we highly encourage you to come," Dannenfelser said.

Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park is offering half price go-carts, batting cages and mini-golf. There will also be games, music, military displays and new car displays. For more information, call 410-278-4698.

"This year's Army Family Action Plan issues have been cataloged and are going to be sent out to the responsible agencies and organizations," Dannenfelser said. "Those will be out-briefed starting next month at the Well-Being Council. We will continue to work on these issues until we can

said.

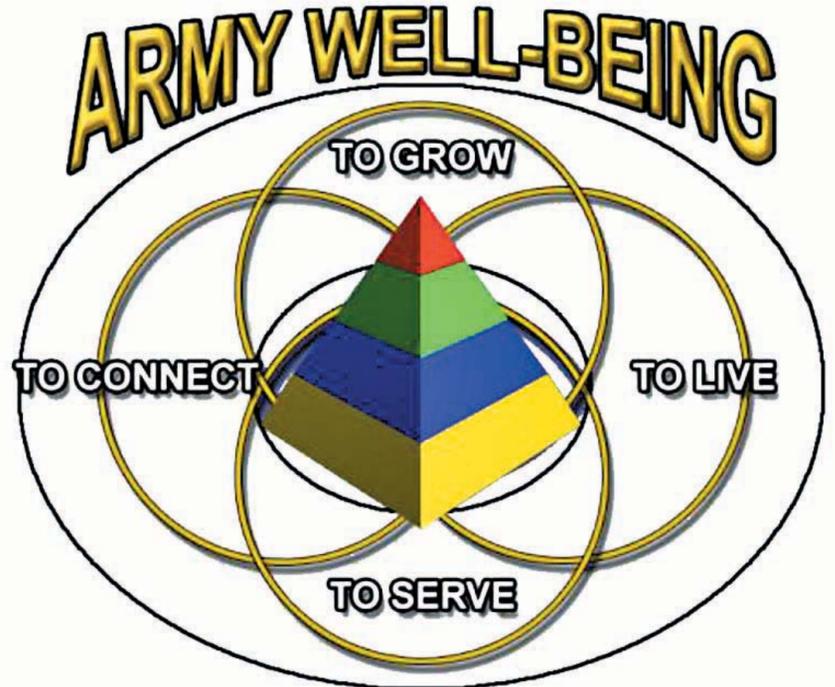
After being wounded in Vietnam, Atwater was medically retired. He then did the smart thing and went to school, eventually earning a doctorate in military history from Duke University.

He then became director of the Don F. Pratt Museum at Fort Campbell, Ky., from 1985 to 1989, before coming to APG where for the past 18 years he served as director of the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum.

"I had to move from Kentucky," Jack said recently. "For one thing it was a promotion... but more importantly, my wife hates country music. And she was working in Nashville and, well, it was just a hard commute for her every day..."

What Jack said he will miss most is going to work.

"When you find a job you love, it isn't like work at all," he said. "The folks at the museum, the staff I worked with, were all just terrific people, and made life easy for me."



resolve them or determine that we cannot resolve them. We are looking at almost one hundred issues. We do not want to ignore any of the issues brought up during the conference. We look forward to working with you on resolving those issues."

School Liaison

Eileen Campbell, APG's school liaison, announced that she will be including information about Cecil County Public Schools and links on the school liaison Web site, http://www.apgmwr.com/family/youth_liaison.html, so that Soldiers who are moving to the area can determine whether they want to live in Cecil or Harford County. For more information call Campbell, 410-278-2857.

Community Recreation

Marni Allison made several announcements about upcoming FMWR activities planned.

The annual Travel Fair will take place 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., May 8, at Top of the Bay.

On Memorial Day APG pools will open. Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park opens for weekend business May 3.

ZZ Top will headline this year's Army Concert, Sunday, June 22, opening with Blind Melon and Blackberry Smoke at 7 p.m. There will be a pre-ticket sale of \$20 for the APG community through May 2. Tickets can be bought at the MWR Leisure Travel Office, building 3326 and Hoyle Gym, building E-4210.

Community Recreation is looking for lifeguards to work at the pools for the summer. To apply, visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/resources/jobs.html>.

To make reservations for the Mother's Day Brunch at Top of the Bay, call 410-278-3062.

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Maj. Richard Hatfield announced that OSJA will pres-

ent a Law Day program May 1 at Top of the Bay. This year's theme is the Rule of Law. Krauer and the Mayor of Aberdeen, Michael Bennett, will speak about the value of the law.

At the close of the meeting, Weissman reminded everyone to keep safety in mind during

the summer months.

"Summer can be a very wonderful, but a wonderfully dangerous time. Have fun this summer, but please do it safely," he said.

The next well-being meeting will be in the Aberdeen Area Chapel 9:30, June 18.

Fame

From page 2

Youth Football Program, one of America's premiere youth development programs.

"It encompasses sixty community organizations and involves seventy-five hundred to eight thousand kids," he said.

Hadden said he is deeply honored to be inducted into the Ordnance Hall of Fame.

"It is a significant event in my life," he said. "Being selected is a big honor. People outside the Army don't understand, but just being associated with people who are already in the Ordnance Hall of Fame — like John Browning, inventor of the Browning rifle, and Richard Gatling who invented the machine gun — just being mentioned with people like that is a tremendous honor."

Dr. William F. 'Jack' Atwater

After recently completing

work on two television shows — one for the History Channel, the other with PBS, Dr. William "Jack" F. Atwater said TV producers remain interested using him as a munitions specialist.

"The problem is one of time and distance," he said. "I'll continue if they pay me to come back. They've even said they may even come see me."

Jack and his lovely bride, Laura, will soon relocate from Abingdon to the tropics. Atwater's wife, Laura, is from Puerto Rico and Jack says he likes it there too.

"It's paradise," he said. Atwater added that Dr. Joseph Rainer, his successor as director of the Ordnance Museum, is fully capable of being on television and, in fact, has already done some TV work.

Atwater honed his considerable people skills as a lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He served 10 years, and commanded a rifle platoon in Vietnam.

"It was one long tour," he

Legally Speaking

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

Limitations on political campaigning by government employees

Story

CAPT JULIE WORTHINGTON
OSJA

The 2008 Presidential campaign season is in full swing and has generated an unusually high level of interest across the nation. With more than half the state primaries and caucuses over, there has been record voter participation and fund raising efforts.

Not surprisingly, federal employees and service members may wish to become involved in campaigning for a political candidate or cause. While there are many things all federal employees can do to involve themselves in the political process, this article is intended to inform federal civilian employees and active duty service members of the activities that are prohibited by law or regulation.

Federal civilian employees may not:

- use their official title if participating in a political rally or caucus

- use their authority or position to coerce or influence anyone into participating in any political activity or cause;

- run for the nomination or as a candidate for election to a partisan political office;

- participate in any political activity while on duty, while in the federal workplace, while wearing insignia, or while using government resources (including e-mail);

- host or sponsor a political fundraiser even at their residence (however, a civilian employee's spouse may host or sponsor the fundraiser and the civilian spouse may attend); and

- solicit or receive political contributions as federal civilian employees even if over the phone and even if anonymously.

Civilians who violate these rules risk being removed from their positions with the federal government and may be prosecuted.

In recent months there has been a noticeable increase in

the amount of politically related e-mails sent by employees while they are on duty or while using government resources. If anyone sends politically related e-mails while using government resources or while on duty they are violating the Hatch Act and may be fired.

Consider the following real life situation: During the 2004 Presidential Election, an EPA employee favored John Kerry, and while on duty, sent 31 of his co-workers an e-mail urging them to support Kerry's campaign. Another employee at the Social Security Administration favored George W. Bush, and while on duty, sent a similar e-mail to 27 of his co-workers and other individuals. It was irrelevant which candidate each employee supported, both were found to have violated the Hatch Act because sending e-mails in support of any candidate while on duty constitutes prohibited political activity. (DOD Encyclopedia of Ethical Failures 2007)

Another Hatch Act violation that occurs often is soliciting funds for a political campaign. In a real situation, federal employees fundraised for their candidates' political campaigns and were prosecuted. Four employees in the U.S. Department of Agriculture organized

a Political Action Committee to raise money for the 1992 Presidential campaign. They collected a total of \$3,250 in checks from various individuals in the USDA building. To encourage donations, the four employees suggested that contributions to their fund might result in special consideration from the USDA officials affiliated with the administration. Following the election, the four created a list of USDA employees who should not, in their opinion, receive special consideration from the administration. The four defendants each received four years probation. Two of the defendants were fined \$1,000 and ordered to perform community service. The other two defendants were fined \$2,500 and ordered to serve 30 days detention in a halfway house. (DOD Encyclopedia of Ethical Failures 2006)

For more examples of violations of the Hatch Act, see the DOD Encyclopedia of Ethical Failures at http://www.dod.mil/dodge/defense_ethics/dod_oge/Encyclopedia_of_Ethical_Failures_2007_Full_Version.doc.

Another violation that is often committed by civilian employees is displaying cam-

aign memorabilia in their office or on their clothing such as campaign buttons. This is not permitted. The Hatch Act prohibits any political activity while on duty, while in the federal workplace or while wearing insignia.

The penalties for violating the Hatch Act are severe. The severity of the penalty does not increase or decrease based on the employees' willfulness in committing the misconduct. If an employee violates the Hatch Act by soliciting government contributions the penalty is removal even if the employee has a stellar record of performance and no history of disciplinary actions. If the violation concerns campaigning or influencing elections, the penalty may range from a 30-day suspension to removal.

Remember, even an unintentional violation of the Hatch Act, is subject to disciplinary action.

The prohibitions for active duty service members are similar to federal employees.

Active duty Soldiers may not:

- solicit votes or money for a political candidate or cause;
- display large signs or banners on their privately owned vehicles;
- participate in political

activities while in government quarters;

- campaign for, or hold elected office in, the U.S. government, or the government of any state or territory;

- use their influence or authority to sway a Soldier's decision on who or what to vote for in an election; and

- march or ride in a partisan political parade.

Some activities that are not expressly prohibited may be contrary to the spirit and intent of Department of Defense Directive 1344.10. Therefore, any activity that may be viewed as associating the DoD or any component directly or indirectly with a partisan political activity should be avoided.

Service members who violate these rules may face action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

During the upcoming election season these rules should be used as a guide by both federal civilian employees and service members on how and when to participate legally in the political process.

If there are any questions concerning this guidance, contact the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Administrative and Civil Law Division, 410-278-1116.

Law Day...it's official



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Flanked by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate's Capt. Jessica Guise, Law Day action officer, left, and Lt. Col. Don F. Pollack, SJA, right, Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, center, signs the Law Day proclamation April 24. The 2008 Law Day Luncheon is 11:30 a.m. today at Top of the Bay.



Veterans' Voices

VA announces SGLI, VGLI premium reductions

Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans and military personnel with life insurance policies managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs will see a reduction in their premiums, thanks to improved investment earnings and a reduction in non-combat claims.

The premium cuts affect military personnel covered by Service Members' Group Life Insurance and veterans cov-

ered by the Veterans' Group Life Insurance.

"The reduction in SGLI premiums makes life insurance even more affordable for today's men and women in uniform," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Lower VGLI premiums will allow more veterans to provide this low-cost financial security to their Families."

On July 1, the premiums for basic SGLI will be 6.5 cents

per month for \$1,000 of coverage, down from 7 cents per month for \$1,000. This translates into a 7 percent savings.

Service members with the maximum \$400,000 of coverage will see their monthly premium reduced from \$28 to \$26. Service members are also covered against severe traumatic injury for an additional dollar each month.

The reduction in SGLI premiums is made possible by lower, non-combat-related claims and increases in investment earnings. VA officials believe this premium reduction will help maintain the nearly universal participation in the program.

VGLI provides renewable term policies for people after their discharges from the military. Veterans pay premiums according to their age for this coverage.

On July 1, VGLI premium rates will be reduced for veterans aged 30 to 64, who make up 85 percent of those insured under the program. Premium rates for those under age 30 are already competitive.

Premium reductions, ranging from 4 percent to 12 percent, are a result of fewer claims being received. The reductions will ensure that VGLI remains highly competitive with similar insurance offered by commercial insurers.

"With service members putting their lives at risk against terrorism, life insurance coverage is more important than ever," Peake added.

Peake said the premium reductions should result in increased program participation and retention. With increased enrollment, the department may be able to reduce rates in the future.

More than 2.4 million people currently participate in the VA-managed SGLI program, with another 433,000 in VGLI.

For more information about the SGLI and VGLI premium reductions or to view a table with the new VGLI rates, visit the VA insurance Web site, www.insurance.va.gov, or call the Office of Service Members' Group Life Insurance, 1-800-419-1473.

Community Notes

SATURDAY MAY 3 TRAIL TREK

Enjoy a three and one-half mile day hike, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with volunteer Eugene Burg along the banks of the Susquehanna. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Susquehanna State Park, location to be determined. This free program is for ages 10 to adult. Registration is required. For more information, to reg-

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

SPRING BIRDING WALK

Join birder Phil Powers for an early morning hike, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to search for the birds of spring. Wear sturdy shoes to hike the Leight Park trail. Beginners are welcome. This free program is for ages 10 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.

FREE BOATING CLASSES FOR WOMEN

Women boaters will be treated to a free boating class, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., at MarineMax Gunpowder Cove located on 510 Riviera Drive, Joppa. Women on Water classes are offered by MarineMax year round, teaching women the finer points of steering, docking and operating a boat. The Mother's Day celebration will be extra special with free gifts for attendees including chocolates, pink Women On Water hats and more. This is open to the public, but space is limited.

For more information, call the MarineMax Women On Water Team, Kathy Bourbon, 314-605-5509, e-mail Kathy@ryan-pr.com, or Priscilla Visintine, 314-821-8232, e-mail pvisintine@cardengroup.net.

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY DAY

Unity in the Community will be held noon to 5 p.m. at the Festival Park located at the corner Parke and Franklin streets in Aberdeen. Admission to the festival is free. The event includes a day of food, crafts, fellowship and

fun, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, entertainment and more. Food vendors, crafts persons and community representatives are needed.

For more information or to reserve space for food vendors and crafts, call 410-306-6029 or 443-910-6118 or e-mail UIC1@yahoo.com.

ECO-JOURNALING

Create an eco-journal using natural items found in the park. This program will be held 2 to 3 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. Cost is \$5. Registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

MAY 4 HEALING HERBS III - CALENDULA CREAM

Explore the medicinal and therapeutic values of herbs and wild plants. This session features the healing properties of Calendula for rough, damaged, problem skin. This program will be held 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. Cost is \$4 per person. Registration is required.

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

879-2000, ext. 1688.

CRITTER CRUISE PONTOON BOAT RIDE

Venture as far into the marsh as the tide allows and see what's up and at 'em on a fine spring morning. Disembark at Snake Island for morning tea. This program will be held 8 to 9:30 a.m. for children weighing 30 pounds to adults. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for 13 and younger. Proceeds will benefit Envirothon, environmental education in Harford County Schools. Registration is required.

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

CHILDREN'S GARDENING III

Have fun growing food and flowers at the Leight Center and at home. Enjoy crafts, games, and science disguised as fun, and learn about seeds, life cycles, and growing food and flowers in a watershed-friendly way. This program will be held 2 to 3 p.m. for ages 5 to 10. Cost is \$5 per person. Registration is required.

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

ALL DAY BINGO

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135 located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold All-Day Bingo, 12:30 p.m. Doors open 11 a.m., early bird games 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$25 per person and includes 50 games (all paper cards), meal and free coffee. A 50/50 raffle will be held for early birds. Players have a chance to win a \$300 jackpot. No one under 18 years of age is allowed in the Bingo Hall. No smoking is allowed. For more information, call 410-642-2771.

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

Don't tiptoe through the tulips - wander around the wildflowers. Enjoy the peak of the spring wildflower season in the woods and gardens of the Estuary Center. This free program will be held 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. Ages 8 to 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required.

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

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

SCHOOL LIAISON

Science, Math Academy hosts gallery event

The staff and the 2008 inaugural graduating class of the Science and Mathematics Academy will host a Gallery Walk of Senior Capstone Projects at Aberdeen High School 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., May 20 in the lobby. A celebration banquet and ceremony will follow the walk. State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Grasmick is scheduled to attend. Open to the public.

For more information, call 410-588-5217.

Churchville Elementary sending care packages

In celebration of its Patriot Program, Churchville Elementary School is supporting the military serving overseas by joining together with "Soldiers Angels" to collect and send out care packages. Each month the students can bring items to be sent in care packages.

For more information, contact Trisha Orndorff, 410-836-2324 or e-mail jtordorff@verizon.net.

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

POST SHORTS

include Flyweight at 139.9 pounds and below to Super Heavy Weight at 225 pounds and above. Weight classes for women include Lightweight at 119 pounds and below to Heavyweight at 150 pounds and above.

The first and second place finishers in each weight class will go on to compete in the 61st Ordnance Brigade versus the 59th Ordnance Brigade, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 1 p.m., May 8, at the Athletic Center. If first and second place finishers graduate before May 8, the tournament will be held at APG on orders so that they can compete.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Jeremy Stearns, 520-559-7221 (cell phone), or e-mail jeremy.stearns1@us.army.mil.

Gospel revival services

The APG Gospel Worship Service invites everyone of all denominations to attend its revival services, 7 p.m., April 30 through May 2, at the main Post Chapel.

For more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Robert R. Thomas, 410-278-3976.

Installation Volunteer Recognition ceremony

The APG community will formally thank volunteers at a recognition ceremony and reception 7 p.m., May 15, at Top of the Bay.

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

New arrivals required to attend Newcomers' Orientation

All newly arriving Soldiers and civilian employees are required to attend the APG Newcomers' Orientation, 1 p.m., May 21, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. Sponsors are encouraged to bring their Family members, and all members of the APG community are welcome to attend.

More than 50 APG community activities and organization representatives will welcome arrivals with handouts and literature and will answer questions regarding their programs. Each unit/activity is requested to report the number of attending personnel to Phyllis Ethridge, Army Community Service, building 2754, 410-278-9669/7572, fax 410-278-9685 or e-mail Phyllis.ethridge@us.army.mil.

ride@us.army.mil

Training session on DFAS

The director of the Edgewood Contracting Division invites everyone to attend a training session entitled, "The DFAS Road Show," 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 8, at the Edgewood Conference Center, building E-4810, main auditorium. Lunch will not be provided.

Topics covered include:

- How DFAS pays contracts (both contract pay and vendor pay)

- Accounting
- Electronic commerce initiatives (including WAWF)
- Special payment instructions
- Interest payments
- Conversion of contract financing
- Contract reconciliation
- DFAS customer service
- DFAS/DCMA liaison

For more information, to register or to RSVP by close of business May 6, call Jennifer Zeman, 410-436-4492, or e-mail Jennifer.zeman@us.army.mil.

AMC commander to speak at AUSA meeting

The commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, will be the guest speaker at the Aberdeen Chapter of the Association of the United States Army meeting to be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 7, at the Richlin Ballroom, 1700 Van Bibber Road, in Edgewood. The cost is \$15 (cash or check only) and will include lunch. To register, e-mail Valerie at vlk@orsacorp.com or Mary Jernigan, chapter president, at MJernigan@quantum-intl.com.

Office Eagle holds Customer Appreciation Day

Aberdeen Area Office Eagle will hold a Customer Appreciation Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 20. Join the Office Eagle for a 50's style celebration that includes refreshments, giveaways and lots of fun.

For more information, call Office Eagle, 410-297-4950, e-mail bcouncil@bism.org.

JETS, USO-Metro host job fair for military

The Joint Employment Transition Services, or JETS, and the USO of Metropolitan

Washington will host a job fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 16, at the Fort Belvoir Officers' Club, located at 5500 Schulz Circle, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Employers include area police and fire departments, federal agencies, health care agencies, defense and government contractors. All military I.D. card holders are eligible to attend. Military personnel should bring resumes and be prepared for on-site interviews. No children.

For more information, call Dawn Fincham, 703-805-2464, e-mail dawn@usometro.org or Cassie Camp, 703-696-0958, e-mail cassie@usometro.org.

Free Military Separation Guide

The Military Separation Guide for Active Duty Personnel can now be downloaded FREE online at <http://www.unitedspinal.org/publications/vetsfirst/military-separation-guide/>.

The separation guide was created by United Spinal Association, a non-profit organization that has been fighting for veterans' rights for over 60 years.

United Spinal's "Military Separation Guide" emphasizes the importance of the retiree and veteran having all of their military records in their possession, and of insuring that such records are correct, before they leave active duty status. The "Military Separation Guide" also provides detailed information concerning relocation assistance and Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation, education, training benefits and much more.

For more information, call Terence J. Moakley, 718-803-3782, ext. 277.

Apply for ThanksUSA Scholarship

The ThanksUSA Scholarship Program began accepting applications April 1. Only the first 3,000 applications received will be processed. Applications must be postmarked by May 15.

Scholarship America is the administrator and does not provide applications.

Evidence of "active military duty" may consist of a Statement of Service, a letter or written statement from the Personnel Department or the commanding officer, a copy of Duty Orders, a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty or DD214.

Because it does not provide any dates, a military ID will not be accepted as evidence of active duty.

For more information, visit <http://www.thanksusa.org/main/scholarships.html>. The ThanksUSA application can only be found at the ThanksUSA Web site.

Military in Transition Virtual Job Fair June 10

A live online virtual job fair is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., June 10.

Attendees can register and visit this event through May 1. Participants can meet with employers from their home, office or from the field. This event is the first of a series of four virtual events designed to bring employers together with transitioning military, service disabled, Guard, Reserve and military spouses.

Hear presentations by employers, career experts, veteran advisors and others. Participate in on-line chats on topics of interest. Register now and receive daily updates. Login on June 10.

For more information or to register, visit www.careercentralonline.com, or contact B. Hughes, 703-647-7452, or e-mail BHughes@careercentralonline.com.

Asian Pacific American Heritage event

An Asian Pacific celebration will be held 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., May 21, at the Edgewood Area Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, RDECOM, 410-436-4810; James Rivera, EEO, 410-278-1100; or Linda Patrick, CHPPM, 410-436-1023.

Asian Pacific Specialty Meal May 20

The Asian Pacific Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m., May 20.

During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$3.85 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$3.30 applies

to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Asian Pacific Specialty Meal Menu includes: Chinese corn soup, vegetable egg rolls, Filipino style pork ribs, General Tsao's chicken, Korean style beef bulgogi, coconut fried shrimp, fried rice, steamed white rice, stir fried vegetables, steamed broccoli, cucumber kimchi, sesame green bean salad, salad bar with assorted toppings, coconut bread pudding,

fortune cookies, banana cake with cashews, hot rolls with sesame seed oil, assorted breads, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

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



FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION



Runners head out at the start of last year's Armed Forces Day 10k Run on Raritan Avenue near the Aberdeen Proving Ground Athletic Center.

Two weeks to Armed Forces Day 10K run

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

The second annual Armed Forces Day 10K run in Aberdeen Proving Ground will be held in two weeks, 8 a.m., May 17, starting at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center. Runners from across Maryland as well as APG service members, civilians and retirees are expected to participate in the run which drew 1,300 participants last year.

Ralph Cuomo, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports director, said that changes to this year's run include a change in the route due to anticipated construction work in the Boothby Hill Road area and three water stops, up from two last year.

Like last year, the run is being coordinated by the Charm City Run staff and participants need to access the company's Web site to register at <http://www.charmcityrun.com/>, Cuomo said.

Registration forms also can be picked up at any of the post athletic centers.

"Awards will be given to the top three overall finishers and to top finishers in the military and civilian categories," Cuomo said.

Garrison commander Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman will present awards immediately after the run at the site of the Armed Forces Day Fun Fest near the Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park.

In addition, water and refreshments will be provided to all participants and every runner will receive a free T-shirt with the drug free theme: "Honoring America's Drug Free Heroes," courtesy of the APG Army Substance Abuse Program.

The race begins at 8 a.m. Those without military ID cards are encouraged to pre-register to avoid a delay at the gate. All participants must show a photo ID at the gate.

Entry fees are \$20 thru May 4; \$25 thru May 18; and \$30 on race day. There is a \$5 discount for active duty military E-4 and above and all E-1's thru E-3's run free.

For more information, contact Cuomo, 410-278-3868/7934.

APG U14 team wins soccer championship

FMWR Youth Sports

The APG under-14 soccer team won the 2008 under-14 Division in the Maryland Sports Arena indoor soccer league, April 8, by beating the Bel Air Tigers 7-4.

Brandon Hilliard led the team in scoring with 20 goals; the strong quartet of Dallas Layman, Jake Kilmon, Kevin Kappauf and Dru Inman led the defense.

Bill Kegley, youth sports director, and volunteer parent David Layman, coached the team.

Kegley said the team wanted to send two players who will soon be departing the installation, away with a championship.

"The team really worked hard since the fall outdoor league in which it lost in the semi-finals," Kegley said, adding that the team lost its first game of the season and then went on a run to win seven straight games.

He said that departing players Torrey McKinney and Inman have been with the team



Photo courtesy of ANGELA INMAN
Torrey McKinney, with ball, looks to make a pass to #43 Kevin Kappauf as the U14 APG Arsenal take on Havre de Grace in the Indoor Soccer league this winter at the Maryland Sports Arena in Edgewood. The Arsenal won the game 6-2 and the championship with a record of 7-1.

for four years.

"Thomas Trzeciak, David Robinson, Dylan Dunn and Natalie Hooper were a force on both offensive and defensive ends," Kegley said, adding that the team's two new players, Blaise Curtis and John Meissner, have "developed into the team's philosophy of teamwork and hustle. The team could not have had any success with-

out the goal keeper, Brandon Imwold who had numerous big saves in critical situations."

On behalf of himself and coach Layman, Kegley thanked all the parents for their support and dedication to the team.

A reminder to parents that fall soccer registration will be held June 2 through 23. For more information, call 410-306-2297.

Activities/Events

School age/middle school services summer program taking applications

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

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

Tuition fees are based on total Family income.

Waiting list applications may be picked up daily, at the Edgewood Area Youth Services, building E-1902, the Outreach Services, building 2752 or faxed to 410-278-4658.

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

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

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

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

Do-it-yourself New York City tours

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

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

For more information or to

register, call or visit FMWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR_LeisureTravel@apg.army.mil.

Tae Kwon Do classes

Aberdeen Area Youth Center offers Tae Kwon Do classes for ages 5 to 11, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, April 30 through May 21. Cost is \$40 per student. Tae Kwon Do promotes discipline, muscle toning and conditioning.

For more information or to register, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479 for an appointment.

Baltimore Orioles Games

Purchase tickets for Orioles baseball at Camden Yards:

- Boston Red Sox, 7:05 p.m., May 13
- Pittsburgh Pirates, 1:35 p.m., June 15
- Kansas City Royals, 7:05 p.m., July 3
- Detroit Tigers, 7:05 p.m., July 18
- Chicago White Sox, 7:05 p.m., Aug. 25
- Oakland Athletics, Sept. 7, TBD
- Cleveland Indians, 7:05 p.m., Sept. 9
- Toronto Blue Jays, Sept. 28, 1:35 p.m.

For more information on other Baltimore Orioles games or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4907/4011.

Armed Forces Day Fun Fest May 17

Chesapeake Challenge and Shine Sports Field is the location for the Armed Forces Day Fun Fest, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., May 17.

Chesapeake Challenge will offer one-half price on go-carts, batting cages and mini golf this day only.

There will be games, music, military displays, a new car display, Outdoor Recreation display, special guests and more.

For more information, call Child and Youth Services, 410-278-4589.

Hip Hop classes

The Aberdeen Area Youth Center, located in building 2522, will hold Hip Hop Dance classes for ages 8 through 18. Classes for ages 8 to 13 will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; classes for ages 14 to 18 will be held 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All classes will be held on Mondays.

This is a fun and energetic dance class, great for all ages and levels.

For more information or to register, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479 for an appointment.

FMWR Amusement, Travel Expo May 8

FMWR Leisure Travel Services will hold an Amusement and Travel Expo, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., May 8 at Top of the Bay. Vendors from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Delaware will be available.

Come see what's hot this year for the next vacation and sign up to win great door prizes. For more information, call 410-278-4011/4907.

Tickets: \$25 In Advance
\$30 Day of Show
www.apgmwr.com

Presented by:
US Army Entertainment G
Aberdeen Proving Ground Family and MWR

ARMY CONCERT TOUR
ticketmaster www.ticketmaster.com

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 410-278-4794.

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OUR COURSES ARE THE COUNTY'S BEST KEPT SECRET

GOLF LESSONS AVAILABLE
DRIVING RANGE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE
RUGGLES - ABERDEEN
EXTON - EDGEWOOD

Mother's Day Dinner

Top of the Bay will serve a Mother's Day Dinner, 5 to 8 p.m., May 11. Cost for adults is \$21.95 per person; cost for ages 6 to 11 is \$9.95 per person; children ages 5 and under are free. Cost includes a prime rib carving station, chicken marsala, seafood newburg, assorted vegetables, assorted dessert table, coffee, tea and sodas. Champagne for Moms Bar will be available. Deadline for reservations is May 8.

For more information or to make reservations, call 410-278-3062/2552/5195, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Week of April 28

Special #1: BBQ pork sandwich on hamburger roll, French fries, cookie and soda for \$6.85.
Special #2: Granddaddy burger, choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, potato chips and soda for \$7.95.

Week of May 5

Special #1: Chicken cheese steak sub, choice of mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, green peppers, hot peppers, mushrooms, potato chips, cookie and soda for \$7.85.
Special #2: Grilled cheese, curly fries, cookie and soda for \$4.75.

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





Your health is KUSAHC's goal



KUSAHC's REX patients receive medications in record time



Photo by RACHEL PONDER

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

Story by
DR. ANDREW COTE
KUSAHC

Anyone interested in bypassing the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic Pharmacy to pick up refills or is tired of waiting in line to get refill medications can use its Automated Refill Dispensing Machine.

Known as REX to clinic staff, this is the first machine of this type to be used in any U.S. Army Medical Treatment Facility. The U.S. Air Force is currently using several of these machines with great success at several of its MTFs and other remote locations.

Currently patients waiting to pick up refill prescriptions must wait in line with patients picking up new prescriptions. The idea behind REX is that a patient can bypass the pharmacy and directly pick up prescription refills from a machine that is as easy to operate as an ATM.

"It is a great investment for our patients that will allow them to pick up their prescriptions in a lot less time," said Deborah Dodsworth, patient advocate.

The increased amount of foot traffic and an increase in the number of refills being handled were the reasons that refill processing time was increased to 48 hours.

"It needs to be stressed that this service only applies to refills of maintenance medications. Medications that require a signature, such as controlled prescriptions, or refrigerated prescriptions, such as insulin, will still be picked up from the KUSAHC Pharmacy," Dodsworth said.

Large volume prescriptions will be split into smaller bottles in order to fit inside the compartments of REX. All other medication will be processed by the pharmacy as usual.

Frequently asked questions

Question: How do I sign up for REX?

Answer: The REX business cards available at the pharmacy need to be filled out with the pertinent information so that the Pharmacy Staff can enroll the sponsor and dependents for this service. These cards can be filled out and given directly to any pharmacy staff member, or placed in the suggestion box located beside Window 2 in the pharmacy lobby. Patients can also drop off the REX card in the Patient Advocate's mailbox located in close proximity to REX.

Question: Why must I sign up for this service?

Answer: The sponsor/dependent(s) must establish a unique 4-digit pin number that will be used to pick up any refills from REX. This pin number must be treated like any other pin number and only given to trusted

people authorized to pick-up refills. There are security features established by the company to ensure the correct patient is getting the medications, such as the patient's photograph being taken and an electronic signature requirement printed on a receipt recording the refill transaction. The picture and signature are saved in case there is any question about who and when prescriptions were dispensed from REX.

Question: I've established a pin number and I'm ready to use REX. What is the process to get my refills from the machine?

Answer: Refill requests are made by calling 1-800-248-6337 and following the following prompts:

- Press #3 for Maryland locations; then
- Press #4 for APG Kirk Army Health Clinic Automated Dispenser; and
- Follow the rest of the prompts

As soon as the computer transfers the request to the pharmacy, the prescription label is generated. Once the label is printed, refill requests are ready for pick up in 48 hours. Refills phoned in on a Friday will be ready for pick up the following Wednesday because the 48 hours start the next business day (Monday) after the refill request is phoned in.

To use REX, the patient will stand in front of the machine:

- input the correct prefix (20 for sponsor, 30 for spouse, 31 for second spouse if sponsor is divorced and remarried, the children's prefixes go 01 from oldest to youngest) and the sponsor's SSN;
- input the 4-digit pin number
- REX will announce how many prescriptions are for the patient and cycle to the appropriate bin(s) and the door will open;
- The patient reaches inside and removes the prescriptions and signs on the electronic signature pad;
- A receipt with the medication information will print out and serve as a record that the prescriptions were picked up.

"REX is another way of dispensing medication from the pharmacy to our beneficiaries. We appreciate any comments about this new service. Please take the time to voice your opinion on the comment forms and deposit it in the Patient Advocate's mailbox located in the same location as REX," Dodsworth said. "The staff of the KUSAHC Pharmacy strives to provide the best service possible to our military Families and appreciate your patience in our new endeavor to serve you."

LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Sabre Harper, 410-278-8963, or e-mail sabre.harper@apg.army.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Donald Adamson
Neoma Amberman
Karen Blades
William Bond
Debra Bonsall
(daughter has brain tumor)
Jeanie Bowman
Jane Calahan
Donna Cianelli
Joyce Clark
George Colletta
Barbara Crossley
John Daigle
Wayne Doyle

Lisa Foust
Betty Genuardi
Hester Hayes
Jerome Hesch
William Horn
Sinclair Joe
Beverly King (caring for husband)
Paul Kuwik
Glenn Kresge
Coby Lantry
Joyce Mauldin
Marie D. Nowak
Dorothy Nowak
Cindy Orwig

Adrienne Pearson
Michael Querns
Melvin Showell
Gloria Scott
Barbara Seker
Donna Sexton
Algie Shaw
Mark Shipman
Willie Stevenson
Angela A. Taylor
Carrie Theiss
Charles Young
Barbara Zenker

Partner

From front page

for others to emulate."

Representing the federal sector, Dr. Albert Williams, U.S. Army Installation Management Agency Northeast Region MWR Division; Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez; and Regina Dannenfeler, director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, attended the ceremony at the George Washington Carver Education Center in Elkton.

Williams remarked that his goal is to get as many school systems as possible to sign the MOA.

It is estimated that more than 20,000 additional workers will relocate to APG by the year 2012, which means that many new Families will be moving to Harford and Cecil counties, said Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman during the March Town Hall meeting.

APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez, a resident in Cecil County with a son attending high school there, encourages the partnership.

"The signing ties in with the Month of the Military Child,

designated in April, which recognizes the important sacrifices, such as multiple relocations, that military children make," Rodriguez said. He said he is impressed with the Cecil County school system.

"We realize Cecil County will be a very viable option for relocating Soldiers and civilians," Rodriguez said.

Other CCPS representatives included Henry Schaffer, assistant superintendent; Vince Cariello, executive director for High School Education; Dr. Carolyn Teigland, associate superintendent of Educational Services; and Kathy Kunda, Business & Education Partnership Advisory Council coordinator for Cecil County Public Schools.

"We are very excited to be part of the APG Family, and we look forward to continuing the partnership that we already have with them," Kunda said. "It was my pleasure to be able to work with Eileen Campbell, APG School Liaison, to coordinate the signing of the memorandum of agreement." Kunda added that CCPS have already been working closely with APG and have implemented some practices outlined in the MOA; signing the MOA

formalizes their partnership.

"This agreement, with its nine guiding principles, assists transitioning students trying to get acclimated to their new school," Campbell said.

"We at [APG] are pleased with the most recent signing of the U.S. Army Secondary Education Transition Study's Memorandum of Agreement. Cecil County Public Schools is clearly demonstrating their support of our military and military-connected Families. Dr. Carl Roberts has been very attentive to the needs of Families moving due to base realignment. I look forward to working with Kunda, my new partner, to prepare the local action plan to support school transitions," Campbell said.

Additionally, Roberts hopes to promote employment opportunities for transitioning Family members as well.

"The school system offers employment opportunities in administration, teaching and para-professional fields, and I hope to work with APG to assist in this transition as well," Roberts said. "By working with Army Community Service, we hope to make all transitioning students and parents feel welcome."

TRICARE offers a no stress guide to parenthood

U.S. DoD Military Health System

New parents should be enjoying their new baby, not worrying about health care. TRICARE Management Activity provides essential health care information for parents on its Web site.

The Life Events section at www.tricare.mil guides parents-to-be from maternity to pre-teen health care. The site includes information about prenatal, post partum, pre-adoption, adoption and well-child care.

One of the first and most important steps is enrolling your newborn in the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Response System. The TRICARE site shows parents how to effectively navigate the enrollment process,

a crucial step that gets a child into the system where they can be recognized as an eligible beneficiary.

Parents can find essential information about their child's dental health at www.tricare-dentalprogram.com. Here, TRICARE conveys dental program options and enrollment information, and answers questions about oral care for children.

The effort to provide new parents with health care options was part of TRICARE's recognition of April as the "Month of the Military Child." TRICARE, along with other military organizations and installations, is showing its support for military children during the month and all year long.

U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground Cecil County Public Schools District Local Action Plan

Issue #1 Timely records transfer

- Consistency in all withdrawal/enrollment forms county-wide
- Forms availability on both liaison and CCPS Web sites

Issue #2 Easy transition (first two weeks)

- Student 2 Student Programs at Secondary Level
- Schools' parent liaisons provide tours for new elementary school Families

Issue #3 Promoting extracurricular programs

- Lists will be updated and available to students/parents
- Current school events on APG School Liaison site

Issue #4 Lessening adverse moves

- Provide APG School Liaison outreach service/resources
- Inform counselors of the Army Stabilization Act (Soldiers may request stabilization of their junior-year students)

Issue #5 School calendars, schedules

- Information should be available on

APG School Liaison and CCPS Web sites for newcomers

Issue #6 Teacher professional development

- Offer Transition Counselor Institute
- School Liaison Workshop available for staff on military issues

Issue #7 Supporting the school partnership

- Support the Local Action Plan that uses the signed Memorandum of Agreement Guiding Principles as a template
- Select Local Action Plan team

Issue #8 Provide information on graduation/promotion requirements

- Provide easy access on both Web sites (or link to CCPS)
- Consistent standards in all county schools

Issue #9 Assist students transitioning into careers/college

- CCPS/APG Partnership share career fair information to assist students and build the workforce

Halls Crossroads Elementary School DI teamwork scores big

APG School Liaison, FMWR

The Hall's Crossroads Destination Imagination Team Obstacles of Course conquered 16 other teams from throughout Maryland placing third at the State DI Tournament held at Towson University on April 12.

The team of seven fourth and fifth grade students had the task of designing a vehicle that would travel their own designed obstacle course of hills, stairs, moats and tunnels.

Their team managers, Karen Baldwin and Jeanne Reif, worked for months while the team created the Beach Course Theme and Crab Robotic Vehicle.

They "learned a lot about simple machines," commented Marcia Cole, Hall's Crossroads DI coordinator, but they requested help in understanding the robotics theories.

The crew put together a remote control crab robot that tunneled through a "menacing shark, dodged a blinking lighthouse, moved through pillars of coral, traveled under a bridge of sea grass, slalomed through four iridescent sea anemones, proceeded over a surfboard in the sand (using ramp/fulcrum machine technology,) climbed the stairs of a broken boardwalk and leaped over a 7-inch gap and then untiringly repeated the 'beach course' again and again."

On their first trial; Shyla



Team member Shyla Sadler adjusts the Halls Crossroad Destination Imagination Team's robotic crab as Charles Ford, a Trideum Corporation robotics engineer and enthusiast from the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, monitors her progress.

Sadler, aided by teammate, Tai Henson, maneuvered their crab vehicle around the course eight times in the eight-minute test.

Eileen Campbell, Aber-

deen Proving Ground School Liaison, contacted numerous APG Partners in Education members and Miles Thompson answered the call. As a Trideum Corporation robot-

ics engineer and enthusiast assigned to the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, he was interested in the project and agreed to visit with the group. As it turned out, he and another

Trideum colleague and software engineer, Charles Ford, spent more than three months' meeting with the team at least twice a week.

Thompson taught concepts on gear-ratios and trigonometry to help students understand slope and its impact on vehicle performance.

"I liked working with the kids and seeing their comprehension grow," Thompson said. "[As a result], their confidence grew; they really came together as a team."

Ford assisted in teaching gear-ratios and transmissions.

With these new understandings, the team decided to redesign the crab vehicle for the State challenge in April.

Ford said he "admired their ability to learn quickly."

The vehicle's rack and pinion steering was changed to tank steering.

While Sadler maneuvered the crab through its beach course, a non-verbal story would be played out by other team members, Julianne Reif, Alexis Burke, Fabiola Benitez and Jason McClune. The students would flip the charts of pre-printed story boards while 'Music of the Islands' softly played on bongo drums, boom wackers, a steel drum, maracas or clam shell castanets.

Matthew Baldwin, dressed in a team-created red crab costume, acted out a story of saving his crab friends from becoming steamed crabs.

These 'side-trips' allowed students to showcase their personal talents such as sewing, playing percussion instruments, creative writing and printing, to name a few.

Stephen Albert, a junior at Aberdeen High School's Science & Math Academy, also assisted the group and recalled when he was in DI in 3rd grade with Cole. He actually made it with his team that year to the 'Global' Level.

This may be his last year assisting his teacher/mentor with her DI Program at Halls Crossroads as his "senior year at SMA will be too challenging," but he said he is happy that they will represent Maryland in the Global Tournament to be held in Knoxville, Tenn., in May.

One of the most difficult trials of the day was the "Instant Challenge" which the Hall's Crossroads Team had to undertake late in the day. Each team needed to cooperate and use all their skill and experience gained over the past months to respond to the challenge and "think on their feet."

"This is when team work scores big," Cole said.

The team is now in the process of raising money to participate in the DI Global Finals May 21 through 25.

To read more about Destination Imagination, go online to the state site, www.imaginationthis.org, or the national site, www.idodi.org.

APG Outdoor Journal

Wow!! Now that's an APG success story!!

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

For Kristen, age 12, and Ashley Harris, age 15, and for Jason Hall, age 14, April 12 will be a day they will not likely soon forget. And for Jeff Harris and Chris Hall, the proud parents of these youngsters, it will be a memory that will stay with them forever. This was Youth Day at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the annual spring gobbler hunting season in Maryland, and these youngsters learned first hand what springtime turkey hunting was all about.

Now for those of you who've never hunted wild turkeys in the spring, this is one of the most challenging recreational hunting experiences going.

And then, to add icing to the cake, being able to share that experience with a young son or daughter, is, as one of the fathers put it, "what life is all about."

"It's not just the hunting, or the beauty of a spring morning," he continued, "it's the exhilaration and the joy of being a part of their moment."

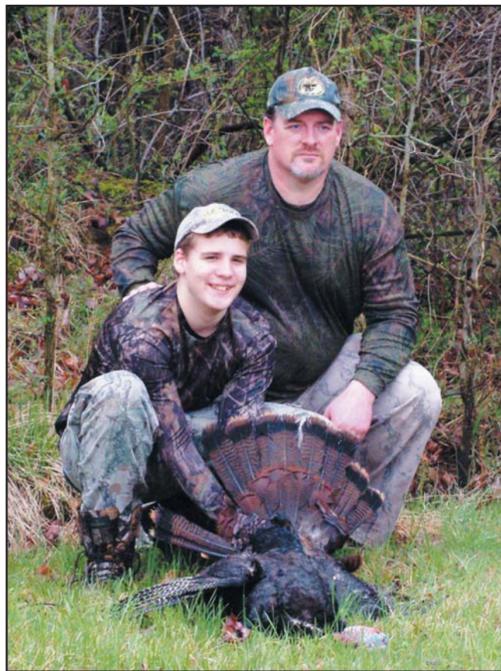
The reintroduction of the wild turkey to APG began in 1995, when in a cooperative effort with the state of Maryland and the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment Natural Resources Branch, 23 wild turkeys

trapped in western Maryland were released down-range on the Aberdeen Area.

"The habitat at APG was ideal for a reintroduction program," commented Jim Pottie, the former wildlife biologist at APG, now retired. "We closely monitored the recovery effort and kept the hunting season closed for a number of years afterward, allowing the turkey flocks to expand throughout the installation. Then, in 2000 we implemented Phase II of the program, successfully trapping and relocating sixteen of the birds to the Edgewood Area. Since then the population in both areas has increased in numbers well beyond our original estimates. It's an amazing success story."

Jeff Harris, the father of Kristen and Ashley, who works for the Chemical Materials Agency in the Edgewood Area, grinned when asked about the hunting experience with his daughters.

"I've had a lot of really good moments with them, but this one will be tough to beat," Jeff said. "They've always been outdoor types and fun to be around. It was a good morning," he continued, posing with his daughters for a picture. "For a while there we were surrounded. Kristen got her bird at about eight o'clock, and Ashley's didn't come in until about



Jason Hall, age 14, shows his 'picture perfect' turkey he bagged while posing with his father Chris during Junior Turkey Hunt Day at Aberdeen Proving Ground April 12.



Kristen, left, age 12, and Ashley Harris, age 15, showed their father Jeff that girls can hunt, showing off their kills from APG's Junior Turkey Hunt Day April 12.

nine twenty," Jeff said. "It was neat; both birds came in gobbling and in full strut. Kristen's was about twenty-five yards out, and Ashley's about forty yards."

Both birds were "long beards" weighing over 20 pounds.

Youth Day, or Junior Turkey Hunt, is a special day set aside prior to the official opening of the

spring gobbler season by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. To encourage parents to introduce their youngsters to the outdoors and the traditions of recreational hunting. This one-day event allows hunters 16 years of age or younger to hunt wild turkeys when accompanied by an unarmed adult of at least 21 years of age. Both participants are

required to possess a valid hunting license.

Similar Youth Day Hunts are also set aside during the Maryland waterfowl and deer hunting seasons in the fall. The regular spring gobbler season opened in Maryland on April 18.

"Jason's a good hunter, and a safe hunter!" commented his father, Chris Hall, who works for the Joint Program Manager for Bio-Defense in the Edge-

wood Area. "All together we heard five gobblers and saw three. His was a nice bird. We were sitting next to each other, and Jason saw it first coming toward us. It was picture perfect!"

All in all, nine youngsters participated in APG's Youth Hunt this year, and if one were to measure "success" in smiles, Saturday was a resounding APG success.

Gen. Casey

From front page

initiatives will significantly improve quality of life for Soldiers and Families who have been stressed and stretched by more than six years of war.

Gen. Casey told the congressmen that in FY 2009, the Army is requesting \$3.3 billion of its MILCON budget for projects to improve Soldier barracks and improve quality of life. Because 46,000 Families, 33,000 Soldiers and 98,000 trainees are currently living in inadequate housing, Gen. Casey said congressional support was crucial.

In his opening remarks, Sub-

committee Chairman Chet Edwards also talked about the importance of quality-of-life initiatives and congratulated Gen. Casey and the Army for paying such close attention to the welfare of Soldiers and Families.

Gen. Casey added that the Army has to prepare Soldiers for success in both the current fight and future conflicts and is developing world-class training facilities, such as an urban-terrain site, to increase the Army's mobilization and power-projection capabilities. The training facilities equal \$242 million of the FY 2009 request.

Both Soldiers and equipment need time to reset and recover after long, arduous deployments, he said, and the quality of installations is critical in this mission to train, mobilize,

deploy, and reset Soldiers.

"This MILCON budget really impacts on the quality of installations, the ability of installations to take these units coming back, reorganize them...and make sure there are facilities, opportunities for Soldiers and Families," Gen. Casey said.

Many of those installations are in the process of transforming under a plan that includes the Grow the Army initiative, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act and the Global Defense Posture Realignment. The plan restructures the Army's capabilities so the force can grow, become more agile, responsive and expeditionary, and will increase the Army by 74,200 Soldiers. It will also return 41,000 Soldiers and Families from Europe and Korea to the United States by 2011.

The congressmen were concerned that Soldiers stationed on installations overseas that are slated to close aren't having their needs addressed. In response to a question from Representative John Carter, Gen. Casey acknowledged that the Army can't make improvements in some instances because of BRAC.

After Edwards mentioned that only 10 percent of married Soldiers in Korea receive accompanied tours, but that Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. forces in Korea had testified that up to 70 percent would bring their Families given the opportunity, Eastin said the Army is spending \$125 million to build new housing units at Camp Humphreys.

"The scope of MILCON and BRAC efforts over the next [few] years is [huge]," Gen. Casey said.

He emphasized that this is the Army's largest organizational change since World War II, which involves realigning the Army's entire global infrastructure, a job that cannot be completed without full and timely funding.

According to Gen. Casey, over the past three years, average MILCON funding delays of four to six months have increased construction costs, adding that it is an especially crucial time for BRAC construction. Without the remaining \$560 million supplemental, he cautioned, the Army will not meet 31 of 90 FY 2008 BRAC projects, which would destroy a carefully planned BRAC timeline and seriously jeopardize the Army's ability to meet the September 2011 deadline, as required by law.