

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Nov. 12 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



KUSAHC closed for holiday

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed Nov. 11. Patients should plan accordingly for any medication needs.

For routine medical assistance in the evenings, weekends and on federal holidays, call Staff Duty, 410-278-1725. The Staff Duty Officer will coordinate with the Medical Officer of the Day and initiate a referral, if needed.

Without authorization, patients may be responsible for copayments for care provided at other facilities.

Since there is no Emergency Room at KUSAHC, call 911 for true emergency situations.

CFC collecting old books, movies for special sale

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Combined Federal Campaign is asking for donations of paperback and hardcover books as well as movies in VHS and DVD format to sell in the first-ever CFC Book and Movie Fair to be held Nov. 13 and 14 in the Down Under area of Top of the Bay, building 30.

Paperbacks will sell for \$.50 and hardcover books and movies for \$1. The fair is open to all civilians, military personnel and contractor employees working at APG.

All proceeds from the book fair will be donated to the Chesapeake Bay CFC as 'undesignated funds.'

For more information, call the CFC Office, 410-278-9913/9917.

Daily traffic changes require driver vigilance

For the next several weeks, Daisy Construction will be working at the Maryland and Aberdeen boulevards intersection. Lane changes, lane closures and varying traffic patterns will occur on a daily basis.

Motorists are asked to maintain awareness of daily changes to driving conditions and traffic control

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Army Team C4ISR checks out building site

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

A group of 53 Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Forward employees gathered at the C4ISR construction site on the Aberdeen Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground Oct. 30 to get a firsthand view of the progress being made at the site, and to visualize the completed campus.

Col. Augustus Owens, CECOM

LCMC deputy commander (forward), who organized the visit, said that before this visit, many Army Team C4ISR Forward employees have only seen drawings of what the campus will look like in the future. Owens said that he wanted to give them an opportunity to be able to have a firsthand account of the site.

"It's comparable to the excitement of seeing your own house being built in a new area, except this house is more modern, has more amenities and functions five

times better than your old house," Owens said.

At the site, Gary Schilling, U.S. Corps of Engineers APG program manager, who is overseeing the project, gave an informal presentation to the group, allowing time for the employees to ask questions.

Schilling said that as part of a joint venture, Grunley Construction, Tompkins-Turner Government Services, and Kinsley Construction were awarded the contract.

According to Grunley's Web

site, (www.grunley.com), "The C4ISR site involves the design/construction of a new nine-building campus totaling 1.6 million square feet of new space for a U.S. Army communication unit. The five-phased project — once completed — will be a state-of-the-art research and technology campus."

Schilling said that Skidmore, Owings and Merrill LLP, one of the largest architectural firms in the world, is in charge of the architectural design.

See **C4ISR** page 13



Photo by Rachel Ponder

Fall Fun

Rachel Lester, 11, left, and Katharina Hohmann, 10, right, enjoy cotton candy at the annual Hallelujah Harvest on Oct. 31, held at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Chapel. Look for a full article on the Hallelujah Harvest in next week's APG News.

Initiative builds community resiliency at Army installations

Story by **ANNA F. COURIE**
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Soldiers and their Family members at Army installations in the continental United States may benefit in the future from a health and well-being initiative from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

The health and well-being of Soldiers and Family members has been designated an integral aspect of the Army's mission by Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

Health and well-being includes all aspects of mental, physical, spiritual and material wellness.

CHPPM plays a crucial role in ensuring that these aspects of quality of life are addressed as a part of the garrison and tactical strategic plan.

"We often consider health to be solely the responsibility of medical personnel; however, when combining assets between medical, garrison and tactical personnel, we are better able to

create a multidisciplinary effort that supports the health and resiliency of Army communities," said Col. Michael Custer, director of Health Promotion and Wellness at CHPPM headquarters. "CHPPM Health Promotion and Wellness Program staff members coordinate and facilitate this effort."

Health is an essential component of operational readiness—in the field and on the home-front.

"CHPPM's initiative addresses all aspects of Soldier and Family member wellness. It incorporates processes into the way the installation does business to ensure a holistic and multidisciplinary effort, and it prevents stovepiping," Custer said.

Based on CHPPM Europe's health promotion and wellness model, Army regulation 600-63, Army Health Promotion, is executed through the installation Health Promotion and Well-Being Council, chaired by the installation commander and facilitated by a local health promotion coordinator. Through data-driven tools, customer feedback assessments and a multidisciplinary forum,

See **HEALTH** page 6

CFC provides opportunity to help veterans

CFC Office

Veterans Day is next week and the APG 2008 Combined Federal Campaign staff would like to remind readers that donating to the campaign is one way to help the nation's veterans.

"This is a day to pause and realize how much we owe to the men and women who have served or are still on active duty with the armed forces," said Nancy Sewell, Combined Federal Campaign chairwoman. "It is said that nearly 1,000 veterans of World War II die each day. Sadly, more than twenty-sev-

en thousand men and women have been wounded since fighting began in Afghanistan and Iraq. There are so many who could use any help you are willing to provide."

Numerous charities are listed in the "Light the Way" 2008 Contributor's Guide which help veterans and their Families, from the well known to smaller ones.

The USO, for example, provides a lounge area at the BWI-Marshall Airport where Soldiers can watch TV, use a computer, enjoy coffee and snacks, or even sleep while waiting for their flights. The

Armed Forces Veterans Homes Foundation houses 30,000 disabled veterans in 139 state veterans' homes. Angel Flight for Veterans provides air transportation for Families needing to visit their injured service member.

"If you are wondering about which charity to donate to during this year's campaign, check out the contributors guide or visit Web site www.cbacfc.org," Sewell said. "Whether the veteran is a Family member, relative, or fellow American, you can make a difference."

See **CFC** page 12

ACS Family Advocacy holds domestic violence seminar

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

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month the Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program hosted a workshop and seminar for members of the Family and child advocacy community at Top of the Bay Oct. 30.

Titled, 'The Batterer As Parent: Domestic Violence Affects Children,' the event featured nationally recognized author and activist Lundy Bancroft. With 20 years of experience, specializing in interventions for abusive men and the women and children who are exposed to them, Bancroft

is the author of several books, including 'The Batterer as Parent,' for which the seminar was named.

Aida Rivera, ACS Family Advocacy Program manager and Lynda Fernandez, ACS Family Advocacy Program specialist, delivered opening remarks and introduced the guest speaker.

Rivera said the goal of the program was to emphasize and remind participants about the seriousness of domestic violence and its impact on individuals affected by it.

"We have come together today with one common purpose in mind," Rivera said. "To learn all we can about the very

See **SEMINAR** page 12

Traffic alert

The Wise Road Gate in the Edgewood Area will undergo renovation construction through Nov. 18. This will result in a change to the entrance and exit traffic patterns during construction.

Two operational lanes inbound and one lane outbound will remain to minimize any disruption.

Motorists are asked to maintain awareness to the traffic pattern change and practice safe driving and courtesy to keep everyone safe.

Edgewood Area employees should expect possible traffic delays at Wise Road Gate and adjust their arrival and departure times accordingly.

There will be no changes to the Wise Road Gate hours during the construction; Wise Road Gate will be open 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday thru Friday and closed on Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

For more information, call Capt. Nicholas Stamos, Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security, 410-436-2222.

October Well-Being meeting focuses on renovation updates and traffic concerns

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**

Aberdeen Proving Ground organization representatives announced upcoming APG events and improvements as well as important information pertaining to the APG community at the Well-Being Council meeting held at the Aberdeen Post Chapel Oct. 16.

Col. Jeffery S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, opened the meeting by welcoming attendees adding that he would reserve his remarks for the end of the meeting, and turned the meeting over to Michael Lupacchino, the director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Commissary

Ann Morrison, Commissary produce manager, announced that German cookie tins for the holiday season are now on sale at the Commissary.

KUSAHC

Lt. Col. James M. Nold, commander of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, announced that October is Women's Health Month. There was a display at the hospital and information available to give out to patients.

He announced that KUSAHC has hired a nurse practitioner that will focus on population health type issues like cancer screenings, mammograms, pap smears, and diabetes screenings.

"We are trying to work on prevention as opposed to a cure," Nold said. "We also have been trying to put a lot of useful information on our Web site and keeping it up to date."

Nold added that TRICARE Online, www.tricare-online.com, is another way that patients can book appointments.

"We are looking at improving on a lot of different aspects of the clinic function, especially the pharmacy that is a main concern of mine," Nold said.

Nold added that later that month there will be a strategic planning meeting and he will focus on having a standard set of hours for the pharmacy.

"This is something I hope to get resolved as soon as possible," Nold said.

See **WELL-BEING** page 13

ATC hosts U.S., U.K. general officer roundtable

Story by
CRYSTAL MAYNARD
ATC

Col. John P. Rooney, Commander of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center hosted a United States and United Kingdom general officer roundtable visit Oct. 10 to provide a forum for discussion on programs and technology of mutual interest to both the U.S. and U.K. forces and to further strengthen the partnership between the nations' military forces.

Three U.S. lieutenant generals, three major generals, six brigadier generals and 15 civilian participants were joined by 14 U.K. visitors that included one major general and three brigadier generals.

The participants received a briefing from ATC Commander Col. John P. Rooney on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles as well as a demonstration by the Program Manager for Future Combat Systems of the newest unmanned systems and sensors technology and the FCS integration with ground soldier systems.

MRAPs are a family of vehicles that have a "V"-shaped hull and armor plating designed to provide protection against mines and improvised explosive devices. The vehicles are a top Department of Defense acquisition item and are currently being used in the War on Terrorism overseas.

Later in the visit, a demonstration highlighted the FCS technologies to be used by the infantry, termed Spin Outs, including Tactical and Urban Unattended Ground Sensors, the Non Line of Sight-Launch System and network kits for the high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle platform.

Additionally, the Small Unmanned Ground Vehicle is also included for fielding to infantry brigade combat teams.

Participants watched a mock urban operation, where they were able to see the capabilities of the FCS Network Capability Integration Kit, which consists of an integrated computer system, limited battle command and the System of System Common Operation Environment that will be integrated onto the HMMWV platform.

As the audience watched a live

feed, a 'bad guy' was tracked and apprehended.

"The full spectrum operating environment makes it increasingly important for the Future Combat System program to share program updates with our global allies," said FCS spokesman Paul Mehney. "Showing the United Kingdom FCS equipment that will be soon fielded to our Infantry Brigade Combat Teams and allowing the U.K. officers to talk to Soldiers, as we did at APG, provides a catalyst to conversations on how joint operability will take place once FCS capabilities are brought to the warfighter."

In July 2008, the FCS equipment began a Preliminary - Limited User Test focused on the infantry brigade at Fort Bliss, Texas. The results from this testing effort will support doctrine, organization, training and material development efforts.

During the day, officers from both countries had the opportunity to observe, engage and discuss some of the latest military technology available to the Warfighter.

"Opportunities like these not only strengthen the rapport that we have with our foreign counterparts, but allows the chance to brainstorm with our allies on how we can utilize these technologies to our mutual benefit," said Harry Cunningham, ATC Test Technology director.



Photos by ATC TECH IMAGING DEPARTMENT
A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle prepares to undergo testing at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center.



Sgt. Brian Tidwell of the 2nd Division Stryker Brigade demonstrates the Land Warrior gear that he uses during operations while deployed in Mosul.

United Kingdom Maj. Gen. Chris Wilson maneuvers the FCS Small Unmanned Ground System as Sgt. 1st Class Stephan Faddis, left, and Maj. Samuel Anrica of the U.S. Army look on.

Army's only woman Stryker driver lives for challenge

Story and photos by
SGT 1ST CLASS CHRISTINA BHATTI
2nd SBCT PAO, 25th Infantry Division, MND-B

At Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, a string of chances enabled a Soldier to become the Army's first - and only - woman Stryker Armored Vehicle driver, an experience she says changed the course of her Army career.

"It all happened by chance," said Spc. Tiffany Knotts, a signal support systems specialist. "I showed up at the unit at the right time, and I was sent to the training."

The right time for the Army proved to be the wrong time for her Family. Knott's father passed away two weeks before she made it to Hawaii, but she said that even in death, her father watches over her, and his death made it possible for her to get to Hawaii at the perfect time. Her move was delayed two weeks to attend his funeral.

"I consider this opportunity as a gift from my father," she said. "He was always so proud of me and raised me to push and challenge myself, and being in the position I am in allows me to take on challenges."

Knotts said she considers herself a jack of all trades. Assigned to the 556th Signal Company, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warrior," 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, Knotts is not only the commander's Stryker driver, she also works in the administrative shop, handling a variety of personnel issues, from promotions to pay. It's not the job she joined the Army for, and she said she was upset at first when it hap-

pened but quickly gained a new perspective.

"It's really great to be able to take care of the Soldiers in the company," she said, as she performed her daily checks of the company's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation room. "I learned what it takes to ensure Soldiers get what they need to be successful. It is hard work."

And her hard work does not go without notice.

"She works really hard and has learned a lot in a short period of time. She loves to goof off and laugh, but when it is time to work, she puts the game face on," said Sgt. James Canedy, a native of Radcliff, Ky., and Stryker team chief, 556th Signal Company.

Like so many in the military, Knotts was shaped by a legacy of service. Her grandfather and father served in the Air Force and Army, respectively. They fought for their country and lived to tell her their stories.

She was intrigued by them and wanted to follow in their footsteps. The desire to serve hit her so badly, she gave up one love in the pursuit of another. This pursuit led her to switch high schools.

Her first school, in her hometown of Riverside, Calif., didn't have a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. Knotts was determined to find a school with JROTC program because that is what she wanted to do.

With that goal in mind and with support from her Family, she moved to a new school - a better school for her to achieve her goals.

"I loved the Air Force JROTC program. Every minute of it was

awesome," she said.

The program took up so much of her time, she was forced to give up playing the clarinet.

"I loved it, but the band's stance was 'band or nothing else,'" she said. "I wanted JROTC and sports more so that is what I concentrated on."

Knotts enjoyed a good amount of success during her tenure. She was awarded Cadet of the Year and spent her time as a member of the many different color guards.

Four and one half years after she joined the Army, she has an even more prestigious position, one she proudly holds alone.

"It was pretty intimidating at first, but this is the coolest thing I have ever accomplished. It is such an honor and flattering to hold this position," she said, without an air of arrogance or a nonchalant attitude sometimes found in someone who has accomplished so much in such a short period of time.

The vehicle more than dwarfs her short frame, but she makes climbing to the top look easy.

"It's like I am at Discovery Zone," she said, while checking the maintenance systems on her vehicle and spouting off parts of her Stryker as fluidly as a folk singer croons a melody.

She attributes her proficiency with vehicles to her father, a for-



Knotts stands on top of the engine block while performing her weekly Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services on her Stryker vehicle.

soul" and much more mature than most of her peers.

"It was weird sometimes when I was growing up," she said. "All my friends were talking about clothes and what boys they wanted to date, and I concentrated on my future and worried about school."

Even now, Knotts has her mind firmly planted in her future. She is undecided whether she wants to stay in the Army and continue what she is currently doing or come back with a commission. However, she said she does know the military will continue to be a part of her life.

"She could be a sergeant major," Canedy said. "She constantly amazes me with her knowledge, drive and determination. She knows more than I do."

That drive and determination will make her a sergeant soon, and she said she is looking forward to being a leader. But judging from her actions, she is already there.

"I take all of this very seriously," she said. "I take the lives of everyone in my Stryker seriously, and I take the responsibility of having a Stryker that is mine seriously. I take taking care of Soldiers seriously. This is an awesome responsibility and one that I hope I can learn from and pass on that knowledge to others."

mer mechanic.

She laughed as she recounted stories of Soldiers who struggle with something as simple as checking the oil on their vehicles but added that she is always willing to give them a helping hand and teach the right way to do things.

"Young Soldiers are so reliant on technology. They're not used to getting their hands dirty; but on the flipside, it helps when driving one of these," she said.

Only 24 years of age herself, it may seem baffling to hear her talk about "young Soldiers," but she considers herself an "old

APG News

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cation to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 2201, IMNE-APG-PA, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to editor-agg@conus.army.mil.

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

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Town Hall Meeting draws huge crowds

Story by
DEBBIE SHEEHAN
CECOM Public Affairs Office

At the very first Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, or C4ISR, Relocation Fair two years ago, presenters offered personnel from Fort Monmouth, N.J., packets of Old Bay Seasoning and mallets for cracking crabs in addition to helpful information about the area neighboring Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Last week's Relocation Fair, the third in the last three years, featured much more detailed information offered by representatives from Maryland, Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania.

Attendance was considerably increased over previous years with a total of well over 1,000 employees, spouses and Family members stopping by Gibbs Hall Oct. 22 and 23. Last year's Relocation Fair by comparison had less than 700 in attendance.

The theme for the 2008 Relocation Fair was "Zero In On the Facts." Twenty-five different organizations were on site offering information on education, housing, jobs and health care in the areas in the three states within commuting distance of APG.

When they left the fair, members of the Fort Monmouth community returned to their vehicles with shopping bags filled with information.

"All of the exhibitors were kept very busy this year," said Susan Nappi, CECOM LCMC Deputy G3/5. "The exhibitors said... people came with many more specific questions [than previous years]."

The busiest tables in the ballroom were the exhibits on APG where extensive packages of information on the post and its services were



Nick Saacks of the Logistics and Readiness Center and his wife, Sara, and their children, Thomas and Rachel, are thinking of relocating to Aberdeen Proving Ground. The family chats with Joseph Doyle, a community development specialist from Baltimore County.

handed out. Representatives of APG's Army Community Service and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation were there to answer questions and hand out business cards in case attendees thought of other questions once the fair was over.

Another table that was swamped was one featuring "early movers" who came back to the Garden State to tell their relocation stories and answer questions about their experiences with their moves to the APG area.

During both days sessions took place in the Garden Room of Gibbs Hall with representatives giving presentations and taking questions. There were also information sessions on the city of Baltimore and the Defense National Relocation Program in addition to the Army Team C4ISR BRAC Town Hall Meeting held in conjunction with the fair.

Approximately 450 personnel, spouses and Family members crowded the Garden Room for the ninth BRAC Town Hall meeting that has taken place since the 2005 announcement of the impending relocation of the Army Team C4ISR mission and the BRAC closure

of the fort.

Although Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general, CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, was overseas and unable to attend in person; he appeared on tape to welcome everyone to the Family-based meeting. He urged those in attendance to keep an open mind and to gather and evaluate as much information as possible to make well-informed decisions about the future to serve their personal and professional interests as well as their Families' best interests.

Michael Vetter, CECOM LCMC G4, gave a presentation updating the workforce on the construction of the Army Team C4ISR campus at APG. He showed several slides with renderings of the new facilities and photographs of the Phase 1 construction currently underway. Vetter said Phase 1 construction is for facilities to house 5,000 personnel with parking for 4,000 vehicles around the campus.

"The construction is moving at a swift pace," he said.

Vetter showed some striking examples of how the construction project has moved from groundbreaking to the present, emphasizing that

the plan is to have the outer walls and windows of the Phase I campus buildings in place by February 2009 so work can begin on the interiors of the buildings.

He said Phase 2 campus construction is in the planning stage with work to begin next year.

There are already more than 200 Army Team C4ISR advance party early movers and new hires at APG with most working in transitional facilities in the installation's Edgewood Area.

Deborah Devlin, CECOM LCMC G1, gave a Human Resources update stating that nearly 400 more personnel have volunteered for relocation in fiscal year 2009 and that management is currently reviewing their resumes.

All selections will be made by Nov. 19 but some may be notified earlier, Devlin said. Those selected will be given one week to accept or decline and those who accept will receive their Permanent Change of Station orders by January 2009.

Most of those personnel relocations will take place during the summer of 2009 but managers will work with employees who prefer to relocate at different times.

"That [summer] timeframe was picked because we have found that most Families tend to want to move during the summer," Devlin said.

She also presented the results of the latest BRAC survey. Devlin said 2,662 responded to the survey which is a 56 percent response rate. At this time, 42 percent say they plan to relocate, 24 percent do not plan to relocate and 34 percent are still undecided.

Mary Gable, director of Instructional Programs, Maryland State Department of Education, touted the school systems in Maryland, informing the audi-

ence that the state's schools rank high nationally when it comes to quality education and that the organization "Quality Counts" gives schools in Maryland a B-plus grade. She explained how the state's schools are divided into only 24 districts and that many excellent programs are in place to prepare students for higher education.

Although Gable was available at the meeting to answer questions, she also urged anyone with specific questions to e-mail her at

mgable@msde.state.md.us

John Crew Jr., community outreach liaison with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, spoke about the various mortgage options available to those relocating to Maryland. He referred several times to a packet of mortgage and housing information that can be obtained by calling 1-800-638-7781. Information can also be obtained by going to the Web site, mmprogram.com, he said.

APG Outdoor Journal

Commentary: Lest we forget

By
BILL ARMSTRONG
APG Wildlife and Marine Law
Enforcement Division

Today the guns are silent as I pause for a moment, leaning up against the rail fence. The morning sky in the east is ablaze with color though the sun is still below the horizon. Somewhere from out of the past the old words come to mind, "Red clouds in the morning, sailors take warning." Perhaps we will have rain by evening.

Once upon a time this place where I'm standing was a community of friends and neighbors, complete with a church. Today the only things that remain are the decaying foundations and the cemetery. In the dust along the dirt road are the tracks of critters, the new residents who now make this place their home, the deer, the fox and the turkey.

The graves are few but the names and the dates attest to their fortitude and their determination to cast aside the tyranny and to bring forth a new nation.

I listen for the sound of others, but all I hear is the whisper of a breeze through the trees and the "coo" of a solitary mourning dove. They will come, of that I'm sure.

Old-timers like me, who make the pilgrimage to this place every year on Veterans Day to pay homage to the Soldier resting here, to symbolically honor those who have and continue to go in harm's way for our country. I'm sure there are some who would probably shake their heads and call our journey to this place meaningless, for there's no pomp or ceremony, nor ruffles or flourishes, but for those of us who come each year, we know why we come; to us, it's our duty, and an honor.

Bending over I pull some of the weeds from around the grave of John A. Osborn, color bearer of the 2nd Maryland Regiment, mortally wounded at Antietam in 1862 and brought home to be buried with his Family.

The American flag beside the headstone briefly flutters in the morn-

ing stillness, causing me to momentarily stop what I'm doing ...he proudly carried our nation's flag on that day at Antietam; perhaps the flag fluttering was only coincidence, or just my imagination.

As I continue tidying up the grave, faces from today and moments from the past flicker through my mind, bringing forth the images of warriors I have known over the years.

Yesterday there was Buford, who went ashore at Normandy and Mahaffey, who saw World War II from the deck of a destroyer in the Pacific, and Litz who almost died at Chosin, and George whose senior trip landed him in Tan Son Nhet.

Today there's Mike from Kansas, and Larry, who made it back okay from Bagdad, and my friend John Connors, who, as I write this, is on his way to Kabul for the third time. Over the years there have been many.

Wandering among the headstones, I find that the continuity of the generations buried in this place gives me strength and calms my anxiety.

It's always been the same...there's no sorrow and no regret in this place, only gratitude for those who, over the years, have answered their country's call.

As I turn to go, I hesitate for a moment, looking out across the field, and

even though its morning, my heart still yearns for the sound of a bugle and the playing of "Taps."

"Day is done, gone the sun,

From the lake, from the hills,

From the sky.

All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh."



Photo by BILL ARMSTRONG

One of our nation's many veterans...fallen but not forgotten."

Giving or receiving gifts in the work place

Story by
**CAPT. KATHERINE
KING-WALKER**
OSJA

Whether it's a birthday, wedding or birth or adoption of a baby, the rules that apply to gift giving in the workplace can be confusing. This article is designed as an outline of general information to answer a few common questions that employees at APG may have when giving gifts in the work place.

What is a gift?

A "gift" includes any gratuity, favor, entertainment, hospitality, or other item having monetary value. It does not include: modest refreshments (coffee and donuts), greeting cards and items with little intrinsic value (plaques, certificates, and trophies intended solely for presentation).

"So, is it ok to buy coffee and donuts in order to share with other employees?" Yes, if done on an infrequent basis.

"What if the office wants to have donuts and coffee every Friday, is that okay?" If other employees voluntarily give a portion of their own money (i.e. "donut and coffee fund") in order to share in the coffee and donuts that would be fine.

Can I give a gift to my superior?

The General Rule (5 C.F.R. § 2635.302) is that employees may not give or solicit contributions for a gift for an official superior.

Superiors may not accept gifts from employees who receive less pay, unless there is no subordinate-official superior relationship and there is a personal relationship justifying a gift. For example, Capt. XXX can give a welcome home from Iraq gift to Maj. YYY, who is in a different unit than Capt XXX and is her brother-in-law.

Exceptions

- On an occasional basis, gifts may be given to a superior when:
- Items have an aggregate market

value of \$10 or less per occasion (e.g., a birthday gift or a souvenir gift upon return from a vacation, but no cash).

- Food/refreshments shared in office among several employees.

- Personal hospitality at an employee's home similar to hospitality provided by employee to personal friends.

- Customary gifts given in connection with the receipt of hospitality (e.g., bottle of wine for dinner host; flowers for hostess).

"So, can I give the commander a birthday gift?" Yes, if the value of the gift is less than \$10 and giving of the gift does not become routine (every year, Pfc. XYZ gives a birthday gift to the first sergeant or commander)

- On special, infrequent occasions, subordinates may give a gift to a superior "appropriate to the occasion."

- Infrequent occurring occasions of personal significance such as marriage, illness, birth or adoption of a child, or death of Family member (does not include a promotion unless the employee is also being transferred out of the chain of command).

- Occasions that terminate subordinate-official superior relationship, such as retirement, resignation or transfer

- Value of gift may not exceed \$300 from one "donating group." (But cost of food, refreshments, and entertainment provided to superior and his personal guests to mark occasion is not included in \$300 aggregate limit.)

In very rare cases, the gift may exceed \$300 in value, but must still be "appropriate to the occasion," and "uniquely linked to the departing employee's position or tour of duty and commemorates the same." The organization's ethics counselor should approve a gift of over \$300, and also decide how to define appropriate "donating groups."

"So, would it be okay to give the APG commanding general a new set of golf clubs as a permanent change of

station gift?" Assuming the clubs were over \$300, it would not be proper to give the commander a new set of golf clubs because although a nice gesture, the clubs would not be related to the position during his/her tenure at APG. A hand-painted mural of APG, containing all of the tenant units would be an appropriate gift, and if it were over \$300, approval from the organization's ethics officer is required.

Can I donate or solicit for a gift for my superior?

- An employee may not contribute as part of more than one donating group. If he or she does, the different groups become one donating group.

- An employee may solicit voluntary contributions of a nominal amount from fellow employees only for the following:

- (1) The occasional sharing of food and refreshments in the office; or

- (2) The gift for a special, infrequent occasion.

- (3) DoD Rule: Solicitations may not exceed the nominal amount of \$10; however, employees are free to give more than \$10. Any donation must be completely voluntary.

Other "red flags"

- Gifts from an employee's spouse to another employee's spouse will be considered a gift between employees subject to the above rules, unless there is an independent basis for the gift to the spouse (e.g., a relative or a previous, long-standing friendship).

- Gifts between employees may not be purchased with appropriated funds or government credit cards.

Proper disposition of improper gift

Official superior must either return the gift or pay fair market value for the gift to the donating group.

The rules regarding gifts can be confusing. To clarify any of the gift rules, contact the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 410-278-1490.

DeCA earns government ethics award

Story by
BENJAMIN ROUSE
DeCA

When it comes to practicing honesty, integrity and fairness in its business activities, the Defense Commissary Agency is considered among the best in the federal government. The U.S. Office of

Government Ethics believed this as well when it presented DeCA with the 2008 Ethics Program Award. DeCA received its award Sept. 10 and is one of only 17 government agencies to receive the award this year.

DeCA's ethics program was considered outstanding based on a review by two OGE officials during the summer of 2008. The review consisted of interviews with DeCA personnel and an examination of every ethics-related file at DeCA headquarters.

The OGE review and evaluation centered upon DeCA's program structure, financial disclosure systems, ethics education and training (including Web-based training), ethics counseling, the enforcement of ethics laws and regulations and travel payments received from non-federal sources. Although DeCA routinely has multiple temporary duty assignments requiring frequent travel, as

well as constant interaction and contracts with the civilian sector, the OGE officials found no infractions or questionable practices. The OGE also commended DeCA on its model practice of providing annual ethics training to all agency employees and e-mailing timely guidance to its employees throughout the year.

DeCA Director and Chief Executive Officer Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. was enthusiastic in his praise of the high-quality program that is supervised in large measure by the agency's general counsel.

"This award recognizes our continuous obligation to adhere to federal guidelines and policies," he said. "Commissary customers can be reassured, and proud, that the agency that delivers their most valued benefit adheres to such high ethical standards."

William Sherman, DeCA's general counsel, said he was

proud of all agency employees, especially those who are contributing, as he put it, to "an ethical cultural revolution." He continued, "At this agency we seem to instinctively know when there is a possible problem or conflict of interest. Our people tend to ask questions of DeCA's general counsel and inspector general before something actually becomes an issue. This awareness is present at all levels of employment."

This is the second time DeCA has received this award. The first came in 2000, which was the last time the agency was reviewed for the award.

Health

From front page

the council ensures the needs of the community are met. As a result, this process integrates tactical, medical and community assets towards the improvement of Soldier and Family member well-being.

Now, at select CONUS installations, CHPPM is replicating this model. In CONUS, the health promotion program is partnering with community resiliency initiatives to actually score a community's level of wellness.

To facilitate action-oriented processes, the council implements working groups to focus on the needs identified for community wellness. Different working groups that have been implemented by HPWB councils include combat and operation stress control teams, suicide prevention task forces, fitness and weight management, youth wellness, deployment cycle support, and strategic planning.

The key to the function of the working groups is this umbrella of the HPWB council, which brings all subject-matter experts across all commands to the same table to prepare action plans that best meet the needs of the Army Family. As a result, installation partnerships are built that enhance and strengthen the resiliency of these Army communities.

"By using health promotion coordinators, we are ensuring that health promotion resources are in place for Strong Soldiers and Strong Families who can support the Army mission," said Custer.

Community Notes

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 8 TRAIL TREK

Enjoy a splendid 3- to 4-mile hike with volunteer Eugene Burg on state park lands along the river. Location to be determined. Bring a lunch. This program will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is for ages 10 to adult. The program is free but registration is required.

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

VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

Main Street Cigar Company will host its first annual Veterans Appreciation Day, 10 a.m., at Main Street Cigar Company located on 2225 East Churchville Road, Bel Air. Festivities include live music, wine tasting, Rocky Patel Cigar promotion, a chili cookoff and silent auction (proceeds benefit Harford County veterans).

Discounts for active duty, Reserve, retired and veterans with prior military service.

For more information, call 410-734-4494, or e-mail mainstreetcigar@yahoo.com.

MIGRATION HEADACHE

Join a naturalist to discover why animals migrate from one area to another and some of the headaches the critters run into along the way. This program will be held 3 to 4 p.m. for ages 7 to 12. The cost is \$2 and registration is required.

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

RECYCLING EVENT

A Community Electronics Recycling event will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Ignatius Church located on 533 East Jarrettsville Road, Forest Hill.

Computers contain hazardous materials that should not be mixed with regular trash.

The public is invited to donate their old computers, CPU's, speakers, fax machines, scanners, printers, keyboards, cell phones, stereos, mice and micro-waves free of charge.

A contribution of \$10 per monitor will be requested. Do not bring television sets. Tax donation receipts will be provided.

For more information or directions, call 443-866-5101 or e-mail electronics9@verizon.net.

CRITTER DINNERTIME

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat and learn more about these fascinating creatures. This program begins at 10:30 a.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

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

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 9 A MATTER OF SURVIVAL

Learn the basics of wilderness survival and learn some of the basic skills to help stay alive if ever lost. This program will be held 1 to 3 p.m. for ages 6 to 12. The cost is \$3 and registration is required.

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

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 11 VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold a Veterans Day service 11 a.m.

The club and bar will be

closed during the ceremony. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 12 MEET THE ARC

Everyone is invited to join the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region for an inspiring session, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Maryland Golf and Country Club located on 1335 East MacPhail Road, Bel Air. Find out what the Arc is and what they do for individuals in the community. The Subject will be "Listen With Your Heart." Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Must RSVP. Call Elaine Orbinno, 410-879-6785, ext. 350.

THURSDAY TO SUNDAY

NOV 13 TO 16 NINTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Restoration World Ministries, Inc. will hold its ninth Pastoral Anniversary at 1812 Pulaski Highway, Starlite Plaza, Suite O, Edgewood.

Guest speakers include 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, Pastor Kenneth Telsee Sr., True Joy Healing and Restoration Ministries; 7:30 p.m., Nov. 14, Dr. LaMont Turner, Zion Temple, Havre de Grace; 7:30 p.m., Nov. 15, Pastor Melvin Boulware, Harvest Life Changers, Columbia, Md.; 11:15 a.m., Nov. 16, Bishop Erwin Scofield, Scofield Ministries, N.C.; and 4 p.m., Nov. 16, Pastor Melvin Taylor, Word of Faith Outreach Ministries.

For more information, call 410-671-6042.

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 15 WHITE TAILED DEER SURVEY

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

is required.

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

NO LEAVETREE MYSTERY

Hike the Leight Park trails and use clues to identify some common trees when they are missing their distinctive leaves. This program will be held 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 6 to adult; anyone under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. The program is free but registration is required.

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

PINECONE TURKEYS

Create an organically grown centerpiece to spruce up the harvest season dinner table. This program will be held 1 to 2 p.m. for all ages under 8 must be with an adult. The cost is \$3 and registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 16 SILVERTURTLES

Learn to make quick, easy, delicious and nutritious meals by cooking in foil on coals. Great program for scouts. This program will be held 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 8 to adult, 8 to 10 with adult. The cost is \$5 and registration is required.

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

ALL DAY BINGO

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135 located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold All Day Bingo, 12:30 p.m., every third Sunday of each month. 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.

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 17 MILITARY APPRECIATION MONDAY

Golden Corral will honor any person who has served in the United States military (including National Guard and Reserves) with a free "thank you" dinner buffet and beverage at any Golden Corral restaurant, 5 to 9 p.m. Beverage is included, dine in only. No identification is required.

WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 19 WEDNESDAY WEE WONDERS

Celebrate fall by joining the naturalist and her wee one for stories, songs, live animals and outdoor exploration. This program will be held 10 to 11 a.m. for infants to age 4. The program is free but registration is required.

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

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 21 OWL PROWL

Come out for a night hike in the bottomland forest to search for the owls that call this marshy forest home. This program will be held 6:30 to 8 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. The cost is \$3 and registration is required.

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

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



FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Free Family Movie Night

Celebrate Military Family Month with Army Community Service. ACS will present Military Family Movie Night 6 to 8 p.m., Nov. 12, at the Post Theater. "Wall-E" will be shown free of charge. Pick up tickets 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Aberdeen Area ACS, building 2754.

For more information, call 410-278-7572.

Free dolphin show at the National Aquarium

As a thank you to active duty service members and their Families, the National Aquarium will offer a free dolphin show.

When service members purchase Aquarium tickets, they will receive a coupon to redeem for a free Dolphin show. This offer is valid through Nov. 26, and only valid with an active duty ID card or Family member ID card, which must be presented at the 'Will Call' desk along with the ticket and coupon. This offer is not valid with any other ticket purchase, offer or discount.

Aquarium tickets cost \$17 for active duty, \$20.25 for adults and \$12.25 for children.

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

Private guitar lessons

Private guitar lessons for ages 7 through 18 will be held 3:30 to 7 p.m., Nov. 25 through Dec. 16, Tuesdays, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

An award-winning singer/songwriter will instruct students. No experience necessary.

Cost of the lessons is \$132 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for four weeks. Students must provide their own guitar and also are required to purchase books required for the course as recommended by the instructor.

Books are a one-time purchase. Parents can choose which time frame session they want to sign up for when they register their child. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

For more information or to register, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479 for an appointment or e-mail stacie.umbarger1@conus.

army.mil.

MWR daily bus trips to Atlantic City

Roll the bones on daily trips to Atlantic City, N.J. FMWR Leisure Travel Services offers daily bus service to Trump Taj Mahal Casino. Cost of the trip to is \$45 per person with \$25 back in cash and a \$5 buffet coupon. Only for ages 21 and over. The bus will leave Vitali's Restaurant, Best Western in Edgewood at 9 a.m. and return at 9 p.m.

For more information, contact FMWR Leisure Travel Services, AA Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail apgr-usag-mwr-lesuretravel@conus.army.mil.

CWF trip to Massachusetts in November

Take a "pilgrimage" to Massachusetts for an opportunity to see American history and heritage.

The Civilian Welfare Fund has scheduled a trip to Massachusetts, Nov. 20 to 23. Tour locations include Plymouth Plantation, Salem, Rockport, Gloucester and Newport, R.I.

Passengers will depart BWI at 10:30 a.m. and arrive at Logan Airport, Boston, at 11:50 a.m.

Cost per person is

\$1,275 for adult single; \$975 for adult double; \$925 for adult triple; and \$905 for adult quad. Cost for children ages 17 and under is \$945 for double, \$895 for triple and \$875 for quad.

Cost includes round-trip airfare; three nights lodging; private motorcoach for tours; three continental breakfasts; three dinners, including one lobster and clam bake and meal at Plymouth Plantation; entrance into the Salem Witch Museum and Mayflower II replica; travel insurance and tips for the driver and guided tour manager.

For more information or to make reservations, call CWF, 410-273-2075 or e-mail Patti Harkins, patti.harkins@us.army.mil.

Youth Basketball registration

APG Youth Basketball Registration will take place through Nov. 9, at building 2752, Rodman Road. Walk-in registration will be held 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. After 10:30 a.m., call for an appointment at 410-278-7571. To register for the Edgewood Area Youth Center program, call John Lee, 410-436-7131.

There will be league teams for ages 7 to 8; 9 to 10; 11 to 12; and 13 to 14

(age as of Dec. 31, 2008). A clinic will be held for ages 4 to 6 (age as of Dec. 31, 2008). Cost to join a league is \$45 per person; the clinic costs \$35 per person.

Practices will be held weeknights. Games will be held Saturdays beginning Jan. 3.

Youth Basketball Cheerleading registration

APG Youth Basketball Cheerleading Registration will take place through Nov. 9, at building 2752, Rodman Road. Walk-in registration will be held 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.; after 10:30 a.m., call for an appointment at 410-278-7571. To register for the Edgewood Area Youth Center program, call John Lee, 410-436-7131.

Ages 6 to 14 can register. Squads will be broken down by age groups. Cost to register is \$45 per person.

Practices will be held weeknights. Games will be held Saturdays beginning Jan. 3.

Shop at Potomac Mills Nov. 29

Feel like a little bargain hunting for this year's Christmas shopping? Potomac Mills Shopping Outlets offers more than

200 of the best brand names to help save this year. Travel to Potomac Mills Shopping Outlets Nov. 29. The bus will depart Edgewood Best Western at 7:45 a.m. Cost of the trip is \$29 per person. Space is limited, reserve tickets today.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call FMWR Leisure Travel Services, AA Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907, or e-mail apgr-usag-mwr-lesuretravel@conus.army.mil.

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, 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.

SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a SKIES Unlimited class, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. Open to all DoD ID card holders. For an appointment, e-mail stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil.

Brazilian Jujitsu

A Brazilian jujitsu program will be held at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, building 4505, Suite C. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 6 through Feb. 5 and Feb. 17 through March 19.

Beginner classes will be held 6 to 6:45 p.m., ages 7 to 18.

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

Cost is \$85 per student. Open to

all DoD ID card holder Family members. Each session requires a minimum of six students registered. Registration ends one week prior to the start of class.

For more information or to register, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479 or e-mail stacie.umbarger1@conus.army.mil or call 410-278-4589.

Tae Kwon Do

Join the Unity Tae Kwon Do School of Martial Arts at APG. Tae Kwon Do promotes discipline, as well as muscle toning and conditioning. Classes will be held at the Child, Youth and School Center, building 2522, Monday and Wednesday, Jan. 5 through Feb. 2; Feb. 29 through March 18; and March 30 through April 22, 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. (ages 6 to 12). Cost is \$65 per student for a one-month session or \$150 per student for a three-month session. Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants.

Class size is limited so register early.

Private piano lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., on Fridays, Oct. 31 through Dec. 12. (No class Nov. 28.) Classes will also be given 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Saturdays, Sept. 13 through Oct. 18 and Nov. 1 through Dec. 13. (No class Nov. 29.)

Lessons cost \$102 per student and include six weeks of 30-minute lessons once a week. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child.

Students are responsible for purchasing the required books for the course recommended by the instructor.

Tutors available for all grades

Private tutors are available for students in grades 1 through 12. Tutoring for grades 1 through 8 includes all subjects. Grades 9 through 12 includes English, math, earth science and chemistry only. Tutors are available 3 to 6 p.m., Tuesdays, Nov. 11 through Dec. 2. Tutors cost \$145 per student for four one-hour one-on-one sessions. Parents decide what hour time frame they would like. Open to all DoD ID card holders and their Family members.

SKIES Unlimited offers Driver's Ed

Drivers Education classes are conducted by Rules Driving School, Inc. Monday thru Thursday, 6 to 9:15 p.m. Classes will be held in Aberdeen at the Community Center, 34 N. Philadelphia Boulevard, room 304, Nov. 17 thru Dec. 3 (no class Nov. 27) and Dec. 8 thru 23. Class includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. Cost is \$295 per student. Last day to register for the class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between 15.9 and 18 years of age. Parents must attend the first day of class. Open to all DoD ID cardholders.

Private Voice Lessons

Ages 7 through 18 can register for private voice lessons, 3:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays, Nov. 25 through Dec. 16, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. An award-winning singer/songwriter will instruct students.

No experience necessary. Singing lessons cost \$132 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for four weeks. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign up for when they register their child.

APG Bowling Center activities

November Military Family Month

In addition, since November is Military Family Month, when a Military Family comes in to bowl between 1 and 11 p.m. any Saturday in November, they will receive one hour of bowling for \$15 including shoe rental. Up to eight Family members can share a lane. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Reservations are being taken.

The Bowling Center would also like to invite everyone to meet their new mascot.

Bowling specials are for personnel with military, civilian or contract ID.

For more information, call 410-278-4041.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Week of Nov. 3

Special #1: Ham and cheese wrap with potato chips, cookie and soda for \$5.95.
Special #2: Double bacon cheese burger with french fries, cookie and soda for \$7.45.

Week of Nov. 10

Special #1: Crab cake platter with french fries, cookie and soda for \$9.95.
Special #2: Grilled cheese with soup of the day, cookie and soda for \$4.35

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



ACS activities

Meeting of Family Information Network

Army Community Service hosts a Family Information Network meeting 6 to 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in building 2754. No meeting Nov. 11 due to holiday. Next meeting is Dec. 9. This support group is designed to assist military members who have Family members with special needs. Its goals are to provide a supportive network as well as assist with community resources.

For more information, call 410-278-2420.

Smart Start Your Business class

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

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

Chapel Events

Worship schedule

Aberdeen Area

Main Post Chapel, building 2485

Catholic worship

For specific services, visit <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/chaplain/pdf/Catholic%20Information.pdf>.

8 a.m. Sunday Reconciliation

8:45 a.m. Sunday Eucharist

Collective Protestant Worship Services

10:15 a.m. General Protestant

Worship

Gospel

Noon Sunday

Edgewood Area

building E-4620

Collective Protestant Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Sunday

Catholic Worship

For specific services, visit <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/chaplain/pdf/Catholic%20Information.pdf>.

10 a.m. Sunday Reconciliation

10:45 a.m. Sunday Eucharist

For more information, call

410-278-4333.

Northeast Military TEC #1

All Catholic youths ages 15 and older are invited to attend the Northeast Military Teens Encounter Christ Weekend Retreat at Our Lady of Mattaponi Youth Retreat Center located on 11000 Mattaponi Road, Upper Marlboro, Md., 4 p.m., Dec. 12 through 4 p.m. Dec. 14. Deadline for registration is Nov. 24. Adults who have already participated in a TEC weekend or would like to assist as a TEAM member should call Gerri Merkel.

For more information or to get a registration form, call Gerri Merkel, 410-278-2516, or e-mail gerri.merkel@conus.army.mil

Chapel hosts Thanksgiving Prayer Luncheon

The Main Post Chapel will host a Thanksgiving Prayer Luncheon at Top of the Bay, 11:30 a.m., Nov. 14. To make a reservation, call the chapel, 410-278-4333. Tickets cost \$5 for E-5 and below and \$8 for civilians and E-6 and above. Due to space limitations, it will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

POST SHORTS

measures to keep everyone safe.

Additionally, all personnel are asked to assist in directing "lost drivers." This has become an increasing problem and especially so for shipments arriving on large trucks. When providing directions, be as clear and concise as possible.

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

Army 4th Annual Leadership Symposium

Registration is open through Dec. 17 for the Army Management Staff College 4th Annual Leadership Symposium: Navigating New Challenges, Jan. 27 to 29. The AMSC is located on 5500 21st Street, building 247, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Guest speakers will share their perspectives on leadership and executive development. World-renown authors, motivational speakers and government officials will conduct workshops on effective communication, understanding an individual's importance to the organization, and finding balance in life. Participants can learn to make a difference in their organization and the federal government.

Cost of the workshop is \$50 per person and includes admission, meals, busing and workshop materials. Professional attire for military is ACU and business casual for civilians.

For a schedule of speakers, travel information, registration cost and more, visit <http://amsportal.belvoir.army.mil/Symposium/index.jsp>.

For more information, call AMSC Operations, 703-805-4747/4744, or e-mail ams-symposium@conus.army.mil.

Building 320 parking lot closed temporarily

The parking area in front of building 320 will be closed for an extended period of time

for roof replacement. Roof replacement will be accomplished in phases. The area will be cordoned off by yellow tape and traffic cones. The parking area also will be closed on weekends due to scheduled power outages when required.

Office Eagle customers should beware during admittance to the store.

For more information, call Michael Hardwick, 410-306-2305.

New arrivals required to attend Newcomers' Orientation

All newly arriving Soldiers and civilian employees are required to attend the APG Newcomers' Orientation, 1 to 3 p.m., Nov. 12 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.

CPR, AED classes available

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

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

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Gunpowder Club, building E-4650 in the Osprey Room, Dec. 17.

In the Aberdeen Area,

classes will be held at the Post Theater Nov. 19.

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

For more information or to register, call Raymond Campbell, 410-306-0566, or e-mail raymond.b.campbell@us.army.mil

CECOM commander to speak at AUSA/AFCEA luncheon

The Aberdeen Chapters of the Association of the U.S. Army and the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association with support from ITEA invites everyone to attend their monthly luncheon, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 25 at Top of the Bay.

Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via, CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Meetings are open to non-members and members. Cost of the luncheon is \$15 per person, (cash or check only) and includes lunch. Official registration is on a first-come first-served basis.

For more information or to RSVP, e-mail Valerie, vlk@orsacorp.com or Joanne, evans1117@comcast.net.

SDDC to host Eastern Regional Transportation Conference

The U.S. Army Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command will host its Eastern Transportation Conference, Dec. 1 through 4, at the Marriott at City Center in Newport News, Va. The target audience for the conference is functional-level personnel (E4-Major, GS-12 and below) from the 400 Department of Defense installations and activities in the eastern United States within the defense transportation community.

The goal of the annual

event is to enhance attendees' knowledge of the end-to-end distribution and deployment processes within the defense transportation system, as well as address current issues affecting the transportation community.

Conference fee is \$85 per person and will be collected at registration.

To register, visit http://www.sddc.army.mil/sddc/cda/ERTC_RegForm.aspx and click the SDDC Eastern Regional Transportation Conference link under Events Workshops and Seminars.

For more information, visit <http://www.sddc.army.mil/Public/Home/Events%20Workshops%20and%20Seminars/SDDC%20Eastern%20Regional%20Transportation%20Conference?summary=fullcontent> or call conference coordinators Cassandra Pride-Cobb, CML 757-878-8115, or Robert Covington, CML 757-878-1802, (DSN 826).

Tree lighting ceremony Dec. 3

Army Community Service will host the Holiday Extravaganza and tree lighting ceremony 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center. For more information, call Diana Hayes, 410-278-4372.

Free American Sign Language class offered

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

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

To receive credit for the class, students may submit

form DD 1556. Students must complete at least 10 classes in order to receive credit.

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

Phone number for Wildlife and Marine changes

The new telephone number for the Wildlife, Marine and Environmental Law Enforcement Office in the Edgewood

Area is 410-436-6181.

Main Exchange offers Buddy List

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

Military Mail Addressed To	Express Mail® Military Service (EMMS)1/	First-Class Mail® Letters/Cards	Priority Mail®	Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) 2/	Space Available Mail(SAM) 3/	Parcel Post®
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	Nov. 28	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec. 4	Dec. 4	Dec. 1	Nov. 21	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	Nov. 28	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AA ZIPs 340	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	Nov. 28	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	Nov. 28	Nov. 13

Support the troops with timely holiday mailing

USPS

Holiday gifts from home are a big morale boost for military service members stationed around the world. To help the Families and friends of military personnel, the Postal Service is offering a discount on its largest Priority Mail Flat-Rate box.

Mail sent to overseas military addresses is charged only domestic mail prices. The domestic mail price for the largest Flat-Rate Priority Mail box is \$12.95, but for packages to APO/FPO addresses overseas the price is reduced to only \$10.95. Flat-Rate boxes are free at any post office, or can be ordered online at usps.com.

Postage, labels and customs forms can be printed online any time using Click-N-Ship at www.usps.com/clicknship.

"Flat-Rate Priority Mail boxes

offer the best bargain in holiday shipping," said Paul Vogel, managing director, Global Business and senior vice president. "The contents can be any weight for one low rate. If it fits, it ships."

The Postal Service continues to show its support by offering free Military Care Kits, designed specifically for military Families sending packages overseas. The mailing kits can be ordered by phone by calling 1-800-610-8734 and asking for the Care Kit. Each kit includes two Priority Mail boxes, six Priority Mail Flat-Rate boxes, eight Priority Mail labels, one roll of Priority Mail tape and eight customs forms with envelopes.

"The best support for the troops this holiday season is a gift that's on time, so mail before the deadline," Vogel said.

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by Dec. 25 to military APO/FPO addresses overseas, the Postal Service recommends that mail for service members be entered no later than the mailing dates listed below. Mail addressed to military post offices overseas is subject to certain conditions or restrictions regarding content, preparation and handling. APO/FPO addresses generally require customs forms.

To see a table of active APO and FPO addresses and mailing restrictions by individual APO/FPO ZIP Codes, go to pe.usps.com and click "Postal Bulletins" in the left column. Select the current issue and look for the heading "Overseas Military Mail."

PULL-OUT INFORMATION POSTAL BULLETIN 2242 (9-25-08) 43

2008 International and Military Mail Christmas Mailing Dates

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by December 25 to military APO/FPO addresses overseas and to international addresses, we suggest that mail be entered by the recommended mailing dates listed below. Beat the last-minute rush and take your mail to your U.S. Post Office® by these suggested dates. And don't forget you can print postage, labels, and Customs forms online 24/7 using Click-N-Ship® service at www.usps.com/clicknship.

Remember, all mail addressed to military post offices overseas is subject to certain conditions or restrictions regarding content, preparation, and handling. APO/FPO addresses generally require Customs forms. To see a table of active APO and FPO addresses and mailing restrictions by individual APO/FPO ZIP™ Codes, go to <http://pe.usps.com> and click Postal Bulletins or go to the current issue and see the article "Overseas Military Mail."

Military Mail Addressed To	Express Mail® Military Service (EMMS)1/	First-Class Mail® Letters/Cards	Priority Mail®	Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL)2/	Space Available Mail (SAM)3/	Parcel Post®
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 28	Nov 13
APO/FPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec 4	Dec 4	Dec 1	Nov 21	Nov 13
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 28	Nov 13
APO/FPO AA ZIPs 340	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 28	Nov 13
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 28	Nov 13

1. EMMS is available to selected military post offices. Check with your local Post Office™ to determine if this service is available to your APO/FPO address.

2. PAL is a service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 30 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

3. SAM parcels are paid at Parcel Post postage rate of postage with maximum weight and size limits of 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined. SAM parcels are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis.

International Mail Addressed To	Global Express Guaranteed® (GXG)1/	Express Mail® International (EMS)2/	Priority Mail® International (PMI)3/	First-Class Mail® International
Africa	Dec 19	Dec 12	Dec 4	Dec 4
Asia/Pacific Rim	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Australia/New Zealand	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Canada	Dec 20	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11
Caribbean	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Central & South America	Dec 19	Dec 12	Dec 4	Dec 4
Mexico	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Europe	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Middle East	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11

1. GXG is available to over 190 countries via an alliance with FedEx® Express. See a retail associate at participating locations for a complete list of countries and money-back guarantee details, or go to <http://pe.usps.com>, and click International Rates and Fees, then Country Listing. You can also see the March/April 2007 issue of MailPro at www.usps.com/mailpro. Some restrictions apply. Free shipping supplies are available. Purchase postage online and receive 10% discount.

2. EMS is available to over 190 countries with delivery in 3 to 5 business days. Guaranteed, money-back service is available to Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, and Korea (Republic of South). Flat-rate shipping options and free packaging are available. Purchase postage online and receive an 8% discount.

3. PMI is available to over 190 countries with delivery in 6 to 10 average business days. Flat-rate shipping options and free packaging are available. Purchase postage online and receive a 5% discount.

*Average number of days may vary based upon origin and destination.

Please post on all bulletin boards.

— International Operations, Global Business, 9-25-08

Seminar

From front page

important subject at hand so that we can take that knowledge and apply it in a way that will make this world safer for generations to come."

Before introducing the guest speaker, Fernandez reviewed the installation's policies, reporting options and channels, support activities and supporting elements including law enforcement and medical activities.

"For any questions regarding our policy, feel free to give us a call," Fernandez said. "We are here to help."

Bancroft began by explaining that 20 years ago, he was treating offenders and learning first-hand "how deceptive abusers can be as far as getting off the hook."

He said that because he had to rely heavily on information from victims who had nothing to gain by sharing their stories with him, he realized that there was a "remarkable distortion" of what was going on behind closed doors between the abuser and the victim.

"The problem is that the batterer often finds a receptive ear due to societal acceptance and the tendency not to want to believe," Bancroft said.

He said that he planned to discuss the strengths and challenges of different cultures, focusing on the batterers' dynamics. Topics included the Batterer Profile; Batterers' Style With Children; Batterers' Risk to Abuse Children; Myths About Men Who Batter; and the Impact on Family Dynamics.

Throughout the discussions, Bancroft focused on key concepts. He said that 5 million children per year witness a violent assault on their mother and children exposed to batterers show higher rates of childhood distress.

"Boys who are exposed to batterers have a dramatically higher rate of growing up to be batterers and sexual assault perpetrators," Bancroft said.

He encouraged listeners to remember that batterers expose children to multiple sources of psychological injury and that the batterer is often looked up to or seen as a good father in public.

"Domestic violence is present in forty to sixty percent of the child protective and juvenile caseloads," Bancroft said, adding that the cycle doesn't stop there because statistically, children of battered women are also at increased risk of becoming victims of violence themselves

through sexual assault, substance abuse, or other means.

Bancroft said that battered mothers face complex choices and multiple risks and that any action taken by a battered mother to improve her circumstances involves risks for herself as well as her children.

"Leaving can sometimes make conditions worse," Bancroft said. "Society contradicts itself for condemning women for exposing their children to the batterer and then condemns her when she doesn't want to allow him to see them."

He said that courts typically respond that the woman needs to "let go of the past," and that he's even heard judges tell women that they need to learn to get along for the sake of the children.

"The only way to get along with a bully is to capitulate. That's really bad advice," Bancroft said.

"Children need protection from exposure to batterers and that doesn't change suddenly because mom and the batterer don't live together," Bancroft said. "The burden of proof is on the mother to show why he needs to have supervised visits when it should be on him to show why he doesn't."

He said that personnel working in Family Advocacy or related fields can help alleviate these and other hurdles facing victims of domestic violence by finding individuals and staff members who are willing to make domestic violence their area of expertise.

"We also need to realize that women calling on hotlines have different needs and we need to ensure that those answering these phones are fully trained and capable," Bancroft said.

He encouraged listeners to visit his Web site, <http://www.lundybancroft.com> to learn more about issues covering child safety, custody, recovery, impacts and other issues.

"I believe that programs for the batterer are valuable and that they can be even more successful," Bancroft told the audience in closing.

Several listeners purchased copies of Bancroft's books.

Sharon O'Brien, Ph.D., a family violence researcher from Montgomery County, said she found the lecture 'insightful.'

"Lundy Bancroft has a depth of experience he combines with research to identify best practices and challenges to make necessary changes," O'Brien said. "He knows what the reality is and

is able to say what works well, what is broken and what we need to fix. It was a pleasure to listen as he crystallized and identified different issues."

"It was very interesting," added Nathan Smith, pupil personnel worker, Harford County Public Schools.

"We deal with much of these issues, especially custody," Smith said. "His topics were very relevant and we learned a lot."

Rivera and Fernandez said they were pleased with the program, the guest speaker and audience feedback.

"I was very pleased with the turn out and the level of experience of the individuals in attendance," Rivera said. "I was even more pleased with the information that Lundy provided. It was up-to-date and clearly presented. I know the information is going to help us all be better advocates across the board for victims and their children."

Bancroft was a 'wonderful source of information,' Fernandez added.

"In addition to his great presentation, this event provided the perfect opportunity for APG to create and enhance on-going relationships with many of our civilian counterparts."

CFC

From front page

Guides or pledge cards are available from each unit keyperson or visit the Combined Federal Campaign Office in building 30, Top of Bay, Down Under. The Web site for the CFC is www.cbafcc.org. For more information, contact Sewell, 410-278-9917; Vice Chairman Mikey Graziano, 866-377-8642 ext 4102789916; or CFC administrative Assistant, 410-278-9913.

Veterans' organization charities

11381 - United Services Organizations (USO, Inc.), 703-908-6400, www.uso.org
 (also see 44086 - USO, Delaware, 302-677-2491, www.uso.org or 82359 - USO of

Metropolitan Washington, 703-696-2628, www.usomeetrodc.org

10272 - Military, Veterans and Patriotic Service Organizations of America, 800-626-6526, www.mvpsao.org

11449 - 82nd Airborne Division Association Educational Fund, 910-822-4534

10516 - AAAA Scholarship Foundation, Inc., 203-268-2450, www.quada.org

12214 - Air Force Association, 800-727-3337, www.afa.org
 11450 - Air Warrior Courage Foundation, 540-442-7782, www.airwarriorcourage.org

11345 - American Defense Institute, 703-519-7000, www.americandefinst.org

10519 - AMVETS Charities, 800-810-7148, www.amvetsnsf.org

10517 - Airmen Memorial Foundation, 800-638-0594, www.amf.org

10518 - Airmen Memorial Museum, 800-638-0594, www.afsahq.org/AMM/ammhtm/mwelcome.htm

11451 - Angel Flight for Veterans, 757-512-5294, www.angelflightveterans.org

11333 - Armed Forces Family Survivors Fund (Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund), 800-340-HERO, www.fallenheroesfund.org

11281 - Armed Forces Veterans Homes Foundation, 301-899-8386, www.vethomesfoundation.org

11085 - Armed Services YMCA of the USA, 800-597-1260, www.asymca.org

11452 - Army Historical Foundation, 800-506-2672, www.armyhitory.org

10512 - Astronauts Memorial Foundation, 321-452-2887, www.amfcese.org

11282 - Blinded American Veterans Foundation, 800-242-0161, www.bavf.org

10513 - Blinded Veterans Association, 800-669-7079, www.bva.org

11549 - Chief Petty Officer Scholarship Fund, 757-233-9136, www.cposf.org

12523 - Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, 914-432-5400, www.saluteheroes.org

11955 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, 314-962-8828, www.cgaux.org

10514 - Coast Guard Foundation, 860-535-0786, www.cgfnd.org

12524 - Cold War Museum,

703-273-2381, www.coldwar.org

11283 - Congressional Medal of Honor Society, 843-884-8862, www.cmohs.org

11456 - Council on America's Military Past USA, 401-847-0748, www.campjamp.org

11457 - Daedalian Foundation, 210-945-2113, www.daedalian.org

11322 - Disabled American Veterans, (DAV) Charitable Service Trust, 859-441-7300, www.dav.org

11453 - Fisher House Foundation, 888-294-8560, www.fisherhouse.org

12525 - Homes for Our Troops, 508-823-3300, www.fisherhouse.org

11956 - Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project, 913-432-1214, www.veteransvoices.org

11459 - Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, 703-725-3680, www.semperfi.org

10507 - Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation, 877-606-1775, www.mc-lef.org

12162 - Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, 800-397-7585, www.marineheritage.org

11284 - Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, 800-292-7777, www.mcsf.org

11308 - Marine Corps University Foundation, 888-368-5341, www.mcu.org

11957 - Military Chaplains Association of the USA, 703-533-5890, www.mca-usa.org

11285 - Military Officers Association of America Scholarship Fund, 800-234-6622, www.moaa.org

10508 - Ministry to the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (National Conference on Ministry to the Armed

Forces), 703-455-7908, www.ncmaf.org

11365 - National Military Family Association, 800-260-0218, www.nmfa.org

11010 - Naval Historical Foundation, 202-678-4333, www.navyhistory.org

12526 - Operation Homefront, 800-779-5921, www.operationhomefront.net

11958 - Paralyzed Veterans of America Spinal Cord Education and Training Foundation, 800-424-8200, www.pvaresearch.org

11323 - Pentagon Memorial Fund, 202-237-0327, www.pentagonmemorial.net

11460 - Ranger Memorial Foundation, 706-687-0906, www.rangermemorial.org

10510 - Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, 866-401-7287, www.river-rats.org

11959 - Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association, 301-570-2850, www.seabee.org

11454 - SEAL - Naval Special Warfare Foundation, 757-363-7490, www.nswfoundation.org

11455 - Special Operations Warrior Foundation, 813-805-9400, www.specialops.org

11309 - Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), 202-457-8277, www.taps.org

12527 - Unit Scholarship Fund, 910-487-0476 11871 - United States Warrant Officers

Association Scholarship Foundation, 703-742-7727, www.usawoa.org/woasf

10511 - Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation, 816-756-3390, www.vfwfoundation.org

11324 - Vietnam Veterans

Assistance Fund, 301-585-4000, www.vvafund.org

11070 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, 202-393-0090, www.vvmf.org

11350 - Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, 800-222-2294, www.womensmemorial.org

11954 - Young Marines, 800-717-0060, www.youngmarines.com

11994 - Paralyzed Veterans of America Outdoor Recreation Heritage Fund, 800-424-8200, www.pvaheritagefund.org

11704 - Disabled Americans Employment Services/Enable America, 877-362-2533, www.enableamerica.org

11087 - The Navigators, 866-568-7827, www.navmilitary.org

10531 - Officers' Christian Fellowship, 800-424-1984, www.ocfusa.org

11687 - National Association for Black Veterans, 800-842-4597, www.nabvets.com

10286 - American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, 317-630-1219, www.cwfnf.org

10327 - American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, 317-630-1200

10521 - Archdiocese of the Military Services USA, 202-719-3600, www.milarch.org

10151 - Disabled Sports USA, 301-217-0960, www.dsusa.org

10521 - Armed Forces Foundation, 212-957-7020

10102 - Dolphin Scholarship Foundation, 757-671-3200, www.dolphinsscholarship.org

11859 - EANGUS We Care for America Foundation, 703-519-3846, www.eangus.org

10078 - Elks National Veterans Service Commission, 773-

755-4846, www.elks.org

10119 - Explosive Ordnance Disposal Memorial Committee, 850-729-2401, www.eodmemorial.org

12251 - Help Hospitalized Veterans, 952-926-4500, www.hhv.org

10210 - Leadership VAA Alumni Association, Inc., 202-273-5274

10195 - Marine Corps League Foundation, Inc., 800-625-1775, www.mclfoundation.org

12357 - Our Military Kids, Inc., 703-734-665



Community and APG: Partners in Education

M-Squad helps children cope with military life

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

As Veterans Day approaches, the Aberdeen Middle School students in the M-Squad, a group of more than 50 students who have a significant adult in the military, are planning their activities for Nov. 11.

The middle school PTA has partnered with the M-Squad to assist them with their Veterans Day program. They are purchasing red, white and blue ribbons for the M-Squad's use.

Elizabeth Oleszczuk, a 6th grade counselor and leader of the M-Squad, said the AMS M-Squad will make more than 1,000 ribbons and hand them out to each middle school student during homeroom on Nov. 11 to raise awareness of the significance of Veterans Day.

During morning announcements there will be a flag ceremony outdoors by

the Maryland Army National Guard Honor Guard which will be viewed by all middle school students during their homeroom period.

She said the children in the M-Squad are encouraged to share their experiences and strategies about adjusting to their Family member's deployment.

Having a support group for military children is particularly important at the middle school, which has a large population of military children, being so close to Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"The children are really bonding this year," Oleszczuk said. "During the first meetings this year on October second and third, the M-squad met in small groups sharing their histories and talking about their loved one who serves in the military. Some are currently away on an overseas tour while others have already returned and are serving locally."

Each small group is mixed, including students from the 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

The entire M-Squad met at an icebreaker on Oct. 15 to get acquainted and begin preparation for Veterans Day, Oleszczuk said.

Last year the M-Squad's meeting on June 6 included a special visit from Soldiers enrolled in the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course Class 503-08 of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools at APG who gave a presentation to the students about military life.

Sgt. 1st Class Eugene K. Romero and Sgt. 1st Class Joseph R. Klinzing, who were the class leaders for the project, said that the class wanted to do a project to interact with the community while clearing up any misconceptions that the students might have about serving in the military.

Romero added that they

wanted to show that military children are special and that they make sacrifices by frequent moves and coping with parents' deployments.

After the presentation, while the students ate pizza, the ANCO students and Senior Small Group Instructor Sgt. 1st Class Kristian Penafiel split the M-Squad into groups answering questions that they had about military life.

Asia Jackson, now a freshman at Aberdeen High School, whose father is in the military, said her father was going to be deployed to Korea.

"In M-Squad, we discuss what our Family is doing in the military and if they are deployed," she said. "We journal about our experiences, and we wrote letters and created banners to send to the troops. We also created artwork to hang up around school to show our support."

Jackson added that the M-Squad proofread about 1,000 letters that AMS students wrote to the troops around Christmas time. They also have handed out red, white and blue ribbons for AMS students to wear to show their support for the troops.

M-Squad members also sent professional graphics cards and letters to anonymous Soldiers on Veterans Day last year, using the Operation Military Kids Mobile Lab Activity, a mobile computer lab.

"I joined the M-Squad because I wanted to tell other people about my experiences with the armed forces," said Brett Valcourt, now a freshman, who said he has an uncle and cousins in the military. "When I am with my cousins, I hear about how difficult being in the military can be, for instance, sometimes they can't come home and spend Christmas with

the Family."

Tajai Dummeyer, who is in the 7th grade, said his mother has been deployed once to Kuwait and that she might be deploying again soon.

"I joined [the M-Squad] in April to take some of the stress away," he said. "I don't want her to be deployed, but I know that she has to go. When she is deployed I try to stay in touch with her by phone."

Eileen Campbell, the APG School Liaison officer, encourages any Soldier coming to APG with children who will attend AMS, to ensure they join the M-Squad because middle-schoolers need the understanding and friendships it offers.

(Editor's note: See article on June 6 M-Squad meeting referenced above, visit www.apgnews.apg.army.mil, click on Archives and Aug. 21 issue, page 15.)

C4ISR

From front page

Schilling informed the group that his team made a commitment to finish the construction by December 2010 so that Army Team C4ISR will have nine months to get equipment moved into the campus by the Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, deadline of September 2011.

The move of Army Team C4ISR from Fort Monmouth to APG is unique in that it was mandated by Congress that the move be seamless so there will be no breaks in service to the Warfighter.

"I am very confident they will get this done before the dead-

line," Schilling said. "Right now we are ahead of schedule."

Schilling informed the group that \$800 million is budgeted for building the Army Team C4ISR campus.

"A lot of eyes are on the budget to make sure we are following it very closely," Schilling said. "We had to prioritize the budget to make sure the needs are going to be met. Our ultimate goal is to build a campus that allows Army Team C4ISR's mission to function. We went to Fort Monmouth and asked people in the community what their needs are and designed the building with those needs in mind, while also keeping to a strict budget."

Schilling concluded his presentation by welcoming Army Team C4ISR to the community.

"People in the community are excited that the campus will be here," Schilling said. "You are going to have a tremendous impact on our community, and the global war on terrorism."

After Schilling's presentation, Ray McGowan, chief engineer of the Battle Command Division, part of the Command and Control Directorate, said that he enjoyed visiting the site.

"It is good to see that they are making definite progress and that the site is on schedule," McGowan said. "I was impressed by how fast they are moving. I was also impressed that they are sticking to the budget. They are doing the very best they can during these tough economic times."

McGowan added he is look-

ing forward to being able to move into the building. Currently, Army Team C4ISR Forward employees are working in both the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas.

"With a distributed campus it is hard to get all the employees together," he said. "When we are working at one site it will be efficient and ultimately we will be able to provide better service to the Soldiers."

Owens said he was also impressed with the progress that Grunley Construction, Tompkins-Turner Government Services, and Kinsley Construction have made since the ground breaking in March.

"Just think, in March 2008 we had the ground breaking ceremony and now almost all of the

exterior structure of the complex has been completed," Owens said. "It's amazing to see what the Corps of Engineers has done in such a short time period. Pictures and videos do not do it any justice, you have to see it for yourself to believe it."

Owens added that he felt it was beneficial to take Army Team C4ISR to the site.

"It is important for our workforce to visit the campus because it helps them realize the finality of the BRAC decision," Owens said. "When you actually see the progress that is being made to the structure and the contractors working on the building, it brings closure to any thoughts of Army Team C4ISR remaining in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey."

Well-being

From front page

Nold also announced that KUSAHC has vaccines in all four categories from seniors to the elderly. Hours for patients to receive flu shots have been posted in the APG News.

FMWR

Chris Lockhart, marketing and sponsorship manager for FMWR gave updates on upcoming events and FMWR projects.

Lockhart announced that there will be many renovations in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas, and asked for patience during this time.

The South Side Grill is now undergoing renovations and is scheduled for a soft opening the third weekend of November.

Lockhart said that during the Ruggles Golf Course renovation the course remains open but the snack bar is closed.

She said to be careful to read the signs and follow the new road patterns when going to Ruggles Golf Course.

The Bowling Center's lanes are closed due to the renovations but the snack bar is open. The hours for the snack bar are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lockhart announced basketball and basketball cheerleading registration continues now through Nov. 9 at CYS Sports.

Lockhart said that FMWR is looking to hire cooks for different FMWR functions. Those that are interested can call 410-278-5126.

Lockhart said that if anyone has questions related to FMWR, they can call her at 410-278-3904 or visit www.apgmwr.com, which is updated daily.

DLES

Robert Krauer, director of Law Enforcement and Security, stated that traffic gets more and more intense every day, especially on the Aberdeen side.

"The traffic patterns are changing virtually daily, construction vehicles are sometimes not aware of where they should be, and they end up going to the wrong place. We really need your help to make sure that things are done safely. There are a number of people that get impatient with the road blocks or whatever the case may be and

become hazardous to themselves or other motorists," Krauer said.

Krauer added that deer strikes have also increased in the last few weeks.

"Please be careful. Deer can do a lot of damage to vehicles, so we ask for drivers to be cautious. If you see one there are usually more around," Krauer said.

Krauer announced that there have been people seen in the housing areas that no one knows.

"We think that they are solicitors. If you see anyone that looks suspicious call the police department immediately so that we can put a stop to that," Krauer said. "Post policy prohibits solicitation."

Krauer said they did some tests on the wait time at the gate and traffic counts. He said that the average wait time was between seven and nine minutes.

Krauer said occasionally there will be delays at the front gate if police officers are needed in other areas.

"This morning as I was coming in (the gate) there were three people in handcuffs, that delays traffic because police officers were needed for that situation," Krauer said. "Please keep in mind that the gates are not a toll booth, these are federal police officers enforcing the law, and occasionally that causes delays. Please adjust your schedules and allow extra time when traveling. There is traffic congested all over Cecil and Harford County. Patience is a virtue."

An attendee asked Krauer why car inspections are not always conducted in the tent next to the gates. The attendee remarked that an inspection took place at the gate that slowed down traffic.

Krauer said that possibly there were not enough police officers to conduct the inspection at the tent.

"It is a valid concern and I will look into it," Krauer said.

Another attendee asked why a decal isn't required for civilians while military personnel must have a decal on their cars for entry onto post.

"The decal system was put in place many years ago on military installations before we had access to license plate information," Krauer said. "A decal doesn't tell you who is in the car, so the mechanism of entry is identification. The DoD requirement is the identification of

people in the car."

Krauer added that there have been instances where people have stolen cars with decals to gain entrance to military posts.

Safety Office

Bob McNabb, from the Safety Office, said that construction is picking up as BRAC goes on so expect to see more dump trucks and construction vehicles. He said they are seeing a lot of violations at the crosswalks and to make sure to pay close attention to those crossing in the crosswalks.

He reminded all to check smoke alarms making sure to change the batteries regularly. Also since autumn leaves can be slippery when it rains, he reminded drivers to use extra caution.

Chapel

Gerri Merkel, director of Religious Education for the Main Post Chapel, announced that the Main Post Chapel will host a Thanksgiving Prayer Luncheon at Top of the Bay, 11:30 a.m., Nov. 14. For reservations call 410-278-4333. Tickets are \$5 for E-5 and \$8 for civilians and E-6 and above. Due to space limitations, it will be on a first-come, first reserved basis.

Open Forum

An attendee shared information from the Maryland Transportation Authority concerning the Hatem Bridge. The attendee said that while you cannot use your AVI decals on I-95, during construction of the Hatem Bridge, the AVI renewal fee of \$5.00 will be waived during permanent lane closures. A book of bridge tickets to use on I-95 costs \$20 for about 50 trips. You use 2 tickets per trip or 80 cents per trip.

The attendee added that other information can be found at www.hatembridge.com or 1-866-713-1596. There is also a toll-free line for traffic conditions: 1-888-MDTA (6382)-411.

Weissman concluded by giving attendees updates on construction projects on the installation.

"BRAC (base realignment and closure) is gearing up and gaining momentum," Weissman said "and there are other important things going on at the proving ground as well."

He added that construction is well underway at the Route 715 gate and won't be completed until May of 2009.

"These changing traffic patterns

won't go away very soon," he said. "Traffic is something we will have to live with and will become a way of life for us for the next couple of years."

Weissman said that the Route 22 gate construction project was awarded recently.

"You will start seeing construction there very soon," he said. "That gate, just like the Route 715 gate, will remain open during construction and you will start seeing changing traffic patterns on that side as well."

Weissman said that the Route 24 gate closing at the beginning of October for BRAC-related construction went well.

"I think it was a great team effort between the DLES folks and the Maryland State Police in making sure the closing went as smoothly as possible," he said. "Traffic lights were closely monitored to make sure the new traffic needs were met and I think that was done very well."

Weissman added that construction will go on for a year. The Magnolia Gate will be the primary gate for the Edgewood Area during the next year and work has been done on the Magnolia Gate to prepare it to be the main gate.

"With the projects at the gate and other construction sites we need to really start learning to be aware of what is going on around us," Weissman said. "Things are going to change daily, and in some cases by the hour, you need to be aware of the dangers and risks that are out there."

Weissman added that drivers on Boothby Hill Road will see some new BRAC facility construction projects that are well underway.

Weissman said that besides BRAC projects there are also many quality of life initiatives at APG today. Construction of the Shore Park on the Aberdeen Area will begin within the next few weeks and will be completed by spring. Maryland Boulevard picnic area will stay open until Shore Park's completion.

Weissman added that construction at the Ruggles Golf Course clubhouse is also going smoothly.

"They are going to add a new dining opportunity, changing the food and beverages available there. Starting next fall they will be doing work on the course itself," Weiss-

man said.

He said the Hoyle Gym is also undergoing renovations. "Hoyle Gym is a great facility but is in great need of repair," Weissman said. "They are going to completely renovate all of the locker rooms. Certain parts will be closed at times. They will not close the whole facility but pieces of it will be closed at different times during the construction project."

The Residential Communities Initiative is also well underway. Weissman said that they are asking the entire military population to fill out a survey, whether they live on or off post, as part of an assessment being done to validate the number of homes that will be authorized under RCI.

"If we get a large response from the survey it will help us prove our case that we need more than 300 homes under RCI," Weissman said. "I ask for your support to make sure these surveys are filled out and they are filled out as accurately as possible. It will only help the community. The surveys are coming through a number of places. Command Sergeant Major Pedro Rodriguez is making sure that he distributes the surveys to all of the leaders."

Weissman said that perhaps one of the most important updates is that so far there are approximately 200 new people working at APG from incoming BRAC organizations.

"You have probably seen some new faces and new organizations popping up around the installation," Weissman said. "That number is going to grow over the next few years as well. Next year we are expected to receive 900 to 1,000 folks that are expected from Fort Monmouth and elsewhere well before 2011."

"If you think that a lot of construction is going on today, it will be increased significantly a year from now," Weissman said. "We need your help to keep this installation safe. Despite the inconvenience of the increased construction there are a lot of positive things going on around the installation, a lot to support the Soldiers, Families and civilians that work here."

The next Well-Being meeting will be held at the Main Post Chapel Nov. 20 at 9:30 a.m.