

APG News

www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

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

March 19, 2009 Vol. 53, No. 11



See page 8 for Year of the NCO article.

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for March 25, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



Wanted: Stories about NCOs

To showcase the year of the noncommissioned officer, the APG News is looking for story ideas to publish. Anyone with a suggestion should call the editor, Debi Horne, 410-278-1150.

Well-Being Meeting Canceled

The Well-Being Action Council Meeting scheduled for March 19 has been cancelled. The next meeting is 9:30 a.m., April 16, in the Edgewood Area Post Chapel.

A taste of home away from home

All AIT students, single and unaccompanied members from all armed services are invited to enjoy "A Taste of Home, Down Home USA" 4:30 to 7 p.m., March 28, at the Aberdeen Area Chapel, Fellowship Hall.

The APG Catholic Women of the Chapel will host a dinner for military personnel stationed at APG who ordinarily do not get a home-cooked meal. A variety of entrees, salads, side dishes, deserts and beverages will be available. Entertainment will also be provided.

For planning purposes, an RSVP is not essential but would be greatly appreciated.

For more information or to RSVP, call Kathleen, 410-655-5193, or e-mail kpsosl@aim.com or Wanda, 410-306-6306, or e-mail swanch2003@yahoo.com.

Register for NSPS training

Upcoming NSPS writing workshops are:

- April 1 (B41), Aug. 5 (B42), NB7EMPL – Writing Effective Self Assessments
- Sept. 9 (B43) and 16 (B44), NB7SUPV – Writing

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Remediation team concludes clean-up of G-Street

Maintained a safety record of zero accidents or incidents

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

A team of government and contractor personnel has completed the CERCLA Remedial Action, the remediation of industrial surface and subsurface soil contamination, at the G-Street Salvage Yard in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Remediation was completed in January.

The G-Street salvage yard is a former World War I railroad yard and fire training and burn residue disposal area. The site is on the National Priorities List for contamination that consisted of industrial surface and sub-surface soil contaminants, along with potential munitions and explosives of concern, and chemical warfare materiel.

The team coordinated closely with regulatory agencies, primarily U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 and the Maryland Department of the Environment, on waste-reduction processes and controls, which reduced the volume of hazardous and non-hazardous waste generated at the site.



Photo courtesy of WESTON SOLUTIONS
Workers in full bio-hazard suits conduct excavation operations inside a vapor containment structure at the G-Street Salvage Yard in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Remediation activities were completed at the site in January.

John Wrobel, Directorate of Public Works contracting officer; Bob Crouse of the Garrison Safety Office; and Joseph Gross, a Weston Solutions, Inc. project

manager, were part of the team involved with the project.

Wrobel said safety requirements and procedures were the top priority and all mea-

asures were in compliance with safety requirements specified in the Chemical Safety Submission and monitored by the

See G-STREET, page 6



Baltimore District CoE awards contract to build ATEC center on proving ground

Story by
DAVID RUDERMAN
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, awarded a \$49,480,662 contract March 13 to Foulger-Pratt Contracting LLC of Rockville, Md., to design and construct a command headquarters for the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The 142,525 square-foot facility will serve as headquarters for approximately 600 ATEC and U.S. Army Evaluation Center sub-command personnel as they execute their critical missions to plan, conduct and integrate developmental testing, independent operational testing, evaluation, assessment and experimentation in support of the nation's

armed forces.

"The Army Test and Evaluation Command is very pleased with the successful award of the design/build contract for its headquarters facility," said Mike Vogt, ATEC deputy chief of staff for Engineering, Logistics and the Environment. "The command is looking forward to working with the Baltimore District Corps of Engineers

and Foulger-Pratt on finalizing design and beginning construction."

The proposed design/build contract was issued in accordance with the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005. The ATEC headquarters, which will occupy a 20-acre site on the 92-year-old installation, is projected to

See ATEC, page 7



Photo by NEAL SNYDER, USAEC
Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, commander of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, welcomes attendees to Aberdeen Proving Ground's annual Women's History Month training seminar March 4 at the RDECOM training center.

FWP celebrates Women's History Month

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

To celebrate Women's History Month, Aberdeen Proving Ground employees attended the 19th annual Federal Women's Program training conference March 4 at the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Conference Center.

The FWP promotes the advancement of federally employed women in the workplace, and the conference is a yearly educational event which addresses employment concerns. This year's training theme was "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet."

Bridget Smith, who works for RDECOM, opened the program by singing the national anthem.

Maj. Gen Paul S. Izzo, commander of APG and RDECOM, then welcomed the audience, and he said that he was honored to be able to speak at the program.

"When I hear the national anthem, I feel a sense of pride, what a great way to start a day," he said.

Izzo remarked that he had just returned

from a trip to Afghanistan, which reminded him of how lucky he feels to be living and serving in America.

"You've got to be thankful every day that we live in this country with the freedoms that we have," Izzo said.

He remarked that while he was over in Afghanistan he traveled with the first female four-star general, Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

"It was unbelievable to be able to travel with her," he said.

Izzo remarked that women have made significant contributions in the Army and working at APG.

He then showed a slide show of women who had worked at APG throughout the years. (See Commander's Column on page 2 for a more in-depth look at women working at APG through the eyes of the APG commander.)

After the slide show, he remarked that women who work at APG today are making important contributions for future

See WOMEN, page 2

DAPS showcases publishing and printing services

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

From colorful posters to intricate report presentations, the Document Automation and Production Service, DAPS, showcased its publication support capabilities during an open house at its print facility located in building 346 March 6.

Johnnie Hastmann, lead electronic duplicating systems technician, leads the staff of four personnel who support the installation's printing and publication needs.

Hastmann said DAPS provides Aberdeen Proving Ground customers with everything from simple stapled reports, invitation packages and letterheads to full color glossy magazine-type products.

He said the focus of the open house was to educate existing customers about the DAPS full line of services and to draw in new customers.

"If you have a government credit card or a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request [MIPR] number, you can use our services," he said.

The tour included a look at the storage area which contains a wide assortment of bonded, indexed and covered paper, printing and other supplies. The facility as an alarmed room-size vault in which classified documents are processed, including reports and briefing materials.

Hastmann said projects for the White House and the Pentagon are commonly processed in the vault.

Frequent DAPS projects for APG

See DAPS, page 8

COMMANDER'S CORNER

APG women: Continuing to meet the challenges ahead

By
MAJ. GEN. PAUL S. IZZO
Commander, USARDECOM

This month we are taking the opportunity to recognize the role of women in our Army and in our society. The theme of Women's History Month this year is "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet."

Here on Aberdeen Proving Ground, we have a long history of women serving in important roles.

For example, back in the beginning of APG, Army nurses assigned to the Edgewood Arsenal hospital battled the flu epidemic in 1918. In World War II, a new complex on the current site of the Medical Research Institute for Chemical Defense building required many female nurses and medical assistants. The post also began an enormous construction program that included many different types of nontraditional roles for women such as ordnance production. In the 1950s and 1960s, women helped develop and use the equipment necessary for chemical defense research. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, women expanded their work on post into the computing field.

Today, women continue to serve at all levels and in all fields throughout the various tenant organizations of our installation.

Perhaps one woman from our World War II workforce summed up her contribution to the future quite well.

Aurora V. Bransford, a chemical technician in that time, said about her work on post, "I like to think we laid the groundwork for some others."



Indeed she did.

Today, we have Col. Maria Gervais, commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Command, leading the implementation of environmental programs on installations throughout the Army. She and her staff are devising innovative ways for the Army to sustain our environment for a secure future.

Also at USAEC, women like Kim Watts have played a key role in replacing the water contaminant perchlorate in our flash-bang training simulators so that we won't foul our vital range lands when we train as we fight. Dominique Edwards has protected the health of Army Families by leading many successful cleanups of toxic contamination on installations around the country. Mary Ellen Maly leads the cleanup of unexploded ordnance found on installations to make our land safer and available for growth or for

transfer to our civilian neighbors.

At the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Amy Butler Adams develops environmental assessments to determine if proposed science and technology activities pose a threat to critical environmental concerns or lie within areas sensitive to environmental impacts. Dr. Sandra Young organizes annual Earth Day activities for the Maryland chapter of the American Chemical Society and annual cleanups for Project Clean Stream in Baltimore.

In the garrison, Ruth Golding in the Directorate of Public Works has for the past 10 years successfully managed the investigation and cleanup of more than 40 contaminated areas on APG. She has also managed the care of the post's historic properties. Karen Jobs manages the public outreach program for the APG cleanup program. Her work has earned the installation national Environmental Protection Agency awards for its comprehensive outreach programs.

At the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Pat Rippey teaches a green procurement training program she initiated to purchasing and contracting personnel from across the federal government. She also helps installations practice electronics stewardship by promoting the purchase of greener, energy efficient computers and environmentally sound disposal options.

From the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Suzanne Procell has assisted scientists at the Eden Mill Nature Center's bird banding station for nearly 10 years during spring and fall migrations. She helps scientists

learn about the movement and habitat needs of different species.

These women and many others across the post are taking the lead on environmental initiatives. And, they all have one thing in common—they want to make positive changes for our Soldiers, their Families and our communities. They understand that our actions today affect our neighbors, near and far, our children and our children's children. They also understand the need to lead us to action.

In another example of leadership, Dr. Melanie Cole from the ARL's Weapons and Materials Research Directorate was recently named its newest ARL Fellow. Selection to the ARL Fellows is the highest honor awarded to ARL scientists and engineers. Dr. Cole provided leadership and invaluable contributions to the development of active thin film materials technology in support of Future Combat Systems communication and radar platforms. She also is a significant player in the development of improved semiconductor devices. She, too, is making a significant contribution to our planet.

Whatever your position, grade, title or gender, I ask you to step up to the challenges that face us.

APG has entered a very exciting time, and opportunities for creating a vibrant future lie ahead of us, but our installation and our Army can't be successful without your contributions.

Always remember, our Soldiers need your experience, dedication and commitment to excellence in all that you do.

Women

From front page

generations, including being environmentally conscious.

Izzo concluded his remarks by asking the audience to think about how the theme of the conference can be incorporated into their lives.

"This [day] is a great opportunity to reflect where we are and where we are going," he said. "When we look around at what is going on in the world, we see that now is the time to focus on saving the planet."

The guest speaker for the program was Col. Maria Gervais, commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Command.

Gervais remarked that the Army has provided opportunities to women to gain leadership roles.

"To me, the Army has been a frontrunner in terms of equality and providing opportunities for women to serve their country," she said. "It is an honor to serve in the military, and each day I commit myself to having the personal courage for doing what is right and doing my best as an American Soldier."

Gervais said that women play a critical role in the Army today.

"Currently about fifteen percent of the total Army is women, and we serve in ninety three percent of all Army occupations. The Army's civilian workforce is equally impressive with women serving at the highest Senior Executive Service levels, about twenty eight percent being women and in various other roles at all levels in support of the Army's mission."

Gervais encouraged those in attendance to be mentors and leaders to young women.

"Although I have achieved many 'firsts' for women



Lynne Brick, president of Brick Bodies Fitness Services, Inc., left, demonstrates a quick exercise that can be done throughout the day to maintain physical fitness during her presentation, "The American Worker: Impact on Fitness and Employee Performance, Absenteeism and Productivity," while Kathy Treon, right, who works for the U.S. Army Environmental Command, participates. Her workshop was held during the annual Federal Women's Program training conference held at the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Conference Center March 4.

throughout my career, I could not have done it without the leadership and guidance of both military and civilian mentors," Gervais said.

She said that at USAEC, women comprise a large part of the workforce.

"If you take a look at history, women have been the impetus behind many movements to take action to protect the environment," she said. "Here at APG, we also have women who are taking an active role in preserving the environment."

Gervais said that taking care of the environment is everyone's job.

"We must ensure future generations, our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren have needed resources—clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, and

can enjoy the same or better environmental landscape conditions that we do today," she said.

Gervais told attendees that actions must be consistent with values.

"It is our job to use our resources effectively and efficiently in order to ensure our readiness not just for today but also for the future," she said.

Gervais added that the bald eagle is a great example of how taking action affected the environment in a positive way.

"The bald eagle was a species close to the brink of extinction because of our actions," she said. "Isn't it great that future generations will be able to observe and experience the national bird and symbol of the United States first hand instead of reading it in a book?"

She concluded her speech by challenging attendees to continue the tradition of serving the Army and making efforts to preserve the environment.

Diane Siler, FWP manager, gave a few remarks and then showed a slide show of women who work in environmental fields at APG.

During the lunchtime presentation at the Stark Recreation Center attendees ate brown bag lunches or meals bought from the Southside Grill while they listened to a presentation on the benefits of recycling by Becky Joesting Harford County Government Department of Public Works Environmental Services Division.

Attendees also visited vendors, who gave out door prizes. In keeping with the theme of the

day, many of the vendors promoted environmentally friendly items, like Studio 432, which featured arts and crafts from recycled products.

Andrea Melvin, an equipment specialist for the 22nd Chemical Battalion, who was checking out the artwork for sale during the lunchtime break, said she attends the conference every year.

"It is nice to get a break from the routine of work, and every year I learn new things that help me in my work and life," Melvin said.

Siler said that more than 90 people attended the conference this year.

"Employees look forward to this free training every year. It is a great opportunity to network, learn, and exchange ideas," she said.

On being physically fit

"The American Worker: Impact on Fitness and Employee Performance, Absenteeism and Productivity" was presented by Lynne Brick, president of Brick Bodies Fitness Services, Inc. Brick discussed how being physically fit cannot just improve productivity in the workplace, but the overall quality of life.

She stressed that women need to take time for themselves to care for their bodies.

"You have the power to control your life, and you can make a difference," she said. "You have to fit fitness into your life."

Brick added that there are free fitness centers on post for those with a Common Access Card.

"That means there is no excuse to avoid exercise," she said.

Pointing out that obesity is a disease that affects many Americans, Brick said the treatment of obesity costs Americans \$93 billion a year, and the average

See WOMEN, page 3

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMNE-APG-PA, Building 2201, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation

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

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Veterans' Voices

Web site helps veterans and Families after deployment

U.S. DoD Military Health System

Since launching Aug. 5, 2008, [Afterdeployment.org](http://www.afterdeployment.org) has grown to provide more information and resources for service members returning from deployment – as well as for their Families.

“It’s a free resource that can be very helpful for veterans transitioning back from their deployment,” said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director for TRICARE Management Activity.

The site provides change strategies and educational materials that address combat stress and triggers; conflict at work; re-connecting with Family and friends; depression; anger; sleep problems; substance abuse; stress management; kids and deployment; spiritual guidance; living with physical injuries and health and wellness.

The updated Web site at <http://www.afterdeployment.org> features workshops in the “Improving Relationships” program. These workshops provide service members with valuable tools for overcoming the tendency to isolate from friends and Family, building relationship skills and reconnecting with partners following

a deployment.

[Afterdeployment.org](http://www.afterdeployment.org) also added self-help workshops and activities in the “Helping Kids Deal with Deployment,” “Seeking Spiritual Fitness” and “Controlling Drugs and Alcohol” sections of the Web site.

“The diversity of registered users on [Afterdeployment.org](http://www.afterdeployment.org) is a testimony to how wonderful the site is. Users report very positive feelings about the usefulness and quality of information available on [Afterdeployment.org](http://www.afterdeployment.org),” Granger said. “We’ve received great feedback, and we expect the Web site to offer even more assistance to Families and veterans,” Granger added. “Statistics indicate that there is a balance of Families, providers, veterans and active duty service members registered on the site.”

The “Explore the Site” box on the top right of the page is a gateway to the site’s many materials. Anonymous registration is required only for the workshops.

For transition behavioral health help, go to <http://www.afterdeployment.org>. For info on how TRICARE can help behavioral health, go to <http://www.tricare.mil>.

Enrolling in VA Maryland Health Care System

VA

Anyone who served in the armed forces and received an honorable discharge may qualify for health care benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The VA Maryland Health Care System is a dynamic and progressive health care organization that is dedicated to providing quality, compassionate and accessible care and services to Maryland’s veterans. With eight sites of care located throughout the state and a full range of services offered, the VA Maryland Health Care System is available to assist veterans with their health care needs.

To apply for care with the VA Maryland Health Care System, veterans can stop by the Baltimore or Perry Point VA Medical Centers, or the Cambridge, Fort Howard, Glen Burnie, Loch Raven or Pocomoke City VA Outpatient Clinics. Interested veterans can also contact the Enrollment Center for the VA Maryland Health Care System, 1-800-463-6295, extension 7324. To enroll for VA health care on line, visit www.maryland.va.gov.

Women

From page 2

American is 85 percent less active than in 1900.

Brick said that it has shown there are economic benefits of regular exercise and that a “healthy workplace is a happy workplace.” She said that those who are physically active are less likely to miss work due to illness, exhibit increased productivity because they working at a higher energy level, and have reduced health care costs.

Brick said that it is necessary to plan your life so that fitness is included.

“If you fail to plan, you plan to fail,” she said, and cautioned the audience to limit “time wasters” like television, and the Internet, which can take away from activity.

Brick added that exercise and eating healthy will make a big difference later in life.

“How you treat yourself in your twenties will determine the aging process later on. It adds years to your life and life to your years,” she said.

Brick concluded that once you make exercise a part of your life, it will be habit forming.

“It only takes twenty-one days to form a habit,” she said.

For more fitness tips by Brick, visit www.brickbodies.com.

Controlling finances

“Taking the Lead to Control Your Budget in 2009” was presented by Michael Dilworth, chief, Marketing and Business Division, and Liz Leoni-Monti, Business Banking Direct.

Both presenters told attendees that they can do little things that can result in big savings.

“Be mindful of what you have and grateful of what you have; live within your means,” Leoni-Monti said.

She told attendees to plan ahead by making an emergency fund.

She pointed out that some goals fail

because there is no plan in place to achieve the goal.

She advised attendees to make financial goals that are specific, measurable, adjustable, realistic and time oriented which will make the goal achievable.

Dilworth said that attendees should write out their budget for the month and find places to save and spend less.

“Make saving a habit,” he said.

For more tips on saving money and planning a budget, visit www.chosetosave.org, www.mymoney.gov, and <http://www.360financialliteracy.org/>.

Developing your potential: living on a purpose

Norma Tilton, a management consultant and business trainer who also teaches classes at Harford Community College, taught an afternoon workshop on developing one’s potential.

Tilton said that having a positive attitude is a key component to success.

“You have a choice every day regarding the attitude that you will embrace for the day,” she said.

Tilton told attendees that they need to practice motivational self talk, like, “I am organized and in control of my life. I am in control of myself, my thoughts, my time, my actions and my future.”

She suggested that when facing a task, envision how you will feel when it is done, which will give you motivation to do the task.

She encouraged attendees to live with purpose, and find ways to make life more meaningful. She added that if the job doesn’t bring fulfillment, consider a job change or volunteer to use services outside of work.

Tilton advised attendees to read “Learned Optimism: How to Change Your Mind and Change Your Life and Mission: Success!” by Og Mandino for more information on how a positive attitude shapes success.

Vendors included

- APG Federal Credit Union
- APG Family and Morale Welfare

and Recreation

- Avon
- Brick Bodies, Inc.
- Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine-Buying Green Program
- Federally Employed Women, MD Tri-County Chapter
- Freedom Federal Credit Union
- Harford Community College
- Harford County Department of Community Service
- Healthy Options
- International Association for Administrative Professionals
- Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc.
- MD Jewelry Designs
- Melaleuca—A health and wellness company
- PlaceMat Purses

• Sexual Abuse/Spouse Abuse Resource Center

• Studio 432—arts and crafts from recycled products

APG Outdoor Journal

Commentary: Do not feed the feral cats



Photo by MARGUERITE TOWSON



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

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

Now I know as soon as I open my mouth (or in this case, put pen to paper) I'm probably going to stir up a yellow jacket's nest with this week's column, but sometimes you just gotta get up on your soapbox and tell it like it is.

Folks, this feeding of feral cats here on Aberdeen Proving Ground is absolutely wrong, and if you're doing it, you need to stop and think about what you're doing. Not only are you doing a disservice to the environment and the wildlife, but you're creating a situation around your workplace that could have devastating results, not only to you, but to your co-workers as well.

I've been around wildlife for almost 42 years, and if there's one thing I've learned over the years, it's this: you don't mess around with Mother Nature!

Cats are warm blooded critters, just like raccoons, foxes, rabbits, deer, etc., and as such, they are susceptible to all sorts of little things that Mother Nature uses to control wildlife populations, things such as rabies, distemper, mange, anthrax, etc. These are diseases of animals that can readily be transmitted to humans, and the feral cats found here on the installation can be, and often are, exposed to these diseases.

Feral cats are, for all intents and purposes, wild animals; they are not pets; they haven't been vaccinated or treated for fleas or ticks; and they are not confined to a disease-free environment such as one might find in a residential home environment.

If you're one of those feeding the feral cats, you might want to consider this:

APG policy strictly forbids this activity, and disciplinary actions have been taken in the past against individuals who've been caught violating this policy.

In addition, you might just be putting yourself or your Family in financial jeopardy in the event that one of these cats you're feeding bites or injures a co-worker? If it can be proven that you've been feeding or "taking care" of a critter that bites or injures someone, it would be my guess that you could find yourself facing some serious liability issues, and perhaps end up being a defendant in a civil lawsuit, especially if the injured party happens to know a good lawyer.

Aside from the threat they pose to humans, feral cats do irreparable harm to our native wildlife species here at APG. They are hunters pure and simple, and even though exact numbers are not known, some wildlife experts estimate that each year feral cats kill millions of birds and small mammals such as rabbits, squirrels, cardinals, wrens, bluebirds, etc. That's their nature and they're good at it.

Don't get me wrong, I do not dislike cats. In fact, over the years my Family and I have had several, but they've been well cared for, vaccinated and spent most of their time indoors.

Because feral cats come a'runnin' when you put out food doesn't mean that they are tame or friendly, it only means they've been conditioned to come for food, much like the birds that come to the birdfeeder when you fill it up with sunflower seeds.

Take my word for it, I've been around this business long enough to know that feral cats will definitely bite the hand that feeds them.

Please, do me and yourself a favor, if you're feeding cats, please stop.

If you know of a feral cat colony here at APG, call the Pest Control people at 410-278-3303. They are properly trained and equipped to humanely trap and transport these animals to an appropriate shelter or treatment facility.

(Editor's note: After a year of enjoying the musing thoughts (or should I say amusing thoughts) of my older friend, Bill will say goodbye to readers in his final journal entry in APG News next week. You won't want to miss it.)

CDC participates in Read Across America

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Aberdeen Area Child Development Center kicked off the annual Read Across America celebration March 3 with a month of story time readings by volunteer parents.

The National Education Association promotes Read Across America as an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for children to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss.

The kickoff was held March 3 due to a March 2 snow storm.

Lisanne Blake, CDC training curriculum specialist, welcomed two groups of 3- to 5-year-olds to the center's playroom for the reading.

Blake said the celebration included an activity in which the children took home paper cutouts of train cars.

"Every time a child reads with their parent, the parent signs the cutout and the child turns it in," she said. "We post them on the wall and at the end of the month we'll see how far around the center the train reaches."

Wearing paper hats styled after the Seuss character, The Cat in the Hat, the children gathered on the floor in a semi-circle as Blake ushered in the guest reader. Dressed in a Cat in the Hat costume, Jamal Lawson, a human resources assistant with the Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center, greeted the children and then read to them from two Seuss books, "There's a Wocket in my Pocket," and "Green Eggs and Ham."

Lawson, whose 4-year-old son, Isaac, attends the program, said that he was quick to respond after receiving a request for parent volunteers.

"I read to all three of my kids regularly, although my youngest just likes the pictures," he said.

At the end of the reading, Lawson pulled out a gift bag and gave each child an NEA 'Celebrate the Fun of Reading' pencil.



Children listen as Jamal Lawson, a human resources assistant with the Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center, right, reads 'There's a Wocket in my Pocket' by Dr. Seuss during the Read Across America kickoff at the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center March 3.

Tamika Cruz, parent of 2-year-old Jayden Cruz, also dressed in costume and read "The Foot Book" to the infants and 2-years-olds.

Stacey Umbarger, a parent volunteer and member of the Parent Child Care Association, said that the PCCA purchased the hats, pencils and the Cat in the Hat costume for the program.

"We celebrate the program every year and do our part to promote reading and parent participation," she said.

In cities and towns across the nation, teachers, teen volunteers, librarians, politicians, actors, athletes, parents, grandparents and others develop Read Across America activities to bring reading excitement to children of all ages. To learn more about Read Across America or to start a program, visit the NEA Web site, <http://www.nea.org>.



From left, Bradley Kunkel, Mykenzie Kovalsick, Briana Long, Bridgette Carven, Kathryn Cheng and Mikayla Bryant enjoy the Dr. Seuss story, 'Green Eggs and Ham' during the 4- to 5-year-olds' Read Across America kickoff in the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center.

Youth Services worker creates board game



From left to right, Charles Novak, a homework lab instructor who works for the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, plays a board game that he created with Deana Twitty, 14, Tara Harkum, 13, and Amina Jones, 13.

Story and photos by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

An Aberdeen Proving Ground youth services worker has created a board game based on the Aberdeen Area Youth Center.

Charles Novak, a homework lab instructor, came up with the idea last summer during the center's summer camp program when Kelly Peace, a Youth Center leader, asked the children to create a game.

"I started thinking of a game that would interest children--something that they would like

to play on rainy days or days off from school," he said. "I thought the children would like to play a game that would relate to their life at the Youth Center."

Novak created the game by using a 5-foot game board and took pictures around the Youth Center to be used as rooms in the game. He even took pictures of leaders and children to be used as game pieces using popsicle sticks to hold the pieces together. He used clipart from the Internet to create the scenery on the board.

The object of the game is to

earn 100 points by going around the board. Players win points going into different rooms in the AA Youth Center, where they draw a card and either win or lose points, which they keep track of on a Student Progress Report. Players can move in any direction around the board, and some rooms let players jump to different areas on the board.

"The cards are based on real situations that have happened at the Youth Center," Novak said.

The cards are positive: "You dominated the world in Risk, win 5 points" or negative: "You



The game board that Novak made is based on the AA Youth Center.

hit Ms. Glenda with a paper airplane, loose 5 points."

Novak said that part of the game is to reinforce positive behavior. For instance, at one point in the game, to earn points, players must recite the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, which are taught in the Youth Center.

For research, Novak tasked counselors in different areas of the center for suggestions on situations that he could put in the game.

"I am still creating new cards and coming up with more ideas for the game," Novak said. "I tried to make the situations comical, while based on their life [at the center]. It took me

a couple of months to create the game, and I am still thinking of more ideas. More people requested to be made into game pieces," Novak said.

He added that the children have also made suggestions for playing cards, and he dedicated the game to the children of the Youth Center. On the board it says, "This is dedicated to all the boys and girls of the Youth Center; without their creativity this would not be possible."

Lucinda McDowell, a program assistant for the center, said that she was impressed with the work that Novak put into the game.

"I am proud to be his co-worker, I think he should be recognized for his work," she said.

G-Street

From front page

Directorate of Public Works, the APG Fire Department and Emergency Operations Center, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, U.S. Army Chemical Agent Response Activity and the remediation contractor. The removal action required the use of Level A personal protection and engineering controls, including a vapor contain-

ment structure maintained under negative pressure during remediation with a chemical agent filtration system.

Wrobel said that keeping the public informed and updated through the APG Restoration Advisory Board and other information outlets throughout the clean-up process contributed to the successful completion of the project and that the RAB communications chair regularly sat in on the meetings and received daily updates.

"She praised the project as one of the best she's ever seen," he said.

"Throughout the operations there were no accidents or exposures," Gross said adding that two open houses to inform the public were held on-site before and during the project to inform interested individuals about site activities and the safety protocols that would be in place at the most hazardous area of the site.

"We received good feedback which just emphasizes the importance of keeping all interested parties informed," he said.

The final report states that the historical activities at the G-Street Salvage Yard

resulted in a significant amount of waste and scrap metal remaining at the site, mostly on the surface. To reduce the volume of solid waste shipped off-site for disposal and to re-use or recycle much of the scrap metal, a concurrent operation of separating metals from waste was conducted on site. As a result, approximately 15,000 pounds of aluminum was segregated and diverted from landfills and the project team coordinated with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory to reuse or recycle the aluminum through existing recycling programs.



SAFETY

Bicycling on APG



DES

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Emergency Services is responsible for the enforcement of bicycle safety policy.

Personnel riding bicycles on APG are reminded of the rules of the road:

- All personnel who operate a bicycle on APG will be in compliance with applicable Department of Defense, Army, state of Maryland and APG regulations.

- All bicycle operators on APG will wear a bright reflective belt or vest (orange, yellow or green) diagonally over the right shoulder and down under the arm for visibility over upper body clothing day and night. If a back pack is worn when riding, a reflective belt or vest will be placed round the back pack in addition to the upper body reflective belt to ensure total visibility.

- Loose clothing will be secured to prevent entanglement while riding.

- All individuals on a bicycle will wear properly fastened and approved (e.g., Consumer Produce Safety Commission, American National Standards Institute or Snell Memorial Foundation) bicycle helmet.

- Fully enclosed shoes must be worn at all times when riding and provide a good grip on the pedals.

- Bicyclists must ride in the direction of traffic and obey all traffic signals, signs and devices, except when dismounted to make turns, at which time regulations pertaining to pedestrians apply.

- The use of portable headphones, earphones, cell phones and other similar devices while riding a bicycle on roads and streets on APG is prohibited. They

are not to be worn en-route to or departure from designated walkways, paths and recreational areas.

- Hearing aids are not prohibited.
- Bicycle safety rules do not exclude hearing protection if needed where conditions dictate, or when communication-type equipment is being used for official Army business.

(Editor's note: The safety policy for riding bicycles on APG supersedes Memorandum, AMSSB-DIC, subject: Bicycle, Foot-Propelled, and Motorized Recreational Equipment Safety, dated 27 Oct 04 and implements requirements listed in APGR 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic dated 27 Oct 04; 385-4, APG Safety and Occupational Health (SOP) Program dated 15 Feb 07; AR 385-10, The Army Safety Program dated 23 Aug 07; and DoD Instruction 6055.4, DoD Traffic Safety Program dated 20 July 99.)



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 #25

You're driving a four-lane city highway going the posted speed limit of 35 mph. There are cars parked parallel to the curb and cars going in your direction on your left. As you are about to pass a car parked on the right about 50 feet ahead, the door on the driver's side opens. What should you do?

A. Honk, medium brake, ease off brake, veer left, but stay in your lane.

B. Honk, hard brake, and turn right into rear of car.

Answer A. “Honk, medium brake, ease off brake, veer left, but stay in your lane” is the best choice. This is all that's necessary. To turn right into the parked car is an over-reaction. You need to take some evasive action, but not that much. Chances are the driver will close his door after hearing your horn, but if not, you should be able to get around the driver without leaving your lane.

Answer B. “Honk, hard brake, and turn right into rear of car” isn't necessary. You may have been thinking that the driver might step out. There is that possibility, but after hearing your horn, the driver is more apt to close the door than to get out.

ATEC

From front page

be ready for tenant occupancy by June 2011.

“The facility as planned will be a GOLD [highest level] Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design [LEED] rated facility that will substantially reduce ATEC's energy use in future years and will set a high standard for new facilities built throughout the Army,” Vogt said. “The end result is anticipated to be a facility that provides a prominent command presence and an outstanding work environment that ATEC's employees can be proud of in carrying out the important mission of testing and evaluation of equipment and technology in support of our Soldiers.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is a full-spectrum engineering force of Soldiers and civilians dedicated to serving the armed forces and the nation with innovative and effective solutions to a broad range of engineering challenges.

“The Baltimore District is proud to take on the challenge of constructing a 21st-century headquarters for the Army Test and Evaluation Command at APG,” said Baltimore District project manager Michael M. Anderson. “Our entire Project Delivery Team is dedicated to working with our partners at ATEC, Foulger-Pratt, and APG to speed the delivery of this critical component of the Army's BRAC program for the benefit of the Warfighter, the armed forces and the nation.”



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apg.army.mil**



APG celebrates The Year of the NCO

RDECOM NCOs gather at APG for quarterly training

Story by
LARRY D. MCCASKILL
RDECOM

United in focus and in their mission, the noncommissioned officers of the U.S. Research Development and Engineering Command gathered at Aberdeen Proving Ground to conduct their quarterly professional development training March 4 through 6.

Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, RDECOM commander, greeted his NCOs at the kick off of the training and ensured them that they had his full support.

"This was the first time that the commander was able to talk to all of his NCOs at the same time," said RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Hector G. Marin. "This not only provides the NCOs direct guidance from the commander, it also serves as a morale booster."

The general challenged his NCOs to continue to look out for the Soldier and to see to it that standards are met.

"He reminded us that it's about the little things, the attention to details that can be important," said Sgt. 1st Class Amin

Henriquez, RDECOM operations sergeant. "He also told us about his admiration for the NCOs he's worked with throughout the years and that they helped him to get where he is today."

For three solid days, the NCOs toured and talked to personnel to gain a better situational understanding of the affects of RDECOM on training at APG. The opportunity was also used to increase the NCOs awareness of the role of program manager.

"We're not a conventional unit," said 1st Sgt. James Laverty, Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, Aviation Applied Technology Directorate, Fort Eustis, Va. "Meetings like this help tremendously. It helps the organization because we are so fragmented and located in so many different areas. These meetings bring our senior NCOs together and help prevent us from getting stove piped."

In some instances a center or lab might only have one or two NCOs. Coming to these training sessions provides them with a



Photo by CONRAD JOHNSON
Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, commanding general of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, discusses his command philosophy with his noncommissioned officers during their quarterly professional development meeting.

broader scope of what our capabilities are as a command and not just as an individual lab or center. That information alone is priceless."

Sgt. Maj. Thomas Coleman, Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering

Center, Natick, Mass., talked to the NCOs on their value in the development and acquisition process.

It is crucial that NCOs articulate their mission within the command to program managers and program executive offi-

cers," Coleman said. Providing a clear understanding of their goals to the program managers and program executive officers will help in the decision making process when it comes to funding and fielding various initiatives.

Chapel News

'Reform your lives and believe in the Gospel'

By
CHAPLAIN (COL)
RUBEN COLON
USAGAPG

A married couple had lived together for 25 years in what outwardly seemed like a reasonably good union. The husband was a good provider; the wife was a good housekeeper.

They went to church together every

Sunday and prayed together every night before they retired.

But they did have one problem that seemed insurmountable. They could not have a conversation that didn't end up in an argument.

Finally, the wife decided she'd had enough, but because of her religious scruples, divorce was out of the question. However, she had a better idea.

One night as the couple settled

down for their nightly prayers, she said to her husband, "We must put an end to this terrible situation we're in. We can't go on like this anymore. Since today is the first day of Lent, why don't we pray that things will change. Let's pray that the Lord will call one of us home to Him. Then I can go live with my sister."

Although one would suspect that the wife's proposal fell short of the true

Lenten spirit, nevertheless Lent is the season in which the call to reform and change is emphasized.

Lent is the season for serious reflection on the direction in which your life is headed. You hear God calling you from one direction, the devil from another.

The question is, "Which way do you go?" The decision is yours.

(Editor's note: *Headline quote is from Mark 1:15.*)

Holy Season worship schedule

Easter Sunrise Worship Service

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

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

For more information, call 410-278-4333.

Lenten holy week schedule

Catholic Services

Aberdeen Area

- March 20, 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross; movie "Brother Sun Sister Moon," the story of St. Francis of Assisi

- April 3, 6 p.m., Stations of the Cross; movie "The Passion of the Christ," Mel Gibson's movie about the arrest, trial, torture, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus

- April 5, 8:30 a.m., Palm Sunday Mass

- April 10, 3 p.m., Good Friday Stations of the Cross

- April 11, 8 p.m., Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

- April 12, 8:30 a.m., Easter Sunday Mass

Lenten program

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

- March 25, "Ashes to Glory;" experience the depths of love, the power of forgiveness and the joy of everlasting life found in the Easter Story.

- April 1, "Hildegard of Bingen;" environmentalist, musician, herbalist, abbess, poet and mystic of the 11th century – relevant to our times.

- April 8, "Living Stations of the Cross"

Edgewood Area

- March 27, 6 p.m., Stations of the

Cross; movie "The Song of Bernadette," tells the story of Saint Bernadette Soubirous who, from February to July 1858 in Lourdes, France, reported 18 visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- April 5, 10:45 a.m., Palm Sunday Mass

- April 9, 7 p.m., Holy Thursday mass, Adoration

- April 10, 7 p.m., Good Friday Solemn Service

- April 12, 10:45 a.m., Easter Sunday Mass

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

Jewish events

Shabbat Worship Service

Shabbat Worship Service will be held 7:30 p.m., March 20, at Temple Adas Shalom, The Harford Jewish Center located on 8 North Earlton Road, Ext.,

Havre de Grace.

Cost is \$10 for adults and teens 13 and older; \$5 for children ages 4 to 12; and no charge for children ages 3 and under. Cost includes fish dinner, musical worship service with Rabbi Gila Ruskin and Mike Mullis.

Registration will be held 6:15 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and Shabbat Worship Service begins 7:30 p.m.

For more information or to make reservations, call Eileen Moss, 410-939-3170, ext. 17, or e-mail ebubbe@yahoo.com, or send in paid reservations payable to Harford Jewish Center, 8 North Earlton Road, Ext., Havre de Grace, MD 21078.

Passover Seder

The Passover Seder, is April 9

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

DAPS

From front page

include programs for the APG Garrison monthly retirement ceremonies and equal opportunity observances as well as technical reports for the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and Aberdeen Test Center.

The organization moved into the building in October 2008 from a much larger facility next door. Hastmann said that having the operation almost totally consolidated in one room makes it easier to operate with fewer employees.

"At one time we had fifty employees with a lot of hard copy requirements on printing presses," he said. "This way is much easier and more convenient for our employees and our customers."

There are 12 DAPS operations in the Washington-Metro area, Hastmann said, noting that his manager, Ronald Downs operates the Annapolis and Fort Meade offices.

DAPS also provides a Web-based solution for ordering DAPS services at www.daps.dla.mil, he added.

He credited the DAPS staff with providing the first rate service the office is known for.

"All our employees here have more than twenty years experience," he said.

Employees include electronic equipment operators, Candyce Burke, Carol Matteu and Gary Bowman.

Matteu, who has 23 years experience, said the group handles the workload by multi-tasking.

"Everyone here can do everything," she said.

With 27 years experience, Burke said they work closely with customers to provide customized products.

"We ask customers to bring designs on CD in Word, PowerPoint, JPEG or other formats," she said. "We don't do any designing. It usually has to be photo ready. Bring your ideas and what you require. We have a lot of resources to serve the customer but if we can't do it here then we forward it to procurement in Alexandria, Virginia."

Jonathan Rodden, DAPS corporate account executive, said that besides printing options, DAPS offers online services.

"With BRAC coming people are going to have files to move. Instead, convert it to electronics and it now becomes more useful and you don't have to pay shipping costs," he said. "It's important to establish the service now and not wait

until 2010 when everyone will need it."

"Electronic document solutions are the wave of the future, and it's green technology," added Joseph Ortiz, a DAPS information technologist from Washington, D.C.

He said that data would be stored in a huge data warehouse with multiple backup systems.

"It will be stored in a secure software application and customers don't pay for shipping unless it needs to be placed in a national archive somewhere," he said.

Jim Moscardini, DAPS customer service representative, said DAPS is reintroducing itself to the community to let customers know "what we do helps everybody."

"The more we can do locally, the more we can justify bringing in even more equipment based on demand," he said.

Visitors to the open house included ARL's Karen Filkil and Louise LeTendre, technical services librarians and Connie McEowen, reference librarian. They watched electronic equipment operator Gary Bowman run the color copier from a digital file and then looked at samples of finished reports in binders.

"I knew about the [DAPS] and I came to see the new operation," McEowen said. "It's amazing they do what they do

with a staff of only five."

Pointing out the importance of paper selection in photography, Filkil said she was already used to the quality work the office provides.

"The grade of paper is so important for detail," she said. "We can always count on their quality work. Their support is tremendous."

DAPS is responsible for document automation and printing within the Department of Defense and the Federal Executive Branch agencies encompassing electronic conversion, retrieval, output and distribution of digital and hardcopy information. DAPS has more than 181 centers on military installations in CONUS, Europe, the Caribbean Theater, Asia, the Pacific and Alaska. DAPS is an activity of the Defense Logistics Agency and is headquartered in Mechanicsville, Pa.

Visitors enjoyed complimentary coffee and donuts while taking in the facility's document processing sections and equipment.

The installation DAPS office is located in building 346 on Tower Road. For more information about its printing and publishing options contact Hastmann, 410-278-4635 or e-mail johnnie.hastmann@dla.mil.



Health Notes

Commentary: 39 percent of Soldiers say they have health concerns after deployment

By **CARLLA JONES**
CHPPM

It is not uncommon for Soldiers to report health concerns after deployment. According to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center, during post-deployment reassessment, 39 percent of active duty Soldiers reported they had health concerns (not a wound or injury) and 29 percent reported that their health was worse than before deployment.

Many Soldiers experience minor, temporary changes in their health after returning from a deployment. These short-term changes are mostly due to reintegration into home and Family life, deployment travel and jet lag, and getting used to a different schedule and diet. Soldiers

may also feel tired, have a change in appetite, or experience sore or achy muscles. These effects should be temporary and decrease as the days go by. If these effects do not improve, or if they get worse, Soldiers should be sure to see a health care provider as soon as possible.

It is important to be aware of your health after returning home. Most illnesses related to deployment occur while troops are still in theater. However, some diseases and other medical conditions may not cause noticeable symptoms until several months after Soldiers arrive at their home station.

Almost all symptoms will show up within the first six months after returning from deployment. If you experience any of the following symptoms in the first few weeks or months after return-

ing home, you should get medical care as soon as possible: fever, muscle or joint pain, stomach or bowel problems, swollen glands, skin problems, excessive tiredness, emotional problems, difficulty sleeping, shortness of breath or weight loss.

It is very important to tell health care providers that you were deployed and tell them where you were deployed. The earlier that tests are done to determine the cause of the symptoms, the sooner the correct diagnosis can be made and treatment can begin.

It is not unusual for Soldiers to experience difficulties when readjusting to their home duty station. There are a number of strategies you can use to stay healthy during this time.

- Eat regularly. Make healthy food choices. Stay away from high-fat, high-

sugar foods.

- Get plenty of exercise.
- Don't let medical problems go untreated. Keep regular appointments with your health care providers. Keep up with preventive medicine screenings.
- Make sure to get a good night's sleep.
- Balance the amount of time spent at work, with friends and with Family. Make time to relax. Take time to do activities you enjoy.
- Soldiers should remember to pay attention to their health after they return home from deployment.

If Soldiers have any health concerns, they should be sure to contact their health care provider, the chaplain or their chain of command. They are all excellent sources of information that can help Soldiers and their Family.

Help for post traumatic stress disorder, combat reactions

Story by **MAJ RICHARD BARTON**
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Post traumatic stress disorder is an anxiety disorder that can appear after an individual has witnessed or experienced an event they perceive as traumatic.

Common signs of PTSD are persistently experiencing the event through dreams or flashbacks, avoiding events or situations that are similar to the event, increased anxious feelings, and significant impairment of social, occupational or personal functioning. When these symptoms continue in combination beyond a month, those combinations of symptoms could be PTSD.

People who witnessed or experienced childhood or adult physical, emotional or sexual abuse; assault; an auto accident; or a near-death experience may also experience PTSD-like reactions. Firefighters and police officers who place themselves in harm's way may have reactions that are similar to PTSD. Service members who are involved directly or indirectly in combat or deal with the results of combat actions may have experiences that lead to reactions similar to PTSD.

Reports of combat reaction have been identified since the 6th century B.C.

In 490 B.C., the Greek historian Herodotus, in recording the Battle of Marathon, described PTSD-like reactions in an Athenian soldier. During the

Civil War, these reactions were called "soldiers' heart." In World War I, PTSD was labeled "shell shock." During World War II, it was called "battle fatigue," and in the Korean War, it was titled "operational exhaustion." Through the efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, identification of specific symptoms and the use of the term PTSD began during the Vietnam War.

Most individuals exposed to a traumatic event experience some level of acute stress reactions, or acute stress disorder. These reactions are similar to PTSD, however the length of time and continued intensity distinguishes one from the other. ASD lasts between two days and four weeks. Reactions that are lesser in intensity and length are commonly referred to as combat reactions.

Contributing factors that can lead to PTSD are reduced levels of sleep due to dreams or agitation (frequently called hyper-vigilance) that may lead to sleep deprivation and the misuse of alcohol used to manage reactions. Increased alcohol tolerance can magnify the potential for addiction, and studies have shown that excessive alcohol use will adversely affect sleep patterns, multiplying the impact of sleep deprivation.

Overall, people with combat reactions, ASD or PTSD can learn to successfully identify and manage their reactions. For those who have, the com-

mon factor is that they acknowledged and accepted their situation and did something about it.

If after 120 days of post-deployment, there is not a significant improvement in sleep or a decrease in combat reactions, seek assistance from a primary-care pro-

vider. You might also search out another healthcare professional, such as a behavioral health officer or chaplain. Military Once Source, www.militaryonesource.com, also offers resources.

(Editor's note: Author is a social worker at USACHPPM.)

TRICARE beneficiaries have access to DoD self-service logon

U.S. DoD Military Health System

The Department of Defense Family member account to access the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, has a new name and the Web site has a new look. It is now called "DS Logon."

A DoD Self-Service Logon—or "DS Logon"—is a secure credential issued to uniformed service members, spouses and other Family members 18 and older who are eligible for benefits in the DEERS system. It allows access to secure DoD web applications.

A DS Logon electronically links a TRICARE beneficiary's identity to their medical records, pay and human resource systems, and allows them to access different web applications, such as the beneficiary web enrollment Web site, <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/>.

To create a DS Logon, sponsors may use their CAC or MyPay pin in the DS Logon Access Manager at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dsaccess>. Sponsors may request a DS Logon for themselves or a Family member. A personal identification number will be mailed along with instructions on how to activate the DS Logon.

Family members can also request a DS Logon for themselves at a RAPIDS station when they are getting an identification card and the one-time PIN will be mailed to them.

For more information about requesting a DS Logon, visit <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dsaccess/pub/FAQ.do>

Visit <http://tricare.mil/mybenefit/> for information about TRICARE benefits.



Deployment News

VFW prepares packages for deployed Soldiers with care

Story by **QUENTIN MELSON**
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

Members of the Harford County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary Post 5337 are constantly assembling care packages for deployed Soldiers from the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) and the 22nd Chemical Battalion.

"We have adopted the 20th Support Command," said Leola Bogdan, president of the Ladies Auxiliary. "We send care packages every couple of months to the Soldiers stationed overseas."

The most recently assembled packages were put together Feb. 17 at the VFW Post in Abingdon.

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary ensure items other than standard issue are available for deployed Soldiers. They have sent nearly 350 care packages filled with snacks, toiletries, phone cards, books, Boy Scout popcorn and Girl Scout cookies to Soldiers from the 20th SUPCOM and 22nd Chemical Battalion alone. All told, VFW Post 5337 has sent thousands of care packages to deployed Soldiers.

"We have a list of stuff we provide," said VFW District 5 President Linda MacArthur. "If anybody writes and asks [for] a particular thing and it's within reason, then we send it."

VFW members keep close contact with the deployed Sol-



Photos by SHARON CHAPMAN
Members of the Harford County Memorial VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Post 5337 add joy to the care packages they prepare for deployed APG Soldiers from the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) and 22nd Chemical Battalion.

diers to assess their needs.

"We've been doing this about five years," added VFW District 5 Commander Douglas MacArthur. "Colonel [Darryl] Briggs [the Task Force Troy chief of staff] calls for Iraq and lets me know what the troops need. [They] recently asked for footballs and soccer balls. The next thing you know, they had footballs and soccer balls."

"The local VFW post routinely coordinates with the Family readiness support assistants of local commands," said Sharon Chapman, FRSA from 20th SUPCOM.

"Marcella [Heilig], FRSA from 22nd Chemical Battalion, the Family Readiness Group advisors and I meet with the

VFW on a regular basis to coordinate the care packages and other support we receive from the VFW -- and what they receive from us," Chapman added. "It is a working relationship to support all our Soldiers and our Families."

The VFW post receives many replies and thank you notes from grateful Soldiers.

"I can't even count all of the cards, notes and certificates we've received from the Soldiers," added Mr. MacArthur. "We also put a card in each package for the Soldiers to request something that they need."

To volunteer or donate items for the care packages, contact the VFW, 410-676-4456.



Putting the final touches on the care packages are VFW members John Middendorf and Pete Bogdan.



FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

APG Youth Talent Show May 9

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

Auditions for the APG Youth Talent Show will be held in the Aberdeen Area, 6 to 8:30 p.m., March 26 and 27 and 2 to 6 p.m., March 28 at the Post Theater. In the Edgewood Area, auditions will be held 6 to 8:30 p.m., April 2 and 3 and 2 to 6 p.m., April 4 at the Stark Recreation Center.

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

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

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

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

Bunco is here to stay

Win door prizes at Bunco, 7 p.m., March 19, April 23 and May 21 at Top of the Bay Chesapeake/Mezzanine. Cost to play is \$5 per person.

Hearts Apart Support Group schedule

Family members from all branches of service, DoD civilians and contractors may participate in Hearts Apart Support Group meetings held in the APG Army

Community Service building 2745, Rodman Road 6 to 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month (April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2).

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

ACS announces Egg Hunt Extravaganza

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

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

Youth Sports registration open

Register now for these youth sports:

- Youth baseball & tee ball (Aberdeen Area only)
- Youth flag football cheerleading
- Start smart basketball
- All cheerleading
- Youth softball (Aberdeen Area only)
- Youth flag football
- Upcoming junior golf
- Tennis programs

For more sports information, call 410-306-2297.

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.

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-liesuretravel@conus.army.mil.

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.

Easter Brunch April 12

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

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

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

Cost also includes assorted desserts,

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

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



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.

Culinary Kids

This hands-on class incorporates science, math, nutrition and kitchen safety into the preparation of fun and delicious culinary specialties.

Classes are Saturday's, 10:30 a.m. to noon, March 21 through May 2, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, for ages

6 to 13.

Some of the dishes on the menu include thai ginger noodle salad, dessert sushi, and Roasted Red Pepper Hummus. Chef hats and aprons provided. To be a chef, one must look like one!

Cost is \$195 per student.

SKIES Unlimited offers Driver's Ed

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

Classes will be held March 30 thru April 14; April 20 thru May 5; May 11 thru 27 (no class May 25); and June 1 thru 16.

Class includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. Cost is \$295 per student.

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

Brazilian Jujitsu

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

Classes for beginners ages 7 to 18 are conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 to 6:45 p.m., March 24 through

April 30, in the Noncommissioned Officer Academy building 4505, Suite C

Cost is \$85 per student.

Tae Kwon Do

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

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

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

Class size is limited so register early.

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.

Auto Craft Shop offers auto detailing

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

Packages include:

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

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

Washing, waxing, cleaning outside windows, wheels and tires

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

Complete detailing

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

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

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

Individual services include exterior washing

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

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

For more information, call 410-278-5178.

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

CWF announces upcoming trips, events

March 28

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. 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.

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 - March 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>.

March bowling specials

The Bowling Center is 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 29 is Penny-a-Pin Day. Cost is \$.01 for every pin knocked 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 16

- Special #1: Italian sausage, french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25.
- Special #2: Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, cookie and regular soda for \$9.95.

Week of March 23

- Special #1: Egg salad sandwich, potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$3.95.
- Special #2: Double bacon cheese burger with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.45.

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



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

Project collaboration saves Soldiers' lives

Story by
MIKE RODDIN
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, TANK AND
AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT
AND ENGINEERING CENTER,
and **ANDRICKA THOMAS**
RDECOM

Seventy-two hours to save Soldiers' lives; 72 hours to assess, design, fabricate, integrate, test, adapt and produce a universal restraint system to ensure gunners won't be thrown from Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles in the event of an accident or vehicle rollover.

Given that small window of opportunity one weekend, the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command pulled together its resources to deliver a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle Gunner Restraint System to the Warfighter in the field. This system increases safety and security for the Soldier in a battlefield environment.

RDECOM's Prototype Integration Facilities answered and delivered rapid results. These facilities specialize in prototyping rapid product developments to bridge the gap between the technology needs of the Soldier and the Soldier using those technologies in theatre.

Working collaboratively, PIF staff from the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center and the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center teamed with the U.S. Army Developmental Testing Command's Aberdeen Test Center to design, integrate, fabricate and test the new MRAP restraint system.

"It's like having a seatbelt in your car," said Sgt. 1st Class Amin Henriquez, noncommissioned officer of operations, RDECOM. "The restraint system prevents the gunner from being thrown from the vehicle in the event it gets hit. The system saves lives."

A restraint system had already been developed for the HMMWV [high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle], but not for the MRAP vehicles, according to Maj. Anh Ha, assistant deputy to the TARDEC Quick Reaction Cell.

The TARDEC Prototype Integration Facility therefore immediately began adapting an existing five-point restraint harness and retractor used in HMMWVs for the various types of MRAP vehicles.

"There were several challenges to overcome," said senior engineer Mike Manceor. "No drawings or computer



U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center engineer Mike Manceor measures bolt hole locations on an Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle gunner's platform for a restraint system. TARDEC Prototype Integration Facility engineers and engineering technicians worked closely with the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and the U.S. Army Developmental Testing Command's personnel to create two universal systems in three days.

Photo by WILLIAM DOWELL

aided design models were available, and no two MRAP variants share the same bolt hole patterns."

Having no design drawings of the MRAPs, engineers measured and developed detailed drawings in order to make a prototype that would fit on each of the vehicles. Designers had to climb into vehicles, physically measure the hole patterns and make detailed drawings from the measurements they took. The designs were then sent to the ECBC facility on Aberdeen Proving Ground where the staff fabricated the parts to build the system.

"ECBC PIF engineers collaborated with TARDEC engineers and program manager personnel in the onsite development and drawings of prototype hardware for GRS for the RG31/RG33 and Cougar vehicles," said Mark Schein, chief, ECBC Advanced Design and Manufacturing Division.

Testing of the prototypes then took place at ATC. Henriquez, who served as part of a team of Soldiers to help test the equipment through limited user evaluations, said he had confidence in the engineers who developed the technology.

"It was like wearing another piece of

Army equipment; I knew it was going to work," Henriquez said.

The result—two universal kits, one designed to fit the RG-31 and three variants of the RG-33; and the other kit designed to fit the Cougar/JERRV.

By Sunday evening two basic designs, one for five of the vehicles and another for the remaining two, were complete. ECBC fabricated mounting hardware; engineers pooled drawing updates.

The collaboration directly supports the RDECOM mission of delivering rapid technology solutions, according to Gary Doggett, chief for Force Integration at RDECOM headquarters. The collaboration saved weeks and possibly months of coordination for completion.

The push had ended, but work continued. TARDEC provided designs and 50 Gunner's Kit platform plates to Blue Grass Army Depot supported by Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., with manufacturing. Designs, prototypes and bill of materials for all vehicles were completed, and kits were fabricated, assembled and shipped to theater.

"Our engineers work hard behind the scenes but often don't get to immediately see the fruits of their labor," said

RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Hector G. Marin. "But with this project, they saw immediate impact. Their hard work and dedication saved lives within ninety-six hours of project completion."

"I'm planning on future collaborations," said Jim Soltesz, TARDEC PIF director. "In my mind, I think of them [other RDECOM elements] as an arm, and extension of our organization." Soltesz said this partnership helped gain safety certification and fabrication efforts quicker, and in turn enabled the team to get the product to the Warfighter quicker.

Giving up a weekend for the PIF RDECOM team is not uncommon; they just want to complete the mission.

"We're here to make things easier for the Warfighter," Soltesz said. "We provide protection and safety, that's our job...to make the Soldier's life easier so they can complete the mission."

This isn't the first project they've done on deadline and the dedication does not falter with this team.

The MRAP gunner restraint system is slated to be completed by the end of February, according to Eric Emerton, spokesperson from the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Command.

Gunpowder Toastmaster selected by peers to compete in regional contest

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The Gunpowder Toastmasters held chapter speech and table topics contests Feb. 17 for members to demonstrate their public speaking abilities and to determine who would represent the chapter in the annual international contest.

Toastmasters is a club that focuses on improving members' public speaking and leadership skills and provides networking opportunities.

Contest-master Dave Garcia started the meeting by welcoming guests and explaining the contest rules of the Table Topics contest.

Contestants Roger Staso, George Alsfield, Stephen Fine and Adam Freeland were asked to speak on "their favorite pastime." Contestants do not know the topic before the contest, so speakers had to "think on their feet" by making an impromptu 1- to 2.5-minute speech.

Freeland, the club's vice president for Public Relations, won the contest by giving a speech about his love of sports, and Fine came in second by giving a speech about how he gets enjoyment by trying to predict the stock market.

During the International Speech contest, contestants prepared their own 4.5- to 7.5-minute speeches.

They must have completed at least six speeches in the Communication and Leadership Program manual prior to competing in the chapter's contest.

Freeland won the International Speech contest for his speech entitled "The Attitude of Gratitude," where he described how his faith has resulted in his attitude of gratitude.

"One of the deepest cravings we have as human beings is gratefulness," he said during his speech.

Alsfield won second place for his speech, "It's Not About the Cancer," where he described how he has a grateful attitude toward life and living despite having cancer.

Freeland will compete in the Area 24 International Speech and Table Topics contest on April 13 at Harford Community College. In the event that Freeland cannot compete, Fine and Alsfield will represent Gunpowder Toastmasters in their respective contests.

Other contestants for the Table Topics included Staso, Alsfield, and Lane, and Fine also participated in the International Speech contest.

At the end of the meeting, guests were presented an opportunity to share their interests in public speaking and their impression of the club. Several commented that they would like to work on improving their public speaking skills.

"Toastmasters helps members learn how to give speeches and communicate in any situation," said Carmen Lane, vice president for Membership. "We come together in a supportive and safe environment to practice our public speaking skills while having lots of fun."

"I read books on leadership, and most of them suggest joining Toastmasters to work on public speaking skills," said Capt. Rick Jansen, who teaches maintenance management for the 61st Ordnance Brigade. "I would like to work on these skills, and I also like that it gives me the opportunity to meet other people, and lets me hear other perspectives outside of the military. I think you can learn so much from other people, and this is an enlightening experience."

Freeland, who works for an investment firm in Bel Air, said that he appreciated being recognized as a competent public speaker by his peers.

"I have been involved with Toastmasters on and off for ten years," he said. "I joined to be a better communicator in a friendly environment. When you are in Toastmasters, you work on your skills and public speaking, learn to have fun with it, and it gets addictive."

Lane commented that she also joined the club to help improve her public speaking skills, and was extra pleased to find that the club is fun and even educational.

"I feel like it has helped me in many aspects in my life," she said. "I have become more aware of how to communicate more effectively during meetings and even during one-on-one conversations."

Gunpowder Toastmasters meets on the first and third Mondays every month at 11:40 a.m. in the seminar room of the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility (building E-4516) in the Edgewood Area.

Toastmasters is open to everyone. For more information call Lane, 410-436-8969, or e-mail carmen.lane@us.army.mil, or Freeland, 410-838-2992, or e-mail adamfreeland@comcast.net. For more information on Toastmasters International and communication and career tips, visit <http://www.toastmasters.org> and visit <http://www.toastmasters-d18.org/> for local Toastmasters International events.

Arbor Day poster contest rules, deadlines

As part of Aberdeen Proving Ground's annual Arbor Day celebration, Child, Youth and School Services will host a poster contest. Arbor Day at APG will be held the week of April 6. Arbor Day poster rules

- Children and youths should use white poster board, size 18" by 24".
- The theme for 2009 is Trees are Treasure.
- Children and youths can use various mediums to include but not limited to: crayon, markers, color pencil, watercolors, tempera paint, collage materials, photos, etc.
- The contest will be open to the public.

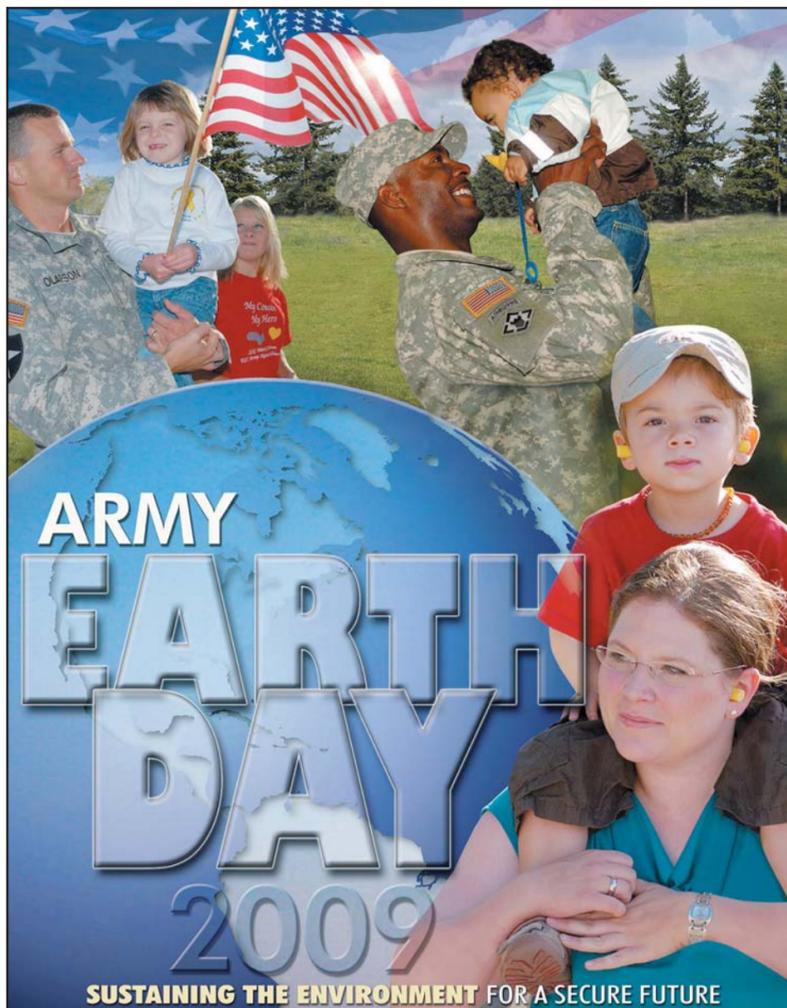
Judging will be by age groups. Age groups include kindergarten, first and second grades; third and fourth grades; fifth and sixth grades; seventh and

eighth grades; and ninth through 12th grades.

- The deadline for submission is April 6. Posters may be left in the Aberdeen Area at the Childcare Center (building 2485) and in Edgewood at the Child & Youth Services building (E-1901).
- Posters should have the child's name, age, and a contact phone number on the back (or otherwise attached). APG will attempt to contact winning artists prior to the Arbor Day event.

Award presentations will take place at the Arbor Day Celebration April 9. Winning posters will be displayed during the celebration.

For more information, contact April Tull: april.tull@us.army.mil or 410-436-2902.



Community Notes

THURSDAY

MARCH 19 SAME CHESAPEAKE POST MONTHLY MEETING

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at the Top of the Bay. The featured speaker is David Craig, Harford County Executive, who will give a presentation on the impact of BRAC on Harford County and its infrastructure. Space is limited and reservations are required. RSVP online at www.same-chesapeake.org.

FRIDAY

MARCH 20 BASKET BINGO

A basket bingo will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, Aberdeen, to benefit the Aberdeen High School Chorus.

Doors open 6 p.m. and games begin 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 AND SUNDAY

MARCH 21 & 22 BASIC BOATING CLASSES

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 22-04 will offer Basic Boating classes, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 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 registra-

tion, call Chris Travers, 443-567-9720, e-mail uscgaux1301@comcast.net or visit <http://a0541301.uscgaux.info/>.

SATURDAY

MARCH 21 GREEN FEVER TERRARIUM

Bring a recycled two-liter bottle and learn how to make a mini greenhouse. This program will be held 11 a.m. to noon for ages 8 to 12. The cost is \$4 per terrarium. 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.

WHITETAILED DEER SURVEY

Harford County seems to be experiencing explosive population growth, and not just with humans. So, come help to determine if the deer population of Leight Park is a healthy size. Come get the scoop on poop and conduct pellet (deer scat) counts out on the trails to determine how many deer call the park home. This program will be held 9 a.m. to noon for ages 16 to adult. 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.

BEEF AND SHRIMP

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135 located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will serve beef and shrimp, 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 per person and includes draught beer and musical entertainment with Sammy K. For more information, call 410-642-2771.

CRITTER DINNER TIMES

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat and learn more about these fascinating creatures. This free program begins at 1:30 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.

THE ULTIMATE JAZZ EXPERIENCE

The Charlton-Miller Veterans of Foreign War Post 6054, located at 206 Spesutia Road, Perryman will feature one of Baltimore's hottest Jazz/R&B Bands – 'Beyond Blue,' 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets cost \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. There will be a free light buffet while it lasts.

For more information or directions, call 410-272-3444.

SUNDAY

MARCH 22 101ST ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The women of St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street, will celebrate their 101st Annual Women's Day, 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be Bishop Violet L. Fisher who served the United Methodist Church. A musical celebration will begin at 4 p.m.

For more information, call 410-939-2267.

MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This free program begins at 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.

CHILDREN'S GARDENING I - GETTIN' SEEDY IN THE GREENHOUSE

Jump into the garden season with seed starting, using the greenhouse

and make a mini-greenhouse to take home. This program will be held 1 to 2 p.m. for ages 5 to 10. The cost is \$5 and 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.

ALL TIED UP

Have fun with cordage while tying some basic knots. Scouts may find this useful. This free program will be held 3 to 4 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. 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

MARCH 26 KARAOKE/LADIES NIGHT

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

For more information or for directions, call 410-272-3444.

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

APG SCHOOL LIAISON

Registration opens for Operation Purple Camp

Registration is now open for this summer's Operation Purple Camp program.

Operation Purple Camp is a week-long, overnight camp open to all military children ages 7 to 17. The program aims to help military children experience care-free fun while learning coping skills to deal with deployment-related stress and foster relationships with other children who know what they are going through.

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

"Deployment" is defined loosely as Temporary Duty Assignment and travel can often take service members away from Family for significant periods of time.

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

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

POST SHORTS

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/](https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas/student/) and be approved by their supervisor.

RAB meeting March 26

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m. at a new location, Vitali's Restaurant & Banquets, 1709 Edgewood Road and Route 24 in Edgewood.

The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Carroll Island, Graces Quarters and J-Field Study Areas.

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

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

Translators needed

The APG Public Affairs Office is updating a list of people who are interested in serving as volunteer 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.

CPR Classes

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

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

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

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

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

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

OSJA offers tax prep, closed March 30

The Installation Tax Assistance Program, directed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, provides free tax preparation and electronic filing for qualifying active duty service members, retirees and Family members.

The Tax Center, located downstairs in Top of the Bay, will be closed on Monday, March 30.

Normal duty hours will remain Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. until the center officially closes April 15.

Dining facilities serve Customer Appreciation Specialty Meal

The Customer Appreciation Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m., April 21.

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 new England and clam chowder, grilled steak with mushrooms and onions, fried shrimp, chicken teriyaki, seasoned freedom fries, baked macaroni and cheese, steamed broccoli, lightly buttered corn, brown gravy, cole slaw, zesty rotini salad, "Make your Own" salad bar, home made biscuits, southern style corn bread, big chocolate chip cookies, lemon cake, soft serve ice cream, assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

Volunteers needed for Retiree Council

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Retiree Council is being revitalized. The purpose of the council is "to provide the commander of Aberdeen

Proving Ground, installation commander, Fort George G. Meade, Md., and the U.S. Army an insight into the problems and issues expressed by retirees residing on APG and surrounding areas."

To help accomplish this, the APG Retiree Council is seeking volunteers to serve on the council. Interested parties should send an e-mail with contact information to: ricky.godbolt@us.army.mil or jatraino@aol.com.

CBRNIAC offers technical inquiry service

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Information Analysis Center, or CBRNIAC, provides a technical inquiry service.

The service offers up to four hours of technical analysis service at no cost to authorized users from Department of Defense agencies, other federal government agencies, DoD and federal contractors, state and local governments and emergency response organizations. The service covers the full range of CBRN defense and related homeland security topics.

To take advantage of CBRNIAC's Inquiry Service, complete the "Submit an Inquiry" form on its Web site, <http://www.cbrniac.apgea.army.mil/info/inquiry.php>, or call James M. King, 410-676-9030.

Army announces 2009/2010 SSCF Program opportunities

The window for applications closes on April 30 for the U.S. Army Human Resources Command announced a "Call for Applications" for the 2009/2010 Senior Service College Fellowship Program.

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/>.

Education Center conducts in-process briefings

The APG Education Center, located in building 4305, second floor, room 213-B, will conduct monthly in-process briefings for Soldiers within their first 30

days of assignment to APG.

The briefings take place 8 to 9 a.m. on the last Monday of each month and are designed to inform Soldiers, enlisted and officers, of programs and services available to meet the requirements of their educational goals and plans. The briefing also will provide information to help establish or recertify the Soldier's long/short-term education goals.

For more information, call Tressie Stout, 410-306-2042.

Reminder: Vehicle storage in housing areas

Personnel occupying quarters on Aberdeen Proving Ground are reminded that in accordance with APGR 190-5 and APGR 210-8 it is prohibited to store recreation vehicles, utility trailers and watercraft within the APG housing areas. Vehicles in violation are subject to impoundment at the owner's expense.

No emergency service at KUSAHC

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is not equipped or staffed to provide emergency medical care. Neither the Aberdeen Area nor Edgewood Area clinics should be considered suitable destinations to receive healthcare for a medical emergency.

For emergencies, call 911. APG's EMS service is manned with paramedic-level emergency medical technicians and state-of-the-art equipment to provide emergency care while en route to local hospitals.

Vet clinic closed Mondays

Until further notice the post Veterinary Treatment Facility, located in building 2479, will be closed on Mondays. Regular hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call ahead for an appointment.

The clinic closes for lunch, federal holidays and on the last business day of the month.

For more information, call the VTF at 410-278-3911/4604.

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




Sports



Coach Paul Harris, gives boxer Gregory Williams some tips on his technique between rounds and checks him out during the Amateur Boxing Tournament at Hoyle Gym March 7.

16th pounds 143rd to win Amateur Boxing Tournament

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The 16th Ordnance Battalion came to the Edgewood Area in a showdown for bragging rights and conquered the 143rd Ordnance Battalion to win the Amateur Boxing Tournament at Hoyle Gym March 7.

There was no slowing down the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School warriors as fighters from each side left it all on the canvas, some more than others.

When the dust settled the Soldiers of the 16th had outshined their opponents winning 9-4, including one bout the 143rd won by forfeit.

Staff Sgt. Paul Harris coached the 16th assisted by Staff Sgt. Patrick Butler.

Harris said he couldn't be more proud of his fighters who he trained for two and one-half months.

"I couldn't ask for anything more," he said. They listened and they applied their knowledge. When you train them hard you can't stop them."

Two of his fighters agreed.

Gregory Williams, a 25-year-old from

Woodbridge VA., won a close decision over the 143rd's Julian Ruffin in the 10th bout of the evening. Williams said he just followed his coach's instructions.

"My opponent was good but coach kept telling me to stay in there and do a good job so I just kept fighting," He said.

Rebekah Edmondson, who won unanimously over Jane Hartzell, said it was all about confidence.

"I believed in myself," said the 26-year-old Las Vegas, Nev., native. "I trained hard, and I absolutely felt I could put a hurting on someone."

The 143rd coach was Staff Sgt. Luis Mojica assisted by Sgt. 1st Class Randy Waits and Staff Sgt. Reginald Reid.

Mojica said he appreciated how well organized the event was.

"A lot of hard work and dedication went into this on both sides, and it showed in the ring," he said. "It was a great effort. They gave one-hundred percent, and we're very proud of them."

"Their effort was real," added Reid. "It didn't work every time but the experience was good for them."

Although he lost a close fight, 143rd

boxer Dana Polk looked on the bright side.

"It was a good fight and I thought I won but I'm just happy to be a part of tonight," he said.

The 143rd Ordnance Battalion color guard posted the colors and Pvt. Olivia Chandler, Company B 143rd sang the national anthem.

Judges included Sgts. 1st Class Eugene Williams, Roderick Harris, Fred-

erick Keeling and James Radabaugh and Staff Sgts. Jason Stevens, Ronald New and Frederick Keeling.

The referees were Joseph Cooper and Michelle Hall of Thunder enterprises. Cooper is the chief professional referee for the Washington D.C. area and Hall is the only professional female referee within the Maryland, Delaware and D.C. metro areas. The two have worked each Amateur Boxing Tournament at APG.



Brig. Gen. Lyn Collyar, chief of Ordnance, congratulates Staff Sgt. Paul Harris and the 16th Ordnance Battalion boxing team for winning the Amateur Boxing Tournament at Hoyle Gym March 7.

Boxing results

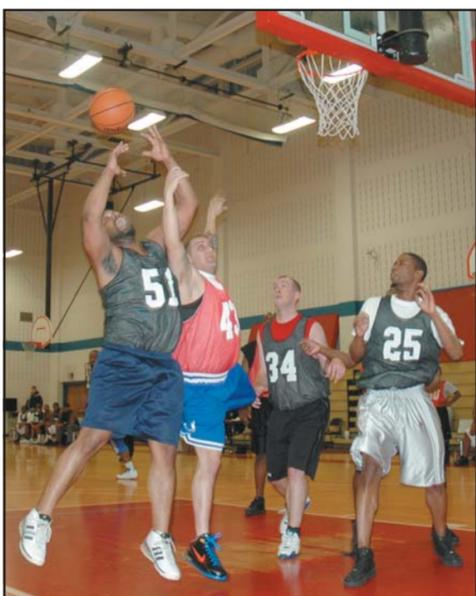
- **Jazmine Norwood, Company B 143rd**, defeated Jaclyn Wallace, Company A 16th, forfeit
- **Anthony Cleveland, Company C 16th**, defeated Johnathan Hoffman, Company B 143rd, decision
- **Lamont Wright, Company C 16th**, defeated Anthony Woods, Company B 143rd, called by ref, 2nd round
- **Elijah Smith, Company B 143rd**, defeated Michael Georgeff, Company A 16th, decision
- **Deangelo Bush, Company A 16th**, defeated Jaron Mosher, Company C 143rd, called by ref, 1st round
- **James Hicks, Company C 16th**, defeated Ansenio White, Company C 143rd, called by coach, end of 1st round
- **Marquez Smith, Company C 143rd**, defeated Emerick DeLeon, Company B 16th, called by ref, 2nd round
- **Rebekah Edmondson, Company A 16th**, defeated Jane Hartzell, Company B 143rd, decision
- **Brandon Zachary, Company C 16th**, defeated Dana Polk, Company B 143rd, decision
- **Gregory Williams, Company C 16th**, defeated Julian Ruffin, Company B 143rd, decision
- **Quentin Richard, Company B 16th**, defeated Jonathon Kerkula, Company B 143rd, decision
- **Matt Jenkins, Company B 143rd**, defeated Chris Gray, Company A 16th, decision
- **David Punch, Company C 16th**, defeated Brandon Stewart, Company B 143rd, called by ref, 3rd round



Brandon Zachary, Company C 16th, left, drives a shot to the head of Dana Polk, Company B 143rd, right, during the 8th bout of the Amateur Boxing Tournament. Zachary went on to win the fight by a decision.

Basketball at its best on APG

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
The Joint Personal Effect Depot's Daniel Whyte III (51) howls as he is fouled by 22nd Chemical's Joshua Uhrig (43) while JPED teammates Nick Laporte (34) and James Nowlin (25) look on during their post season tournament game at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center March 16. The 22nd Chemical went on to win 47-42 to remain undefeated in the playoffs. The post season tournament concludes with the intramural basketball post championship to be held at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center 6:30 p.m., April 6.



Basketball results

The following are results of the intramural basketball postseason tournament up to March 16.

Results

March 9
22nd Chem, 53; HHC 61st, 35
Company B 16th, 58; USAF, 49

March 10
JPED, 57; USMC, 32

March 11
NCOA, 50; 203rd MI, 39

March 12
22nd Chem, 52; Company B 16th, 30
JPED, 47; NCOA, 38

March 16
USAF, 44; HHC 61st, 39
22nd Chem, 74; JPED, 42

Schedule

March 19
6:30 p.m., NCOA vs. USAF



7:30 p.m., Company B 16th vs. winner USMC vs. 203rd MI

8:30 p.m., Semifinal (Losers bracket)

March 24

7:30 p.m., Final (Losers bracket)

• The post championship will be held 6:30 p.m., April 6 in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center.