

APG News

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

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See pages 16 and 17 for Year of the NCO articles.

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for April 8, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



Mark your calendars for Aug. 15

FMWR hosts Brooks & Dunn for Army Concert Tour Country music's top singing duo Brooks & Dunn will entertain fans at Aberdeen Proving Ground during the Aug. 15 Army Concert Tour at Shine Sports Field. Special guests include Pat Green and newcomer Katie Rae Davis. Tickets go on sale in late April. A pre-sale of tickets at \$30 for members of the APG community will be held April 21 thru 24. Sales will be walk-in only at the Aberdeen or Edgewood recreation centers. For more information, visit the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Web site, www.apgmwr.com.

Well-Being meeting scheduled

The next Well-Being Action Council Meeting is 9:30 a.m., April 16, in the Edgewood Area Post Chapel.

Register for NSPS training

Upcoming NSPS writing workshops are:

- Sept. 9 (B43) and 16 (B44), NB7SUPV – Writing Effective Supervisor Assessments

There is no cost for this training.

For more information or to register, students must submit a training request through CHRTAS <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas/student/> and be approved by their supervisor.

Aberdeen Test Center change of command ceremony

The Aberdeen Test Center change of command ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m., April 28, at the ATC Main Front, Barricade Two. Col. John P. Rooney will relinquish command to Col. Jeffrey P. Holt.

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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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CBRNE NCO achieves success

NCOA hosts final APG Dining Out

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

With the shining pageantry, customs and courtesies that have defined its existence for more than two decades, the Non-commissioned Officer Academy of the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School celebrated the Year of the NCO while hosting its 9th Annual Dining Out at Top of the Bay March 20.

It was the final dining out for the academy which moves with the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools headquarters to its new home at Fort Lee, Va., later this year.

NCOA Commandant Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Green was the host and guest speaker aided by Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course student and master of ceremonies, Staff Sgt. Vincent Abril.

The evening began with a social hour in the upper mezzanine then moved to the main ballroom after the Call to Mess.

The evening began with a social hour in the upper mezzanine then moved to the main ballroom after the Call to Mess.

Green welcomed the evening's special guests who

See **NCOA**, page 17



Photo by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course Soldiers, from left, Staff Sgt. Demitre Brewer, Sgts. 1st Class Jimmie Jenious, Jerry Maldonado, Frankie Davis and Staff Sgt. Ron St. Louis, recite the words to the song 'Ragged Old Flag' by Johnny Cash during a patriotic skit for the 9th Annual and final Noncommissioned Officer Academy Dining Out at Top of the Bay March 20.

Preventing substance abuse on APG



ASAP alcohol screenings today in Aberdeen and Edgewood areas

ASAP

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program is starting Alcohol Awareness Month with the 5th annual National Alcohol Screening Day April 2.

"I hope the opportunities for increased knowledge and awareness of alcohol related issues will be embraced within the APG community," said Jareta Coyle, APG Alcohol and Drug Control Officer.

This year there will be three sites available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Aberdeen Area site is at the AAFES PX and is co-sponsored by Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and the Edgewood Area site will be at the AAFES Shoppette, co-sponsored by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense.

Free informational materials, displays

and a gift will be given to each person who participates in the screening. The screening survey takes about five minutes and staff on-site will be available to answer questions and make recommendations.

In addition to the on-site screenings, ASAP has made the alcohol screening available on its Web site during the week for those who can't make it to any of the three sites: <https://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/humanresources/asap>.

Throughout the month ASAP will provide information on many alcohol related issues including: alcohol abuse and dependence symptoms; mixing alcohol and medicines; alcohol basics and drinking in moderation.

For more information, contact Cindy Scott, 410-278-4013 or e-mail Cynthia.Scott1@us.army.mil.



Town Hall provides information for APG, Fort Monmouth employees

Story by **ANDRICKA THOMAS**
CECOM LCMC (Forward) Public Affairs

In preparation for the upcoming summer relocation of more than 700 Fort Monmouth employees, Col. Augustus Owens, deputy commander of CECOM Life Cycle Management Command (Forward), held a town hall meeting March 25 at the Edgewood Conference Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Employees slated to leave Fort Monmouth, N.J., as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law implementation attended the meeting via video teleconference from APG. Approximately 50 prospective advanced party volunteers at Fort Monmouth viewed the meeting. Community representatives presented information to employees about local schools, housing markets, extra-curricular activities, banking services, legal services, motor vehicle registrations and licensing, temporary lodging and health care.

"We are aiming to make the transition to APG smoother by bringing information about the local community to the employees," said Lorie Moses, administrative operations officer, CECOM LCMC (Forward).

This was the second Army Team C4ISR (Forward), or Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Forward, town hall meeting, according to Moses. The first meeting was conducted by Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general, CECOM LCMC.

"We want our relocating employees to know that they are not alone," Owens said. "My first priority is taking care of our workforce."

Owens refers to the Army Team C4ISR (Forward) workforce as being 'pioneers' because they are the first employees to arrive at APG in order to prepare the rest of the organization for the BRAC move.

"We operate in a series of crawl, walk, run phases," Owens said.

He said that this summer the command will be in the 'run' phase as it welcomes approximately 700 employees between now and the end of the year. As 2011 nears, the numbers will increase exponentially. With a little more than 350 CECOM LCMC employees now on the ground at APG, Owens and his team have been working to establish a new culture of synergy among C4ISR team members. Presently, many Army Team C4ISR employees are working in the same building, just as they will in 2010 when the team begins to move into the \$477 million Army C4ISR Campus I facility in the Aberdeen Area.

"We are a team," Owens said, "and that's how we operate here. We are responsible for establishing new processes and with that, we foster an environment of information sharing and team work."

Owens compared the CECOM LCMC Forward operation to that of a military ward Operating Base.

"When Soldiers deploy, they are responsible for building an organization from the ground up. That's what we are doing here."

See **BRAC**, page 6

TRAFFIC ALERT

Many changes ahead in Aberdeen Area

DPW

The next several weeks will be a busy time on the roadways in the Aberdeen Area with lane closures and changing traffic patterns on many roads.

The C4 joint venture contractor has advised that they will begin work on the water line installations along Frankford and Bel Air streets on or about April 13. A new water line will be installed alongside Frankford Street from the north side of the Frankford and Susquehanna intersection to the Frankford and Boothby Hill intersection. The work may cause some lane closures and traffic interruptions, and street side parking along Frankford Street will be prohibited during the construction. The work on Bel Air Street will occur from the intersection of Jay Hawk Road, to just south of building 5116. The south bound lane of Bel Air Street will be closed so the water line can be installed.

Elsewhere, construction of the new Combat Drive extension began the week of March 23, and lane closures on Maryland Boulevard are scheduled to start this week in order to construct the new Combat Drive and Maryland Boulevard intersection. These closures will affect both inbound and outbound lanes of Maryland Boulevard. The existing closure of the left (center) west bound lane of Maryland Boulevard will be extended from its current location near the Boothby Hill intersection to just west of Darlington Street. The east bound right lane and shoulder will be closed in the vicinity of the new intersection. There may also be some minor impacts on Boothby Hill Avenue at Combat Drive.

All of the above work will be signed, and traffic flaggers will be used as needed for traffic control.

For more information, contact Jerry Norris, Directorate of Public Works, 410-306-1159.



ARMY FAMILY COVENANT

SOLDIERS ★ FAMILIES ★ ARMY CIVILIANS

Aberdeen Youth of the Year reaches state competition

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

An Aberdeen Proving Ground teen is being praised for a commendable representation of the installation during the Maryland Youth of the Year competition at the State Capitol in Annapolis March 9.

Governor Martin O'Malley hosted the event which is held annually by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Kierra Tenika Kenion, a 17-year-old senior from Aberdeen High School, has been a member of the Aberdeen Area Youth Center for the past 8 years. Through the center, she was selected as the APG Youth of the Year and then nominated through the Aberdeen Youth Center to compete for the Maryland Youth of the Year.

Norma Warwick of the Aberdeen Youth Center said Kenion was selected based on "past accomplishments as someone who would well represent the installation."

"The youth of the year program is basically a scholarship program," Warwick said.

She explained that the nomination process includes documenting how the nominee has demonstrated such qualities as leadership and service in home and Family; moral character; community service; scholastic achievement; service to the club; and initiative in setting and achieving goals. In addition, the candidate must write two essays on designated subjects, which are judged on grammar and content. Monies awarded go toward scholarships for secondary education, with local winners receiving \$3,000; regional \$10,000 and national \$15,000.

"It's a significant program that can prove valuable to youths planning to further their education," Warwick said. "With Kierra, we feel we sent the best of the best."

The competition consisted of Youth of the Year contestants from counties around the state appearing before a six-member panel, all of whom had copies of the contestants' original application, letters of recommendation and essays.

Kenion said that although she was nervous at first, chatting with Warwick and her father Anthony, who accompanied them, before her panel appearance had a calming effect.

"It helped me prepare mentally," she said. "We talked about questions they might ask or things they might be looking for, and we were so focused on the conversation it was relaxing."

"I decided to go in and talk down to earth," she said. "I'm a bright and upbeat person and I wanted that to come through. I could tell they were comfortable with that."

The panel inquiry lasted about 15 minutes and when it ended the panel judges complimented Kenion on her personality and presentation.

"It was a great experience," Kenion said. "I got to meet the governor and our



Aberdeen Proving Ground Youth of the Year, Kierra Tenika Kenion, 17, right, helps second-grader, David Walton, 7, left, and first-grader Tyler Long, 6, center, with their homework assignments during a tutoring session in the Aberdeen Youth Center.

delegates, and I got to experience something I may be able to help someone else prepare for one day."

She said that when she read the comments of those who recommended and evaluated her, she was gratified.

"I learned a lot about myself and what others think of me," she added. "It helped me realize life is pretty wonderful."

A photo of Kenion being congratulated by Governor O'Malley decorates a wall in the Youth Center's reading room.

Lucinda McDowell of the Aberdeen Youth Center was one of several staff members who "watched Kierra grow up."

"Her maturity and leadership skills are awesome," McDowell said. "When you ask her to do something you know it's going to get done. We're all very proud of her."

About Kierra Tenika Kenion

Kenion is a dual-enrollment senior who takes morning classes at Aberdeen High School and afternoon courses at Harford Community College. She graduates in June and has been accepted to Towson University where she plans to major in either psychology or sociology. Kenion maintains a 4.25 grade point average in high school and a 4.0 GPA at HCC.

She is the daughter of Rosalind Kenion, a human resources supervisor with Northeast Region Civilian Personnel, and Anthony Kenion, pastor of the Emmanuel Christian Center in Joppa and a produce manager at the Aberdeen Wal-mart.

Rosalind Kenion called her daughter, "a very intelligent, focused and determined young lady who gets upset if she gets anything less than an 'A.'"

"We're very proud of Kierra," she

said. "She has a calling in life to inspire others and she is an inspiration to her two siblings. We always taught her to put God first and everything else will fall in line."

Kenion's past and current club affiliations include Teen Supreme, Smart Girls, and D.A.R.E., as well as the Delta Gems, a 6-month program that focuses teens on the transition from childhood to adulthood. She also serves as a student journalist on the AHS newspaper, 'Blue and Gold,' sings in the AHS gospel choir and volunteers as a tutor for elementary school children at the Aberdeen Youth Center.

In addition to all that she is very active in her father's church, serving as usher, greeter or wherever she is needed.

The oldest of three siblings, Kenion said she spent a few unpleasant years in the Baltimore school system before the Family moved to Harford County where her love of learning blossomed and grew.

"I had always kept to myself and when I got here I wasn't used to people being nice or friendly," she said.

What makes this youth so special

At the age of 3, Kenion was diagnosed with Proteus Syndrome, a rare congenital disorder that causes skin overgrowth and atypical bone development. It is a progressive condition, wherein children are usually born without any obvious deformities. The disease has been linked to the so called Elephant Man, Joseph Merrick who after his death was diagnosed with having an extreme case of Proteus Syndrome along with neurofibromatosis.

From the waist, down, Kenion's body is much larger in proportion to her upper body. Her legs are very wide and she

wears a size 17 shoe. The condition limits her physically, and she has never been able to play sports with her friends.

She said she took solace in her studies and in her faith and declared proudly that her condition is what brought her father to God.

She said that doctors determined, while she was still in the womb, that she would be born with Downs Syndrome. They suggested an abortion. Her parents refused and prayed instead.

"My father promised God that if he gave him a child of sound mind, he would serve him the rest of his life," she said.

Kenion did have a club foot which was broken and straightened; however, by her third birthday problems with her legs had set in. Concern over her blood vessels and circulation issues caused doctors to recommend amputation.

Again they refused. "Today he [my father] is a minister, and I still have my legs," she smiled.

Kenion said she and her father are working to establish a Proteus Syndrome foundation in Maryland.

"I hope to inspire people so they can see that they can overcome obstacles," she said. "I stay active to show others that regardless of your situation, you can do more."

National Youth of the Year Program

Sponsored by The Reader's Digest Association, the National Youth of the Year Program is designed to promote and recognize service to club and community, academic performance and contributions to Family and spiritual life.

Canadian government honors ancestor of APG civilian

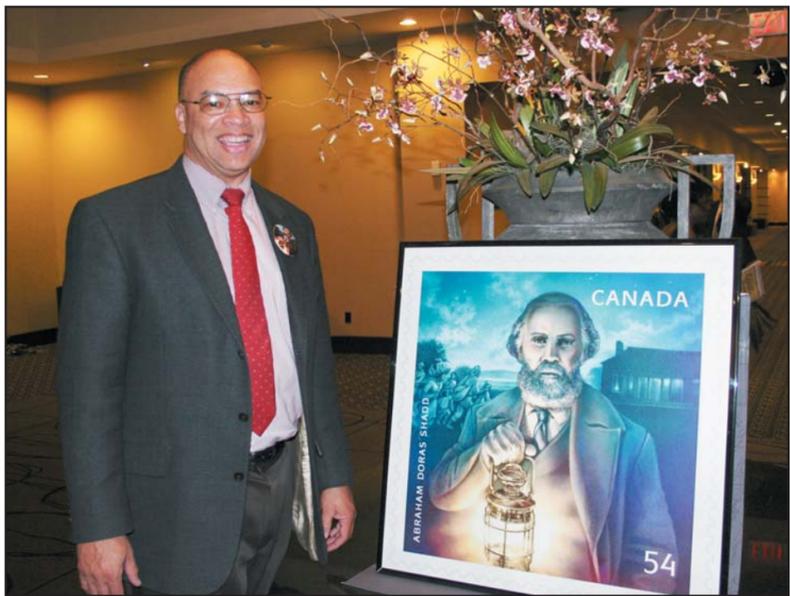


Photo courtesy of JANNMICHAEL SHADD GRAINE
Jannichael Shadd Graine, an APG Garrison solid waste manager, poses next to a poster of a Canadian stamp honoring his great-great-great grandfather, Abraham Doras (A.D.) Shadd, an abolitionist who became the first black person elected to public office in Canada during the stamps' unveiling ceremony at the Toronto Congress Center in Toronto, Ontario, Feb. 21.

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Although pride in his Family roots has always run deep for one Aberdeen Proving Ground civilian, he never imagined that an entire nation would one day share that pride and in fact showcase his Family for all to see.

Jannichael Shadd Graine is the solid waste/qualified recycling program manager in the Environmental Compliance Branch of the APG Garrison's Directorate of Public Works.

Graine also is the great-great-great grandson of Abraham Doras (A.D.) Shadd (1801-1882), a free-born black and prosperous shoemaker who devoted his life to the abolitionist movement. Shadd was born in Mill Creek Hundred, Del. He played a major role in the Underground Railroad, a secret route through which slaves were guided to freedom in Canada. As "stationmaster" and "conductor" for the railroad, he provided escaping refugees with food, shelter, clothing and guidance.

In 1851, Shadd and his Family moved

to southern Ontario's North Buxton area, where they joined many of those he guided to freedom.

The Buxton community prospered and grew into a showcase of self-sufficiency in business and education.

Shadd prospered as well. He was the first black person to serve in Canadian public office when he was elected to the Council of Raleigh, Ontario, in 1859, and he was an active participant in the founding of the American Anti-Slavery Society. Shadd died in 1882, and in 1994 the main road that runs through North Buxton was named A.D. Shadd Road in his honor.

In January and February of this year, the Canadian government celebrated Black History Month in all of its major cities with the unveiling of Canadian postage stamps recognizing the nation's black Canadians.

A postage stamp honoring A.D. Shadd was unveiled during a ceremony at the Toronto Congress Center Feb. 21.

With a host of relatives, most of whom still reside in Canada, in atten-

See STAMP, page 3

APG News

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APG loses DPW 'mainstay' Harry Greveris

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground community is coping with the sudden loss of Harry Greveris, Directorate of Public Works deputy director serving as acting director, who passed away suddenly March 23.

A Department of the Army employee for nearly 43 years, Greveris held a wealth of knowledge about the inner workings of the installation that will be missed by all who knew him.

Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, called Greveris "a true hero who dedicated more than four decades of his life to serving Soldiers, the Army, and our nation."

"Harry never settled for the status quo," Weissman said. "He always went 'above and beyond' to develop new ways of doing business. He spearheaded numerous innovations that were often adopted by other installations and Army-wide, and his efforts in energy conservation, enhanced use lease and other public-private ventures are often held up as the model for the Army.

"Harry's efforts will be seen and felt on this installation for decades to come. He will be sorely missed. The APG community lost a great public servant, and a trusted friend," Weissman said.

Retired Col. John T. Wright, former APG Garrison commander, said he would remember Greveris for his energy and dedication.

"Harry was a mainstay in the DIO [DPW was formerly the Directorate of Installation Operations] and a strong advocate for doing the right thing," Wright said. "He had a great zest for life and a passion for his work. Aberdeen Proving Ground and the Army have lost a great professional, advocate and friend."



Greveris' responsibilities put him in touch with garrison and tenant activities across the installation. Those who came in contact with him remember him as a knowledgeable professional who put the needs of his customers first.

Carl Wheeler, DPW electrical leader, said he would remember Greveris for his common sense approach to everything.

"Harry would always say, 'When you come to me with a problem, have a solution,' and 'Use common sense when you do anything,'" Wheeler recalled. "He loved teaching, and he taught me a lot about how to treat people and how to establish working relationships with customers. He had more information in his head than I'd have if I read every book in America. He was a great teacher, and he'll be sorely missed."

Sandy Cormack of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center said he knew Greveris for more than 20 years as both a garrison employee and as an ECBC customer.

"I knew him to be a problem solver who was acutely aware of his customers' needs and willing to go the extra mile for

them," Cormack said, adding that after he left the garrison nothing changed.

"I could call him whenever I wanted and bounce ideas off him," he said. "He could be very tough but was always fair-minded. He relied on those of us who used to work for the garrison to help shape APG's strategy for the future."

Greveris' secretary Jacqueline Davis said that Greveris was not only intelligent and knowledgeable, but willing to share that knowledge as well.

"No matter how busy he was - and as the [acting] director of DPW he was very busy - Harry always took time to answer me if I had a question, and he was like that with everyone who found their way to his office," Davis said.

"He was supportive of his people, and he gave them credit for being skilled at their jobs. His one overriding attribute, however, was that he truly loved his job.

Aberdeen Proving Ground has lost a loyal employee, and we at DPW have lost a priceless friend," she said.

Teresa Porter, who was Greveris' secretary for several years before becoming secretary to the garrison commander, remembered Greveris as a problem solver.

"Fellow workers from all over the installation sought his advice," Porter said. "He was gifted with a wealth of knowledge."

She said he was an excellent writer and a "real math whiz" who took whatever he did seriously whether he was at work or volunteering as a math tutor with the Harford County Tutorial Society.

Most of all, Greveris loved his grandson Dylan, Porter said, adding that he kept a card with a recorded message from him on his desk.

"I would push the little button and Dylan's voice would speak and Harry would always smile," she said. "Whatev-

er he was troubled about seemed to vanish. I will surely miss him."

Harry A. Greveris

Greveris was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, July 8, 1942.

He began his civil service career with the Army in June 1966.

His former positions include deputy director, DIO; chief of APG Engineering, Plans and Services Division; chief, Facility Engineers, Baumholder, Germany; chief, Engineering Resource Management Division, Baumholder, Germany; chief, Plans and Operations Division, Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.; mechanical engineer, U.S. Army Tropic Test Center, Panama Canal Zone; and research physicist, Frankford Arsenal, Pa.

During his career he attended numerous high-level Army courses and received several Army Awards for Excellence.

He received a master's in mechanical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and bachelor's degrees from Temple University and Boston College, and he was a Registered Professional Engineer with the state of New York.

Greveris was active in his community as a tutor for the Tutorial Society, a community mediator for Harford County government's Community Outreach Program and as a member of Harford County Public School's Study Circle Program.

Greveris leaves his wife Maryangela of Churchville, one son, Robert Greveris of Abingdon, a grandson, Dylan Short of Bel Air, a brother, a sister and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

A funeral service for Harry Greveris was held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aberdeen March 28. Condolences may be left for the Family at www.tarringcorgo.com.

Stamp

From page 2

dance, Graine and his cousin, Blaine White of Etobicoke, Ontario, had the honor of unveiling the stamp.

Grain said the event, which was hosted by the Congress of Black Women of Canada, Ontario Region, was a proud and momentous occasion for his family.

"We've always been proud of our history, and it was nice to see that he was finally getting recognition for the things he did," Grain said.

At least 30 news organizations were in attendance and Graine was interviewed by the Toronto Star as well as the Dover Post, which also sent a representative due to Shadd's Delaware roots.

He said Family members chose him for the unveiling because he had traveled the greatest distance.

"Over the years, there have been a number of black heritage stamps but these were only the second and third stamps of blacks in Canada," Graine said.

The A.D. Shadd stamp was unveiled along with one of Rosemary Brown (1930-2003), a noted civil rights advocate who was the first black woman elected to public office in Canada. Brown was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in the British Columbia legislature in 1972.

The Shadd legacy

A.D. Shadd was also the father of Mary Ann Shadd Cary, (1823 - 1893), an abolitionist and suffragette who fought for integrated education, battled segregationists and started the first integrated school in Canada.

She became the first female newspaper editor, "The Provincial Freeman," in Canada, the first African American woman to enroll in the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., and the first black female attorney in North America.

She also appeared before the House Judiciary Committee to argue for the right of women to vote (with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton), and during the 1870s, while practicing law, she lectured throughout the United States about the improvement of education for African Americans.

Graine said that Mary Ann Shadd Cary was inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame in 1998 and into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1999.

Her story is told in the books "A Plea for Immigration - Mary A. Shadd" edited by Richard Almonte, 1998; and "Mary and Shadd Cary: The Black Press and Protest in the Nineteenth Century" by Jane Rhodes, 1998; and "The Life and Times of Mary Shadd Cary" by Jim Bearden and Linda Jean Butler, 1977.

North Buxton

Graine said that in the 1830s A.D. Shadd was an active participant in the founding of the American Anti-Slavery Society. Also during this time the Back-to-Africa movement was growing, however, Shadd led the Freed Men's organization that resisted such a calling.

"My grandfather said 'We're Americans. We helped build this country,'" Graine said, "but by the 1850s things were getting out of hand and he had to look hard at leaving for Canada."

Graine said that the Shadd Family moved to Canada due to the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which authorized the return of runaway slaves

no matter where in the Union they were found. This was an enormous problem for free blacks who had to carry "free papers" at all times.

"You couldn't lose those papers or you were subject to return to slavery," he said. "Even blacks who were born free and had never been slaves were at risk."

Once A.D. Shadd and his Family moved to Canada, he brought a farm and settled into the community of Buxton, one of several terminal towns of the Underground Railroad.

According to the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum, blacks regarded the opportunity to create and raise Families as the most precious gem offered by refuge in Canada.

Graine said that Buxton was success-

ful due to its rules.

"You had to buy, not lease, fifty acres

See STAMP, page 16

Defense Acquisition University and Webster University sign academic partnership agreement

SSCF

Representatives from the Defense Acquisition University and Webster University signed Addendum 3 to a Memorandum of Understanding March 6 in the CNE's Shannon Conference Room, building 206, Fort Belvoir, Va., thereby enhancing the educational partnership between the two organizations.

The agreement recognizes and formalizes Webster's commitment to provide academic support to the CNE Region's Senior Service College Fellowship Program at Aberdeen Proving Ground beginning with the inaugural class that starts on July 27.

Barbara Downs, coordinator, DAU Programs, Webster University, accompanied by Dr. Carl T. Richards, regional director, Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Region and States and representing Dr. James Staley, vice president for Academic Affairs, Webster University and Robert L. Daugherty, dean, Capital and Northeast, DAU participated in the signing.

Webster University will play an integral role in supporting the 10-month SSCF Program by providing two courses, offering other graduate-level courses, and in awarding transfer credits leading to a master of arts in management and leadership.

The two graduate-level courses will be delivered in an online format and will be focused on managerial and executive leadership. These two courses, Management 5670 – Managerial Leadership and

Management 5870 – Issues: Developing Executive Leaders accounting for six credit hours, are embedded within the SSCF core curriculum and as such are a critical, mandatory element of the 10-month Program.

Webster University will offer the full repertoire of required graduate-level courses, also in an online format, in the fields of human resource management and development, business and management for those fellows that opt to participate in the optional M.A. in management and leadership program of study.

In addition to providing and granting six hours for the embedded courses in the curriculum, Webster University will also award an additional 12 transfer credit hours to each fellow in recognition of the required academic effort and rigor found within the SSCF Program. Notably, upon successful completion of the SSCF Program, each fellow will have completed 18 of the 36 credit hours required for a M.A. in management and leadership. As such, each fellow is well-postured to complete and earn their M.A. in management and leadership degree during the course of the five nine-week terms that will occur during the 10-month academic period or in close proximity to this period.

Originally established as a small, private college in the suburbs of St. Louis, Mo., in 1915, Webster University has grown over the years into an international network with over 100 campuses in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Webster University is a recognized leader in providing educational opportunities to an expansive community – a community of more than 21,000 students that includes traditional college-age students through adult learners and representing more than 150 different nationalities.

Webster University brings 35 years of academic service and experience in supporting the Department of Defense and military students. Providing academic program support at 43 installations combined with their advisory service at an additional 16 military installations, as well as their academic partnerships with 24 DoD and military professional schools unequivocally makes Webster University one of the largest providers of graduate level courses to the military community.

“Webster University is uniquely attuned to understanding and meeting the academic needs of DoD employees, military students and military organizations,” Daugherty said.

A proven, innovative organization, Webster University is postured to continue their legacy of military support and service when it helps develop the first cohort of Department of the Army civilian participants in the upcoming SSCF Program at APG.

DAU is the DoD's corporate university responsible for providing education and training support to the defense acquisition workforce community. DAU promotes career-long learning through the Continuous Learning Center; delivers

performance support to the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Workforce through consulting, Rapid Deployment Training, and targeted training; facilitates knowledge sharing through online resources and communities of practice; and provides Human Capital Strategic Planning for the AT&L Workforce. DAU supports the AT&L Workforce by coordinating and delivering the education and training support through its five regional campuses located in the United States or at other locations around the world.

DAU's CNE Region Campus at Fort Belvoir, Va., serves the National Capital Region and five states and plays a vital role in delivering the full-range of support to the AT&L workforce across the Region. CNE holds MOUs and Strategic Partnerships with numerous DoD and other federal organizations throughout the region.

“The new strategic partnership with Webster University represents a major milestone in CNE Region's journey of establishing the SSCF Program at APG,” Oman said.

Other CNE participants observing the event included: Robert Spangler, associate dean, Outreach & Performance Support; James R. Oman, site manager, SSCF Program; Miriam Cohe, chair, Business, Cost Estimating, Financial Management; Raleigh Jimenez, chair, Contract Management; and Linda K. Perry, executive administrative assistant to the Dean.

LaGrange gets the job done well

Receives Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Story and photo by

KRISTEN SZYDLOSKI

U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

“What you put into life is what you get out of it,” said Barbara C. LaGrange, a financial management specialist at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and a recent recipient of the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

LaGrange put a lot into her administrative work at the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program and what she got was recognition for her outstand-

ing contributions at the program known as ACWA from 2000-2008.

She left the chemical weapons destruction program last October to accept a promotion at ECBC.

“Barb was the ultimate team player,” said Joseph J. Novad, LaGrange's former supervisor and deputy program manager at ACWA who presented the award to her in a surprise ceremony March 5. “She was always ready and willing to help anyone.”

“I'm still in a state of shock,” LaGrange said. “I think of this award

as very prestigious and never thought it would happen to me. The award has boosted my self worth and confidence.”

Although it may have come as a shock to LaGrange, it was deemed appropriate by ACWA staff for her eight years of tireless support to the ACWA program.

“Her positive outlook and cheery attitude made it easier to get through the tough issues,” Novad said.

With nearly 21 years of federal service, she said she remains modest by working hard every day to simply get

the job done.

To receive the Commander's Award, an individual has to “accomplish supervisory or nonsupervisory duties in an outstanding manner, demonstrate initiative and skill in devising new or improved work methods, demonstrate leadership in performing assigned duties, render professional or public relations service, or demonstrate courage and competence in an emergency.”

“It's clear that LaGrange is an employee who is doing more than just getting the job done,” Novad said.

USAF Detachment hosts Training Wing commander

Story and by
SUSAN ANDERSON
APG News Intern

The commander of the 82nd Training Wing, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, visited the U.S. Air Force 361st Training Squadron, Detachment 1, March 19 to meet with the Airmen and inspect their facilities at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Brig. Gen. O.G. Mannon, the first flag officer to visit the detachment in almost two years, said that since taking command last July he has made it a priority to visit all of the young Airmen under his command. He said his intent is to ensure that they always receive the world class USAF training and preparation that they deserve, as well as remind them of the awesome responsibility and pride that comes with serving in the USAF and U.S. Armed Services.

Mannon added that he specifically wanted to reinforce the detachment's sense of support from the highest levels, especially at this time of transition when their relocation is definite yet the details still uncertain, as well as thank the Army for hosting them on behalf of the entire USAF.

Detachment Commander Maj. Louis Cumming also stated that he really appreciates the outstanding support from the Army at APG.

"I appreciate the responsiveness from APG whenever we've needed anything at all, but I believe that relocating the detachment to Sheppard Air Force Base [Wichita Falls, Texas, by September 2011 under the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005] is in the best interest of the United States Air Force and the Airmen," Cumming said. "Maintaining the culture and motivation is difficult at APG, but this move will help improve those areas and strengthen the 'bluing' process of our Airmen."

A briefing by Cumming



Brig. Gen. O.G. Mannon, commander, 82nd Training Wing, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, left, receives instruction on the proper use of the tigwelder from Staff Sgt. Paul Wanamaker, U.S. Air Force 361st Training Squadron, Detachment 1. Tigwelding is a skill taught as part of the Aircraft Metals Technology Apprenticeship Course at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools.

kicked off a three-hour tour of the detachment's facilities, including the detachment headquarters, the Airmen dormitory in William Ocker Memorial Hall, the department for welding in Cohen Hall and the machining element in Dickson Hall.

At the end of his tour, Mannon met with all of the Airmen in the school at Detachment 1 headquarters, at one point asking them each to take out a USAF coin.

"You've earned your stripes in this organization," Mannon said. "The Marines like to say that they don't take applications, they take commitments. It's no different with the Air

Force, and that is what your coin signifies... Each of you is a part of the next legacy. Remember that."

Instruction of the 81 Airmen encompasses one core class: The Aircraft Metals Technology Apprenticeship Course, and two advanced classes: Heat Treatment and Computer Numerical Control and Computer Aided Manufacturing.

Mannon was quick to point out to students that wherever their lives may take them, whether it includes a long career with the USAF or not, they are receiving invaluable world-class training.

"In your four months here
See USAF, page 7



Mannon, left, takes time to introduce himself to students enrolled in the Computer Numerical Control and Computer Aided Manufacturing at Detachment 1. From left, the Airmen are Airman Travis Teal, Airman 1st Class Preston Hunter, Airmen Keith Holland and Derek Johnson.

Technology gaps are not holes, but opportunities

Story by
AMY WALKER
PEO C3T

With science and technology, or S&T funding constrained during this time of war, it helps to efficiently identify and fill gaps between Warfighter needs and technology solutions.

With that in mind, the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical, or PEO C3T, Technology Transition, or T2, Strategy reached a milestone for a new method of focusing collaboration between the acquisition and the science and technology communities at the Technology Gaps Panel Session at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, late last year.

As in the past, the panel focused on pinpointing and prioritizing technology gaps. PEO C3T defines T2 as the incorporation and utilization of S&T deliver-

ables into an acquisition program to fill technology gaps.

"I'm proud of these PMs, [project managers]," said Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, PEO C3T. "Their technology insertions radically changed the face of our world."

The TGPS is a forum for the senior acquisition and S&T leaders to provide valuable guidance into the T2 processes, migration strategies and technology gaps. The results of the TGPS will be used to formulate the PEO Top-20 prioritization of technology gaps, which will then be published in the Technology Transition Matrix. The T2 Matrix is a repository tool to provide the management and overview of the prioritized technology gaps, along with the correlating S&T projects and the current transition status.

"How can we engineer change in

a POR [programs of record]?" Justice asked. "I look to the S&T community to help with this and to help drive the cost down by providing value engineering insertions to programs of record."

Technology gaps are not new requirements or "holes" in PORs, but targets of opportunity where S&T resources can be applied for several main purposes, including risk reduction and alternative approaches that affect size, weight and power (SWaP), cost, schedule and performance. Technology gaps are also used to enhance current capabilities towards program migration strategies, to improve enterprise effectiveness and efficiency of C3T weapons systems and to achieve high pay-off objective requirements.

Those S&T deliverables are divided into two categories: (1) software and

hardware components, and (2) intellectual property, which include algorithms, technical analysis reports, architectural design documents and specifications.

"This is not meant to be a capstone event," Justice told the panel members. "This is meant to be an engagement to continue a broader discussion on how, through better engineering capabilities in the Army, we can better leverage all of the (S&T) efforts we have, and offer you the opportunity to grab hold of a bunch of PMs and product managers who are willing to roll up their sleeves and help you guys figure out how to get that effort into programs of record and make them have legs."

The knowledge and expertise of the panel members enables them to highlight any technology gaps that might have been missed in the initial gap identification process. Utilizing a panel that

See **TECHNOLOGY**, page 12

BRAC

From front page

he said. "Army Team C4ISR employees are serving in innovative roles as they shape a new culture before moving into the new building."

In contrast to Fort Monmouth, the C4ISR employees will inhabit nine buildings after the BRAC move is completed, compared to the 40 to 50 buildings used by employees at Fort Monmouth.

"It's about creating a close-knit community," Owens said. "Working closely will increase synergy and collaboration within our organization. Ultimately, our end user-the Soldier-will benefit by us working together."

As employees relocate in the coming months, the Forward Command Group will continue to host a variety of events to facilitate the move through weekly Fireside Chats, bi-weekly in-processing orientations, monthly meet and greet events, monthly field trips to the construction site of the new facility, and quarterly town hall meetings.

The command also has a sponsorship program in which Army Team C4ISR APG employees are matched with a relocating employee with similar interests and circumstances.

"It's been a real success," said Karen Quinn-Doggett, CECOM LCMC (Forward) assistant to the deputy commander. "Ninety-seven percent of those who received sponsors recommend that newcomers request a sponsor." She said the



Photo by ANDRICKATHOMAS, CECOM LCMC (FORWARD) PUBLIC AFFAIRS Col. Augustus L. Owens, deputy commander of CECOM Life Cycle Management Command (Forward), conducts an Army Team C4ISR town hall meeting March 25 for employees to get acclimated to the APG area. Fort Monmouth employees slated to move in the coming months also attended the meeting via video teleconference.

program tries to not only assimilate newcomers with APG, but also introduce them to the surrounding communities.

At the close of the town hall meeting, employees were given the opportunity to ask questions to a panel of community representatives. One employee who moved from Fort Monmouth volunteered to share some of his experiences and lessons learned with the audience.

"I know what it's like to make this move, so I wanted to give others the benefit of my experiences," said Mike Valdez, Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Tactical. "The amount of information they

gave here was helpful. I recommend that relocating employees take advantage of the bus trips and tours this area offers."

Valdez was one of the last volunteers to move in fiscal year 2008. Before his move at the end of September 2008, he made several visits to the area.

"It's not as stressful as everyone thinks it is," he said in hindsight. "I think people planning to purchase a home should decide how much they want to spend before they move, and stand their ground with the realtor. That's my best advice." Valdez is currently serving in the sponsorship program to help others who are making the move.

"Our goal is to have a seamless transi-

tion in the eyes of the Warfighter. At the end of the day, we don't want any disruption to our mission," Owens said.

The next town hall meeting will be scheduled for June. More information will be provided via email as the date approaches.

Resources

CECOM LCMC Sponsorship Program:

The sponsorship program connects relocating employees with employees residing in the APG area to facilitate the moving process and give the newcomer a point of contact to ask questions about the community. For more information or to become a sponsor, call Lorie Moses, 410-436-2840.

School Liaison: The school liaison office assists incoming parents with information about the area schools and other programs. For details, call Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857.

APG Office of the Staff Judge Advocate: The APG Office of the Staff Judge Advocate provides information about Maryland real estate laws and reviews Permanent Change of Station voucher claims according to the Joint Travel Regulation once employees are in Maryland. For more information, call 410-278-1583.

For information from the Fort Monmouth Legal Office about real estate reimbursement claims in accordance to the Joint Travel Regulation, call 732-532-4371. Legal Office personnel will not represent individuals for a purchase or sale, but will provide information about the JTR.

APG Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation: To learn more about activities offered on APG, or to get information about temporary lodging for incoming employees, call 410-273-1816/1817.

APG Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor-Regional BRAC Office: This office will assist in finding information about the region to include housing prices, economic trends in the area, etc. For more information visit www.apg-cssc.com.

APG Federal Credit Union: To learn about banking services at APG, visit www.apgfcu.com.

LiveBaltimore.com: This Web site is dedicated to marketing Baltimore City as a place to live. They are sponsoring two events: "City Living Rental Tour" 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 4 and "Smart Homebuying Night" 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., April. For more information about Baltimore City life, real estate and schools, visit LiveBaltimore.com or contact the BRAC relocation manager at 410-637-3750 or via e-mail at sgondol@livebaltimore.com.

Baltimore's Child: This free monthly publication provides information about the area as it relates to children, including day care, summer camps/activities, school information, sports programs, etc. For more information, visit www.baltimoreschild.com.

Cecil County Office of Economic Development: Cecil County is a rural county just north of Harford County and home to many APG employees. To learn more about the area, visit www.ccgov.org/dept_ecdev.

Harford County Office of Economic Development: APG sits near the heart of Harford County. To learn more about the county, visit www.harfordcountymd.gov/economic_development.

Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration: For information about Maryland vehicle registration, etc., visit www.marylandmva.com.

Upper Chesapeake Hospital: Upper Chesapeake works to provide high-quality healthcare in the APG area. To learn more about Upper Chesapeake, visit www.uchs.org.

Chapel News

Commentary on Palm Sunday: 'Choosing to suffer'



By
**CHAPLAIN (COL)
RUBEN D. COLON**
Installation Chaplain APG

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week for Christians. During this week Christians recall the passion of Christ, His death and resurrection. Its significance can best be explained by the following story.

Some years ago there appeared a story of an oil sheik in the near east who got religion or, as they say, he was converted.

He was advised that his lifestyle wasn't really conducive to a Christian way of life and that what he needed to do was adopt the style of the poor and to know something of their suffering.

So he proceeded, each morning, to dress as a beggar and leave his palace. He would walk across his Persian rugs and climb into the back seat of his Rolls Royce, and his chauffeur would drive into the city until they reached the slums. The shiek would get of the car and assume the stance of a beggar on the street.

Now, at first, we would say this is an analogy of what God did for us in Christ—the rich king becoming a beggar for the sake of his subjects, a familiar image in Christian tradition and devotion.

But, there's one hitch, one detail that makes this story different. Every evening, just when it got dark, when it was no longer safe to be on the streets, the Rolls Royce would wind its way back through the streets and pick up this sheik and return him to the comfort and safety of the palace.

There is a moment of victory and triumph for Jesus as he enters Jerusalem. You see, he didn't have to go into Jerusalem that Palm Sunday, he could have just turned that little donkey around and gone the other way.

Jesus voluntarily chose to suffer. He did it, as a means of redemption for sinners, not for self-satisfaction. Christ identified himself with human suffering as a means of eliminating or at least alleviating it. He could have easily escaped a great deal of suffering.

He could have played it safe as the disciples wished him to do and avoid a sad week. But no, instead Christ knew that his life and mission would fail if he had done just so. If for a second Christ would have lost faith, he knew that our salvation would be lost.

The message on this Palm Sunday for Christians is that He invites us to join Him in his suffering. He is still the means of redeeming us from ourselves.

Believers are called into the fellowship of his suffering. True, the Palm Sunday parade sounds like more fun than the Rose Bowl, but it is only to those who join with Christ in his passion not his parade that can know him and share in the fellowship of his redemption.

USAF

From page 5

you get training that would take over a year to get on the outside," Mannon said.

As Mannon departed APG, he reinforced his appreciation for the opportunity to visit the detachment, gratitude for the Army's host support, and pride for not only the students of the detachment but for the instructors and military training leaders as well.

"I'm really proud of the young people who work here, isolated from the big blue Air Force. They have continued to give the these young Airmen their second phase of training and continued to make them better Airmen, so that they're combat ready when they leave here," Mannon said.

"We have great young people in our United States Air Force, really, really wonderful. I would hate to compete with them now. I don't think I'd do very well. They're that good. They're that smart. Where Sheppard is one of the crown jewels, this is one of the smaller sapphires because of what they train and how well they train," he said.

Holy Season worship schedule

Easter Sunrise Worship Service

The Aberdeen Area Chapel will hold a combined Easter Sunrise Worship Service, 7 a.m., April 12, on the front lawn of the chapel.

In case of inclement weather, the service will be held inside the sanctuary of the chapel. Refreshments will be served in the social hall immediately after the service.

For more information, call 410-278-4333.

Lenten holy week schedule

Catholic Services - Aberdeen Area

- April 3, 6 p.m., Stations of the Cross; movie "The Passion of the Christ," Mel Gibson's movie about the arrest, trial, torture, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
- April 5, 8:30 a.m., Palm Sunday Mass
- April 10, 3 p.m., Good Friday Stations of the Cross
- April 11, 8 p.m., Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
- April 12, 8:30 a.m., Easter Sunday Mass

Lenten program

Lenten Programs, 6:30 to 8:15 p.m., every Wednesday during Lent

- April 8, "Living Stations of the Cross"

Edgewood Area

- April 5, 10:45 a.m., Palm Sunday Mass
- April 9, 7 p.m., Holy Thursday mass, Adoration
- April 12, 10:45 a.m., Easter Sunday Mass

For more information or to volunteer to make soup, call Connie Richardson, 410-676-0179, e-mail car0992@comcast.net.

Jewish events

Family Passover Seder

Join the celebration of Passover, "The Jewish Liberation from Slavery," 6 to 9 p.m., April 9, at Temple Adas Shalom Harford Jewish Center located on 8 North Earlington Road Ext., Havre de Grace. The Family Passover Seder includes seder plates and matzah for every table, gefilte fish, chicken soup with matzah balls, chicken and gravy, vegetables and assorted pesach desserts.

For more information, call Lt. Col. Jonas Vogelhut, 410-436-4102, or e-mail jonas-vogelhut@us.army

Community Notes

FRIDAY

APRIL 3

VARIETY QUARTER AUCTION

The Aberdeen Lioness Lions will host a Variety Quarter Auction, 7 p.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall located on 201 Mount Royal Avenue, Aberdeen. Doors open 6 p.m. Cost is \$2 per paddle, maximum two paddles per person. There will be a Golden Paddle raffle. Food and drinks will be available. Proceeds benefit community service projects. Bring a non-perishable food item for a bonus prize ticket.

For more information, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

ARTS BY BAY GALLERY

OPENING NIGHT

The Arts & Entertainment Committee of Havre de Grace Main Street, Inc. will hold an Opening Night Premier Exhibit of Arts by the Bay Gallery at 500-B Warren Street, Havre de Grace, at 7 p.m.

Mediums include Harford County landscapes, local watercolors, statues and reliefs from local sculptor, one-of-a-kind jewelry, shorebird paintings and carvings, wildlife watercolors from local artists and more.

This unique gallery showcases only the work of Harford County artisans. Refreshments will be served.

RSVP to Havre de Grace Main Street at 410-939-1811 or e-mail hdgmainstreet@verizon.net.

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit Harford County Sheriff Benevolence Fund, will be held 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Fire Hall on Rodgers Street. Tickets cost \$12 person; extra packs cost \$5 each. Doors open at 6 p.m. Food and Drinks will be available. Bring a non-perishable food item for a bonus prize.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Barb Pascal, 410-322-7822 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY

APRIL 4

WACVA MEETING

Freestate Chapter 70 of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association will meet 11 a.m. at the Aberdeen Senior Center on Franklin Street. Plans for the Spring Party for women patients at the Perry Point VA Medical Center will be discussed.

Chapter membership is open to women who are serving or have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard; active, National Guard and Reserve.

For more information, contact June Adcock, 2nd vice president, 410-939-1429.

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo will be held 7 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Catholic School located on 810 Aiken Avenue, Perryville. Doors open 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 per person; extra packs cost \$5 each. Food and drinks will be available. Bring a non-perishable food item for a bonus prize.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-642-6265 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

APRIL 3 & 4

KIDS HELPING KIDS

Priceless Angels, a division of Priceless Moments Bridal in Fallston, is holding its first annual prom dress consignment sale 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 3 and 4 to help raise funds for the Cool Kids Campaign.

The event, called "Kids Helping Kids," will allow individuals to sell their dresses and make some money or buy a dress for half the original prices. People can make money, buy a beautiful gown at an extremely affordable price and help support the efforts of the Cool Kids organization.

Military and Family members will receive a 10% discount on purchases. For more information, call Kara M. Brown, Priceless Angels event coordinator, 410-877-7775.

SUNDAY

APRIL 5

EASTER BUNNY VISITS AMERICAN LEGION POST 17

The Easter Bunny will visit the American Legion Edgewood Service Post 17 located on 415 Edgewood Road, 1 to 3 p.m. Have pictures taken with the Easter Bunny and receive a goody bag, cupcake and drink.

For more information, call 410-676-1147.

PEE WEE PIRATE SHOW

Chesapeake Arts Center's Family Concert Series will present the 'Pee Wee Pirate Show,' 4 to 5 p.m., at the Chesapeake Arts Center located on 194 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park, Md.

Learn about pirates and 16th century history. This is an interactive show and children will be asked to pantomime hoisting the rigging, swabbing the decks, throwing out fishing nets and even looking for land. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.chesapeakearts.org or call 410-636-6597.

FRIDAY

APRIL 17

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit Relay for Life, American Cancer Society - Grace's Grateful Grapes Team, will be held 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Fire Hall on Rodgers Street. Doors open 6 p.m. Pre-sale tickets cost \$10 per person and \$12 at the door. Extra packs cost \$5 each. Food and drinks will be available. Bring a non-perishable food item for a bonus prize.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Karen Mitchell, 410-272-7098 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY

APRIL 18

SPECIAL OLYMPICS INSPIRATION WALK AND RUN

Harford County will hold the Fifth Annual Special Olympics Inspiration Walk and First Annual Inspiration Run at Harford Community College. Registration will take place 8 a.m. for the First Annual Inspiration Run; the run will start 8:30 a.m.

Registration for the Fifth Annual Inspiration Walk will take place 8:30 a.m.; the walk will start 10 a.m. Run, walk or roll in the event.

All participants with a minimum of \$25 in pledges will receive T-shirts. Additional prizes will be awarded.

For more information, call Mike Watkins, 410-638-4899, or e-mail mdwatkins@harfordcountymd.gov.

EARTH DAY 2009

An Earth Day celebration will be held 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Aberdeen Festival Park located on West Belair Avenue, across from the Aberdeen Library. The free event is for all ages and will include live music, a rock climbing wall, a "moon bounce," tie-dye, recycled games and prizes.

For more information, to register or for directions, call 410-297-4215.

TEXAS HOLD'EM

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135 located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, invites the public to a Texas Hold'em event, noon to 11 p.m. Register at noon and 5 p.m. The first game starts at 1 p.m., the second game starts at 6 p.m. with a \$50 buy in; first-come, first-served. Sandwiches and light fare will be available.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

POST 17 ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Help celebrate the first anniversary of the American Legion Riders Post 17, 7 p.m. to midnight, at the American Legion Service Post 17 located on 415 Edgewood Road. Tickets cost \$15 per person and includes pit beef and ham, meatballs, pork-n-beans, cole slaw, potato salad, draft beer and soda; music by Hound Dog Productions.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Dave, 410-592-2729.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

APRIL 18 AND 19

MARCHING THROUGH TIME

The 17th Annual Multi-Period Living History Encampment will be held 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 18 and 19, at the Marietta House Museum located on 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, Md.

Visitors will experience more than 10 centuries of living history including re-enactors from the first century Romans through 20th century World War II and more. Free parking, continuous shuttle service, period merchants and food vendors will be available.

Cost is \$8 per adult, \$5 for ages 5 to 18, and free for ages 4 and under. No pets please.

For more information, call 301-464-5291.

FRIDAY

APRIL 24

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Aberdeen High School Dance Team will be held 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Fire Hall on Rodgers Street. Doors open 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 each; extra packs cost \$5 each. Food and drinks will be available. Bring a non-perishable food item for a bonus prize.

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

APG SCHOOL LIAISON

Registering for Operation Purple Camp

Registration is now open for this summer's Operation Purple Camp program, a week-long, overnight camp open to all military children ages 7 to 17.

The program aims to help military children experience carefree fun while learning coping skills to deal with deployment-related stress and foster relationships with other children who know what they are going through.

Any military child can apply; however, priority is given to those children who have a parent/guardian or Family household member who deployed between May 2007 and November 2008. If all spaces are not filled with campers who meet the deployment criteria, the remaining camp slots are filled with any military child from any service branch, the National Guard, Reserve, Public Health Services and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

"Deployment" is defined loosely as temporary duty assignment and travel can often take service members away from Family for significant periods of time.

The deadline for applications is April 20. Visit www.nmfa.org to register.

For more information, call Eileen Campbell, school liaison officer, 410-278-2857.

The American Patriot Freedom Scholarship Award

The American Patriot Freedom Scholarship is available to dependent children of military service members between the ages of 17 to 21, who will be pursuing a post secondary educational degree at a fully accredited college, university, technical or vocation educational institution, in the fall of 2009 or spring of 2010.

Amount: A total of 25 individuals will win \$1,000

Eligibility:

- Children of active duty service members. Active duty is defined as any service member who is currently serving in the U.S. armed forces. This includes activated or deployed members of the National Guard and Reserve.

- Children of disabled service members. Disabled is defined as any service member whose disability is the direct result of injuries sustained during a military operation while serving the nation.

- Children of fallen U.S. armed forces service members. Fallen is defined as any service member who was killed in action during a military operation while serving the nation.

- Children of retired service members. Retired is defined as any service member who retired from the U.S. armed forces with an honorable discharge.

Winners will be notified via e-mail and on the organization's Web site on Monday, May 18, at 12:01 a.m. PDST.

Deadline: April 24

How to apply: Go to www.homefrontamerica.org

The Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund

College tuition assistance is available for children of American heroes killed or permanently disabled while defending the nation.

The Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund has now awarded \$2.5 million to the children of U.S. service members who have been killed or permanently disabled in an operational mission or training accident. Students who may qualify are encouraged to apply early.

Eligibility: An applicant must be the dependent son or daughter of a U.S. Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine or Guardsman who has been killed or permanently disabled (100 percent VA disability rating) as a result of an operational mission or training accident, or who is currently classified as a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action. They must also be a high school senior, high school graduate, or registered as a full time undergraduate student and under the age of 26.

How to apply: visit www.fascholarship.com or call 800-475-6620.

Deadline: July 31.

2009 Commencement Ceremony schedule for Harford County Public Schools

- May 29, 1:15 p.m., John Archer School
- June 1, 1 p.m., Aberdeen High School; 6 p.m. Edgewood High School graduation will be held at AHS; AHS will dismiss at 11 a.m. to accommodate graduation schedules;
- June 2, 6 p.m., Bel Air High School graduation will be held at AHS
- June 3, 7 p.m., Havre de Grace High School; 6 p.m., North Harford High School graduation will be held at AHS
- June 4, 6 p.m., C. Milton Wright graduation will be held at AHS; 6 p.m., Joppatowne High School
- June 5, 9 a.m. Alternative Education Program graduation will be held at the Center for Educational Opportunity located on 253 Paradise Road, Aberdeen; 1 p.m., Fallston High School graduation will be held at AHS; 5:30 p.m., Harford Technical High School graduation will be held at The Amoss Center; Aberdeen and Fallston High Schools will dismiss classes at 11 a.m. to accommodate graduation schedules.

Applications for early admission available

The early admission* process changed April 1 for kindergarten and first grade. The application packet containing all of the deadlines and procedures for the application can be picked up from any elementary school the first Friday in May and must be received by the first Friday in June.

Once the application has been reviewed for completeness of required information, arrangements will be made for the administration of the test. The test, which assesses language arts and mathematics, is approximately two hours in length. The child must score a 90 percent on each section for early admission to the 2009-2010 school year.

(Note: *Early Admission is a term used for students who wish to start school but do not meet the required cut-off date. (their birthdates fall after the Sept 1, 2009.)

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



Panic on the highway!

Installation Safety Office

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

Read the following scenario and then from the options provided, select the best answer. The answers are printed upside down.

Situation #27

Okay, you're driving the legal speed limit on a freeway and coming up to your turnoff. There is traffic on your left, and as you enter the off-ramp you see a vehicle that has made a mistake and is coming in the wrong direction. If you continue on your course, you will have a head-on collision. What should you do?

A. Honk, signal, and ease left.

B. Honk, signal, hard brake, and steer right onto the shoulder.

Answer A: "Honk, signal, and ease left" would put you in a position to side-swipe, run into someone's rear end, or have someone run into your rear end. Take a look at Answer B.

Answer B: "Honk, signal, hard brake, and steer right onto the shoulder" is the best course of action. You do have to be careful. The driver of that wrong way car might very well try to get off on the shoulder just as fast as he can. That's the best place for him. But if he does it without knowing what you're going to do, you risk the possibility of a head-on collision. So, before you move on to the shoulder, be sure you've signaled what you're going to do and be sure that he has seen your signal.



FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Walt Disney World Salutes the Military

Walt Disney World is offering active duty military and retirees a free complimentary five-day park hopper and water park ticket and up to five five-day companion tickets for just \$99 each, or an upgrade to a hopper for \$124 each.

Tickets cost \$25 extra for each add-on/upgrade applied. Tickets must be purchased three weeks in advance. Tickets are not valid until activated at the theme park ticket window. Valid military ID is required at time of purchase and activation. All sales are final. No refunds, exchanges or upgrades after purchase.

Ticket prices expire Dec. 23.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4011/4907 or visit the AA Recreation Center, building 3326.

Orioles game specials

Purchase tickets for Orioles baseball. All game seats are located in Section 40 behind home plate. Tickets cost \$48 each; limited quantities available.

- Chicago White Sox, 7:05 p.m., April 21

- Toronto Blue Jays, 7:05 p.m., July 10
- Texas Rangers, 7:05 p.m., Sept. 4
- Tampa Bay Rays, 7:05 p.m., Sept. 14
- Toronto Blue Jays, 7:05 p.m., Oct. 2

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

Bunco is here to stay

Win door prizes at Bunco, 7 p.m., April 23 and May 21 at Top of the Bay Chesapeake/Mezzanine. Cost to play is \$5 per person.

APG Talent Shows May 8 and 9

An APG Youth Talent Show will take place May 8, and an Adult Talent Show will take place May 9 at the Post Theater, 7 p.m. Doors open 6 p.m.

Auditions will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m.,

April 7 and 8 and April 21 and 22 in the Post Theater, building 3245 and April 14 and 15 in Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140

For more information on auditions, contact Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854.

The Youth Talent Competition is open to the public. Age categories

include 10 to 12, 13 to 15 and 16 to 18. The event is open to individuals or groups. Military, civilian, contractor and retired military Family members ages 10 to 18 years of age and still in high school are eligible to participate.

Talent categories include vocalist, vocal groups, instrumentalist, instrumental groups, spoken word, rap, dance and comedy.

Tickets cost \$5 for active duty military and \$7 for non-military. To purchase tickets at FMWR Registration, building 3326, call 410-278-4011/4907 or Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210, 410-436-7134.

For more information, call Earlene Allen, 410-278-3854.

Hearts Apart Support Group schedule

Family members from all branches of service, DoD civilians and contractors may participate in Hearts Apart Support Group meetings held in the APG Army Community Service building 2754, Rodman Road 6 to 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month (May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2).

For more information, call, 410-278-2464/410-278-7572.

ACS announces Egg Hunt Extravaganza

Army Community Service will hold an egg hunt, host the Easter Bunny and provide Family fun for everyone 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 4, at Capa Field in the Edgewood Area of APG.

This event is open to all DoD cardholders, military and civilian personnel, contractors, retirees, Family members and guests.

FMWR daily bus trips to Atlantic City

Roll the bones on daily trips to Atlantic City, N.J. FMWR Leisure Travel Services offers daily bus service to Trump Taj Mahal Casino. Cost of the trip is \$45 per person with \$25 back in cash and a \$5 buffet coupon.

Only for ages 21 and over. The bus will leave Vitali's Restaurant, Best Western in Edgewood 9 a.m. and return 9 p.m.

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

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.

Toddler Art

Calling all young Picassos. Toddler Art lessons will be given 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Wednesdays, June 24 through July 29, for ages 2 through 4 at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Hands-on creativity is the theme as children explore paint, clay, color, texture and shapes. Dress little ones in old clothes or smock and be prepared for a messy good time. Parent participation required.

Cost is \$60 per student for eight weeks.

Introduction to Water Colors

SKIES Unlimited offers an Introduction to Water Colors, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Wednesdays, June 24 through July 29, for ages 8 through 13 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. Cost is \$60 per student for eight weeks.

Students will learn watercolor techniques. Instruction will focus on brush handling and controlling water volume on the brush and paper.

Students are required to have a 11- x 14-inch drawing pad.

Drawing and Sketching

Drawing and sketching classes will be held 10 to 11:30 a.m., Mondays and Thursdays, June 22 through July 30, for ages 10 to 15 at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

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

Students are required to have an 11- x 14-inch drawing pad.

Classes cost \$120 per student for eight weeks.

Beginner Tae Kwon Do

Join the Unity Tae Kwon Do School of Martial Arts at APG. Tae Kwon Do promotes discipline, as well as muscle toning and conditioning.

Beginner Tae Kwon Do classes will be held for ages 6 through 13 at the Child, Youth and School Center, building 2522, Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.

from April 28 through May 21 and from June 2 through 25. Cost is \$65 per student for a one-month session or \$150 per student for a three-month session.

Free babysitting course

Become a certified babysitter after taking the free 4-H/Army Child and Youth Services babysitting class for ages 13 to 18.

The class will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 16 at the AA Child and Youth Services, building 2522. The objectives are to familiarize participants with the responsibilities of babysitting.

Class is open to all DoD ID card holders.

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

Private piano lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given for ages 4 thru 18, 3 to 7:30 p.m., on Fridays, May 8 through June 12. Classes will also be given 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Saturdays, May 9 through June 13.

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.

Infant/Child First Aid, CPR Class

An Infant/Child First Aid and CPR class will be held 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., for ages 13 and older, April 13, building 2752, Child and Youth Services administration building. The class costs \$5 per person.

SKIES Unlimited offers Driver's Ed

Drivers Education classes are conducted by Rules Driving School, Inc. Monday thru Thursday, 2:30 to 5:45 p.m. or 6 to 9:15 p.m. Classes will be held in Aberdeen at the Community Center, 34 N. Philadelphia Boulevard, room 304.

Classes will be held April 20 thru May 5; May 11 thru 27 (no class May 25); and June 1 thru 16.

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.

Brazilian Jujitsu

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

Classes for beginners ages 7 to 18 are conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 to 6:45 p.m., through April 30, in the Noncommissioned Officer Academy building 4505, Suite C.

Cost is \$85 per student.

Tae Kwon Do

Join the Unity Tae Kwon Do School of Martial Arts at APG. Tae Kwon Do promotes discipline, as well as muscle toning and conditioning.

Classes will be held at the Child,

Youth and School Center, building 2522, Monday and Wednesday; March 30 through April 22, 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. (ages 6 to 12). Cost is \$65 per student for a one-month session or \$150 per student for a three-month session.

Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants.

Class size is limited so register early.

Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at www.apgmwr.com.

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

New arrivals required to attend Newcomers' Orientation

All newly arriving Soldiers and civilian employees are required to attend the APG Newcomers' Orientation, 1 to 3 p.m., June 17 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. Sponsors are encouraged to bring their Family members, and all members of the APG community are welcome to attend.

More than 50 APG community activities and organization representa-

tives will welcome arrivals with handouts and literature and will answer questions regarding their programs.

Each unit/activity is requested to report the number of attending personnel to Phyllis Ethridge, Army Community Service, building 2754, 410-278-9669/7572, fax

410-278-9685 or e-mail Phyllis.ethridge@us.army.mil.

Easter Brunch April 12

An Easter Brunch will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 12, at Top of the Bay. Cost is \$21.95 for adults, \$9.95 for children ages 5 to 11 and children under 5 are free.

The breakfast buffet includes an omelet station, french toast, scrambled eggs, sausage gravy and home fries, bagels, muffins and Danish.

The luncheon buffet includes chicken marsala, baked ham with fruit sauce, baked cod in white wine sauce, assorted vegetables, potatoes and rice, carving station with prime rib and turkey.

Cost also includes assorted desserts,

mimosa's, Bloody Mary's, juices, coffee and tea.

Reservations are required with a deadline of April 9. Call 410-278-3062/2552/5195.



Auto Craft Shop detailing services

The Auto Craft Shop, building 2379, now offers auto detailing for SUVs, cars, trucks and more.

Packages include:

Washing vehicle, vacuuming, dressing vinyl, cleaning windows and dressing tires

- Cars, \$20,
- Jeep Wrangler or small truck, \$25
- SUV or large truck, \$30

Washing, waxing, cleaning outside windows, wheels and tires

- Cars, \$55
- Jeep Wrangler or small truck, \$60
- SUV or large truck, \$65

Complete detailing

Includes engine cleaning, vacuuming carpet, dressing all vinyl, hand washing and drying exterior, cleaning inside and outside windows, door

jams, trunk or cargo area, dressing tires and wheels, leather conditioning and washing.

- Cars, \$125
- Jeep Wrangler or small truck, \$150
- SUV or large truck, \$175

Individual services include exterior washing

- Car, \$10
- Jeep Wrangler or small truck, \$15

The Auto Craft Shop is open 1 to 5 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information, call 410-278-5178.

NOTE: Times are subject to change. The Auto Craft Shop can pick up customers' cars and deliver them back when they are finished.

April bowling specials

In April, bowl from 1 to 5 p.m. for \$1.50 per game; shoe rental costs \$2. It's Cosmic Saturday on April 4 and 18. One hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra) and one pitcher of soda for \$32.

Soldier Special: 5 to 9 p.m., April 6, 13, 20 and 27, Soldiers bowl for \$1.75 per game per person; shoe rental costs \$2. Soldiers must show ID.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

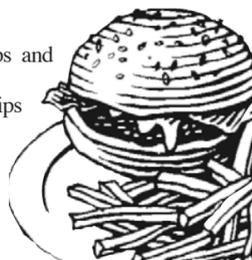
Week of March 30

- Special #1: Grand daddy burger with potato chips and regular soda for \$8.25.
- Special #2: Turkey and cheese wrap with potato chips and regular soda for \$5.25.

Week of April 6

- Special #1: Ham and cheese wrap with potato chips and regular soda for \$5.25.
- Special #2: Chicken cheese steak wrap with potato chips and regular soda for \$4.95.
- Special #3: Cheese steak wrap with potato chips and regular soda for \$4.75.

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



Legally Speaking

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

Commentary: Haven't filed your 2008 income tax return?

By
SANDI WILLIAMS
OSJA

Don't procrastinate. If you file your income tax return late, and you end up owing additional tax, you will have to pay penalties and interest.

The Installation Tax Assistance Program, directed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, is here to help, but time is running out. The Tax Center will close April 15, and will electronically file its last tax return April 10.

Are you eligible for the service?

Each year the APG Tax Center provides free tax assistance to qualifying active duty service members, retirees and Family members. Active duty service members are those military members currently holding an active duty ID card. Reserve component service members who are not mobilized are not eligible for services and should contact their individual units for assistance.

Type of returns prepared

Tax Center staff will only be preparing simple and intermediate level tax returns. Complex tax returns outside the scope of



the Volunteer Return Preparation Program will be referred to professional providers.

What you should bring

Documents needed depend on each individual situation. Prior to arriving at the Tax Center, you should access the "agreement and questionnaire" located on the APG Web site. This document is extremely helpful in gathering the information needed to file an accurate return. The Tax Center cannot prepare a return unless you bring all necessary documentation. Inaccurate tax returns caused by incomplete/faulty information may incur IRS penalty and interest assessments.

Do you have to file?

Even if you do not have to file, it may be to your advantage to do so.

What happens if I don't file?

If the IRS discovers that you failed to file a tax return and you owe additional tax, they will assess a penalty and interest against you for any year you did not file and were required to do so. Unfortunately, if you failed to file an income tax return, and you were owed a refund you can only file or amend an existing return for up to three previous tax years to claim your refund.

Already filed and forgot a W-2?

If you realize you made a mistake on your taxes after you file your taxes and the APG Tax Center prepared your tax return, we can assist you in amending your taxes on Form 1040X. Every W-2 is reported to the IRS. When you file

your taxes, the IRS' computer programs work to ensure that all W-2s reported to them are included with your taxes. Taxpayers who fail to report all income receive notices and must pay penalties and interest which can be quite severe—interest is compounded daily.

Did you receive a notice from the IRS?

Each letter and notice offers specific instructions on what you are asked to do to satisfy the inquiry. You should review the correspondence and compare it with the information on your return. If you agree with the correction to your account, no reply is necessary unless a payment is due. If you disagree with the correction the IRS made, it is important that you respond as requested. If you need assistance, bring the notice to your Tax Center or Legal Assistance Office.

Filing deadline

The normal deadline for filing federal income tax returns is midnight April 15. This deadline will apply to any of the following: 2008 federal individual income tax returns, requests for an automatic six-month tax-filing extension, tax year 2008 balance due payments, individual estimated tax payments for the first quarter of 2009, and individual refund

claims for tax year 2005 where the regular three-year statute of limitations is expiring.

Service members serving in a combat zone or in a contingency operation (or are hospitalized as a result of an injury received while serving in such an area or operation), have at least 180 days after leaving the zone or operation to file and pay.

Filing an Extension

Taxpayers who cannot meet the April 15 filing deadline should file for an extension on IRS Form 4868. Returns are considered filed on time if the envelope is properly addressed and postmarked on the last day of the filing season. An extension of time to file is not an extension of time to pay. Taxpayers will owe interest on any past due tax and may be subject to a late payment penalty if payment is not made on time.

Taxpayers who want an extension of time to file state income tax returns should consult the appropriate state representative to determine extension requirements.

If you would like more information or tax assistance, visit the APG Tax Center located downstairs in Top of the Bay, or call 410-278-7048. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Commentary: Attend National Healthcare Decisions Day at KUSAHC April 16 because 'your decisions matter'

By
OSJA

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will participate in National Healthcare Decisions Day, or NHDD, April 16 with an informational campaign designed to promote/advance directives for members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community.

At some point in your life, you will be faced with the prospect of 'end of life' issues for yourself or a loved one. During a medical crisis it can become overwhelmingly confusing to know what to do. Without an advance directive, you or a loved one may be forced to guess about the other person's final wishes. You might also become involved in bitter court proceedings to determine who has the legal right to make decisions for the person unable to communicate on his or her own behalf.

Accidents can occur at any age so it is important to be prepared, and an advance directive should be a part of that preparation.

Last year's event, which was formally recognized by Congress and numerous state and local governments, included participation by 76 of the most prominent national healthcare, religious and legal associations and organizations as well as nearly 400 local and state organizations throughout the country.

At every level, the goal of this nationwide initiative is to ensure that all adults with decision-making capacity in America have both the information and the opportunity to communicate and document their future healthcare decisions.

The first year's results were impressive—more than 250,000 people obtained resources to make their healthcare decisions known—but there remain millions of Americans to go.

While making healthcare decisions is often difficult in the best of circumstances, making decisions for others is even more complicated. You have the ability to guide your healthcare providers and your loved ones about what you want.

Advance directives give you the ability to document the types of healthcare you do and

do not want, and to name an "agent" to speak for you if you cannot speak for yourself.

All adults can benefit from thinking about what their healthcare choices would be if they are unable to speak for themselves. These decisions can be written down in an advance directive so that others know what they are.

An advance directive is a legal document that tells healthcare providers who it is that you wish to make medical decisions for you and what treatments you would want or not want, if you are ever unable to communicate.

Often, advance directives come in two main forms. One, called a "healthcare power of attorney" (or "proxy" or "agent" or "surrogate") documents the person you select to be your voice for your healthcare decisions if you cannot speak for yourself. The second, called a "living will," documents what kinds of medical treatments you would or would not want at the end of life.

With the Patient Self-Determination Act of 1990, Congress affirmed the right of every citizen to set forth his or her future healthcare wishes in writing with an "advance directive." Yet, various estimates suggest that only about 25 percent of all Americans have done so. Because advance directives can often be created without a lawyer, for free, and relatively easily, this figure is astonishingly low.

In recognition of this, NHDD strives to provide much-needed information to the public, reduce the number of tragedies that occur when a person's wishes are unknown and improve the ability of healthcare facilities and providers to offer informed and thoughtful guidance about advance healthcare planning to their patients.

The NHDD Initiative is a collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity in the United States have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions.

Visit www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org for a variety of free information (including free advance directives

forms for every state) and tools to assist with thoughtful reflection on healthcare choices and ideas on how to get involved. Additionally, watch for events in your community honoring NHDD. Finally, share this information with your loved ones and colleagues.

"Your decisions matter" so use April 16 to decide, discuss, and document your wishes, whatever they may be.

Representatives will be present at the

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic lobby 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 16, to provide informational materials and draft advance directives for eligible clientele. Reference documents for Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware residents will be available.

For more information on NHDD, visit <http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org/> or contact the OSJA Client Services Division, 410-278-1583, press 3.

Trial Results

Soldiers convicted, receive jail time for inappropriate relationships with trainees

OSJA

At a general court-martial on Feb. 24, Capt. Henry R. Payne, a company commander at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center & Schools, pled guilty to one specification of Article 92, fraternizing with an Initial Entry Training trainee in violation of AR 600-20, by engaging in a sexual relationship with a private in his command. He also pled guilty to one specification of conduct unbecoming of an officer and gentleman, by absenting himself from his duties in order to have sex with the private during the duty day, and one specification of maltreatment of a subordinate, by sexually harassing an NCO in his company.

The judge sentenced him to a dismissal, total forfeitures of all pay and allowances and confinement for four months. Pursuant to the terms of a plea agreement, the Convening Authority agreed to disapprove any adjudged forfeitures with payment made to Payne's spouse.

At a general court-martial March 16 and 17, Staff Sgt. Demone M. Whigham, a cadre member of Company A, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, pled guilty to five specifications of fraternizing with IET trainees in violation of AR 600-20, two specifications of disobeying a lawful command, one specification of making a false official statement, three specifications of obstructing justice and one specification of violating a general disorder for possession of nude photographs of an IET trainee.

The accused was sentenced to reduction to the grade of Private E1, confinement for two years and a Dishonorable Discharge.

Trainee to spend three months in jail for multiple offenses

Pvt. Johnathan N. Wilke, an IET Soldier with Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion, pled guilty at a March 6 special court-martial to one specification of conspiracy to commit larceny, one specification of absence without leave, one specification of making a false official statement, two specifications of larceny and one specification of possession of a controlled substance, marijuana.

The military judge sentenced him to five months confinement, five months forfeiture of \$933 pay per month and a Bad Conduct Discharge. However, pursuant to a plea agreement, his confinement will be capped at three months.

Technology

From page 6

is made up of senior leaders from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Army acquisition and S&T communities allows PEO C3T to get away from prioritizing their gaps in a stovepiped manner, said Grace (Qi Ping) Xiang, chief technical officer, System Engineering & Integration Futures Office.

"The significance of the session is first to get the panel members to provide feedback in terms of our migration strategy and technology gaps as well as their vote of the top twenty priorities," Xiang said. "Second, we ask for feed-

back on our T2 Framework, and finally, we look for their buy-ins. Does the T2 Framework work? Is it good? What are the areas of improvements?"

The basic T2 Framework consists of four major processes. The first step in the process, which is where TGPS occurs, focuses on the identification and prioritization of technology gaps. After the TGPS, three groups are consulted for the PEO's Top-20 priorities. The TGPS panel members hold 60 percent of the final weight, the PMs hold 30 percent, and then a selected designated SE&I staff holds the remaining 10 percent. The consolidated Top-20 priority list is then forwarded to PMs for concurrence, and then to Justice for final approval.

The second process focuses on the assessments of potential S&T projects or proposals and alignment with appropriate technology gaps. Depending on different S&T project types, cycles and timeframes may vary somewhat, but the steps are always the same. This process ends when a Technology Transition Agreement is approved by Justice.

The third process is a repeatable process that focuses on execution, oversight and revalidation. Toward the end of an S&T project, the transition resource should be budgeted in the PM's Program Objective Memorandum. If not, a strategy to obtain interim transition funding should be in-place.

Completion of the transition final-

izes the T2 framework. This is a documentation step that evaluates the criteria as laid out in the TTA and validates that the deliverables were accepted and have been utilized properly.

Several panel members noted that, on occasion, too many S&T dollars are used when existing systems might have been put into place to fill those gaps. Whenever possible, the Army should integrate already existing technologies to create new capabilities for the Warfighter.

"S&T should include system integration," Justice said. "It should bring existing systems together to create new capability, like a science experiment, add this and add that and make something new."



Health Notes

Military medical experts hope to dispel myths, advance treatment for mild traumatic brain injury

Story by
MARK HEETER
U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Public Affairs Office

Get a good night's sleep. That is a seemingly simple, yet sometimes complicated goal and advice from medical professionals as part of a reintegration program for redeploying Soldiers who might have suffered traumatic brain injuries, said Brig. Gen. Keith Gallagher, commander of Europe Regional Medical Command.

"When you come back from Afghanistan or Iraq, part of the screening program process is [confirming] if you had multiple concussive injuries 'down-range,'" Gallagher said.

The objective of the reintegration is to "get you to where you can function and go to sleep at night," he said. "Sleep is very important for the healing process."

And, contrary to popular misconceptions, the physical damage caused by mild traumatic brain injury will heal, added Dr. (Brig. Gen.) Loree Sutton, special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury.

"One of the myths out there is that mild traumatic brain injuries, or concussions, means that somehow your brain is broken forever. No - it's an injury," said Sutton, who is also director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury.

"If you have some long-term, later symptoms that pop up, that's probably post-traumatic stress. That's probably not related to the concussion," she said.

Sutton and Gallagher were joined for a recent meeting and video teleconference at the Schweinfurt Army Health Clinic by Dr. [Brig. Gen.] Rhonda Cornum, director of the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program.

"We need to address [brain injury and psychological health] in a holistic fashion," said Cornum, who aims to see more components of Soldiers' total health come into focus, through prevention and training, across the Army culture.

"[Recruits] come in, and we do the [physical training] test twice a year. We do PT training every week. And so we have a program to make people stronger, but we have not had a program to worry about the psychological, spiritual, emotional Family," she said.

"The department [of Defense] has made an enormous investment in both better understanding concussions, mild TBI, and in psychological health," said Sutton, who admitted that doctors' and researchers' recent discoveries about the brain make this an "exciting" time to be working on

injured service members' behalf.

"When I was in medical school, in the eighties, we were taught what was then thought to be true - you know, you're born into this world with all the brain cells you're ever going to get," Sutton said, quickly dispelling those old misconceptions with words like neurogenesis and neuroplasticity that define the brain's ability to recover and adapt.

Anyone who has likely suffered a traumatic brain injury should seek help with their care providers, stressed Gallagher.

"If they're having problems, they can go see their primary care provider. If they're still having problems, go see them again," he said.

"But don't stay awake watching movies because you can't go to sleep, and then wonder why you're getting up late for work. That's not helpful," Cornum added.

TRICARE receives two Magellan Awards for communications campaigns

U.S. DoD and the Military Health System

TRICARE received two Magellan Awards in the 2008 Communications Campaign Competition. The Wounded, Ill, and Injured Service Members campaign took first place platinum, and the Childhood Obesity Prevention and Awareness campaign took second place gold in the Community Relations, Government and Education category.

The Wounded, Ill, and Injured service member campaign also received the Special Achievement award for "Best on a Limited Budget" against all other submissions.

"The receipt of these distinguished awards by a component of the DoD and the Military Health System is wonderful news, as communications play an important part in the ongoing MHS mission. TRICARE continues to hit it out of the park!" said Dr. S. Ward Casscells, assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs.

The Magellan Awards competition provides a platform for communications professionals to demonstrate the value they deliver to their organizations and clients. The awards are sponsored by the League of American Communications Professionals.

The two communications campaigns were initiated by the TRICARE Communications and Customer Service directorate. "We are honored to receive these awards," said S. Dian Lawhon, director of communications and customer service for TRICARE. "We felt these innovative campaigns deserved recognition for their support of the TRICARE and Department of Defense mission."

Both campaigns were also highly ranked in the Top 50 Communication campaigns. The Top 50 are awards given to the highest-scoring entries regardless of category.

The Wounded Warrior campaign took the number eight spot and Childhood Obesity the number 24 spot out of more than 450 entries and, for the first time, TRICARE was listed in the top 10 along with recognizable commercial and government organizations such as ESPN, NASA and Coca Cola. TRICARE previously won seven Magellan Awards.

Both of this year's campaigns were enhanced by partnering with other DoD and federal agencies, and made extensive use of traditional and new and social media communication techniques including video, Internet radio, "widgets" and blogs.

POST SHORTS

For more information, call 410-306-4005, e-mail apgr-atc-changeofcommand@conus.army.mil.

Maryland rep to brief on Troops-To-Teachers Program

Robert Henry, coordinator for the "Troop-To-Teachers" Program for the state of Maryland, will visit the Army Education Center, building 4305, noon to 2 p.m., April 7.

Soldiers will receive information necessary to qualify and receive certification as an elementary or secondary teacher.

Information will be made available for qualified active duty personnel who separate with six or more years of service and the requirements needed to be eligible for referral and placement assistance.

Soldiers also can qualify for financial assistance:

- A stipend of up to \$5K, that will defray expenses incurred by the veteran Soldier while receiving teacher certification and to teach for a period of three years in a school that's been designated as "High-Need"; or
- A bonus of \$10K to teach in public schools that serve a high percentage of disadvantaged students.

For more information, Soldiers should call the Education Center, 410-306-2042/2037 and have their name placed on the roster to speak to Henry.

Gunpowder Toastmaster's Club meets at APG

Learn to speak confidently and effectively. Toastmaster's mission is to help people improve their communication, leadership, evaluation, and public-speaking skills in a fun and friendly environment. The gunpowder Toastmaster's Club meets the first and third Monday every month (unless federal government holiday) in the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility in building E-4516 Seminar Room.

April 6 and 20 are the next two meetings, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Adam Freeland, 410-652-8026 or George Alsfeld, 410-569-1189.

CPR Classes

Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Services offer CPR 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 Conference Center, building E-4810, April 15, Aug. 26, Oct. 21 and Dec. 16.

In the Aberdeen Area, classes will be held at the Post Theater May 20, July 15 and Nov. 18.

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

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

Aberdeen Youth Center hosts Spring into Action Day April 25

Children and youths ages 3 through high school level and parents are invited to participate in Spring into Action Day, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 25, at the Aberdeen Youth Center, building 2522. Events include the 50-yard dash, team building activities, 800 meter run, water balloon toss, football throw, home-run derby, fitness course, sports games and health stations.

For more information, call 410-306-2297

National Health Care Decisions Day April 16

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will participate in National Health Care Decisions Day, April 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the KUSAHC lobby.

National Health Care Decisions Day

is an initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding health-care and for provides and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be. Representatives will be available at the KUSAHC lobby to provide informational materials and draft advance directives for eligible clientele.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org/> or contact the OSJA Client Services Division, 410-278-1583.

Annual Spring Technology Expo April 29

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 2009 Annual Spring Information Technology Expo 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., April 29, at Top of the Bay.

Contract exhibitors include Dell, HP, IBM, Lexmark, CDW-G, Emtec Federal, Metro Office Solutions, Konica Minolta and more. This list will be updated in *APG News* until the day of the event.

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 Susan Suppa, DOIM, 410-278-7598.

Seeking members for the Disabled Committee

The Equal Opportunity program goal is to create and sustain effective units by eliminating discriminatory behaviors or practices that undermine teamwork, mutual respect, loyalty, and shared sacrifices of the men and women of America's Army.

Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, Equal Opportunity advisor for the U.S. Army Research, Development and engineering Command and the APG Garrison, is interested in reviving the Disabled Committee meetings.

A meeting is planned for early June to discuss ideas, suggestions and plans for the 2009 APG Garrison Disability Awareness Observance.

For more information, call 410-436-4810, e-mail elwood.veney@us.army.mil

Aberdeen Mail Center hours

The Aberdeen Mail Center, building 2201, will be open 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday.

Mail pickup and delivery hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Friday.

All personnel picking up or delivering mail must have a DD 285.

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

CWF announces upcoming trips, events

April 4 Trip to Washington, D.C.

Spend the day in the nation's capital and experience history, art and culture at the many museums and monuments. Tour Washington, D.C., alone or join an optional tour group. The cherry blossoms should be in bloom, making it a beautiful, scenic trip. Cost for charter bus transportation is \$40 per person.

April 18 to 23

Tour Charleston and Savannah, two of the most charming southern cities. Cost is \$1,099 per person for double, triple or quad. Cost per person for single is \$1,329. A down payment of \$100 is required by March 1. The final payment is due on April 1.

May 16

Trip to New York City

Spend the day in the Big Apple, at your leisure. Take in a Broadway show, shop or sightsee. The cost per person is \$45 for charter bus transportation.

June 5 through 15 Visit Canada and more

A trip to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and the Cabot Trail, Atlantic Canada. Cost is \$1,970 per person double occupancy, \$2,565 single occupancy. Price includes 10 nights lodging, 10 breakfasts and dinners (including a lobster dinner), all sightseeing mentioned in itinerary, luggage handling, taxes, deluxe motor coach, tour guide, taxes and standard gratuities. A passport is required for Canada. Balance is due by April 15.

July 11

CWF night at Ripken Stadium and Crab Feast

Join CWF for a great night of Ironbirds baseball and fireworks from the Party Deck at Aberdeen's Ripken Stadium. The cost per person is \$43 or \$49 per person includes beer, a complimentary Ironbirds baseball cap, all-you-can-eat Bo Brooks Crabs, hot dogs,

hamburgers and corn on the cob. Reservation deadline is June 11.

August 8

Trip to Kings Dominion

Come and enjoy one of the East Coast's best amusement parks. Kings Dominion offers 13 roller coasters including the new hair-raising "Dominator" and 20 acres of water-filled fun. The price will include round trip charter bus transportation and entry into the park. Bus leaves APG at 8 a.m. Price to be determined.

Sept. 11 to 19

Trip to France

Join CWF for the trip of a lifetime to Paris and other French highlights. See the Normandy Beaches, Mont St. Michel-Blois, Brittany, Chateaux Country and more. The trip costs \$3,599 per person based on double occupancy, \$3,499 triple occupancy, \$4,299 single occupancy.

Sept. 27 to 30

Trip to New York City

See two Broadway Shows, enjoy lunch, take a ferry ride to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and more. Cost is \$1,499 per person for double occupancy, \$1,379 per person for triple occupancy \$1,379 and \$1,899 for single occupancy. Round trip motor coach, taxes, trip cancellation insurance and entry to CIA and ferry ticket included. Final payment is due July 1.

Oct. 2 to 10

Trip to France

Join CWF for the trip of a lifetime to Paris and other French highlights. See the Normandy Beaches, Mont St. Michel-Blois, Brittany, Chateaux Country and more. The trip costs \$3,599 per person based on double occupancy, \$3,499 triple occupancy, \$4,299 single occupancy.

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



APG celebrates The Year of the NCO

CBRNE Soldier achieves highest NCO rank



Sgt. Maj. Tony Marshall, center, is congratulated by long-time friend and associate Master Sgt. Michelle Davis as Marshall's wife Subrena nods approval after Marshall was promoted to the highest noncommissioned officer rank March 13 at the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) headquarters in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Story and photo by
ROGER TEEL
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

After a noncommissioned officer's wife pinned sergeant major stripes on her husband in a March 13 ceremony at the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) headquarters, the career chemical noncommissioned officer was quick to thank God, his Family, his friends and colleagues for his success.

"I wouldn't have made it without the support of many great Soldiers along the way," said Sgt. Maj. Tony Marshall to those in attendance.

Two of those Soldiers were on hand to applaud his promotion. Both said they had been affected by Marshall's leadership during their career and that they admire Marshall for the Soldier he has always been.

"I was brand new to the Army at 46th Engineers, Fort Rucker, Alabama, [when] Sergeant Major Marshall helped me to set-up my first NBC [Nuclear, Biological and Chemical] Room. He was as patient then as he is today," said Master Sgt. Michelle Davis, the CBRNE Command's Equal Opportunity

advisor. She's known Marshall nearly 20 years.

"I was young and high strung and didn't have time for the 'boring NBC Room'," she continued. "He taught me to be proud of my NBC Room because if it wasn't important to me it wouldn't be important to anyone. He also showed me how to run a NBC chamber and not get CS [tear gas] in my eyes."

Marshall, the new senior operations NCO for CBRNE Command, said people make the Army go. Encouraging the success of others only adds to your success.

"I always try to help people. That's important," he said. "And I think everybody has to be respected. If you show people the respect that you want, if you treat them the same way you want to be treated, then things will work out."

Second Lt. John Orsini is assistant team leader of Team 3, Company C, 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), responsible for training, readiness, command and control and employment of a CBRNE Response Team. He first encountered Marshall ear-

ly in his career – during Basic Combat Training.

"[After basic training] I graduated from Chemical One Station Unit Training and moved on," Orsini said. "Five years later I was assigned as a Warrior Leadership Course Small Group Leader in Grafenwoehr, Germany, and had to attend the Instructor Training course. When I walked in the classroom and saw then-Sergeant First Class Marshall, I had a little flashback of him hip-tossing people during hand-to-hand combat drills during basic training. We exchanged the 'Don't I know you from somewhere?' look and began catching up."

Though the two were never assigned to the same unit, the senior NCO continued to mentor the young Soldier.

"He always provided some valuable professional development from a senior chemical NCO to a junior. He always told me to make the most of any assignment or position whether it be in a chemical unit or not," Orsini said.

Ironically, the one opportunity for the two to serve together didn't happen because Orsini

submitted his application for a commission through the Green to Gold program.

"When I told him about my decision to crossover to the officer ranks, he said jokingly that I was 'a traitor,' but that the Chemical Corps needed good officers as well. He wished me luck and told me to never forget where I came from and to always take care of Soldiers," Orsini said.

Marshall grew up in Valdosta, Ga., and married his high school sweetheart, Subrena. The Marshalls have two children, Tiffany, 21, a college student in Valdosta, and Tony Jr., 10.

He worked for about nine months before joining the Army.

"Once I was in the Army, I knew it was for me," the sergeant major said. "My wife is the encourager. She's always the one who said 'You're gonna make it!'"

"I received a lot of great mentorship over the years, and I always tried to do the right thing," he said, in reference to his advancement through the ranks. "But I truly couldn't have done it without the Soldiers."

Marshall said being first sergeant of the Army's largest Chemical Company, the 12th Chemical Company in Grafenwoehr, Germany, certainly gave him some visibility.

"And a lot of times I got positions at the next grade up. I was just always ready for the next challenge," he said.

He said he has always tried to be an approachable person.

"My style of leadership is a little different, I suppose. I believe you have to listen. Anybody can yell and tell people what to do. But I believe you have to listen to people and hear their story. Then you can apply your mentorship and get them to do what will benefit them in their situation."

"My father was a minister. He instilled in me what he learned as he counseled people, that you have to hear what people have to say first, and then as you move forward you have no remorse as you give them guidance," he said.

"He also told me you don't make good decisions when you're angry."

"My patience comes from my mom, I suppose. She was the calming effect for us," he said. Marshall came from a large Family of 12 brothers and sisters.

What does he hope to accomplish in the CBRNE Command?

"I hope to learn a lot, and I hope to add my experience to what we're doing here. I feel honored to be the G3 operations sergeant major," he said. "My biggest challenge will be restructuring because much of the leadership here is changing in the next few months. My challenge will be to get everyone online, including myself, and to understand how things work."

Marshall then became philosophical about achievement in the Army.

"You can accomplish anything you want in the Army. Never let anybody hold you back. If you're doing what you're supposed to do, it's going to work out for you," he said.

Davis has had a ring-side seat as Marshall advanced through the ranks.

"I've had the pleasure of running into him throughout my career, usually at a PX somewhere," Davis said. "We always picked up right where we left off, providing updates on the babies that turned into teenagers and the spouses that were still putting up with us," he added with a chuckle.

"The one thing that stands out is that he always encouraged me along the way. I know him to be a Family man, a man of God and a great noncommissioned officer whom I respect," she said.

"The only issue I have with Sergeant Major Marshall -- my nametag has read 'Davis' for over fifteen years and he still calls me 'Bennett' [her maiden name]. He only remembers my name is Davis after he calls me Bennett, then he says, 'I did it again, didn't I?'"

"But for him alone, I still answer to Bennett," she said.



Commissary News

DeCA improves food stamp checkout process

Story by
CHERIE HUNTINGTON
DeCA

Commissary customers using food stamp Electronic Benefit Transfer cards now should find checkout a breeze, with all checkout lanes capable of processing the cards.

The customer simply swipes the card in any lane's credit and debit card terminal – even in the self-checkout lane.

"This flexibility comes to us courtesy of our new front-end system, the Commissary Advanced Resale Transaction System," said Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., DeCA director and chief executive officer. "We're proud to deliver this technology for the privacy and convenience our customers deserve."

"Previously, commissaries used stand-alone, state-provided systems to process these benefit cards, with terminals installed in a separate room at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Commissary," said Store Director Tammy Spickler. "This was difficult for cashiers but it was particularly difficult for customers."

Aberdeen Commissary sees average

use of food stamps, with about \$92,000 in sales in fiscal 2007, according to Spickler, compared to commissaries such as Fort Benning, Ga., which stands No. 1 in food stamp sales of more than \$1.1 million.

"We take food stamp cards at every register," Spickler said, "and customers waiting in line never know the customer

in front of them used food stamps. It's a win-win situation for everyone."

Even with new front-end equipment, EBT card capability represents a significant enhancement to the CARTS system, which started arriving in commissaries worldwide nearly two years ago. Now, all U.S. stores, including those in Puerto Rico and Guam, will process food stamp

EBT cards with ease, said Tony Col-lazo, DeCA's chief of Systems Division. Shoppers don't receive food stamp benefits overseas.

"We're enjoying rave reviews from customers nationwide for this new convenience," he said. "It's just another way for us to show our shoppers that the commissary is worth the trip."

DeCA accepting commissary certfichecks

DeCA Corporate Communications

The Defense Commissary Agency will accept outstanding CertifiCheck gift certificates from authorized customers thanks to a plan approved by the Department of Defense. The approved plan DeCA commissaries to honor CertifiCheck gift checks now through July 31, 2009.

"I am happy to report that DeCA and DoD have found a way that we can honor our customers' unredeemed certfichecks," said DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. "We have been deeply concerned about how this situation has impacted our customers worldwide, and we're happy that we've been able to find a solution."

CertifiChecks Inc., the Dayton, Ohio, company that has issued the commissary gift checks since 2002, announced

Feb. 26 on its Web site that it had ceased operations and was filing Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

Since then, DeCA had been working non-stop with DoD officials to settle on a legal recourse it could offer its customers left holding the unredeemable certfichecks.

DeCA will be allowed to absorb the losses incurred from honoring the certificates from its Defense Working Capital Fund, Resale Stocks Account, Defense officials said. The DWCF was established to allow the federal government purchase and repair activities to account for costs and revenue as if they were commercial businesses.

Since 2002, more than \$20 million in gift certificates have been purchased for authorized customers, including more than \$3.9 million in fiscal 2008.

Stamp

From page 3

and turn it into a productive farm," he said. "Houses had to be a certain distance from the roads and had to have flowers in front of them."

The former slaves and free blacks worked tirelessly, clearing and farming their land or helping to build the Great Western Railroad. They built factories, a brickyard and a saw-and-grist mill; produced lumber and barrel staves and sold corn, wheat, oats, tobacco and other crops.

According to the Black Canadian Experience in Ontario at www.archives.gov.on.ca, the school established in Buxton produced such highly trained students that non-black students enrolled there and many graduates proceeded to the University of Toronto. Graine said that two of those students went on to help found the Howard University Medical School.

Graine said he returns to Buxton for Family reunions twice a year.

"I always go back to water my roots," he said. "It's still a small farming town of about two-hundred people but on Labor Day homecoming, about two-thousand people come home."

He said the annual festivities include

a genealogy day on Friday and a Family Feud softball tournament on Saturday.

"On Sunday it's church and fellowship, and the Sunday evening program is usually a play having to do with Buxton history that's held in the park."

The day usually ends with a hayride tour of the town and Monday wraps up with a Labor Day parade, complete with marching bands and floats.

"People come from all over the U.S. and Canada," Graine said. "It's a neat place to go, especially if you're into genealogy and love to be around down-home folks. I go because it keeps me grounded, reminds me of who I am, and that one of the most important things in life is Family."

Graine said he encourages everyone to look into their Family roots.

"Anyone can do it," he said. "All you do to start is find the oldest living member of your Family, take a tape recorder and talk to them. Learning about our ancestors and sharing their stories is the best way to honor the sacrifices they made for us. They led the way."

The stamp

Designed by Lara Minja of Lime Design, Inc., A.D. Shadd, who shares a striking resemblance with his great-great-grandson, Janmichael Shadd Graine, is shown holding a lantern in the foreground with refugee slaves headed toward shelter in the background.



During the NCOA Dining Out salute to the Year of the NCO, from left, Sgt. Quinton Cooley, Revolutionary War; Sgt. Mario Sottisanti, Civil War; Staff Sgt. Laquanda Harris, 21st Century Warfighter; Sgt. Robert Hicks, Spanish-American War; Sgt. Brandon Parnett, War of 1812; and other Soldiers from the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course model period uniforms of the nation's conflicts from the Revolutionary War to present.

Photos by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

NCOA

From front page

included OC&S Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Eubanks; Command Sgt. Maj. Hector G. Marin, Aberdeen Proving Ground and U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Command Sgt. Maj. Donald J. Freeman, 16th Ordnance Battalion; Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Bray; Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. McIntyre, 61st Ordnance Brigade, Sgt. Maj. Michael Bennett, 143rd Ordnance battalion, 1st Sgts. Anthony Dorsey, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course and Raymond E. Woottakewahbitty, BNCOC and deputy commandant 1st Sgt. Willie J. Odoms.

Green said that along with the Year of the NCO, there was much to celebrate.

"This is the last time we gather in this room, and we have a few things to celebrate this evening," he said.

Noting that more than 40,000 have trained at the NCOA since its establishment in 1987, he said that during its 22-year existence the academy has received numerous awards and accolades including eight consecutive accreditations from the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, the most recent received in February.

"This academy was recognized as an institution of excellence and, as stated by TRADOC, to be the first and once again, above the rest," Green said. "It has transformed into one of the top academies in the Army. Let it be known that our legacy and reputation will forever live on these grounds. It is an honor to serve as the thirteenth and final commandant of the Ordnance Center and Schools Noncommissioned Officer Academy."

The dining out traditionally hails past NCOA commandants, two of whom were in attendance – retired Command Sgts. Maj. Sammy J. Brinson Jr. and Steven A. McWilliams, the eleventh and eighth commandants, respectively.

Official ceremonies included the induction of the newest members of the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharp – the traditional brotherhood of gunsmiths, wheelwrights and metal workers. Inductees included Sgts. 1st Class Christopher Dulaney, Garvin Jackson, Edward Jones, Michael Moore and Frederick Spear and Staff Sgts. Phillip Barks, Peter T. Damian, Gregory Ingram, Austin Satterla and Allen Welch.

The Ordnance Corp Association's Keeper of the Flame award, which goes to an NCO spouse "for faithful and enduring service in support of the Soldiers and Families of the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps," went to Kristy Barks, the wife of Staff Sgt. Phillip Barks, NCOA headquarters company.

Abril guided guests through a dramatic salute to the NCO



Noncommissioned Officers and guests fill the Top of the Bay ballroom for the final NCOA Dining Out to be held at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Corps, the Year of the NCO and a Fallen Comrade Dedication which began with a review of the birth of the Continental Army in 1775 and the duties of the NCO as set forth by Valley Forge Inspector General Friedrich von Steuben in 1778.

Next, was a pageant of Soldiers modeling military uniforms worn during the nation's conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror. In a moving tribute to Warriors past, the lights dimmed and a spotlight shone on Abril who left the podium, stood among the models and sang "American Soldier" the tribute to America's Armed Forces written by recording artist Toby Keith after the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

Abril drew guests' attention to the Table of Remembrance at the front of the ballroom. On top of the black table cloth stood a vase with a red ribbon tied around it, holding a single rose, a slice of lemon, a shaker of salt, an inverted glass and an empty chair.

"The table set for one is small," Abril said, "symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The single rose reminds us of the Families and loved ones of our comrades in arms ... and the red ribbon is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the breasts of thousands who bear witness to their determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing."

He said the lemon was a reminder of their bitter faith, the salt for the Families' tears, the inverted glass, "because they cannot toast with us tonight," and the empty chair, "because they are not here."

"Remember all of you who called them comrades and relied upon their might, experience, insight and aid, for surely they have not forsaken you," he said.

Behind the table stood the traditional salute to the fallen, two boots with a weapon standing between them, ID tags hanging from the weapon and a helmet perched on top.

The playing of 'Taps' followed the Fallen Comrade Dedication.

The evening's entertainment included two skits by ANCOC and BNCOC students. In the ANCOC presentation, five NCOs, presenting themselves as elderly gentlemen, recited the words to the song 'Ragged Old Flag' by Johnny Cash. The stirring and emotional recitation drew a standing ovation from the audience.

In his remarks, Green talked about what it means to be an NCO in the Year of the NCO.

"It's a great honor to have a year named after you," he told the NCOs, "and I want to talk about what it means to you.

"As stated in the NCO Guide we must always be an NCO Corps that trains to standards," he said. "We value learning and we are capable of leading, training and motivating Soldiers. You provide leadership to fulfill our contract with the American people. You must continue to train hard to standard. The cost of not being ready is Soldier's lives, and this is a cost too high to pay."

He said that NCOs are the frontline in enforcing and reinforcing institutional values and that they accomplish this through what he calls principle-centered leadership.

"Principle-centered leadership is nothing more than positive leadership that is value based and discharged with principles and morals," he said.

"Principle-centered leaders are leaders who are constantly educated by their experiences. They read, they seek, they take classes; they learn through their ears and their eyes.

"They are curious, always asking questions, and they continually expand their competence. They develop new skills and new interests, and they discover that the more they know the more they realize they don't know; that as their circle of knowledge grows so does its outer edge of ignorance. Most of this learning and growth energy is self-initiated and feeds upon itself.

"I've just described to you the leader you need to be in today's Army," he said. "Soldiers want good, positive, strong leadership. They want to be trained and you have to train them."

He said that the successful

leader will be guided by the following principles:

- Be honest and you'll be respected for your honesty.
- Know your weaknesses; build upon them and never accept or consider failure as an option.
- Never tell your Soldier you can't without first trying.
- Never accept that they can't without first making them try.
- Never lose focus of what it takes to accomplish a mission.

"Soldiers will attach themselves to strong leaders," Green said. "They want to believe that their training can and will lead them to a hostile environment and return them home safely.

"Strong leaders will take ordinary Soldiers and train them to be extraordinary, and these extraordinary Soldiers will [seek] knowledge. Make that knowledge available to them. Someday, the led will become the leaders, and they will want to be the kind of leader that they had in you.

Every morning when you rise and put on that uniform, be proud of who and what you are," he said. "Know that when you leave home that morning you are going to make a difference in the world."

"I would like to close by stating the following," Green said. "My name is sergeant and I am a noncommissioned officer in the United States Army. For more than two centuries I have led our nation's Soldiers, purchasing freedom with my blood. To tyrants, I am the day of reckoning. To the oppressed, I am the hope for a brighter future. Where fighting is thick, I lead the way. No one is more professional than I. I am the Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers, and I am the backbone of the Army."

In closing, Eubanks joined Green to administer the Charge to the Noncommissioned Officer at attention, read the standing in unison. And then, led by Sgt. 1st Class Alvin Jones, senior small group leader, all recited the NCO Creed.

"I want to thank each and every one of you for everything you do for our great nation

every day," Eubanks said.

Staff Sgt. Kevin M. Bronson Sr. of BNCOC presented the program's invocation and benediction and Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Moore, ANCOC SGL, led the NCOA color guard in the posting and retiring of the colors.

Green and BNCOC's youngest Soldier, Sgt. George Pate, cut the ceremonial cake.

Several attendees said they were moved by the evening's events.

"This was a truly professional program that was well planned and executed by NCOs," Marin said. "Command Sergeant Major Green is a superb leader, and I was touched and honored to be among these Warriors tonight."

Marin complemented Abril for his emceeding the program.

"It was a very special moment for me as an NCO to be a part of something that will go down in history," Abril said. "I'll be proud to say that I did my BNCOC at APG."

Geoffrey Vallone, a retired Marine gunnery sergeant and instructor with the OMMS Directorate of Instruction, said he never misses a dining out and that he's excited about the move to Fort Lee.

"Tonight was APG at its finest, and we'll miss it but we're moving on to better facilities where I think we'll be thinking outside the box," he said.

Vallone, who first served at APG as a student in 1976 and then served two tours as a master instructor, is a team chief in the Accreditation Center of Excellence. He also served as the evening's DJ.

Sgt. 1st Class Frankie Davis, who led the ANCOC skit, said he and his fellow NCOs were happy to volunteer when asked by ANCOC 1st Sgt. Anthony Dorsey.

"When we got here, we didn't know we would be participating in the last dining out at APG," Davis said. "It was an honor and a blessing."

The NCO Academy implements Warrior core training and provides technical and tactical common logistical training for ordnance Soldiers, E-5 to E-7, attending its advanced and basic courses.