

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Nov. 26 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



Holiday refuse pickup schedule

Refuse pickup for all residential areas will be scheduled for the upcoming holidays.

Nov. 25 – trash pickup
Dec. 23 – trash pickup
Dec. 30 – trash pickup
All Christmas trees will be picked up Jan. 5, 2009.



Bush River Road Closure

Bush River Road will be closed to all traffic at the intersection of Maryland Boulevard on Nov. 21. All traffic normally entering or leaving the restricted area via the Airfield gate (Gate 25) will be required to enter and leave the restricted area via Gate 13 at building 400. Access to the Deer Shack is via the new golf course entrance and Reilly Road. For more information, call 410-306-1159.

Next week's issue arrives Wednesday

The APG News will be delivered Wednesday, Nov. 26 instead of Thursday next week.

Blood Drive today

Save lives and donate blood at the Armed Services Blood Program blood drive, noon to 4 p.m., Nov. 20, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, Erie Street.

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

SAME Chesapeake holds meeting today

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post monthly

See **SHORTS**, page 6

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2

Woman warrior remembered

Page 4

Outdoor Journal

Page 5

Safe use of turkey fryers

Page 7

Community Notes

Page 8

Remembering the Marines on 223rd birthday

Page 9

Health Notes

Page 10

FMWR

Page 13

IT Expo a success

Page 14

Partners in Education

Page 15

Museum historian continues teaching

Page 16

Hiring a wounded warrior

DoD encourages military participation in Great American Smokeout today



Photo by CHRISTINA GRABER, CHPPM

DoD

Drop and do 24—no push-ups, but hours—24 hours of being tobacco free. That's the message the U.S. Department of Defense is sending to military members, urging them to join in the Great American Smokeout Nov. 20.

The smoking rate among 18-to-25 year olds in the military is 40 percent, significantly higher than that of their civilian counterparts or of older, higher-ranking military members. Alarming, a large number

of these young enlisted men and women don't begin using tobacco until after they enlist. Nearly 39 percent of current smokers began smoking after they joined the military.

This is cause for great concern among military leaders,

who point to problems such as detection in the field, slow wound healing, impaired night vision and decreased stamina as impediments to military performance.

"It takes a lot of mental and physical strength to be Army strong. It's important for Soldiers to take that internal strength and quit smoking," said Col. Paula K. Underwood, preventative medicine physician, staff officer, Office of the Army Surgeon General.

Smokeless is not harmless

Nearly a quarter of 18- to 25-year-old enlisted men use smokeless tobacco—often referred to as chewing tobacco, spit tobacco, snuff or "dip." It contains more than 20 cancer-causing chemicals. Many have erroneously touted smokeless tobacco use as a healthier option, but snuff and

chewing tobacco have three to five times more nicotine than cigarettes, making them far more addictive. Like cigarettes, smokeless tobacco can cause cancer and heart disease. In addition, physical dangers include gum disease, erosion of teeth and cancer of the mouth and throat.

Why is tobacco use so prevalent in the military? For those facing the stress of being far away from home and preparing for possible deployment, the road to becoming tobacco free becomes much rougher. Using tobacco is cited as one way to relieve that stress. In addition, perceptions of tacit endorsement of smoking and using smokeless tobacco and the low-cost availability of smoking products in the military make breaking the addiction an even stiffer challenge.

See **SMOKEOUT**, page 9

Army celebrates American Education Week

APG Education Center

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Education Center is joining educators from across the country to celebrate American Education Week through Nov. 22 when the Army again focuses on strengthening its resolve to educate America's Soldier students to meet the challenges of leadership today

and tomorrow.

This year's theme, "Army Education: Strong Soldiers, Families and Communities!", underscores the philosophy that started AEW. Representatives of the National Education Association and the American Legion met for the first time in 1919 to discuss the fact that 25 percent of the country's World War I

draftees were illiterate and nine percent were physically unfit. As a result of this meeting to seek ways to generate public support for education, the Army's Soldiers are the knowledge- and capabilities-based forces they are today.

The Army Continuing Education System, or ACES, offers a variety of programs to assist Soldiers in obtain-

ing their college degree, GED, certification or licensure. These programs take into consideration Soldiers' busy careers and their personal time whether leisure or with Family.

No longer tied to the traditional classroom style of education, Soldiers can now earn their degree through a variety of distance learn-

ing programs sponsored through their local Army Education Center.

"Stop by the APG Education Center for more information on ACES programs and services and while you are there ask about AEW related events," said Tressie Stout, Education Services specialist, 410-306-2042/2037.



Onlookers gather around the 3-ton tank as technicians prepare to fire its engine.

Ordnance Museum fires up 90-year-old tank

Story by **ROGER TEEL**
USAOC&S

Driven by curiosity, a group of war relic aficionados gathered at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Ordnance Museum Nov. 11 to watch as technicians and curators fired the ignition on a 90-year-old tank.

Though the tank did not make a short run as planned, its tracks clacked over and its engine hummed for several minutes.

Museum Director Dr. Joe Rainer explained the origins of the small tank which is powered by two Model T engines and housing a 30-caliber machine gun. When running, the tank could attain a speed of 8 mph and delivers about 9.2 horsepower per ton.

"It was certainly innovative for its time," Rainer said. "There was an order for fifteen of them in 1918 at a cost of four thousand dollars each. Only two survived—ours here, which is considered "a runner" because it's operational, and one at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

"The one at Fort Knox is a runner, too," he added, "but they cheated because they replaced the original engine with a jeep engine."

The museum director wanted to run the tank on the grassy field next to the museum for 50 to 100 yards, but that didn't happen due to technical difficulties.

"It's the oldest tank in the world capable of firing up and running," lead technician Chief Warrant Officer 3 Cameron Harbison said. "We had some leaks in the engine, some radiator leaks and others

that stopped us today."

Several onlookers wondered if the tank was the one they remembered from the time they worked at APG.

"We used to walk through the old museum building on our way to lunch everyday," recalled Lynn Childress of Aberdeen. She and her husband, Herb, saw a photo of the tank in the APG News and wondered if it was the tank they remembered.

"When I saw it in the paper I had to come and see if it's one of those tanks that was in there with Fisher's car," Lynn added.

Anthony Gazarra worked at the Defense Research Lab from 1952 to 1984 as an electrical engineer in the fitting laboratory.

"I saw it occasionally," Gazarra said. "When I first started working, we had to go through the old museum to get to the cafeteria, and I went by it everyday. By the way, this is a beautiful place to work."

Rainer noted that two volunteers from the Ordnance Museum Foundation, Bill Ward and Leonard Kolacke, put in a lot of personal time last spring to get the vehicle running. The effort to get the tank running on the museum grounds was led by museum technician Nate Grogan and Harbison, with help from Bill Ward, Tom Buonagario and Joe Peters. Grogan would have piloted the tank had they not run into difficulties.

The director added that Grogan, Peters and others will continue work on the tank in hopes of having it operational by Memorial Day next year.

DoD launches National Resource Directory for wounded warriors, Families and caregivers

DoD

The Department of Defense launched the National Resource Directory Nov. 17, a collaborative effort between the departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs.

The directory is a Web-based network of care coordinators, providers and support partners with resources for wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans, their Families, Families of the fallen and those who support them.

"The directory is the visible demonstration of our national will and commitment to make the journey from 'survive to thrive' a reality for those who have giv-

en so much," said Lynda C. Davis, Ph.D., deputy under secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy. "As new links are added each day by providers and partners, coverage from coast to coast will grow even greater ensuring that no part of that journey will ever be made alone."

Located at <http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.org>, the directory offers more than 10,000 medical and non-medical services and resources to help service members and veterans achieve personal and professional goals along their journey from recovery through rehabilitation to commu-

See **WOUNDED**, page 4

NSPS Implementing Issuances changes

CPAC

The National Security Personnel System Implementing Issuances provide the various authorities for NSPS to include the authority to classify positions, the recruitment of positions, pay setting and other human resources matters.

Effective June 13 there were significant changes to several of the sub-chapters that impact the conversion of employees into NSPS, classification of positions and pay setting procedures for NSPS employees.

One such pay setting change states that "a promotion increase may not exceed 12 percent unless approved as required by a higher level reviewer." The previous issuance set the threshold at 20 percent.

Additionally, the revised implementing issuances now state that a temporary promotion cannot exceed 120 days. The previous issuances had stated a temporary promotion could be made up to 180 days.

The APG Civilian Personnel advisors can provide advice and assistance to employees and managers concerning any of the recent changes.

Responses needed by Nov. 21 for housing survey

DIO

Military personnel, single and Family, have until tomorrow to complete the Residential Communities Initiative, or RCI, housing survey they received in the mail in October. The survey is also available at Web site <https://survey.rdniehaus.com>.

The purpose of the survey is to determine projected requirements (by bedrooms and grade) for government-provided or privatized Family and unaccompanied housing.

"We need to hear from all Soldiers, single Soldiers and those with

Families," said Pat Hector, APG Housing Office manager. "This is the last opportunity to let us know what our Soldiers would like to see in future housing at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The survey takes less than five minutes to complete."

Hard copy surveys can be returned to the Housing Office, building 4305, second floor.

Under the RCI Program, the Army will privatize Family housing at 45 installations. Picerne Military Housing will develop the Community Development and Management Plan for APG.

Local woman warrior remembered for her drive

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Twenty-five years ago, retired 1st Sgt. Inez Sexton co-founded Aberdeen's Maryland Freestate Chapter 70; a part of the national Women's Army Corps Veterans Association. The former WAC who made Bel Air her home after retiring from the Army in 1975, died Sept. 25 at the Perry Point Veterans Administration Medical Center in Perryville.

Sexton spent her entire career in the Medical Corps, as a medic, nurses' aide and then licensed practical nurse.

Born in Wise, Va., in 1920, Sexton joined the Army in 1951. Her 24-year career took her to Germany, France and Okinawa as well as to stateside assignments.

Sexton took great pride in serving her country, and in a 1983 article written about her in the *APG News* shortly after the chapter formed, she said that despite some obvious inequalities regarding male Soldiers and women, who were not considered Soldiers at the time, she treasured her Army years.



Photo courtesy of MARYLAND FREESTATE CHAPTER 70

"I really loved my life in the Army," she said. "I worked hard and came to view the Army as my family and my fellow medics as my sisters, comrades and confidantes."

Sexton ascended to first sergeant, a rank few wom-

en achieved in the early 1970s.

Her family and friends attribute her accomplishments to her strong work ethic.

Her sister, Barbara Griest of Bel Air, said that Sexton, who worked at the

Bethlehem Steel Company in Baltimore before joining the Army, never forgot her family in Virginia and often sent money and presents home. She said she didn't realize her sisters' accomplishments until reading through the awards and commendations Sexton earned during her career after her death. She said that Sexton got involved in volunteer work immediately after her retirement, serving as president of the Golden Age Club in Aberdeen for three years, but her first love was Chapter 70.

"She loved all aspects of the organization," Griest said. "She formed many bonds with women veterans, traveled to the association's national conventions and even held national office."

She said that in her final years as Sexton's health declined, she and her husband took turns transporting her to monthly meetings and even took her to see the U.S. Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, Va., where Sexton had attended basic training.

"All in all her life was good, and we were truly blessed to be able to do this for a great lady - my sis-

ter, Inez Sexton," she said. "We loved her dearly, and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her."

Judy Fortier of Aberdeen, a former WAC and first vice president of Chapter 70, echoed Griest's comments and said that Sexton's legacy would not be forgotten.

She credited her as being the driving force behind the numerous volunteer projects the chapter still undertakes for women veterans hospitalized at Perry Point. They include providing "Ditty Bags" of toiletries and comfort items to new patients; spring and Christmas holiday parties during which they spend chapter funds to fulfill patients' "wish lists" and the establishment of the "Unique Boutique," a shop located at the hospital in which women patients can shop at no cost for donated clothing and accessories.

In addition, the "Women Veterans Helping Women Veterans" program adopts active duty women of all branches serving overseas and provides them with needed personal items. The chapter also provided sporting equipment for a Maryland Army National

Guard unit deploying overseas, and they adopted a wounded Soldier at Walter Reed Army Medical Center whose Alabama family was unable to remain with him during his recovery.

Fortier said that Sexton's legacy is, "the work we do for women veterans."

"She was totally devoted to the organization," Fortier said of Sexton. "She took a small group of thirteen women and grew it to more than forty, several who live in different states who don't have chapters.

"I always admired her for her hard work. She worked her whole life, and everywhere she went she earned respect and admiration. We lost a great sister and friend," Fortier said.

The Maryland Freestate Chapter 70 remains the only chapter of the national Women's Army Corps Veterans Association located in Maryland. The chapter's volunteer work continues, and membership is open to women of every branch, veterans and active duty. Meetings are held 11 a.m., the first Saturday of each month at the Aberdeen Senior Center. For more information, contact Fortier, 410-272-4115.

RDECOM reaches out to women engineers



Photos by ANDRICKA THOMAS, RDECOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Gayla McMichael, center, an engineer for the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, discusses career opportunities with student attendees during the career fair at the Society of Women Engineers Conference Nov. 6 through 8.

Story by
STEVE ROCHETTE
RDECOM

Engineering students from across the country got a glimpse at career opportunities that support the Warfighter as the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command participated in the 2008 Society of Women Engineers Conference at the Baltimore Convention Center Nov. 6 through 8.

The three-day conference brought industry leaders and college students together for discussions, a career fair and an awards banquet honoring the achievements of engineers. SWE aims to empower women to succeed in engineering and recognize their contributions.

Dr. Melanie Cole, a U.S. Army Research Laboratory scientist, was honored at the conference with the SWE Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor given by the organization. Cole delivered the keynote address and shared

advice with young engineers and students.

"You must take negative motivators and turn them into positives because bad things will inevitably happen," Cole said. "Most importantly, you must never, ever give up. And lastly, you can have it all, but you can't have it all at the same time."

Virginia Connolly, president of the SWE, said "[Cole] has provided wonderful inspiration for all of those whose career paths have not gone in a straight line."

Cole stressed the importance for RDECOM to reach out to women because they can help accomplish the mission.

"Our research is not race or gender specific so it is critical for us to reach out to everyone and get the best ideas," Cole said. "I'm glad we're participating in the SWE conference and so proud to play a part in this."

Cole and other scientists and engineers invited students to visit an ARL facility to kick off the

conference.

More than 30 students and young engineers toured labs at the Rodman Building, a research facility at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Jamie Jabal, an engineering student at the University of Idaho, said she joined the tour to learn about research in a specific area.

"It's impressive to see so many female engineers excelling in key positions here," she said. "My research is in nanotechnology, so I'm hoping to learn more about ARL research and job opportunities."

The wide variety of research opportunities within the command were on display during the conference career fair as representatives from five RDECOM elements interacted with students.

Yolanda Hinton, an ARL engineer, said she stressed the end result of research.

"I tell students that there are many educational opportunities as an engineer in the Army and a broad range of career paths

and that all of the research is supporting the Soldier, so there is a definite application," Hinton said.

RDECOM representatives helped educate students about what it means to work in science and technology for the Army.

"Some students don't know what we do at RDECOM so we try and clear up any misconceptions," said Marnie de Jong, an electrical engineer for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center. "They think that all of the research is devoted to weapons systems, but we explain that there is a lot of work done in communications, electronics, power and other areas."

While some students were unfamiliar with RDECOM, others had previous knowledge of the command. Angela Griffin, a senior at Tufts University, said she first learned about the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center while attending a career fair in Massachusetts.

"I'm especially interested in Natick because of the research they do with food; it's really cool," she said.

Many students showed an interest in robotics, according to Dana Mohre, a chemical engineer for the Edgewood Chemical-Biological Center. ECBC

displayed the Chemical, Biological, Radiation and Nuclear Unmanned Ground Reconnaissance Vehicle. CUGR technology incorporates sensors on a PackBot.

"The robotic portion of this technology has attracted a lot of students who want to do research in that area," Mohre said. "At ECBC, our input in the CUGR technology is the sensors we integrated that detect various types of contaminants."

On the final day of the conference students had the opportunity to pose questions during panel discussions. Cole and several engineers from private industry sat on a panel focused on obtaining a career in research.

Cole noted during the panel her research with ARL has focused on thin film electronic materials. SWE credited her "for pioneering research contributions, experimental creativity and innovation in developing a fundamental understanding of the complex relationships between the structures, processing and properties in thin film electronic materials."



Dr. Melanie Cole, a U.S. Army Research Laboratory scientist, examines material in a lab at the Rodman Building at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Cole was honored with the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Society of Women Engineers.

APG News

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Staff

APG Commander Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr.
APG Garrison Commander Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman
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Contract Photojournalists Yvonne Johnson
..... Rachel Pentz
Graphic Designer/Web Designer Nick Ponder
Web site www.apgnews.apg.army.mil



Commentary: CFC also helps man's best friend

By
**TECH SGT
STEVEN MOUNTZ**
USAF

A person's ideals are shaped by the experiences they live through. Certain events will shape our decision making, usually directly reflecting how we perceive the situation surrounding the event.

Everyone has had things affect them or someone close to them. The personality that is shaped from life's experiences is not always mankind's alone, but can affect those creatures we welcome into our lives.

When I was a child living in central Pennsylvania, my father was an avid pheasant hunter. He was so enthusiastic about it that he was willing to buy the best he could for the hunt—a top of the line Remington shotgun, all the right clothes and a full pedigree English Springer Spaniel named Misty.

Even though the dog cost \$300 (this was 1977 by the way), he felt he had gotten his money's worth.

The first day he took the pup out, she was a natural with absolutely no training. She wouldn't just rush right in the brush sniffing for the pheasants, rather she would take off around the sides and back, so when she flushed the birds out, they would fly straight up in the line of fire. She stayed close to her master,

came when called and took off when set free.

At home, my father being old fashioned like he was, felt it wasn't a dog's place to live inside the house, rather a dog should stay outside. He did love the dog for how much happiness she brought him hunting with her, so he went all out building a pen and dog house. He laid flat concrete block on the pen's floor, so it would be easy to keep clean for her, and then built a large six by six foot dog house. He would even clean it every few months, replacing the straw that he laid down to keep her warm and washing the blanket she slept on.

In the Family's eyes, the dog was living life well.

As the years passed, things changed for little Misty. She had puppies and watched all but one get sold away. The hunting she loved was reduced to chasing birds in the back yard, since Pennsylvania lost most of its pheasant population, and the years had been hard on her hips, as with most full breed dogs.

One particularly cold winter struck central Pennsylvania in 1985. My father went to feed the dogs early one morning before work, expecting to get a reception of two bouncy, happy dogs. Instead, he saw with a deep sadness that his Misty could barely stand up from the arthritis in her

hips. Even with the insulated dog house, it was just too cold for a dog of her age.

He brought both dogs in immediately, and stated, "This is just for the winter, summer comes, they are back outside."

Famous last words I would say.

Of course at first, it was rough on the dogs learning the rules of the house. Things they weren't allowed to do, when and where they could do things, and who they could get the most table scraps from.

Slowly, they grew on everyone in the house. You would leave one room, and they would follow. They would greet you at the door and lay right down at your feet when you sat down. After having the dogs inside, and seeing how their personalities changed, he couldn't put them back out in the weather. They had become too much like his second set of children.

After winter was done, instead of kicking the dogs back out to the pen, my father ripped it all down, pulled up the concrete block and planted grass in its stead.

This event not only changed the ideals of an old fashioned man, but also shaped how I live now.

I have two pups that are my children, both of which came from local humane societies near where I was living at the time.

That's why I also give to the Combined Federal Campaign. The CFC makes it easy for me to give back to local animal shelters.

Even though those animals are living the same life as Misty, in a locked cage sometimes feeling forgotten, the shelters are there giving the animals a chance at getting a new life. A chance to come inside a house for the winter and get the love they need.

Ask yourself, isn't there something you care about and want to help change?

The 2008 Contributor's Guide lists a few of the charities which specifically assist homeless, abused and unwanted dogs and sometimes cats:

CFC number, charity

75875 - Homeless Animals Rescue Team aka HART

65456 - Partnership for Animal Welfare, Inc.

16008 - Frederick County Humane Society, Inc.

78854 - Maryland Animal Advocates, Inc.

99138 - Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue, Inc.

43379 - Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc.

91236 - Roxie's Fund, Inc.

16881 - The Maryland SPCA of Baltimore City, Inc.

10474 - Animal Welfare Institute

11645 - ASPCA: Amer-

ican Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

10968 - Dedication and Everlasting Love to Animals

10469 - Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans (NEADS)

65303 - Dogs on Death Row

11649 - International Fund for Animal Welfare (CFC Chairman's note: Our thanks to Tech Sgt. Steven Mountz for such a nice humane article.)

CID looking for Special Agents

CID

The U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Command is seeking qualified, high-caliber Soldiers and civilians to become CID Special Agents to conduct felony investigations, provide executive protection for Department of Defense leaders and to help safeguard the community by providing criminal investigative support into terrorist activities.

CID has a long history of being a highly regarded Criminal Investigative Agency with the Department of the Army.

"Its Special Agents rank

among the very best of federal law enforcement," said Timothy Speight, APGCID special agent. "Our highly trained agents not only have to be expert detectives if you will, they must also be able to execute their investigative responsibilities in the harshest of expeditionary and combat environments."

There are more than half a million Soldiers serving in the Army today.

"The overwhelming majority of those people are the backbone of America—fine young men and women who we all can be so proud of," Speight said.

"Unfortunately, when you get that many people together, there will be those few who commit crime. The Army takes that very seriously and that's why there is a CID — it speaks highly of the Army institution. We owe that to the sons and daughters of America.

"By joining CID, you can make a significant contribution in helping to make our Army communities to be "Strong and Safe," Speight said.

In order to qualify, applicants need to have a U.S. citizenship; no record of

See AGENT, page 7

APG Outdoor Journal

Commentary: Something just doesn't quite add up



Photo by GEORGE "BART" ROBERTS, APG WILDLIFE & MARINE LAW ENFORCEMENT

By
BILL ARMSTRONG
APG Wildlife and Marine Law
Enforcement Division

A couple of weeks ago I took a day off and headed for the mountains of West Virginia and the cabin up the "holler." As I traveled I-95 South to the beltway around Baltimore, I could hardly help but notice the remains of a couple of very recently killed deer lying on the shoulder, obviously the result of collisions with motor vehicles. Between Baltimore and Cumberland I counted seven more deer carcasses, that made a total of nine between my house and the camp...and that was just on my side of the road!

After stopping at La Vale to pick up some groceries and to pay the lady

behind the counter at the sports store for my hunting license, I continued on up the holler, fuming at the price of a hunting license these days.

After unloading the truck I drug my favorite rocking chair out onto the front porch and filled up a tumbler with some ice and a little something to sip on. Well sir, as I sat there, my feet propped up on the porch railing enjoying the grandeur of Mother Nature, I got to thinking. Now I ain't saying that I'm a mathematician or an expert statistician, but I did graduate from fifth grade with honors and I was pretty good in numbers. Well sir, the more I got to thinking about it, something just didn't seem to add up when it came to the cost of deer hunting.

For example, the National Safety Council says that in 2007 there were 1,479 deer related automobile accidents in Maryland, which resulted in three human fatalities and more than 266 injuries. According to the same report, the average insurance claim per accident came to \$2,800, and if an injury was incurred in the accident, that figure jumped to more than \$10,000 per incident.

Now, just for giggles lets do a little calculating: 1,479 multiplied by \$2,800 comes to \$4,141,200 annually in auto repair costs, and if you add in \$2,660,000 in personal injury claims, that's something like \$6 million annually in auto insurance claims!

Now, if I was in the auto

insurance business, I'd be wondering why the various government agencies (and I'm not picking on the state of Maryland) weren't doing more to reduce the deer herd...like supplementing the costs incurred by the recreational deer hunter as they help to thin the population. It just doesn't seem logical to me that the recreational deer hunter has to "pay" the state to help reduce a deer herd that's out of control?

Now, if we take it a step further, last year the farmers of Maryland sustained approximately \$9 million in crop damage from deer, and that's not counting the substantial amount of damage that was done to landscaping around private residential dwellings. Add that to the \$6 million in automobile insurance claims and you come up with more than \$15,000,000 in deer damage being incurred by the residents of Maryland.

Oh, you say, "Perhaps the millions paid by the deer hunters for the privilege of deer hunting each year is used to help pay for this damage, right?" That does seem logical, doesn't it?

Well, not so fast there deer slayer, instead of the "taxes" being paid by the hunters for the privilege of deer hunting being used to reduce the deer herd and thereby lowering the number of automobile accidents in the state, these funds are being utilized by the Department of Natural Resources to pay their wildlife experts to manage the deer herd so that the hunters will have more and

bigger deer to hunt next year.

Me thinks that if I was still back in fifth grade and doing my numbers, Miss Neal would be standing over my shoulder, shaking her head and perhaps saying, "My, my, something just doesn't quite add up in this equation."

Taxing the deer hunter by adding on special fees and stamps just doesn't make sense to me. Perhaps the state and the auto insurance industry ought to get together and use some of the \$15 million they lose each year to deer damage to help defray the costs to the folks who are helping to reduce the population. That way, two plus two equals four; just like it did back in fifth grade.

Let's pay attention out there

And while we're on the subject of deer and automobiles, if you haven't guessed by now we're in the middle of the deer mating season here on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

This morning on my way into work I had a buck deer absolutely refuse to get out of the road. In fact he was downright indignant that I was in his way.

According to national statistics, the months of October, November and December are the worst months when it comes to automobile collisions involving deer.

So, let's be especially careful when driving to and from work during the early morning and late evening hours.

Wounded

From front page

nity re-integration.

"The VA is extremely proud to be a partner in this innovative resource," said Karen S. Guice, M.D., executive director, Federal Recovery Care Coordination Program at the Department of Veterans Affairs. "This combination of federal, state and community-based resources will serve as a tremendous asset for all service members, veterans, their Families and

those who care for them. The community is essential to the successful reintegration of our veterans, and these groups greatly enhance the directory's scope."

"The National Resource Directory will prove to be a valuable tool for wounded, ill and injured service members and their Families as they wind their way through the maze of benefits and services available to them in their transition to civilian life," said Charles S. Ciccolella, the assistant secretary of labor for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service. "The Department of Labor is pleased to have the

opportunity to work with our partners at DoD."

The National Resource Directory is organized into six major categories: Benefits and Compensation; Education, Training and Employment; Family and Caregiver Support; Health; Housing and Transportation and Services and Resources. It also provides helpful checklists, Frequently Asked Questions and connections to peer support groups. All information on the Web site can be found through a general or state and local search tool.

The National Resource Directory's launch in November is a key feature of Warrior Care Month.

Commentary: Holidays, turkey fryers—caution advised

Story by
RON KRAVITZ
Installation Safety Office

I have lived in the south-west and west most of my life, and one favorite way to cook a turkey is to deep-fry it.

This has grown in popularity throughout the country thanks to celebrity chefs, such as Martha Stewart. But, there is the right way and, unfortunately, many wrong ways, to cook a turkey by deep-frying it.

A lot of people love their turkeys cooked this way, but the Underwriters Laboratories Inc.'s safety experts are concerned that people may be sacrificing safety for good taste.

"We're worried by the increasing reports of fires related with turkey fryer use," said John Drenenberg, the UL consumer affairs manager. "Based on test findings, the fryers used to produce those great-tasting birds are not worth the risks. And, as a result of these tests, UL has decided not to certify any turkey fryers with our trusted UL mark."

Here's why using deep fryers can be dangerous:

- Many units easily tip over, spilling the hot oil. If the cooking pot is over-

filled, the oil may spill out of the unit when the turkey is put in. The overflowing oil then spills onto the burner and ignites, causing a fire to engulf the entire unit and burn anyone standing nearby.

- Partially frozen turkeys placed into a fryer will cause the oil to bubble and surge causing a spill-over. This too, could result in a fire.

- With no thermostat controls, the units also have the potential to overheat the oil to the point of combustion.

- The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards.

If a turkey fryer absolutely must be used, here are some tips for safer use:

- Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other material that can burn.

- Never use turkey fryers on wooden decks or in garages.

- Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.

- Never leave the fryer unattended. If it isn't watched, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.

- Never let children or pets near the fryer when in use. Even after use, never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer. The oil will remain dangerously hot for hours.

- To avoid overflow, do not overfill the fryer.

- Use well-insulated pot-holders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.

- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades. Oil and water don't mix, and water causes oil to splatter and could cause a fire.

- The National Turkey Federation recommends refrigerator thawing and to allow approximately 24 hours for every five pounds of bird thawed in the refrigerator.

- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease/oil fire.

Remember to use good judgment if attempting to fight a fire. If the fire is manageable, use an all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call 911 for help.

Deep fried turkey cooking tips:

- Follow the fryer's

instructions.

- Only deep fry smaller turkeys—up to 12 pounds.

- Use oils with high smoke points such as peanut, canola and safflower. Peanut oil adds flavor, but it can be a concern if guests have peanut allergies.

- To determine how much oil is needed, put the turkey in the basket and place in the pot. Add water until it reaches one to two inches above the turkey.

Lift the turkey out and use a ruler to measure the distance from the water to the top of the fryer. Pour out the water and dry the fryer completely.

- Remember that it can take anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour to heat the oil, depending on the outside temperature, wind and weather.

- Before frying, pat the turkey dry with paper towels to keep the hot oil from splattering and popping.

- 'Slowly' lower the turkey into the oil, and maintain an oil temp of 350°F. Fry turkey for three to four minutes per pound or about 35 to 42 minutes for a 10- to 12-pound turkey.



Panic on the highway!

Installation Safety Office

"Adventures in driving decision making" is brought to everyone by the Installation Safety Office.

Read the following scenario and then from the options provided, select the best answer. The correct response is printed upside down.

Situation #9

Imagine it's a winter day and you're driving 55 mph on a two-lane country highway. It's cold and getting colder, but the moisture on the road has not turned to ice. Without warning you come upon a bridge and something tells you it's a good bet there is a thin film of ice covering the entire bridge. What should you do?

A. Ease off the accelerator, keep the wheels straight and coast across the bridge.

B. Soft brake, hold the wheel straight and steer gently across.

Answer B. Hope your insurance is paid up! You'd be in trouble if you did "soft brake, hold the wheel straight and steer gently across." Any braking will tend to throw you into a skid and so will any acceleration. The only thing that won't produce a skid in this situation is to "ease off the accelerator, keep the wheels straight and coast across the bridge." You should have chosen "A." A good thing to remember is that water on the bridge will freeze before the water on the road.

Answer A. Good choice! You're right to "ease off the accelerator, keep the wheels straight and coast across the bridge." The only safe thing to do is coast across. You don't want your drive wheels either dragging or pulling so you don't accelerate or decelerate. You just do nothing. A good thing to remember is that water on the bridge will freeze before the water on the road. Warmth from the earth will retard freezing on the road while the cold air circulating under the bridge speeds up freezing on the bridge.

AAFES NEWS

AAFES gives troops shot at more than \$8,500 in LCD HDTVs

Today is final day to register for Dec. 16 drawing

AAFES

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Serta Mattresses are teaming up to give military shoppers an opportunity to revolutionize their television viewing by giving away nearly \$10,000 in high definition televisions.



"From the living room to the bedroom, these flat panel TVs are compatible anywhere in the house," said Chief Marketing Officer Mat Dromey. "With incredible image quality and a unique style and design, some lucky military shoppers are going to sleep very well after experiencing the excitement that only these state-of-the-art TVs can deliver."

Prizes in the Serta "Dare to Compare" Sweepstakes include a 65", 52" and 46" Sharp LCD HDTV.

Authorized exchange shoppers at participating stores worldwide can register for their chance to win one of the three TVs through Nov. 20. Prizes will be awarded on or about Dec. 16. No purchase is necessary as shoppers need only fill out an entry form at participating locations for their chance to win.

Personnel with exchange privileges can find contact information for the BX/PX nearest them by logging on to the store locator link at www.aafes.com.

POST SHORTS

Cold weather tips for APG Family Housing occupants

DIO

Occupants of Family quarters should take the following preventive measures as the wind chill drops to freezing:

All occupants

Disconnect the water hoses from outside faucets. If left connected, they can freeze and bust the pipes and then cause flooding in the quarters when the temperatures warm.

Bayside Village occupants

Open kitchen cabinet doors to allow heat to penetrate to the pipes. Also, turn

on the water at the kitchen sink to a mix of hot and cold to a stream about the size of a pencil (not just a drip).

Patriot Village occupants

In addition to opening the kitchen cabinet doors and turning on the water at the kitchen sink, also do the mix at the bath tub.

Note: If there is no water, call the emergency work order number, 410-278-3977, immediately. The longer the pipes stay frozen the more of a chance they will burst.

meeting will be held 11:30 a.m., Nov. 20, at the Wetlands Golf Club located on 740 Gilbert Road, Aberdeen. W. Scott Flanigan, director, Cecil County Department of Public Works will present "How the APG BRAC program relates to Cecil County's Infrastructure and Master Planning."

Space is limited and reservations are required. RSVP online at <http://www.samechesapeake.org>.

RecruitMilitary Career Fair in Baltimore today

RecruitMilitary, in conjunction with the President's National Hire Veterans Committee (DOL), The American Legion and the Military Spouse Corporate

Career Network will hold a free hiring event for veterans, service members transitioning from active duty, Reserves, National Guard and military spouses, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 20, at the M&T Bank Stadium (Raven's Stadium) in Baltimore.

Meet with representatives from government contractors, private industry, law enforcement, education, transportation and more from local, state and national organizations.

Dress for success, bring plenty of resumes and be prepared for on-the-spot interviews or applications.

For more information or to register as a job seeker, visit the RecruitMilitary Web site, www.recruitmilitary.com.

itary.com.

Noise advisory

The U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center plans to conduct several large detonations through Nov. 21 which are likely to generate sound and/or vibration outside the installation boundaries.

If weather conditions are not favorable, firing will be rescheduled.

For more information, call 410-278-1147.

Holiday Safety Open House set for Nov. 22

The garrison Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment's Fire and Emergency Services Division will host a Holiday Safety Open House 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area fire station, building 2200, Nov. 22.

The event will have a Fall Fest-type atmosphere. Army Community Service will provide a Bounce House, a 'Really Strange Museum,' a Clothesline Project, caricature drawings from Nothin' Up My Sleeve Entertainment and more.

For more information, call Doug Farrington, 410-306-0572 or e-mail douglas.farrington@us.army.

mil.

Send mail to wounded Soldiers

The American Red Cross will allow the public to send holiday greeting cards that aren't addressed to a particular Soldier. The cards will be screened, sorted and distributed to military hospitals and bases nationally and overseas in time for the holidays.

The public can send their greeting cards, with adequate postage and a return address to; Holiday Mail for Heroes, P.O. Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456.

To speed delivery, mailers should not send care packages, money or any inserts, including glitter. Send cards through Dec. 10.

Cards can also be downloaded from the American Red Cross Web site to print out and send to the program's address.

For more information, visit <http://www.redcross.org/email/saf>.

Commissary holiday hours

The commissary will be open the Monday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 24, to accommodate customers who want to purchase their holiday items. It will be closed the Friday after Thanksgiving.

KUSAHC closes for the holidays

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed Nov. 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday and on Nov. 28 for a training holiday and will reopen Dec. 1.

Patients should plan accordingly for any medication needs.

For evenings, weekends and federal holidays, for routine medical assistance, call 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 emergencies.

FEHB open season

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season runs through Dec. 8.

Employees who wish to change their health benefits carrier should visit <https://www.abc.army.mil> or call 1-877-276-9287. Changes become effective Jan. 4, 2009.

For more information, contact Teri Wright, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, 410-278-4331, teri.wright@us.army.mil.

Thanksgiving Day specialty meal

The Thanksgiving Day Specialty Meal for all military personnel will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Nov. 27.

During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The holiday meal rate of \$6.35 applies to any officer, enlisted member and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$5.40 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Thanksgiving Day Specialty Meal Menu

includes hearty turkey and wild rice soup, shrimp cocktail, savory roasted turkey, orange honey glazed baked ham, carved to order steamship round, apple and sausage cornbread dressing, savory bread dressing, fluffy mashed potatoes with giblet gravy, candied yams, buttered corn, green beans almondine, assorted salad bar, bacon and tomato salad, cucumber salad, waldorf salad, cranberry sauce, hot rolls, apple pie, pumpkin pie, pecan pie, cherry pie, fresh fruit, hard candy, mixed nuts, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted beverages and egg nog.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

FEHB Health Fair today

FEHB, FEDVIP open seasons run through Dec. 8.

A Health Fair is scheduled 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 20, at the EA Recreation Center, building E-4140. Plan representatives will be available to answer questions and provide 2009 health plan materials.

Rates for the 2009 Federal Employees Health Benefits and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program rates have been posted. New rates will be effective Jan. 4, 2009.

To view FEHB rates, visit <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/08rates/index.asp>; to view FEDVIP rates, visit <http://www.opm.gov/insure/dentalvision/08/vision.asp>.

Employees must contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) or Web site www.abc.army.mil or call 1-877-276-9287.

NAF open season through Nov. 28

The Nonappropriated Fund Open Season for regular fulltime and part-time employees runs through Nov. 28. DA NAF Benefits has forwarded information to qualified employees to their home address.

Employees should review these materials carefully because there are some important benefit changes. Employees can also access this information at www.NAFBENEFITS.com

All changes must be processed before the close of business Nov. 28. Changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2009.

For more information or to update employee records, call NAF Human Resources, 410-278-5127/8994.

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

Community Notes

Amtrak adds northbound weekday at Aberdeen

Amtrak has increased by one the number of trains making a stop at the Aberdeen station. Northeast Regional Train 130, which operates between Washington, D.C., and New York, will now make a morning stop at Aberdeen at 7:39 a.m. each weekday. This brings the total number of trains stopping at Aberdeen to 12 each weekday, 13 each Saturday and 12 each Sunday.

The schedule for Train 130 is ideal

for business travelers heading north out of Aberdeen with stops at Wilmington at 8:06 a.m. and Philadelphia at 8:30 a.m. Following New Jersey stops at Trenton, Metropark, Newark International Airport, Newark Penn Station, the train arrives at New York Penn Station at 9:59 a.m.

For more information, schedules, fares and information, passengers may call 800-USA-RAIL or visit <http://www.amtrak.com/>.

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.

CASINO NIGHT

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135 located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, invites the public to Casino Night, 6 p.m. to midnight. Texas Hold'em, up to four tables; \$50 buy in, first-come, first-served. Many games of chance, a cash bar and food will be available.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 21 THRU 23 ALIVE 2008: QUEST MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Youth for Christ will spon-

sor the Alive 2008: Quest Youth Conference, at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center located on 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md.

The youth conference will include a week-end of challenge and adventure and will feature national recording artists Leeland and Pure NRG; dynamic youth speakers Runks and Joel Sonnenberg; drama team Onetime-blind; the Sanctuary of Prayer Encounter Room; Sports on the Beach; extreme hair makeovers, Wii, Karaoke, games and more.

Walk-up registration is \$80 per person with hotel rates additional.

For more information or to register, 1-877-896-3802 (toll free), visit <http://www.impactalive.net/Alive08/alive08brochure.pdf>, or e-mail impactalive@impactalive.net.

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 22 CHILDREN'S GARDENING – FALL SALAD FEAST

Have fun growing food and flowers. Enjoy crafts, games and science disguised as fun while learning about seeds, life cycles and growing food and flowers in a water-

shed-friendly way. This program will be held 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for ages 5 to 10. The cost is \$4 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.

KING AND QUEEN RALLY

The women of St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will host a "King and Queen" rally at 4 p.m. Children ages 6 months to 5 years will compete to wear the crown. Proceeds will benefit the Church's 101st Annual Women's Day program scheduled for March 2009.

For more information call 410-939-2267.

HITCHHIKER'S HIKE

During a hike through the forest edge, explore some of the strategies plants employ to disperse their seeds. This program will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. for all ages, under 10 with 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.

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 23 LENAPETURKEY RATTLE

Create a ceremonial turkey rattle that was used by the Lenape Indians of Delaware. This program will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult, 8 to 10 with an adult. The cost is \$4 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.

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 29 FALL FIVE SENSES HIKE

Come see, smell, taste, touch and hear all that the park has to offer on a crisp fall morning. This program will be held 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for all ages, under 8 with 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.

CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

VFW Post 8185 located on Route 222, Port Deposit, will hold Christmas Prize Bingo to benefit the Ladies Auxiliary to the Water Witch Fire Company. Doors open 6 p.m., Bingo begins 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 for all paper cards for 20 games. Special single card packets cost \$5 each for children 8 and under; extra packs cost \$5 each. Tickets are available at the door. Refreshments, toys, gifts, raffles

and more will be available. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338, Stephanie Gibson,

410-378-2672 or Carrie McCall, 410-378-9169.

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

APG closing announcements

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

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

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

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

Agent

From page 3

psychological or pathological personality disorders; no record of unsatisfactory credit; suitable character established by a Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI) leading to a Top Secret clearance; no civil court or court martial convictions; physical profile 222221 or higher; normal color vision; ST score of 110 or higher. ST 107 if tested on or after Jan. 2, 2002; ability to speak and write clearly; minimum age of 21 with at least

two years of military experience but not more than 10; two years of college or at least 60 semester credit hours; maximum grade of E-5 sergeant (non-promotable); 60 months of service obligation upon completion of the apprentice spe-

cial agent course.

For more information regarding the application process, visit Web site, www.cid.army.mil, or contact the APG CID Office, 410-278-5261, or e-mail apg.cid@conus.army.mil.



Commissary News



DeCA salutes Marine Corps on its 233rd birthday Commissaries have supported the Marine Corps for 98 years



Courtesy of the USMC HISTORICAL CENTER

The care the Marines devoted to their commissaries is evident in this brightly lit, well-ventilated facility. The store was partially self-service with fresh vegetables on the left accessible to the customers. Baked goods on cases on the right, and canned goods on high shelves, could be accessed by the clerks. (Circa 1941)

Story by
DR PETER D. SKIRBUNT
DeCA

On Nov. 10, 1775, America's Second Continental Congress authorized the formation of the U.S. Marine Corps. Since that

day 233 years ago, millions of Americans serving as Marines have established a superb record of valor, sacrifice and distinguished service. They have served with distinction in every American conflict, from the Revolution and the War

of 1812 to the trenches of the western front during World War I, on Pacific islands during World War II, in the jungles and villages of South Vietnam, and in the deserts, mountains, and city streets of Iraq and Afghanistan. Their reputation for excellence and courage is respected around the world.

In addition to their multiple ground and air combat missions and providing security at U.S. embassies, as a vital component of the Navy Department, Marines have served aboard warships since 1775.

In the days of sail, shipboard fare was monotonous and, often, nutritionally deficient. The longer the voyage, the likelier the food would become spoiled, worm-eaten or infested with weevils. Therefore, Marines and sailors alike eagerly anticipated visits to ports of call – foreign or American – where they could get fresh, healthful, tasty foods.



Courtesy of MILITARY MARKET, ARMYTIMES
A customer at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point waits while a volunteer bagger packs his groceries. (Circa 1962)

In every port there were civilian merchants who rowed, paddled or sailed small boats – collectively known as “bumboats” – out to the visiting ships. There, they sold their visitors all sorts of local food items, from fish and lobsters to coconuts and pineapples. These vendors provided a valuable service.

However, by 1910, the Navy Department realized the bumboats could not adequately serve the needs of large crews and Marine contingents aboard the big ships of the modern steel Navy, so the Navy began opening “ships’ stores” on all its vessels to replace the overseas bumboats.

At ports in the United States, the Navy and Marine Corps established sales commissaries, similar to those the Army had run since 1867.

Commissaries have grown with the Marine Corps, and the benefit has played an important role in the Marine Corps community. At all of the armed services’ commissaries, food items were sold to men of all services and all ranks “at cost,” providing a valuable nonpay benefit in the form of sizable cost

savings.

At first, the stores operated more like warehouses, where clerks pulled items from the shelves for the customers. “Self service” began to gain popularity in the late 1920s and became widespread in the 1940s.

The commissaries’ importance in attracting and retaining qualified personnel increased even more with the creation of the all-volunteer military in 1973.

During the late 1980s, the Marine Corps Commissary Office in Washington, D.C., was responsible for a dozen Marine Corps commissaries from North Carolina to Japan. Under the office’s guidance, the Marines established permanent and professional staffs for their stores, and built commissaries comparable to contemporary civilian grocery stores and supermarkets.

In 1991, the Marine Corps Commissary Office, along with the commissary organizations of each of the other military services, was consolidated under the newly established Defense Commissary Agency.

Originally created for active duty personnel, commissaries are

now available to military retirees, members of the Reserve and National Guard and the immediate Family members of all eligible commissary shoppers.

By keeping costs down, the stores have always been important to military Families living in urban areas, where the cost of living is high.

Commissaries are an important factor in maintaining morale by bringing a taste of home to military Families stationed overseas or living in isolated and sparsely populated areas of the United States.

Today, DeCA serves the Marine Corps and all the armed services by providing modern commissaries at more than 250 locations around the world, including 16 Marine Corps installations – 12 in the United States, and four overseas – and 61 Navy bases.

DeCA’s modern stores combine the best materials and design concepts, use state-of-the-art equipment and materials, stock thousands of line items, handle a heavy volume of customer traffic and provide an average savings of 30 percent or more when compared with civilian supermarkets. Because of these savings, the commissary benefit continues to be a factor in the services’ efforts to attract and retain top-quality personnel.

“We’re very proud to share our heritage with the Marines,” says DeCA’s director and chief executive officer, Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. “For ninety-eight years, the Marine Corps has worked with the commissaries, bringing the best retail foods to their communities, at reasonable cost. We’re always striving to make commissaries worth the trip for all our customers.

“On behalf of everyone at the Defense Commissary Agency, I offer our congratulations to the Marine Corps on its two-hundred thirty-third birthday,” Sakowitz said. He said he looks forward to the landmark year of 2010, which will mark the 100th anniversary of Marine Corps and Navy commissaries.

(Editor’s note: Skirbunt is the historian for DeCA.)



Health Notes

TRICARE recognizes Warrior Care Month

U.S. DoD Military Health System

November is Warrior Care Month, and TRICARE seeks to educate wounded, ill and injured, or WII, service members about their benefits.

"It is our goal to share with all service members as much information about their benefits as possible," said Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity. "Currently, we are trying to educate our beneficiaries about what we are doing for severely wounded, ill and injured service members.

"Recently, I met a young husband and wife in Colorado. The Keils are a great Family with an amazing recovery story. The young man, an Army staff sergeant, was shot through the neck while establishing a patrol base in Iraq. I feel honored to have met them," said Granger.

"He just happened to be in town, heard about me and wanted to stop by," said Retired Staff Sgt. Matthew Keil. "General Granger said to us, 'if there's anything that TRICARE can do for you ... I'll make sure it gets done.'"

"I was much honored to meet

a hero like Matt," Granger said. "He's a fine example of what we do for our service members and Families in the TRICARE network. These men and women give so much for us, to protect us. It continues to be our goal to provide the best care possible," Granger said.

WII service members have many benefits available to them. The National Defense Authorization Act includes several sections that discuss new or developing benefits designed to address specific needs of service members who may have been severely

wounded, ill or injured as a result of supporting contingency operations. Some of these benefits are retroactive.

"Wounded, ill or injured service members must pay attention to their benefits as they process out of the military," reminds Granger. "Service members have given so much, the last thing we want to see happen is for benefits to be a challenge or for service members to lose benefits because of lack of information."

Because his disability is so recent, Matt is not yet enrolled in Medicare. In early 2009 he

will receive information concerning Medicare enrollment. At that time, Matt will have to enroll in Medicare Part B in order to keep his TRICARE benefits. A local TRICARE benefits counselor is working with Matt and Tracy to help answer all their questions.

For more information about other TRICARE benefits log on to <http://www.tricare.mil>. Also, visit http://www.tricare.mil/pressroom/press_article.asp?fid=450 to view a feature length story about the Keils' journey for recovery.

Commentary: Beat tobacco addiction--be Army Strong!

By
BRAD TAFT
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

As a Soldier, you are part of a team that is not just strong, but Army Strong. You have physical strength, mental strength and emotional strength. You are "strong enough to get yourself over" and "strong enough to get over yourself." This strength can help you win the fight against the fiercest addiction you may ever face—tobacco addiction.

Tobacco addiction comes on gradually. You try a few cigarettes and think it isn't too bad. You feel more alert, ready for anything. It is not that expensive either. Just a few bucks a day to feel good.

But soon, you smoke whenever you can, at what-



Graphic/photo by CHRISTINA GRABER,CHPPM

ever the cost; not just in money, but in time and in relationships.

Now, you don't want to feel good by smoking; you just want to avoid the bad feeling that comes when you don't smoke. This is addiction, and it only takes about 100 cigarettes to go from "trying it out" to addiction.

You probably feel the addiction in the time it

takes you to go outside for a smoke, or in your personal relationships, or in your wallet. What's worse, you may feel it physically in your performance and readiness.

According to the surgeon general of the United States, smoking has negative effects on nearly every organ of the human body. Smoking is directly linked

to the two leading causes of death: coronary heart disease and cancer. Cigarette smokers are two to four times more likely to develop coronary heart disease than non-smokers. The risk of dying from lung cancer is more than 23 times higher among men who smoke cigarettes and about 13 times higher among women who smoke, compared with those who have never smoked.

In addition, recent onset smoking has been linked to a serious and sometimes fatal illness called acute eosinophilic pneumonia, which has occurred among young service members in Iraq.

Maybe smoking is something that should concern you. Tobacco use negatively affects your health.

Why not fight tobacco addiction? For many Soldiers, fighting tobacco addiction is the hardest

fight they will ever have.

Nov. 20 is the Great American Smokeout, a day when smokers are encouraged to go without smoking. If you can't stop smoking for just one day, then you probably are addicted to tobacco. If that's the case, let your healthcare provider know you need help to begin fighting the

addiction.

For more information, visit the American Cancer Society Web site, <http://www.cancer.org/docroot/subsite/greatamericans/Smokeout.asp>, or Quit Tobacco, <http://www.ucequit2.org/>.

(Editor's note: Author is a registered nurse at USACHPPM.)

Smokeout

From frontpage

Many people try, and many more try and try again to quit tobacco.

"It's not just a bad habit, it's a serious addiction. When you smoke or dip, it's tough to quit," said Chuck Watkins, chief, Communications and Research Requirements, TRICARE Management Activity.

Studies show that, on average, it takes 11 quit attempts before a person can win the battle against tobacco.

DoD has stepped up efforts to combat tobacco use through its Quit Tobacco—Make Everyone Proud education campaign, aimed at young enlisted men and women who are trying to quit tobacco or are thinking about it. The campaign site, <http://www.ucequit2.org>, offers sound information and innovative tools to support their efforts.

Taking a high-tech, high-touch approach

A big draw to the Web site is the 18-hour a day availability of instant-message live help, staffed by trained tobacco cessation coaches.

"It's a lonely struggle and they need someone to talk to," reports one coach. "I had a young serviceman come into chat every night for a week. They all really seem to appreciate the personal touch they get through the live chat."

Another cessation coach describes the practical advice he gives live-help users, such as coping with triggers.

"I suggest they avoid coffee and alcohol while going through the initial quit stage and suggest they write down all the reasons they want to quit," the coach said. "Then read the list each time they feel an urge or experience a trigger that might make them smoke or chew."

The live-chat coaching team also includes a former Marine and an ex-smoker who relishes his abili-

ty to gain the trust of those who turn to the live-help service.

"They want encouragement from a real person who has been in their shoes. They ask me why I quit, and I tell them I got tired of coughing up phlegm and smelling like an ashtray," he said.

Since January of this year, more than 600 live chats have taken place, spanning a few minutes to an hour in length. These private one-on-one sessions are anonymous and

offer easy access to immediate assistance—something would-be quitters cannot find elsewhere.

A calculator on the Web site allows users to figure out how much they can save on a yearly basis by giving up tobacco. On average, enlisted personnel can save one month's salary a year. Other Web site features include games, such as Texas Hold 'Em, with embedded messages that reinforce the intention to quit and offer encouragement and tips to fight triggers.

DoD supports the military's participation in the annual Great American Smokeout, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, through free materials and registration at <http://www.ucequit2.org>.



FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Radio City Christmas Spectacular in Baltimore

Tickets are available for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes at the 1st Mariner Arena, 201 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore. Shows available include

7:30 p.m. on Dec. 2, 3 and 4; 2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 5; 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m. or 8 p.m., Dec. 6; and noon, 3:30 p.m. or 7 p.m., Dec. 7.

Tickets cost \$75, \$58 or \$30 (floor – middle or uppers)

Children 2 and younger do not need a ticket if seated on parent's lap.

Tickets are limited and by availability; no guaranteed seating other than floor, middle, and uppers. For Pre-ordered tickets only.

For more information, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, AA Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

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.

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.

MWR daily bus trips to Atlantic City

Roll the bones on daily trips to Atlantic City, N.J. FMWR Leisure Travel Ser-

vices 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.

ACS hosts 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. 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.

Holiday golf sale at Ruggles

Stop by Ruggles Pro Shop from Nov. 24 through Dec. 24 and save on a great selection of apparel and equipment.

The sale includes 50 percent off of all Ashworth apparel; 40 percent off select group of Footjoy Outerwear; and 50 percent off select group of men's short-sleeved shirts.

All regular priced irons, wedges and bags are 10 percent off. Gift certificates for lessons are a great stocking stuffer.

For more information, e-mail david.correll@us.army.mil. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

Holiday Arts and Crafts Show

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will hold a Holiday Arts and Crafts Show, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 4, at Top of the Bay. This event is free and open to the public. Stop by for shopping, food, fun and live entertainment. Vendors who want to participate can register at <http://www.apgmwr.com/Store/artscraftsvendortables.html> to secure their table. Cost is \$25 for a table.

For more information, call Top of the Bay, 410-278-3062.

Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at www.apgmwr.com.

All jobs for Aberdeen Proving Ground are listed at <http://acpol.army.mil/employment/naf.htm> or check out AAFES Jobs link <http://odin.aafes.com/employment/> for additional job opportunities.

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.

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.

Private voice lessons

Ages 7 and older 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.

Open to all DoD ID card holder Family members.

Toddler Art

Calling all young Picassos. Toddler Art lessons will be given 5:45 to 6:30 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 15 through March 5, for ages 2 through 4 at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Hands-on creativity is the theme as children explore, paint, clay, color,

texture, and shapes. Dress little ones in old clothes or smock and be prepared for a messy good time. Parent participation required.

Cost is \$60 per student for eight weeks.

Drawing and sketching

Drawing and sketching classes will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, Jan. 12 through March 12, for ages 10 to 15 years at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. No class on Jan. 19

Students will explore the concepts of value, proportion, perspective, composition, and foreshortening in this drawing class. Class topics include materials used in drawing and sketching, memory drawing, contour drawing, grid drawing, tonal drawing and matting of completed works.

Students are required to have an 11x14 drawing pad. Class costs \$120 per student for eight weeks.

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.

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.

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, 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.

ACS announces 'Holiday Sponsor Program'

ACS

With the holiday season fast approaching, this nation is facing its greatest economic challenge since the great depression while still fighting the War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The APG community is constantly reminded of the great sacrifices of the men and women in the U.S. armed forces. During these difficult and stressful times, some military Families are experiencing financial hardship and require additional assistance. Army Commu-

nity Service works closely with these military Families providing supportive services throughout the year.

To make this holiday season a little bit brighter for some of these Families, ACS is hosting the Holiday Sponsor Program. Individuals, groups, and/or agencies desiring to sponsor a military Family can contact Arcelio V. Alleyne, ACS Financial Readiness Program manager, 410-278-2450, fax 410-278-9685, or e-mail arcelio.alleyne@us.army.mil.

2008 ALL ARMY

Digital Photography Contest

Enter your favorite digital images to compete against the best photographers in the Army.

CATEGORIES:	People, Place, Object, Military Life, Experimental and "Theme" category-Animal Friends	ENTRY DEADLINE:	COB 7 December 08
DIVISIONS:	Active Duty & Civilians	HOW TO SUBMIT:	Access the contest website, complete profile, and upload your photos.
CLASSES:	Color & Monochrome	Contest information and assistance is available at your local Arts & Crafts Center or Community Recreation Office.	

SUBMISSION PERIOD: 7 October - 7 December at:
<https://artscrafts.fmwr.army.mil>

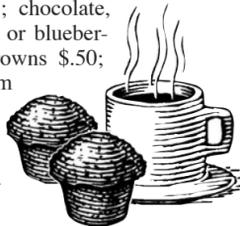
"Shaker Staircase" by Photographer Jeffery White

Grab a bite on the way to work

Bowling Center now serving breakfast

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Bowling Center, building 2342, is now serving breakfast 7 to 11 a.m., Monday thru Friday.

Menu items include bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich \$2.25; bacon, egg and cheese bagel \$2.50; Steak, egg and cheese sandwich \$2.75; steak, egg and cheese bagel \$3.50; plain or cinnamon-raisin bagels \$1.25; chocolate, chocolate chip, banana nut or blueberry muffins \$2.35; hash browns \$.50; and coffee \$.70 medium and \$1.40 large. Subject to change. Orders can be eat-in, carry out or made in advance by calling 410-278-4041 after 7 a.m.



APG Bowling Center activities

November Military Family Month

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, Pin Head.

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. 17

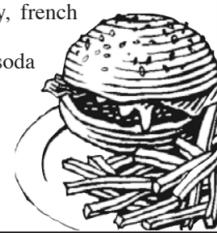
Special #1: Open face hot turkey sandwich with gravy, french fries, cookie and soda for \$6.75

Special #2: Lasagna with salad, garlic bread, cookie and soda for \$9.95.

Week of Nov. 24

No specials this week.

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



2008 Fall IT Expo largest to date



Rita Savage, a senior operations officer from the directorate of instruction at the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, looks at a Rugged Industrial Personal Digital Assistant at AMREL'S booth at the Fall Information Technology Expo, held at Top of the Bay Oct. 21. Savage said that she attended the expo to see the latest technologies which will aid Soldiers in their field training.

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

The 2008 Fall Information Technology Expo, held at Top of the Bay Oct. 21, was popular with both Aberdeen Proving Ground employees and IT vendors, bringing approximately 350 attendees and 55 exhibitors, making it the largest IT Expo at APG to date.

The free bi-annual expo is hosted by The Corporate Information Office of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and the U.S. Army Garrison's Directorate of Information Management, and was open to Department of Defense, government and contractor personnel.

Mark Flemister, Federal Direct Access, who along with his wife, Donna, works with RDECOM and the DOIM, organized the event.

"As far as popularity within the APG community, I would let the sheer number of attendees attest to the belief that APG employees find it beneficial and worthwhile," said Chris Zukowski, one of the expo organizers and a systems analyst for RDECOM CIO. "The show is significant because

it brings cutting-edge technologies to APG so that employees can experience first-hand items which can be used to improve their workload and contribute to the mission here at APG."

Zukowski said that the exhibitors who came to the expo develop relationships with APG personnel, and that the expo gives APG personnel a chance to see the products in person and ask questions, so it is a "win-win" situation.

"Seeing and touching things is far better than trying to view a Web site and only speculate on what the item can really do," Zukowski said. "Also, the expo affords employees a chance to meet face-to-face with their IT vendors and put a more personal touch on the government-to-industry relationship. There is also the opportunity to follow-up to address questions and perhaps schedule demonstrations in their own work environment."

Susan Suppa, DOIM, who also helped organize the event, predicts that the expo will grow in popularity and importance over the next few years due to the fact that there are organizations that are coming to APG due to base realignment and closure that rely heavily on

technology, like Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, most commonly referred to as Army Team C4ISR, which will be supported by DOIM.

"Technology changes so quickly, so these expos are important because they expose the APG community to the latest technologies," Suppa said.

Zukowski added, "Ask the exhibitors and they unanimously will tell you that the APG show is perhaps the premier event in the greater Washington-Baltimore area and will only grow in importance as BRAC swells the population at APG."

He said that the most popular exhibits featured products that attendees use in their day-to-day activities at the workplace, like Army Knowledge Online and Office Eagle.

Leighanne Zdobysz, account manager for Kingston Technology, which specializes in secure flash drives, said that their company had never been to the APG IT Expo before, and that they were hoping to achieve some name recognition and get new contacts.

"It has been a good show; I met a lot of key personnel. The people I have met were very knowledgeable about current technology, and will be good business for our company," Zdobysz said.

Kim Eiseman, an Army account manager for Adobe Systems Incorporated, said that she enjoyed having the chance to get to interact with the customers face to face.

"Often customers do not know where to go when they have a question," Eiseman. "This expo gives us a chance to help them with their questions, and I am glad that I had this opportunity."

Sheldon Smith, an Army Knowledge Online/Defense Knowledge Online outreach manager, said that he was at the expo to answer questions and show attendees features on their Web site. Smith said that AKO/DKO will be even more important for users in the future.

Smith said that DoD was chosen to build upon the AKO portal for DKO last year, instead of having a separate portal.

"This site was envisioned to be a single point of entry, as we move into the New Year and the new administration in the Army is trying to make budgetary cuts," Smith said. "AKO/DKO provides so much for users like e-mail, file storages and management, it is a cost effective solution. AKO/DKO makes sense.

It offers a solution to much of the money being spent by organizations; AKO/DKO promotes consolidation which goes with BRAC trends."

Smith added that AKO/DKO is working to provide more services for users, with the goal to make the site more user-friendly.

"We will soon provide wiki capability [a page or collection of Web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content, using a simplified markup language] which will further enhance AKO's members to collaborate, and we are testing a new search tool which will greatly improve the ability to find the right document fast. All you will need is an Internet connection to locate important files."

Smith also said changes are being made to e-mail with the aim to greatly enhance the usability of e-mail tools. Smith said that the changes will make the e-mail comparable to Microsoft Outlook.

Smith also said that AKO/DKO is working to improve security on the site, with knowledge-based communication, which will require the user to authenticate who they are by answering questions.

Smith said that there are many AKO/DKO capabilities that are not being fully utilized by its users. For instance AKO/DKO allows users to create profiles that can serve as an online resume, and has the ability for users to post pictures.

"AKO/DKO is working on the profile section to make it more user-friendly. It will be comparable to Myspace (a social networking site). The advantage to using AKO/DKO for making a profile will be that the information will be on a secure site. Organizations will also be able to create profiles," he said.

Smith added that AKO/DKO tries to come to the APG IT Expo as much as they can so that they can work with the users to inform them about the site and answer any questions that they might have. He said that AKO/DKO will also send out trainers to an organization to answer questions and instruct them on how to use the Web site.

Rita Savage, a senior operations officer from the Directorate of Instruction at the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, said she attended the expo to see the current technologies that will help Soldiers in the field as well as in the classroom.

"I especially wanted to look at

the teleconferencing equipment, which we have been using since we have to communicate with Fort Lee, Virginia, often," Savage said.

She added that her organization is moving to Fort Lee because of BRAC.

"Today I am making contacts with representatives that our organization will be able to use, even in the future when we are at Fort Lee," Savage said. "Also, this expo is very convenient to attend, as it is held on APG."

Exhibitors

- 3M Projection Systems
- ACL Computers & Software
- Adobe Systems
- AFL Telecommunications
- ActioNet, Inc.
- Army Knowledge Online
- AMREL
- AVI-SPL
- AVS Installations LLC
- Best Buy Government and Education
- Booz Allen and Hamilton
- Business Machines
- CACI Inc.
- Capitol Cable & Technology
- CCS Presentation Systems
- Commercial Data Systems Inc.
- Corporate Express
- Dell
- Dell/ASAP Software
- Diskeeper
- Emtec Federal
- Endace/Rsignia
- EPS
- F.A. O' Toole Office Systems
- Fujitsu Computer Products
- HP
- Hartford Computer
- IBM
- Information Technology Solutions, LLC
- Insight Public Sector
- Kingston Technology
- Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA, Inc.
- Lexmark
- Link Solutions, Inc.
- Log-Sec Corp.
- mLINQS
- Nelson White Systems
- New Horizons CLC
- Office Eagle
- Plantronics
- Praxis Engineering Technologies
- Precision Solutions
- Raritan
- RDECOM Small Business Office
- SEIDCON; Sprint
- STG, Inc.
- Survice Engineering
- TANDBERG
- Tally Genicom
- Texas Memory Systems
- Tripp Lite
- Write Line
- Xerox

Chapel honors chaplains, KUSAHC

APG Chapel

The past month was busy for the Aberdeen Area Chapel as members of the Protestant service honored the personnel of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic during its monthly themed-Sunday observance Nov. 2 and the community hailed its chaplaincy during its Chaplain Appreciation Month program Oct. 19.

More than 160 people attended the Nov. 2 service during which KUSAHC Clinic Teams conducted most of the service, reading

scripture lessons, ushering and collecting the offering. The Chapel Choir presented a tribute of song for that day and Dr. Eugene Edgerton, retired colonel and former KUSAHC commander, presented the Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander Capt. Chani Cordero, with a plaque honoring the unit's service to the nation. All participants received a leather-bound bible with the gold embroidered emblem of the U.S. Army from Chaplain (Maj.) Young Kim, pastor of the Protestant Service.

Lay leaders led the Chaplain Appreciation service. They included Edgerton who gave the welcome and announcements; Shawna Flyed who presented the call to worship and invocation; prayers by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Travis Ashley and retired Col. Munroe Manning and a morning message from the book of Matthew by retired Lt. Col. Michael Layman.

Kim delivered the benediction.

"Our congregation has Soldiers, retirees, government civilians and their

Families," Kim said. "They are very faithful to their chapel, to God and their country. Events like these make our APG community strong and the Army strong. The APG chaplaincy deeply thanks all parish council members, ushers, Sunday school teachers, choir members, acolytes, members and supporters for their strong support.

The next themed Sunday at the Aberdeen Area Chapel will be held 10:15 a.m. Dec. 3. The service will honor the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band.

Chapel Events

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 Merkel, 410-278-2516, or e-mail gerri.merkel@conus.army.mil.

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.

LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Carolyn Russell, 410-306-0078, fax 410-306-0100, or e-mail carolyn.russell2@us.army.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Donald Adamson
Neoma Amberman
Karen Blades
Debra Bonsall (daughter has brain tumor)
Jeanie Bowman
Georgia Braun
Michelle Brooks
Donna Butler
Donna Cianelli
Frank Costa
Joyce Clark
Barbara Crossley

John Daigle
Liesolette Dorsey
Lisa Foust
Rita Fowler
Gregory Fox
Miriam Garcia
Allen Gregory
Sharon Hardesty
Jerome Hesch
Linda Hindman
Sinclair Joe
Beverly King (caring for husband)

Janet Kipp
Glenn Kresge
Randolph Larracuente
Joy Meadows
Richard McKay
Nicole McKew
Frantz Midy
Karen Milton
Deborah Moore
Marie D. Nowak
Dorothy Nowak
Cindy Orwig

Adrienne Pearson
Judith Ratledge
Reta Reynolds
Gloria Scott
Melvin Showell
Willie Stevenson
Lavonne Telsee
Gale Thompson
Mark Walker
Joyce Woods
Charles Young
Barbara Zenker

Community and APG: Partners in Education

PIE meeting highlights new partnerships



From left, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course students Sgts. Doug Jessup, Leslie Smith and Curtis Haug raise the U.S. flag at Aberdeen Middle School in honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11. M-Squad students Donnet Williamson, 8th grade, left, and Annesa Johnson, 7th grade, right observe the ceremony. Under the Partners in Education agreement, AMS has a partnership with the BNCOC, located on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Not visible, Staff Sgt. Brenda Randall from Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Maryland Army National Guard, helps raise flag from behind.

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Representatives from Aberdeen Proving Ground and Harford County Public Schools met for the first Partners in Education meeting of the 2008-2009 school year at Roye Williams Elementary School Oct. 21.

Under PIE, military units adopt a school and coordinate with teachers and staff to provide educational support or assistance to its students.

Eileen Campbell, APG school liaison, hosted the meeting. Campbell said that one of the reasons that this partnership is important is that it provides positive role models to students who need encouragement during their formative years.

Michelle Shaivitz, HCPS coordinator of School Partnerships, welcomed the group to the meeting and introduced Col. Jeffery S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander.

Shaivitz said that Weissman is dedicated to the success of the program, and that his experience as a military parent has led him to understand the special needs of military students. Shaivitz said that under the direction of Weissman, the partnership has grown.

"The volunteer hours between Harford County Public Schools and APG

have increased significantly," Shaivitz said. "In the last quarter of 2008, sixteen hundred sixty-one volunteer hours were recorded, which is a significant improvement from the twelve hundred and four hours recorded in 2007."

Shaivitz said that this increase is a demonstration of the installation's commitment to the partnership.

After Shaivitz' remarks Weissman spoke.

"I really believe that our children are our most precious resource," Weissman said. "This partnership in particular really speaks to that. It is a shared understanding of how important our children are, not only on Aberdeen Proving Ground, but to the folks outside the gate."

Weissman said that APG has had a formal partnership with HCPS for six years, and added that they were working together and had a good relationship before the establishment of a formal relationship.

"The partnership has grown tremendously over the last six years, and the focus has broadened," Weissman said.

"One of the things that I think is very important is that besides the upper level partnership between Harford County Public Schools and Aberdeen Proving Ground that there are about fifteen separate partnerships (direct partnerships) from units and organiza-

tions on APG and schools outside of the gate; I think that this is significant. It takes a tremendous commitment from both sides on the part of the school and the organization on the installation.

"APG has a commitment to ensure that it endures and that it grows. Recently we established a partnership with Cecil County as well. We don't see it as something that will dilute our partnership with Harford County, we see it as something that complements and helps both of our partnerships grow and thrive."

Weissman introduced APG's new members to the partnership. Col. Dan Reilly, commander of the 61st Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School; Capt. Julius Boyd of Headquarters and Headquarters Company; Col. Raymond Van Pelt of 20th Support Command; Gary Neuser, director of the Command & Staff Department of the 61st Ordnance Brigade; and Lt. Col. James Nold, commander of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

Weissman added that there are new members to the partnership from Harford County Public School as well—principals Dr. Lawrence Rudolph of Edgewood Middle School, Gail Dunlap of William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School and Celeste Klima of Deerfield Elementary.

Weissman said that over the next three years the partnership will be changing because of base, realignment and closure, which will result in the military population decreasing and the civilian population increasing.

"APG will be undergoing changes. Over the next three years we will have a huge influx of civilians from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey; Fort Lee, Virginia; Fort Knox, Kentucky, and from elsewhere who are relocating to Harford County," Weissman said. "The children in these Families will face similar issues that military children face in that they will have to adjust to a new environment. I think a lot of practices we do in the partnership are not only critical on the military side but also the civilian side."

Weissman said that the 61st Ordnance Brigade, which has a huge commitment to supporting the partnership, will be phasing out in the next three years. Seven of the 15 partnerships will be phased out.

"Our job is to make that transition as seamless as possible," Weissman said. "We have already begun working to establish new relationships."

Weissman said that APG will remain committed to maintaining their commitment with HCPS by forming new partnerships with existing and new organizations on APG.

Weissman introduced Barbara Mason, coordinator of Harford County's Kids C.A.N. (Caring Adults Network), which is sponsored by Harford County Government in cooperation with Harford County Board of Education. Mason has worked with Kids Can for about two and a half years, and assists in mentoring more than 30 groups, and has been dedicated to working with youths in her prior position with drug prevention for 11 years.

Mason said that many children are in need of a role model to encourage them.

"Mentoring, even one hour a week can make a difference in a child's life," Mason said.

She said that the program aims to match mentors to the mentoring program that best suits their interests, time and talents.

Mason read that accord-

ing to Kids C.A.N., statistics show that young people matched with caring adults are 46 percent less likely to use drugs, 59 percent more likely to get good grades and 73 more likely to raise their goals.

Those that decide to be part of the program will need to undergo a background check and take a one-hour training session.

After Mason's remarks, Shaivitz spoke and addressed some concerns.

"There was some talk of having a school uniform," Shaivitz said. "That has been halted because of budgetary issues. Right now that issue has been put on hold, but it will be addressed later. HCPS is trying to cut back as much as it can without sacrificing the student's education. Right now, everyone is feeling the budgetary crunch—Families, our school system, the government.

"Parents often have to take a second job, and so they have less time to volunteer. This is why volunteering is so important, especially right now," she said.

After Shaivitz, Campbell talked about some projects that have been going on in the local schools.

Campbell mentioned that Aberdeen Middle School's M-Squad, under the direction of Elizabeth Oleszczuk, serves as a support group for students who have a significant person in their life serving in the military. On Veteran's Day, the M-Squad students handed out ribbons in their home rooms to honor veterans.

Campbell added that HCPS has implemented SOAR, or Student Online Achievement Resources, which was designed to ease the transition for military Families. Students can go to www.soarathome.org, where they can take a test on state learning standards and be directed to a tutorial that will improve their skills where needed.

According to SOAR's pamphlet, SOAR resources cover skills in math, reading and language arts for students in grades 3 through 12. Using this Web site, parents can monitor the progress of their child from anywhere in the world, and are provided with resource materials that will assist their child in areas where they may need help.

Lessons are designed

to include motivating literature, reciprocal teaching and graphic organizers that target reading comprehension.

Campbell added that she has pamphlets and a CD Rom to give out to Families that are aimed to help middle school and high school students prepare for college, financially and academically.

Campbell thanked Dr. Robert Lieb, a U.S. Army Research Laboratory research physicist who helps to promote and organize Army sponsored outreach efforts at APG, and other scientists and engineers who have put in a significant amount of time volunteering in the local schools. Campbell said he and a group of scientists and engineers have visited local schools to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics, commonly referred to as the STEM subjects, by conducting learning modules in HCPS middle school classrooms.

Campbell said that one of the goals of the program is to get students to take an interest in the STEM subjects and possibly pursue a career as a scientist or engineer.

Campbell said that due to base realignment and closure and APG 2012, many new jobs available at APG will require a solid background in the STEM subjects. Campbell said that Lieb works to recruit scientists and engineers who are interested in volunteering their time to mentor students so that APG will have a qualified workforce in the future.

Campbell concluded her talk by thanking attendees for coming to the meeting and asking them to take time to make a difference in a child's life.

"Children need positive role models to blossom," Campbell said. "It just takes a little time to turn a child's life around."

For more information about PIE, contact Campbell, 410-278-2857.

For more details on Harford County's Kids C.A.N., visit <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/mentor/> and to obtain an application, call 410-638-3381 or e-mail bmason@harfordcountymd.gov.

Army and community partner for learning

Story and photo by
DEBORAH ELLIOTT
USAEC

Ten years is longer than most of the students at Edgewood Elementary School have been alive, but that's how long the school has had its partnership with the U.S. Army Environmental Command, and on Nov. 5, principal Lisa Sundquist and the commander Col. Maria R. Gervais signed a two-year agreement to learn about the environment and be part of a community together.

"The things we do together through this partnership are highlights of our school year," Sundquist said. "When the USAEC comes to Edgewood Elementary we can tell that they are as happy to be with us as we are to be with them."

USAEC kicked off the partnership signing with its annual Military Appreciation Day. Held every year near Veterans Day, the activity is designed to bring Soldiers and students



Maj. Jennifer Striegel of the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) talks with 3rd grade student Maraina Phillips during lunch at Edgewood Elementary School on Military Appreciation Day Nov. 5.

together in mutual admiration and support. There's also plenty of fun to be had for all.

Lunch with the Soldiers was the beginning of a day filled with various activities for the students, including hearing an Army band play, seeing a color guard, climbing into a

Stryker vehicle, checking out Soldier equipment and watching Soldiers drill.

"We had a great time drilling for the kids," said Capt. Nicole Starr, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 143rd Ordnance Battalion. "But we had more fun teaching them how to drill,

and I think they did, too. They were still marching when they moved on to their next activity."

Military Appreciation Day at Edgewood Elementary School is coordinated by USAEC, but the success of the program year after year is due to the support the USAEC receives from

other Army organizations at Aberdeen Proving Ground. This year the support was given by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, the 143rd Ordnance Battalion color guard, Stryker team and the drill team; and the 20th Support Command provided a Soldier decked-out in the latest equipment, and a bomb squad complete with a robot.

"This is the third annual Military Appreciation Day I've attended here at Edgewood Elementary School," said 1st Sgt. Scott Boatman of the 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), 48th Chemical Brigade, 20th Support Command. "It's a good event for the kids—they have fun and learn a lot—and it's a good event for our Soldiers, too. It's nice to feel appreciated, and we certainly are appreciated at Edgewood Elementary."

"Every time we call for support, they answer," said Bob DiMichele, chief of USAEC Public Affairs.

"The success of Military Appreciation Day really is about the Soldiers, and since we have very few, we're grateful for the support of these great organizations in lending us theirs."

Support from other Army organizations for this long-standing school partnership program will become even more important in the future.

Through the base realignment and closure law the USAEC is moving to Installation Management Command headquarters at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in 2011. USAEC has promised Sundquist they will find her a replacement partner before they go.

"Nothing can replace the USAEC," Sundquist said, "but Edgewood Elementary is a place where Army kids go to school, and we look forward to building a relationship with a new Army organization. We just know the tradition of excellence will continue."

Kindsvatter continues sharing his knowledge about Gettysburg



Ordnance historian Dr. Peter Kindsvatter helps a Basic Officer Leadership Course student elaborate on the battle that took place on "Little Round Top" hill during a staff ride to Gettysburg National Military Park.

Story and photos by
ROGER TEEL
USAOC&S

When visiting the Civil War National Military Park at Gettysburg, if you listen closely you can almost hear the rattle and hum of the battles waged there. You can sense the movements of Confederate and Union forces, 160,000 combatants in all, their unit colors leading, dust clouds following as they moved into position.

During the hot, muggy days of July 1 to 3, 1863, forces of the North and South converged on Gettysburg to wage the bloodiest, deadliest battle ever fought on American soil. More than 7,500 died on the battlefield, another 27,000 were critically wounded, another 11,000 were captured.

For Dr. Peter Kindsvatter, command historian for the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, visiting Gettysburg is a monthly routine. For the past nine and one-half years -- rain or shine, hot or cold -- Kindsvatter has conducted staff rides for Soldiers attending the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Aberdeen

Proving Ground.

"That's two hundred and six trips with BOLC," Kindsvatter said after his most recent excursion. "Counting all the other tours, I've led about two hundred and fifty tours of the battlefield."

The junior officers are assigned topics to brief on the battle sites. The staff ride, with few exceptions, is a chronological review of the battle, leading the students -- and any visitor -- on an enthralling and captivating lesson in American history.

"The idea is to show these young officers what a staff ride is," Kindsvatter said of the approach he takes to the project. "They're evaluated on their performance, sure, but they are also introduced to what a staff ride is."

After the entourage arrives and secures their bus permit at the Gettysburg National Military Park's new Museum and Visitor Center, the first stop is McPherson's Ridge, where in the cool of the morning the Army historian points out terrain features and circumstances that were occurring as the

battle was about to begin 145 years ago.

He then turns to the first young officer scheduled to brief and the lesson begins. Kindsvatter listens for accuracy -- names, positions and reasoning. If he doesn't hear what he wants, he questions the briefer, putting him or her on the spot for names and other details. He provides nuance and specifics. If the briefer doesn't deliver, the historian takes over.

Second Lt. Jason Mageo of Jacksonville, N.C., was a first-time visitor to the battlefield.

"I'm pretty amazed at the size of Gettysburg," Mageo said. "When you do the research, you really don't understand what went on here because everything [seems] so small. Then you get here and see these big fields, and you can understand Pickett's Charge, and see the slope of Little Round Top and understand why it was so hard for them to charge up those hills."

He presented his briefing in the Wheatfield, discussing the troop movements where more than 1,000 Soldiers died.

"Just looking at the Wheatfield, I don't understand how 'anybody' made it through with all the charging and canister fire on this flat [area of] land," Mageo said.

"I was thinking there's got to be a lot of [cannon] balls and metal all in these trees from so long ago. You do get a sense of history just being here, and that rattle and the ground shaking from people running, and you can hear them yelling those Rebel yells."

Many say apparitions now haunt the battlefield. "You mean the ghosts?" asked 2nd Lt. Ann Gug-

lik, an Officer Candidate School graduate from Bowie, Md., and a member of the Maryland National Guard. She said her take-away from her first visit is how history has been preserved at Gettysburg.

"I was impressed that people have worked so hard to make it what it is today -- people from both sides," Guglik said. "I see it not only as a symbol of war, but also as a symbol of what we've done since then."

Battle conditions at Gettysburg left a lasting impression on 1st Lt. Tamiko Wright, a National Guardsman who deployed to Kuwait in 2004.

"I'd never been to Gettysburg before, and I actually put [my briefing] on a sand table because when you read about it and then look at the terrain that they covered. Well, I've been deployed before and as rough as that was, I don't think I could have done it in the conditions that they did," Wright said.

She noted the sacrifices made.

"Just marching and then blindly being shot from your flank... that really made me think," she said.

"It was a wonderful experience. My husband and Family will be up for graduation, and I definitely want to take them to see it," Wright said.

"I'm awestruck," exclaimed 1st Lt. Peter Woreck, a history teacher for the past 12 years at Beaver Dam High School in Randolph, Wis.

"You know, you read

about this in your history books, and you teach it in history class, but once you get here it's amazing. It's amazing to see the landscape. It's amazing to see just what men did here to preserve the Union and keep this country together," Woreck said.

Married with three children, Woreck will deploy to Afghanistan 40 days after finishing training at APG. He plans to return to Gettysburg with his 10-year-old son.

"He's my oldest, and he's getting to the point that he understands a little more about history. And dad being a history teacher, he knows that history is important.

"As a citizen, to know our history, and especially our American history, to know about one of the biggest battles we ever had, this is one of the best sites I could bring him to on our way home. The other is the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio," he said.

As a history teacher who also teaches economics and political science, Woreck had high praise for Kindsvatter.

"It's amazing for a professional like him to come out here and show us the battlefield and explain to us the finer points that we don't know. He's an expert in it, and to hear his views and get his help -- he's just a wealth of knowledge. And he's making us do what we're supposed to do -- give a briefing on our topic. And if we don't, he's gonna let us know," Woreck said.



The "high water mark" of the Confederate advance ended near Cemetery Ridge where Union forces repelled "Pickett's Charge" on July 3, 1863.

Physics students see concepts put to work

Story and photo by
ROGER TEEL
USAOC&S

Faced with difficult math and physics problems, flustered high school students might fall back on the excuse, "When am I ever going to use any of this?"

Well, that just won't fly in Dr. James Lamb's physics classes at Edgewood High School, thanks, in part, to the community Partners In Education, or PIE, program and the efforts of Soldiers and civilians at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center & Schools' Advanced Automotive Recovery Division.

A dozen of Lamb's physics students -- all seniors at EHS -- jumped on a school bus to attend classes at AARD Oct. 22 and 23. They learned how the Army applies physics to recover vehicles that have overturned or are stuck in a mire pit -- and a whole lot more.

"We show them that safety is our number one goal on a daily basis," said Sgt. 1st Class Cordell Childs, an AARD instructor trainer. "The kids see the basic concepts of what we do, and see how we apply formulas to calculate the recovery of a vehicle that's been overturned or trapped in a mire."

Childs has been involved in previous PIE activities.

"This is my fourth time working with EHS in different aspects," he said.

Last year he visited the school and led physical fitness training. He sees the value of the PIE program.



Getting the hang of operating recovery equipment is Edgewood High School physics student Jon Baker, left, under the supervision of Staff Sgt. Jason Compton from the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' Advanced Automotive Recovery Division.

"The Army and the community come together and build a foundation so [students] know we in the Army are out here with them, not just training Soldiers and enlisting Soldiers from the community, but involving them and showing them what different parts of the Army are like," he said.

On a personal level, Childs said working with kids makes him a better parent.

"I have high school-aged kids at home, and this teaches me how to interact with kids other than my own, different kinds of kids at different learning levels and different skill levels. What I get out

of it is more involvement with young adults, and I'm helping develop the youth of America."

For student Eli Connell, visiting APG was no big deal. A lifetime resident of Edgewood, his mother, Theresa, works on the military installation in the Edgewood Area.

"I've been around Soldiers," he said. "We're learning how different forces are exerted and though we see it in the classroom, it's cool to put it all to work in real life. You could call it 'physics in action' when you're lifting 50,000 pounds around."

Connell plans to attend college and major in biological science -- "biology

or environmental," he said. Wearing an Edgewood lacrosse jersey, he said he also hopes to play his favorite sport. "It's getting huge," he said of lacrosse.

Elija Buie, a senior, said, "It was interesting to see how they get these cars to turn over and how it relates to physics. It's fun being out here, not something a lot of people experience."

What will he tell his friends who weren't there? "You missed out," Buie said.

And the most fun? "Eating MREs... and flipping the first truck," he said.

The instruction the students received was invaluable, according to their teacher.

able, according to their teacher.

"In physics, there's velocity, acceleration, mass, force, work, momentum, impulse, simple machines, levers, pulleys -- the whole nine yards. And here, not only do you see it applied, but the kids also see the mathematical applications," Lamb said.

"In the classroom they learned about mechanical advantage, hooking things up, combinations. It's basically 'real world' that tells them, 'Yes. I could use this if I become an engineer, go into the military or if I just want to move something at my house.' Obviously we don't have the kind of

budget to show them this," Lamb added, moving on to talk about the PIE program and the support the school receives from the Army.

"It's an invaluable asset," he said. "Our kids benefit because they can tap into resources they normally can't, and the proximity and relationship that the military at APG have with Harford County is invaluable. It's very exciting. And, by the way, this is a great group of kids!"

Lamb noted that most students have some sort of military connection.

"When we mentioned they could bring their lunch or have MREs [Meals, Ready to Eat], two-thirds of them knew what MREs are, they've had MREs, and they were excited about having MREs. In fact, last year for a number of kids, that made their day -- 'I get to have MREs!'"

The student safety brief and welcome was presented by Capt. Julius Boyd, commander of Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade, the sponsoring unit. Members of the recovery school taking part were Elijah Stevens, Sgts. 1st Class James Ford, Homer Jenkins and Dexter Newby, Staff Sgts. Jason Compton, Lionel Palmer, Harold Borden and Compton Barton, and Sgts. Carlos Rosado-Melendez and Charles Rseau.

Assisting Dr. Lamb from Edgewood High School was Debbie Brinkman, athletic director and physical education/team sports teacher.

Army launching effort to hire more wounded warriors



Lt. Gen. Michael Rochelle, G-1, right, gives his coin to former wounded warriors Calvin McCloy, left, and Donald Laplante, for helping man the G-1 civilian personnel outreach booth at the Association of the United States Army exposition. Both now work as civilian employees at Fort Riley, Kan., and were asked by Dr. Susan Duncan, center, and her staff to help with the G-1 outreach effort.

Story and photo by
GARY SHEFTICK
Army News Service

Army personnel officials are launching an outreach program as part of a push to hire more wounded warriors and their spouses as civilian employees.

In the past four years, 43 Soldiers wounded in action have been hired as civilian employees Army-wide, G-1 officials at the Pentagon said. But they emphasized that new initiatives have the potential to bring many more veterans and their spouses into federal service.

An executive order signed by President Bush Sept. 25 authorizes non-competitive appointments in the Civil Service for spouses of disabled veterans and surviving spouses of service members killed in action.

Dr. Susan Duncan, the Army's assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel Policy, said she expects the Office of Personnel Management

to issue implementing guidance that will allow the Army to begin hiring spouses of wounded warriors under the executive order by first of the year.

"Many times, our wounded warriors' source of income is their spouse's work," Duncan said. She added, though, that the Army personnel community is also redoubling its efforts to hire wounded veterans into the civilian workforce.

The Army has proposed a defense-wide referral program for wounded warriors that DoD officials are considering.

In the meantime, G-1 is fostering local partnerships between the Army Wounded Warrior program, known as AW2, and civilian personnel offices.

"It's a partnership at the lowest level," said Scott Rowell, deputy assistant G-1 for Strategic Planning.

One such partnership at Fort Riley, Kan., is being

held up as a model for other installations.

"How do we replicate what you're doing at Riley?" Lt. Gen. Michael Rochelle, G-1, asked Kelly Frazier of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at Fort Riley. Frazier, along with wounded warriors hired by the CPAC, manned a booth at the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition, Oct. 6 through 8, in Washington, D.C.

"To me, it's just a matter of training," Frazier said, answering the general's question.

"At Fort Riley, the AW2 representative and the CPAC work together," said Calvin McCloy, a former first sergeant who was wounded and now serves as a civilian employee at the Army Benefits Center at Fort Riley.

"A wounded Soldier is not just going to walk up and say, 'Hey, I have a trau-

matic brain injury; can you help me?'" McCloy said.

McCloy was a first sergeant with the 1/41st Infantry near Ramadi, Iraq, when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in April 2005. He suffered severe burns.

He was angry when he was told that he couldn't stay in the Army. Being a first sergeant was his life.

"That's all I wanted to do," he said.

After spending several months in the burn unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, McCloy went to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Riley. He wrote a resume through the Army Career and Alumni Program. The resume was sent to Kelly Frazier of the Fort Riley CPAC, and she called McCloy for an interview.

"Kelly explained the HR field to me," McCloy said.

She then paired him with

the ABC call center that handles retirement benefits for employees Army-wide, and McCloy found it to be a good fit.

Frazier helped another wounded warrior, former Staff Sgt. Donald Laplante, find a job with the U.S. Army Forces Command G-8. Laplante said he interned in the office as a Soldier assigned to the Riley Warrior Transition Unit. The day after he took off his uniform, he was able to start working as a civilian employee there, thanks to the hiring preference he received as a disabled veteran.

The Army is currently able to hire disabled veterans through both competitive and non-competitive authorities, said Steve Lewis, a G-1 Human Resources specialist. He explained that disabled veterans automatically receive a 10-point preference when competing for government jobs.

In addition, the Veterans Recruitment Act and the Disabled Veterans Appointment Authority allow the Army to hire some wounded warriors without competition, he said.

"The Army is already actively placing our wounded warriors, but we're trying to be more systematic," Lewis said.

He would like to formalize the partnership between AW2, ACAP and the civilian personnel community, and have other services follow suit as well.

"We're trying to get the other services to buy into the program," Lewis said.

He's advocating a proposal that would have resumes of wounded warriors disseminated DoD-wide using the same electronic application as the Priority Placement Program. He emphasizes that wounded warriors would not actually be pri-

ority placements, but their resumes would simply receive "maximum visibility" through the program, if it's approved by DoD.

"It will work once the dominoes are in the right place," said Rowell of the outreach hiring program for wounded warriors. He said the key is for the wounded warrior to have a one-on-one interview with a CPAC specialist.

Rowell and Duncan spent some time at the G-1 Civilian Personnel Outreach booth on the AUSA exhibit hall floor to emphasize the importance of the wounded warrior hiring initiative.

"This booth is just one part of a whole plan," said John Carbone, another Human Resources specialist with G-1. "Hopefully we can have a portable booth like this at a WTU."

"Right now, we're starting a recruitment effort," Carbone said, explaining that the Civilian Human Resources Agency at Aberdeen Proving Ground, is spearheading the initiative to get wounded-warrior resumes out to all Army CPACs. "We've been trying to centralize it more,"

Carbone said about the hiring program.

"We really want to keep our own," Carbone said.

He said wounded warriors know the Army, know the system, and "have the grit that you want" as employees. They've shown that by overcoming adversity and numerous challenges in their recovery, Carbone points out.

"We recognize this is an embryonic first start," Rowell said. "We're in the crawl phase. This is a kickoff for a national campaign. We want to maintain the momentum. Now we want to take it to the next level."

(Editor's note: ARNEWS Correspondent C. Todd Lopez contributed to this report.)