

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Oct. 15, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



Reduced gate hours for holiday weekend

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Columbus Day holiday this weekend.

On Friday, Oct. 10, the Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area will close at 10 p.m., and the Wise Road Gate in the Aberdeen Area will close at 8 p.m.

Both gates will reopen at 4 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

The Maryland Gate in the Aberdeen Area and Magnolia Gate (Route 152) in the Edgewood Area will be open throughout the holiday period.

Austin Road closed

Austin Road in the 4200 block in the Edgewood Area will be closed through Oct. 17 so the contractor can install a steam pipeline to provide heat to the Soldier barracks in that block. Signage will detour traffic around the area. The buildings in the area will still be accessible.

For more information, call Jeffery A. Presgraves, contracting officer representative, Plans Analysis Integration Office, 410-306-1848.

Building 320 parking lot closed for roof replacement

The parking area in front of building 320 will be closed the week of Oct. 6 for an extended period of time for roof replacement. Roof replacement will be accomplished in phases. The area will be cordoned off by yellow tape and traffic cones. The parking area also will be closed on weekends due to scheduled power outage when required.

Office Eagle customers should beware during admittance to the store.

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

KUSAHC closes for holiday

Kirk U.S. Army Health

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CSSC receives additional \$2.7M federal monies to support BRAC implementation in APG region

APG-CSSC Regional BRAC Office

The Office of Economic Adjustment awarded an additional \$2.7 million to the Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor for six key planning projects to address base realignment and closure implementation in the Aberdeen Proving Ground community Sept. 22.

To date, the CSSC has received more than \$7.2 million for BRAC planning and implementation.

This award brings new federal monies as an amendment to a current \$2.1 million grant as well as an extension to complete all

projects and continue operation of the APG-CSSC Regional BRAC Office through June 30, 2009.

According to a recent Government Accounting Office report, the CSSC region has received more federal planning dollars than any other BRAC growth community in the country. Twenty BRAC growth communities exist nationwide.

"The grant award from the Office of Economic Adjustment will certainly help Harford County and the region as we continue our work to meet the challenges and opportunities that

BRAC brings," said County Executive David R. Craig.

"This grant award is an honor we don't take lightly," said Karen Holt, BRAC manager with the CSSC. "BRAC implementation is a complex process; the stakes are high, and the time clock is ticking until the BRAC 2005 decisions are to be completed."

Holt indicated that the large influx of civilian Department of Defense jobs rather than military personnel and the fact that the jobs are incrementally transferring to APG now makes the BRAC process at APG unique compared to most

other gaining communities in the United States.

She also cited transportation funding shortfalls and infrastructure needs as critical elements necessary to resolve in order to accommodate BRAC actions in a timely manner. Approximately 8,200 direct jobs are anticipated to transition to APG by Sept. 15, 2011. A contractor trail of 7,500 to 10,000 indirect jobs are projected to follow.

"One of our greatest strengths is a qualified workforce in this region," Holt said. "Our challenge is mobility of that com-

muter workforce throughout the northeast corridor."

Key planning projects approved for this phase of funding include:

- A Multi-modal Transportation Center Feasibility Study to explore location and functionality of a transportation hub in the Aberdeen area to accommodate rail, commuter bus and shuttle service on and off the installation;

- A Regional Water Service Authority feasibility Study to examine adequate allocation among Harford County and its municipalities of Aberdeen, Havre de Grace

See **BRAC**, page 4

CFC kickoff emphasizes giving even in these economic times

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Combined Federal Campaign key workers and program coordinators gathered at the Post Theater Sept. 29 to celebrate this year's campaign and to participate in a training session.

Aberdeen Proving Ground CFC chairperson, Nancy Sewell, and vice-chair Michael Graziano hosted the meeting which featured remarks by Garrison Command

Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez and Christopher Wilborn, director of the CFC Chesapeake Bay Area.

Rodriguez opened the kickoff welcoming and thanking participants and telling the audience of the importance of the CFC.

"The CFC is the largest and most successful workplace charity in the country," Rodriguez said. "Anyone may need a helping hand from time to time because not one of us is immune to disease or crisis or tragedy. Someday we

might find ourselves counting on the programs and services supported by the Combined Federal Campaign."

Last year Aberdeen Proving Ground raised \$441,700 and exceeded their goal of \$400,000, which is also this year's goal.

Rodriguez said that he would like the post to raise more money this year, with the ideal being 100 percent participation.

Rodriguez said that there are many charities to choose from as

there are more than 1,400 national and international federations and charities and some 40,000 local charities that qualify for the CFC each year.

"These organizations make a real difference, and they rely on the generosity of people like you to help fund their efforts," Rodriguez said. "We have a wonderful opportunity here to help others less fortunate than ourselves. Often all people need is simply a helping

See **CFC**, page 2

Logan named USACHPPM commander in APG ceremony

Story by **LYN KUKRAL**
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

A change of command of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine took place in an Oct. 3 ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground's McBride Parade Field.

Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoemaker, the Army surgeon general and commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command, passed the USACHPPM flag to Col. Thomas M. Logan from outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Michael B. Cates. Cates, to whom Schoemaker earlier awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, will retire from the Army.

As CHPPM commander, Logan will have authority over an organization with worldwide presence, its headquarters located at APG and its five subordinate commands at Landstuhl, Germany; Camp Zama, Japan; Fort George G. Meade, Md.; Fort

See **LOGAN**, page 11



Photo by BEN BUNGER, CHPPM
The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine's incoming commander Col. Thomas M. Logan, left, accepts USACHPPM's colors from Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoemaker, Army surgeon general and Medical Command commander. USACHPPM's Sgt. Maj. Osvaldo Ponzio looks on over Logan's left shoulder; outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Michael B. Cates is visible behind Schoemaker.

APG COMMUNITY FALL FEST

OCTOBER 25 10-4

FMWR hosts APG Community Fall Fest

FMWR

The Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate will host the APG Community Fall Fest 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 2, at the 3200 block of Aberdeen Boulevard between the Post Theater and the Emergency Services building. The event is open to all military, civilians, contractors, retirees, Family members and guests.

"This year's fest will have something fun for everyone" said Chris Lockhart, FMWR Marketing director. "Lots of fun activities and crafts, information and displays will be presented by Child, Youth & School Services, Army Community Service, the Fire Department, Law Enforcement and Security and the Army Substance Abuse Program.

In addition, there will be a Volksmarch, a car show, flea markets, hay rides and a Fest Tent with German foods, beverages and entertainment.

"Registration is required to participate in the car show or to have a table at the different flea markets, but we have made it easy by putting the registration forms on our Web site at www.apgmwr.com," Lockhart said.

Participants can register online for these as well as purchase a Volksmarch T-shirt in advance.

"There are deadlines for registration so please check the Web site and register soon so you don't miss out," she said.

Other events to look forward to are the performance of the U.S. Army Materiel Command's 389th Band Jazz Combo, the puppeteer Retro Bill, a visit by Dora The Explorer, face painting, caricature drawings and the Really Strange Museum, which has strange and fascinating displays for all ages.

See **FALL FEST**, page 13

Executive Order eases federal employment for military spouses

Story by **JIM GARAMONE**
American Forces Press Service

President Bush signed an executive order last week that will make it easier for spouses of service members to get federal jobs.

The order authorizes noncompetitive hiring of spouses and should make the hiring process easier and faster for those in this category, said Patricia Bradshaw, deputy undersecretary of defense for civilian personnel policy.

"It shall be the policy of the United States to provide for the appropriately expedited recruitment and selection of spouses of members of the armed forces for appointment to positions in the competitive service of the federal civil service as part of the effort of the United States to recruit and retain in military service, skilled and experienced members of the armed forces and to recognize and honor the service of such members injured, disabled or killed in connection with their service," Bush wrote in the order, issued Sept. 26.

The order will allow spouses "to walk into any personnel office of any federal agency and get a job," Bradshaw said. "This sidesteps this long-enduring process that often turns spouses away."

Bush first proposed the initiative in his State of the Union address in January.

"We want to ensure that our military Families are taken care of," Bradshaw said.

Surveys show that employment for spouses is a concern to service members and their Families.

To be eligible, individuals have to be the spouse of an active duty member or of a reservist on active duty called on to relocate.

Also eligible are the spouses of service members listed as 100 percent disabled and separated or retired, as well as widows or widowers of service members who died on active duty and who have not remarried.

"We hear from service members that a key to retention and recruitment is the support systems in place to help Family members," Bradshaw said. "More than

See **SPOUSES**, page 11

RCI housing survey coming

APG Public Affairs Office

As part of the Residential Communities Initiative military personnel will soon be receiving a housing survey. Each service member is encouraged to take a few minutes and complete it.

The survey and a notification letter will be sent to Family housing, permanent party barracks and personnel assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground living in off-post housing. The purpose of the survey is to determine projected requirements (by bedrooms and grade) for government-provided or privatized Family and unaccompanied housing. Under the RCI Program, the Army will privatize Family housing at 45 installations.

Picerno Military Housing will develop the Community Development and Management Plan for APG.

Museum ships Czech tank home

Story and photo by
ROGER TEEL
OC&S

The U.S. Army Ordnance Museum's LT 35, a Czechoslovakian light tank from the 1930s, was returned to the Czech Republic Sept. 11.

The Czech government requested the tank as part of the treaty to emplace U.S. Antibalistic Missile batteries in the Czech Republic.

The Ordnance Museum was reluctant to give up such a rare piece of captured enemy equipment, but the order for the transfer came from "on high."

Ordnance Museum director Dr. Joe Rainer hopes that the museum's future participation in international affairs is both voluntary and less costly to the museum.

The LT 35 was seized from Czechoslovakia in 1938 when Nazi Germany occupied that nation. Two years after the French abandoned their Czechoslovakian allies, the Germans invaded France in 1940, outfitting three panzer regiments partially with Czechoslovakian tanks.

LT 35's also served in the Axis invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, but its pneumatic transmission and steering system froze solid during the Russian winter, making it unfit for combat except as a munitions carrier.

Several obsolete LT 35's were thrown against the U.S. Army in 1945 during the German's last-ditch defense, when this specimen was recovered by an Ordnance Technical Intelligence Team.



Members of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center & Schools Advanced Automotive Recovery Division load the diminutive LT 35, a light Czech tank, onto a flatbed truck as it begins its journey back to Europe.

Battle Command Division hosts presentation on new technology programs

Story by
STEVE ROCHETTE
RDECOM

Engineers from the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center met with more than 125 private industry representatives recently at the HEAT Center in Aberdeen, to introduce two new technology development programs for its Command and Control Directorate.

Program managers for the Tactical Human Integration with Networked Knowledge program, or THINK, and the Collaborative Battlespace Reasoning and Awareness program, or COBRA, provided an overview of their program objectives and outlined associated business opportunities for industry.

CERDEC C2D's Battle Command Division, is moving to Aberdeen Proving Ground from Fort



Monmouth, N.J., and Fort Belvoir, Va., as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Law. As employees re-locate, leadership has decided to simultaneously transition these two four-year programs, which are slated to begin in 2009.

"To achieve the mission, government and industry need to work together on these programs," said Kenneth Grippo, THINK program manager.

"We're sending a clear message that we're committed to APG and ready to collaborate and team with industry on these two new programs," said John Soos, chief of the Battle Com-

mand Division. "It's critical for our staff already at APG to integrate their work and continue to execute the mission."

The THINK program is focused on improving the way information is conveyed in network systems. Grippo explained that in current network-centric operations, Soldiers receive and process an abundance of information from numerous sources, but the volume of information and various constraints prevent optimal effectiveness. By researching Soldiers' cognitive capabilities and social sciences, the program aims to provide

technological solutions to increase the understanding and sharing of information. Ultimately, the goal is to aid decision-making during a mission, he said.

"We hope to improve the mission performance and enable more effective use of available information," Grippo said. "Information technology should work unobtrusively in the background to reduce information clutter, optimize information relevance and aid team synchronization."

CERDEC has partnered with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and the U.S. Army Research Institute for support in cog-

nitive research and social sciences.

Michael Anthony, COBRA program manager, seeks to address the challenges of battle command systems' interoperability.

"COBRA is predicated on the premise that in Ultra Large Scale Systems, such as those found in the Army, it is nearly impossible to force everyone to use the same tools and standards," Anthony said. "Therefore, we're looking at how we can implement applications and software services simultaneously across various operational delivery platforms."

The program will be geared toward aligning the intelligence, operations and geo-spatial functions. CERDEC's Intelligence and Information Warfare Directorate and the Army Corps of Engineer's Topographic Engineering Cen-

ter are also supporting the program.

COBRA is an example of the science and technology community's investment in the emerging Unified Battle Command strategy set by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, explained Anthony. The strategy is based on a desire for a more unified approach to battle command applications.

"The payoff of this program is to allow for faster, higher-quality decision cycles and increased battle command unification for the Warfighter," Anthony said. "I'm excited; we're moving our division to a new home in APG, which will help build new strategic partnerships, and we're starting up new, important programs."

RDECOM named Public Employer of the Year by local commission

Story by
STEVE ROCHETTE
RDECOM

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command was recently named the 2008 Public Employer of the Year by the Harford County Commission for Disabilities.

The award recognizes the effectiveness of the promotion of employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities beyond the requirements of federal, state and local laws.

"RDECOM is being recognized for their proactive recruitment of individuals with disabilities and their management training on effective supervision of employees with diverse abilities and learning styles," said Jackie Angerhofer, co-chair-

person of the Harford County Commission on Disabilities Employment Committee.

The RDECOM Equal Employment Office manages the Program for Individuals with Disabilities under the direction of RDECOM Special Emphasis Coordinator Neslie Etheridge. He said all RDECOM employees can take pride in the award.

"The EEO office facilitates the program and provides oversight and training, but the hiring authorities, human resources officials and all other command employees are a part of this. Our approach is that disability can affect anyone, in a split second, so we need to make sure we're proactive and provide opportunities to those individuals," Etheridge said.

This proactive philosophy has

allowed the program to grow and succeed, according to Fred Brewington, EEO director. He credited Etheridge for implementing numerous initiatives to promote recruiting alternatives and reach hiring goals including meeting with RDECOM human resources officials, attending career fairs and coordinating with organizations such as the Veteran's Administration and the Susquehanna Workforce Center.

Promoting opportunities is important because supervisors and job-seekers are often unaware of the advantages of the disability hiring programs. The Workforce Recruitment Program, for example, allows college students with disabilities to work in temporary or full-time federal positions under Department of Defense funding.

Several of the other recruiting alternatives can reduce the time it takes to hire while allowing organizations to bring in high-quality employees.

"We've gotten great feedback from supervisors about the employees brought in through the programs," Brewington said. "Through our own hiring in this office we've found that the quality of an employee with a disability is just as high as an individual without a disability."

Because of the positive feedback from employers, the EEO office, along with Army Community Service, has organized a career fair for individuals with disabilities. The event will be held 1 to 5 p.m., Oct. 23, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Recreation Center.

"Last year, I attended an APG career fair and asked vendors and agencies if they would participate in a career fair dedicated to hiring individuals with disabilities," Etheridge said. "The response was positive so I think this event will be a success and hopefully something we can repeat on an annual basis."

RDECOM will be recognized during a luncheon organized by the Harford County Commission on Disabilities Oct. 16 at the Maryland Golf and Country Club in Bel Air.

The commission, composed of 15 citizen volunteers and a county council member, was organized in 1995 to act as a catalyst for positive change for citizens with disabilities by assessing needs, investigating opportunities for improvements in quality of life and supporting community participation.

CFC

From front page

hand or a second chance to turn their lives around."

After Rodriguez's remarks, Wilborn told the audience that the theme for this year's campaign is "Light the Way."

This year the Eastern Shore Area joined the Central Maryland Region, and renamed the region the Cheapeake Bay Area CFC.

"With this new name,

we are also providing our federal population a new, more convenient way to participate in the CFC through something called online giving," Wilborn said. (See article on page 11.)

"I know one topic which is definitely on many people's minds and that is the economy. You have probably already asked yourself, how can I afford to give to the CFC when the economy is so uncertain? My response to you would be this: Yes,

these are uncertain times that require us to be especially vigilant with our wallets, but unfortunately the economy, good or bad, doesn't wait on those less fortunate. For those men, women and Families who were struggling prior to market woes, their situation right now is worse than ever. If you are feeling the crunch of the economy, as I know many of us are, I'm sure you can imagine how it's being felt by those that were already struggling in this

situation. The good news is that by giving to a charity in the CFC, you are ensuring that a life-line is thrown to these individuals and Families," he said.

After Wilborn spoke, Sewell introduced the CFC staff for 2008. Sewell said that Graziano is the CFC's computer guru, who is going to handle the online pledging, which is new this year. Nelder Smothers is the CFC administrative assistant, who will be handling most of the calls

and correspondence. Mary Gray will serve as a CFC budget specialist helping to make sure the payroll slips go out to the correct payroll offices.

"When thinking about giving to CFC, we hope that people will pick out a charity that means something to them," Sewell said. "You never know when you might need help from a charity."

The 2008 Contributor's Guide for national/international organizations can be found at <http://www.cfc->

[cmd.org](http://www.cfc-). Paper copies of the guide and pledge cards will be given out by organization key workers and at the APG CFC Office.

For more information, visit the APG CFC office located at the basement at Top of the Bay Bldg 30 in the Down Under, e-mail CFC@apg.mil, or call 410-278-9917.

To see how much money has been raised on post, check the APG Web site homepage, www.apg.army.mil throughout the campaign.

APG News

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APG Outdoor Journal

Commentary: Just one of us



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

By
BILL ARMSTRONG
APG Wildlife and Marine Law
Enforcement Division

Years ago when I was a lad growing up down in West Virginia, just about every neighborhood had what we called a "shade tree mechanic" or someone who, whenever someone's car wasn't running just right, would, for a six-pack, pull it over underneath a shade tree and take a look under the hood. Nothing complicated mind you; maybe just change a spark plug or perhaps tighten a belt.

Well, in that same context, I'm what some might call a "shade tree" history buff. I like history but I never was much on the heavy, political stuff that most historians love to bore you to death with, but if someone would happen to mention to me that Poole's Island was named by Captain John Smith for his navigator, that would get me interested.

That's about the way it was the other day when Joe Ondek and I were wandering around downrange looking for the remains of an old church and came across the tree that's in the picture.

The tree, which I'm sad to say, is dying, had the following words cut into the bark: "1/20 43—Pill Box—Go to Hell Tojo." Well sir, those few words from way back in World War II, meant for the Japanese Prime Minister who ordered the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, sure got me to thinking, and the more I thought about it, the more I realized that this place we call Aberdeen Proving Ground is pretty special.

If you stop and think about it, this chunk of real estate and the people who once called this place home have, since long before there was a United States of America, answered the



"1/20 43-Pill Box - Go to Hell Tojo" is carved in this tree downrange on APG.

Photo by BILL ARMSTRONG

call to protect this country and our way of life.

Everywhere I go I come across silent reminders of the unsung heroes who stood up and were counted when push came to shove. Old home-places with rusting plows, broken wagon-wheels from World War I field artillery pieces, names like "Penny-Come-Quick" and Michaelsville, military fortifications built to duplicate enemy bunkers, all serve as a tribute to the men and women of APG. The cemeteries and tombstones, both civilian and military, attest to their patriotism and sacrifice.

Among those there was John Bordley of Pooles Island, who, when called upon by Gen. George Washington, "laid it all on the line" to help supply the American troops during the Revolutionary War, and later, in another war, John Osburn, who carried the flag for the 2nd Maryland at Antietam, and now this G.I. who, in 1943, carved his

message to Tojo in that tree.

Through every crucial event in our country's history; from the Bush River Declaration in 1775 all the way up through and including today's War on Terrorism, the folks at APG have been at the forefront of this nation's struggle to remain free and independent.

Being the "shade tree" history buff that I am, I commented to Joe, as we studied the words carved into the tree, "I wonder who he was...the guy who sent that message to Tojo?"

Joe's answer said it all, "Just one of us from here at APG."

Wow!!!

Waterfowl season begins Oct. 18

With the first week of Maryland's regular waterfowl season coming in on Oct. 18 (Oct. 18 through 25), it looks like, at least from what we've been seeing so far, that the wood duck numbers at APG are going to be up some from last year. Most of the trib-

utaries, especially those at Spesutie Island, the Nike Site and the EA Westwood area, are currently holding lots of birds. The teal numbers seem to be down somewhat, but apparently that's the case all up and down the Atlantic Flyway.

For those of you who are waterfowl hunting enthusiasts, remember, this year the bag limit is six ducks per day, and the season on canvasback ducks is closed.

Additional information on the later waterfowl seasons will appear in a future edition of the *APG News* (unless the newspaper decides to fire me first). If you're in a big hurry though for the dates and just can't wait, give us a call, 410-278-3305 (Aberdeen Area) or 410-436-6181 (Edgewood Area) and we'll see if we can't fill in the blanks.

And remember; let's be careful out there.

Recycle to make APG more environmentally friendly, safe and improve the planet

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

"It takes too much time and effort" is the most common excuse that people use to not recycle. Like many other aspects in life, choosing to recycle takes a conscious effort at first, but after doing it for awhile it will become a positive habit.

Aberdeen Proving Ground has several recy-

cling, reuse and waste reduction programs that aim to minimize the amount of solid waste being incinerated and going into landfills. These programs also help APG comply with federal and state laws and Army policies that call for reducing the disposal of solid and hazardous wastes. APG's residential, commercial, institutional and industrial activities all par-

ticipate in these programs.

Although people today are more aware of being environmentally conscious, or "going green," there is room for improvement.

According to a **brave-newleaf.com**, "23 percent of Americans don't recycle anything, and up to 43 percent don't recycle paper or plastic."

There are many important reasons why people should recycle. Among the reasons, throwing away items that could be recycled contributes to the filling of landfills and land filling is a contributor to global warming. As trash decomposes, it creates a gas called methane, which is just as much of a contributor to global warming as carbon dioxide.

Deborah Meranski, a contract performance specialist for the Directorate of Installation Operations, said that recycling at APG is convenient, adding that more people should incorporate recycling into their everyday routine.

For instance, buildings on APG that generate large amounts of cardboard and paper have an outside white container on the premises for people to recycle paper and cardboard products (The brown containers are for trash) The white containers are emptied once a week or every month depending on the volume of paper and cardboard that the building generates.

"Recycling is great because it turns items that would otherwise be sitting in a landfill or incinerated into reusable products," Meranski said. "When recycling, please be diligent about separating products so that they go to the proper locations."

Residential Recycling Program

Harford County picks up APG's residential recyclables at curbside. A blue-bag system is used to collect aluminum, glass, and plastic food and beverage containers every other week as well as paper, including newspapers, magazines, junk mail, and cardboard on alternate weeks. With the exception of residents living in multi-family dwellings, who must carry recyclables to a central recycling dumpster, residents set out a blue bag holding recyclables for

pickup. Collected materials are hauled off site to a recycling center where they are prepared for shipment to a recycling plant.

Commercial and industrial recycling

Recyclable materials from APG commercial activities (e.g., offices, laboratories, the commissary, the post exchange and eating establishments) are collected by a Department of Public Works contractor. The materials collected through the commercial recycling program include glass, aluminum and plastic food and beverage containers as well as office paper, mixed paper, newspaper and cardboard. Collected recyclables are hauled off site to a recycling center where materials are prepared for shipment to a

recycling plant. Exceptions are cardboard boxes and plastic bags from the commissary, which are returned to the distribution center at Fort Meade, Md., for recycling.

Scrap metal recycling

The most successful APG recycling program has been the scrap metal program, which collects ferrous and non-ferrous metals (aluminum, brass, copper, iron, steel, titanium) and sells them to businesses that use them to manufacture new products. As the most cost-effective recycling program at APG, it requires continued participation by all personnel to maximize the recovery of valuable metal.

Meranski said that collectively, people can make

a big difference in helping the environment by incorporating recycling into their everyday routine, and to urge friends and co-workers to do the same.

Announcements are made in the *APG News* on the front page every week to notify readers of the upcoming week's recycling schedule.

The APG community can also drop off their recycling on Tuesdays and Thursdays in building 3558 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For questions regarding APG's recycling program, call Meranski, 410-458-2337.

(Editor's note: Part of this article was taken from http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/directories/AP2G/sol_waste.htm, which gives a more detailed account of APG's recycling program.)

National Resources Defense Council's Top 10 reasons to recycle

www.ndrdc.org

1. *Recycling saves trees.* This critical fact, one of the first environmental lessons many children learn, cannot be overstated. Half the earth's forests are gone, and up to 95 percent of the original forest area in the United States has been cut down.

2. *Recycling protects wildlife habitat and biodiversity.* Using recycled materials reduces the need to chop down, extract, process, refine and transport natural resources such as timber, crude petroleum and mineral ores. As a result, destruction of forests, wetlands, rivers and other places essential to wildlife is also reduced.

3. *Recycling lowers the use of toxic chemicals.* Making products from already refined waste materials reduces - and often avoids altogether - the need for manufacturers to use toxic chemicals, essential when using virgin materials.

4. *Recycling helps curb global warming.* Using recycled materials cuts down on the energy used in the manufacturing process, dramatically reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants. For example, recycling one ton of glass results in energy savings of more than 300 percent and lowers carbon dioxide emissions by 3.46 tons.

5. *Recycling stems the flow of water pollution.* Making goods from recycled materials generates far less water pollution than manufacturing from virgin materials. Turning trees into paper uses more water than any other industrial process in the United States, dumping billions of gallons of wastewater - contaminated with pollutants such as chlorinated dioxin - each year into rivers, lakes and streams. Paper recycling mills don't

pollute the water nearly as much, and almost always use less of it. In addition, some recycling plants use treated wastewater for the manufacturing process.

6. *Recycling reduces the need for landfills.* Toxic pollution from landfills -- including cyanide, dioxins, mercury, methane, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid and lead -- escapes into the air and leaches into groundwater.

7. *Recycling reduces the need for incinerators.* Municipal waste incinerators spew out all kinds of air pollutants; in addition they produce contaminated ash. And they are often located in urban neighborhoods where they seriously threaten the health of the community. Keeping paper, glass, plastic and metal out of incinerators by recycling them cuts both how much incinerators pollute and how harmful the emissions are.

8. *Recycling creates jobs and promotes economic development.* A study by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission found that recycling added about \$18.5 billion in value to the economies of 12 southern states and Puerto Rico in 1995.

9. *Cities may profit by selling recyclables.* While landfills are always dumping grounds for municipal money as well as garbage, cities with high recycling rates can actually make money selling recyclables when markets are good.

10. *Buying recycled products contributes to the demand for more recycled products.* This will, in turn, save even more resources, reduce more pollution and protect more people's health. On the other hand, as the size of the market grows, recycled products will cost less.

BRAC

From front page

and Bel Air;

- A Regional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) initiative to coordinate land use planning among eight jurisdictions in Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania, and provide baseline GIS capabilities to support the city of Aberdeen's participation in regional effort;
- A Regional Workforce

Analysis to assess public service sector (i.e., education, healthcare, law enforcement, emergency medical service, etc); identify gaps in available workforce related to growth demands and strategize on recruitment efforts related to spousal employment in conjunction with BRAC relocation;

- A Regional Community College Workforce Training Curriculum Assessment related to BRAC impacts; and

- A Feasibility Study for the Expansion of the Higher Education Conference Center at HEAT to accommodate the organic and BRAC growth demands on coursework and facility needs.

According to Holt, accountability is high regarding project management. These projects add to 11 existing projects already underway at various stages involving six jurisdictions, each requiring quarterly progress reports to OEA and funding oversight.

"Collaborating as a region with these federal funds has stretched creative solutions and resources across municipality, county and state lines; across a region that collectively can absorb and accommodate BRAC," Holt said.

CSSC posts completed studies and assessments on its Web site, www.apg-cssc.com, under "resource links" and project RFP opportunities under "spotlight."

The CSSC was a 2007 Sustainable Communities Award recipient by the National Association of Counties.



Veterans' Voices

VA clarifies voter registration regulation

American Forces Press Service

The Veterans Affairs Department has clarified its policy on assisting veterans' voter registration activities, with particular focus on in-patients and residents of VA community living centers and patients with limited access to community voter-registration resources.

State and local election officials and nonpartisan groups will be able to help officials register voters at VA hospitals and outpatient clinics as long as the vis-

its are coordinated in advance to avoid disruptions to patient care.

"VA has always been committed to helping veterans exercise their constitutional right to vote, which they defended for all Americans while serving their nation," said Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. James B. Peake. "We've now established a uniform approach to helping those of our patients who need assistance to register and to vote."

The policy requires that infor-

mation about the right of VA patients to register and vote, and other patients' rights, be posted in every VA hospital, and that all VA patients be provided a copy of these rights when they are admitted to a VA facility.

Every VA hospital now is also required to publish a written policy on voter assistance, allowing patients to leave the hospital to register and vote, subject to the opinions of their health-care providers. Hospital officials must help patients unable to leave the

facility to register and to vote by absentee ballot.

VA hospitals must establish in writing the criteria they will use to evaluate requests from outside agencies to register voters, and to determine where, when and how such registration activities will be conducted. They also must develop procedures to coordinate offers of assistance from state and local governments and from nonpartisan organizations, and how to work with VA's Regional Counsel offices to determine

whether groups offering registration help are nonpartisan, as required by law.

Voluntary service program managers at each of VA's 153 hospitals will be responsible for implementing the new policy, and for providing timely and accurate voting information to veterans cared for at their facilities, officials said. They also will obtain and maintain materials that are needed to assist veterans with voter registration requirements.

Federal Voting Assistance redesigns Web page

Federal Voting Assistance Program

The Federal Voting Assistance Program office recently redesigned its Web page which includes a new tool.

Ligon to www.fvap.gov and under "Quick Links," click on "Use our new

Automated Tool to Register/Request a Ballot."

Voter must first register to get a USERID and password, then return to the main page to login to complete the request.

FVAP is working with Department of Justice to encourage all states to

allow electronic transmission of voting materials by fax and e-mail. Voting assistance officers will reference chapter 3 of the Voting Assistance Guide to determine state guidelines. If electronic transmission is within the guidelines, a ballot will be sent direct-

ly to the voter via e-mail or fax through a secured server.

This new automated tool will reduce the mailing time and other postal issues in regard to mailing voting materials.

Absentee voting ballot drive Oct. 14-17

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

With the presidential election only four weeks away, time is approaching quick for voter registration deadlines, especially if voting by absentee ballot.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company will host an Absentee Ballot Voting Drive Oct. 14 to 17 at varied locations.

Voter registration cards, absentee ballot forms and other useful information about voting rights and procedures for absentee voting

will be available.

Although Oct. 14 is the last day to register to vote in Maryland, absentee ballot requests need to be in by Oct. 28; other states vary but time is running out.

Schedule

- Oct. 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Aberdeen Area PX with the Harford County Board of Elections
- Oct. 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center
- Oct. 16, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Edgewood Area

Recreation Center

• Oct. 16, 4:30 to 6 p.m., at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' 143rd Ordnance Battalion Headquarters in the Edgewood Area

For more information, call 1st Sgt. Larry C. Tyson or Maj. Mathieu Petraitis, 410-278-3000, or visit the Voters Assistance Link on the APG Web site for state by state information and forms.

Advisors help veterans with post-deployment transition to civilian life

Story by

ARMY SGT S.

PATRICK MCCOLLUM

Special to American Forces Press Service

How do I file a Veterans Affairs claim? How do I get enrolled in the VA system and get an appointment? What's the difference between the TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Prime health plans? These are just some of the questions asked by National Guard troops returning to civilian life from deployment.

Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Jeffrey Unger of the Wisconsin National Guard

is among those known as transition assistance advisors who help get them the answers.

"If they go through the process, if they hit barriers or they incur challenges they don't know how to address, they contact their TAA," Unger said.

Started in May 2005, the TAA program provides a professional in each of the 54 states and territories to serve as the statewide point of contact to assist troops in accessing Veterans Affairs benefits and healthcare services. Most advisors are

See **ADVISORS**, page 15

Local author shares commuting experience in book

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

He lives in Cecil County and works in the Washington, D.C., metro area. After more than six years of commuting by train both ways, five days-a-week, he decided to write down his thoughts and experiences about commuting on the MARC train system and share them in a book.

The result was "The Perryville Commuter, From One End of the Line to the Other," written by retired Staff Sgt. Larry Willis.

In his book, Willis takes readers on a day-long journey of his train commute; from the time he wakes in the morning to his return home that evening. In between he shares interactions with fellow commuters, his take on the various stops along the way and reflections on the passing scenery. Willis speaks in the first-person throughout the book, casually relating his observations to the reader as though sharing a chat on a long train ride home.

"Yes, you better believe there is pushing and shoving; especially when you are running late," Willis writes. "Commuters step on the heels of commuters in front of them while another commuter is stepping on their heel from behind and literally shoving them through the door."

In another passage, during a quiet moment, while gazing out the train window, he reflects on the setting sun.

"It's almost an orange glow now and what a beautiful sight," he writes. "Sunsets are amazing when you can actually see a good one. Each one is different, and it reminds me that God is the painter of painters. No one can perfectly capture the beauty he presents to us every day on his celestial canvas."

Married with two children and five grandchildren, Willis works in the security field in northern Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. He has been commuting since 1999. His average workday begins at 3:30 a.m. and ends around 6:30 p.m.

He said that although "all kinds of things can go wrong with trains," he prefers commuting to driving.

"There's a group of us that I see everyday," he said. "It's nice to wind down with them at the end of the day."

Willis said he was compelled to write the book for some time.

"I've always loved to write and I felt



people needed to know what we [commuters] do and what we go through," he said. "I began it after much prayer."

He said he began writing his thoughts down in September 2007 and then a friend told him about self-publishing and distributing through **Amazon.com** and **Target.com**, which he did after the book's completion in January 2008.

He said that because of equipment failures, weather issues, accidents and scheduling problems, commuting can sometimes seem haphazard at best and that he hopes readers who are considering commuting can learn from it.

"Everyday is different," he said. "Once you are on the train you're at the mercy of the system. You just have to have patience."

He thanked God for the inspiration to write the book and his wife, who operates a home daycare, for the work she put into it.

Willis said that despite the down sides there are plenty of up sides about commuting, and he has no plans to travel any other way.

"Sometimes I just sit and look out the window and marvel at all the things God put out there," he said.

"The Perryville Commuter" is available on the Internet at <http://www.theperryvillecommuter.com>, <http://www.amazon.com> or <http://www.target.com>.

POST SHORTS

Clinic will be closed for a training holiday Oct. 13.

For emergencies, call 911; KUSAHC does not have an emergency room. During after hours and federal holidays, call 410-278-1725 and ask for Staff Duty.

Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 18

Military retirees and their Families are invited to attend the annual Retiree Appreciation Day, from 8 a.m. to noon in the APG Recreation Center, building 3326 with lunch to follow at the Installation Dining Facility. The guest speaker is retired Lt. Col. Gary Quintero, deputy chief, Army Retirement Services.

For more information, contact retired Sgt. First Class Rich Zalusky, 410-278-5036 or e-mail Richard.zalusky@us.army.mil or Janet Dettwiler, 410-306-2301 or e-mail janet.dettwiler@us.army.mil.

Armed Forces Chess Championship slated

The 49th Annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championship will be held Oct. 11 to 13 at the National Naval Medical Center located on 8901 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Md.

The competition is open to all active duty personnel, Reservists, retirees, cadets and ROTC students with a Department of Defense ID card who have a U.S. Chess Federation membership.

The event will feature six rounds. Trophies will be presented in many categories. There is no fee to participate. On-site registration is required; participants can register 8 to 8:45 a.m. To register, complete the entry form online at www.usmilitarychess.org.

For more information, call Ernest Schlich, 757-853-5296, e-mail eschlich@verizon.net or visit <http://www.usmilitarychess.org/usafo2008.html>.

SAME Chesapeake holds meeting

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post monthly meeting will be held 11:30 a.m., Oct. 16, at the Wetlands Golf Club located on 740 Gilbert Road, Aberdeen. Robert E. Cooper, director, Harford County Department of Public Works, will present "How APG BRAC

Program relates to Harford County's Infrastructure and Master Planning."

Space is limited and reservations are required. RSVP online at <http://www.same-chesapeake.org> NLT Oct. 13.

CPR, AED classes available

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

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

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Gunpowder Club, building E-4650 in the Osprey Room, Oct. 15 and Dec. 17.

In the Aberdeen Area, classes will be held at the Post Theater Nov. 19.

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

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

Annual Fall Technology Expo Oct. 21

The Corporate Information Office of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and the U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Information

Management will host the 2008 Annual Fall Information Technology Expo 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Oct. 21, at Top of the Bay.

State of the art technologies will be featured from 3M Projection Systems, ACL Computers and Software, ActioNet, Inc., AMREL, Audio Visual Innovations, Booz Allen and Hamilton, Business Machines, CCS Projection Systems, CDW-G, Commercial Data Systems Inc., Dell, Diskeeper, Emtec Federal, EPS, F.A. O'Toole Office Systems, Fujitsu Computer Prod-

ucts, Kingston Technology, L-Com, Log-Sec Corp., Nelson White Systems, New Horizons CLC, Office Eagle, Plantronics, Praxis Engineering, SEIDCON, Survice Engineering, Tally Genicom, Texas Memory Systems, Tripp Lite, Wright Line, Xerox, and more.

Admission is free and open to all civilian, military and contractor personnel. Coffee, donuts and a light lunch will be served.

For more information, call FDA toll-free 877-332-3976 or Chris Zukowski, Corporate Information Office, RDECOM, 410-436-3873, e-mail Christopher.zukowski@us.army.mil, or Susan Suppa, DOIM, 410-278-7598.

Hypersonic Aerodynamics Course

The Society of Flight Test Engineers will host the Hypersonic Aerodynamics For Flight Testers Short Course, Oct. 27 through 31, at the AERO Institute in Palmdale, Calif.

Nationally-recognized hypersonics subject matter expert J. Terry White of White Eagle Aerospace be the HAAFFT instructor. The HAAFFT course covers a broad range of technical topics related to the flight of hypersonic vehicles.

For more information or to register, call Terry White, president, White Eagle Aerospace, 520-219-0526, or visit <http://www.whiteeagleaerospace.com> and click on the "training" button.

Thrift Shop to disburse funds

The APG Thrift Shop will accept requests for donations from service organizations and military units through Oct. 31.

The request should include the name of the organization, point of contact, address, telephone number, amount requested and specific details on what the funds will be used for.

In the past, donations

have been granted to Army Emergency Relief, Army Community Service, the APG Fire Department and veterans' organizations.

Mail or drop off requests to APG Thrift Shop, building 2458, APG, MD 21005-5001.

For more information, call the store during operating hours, which are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the first Saturday of the month, 410-272-8572.

Consignments are only taken 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday.

Everyone is reminded not to use the area in front or to the back of the shop as a dumping site.

The Thrift Shop only wants items that are in good as new condition.

RAB meeting scheduled

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Oct. 30, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited.

For more information, call the Information Line, 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998.

Phone number for Wildlife and Marine changes

The new telephone number for the Wildlife, Marine and Environmental Law Enforcement Office in the Edgewood Area is 410-436-6181.

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

Community Notes

THURSDAY OCTOBER 9 HARFORD COUNTY JOB FAIR

The 20th annual Harford County Job Fair will be held 2 to 6 p.m. in the Richlin Ballroom and Ramada Inn and Conference Center located on 1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood. Organizations include healthcare, food service, finance and education, emergency services, communications, construction, utilities, manufacturing and distribution, APG Civilian Personnel Office and many BRAC and government contractors.

Dress professionally and bring copies of resume. Be prepared for applications and interviews. For more information, visit www.swnetwork.org for a list of participating employers.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 10 BASKET BINGO

The Tall Cedars of Lebanon Forest No. 142 will hold basket bingo at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, located on 21 North Rogers Street. Doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 per person, additional package of cards costs \$5

per person and includes door prizes (purses from XO, South Pole, Chinese Laundry, Guess, MC Leather and Nine West), special games and raffles. Food, desserts and drinks will be available. There also will be a gift table with Boyd's Bear collectibles for sale. Proceeds will benefit muscular diseases.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Connie Beardsley, 410-420-1002.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 THE GRAW DAYS FESTIVAL

Havre de Grace Main Street presents The Graw Days Festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the downtown Havre de Grace shopping district. Bring the Family to the first annual free street festival celebrating a significant era in Havre de Grace history — horse racing at "The Graw." For more information, call Marita at 410-939-1811 or e-mail hdgmainstreet@verizon.net.

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT AND PIG ROAST

The American Legion Susquehanna Post 135 located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold a Horseshoe Tournament and Pig Roast, 1 to 5 p.m. Entry fee costs \$20 per person and includes a pig roast for players. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Participants will draw for teams; there will be double eliminations.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

HARVEST HOME

The Stewardess Board of St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street, will host Harvest Home, 10

SCHOOL LIAISON

A note from the APG School Liaison Officer

Hello parents:

Please check out the following upcoming events and information.

Do you know about the new high school graduation requirements?

The 2005 Harford County Public Schools Comprehensive Secondary School Reform Plan will require students that graduate in June 2009 and later to earn 26 graduation credits.

The new flexible eight-period day, also called the block schedule, allows students 32 credit opportunities. Prior to this, students graduated with only 21 credits. The five additional credits include one more mathematics credit and four credits in the Career Pathways system.

Beginning in ninth grade, all students complete the Living in a Contemporary World course, which will be followed by career cluster courses to help them better understand their interests and aptitudes. "The ultimate goal of the Comprehensive Secondary School Reform Plan is to promote student success, as measured by increased scores on high school assessments, an increased attendance rate, an increased graduation rate, a decreased drop-out rate, and issues related to a safe and secure learning environment," states the guide.

See the Student Education Planning Guide at http://www.hcps.org/students/docs/2008-09_coursebook_front_end.pdf and courses at http://www.hcps.org/students/docs/2008-09_coursebook_courses.pdf

Students must earn passing scores on the following Maryland High School Assessments: English (396), Algebra/Data Analysis (412), Biology (400), and Government (394); or meet the total

combined score option (1,602).

I'd like to inform you of an excellent resource I've come across to assist in your college search and application process called CollegeWeekLive (www.collegeweeklive.com). CollegeWeekLive is a virtual college fair being held Nov. 12 and 13.

If you are just starting the college search process, or have narrowed down your list and are looking to speak to specific schools, we recommend you take advantage of this free resource as this is an opportunity to attend a college fair from the comfort of your home computer.

This online event will bring all the features and benefits of a physical college fair to you live on the Internet. This fair will feature more than 200 colleges from across the country and around the world. You will be able to communicate and ask questions live with school admissions officials and current students via real-time online chat, so this is a great way to "visit" with school officials without travelling.

There will also be video presentations from admissions experts speaking on topics and answering your questions live.

Lastly, there will be scholarship giveaways during the show, such as the \$3,500 essay contest.

This college fair is free to all attendees.

Visit www.apgmwr.com for more information on Child, Youth & School Services or call Eileen Campbell, APG School Liaison, 410-278-2857.

(Note: The above information does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Army.)

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

a.m. to 3 p.m. Food to be purchased includes chicken sandwiches, soup and baked goods.

For more information or to place orders, call 410-939-2267.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 SWANFEST AT SWAN HARBOR FARM

A celebration of autumn with live entertainment, hayrides, pumpkins, children's games and activities, crafts, food and

canoe rides provided by the Estuary Center. Stop at the center's booth down by the water.

For more information, call 410-939-6767. This program will be held 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Swan Harbor Farm, 401 Oakington Road, Havre de Grace, and the admission is \$5 per car. No registration is needed.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13 RIDE FOR LIFE

The 2008 Third Annu-

al "Ride for Life" Motorcycle and Music Event will be held 11:45 a.m. at McAvoy's Pub, located on 2531 Putty Hill Avenue, Parkville, Md. Registration will take place 10 a.m.

Ride for Life benefits the Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Inc. and StandUp for Kids Baltimore. Music begins at 12:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15 WATERSHED WHIZ KIDS - HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM

What is a watershed, and how does it affect the estuary? Explore the Otter Point Creek watershed and determine watershed addresses. This program will be held 2 to 4 p.m. for ages 8 to 10 and 11 to 13. 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.

THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY OCTOBER 16 THRU 19 FAIR HILL FESTIVAL IN THE COUNTRY

Fair Hill International will host Festival in the Country, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Gallaher Road and Big Elk Chapel Road, Elkton including a world-class equestrian competition, miniature horse demonstrations, vendors, Family activities, food, live music, classic cars, dog agility trials and more. Admission on Oct. 16 and 17 costs \$10 for adults; admission costs \$5 for ages 18 and over 60 years old; admission is free for ages 12 and under. Admission on Oct. 18 and 19 costs \$15 for adults; admission costs \$10 for ages 18 and over 60 years old; admission is free for ages 12 and under. For more information, call 410-398-2111 or visit www.fairhillinternational.com.

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

Chesapeake Bay Area CFC introduces online pledging

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

This year the 2008 campaign not only gets a new region name, but a new way for donors to make their pledge. Many federal agencies at APG are participating in a program that will provide two separate and distinct avenues for pledging online.

These programs are Employee Express, developed by a government consortium, and CFCNexus, a privately developed system. Both programs provide benefits to all aspects of the CFC to include:

- Searchable database-both systems include a searchable CFC Contributor Guide, allowing employees to search a variety of ways to find charitable organizations they would like to designate their dollars to.

- More accurate pledging-both systems validate the five digit code entered, ensuring that only valid codes are

used. In addition, all calculations are done electronically, ensuring that the biweekly or monthly allotment equals the annual total, as well as ensuring that the amounts designated equal the total amounts pledged.

- Data management-both systems provide a variety of ways to manage CFC data. This will monitor trends, determine distribution of pledges, and directly download pledge information into the pledge collection and distribution system.

Nancy Sewell, 2008 CFC chairperson, said that the purpose of having online giving is to provide added convenience for the donor.

“With online giving, donors can pledge from the comfort of their home, or anywhere they have Internet access,” she said.

Sewell said because this is the first year that online donation is available the APG CFC staff limited the amount of organizations who will be able to

donate online, because the CFC staff wanted to test and work out any potential problems with a smaller group. (See box for eligible organizations.)

“The organizations that are allowed to donate this year are our guinea pig organizations. Our goal is to have all tenants and organizations full access to online pledging in 2009,” she said.

Sewell added that in the future online giving will not take the place of traditional method of filling out a form and giving it to a CFC key person because some people prefer that method.

To donate to the CFC online, go to www.cfc-nexus.org then click on the Chesapeake Bay Area CFC banner. Click on ‘first time e-donor’ to create an account. After an account is created, donors can type in the name of a CFC charity or charities that they wish to donate, and then the computer will bring up the five digit charity

code and put in the annual amount that they wish to give. Donators will then get a print out of their information. Sewell said that donors should carefully check their print out before clicking the submit button.

Sewell said that if a donor is experiencing problems donating online, they should go to their key person for help or call the CFC office, 410-278-9916.

Sewell said that one of the disadvantages of the online program is that it will either round up or down decimal numbers. (For instance a donation of \$400.95 will be round-

ed up to \$401.) Also, only payroll deductions can be made online, so contractors cannot donate online. Despite these disadvantages, Sewell thinks that donating online is a great improvement for the CFC.

“A great advantage of donating online is that it will cut down on mistakes,” Sewell said. “A common problem that happens during this campaign is that some people transpose their letters on the charity code or do not write legibly and they end up donating their money to the wrong charity. The print outs provided online will help eliminate this problem.”

Sewell said that the ultimate goal is to get the majority of people to donate online so that the CFC can cut down on the amount of books that are published each year, which will significantly cut down on costs for the CFC.

Sewell said that Michael Graziano, who works for Directorate of Information Management and is the CFC vice chair for this year’s campaign, will be in charge of the test program for online pledging.

Graziano, who is hearing impaired, can be called through the federal relay service, 866-377-8642.

Organizations eligible for Chesapeake Bay Area Online Pledge

- U.S. Army Garrison, Directorate of Information Management and IRACO
- U.S. Army Research Laboratory
- U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Headquarters (excluding ECBC, RDECOM AC, RDECOM Management Accounting)
- U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency
- U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
- U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center
- U.S. Army 20th Support Command (CBRNE)
- U.S. Army Developmental Test Command



Commentary: Keeping Soldiers safe

By
BRIG GEN WILLIAM H. FORRESTER
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

Safety is an intangible. We can’t count it to determine how much we have or how much we need. We can’t issue it to Soldiers to keep them safe. Yet every leader in our Army is responsible for protecting Soldiers, as well as instilling in them a sense of personal responsibility for their safety.

What a daunting task. For the last two years, it has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve as the director of Army Safety and commanding general of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. [During that time], I have had the opportunity to see, and participate in, the ongoing transformation of Army Safety from a reactive culture to a proactive and predictive culture.

Leaders and Soldiers have changed the Army’s safety culture. The greatest paradigm shift occurred due to a change in thinking – not in what Soldiers think, but in how they think. You have taken the way we think about safety to the next level. So what have we, as an Army, accomplished to promote safety?

We have made great strides in reaching Soldiers by targeting influencers and making them part of the safety solution. We also targeted safety messages to specific demographic groups and developed user-friendly delivery methods for ease of use.

Soldiers are Soldiers 24/7, and, beyond deployments, the bulk of their time is spent outside the oversight of leaders. Keeping Soldiers safe while off duty is a challenge that requires out-of-the-box thinking and new approaches.

Understanding the influence of spouses and Family members, we expanded our safety team to include those who support the Soldier 24/7. No one knows the habits, thought processes and reactions of a Soldier better than his Family. With the Post-Deployment Family Engagement and BOSS Safety Factor kits, the Army enlisted the support of Soldiers’ loved ones. Both kits educate Soldiers and Families, make them aware of potential hazards and empower them to act as a positive safety influence in their Soldier’s life.

Peer influence is another powerful tool. On a one-to-one basis, the “looking out” for a battle buddy has kept many a Soldier from harm, both

on and off duty. Multiply this effort throughout the Army and you form a force truly comparable to a “Band of Brothers.”

Young Soldiers might have difficulty recognizing risky behavior among their peers until they see the negative results firsthand. The injury or death of a brother in arms is not the way we want Soldiers to learn how to conduct themselves safely.

Army Safety entered a new phase by harnessing the combined wisdom from every echelon across the Army and getting that knowledge from those who have it to those who need it. The Army Safety Net forum is one that will grow and prosper through your efforts. The sharing of best practices and lessons learned provides a repository of current, relevant safety information for its members to draw upon.

Although I am leaving the Safety Center, I look forward to seeing the continued progress and evolution of Army Safety. Credit for safety successes does not go to me or the people in this building. Although we strive to provide the best information and tools, the bottom line is that Soldiers keep Soldiers safe.

I wish all of you the best and Army Safe is Army Strong!

Make a movie – save a life

Story by
TERRI HELUS
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

With the launch of the Peer to Peer Video Competition, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center hopes to harness the power of peer influence to help prevent accidents and save lives.

The competition tagline, “Make a movie – save a life,” challenges Soldiers to personalize safety messaging by creating short videos which promote off-duty safety awareness. The goal is to have Soldiers create

safety messages that speak directly to their peers.

Entrants post their video on any social networking site and send a link to USACRC to submit their video for consideration. Videos should effectively convey ways to safely conduct off-duty activities and a humorous slant is encouraged.

“So much of what we accomplish in safety is considered boring by most,” said USACRC Command Sgt. Maj., Tod Glidewell. “Today’s Soldier is tech savvy and digital communication literate. Peer to Peer

allows Soldiers to use their creativity to communicate safety information they way they want to hear it.”

Peer to Peer puts safety into the hands of Soldiers and provides a venue to share tips, lessons learned and best practices. Most Soldiers have a favorite “There I was” story and the video medium will allow them to share the benefit of their experience with an Army-wide audience.

“The battle buddy mindset has kept many a Soldier from harm,” said Dr. Patricia Le Duc, direc-

tor, Human Factors Task Force. “This competition capitalizes on the power of peer influence, and extends its reach exponentially through the Web.”

The contest runs through March 31, 2009, and is open to all military ID card holders including Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers.

Visit the Peer to Peer Video Competition Web site, <https://crc.army.mil/videocompetition/>, for promotional materials, official rules and a sample peer safety video.

Adventures in driving decision making



Panic on the highway!

Installation Safety Office

“Adventures in driving decision making” is brought to everyone by the Installation Safety Office. These will appear on the “Safety” page in the APG News with a new scenario each week.

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

Situation #4

Imagine you’re driving the legal speed limit on an interstate highway in heavy rush hour traffic. Your passenger suddenly yells, “Look Out!” What should you do?

- A. Grasp the wheel firmly and brake hard, or
- B. Ease off accelerator and cover brake.

Answer A. Your selection, “grasp the wheel firmly and brake hard” is not the safest thing to do. Before you take any radical action in response to anything you have not seen or identified in some way, you need to find out what it is that the passenger is responding to. “Look out” may have nothing to do with the traffic situation. A quick stop in heavy traffic could cause the car behind you to run into your rear or you could lose control of your car. But this doesn’t mean that you should ignore the warning. It might be something in the traffic situation you need to respond to. The safest thing is “ease off accelerator and cover the brake.” By easing off the accelerator and covering the brake, you’ve cut down your reaction time and in the event that you need to take evasive action, you can achieve it faster.

Answer B. Yes, “ease off accelerator and cover the brake.” By easing off the accelerator and covering the brake, you’ve prepared to take evasive action if it is necessary. Answer B is the best choice.

Logan

From front page

McPherson, Ga. (relocating to Fort Sam Houston, Texas); and Fort Lewis, Wash. USACHPPM is a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Command.

As the Army’s public health organization, USACHPPM focuses on prevention of disease and injury, and on communities or populations—Soldiers, their Family members and Army civilians, for example—rather than on individual patient care. USACHPPM’s almost 1,200 military and civilian personnel are experts in more than 50 scientific and technical disciplines.

On Army installations, USACHPPM employees provide environmental and engineering services; make health hazard assessments of new weapons and equipment; and implement health promotion and injury and disease prevention programs through surveillance, analysis, training and education.

“Your superb efforts in preventive medicine are felt throughout the Army every day, and are instrumental to improving Army readiness,” Logan told representatives from all USACHPPM organizations participating in the ceremony. “I look forward to continuing those efforts.”

Since the start of the Global War on Terror, USACHPPM Soldiers and civilians have deployed to 70 countries to deliver occupational and environmental health surveillance, rapid-response to specific incidents, and support to humanitarian relief missions from New Orleans to Pakistan.

Schoomaker noted that USACHPPM Soldiers and civilians are often among the first to reach forward-deployed locations.

“You lead the effort in promoting wellness and prevention,” he said. “Whenever I deployed, I always found someone from USACHPPM there, collecting soil, water and air samples; conducting surveillance for disease vectors, doing the work of preventive medicine. USACHPPM is critical to deployments.”

USACHPPM’s new com-

mander is a native of Sharon, Okla. He earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees from Oklahoma State University, and upon graduation in 1985, received his commission in the Medical Service Corps.

After completing the AMEDD Officer’s Basic Course in 1985, Logan was assigned to the U.S. Army Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. This was followed by an assignment to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Laboratory in Nairobi, Kenya, and a return assignment to USAMRIID.

From 1993 to 1995 he commanded the 225th Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine) at Fort Stewart, Ga., and led this unit during Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti. He was assigned to the 30th Medical Brigade and USACHPPM—Europe in Germany from June 1995 to July 1999 and served with the 30th Medical Brigade as the staff entomologist during that unit’s deployment to the Balkans in 1996.

From August 1999 to July 2004, Logan was assigned to USACHPPM serving as the chief,

Support Operations; chief, Current Operations; and deputy chief of staff for Operations. From July 2004 to August 2006, he served as the commander, 9th Area Medical Laboratory; and most recently as USACHPPM chief of staff.

Additional military schools include the Army Medical Department Officers Advanced Course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, and the Defense Strategy Course.

Logan’s awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (silver and bronze oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (three oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (bronze service star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NATO Medal, Expert Field Medical Badge, and Air Assault Badge. He is a recipient of the Army Surgeon General’s “A” Proficiency Designator and a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit.

Spouses

From front page

half of the military members are married, and this is a significant issue for them.”

Only about 10 percent of military spouses remain in the same place for five years, and the frequent moves make employment a problem, Bradshaw noted.

“The objective of this appointment is to actually get their foot in the door, and then they will be able to move around the federal government that much easier,” she said. “This authority gets them into the door. It doesn’t waive the qualifications for the job.”

The director of the Office of Personnel Management will issue the implementing regulations.

“We are working with them very aggressively as quickly as possible,” Bradshaw said. “Unfortunately, it will be sometime after the first of the year before we see interim regulations.”



FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

APG Youth Sports



Photo by JAMIE REDDING
Taevaughn Buie, 10, kicks the football in the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick Competition. He placed second in the 10-11 Boys Division.

FMWR holds Punt, Pass, Kick competition

FMWR Sports Program

The APG Youth Sports Program hosted the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick Competition Sept. 20 at the Edgewood Youth Center.

There were five winners of the local competition and these winners will advance to the sectional round to be held Oct. 12 at M&T Bank Stadium (home of the Ravens).

Results

The winner in the Boys 8-9 Division was Anthony Lyles with a score of 125 feet. In the Boys 10-11 Division, Billy Kilmon scored 137 feet; Kevin Kappauf

scored 274 feet in the Boys 12-13 Division; and Jake Kilmon scored 302 feet in the Boys 14-15 Division.

Maiya Dotson scored 107 feet in the Girls 10-11 Division.

A participant's final score was his/her cumulative total for the three individual events. Example: If participant scores 40 for punting, 60 for passing, and 22 for kicking, the participant's final score was 122.

"The Youth Sports staff would like to thank all of the volunteers who made the event a success," said Bill Kegley, Youth Sports director.



Photo by NEAL SNYDER
Maggie Kilmon of the APG Ireland soccer team controls the ball while Kayleigh Devorak of Team USA attempts to steal it. Janaiya Wimberly, Team USA, and Nia Webb, Team Ireland, close in on the action.

APG soccer clinic season underway

FMWR Youth Sports

The APG U6 Soccer season is well under way.

The coed league is for girls and boys ages 4 and 5 and consists of four teams: USA, England, Spain and Ireland. Games are held at the Aberdeen and Edgewood Youth Sports fields on Saturday mornings. The teams practice once a week from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on weekday nights. The season ends Oct. 18.

The coaches for the soccer clinic teams want to thank all their parents for their support.

Basketball registration will be held Oct. 15 to Nov. 9. For more information, call 410-306-2297.

Upcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Month events

Army Community Service will host varied events in October to raise awareness and prevention of domestic violence.

- "Meet Me at the Gate" was such a huge success in 2007 that Army Community Service representatives will again greet employees and visitors entering Aberdeen Proving Ground and offer domestic violence literature and reference material throughout the month of October.

- "Hands are not for hitting" – ACS Family Advocacy Program staff will read "Hands are not for hitting" Oct. 9 and 17 at the Edgewood and Aberdeen Area Child Development Centers.

- "Clothesline Project" – Following the reading on Oct. 9 and 17, children will create painted T-shirts with their messages against domestic violence to hang on a clothesline that will be displayed throughout the installation as part of the 'Clothesline Project.' The staff will also work with the youths at both APG Youth Services centers Oct. 24 and facilitate an activity table at the Fall Fest Oct. 25 with all materials needed for anyone wishing to create a T-shirt with their message against abuse. T-shirts can be added to the existing clothesline.

- DVAM information booths will be

located at the Commissary, PX, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and the U.S. Post Office.

- Articles on domestic violence, effects of domestic violence on children and other available resources will be published in the *APG News*.

- Retro Bill will present "Safety First" at the Fall Fest, Oct. 25.

- The ACS FAP will present "The Batterer as Parent," 9 a.m. to noon, Oct. 30 at Top of the Bay. Lundy Bancroft, author, advocate and custody evaluator will be the key note speaker. A workshop will be held 9 a.m. to noon followed by a lecture, 1 to 3 p.m. The program is free. The workshop is open to all military, Family members, civilians, law enforcement, attorneys, judges, advocates, therapists, social workers, school counselors, individuals working with children and the Family court systems. Register now – space is limited. For more information or to register, call 410-278-2435. Bancroft wrote "Why Does He Do That," "When Dad Hurts Mom" and his national prize winner, "The Batterer as Parent."

For more information, call Lynda Fernandez, Army Community Service, 410-306-2041.

Activities/Events

Greens Keeper Revenge at Ruggles Golf Course

A two-man scramble/Greens Keeper Revenge will be held Oct. 18 at Ruggles Golf Course, start time is 8:30 a.m.

Play nine holes of regular play and nine challenging holes the greens keeper has created. There will be a putting contest with a chance to win \$5,000. Two-man combined handicap total is not lower than 12. Refreshments and awards will be provided upon completion of the event.

Cost to participate is \$35 for annual patrons; \$50 for value card and authorized patrons; and \$60 for guests.

For more information or to register, call 410-278-4794.

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 pro-

vide their own guitar and also are required to purchase books required for the course as recommended by the instructor. Books are a one-time purchase. Parents can choose which time frame session they want to sign up for when they register their child. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

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

BOSS Haunted House

Better Opportunities for Single Solders will sponsor a BOSS Haunted House, 7 to 10 p.m., Oct. 24, and 7 to 9 p.m., Oct. 25, at Child, Youth & School Services, building 2522 (gym, dance room and front). The event includes a haunted maze, food and concession area, game room, face painting, games and more.

For more information, call the BOSS representative, 410-436-1921; the Garrison command sergeant major, 410-278-1509; the Edgewood Area Recreation Center, 410-436-2713; or the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, 410-2621/3404.

Private Voice Lessons

Ages 7 through 18 can

register for private voice lessons, 3:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays, Nov. 25 through Dec. 16, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. An award-winning singer/songwriter will instruct students. No experience necessary. Singing lessons cost \$132 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for four weeks. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign up for when they register their child.

Beginner Spanish 101

Hola! habla Espanol? Beginner Spanish 101 is a great opportunity for children ages 5 and older, to learn Spanish through games and student centered activities. The class is for students with little to no Spanish language experience.

Two classes will be held: 5:30 to 6:20 p.m. for ages 5 through 7 and 6:20 to 7:30 p.m., for ages 8 through 11. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Oct. 14 through Nov. 18, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

The class will include hands-on activities such as games, songs, crafts, stories, and some familiar movies, all in Spanish.

Class price is \$55 per student with a minimum of

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 piano lessons

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

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

Students are responsible for purchasing

the required books for the course recommended by the instructor.

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, Oct. 27 thru Nov. 12 (no class Nov. 11); Nov. 17 thru Dec. 3 (no class Nov. 27) and Dec. 8 thru 23.

Class includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction.

Cost is \$295 per student. Last day to register for the class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between 15.9 and 18 years of age. Parents must attend the first day of class. Open to all DoD ID cardholders.

will also be food and beverages for sale in and around the Fest Tent. The main entertainment for the tent will be provided by the Continental Gentlemen, a regionally famous Oompah Band.

Before heading home, check out the APG Haunted House, sponsored by the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program, which will be going on Friday and Saturday nights at APG Child, Youth & School Services. The "haunting" activities start at 7 p.m. both nights and include not only the Haunted House, but party games and other activities.

For more information on all the programs of the day and all other FMWR programs on APG, go to www.apgmwr.com.

"See you at the Fall Fest," Lockhart said.

Upcoming ACS Events

Smart Start Your Business

All sessions 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., ACS classroom, Oct. 22, Nov. 19.

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

Career Expo Oct. 23

In celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Army Community Service will hold a Career Expo, 1 to 5 p.m., Oct. 23 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. The job fair is open to the public. Dress professionally, bring copies of resumes and be prepared with applications and for interviews. Sign language interpreters will be available.

To reserve seating for class or for more information, call Marilyn Howard, 410-278-9669/7572.

Upcoming CWF events and trips

Nov. 1, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Scrapbooking Crop, Top of the Bay

For any seasoned scrapbooker or those who would like to try scrapbooking, come and "Crop Till You Drop." Cost is \$22 per person and includes lunch, door prizes and welcome gifts for everyone. Vendors will have items for all scrapbooking needs; optional classes will be offered; and a massage therapist will be available for an optional massage.

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

Nov. 29

Miracle of Christmas, Sight and Sound and dinner buffet at Hershey Farms

Cost is \$98 for adults, \$72 for teens ages 13 through 18; and \$49 for children ages 12 and under. Cost includes show

ticket, dinner buffet, and charter bus transportation. Departure time is 4 p.m.

Dec. 6, 5:45 to 7:45 p.m.

Free ice skating, at Ice World

A limited number of tickets are available to APG military, civilians, contractors, retirees and their Families. Make reservations in advance. Skate rentals are not included.

Dec. 13

Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular in New York City

There will be time for shopping, sightseeing and lunch after the 11:30 a.m. show. See the "Big Apple" decorated for Christmas.

Cost is \$150 per person and includes ticket for the show and charter bus transportation. Call to reserve a seat.

Fall Fest

From front page

There will also be children's crafts, carnival games, bounce houses and a bike rodeo with free bike helmets.

"Don't forget to wish McGruff the fire dog a very happy birthday and celebrate by having a piece of his birthday cake," Lockhart said.

Information and activities to help remind everyone about safety will also be available, such as the seat belt convincer, fire prevention demonstrations and Project Clothesline, a T-shirt design activity with a message about the prevention of domestic violence.

In addition to the fun activities, there



Health Notes

Getting flu shots in Harford County

Harford County Health Department

Upper Chesapeake HealthLink will provide flu vaccine clinics for the general public ages 12 years and older.

A separate one-day pediatric flu vaccine clinic will be held for children ages 6 months through 11 years old.

The flu vaccines cost \$20 per shot and are free to persons with Medicare Part B. Anyone eligible for Medicare Part B must bring their Medicare card with them.

Cash or checks will be accepted. No credit cards will be accepted.

Adults and children age 6 months and older should receive the vaccine. FluMist® nasal spray has been approved for healthy people ages 2 through 49 years.

No medical assistance will be accepted. Recommended attire is short sleeved or loose fitted shirts.

For more information, call the Upper Chesapeake Medical Center 24-hour Flu Hotline, 443-643-2800.

Who should get a flu shot

- Adults age 50 or over – even in good health.
- Anyone with a chronic health condi-

tion including heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, asthma, cancer, HIV/AIDS.

- Children ages 6 months through 8 years getting a flu vaccine for the first time will need a follow-up booster one month after the first dose of vaccine.

- Women who will be more than three months pregnant during flu season which is typically November through March

- Health care workers
- Household contacts or caregivers of adults or children at high risk*

*High risk includes adults age 65 and older, infants under 24 months (babies less than 6 months can get influenza but are too young to get flu vaccine), anyone with chronic health problems and pregnant women.

UC HealthLink schedule

- Nov. 1, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, Chesapeake Conference Center

- November 5, 4 to 7 p.m., Harford Mall

- Nov. 6, 4 to 7 p.m., Harford Memorial Hospital, Havre de Grace Room

- Nov. 9, noon to 3 p.m., Holy Spirit Church, located on 540 Joppa Farm

Road, Joppa

- Nov. 13, 4 to 7 p.m., Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, Chesapeake Conference Center

- Nov. 15, 9 a.m. to noon, Harford Memorial Hospital, Havre de Grace Room

- Nov. 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Harford Mall

- Nov. 18, 4 to 7 p.m., Jarrettsville Fire House, located on 3825 Federal Hill Road

- Nov. 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Ignatius Church, located on 533 East Jarrettsville Road, Forest Hill

- Nov. 23, 9 a.m. to noon, St. Mary's Church, located on 1021 Saint Mary's Road, Pylesville

Pediatric Flu Vaccine Clinic

- Nov. 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, Chesapeake Conference Center

Pediatric Flu Vaccine Follow-up Clinic ONLY

- Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to noon, Upper Ches-

apeake Medical Center Chesapeake Conference Center

Harford County flu shot schedule

For more information about flu, visit <http://www.harfordcountyhealth.com>.

For more information, call 410-612-1779.

- Oct. 18, 10 a.m., at the Community Fall Festival Equestrian Center, located on 608 North Tollgate Road, Bel Air; 2 to 6 p.m., Weis Market, located on 943 Pulaski Highway, Havre de Grace

- Nov. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ripken Stadium, 873 Long Drive Aberdeen (drive-thru Vaccine Clinic) The clinic offers a flu shot for senior residents or anyone who may have difficulty walking. Rain date is Nov. 7

- Nov. 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Level Fire Hall, located on 3633 Level Village Road, Havre de Grace

Note: Anyone with a scheduled appointment at the Health Department at Woodbridge Station located on 1321 Woodbridge Station Way, flu vaccine also will be available for a \$20 fee.

Flu vaccine open to TRICARE beneficiaries

KUSAHC

Influenza vaccination is now available to all TRICARE beneficiaries at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

FluMist®, the nasal flu vaccine, is the recommended vaccine choice in healthy individuals for protection against the flu. In addition to the immunity provided by traditional vaccination, FluMist® helps the body to develop antibodies along the respiratory tract which provides a greater defense along the main route of entry for the influenza virus. FluMist® is a safe and effective influenza vaccine that has been used for the past four years. Individuals should not receive FluMist® if they:

- are less than 2 years old or 50 years of age or older;
- have an allergy or history of allergic reaction to chicken eggs or egg products or any component of the vaccine;
- are a child or adolescent who regularly takes aspirin, or products containing aspirin;
- have a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome;
- have a known or suspected immune deficiency disease or condition such as HIV infection, leukemia, or lymphoma or are undergoing treatments for cancer;
- have a history of asthma or reactive air-

ways disease;

- have medical conditions such as chronic disorders of the lungs, heart, or kidneys; diabetes, or sickle cell disease; or

- are pregnant.

Vaccination by injection is available to those who are not eligible to receive the FluMist®.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends children age 6 months to 8 years receive two doses of vaccine if they have not been vaccinated previously at any time with either the injectable or nasal flu vaccine (doses separated by four or more weeks); two doses are required for protection in these children. Children age 6 months to 8 years who received only one dose in their first year of vaccination should receive two doses the following year.

For more information, call KUSAHC's Immunization Clinic, 410-278-1746 or the FLU Vaccine Hotline, 410-306-3588 (FLUV).

KUSAHC hours

Monday: 7:30 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m.
 Tuesday: 7:30 a.m. - noon
 Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m.
 Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - noon and 2 - 4 p.m.
 Friday: 7:30 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m.

TRICARE active duty dental program contract awarded to Concordia

U.S. DoD Military Health System

The Department of Defense awarded the TRICARE Active Duty Dental Program contract to United Concordia Companies, Inc. of Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 26.

The contract provides for premium-free dental healthcare services to active duty service members referred from military dental treatment facilities for civilian care, as well as dental coverage for those ADSMs under the Remote Active Duty Dental Program.

The remote program provides dental healthcare to ADSMs who have a duty location and residence farther than 50 miles from a military dental facility.

Reservists and National Guard members who are on orders to active duty for a period of more than 30 continuous days are considered ADSMs from their initial activation date. In certain circumstances service members no longer on active duty may also be eligible for coverage when injured while serving on orders.

Many features of the new contract, which is slated to begin services Aug. 1, 2009, are currently handled by the Military Member

Support Office under TRICARE Management Activity. Establishing a network of providers is new under the contract.

"United Concordia will establish an extensive dental provider network covering the United States, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, TMA deputy director.

"TRICARE aims to ensure the highest level of beneficiary satisfaction and contractor performance in controlling costs," he said. "Network dentists will provide the same dental benefits that are received at military DTFs, to include comprehensive preventive services such as oral cancer screenings."

The performance period includes a base year and five one-year option periods with a total value of \$667,698,420.00 if all options are exercised. The contract includes associated administrative services such as customer service, provider reimbursement and education.

Source selection procedures in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation were used to determine the successful offeror.

Military Health System asks for feedback from wounded, ill or injured service members and their families

U.S. DoD Military Health System

The Military Health System invites wounded, ill or injured service members and their families to respond to a new pair of questionnaires designed to help MHS leaders better understand the needs and expectations of the warriors in their care.

The questionnaires—one for wounded, ill or injured service members and one for their family members—are available on the Military Health System Web site and will remain open for completion until Oct. 15.

Both questionnaires ask for feedback concerning a service member's experience and satisfaction with the care he or she has received since becoming wounded, ill or injured.

To encourage honest

and specific answers that will lead to positive changes in how the MHS handles care for wounded, ill or injured service members, all questionnaire responses are anonymous.

Questionnaire results and analysis should be available in November, 2008, at www.health.mil.

These questionnaires are part of Defense Secretary Robert Gates' commitment to supporting wounded, ill and injured service members—ensuring that their care is DoD's top priority.

This care is continually improving but MHS leaders recognize that there is still more to be done. By listening to the opinions of wounded, ill or injured service members and their families, the MHS will be in a better position to meet

their needs and expectations. The online questionnaires are available now at <http://www.health.mil/Pages/Page.aspx?ID=18>.

America's Military Health System is a unique partnership of medical educators, medical researchers, and healthcare providers and their support personnel worldwide. This DoD enterprise consists of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; the medical departments of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Combatant Command surgeons; and TRICARE providers (including private sector healthcare providers, hospitals and pharmacies).

For more information, call 703-681-1750.



Photo by courtesy NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE, AFIP
 Historical photo of the 1918 Spanish influenza ward at Camp Funston, Kan., showing the many patients ill with the flu, should remind all of the importance of getting flu shots.

Vaccinations upcoming as flu season approaches

Story By
JERRY HARBEN
 U.S. Army Medical Command

A quick stick in the arm or a spray in the nose...or a week of headaches, coughing, sneezing, chicken soup and misery, while the unit works shorthanded. Not that hard a choice to make.

Influenza is a contagious respiratory disease that can have serious, even fatal, effects. It threatens military readiness, with the potential to put many service members on sick call instead of on duty. Therefore, all military members are required to be vaccinated against the flu each year.

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated an average of thirty six thousand Americans died annually in the 1990s due to influenza-related complications. Each year five to twenty percent of the United States population gets the flu, resulting in about two hundred thousand people being hospitalized. Vaccination is your best protection against influenza infection," said Army Lt. Col. Patrick M. Garman, deputy director for Scientific Affairs at the Department of Defense Military Vaccine Agency.

"DoD will offer its beneficiaries influenza vaccinations during the flu season in accordance with national guidelines. Certain groups take priority, such as active duty or individuals with chronic diseases like diabetes, and after these groups are adequately taken care of the vaccine will be available to any beneficiary who wishes to be vaccinated," Garman added.

Flu immunizations are mandatory for all active duty, National Guard and reserve personnel. The Department of Defense has established a goal of having 90 percent of these people vaccinated by Dec. 31.

Vaccinations also are mandatory for civilian health-care personnel who provide direct patient care in DoD medical treatment facilities, and for emergency-essential DoD civilian personnel. The vaccine is available by injection or intranasal spray.

"Influenza viruses change from year to year. Protection that develops after a person is infected or is immunized against the circulating viruses of one season does not provide adequate cross-protection when a new influenza strain develops," Garman said.

When the vaccine is well matched to the circulating virus strain, immuniza-

tion of healthy adults has been 70 to 90 percent effective in preventing influenza illness.

"We stress that influenza vaccination should continue until the supply is exhausted or until the expiration date is reached for the vaccine. The highest incidence of disease is usually in February, but influenza can be contracted year round," Garman said.

More information about influenza and influenza vaccinations is available on the Internet from the Military Vaccine Agency at www.vaccines.mil/flu and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/flu/protect.

Influenza is spread through aerosolized respiratory droplets during close contact with an infected person or animal, or through contact with a contaminated object.

In addition to vaccination, experts recommend frequent hand washing and avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

Also, people who are sick should avoid others if possible, wash hands often and cover the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing to prevent the virus from spreading. Most people who receive influenza vaccine experience no serious problems.

Side effects of the injectable vaccine such as soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site, fever, weakness, headache or muscle aches may last one or two days. More serious problems such as severe allergic reactions are rare. Side effects of the intranasal vaccine can include runny nose, headache, fever, cough and sore throat.

People in a few categories, such as children less than 6 months old, those with sensitivity to eggs or egg products, or those with a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, should not receive the influenza vaccine.

While providing flu vaccinations, health-care providers should screen immunization records to see if patients need other vaccines or boosters as well. Military commanders are responsible for ensuring immunization data is entered into electronic immunization tracking systems.

"Find out the hours of operation of your local DoD immunization clinic. Most organizations schedule walk-in clinic hours, so appointments may not be necessary," Garman said.

Or be prepared for that week of misery.

The most wonderful time of the year—ECBC holds 'Back to School' drive



Photo by MAJ JOE SCROCCA
Representatives of Families of the Soldiers of the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Explosives) accept school supply donations from the employees of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center Aug. 4. From left: Dr. Jim Baker, ECBC associate technical director, and 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) Families and representatives Liz Blakeley, Payton Blakeley, Col. Raymond Van Pelt and Mary Doak, ECBC, Ann Porter (foreground), Lucy Porter, Dillon Schueneman, Jordon Blakeley, Kerry Crooks and Mindy Irvine.

Story by
MARY DOAK
ECBC

Is it really the most wonderful time of the year? The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round — and so do frantic parents when it comes to finding just the right school supplies for their children at a price they can afford. These parents can be seen in the local malls

and department stores, with lists in hand, searching for backpacks, notebooks, pencils, crayons and much more and trying to figure out how they can stretch the budget to cover the cost. Unfortunately, this can be a huge burden on Families, particularly military Families with a limited and sometimes single income.

The employees of the

Edgewood Chemical Biological Center recognized this burden and on Aug. 4, a "Back to School" drive was launched to benefit the military Families of the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Explosives) to show appreciation of their service to the nation. Mary Doak, ECBC's program manager for Community and

Educational Outreach, led the drive and the team of volunteers.

Donation boxes were placed in high traffic ECBC buildings and donations were collected over a two-week period.

A few members of the Joint Program Manager for NBC Contamination Avoidance and the RDECOM headquarters staff heard about the drive

and volunteered to support ECBC's drive as well. Dr. Katie Blanding, RDECOM's Educational Outreach Program Manager led the RDECOM headquarters staff drive that provided more than \$100 worth of supplies.

"This is a wonderful idea—a great educational outreach opportunity to support the military children within the community, and I'm happy to do it," Blanding said

The donated items were collected from buildings around the post, sorted by categories, counted so that a historical record could be established and transported via a privately-owned pick up truck.

More than a dozen ECBC employees spent their lunch time and a few early morning and evening hours readying the cornucopia of school supplies for delivery.

ECBC's first annual "Back to School" drive culminated Aug. 21 with huge smiles on the receiving end—the military Families of the 20th Support Command. A truck load of donated school supplies and materials (more than 10,000 items) was delivered to the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) headquarters.

The official hand-off was conducted by Dr. Jim Baker, ECBC associate technical director, with Col. Raymond Van Pelt, deputy commander of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE), accepting the token of appreciation while several military Families watched.

"In the military, we have a tradition of taking care of our own; however, in this particular case, we didn't have to," Van Pelt said. "Today, a predominantly civilian organization stepped up to lend support to our Families, and we are sincerely grateful."

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to ECBC by Van Pelt during the hand-off ceremony.

"It's one small way of expressing our gratitude," said Carolyn Sullivan, an ECBC Library Technician who supported the drive with a large donation.

Nearly sixty Families with more than 100 children reaped the benefits of the drive.

ECBC employees hope that they made this "the most wonderful time of the year" by lessening the burden of "back to school" purchasing and showing them that they really do care.

AMSAA, Tobyhanna leverage strengths to support Warfighter

Story and photo by
JOSEPH FERRARE
RDECOM

Two Army organizations signed an innovative agreement at Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa., Sept. 16, to bring cutting-edge analysis tools to the task of cutting Army maintenance costs while making critical equipment more available for the Warfighter.

The far-reaching agreement was signed by Tobyhanna Army Depot Commander Col. Ron Alberto and U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity Deputy Director Col. Kirk C. Benson.

Tobyhanna Army Depot performs critical repairs for a wide range of Army and Department of Defense Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence and Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems. AMSAA is an element of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and a leading



Dave Zahorsky, chief, Test Program Development Branch, Production Engineering Directorate at Tobyhanna Army Depot explains the workings of a machine used to test printed circuit boards to U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity Deputy Director Col. Kirk C. Benson.

provider of independent analysis of logistics, systems and engineering within the DoD.

Alberto said the agreement will allow the organizations to better serve Soldiers in the field.

"Our newly formed strategic partnership with AMSAA will provide Tobyhanna a vehicle to leverage

the analytical strengths of AMSAA to enhance the overall effectiveness and quality of support we provide to our Warfighter," Alberto said.

Tobyhanna is looking forward to using AMSAA to round out the services the depot can offer its customers.

"Our partnership with AMSAA will augment our current engineering expertise to provide reliability analyses such as Physics of Failure and Reliability Modeling so we can collectively improve the overall reliability and effectiveness of our military equipment while reducing overall maintenance costs. We now have total organic [in-house] capability and provide a single source to our customers," said Jim Mangino director of Production Engineering.

Working closely together will be the key to the partnership, Benson said.

"As Tobyhanna Army Depot identifies new engi-

neering opportunities, AMSAA will apply its core analysis competencies to identify processes or materiel solutions," he said.

That analysis will not only allow Tobyhanna to find new efficiencies, it will help the Army Materiel Command organizations better serve the entire DoD.

"This initiative will further strengthen our organic capabilities within our Army Materiel Command allowing both organizations to fully capitalize and optimize manpower resources," Alberto said.

That optimization will lead to leaner, more effective materiel support, Benson said.

"The partnership will save the Army and Department of Defense in both the short and long term by providing higher equipment availability and also identifying fleet maintenance issues that will result in significant cost savings," Benson said.

Advisors

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like Unger: retired service members or disabled veterans who have been through the benefits process and know what works and what doesn't.

Guard spouses also make up transition assistance ranks, said Alex Baird, the deputy surgeon for the bureau's Warrior Support program, which manages the TAAs. All of them know the process so that Guard members can get the benefits they're entitled, he said.

The process starts with understanding what benefits can be received. TAAs help Guard members receive disability compensation, healthcare through TRICARE, Veterans Benefits Administration enrollment, education benefits and other entitlements.

"You would be absolutely astounded as to how many veterans and their Families do not understand what their benefits are or how to get access to them," Baird said.

Unger assisted the transi-



Photo by LARRY SOMMERS, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Jeff Unger, left, a Wisconsin National Guard transition assistance advisor, counsels Capt. Dan Hanson, his wife Jen, and their children Mitch, Jake and Liz, at his office in Madison, April 4, 2007.

tion of Army Spc. Demond Love, a cannon crew member with Wisconsin's 1st Brigade, 121st Field Artillery. Love's vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb during an Iraq deployment. Back home, he was broadsided by questions.

"I would have come back and I wouldn't have known where to start," Love said. "I was completely dumbfounded. I didn't know what benefits

I was eligible for. I didn't know where to start anything. I just would have been left in the wind."

He was not. Thanks to the efforts of Unger and others, Love found a job and applied for VA benefits he wouldn't have known about.

"I would just call Jeff and he would tell me, 'you're also eligible for this, and 'you might want to look into that,' and all

different kinds of stuff," Love said. "He set me up with different groups like the VFW [Veterans of Foreign Wars] that I didn't know anything about."

The transition assistance didn't stop there. Having been around the military for a while, the TAAs have knowledge and contacts that can help young citizen soldiers and airmen manage their careers.

When Love wanted to

transfer units, Unger made it happen with one phone call, Love said.

TAA help is not limited to Guard members. Unger worked with an 84-year-old World War II veteran who faced large medical bills from multiple surgeries. He had injured himself falling out of a plane in 1944. Unger learned that the veteran had never filed a service-connected disability claim with the VA, which would have entitled him to additional benefits.

"I got him connected with his local veterans' service officer," Unger said. "We got a claim filed with the Veterans' Benefits Association. About four months later, he received notification that he was now one hundred percent totally and permanently-disabled as a result of his service. And we literally changed his standard of living that day."

TAAs hone their skills through constant training.

"The benefits change, the benefits become more complex," Baird said. "We do ongoing training, monthly. We do annual training where the VA

comes in with us."

The monthly training is in the form of a conference call where the TAAs bring up problems to the group to be solved by others with the same experience or, in some cases, the VA representative.

"Our monthly teleconferences are almost like a walking library," said Unger. "Say [the problem] is home loans or life insurance or it's the GI Bill or it's a disability claim."

"Whatever it may be, we get the experts on the line with us and we get an opportunity to go one-on-one with [them]."

For Unger, helping returning veterans is a fulfilling way to spend his retirement.

"To know that when you hang up that phone, or that when they walk out of that office, or when you leave an event, you know in your heart that you did a veteran well," Unger said. "There is no better feeling than to know you've helped somebody like that."

(Editor's note: Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum works at the National Guard Bureau.)