

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 July 8 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



Reduced holiday gate hours for holiday weekend

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Fourth of July holiday.

On July 2 the Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area will close at 10 p.m. and the Wise Road Gate in the Edgewood Area will close at 8 p.m.

The Harford Gate and the Wise Road Gate will reopen at 4 a.m., July 6. The Maryland Gate in the Aberdeen Area and the Magnolia Road Gate (Route 152) in the Edgewood Area will be open throughout the holiday weekend.

Women's Equality day Awards program

In recognition of Women's Equality day, APG will hold

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'Jabbin' with Jenelle' teaches about insects, pests



BRAC construction proceeding at APG

Story by
NICOLE CAWTHERN
Garrison Transformation Office

Moving into the summer of 2009, the progress of base realignment and closure construction at Aberdeen Proving Ground is literally paving the way through the post.

Construction contracts have been awarded, a major project completed and new projects started, moving APG closer to meeting the BRAC Law completion date of September 2011.

During the recent Rehearsal of Concept Drill at APG, the installation was praised

for remaining on schedule and within budget for all BRAC work.

The construction on the Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Center for Excellence was broken into two separate phases.

"The reason for this phased approach is the size of the entire complex which is equivalent to building 24 mid-sized high schools in about two years time," said Gary Schilling, program manager for the Integrated Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concern-

ing all BRAC projects at APG. "Project planners decided separating the facility's design and construction into phases was the best way to ensure that the complex is completed during the short time frame."

The total construction of Phase 1 is at 63 percent complete, and currently the facility is projected to be completed three months ahead of schedule.

"We are substantially ahead of schedule with C4ISR Phase 1 and are proud to report that the entire BRAC program, nearly \$1.5 billion, is on schedule, within cost and at full scope. It's a good news story," Schil-

ling said.

With Phase 1 of the C4ISR complex well underway, construction on Phase 2 is set to begin before the year is over.

As Kane Construction finishes the demolition work on the site, James G. Davis Construction of Rockville, Md., is preparing to begin construction of the Command, Control, Communication Network Transport East, or C2/CNT East, building in the 5200 block of the Aberdeen Area. Awarded on April 20 at a cost of \$102 million, the facility was the first construction contract awarded for Phase

See BRAC, page 15

APG showcases technology, partnership opportunities

Story by
MATTHEW HICKMAN
RDECOM

More than 600 business owners, members of academia and government representatives gathered at Harford Community College for a showcase of Aberdeen Proving Ground technology and partnership opportunities June 17 and 18.

The showcase, hosted by HCC, allowed elements from the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command to detail the changes coming to APG and highlight technology needs and challenges.

Overall, U.S. Army spending has increased by nearly \$100 billion since 2004, as explained by Paul L. Gardner, deputy director of the Office of Small Business Programs, and small business dollars have

increased almost 100 percent since 2004.

Among the organizations explaining contract opportunities were the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, the Communication and Electronics Command, the Program Executive Offices for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense.

These organizations, some new to APG by way of the base realignment and closure process, will offer regional businesses a chance to compete for contracts. To that extent, they provided details on what technologies they hoped to be developing or improving in the near future and explained

how entrepreneurs could take advantage of the contract opportunities associated with their future technology requirements.

John M. Miller, director of ARL, detailed the technological explosion the area is about to experience and lauded the partnership opportunities.

"ARL is a small organization, but the bulk of the work we do is really complemented and executed by private sector funds," he said. In fact, 80 percent of ARL's revenue is spent on private sector services, which Miller explained is necessary to the organization's success.

"We're never going to be able to do it all in our house. We'll never have the internal staff to do all the things we need to do. The only way we can do it is in partnership

See SHOWCASE, page 15

Army's increased emphasis on safety has reduced accidental deaths since 2005

Story by
C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

Army efforts to increase safety awareness have decreased the number of Soldier deaths due to off-duty activities such as motorcycling in the past several years.

"We've made considerable progress in the last four to five years -- 2005 was probably our pinnacle ... in which we had the most fatalities and accidents as a military service," said Tad Davis, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, during a roundtable with bloggers, June 19.

Davis said that since combat operations began in 2001, the number of accidents resulting in deaths had climbed continuously -- peaking in 2005. That year, the Army lost 299 Soldiers due to accidental, non-combat deaths -- 144 of those were due to loss of life in personally owned vehicles.

"Subsequent to that, we published the first-ever Army strategic plan for safety and occupational health -- bringing together those two important areas for the very first time, [and] establishing long-term strategic goals for the Army in a way that would resonate at every level for the command and require commands down to the battalion or installation level to develop their own safety and occupational health plan to focus on their own particular needs," he said.

Davis said the Army has made progress in decreasing the number of accidental fatalities. Since 2005, the numbers have dropped from 299, to 209 in 2008.

"I think we made significant progress, steadily since 2005," he said. "Areas that continue to be the greatest concern for us in terms of fatalities and injuries due to accidents are off-duty, related to personally owned vehicles and motorcycles."

Last year, Davis said, the Army lost 51 Soldiers due to motorcycle accidents. This year, the Army has lost 21, where it had lost 33 at the same time last year -- he attributes Army efforts for the decline.

"We think we have the right mix of programs, both online and hands-on programs, that our Soldiers and civilians go through to receive certification training on motorcycle operations, as well as mentorship programs and motorcycle clubs that really enhance the skills they learn -- so we are making progress in that particular area," he said.

The Army is also experiencing about 16 percent less fatalities due to sedans, sports utility vehicles and small trucks, Davis said.

"I think it's a good thing, but we don't want to stop there," he said.

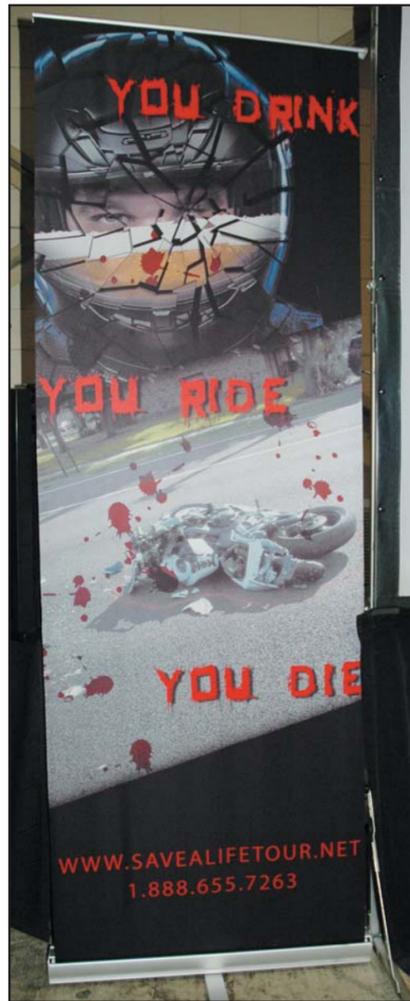


Photo by RACHEL PONDER
A banner displayed during the Save a Life Tour shows the effects of drinking and driving at Downer Hall on May 15. The event was sponsored by the APG Army Substance Abuse Program, or ASAP, to educate Soldiers about the dangers associated with drinking and driving, and featured a driving simulator to replicate how a car drives when a driver is intoxicated.

Davis said in an effort to further curb accident-related casualties and fatalities, the service has put "expanded emphasis" on the battle-buddy concept, and is also working to change cultures in organizations so that everyone in an organization understands their roles in promoting and ensuring safety.

The Army also now uses the Travel Risk Planning System, or TRiPS, to help Soldiers plan travel for vacations and an extended pass.

See SAFETY, page 15

TRAFFIC ALERT

Significant impacts expected from upcoming traffic changes

The next few weeks will be very busy on the traffic front, and there will be several changes that will have significant impacts on daily commuting and traffic flow.

Sometime during the week of June 29, Airbase Loop will be permanently closed between Aviation Arms Road and Bush River Road. Traffic that has historically used this route to and from down range areas will be required to use Collieran Road and Gate 13. Phillips Airfield and airbase ranges will still be allowed access via Gate 25 and Bush River Road. This closure is to allow construction of the new Automotive Technology Evaluation Facility.

On or about July 6, the active right entrance lane at the Maryland Route 22 Gate (Harford Boulevard) will be changed at the gate. The active right lane will be moved all the way to the right and will use the newly constructed right entrance lane. The left inbound lane will not be affected by this change. The change will allow the gate contractor to work on the intermediate lanes and booths.

Later in July, Boothby Hill Avenue will be permanently closed between Maryland Boulevard and Combat Drive. Darlington Street, Susquehanna Avenue and Aberdeen Boulevard will be alternate traffic routes. This closure is to allow completion of the new Combat Drive which is scheduled to be opened for traffic in late August.

As noted earlier, some of these closures will cause major changes to customary commuter routes.

Patience, understanding and especially attention to safety are requested as progress is made toward a new expanded and enhanced Aberdeen Proving Ground.

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



APG celebrates The Year of the NCO



'Journal for Jordan' passes on NCO's legacy to son

Army News Service

Dana Canedy was determined when she went off to the University of Kentucky to put the life of an Army brat behind her.

Dana had plans that didn't include the Army as part of her future life. She just wanted out and away from the lifestyle her tough drill sergeant father had imposed on her and her siblings. She only knew the future would not include a military man -- that was a promise to herself.

Driven, tough and fiercely independent, like her father, Dana finished a degree in journalism and launched herself into a newspaper career that first took her to Cleveland and eventually to New York where she wrote for *The Wall Street Journal*. In 1996 she joined the *New York Times* staff as an editor.

Dana never intended to write a best-selling book about a Soldier that she fell in love with, let alone share with the public messages to their son.

Romance begins

On Father's Day in 1998 while on a rare visit to her parents in Radcliff, Ky., just outside Fort Knox, Dana was introduced to a tall, muscular, soft-spoken, polite man who happened to be a career Soldier and former drill sergeant as her father had been.

It turned out 1st Sgt. Charles Munroe King was also a gifted and trained artist who had paintings of Soldiers he'd drawn on display at a post exhibit. He had dropped by to present a gift of several portraits he'd done of Dana's father beside a tank and with one of the units he had trained.

The editor and the sergeant started to talk. She was struck by the shy man who she quickly summed up as the kind of man who wouldn't open up to a stranger without prodding, so she took her reporter skills to task and gradually coaxed him into telling her about himself. She was curious and interested in whom this shy Soldier really was deep down. Still, she couldn't help but remember the promise that she'd never get involved with a military man.

Their relationship moved forward but not without problems along the way, differences in lifestyles, differences in the people each associated with -- she the big city, big time Pulitzer Prize-winning, Manhattan-dwelling editor; he the consummate professional Soldier, moving wherever the Army dictated he go, placing duty and his charges first and foremost.

Eight years passed and in that time the Twin Towers fell to terrorists, Hurricane Katrina drowned New Orleans, the second Iraq War began and the inevitable happened -- Charles received orders to Iraq where he would be the senior noncommissioned officer responsible for the welfare of more than 100 mostly just-out-of-high school Soldiers.

Then the 39-year-old editor and the 47-year-old NCO really started to talk -- marriage and children. As she recalled she felt her biological clock ticking and wanted to become pregnant before Charles deployed.

Recalling the news at being pregnant, she said she got her wish in a weekend of passion. She was going to have a boy.

The wedding would wait until June 9, 2007, the day between both their birthdays.

Shortly before Charles left for Iraq a pregnant Dana went shopping for a friend and found a journal that she bought for Charles. She thought while he was deployed he might write a few messages to the baby and then if something happened to him his unborn son Jordan would see his father's handwriting and perhaps a message that said, "I love you."

First sergeant's journal to son

"Charles became consumed with his journal, absolutely consumed, and after his missions he would write well into the night," she told an audience at a Pentagon observance of African-American History Month Feb. 18. "He told Jordan everything he could think of to tell him that he would need to know to be a man if he didn't make it back.

"He told him that it was okay for boys to cry. He told him his favorite Bible verses and about the power of prayer. He told him how to choose a wife and what qualities to look for in a woman," Dana said. "He wrote more than two-hundred pages. The interesting thing about his journal is there are themes that emerge that I don't think were intentional because I don't think Charles realized he was writing about certain things repeatedly."

Dana said he wrote about how he turned to the power of prayer in good times and in bad. He wrote about the tremendous respect he had for women and what he expects of Jordan in terms of how to treat women, and the third theme that came through was an utter pride and devotion to military service.

"For him this war was not about 'weapons of mass destruction' or an 'axis of evil.' I never heard him speak those words," she said. "It was about the Soldiers he trained and trained with, about taking them, leading them to a foreign land, a dangerous land and bringing them back home safely. He dedicated his life to that."

Just how dedicated Charles was to his Soldiers became clear when he told Dana in a phone call that he couldn't take leave to come home for the birth of their child.

Dedication to his Soldiers

"Dana, I don't think you understand the first sergeant's job," he had told her. "I'm responsible for a whole company of men, most of them real young. They're just adjusting to being in combat. I couldn't forgive myself if one of them got injured or killed while I was gone."

"We had a pretty big fight," Dana recalled.

Once she accepted that Charles wasn't going to be part of the birth, she warmed to the idea of celebrating the baby's birth in the company of three women she knew closely who would always love and protect their son.

In his journal Charles reflects in his block letter style why he wasn't present for his son's birth and hits on one of his themes, that of the profound respect he has for the women who are in his son's life and what kind of woman should be in Jordan's future she said.

"I could not be at your birth

because of the war but you were surrounded by strong women when you were born," Charles wrote. "All of these women embody the reasons you should never ever disrespect or lay your hand against a woman. Remember who taught you to speak, to walk and to be a gentleman. These are your first teachers my little prince. Protect them, embrace them and always treat them like a queen. Women with outward beauty are a dime a dozen, but being with a woman with these qualities of loyalty, trust and caring for who you really are will have a lot more meaning..."

The first sergeant did return home for two weeks at mid-deployment and continued to write in his journal. Dana remembered he didn't get much sleep because he was either holding tiny Jordan while dancing around the living room or he was standing by his infant's crib watching him sleep.

Charles returned to Iraq to start the second half of his tour. Then on Oct. 14, 2006, one month before he was slated to return home, he and two of his Soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device that detonated under their HMMWV [high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle] while in convoy outside of Baghdad. Son Jordan was 6 months old.

Dana pens 'A Journal for Jordan'

When Dana received word on the death of her fiancé she sank into a deep grief, had trouble facing work and savoring life the way she had when Charles had been alive.

"I had anger, pain, denial; but I had to do something with my grief though what I really wanted to do was just stay in bed," Dana said. "I had to do something positive for myself and for my son."

"My start in terms of healing was to write, it was the only thing I could think of to do so I decided to write a memoir, a 'Journal for Jordan,'" she said. "Jordan doesn't realize he's the 'Jordan' behind 'A Journal to Jordan.'"

Today Dana's dilemma is

when to give him the book she wrote which is intended for a young man and when to give him the journal itself which is meant for him to grow with.

"There are parts of the journal written for a boy, parts for a young man and parts for a man who's about to get married," she said. "And, so it will mean different things to him at different points in his life."

Initially, she thought about writing the book just for her son but she went to her editors and said she wanted to put a face and name on the war and personalize it for people, she just wasn't sure she could do it emotionally.

"A lot of my colleagues at the paper said, 'we don't know anybody in the military... we haven't met Soldiers, so writing a book would personalize it for us too,'" she recalled her fellow workers saying. "I was put in charge of assigning stories to a beat called, 'The War at Home.' I worked with reporters to develop stories about the domestic impact of the war on military Families, and while our paper and others don't always get it right, I'm trying to do my part to make sure Soldiers are portrayed in a positive light."

Dana took Charles' entries and expanded on them, literally writing a book to her son in which every chapter starts, "Dear Jordan."

"There's nothing that will keep you more honest, humble and authentic than writing to your child," she said.

Private versus public

She knew if the book was to be honest, it had to be thorough, which meant she would have to expose much of the private side of her life and make it public, something she wasn't accustomed to as a journalist whose acclaim was usually limited to a faceless news story by-line. She also didn't want to write a fairy tale because, "Families aren't fairy tales, and the military Family is not a fairy tale and our Family wasn't."

"I thought if I have to give up my privacy and share my life in order to honor this man so that

people will understand the sacrifices military men and women make every day in this country and in Iraq and Afghanistan and other places, most of them without books or movies ever being written about them, then I would," she said. "We're just one Family. There's nothing really special about us except that I'm a writer, and I was able to tell our story by writing it for my son."

"I wanted the book to be a way for Jordan to better understand his parents, but also so that anybody who would care to read it who didn't know military personnel would have a better understanding of the sacrifices that Soldiers and their spouses make in this country every day," Dana said.

She said she didn't expect "A Journal for Jordan" to become a best seller nor did she expect Hollywood to express an interest in telling her story. Actor Denzel Washington and Columbia Pictures have bought the movie rights but Dana will be a consultant with full script rights.

Today she said people are sharing the book with their sons and daughters. There are fathers who buy it who say they want to communicate better with their children and are writing journals. There are spouses of Soldiers who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan who thank her at book-signings, and there was an e-mail from a Soldier who said the book helped him cope with the loss of a battle buddy.

While there are times, Dana said, when the loss of Charles still makes her depressed, she works through the sadness, then focuses on the positive. That positive she said is that Jordan will always be able to hear his father speak directly to him for the rest of his life and that the wisdom Charles shared with his son can be shared universally.

(Editor's note: Visit www.ajournalforjordan.com for more about "A Journal for Jordan" and <http://www.761st.com/gallery/MSGK01?page=1> for 1st Sgt. King's Hall of Fame Album.)

ROK commander recognizes NCO



Photo by ROGER TEEL, 20TH SUPPORT COMMAND (CBRNE)
 Brig. Gen. Jae Ho Lee, right, commander of the Republic of Korea Chemical, Biological, Radiological Defense Command, presents the Joint Service Achievement Medal to Sgt. 1st Class Yolanda Rich, center, an information assurance specialist from 20th Support Command (CBRNE), during the general's visit to Aberdeen Proving Ground June 22. Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, left, commander, 20th Support Command (CBRNE), escorted Lee to several training areas and briefings during his visit. Rich was recognized for her admirable performance as a member of the Joint Task Force for the Elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction while deployed to Exercise Key Resolve in the Republic of Korea earlier this year.

APG News

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Change of command is picture perfect



Photo by RUSS MESEROLL

General Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command, passes the CECOM colors to Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong as Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via, right, Command Sgt. Maj. Tyrone Johnson (partially obscured) and the color guard look on.

Story by
DEBBIE SHEEHAN
Public Affairs Office

The flags fluttered in the warm breeze; a large American flag suspended between Fort Monmouth Fire Department apparatus blew straight out like a magic carpet. Then, as if on cue, the sun shone on Greely Field as the audience was asked to give Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via and his wife, Linda, a round of applause.

The U.S. Army Communication-Electronics Command Life Cycle Management Command change of command ceremony June 23 was hosted by Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command. During the ceremony, Via relinquished his command of the CECOM LCMC to Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong.

Dunwoody said that she knew both generals well and praised them both. She noted that Strong's background as an Army leader makes him a superb fit as CECOM LCMC commander.

"[Major General] Randy [Strong] served as the commanding general, U.S. Army Signal Center and was the chief of Signal – a key leadership position in the C4ISR [Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance] and Signal arena," Dunwoody said. "He brings wide-ranging joint experience to CECOM, having served as the U.S. Pacific Command J-6 for three years."

She recalled that Strong was the commander of U.S. Forces in East Timor during the 1999 peacekeeping operation there and praised his "keen awareness of the needs of our twenty-first century Army" and his understanding of "how cross-functional collaboration...is now a necessity."

"In short, [Major General Strong] is a leader of vision who will continue the tradition established by his predecessor," Dunwoody said.

Speaking of Via's accomplishments as CECOM LCMC commanding general for the previous 23 months, Dunwoody told

him that he had reason to be proud.

"You have trained, developed and built a remarkable team, a team energized by your vision, a team that has ushered in a new CECOM era," she said.

Dunwoody stressed that Via skillfully managed a global workforce of more than 250 military and 11,000 civilians located in 30 states and 18 countries.

"There's no better symbol of CECOM's achievements than what happened last year as the organization broke ground on a new, state-of-the-art campus, an Army Center of Excellence for C4ISR, at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland," she said. "That center of excellence is truly a once-in-a-generation investment by the Defense Department and the Army in cutting-edge technologies, in new teaming approaches and in enterprise thinking.

"Losing a commander during a time of rapid and profound transformation always poses challenges," Dunwoody said, "but knowing the men and women of CECOM, I'm certain they are ready to rise to the occasion."

Strong said CECOM "saved his day" many times during his career by providing invaluable support during his deployments as a commander. This included logistics assistance representatives and contractors deploying to Bosnia and elsewhere.

He said it was "truly awesome" to see the work being done by CECOM and Army Team C4ISR and to now become a participant in those efforts. He pledged to do all he can to add to that proud legacy and said he looked forward to the challenges ahead.

Via had high praise for the command upon his departure.

"The real story of CECOM belongs to the magnificent civilians and Soldiers whom I've had the honor and privilege of serving as commanding general," he said. "Your enthusiasm and dedication in performing so many critical missions have brought well-deserved acclaim to CECOM LCMC and the entire Army Team C4ISR community."

The AMC Band from APG participat-

ed in the formation of troops on Greely Field and played throughout the change of command ceremony.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Linda Via was given a bouquet of red roses reflecting the heart and support she showed the Soldiers and members of the command. Yellow roses were presented to Strong's wife Lori Borgna-Strong to welcome her to the command. The Strong's daughter Tiffany also received flowers and was welcomed.

At Mallette Hall, before the change of command ceremony, Dunwoody presented the Distinguished Service Medal and the General Brehon B. Somervell Medal for Excellence to Via and the Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal to Linda Via.

ARMY FAMILY COVENANT

SOLDIERS ★ FAMILIES ★ ARMY CIVILIANS

22d Chemical Battalion remembers Cameron's dad

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

Five-year-old Cameron Jessen had a great time June 19.

Wearing a subdued, olive-colored cap with explosive ordnance disposal lettering, Cameron and his cousin Michael Miller toyed with some sophisticated EOD equipment.

They manipulated the controls of a \$200,000 robot, using its mechanical grip to pick up a simulated pipe bomb before sending it in herky-jerky, back-and-forth movements around the training bay. Watching the controller's video monitors, they giggled as members of their Family danced out of their way. They peered under doors and peeked around corners with handheld EOD surveillance equipment.

"Is this a robot factory?" Cameron asked, surrounded by EOD specialists from the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort). The Soldiers were showing him a good time.

The boys played with the tools of the EOD trade, tools that Cameron's father had used on the job.

Sergeant 1st Class Kevin P. Jessen died in Iraq in March 2006 while attempting to defuse an improvised explosive device. He had been assigned to the 22d Chemical Battalion shortly before volunteering for his second deployment as an EOD team leader.

Two days before Father's Day, Cameron and his Family came to Aberdeen Proving Ground to formally dedicate the 22d Chemical Battalion's renovated conference room in the name of his father.

Cameron and his mother, Carrie Jessen, traveled from their home in Mexico, N.Y. They were joined by Jessen's sisters, Tracy Miller and Kelly Mulvahill, from Paragould and Greenwood, Ark.,

respectively.

Also attending from New York were Carrie's mother, Laurie, and stepfather, Doug Raymond, her sister Niki, her aunt Lisa Wood and Family friend Mary Barnes. Coming from Arkansas were Tracy Miller's children, Michael and Crystal and future son-in-law Alex.

"It's overwhelming," Carrie said. "I knew they were working hard on the ceremony, and to see it today... it's a fitting tribute to Kevin. It was overwhelming and incredibly generous of people who didn't even know him. It was very special."

The ceremony was coordinated by Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Martinez, who also narrated the event.

After being escorted to their seats by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, commander, 20th Support Command (CBRNE), and Lt. Col. Matthew Mingus, commander, 22d Chemical Battalion (TE), Carrie and Cameron were called forward.

Mingus presented The Order of the Dragon award to Cameron, in honor of his father. He presented the Carol Ann Watson Award (Order of the Dragon spouse award) to Carrie. The awards recognize "Dragon Soldiers" and their spouses for their integrity and moral character, professional competence and for having made lasting contributions to the promotion of the Chemical Corps.

Both awards were signed by the chief of the Chemical Corps, Col. Leslie Smith.

Colonel Daniel Chartier, EOD officer from 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE), presented the Ordnance Corps' Order of Samuel Sharpe to Cameron, in honor of his father. Chartier also presented U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Association Keeper of the Flame Awards for faithful and enduring service to Carrie and Jessen's sisters, Tracy and Kelly.

Martinez said a wreath of flowers was placed on Jessen's grave in the Palermo Cemetery, Palermo, N.Y., on behalf of the members of the 22nd Chemical Battalion.

In his comments, Snow quoted President Abraham Lincoln and told Cameron that his father was "one of America's better angels."

"Cameron was really impressed by the medals," his mother said. "I was so proud of him during the ceremony. He tends to be an extremely active little boy so I was a little worried about how long he would hold still, but he did great."

After the ceremony, battalion Soldiers formed two facing columns to guide the Family to the conference room. Carrie and Cameron went first, stopping to shake hands with Soldiers while being applauded every step of the way.

After Cameron and his Family cut the yellow ribbon, guests entered the con-

ference room. They were treated to a buffet lunch contributed by the Veterans of Foreign War Post of Rosedale, Md. The tables of food were prepared by the volunteer efforts of Soldiers and Family members from the battalion Family Readiness Group, coordinated by Marcella Heilig.

Jessen Family photos flashed overhead on two flat-screen televisions, many of them showing Cameron and his dad.

"He's good. He's good," Carrie said when asked about Cameron's state of mind. "He'll be done with kindergarten next week and he's excited about the summer and going into first grade."

"He's a good kid," she continued. "He's starting to understand a little more about what happened and that his dad's not here. He has some questions, and we talk about it. You just try to process it the best way you can, and handle it the best

See **JESSEN**, page 15



Carrie and Cameron Jessen, left, with help from Tracy and Michael Miller, cut the ribbon to open the 22d Chemical Battalion conference room dedicated in memory of Sgt. 1st Class Kevin P. Jessen.



Carrie and Cameron Jessen receive a welcoming ovation from 22d Chemical Battalion Soldiers en route to the conference room dedicated to their husband/father - Sgt. 1st Class Kevin P. Jessen.

Community Notes

WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY

THRU JULY 5 KUTZTOWN FOLK FESTIVAL

The Kutztown Folk Festival is located at the Kutztown Fairgrounds, 225 North White Oak Street, Kutztown, Pa. The festival is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., through July 5. Events include more than 200 of America's finest craftsmen and folk artists, food, quilts, entertainment, kids fun and much more. Cost of daily admission is \$12 for adults; \$11 for senior citizens ages 55 and older; children ages 12 and under are free; and an all week pass costs \$20 per person.

For more information or to request a free brochure, call 888-674-6136 or visit www.kutztownfestival.com.

WEDNESDAY

JULY 1 DAY ON THE BAY

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer A Day on the Bay, 9:30 a.m. Passengers will be treated to a day-long cruise to Charlestown, Md., to have lunch at the Wellwood Restaurant. Enjoy bird watching, sightseeing and view two lighthouses. Tickets cost \$55 for adults, \$27 for children ages 10 years and younger. Reservations are required.

For more information, to make reservations or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

WEDNESDAY WEE WONDERS

Join the center's naturalist and her wee one for a critter encounter and hike. This free program will be held 10 to 11 a.m. for ages 0 to 4. 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.

THURSDAY

JULY 2 SUNSET CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under age 10. The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats and upper Chesapeake Bay. Reservations are required.

For more information or to make reservations, call 410-939-4078.

KARAOKE/LADIES NIGHT

Thirsty Thursdays is back at Charlton-Miller Veterans of Foreign War Post 6054 located at 206 Spesutia Road, Perryman. Come on out and show off those singing skills at Karaoke Night, 7 p.m. No cover charge. Happy hour is 5 to 9 p.m.

For more information, call 410-272-3444.

FRIDAY

JULY 3 FIRST FRIDAY – MILITARY APPRECIATION FRIDAY

The town of Havre de Grace will hold Military Appreciation Day, 5 to 9 p.m. Havre de Grace Main Street invites everyone to join them for their next First Friday. Get out the stars and stripes and wear red, white and blue. There will be live music, a beer garden, face painting, a special interest car show, shops and restaurants will have specials and stay open late, antique military vehicles on display and more.

For more information, call 410-939-1811 or visit http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001NuulU28ZaIZxq3-Ugx41oIQBwhGRemXXqMSyU_1ZjmRdtzoguPuxd4bwD9tIrQZh4Yzq-lkwpM7uaZkrBTsCJIBviFG_icZB-9J0Q6xdky_zbscLkA9FSJfLpyZ3yq6l-8hOMtRu1_uBQY%3D.

SATURDAY

JULY 4 MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Margaritaville Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$40 per person (21 years of age or older). Set sail with island tunes, light refreshments. Margaritas, beer and soda included. Reservations are required.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

SUNDAY

JULY 5 DISCOVERY WALK

Join a naturalist on a nature walk to discover what creeps, crawls and flies around Leight Park. This free program for all ages begins 10:30 a.m. No registration required.

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

ALL DAY BINGO

The American Legion Susquehanna Post 135 located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold All Day Bingo on the first Sunday of each month, 12:30 p.m. Doors open 11:30 a.m., early bird games begin 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.

NATURE TALES - AMPHIBIANS

Story time with a nature twist! Come listen to some stories, learn new songs and move like the animals. This free program will be held 2 p.m. for all ages. No registration required.

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

FIREWORKS CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Fireworks Cruise, 7:30 to 10 p.m. on board the Skipjack Martha Lewis for viewing the Havre de grace fireworks display. Cost is \$50 per person (must be over 21 years of age) and includes a relaxing cruise with a relaxing evening sail with a cheese and fruit tray, beer and soda. Reservations are required.

For more information, to purchase tickets or for reservations, call 410-939-4076.

MONDAY

JULY 6 TOASTMASTER'S CLUB MEETING

The Gunpowder Toastmaster's Club meets the first and third Monday of every month (except federal holidays) in the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility (CDTF) Building E4516. Learn to speak confidently and effectively. Toastmaster's mission is to help people improve their communication, leadership, evaluation, and public-speaking skills in a fun, friendly and supportive environment.

The meeting will be held in the assembly room B1, 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

For more information, call Adam Freedland, 410-652-8026, or George Alsfeld, 410-569-1189.

CREATURES OF THE BAY

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Creatures of the Bay

Cruise, 10 to 11:30 a.m., for children ages 6 to 14. See firsthand some of the animals living in the Bay. Find and identify the tiniest creature-- terrapins, oysters, crabs, oh my!

Tickets cost \$10 per person. Reservations required.

For more information, to purchase tickets or for reservations, call 410-939-4076.

WEDNESDAY

JULY 8 AFTERNOON TEA

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer an Afternoon Tea Cruise, 2 to 3:30 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$35 per person. Finger sandwiches, scones and savory desserts will be served. Reservations are required.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 410-939-4078.

THURSDAY

JULY 9 SUNSET CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under age 10. The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna Flats and upper Chesapeake Bay. Reservations are required.

For more information or to make reservations, call 410-939-4078.

FRIDAY

JULY 10 PATRIOTIC SALUTE DAY

All veterans and active duty service members are invited to attend "Patriotic Salute Day," a special feature of the 11th annual Mason Dixon Fair. The Mason-Dixon Fairgrounds are located on 6988 Delta Road in Delta, Pa., on the MD-PA Line, Route 165 and Route 74. Admission is free all day to veterans and active service members with military, VFW or American Legion ID. All veterans, active service members and senior citizens are invited to attend a special early show by the Re-Creation, a song and dance troop, and enjoy fair exhibits and cash Bingo, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit www.masondixonfair.com.

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

POST SHORTS

an awards program, 1 to 2 p.m., Aug. 25, at the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, Ball Conference Center, building 3074. Guest speaker will be Shannon E. Cunniff, director, Chemical and Materiel Risk Management, Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Installations and Environment).

Awards will acknowledge employees and organizations on APG that are exemplary in their support of the Army's Federal Women's Program objective. Award categories are Outstanding Woman of the Year, Outstanding Supervisor/Manager of the Year and Activity Most Supportive of FWP Goals.

Completed packages must be submitted by July 1 to Kendall Burchard via e-mail at kendall.burchard@us.army.mil, fax to 410-278-7675.

For more information, Kendall Burchard, 410-278-9919 or Sheryl Coleman, 410-278-5964.

FWP AMC Band to perform at local events

The AMC Band will perform 7:30 p.m., July 3, at the 14th Annual Salute to Cecil County Veterans, North East Town Park, North East, Md.

The AMC Marching Band will perform in the Havre de Grace Independence Day Celebration parade, 2 p.m., July 5, on Union Avenue.

For more information, call Karen Tegges, 410-939-6767.

Post Office holiday hours

The Aberdeen Area Post Office hours on July 3 are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; the Edgewood Area Post Office will be closed.

Shore Pool announces delayed opening

The opening of the Shore Pool, building 2031, will be delayed until further notice due to maintenance issues. The Olympic and Bayside pools are open as advertised. For more information, visit www.apgmwr.com/recreation/odr/swimming.html. See article on page 14.

Partial closure of Hoyle Fitness Center

Parts of the Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210, are so the hardwood floors in the facility can be refinished.

Areas affected include the issue room, basketball court, racquetball courts,

weight area (behind the issue room), nautilus room, cardio room, boxing area, men's new locker rooms, ladies locker room and the sauna.

Patrons can enter the Hoyle Gymnasium on the east side (parking lot side) of the building about 50 feet to the right of the current entrance. The south side of the facility will remain operational during this work.

The hours of operation will remain the same, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

KUSAHC closes for July 4, training holiday

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed July 3 for the Independence Day holiday and July 6 for the training holiday. It will re-open July 7.

Patients are asked to plan accordingly for medication pickup and medical needs.

For medical assistance during non-duty hours, call the Staff Duty Officer 410-278-1725. A referral is not necessary if patient receives care in an Emergency Department.

BJ's membership sale

BJ's Wholesale Club offers a 15-month membership, to include two cards for \$35 for all civilian and military personnel, retirees and contract employees.

Sign up for membership from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., July 8, at the Southside Grill located in the Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140, Edgewood Area.

This offer is good for new customers and for membership renewals. Save \$10 and get three months free. Renewal membership holders should bring their current card with them.

RecruitMilitary Career Fair July 16

RecruitMilitary, the Presidents National Hire Veterans Committee, the American Legion, and the MSCCN (Military Spouse Corporate Career Network) will hold a free hiring event for veterans, personnel who are transitioning from active duty, Reserves, Guard and military spouses, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., July 16, at Citizens Bank Park (home of the Philadelphia Phillies), located on One Citizens Bank Way, Philadelphia, Pa.

Meet with representatives that will include corporate employers, law-enforcement agencies and other government employers, franchisors, educational institutions, veterans service agencies, and

veterans associations. Already in the lineup are Centura College, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, CSX Transportation, the Department of Veterans Affairs-Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service, DeVry University, Franchise Advisory Group, Home Helpers, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), LB & B Associates, Liberty Resources, Medco, New York Life, NewCourtland, Nixon Uniform Service & Medical Wear, Philadelphia Community College, Professional Recovery Systems, Prudential Insurance Company, Snap Fitness, Inc., the Social Security Administration, SOS International Ltd., Veterans Upward Bound, Wackenhut Corporation, and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

RecruitMilitary will produce the career fair in cooperation with The American Legion; HireVetsFirst, a unit of the United States Department of Labor; and the MSCCN.

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

For more information or to register as a job-seeker, visit www.recruitmilitary.com.

KUSAHC closes for Organizational Day

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will close 11 a.m., July 17 for Organization Day and re-open July 20.

Patients are asked to plan accordingly for medication pickup and medical needs.

ACS to celebrate 44th Birthday July 29

Army Community Service will celebrate its 44th birthday with a picnic, face painting, balloon animals, cake, food, fun and festivities, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 29, at Maryland Boulevard Park. Free tickets are available at the Aberdeen Area ACS, building 2754.

For more information, call 410-278-4372.

New hours for Perry Point VA Urgent Care Clinic

Effective Aug. 1, the Urgent Care Clinic at the Perry Point VA Medical Center will be open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday (except for Federal holidays). The hours of operation are being changed due to the decreasing demand for urgent outpatient care services during evening and weekend hours at the medical center.

All veterans who receive their care at the Perry Point VA Medical Center are reminded that they can receive medical advice or ask questions about their medications after normal business hours by calling the Telephone Care Line for the VA Maryland Health Care System at 1-800-865-2441. Veterans can also schedule a same day appointment at the Perry Point VA Medical Center by calling the Telephone Care Line Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., 1-800-865-2441.

CPR Classes

Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Services offer CPR classes on APG.

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

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Conference Center, building E-4810, Aug. 26, Oct. 21 and Dec. 16.

In the Aberdeen Area, classes will be held at the Post Theater July 15 and Nov. 18. Class size will be limited to 30 participants and will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. Pre-registration is required.

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

Trying out for the U.S. Army parachute Team, the Golden Knights

Soldiers interested in trying out for the elite parachute team are encouraged to submit applications immediately; deadline for submission is July 24. Try-outs begin Sept. 8 at Fort Bragg, N.C.

To be selected to the team, a Soldier must be on active duty status, have completed 100 free-fall parachute jumps and have a good military and civilian record. Those requesting a jump waiver should contact the operations section, officials said.

Soldiers submitting their packets for selection will attend a rigorous six-week assessment and selection program of training. Those who successfully complete the six-week training program will be knighted in a special ceremony as an official member of the Golden Knights.

For more information or applications, visit www.usarec.army.mil/hq/goldenknights.

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

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

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community met at the Aberdeen Area Post Chapel June 18 to discuss upcoming events. Colonel Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG garrison and deputy installation commander, led the meeting and welcomed guests and then turned the meeting over to Regina Dannenfels, chief, Child, Youth & School Services Division.

FMWR

Matt Aughey, a graphic artist for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said that the new 2009 FMWR directory, which lists information for FMWR services and facilities, is now available. Aughey said that individuals can request directories for everyone in their office.

"This is a great resource," he said.

Aughey told attendees that they should check out the renovated Ruggles

Golf Course in the Aberdeen Area, with a new club house.

He stated that FMWR's Web site, www.apgmwr.com provides the most up-to-date information on activities, and that customers should check it regularly.

Aughey said that attendees should also read MWR In-Demand, a newsletter that is sent through e-mail. He added that the newsletter usually features prizes that can be won by answering questions found in the newsletter.

For more information, call him at 410-278-9816.

Commissary

Tammy Spickler, Commissary manager, said that on July 4 the Commissary will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Aug. 15 the Commissary will close at 3 p.m., which is the day of the Brooks and Dunn concert.

Spickler said that there were two award recipients for the Commissary

scholarship who applied through APG's Commissary, one from Bel Air and one from western Maryland.

Dentac

Sergeant Major Marcelo Da Silva said that it is a good time for Soldiers to come to the clinic, as dental fitness is critical to unit readiness.

Da Silva asked commanders to encourage their Soldiers to get regular cleanings and to maintain and make dental readiness a priority.

He gave attendees information on the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. The Enhanced Program Benefits Booklet is available online at www.trdp.org.

KUSAHC

First Lieutenant Itsara Quinarrath represented Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. He said that the clinic will be closed July 3 through 6 for the holiday weekend.

CYSS

Chuck Rose, who works for CYSS,

talked to attendees about two new programs. The Edge! highlights opportunities for children and youth, in grades 1 through 12, to Experience, Develop, Grow and Excel in FMWR Partner Facilities. The Edge! is broken into four broad area-specific packages: The Art Edge!, The Adventure Edge!, The Life Edge!, and The Fit Edge!

Another program, Hired! for teens ages 15 to 18, is an apprentice program where teens can explore positions in FMWR facilities, like the Bowling Center, the Golf Course, Community Club, Outdoor Recreation, the Library, the Marketing Office, and more.

The program will give children 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. For more details, call Rose, 410-278-1399.

(APG News will feature an article on these two new programs in the near future.)

Rose added that children can also learn new skills through the SKIES Unlimited program. Summer weeklong SKIES Unlimited summer camps will also be offered for children. For more information, go to www.apgmwr.com/family/youth_skies.html.

DES

Robert Krauer, director of Emergency Services, asked attendees to use extra caution and watch out for children riding their bikes while driving.

"More children will be outside now that they are out of school for the summer," he said. "We don't want to see anyone get hurt."

Krauer added that helmets are mandatory for all bike riders on post.

He said that summer often brings an increase in "less than admirable behavior," as children have more free time. It is important to make sure children are supervised in the housing areas and at the Commissary and PX, both of which experience increases in theft during the summer," he said.

Krauer asked attendees to use caution and common sense when barbecuing.

Rick Johnson from the Installation Safety Office said that he highly encourages people to slow down on post, as there have been incidents in which people have almost been hit.

Johnson added that motorcycle safety classes are being offered for free on post and are a requirement in order to ride on post.

Johnson said Jenelle Ferguson, who also works in the safety office, is doing a safety series at the Edgewood Area Youth Center, called 'Jabbin' with Jenelle' and is looking for guest speakers from other directorates to share their safety expertise with the children. For more information, contact Ferguson, 410-306-1088. (See article on page 19.)

Johnson added that the children enjoy the program and learning about safety from Ferguson.

"This is a fabulous program," he said.

Chapel

Gerri Merkel, director of Religious Education, said that the upcoming Strong Bonds marriage conference July 29 through 31 in Saint Michaels is filled. This is a free marriage conference for active duty military and their spouses who have been deployed or will be deployed. Another Strong Bonds conference will take place Sept. 3 through 5, with free childcare.

Weissman said that he is pleased that the people from APG are participating in the Strong Bonds conference.

"This is good news," he said. "This program is successful."

Weissman added that APG has funding for Strong Bonds for next year.

Merkel said that the chapel will host activities on Sunday nights for youth during the summer. For more information on programs, call 410-278-2516.

Merkel thanked the volunteers who help the chapel, noting that this year 40 volunteers, including 14 youth, helped with Vacation Bible School.

"Volunteers are a vital part of the religious education program," she said.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez said that ICE, Interactive Customer Evaluation, is growing. He said that it is important that people leave complete information, including their name and number so that they can be contacted for further information, which will help them solve the problem. Rodriguez also asked attendees to use the system for positive comments.

"Soldiers [should not] use ICE in lieu of your chain of command," he said.

Rodriguez reminded attendees that free movies are being offered at the post theater on Saturday nights at 7 p.m. and

See WELL-BEING, page 18

Touch & go: CERDEC and Microsoft share research for multi-touch technology

Story by
EDRIC THOMPSON
CERDEC

The U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center recently signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, or CRADA, with Microsoft to share research in support of developing multi-touch technology for the Warfighter.

Although the U.S. government represents Microsoft's single biggest customer, the CRADA with the CERDEC Command and Control Directorate represents only the second joint research project Microsoft has throughout the federal government and the Department of Defense.

"We believe this to be the most important CRADA that we have ever executed with DoD," said Brian Roach, general manager of U.S. Federal and Department of Defense for Microsoft. "The uniqueness of this agreement is that it was conceived and driven from the grass-roots level, and it will empower Army and Microsoft's best innovators to do great things unachievable without the partnership."

"Not only does this partnership help us to quickly adopt or adapt new commercial technologies to meet Army needs, it also helps us to be in front of the implementation edge by better understanding what is coming over the commercial sector horizon," said Dr. Gerardo J. Melendez, director of C2D.

"I see this document, not only in terms of the work that we are doing there in terms of surface technology, but adding to the padding which we've been going toward, expanding to information-knowledge management," Melendez said.

The multi-touch portion of the CRADA's tasks will be executed by the Command and Control Multi-touch Enabled Technology team. COMET is an effort to research the applicability of multi-touch technologies to command and control systems, said Cyndi Carpenter, systems engineer.

"We became interested in researching the problems associated with developing a face-to-face, digitally-assisted analog collaboration tool," Carpenter said. "In essence, we were looking to explore what an 'electronic sand table' might look like or how we could build electronic maps that would behave like normal maps, but have special capabilities."

Traditional collaboration is implemented with paper maps, grease pens, acetate layers and sand tables. While these tools are intuitive and can work exceptionally well to get a point across, they are ineffective at recording, saving and transmitting information and are incapable of providing automated assistance or analysis, said Nicholas Palmer, COMET technical lead.

"In the COMET vision, commanders and planners would gather around a multi-touch surface and interact with computer simulations of familiar analog planning tools, such as maps and acetate overlays, by touch: no keyboard or mouse would be necessary," Palmer said.

However, the electronic maps can respond in ways that paper cannot, Palmer said. For example, commanders could zoom in for additional detail, or they could change from raster [closely spaced rows of dots] to vector maps. Moreover, since the environment is multi-user, multiple staff positions could simultaneously contribute to group activities such as war gaming, rehearsal or after-action reviews.

"Because multi-touch technology lowers the barriers between the computer and its human users, these systems are approachable, easy to use and powerful," Carpenter said.

COMET is part of the overarching Collaborative Battlespace Reasoning and Awareness Army Technology Objective between CERDEC and the U.S. Army Geospatial Center's Engineering Research and Development Center, said Ron Szymanski, C2D technical lead for COBRA.

Driven by Unified Battle Command requirements to apply a consistent user interface across battle command systems, COBRA seeks to develop capabilities for greater collaboration and interoperability within all levels of Command and Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance - particularly the intelligence, operations, and geospatial communities.

COBRA seeks to support the integration and synchronization of intelligence, operations and geospatial functions by defining, developing and integrating multi-platform software services that will feature cross-community applications.

Moreover, COBRA is working to develop common infrastructure and tools that will enable the flow of information across boundaries that traditionally separate these communities, Szymanski said.

COBRA's collaboration services, decision-support software products, commercial joint mapping toolkit enhancements and unified net-centric data strategies will



Photo by TIM CHASE

Captain Ramon W. Almodovar, commander, Company A, EXFOR, First Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, Ga., uses a COMET prototype to plan a mission during C4ISR OTM E08. The COMET team is participating in E09 as well to evaluate the technology and gather valuable Soldier feedback.

allow multiple Warfighter echelons to dynamically access, process and share relevant data despite using different systems or operating in a distributed environment.

C2D believes this will reduce training costs and result in faster, higher-quality decision cycles and increased Battle Command Unification, Szymanski said.

"COBRA is interested in exploring how OPS and INTEL collaboration can be more effective. The use of multi-touch technology seemed like a natural augmentation of existing modes of OPS and INTEL interoperation," he said.

COMET began as an afternoon side project that COBRA team members worked on after finishing their "day jobs."

"As part of C2D's new strategic vision, individual employees are encouraged to spend part of their time pursuing relevant research interests," Carpenter said. "Ron had become interested in multi-touch technology, so he put a small team together to explore the technology and how it might be applied to C2 problems."

Due to the lack of commercially available equipment, C2D initially built the required hardware and software for the multi-touch research. After the proof-of-concept model was successful, the project gained traction.

Knowing its research and commercial offering in multi-touch technology could aid in development, C2D demonstrated COMET to Microsoft. After seeing the prototype, Microsoft agreed to enter into a CRADA.

"This is something that we're very proud of and believe in," Roach said. "Hopefully, it will be a strongly collaborative role and sharing much of what we're developing in our own research centers. There are a number of things that were identified in this CRADA relative to multi-touch technologies and how that can relate directly to command and control applications."

"Getting our perspective as users will be beneficial to Microsoft and getting their commercial perspective in our environment is beneficial for us," said Gary W. Blohm, director of CERDEC.

"We know that we need to be adaptive and continually improve our abilities to improve our capabilities and our software products. You put your head down for five minutes and the world has changed - it really does happen that fast. Our intent is to stay at the forefront," Blohm said.

The COBRA team has purchased three Microsoft Surface units and has placed them at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Monmouth, N.J., and Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

COMET now has its own budget and a full-time development staff. COBRA's relationship with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory has resulted in ARL's purchase of a Microsoft Surface unit for study as well.

C2D has also built COMET software for C4ISR On-The-Move Event 09, the largest integrated technology demonstration of its kind.

E09, which began June 1 at Fort Dix, N.J., incorporates various live communications, sensor and battle command systems augmented with virtual and constructive simulation using organic, high-performance computing assets and distributed connectivity.

The brigade-sized element of live and simulated systems is hosted in a battle-field-like environment, providing realistic conditions that are relevant to Soldiers.

"Participating in E09 will give us Sol-

dier feedback and comments early in the development so that changes can be made. This will result in a better developed tool for the Soldiers when they are finally fielded," Szymanski said.

"It will also provide a real-world, relevant environment to help us evaluate the prototypes: communications systems don't work all the time, and bandwidth is at a premium," he said.

So far, testing has been limited to demonstrations and Warfighter responses to the COMET prototype at E08, Palmer said. However, the results were very encouraging, leading several organizations, including Battle Command Battle Laboratories at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to express interest in working with the COMET team to further research multi-touch technology.

C2D has supported and developed COMET based on needs expressed by Project Manager Battle Command. PM BC will be targeted in the future for transition, but no transition dates have been set, Carpenter said.

"This is long-range research that will ultimately require additional hardware innovation. C2D is working with Micro-

soft to provide input for Microsoft's next revisions of the Surface equipment," she said.

"The bottom line is that our user, the Soldier who's out at the tip of the spear, needs to have certain information presented in a simple, understandable format with the ability to coordinate that data without a lot of mouse clicks. This kind of partnership helps us do that and be more responsive to the Warfighter's requirements," Blohm said.



Health Notes

Army takes steps in H1N1 prevention

Story by
GRAFTON PRICHARTT
Army News Service

The Army is currently taking steps to help prevent and stop the spread of the H1N1 virus for Soldiers at home and abroad.

The Army has reported a total of 191 cases of the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, as of June 12.

The military is actively pursuing vaccine production for both the regular and swine flu, according to Col. Jonathan Jaffin, director of Health Policy and Services in the Army's Office of the Surgeon General. Soldiers will be vacci-

nated as soon as the medicines become available, he said during a Blogger's Roundtable June 18.

"There has been significant news coverage about the H1N1 virus, and the Army is taking it seriously," Jaffin said. "We want to illustrate why we feel like there is no cause for panic or alarm."

Jaffin went on to state that all segments of the government, as well as international partners, are working together to stop the spread of the flu among members of the military.

"The best treatment for the flu is prevention," Jaffin said.

Steps for prevention include washing hands and limiting contact with infected persons, surfaces and objects like door knobs.

Soldiers who feel symptoms of flu including dizziness, fatigue and fever should report to sick call and stay at home, Jaffin said.

"[Soldiers'] very nature is to come in and work when they aren't feeling well. We are reminding them if they have flu symptoms to stay home. They have a strong sense of duty that sometimes interferes with the ability to stay home," Jaffin said. "That is one of the main

things we emphasize with them."

Soldiers afflicted with the flu can effectively treat symptoms with over-the-counter medication like Tamiflu.

In order to decrease the chances of infection, all Soldiers are being screened for the flu before they travel overseas.

No missions have been impacted by the virus as of yet, officials said.

The Department of Defense is working with the World Health Organization's Emerging Infection Network and the Global Emerging Infection Surveillance, which is a DoD program, in assisting with the prevention and surveillance of the virus.

'Sunshine on your shoulder' can be deadly

Story by
MARCIE BIRK

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

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. According to the Mayo Clinic, more than a million skin cancers are diagnosed annually. The number of cases of melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer, is increasing faster than almost any other cancer. In 1930, Americans had a 1 in 1,500 lifetime chance of developing melanoma. By 2000, this chance had risen to 1 in 90.

This dramatic rise in skin cancer is due to increased leisure time and more recreational sun exposure. Although most occupational exposure to the sun has decreased, Soldiers are typically exposed to more sunlight than someone with an indoor occupation. Unit and individual physical training, training exercises and mission-essential tasks frequently occur outdoors. Soldiers with certain military occupational specialties, such as combat arms, spend long periods of time outdoors year-round. And current operations in theater may require Soldiers to be frequently outdoors. This increased sun exposure can increase the risk for skin cancer.

On the job, Soldiers can take measures to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun. Use the uniform to cover arms and legs. A wide-brimmed hat can protect the head and neck. If possible, seek shade between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Use a sunblock with a high Sun Protection Factor and reapply every two hours at a minimum.

Soldiers and their Families should also protect themselves from the sun during recreational and Family activities. Make sure to reapply sunblock after swimming or exertion. And don't be fooled into thinking sunblock is not needed when it's cloudy—up to 80 percent of the sun's harmful rays make their way through light cloud cover; 60 percent through heavy cloud cover. Sunburns can also occur during the winter, especially when there

is snow on the ground. The take-home message: use sunblock whenever outside.

Some people avoid using sunblock because they don't like the way it feels or smells. Soldiers may feel that using sunblock isn't HOOAH. But consider this fact: One in five Americans will develop skin cancer over the course of a lifetime. And sunblock is one of the most effective ways to protect the skin from the harmful rays of the sun.

Excuses, remedies

Excuse: "Sunblocks smell flowery and feminine."

Answer: Buy unscented formulations. They are just as effective without the scent.

Excuse: "The oily base makes my skin feel greasy."

Answer: Water- or alcohol-based lotions, creams, gels and sprays actually outnumber oil-based products. Try different types and brands to find out what feels right.

Excuse: "They make my hands slippery."

Answer: Try a sport sunscreen. They're designed to absorb quickly, without leaving a greasy or sticky residue.

Excuse: "When I sweat, the stuff runs into my eyes and stings."

Answer: Use a stick sunscreen on the forehead and around the eyes. It's easy to apply and stays put even when sweating or swimming. Never put sunscreen directly on the eye area. Protect the skin around the eyes with sunglasses instead.

To learn more about protecting against the dangers of unprotected sun exposure, go to:

- "Protecting Yourself in the Sun," www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3166.pdf
- National Cancer Institute, www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/prevention/skin/patient
- National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention, www.skincancerprevention.org
- Skin Cancer Foundation, www.skincancer.org/Skin-Cancer/2008-Skin-Cancer-Facts.html

DoD tobacco cessation Web site wins 2009 Horizon Interactive Award

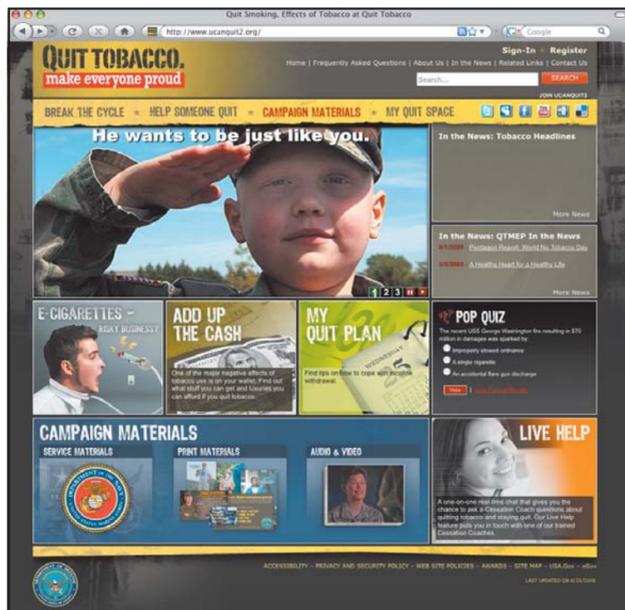
www.uanquit2.org

The Quit Tobacco—Make Everyone Proud Web site, headquarters of the Department of Defense tobacco cessation campaign, won a gold award in the government category of the 2009 Horizon Interactive Awards competition. It was one of only four government-related Web sites that received this distinction.

"This is a wonderful acknowledgement of the effort our government and contract team is putting into the battle against tobacco use among our young enlisted troops," said Chuck Watkins, chief, Communications Research and Requirements Branch, TRI-CARE Management Activity, upon notification of the award. The Web site creative design and development was supported by ICF Macro, an international social marketing, research and evaluation and information technology firm.

"We are proud of what we've created at www.uanquit2.org. There's a rich array of interactive quit tools and support, including a live chat feature with trained tobacco Cessation Coaches. We have active profiles on social networking sites, including Facebook and Twitter, and you can find our videos on YouTube. I hope this recognition brings even more visitors—both service members and those who support them—to the Web site for help in becoming tobacco free," Watkins said.

The Horizon Interactive Awards is a prestigious inter-



national competition recognizing outstanding achievement among interactive media producers. Thousand of entries from around the world and nearly all the 50 states are narrowed down to the winning entries that receive a gold, silver or bronze award, as well as honorable mentions.

The international panel of judges and unique end-user panel look for the best blend of artistry and functionality. Criteria include the creativity and originality of the solution; overall graphic design, appearance, and user experience; communication of message; technical merit; and effectiveness of solution. To claim the elite gold award, www.uanquit2.org scored high on all of those elements.

"The 2009 competition was an all new level for the competition," said Mike Sauce, founder of the Horizon Interactive Awards. "The overall quality of entries was far and away the best we have ever had and judging was very competitive. Year after year, we are amazed at the level of creativity and overall technical excellence of the entries that are recognized by the competition. They truly are the best of the best."

The Horizon Interactive Awards holds the annual competition in early spring of each year with the winners being announced in May. For more information, visit the Horizon Interactive Awards at www.horizoninteractiveawards.com.

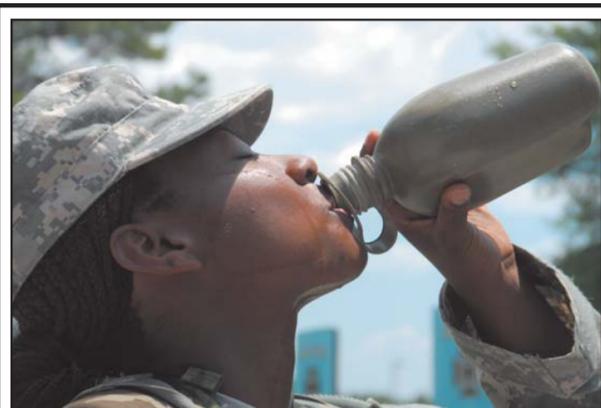


Photo by CRYSTAL LEWIS BROWN, FORT JACKSON LEADER. Private Shantes Baxter, a Basic Combat Training Soldier with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, takes a drink from her canteen during a break.

Commentary: Hot weather heats up injuries

Story by
LISA YOUNG

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

The weather is warming up, and summer heat will arrive before we know it. Now is the time to start thinking about preventing heat injuries in yourself and other Soldiers.

The incidence of heat stroke hospitalization in Soldiers has increased eight-fold during the last 20 years, according to the latest Army Heat Injury Prevention Policy Memorandum.

Heat injuries can occur in garrison and operational environments, during unit and individual physical training, training exercises, recreational events and non-exertion activities. They are a threat to medical readiness and to the fitness of individual Soldiers.

Commanders and noncommissioned officers are charged with putting in place the necessary measures to prevent heat injuries. Medical personnel also have a key role in supporting unit leadership in their efforts to protect Army personnel. Individual Soldiers also play a part by following the guidance they are given and paying attention to warning signs in themselves and other Soldiers.

The primary reference on preventing heat injuries is TB MED 507, "Heat Stress Control and Heat Casualty Management." This guide covers all aspects of heat injury prevention, including heat mitigation procedures, identifying high-risk individuals, heat acclimatization, fluid and electrolyte replacement, work/rest guidelines, management of heat casualties and vigilance.

The 2003 Ranger and Airborne School Students Heat Acclimatization Guide also offers practical guidance for optimal heat acclimatization to maximize performance while minimizing the risk of becoming a heat casualty.

A video, "Heat Injury II, Prevention and Treatment," is also available.

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Prevention and the U.S. Army Research Institute for Environmental Medicine have developed valuable heat injury prevention products, including posters, videos, and pocket guides. These are available through the CHPPM Web site, <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/heat/>.

The variables of climate (temperature and humidity), intensity of activity and individual risk factors interact to cause a heat injury. Individual risk factors include lack of heat acclimatization, cumulative exposure to heat, poor physical fitness, overweight, concurrent illness, medications/dietary supplements, alcohol use, prior history of heat injury, skin disorders and being over 40 years old. Beverages containing caffeine and alcohol used within 48 hours of training increase heat injury risk. Newly mobilized personnel, especially those from cool climates that are not properly heat acclimatized, are more at risk of becoming a heat casualty when exposed to hot weather. Additionally, training in a compressed timeframe before deployments also increases risk.

Too much drinking water is also a risk. A number of deaths have occurred in the Army due to water intoxication, an electrolyte disturbance in which the sodium concentration in the plasma is too low. Proper water consumption guidelines should be followed in order to prevent over-hydration. Fluid needs can vary based on individual differences (\pm 1/4 quart/hour) and exposure to full sun or full shade (\pm 1/4 quart/hour). Hourly fluid intake should not exceed 1-1/2 quarts and daily intake should not exceed 12 quarts.

It is essential that commanders, NCOs and medical personnel are educated on preventing heat injuries and implement a risk management-based, comprehensive heat injury prevention program. Programs must include identification and assessment of hazards in terms of severity and probability, implementation of appropriate controls for hazard abatement and evaluation of the effectiveness of control measures.

Early recognition of heat exhaustion is critical to prevent progression to more serious heat injury and death.



SAFETY

When rockets red glare, beware!



Installation Safety Office

When it comes to fireworks, it's best to leave them to the pros. Careless use of fireworks can cause serious injury or death. That's certainly the position of Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire Chief Ed Budnick.

Fireworks injuries account for thousands of trips to the emergency room each year. "More than ten thousand

Americans are injured by fireworks each July Fourth, and children under age fifteen account for almost half of these injuries," Budnick said.

"The first rule of safety is to keep young children away from fireworks, including sparklers. They burn very, very hot – up to eighteen hundred degrees Fahrenheit, which can melt gold.

"There is always a fantas-

tic show at the Inner Harbor. Please leave the fireworks to the professionals. I would suggest checking your local newspaper for listings of activities in your area. Also, some events will be included in news broadcasts on your local television stations.

"The possession and use of fireworks by unlicensed persons is illegal in most cities and counties and is very danger-

ous. They are illegal in Maryland and on Aberdeen Proving Ground," Budnick added.

Certain subdivisions throughout Maryland allow for the sale and use of consumer-type fireworks. Consumer-type fireworks include sparklers, ground based sparkling devices, non-aerial explosives and paper wrapped snappers.

Harford County does not allow for the sale or use of consumer fireworks.

In the past decade, fireworks injuries have declined almost 70 percent reports the National Council on Fireworks Safety. However, each year individuals still receive injuries while improperly handling fireworks, especially children.

Safety measures and the regulating of fireworks have contributed to the decrease of firework-related injuries.

"The Consumer Product Safety Commission and fireworks industry have done a tremendous job of regulating fireworks," said Ralph Apel, president of the National Council on Fireworks Safety.

Unluckily, too many children and amateur adults continue to set off fireworks that ignite fires and cause serious injury to themselves and others. Most injuries from fireworks are the result of mishandling, not misuse.

Consumer fireworks are noted for their beauty and physical effects. By following safety standards, a safe, enjoyable backyard fireworks display is always possible.

Safety tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Never drink alcohol when using fireworks.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby.
- Don't try to handle or re-light malfunctioning fireworks.
- Never ignite fireworks in a metal or glass container.
- Keep away from dry grass and combustible materials.
- Do not let children light or handle sparklers.
- Use sparklers outdoors – only in clear areas, away from houses, buildings and dry grass.

Parents responsible for curfew and supervision of children

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

With the onset of summer vacation, youths with too much time on their hands are prone to get into mischief. For this reason, the Directorate of Emergency Services is reminding all personnel who live on or bring children to Aberdeen Proving Ground of the installation 'Command Policy on Curfew for and Supervision of Children.'

The policy letter applies to all military and civilian personnel and their Family members while they are on the installation.

"As summer starts to heat up, we want to make sure parents understand the regulations," said DES Detective Mark Keller. "Some may not understand that parents are ultimately responsible for supervising their children."

The Command Policy on Curfew for and Supervision of Children is as follows:

- Parents are ultimately responsible for the behavior, safety and supervision of their children and adolescents.
- **Exceptional children.** For children defined as having special needs, as per AR 608-75, their disabilities are primary factors in determining the need for supervision; their ages are a secondary factor.

Curfew

Children under age 15 will be inside their own or someone else's quarters between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. Children age 15 to 17 will be inside their own or someone else's quarters between 10 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. unless they are under the supervision of a parent, guardian or responsible adult 21 years of age or older. Exceptions include returning home from a community or school organized function, community facility, returning from

a Youth Service program; while performing official employment or responding to a bona fide emergency.

Supervision

• Parents and guardians must consider carefully the amount of responsibility their children can successfully assume before leaving them unsupervised or charging them with the supervision of other children. Even children in the same age group have varying abilities. Therefore, children handle different degrees of responsibility.

Children ages 4 years old and younger: Children in this group require constant, direct supervision at all times. These children must be in direct visual contact; this includes, but is not limited to, playing in a fenced-in backyard with parental supervision through patio doors, or enrollment in an APG childcare program. The person providing supervision must be able to respond to any emergency or threatening situation. Periodic checks should be made on sleeping children. Children in this group should not be left alone at any time.

Children ages 5 thru 10 years old: Children in this group require supervision on a regular basis, during out-of-school hours, during a parental duty day. The person providing supervision must be constantly available, on the premises, and must check frequently to ensure that the child remains in the designated safe area. If a child in this age group is not responsible or mature enough to remain within these guidelines, then the child must be supervised in the manner prescribed for younger children.

Children ages 11 thru 12 years old: These children may be left alone for short periods of time not to exceed two hours. The person responsible for a child in this group must be aware of the child's location and activities. If chil-

dren of this age group are left alone, there must be an emergency plan; they should have a person available for them to call and they should know that person's telephone number. If a child in this age group is not responsible or mature enough to remain within these guidelines, then the child must be supervised in the manner for one of the younger age groups.

Children ages 13 thru 17: These children may be left alone for longer periods. They must have an emergency plan. At a minimum, they should have a person available for them to call, and they should know that person's telephone number. Children ages 13 to 15 may not be left alone overnight. Children ages 16 to 17 may be left alone overnight but may not supervise/babysit younger children overnight unless they have attended and completed the American Red Cross Babysitting Safety Course. If a child in this age group is not responsible or mature enough to remain within these guidelines, then the child must be supervised in the manner for one of the younger age groups.

Supervision of children by other children: No child under 13 is allowed to supervise/baby sit younger children. Children ages 13 to 15 may be responsible for younger children for reasonable periods of time – up to eight hours but not overnight. There must be an emergency plan in place and older children must be developmentally capable and mature enough to care for younger children. Babysitters age 13 to 17 on the installation must be certified through the American Red Cross Babysitting Safety Course which is offered by Army Community Service/Child Youth and School Services, which will maintain a list of qualified babysitters. Babysitters should not watch more than

four children at a time and only two may be under 2 years old.

Supervision of children in motor vehicles: Children under 8 years old will not be left in an unattended vehicle for any amount of time unless they are under the supervision of a reliable person at least 13 years old. Additionally, Maryland Vehicle Law requires that a motor vehicle may not be left unattended by the driver or person in charge of the vehicle until the engine is stopped, the ignition locked, the key removed and the brake effectively set. Individuals who violate this policy may be subject to criminal prosecution under Maryland Family Law and/or Maryland Vehicle Law.

Compliance

Failure to comply with the policies set forth in this letter can result in referral to the Family Advocacy Case Review Committee, Child Protective Services and/or the appropriate Juvenile Court Services.

• A finding of child neglect and/or abuse as defined in AR 608-18 may be appropriate when a child, regardless of age, is left unattended under circumstances involving potential or actual harm to the child's physical health or safety, or serious emotional harm due to abandonment or lack of care. Anyone leaving a child under the age of 8 unattended without a reliable person at least 13 may be subject to criminal prosecution under Maryland law.

• Child neglect that results in a lack of appropriate supervision is considered improper conduct that can result in termination of the privilege of occupying government or leased quarters as well as other administrative or disciplinary measures deemed appropriate by command.

Commander's holiday message

This Independence Day marks America's 234th year of being a sovereign nation.

Since 1776, we have grown from a loosely organized confederation of 13 English colonies scattered along the Atlantic seaboard to a superpower with worldwide influence. And since that time, our struggle for freedom has inspired countless millions around the globe who yearn for basic human rights.

We serve as the light of liberty for the world. Some use that beacon of light as a guide to come to this nation and build a new future. Others use that beacon as a source of inspiration to make changes within their own countries.

The U.S. Army has contributed immeasurably to this pursuit of liberty, first simply as the shield of our own republic during its vulnerable early years and later as the continuing strength of our nation's ideals. If there is one lesson to be learned from history, it is that we must always be on guard to protect the freedoms we cherish.

Thomas Paine, one of our founding fathers whose writings greatly influenced American independence, knew this lesson. He said, "Those who expect



Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo

to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

So as we celebrate the 4th of July with parades, picnics and patriotic concerts, I ask that each of you pause and consider the personal role you play in America's freedom. Dedicate yourself to the commitment that our liberty requires. Freedom not only grows from our spirit but also from our actions.

Have a happy and safe holiday.

Adventures in driving decision making

Panic on the highway!

Installation Safety Office

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

Test your driving expertise in the following situation and then from the options provided, select the best answer. The answers are printed upside down.

Situation #39

You're driving 25 mph in a residential district. There are cars parked along the curb and trees on your right. You're following an ice cream truck about 25 yards ahead of you. The truck makes a quick stop and a youngster runs out from the right side of the roadway. What should you do?

A. Honk and hard brake to stop.

B. Medium brake to slow and turn into cars on curb on right if necessary.

ANSWER A. "Honk and hard brake to stop" is the thing to do. You have room to stop. You're going 25 mph and the ice cream truck is no less than 75 feet ahead. You need at least 61 feet to stop.

ANSWER B. "Medium brake to slow and turn into cars at curb on right if necessary" is not necessary. It's not the thing to do. You have room to stop. You're going 25 mph and the ice cream truck is no less than 75 feet ahead. You need 61 feet to stop.

Legally Speaking

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

Service members and others may be eligible for financial assistance through Homeowner's Assistance Program

Story by
JENNIFER SCHULTZ
OSJA

President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on Feb. 19. Among the \$7.4 billion given to the Department of Defense, approximately \$555 million was appropriated to expand the Homeowner's Assistance Program designed to provide assistance to eligible military and DoD civilian employees (to include non-appropriated fund employees) who suffered financial loss from the sale of their primary home due to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closing.

Under the expanded program, Warriors in Transition (with 30 percent or greater disability), surviving spouses of fallen service members, and military personnel (to include the Coast Guard) with permanent change of station orders are now eligible to apply for HAP benefits.

These benefits include:

- Partial reimbursement of a loss due to a sale of a home;

- Assistance in paying off the remainder of a mortgage if the proceeds of the sale are insufficient;

- Purchasing a home by paying off the mortgage; and
- Payment of certain foreclosure liabilities.

- To qualify, individuals must have owned and sold a home during a specific period of time depending upon their category. For example, service members with PCS orders must have owned a home prior to July 1, 2006, and PCSed after Feb. 1, 2006, and before Sept. 30, 2012, while a BRAC employee must have owned a home between May 13, 2005, and July 1, 2006, and sold the home before Sept. 30, 2012.

Individuals must also have suffered, or will suffer, a financial loss when their home is sold, purchased by the government or foreclosed upon. For example, DoD employees unable to sell their homes as part of a BRAC move may elect to sell their homes to the government. Should



they elect to do so, they would receive, as the purchase price, an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the appraised fair market value prior to the date of the announcement, or the current total amount of outstanding mortgages, whichever is greater. Some of these benefits may be taxable.

In order to apply for HAP benefits, an applicant must submit a DD Form 1607, Application for Homeowners Assistance, along with supporting documentation (for example, military or civilian transfer orders, deed, mort-

gage note, etc.) to one of three U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District offices. Upon receipt, the application will be processed in accordance with DoD policy. The DoD policy on extended HAP benefits has not been adopted as of the date of this article but, once published, it is anticipated that there may be a backlog of six to nine months to process applications.

In sum, while the HAP will not eliminate all of an individual homeowner's losses, it will help to limit them.

For more information on HAP, visit <http://hap.usace.army.mil> to find additional information on the program, to include the Application for Homeowners Assistance and contact information for the three HAP Field Offices.

Eligible personnel may also contact the Client Services Division, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, call 410-278-1583 or stop by building 4305, 3rd floor, room 346. Attorney consultations require an appointment.

Beware of IRS' 2009 'Dirty Dozen' tax scams

IRS

The Internal Revenue Service issued its 2009 "dirty dozen" list of tax scams, including schemes involving phishing, hiding income offshore and false claims for refunds.

"Taxpayers should be wary of scams to avoid paying taxes that seem too good to be true, especially during these challenging economic times," IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman said. "There is no secret trick that can eliminate a person's tax obligations. People should be wary of anyone peddling any of these scams."

Tax schemes are illegal and can lead to problems for both scam artists and taxpayers who risk significant penalties, interest and possible criminal prosecution.

The IRS urges taxpayers to avoid these common schemes.

Phishing

Phishing is a tactic used by Internet-based scam artists to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal or financial information. The criminals use the information to steal the victim's identity, access bank accounts, run up credit card charges or apply for loans in the victim's name.

Phishing scams often take the form of an e-mail that appears to come from a legitimate source, including the IRS. The IRS never initiates unsolicited e-mail contact with taxpayers about their tax issues. Taxpayers who receive unsolicited e-mails that claim to be from the IRS can forward the message to phishing@irs.gov. Further instructions www.irs.gov/privacy/article/0,,id=179820,0.html are available at IRS.gov. To date, taxpayers have forwarded thousands of confirmed IRS phishing sites. If you believe you have been the target of an identity thief, information www.irs.gov/privacy/article/0,,id=186436,00.html is available at IRS.gov.

Hiding income offshore

The IRS aggressively pursues taxpayers and promoters involved in abusive offshore transactions. Taxpayers have tried to avoid or evade U.S. income tax by hiding income in offshore banks, brokerage accounts or through other entities. Recently, the IRS provided guidance to auditors on how to deal with those hiding income offshore in undisclosed accounts. The IRS draws a clear line between taxpayers with offshore accounts who voluntarily come forward and those who fail to come forward.



Department of the Treasury

Taxpayers also evade taxes by using offshore debit cards, credit cards, wire transfers, foreign trusts, employee-leasing schemes, private annuities or life insurance plans. The IRS has also identified abusive offshore schemes including those that involve use of electronic funds transfer and payment systems, offshore business merchant accounts and private banking relationships.

Filing false or misleading forms

The IRS is seeing scam artists file false or misleading returns to claim refunds that they are not entitled to. Frivolous information returns, such as Form 1099-Original Issue Discount www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1099oid.pdf, claiming false withholding credits are used to legitimize erroneous refund claims. The new scam has evolved from an earlier phony argument that a "strawman" bank account has been created for each citizen. Under this scheme, taxpayers fabricate an information return, arguing they used their "strawman" account to pay for goods and services and falsely claim the corresponding amount as withholding as a way to seek a tax refund.

Abuse of charitable organizations, deductions

The IRS continues to observe the misuse of tax-exempt organizations. Abuse includes arrangements to improperly shield income or assets from taxation and attempts by donors to maintain control over donated assets or income from donated property. The IRS also continues to investigate various schemes involving the donation of non-cash assets, including easements on property, closely-held corporate stock and real property. Often, the donations are highly overvalued or the organization receiving the donation promises that the donor can purchase the items back at a later date at a price the donor sets. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 imposed increased penalties for inaccurate appraisals and new definitions of qualified apprais-

als and qualified appraisers for taxpayers claiming charitable contributions.

Return preparer fraud

Dishonest return preparers can cause many headaches for taxpayers who fall victim to their ploys. Such preparers derive financial gain by skimming a portion of their clients' refunds and charging inflated fees for return preparation services. They attract new clients by promising large refunds. Taxpayers should choose carefully when hiring a tax preparer www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=202123,00.html. As the saying goes, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. No matter who prepares the return, the taxpayer is ultimately responsible for its accuracy. Since 2002, the courts have issued injunctions ordering dozens of individuals to cease preparing returns, and the Department of Justice has filed complaints against dozens of others, which are pending in court.

Frivolous arguments

Promoters of frivolous schemes encourage people to make unreasonable and unfounded claims to avoid paying the taxes they owe. The IRS has a list www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-08-14.pdf of frivolous legal positions that taxpayers should stay away from. Taxpayers who file a tax return or make a submission based on one of the positions on the list are subject to a \$5,000 penalty. More information is available www.irs.gov/taxpros/article/0,,id=159853,00.html on IRS.gov.

False claims for refund, requests for abatement

This scam involves a request for abatement of previously assessed tax using Form 843 www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f843.pdf, Claim for Refund and Request for Abatement. Many individuals who try this have not previously filed tax returns. The tax they are trying to have abated has been assessed by the IRS through the Substitute for Return Program. The filer uses Form 843 to list reasons for the request. Often, one of the rea-

sons given is "Failed to properly compute and/or calculate Section 83-Property Transferred in Connection with Performance of Service."

Abusive retirement plans

The IRS continues to uncover abuses in retirement plan arrangements, including Roth Individual Retirement Arrangements. The IRS is looking for transactions that taxpayers are using to avoid the limitations on contributions to IRAs as well as transactions that are not properly reported as early distributions. Taxpayers should be wary of advisers who encourage them to shift appreciated assets into IRAs or companies owned by their IRAs at less than fair market value to circumvent annual contribution limits. Other variations have included the use of limited liability companies to engage in activity which is considered prohibited.

Disguised corporate ownership

Some taxpayers form corporations and other entities in certain states for the primary purpose of disguising the ownership of a business or financial activity. Such entities can be used to facilitate underreporting of income, fictitious deductions, non-filing of tax returns, participating in listed transactions, money laundering, financial crimes, and even terrorist financing. The IRS is working with state authorities to identify these entities and to bring the owners of these entities into compliance.

Zero wages

Filing a phony wage- or income-related information return to replace a legitimate information return has been used as an illegal method to lower the amount of taxes owed. Typically, a Form 4852 www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f4852.pdf (Substitute Form W-2) or a "corrected" Form 1099 is used as a way to improperly reduce taxable income to zero. The taxpayer also may submit a statement rebutting wages and taxes reported by a payer to the IRS. Sometimes fraudsters even include an explanation on their Form 4852 that cites statutory language on the definition of wages or may include some reference to a paying company that refuses to issue a corrected Form W-2 for fear of IRS retaliation. Taxpayers should resist any temptation to participate in any of the variations of this scheme.

Misuse of trusts

For years, unscrupulous promoters have urged taxpayers to transfer assets into trusts. While there are many legitimate, val-

id uses of trusts in tax and estate planning, some promoted transactions promise reduction of income subject to tax, deductions for personal expenses and reduced estate or gift taxes. Such trusts rarely deliver the promised tax benefits and are being used primarily as a means to avoid income tax liability and hide assets from creditors, including the IRS.

The IRS has recently seen an increase in the improper use of private annuity trusts and foreign trusts to divert income and deduct personal expenses. As with other arrangements, taxpayers should seek the advice of a trusted professional before entering into a trust arrangement.

Fuel tax credit scams

The IRS is receiving claims for the fuel tax credit that are unreasonable. Some taxpayers, such as farmers who use fuel for off-highway business purposes, may be eligible for the fuel tax credit. But some individuals are claiming the tax credit for nontaxable uses of fuel when their occupation or income level makes the claim unreasonable. Fraud involving the fuel tax credit is considered a frivolous tax claim, potentially subjecting those who improperly claim the credit to a \$5,000 penalty.

How to Report Suspected Tax Fraud Activity

Suspected tax fraud can be reported to the IRS using Form 3949-A www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f3949a.pdf, Information Referral. Form 3949-A is available for download from the IRS Web site at IRS.gov. The completed form or a letter detailing the alleged fraudulent activity should be addressed to the Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888. The mailing should include specific information about who is being reported, the activity being reported, how the activity became known, when the alleged violation took place, the amount of money involved and any other information that might be helpful in an investigation. The person filing the report is not required to self-identify, although it is helpful to do so. The identity of the person filing the report can be kept confidential.

Whistleblowers also may provide allegations of fraud to the IRS and may be eligible for a reward by filing Form 211 www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f211.pdf, Application for Award for Original Information, and following the procedures outlined in Notice 2008-4 www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-08-04.pdf, Claims Submitted to the IRS Whistleblower Office under Section 7623.

AAFES NEWS

Commentary: Eat the right carbs at breakfast to help lose weight

By
LT COL KAREN E. HAWKINS
DeCA

The battle of the bulge may just have gotten easier, especially if you eat breakfast. Eating breakfast that includes foods such as yogurt, whole grain cereals and skimmed milk might help with losing weight. Having all the tools you need can help increase your success with weight loss along with maintaining it.

One tool that can be useful, according to new research, is that the type of carbohydrates or carbs you eat before a workout might influence how much fat you burn during physical activity.

In the May 2009 "Journal of Nutrition," Emma Stevenson, Ph.D., a senior lecturer at Northumbria University, United Kingdom, noted that women who ate foods for breakfast with low glycemic index (do not cause a spike in blood sugar), burned 50 percent more fat during their after-breakfast workout than those

who ate foods such as corn flakes and white bread which cause blood sugar to quickly rise. In Stevenson's study, eight women of average weight ate either a high- or low-glycemic-index breakfast and, three hours later, walked on a treadmill for 60 minutes. The researchers drew blood samples to measure fatty acids, which indicate fat burning for energy in the body.

What is glycemic index?

Glycemic index measures how much 50 grams of carbohydrate raise a person's blood-sugar levels compared to a food such as white bread or pure glucose. Almost all carbs are digested into glucose and cause a temporary rise in blood glucose levels known as the glycemic response. There are many things that can affect the response such as the amount of food eaten, the type of carbohydrate and how the food is cooked. Glycemic index diets are often used as

weight loss tools. This is due to high-glycemic-index foods raising blood sugar levels and causing the body to secrete more insulin and leading to fat storage. There is much debate over how the glycemic index works, so the verdict is still out on how well it works. Many of the foods that are low on the glycemic index are less refined foods, however, so eating them is a good choice.

Here are just a few low-glycemic-index foods you can buy at the commissary at savings of 30 percent or more:

- Whole grain cereals (at least 16 grams whole grain per serving)
- High fiber cereals (at least 5 grams fiber per serving)
- Oatmeal (unsweetened is best)
- Skim or 1-percent milk
- Greek yogurt or other yogurt, plain or artificially sweetened
- Many fresh fruits such as cherries, grapefruit, apples, pears, strawberries,

oranges, peaches, grapes and bananas

- Dried apricots and dried prunes

For more information about making healthy choices, visit Ask the Dietitian on www.commissaries.com and post your questions on the DeCA Dietitian Forum at https://www.commissaries.com/healthy_living/dietitian/forum/index.cfm.

Be sure to look for other useful information in the Dietitian's Voice archive at https://www.commissaries.com/healthy_living/dietitian/column/index.cfm. Sign up with the DeCA Dietitian on www.twitter.com and get messages sent to your cell phone today. For delicious recipes, check out Kay's Kitchen at https://www.commissaries.com/kays_kitchen.cfm. And, to enjoy all your commissary has to offer, sign up for the Commissary Connection at <https://www.commissaries.com/subscribe.cfm>.

Credit card fees up more than 20 percent at AAFES facilities in 2008



AAFES

The convenience and use of bank-issued debit and credit cards at BXs and PXs cost the military community dearly last year. In fact, Army & Air Force Exchange Service shoppers who reached for a bank-issued card in '08 ended up shelling out more than \$79 mil-

lion in fees, up 21 percent compared to 2007.

"A dual mission to provide quality merchandise and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs means that something as seemingly insignificant as a credit or

debit fee can add up to a major quality of life issue," said AAFES' Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Jeffry Helm. "Because banks charge an average of 1.49 percent of the transaction total when the credit or debit card is swiped, every purchase made with one of these cards impacts the exchange's

ability to maximize the investment military Families are making in their community."

While all purchases, regardless of the form of payment used, have the potential to help strengthen the exchange benefit, shoppers who use the exchanges' exclusive MILITARY STARSM Card or pay cash maximize their individual impact on critical FMWR efforts.

"Traditionally, two-thirds of earnings generated from a sale is paid to morale, welfare and recreation, while the other third is invested in improvements that enhance the shopping experience," Helm said. "This structure means that decreased fees can quickly provide additional arts and crafts supplies, reduced green fees or maybe even a new aquatic center."

Since 2001, AAFES shoppers have paid more than \$500 million in fees to card-issuing banks, resulting in lost revenues for the military community. Unlike bank cards, profits generated from MILITARY STARSM Card purchases are shared with military communities through contributions to

FMWR services. These funds reduce the tax burden of all U.S. citizens and are used to fund Youth Services, Armed Forces Recreation centers, aquatic centers, post functions and golf courses that are enjoyed by military Families across the globe.

"Using the MILITARY STARSM Card or cash is one of the easiest ways for authorized shoppers to directly impact their exchange and FMWR benefits," Helm said. "Reducing unnecessary expenses such as bank fees not only go a long way in strengthening the overall exchange benefit, but also the dividend operations annually generate for the military community."

The MILITARY STARSM Card is accepted at all AAFES, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Exchange activities, as well as the Exchange Catalog and the Exchange Online store at www.aafes.com.

Authorized exchange shoppers can learn more about the MILITARY STARSM Card by visiting www.aafes.com and click on the MILITARY STARSM Card icon.

Exchange Online Mall now taking vacation reservations

AAFES

The Exchange Service's Exchange Online Mall has partnered with the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation to help troops take a break without going broke.

Now, any authorized exchange shopper can log on to the Exchange Online Mall and book a vacation, including seven-night Alaskan Cruises from \$399, Cozumel from \$28 per night and an 11-day European Dream vacation, through FMWRC's Government Vacation Rewards program.

Beyond convenience, the partnership makes it possible for military shoppers to book vacations using the Exchange Service's proprietary Military Star® card or Military Star® Rewards MasterCard®.

"The competitive interest rate available through the Military Star® card, combined with the buying power that only Government Vacation Rewards can offer, means travel is more afford-

able than ever before," said the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Chief Marketing Officer Mat Dromey. "Packed with vacation values, the adventure begins when troops and their Families log on through the Exchange Online Mall."

Government Vacation Rewards offers access to special military pricing on thousands of cruises, tours, vacation packages, resorts, hotels, air travel and cars. Currently, military shoppers who log on to the site through the Exchange Online Mall can use a Military Star® card to book any package while à la carte offerings, such as hotel, airline and car rental services, can be made using a major credit card.

"This partnership is just the latest example of our strategic goal to be the premier collaborative partner with federal and commercial entities," Dromey said. "Doing so allows us, and our partners, to provide world-class support to authorized exchange shoppers, wherever America's military is called to serve."

Goin' once, goin' twice, Exchange shoppers are sold on exclusive auction site savings

AAFES

Since the first auction opened at the Exchange Online Mall's Exchange Auctions site, www.military.exchangeauctions.com, late in November of 2008, more than 4,000 successful bids have been submitted. Winning bids since that time have included a \$149 18k over sterling silver blue topaz earring set that sold for \$9.50, a framed Mohammed Ali autographed photo, valued at \$2,800, that went for \$225 and an Eberle Gents watch which retails for \$995 that sold for \$21.

"Exchange Auctions' <http://www.flickr.com/photos/aafes/3228808283/> \$1 start bid,

no reserve auctions are driving strong repeat visitors," said the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Chief Marketing Officer Mat Dromey. "In fact, sixty-one percent of people logging on are actually coming back to browse and take a chance at casting a winning bid."

Exchange leadership believes a program that converts five percent of total net winning auction purchases in a calendar month to credits, called "Bid Bucks," is helping drive return traffic.

"Bid Bucks" can be applied toward the payment of winning bids in the following

month," Dromey said. "This rewards system is creating additional excitement and savings opportunities."

Exchange Auctions' www.military.exchangeauctions.com is currently hosting as many as 288 concurrent auctions featuring collectibles, electronics, home outdoor products, jewelry, sports equipment, toys and watches, all with a starting bid of only \$1.

The site's exclusive platform is only available to military members through the exchange services' Web sites at www.aafes.com, www.usmc-mccs.org, www.navy-nex.com or www.cg-exchange.com.

AAFES says 'We'll match it'

Program ensures troops pay lowest price

AAFES

While a recent Army & Air Force Exchange Service survey found that the second most important customer service item for shoppers is price matching, AAFES' same survey found that only 52 percent had ever taken advantage of it at a BX/PX.

"While the exchange is committed to offering the best possible value, there may be times when a shopper finds a lower price elsewhere," said AAFES' Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Jeffry Helm. "'We'll Match It!' is simply a last line of defense in our ongoing effort to deliver the lowest price to troops and their Families."

Depending on the price of an item, matching prices at AAFES can be done with or without a competitor's ad:

- If a shopper spots a price difference of less than \$10, they can simply notify the cashier and the price will be matched on the spot.

- For price discrepancies greater than \$10, shoppers only need to bring in a current local competitor's ad to receive the reduced price.

In either scenario, the competitor's item must be identical to the item in the AAFES store.

"AAFES even offers a fourteen-day price guarantee on any item originally purchased from the BX/PX," Helm said. "That means that if an item is sold at a lower price by AAFES, or any local competitor, AAFES will match that price up to two weeks after the sale."

Since AAFES does have a dual mission to provide quality merchandise and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to supplement morale, welfare and recreation programs, there are exceptions to the "We'll Match It!" program.

Except for the Exchange Catalog and aafes.com, stores cannot accept challenges from any catalog or Web site. Other exclusions include bonus or free offers, clearance prices, close-out prices, special orders, service contracts, automotive labor/service, special order automotive parts, installation, delivery, or assembly services. Additional items include mail in rebates, store coupons, double and triple coupon offers, flat percentage off items, and gasoline. This also includes items advertised as special offers or promotions, free-with-purchase offers, limited quantity offers, bundled promotions and special financing.





FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

DFMWR shifting swim lesson services due to Shore Pool closure

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Because water leakage issues in Shore Pool have caused the temporary closure of the Aberdeen Area facility, to accommodate Aberdeen Proving Ground customers, swimming lessons will shift to the Olympic Pool and the Edgewood Area's Bay-side Pool.

Kenny Singleton, Outdoor Recreation specialist, said that Shore Pool was used primarily for swimming lessons, military drown-proofing sessions

and private parties. The pool was open noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

"Since we lost the ability to use Shore Pool, we have to shift the swim lessons to the Olympic Pool in the evenings," Singleton said.

He said evening sessions at the Olympic Pool, building 3325, will begin 7 p.m. when the pool closes and will run from July 13 to Aug. 6.

The Edgewood Area's Bay-side Pool, building E-4656, also will offer evening swim lessons, 7:15 to 8 p.m., along with

its morning sessions. Teaching levels at Olympic Pool are Parent/Toddler, Level 1 to 6 for ages 3 to 15, and adult. Bayside offers levels 1 to 6. For information about operating hours and fees visit the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Web site, www.apgmwr.com or call 410-278-4124.

Stacey L. Belcher, a contract performance specialist with the Directorate of Public Works Engineering and Construction Branch, said that every year APG pools undergo a preparation process that includes de-winteriz-

ing, draining, power washing, inspecting, installing ladders and diving boards, filling with water, chemical balancing and administering industrial hygiene tests.

The leakage at Shore Pool was discovered during that preparation process.

"As the pool was being filled, we noticed a significant water loss and performed an examination and then testing of the potential areas," Belcher said. "The main drain was pressure tested, the hydrostats were replaced, and fittings were inspected and sealed. These ini-

tial repairs significantly reduced the water loss, but we were still losing water at an unacceptable rate to operate the pool."

After a dye test indicated significant leakage at the tile joints that run parallel to an expansion joint, underwater repairs were performed but workers were unable to minimize the leakage to eliminate the risk of incurring structural damage, Belcher said.

"A work order has been initiated for a contract effort to repair the expansion joint area and associated cracks," she said.

Activities/Events

Partial closure of Hoyle Fitness Center

Parts of the Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210, will be closed for a few weeks so that all of the hardwood floors in the facility can be refinished.

Areas that will be closed include the issue room, basketball court, racquetball courts, weight area (behind the issue room), nautilus room, cardio room, boxing area, men's new locker rooms, ladies locker room and the sauna.

Patrons can enter the Hoyle Gymnasium on the east side (parking lot side) of the building about 50 feet to the right of the current entrance. The south side of the facility will remain operational during this work.

The hours of operation will remain the same, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Hearts Apart Support Group meets July 1

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, DoD civilians and contractors may participate in Hearts Apart Support Group

meetings held in the APG Army Community Service building 2754, Rodman Road 6 to 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month (July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2).

Phyllis Ethridge, ACS relocation readiness program specialist, will discuss how to be an effective sponsor at the July 1 meeting.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Ethridge, 410-278-2464/7572.

Ski Roundtop Mountain Adventures

Ski Roundtop is not just for winter fun.

Located at 925 Roundtop Road, Lewisberry, Pa., Ski Roundtop offers summer fun adventures that include the Vertical Trek, Sky Ride, Bumper Boats and more.

The Vertical Trek, Sky Ride and bumper boats are open Wednesday through Sunday through Aug. 23; Beginning Aug. 29, activities are open weekends only, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Vertical Trek takes 2.5 hours to complete; it begins with a chairlift ride to the top of the mountain, then participants descend more than 600 vertical feet using a series of zip lines (up to

300 feet in length), rappelling, rope bridges, tarzan swings, cargo nets and scenic walks.

Reservations are strongly recommended. The Vertical Trek is for ages 10 and up. All participants must weigh between 70 and 250 lbs. Tickets cost \$44 each.

For more information or to make reservations, call 717-432-9631, ext. 3723.

Adventure Packages are also available for adults ages 11 through 64 at \$34 per person and for children ages 5 through 10, at \$24 per person and include admission for one OGO ball ride, summer tubing, treehouse zips, the woods, bumper boats and sky rides.

There is a 250-pound weight limit to ride in the OGO ball.

For more information about Ski Roundtop Mountain Adventures, visit www.skiroundtop.com/rma.htm.

ACS provides Operation R.E.A.D.Y. Training for Families

The Army Community Service Mobilization/Deployment Program provides Operation R.E.A.D.Y. training specifically to provide support, guidance, assistance and training in all aspects of Family support issues and services.

Classes will be held 6 to 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

- July 21, Financial Planning for Deployment

- Spouse Battlemind Training

For more information, call the Mobilization/Deployment Office, 410-278-2453/7572.

Walt Disney World Salutes the Military

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

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

Ticket prices expire Dec. 23. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-278-4011/4907 or visit the AA Recreation Center, building 3326.

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.

Aerobic Cardio Dance

There's still time to lose a few pounds before that summer vacation.

Lunchtime aerobics will be held 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, July 8 to Aug. 27. Cost of the program is \$52 per person.

For more information, call 410-278-3868.

Introduction to Tae Kwon Do

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

Introduction to Tae Kwon Do classes will be held for ages 6 through 13 at Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Aug. 17 through 20. Cost is \$45 per student. Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited so register early.

Classes will be taught by instructor U.S.K.B.A. Fighter Kyo Sa Nim Sean Williams.

Tiny Tigers Tae Kwon Do

Children ages 3 to 5 (parent participation required) can join the Tiny Tigers Unity Tae Kwon Do School of Martial Arts at APG. Tae Kwon Do builds confidence and self-esteem in young students.

Classes will be held at the Child, Youth and School Center, building 2522, Monday and Wednesday, 5:30 to 6 p.m., July 6 through Aug. 12. Cost is \$40 per parent/child pairing.

Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited to 12 parent and child pairings so register early.

American Kickboxing

SKIES Unlimited offers American Kickboxing, taught by instructor U.S.K.B.A. Fighter Kyo Sa Nim Sean Williams.

American Kickboxing is also called Full-Contact Kickboxing. It differs from Muay Thai or Thai Boxing in that kicks to legs, elbow, and knee strikes are not allowed in competition.

Kickboxing promotes body toning, increase flexibility, and increase concentration levels, positive self-confidence level and self-discipline. Kickboxing Enhances martial art ability, fighting ability, and self-defense ability with strength and power.

American Kickboxing will be held for ages 10 through 18 at the Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522, 7 to 8 p.m., Aug. 17 through 20.

Cost is \$35 per student.

Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited so register early.

Toddler Art

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

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

Cost is \$60 per student for eight weeks.

Private piano lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given for ages 4 thru 18, 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., on Mondays, through Aug. 10 (no class July 13). Lessons cost \$102 per student and include six weeks of 30-minute lessons once a week. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child. Students are responsible for purchasing the required books for the course recommended by the instructor.

SAT preparation classes offered

Child, Youth and School Services will hold Scholastic Aptitude Test preparation classes, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., July 20 through 24, at CYSS Administrative Offices, building 2752 Rodman Road for students in grades 9 through 12.

Open to all DoD ID card holder Family members.

Students can be a step ahead for the SAT. Classes will assist students in sharpening the verbal skills needed for being successful when taking the SAT. The class also prepares students for the SAT math exam, covering basic math skills including algebra and geometry. Problem solving, reasoning and test-taking techniques will also be covered.

Classes cost \$175 per student and includes textbook.

Ice skating lessons

SKIES Unlimited offers comprehensive group lesson program ice skating lessons for ages 4 through 18. Classes will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, July 2 through Aug. 11 at Ice World in Abingdon.

Ice World's philosophy is to provide top notch, professional instruction for beginner through advanced skaters in a relaxed and fun environment. Learn to Skate is based on the fundamentals of the United States Figure Skating Association and is necessary for those wishing to proceed on to ice hockey or freestyle.

Each session includes six weeks of

professional instruction; each session is 30 minutes long with 30-minute practice and weekly free skate rentals. Class sizes are limited and are grouped by age and ability. Three free passes to public sessions are included.

Ice skating classes cost \$110 per student. There will be no make-up classes or refunds.

Driver's Ed

Driver's Ed classes will be held; July 13 thru 28 and Aug. 3 thru 18 (there is no class on federal holidays), Monday thru Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.; 2:30 to 5:45 p.m.; or 6 to 9:15 p.m. Cost is \$315 per student.

All Drivers Education classes are conducted by Rules Driving School, Inc. Classes will be held in Aberdeen at the Community Center, 34 N. Philadelphia Boulevard, room 304.

Classes include 30 hours 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.

Drawing, sketching

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

building 2522.

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

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

Class costs \$120 per student for eight weeks.

Introduction to water colors

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

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

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

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.

July bowling specials

- Throughout the month of July bowl for \$1.25 each game, 1 to 3 p.m. Shoe rental costs \$2.

- Cosmic Saturday on July 11, 28 and 29: one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra) and one pitcher of soda for \$32.

- Family Fun Days on July 10, 17, 24 and 31: From 5 to 9 p.m., bowling costs \$1.75 per game per person plus \$1 for shoes.

Bowling party packages are available.

Youth bowling leagues are now forming. The league will bowl every Friday evening, July 10 through Aug. 21. For more information or to register, call the Bowling Center, 410-278-4041.

The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday thru Thursday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday; and 4 to 10 p.m., Saturday. The Bowling Center is closed on Sundays.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday thru Thursday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday; and 4 to 10 p.m., Saturday; the Bowling Center is closed on Sundays.

Week of June 29

No specials this week.

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





Army News

'America's Army 3' brings new features to game



Photo Courtesy of AA3

This alley screen shot from "America's Army 3" shows the realistic lighting and shadows.

Story by
GRAFTON PRITCHARTT
Army News Service

Thousands of gamers can now play "America's Army 3," the newest version of the Army's popular video game.

The original game has been out since July 4, 2002, but the new version will provide gamers with improved features, thanks in part to the use of Unreal Engine 3.

Unreal Engine 3 will allow the game to have effects like lighting and shadowing and rendering. The effects make the 14

different choices of characters more realistic, project developer and creator Col. Casey Wardynski said.

"America's Army 3 involves enhancements of the technology from America's Army's original version, which has made the sound (and graphics) dramatically better," Wardynski said. "This gives them a chance to test drive the Army. Instead of it being all the stuff they think they know from the movies, it demonstrates what it is really like because this game is made by the Army."

The game also features a "teamspeak" component, which allows players to communicate and interact in addition to a jamming capability between parties.

The new features will include:

- A new scoring system
- Tactical movements of characters such as crawling
- Injuries and their effects on the players with 16 different places to obtain bodily injuries
- New and improved weapons
- Interactive lighting and sound graphics such as the effects of dilated pupils in

response to light changes

"We have unique features like no one else has, in AA3, you move exactly like a Soldier. If you can't get up on an object; you can't get up on it," Wardynski said. "Unlike other games, we operate under the reality of physics."

Players are able to complete Basic Combat Training in order to move to Advanced Individual Training where players can specialize in roles and customize their weapons and gear, and eventually move through the Army ranks.

"The computer allows you to pick missions and the game keeps track of what you have accomplished, so you are always progressing. Everything builds on what came before it. The process is very intuitive; no one wants to read an instruction manual. Someone who has played 'Call of Duty' or 'Battle Field' can easily get on our game," Wardynski said.

The graphics allow players to experience sensations that come with warfare, such as ear ringing and dizziness after large explosions.

Upgrades will occur every quarter after the launch, officials said. They said new improvements such as medic training, information operations, mobil-

ity and counter-mobility engineers and upgrades to artillery fire throughout the year will be a few of the updates.

The game is centered around the values embodied by the Army, like honesty and courage, Wardynski said.

"In our game the players have to do things within reason and that require skills. Education is a key theme, I think, in an environment that is relevant to a young adult," Wardynski said.

There is more than one reason to download the game, according to Wardynski.

"First it's free, and free is a pretty good price. This is one of the top ten games in the world, and it has won all kinds of awards. In addition to that, it's pretty action packed. It features a lot of team focus, which makes it interesting, and there is more capability, because you are not playing against a computer," he said.

Users will need a graphics card, computer and an Internet connection in order to download the game.

The game is free and accessible to anyone. Interested players can find the game on www.americasarmy.com. It can be downloaded from the site, officials said, and pre-loaded into computers.

Jessen

From page 5

way you know how.

"He's going to be a different kid, but hopefully I can make the right choices and help him to grow the right way," she added.

"Cameron loves the Army. He loves anything that has to do with the Army. He understands that his dad was a Soldier," she continued. "He's a little scared, a little confused. At one point he thought being in the Army meant that you were... he just associated the Army and death together. So it's been a process for me to try to work him through that, you know, and say

not everybody dies from it but unfortunately daddy did."

Carrie and Kevin met 10 years ago.

"We met online in a little chatroom. We hit it off and got married and started moving around. And then we had Cameron," she explained.

Carrie said she's still moving forward — scholastically and professionally.

"I'm in the process of going to school for a degree in child psychology. I have a few more years, but eventually I'll get my master's," she said.

Jessen's sister, Kelly, talked about growing up with Kevin in Arkansas.

"Kevin was always inquisitive, and loved learning things...

a lot like Cameron," she said as she watched Cameron operate the robot.

"Kevin loved guns," she added. "He loved explosives, firecrackers and was always looking for interesting ways to blow things up. It was a no-brainer that he went where he did."

Lieutenant Colonel Chad Bauld was the operations officer at 22d Chemical Battalion when the unit received a request from higher headquarters.

"The 52nd Ordnance Brigade was short EOD team leaders coming up to deployment, so we ended up sending five Soldiers from the 22d and four from the 20th SUPCOM to fill their shortages," Bauld said.

"Staff Sergeant Jessen [who

was promoted posthumously] was one of them. He was new to 22d Chem, having previously been at the 748th Ordnance Company at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He volunteered because the unit he had just left was one of the units that had a shortage.

"I met him during his in-processing and he had a lot of training to go through. He had a very short window from the time he got to us to the time he actually deployed. My initial impression was that he had been there before and volunteered for the mission," Bauld said.

"He was a good leader, a good trainer. He was passionate about what he did and actually wanted to be with his buds,

the Soldiers he had trained with. Loyalty to his unit and to his peers, his team members, was paramount to him," he added.

"My brother was just so nice to everybody," Kelly said. "He cared about people. I hear stories from his buddies in the Army about how nice he was and how he was fun to be around. That's how he was as a kid, too."

"My dad's been nice to me," Cameron said at the end of a very short interview. "My dad was proud of me because I was resting by myself."

As he and his cousin bounded about the EOD training bay, five-year-old Cameron Jessen wasn't resting at all. He was busy helping everyone there remember his dad.

Showcase

From front page

with you," he told conference attendees.

These sentiments were echoed by Joseph D. Wienand, director of Program Integration for ECBC, who said that security measures and testing processes that ECBC followed would be difficult without private sector partnerships.

"If someone is working on something that will protect people, we routinely work with industry to bring these items in and test them against the real material," he said.

Those types of working rela-

tionships are referred to as Test Service Agreements, and are used to great success by RDECOM subordinates, according to Wienand and Miller.

Miller praised past TSAs performed by previous contractors on the Precision Guided Mortar Munitions' flight telemetry. Wienand similarly gave high marks to businesses that had performed testing on protective materials such as masks, gloves and full body suits.

Richard Wittstruck, chief systems engineer for the PEO IEW&S, explained other contract opportunities available for the audience. For example, the Sequoyah Machine Foreign Language Translation Prototype that would assist Soldiers

in the field with existing communication problems in theaters of operation, and a Hostile Fire Detection Systems and Enhanced Tactical Signal Intelligence Payload, which is an unmanned aircraft system that would provide mapping and situational awareness to the on-ground commander.

Breakout sessions and workshops were held to facilitate business owners, inventors and entrepreneurs competing for contract opportunities. The breakout sessions were moderated by John O'Brien, RDECOM Small Business director, and Russ Teter, director for the Maryland Small Business Development Center.

The sessions detailed the

steps businesses must complete in order to be considered for contracts, including registration processes and important information to provide when submitting a proposal.

Workshop presenters were able to speak on a personal level with a small audience and clarify what types of technology RDECOM elements buy, what types they avoid, and what frustrations they have with small businesses.

O'Brien thought the sessions were a hit.

"This was the best and largest showcase we've had. The feedback I've received is that the breakout sessions were most valuable to the attendees," he said.

Attendee feedback has shown that discussing the process on a more personal level was helpful.

"It was a great venue for anyone interested in doing business with the exhibitors," said Mary Backer, account executive for Echelon Service Company.

O'Brien is looking forward to next year's showcase and is already planning on improving the breakout sessions.

"I think we will add some new topics for next year and advertise the sessions better. We will try to keep the number to between sixty to one hundred twenty participants per session, this gives a feeling of open communication between presenters and attendees," he explained.

BRAC

From front page

2. Totalling 650,000 square feet, C2/CNT East is the largest single structure of both Phase 1 and Phase 2. Advertisements for bids have gone out or will go out in the next few weeks for the remaining four buildings of Phase 2; three of the four buildings are scheduled to be awarded by the end of fiscal year 2009, with the last building set for award in FY 10. Contractors can find the advertisements for these projects and all other federal projects at www.fbo.gov. Once contractors have registered with the system, they will be able to log in and place bids. Both phases of the C4ISR Center for Excellence are scheduled for completion by December 2010.

The completion of the Maryland 715 Gate marks not only the first BRAC project to be completed at APG, but also the first BRAC project completed in Maryland. The gate was officially opened on

May 18.

"The completion of the 715 gate was a great success," Schilling said. "It was a collaborative effort from the garrison, the Corps, and the contractors, and it marks an amazing accomplishment here at APG."

The Maryland 22 and 24 gates are currently under construction and completion is expected in fall of 2009.

The roads and intersections at APG will be significantly upgraded over the course of the summer. A new intersection on Maryland Boulevard will connect to the newly constructed Combat Drive leading into the C4ISR campus.

Darlington Street will also be upgraded with additional lanes and a signal to handle increased traffic into the C4ISR campus. Boothby Hill Avenue will no longer connect to Maryland Boulevard. Other improvements are scheduled for Frankford Street, Bel Air Street, Aberdeen Boulevard, Susquehanna Avenue, and Boothby Hill Avenue, over the next two years.

The U.S. Army Joint Program Executive Office of Chemical and Biological Defense contract was awarded on Feb. 27 to Bradley-Nason of Wilmington, Del., for \$22 million. The JPEO-CBD facility will be located in the Edgewood Area. Currently, a Phase 2 of the project is being planned to consolidate various JPEO-CBD program management offices presently dispersed in the Edgewood Area. The Phase 2 will be a duplicate of Phase 1 in size and layout, giving JPEO-CBD double the work space. Construction on the Phase 1 facility is expected to begin in late 2009.

The Army Test and Evaluation Command contract was awarded March 13 to Foulger - Pratt of Rockville, Md., at a contract amount of \$49.5 million. The 142,000 square foot facility will be located in the Aberdeen Area providing administrative offices and operational space for 610 personnel. Construction on this facility is also set to begin in late 2009 and completion is expected in 2011.

Bids for the Army Research Laboratory's Vehicle Technology Directorate were received in May. The 35,000 SF addition will be built directly behind the Rodman Laboratory with construction expected to begin this year. Completion of the facility is set for 2011.

With only six months into 2009, the BRAC transformation here at APG is impossible to ignore as APG Garrison Commander Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman stated in his speech at the 715 Gate opening ceremony, "For all those who don't believe, come take a look, BRAC is here."

Safety

From front page

"Where are the risks associated with the Soldier who is going on a four-day pass starting on Thursday at midnight and he is going to St. Louis, Missouri, from Fort Bragg, North Carolina -- what doesn't fit within that picture," Davis said. "TRIPS has become an integral part of what we are trying to do to enhance the understanding of some of the risks [taken] by the Soldiers."

Davis also said it's important for Soldiers to realize that an emphasis on safety while off duty in civilian clothing is as important as operational safety when in uniform and on duty - because the loss of a Soldier while he's on pass has the same impact on a unit and fellow Soldiers as the loss of a Soldier while on duty.

"It's important, regardless of what we are doing, whether it is a Saturday night or it's on a deployment, or getting ready to go on an airborne operation at Fort Bragg," Davis said.

ECBC says thank you to Soldiers for Army Birthday



Privates Jonathan Curtis and Clarence Council of Company A, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, accept candy bars from Aberdeen Proving Ground interns, from left, Adrienne Kartachak, Anna Collins, Alli Kartachak, Allison Jackovitz, the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's Carol Hansen and Caroline Procell, 17, during the Army's 234th birthday at the Edgewood Area dining facility June 15.

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Civilians from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center found a unique way to thank Soldiers for their service as part of their way to honor the Army during its 234th birthday.

More than a dozen civilians and interns greeted Soldiers leaving the Edgewood Area dining facility with candy bars wrapped in messages of thanks from ECBC employees.

Joseph Wienand, ECBC director of program integration, said he told his personnel that he'd like to do something for the Army birthday.

"I didn't think it up, I just challenged them," Wienand said, adding that when they came up with the idea it "really took off."

"Probably half my organization wrote notes to wrap around the candy bars," he said.

He credited Suzanne Procell with leading the thank you effort.

Procell said the group planned the event to coincide with the Army Birthday meal prepared for the troops that day.

"We just wanted to celebrate the Army birthday and looked for ways to make it more meaningful," Procell said.

The group greeted Soldiers from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and handed out most of the candy bars. Participants included Pam Kartachak, ECBC chief information officer. Kartachak's daughters, Alli and Adrienne, who are interning at the U.S. Army Environmental Command, volunteered to pass out much of the candy. They joined Allison Jackovits, an intern with the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and Caroline Procell, a 17-year old lifeguard with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and daughter of Suzanne Procell.

Other participants included Alvin Thornton, ECBC director of Engineering, and Dan Davis, research and technical business administrator.

ECBC employee Carol Hansen made a point not to miss the event. Hansen is the founder of Quilts for Broken Heroes, a group that makes quilts for hospitalized service members and their Families at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Hansen said the event was special to her because she rarely gets to meet the recipients of their work.

"It's just nice to be out here to shake their hands," she said of the Soldiers. "We have to take care of the Soldiers here as well as the ones over there."

Commentary: Remembering why we celebrate the Fourth

By
KRISTIN KERLEY
ARL Public Affairs Intern

As the Fourth of July approaches, it's a good time for American citizens to remember our nation's fight for independence and to honor the courage of those who have made sacrifices to preserve our freedom.

On this Independence Day, proudly display the American flag, salute it and recall the deep patriotic ideals that

it exemplifies.

The American flag has a longstanding history dating back to the 18th century when the stars and stripes were adopted by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777.

Each of the shapes and colors has a unique meaning. The original flag had 13 alternating red and white horizontal stripes with a union of 13 white stars in a field of blue.

The design represented the unity of

the 13 original American colonies as well as the new nation's attitude toward independence. The red stripes signify the bravery, integrity and devotion of American citizens. The white stripes are a symbol of purity and innocence. The blue field symbolizes justice, perseverance and vigilance.

The founding fathers shared unique and hopeful aspirations for the future of this nation, and the American flag became an icon for national pride. And,

as the nation grew so did the number of stars on the flag.

Today, the 50 stars are a symbol of the union of 50 individual states that have formed "one nation under God" and has not been altered since July 4, 1960.

The American flag is more than a simple representation of the United States. It embodies a culture that is rooted in freedom, strength and unity and serves as a symbol of hope for its citizens while empowering the nation.

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, fax 410-278-9176, or e-mail carolyn.russell2@us.army.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Debra Bonsall (daughter has brain tumor)	Wayne Erb	Deborah Moore
Jeanie Bowman	Rita Fowler	Richard Morris
Georgia Braun	Marilyn Grebe	Marie D. Nowak
Michelle Brooks	Erin Griffin	Cindy Orwig
Alberta Brown	Linda Hindman	Mary Pettitway
Kimberly Carns	Beverly King (caring for husband)	Gloria Scott
Randy Carroll	Kari Jackson	Christina Shapiro
Joyce Clark	Sinclair Joe	Ron Spencer
John Daigle	Janet Kipp	Willie Stevenson
Bonnie Day	Joy Meadows	Lavonne Telsee
Meg Downey	Frantz Midy	Darlene Treston
	Karen Milton	Jamie Turner
		Barbara Zenker

Well-Being

From page 8

Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m.

Tim McNamara, the deputy to the garrison commander, added that a new sound system will be upgraded in the theater.

Rodriguez said that there are guidelines for supervision of children on post. He added that parents should be with their children when they are outside.

Rodriguez asked attendees to make sure that their pet is being supervised at all times, and to not let animals off their leashes when outside. Rodriguez said that pets could be escorted off the installation if they are not controlled.

With his retirement scheduled for July 10, Rodriguez said that he appreciated all the support that the APG community has given him and Weissman in the past two years.

He added that he felt that the Well-Being meetings have provided a forum for leadership to communicate with the community.

"We have received great feedback during the Well-Being meetings," he said.

Weissman said that while Shore Park is slated to be completed, Maryland Park is still available for people to use.

Weissman said that the Army's senior leadership recently participated in an

Army level Rehearsal of Concept, or ROC drill on APG. The drill not only focused on base realignment and closure issues but also well-being issues across the installation.

"It was a very good forum that discussed ways that we can improve the installation," he said.

Weissman said that there are more projects that are slated to happen on APG that will contribute to the well-being of the people who work and live on post.

"There are good things that will come here in the future," he said. "We are not done."

Weissman said that he also appreciates the support that the APG community has shown him during his time at APG. He added that he felt that the Well-Being meetings have been beneficial for solving problems in the community.

He said that this will be the last Well-Being meeting for Command Sgt. Maj. Rodriguez and himself.

"I hope you can show Command Sgt. Maj. [Rodney] Rhoades and Col. [Orlando] Ortiz the same level of support that you have shown me," Weissman said. "I appreciate your support, and I will miss you."

The next meeting of the Well-Being Action Council is at 9:30 a.m., July 16, at the Edgewood Area Post Chapel.

Throwing the pitch for Army Team C4ISR



Photo by ANDRICKATHOMAS
Master Sgt. Walter M. Farrell, senior enlisted advisor, CECOM Life Cycle Management Command (Forward), winds up to throw the first pitch at an Aberdeen Ironbirds game June 24 at Ripken Stadium at Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance day. This was the largest Army Team C4ISR Forward social event to date. The next Army Team C4ISR Day at Ripken Stadium is scheduled for Aug. 12.

CDC celebrates the Army's birthday



Photo by RACHEL PONDER
Major Leslie Rafferty who works at Joint Personal Effects Depot, reads "Sam the Army Dog" while Sgt. Nancy Rivera and Staff Sgt. Adele-leeen Ortiz, who also work for JPED, put on a puppet show to go along with the story. The story was read on June 18 at the Aberdeen Area Child Youth Development Center in celebration of the Army's 234th Birthday on June 14.

Children learn about APG insects and critters while 'Jabbin' with Jenelle'



Robin "Sunnie" Hawkins, an engineering technician for LB&B Associates, Inc., shows Iyonia Story-Cruz, left, a copperhead caught in Cecil County. The visit at the Edgewood Area Youth Center on June 16 was part of an ongoing children's safety series, "Jabbin' with Jenelle."

Story and photos by
RACHEL PONDER
APG NEWS

Children at the Edgewood Area Youth Center received a special treat to mark the beginning of the Center's summer camp program by a visit from two members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground pest control office. The visit was part of an ongoing children's safety series, "Jabbin' with Jenelle."

Jenelle Ferguson, a safety and occupational health specialist from the Installation Safety Office, will host special "Jabbin' with Jenelle" sessions throughout the summer, teaching children safety issues that are "hot topics" during the summer.

Robin "Sunnie" Hawkins, an engineering technician for LB&B Associates, Inc., and Stanley Futch, chief, APG Pest Control Office, showed the children examples of insects and animals that have been caught on post, and talked to them about insect and animal safety.

"We don't kill our critters when we capture them," Hawkins said. "They are relocated, usually unharmed, back into the wild."

Hawkins showed the children insects mounted on two Styrofoam boards that are common around APG, like grubs, which are often found in golf courses and grassy areas.

Ticks, a concern on APG

Hawkins told the children that they should frequently search themselves and their

pets for ticks, especially if they spend large amounts of time outdoors.

The deer tick is often found in marshy places, long grasses, woods and forests, and places where deer frequent. Deer ticks that are especially prevalent from April through October can transmit Lyme disease.

Hawkins said that Lyme disease is not always diagnosed correctly by health care providers because the early stages of Lyme disease is similar to the flu, which can include chills, fever, headache, fatigue, stiff neck, muscle and/or joint pain and swollen lymph nodes. If untreated, the disease can progress to chronic arthritis, meningitis, facial nerve paralysis, hearing abnormalities, nervous system disorders and irregular heartbeat. Those that develop signs or symptoms of a tick-related illness should see a physician right away, since patients treated within a few weeks with antibiotics in the early stages of the infection usually recover.

Lyme disease in many cases can appear as a large, reddish bull's eye-looking rash around the site of the tick bite. It is important to note that not everyone who has contracted the disease will have this bull's eye looking rash.

According to the Harford County Health Department Web site, www.harfordcountymd.gov/health/, "In Harford County alone, there were 100 confirmed cases in 2006, up from 89 in 2005, the two most

recent years for which data are available. While there has been a rise of reported Lyme disease cases in Harford County, this might simply reflect greater public awareness and a growing number of individuals who have sought appropriate medical attention involving proper diagnosis and treatment."

Hawkins showed the children a picture of a brown recluse spider bite on the skin. She added that it is important to receive immediate medical treatment if bitten by a brown recluse spider. Ice can be used to lessen the pain, but excessive cold can cause injury. The use of a tourniquet or other compressive measures is not recommended. Also, avoid abrupt movements. For more information, visit www.brownrecluse.org.

Rats, snakes and fleas

Hawkins also showed the children dead rats in a jar.

"You should avoid touching live rats because they carry diseases," Hawkins said.

Hawkins also displayed a copperhead snake in a jar, caught in Cecil County. She said that if a snake is found on post, APG pest control should be called to capture the snake.

Hawkins then showed the difference between dog fleas and cat fleas, showing the children cat fleas under a microscope. Hawkins said that pets should be frequently monitored for fleas.

Protective equipment

After the children saw



Kayleigh Devorak wears a protective mask that is used during bug extermination.



Hawkins lifts Kenny Tran so that he can look at a flea under a microscope while Sondeania "Sonny" Johnson, Youth Services summer staff, supervises the children waiting their turn at the microscope.

Hawkins' presentation, Futch showed the children pest control equipment from his work vehicle.

Glue traps to catch insects, and mouse traps to catch mice were some of the equipment that Futch showed the children, along with protective equipment like gloves, ear protection and masks.

Wildlife on APG

At the end of his presentation, he showed the children a live ground hog and turtle that were caught on post.

Jabbin' with the youths

Brianna Llyod and Sidney Alston-Hicks said that they enjoyed learning about the insects that live on post.

"I learned that it is important to look for ticks and bug bites," said Alston-Hicks.

Llyod added that she learned

that rats often carry diseases.

"I thought that the rats they showed were gross," she said, "but I think they are cute when they are first born."

Lloyd and Alston-Hicks said that their favorite part of the visit was seeing the groundhog and the turtle.

Ferguson said that she felt that the children really enjoyed the program. This is the second year that Ferguson is doing "Jabbin' with Jenelle" sessions at the Youth Center.

"The children seemed to really enjoy the sessions and they always have interesting questions," she said.

Ferguson said this year she would like to have guest speakers from other directorates share their safety expertise with the children.

For more information, contact Ferguson, 410-306-1088.



Stanley Futch, chief of Aberdeen Proving Ground Pest Control Office, shows the children protective gloves that he uses.



A groundhog that was caught on post was shown during a special visit from APG's pest control office to the Edgewood Area Youth Center on June 16.