

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for March 11, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



Daylight saving time begins March 8

Clocks should be turned forward one hour before retiring for the night on March 7. Daylight saving time begins 2 a.m., Sunday, March 8.

Thrift Store holds \$3 bag sale

The APG Thrift Store will hold a \$3 bag sale for items in the sale room March 5, 7, 11 and 12. Many items will be moved from the front of the store to make room for newer stock. Items you may have had your eye on could be reduced for quick sale. For more information, call 410-272-8572 during store hours.

DAPS open house March 6

The Document Automation and Production Service, or DAPS, APG, building 346 located on Tower Road, will hold an open house 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., March 6.

DAPS, a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency, has been serving the Department of Defense for more than 55 years. Free donuts and coffee will be available. (See article on page 10.)

For more information, call Jim Moscardini, DAPS customer service representative, 703-325-9924.

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 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., March 10, at the Southside Grill located in the Edgewood Area, Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140.

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.

MCSC hosts evening out March 12

The Military and Civilian Spouses' Club is a group of

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February Well-Being highlights

Vice visits ARL, praises workers for support of Soldiers

Story by **SARAH MAXWELL**
ARL

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory hosted the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli during his visit to Aberdeen Proving Ground Feb. 25 to learn more about ARL's contributions for protecting Soldiers on the battlefield.

As part of a larger APG visit, Chiarelli spent his afternoon learning first-hand from scientists how they create armor technologies at ARL's Weapons and Materials Research Directorate.

"It's important for me to see where work was done on Soldier survivability systems - from the up-armored HMMWV [high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle] to the MRAP [Mine Resistant Ambush Protected] vehicles and [future systems]," Chiarelli said.

After lauding ARL for armor solutions such as Frag Kit 5 for HMMWVs and the MRAP, Chiarelli wanted to know how the laboratory is taking on the evolving challenge of protecting Soldiers against changing threats in the "non-linear" wars the Army is fighting.

During an overall ARL briefing, Director John Miller



Photo courtesy of ARL

A U.S. Army Research Laboratory scientist shows the Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli some of the armor technologies the lab is working on to better protect the warfighter while ARL Director John Miller and Gary Martin, executive deputy to the RDECOM commander, listen.

er explained the challenges and processes of the basic research to the general.

"We're chasing technology and constantly trying to predict where it will go," Miller said. "We then ask: How can we use that technology and how can we influence it?"

That technology could lead to stronger or lighter armor systems, and finding and develop-

ing them is the challenge for Dr. Ernie Chin, a branch chief in the Materials Division at WMRD, who explained his research to the vice chief.

"How do you prototype an advance system that's never been made before, and how do you transition it to industry?" were the questions Chin answered for the vice chief.

"We always have one foot in

research and one foot in industry," he added.

The scientists who are making the armor that Soldiers rely on to stop enemy threats have a large responsibility that Chiarelli said he knows they take seriously.

"It's excellent to see such dedicated people working so hard to get these systems to the Soldiers," Chiarelli said.

Prayer Luncheon focuses on the 'strength of our nation'

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Hundreds of Aberdeen Proving Ground employees, service members and guests attended the National Prayer Luncheon observance held at Top of the Bay Feb. 20.

The guest speaker was the commanding general of the U.S. Army Accessions Command Lt. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley.

The Garrison Command Chaplain (Col.) Ruben D. Colon, hosted the event and gave the invocation. The program also featured inspirational music and scripture readings.

"Oh God, we thank you for the blessed heritage of our nation and the gift of freedom which is ours to enjoy," Colon prayed. "We humbly pray for the men and women in uniform who serve with dedication during this time of war."

Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison commander, spoke of values during his welcoming remarks.

"Thanks to all of you for participating today as we celebrate the moral and religious values upon which our nation was founded," he said.

Weissman said that he was pleased that Freakley was speaking today, as he has first-hand knowledge of the hard-

ships and increasing demands that have been placed on Soldiers and their Families.

"Even though the people in this room come from many different walks of faith-we believe the almighty hears our prayers so we join together to lift up the Army in prayer," Weissman said.

The program included a reading of the "Prayer for our Soldiers and the Nation" by the 61st Ordnance Brigade Chaplain (Maj.) James M. Lester and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert K. Glasgow of the 20th Support Command read 1 Timothy 2:1-3 from the Bible. Jari Vilanueva performed a trumpet solo; Randy Weber performed the national anthem, and music throughout the event was provided by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band.

Colon introduced and welcomed the guest speaker.

"He has a special place in his heart for Soldiers," Colon said. "We know our Army and our nation is in good hands with leaders like him. He holds up the values of our nation and our Army, and has great concern for his fellow man."

Freakley said that it was an honor to speak at APG, adding that one of the reasons that he wanted to speak at the Prayer Luncheon was to thank the APG

See PRAYER, page 13

AER helps Soldiers with interest-free loans, grants Rates among top charities for efficiency

Story by **C. TODD LOPEZ**
Army News Service

Army Emergency Relief, which began its annual campaign March 1, provided more than \$252 million in assistance to more than a quarter million Soldiers and family members between 2003 and 2007.

The AER bills itself as "the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization." It assists Soldiers with interest-free loans, grants and tuition money for Family members. Money for the program comes from voluntary donations by Soldiers and civilians, and from

investments made by AER.

In fact, each year, AER provides more aid to Soldiers than what was collected through donations--the remainder of the money comes from the dividends paid on investments made by AER.

"When people ask me what amount of the dollar they donate to AER is actually spent on Soldiers, I can tell them that in 2007, we spent about a dollar eighty-four (cents) of that dollar on program costs," said Andrew H. Cohen, deputy director for finance and treasurer, AER.

The AER keeps a large

See AER, page 8



New demolition begins

Story by **SYREETA GROSS**
APG Transformation Office

Demolition began at Aberdeen Proving Ground in preparation for Phase 2 of the Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) Center of Excellence on Feb. 23.

The WWII era buildings in the 5200 block of Boothby Hill Road in the Aberdeen Area of APG are being demolished to create space for the completion of the Command Control/Communication Network Transport East building (C2/CNT East).

The building will be approximately 600,000 square feet and situated on 31.8 acres.

Tilt-up construction, an innovative method of building production, will be utilized for the facility. It allows for the building to be constructed cost-efficiently and more quickly than traditional masonry construction. The concrete walls are cast

See BRAC, page 3



TRAFFIC ALERT



Lanes change and gate opens

Story by **ROBERT W. KRAUER**
Emergency Services

Construction work began at the Route 22 (Harford Road) Gate Feb. 23. That work necessitated the closure of one of the inbound lanes (the far right inbound lane that enters the security "tent"), effectively changing operations from three inbound lanes to two lanes.

Two lanes are to remain operational at all times during this construction, which is scheduled for completion in September 2009.

It is reasonable to expect that the reduction in traffic lanes will potentially result in delays at the Route 22 Gate, particularly during the morning rush hours.

Some of that delay can possibly be mitigated by the willingness of commuters to alter their duty day starting times.

Based upon traffic counts, peak traffic times are between 6:30 and 8 a.m., weekdays.

Traffic volume continues to increase at all gates while the construction of new facilities is underway.

Alternate gate opens

In order to help with the traffic flow due to the loss of one of the lanes at the Route 22 Gate, an alternate entry point has been made available for ID card holders only. The Aberdeen (middle) Gate is operational on a limited basis for construction traffic only. That gate is now also available for use by Government ID card holders only (just like the Route 22 Gate).

The Aberdeen Gate may only be used between the hours of 5:30 to 8:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, inbound only. That gate cannot be used for outbound traffic, nor will it be open on weekends. It will remain the primary entrance point for the construction traffic during those same times daily, and cannot be used for visitors.

It is asked that drivers remain vigilant to the traffic pattern changes to ensure safety as this work continues on the APG roadways. Everyone's patience is necessary and will be appreciated.



Sgt. Luis Rodriguez, an Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison chaplain's assistant, took top prize for his rendition of "For You," an R&B love song by Kenny Lattimore, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Talent Showcase held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center on Feb. 21.



Courtney Brewer, a college student, took second place for singing "Before he Cheats," by Carrie Underwood.



Third place went to Pvt. Dominique Dixon, 16th Ordnance Battalion Bravo Company, "I'm Still Here," by Dorinda Clark Cole and played the keyboard for accompaniment.

Show spotlights APG's talent

Story and photos by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

An Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison chaplain's assistant took top prize for the second year in a row at the APG Talent Showcase held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Feb. 21.

Sgt. Luis Rodriguez won \$300 for his rendition of "For You," an R&B love song by Kenny Lattimore.

"I wanted to provide a soulful mix to the show for both a young and mature audience," he said.

Rodriguez said he was surprised that he won, noting that he enjoyed several performances that night.

"It feels great to win," he said. "The show had an ample amount of talented individuals, and I feel delighted to have participated with them. Winning the show two years in a row is something I would have never thought possible. What a great honor."

Courtney Brewer, a college student, took second place and won \$200. She sang "Before he Cheats" by Carrie Underwood.

"I was really excited to be able to perform and to win," she said. "I decided to perform a song by Carrie Underwood because she is one of my favorite idols."

Brewer's mother, Dianna Brewer, who works for the U.S. Army Research Lab, said that she enjoyed seeing her daughter perform and was proud of her accomplishment.

"Courtney has been singing since she was three. She started performing in church. I am glad that she got this opportunity to perform [here on APG]," she said.

Third place went to Pvt. Dominique Dixon, 16th Ordnance Battalion, Company B, who won \$100 for singing a gospel song, "I'm Still Here," by Dorinda Clark Cole while playing the keyboard.

"I choose a gospel song because I wanted to perform a

song about God, and hopefully provide some inspiration to other Soldiers," he said. "Being in the military can be difficult, I wanted to sing a song that lets them [service members] know that God is there for them, and they can get through it."

He added that he was surprised, but grateful to win an award, and said that many others displayed talent that night.

"My favorite performance was Ashley Ramirez's 'So What,' by Pink," he added. "She really got the crowd energized, and you could tell that they were really enjoying it."

The show also included special dance performances from the Spotlight Steppers from Edgewood High School, who are organized and coached by Muriel Victor and Michelle Kendrick. The high-energy performances drew cheers from the crowd.

Other participants included Samuel McPeak, who sang the national anthem, and Master

Sgt. Marva Roberts, unit ministry noncommissioned officer for the 20th Support Command who was the mistress of the ceremonies for the event. Spc. Gabrielle Shivers, Headquarters Company, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, gave the invocation.

Another highlight of the evening was the recognition of McPeak for receiving first place for Outstanding Male Vocal Soloist in the Youth Talent Competition for the 2008 Festival of the Arts.

The event featured songs performed in a variety of genres, and one lyrical dance.

The event, hosted by FMWR, provides talent for the U.S. Army Soldier Show to which the winner receives an automatic recommendation.

The show's judges were Debi Horne, editor of APG News, Cardelia Lee, co-owner of Ultimate Driving School, and Ralph Cuomo, FMWR sports director.

Michael Miller and Mike

Brown from the Directorate of Information Management provided sound and videography, and the 16th Ordnance Battalion provided logistical support.

"I feel like we had some really great talent, and I think the audience enjoyed themselves," said Earlene Allen, a FMWR special events coordinator who organized the show. "I also appreciated the performance from the step team from Edgewood High School, they were very talented."

Other contestants included Pvt. Amanda Colbeck, Olivia Chandler, Joe Montanez and Sarah Stevens, and Staff Sgt. Antonio Lewis, Spc. Joshua Monhollen, Senior Airman Charise Freeman, Megan Shavers, Anthony Smith and Chris Sota.

The next show will be held May 9 at the APG Post Theater. A youth show will be held May 8. Tryouts will be held 5:30 p.m., March 26, 27 and 28 at the Post Theater.



Ashley Ramirez performs an energetic rendition of "So What" by Pink.



Pvt. Sarah Stevens, from the 143rd Ordnance Battalion, Bravo Company, performs a lyrical dance.

APG News

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Cole named newest ARL Fellow

Story by
PAUL SCHMITT
ARL

A research scientist in the U.S. Army Research Laboratory's Weapons and Materials Research Directorate has been named the newest ARL Fellow. Selection to the ARL Fellows is the highest honor awarded to ARL scientists and engineers.

Dr. Melanie Cole's membership was recommended by the active ARL Fellows after extensive review of her qualifications according to criteria established in the Fellows Charter.

Cole noted that her election as an ARL fellow is "both a privilege and a great honor."

"I am so very humbled to have been elected part of a group comprised of such technically accomplished individuals," she said.

Among her many contributions to the ARL mission, Cole has helped establish ARL as the Army's technical lead in the area of active thin film materials technology in support of Future Combat Systems communication and radar platforms.

She was also a significant player in the development of improved semiconductor device process science and has received international recognition for her innovative research efforts on determining the interdependence of dry etch damage and semiconductor device performance and long-term reliability.

Cole's tenure at ARL began in 1988 when she joined the Sensors and Electron Devices Directorate. Just four years later, she was named team leader of the electronic materials process science group,



Photo by SHIRLEEN JOHNSON

Dr. Melanie Cole, a U.S. Army Research Laboratory scientist, examines material in a lab at the Rodman Building at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Cole was recently selected as an ARL Fellow.

a position she held until 1997. She then moved to WMRD, where she has served in a variety of positions, including technical lead for the thin film ferroelectrics program,

team leader of the electronic materials research team, and team leader of the active materials research team. Since 1997, she has constructed a team of skilled engineers, established

a thin film deposition and processing facility, acquired national and international recognition within the technical academic community, and established strong technical and funding relationships both within the Army/government and with the commercial sector.

As a research scientist and group leader at ARL (both in SEDD and WMRD), Cole has spent a great deal of time establishing and cultivating research activities that are highly interdisciplinary. In doing so, she has maintained a presence in both the materials and device communities.

"My hope is that perhaps now it will be a bit easier to illustrate the clear advantages that are fostered by such interdisciplinary research efforts and teaming activities," she said.

Cole, who received her doctorate in oceanography and geochemistry from the University of Rhode Island, is a member of several professional societies, including the Materials Research Society, American Ceramics Society and IEEE. She has published 110 articles in referred "Class A" journals and 195 referred conference proceedings manuscripts. She holds an adjunct research position in applied physics at Caltech and is on the editorial board of three technical journals.

In 2008, Cole was the recipient of the Society of Women Engineers 2008 Achievement Award, the highest honor given by SWE to an individual. She has also received four Army R&D Achievement Awards.

Cole will be formally inducted into the ARL Fellows at their next meeting at Aberdeen Proving Ground in May.

BRAC

From front page

on site and hoisted into place, much like raising a barn.

Energy efficiency is also an important component of the project. Gary Schilling, BRAC program manager for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, commented, "The C2/CNT East building will be heated and cooled by a geothermal system which is far more efficient than con-

ventional systems. Not only will this feature save the taxpayers money, it provides a significant benefit to the environment as well."

The building's heating and air conditioning system will operate using naturally occurring underground thermal energy, a process known as geothermal heating and cooling.

Asked why the project was broken into two phases, Col. Andrew Nelson, the Deputy Garrison Commander for Transformation, responded, "C4ISR [project] is so complex and large, the project management team

determined a phased approach was the best way to ensure the facility will be available to meet BRAC law in September 2011."

He also added that Phase 1 of the campus is located in an area in which the Garrison could more readily relocate people. Moving to Ft. Lee in 2010 as a result of BRAC law, the Ordnance Center and School currently utilizes facilities in the location of Phase 2 construction, driving the timeline for the availability of this area.

In total, the 2.4 million square feet C4ISR campus will consist of 14 facili-

ties with a projected cost over \$800 million. Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project have building occupancy dates by December 2010; however, Phase 1 is 38 percent complete and currently ahead of schedule.

The modern facility is a result of the recommendations of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission.

Although the campus is expansive, it will be linked to the rest of APG through a number of proposed walking trails according to the APG Garrison Master Planning Office.

CDC children excel at 'Jurassic' project

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

When challenged to come up with creative dinosaur-themed projects as part of the educational program in the Edgewood Area Child Development Center's pre-kindergarten program, the children in Classroom 4 exceeded all expectations.

The result was a class and playroom so full of dinosaur decorations, artifacts and information that it's become known as 'The Dinosaur Room.'

Chantay Averett, program lead, and program assistants Quitta Harden and Bertha Robinson, guided the room's pre-schoolers through the annual learning process that challenges children to not only learn but to share with others all they can about a designated subject.

Averett said that although this was not the first year the program focused on dinosaurs, it was the first time parent participation was encouraged.

"They had to take the project home and they had two weeks to work on it," she said.

Along with the take-home projects dinosaur-themed decorations dominate the children's classroom and play area. The shelves are filled with books on dinosaurs and plastic dinosaur toys. There are dinosaur footprints on the floor, paper jungle vines hang from the ceiling and a large poster on one wall lists everything each child knows about dinosaurs.

The room's main attractions are paper mache displays--the results of the children's take-home projects. Some include photographs detailing each step of their project's construction.

The room has become so popular that Averett calls it 'The Museum' and has posted a 'Museum' sign with visiting hours on the door.

"We've had a lot of people pass through," she said. "When kids come in with their parents, they want to go straight to the dinosaur room."

Averett said feedback from the parents who participated in the project was very positive.

"A lot of parents said they had fun. This was a good way to get them involved, and some said that now they talk more with their kids about their day," she said.

Averett enhances the dinosaur experience by inviting guests to talk about the subject.



John R. (Rick) Smith, of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense uses dinosaur figurines to demonstrate to children in the Edgewood Area Child Development Center's pre-kindergarten program the types of creatures that once roamed the earth. Looking on from left are Anya Chervak, Marisol Macias, Abigail Guicheteau and Aaliyah Rodriguez.

John R. (Rick) Smith, a chemist with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, visited the class three times to talk about paleontology and show the children fossils and other artifacts.

"It's one subject kids just really grab," Smith said. "Each time, I'm amazed at how well they pick things up."

Smith was invited to speak to the children by Heidi Hoard-Fruchey, an MRICD contractor and special event coordinator with the Parent Child Care Association, PCCA.

With two children enrolled in the CDC, Hoard-Fruchey said the PCCA tries to "bring in activities for children to help with educational programs."

"We appreciate his time and resources," she said of Smith. "And we found the children's creativity amazing. I credit the staff for instructing and inspiring such creativity in these children."



A hungry paper mache brontosaurus, the result of a take-home project by Michael P., munches on confetti tree leaves in the pre-kindergarten 'Dinosaur Room' at the Edgewood Area Child Development Center.

APG Outdoor Journal

Commentary: Now I've heard it all

By **BILL ARMSTRONG**
APG Wildlife and Marine Law Enforcement Division

"Wildlife and Marine Law Enforcement," I said, picking up the phone.

"Hey you old hillbilly; you still a 'possum cop up there at Edgewood?"

Right off the bat I knew who it was on the other end. Jim used to work for CHPPM at Edgewood. Retired some years back and got himself a place out next to Cumberland, on the Potomac River. "How you doing feller?" I asked.

"Having a ball," he said, laughing. "Been trout fishing some and four wheelin.' Me and Audrey made a trip back on the mountain last weekend and gathered us up a mess of ramps."

"Ramps?" I said. "It's kinda early for ramps, ain't it? I didn't think they were up yet."

"They ain't. This time of the year, you gotta know just where to dig. You remember old man Willis, don't you? When I was over at CHPPM, he used to come up and we'd go catfishing over on the Bush. Well, here of late he's been real bad sick and bedfast. A while back he got this hankerin' for some scrambled eggs and ramps, so me and Audrey took the ATV and went back to the head of Laurel Fork and dug him up a mess."

"So how have you been?" I said. "Do any hunting during deer season?"

"Yeah, I spent the first week over at the camp on Sugar Creek with the regular guys, and then me and the boy spent the second week huntin' up at the old home-place. We both got a deer."

"Anybody over at the camp get one?"

"You gotta be joking," he said, laughing. "The closest anybody came to getting a deer over there was old Sidney. Did you ever meet him?"

"No, but I remember you telling me about him. Ain't he the one that's got that 7mm magnum?"

"Yean, that's him. That cannon of his is gonna be death of him yet. Wanna hear a good one on him?"

"Yeah, why not?" I replied.

"Well sir," he began, "you know how we're usually up half the night playing cards when we're over at the camp? Well, as I remember, it was either the second or third night we was there. Anyway, it was way after midnight when the poker game finally broke up. Now you know how the guys kinda like to sleep late in the morning," he continued, laughing. "Anyway, old man Sidney woke up right after first light, a'needin' to make a trip down the path to the john-

ny-house. Well, now you gotta know Sidney to appreciate this, but that old man still thinks of himself as a hunter. So anyway, on his way down to the outhouse, Sidney took his rifle down outta the rack and loaded it up. Just in case, so he told us later. Anyway, while Sidney was sitting there on the throne with the outhouse door standing wide open, admiring the flora and the fauna, lettin' nature take its course, wouldn't you know it, but a nice eight-pointer come tippy-toeing down through the woods right in front of old Sidney. Well sir, old Sidney could hardly believe his eyes. So, leanin' forward and takin' a'hold of his rifle, which he had propped up against the wall, old Sidney did his best to get a bead on that buck. Trouble was, the gun was a mite too heavy for Sidney to hold without it shaking. If you asked me though, I'd say he probably got a dose of the "buck fever." Anyway, he said the only way he could get the deer in his crosshairs was to scoot way up on the edge of the seat and steady the gun on the doorpost."

By this time I was laughing so hard I had to wipe the tears away. I could just see him sitting there in the outhouse with that elephant gun of his, with his britches down around his

ankles, trying to find that deer in his scope.

Bill was laughing too as he continued, "Now you gotta remember, old Sidney's nigh on eighty years old, and he ain't nothing but skin and bones. Heck, I doubt he weighs more'n a hundred pounds soaking wet."

"You're making my head hurt," I said, laughing.

"Oh," he said, "you ain't heard nothin' yet. Like I said we was all still a'sleepin', when that cannon of his went off. Now you know them 7mm magnums; they're killers on both ends, and when they go off it sounds like one of them howitzers you got up there at APG. I mean to tell you, it plum rattled the windows. We come outta our sleeping bags like the world was a'comin' to an end. Well we got to looking around, and that's when somebody asked, "Where's Sidney? Anybody seen Sidney?"

"Well sir, everybody headed for the door, stepping out onto the front porch, looking for old Sidney. While we was standing there, I heard somebody say, "Shhhh, listen." That's when we heard this voice a'comin' from the outhouse, "HELP! Would somebody please come'n help me."

"I'm here to tell, it was tru-

ly a sight to behold. When we got there, old Sidney was folded up like one of them accordions with that skinny butt of his stuck halfway down in the hole. I wished I'da had my camera with me, what with his legs stuck straight up in the air. It woulda been a picture for the ages! Took two of us a' tuggin' and a' pullin' just to get him up outta there. He was wedged in there tighter 'n a shim."

"The best we can figure is that Sidney musta been off balance some, trying to steady that gun of his, when he touched it off. Skinny as he is, the recoil of that 7mm magnum musta knocked him backwards, down into that hole, and with him being as skinny as he is, there just wasn't enough meat on his bones to keep him from foldin' up and gettin' wedged in that hole. I know he sure was thankful when we finally got him up outta there.

I was still laughin' when the other phone rang. It was the boss. "Gotta run, Jim," I said. "Did he get the deer?"

"Heck no," he continued. "The best we can tell, he never touched a hair on it. Take care of yourself old-timer, and keep payin' into that Social Security; me and Audrey need the money. Come by 'n see us sometime."

ECBC scientist helps cub scouts working to earn Science Belt Loop



Photo by MARY DOAK

Dr. Michael Simini, far left, a toxicologist at the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, demonstrates the importance of worms in helping scientists detect soil contamination to Webelos from Cub Scout Den 1 and 5, Pack 564 and den leaders Michael Thomson and Maureen Yantz. Simini's visit Feb. 4 helped the scouts earn their Science Belt Loops, a step they must complete prior to earning the Science Activity Badge.

Story by **TRACY NEWMAN**
ECBC

Cubs came face-to-face with earthworms at St. Margaret's Catholic School in Bel Air as the Webelos from Cub Scout Den 1 and 5, Pack 564, took a step toward earning their newest merit badge Feb. 4.

Dr. Michael Simini, a toxicologist at the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical

Biological Center, assisted the scouts in earning their Science Belt Loops, a step they must complete prior to earning the Science Activity Badge. To earn a belt loop, scouts are required to explain the scientific method to an adult partner, use the method in a science project and talk to a scientist about his work.

The 16 children were a fascinated audience as Simini, a plant pathologist

and lumbricologist on ECBC's Toxicologist Team, demonstrated the importance of worms in helping scientists detect soil contamination.

"He taught us a lot about worms and how they survive. I thought Dr. Mike's talk was really cool and I want him to come back soon," said Jimmy Schall, a Webelo scout.

"With more than twenty seven hundred varieties, the earthworm was accidentally transported to the United States from Europe through potted plants," Simini said. "Now earthworms serve as an invaluable scientific research resource."

To reinforce the importance of worms to research, Simini allowed the scouts to conduct an experiment that concluded earthworms prefer wet, dark and uncontaminated environments.

Simini also took time to demonstrate the "recipe" for building an earthworm farm and taught the scouts how to care for them.

"The experiments introduce students to the scientific method where they are asked to formulate a hypothesis based on the information I gave them, test the hypothesis with experimentation and then accept, reject or come up with an alternate hypothesis based on the results," Simini said. "The experi-

ments also showed them that the results don't always turn out the way we think they will but that's okay too because we always learn something by doing the experiment."

Following the hands-on experiments and lecture, the scouts learned about the various educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics offered to students through the Army Educational Outreach Program.

"There are opportunities within the government to compete for full college scholarships," said Mary Doak, ECBC's community and educational outreach program manager. "With hard work and excellent grades you could work in a laboratory just like Doctor Simini."

To fulfill the next Scientist Belt Loop requirement, den leaders Michael Thomson and Maureen Yantz are already planning to build on the scouts' visit with Simini with the construction of their own worm farm.

"The best part about Doctor Simini's presentation was the fact that he was able to offer something that was interesting, that held ten- and eleven-year-old scouts' attention for a full hour and a half," Thomson said. "It was entertaining and educational. What a powerful tool he has."

Legally Speaking

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

Service members Civil Relief Act update - cell phone contracts

OSJA

A 2008 amendment to the Service-members Civil Relief Act now allows eligible service members to terminate or suspend their cell phone contracts without penalty.

To be eligible, service members must have deployment orders outside of the continental United States for 90 days or more or permanent change of duty station orders within the United States.

Eligible service members must submit a copy of their orders to the cell phone carrier they have a service agreement with, along with an explanation as to why the deployment or PCS will materially affect their ability to satisfy the cell phone contract or utilize the cell phone service. Most often, this means the cell phone cannot be used or will not work at the new duty location. Service members should submit these requests before deploying or arriving at the new permanent duty station if possible.

For service members requesting termination, the cell phone carrier, upon

approval, will cancel the contract. No early termination fee may be charged.

For service members requesting suspension, the cell phone carrier, upon approval, will suspend the contract for the requested period. No reactivation fee may be charged when the cell phone service is turned back on.

In addition, the cell phone carrier may not require service members deploying outside of the continental United States to extend their contracts as a condition of suspension.

Service members should also be aware that the SCRA does not apply to cell phone contracts entered into after they have deployed or arrived at their new permanent duty station. Therefore, service members should not sign a new cell phone contract until returning from their deployment or until reaching their new duty station. In addition, the statute, as currently written, does not appear to apply to service members with PCS orders to locations outside of the United States (for example, Germany, Korea,

Italy and Panama). Service members in receipt of these types of orders should contact their cell phone carrier to determine if they have policies similar to the SCRA or are willing to honor the "spirit" of the statute.

Also under the SCRA, a service member with deployment or permanent change station orders may qualify to terminate an apartment or other residential lease without penalty.

For more information about this or other legal services, call the Client Services Division, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 410-278-1583, or stop by building 4305, 3rd floor, room 346. Attorney consultations require an appointment.

Trial Results

Soldier convicted of fraternization at Court-Martial

OSJA

In a general court-martial convened Feb. 9, Staff Sgt. Luis M. Pacheco of Company B, 16th Ordnance Battalion, was found guilty of charges related to his inappropriate relationships and contacts with three Initial Entry Training Soldiers.

Pacheco, a 19-year veteran, plead guilty to three violations of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for violating a lawful regulation which prohibits fraternization by permanent party personnel with students.

Lt. Col. Theresa A. Gallagher, the military judge presiding over the trial, sentenced him to a reduction in rank to specialist and two months confinement.

SAFETY Time to check smoke detectors

Having an operating smoke detector increases the chances of surviving a fire at night by 50 percent according to T.C. Glassman, fire inspector, Directorate of Emergency Services.

When the clocks are changed twice a year, take the time to change the battery in all smoke detectors. Battery operated smoke detectors should be tested weekly, but monthly is acceptable. Since their

batteries expire within a year, it is a good practice to change them every six months.

Government housing smoke detectors are electrically hard wired so they do not require batteries. They should be tested monthly by following the manufacturer's instructions.

They should be dusted every six months because dust collects in the ventilation system and can cause false alarms.

Smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years because they become desensitized.

Tampering prohibited

Additionally, all personnel who work and live on APG are reminded that no individual or group of people is authorized to tamper or remove from service any fire alarm or fire protection device without prior authority.

Any specific questions on fire alarm

and detection systems, or problems with detection systems should contact the Fire Department, DES, 410-306-0572/3, Aberdeen Area, or 410-436-4451, Edgewood Area.

Additionally, anyone wishing to schedule a voluntary fire inspection of their quarters should contact the Fire Prevention Division any time.

For more information, call Glassman, 410-306-0600.



About smoke detectors

One is not enough. Every home should be equipped with smoke detectors, on every floor, particularly outside of sleeping areas.

Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries twice a year.

Encourage children to help test the smoke detectors so they can recognize the sound of the alarms.

To be fully prepared when a smoke alarm activates, have a plan for escaping the fire. Everyone in the Family should know the plan. Practicing the plan keeps everyone safe.

About fire extinguishers

Keep an all purpose fire extinguisher in the kitchen (one rated for grease fires and electrical fires).

It's a good idea to keep a fire extinguisher near the furnace, garage and anywhere else a fire might start. These extinguishers are affordable, life and property saving tools for the home.

Make sure everyone in the household is trained and familiar with the proper use of the extinguisher purchased.

If necessary to use an extinguisher, make sure there is a clear way out in the event the fire cannot be extinguished.

More safety tips

- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone. But, if a fire occurs, don't call 9-1-1 from inside the house, get outside and use a cell phone or a neighbor's phone.
- After a fire, stay out of the building until firefighters give the okay/all clear to return.
- If grease catches fire, cover it with a lid, then turn off the burner.
- Keep all lighters and matches out of the reach of children.



Panic on the highway!

Installation Safety Office

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

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

Situation #23

You have done all you can but still you are going to plow into the rear end of a big tractor trailer that will shave off the top of your car – and probably you. You are wearing a seat belt with a shoulder restraint. What can you do to help yourself?

A. Sorry, there is nothing you can do.

B. Flop to the side and hope it goes over you.

Answer A. "Sorry, there is nothing you can do" is not true. Granted, this is about as bad a situation as you can imagine. But still, never give up. Get yourself into the best position. Even wearing a shoulder restraint you should be able to flop onto the seat and be reasonably protected. Answer B is correct.

Answer B. Yes, of course: "Flop to the side and hope it goes over you" is your best option. Even wearing a shoulder restraint you should be able to flop onto the seat and be reasonably protected. The same applies to a passenger – and flopping onto each other is better than watching a license plate come through the windshield. It's anybody's guess what will happen to you, but at least you'll be in the best possible crash position.

Community Notes

**FRIDAY
MARCH 6
BASKET BINGO**

A basket bingo will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, Aberdeen, to benefit the Aberdeen High School Track and Field Team.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 for a 20 game packet. Extra packets cost \$5 each. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Bring a non-perishable food item for a free ticket for a special drawing.

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

**SATURDAY
MARCH 7
PRAYER BREAKFAST**

The women of St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will

host a Prayer Breakfast, 9 to 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Cynthia Laurie of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Bohemia, Md.

The event will benefit the Church's Annual Women's Day Program scheduled for March 22.

For more information, call 410-939-2267.

BASKET BINGO

A basket bingo will be held at the Good Shepherd Catholic School, 810 Aiken Avenue, Perryville, to benefit the Good Shepherd Catholic School.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 for a 20 game packet. Extra packets cost \$5 each.

Cash early bird games begin at 6:45 p.m. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Bring a non-perishable food item for a free ticket for a special drawing.

For more information or tickets, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332 or the school office, 410-642-6265.

4H/EXTENSION DAY AT THE MALL

Come spend the day for an exciting Family time at 4H/Extension Day at the Harford Mall, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine. The event will include educational exhibits and displays, 4-H Clubs, kids' activities, demonstrations, Susquehanna Beekeepers, Harford Community College, petting zoo, fashion review, dog obedience and meal appeal demonstrations.

For more information, call 410-638-3255, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FLOATERS AND HITCHHIKERS

Discover the mystery of seeds. Explore the world of seeds through dramatic

play and hands-on experiments. This program will be held 10:30 a.m. to noon for Families. The cost is \$5 per Family and registration is required.

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

WALK-LIKE-THE-ANIMALS HIKE

Come for a hike at the Boseley Conservancy to look for animal tracks and answer the question, "Is hibernation over?" This free program will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. for Families. Registration is required.

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

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

DI regional tournament will be held at Perryville High School

from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with 85 teams from Cecil and Harford counties participating. For more information call Marcia Cole, 410-273-5524.

**SUNDAY
MARCH 8
DISCOVERY WALK**

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

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

INVASINATORS

Become a part of the volunteer team of invasive plant removers and native plant restorers. Learn why non-native invasive plants are a threat to our ecosystem, how to identify problem plants, and removal and restoration strategies. Wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves and work gloves for field work in the reserve each meeting date. Participants receive an "Invasinators" T-shirt.

This program will be held 3 to 5 p.m. for ages 14 to adult.

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

NATURE TALES - SNAKES

Come listen to stories, learn new songs and move like the animals. This free program will be held at 1:30 p.m. for all ages. No registration required.

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

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

CWF announces upcoming trips, events

March 7

Trip to Sight and Sound

A trip to Sight and Sound to see "Behold the Lamb" at the Millennium Theatre, Strasburg, Pa., costs \$104 for adults; \$79 for teens ages 13 to 18; and \$59 for children ages 12 and under. Price includes show ticket, dinner at Hershey Farms and charter bus transportation. Departure time is 3:30 p.m. Call to reserve tickets now.

April 4

Trip to Washington, D.C.

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

May 16

Trip to New York City

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

July 11

CWF night at Ripken Stadium and Crab Feast

Join CWF for a great night of Ironbirds baseball and fireworks from the Party Deck at Aberdeen's Ripken Stadium. The cost per person is \$43 or \$49 per person includes beer, a complimentary Ironbirds baseball cap, all-you-can-eat Bo Brooks Crabs, hot dogs, hamburgers and corn on the cob. Reservation deadline is June 11.

August 8

Trip to Kings Dominion

Come and enjoy one of the East Coast's

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

Sept. 27 to 30

Trip to New York City

See two Broadway Shows, enjoy lunch, take a ferry ride to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and more. Cost is \$1,499 per person for double occupancy, \$1,379 per person for triple occupancy \$1,379 and \$1,899 for single occupancy. Round trip motor coach, taxes, trip cancellation insurance and entry to CIA and ferry ticket included. A deposit of \$100 is due by March 2 to hold the reservation. Final payment is due July 1.

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

POST SHORTS

spouses who offer fellowship and friendship for all military and civilian spouses working on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Known as a philanthropic organization, it has historically given more than \$1,000 each year to organizations in the Harford County area.

Why join? MCSC has a wealth of information about local businesses, schools, day-care and events in the area. It's members know what it is like to arrive in a new location and not know a hairdresser, a caterer, a nice restaurant, or a fun Family thing to do on a weekend.

Join the MCSC for an evening out, 6:30 p.m., March 12, at the DuClaw Brewery in Bel Air. Order off the DuClaw menu and sample their beers.

For more information or to RSVP, visit www.apgmcsc.org to contact an MCSC member.

Basic Boating classes

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 22-04 will offer Basic Boating classes, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., March 7 and 8 and March 21 and 22, at the Middle River Yacht Club located at 200 Nanticoke Road, next to the Riverwatch Restaurant in Essex, Md.

The course will feature instruction on essential topics of boating to include navigational rules, safety equipment and boat handling with lessons on essential knot tying and nautical history. Graduates will receive a State of Maryland certification.

Maryland law states that anyone born on or after July 1, 1972, must possess a certificate of boating safety education in order to operate any motorized vessel.

The cost of instruction is free; however, a charge of \$25 per student is needed to cover administrative costs. All required material will be provided.

For more information and registration, call Chris Travers, 443-567-9720, e-mail uscgaux1301@comcast.net or visit

<http://a0541301.uscgaux.info/>.

Register for NSPS training

Upcoming NSPS writing workshops are:

- March 12 (B40), NB7SMART - NSPS Smart Objectives Writing Workshop
- April 1 (B41), Aug. 5 (B42), NB7EMPL - Writing Effective Self Assessments
- Sept. 9 (B43) and 16 (B44), NB7SUPV - Writing Effective Supervisor Assessments

There is no cost for this training.

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

Blue Cross/Shield visits APG

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit APG March 10. The representative will be available from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in building 305, Room 211 and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in building E4520, Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, Edgewood Area, to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

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

RecruitMilitary Career Fair in Philadelphia March 12

RecruitMilitary, the Presidents National Hire Veterans Committee (DOL), the American Legion, and the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network, will hold a free hiring event veterans, personnel who are transitioning from active duty, Reserves, Guard and military spouses, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 12, at Citizens Bank Park

(Home of the Philadelphia Phillies), located on One Citizens Bank Way, Philadelphia, Pa.

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

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

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

Dining facilities serve Irish specialty meal

The Irish Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen and Edgewood Area dining facilities, buildings 4503, 4219 and E-4225, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., March 17. During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$4.25 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$3.65 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The menu includes bean soup with ham, Sheppard's pie, Dublin coddle (bacon and pork sausage), Irish chicken and dumplings, fish and chips, glazed corn beef, boiled red potatoes with dill, freedom fries (chips), steamed cabbage, seasoned carrots, pickled beet and onion salad, creamy cole slaw, assorted salad bar, buttered hot rolls, assorted breads, Irish cinnamon apple cake, oatmeal cookies, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

Society of Toxicology meets March 15 to 19

The Society of Toxicology 2009 Annual Meeting will take place March 15 through 19, at the Baltimore Convention Center located on One West Pratt Street. The SOT and ToxExpo™ is a forum to showcase toxicology's discoveries and the year's achievements. The event will feature 27 symposia, 19 workshops and 14 roundtable discussions that were selected from a pool of almost 200 submissions. Among the topics to be presented include The Use of Engineered Nanomaterials in Food and Food-Related Products; Lead: Children's Exposures and Current Regulatory Standards; Pesticides and Parkinson Disease; and Developing Brain: Safety Assessment for Pediatric Use of Pharmaceuticals.

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.toxicology.org/ai/meet/am2009/>.

CPR Classes

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

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

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Conference Center, building E-4810, April 15, Aug. 26, Oct. 21 and Dec. 16.

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

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

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

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

Translators needed

The APG Public Affairs Office is updating a list of people who are interested in acting as translators for foreign-speaking visitors, as well as individuals who can interpret foreign written documents.

Those interested in serving as a translator should forward their name, activity, telephone number, email address and language (written and/or spoken) to lynn.witkowski@us.army.mil. For more information, call 410-278-1151.

Army announces 2009/2010 SSCF Program opportunities

On Jan. 12, the U.S. Army Human Resources Command announced a "Call for Applications" for the 2009/2010 Senior Service College Fellowship Program. The window for applications is open through April 30.

Complete program information and application requirements can be found at the Acquisition Management Branch page at the HRC Web site, www.hrc.army.mil, or see the online edition of the APG News Jan. 15 issue at <http://apgnews.apg.army.mil/>.

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

Correction

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office was incorrectly identified as the host of the Black History Month Program in the Feb. 28 edition of the APG News. The Equal Opportunity Office hosted the program. APG News regrets the error.



FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

3 Days to better golf

Join the APG golf professionals March 26 through 28 for a season kick off clinic series for golfers to get their golf game ready for a successful year.

Cost is \$50 and includes six hours of clinic and golf course activities.

For more information, call Dave Correll, 410-278-4794, e-mail david.correll@us.army.mil or Ruben Ferguson, 410-436-2213, e-mail ruben.ferguson@us.army.mil.

2009 All Army Chess Championships

All Army Chess Championships will be held April 4 through 10, at Fort Myer, Arlington, Va. All players must be U.S. Army active duty personnel for 90 days or more and a United States Chess Federation rated member. Twelve players will be selected and funded by

FMWRC.

All players must apply online or download the application and fax to 703-681-7249, DSN 761-7249 or 703-681-1616, DSN 761-1616. No on-site registration.

The deadline for an individual registration is March 2.

For more information or to download online, visit www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/chess/.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus tickets on sale

Ladies and gentlemen, come see the greatest show on earth. Tickets are available for shows March 25 through April 5 at the 1st Mariner Arena in Baltimore for \$19.50 for ages 2 and older. The last day to purchase tickets is March 13.

Amateur Boxing Night

The 16th and 143rd Ordnance battalions face off again in the 2009

Amateur Boxing Night March 7 at the Edgewood Area Hoyle Gymnasium, building E-4210. Doors open 5 p.m., the event begins at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 for active duty military; \$10 for nonmilitary; and \$20 for ring-side seats. Children under 6 are admitted free.

This event is open to the public.

Purchase tickets at FMWR Registration, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210, 410-436-3375/7134.

Purchase Hippodrome Theater tickets online

To purchase advanced tickets for shows at the Hippodrome Theater, visit www.BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com/groupsales and enter the password "105MWRAPGMD" for available discounted tickets.

Tickets are offered for a limited time. Check the Web site frequently for prices,

show times/dates, seat availability and offer expiration.

For more information, call 410-278-4011/4907, or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

FMWR daily bus trips to Atlantic City

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

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

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

SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a SKIES Unlimited class, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. Open to all DoD ID card holders. For an appointment, e-mail stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil.

Private guitar lessons

Private guitar lessons for ages 7 through 18 will be held 3:30 to 7 p.m., Fridays, through March 13, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

An award-winning singer/songwriter will instruct students. No experience necessary.

Cost of the lessons is \$132 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for four weeks. Students must provide their own guitar and also are required to purchase books required for the course as recommended by the instructor.

Books are a one-time purchase. Parents can choose which time frame session they want to sign up for when they register their child. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

Tae Kwon Do

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

Classes will be held at the Child, Youth and School Center, building 2522, Monday and Wednesday; March 30

through April 22, 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. (ages 6 to 12). Cost is \$65 per student for a one-month session or \$150 per student for a three-month session.

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

Class size is limited so register early.

Private Voice Lessons

Ages 7 through 18 can register for private voice lessons, 3:30 to 7 p.m., Fridays, through March 13, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

An award-winning singer/songwriter will instruct students. No experience necessary. Singing lessons cost \$132 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for four weeks. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign up for when they register their child.

Open to all DoD ID card holder Family members.

Brazilian Jujitsu

A Brazilian jujitsu program will be held at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, building 4505, Suite C. Sessions will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, through March 19.

Beginner classes will be held 6 to 6:45 p.m., ages 7 to 18.

Through the practice of jujitsu and kickboxing, students will learn the best form of self-defense, how to defend themselves against bigger, stronger and

faster opponents and develop leadership and teamwork skills. All students will advance their skills no matter their gender, size or natural ability.

Cost is \$85 per student. Open to all DoD ID card holder Family members. Each session requires a minimum of six students registered. Registration ends one week prior to the start of class.

Infant/Child First Aid, CPR Class

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

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.

March bowling specials

The Bowling Center is now open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays.

Throughout the month of March, 1 to 5 p.m., throw a strike when a red head pin appears and receive a free game.

Every Friday, 1 to 5 p.m., bowl \$1.75 per game plus \$1.50 for shoe rental.

March 14, Cosmic Saturday Special costs \$32 and includes bowling for one hour, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra), a pitcher of soda and shoe rental.

Early St. Patty Day Special on March 16 wear green and bowl for \$1.50 per game plus \$1.50 for shoe rental or rent the lane for \$12 per hour per lane, shoe rental included.

March 29 is Penny-a-Pin Day; cost is \$.01 for every pin you knock down, games over 200 are FREE. (No hourly rate applies). Shoe rental costs \$1.75 per pair.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Week of March 2

Special #1: Chicken tender wrap with potato chips, cookie and soda for \$4.95.

Special #2: Chicken tender sub with french fries, cookie and soda for \$6.95.

Week of March 9

Special #1: Cheese steak wrap with potato chips, cookie and soda for \$4.75.

Special #2: Two hot dogs with french fries, cookie and soda for \$4.95.

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



Deadlines for sports applications announced

All military and DoD civilians are invited to sign up for APG intramural sports events.

Application deadlines are:

Civilian

- Volleyball March 27
- 3 on 3 Basketball April 3
- Dead Lift Competition April 17

Special notes for civilians: Cost per team is \$200 for basketball, volleyball, softball and flag football. There is a four team minimum for a league

or tournament to take place. The 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament has a \$20 team fee.

Military

- AIT Bowling March 22
- Volleyball Mar 27
- 3 on 3 Basketball April 3
- Dead Lift Competition April 17

For more information, call 410-278-3929 or visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/recreation/sportscalendar2009.ppt#256,1,Slide 1>.

AER

From front page

amount of money on hand to invest—to ensure there is always enough money to pay to Soldiers in need. At one point, the total value of AER holdings peaked at about \$394 million. That money, Cohen said, is an insurance policy to ensure that AER always has the money it needs to help Soldiers over a crisis to occur.

"The investment capital represents the body of funds that has grown over the years from when AER ran surpluses," Cohen said. "That money is not just sitting there. It is earning a revenue stream allowing us to operate over and above what we get from donations. It represents seed money and investments. And that money can be used for anything, such as a mass casualty event where a lot of people need a lot of money. During the Gulf War, for instance, we went from twenty five million to forty five million dollars of assistance in a month period."

Cohen pointed out that while the investment capital is earning additional funds for AER, it is still available to help Soldiers when needed.

"It's not held in reserve -- it's available for use," he said. "Every Soldier that has a valid need has gotten assistance, so the needs of our Soldiers are being met."

In fact, the AER's ability to manage its funds in a way that provides the most assistance to Soldiers for "percent spent on program services and cost to raise \$100" has earned it an "A+" rating



from the American Institute of Philanthropy. Additionally, in October 2008, AER earned its third consecutive "4-star rating" from Charity Navigator, for "its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances."

Charity Navigator further stated: "Only 10 percent of the charities we've rated have received at least three consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that 'Army Emergency Relief consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way and outperforms most other charities in America.'"

The AER is not about giving money away, though the program does make grants to some program beneficiaries in certain cases. Cohen said AER is about making interest-free loans to Soldiers that need assistance. Loans, he said, because Soldiers are employed and receive steady paychecks. They can pay back the aid they receive, he said. And they don't want a handout -- they are

simply in need of funds for unexpected emergencies.

"The bulk of financial assistance is traditionally for rent, mortgages, housing, personally owned vehicle repair, or travel under emergency leave conditions," Cohen said. "For instance, a recruiter and his Family might get stationed in Los Angeles. And while he gets a basic allowance for housing, he might not have the money he needs for expensive rental deposits or start-up costs to move into a home there. That is where AER could help."

Another example, Cohen said, is a family renting a home where the landlord fails to make mortgage payments. That Family could find the home is being foreclosed on by the bank.

"They might find they've got a week to get out of the house and find a new place to live," Cohen said. "That's another case where AER could help out with emergency moving funds, in the form of an interest-free loan."

Between Jan. 1, 2003 and Dec. 31, 2007, AER paid out a total of about \$252 million. Nearly \$188 million in aid during that time was in the form of interest-free loans. About \$63 million -- as reported in a recent story by the Associated Press -- was given away in the form of grants for such things as tuition for qualifying family members, emergency travel for Soldiers who are in hardship situations for when their loved ones die, and for aid to the widows and orphans of killed Soldiers.

"Widows and orphans automatically get grants," Cohen said.

But the bulk of money given out by AER is in the form of interest-free loans, Cohen said. And of the loans given out, some 95 percent of Soldiers pay the

money back.

"This is about Soldiers helping Soldiers," Cohen said. "If Soldiers know you need help to get through a financial bind, they're going to help -- but it's not a free pass, it's a loan that you pay back so that money can help the next Soldier."

The AER works very closely with the Army and with a Soldier's chain of command to ensure that much needed funds get where they need to go.

"Unit leadership needs to know what's up with a Soldier in order to take care of a Soldier," Cohen said. "Both AER and the Army believe there is a moral imperative to take care of the Soldier -- and knowing when a Soldier needs assistance and helping them to get that assistance is part of that. When a Soldier needs financial assistance, they may also need other kinds of things -- if the chain of command doesn't know, then they can't help."

While Soldiers must pay back the interest-free loans they are offered by AER, they have actually come out ahead by talking first with their chain of command to seek relief through AER," Cohen said.

Were Soldiers to go to other lenders, a "payday loan" lender for instance, they may pay an annual percentage rate of up to 36 percent. For a \$1,000 loan over the course of two weeks, that amounts to a mere \$13 in interest.

But the 36-percent APR cap was instituted by federal law as part of the Fiscal Year 2007 Military Authorization Act. Prior to that, payday lenders were charging as much as an 800-percent APR on loans. Prior to 2007, the same \$1,000 loan over the course of two weeks could have cost a Soldier more than \$300 in interest.

February Well-Being highlights post improvements, upcoming events

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community met at the Post Chapel Feb. 19 to discuss post improvements and to announce upcoming events.

Tim McNamara, deputy to the garrison commander, led the meeting announcing that the Residential Communities Initiative town hall meeting that was scheduled for the early march time frame will probably be postponed.

He said that we are still waiting to hear back from the Department of the Army on some issues that we are trying to work through, and that the meeting will be publicized when the date is known.

McNamara stated that emphasis is being placed on post beatification, and asked attendees to help by picking up trash around their building.

"Anything you can do to help will be much appreciated," McNamara said.

McNamara said that the *APG News* is looking for stories about noncommissioned officers, since this is the Year of the NCO.

"*APG News* provides a great forum to recognize what our NCOs do everyday. If you have someone within your organization, it would be nice to recognize them," he said.

To contact the editor, call Debi Horne, 410-278-1150 or e-mail debi.horne@us.army.mil.

AAFES

Debbie Armendariz, Main Store manager, announced that the Edgewood Area barber shop has changed its hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and also extended its hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.

She also advised attendees to check for weekly specials and to check the auctions online at www.aafes.com.

KUSAHC

Col. James N. Nold, commander of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, announced that they have hired a third pharmacist, Mark Weinecke, adding that improving pharmacy times is always a concern.

Nold said that we are seeing news about suicide rates in the Army.

"We have been aware and looking into this matter since August of last year, and have taken an interdisciplinary approach," he said. Nold stated that APG will see more upcoming information on suicide prevention.

DES

Robert Krauer, director of Emergency Services, said that they are about half way through the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program at the Youth Center. He said that the graduation ceremony will be at Top of the Bay 6 p.m., April 22. He asked those who have children to come out and show their support.

"We always have a great time with that program," he said.

He said that the state of Maryland has selected APG's D.A.R.E. dancers to perform at the opening ceremony at the D.A.R.E. conference at Ocean City in April. "This is a good program not only about resisting drug use, but also about resisting gangs, and other negative influence, and aims to steer them in the right direction" Krauer said.

Krauer also talked about the APG gates. The Route 24 Gate completion date is scheduled for September. The Weis Road Gate project has been extended due to a delay because of the discovery of a gas line that know one knew was there.

Krauer said that the 715 Gate should be completed by June.

"This is a massive undertaking; it will be a state of the art facility, with a bigger visitor center, and more lanes," he said.

Krauer asked attendees to continue to be cautious and use patience as construction is underway.

He said that construction work on the inbound right lane of the Route 22 Gate associated guard booth, the gatehouse and the inspection canopy will continue through September 2009. Only two inbound lanes will remain open.

To alleviate traffic during construction period, the Aberdeen (middle) Gate will be available for inbound traffic only, 5:30 to 8:30 a.m. by Government ID card holders only. The Aberdeen Gate may only be used Monday through Friday and will not be used for outbound traffic. The Aberdeen Gate will not be open on weekends and cannot be used by visitors.

The Aberdeen Gate will remain the primary entrance point for con-



tractor employees with RAPIDgate identification.

Krauer asked attendees to be patient and allow more time in their commute, and to allow for a wait at the gates.

An attendee asked Krauer about inspections at the gate.

Krauer replied that it is the Department of Defense's policy that random inspections be conducted at various times.

FMWR

Matthew Aughey, who works for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, made a few announcements about upcoming events.

On March 19, April 23 and May 21 Bunco will be held at Top of the Bay at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5. He asked attendees to visit their Web site, <http://www.apgmwr.com>, for updates on FMWR activities.

Michael Luppachino, director of FMWR, told attendees that if they have any comments about their facilities or programs they should use the Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, on their Web site.

Luppachino said to look for information on upcoming events. On May 16 APG will have a celebration for Armed Forces Day, and an APG Army Birthday Ball, will be June 12.

Jean Fuddy, who works for the Non-appropriated Human Resources Office announced that they are recruiting and hiring lifeguards for the post swimming pool. Visit FMWR's Web site for more information and to apply.

HHC

Maj. Mathieu Petraitis, garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander said that the Army Emergency Relief campaign will begin in March and end mid May. He asked attendees to call 410-278-3000, or 410-278-2508 if they would like more information. He also suggested everyone should read the *APG News* for more information on the AER campaign.

APG School Liaison

Eileen Campbell, APG school liaison officer, announced that she and Col. Andrew Nelson, deputy garrison commander for Transformation, and his wife Beth, attended the Nonpublic Schools Council meeting Feb. 11 to speak on behalf of military students' transitions, difficulty with moves and deployment issues.

"The goals were to request their signing of a U.S. Army Secondary Education Transition Study Memorandum of Agreement, inform principals of expansion of APG through BRAC, and outreach to the community," she said.

Campbell said she went with APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez to meet with Baltimore County Public Schools' Superintendent Dr. Joe Hairston, BCPS executive director for Department of Planning and Support Operations, and BCPS chief of staff, Feb 13. Partnerships, the Memorandum of Agreement on Military Transitions and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Programs were discussed.

Campbell said that Sgt. Maj. Sean Branham will participate in Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown's panel supporting the Interstate Compact for Educational Issues Affecting Military Children, which will be heard Feb. 24 in the House Ways & Means Committee and Feb. 26 in the Senate at 1 p.m. each day. If military Families would like to send a personal statement, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857. Maryland Public Television will broadcast the hearings at a later date.

McNamara closed the meeting by stating that APG leadership is promoting everyone's use of the ICE system to help improve the total well-being of APG. He encouraged those with a complaint, comment, or praise to use the online system, and to leave a detailed message.

More ICE kiosks will be placed in buildings to make the comment system more accessible.

The next Well-Being Council meeting will be held 9:30 a.m., March 19, at the Post Chapel.

Prayer

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community for the support they give to the Army.

He thanked Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, who was in attendance, for his leadership on the installation.

He pointed out that he was glad to see that so many young people were in attendance, noting that they were the nation's future leaders.

"Part of this luncheon is about the moral strength of the nation and stopping to reflect on the principals that our nation was founded on, which was 'one nation under God,'" he said.

Freakley opened his speech with a prayer, asking God to bless the leaders of the country and service men and women.

Freakley read from Philippians chapter 4:4-9.

"Paul said 'Rejoice in the Lord always,' and again I say rejoice," he said.

Freakley said that Paul lived in uncertain times, much like we do today, but was able to rejoice and advise others to concentrate on positive and pure things.

Freakley said that we should not be intimidated by the perilous times but rise up and realize that we have great strength in our country and in the country's leadership.

He pointed out that there are three aspects of strength, tactical strength, physical strength and spiritual strength.

"You gain spiritual strength by rejoicing in the Lord and knowing that He is always with us, especially during difficult times," Freakley said.

"Paul [in Philippians] says do not be anxious. If we are really one nation under God, we need to pray together and not be anxious. Challenges will come. What should sustain you is being anxious for nothing, counting on God to see you through," he said.

Freakley said that being humble before God and guard-



Photo by SCOTT NIETO

The guest speaker of this year's National Prayer Luncheon, Lt. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, commanding general of the U.S. Army Accessions Command, left, is presented with a painting, by the Garrison Command Chaplain (Col.) Ruben D. Colon, right, who hosted the event. Freakley dedicated the painting to the Main Post Chapel. The painting portraying battlefield ministry is titled "They Were Always There," by Larry Selman.

ing your heart is how you gain strength as a leader.

"When you are humble before Him you get peace," he said.

Freakley said with emotion in his voice that being a leader in the military is difficult because you are responsible for the lives of other people, telling the audience of a time when he lost Soldiers under his command. He said that although it is always difficult to lose a Soldier, a leader must move forward and do their job.

"When you put your faith in the Lord, [when you lose a Soldier], you know that they are now with the Lord and know that they

are in a better place," he said. "You give it to the Lord and you move forward with strength- that it is what is expected of leaders and of military members."

Freakley reminded the audience that during difficult times to think of Philippians 4:8 which states, 'Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever, is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.'

Freakley said that there are many good things about America and the military, and we should think about those things.

"We live in a phenomenal nation. We are a bright shining light that no other nation can match," he said.

Freakley commented that the military is doing many good things to help other countries.

"The media tears many good things down, like the military, teachers and pastors," he said. "I tell you build it up brothers and sisters because there is no one like you as Americans."

Freakley commented that the military helps other countries, noting that America is the only country in this modern era that goes to war and doesn't take other country's lands.

"We are trusted, we should

rejoice in that we are in the nation that we are in. It is not about what we get it is about what we give," he said.

We know that if we pray we can be anxious for nothing, because the Lord hears our prayers."

Freakley concluded his speech by asking the audience to be prayer warriors along with being warriors.

"This is a great nation. We should be humbled and honored that we are citizens of this great nation," he said. "We should hold up what is great about this nation. May God bless you, may God bless our deployed Soldiers and may God bless America."

After Freakley's speech, Colon presented him with a painting entitled, "They were Always There" by Larry Selman. Freakley dedicated it to the Main Post Chapel.

After the program, several students from the National Guard's Free State ChalleNGe Academy remarked that they found Freakley's speech to be inspirational.

"It was inspiring. When I first came to the Free State ChalleNGe Academy, I didn't want to join the military, now hearing his speech I am beginning to think about it," said Chad Botha, 18.

Wanda Wheeler, whose husband works for the 22nd Chemical Battalion, said that she felt that Freakley was a powerful speaker.

"He is a passionate speaker, and he moved the audience," she said. "You can really tell that he cares about the military and their families. I also think his message about staying positive during difficult times is very relevant."

About the painting: 'They Were Always There'

Story by LARRY SELMAN

Since the opening days of the American Revolution, Army chaplains have accompanied Soldiers into battle to bring them encouragement and religious support in times of danger. More than 25,000 chaplains have served in the armies of the United States since 1775. Four hundred have given their lives in wartime while bringing God to Soldiers and Soldiers to God.

Operation Iraqi Freedom was no exception. Beginning with the first air strike against Baghdad on March 19, 2003, the U.S.-led coalition forces moved forward with their chaplains and support units to launch the ground war into Iraq. In this portrayal of battlefield ministry by a chaplain, perhaps in the southern approach to Baghdad, unit patches of both the 3rd Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne

(Air Assault) Division are visible.

The female chaplain assistant provides armed protection while the other member of her unit ministry team, her chaplain, speaks to a wounded Soldier. These Soldiers of God, the chaplain and his assistant, mirror the dedicated ministries of the 87 chaplains and 84 chaplain assistants who accompanied the 3rd Infantry and 101st Airborne Soldiers into battle in March of 2003.