

APG News

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

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Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Dec. 9 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



Free AMC Band holiday concert

The U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground will present A Family Holiday Celebration, a free concert featuring the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band 3 p.m., Dec. 13, at the Amoss Performing Arts Theater, Harford Community College, 410 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air.

This is a free ticketed event; tickets can be picked up at building 2184 during normal business hours. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call 410-278-8769.

RDECOM change of command tomorrow

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command will hold a change of command 10 a.m., Dec. 4, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. Major Gen. Paul S. Izzo will retire after 34 years of service and turn the command over to Maj. Gen. Nickolas G. Justice, the current program executive officer for the Command, Control and Communications-Tactical at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

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Fort Monmouth History Corner

APG Chapel gives thanks to those who give

Story and photo by **ANDRICKA THOMAS**
CECOM LCMC (FWD)

During the Aberdeen Proving Ground Chapel's 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Appreciation Luncheon Nov. 20, representatives from installation organizations gathered at Top of the Bay to show their appreciation to military service members, their families, select personnel and volunteers for their service and support to the APG Chapel and the Army mission.

Chaplain (Col.) Ruben Colon, senior APG chaplain, opened the luncheon with a prayer, followed by the national anthem sung by Randy Weber. Jari Villaneuva performed a trumpet solo of the song entitled "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

Chaplain (Col.) Sean Lee, Joint Force Headquarters, led the Thanksgiving Prayer just prior to the guest speaker remarks.

Colonel Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, continued the Thanksgiving spirit as he gave remarks highlighting appreciation he has for God, the military and family.

"Today we give thanks to God for our blessings and pray



APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney J. Rhoades, left, accepts a \$13,350 check from the Aberdeen Proving Ground Chapel, Holiday Sharing Program and the APG faith community. Selected APG Soldiers and their families will be given \$75 in commissary vouchers to shop for food for the holiday season. Pictured to Rhoades' right are Connie Richardson, Catholic coordinator; Dr. Gene Egerton, president of the Aberdeen Area Protestant Service; and Staff Sgt. David Ribar, APG Chapel noncommissioned officer in charge.

for all of our uniformed service members and their families," Ortiz said. He reflected on the nation's beginnings when the first settlers migrated to America more than four centuries ago to build a new society.

"In the years since, millions more have come to America in pursuit of that promise of freedom," he said. "We enjoy the

freedom to worship our God, to speak our thoughts, to enter the profession of our choice, to own our own home, to raise our children and to get an education."

It is those freedoms, among a list of others Ortiz referenced, that America's Soldiers swear to protect and defend each day.

Ortiz joined APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney J.

Rhoades and Staff Sgt. David Ribar, APG Chapel noncommissioned officer in charge, in recognizing Department of Defense civilians and contractors by presenting a certificate of appreciation and a coin from the installation commander Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo for their service and support to the nation's

See THANKS, page 16

Federal campaign exceeds \$305,000

APG CFC Office

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Combined Federal Campaign exceeded the \$305,000 mark with more than 1,000 donors toward the target goal of 3,000 donors participating.

The APG CFC Office congratulates CECOM LCMC, PEO, Integration, U.S. Army APG Garrison's Religious Support Office, CECOM Contracting Center, U.S. Army TACOM, Integration Logistics Support Center, Clothing and Heraldry Services Office for exceeding their tenant goals.

Congratulations also to Carol Gallagher an Aberdeen Proving Ground civilian who has been awarded a CFC medallion for reaching the \$200,000 mark thru online donations. An equal employment opportunity specialist with the Garrison EEO Office, Gallagher said she has been donating to her favorite charities for the past 15



years. She favors child and animal welfare organizations. Gallagher is an Army veteran who retires this month from the Delaware National Guard.

Plans are underway to also congratulate the 500th online pledge donor.

Book Fair

The APG CFC Book Fair has more than 1,000 books in stock. There is something for everyone – children's books, history, poetry, cookbooks, fiction, non-fiction and

lots more.

Prices range from 50 cents to \$1. The Book Fair is located in the APG CFC Office in Top of the Bay's Down Under, building 30. Visitors can browse through the books at anytime during regular business hours.

Silent auction

Heavy bidding on collectibles in the CFC Silent Auction continues.

Popular items include a Baltimore Ravens hat autographed by Mark Clayton and Derrick Mason, an autographed Cal Ripken uniform, a Fort McHenry painting by Chris White, Beanie Babies, collectible books and more.

To view items click on the Online Silent Auction link next to the CFC logo on the APG Web site. Users must have a CAC or AKO password to access the site.

The auction ends Dec. 7.



Santa checks the Letters to Santa mailbox next to the Emergency Services building, 2200 Frankford Street, for holiday wishes from Aberdeen Proving Ground children. APG firefighters will collect Letters to Santa through Dec. 22.

Letters to Santa writers can receive donated gifts this year

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

The Directorate of Emergency Services Fire and Emergency Services Division will again offer a Letters to Santa mail service for children this holiday season.

The Letters to Santa mail box is posted outside the Emergency Services building, 2200 Frankford Street.

Letters will be collected every day and all will be answered, according to fire inspector T.C. Glassman.

This year, a special gift-purchase service will be added for anyone wishing to donate a present for an Aberdeen Proving Ground youngster, Glassman said.

"People can come in to view the letters and if they want to they can purchase a gift or gifts for the child who wrote the letter," Glassman said.

He said volunteers can bring purchased gifts to the firehouse in building 2200 and Emergency Services personnel will wrap

and deliver them after inspecting them for safety purposes.

"We're aware that many families are struggling this year," Glassman said, adding that the department received around 90 letters last year. "The department is happy to accept any donations, especially candy canes, which firefighters distribute to children throughout the season. Anyone wanting to participate can come by anytime."

He said that children should include their name, age, gender and address so the letters can be answered. Letters should be dropped off no later than Dec. 22.

The department can only deliver gifts to children living in on-post housing. All letters will be answered.

Glassman thanked the APG Thrift Shop for a \$100 donation that enabled them to purchase stationery and envelopes.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Glassman at 410-306-0600 or e-mail him at tc.glassman@us.army.mil.

APG police officer hailed as hero by Baltimore County Police Department

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

A police officer with the Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Emergency Services was hailed as a hero by the chief of police for Baltimore County during an informal award ceremony at the Aberdeen Area Chapel Nov. 19.

The ceremony preceded the monthly Well-Being Council meeting.

Officer Paul Chin, a member of the directorates' Special Reaction Team, was recognized for intervening in an armed robbery in Baltimore County earlier this year.

See HERO, page 12

TRAFFIC ALERT

Road work continues in both areas of APG

DPW

Road work in the Aberdeen Area will continue on Boothby Hill Avenue and Maryland Boulevard as weather permits. Paving will be done using single lane closures with flaggers and other traffic controls as needed.

There will be work occurring on Susquehanna Avenue during this week as well. There will be a single lane closure on Susquehanna Avenue between Bel Air Street and Havre De Grace

See TRAFFIC, page 16

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



APG celebrates The Year of the NCO

JPED NCOs proud to honor the fallen

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

To honor the Year of the NCO, 1st Sgt. Alfred Venham of the Joint Personal Effects Depot recently required JPED noncommissioned officers to write essays about what being an NCO means to them.

The JPED is where the personal effects of service members, government civilians and contractors and embedded members of the media killed or wounded as a result of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, are processed before being turned over to surviving Family members.

The Soldiers of the JPED hold the Military Occupational Specialty, 92M (92-Mike), mortuary affairs specialist, and they deal with the harsh, and often emotional, remnants of war on a daily basis.

Venham said he was so impressed with the essays he shared them with the Casualty Mortuary Affairs Operation Center and with APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, who was equally impressed and suggested that they be published. Venham spoke highly of his NCOs. He said it takes a "special kind of person," to do their jobs and that many of them feel it is a "sacred trust and duty."

"They are proud and honored to perform the final show of respect to fallen comrades," Venham said. "You have to be passionate, caring and understanding, not only to the personal effects but to the people working alongside you as well," he said. "My hat is off to these folks. It takes a special mindset to do this and deal with day to day life at the same time. They're just an awesome group."

"We have a good bunch here," added Sgt. 1st Class Chester Craig, NCOIC of the JPED S-3, Plans, Training and Operations.

A former field artilleryman, Craig was recalled out of retirement in 2006 to assist the JPED as a subject matter expert and eventually moved on to the S-3.

He said he doesn't deal with the personal effects side of the operation and has tremendous respect for those who do.

"It's a pretty rough business, but they know what their mission is," he said. "They do it well because they respect what they do."

Excerpts of essays by the NCOs of the JPED



Staff Sgt. Jenise Phillips

"As a team leader for the mortuary affairs collection point in Mosul, Iraq, I ensured the remains of our fallen comrades were handled with the utmost care and respect. The leadership qualities I displayed to my Soldiers allowed them to see that I was approachable, knew how to get the job done, and most importantly I did not have to belittle them under the guise of motivation. I most certainly earned the respect of my subordinates, not because I was their best buddy, but because I was their leader, counselor,

and most of all, their mentor."

Phillips is a 92M mortuary affairs specialist from Manchester, Jamaica. She is the NCOIC of the JPED shipping section. She's been working at the JPED for more than three years and describes the job as "awesome" and "very important."

"Families appreciate the time and the care we take," Phillips said. "When they receive the personal effects, they can see we spent quality time to make their loved one's personal effects so presentable.

She said that carrying out the somber mission affects how Soldiers view their loved ones.

"You appreciate your Family more," she said. "When you see Soldiers' photos, or read their letters from home, you realize you are handling the intimate parts of their lives.

We want to make the transition as easy as possible for the Family, even though we know how difficult it can be.

"There's no where else I'd rather be," she added. "Not everyone can do this job because of its sensitivity. But when you receive feedback from Family members, you receive fulfillment from that."

She said the JPED constructs heirloom chests – wooden boxes decorated with branch emblems containing flags and other memorabilia – which they include in the shipments.

"Families never expect it, and they are that much more grateful," Phillips said.

Phillips is pursuing a degree in psychology with Kaplan University. She said she is considering staying in the Army.



Sgt. Victor M. Villafane

"Thanks to my senior leadership I was given the opportunity of becoming the NCO that I am, and I'm proud to say that I have never let them down. Becoming an NCO has made me grow personally and professionally. There is only one thing I live by every day and that is, 'I will always put my Soldier's needs above my own,' in accordance with the NCO Creed."

Villafane is a JPED quality control NCO. He is responsible for verifying paperwork on every item photographed and inventoried and maintaining a database on all transactions before and after shipment.

A native of Puerto Rico, he has been in the Army five and one-half years. He was promoted to sergeant while assigned to the 54th Mortuary Affairs Quartermaster Company at the Theater Mortuary Evacuation Point in Kuwait after being recommended for promotion by Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock, commander of the 377th Theater Support Command. Villafane said Mock walked into the mortuary one day while he was processing a fallen Soldier.

"He asked me what I was doing and I told him 'I'm taking care of one of our own.' Then I apologized for not calling attention out of respect for the fallen."

He said that Mock agreed with him

and asked if he could assist him in the process, which he did.

"I guided him throughout the process and then he actually helped me carry the remains into the freezer," he said.

"Villafane said he was told the next day to get his promotion packet ready because the general said he wanted to see sergeant stripes on him the next time they met. He was boarded and promoted not long after at the age of 20.

"I think my courtesy more than anything impressed him," Villafane said. "Before he left he shook my hand and said, 'Thanks for everything you do for our Soldiers.'

"I learned in this job that it doesn't matter the rank or the position the person held in life. It's all about taking care of our comrades," he said.

Villafane has been in the Army six years. He served at the Mortuary Affairs Evacuation Point in Kuwait 2004 to 2005 and he has been with the JPED since 2007. Since then, he said he's learned that handling personal effects is equally important.

"That's where the memories are," he said. "To me this is special and very rewarding. We are giving Family members back parts of their loved ones. It's the least we can do for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice."

He said he was inspired to become an NCO by an E-7 who served as company commander in his small unit in Kuwait.

"I was an NCOIC as an E-4 and he put his trust in me and gave me responsibilities," he said. "Even when I made mistakes he was right there to correct me. I worked hard to make fewer mistakes, and when I got promoted I worked even harder to be a better NCO."

Villafane said he plans to retire from the Army.

"I just feel I need to keep doing what I'm doing," he said. "I'm just honored to serve the fallen."

Villafane has two older sisters, both English teachers in Puerto Rico. He is taking technology of electronic engineering courses online with the University of Puerto Rico.



Sgt. Densley Aviles

"Being an NCO is not a rank or position, it's a way of life. It's becoming a leader, and the number one thing a leader does is to create another leader. Soldiers may doubt what you say but they will believe what you do."

Aviles is the NCOIC of the JPED Safe Room where valuables such as money or high-dollar items, such as watches or jewelry, are safeguarded until shipment.

He has been in an Army Reserves Mortuary Affairs unit in Puerto Rico for nine years, the last four of which he spent activated with the JPED.

"Ours is a unique job, and most people don't even know what we do," Aviles said. "Hardly anyone ever thinks about what happens to the personal effects."

He said making the adjustment to personal effects was difficult at first.

"When you're handling remains, you're dealing with death," he said. "But here, you're dealing with the bits

and pieces of a life.

"In the beginning, when I worked on the [sorting] line, one of the hardest parts was going through the letters and pictures," he said. "It was hard not to connect. I used to look through the Army Times for their faces but I don't anymore."

Aviles said he was mentored by an E-7 "who knew how to mold leaders."

"He treated me with respect. That really motivated me," he said. "I wanted to be like him. He created the leader in me."

He said he plans to remain in his field until he retires.

"I like my MOS and I love my job," he said. "It's such a unique experience."



Staff Sgt. Adeee-Leen Ortiz

Ortiz is the NCOIC of the JPED Reconciliation Section where items that cannot be shipped through the Post Office, such as cigarette lighters and hair spray, are sent for disposal. Ortiz has been in the Army for nine years. She said when she joined she wasn't even sure she'd stay long enough to make sergeant.

"When I came in I wasn't sure I even wanted to be in," she said, "But after I was in for a while, I knew one day I wanted to be an E-7.

"I was inspired to become an NCO by Sergeant Major Nelida Thompson. She was professional, one of the best and a great NCO. She told me I should be aiming to retire as an E-9 and nothing less. She was my mentor."

She added that her godfather spent 42 years in the military and that he, "inspired me to achieve."

"It may sound weird but I like this job, and I'm going to be sad to leave this place. We take so much extra care of everything that comes through here for the Family members. We can honestly say that we did help take care of them. There's no place I'd rather be. I wouldn't trade places with anybody," Ortiz said.

(Ortiz was not available to participate in the essay writing.)

About JPED

The Joint Personal Effects Depot was activated at Fort Myer, Va., after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks; its mission: to process the personal effects of the service members and civilians wounded or killed at the Pentagon.

In March 2003, the JPED was relocated to Aberdeen Proving Ground with the expanded mission of processing the personal effects of those killed or wounded in the War on Terror.

Inside a fenced in and secured area, in the JPED's two buildings - one for the personal effects of the wounded and the other for the fallen - the mementos and possession that made up individual lives are processed. They are inventoried, sorted, photographed, cleaned, safeguarded and inventoried again before being shipped to Family members or survivors. A part of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, the JPED eventually will relocate to the Port Mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

APG News

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

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★ ★ COMMANDER'S CORNER ★ ★

Commentary: Installation commander retires after 34 years

By
MAJ. GEN. PAUL S. IZZO
APG and RDECOM

Tomorrow I will pass command of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command to Maj. Gen. Nickolas Justice and retire from the U.S. Army after 34 great years. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for the honor of serving with you here at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

It is impossible for me to briefly summarize my time here -- let alone my career -- in this column. However, as I step down as the installation commander, I do want to share a few of my observations on three areas that I have focused on during my time here.

First, I have always felt it very important that we tell the APG story. By keeping lines of communication open and proactively working with the U.S. Army Materiel Command, the Secretary of the Army, Congress and local community leaders, I have tried to convey the incredibly important work the APG



team does every day to support our Soldiers. Getting this story out is essential to accomplishing our shared mission of supporting our Soldiers.

Second, one of my most cherished responsibilities at RDECOM and across the installation has been to work at training and building our leaders for

tomorrow. To me there is nothing more important than developing a workforce that is capable of keeping our Warfighters on the cutting edge of technology. I have always felt that recruiting and retaining the best and the brightest is critical to the continued success of this command and this post. To me this has meant not only identifying those who are talented and smart, but in particular those individuals who are passionate about our mission. Just like the coach of a great team, it was my job to build the team, call the plays at the right time and let the team do the rest.

Finally, my main duty, as it is with all of us here at APG, and certainly at the core of RDECOM, is our intense focus on supplying our Warfighters with the best equipment and technologies we can develop. All of us understand that we are in a period of protracted conflict, and in order to serve our Warfighters, we must stay focused not only on the here and now, but also on the future. I am proud that this command will never rest upon its laurels; we all know

what works today may not work tomorrow. We must be robust enough to execute a new plan as conditions dictate. It is crucial that we remain adaptable, relevant, flexible and strong.

Throughout my time in command I have tried to articulate a vision of what RDECOM and APG should look like in five years. I am pleased at the progress we have made, and I leave believing that consolidating more elements of RDECOM at APG will make for a stronger and more resilient command and a more vital installation making an ever greater contribution to our Army.

My time as your commanding general has been the culminating experience of my 34-year Army career. Twenty-four years ago, I was stationed at APG as a captain. I found the people here to be strong-willed and dedicated to their jobs. I left here then thinking that indeed they were some of the smartest people in the world. When I returned to take command, I was impressed and proud to once again be a part of a driven and committed workforce.

29th Combat Aviation Brigade hails new commander



Photo courtesy of MDNG
Colonel David W. Carey, incoming commander, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade at Weide Army Airfield in the Edgewood Area, addresses those present at his change of command ceremony Nov. 14.

MDNG

The Army Aviation Support Facility commander took command of the Maryland National Guard's 29th Combat Aviation Brigade during the change-of-command ceremony at Weide Army Airfield in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground Nov. 14.

Colonel David W. Carey succeeded Col. Timothy E. Gowen, who became the special assistant to the director of the Joint Staff and works as an aerospace engineer as a civilian.

"I've looked forward to this my whole career. This is an awesome, awesome responsibility," Carey said. "It feels like I'm home again."

Carey has served in several capacities during his career in the Aviation Branch, some including attack helicopter and aeroscout platoon leader, cavalry commander, Air Traffic Services Group Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander and brigade executive officer. He was also the deputy chief of staff for personnel G1, Maryland Army National Guard.

He earned his bachelor's degree in

business management at the University of Maryland in Adelphi, followed by a master's degree in strategic studies at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pa. He is a graduate of the aviation officer basic course and initial entry rotary wing course at Fort Rucker, Ala.; the OH-6 Cayuse, AH-1 Cobra and UH-60 Blackhawk qualification courses; the OH-58 Kiowa and the UH-1 Huey instructor pilot courses; the aviation officer advanced course; the combined arms

staff services school; the aviation safety officers course; company pre-command course and the command and general staff officer course.

During his 25 years of service, Carey has earned a Master Army Aviator Badge, an Army Superior Unit Award, a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal and has received an Army, Air Force and Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal.

Army develops 'Ghost' Imaging to aid on battlefield

Story by

CHRISTEN N. MCCLUNEY

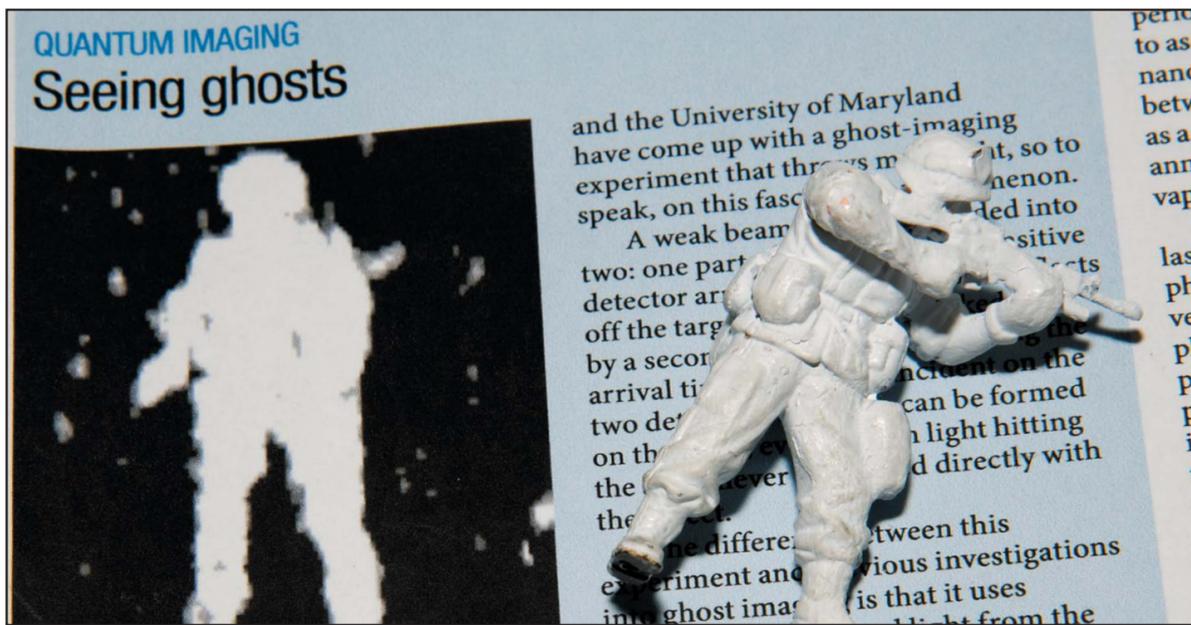
Special to American Forces Press Service

Physicists at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory are bringing quantum "ghost" imaging from the realm of scientific curiosity to practical reality.

Ghost imaging is a technique that allows a high-resolution camera to produce an image of an object that the camera itself cannot see. It uses two sensors: one that looks at a light source and another that looks at the object. These sensors point in different directions. For example, the camera can face the sun and the light meter can face an object.

That object might be a Soldier, a tank or an airplane, Ron Meyers, a laboratory quantum physicist explained during an Oct. 28 interview on the Pentagon Channel podcast "Armed with Science: Research and Applications for the Modern Military."

Once this is done, a computer program compares and combines the patterns received from the object and the light. This creates a "ghost image," a black-and-white or color picture of the object being photographed. The earliest ghost images were silhouettes, but current ones depict the objects more realistically.



Ron Meyers, a quantum physicist with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, is helping to develop "ghost" imaging, a technique that can be used to aid Soldiers on the battlefield. Photo by DOUG LAFON

est ghost images were silhouettes, but current ones depict the objects more realistically.

Meyers and his team produced the first ghost image of an opaque object in his quantum laboratory at the Army research facility.

"I think, or I would hope, in a few years that we have a Soldier using a quantum ghost imaging imager to look through battlefield smoke and identifying friend or foe," Meyers said.

Using virtually any light source -- from a fluorescent bulb, lasers, or even the sun -- quantum ghost imaging gives a clearer picture of objects by eliminating conditions such as clouds, fog and smoke beyond the ability of conventional imaging.

Meyers said there are other applications for ghost imaging in the military. Ghost-imaging sensors may allow helicopters or unmanned aerial vehicles to capture images that measure damage after a bomb is dropped. In the medical field, the imaging could improve X-rays to focus in on body parts. It also could be used in search and rescue efforts.

Meyers, who recently won an Army Research and Development Achievement Award for his work in quantum physics and imaging, said receiving this award "shows that the efforts made in this area are being looked at seriously and are being considered for future

applications."

"What we try to do is come up with innovative solutions that will support the War-fighter," he said. "And when we can, we also spin off our technology for domestic uses."

One of the biggest challenges Meyers faces is getting good measurements.

"When you do a new science, you really need to perform your measurements with high quality so the experiments can be repeated by others," he said. "At the Army Research Laboratory, we've been very lucky that we've been able to be funded to get very high-quality instruments."

Meyers added that he finds his career in the Army rewarding. "I think it's really the best place to work for a scientist. You're given responsibility at a young age, and you're able to go as far as your thoughts and your abilities can take you."

Related sites:

- www.blogtalkradio.com/armed-withscience/ 2009/10/28/episode-41-quantum-ghost-imaging
- www.pentagonchannel.mil/armedwithscience/
- twitter.com/armedwscience

(Editor's note: Christen N. McCluney works in the Defense Media Activity's Emerging Media Directorate.

Two retire during November ceremony

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Two civilian employees from the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison were formally retired during a ceremony at Top of the Bay Nov. 16.

Wayne L. Doyel from the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation retired with 20 years of service and Raymond Hysell, a firefighter with the Directorate of Emergency Services, retired after 26 years.

Major Gen. Paul S. Izzo, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, presided over the ceremony assisted by APG and RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Hector G. Marin.

Chaplain (Maj.) Young Kim provided the invocation and the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band's brass quintet, led by Staff Sgt. Stephen Edgerton, provided music.

Izzo said it was important to recognize those who support APG. He thanked the retirees for their service and their spouses for their support.

"What you did was absolutely super," he said. "You have worked wholeheartedly all these years and are our unsung heroes. Thank you and may your good work continue."

Wayne L. Doyel

Doyel was awarded the APG certificates of retirement and appreciation



Wayne L. Doyel

signed by Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander. His wife Misty received the APG Certificate of Appreciation.

Doyel was born in Exeter, Calif. He joined the Army in 1967 and retired after 20 years of service as a sergeant first class, post retention NCO. He accepted a position with the DFMWR in 1989 and for another 20 years served as the Youth Services branch chief and as the Outdoor Recreation manager. Doyel received numerous awards over the years and with the help of the Community Recreation Program Team he



Raymond E. Hysell

guided the staff to win the Best Mid-sized Outdoor Recreation Program in the Army.

Doyel said serving Soldiers has always been important to him.

"It's important that they have a place to relax and that we provide them the best possible service we can," Doyel said. "We were fortunate to win the Outdoor Recreation Program award, and it was all due to great support from the command. You can't find better people to work with than in FMWR. If not for my health, I would have stayed."

Doyel and his wife Misty have twin

daughters. His retirement plans include enjoying more time on the golf course and "being a pain in the neck" to his wife.

Raymond E. Hysell

Hysell was awarded the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service and APG certificates of appreciation and retirement signed by Ortiz.

Hysell worked for the APG Fire Department for 26 years. He filled the position of firefighter and apparatus driver/operator while assigned to the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas as well as at the Airbase Fire Station at Phillips Army Airfield.

His day-to-day activities included building fire safety inspections, maintenance and inspection of fire alarms and fire suppression systems. Hysell distinguished himself over the past five years by maintaining the notification of and testing records for the protective masks issued to every member of the Fire and Emergency Services Division.

He expressed his thanks to his fellow firefighters and emergency medical personnel for their support.

"We always worked as a team," he said. "Without teamwork, we couldn't do what we do."

He said he plans to remain in the area and look for other employment.

Hysell and his wife Mae have one son. They live in the Aberdeen area.

Photos by SEAN KIEF, APG GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

Tips to get through holiday spending

Military One Source

Overindulging financially is a trap that many people fall into during the holidays-like feeling pressure to buy the "perfect" present for everyone on the shopping list-but doing so can add up to emotional and financial stress.

Tips to get through this holiday spending time of year

- Try to focus on aspects of the holidays beyond giving and receiving gifts. It's not only stressful to feel that you must buy (or receive) expensive gifts -- it's wrong. The best gifts are those chosen with an eye toward what's personal and meaningful to the recipient. Such gifts don't have to cost a lot.

- Make a holiday budget and stick to it. Plan for an increase in spending if

meals, gifts and entertainment are part of the holiday. Know how much you can spend before you go shopping or before you decide how many people to invite for a holiday meal. This will keep you from spending more than you should. If you have a child who wants an expensive toy, it's okay to tell him that everyone has financial limitations. Save your money and use it to get a head start on planning for the following year.

- Limit your gift list. Do you really need to buy gifts for everyone on the list? You might suggest to a friend that you skip the gift-giving and plan for an inexpensive outing together instead. Many extended Families decide that instead of providing a gift for everyone, they will draw names out of a hat and

give only one gift per person or make a charitable contribution as a group.

- Make a holiday shopping plan. Instead of heading to the mall with some vague ideas in mind, decide ahead of time what you will buy for each person, and then do your shopping on the Internet or from catalogs. That way you won't be as tempted to go over your budget. If you're not sure what to buy for certain people, save them for last so that when you do go shopping, you'll have already bought gifts for most of the people on your list.

- Think of alternatives to purchased gifts. There are many heart-felt, thoughtful gifts that don't come with a sales receipt. Could you make some treats or put together a photo album? Chil-

dren can give coupons for babysitting, car washes or backrubs. Gift baskets stocked with smaller, inexpensive items are another option.

For more information about managing holiday spending, contact Arcelio V. Alleyne, Army Community Service financial readiness program manager, 410-278-2450, fax 410-278-9685, or e-mail arcelio.alleyne@us.army.mil.

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apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil)**

November Well-Being meeting focuses on post improvements, upcoming events

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community gathered at the Aberdeen Area Post Chapel Nov. 19 to discuss post improvements and upcoming events.

Colonel Orlando Ortiz, APG garrison and deputy installation commander, welcomed attendees to the meeting and said that he was happy to see that attendance is increasing, as the Well-Being meetings are an important forum to discuss issues to improve APG.

He asked attendees to pass the word about the meetings.

“Please get the word out as we move forward as a team doing good things for the nation,” Ortiz said.

He then turned the meeting over to Michael Luppachino, director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

DPTMS

John Kearney, director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, said that the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command will hold a change of command for Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, who will turn the command over to Maj. Gen. Nickolas G. Justice, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326 at 10 a.m., Dec. 4.

Kearney said that during the time leading up to and after the ceremony there will be many visiting dignitaries and to watch for changes in traffic plans.

“There will be changes in traffic plans the day before and certainly the day of the ceremony,” he said.

Kearney added that the Route 24 Gate, which is the main gate in the Edgewood Area, will be open on Dec. 7.

Kearney said that plans for an APG museum are well underway, but that there is a two-year process to get it validated by the U.S. Army Center for Military History.

“This museum will tell the story of APG and the surrounding communities,” he said.

Kearney said that about 120 museum artifacts from the Ordnance Museum will stay, and new pieces will be coming into the new museum.

AFFES

Debbie Armendariz, manager, APG Army and Air Force Exchange Service said to look for sales and promotions at the PX throughout the holiday season.

The PX will have “early bird” specials on Dec. 5 starting at 7 a.m.; Dec. 12 starting at 6 a.m.; and Dec. 19 starting at 6 a.m. On Dec. 21 there will be a “midnight madness sale” and the PX will be open from 9 a.m. to midnight. The PX will also have special hours on Dec. 24: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

An attendee asked if the PX will match prices during the promotional days.

“We always match prices,” Armendariz said.

She added that Nov. 30 through Dec. 4 and Dec. 28 through Jan. 4 customers can save 20 cents off per gallon when they use their Military Star card to purchase gasoline at the AAFES Exchange.

Commissary

Anne Morrison from the Commissary said that holiday party special trays and fruit baskets can be made with 48 hours notice.

KUSAHC

Anne Laughton, a community health nurse from Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, announced that on Friday, Dec. 4, the clinic will be closing at noon. See Post Short for more closing dates.

Laughton said that the clinic has only a limited amount of the seasonal flu vaccine, but that it is for active duty and Family members only at this time.

Laughton said to check the flu hotline to see when KUSAHC will receive the H1N1 flu vaccine. She said that for the H1N1N vaccine there will be two banks for the active duty and civilians.

“We have requested enough vaccine in order to vaccinate anyone who should choose to come in for one,” she said.

Laughton said that when they receive the vaccine they will be running vaccination clinics in the Aberdeen and Edgewood area.

“We will set up vaccination clinics within forty-eight hours of receiving the vaccination,” she said.

An attendee asked when children should receive their second flu shot.

Laughton responded that children should wait 28 days.

For more information, call the flu hotline, 410-306-3588.

DPW

Tom Kuchar, director of Public Works, asked attendees to watch for construction projects that happen during nights and weekends. Kuchar asked attendees

to watch for e-mails notifying them of upcoming construction projects.

He said that when a road is closed, a sign will be up that redirects motorists.

DES

Robert Krauer, director of Emergency Services, asked attendees to continue to use extra caution while driving on APG, as accidents have been on the rise.

“There is a lot of heavy equipment moving on the roadways; please be careful,” he said.

Krauer added that he is pleased to announce that on Jan. 7 the D.A.R.E. program will start at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center and the Child Development Center. DES will also offer some instruction at the Saint Joan of Arc School in Aberdeen. On the Edgewood Area the D.A.R.E. program will begin in March.

“D.A.R.E. is always a great program for our kids,” he said. “The folks who get involved with it also have a great time.”

Krauer told attendees that community awareness is very important in keeping APG safe to avoid a situation like the Fort Hood shootings on Nov. 5.

“It is absolutely imperative that if you see something suspicious, pick up the phone and call 911,” he said. “Police officers on this installation are well trained and able to handle these situations. Our job is to avoid tragedy.”

Krauer added that keeping the community safe is a group effort.

“I solicit your assistance,” he said. “You become eyes and ears for us as well.”

The non-emergency police number is 410-436-2222 in the Edgewood Area and 410-306-2222 in the Aberdeen Area.

Logistics

Gene Schneck, director of Logistics, announced that there will be a Winter Block Leave Super Supper 5:30 to 7 p.m., Dec. 18 at the dining facility buildings, building 4503 in the Aberdeen Area and building 4225 in the Edgewood Area. The dinners are open to all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests.

On Christmas Day the Aberdeen Area dining facility will only be open from noon to 1:30 p.m.

FMWR

Chris Lockhart, the director of FMWR Marketing, said to check the FMWR newsletter, FMWR InDemand and the Web site, www.apgmwr.com, for changes in holiday hours at FMWR facilities. The Web site also has updated information for all upcoming FMWR events.

Lockhart added that Army Community Service will host the annual Holiday Extravaganza and Tree Lighting ceremony at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center 6 to 8:30 p.m., Dec. 10.

The event will feature light refreshments, games, music, photos with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and toy distribution.

Luppachino added that during December the fitness centers will be changing the hours of operation on the weekends and holidays to 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Luppachino said that these hours will be offered on a trial basis to see if the fitness center will be better utilized during these times. Patrons are encouraged to leave an Interactive Customer Evaluation comment on the APG Web site, www.apg.army.mil.

Luppachino added that the Aberdeen Area Bowling Center will offer free bowling to Soldiers and their Families, with identification Dec. 18 through Jan. 3.

Safety

Robert Hailstone, a team leader for the Installation Safety Office, asked attendees to use caution on the roads during holiday travel.

Hailstone said that if attendees have any questions or concerns regarding safety issues on the installation, they can call him at 410-306-1697.

HCC

Major Matt Petraitis, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, APG Garrison, said that APG will have a holiday ball Dec. 18 at Top of the Bay that is open to the public. In addition to celebrating the holidays, the ball will also be a tribute to the culmination of the Year of the NCO festivities on APG. The guest speaker will be Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger, from the U.S. Army Materiel Command. Tickets can be purchased at www.apgmwr.com/events.html#holidayball. Cost is \$40 per person, no tickets will be sold at the door.

See **WELL-BEING**, page 16

DTC employee works hard to earn certification

Story by
MIKE CAST
DTC Public Affairs

When a U.S. Army Developmental Test Command employee received a letter from a nationwide organization that certifies people as experts in their field, he already knew the hard work and preparation for this professional acknowledgement had paid off.

By successfully passing a rigorous exam and demonstrating a comprehensive knowledge in his area of expertise, Nick Cavallaro officially became an associate occupational health and safety technologist.

His preparation for this achievement began long before the Council on Certification of Health, Environmental and Safety Technologists sent him the congratulatory letter in October.

Cavallaro, who earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in environmental science from Rutgers University, began working for the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command in June 1986, thus joining the ranks of an organization that would eventually become the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command. At the time, his primary function was to oversee the environmental-quality aspects of test mission planning. He became the command's expert in implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act, federal legislation that followed in the wake of an oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1969. NEPA reflected growing concerns

about the impact of pollutants to public health, particularly the impacts of polluted water and air.

"The steps taken to transition into the safety and occupational health career field were to seek out and find courses on Occupational Health and Safety Act compliance, which I did while doing safety work part time, along with the NEPA compliance work," Cavallaro explained.

He said he "re-engineered" himself to include safety as an area of expertise because he wanted to stay with DTC while the Army Installation Management Command took over the role of environmental compliance at Army installations.

He currently oversees the work of a contractor who conducts health promotion activities within the command, which includes managerial duties he added to his portfolio of skills. His current role also includes more direct oversight of test center industrial safety, which requires occasional staff-assistant visits to test centers across the United States as well as being a member of the team that inspects test centers on a regular basis. In that capacity, he uses his expertise to help managers at test centers stay in compliance with occupational health and safety regulations and command policies.

Cavallaro passed the exam that led to his certification while he was at Fort Rucker, Ala., to attend the Joint CP-12 Safety and Occupational Health Training Program. The Department of Defense

established the program after senior leaders recognized the serious impact accidental injuries had on all the military service branches. As a result, the U.S. Army Safety Center became the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center on Jan. 31, 2005. Its mission was expanded to include programs the Army undertakes to prevent injury and death from avoidable accidents and health-related problems.

Achieving the occupational health and safety technologist certification requires five years of experience plus passing the written exam, which Cavallaro did on Sept. 23.

He said there were 200 multiple-choice questions on the exam, each having four possible answers. It contained a variety of calculations for such things as knowing the airflow needed for proper ventilation, chemistry equations, and other calculations designed to test someone's expertise in occupational health and safety.

"It was very technical," Cavallaro said. "It was all a written exam. I knew whether I passed or failed when I pressed the button after completing a survey about how I had prepared for the exam. Twenty-nine people took the exam, and eleven out of the twenty nine passed the exam. That was a 38-percent passing rate."

He said passing the exam was not a requirement for passing the 15-week CP-12 course, but it was something he was determined to do as a professional achievement. Before taking the exam, he underwent two and a half days of study

in preparation. Certification candidates had to study hard to pass, he added.

"They brought in a consultant to teach us how to take the exam, and told us how we would have the best chance of passing it," Cavallaro recalled. "There were maybe fifteen hundred questions. That was three weeks before the actual date of the exam. The Army funded two hundred sixty five dollars for each of us, and they drove us to Dothan [Alabama] in a van to take the exam."

The Joint CP-12 course was not a picnic, he added. Its goal is to "develop a professional group of Department of the Army civilians whose focus is to assist commanders and directors to protect the force through risk management to enhance mission accomplishment."

During his training at Fort Rucker, Cavallaro became a fitness leader in addition to a test-group leader. Among other things, becoming a fitness leader entailed weekly bicycle rides of between 30 and 50 miles.

"Each Sunday I would ride and have others ride along with me," he said. "I held 'biggest loser' weigh-ins at the beginning and end of the class, and we had a cash prize for the person who lost the largest percentage of body weight. I won seventy dollars, having lost eight percent of body fat."

Cavallaro said he will continue to pursue professional development to meet and exceed his job requirements and apply the managerial skills he learns to his work at DTC.

ECBC hosts University of Delaware College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

ECBC

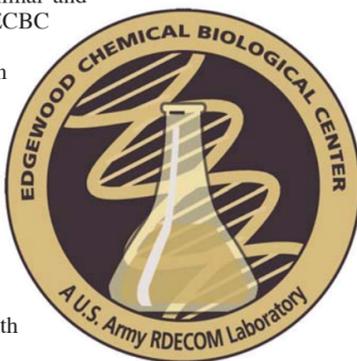
The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's Environmental BioMonitoring Laboratory team extended its hand to the academic community and hosted faculty from the University of Delaware's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Department of Animal and Food Sciences — a program dedicated to issues in animal and plant biology including health, welfare and environmental stewardship — Oct. 7.

The first meeting between the two groups provided the opportunity to discuss possible partnerships on ECBC's current efforts to respond to emergencies involving biological, chemical or radiological contamination of food through the Food Emergency Response Network by utilizing the EBML team's microbiological, chemical and radiation expertise, facilities and analytical technology.

The visit included a tour of the center's Sample Receipt Facility and Environmental Monitoring Laboratories as well

as briefings on ECBC's capabilities, expertise and resources. The faculty also provided an introductory briefing on the Department of Animal and Food Sciences to the ECBC participants.

The collaboration between ECBC and the university will leverage the strengths of both organizations across a range of disciplines and provide a broader set of scientific analysis, data and recommendations regarding public health concerns.



School delay/ cancellation due to snow

Harford County Public Schools will notify all parents of a school delay/cancellation due to snow using the Alert Now System (automated phone messaging).

On the morning of a school delay/cancellation, an Alert Now message will be sent via phone by 6:15 a.m. to all parents. Notification of the delay/cancellation will continue to be broadcast through the traditional media outlets (e.g., TV, radio, etc.).

Parents are asked to not call the school for questions related to delays/cancellations.

Community Notes

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 4 MAIN STREET FIRST FRIDAY 'LIGHT UP NIGHT'

Havre de Grace Main Street First Friday's "Light Up Night" kicks off at 6 p.m. with Santa arriving in style cruising on a fire truck down Washington Street in Havre de Grace. Enjoy the Havre de Grace High School Warrior Marching Band and Havre de Grace Middle School Band. Experience all the merchant specials and appreciate the talents of the Havre de Grace Chamber Singers. The shops of Havre de Grace will have extended hours.

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 5 CLOTHES GIVE AWAY

St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will give away clothes on the first and third Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be held on the lower level of the Church Parsonage at 742 Otsego Street.

For more information, call Pattie Ford, 410-939-2267.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

United Methodist Church, 101 Union Avenue, Havre de Grace, will hold a Christmas Cookie Sale, 9 a.m. to noon. Browse and choose from many varieties of home baked cookies. Cost is \$4 per pound. There also will be a fancy table with assorted jewelry, crafts, knick knacks and Christmas decorations. Santa will be there for the children.

For more information, call 410-939-1341.

GIVE A BLUEBIRD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Need a gift for a bird lover? Learn a bit about bluebirds while building a nest box. Bring a power drill. This program will be held 1:30 to 3 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

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

WACVA CHAPTER 70 MEETS

Maryland Freestate Chapter 70 of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association will hold its monthly meeting 11 a.m., Dec. 5, at the Aberdeen Senior Center on Franklin Street.

Members will prepare for the holiday party for hospitalized women veterans at the Perry Point VA Medical Center which will be held the following Saturday, Dec. 12.

Membership in the chapter is open to women who are serving or who have served in any branch of America's armed forces, including Guard and Reserve.

For more information, contact Judy Fortier, chapter president, 410-272-4115.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

DECEMBER 5 AND 6 STEPPINGSTONE MUSEUM CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The Steppingstone Museum will hold its annual Christmas Open House noon to 4 p.m., Dec. 5 and 6. Admission is free. There will be tours of the historic farmhouse decorated for the holidays, Christmas music, cookies and cider. The museum store will be open for holiday shopping.

For more information, call Linda Noll, 410-939-2299, 888-419-1762, e-mail steppingstonemuseum@msn.com or visit www.steppingstonemuseum.org.

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 6 SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Grove Presbyterian Church, 50 East Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen, will hold Sounds of the Season: Holy Night of Miracles, a Christmas cantata of hope, 5 p.m. The Grove Chancel Choir will present seasonal selections using handbells. A light reception will follow in Mitchell Hall.

For more information, call 410-272-0896

ALL DAY BINGO

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit of Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold All Day Bingo, 12:30 p.m. Doors open at 11 a.m.; Early Bird Game starts at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$25 per person and includes 50 games (all paper cards), meal and free coffee. A 50/50 raffle will be held for early birds. No one under 18 years of age is allowed in the Bingo Hall. No smoking is allowed.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

LUNACY AT THE PIER

Learn about the moon and tide change while walking to the pontoon pier to measure the effects on Otter Point

Creek. This free program will be held 12:30 to 2 p.m. for ages 6 to 12. Registration is required.

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

HOLIDAY CENTERPIECES

Bring a favorite container or basket or take potluck with one of the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center's and craft a table centerpiece using fresh greens. Candles included if desired. This program will be held 2:30 to 4 p.m. for ages 12 to adult. The cost is \$8 per centerpiece. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

MONDAY

DECEMBER 7 TOASTMASTERS CHRISTMAS GAG GIFT MEETING

Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562 will hold its annual Christmas Gag Gift meeting, so come prepared to exchange a gift, speak off the cuff and have some fun.

The regular Gunpowder Toastmasters schedule will return 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., Jan. 4, the first and third Monday of each month (unless the date falls on a federal holiday), in the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility in building E-4516 Seminar Room.

For more info, call Dave Garcia, 410-436-5013 or Carmen Kifer, 410-436-8969.

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 9 WEDNESDAY WEE WONDERS IN WINTER

Join the naturalist and her wee one to explore the wintry world through stories, songs, live animals and outdoor exploration. This program will be held 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for children up to age 4. The cost is \$2 per person. Registration is required.

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

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 11 OWL PROWL

Come out for a night hike in the bot-

tomland forest of Bosely Conservancy to search for the owls that call this marshy forest home. This program will be held 6:30 to 8 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. The cost is \$3 per person. Registration is required.

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

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

DECEMBER 11 THRU 13 CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT LADEWTOPIARY GARDENS

Ladew Topiary Gardens located on 3535 Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton, Md., will hold a Christmas Open House, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 11 through 13. Enjoy a self-guided tour to see how designers and garden clubs interpret their favorite Christmas poems in each of the nine rooms in the Ladew Manor House. Festivities include live seasonal music, hot cider, cookies, and a greens sale of fresh holiday decorations, including varieties of loose greens for visitors to create their own holiday centerpiece.

Cost of admission is free for members; adults pay \$10 each; seniors and students pay \$8 each; and children ages 12 and under pay \$2 each.

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 12 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44, Nelson J. Briggs Demolay Chapter located on 136 East Gordon Street, Bel Air, will hold Breakfast with Santa, 8 to 11 a.m. There will be gifts for the children from Santa and door prizes. Photos taken with Santa cost \$6 each and include card and envelope.

Breakfast costs \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. The Child Identification Program will be available at no cost. Menu includes eggs, sausage, pancakes, cereal, milk, juice, coffee and tea.

For more information, to purchase tickets or to reserve a table, call Connie Beardsley, 410-420-1002 or Russ Bonchu, 443-528-7717.

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

Post Shorts

KUSAHC closes early today

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed for the KUSAHC holiday party, 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Dec. 4.

KUSAHC will close Dec. 24 and 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

The clinic also will be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. The clinic will reopen Jan. 4.

Patients should plan accordingly for any medication needs.

For medical services needed after hours, weekends or federal holidays, contact Staff Duty, 410-278-1725.

CWF hosts trip

Christmas in Williamsburg, Va.

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a trip to Williamsburg, Va., Dec. 5 through 7. Travel by deluxe motor coach to historic Williamsburg, Va. Cost includes two nights lodging at the Governor's Inn, dinner show at the Boxwood Inn, a two-day pass to Colonial Williamsburg, Grand Illumination celebration, caroling, dancing, music, fireworks display and more. Cost is \$549 per person for double, triple or quad occupancy or \$649 for single occupancy. To make a reservation, call Patti Harkins, 410-278-4603.

APG Holiday Ball Dec. 18

APG PAO

Aberdeen Proving Ground is having a Holiday Ball, 6:30 p.m. to midnight, Dec. 18 at Top of the Bay, building 30. Alternate weather date is Dec. 19. The public is invited.

The event will be a tribute to the Army's celebration of The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer.

The evening will be filled with military pageantry fitting for the occasion: live dinner music by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Jazz Band, hors d'oeuvres, full service three-course dinner including dessert, cake cutting ceremony, followed by dancing with music by Premier Mobile DJ.

Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis through Dec. 1. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Tickets cost \$40 per person. Alcoholic beverages will be available for separate purchase.

Dress is semi-formal for civilians

The Staff Duty Officer will coordinate patient's care with the Medical Officer of the Day.

To avoid Point of Service copayment charges, patient will need authorization and/or a referral to go to any urgency clinic. Emergency rooms do not require a referral.

Blue Cross/Shield rep visit Dec. 8

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit APG 9 to 11:30 a.m., Dec. 8, in building 305, room 211 and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., building E-4520, Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, Edgewood Area, to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, call Teri Wright, 410-278-4331.

2009 FMWR 5K Rudolph Run [2K walk]

The "2009 FMWR 5K Rudolph Run" will take place 3 p.m., Dec. 10, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. This event will support the Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Campaign.

and dress service uniform (with bow tie) for military. Retirees may wear military service dress blues or apply medals to proper civilian attire.

The visiting public must use the Route 715 Gate to access APG. Be prepared to show photo ID and vehicle registration to gain access.

Disabled parking at and access to Top of the Bay is available.

In case of inclement weather, call 410-278-7669 (SNOW).

To make a reservation, visit www.apgmwr.com and select the "events" menu. Tickets may be purchased via credit card on the Web site or mail a check payable to FMWR Marketing to P. O. Box 627, APG, MD 21005-0627; or, for more information, call 410-278-1364/4698.

For more information, call Maj. Mathieu Petraitis, 410-278-2104 or e-mail mathieu.petraitis@us.army.mil.

Participants can sign up for either a 5K run or two-mile walk. The entrance fee costs \$20 per person; \$10 will be donated to a CFC charity of the participant's choice. Participants will receive a long sleeve T-shirt and prizes will be awarded for the top three military male and female and the top three civilian male and female participants. Awards also will be presented for the first team of four walkers who cross the finish line together.

Charm City Run will provide the participant's numbers, times and official timekeeping for the event.

Drinks and food will be served throughout the event. A pre-registration process is currently being set up. Registration will be held noon to 2:30 p.m. on the day of the event. More details will follow.

For more information, call Maj. Matt Petraitis, 410-278-3000 or e-mail mathieu.petraitis@us.army.mil.

Virtual Job Fair Dec. 10 - 20

The Susquehanna Workforce Network is sponsoring the first Virtual Job Fair in the region Dec. 10 through 20. This virtual event is specifically targeted for organizations seeking to recruit future employees to fill acquisition, engineering and technology positions.

The Virtual Fair has the capacity to meet the increased volume of hiring demands of local businesses by attracting a local, regional and national pool of skilled employees through the internet. Instantaneous job applications and job specific profiles will be processed through a designated Web site, 24 hours a day for 11 days.

For more information, contact the Susquehanna Workforce Network, 410-939-4240 or visit <http://www.swnetwork.org/>.

Vet Clinic on Dec. 12

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will hold a Saturday clinic, 9 a.m. to noon, Dec. 12, performing vaccinations, microchipping, routine examinations and laboratory testing (heartworm parasites). See page 11 for more details.

Blood drive for the troops Dec. 17

Support the troops by donating blood. The Armed Services Blood Program blood drive will be held noon to 4

p.m., Dec. 17, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. The blood drive is open to everyone.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 301-295-2109 or visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

Free basketball tickets for military

Camouflage Kids, Inc. offers free tickets to see Lafayette College vs. Navy, 7 p.m., Jan. 16, at Alumni Hall Arena, Annapolis, Md. There are a limited number of free tickets for adults and children. Tickets are provided on a first-come first-served basis. All Families from the U.S. Naval Academy and all military branches from the Maryland, Virginia and D.C. area are eligible for tickets.

It is requested that each Family limit their ticket request to a maximum of six tickets with a ratio of two adults and four children. All children must have adult supervision at the game. Tickets are for immediate Family members only. All Families should arrive one and one-half hours prior to game time so that the program can get organized for the event.

For more information, call Beth Stoddard, 410-576-2994, e-mail theresa.stoddard@us.army.mil or visit www.camokids.org/games.cfm.

Mailing holiday military mail overseas

For instructions and dates to send mail overseas, visit www.apgnews.apg.army.mil, Oct. 29 issue, page 8.

Getting help with heroin addiction

The use of heroin and cocaine is on the rise in Maryland. Heroin will likely remain one of the largest problems in the state, and will likely continue to spread.

Find out what to do to help. For a brochure about the signs of addiction, call Narconon, 877-413-3073, or visit www.DrugsNo.com.

Mailing holiday military mail overseas

For instructions and dates to send mail overseas, visit www.apgnews.apg.army.mil, Oct. 29 issue, page 8.

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



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Holiday golf sale at Ruggles

Ruggles Golf Course has a holiday sale through Dec. 24. Sale items include 25 percent off all men's and ladies apparel (excludes shoes and previously marked down items). Save up to 40 percent on select group of clubs from Titleist, Cobra and Ping; 20 percent off all Golf Gloves; 10 percent off golf balls; and 20 percent off Etonic Shoes (in-stock only).

Harlem Globetrotters tickets

Tickets are available for The Harlem Globetrotters, 2 or 7 p.m., Dec. 26, at the 1st Mariner Arena, 201 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore. Tickets cost \$20 per person all seats are located in Section 114. For 84 years, the Harlem Globetrotters have thrilled audiences around the world. Today, a new generation of stars carries on this storied tradition with timeless basketball exhibitions.

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

Volunteer today

Explore a new career, develop new skills, network with other professionals and create opportunities. Army Commu-

nity Service has many opportunities and needs support for its various programs.

For more information, call Army Community Service, 410-278-2453.

Holiday Gift Wrap Program underway

Gift wrapping will run through Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. See schedule in *APG News* Nov. 30 issue.

2009 White House ornament sale

FMWR Leisure Travel Services is selling the latest White House ornaments for \$16, but supplies are limited. The 2009 White House Christmas Ornament is in honor of Grover Cleveland's 24th presidency, which was his second non-consecutive term. Cleveland was the only president elected for two non-consecutive terms in U.S. history.

The ornament is also in honor of the first Christmas that used electric lights in 1894.

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

Leisure Travel Services available at EA Recreation Center

Limited services are available at Leisure Travel Services, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays, at the EA Recreation Cen-

ter, building E-4140.

For more information, visit or call 410-436-2713.

For full services, visit or call the APG Leisure Travel Office located in the AA Recreation Center, 410-278-4011 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

See the Rockettes perform in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular at the 1st Mariner Arena, 201 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore. There will be two shows, 4 or 7 p.m., Dec. 17. Tickets cost \$76.75 for adults and \$67.75 for children ages 2 through 12. Children ages 2 and under do not need a ticket if seated on a parent's lap. All tickets must be pre-ordered. Tickets are limited and are available on a first-come first-serve basis. Seats are located in the lower levels. There is no guaranteed seating. The last day to purchase tickets is Dec. 3.

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

The Great Russian Nutcracker

The Lyric Opera House, located on 140 West Mount Royal Avenue, Balti-

more, will present the Nutcracker, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 19 and 5 p.m., Dec. 20.

Tickets cost \$70.50 for all ages and must be pre-ordered. Children under the age of 2 do not need a ticket if seated on a parent's lap. Tickets are limited and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Seating is located in the lower levels. There is no guaranteed seating. The last day to purchase tickets is Dec. 3.

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

Hearts Apart Support Group meets

Hearts Apart Support Group is one way to stay connected in the community and learn what Army Community Service has to offer the Family. Family members from all branches of service, Department of Defense 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 (Dec. 2).

For more information, call or visit building 2754, Rodman Road, 410-278-7478 or DSN 298-7478.

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.

Driver's Ed classes begin January

Driver's Education classes will be held Jan. 4 thru 20. No class Jan. 18. Classes will be held Monday thru Thursday, 2:30 to 5:45 p.m. and 6 to 9:15 p.m. Cost is \$315 per student.

All Drivers Education classes will be conducted by Rules Driving School, located at Boothe Brothers International Building, 16 North Philadelphia Boulevard, door #2, Downstairs Suite N, Aberdeen.

Classes include 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours behind-the-wheel instruction.

The last day to register for the class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between the ages of 15.9 and 18 years old. Parents must attend the

first day of class. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

Prices subject to change without notice.

Free babysitting course

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

The class will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 19, at the Aberdeen Area Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522. The objective is to familiarize participants with the responsibilities of babysitting.

Class is open to all DoD ID card holders.

Private flute lessons

Private flute lessons for ages 8 through 18 will be held 3:30 to 7 p.m., Mondays, Jan. 5 through Feb. 2, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Cost of the lessons is \$96 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for six weeks.

Students must provide their own flute and also are required to purchase books required for the course as recommended by the instructor.

Books are a one-time purchase. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child.

Private voice lessons

Ages 6 through 18 can register for private voice lessons, 3:30 to 7 p.m., Mondays, Jan. 5 through Feb. 2, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

No experience is necessary. Singing lessons cost \$96 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for six

weeks. Students are required to purchase books required for the course as recommended by the instructor.

Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child.

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.

APG holiday festivities planned

The Edgewood and Aberdeen Holiday Parties and Tree Lighting Ceremonies are open to all DoD cardholders, military, civilian, contractors, retirees, Family members and guests.

Edgewood Area

FMWR will hold the Edgewood Area Holiday Party and Tree Lighting Ceremony, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Dec. 8, at the Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140. Events include music, fun, free games with prizes and light refreshments. There will be photos with Santa and toys will be presented to children.

For more information, call 410-278-4011.

Aberdeen Area

Army Community Service will hold a Holiday Extravaganza and Tree Lighting Ceremony, 6 to 8:30 p.m., Dec. 10, at the AA Recreation Center, building 3326. Events include light refreshments, Santa and Mrs. Claus visiting children, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, music by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Brass Quintet, games, face painting, cake walk, candy-guessing game and pin-the-nose on the reindeer.

Participants also will witness the signing of the Army Family Covenant as a reaffirmation of the Army's commitment to Soldiers and their Families.

For more information, call ACS, 410-278-7572/7474.

December bowling specials

Adult Lunch Leagues bowl Tuesday and Thursday during the day. No open bowling until 1 p.m. Evening leagues are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

There will be no open bowling on Thursdays after 5 p.m. and no open bowling on Friday until after 9:30 p.m. On Wednesday there are a few lanes which will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Leagues are still forming

Saturday youth leagues are accepting ages 18 months to 20 years for their youth league. Youths ages 18 months to 11 starts at 9 a.m. and ages 12 thru 20 starts at 10:45 a.m.

Bowling specials

- Bowl for \$.75 per game, 1 to 5

p.m. Shoe rental costs \$2.

• Cosmic Saturdays: Each Saturday, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra) and one pitcher of soda for \$32.

• Each Friday, 9:30 till close, bowl for \$12 per hour. Cost of shoe rental is included.

The Bowling Center will hold a special bowling promotion Dec. 18 through Jan. 3. Soldiers and their Families can bowl two free games with free shoe rentals per day. Soldier and or Family member must present an ID that verifies they are a Soldier or Family member. (No limit to the size of Family.)

This is based on available lanes and shoes.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday and Tuesday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday; 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday; 1 to 11 p.m., Saturday; and 1 to 6 p.m., Sunday.

Week of Nov. 30

Special #1: Grilled ham and cheese sandwich with tomato soup, cookie and regular soda for \$4.95.

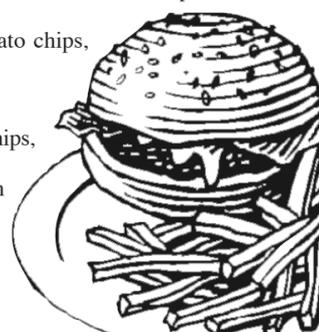
Special #2: Turkey club sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.95.

Week of Dec. 7

Special #1: Egg salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$3.95.

Special #2: Pepperoni pizza sub with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.50.

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



the edge

The EDGE

The EDGE Program is designed to highlight opportunities for children and youths in grades 1 through 12, to Experience, Develop, Grow and Excel in FMWR partner facilities.

Digital Photography

Make time stand still with digital photography. The EDGE! program will be hosting digital photography session Mondays and Fridays during January. Children can learn how to use a digital camera and begin their own portfolios. All facets of digital photography and camera techniques will be covered in this 4-week program.

This would also benefit youths and teens with an interest in entering their photos in the annual Boys and Girls Clubs and 4H Fine Arts Photography competition that is held every spring.

Classes will be held Mondays, Jan. 4 through Feb. 1, at the Bowling Center in the Aberdeen Area and Fridays, Jan. 8 through 29 at the Edgewood Area Youth Center. All sessions are scheduled for 4-6pm at each location. The program is open for all eligible DoD youths and teens ages 6 to 18. There will be a \$40 fee for youths ages 6 to 10 currently not enrolled in School Age Services programs; no fee applies for the teens ages 11 to 18.

Yoga

How many teens dream of finding that inner strength and peace, a new way to focus on life's trials and tribulations, or just a great way to exercise and get into better shape? The new EDGE! Yoga program has just the answer. Teen's ages 11 to 18 will be able to increase their strength and flexibility while also learning to focus on their inner strength. Programs dates are 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Jan. 5 through 26, at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center, building 3300.

Participants will meet other teens and share ways to alleviate stress from school, sports, friends, Family and life! This program is free for DoD-eligible

11- to 18-year-old teens.

To sign up for EDGE! classes, contact the CYS Services Central Registration Office, 410-278-7479/7571 to get registered. For more information, contact Chuck Rose, FMWR partnership specialist, 410-278-1399 or e-mail him at chuck.rose1@us.army.mil.

Auto Maintenance 101

The EDGE! program will be offering "Auto Maintenance 101" to show teens how to perform basic maintenance and preventive measures to keep their cars running just right. Teens will learn how to change the oil in the car, change a tire and check for bad tread wear, how to change wiper blades, replace lights and fuses and more. This is a "don't miss" program for all DoD-eligible teens ages 16 to 18. The program is free and will be held on Thursdays, 4 to 6 p.m., Jan. 7 through 28, at the Auto Crafts Center, building 2379.



HIRED!

HIRED!, a new Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program for teens ages 15 to 18, is an apprentice program where teens can explore positions in FMWR facilities.

The program will give teens guidance on preparing a resume, and teach them interview techniques as well as give them work experience in their chosen field. Children will receive a stipend for their work at the end of the term.

Teens Goal Setting Workshop

A Teens Goal Setting Workshop will be held for ages 13 to 18, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Dec. 11, at the Aberdeen Area Youth center, building 2522.

Teens will learn to master skills in goal setting techniques. Register at CYS Services Central Registration.

For more information, call Jay McKinney, 410-278-3250, or e-mail jay.mckinney@us.army.mil.



ASAP reminds APG that December is 'National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month'

ASAP

The Army Substance Abuse Program staff reminds everyone that December is "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month" or "3-D Month," an effort to bring special attention to the problem of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

An estimated 258,000 per-

sons were injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present - an average of one person injured approximately every two minutes.

"If you find it hard to figure out if you've had too many drinks to drive - don't risk it. Chances are if you're feeling 'buzzed,' you are too impaired to drive safe-

ly," said Jareta Coyle, ASAP alcohol and drug control officer. "Risk driving at an illegal level and chances are law enforcement will catch you, and you'll spend the holiday in jail."

Nine out of 10 Americans who participate in social events where alcohol is served feel that people should use desig-

nated drivers. The ASAP suggests that party hosts include alcohol-free beverages and protein-rich foods, along with reminding guest to plan ahead and remember the following advice:

- Don't risk it - If planning to drive, don't drink.
- Choose a sober designated driver before partying.

- Take a taxicab or ask a friend to drive you home.

- Spend the night where the activity is being held.

- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.

- Always wear your safety belt - the best defense against an impaired driver.

For information or questions, call 410-278-DRUG (3784).

Friends don't let friends drive drunk--pass it on

U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

If hosting the party

- Encourage guests ahead of time to designate a driver.

- Have a car key basket and collect each guest's keys upon arrival.

- Know the condition of all guests before returning their keys at the end of the party.

- Plan activities so that the focus isn't only on drinking.

- Serve a variety of foods and include nonalcoholic beverages alongside alcoholic beverages.

- If serving punch containing alcohol, mix with a non-carbonated base like a fruit juice; carbonated bases speed up the absorption of alcohol into the blood

stream.

- Designate one person to serve as the bartender. This will help control the number of drinks and the amount of alcohol in each drink.

- Stop serving alcohol at least one hour (preferably 90 minutes) before the party is over. Bring out dessert, coffee and other non-alcoholic drinks.

- Be prepared to arrange for a ride home for guests if necessary or to invite them to spend the night.

If going out to drink

- Designate a driver ahead of time — a designated driver is a non-drinking driver.

- Take a cab or public transportation.

- Make a reservation and spend the night.

- Consume food, sip the drinks, and alternate with non-alcoholic beverages.

- Ask the server about a ride home if drinking to the point of impairment.

Drunk driving facts

The correct phrase is 'alcohol-related crashers' not 'alcohol-related accidents.'

Since the mid-1990s, nearly 17,000 Americans have been killed and more than 700,000 have been injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes. On an average day, 46 people die in alcohol related traffic crashes, accounting for nearly 40 percent of traffic deaths.

- Traffic crashes are the greatest single cause of death for every age group between 6 and 33 years of age.

- Nearly 80 percent of all occupants killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes

were not wearing safety belts.

- The total economic cost for alcohol-related traffic crashes exceeds \$50 billion dollars each year.

- Each year, police arrest over 1.5 million drivers for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Three out of 10 Americans face the possibility of being directly involved in an alcohol related traffic crash during their lifetimes.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program office reminds everyone to make responsible choices.

For more information, contact Cindy Scott, 410-278-4013 or Cynthia.Scott1@conus.army.mil or visit the ASAP Web site, <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/services/asap/>.

20th CBRNE stops 22d Chem, 12-7, in annual Turkey Bowl

Story and photo by
ROGER TEEL

20th Support Command (CBRNE)

The Edgewood Area Hoyle sports field was unanimously called "a quagmire" the morning of Nov 24. An overnight downpour left three to four inches of standing water in many places and thick muck and mire lay just below the field's grassy surface.

Had this been a horse race, track conditions would have been called extremely sloppy, at best.

As light rain continued to fall, flag football forces from the 22d Chemical Battalion (TE) and 20th Support Command (CBRNE) gathered in the gray gloom and galvanized themselves against the elements. The 2009 Turkey Bowl began at 7 a.m.

An independent annual event, the Turkey Bowl is waged by Soldiers, civilians and contractors of the two organizations. With little more than bragging rights at stake between the CBRNE Command and its local subordinate unit, emotions ran high throughout the one-hour battle, eventually won, 12-7, by 20th CBRNE.

"Third time in a row for us," said Miguel Valentin, reminding everyone of the CBRNE Command's supremacy over its subordinate.

"We'd like a rematch," 22d Chem quarterback Brian Hooks said. "The field was good for football," he added, "though the slippery conditions affected our passing attack quite a bit."

The 20th CBRNE struck first midway through the first half. Wide receiver Keyshone Peyton caught a short pass from quarterback Daniel Goodsell and eluded several 22d Chem defenders en



22d Chem defender Kevin Galik grabs the flag of 20th CBRNE's Marcus Irvin as the ball slips through his grasp. Joseph Washington and Michael Cleveland pursue the play for 22d Chem as Bill Caruso comes from the left to run interference.

route to the end zone. The extra point attempt failed.

The Chemical Soldiers came right back, scoring on an elusive run by Hooks, who was a constant breakaway threat. The 22d Chem was successful on a one-point conversion and took a 7-6 lead to halftime.

In sloppy conditions, ball carriers had a decided advantage. Defenders who over-reacted were left grasping at air

reaching for the slick flags attached to each player's hips.

Leadership came to the fore early in the second half when Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, commander of the CBRNE Command, found an open area around the 10-yard line and caught a pass from Goodsell. Snow gathered the ball headed for the corner of the end zone, only to be stopped a yard short on a good defensive play by 22d Chem's Tobias Bivines.

Two plays later, the CBRNE Command scored on a short run by Goodsell. The extra point attempt again failed, making it 12-7 midway through the second half.

Deploying a bend-but-don't-break defense, the CBRNE Warriors kept 22d Chem out of the end zone the rest of the way. There were some heart-in-the-throat moments as the Chemical Soldiers continued their assault, but slippery conditions and tenacious defense prevailed.

Hero

From front page

Because Chin was unable to attend the award ceremony held at the Oregon Ridge Convention Center in Cockeysville Oct. 27 due to a prior commitment, Baltimore County Police Chief Jim Johnson traveled to APG to present the award in person.

"When I grasped the seriousness and heroism he displayed, I thought it deserving of a face-to-face presentation," Johnson said. "Officer Chin called this man out, stood face to face and brought [him] down."

Johnson noted that in the last 14 months only four similar incidents, out of 2,000 robberies, have occurred in Baltimore County.

"This officer's actions were very professional and highly deserving of our second highest award, the Silver Star," Johnson said.

The incident occurred at a Catonsville Baskin Robbins store Jan. 13. Chin, who was off duty at the time and was in the store when a man wearing a shirt over his face rushed in, drew a handgun and demanded money from the cashier.

Chin said he had just gotten off work and was wearing the green fatigue pants worn by the SRT personnel and a civilian jacket.

"I looked like anyone else," Chin said,



Aberdeen Proving Ground police officer Paul Chin, right, receives a commendation for foiling an attempted armed robbery in Baltimore County earlier in the year from Baltimore County Police Chief Jim Johnson, left, during a Well-Being Council meeting at the Aberdeen Area Chapel Nov. 19.

adding that he was on his cell phone about to call his girlfriend when the man brushed past him and approached the counter with a gun demanding money.

Chin, acting on instinct, pocketed his phone, took in the location of the other customers and immediately moved to close the distance between he and the robber.

"I had to get close to him quickly due to others being in the store," Chin said.

"I presented my weapon and identified myself as a police officer."

By the time the robber turned around Chin was within reach of him. He grabbed the robber's gun arm, pointing it down with one hand while still holding his gun on him and demanded he drop his weapon.

Locked in this position, Chin said the robber, after some verbal exchange, real-

ized his position and complied.

Chin put him face down, palms up on the floor, and then told employees to call 911 and tell them 'officer needs assistance.'

He said uniformed officers showed up right away, followed by detectives who took his statement and praised his actions.

Chin said that as the situation unfolded, his first thought was to position himself between the robber and other customers in a position where he could return fire if necessary.

"I wanted to keep it from coming to that and the best way was to surprise and then overwhelm him," Chin said. "I knew I could not give him the opportunity to react, and I was prepared to present a reasonable amount of force."

"That is the main mission of a tactical officer," he added. "Our tactics are designed to keep us safe and to save lives."

He added that when the excitement was over all he could think about was his ice cream melting. The clerks were kind enough to replace his order with a fresh one, he said.

He said he appreciated the Baltimore County honor as well as the praise he's received from Robert Krauer, DES director, and Col. Orlando Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander.

"I'm not a spotlight kind of guy, but it's an honor to be recognized by a fellow law enforcement agency," he said.

Legally Speaking

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/ilo.cfm

Commentary: Fraternalization in the Army

By
CAPT DAVE HAMMOND
OSJA

One of the aspects of the military justice system that distinguishes it from the many justice systems of the United States is its reach into areas of life that would not be tolerated in the civilian world.

For example, where else would insubordination toward a boss or jumping off of a ship into the water be a crime? (Seriously, "Jumping from Vessel into the Water" is a specific offense under Article 134 of the UCMJ). The only consequence of failing to pay bills in the civilian world would be a lower credit score or a foreclosed home (or broken fingers and busted kneecaps, depending on the creditor). Not so in the military, where "Dishonorably Failing to Pay a Debt" is punishable by up to six months in jail and a bad-conduct discharge from the service.

Unlike jumping off of vessels and failing to pay debts, however, illegal personal relationships have ruined the careers of far more officers and non-commissioned officers in the Army than any other area of Uniform Code of Military Justice regulated personal life. It is therefore important to understand the rules that currently exist and be able to apply them, either to your own life or to the life of a Soldier under your command or supervision. It is equally as important to understand why such rules exist in the first place.

"One of the most important things to teach new Soldiers is how to be a professional and to separate their personal needs and desires from their mission and their responsibilities as a Soldier," said Capt. Andy Blanton, an Advanced Individual Training company commander in the 16th Ordnance Battalion. "Once you blur the line from professional to personal between instructors and AIT trainees, then that person's instructions are no longer valid in a purely professional sense. If a relationship like that happens, then the person's ability to instruct that student, grade them fairly, to not show prejudice or unfairness, is all put into question."

It is widely agreed that fraternization in a military environment can serve to undermine morale, the chain of command and operational readiness.

The military's recognition of these harmful effects of fraternization in a unit, in addition to a surge in military sex scandals in the 1990s, prompted the Secretary of Defense to order all of the services to

standardize their fraternization regulations in 1998. The Army had the most relaxed rules of the services at the time, which made for some odd results. For instance, if an Army officer and an enlisted Marine not in the same chain of command entered a romantic relationship, the Marine would have been in violation of Marine fraternization regulations but the Army officer would have been fine. This is because the Army was the only service that allowed officers and enlisted personnel to be married, so long as the pair were not in the same chain of command. In March of 1999, in accordance with the DoD-ordered revision, the Army gave its officer/enlisted couples one year to get married or break up.

Romantic relationships between officers and enlisted personnel are not the only prohibited relationships in the Army. Under Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy, relationships between Soldiers of different rank, regardless of sex, are prohibited if they:

- (1) Compromise, or appear to compromise, the integrity of supervisory authority or the chain of command,
- (2) Cause actual or perceived partiality or unfairness,
- (3) Involve, or appear to involve, the improper use of rank or position for personal gain,
- (4) Are, or are perceived to be, exploitative or coercive in nature, or
- (5) Create an actual or clearly predictable adverse impact on discipline, authority, morale, or the ability of the command to accomplish its mission.

As you can see, these prohibitions are fairly broad and subject to a certain degree of interpretation by commanders and courts. So, it is vitally important to carefully evaluate your relationships, especially if you are senior to the individual you are in a relationship with. Army Regulation 600-20 states that, while all military personnel share the responsibility for keeping their relationships legal, the senior member is normally in the best position to terminate or limit the extent of the relationship. Common pitfalls are personal phone conversations and text messages, sharing intimate photos, going out to eat, socializing, discussing sex, flirting and giving motorcycle rides, to name a few.

There are also some bright-line rules in AR 600-20 that are easier to interpret and follow (or so you would think). For instance, any relationship not required by the training mission between permanent party personnel and initial entry

training trainees is strictly prohibited. The installation at which the trainee is training, or the installation the permanent party is assigned to, does not matter for purposes of this rule. Bottom line: No personal relationships with trainees, period. The same rule applies to recruiters and recruits.

Violations of AR-600-20 are prosecuted under Article 92 of the UCMJ for failure to obey a general regulation. The maximum punishment for this offense is forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to the grade of private, two years confinement and a dishonorable discharge.

Fraternalization in the military is not normally prosecuted under Article 134's "Fraternalization" offense. Article 134 only makes fraternization an offense for commissioned and warrant officers, and the service regulations do a better job at defining what fraternization is.

Unfortunately, you do not need to look any further than this installation for an example of AR 600-20 in action. Over the past year, four NCOs and one company commander have been court-martialed at APG for fraternization offenses. In December of 2008, a staff sergeant was sentenced by a military jury to a reprimand, reduction to specialist and restriction to the battalion area for 45 days for a single violation of AR 600-20. This NCO was convicted of sending numerous text messages to a trainee regarding issues unrelated to the training mission. In January of this year, a sergeant first class with more than 20 years of service pled guilty to two violations of AR 600-20 for fraternizing with trainees. This NCO "flirted" and had personal conversations with two trainees. For this conduct, as well as for lying about it to investigators, he was sentenced to a reduction to specialist and one month in jail. In February of this year, a captain who commanded an AIT unit was convicted of violating AR 600-20, as well as conduct unbecoming an offi-

cer and gentleman, for having sex with a trainee under his command. He was also convicted of maltreating one of his NCOs by sexually harassing her. This officer was sentenced to four months in jail, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances and a 'dismissal.' (A "dismissal" is the punitive separation of an officer, equivalent to a "dishonorable discharge" – only enlisted personnel are "discharged"). In March of this year, a staff sergeant was sentenced to reduction to sergeant and forfeiture of \$1,885 pay at a summary court-martial for kissing a trainee. Finally, in arguably the most severe case of fraternization in recent memory at APG, a staff sergeant was sentenced to reduction to private, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, two years in jail, and a dishonorable discharge for numerous instances of fraternization, obstruction of justice and lying to investigators. This NCO had maintained illegal relationships with five different trainees, ranging from personal conversations and illicit text messages to sexual intercourse.

The lesson learned – know the rules on appropriate relationships in the military. These rules are contained in Chapter 4, "Military Discipline and Conduct," of AR 600-20. Dating, shared living accommodations, sexual relationships, business relationships and gambling are explicitly prohibited between officers and enlisted personnel. Under the broad restrictions on relationships between Soldiers of different ranks (not necessarily officer/enlisted), err on the side of caution and avoid it if something "just doesn't feel right." Any relationship with trainees or recruits beyond what is required in the training or the recruiting mission should be avoided at all costs. As a general rule of thumb, if you cannot articulate a valid reason for you or your Soldier's actions toward a trainee or a recruit, it is likely in the danger zone.

Finally, don't jump off any vessels into the water – especially with a trainee.

Trial Results

At a Special court-martial held Nov. 24, Staff Sgt. Felix A. Espinoza, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion, 61st Ordnance Brigade, pled guilty to one specification of Article 92, Violation of a Lawful General Regulation, in connection to his inappropriate relationship with an Initial Entry Trainee/Soldier.

The military judge sentenced him to reduction to private first class (E3) and confinement for two months.

Commentary: Inappropriateness of some vehicle borne messages

By
CAPT SEAN MAHONEY
OSJA

In recent weeks we have all witnessed highly-charged behavior and discussions regarding political issues. While reasonable citizens can debate policy in many different venues, Aberdeen Proving Ground is not an appropriate forum for political debate. The work done here and on other military installations supports a military mission that is imperative to the security of our nation and the safety of service members currently deployed across the world. As such, messages that disparage the President and other officials have long been restricted on military installations.

Soldiers may be aware that the Uniform Code of Military Justice provides for the potential court-martial of service members who use contemptuous words against public officials including the President. Civilian employees can likewise face adverse personnel actions for conduct that disrupts the workplace.

Unfortunately, in recent weeks some members of our community have witnessed acrimonious political debate spill-over onto the installation in the form of bumper stickers. APG employees should be aware that two categories of inappropriate bumper stickers can be restricted on military installations. First, messages that disparage the President may not be displayed on vehicles on the installation. Second, vehicles that display messages that are otherwise disparaging, disruptive or indecent will either be removed by the owner or the vehicle may be barred from entering the installation.

Background

There is a longstanding precedent for such policies. In the 1980s and 1990s, a civilian employee named Ethredge, was working for the Air Force at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. Ethredge had affixed a number of stickers to his car that read among other things, "HELL WITH REAGAN," "READ MY LIPS



<http://www.feross.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Bumper-sticker-car.jpg>

HELL WITH GEO BUSH," and "FOR-GIVE BUSH NOT EGYPT HE LIED." He displayed these messages to protest the Reagan administration's policies regarding unions and civil service retirement, to protest President Bush's agreement to raise taxes despite a campaign pledge to the contrary and the decision to forgive certain debts Egypt owed to the United States.

Various civilian employees filed complaints about the signs and some even threatened to break the windows of Ethredge's truck if they saw the messages.

In 1991, the installation commander of Robins Air Force Base ordered that the stickers that "embarrass[ed] or disparage[ed] the Commander-in-Chief" be removed as they had a "negative impact on the good order and discipline of the service members stationed at Robins Air Force Base."

Ethredge filed suit in Federal Court arguing that his Constitutional right to free speech was being infringed. The United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit upheld the actions of the installation commander, finding that military installations have never been considered public forums, open to any form of speech, and that the installation commander's order was not based on a specific viewpoint in favor of a specific official, but rather, the commander

prohibited "embarrassing or disparaging" speech regarding the Commander-in-Chief. Ethredge also argued that the commander did not prove that his bumper stickers interfered with the military mission of the base. However, the court agreed with many previous courts, finding that judges are not in a position to argue with the military judgment of commanders. When a military commander determines that something would undermine good order and discipline, the courts are very unlikely to question that decision. Ethredge lost his suit and the order barring his vehicle from post was enforced.

Barring messages that disparage or embarrass the Commander-in-Chief or other public officials is not meant to support one political ideology or any particular public official. In the Ethredge case alone, he was barred from displaying messages that disparaged Presidents Reagan, Bush and later Clinton. The issue is simply that conduct which disparages or embarrasses the Commander-in-Chief, or other public officials like the Vice President, Secretary of Defense, etc., are likely to have a negative impact on the good order and discipline that is essential to the conduct of our military mission.

While most of us can probably see the connection to the military mission when

the Commander-in-Chief or other public official is openly disparaged, what about messages that just offend a sub-set of employees on the installation?

We work as a team, as an army of uniformed and civilian employees to jointly defend the nation. In order to do so effectively, we must work as a team and respect each other. Disruptive influences degrade our ability to act as a team and our ability to meet our military mission, which could adversely impact our brothers and sisters in arms.

When each of us entered federal service, whether military or civilian, we took various oaths to faithfully discharge the duties of our offices. Whether military or civilian, we live by creeds that state we will live up to the Army Values, one of which is "Respect."

The Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulation provides 10 Primary Ethical Values for DoD employees, among which are fairness, caring, and respect. The descriptions of these values include that: "Individuals must be treated equally and with tolerance," "Courtesy and kindness, both to those we serve and to those we work with, help to ensure that individuals are not treated solely as a means to an end," and "To treat people with dignity, to honor privacy and to allow self-determination are critical in a government of diverse people."

So, the next time that you consider whether or not to display a bumper sticker or other sign on your car, think about the effect that it might have on the others in the Army community. Consider the effect that a message which might seem funny, or even a very heartfelt political belief that you have, might have on others who are also trying to support the military mission here on APG.

Off the installation we have a different interest in expressing our views. However, when on the installation, we owe a higher consideration to the mission. Accordingly, messages that degrade our ability to execute that mission will be restricted from the installation.



Health Notes

Commentary: Stress, depression: understanding the link

By

**LISA YOUNG,
HEALTH EDUCATOR**

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

The month of October was designated as National Depression Education and Awareness Month. The Army viewed the observance as an opportunity to increase the awareness of Soldiers, Family members and civilians about the signs and symptoms of depression, its treatment and behavioral health resources available for care.

The relationship between stressful situations, our mind and body's reaction to stress and clinical depression is complex.

Clinical depression is associated with an imbalance of chemicals in the brain that carry communications between the nerve cells that control mood and other body systems. Clinical depression is defined as a period of sadness that affects an individual's ability to work, sleep, eat and enjoy once-pleasurable activities.

It is not uncommon for stressful positive or negative events to precede the development of clinical depression.

Stressful events are common in the military service and in military Family members.

Negative life experiences, medication, rigid thinking patterns, lack of sunlight, and certain personality traits and genetic factors can influence clinical depression. Depression may develop after a stressful negative event, such as the death of a loved one, loss of a job, end of a relationship or physical illness. Stress can also occur from a positive event such as getting married, moving to a new city or starting a new job. No single stressful event will cause depression to develop in every person, but stressful experiences may contribute to the development of depression.

A stressful event is more likely to come before a first depressive episode. After that, depression may develop spontaneously with stress leading to the depression.

For those who struggle with chronic depression, the effects of stress may be more complicated. A theory called the "kindling effect" proposes that initial depressive episodes spark changes in the brain's chemistry that make it more

prone to future depression just as the use of kindling wood sparks the flames of a campfire. Because early episodes of depression make a person more sensitive, even small stressors can lead to later depressive episodes.

Depression may also result from struggles with chronic stress. This stress may be due to juggling multiple roles at home and work, making major changes in lifestyle, coping with deployment issues, handling normal transitions in life, dealing with children leaving the home, or struggling with a reduction of position and finances.

If a person is under continuous stress, a single difficult event may be more likely to induce a depressive episode.

Researchers theorize that when people experience chronic or repeated stressful events, they learn to feel helpless. This feeling of helplessness is strengthened when a person believes he or she has no control over the stressful situation. When a depressed mood persists for several months and interferes with everyday living, it is likely a sign of serious depression that requires treatment.

With appropriate treatment, many

people can experience improvement in a relatively short period of time and are able to function fully and control the chance of recurrence. Treatment can include medication and talk therapy. Medication helps to balance chemicals in the brain, and talk therapy helps individuals to identify and correct common errors in their thinking.

Without treatment, the costs of depression can be very high, to include loss of jobs, destroyed relationships, isolation from their communities, and reduction in physical or mental health.

As the Army's theme for October indicates, "There is no braver act than to ask for help if you need it."

For more information about depression, its treatment and how to get help, go to these Web sites:

- CDC, www.cdc.gov/features/depression/
- Military OneSource www.military-onesource.com
- Defense Center of Excellence Outreach Center, www.dcoe.health.mil/ph_stress_res.aspx
- Real Warriors Campaign www.real-warriors.net/

Commentary: Laugh your way to a happier life



By

**CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.)
SCOTT WEICHL**

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Have you ever been told to "lighten-up" or not "take things so seriously?"

Most of us have, and we often do just the opposite of this wise counsel. What Soldiers do as Warfighters is dangerous, serious business, yet most of the time—especially in garrison—we are doing boring, repetitive tasks.

Do you want to know a way to feel better about yourself, your workplace and possibly increase your health?

Researchers have found that humor and laughter actually strengthen the body against disease, reduce stress levels, lower blood pressure, increase energy levels and help improve relationships with others. Indeed, we need to become more serious about laughter.

Humor is used in medical and non-medical situations to improve healing, maintain sanity in a stressful world and

also help deal with losses.

Over the years, I have realized that if I expected too much of myself, feelings of guilt and inadequacy overcame me when I thought I had not quite measured up. The ability to lighten-up and laugh helped reduce the tiredness, irritability, feeling of helplessness, lack of productivity and higher level of stress that often accompanied this guilt.

By laughing at your difficulties, even in the most trying moments, you will not feel sorry for yourself. Rather, you will feel uplifted, encouraged and empowered—the core meanings of resiliency.

Tips

- Daily humor. Plan to use humor in your approach to everyday situations. A little planned humor for potential upsets and losses is like having a psychological insurance policy.
- Read/watch humor. Reading humorous stories and watching comedies is an excellent way to improve your laughter skills. Readers Digest has two sec-

tions devoted to humor—"Laughter is the Best Medicine" and "Humor in Uniform." The Internet also has plenty of resources.

- Smile. Remember to smile at yourself and others. Laughter is contagious, and humor can give you a sense of control in an otherwise powerless situation. Best of all, laughter is a free tool for improving mental and physical health. Laughter is one human response we were all born with, but work so hard as adults trying to prevent.

Take advantage of the power of laughter for a new perspective both at home and at work. Use laughter to decrease your stress, increase your energy and maintain balance. Belly laughs are best (in my opinion), but develop a laugh that works for YOU!

Researcher Lee Berk of Loma Linda University said in a Los Angeles Times article that "the benefits of laughter are similar to exercise."

Maybe we should all be laughing during Army Physical Fitness Training.

U.S. Army sponsors first HIV vaccine trial to show some effectiveness in preventing HIV

Story by
TIFFANY HOLLOWAY
USAMRMC

The HIV pandemic is an unprecedented global crisis but Army researchers prove there's hope in preventing the infection with this scientific advancement.

In 2003, the U.S. Army Surgeon General sponsored the world's largest HIV vaccine trial in Thailand that tested a "prime-boost" vaccine strategy comprised of two investigational vaccines, ALVAC and AIDSVAX B/E. Results of the trial show that the vaccine regime is safe and 31.2 percent effective at preventing HIV infection.

Coordination for the trial was lead by the U.S. Military HIV Research Program, which is centered at the Division of Retrovirology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. The trial was conducted by the Thai Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with a team of leading Thai and U.S. researchers.

"This significant achievement was the result of longstanding relationships involving many partners from Thailand, NIAID, NIH and the DOD, among other private and commercial companies and volunteers," said Lt. Gen. Eric Schoemaker, Surgeon General, U.S. Army. "This is exciting news. Twenty-five years ago, when I was at Walter Reed [Army Medical Center], we didn't even know that HIV would become an epidemic. To think, we have come this far in our research and to be part of this trial while I was at MRMC is full circle."

The vaccine combination was based on HIV strains commonly circulated in Thailand.

"Given its modest level of efficacy, this prime boost regimen is likely unsuitable in its current form for pub-

lic health purposes. Again, this vaccine was developed for HIV strains commonly circulated in Thailand. Based on the available published data, it is likely that different vaccines may be required for different regions in the world," said Col. Jerome Kim, MHRP deputy director and HIV vaccines product manager for the Army.

This successful international collaboration involved more than 16,000 Thai volunteers who were HIV-negative. Both men and women between the ages of 18 to 30 participated in the study. Half of the participants received the prime-boost vaccine regimen and half received placebo. Volunteers received vaccinations over the course of six-months and were followed for an additional three years. Volunteers also received HIV tests every six months for three years following the vaccination, and received counseling on how to prevent becoming infected with HIV.

"While these results are very encouraging, we recognize that further study is required to build upon these findings," said Col. Nelson Michael, director of the WRAIR Retrovirology Division and MHRP director.

However, the trial data establishes a new clinical benchmark to guide future vaccine development. This study may result in significant changes in the way researchers choose which vaccines to test; evaluate the immune responses to a vaccine, both in the laboratory and animal models; and design vaccine candidates.

The total cost of the trial was \$105 million which was less than expected.

"The Army will continue to be an aggressive sponsor and is committed to developing a globally effective HIV vaccine to protect U.S. and allied troops from infection and to support the U.S. National Security Strategy by reducing the global impact of the disease," Schoemaker said.

TRICARE offers new and improved pharmacy benefits

U.S. DoD Military Health System

The TRICARE Management Activity is introducing significant new enhancements to beneficiaries as it combines its mail-order and retail pharmacy contracts into one new contract called TRICARE Pharmacy.

The improvements to the TRICARE Pharmacy program include the Specialty Medication Care Management program in the mail-order pharmacy; expansion of the Member Choice Center providing assistance to help beneficiaries to switch their military treatment facility prescriptions to mail-order; and one call center phone number: 1-877-363-1303.

The Specialty Medication Care Management program is for beneficiaries using the mail-order pharmacy for their specialty medications. It is structured to improve their health through continuous health evaluation, ongoing monitoring, assessment of education needs, and man-

agement of medication use.

"TRICARE beneficiaries will be pleased to know that to get this improved benefit they don't have to do anything," said Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, TRICARE Management Activity's chief pharmacy officer. "No calls, no paperwork. Beneficiaries don't have to re-enroll, all co-pays stay the same and the network remains essentially unchanged."

Express Scripts, Inc. was selected to provide mail-order, retail and specialty pharmacy services for the TRICARE Pharmacy program. This program will provide outpatient prescription drugs to 9.5 million beneficiaries.

Express Scripts currently handles millions of prescriptions each year through mail-order and retail pharmacies.

For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/pharmacy or www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE, or call 1-877-363-1303.

LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Carolyn Russell, 410-278-5327, e-mail carolyn.russell2@us.army.mil or Peg Peterson, 410-278-5807, e-mail margaret.peterson1@us.army.mil, fax 410-278-9176.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Vicki Bailey

Debra Bonsall
(daughter has
brain tumor)

Georgia Braun
Veronica Brown
Jason Burr
Randy Carroll
John Daigle
Bonnie Day

Meg Downey

Wayne Erb

Bennie Ford

John Furchert

Holly Geppi

Erin Griffin

Kari Jackson

Angela Lambert

Deborah Moore

Michael Naegele

Marie D. Nowak

Ron Spencer

Linda Tignor

Luis Villafane

Paul Wynne

Victoria Yates-

Sparks



ARMY FAMILY COVENANT

SOLDIERS ★ FAMILIES ★ ARMY CIVILIANS



Cadets learn about military leadership through job shadow assignment



Jamie Richman, 17, a Freestate ChalleNge Academy cadet from Frederick, Md., works on a mailing list for the upcoming Aberdeen Proving Ground Holiday Ball while on a job shadow assignment at the APG Garrison commander's office.

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Two Freestate ChalleNge Academy cadets recently had the opportunity to learn about military leadership firsthand by completing a job shadow assignment at the commander's office, located in building 305, also known as garrison headquarters.

The Freestate ChalleNge Academy is a 17-month Maryland National Guard program for youths ages 16 to 19 who have dropped out of high school, providing them a second chance to receive a high school diploma.

The first 22 weeks at the Freestate ChalleNge Academy are residential, in a structured, disciplined, quasi-military environment. Following graduation, the cadets go through an intensive 12-month

placement and mentoring phase to aid adjustment to the work force and higher education.

Davis Hyun, 18, a cadet from Silver Spring, Md., and Jamie Richman, 17, a cadet from Frederick, Md., were chosen from their class of 105 cadets to job shadow Col. Orlando Ortiz, APG garrison and deputy installation commander and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades for four weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Hyun and Richman were chosen from a self assessment where cadets indicated their interests as well as career aspirations. Behavior and class performance were also taken into account.

Hyun and Richman attended meetings with Ortiz and Rhoades and helped Lori Austin, an administration assistant, with various tasks in the office.

"Most of the meetings were about improving the installation for the future," Hyun said. "It was a great opportunity to observe higher ranking military, to see how they operate and see what they do."

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity," Richman added.

Richman said that one of the things that she has benefited most from the job shadow assignment and attending Freestate ChalleNge Academy is learning how to stay organized and keep to a schedule.

"I wasn't doing well in school back home because I wasn't organized and did not use my time wisely," she said. "I would focus on my friends and not on my studies."

Richman said that at the Academy everyday the cadets follow a strict schedule that begins every morning at 5:30 a.m. with physical training.

Richman said that the organized time schedule of the ChalleNge Academy has helped her improve her time management skills and has earned her a 100 percent in homework.

"I think what I learned about time management from attending the Freestate ChalleNge Academy will help me when I attend college. I will make my classes a priority," she said.

Richman said that she is excited about the future and plans to own her own business someday.

Richman was recently accepted into Frederick Community College.

Hyun said that he plans on going to Montgomery Community College when he graduates to study mechanics and is considering going into the military in the future.

"I chose to come to the Freestate ChalleNge Academy because I wanted something more than a GED [General Education Diploma]," he said.

"I learned job skills and time management. I would like to thank Command Sergeant Major Rhoades, Colonel Ortiz, Ms. Austin and the rest of the staff for letting us have the opportunity to job shadow their office."

Hyun and Richman, who are part of

class 33, will graduate Dec. 12.

Rhoades said that Hyun and Richman were actively involved during the job shadow program.

"They are two wonderful young adults with goals," Rhoades said. "They attended the meetings, asked questions and were actively involved with the commander and me. This is an outstanding program that provides youths an opportunity to excel and become productive members of the community."

As part of her shadow assignment with Rhoades, Richman was asked to speak publicly at an APG Town Hall meeting about the Freestate ChalleNge Academy.

"At first I was nervous, talking to a room of about three hundred people, but then I relaxed and started to open up," she said. "Attending the ChalleNge Academy has definitely improved my public speaking skills, and my confidence has improved."

Keith Hammond, a case manager at the Freestate ChalleNge Academy who oversees the job shadow program, said that about 50 percent of cadets participate in the program.

"I think the opportunity to job shadow is fantastic. Job skills are one of the core components that the cadets learn at the Freestate ChalleNge Academy. You can't beat the hands on experience," Hammond said.

Hammond added that cadets also build on their job skills through visiting job fairs, learning how to write resumes, and computer skills.

In addition to job skills and the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, Freestate ChalleNge Academy students also learn life skills through classes that teach nutrition, health and hygiene, physical fitness, Family planning and first aid.

Top students receive scholarship and savings bonds awards.

(Editor's note: The idea for this story came when I heard Cadet Jamie Richman speak at the Town Hall. Her professional, articulate manner made such an impression on me that I assigned this article to be written.)

ASEP launches life-long careers for military spouses

Story by
ROB MCILVAINE
FMWR

To date, 57,600 spouses of Soldiers have been hired for positions at one of the 31 Fortune 500 corporations that have joined forces with the Army Spouse Employment Partnership, or ASEP. This includes the 15,647 spouses hired this year. As of this October, eight more corporations, including Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., joined forces with ASEP, bringing the total number of corporate partners to 39.

ASEP enhances employment opportunities for spouses of military members while fulfilling America's demand for skilled workers.

Dr. Lillie Cannon, who now serves as the program manager for ASEP – a self-sustaining and expanding partnership – has been a tireless advocate for the Army spouse.

"As an Army spouse myself, I see the sacrifices Army Families undergo while their Soldier is deployed. I also see those Army spouses who give up their careers to keep their Families together and support their service member," Cannon, a retired Air Force Officer, said.

"Now I am living the life of a military spouse. I have moved four times with my Soldier and each time I was able to move with one of the ASEP partners and continue my career," Cannon said.

The Army recognizes the importance of spouse satisfaction in Family decisions. Many Soldiers make retention decisions based on their Families' financial stability. Approximately 55 percent of Army spouses are in the labor force and contribute from 20 to 40 percent of their Families' income. The perception of a spouse's quality of life—including financial well-being and the ability to realize personal and professional goals—is a major factor in the retention of high-quality military personnel. Frequent Soldier reassignments/relocations make it difficult for spouses to sustain employment and develop long-term careers.

Cannon said the ASEP program is much-needed right now because the economy has long since forced her to move from a one-salary Family. But for her, it's not just about helping someone find that extra income.

"My focus and passion for ensuring Army spouses have careers and meaningful employment is driven by my respect and admiration for their service to this country. Although they do not wear a uniform and physically go off to war, it's their dedication and love for our

country that enables them to kiss their Soldier goodbye without knowing if he or she will return. It is our duty to make sure they too have every opportunity to a career they can enjoy while helping to sustain their Family," Cannon said.

After retiring from the Air Force, where she was a deputy commander for Maintenance, 23 Fighter Group, NC, Cannon entered the civilian workforce and later became program manager for H&R Block, now one of ASEP's partners, where she was responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of the company's military initiatives and programs. She also played a pivotal role working with the Department of Defense and military services in their financial readiness educational programs, monitoring issues relevant to the quality of life of military Families.

"H&R Block was not one of the original signers, but they did something that I think is very unique. They understood what congress meant when they signed the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year [2002]," Cannon said.

That act stipulated that the Secretary of Defense "shall seek to develop partnerships with firms in the private sector to enhance employment opportunities for spouses of members of the armed forces and to provide for improved job portability for such spouses."

"H&R Block, Inc., realized the talents that military spouses bring to the table. They developed a means to attract this pool of highly professional people and retain them by helping them relocate and maintain their current salaries. They also realized that as an industry leader they needed to show other companies their support and dedication to our service members and their Families.

"Military spouses bring a tool box full of experience and talent to the job. They are extremely dedicated, they work hard, and most importantly they want to work. H&R Block found the right combination. I feel lucky to have been hired by H&R Block and relocated four times with my spouse with no drop in pay, and each time moving to a better position within the company," Cannon said.

The Army administers several other spouse employment programs through the Army Family Covenant.

Army Community Service Employment Readiness Programs provide relocating spouses of active duty military personnel information on employment, education and training opportunities, as well as educational and vocation-

al counseling. With a wealth of resources, ERP's clients – Army spouses – are among the best prepared job candidates in the marketplace.

Army Community Service helps Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians and their Family members throughout the entire military life cycle: recruitment through retirement. Employment Readiness believes that every Army spouse should have a choice and be afforded the opportunity to develop a career and /or become employed. Employment Readiness won't do everything, but they will provide valuable information and critical job search skills.

The Army launched the Military Spouse Job Search (<http://www.msjs.org>) on July 7, 2005, through the Department of Labor's America's Job Bank. This service provides free access to a résumé and job-listing database for spouses and military-friendly employers, the ability to track spouse hires, and the capability to sort jobs by state.

Out of more than 510,000 Army spouses, 340,000 are 32 years old or younger with 80 percent of them married to enlisted Soldiers. Besides their backgrounds in clerical, services, sales, child development and management and administration, Army spouses bring the benefits of ethnic diversity, and a variety of native cultures and second languages that are in great demand in the international business community.

However, military spouses, because of the unique circumstances of the military lifestyle, generally have a harder time achieving the kinds of educational and career goals that civilians can

because spouses who are enrolled at a school near the installation may have to disrupt or discontinue their schooling when their spouse is transferred to another duty station out of state.

Although congress and state legislators have begun to address the issue, many military spouses who move to a new state are not eligible to receive in-state tuition rates, making the cost of education unaffordable. One important solution already available for military spouses is online education.

With Congressional authorization in Public Law 110-417, the Department of Defense implemented and funded the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts, or MyCAA, in April 2009. This program provides resources and assistance supporting the pursuit of a successful, long-term, portable career to spouses of active duty services members, Guard and Reserve on orders for one year or more.

The centralized, virtual program, accessed through Military OneSource, provides counseling and funding, up to \$6,000, to assist with licensure, certification or education opportunities leading to portable employment opportunities.

"This is brand new and open to all military spouses," DuPree said.

Program specifics are available at www.militaryonesource.com.

"We might adapt to our husband's lifestyles," said Jamie Gordon, a Fort Belvoir spouse, "but because of our experience of being able to adapt to different jobs, we have made ourselves more marketable and we all feel more confident."

ASEP partners

In October 2003, the Army formally signed a Statement of Support with 11 Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies and two military agencies who pledged their best efforts to increase employment and career opportunities for spouses. Currently, there are partners from the private sector, the military, and the Federal Government.

Current partners include: Adecos USA, Affiliated Computer Services, Inc., Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Army career and Alumni Program, AT&T, Bright Horizons Family Solutions, Computer Sciences Corporation, Concentra, Inc., CVS Caremark, Defense Commissary Agency, Dell, Inc.,

Department of the Army Civilian Personnel Office, EURPAC Service, Inc., Home Depot, H&R Block, Humana Military Healthcare Services, Kelly Services, Lockheed Martin, Manpower Inc., RGIS, Sears Holdings Corporation, Social Security Administration, Starbucks Coffee Company, SunTrust Bank, The TJX Companies, Toys "R" Us, and United Services Automobile Association.

Signing last month were: American Hospital Service Group, Association of Military Banks of America, INOVA, Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, Kgb, National Military Family Association, Strategic Resources, Inc., and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Chapel News

Commentary: 'If I had known'



By
**CHAP (COL)
RUBEN D. COLON JR**

Recently I was watching one of the popular law programs on television. The story was about a defense lawyer who represented a man convicted of two brutal killings and was before a parole board. He was seeking release from prison after serving 14 years, and his lawyer succeeded in getting him released.

A policeman who was present at the original crime scene gave the lawyer a rough time after the hearing, telling the lawyer that he shouldn't have represented such a low life and evil person.

Later that day the police officer discovers that the lawyer's mother had died from cancer the night before and so, the next time he sees the lawyer he says, "I'm sorry. 'If I had known' your mother had died I would have gone easier on you."

Another character in the same program, a prosecutor, also gives the law-

yer a hard time for representing the killer before the parole board - and he also later hears about the mother's death. The next time the prosecutor sees the defense lawyer he also says to him - "Sorry. 'If I had known' I would have gone easier on you."

This got me thinking just how often we in fact do and say such things.

It happens all the time. In the normal bustle of daily living, when we are moving too fast or feeling in need of help. We fail to recognize what is happening around us. We forget what it is that we should be about.

Sometimes we load up other people with our burdens and pains, we pour out all of our complaints and troubles, only to discover later on that the person is dealing with their own emotional burden, a burden far heavier than our own.

Sometimes we ask someone to do this or that thing without considering their work load. We just assume that the other person is, or should be, willing to assist us, only to discover later on that they have just put in a double shift at work, or that a relative of theirs has just been in an accident.

What is this 'If I had known' excuse anyway? I think it is a genuine kind of excuse; people are very sincere when they offer it, but does it really count for a lot in the long run? Shouldn't we be caring and loving and respectful all the time? Shouldn't we always pay attention before we say or do something, to where the person is [in their life] and to what their situation is?

The story is told about a guru who was mediating in his mountain cave. When he opened his eyes he discovered an unexpected visitor sitting before him,

the abbot of a well known monastery.

"What is it you seek," asked the guru?

The abbot recounted a tale of woe. At one time his monastery had been famous throughout the western world. Its cells were filled with young aspirants, and its church had resounded to the chant of its monks. But hard times had come on the monastery.

People no longer flocked there to nourish their spirits, the aspirants had dried up, and the church was almost silent. There were only a handful of monks left and these went about their duties with heavy hearts.

Now this is what the abbot wanted to know - "Is it because of some sin of ours that the monastery has been reduced to this state," asked the abbot.

"Yes," replied the guru, "a sin of ignorance."

"And what might that sin be," the abbot asked.

"One of your number is the Messiah in disguise and you are ignorant of this," replied the guru - and having said so he closed his eyes and returned to his meditation.

Throughout the long journey back to his monastery the abbot's heart beat fast as he thought that the Messiah - the Messiah himself - had returned to earth and was right there in his monastery. How was it that he had failed to recognize him? And who could it be? Brother Cook? Brother Sacristan? Brother Prior? No, not he; he had too many defects, alas. But then, the guru had said he was in disguise. Could those defects be part of his disguise? Come to think of it, everyone in the monastery had defects. And one of them had to be the Messiah.

Back in the monastery the abbot assembled all the monks and told them what he had discovered.

They looked at one another in disbelief. The Messiah? Here? Incredible. But he was supposed to be here in disguise. So, maybe. What if it were so and so? Or the other one over there? Or... one thing was certain: If the Messiah was there in disguise, it was not likely that they would recognize him.

So they took to treating everyone with special respect and consideration.

"You never know", they said to themselves when they dealt with one another, "maybe this is the one."

The result was that the atmosphere of the monastery became vibrant with joy. Soon dozens of aspirants were seeking admission to the order, and once again the church echoed with the holy and joyful chant of monks who were aglow with the spirit of love.

Jesus, our Messiah, our king, is here today somewhere in this church, somewhere in this community. He has no form of majesty about him that we should look at him, nothing about his appearance that we desire him, but he is here.

And, we owe him - for he is our king - and our savior. We owe him our praise, our obedience, our special honor and care, not just in our times of prayer - when we address him upon his throne - but in each minute of each day as we meet him as we go about our normal business.

None of us can really say to him - 'If only I had known,' for we do know - and we are called to show our love to others every day, for there is where we might find God.



Christmas worship services

Nov. 25 through Jan. 1



There will be a combined Christmas Eve Candelight Service, 7 p.m., Dec. 24, at the Edgewood Area Chapel, building E-4620. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Main Post Chapel (Aberdeen Area)

Catholic Mass

- Sun, Dec. 6 Second Sunday of Advent 8:45 a.m.
- Tue, Dec. 8 Creche blessing 3 p.m.
- Tue, Dec. 8 Day of obligation 11:45 a.m.
- Sat, Dec. 12 Hispanic mass/social 4:30 p.m.
- Sun, Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent 8:45 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:45 a.m.
- Thur, Dec. 24 Christmas caroling 11:30 p.m.
- Thur, Dec. 24 Midnight mass midnight
- Fri, Dec. 25 Mass/pageant 9 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 27 Holy Family 8:45 a.m.

- Thur, Dec. 31 Holy Day/obligation 6:30 p.m.
- Fri, Jan. 1 Holy Day/obligation 11:45 a.m.

Protestant worship

- Sun, Dec. 6 Freestate/Advent 10:15 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 13 Christmas cantata 10:15 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent 10:15 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 27 First Sunday in Christmas 10:15 a.m.

Gospel worship

- Sun Dec. 6 Second Sunday in Advent noon
- Sun Dec. 13 Third Sunday in Advent noon
- Fri, Dec. 18 Dance/drama play 7 p.m.
- Sun, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent noon
- Sun, Dec. 27 First Sunday in Christmas noon
- Thur, Dec. 31 Watchnight service 10 p.m.

Edgewood Area

Catholic Mass

- Sun, Dec. 6 Second Sunday of Advent 10:45 a.m.
- Tue, Dec. 8 Holy Day/obligation noon
- Sun, Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent 10:45 a.m.
- Sat, Dec. 19 Penance service 4:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 19 Holiday dinner 5:30 p.m.
- Sun, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:45 a.m.
- Fri, Dec. 25 Christmas Day 11:15 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 27 Holy Family 10:45 a.m.
- Fri, Jan. 1 Holy Day/obligation noon

Protestant worship

- Sun, Dec. 6 Second Sunday in Advent 9:15 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 13 Third Sunday in Advent 9:15 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:15 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 27 First Sunday in Christmas 9:15 a.m.

Thanks

From front page

Warfighters, the APG Chapel and the installation.

In just the second year that the APG Chapel Services has hosted the event, the participation and attendance in the program has doubled, with 300 tickets for the luncheon sold out, according to Chaplain (Maj.) Young Kim, APG deputy senior command chaplain and project officer for the event.

"This year's turnout was more than we could have asked for," Kim said. "We received great support from the entire installation, making this year's luncheon a wonderful community event."

Showing appreciation was the theme at the luncheon, and the APG community did just that.

Rhoades accepted a check for \$13,350 presented on behalf of the APG Chapel and the APG faith community who donated funds each Sunday. Combined, APG Chapel's five congregation services donated to assist Soldiers and their Families with the cost of food for the

holiday season, said Kim.

Unit first sergeants from across the installation submitted names of select Soldier Families to be considered to receive the gift from the APG faith community.

The result—162 Soldiers and their Families received \$75 in food vouchers to use at the APG Commissary to purchase food for their Thanksgiving meals.

"All the Families arrived at the grocery store to use their vouchers Nov. 23, and from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., they shopped for their meals," Kim said, adding that the remainder of the funds will be used to support Soldiers for the Christmas holidays.

"The generosity of the APG faith community was more than we could have expected," he said.

Ortiz took a moment to express his deep gratitude to service members.

"We know that the cost of freedom is high. For more than two hundred and thirty years, our Soldiers have been serving and sacrificing to defend our freedom and our way of life," Ortiz said. "They do this because, like millions before them, they look at the defense of freedom as a very personal matter—not to

be left solely to others."

"They were stirred from within by a desire to make a difference. This makes them [Soldiers] the strength of our nation," Ortiz said.

At the close of the event, Kim gave the benediction while the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band played "God Bless America" as attendees sang.

Recognized personnel

- Sheril Keeler, Teresa Porter and Churon Ringgold, administrative specialists, APG Garrison
- Staff Sgts. Eddy Nubine and Stephen Egerton, AMC Band
- Nick Pentz, Yvonne Johnson and Rachel Ponder: *APG News*
- Joseph O'Rourke, chief of Behavioral Health, KUSAHC
- Peggy Trimboli and Pat Palazzi, Child Care
- Floyd Johnson and Joseph Long, CIF
- Peter Sulsar and Earl Taylor, CLS
- Debbie Treadway, Contracting
- Delphine Hamilton, Mamie Baldwin, John Guy, Brenda Hampton and Kathy Gast, custodians
- Janet Dettwiller, DHR
- Wayne Koczorowski, Alfred John-

son, USANETCOM/9th SC

• Tom Kuchar and Robin Hoory, DPW

• Deborrah Dodsworth: Family Advocate, KUSAHC

• Donna Cianelli, Jane Larkin and Karen May, DTS

• Robert Krauer, Emergency Services

• Fire Department

• Muraha Kuncham, Internal Review and Compliance

• Yvonne Thornton and Margaret Nahrgang, KUSAHC

• Nancy Collins and Arlene Justice, Resource Management

• Ann Marie Bonomolo: TRICARE representatives

• Mr. & Mrs. Mike Layman: A special thanks goes to the Laymans. For 16 years this couple has provided seniors and retired military and their spouses with a delicious Thanksgiving dinner at their expense at the Main Post Chapel in the fellowship hall. Each year between 250 and 300 people are fed. They are members of the Main Post Protestant 10:15 a.m. service. The congregation provides yearly manpower to assist the Layman's in making this a memorable gathering.

Well-Being

From page 7

Dress is service dress uniform for military and civilian is semi-formal for women and dark suit for men.

Petratis added that he is assisting in the annual Combined Federal Campaign and would be happy to answer any questions at 410-278-3000, if Mike Graziano, the CFC chair, 410-278-9915, or Leslie Bell, the assistant chair, 410-278-9913, cannot be reached.

There will also be a 5K Rudolf Run or a 2K walk 3 p.m., Dec. 10 that will support the CFC. Cost is \$10. For more details about this event go to www.apgmwr.com/events.

APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades said that the focus

at APG is the workforce as a whole, and improving lives for Families. Rhoades asked attendees to continue to use ICE to make comments, found on the APG Web site, www.apg.us.army.mil, which will help improve the installation.

He said that as the installation makes changes due to Base Realignment and Closure law, leadership at APG will continue to support the military and their Families. One such change is Picerne Military Housing becoming a part of the APG military Family effective Dec. 17, which will improve housing conditions for Families living on post.

"The changes that our installation will go through as a whole will all be for the better," he said.

Rhoades added that he is glad that the bowling center will be offering free bowling to military Families.

"It's just a way for you and your [Family members] to spend time together as a Family, at no charge," he said.

Ortiz concluded the meeting by saying that he is thankful for progress.

"I am thankful for the discussion that has taken place because it reorients us and it gives us things to take into action," he said. "Thank you for the feedback you have provided us."

Ortiz said that Well-Being meetings, town hall meetings, and the annual Army Family Action Plan Conference are good forums for people to discuss issues so that the installation can move forward.

Ortiz added that all Army Knowledge Online users can view the APG calendar of upcoming events on APG's main Web site, www.apg.army.mil.

The next Well-Being meeting will be held at the Aberdeen Area Post Chapel 9:30 a.m., Dec. 18.

Traffic

From front page

Street from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3.

On Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6, both lanes of the same section of Susquehanna Avenue will be closed to all traffic to allow construction for the C2 North site. Detour routes will be posted.

In the Edgewood Area, North Kings Creek Road will be closed on or about the morning of Dec. 5 continuously through the evening of Dec. 7. Access to building E-3081 and all areas of the E-3100 block will be maintained via South Kings Creek Road. This closure is to install a water line for the new U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense campus project.

FORT MONMOUTH HISTORY CORNER

Family helps historian find a new 'famous first'

Story by
MELISSA ZIOBRO
Fort Monmouth

(Editor's note: This article is part of an ongoing effort intended to introduce some of the organizational heritage of Team C4ISR and its predecessors at Fort Monmouth to the APG community, as well as to those Team C4ISR members who have joined the team in Maryland.)

Some might know that Fort Monmouth is home to the first U.S. aircraft detection radar, the first communications satellite and the first weather radar, among many other things.

It is now known according to The World Almanac and other published reports, that a Fort Monmouth variety show depicting satirical representations of Army life aired on the very first day of commercial television.

The Dramatic Association of the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center of Fort Monmouth first presented "Bottlenecks of 1941" June 9 through 13, 1941, at the Red Bank Elks Club.

The June 7, 1941, New York Times reported that this event was staged by "Broadway and Hollywood talent, snapped up by the draft and sent [to Fort Monmouth] because of their ability to cope with photographic and radio problems."

These Broadway veterans-cum-Soldiers wrote an original score and danced alongside women from the post's neighboring communities. (The Women's Army Corps would not arrive at Fort Monmouth until 1943.)

Private Edmund North, formerly an assistant producer for Samuel Goldwyn, directed the show. He went on to win an Oscar for the film "Patton" in 1971. He shared that award with famed filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola.

Among those assisting North was Private Sol Shor, whose writing credits before the war included "Dick Tracy Returns," (1938) "The Lone Ranger Rides Again" (1939), and "The Adventures of Captain Marvel" (1941). Post war, Shor went on to write screenplays including "The Adventures of Frank and Jesse James" (1948).

Another associate director, Pvt. Franklin Coen, went on to earn an Oscar nomination in 1966 for "The Train."

The actors featured in "Bottlenecks" included Private Douglas Kennedy, who had just recently appeared alongside Bette Davis in "The Bride Came C.O.D." (1941). He later appeared in films such as "Dark Passage" (1947), starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, and eventually in television series such as Gunsmoke, Bonanza, Dragnet and Hawaii 5-0.

Command leadership from general officers on down attended the show's opening night June 9.

The June 12, 1941 Red Bank Register reported, "A high light of the show is a five-minute movie entitled, 'Care and Peeling of the 87MM Potato...' That segment begins, 'Let us consider the function and properties of the 87MM potato as a vital force in our military machine... in civilian life, the potato functions as a nutritive corollary to a sizzling steak. In the Army, however, it functions not only as a potato, but as a steak.'

Broadway producer Lee Shubert declared "Bottlenecks of 1941" to be "the best amateur show I've seen in twenty years. It outranks many profes-



Photo courtesy of CECOM LCMC HISTORICAL OFFICE
Colonel Ramon Laughter

sional Broadway shows..."

Fort Monmouth signal Soldiers performed "Bottlenecks" on a stage in Red Bank at a time when big changes were occurring in the fledgling entertainment medium of television.

According to Ed McMahon in the book When Television was Young, the U.S. Government's National Television Systems Committee announced in April 1941 that commercial TV would begin on July 1.

The excitement generated by "Bottlenecks" among Broadway types such as Shubert was so great that a repeat performance aired on NBC that very evening. According to The World Almanac, four companies bought air time that day: Bulova watches, Ivory Soap, Spry shortening, and Sun Oil. The New York Times reported that Bulova paid \$4 for a minute of advertising that essentially consisted of a clock face being flashed on the screen.

The buying power of \$4 in 1941 equates to \$58.77 in 2009, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That doesn't buy you much television advertising today, according to an Advertising Age survey of media buying firms. NBC's "Sunday Night Football" continues its reign as the most-expensive fall 2009 program for advertisers, with a 30-second ad commanding an average of \$339,700. One of the cheapest new shows of the year is NBC's "Jay Leno," where a 30-second spot can be had for an average cost of between \$48,803 and \$65,678 depending on the night of the week. Times have changed since that first day of commercial televised programming.

The Fort Monmouth part of this sto-

ry might have been lost to history, if not for the Laughter (pronounced "Lawder") Family of Texas.

Ryan Laughter, whose grandfather performed in "Bottlenecks of 1941," contacted the CECOM LCMC Historical Office on Nov. 3 of this year saying, "Recently I have discovered that my grandfather Colonel Ramon Laughter was ...on the show 'Bottlenecks of 1941.' I was wondering if by any chance you would know where to come about any audio from that show or pictures or anything really. It would mean a lot to me and even more to my grandfather."

A quick search of the command archives returned a program from the event and, perhaps even more interestingly, audio tape reels. The program immediately confirmed that Col. Laughter, then a private, participated in the show. The audio reels posed a bit of a challenge, though-how to play these antiquated media?

One work order and a few days later, Ed Azzaro of Chenega Technology Services Corporation solved that problem by converting the tape reels to CD.

Internet research then revealed "Bottlenecks" role in television history.

I think Ryan Laughter was as happy to hear all of this as I was to tell him. Since he was off to Basic Training at Fort Jackson, he asked me to contact his grandfather directly.

Speaking to me from his home in Montgomery, Texas, Colonel Laughter described in splendid detail his life beginning with his birth in Morales, Texas (about 100 miles southwest of Houston). He recalled the early days of his military career at Fort Monmouth vividly, even at age 90.

Colonel Laughter was drafted into the military on March 21, 1941, (prior to the United States' entry into World War II). He arrived at Fort Monmouth shortly thereafter for training at the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center. There, he was drafted again-this time, into a singing trio with Privates James McCullough and James "Iron Lung" McClung. The Fort Monmouth based trio built up quite a reputation playing to local crowds, to the point that the guards would salute them as they left the base in McClung's convertible (as Col. Laughter recalled with a chuckle).

It was not only the guards who recognized their talent. Some of the Hollywood professionals-cum-Soldiers staging "Bottlenecks of 1941" must have, too. They tapped Privates Laughter, McCullough, and McClung, along with Private Thomas Lynch, to perform "Do What the Good Book Says" in the show.

COL Laughter was a bit surprised, recalling, "I'd always been a wannabe singer, but I didn't realize I was any good!"

The skit "Do What the Good Book Says," began with a narrator's admonition that "In the Army, the 'Good Book' means the book of regulations. Every Soldier gets one, and he'd better know what's in it. And there are many don'ts in it. A few dos, but an awful lot of don'ts. But then, nobody minds, for in this Army, all the fellas are glad to do what the Good Book says."

Laughter's musical career was short lived. He finished his training and left Fort Monmouth shortly after his performance. He returned to Fort Monmouth briefly for Officer Candidate School and graduated on Oct. 16, 1942.

Shortly after that, Laughter recalled, "I met an enlisted man on the street, and not expecting him to salute me, he scared me to death when he saluted me. I started to salute, and I had my hands full, and...knocked my pipe out and broke it! Not an auspicious beginning for a Second Lieutenant, is it?"

Laughter's military career flourished, though, built on a foundation laid at Fort Monmouth. He worked in overseas intelligence during World War II. He went with the Air Force when it separated from the Army in 1947, and served several more overseas tours. This included service during the Korean War as Fifth Air Force Officer in charge of electronics and a stint as a NATO Officer in Turkey.

Laughter remained in the service, with some brief breaks, until his retirement April 1, 1966 (an "interesting date," he mused).

Colonel Laughter and his Family settled in Texas. His subsequent, successful career in private industry lasted for decades. Today, he serves as chairman of the board of the Montgomery (Texas) Historical Society. He and his wife, Reba, have been married for 63 years. They have three children. Despite the many, varied adventures he has had, he deems Fort Monmouth, the Signal Corps, and "Bottlenecks of 1941" a part of his history worthy of retelling.

Thanks to the Laughter Family, this interesting and significant event in television history can now be relayed as a part of Fort Monmouth organizational history, too.

(Editor's note: Author is command historian at Fort Monmouth.)

AAFES NEWS

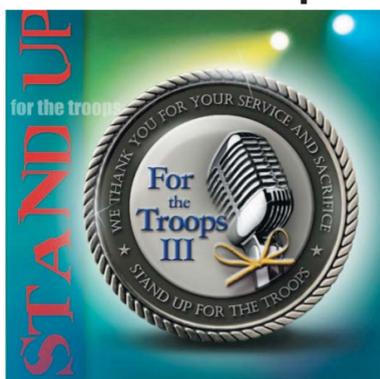
All-star cast of comedians 'Stand Up for the Troops' with free military downloads

AAFES

Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik's annual gift to military Families is playing it for laughs this year as "CD For the Troops III" offers a free compilation of comedy routines to Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and their Families.

"I'm proud to present the third edition of the 'CD for the Troops' project 'Stand Up For Troops,'" Ondrasik said. "This year we've gone for laughs with bits from world class comics; Chris Rock, Ray Romano, Jeff Foxworthy, Dana Carvey, Adam Sandler, Dennis Miller and more."

As part of an ongoing partnership between the Grammy-nominated artist who goes by the stage name Five for Fighting, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Aware Records and the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, all active duty military members and veterans with valid military identification can log on to www.AAFES.com and download the comedy routines as well as an Ondrasik song from the award winning documentary "Brothers at War."



"This is the third time we've partnered with Mister Ondrasik to provide a secure, global platform to share the tracks he has worked to freely provide to the military community," said AAFES' Chief of Staff Col. Virgil Williams. "The timing of this latest offering is really terrific as service members logging on to the Exchange Online Store to purchase a present for a loved one will be pleasantly surprised to find a gift earmarked just for them."

The complete track list of free songs

available at <http://music.aafes.com/> as part of "CD For the Troops III" <http://www.flickr.com/photos/aafespa/4133729492/sizes/l/> are as follows:

- Chris Rock - "The Big Piece of Chicken"
- Dennis Miller - "The Week in Review"
- Adam Sandler - "Lunch Lady Land"
- Ray Romano - "Bachelor Party/Juice/Potato Chips"
- Jeff Foxworthy - "Have Your Loved Ones Spayed or Neutered"
- Dana Carvey - "Parenting"
- Matt Iseman - "Dungeons and Dragons/Like a Good Neighbor"
- Kevin Nealon - "Shut that Party Down"
- Kevin James - "Greeting Cards"
- John Ondrasik - "Brothers in Arms"

"I'd like to thank AAFES, TriWest Healthcare Alliance and Sony Manufacturing for being great partners in this endeavor," Ondrasik said. "I've also included my song 'Brothers in Arms'

from the great documentary 'Brothers at War.' As always the CD for the Troops is a free download for military members at AAFES.com with two hundred thousand hard CDs shipped to troops overseas. Thanks to all the comedians who donated their talents to this compilation. Our troops and their Families are both the steel and the heart of our nation. The 'CD for the Troops' is a continuing thank you to those who protect our freedoms and secure the future of our children and grandchildren."

In addition to the free downloads, 200,000 CDs will be arriving at military bases, Armed Services YMCAs, USO Centers, Fisher Houses and other locations around the world.

"This compilation is a tribute to America's military Families to thank them for their service," said TriWest President and CEO David J. McIntyre Jr. "We are proud to continue our partnership on this project and are exceptionally grateful for John, the comedians and AAFES who are driven to thank our troops in memorable ways."