

APG News

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

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See page 18 for Year of the NCO article.

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for May 13 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



APG Talent Show this Saturday

The APG Youth Talent Show will take place 4 to 6 p.m., and an Adult Talent Show will take place 7 to 9 p.m., May 9 at the Post Theater. Doors open at 3 p.m.

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.

APG Armed Forces Day welcomes Apollo 13 flight controller

In addition to previously advertised events and activities for the Aberdeen Proving Ground Armed Forces Day celebration May 16, guests will be able to meet and talk with Sy Liebergot, a flight controller in Mission Control when a monster failure occurred during the Apollo 13 mission. He will be available to sign copies of his book "Apollo EECOM: A Journey of a Lifetime," and have a continuous loop video to share with guests to his exhibit.

For more information on APG Armed Forces Day, visit www.apg.army.mil or www.apgnews.apg.army.mil archives and click on April 23 issue.

Good Neighbor nominations due May 8

The deadline is nearing for nominations for the Harford County Human Relations

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Holt assumes command of ATC

Story by **CRYSTAL MAYNARD**
ATC

The U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center welcomed a new commander and bid farewell to its former commander and his family during a ceremony at ATC's main front on the morning of April 28.

On a bright, clear, spring day, Col. Jeffrey P. Holt became ATC's 27th commander before an audience of military leaders, ATC and Aberdeen Proving Ground employees, family, friends and well-wishers. The change of command was presided over by host Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, commanding general, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command.

The ceremony began with an invocation by ATEC Chaplain (Col.) Michael Hoyt followed by a presentation of flower bouquets to ATC's outgoing commander Col. John P. Rooney's wife, Kathleen, and his daughters, Caitlin and Colleen, as an expression of Rooney's gratitude for their love and support over the years. Holt's wife Peggy also received a bouquet of roses, welcoming her into the ATC Family.

The official party, consisting of Rooney, Holt and Nadeau, stood at attention as the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, 16th Ordnance Bat-



Photo by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER
Col. John P. Rooney, center, former commander of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, accepts the ceremonial canister signifying the last round fired in his honor from Sgt. 1st Class Niko Troia during the ATC Change of Command ceremony April 28. Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, commanding general, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, looks on.

alion, fired a 13-round salute while the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band played "Ruffles and Flourishes" and "The General's March." Nadeau deferred honors to Rooney as a sign of respect and admiration.

Nadeau presented Rooney with the Distinguished Service

Medal, the highest award presented for non-combat actions of the Department of Defense and the individual branches of service which is given to any person, who while serving in any capacity, has been recognized by exceptionally meritorious service to the

government while serving in a position of great responsibility. The certificate awarding the medal was signed by U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. and Secretary of the U.S. Army Pete Geren.

See **ATC**, page 19

CHPPM epidemiologists monitor H1N1 flu incidence

Story by **LYN KUKRAL**
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

As the Army's public health organization, the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine is working with Army medical treatment facilities to spot cases of H1N1 [swine] flu quickly to prevent the disease from spreading.

"We are reporting our findings through the Army surgeon general's office to DoD [Department of Defense]," said John F. Ambrose, the epidemiologist leading CHPPM's flu surveil-

lance efforts. "As of May 4, the Army reported three confirmed cases of H1N1 flu, all in Family members."

Ambrose said that Soldiers and other Army beneficiaries generally would share the same risk of getting flu as the rest of the U.S. population. He and his colleagues at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expect the number of U.S. flu cases to increase.

CHPPM's surveillance of H1N1 cases includes its home installation.

"CHPPM is monitoring Aberdeen Proving Ground as we are

other Army posts," Ambrose said. He pointed out that CHPPM also has the mission to assist Army MTFs with investigation of H1N1 cases onsite if asked to do so.

During the current outbreak, CHPPM's goal is to help reduce the transmission of flu and mitigate its severity in those Soldiers and beneficiaries who may get it.

"It is important to spot flu cases quickly, so that we can limit the spread of this illness," Ambrose said. "This is why we are reaching out to Army MTFs to monitor any cases that occur and, if cases are identified, minimize the

ill person's contact with others to keep the flu from spreading."

If a flu case is found at an Army MTF, Ambrose said that the public health role would include identifying the person's close contacts so that they could be treated with preventive drugs by healthcare providers and observed for illness.

While proactive monitoring and identification of H1N1 cases is vital, Soldiers and other Army beneficiaries should be aware that there are preventive measures available.

"It's important for you all See **CHPPM**, page 3

APG makes strides in federal energy initiative

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Focused on federal energy initiatives that seek potential alternative energy and innovation as a means to stimulate the economy, protect the environment and increase America's energy independence, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Energy Program has taken major steps to reach goals affecting the consumption and procurement of energy.

Meeting mission requirements and providing quality working conditions for Soldiers and APG employees is the team's focus, according to Edward Staats, a member of the

APG Energy Action Team and MCFA Planning.

Staats said that the Energy Team has identified investments of more than \$40 million in energy efficiency projects and that using initiatives outlined in the Army Energy Strategy for Installations, the Army Energy & Water Campaign Plan for Installations and Executive Order 13423, APG has "taken action to set and reach goals affecting the consumption and procurement of energy."

"The energy team is committed to reaching out to all commands to reduce energy and water consumption and increase See **ENERGY**, page 2

Top NCO, Soldier announced



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
After being named the APG NCO of the Year, Sgt. Elizabeth Thompson, 1st Area Medical Laboratory, left front, listens in as Spc. Benjamin Salazar, Company B, 22nd Chemical Battalion, right front, is named the APG Soldier of the Year. Behind Thompson and Salazar are their sponsors, Sgt. Kyle Clanton, left, and Staff Sgt. Aaron Hammond. See article page 18.

TRAFFIC ALERT

I3MP closures in Aberdeen Area

DPW

Saturday closure for Maryland Blvd. Gate

The inbound lanes of Maryland Boulevard will be closed 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., May 9, in the vicinity of the new gate to allow installation of the overhead clearance detector for the new canopy.

As with the previous closures, the inbound lane of traffic will be detoured up the Ruggles Golf Course access road, across to Reilly Road and then back to Maryland Boulevard via Bush River Road. Outbound traffic on Maryland Boulevard will not be affected by this closure and the Harford Gate will remain closed.

I3MP construction closures

The Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program's construction will continue in the Aberdeen Area over the next few months with more road closures.

The first closure will be at the intersection of Tower Road and Hopkins Road extending to the crosswalk on Tower Road near building 328 approximately through May 11 depending on weather conditions. To access Spesutie Island, traffic will be detoured down Longs Corner Road and then onto Woodpecker Road. Drivers should use extreme caution with pedestrians when detouring through the residential neighborhood.

For more information, call Linda Hogan, Directorate of Information Management, 410-278-5357.

Outbound Maryland Boulevard closures

Maryland Boulevard will be closed for outbound traffic west of the Bush River/Deer Creek Loop intersection for testing of the active vehicle barrier systems for the new gate facility.

The Harford Boulevard Gate will open at 7 a.m. on those days for outbound traffic only. The Maryland Boulevard Gate will remain open for inbound traffic, trucks and visitors.

Inbound traffic will be detoured around the new gate canopy and barrier via Ruggles Golf Course access road and Reilly Road.

Both detours will be signed to provide guidance.

Maryland Boulevard Gate will reopen for outbound traffic and the Harford Boulevard Gate will close at 4:30 p.m. each day.

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



The Past Commanders board, located in Garrison Headquarters, building 305, has been recently revamped for a more modern look. The board is made of eight panels, showing different time periods on Aberdeen Proving Ground and the respective past commanders. Photo by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

Command boards get a makeover

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Many renovations are occurring at Aberdeen Proving Ground for base realignment and closure and the command boards, located in Garrison Headquarters, building 305, have also been revamped for a more modern look.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez tasked the Visual Information Services Division to create six command boards for the Garrison Headquarters building.

“The Garrison Headquarters should have boards that have a modern look to reflect that APG is the Defense Department’s Center of Excellence for land combat systems, vehicles, Soldier systems and chemical biological defenses,” he said.

Rodriguez added that the boards should be educational and easy to read.

“I want people to be able to learn about the history of APG when they look at these boards, especially those who are new to APG and are forming their first impressions of the installation,” Rodriguez said. “I want these boards to leave a positive impression.”

The most recent board completed on May 1 is the past commander board.

“I wanted the past commanders’ boards to also act as a timeline, showing different time periods on APG,” Rodriguez said.

“I think the boards [that are completed] look really good, they are more eye-catching than the old boards,” he said. “I didn’t have much to do with the design of the boards. I wanted to leave that up to the experts.”

Phil MacKenzie, current acting chief of VISD, gave the project lead to Diane Burrier, senior graphic analyst for Log.Sec,

who created the design and did all of the research for the content on the boards.

The first three boards that were completed were the chain of command board, command sergeant major board and the Soldier/noncommissioned officer of the year combined with supervisor and employee of the year on one board.

The boards were designed and installed in October, after Rodriguez and Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, Garrison and deputy installation commander, approved of the board concepts.

Burrier is still working on the past command sergeant major board, which will hang directly facing the commander’s board and the chain of command board for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company office.

Burrier said that she had been working on the past commanders board since November, when she came up with a design for a board that would tell a story. All of the wooden boards were replaced with this new design concept.

The board starts with the first commander when APG was established, 91 years ago with Col. Colden L. Ruggles and ends with Weissman, with 12 more spaces for future commanders. The board is also broken up into eight panels, showing different time periods on APG. These time periods are: World War I, Inter-War Period, World War II, The Vietnam War, The Cold War, Operation Desert Shield/Storm and the Global War on Terrorism.

Burrier conducted research at the Bel Air Library, the APG News archives and in the office and archives of U.S. Army Research, Development & Engineering Command Historian Jeffery Smart, focusing on clippings of when the commanders took office and left office.

“I thought that would be the best way to

find photos of the commanders,” she said.

Burrier said she also tried to capture events that were going on at APG for the background photos, for people to notice changes that happened on APG and in the U.S. military.

“People usually notice that garrison commanders were generals until 1965, which is when the commander of TECOM [U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command] became commander of the post.

Burrier said that she is happy with the boards that have been completed so far.

“I had to spend a significant amount of time doing research for this project, but I am happy to see the end result,” she said.

Burrier said that Rodriguez has been very enthusiastic and supportive about the project, giving her permission to carry out her design concepts and to think outside the box, and added that many people contributed to the completion of the command boards.

Burrier has worked at APG for nine

years for various contractors as a graphic and Web site designer, starting with APG News as the graphic designer. She created the original APG News Web site.

“I feel that my years at APG News were most beneficial in the idea and research phases for the past commander board,” she said.

Burrier has also worked on many projects for APG throughout the years including brochures, fact sheets, flyers, posters and exhibits. She worked at the U.S. Army Environmental Command for two years as a graphics designer contractor, and the RDECOM Data Imaging Team and VISD for three years, where she designed and developed the RDECOM Web site. Burrier stated that the command boards and the RDECOM Web site were the biggest projects she has worked on at APG. She said she hopes to work on more projects for APG.

“I enjoy the work so much, and I hope to work on more projects in the future,” she said.

Credits:

- Supervisor:** Phil MacKenzie, acting chief of VISD
- Project leader, graphic design, research, photo retouching:** Diane Burrier
- Site photography, commander photo scanning, commander photo printing:** Sean Kief, John Densmore, Scott Nieto, VISD photography
- Assistant graphics and photo retouching:** Sandi Heitzer
- Production:** Tony Jara, Data Imaging Team
- Assistant Production:** Deborah Scott, VISD
- Installation and fabrication coordinators:** Mike Fancher (past commanders boards), Earl Floran (lobby boards) VISD exhibits team
- Installation:** John Schorah, Bill Kilby Jr., VISD fabrication team
- Past commander boards text editing and author of “2001-Present” text:** Pat Beauchamp, VISD team

Energy

From front page

the use of renewable energy,” he said.

Central to this effort is the APG Building Operations Command Center, BOCC. Located in building 345, the BOCC is a state-of-the-art intelligent operations and asset management system that manages all building operations by combining energy reporting, metering, building controls, space planning, work management and operations and asset management.

From this single site, BOCC managers and staff can monitor and react to all alerts and alarms, maintenance alerts, work order tracking, inventory management and budget threshold data in every

building on the installation.

For example, the system can notify managers of a boiler problem in a specific building, identify and trouble-shoot the problem, advise actions, create and prioritize a work order, suggest materials needed to alleviate the problem and monitor the incident status.

The system includes a persistent alarm system that will continue to flash on the screen until repairs are made and documented.

“The BOCC prioritizes work and produces its own energy saving report so that managers know which buildings are meeting energy goals and which are not,” Staats said.

In addition, the BOCC provides information for Directorate of Public Works managers to track operations costs and performance indicators for budget reports

and generate savings and tenant statements. And, it allows the energy manager the ability to track essential data such as energy procurement data, tenant billing and reporting, energy consumption reports, budget thresholds, cost avoidance reports and energy benchmarks.

The Implementation Strategy comes under the 2012 Management Plan for the installation and includes ensuring campus designs for C4ISR in the Aberdeen Area and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense in the Edgewood Area is compatible with the BOCC, Staats said.

The BOCC has drawn the interest of Army leaders such as Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commander, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Lt. Gen. James H. Pillsbury, AMC deputy commanding general; Russell B. Hall, director, Installation Man-

agement Command Northeast Region, and IMCOM-NE Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Chavez, who visited the facility in March, as well as Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

“In the long run, our combined efforts not only save money but also help increase the demand for innovation in energy efficiency and other environmental technologies, which in turn, create jobs for Americans,” Staats said. “Every action we take – from turning off lights in unoccupied rooms to turning off computer monitors – adds up to a brighter future for us all.

“Additionally, a decrease in energy costs is an increase in the funds available to meet other mission-critical needs,” he said.

APG News

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

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Health Notes

Surgeon general: No cause for alarm with flu outbreak

Story by
C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

While emphasizing caution, the surgeon general of the Army said there's no reason to be alarmed by the H1N1 flu outbreak.

"It's important for you all to understand that there is no cause for panic or alarm," wrote Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, U.S. Army surgeon general in his blog. "Antiviral drugs are available in the event you become ill; and there are preventive measures you can take to stay healthy."

The new strain of the flu virus has been confirmed in such places as Mexico, the United States, New Zealand, Canada, Spain and the United Kingdom. There have been deaths in Mexico.

The H1N1 flu usually occurs in pigs, though certain strains can be passed to humans - and from human to human.

"The most recent cases ... appear to have the ability to be passed from person to person and have resulted in a number of cases in the United States as well as widespread disease in certain parts of Mexico," Schoomaker said. "It is likely that this ... flu will spread to many if not all parts of the United States."

The symptoms of H1N1 flu are similar to other kinds of flu, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache,

chills and fatigue. In some cases, there may also be vomiting and diarrhea.

The H1N1 flu is passed from person to person much like other forms of the flu, Schoomaker said.

"Most people catch [H1N1] flu the same way they catch the regular flu," he said. "You can catch [the] flu by coming in contact with droplets from infected people after they sneeze or cough. This can occur by being in the path of a sneeze or cough or touching something that has those droplets on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes."

Medication like Tamiflu and Relenza can treat the flu, Schoomaker said. These medications are only available by a doctor's prescription.

"If you have [the] flu and need treatment, treatment should start within two days after you begin to feel sick," Schoomaker said. Those with chronic medical conditions are at risk for more severe illness from the H1N1 flu, he said.

According to Schoomaker, neither the Army nor the overall military population are showing any unusual spike in illness that might indicate H1N1 flu. Additionally, the general said, he and other senior medical officials in the joint community are staying abreast of the issue in order to keep the force healthy.

"Rest assured that my staff and I are working the ... flu issue closely with the testing and any necessary treatment.

CHPPM offers flu prevention information in the form of posters and stickers. These items can be used to educate APG Soldiers and civilian employees on the best way to minimize the spread of flu germs. These materials can be ordered via the Web.

For information on H1N1 activity, prevention and treatment, visit these Web sites:

- CHPPM, <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil>
- Army Medicine, www.armymedicine.army.mil
- CDC, www.cdc.gov/swineflu
- DOD Flu Watchboard, <http://fhpo.osd.mil/aiWatchboard/>

For information on H1N1 flu cases in the Army, contact the Office of the Chief of Army Public Affairs, pressdesk@hqda.army.mil or 703-692-2000.

Joint Staff surgeon, the assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the other military services, Health and Human Services, and Centers for Disease Control and Preventive Medicine," Schoomaker said.

Deployed service members are at no increased risk of infection, according to information released by the Surgeon General's Office.

The Army Medical Command recommends Soldiers and their Families avoid contracting the ... flu by avoiding those who already have the flu, and by washing their hands often.

"If you think you have [the] flu, contact your health care provider. He or she will be able to determine if you need testing or treatment," Schoomaker said.

CHPPM

From front page

to understand that there is no cause for panic or alarm," wrote Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, U.S. Army surgeon general in his blog. "Antiviral drugs are available in the event you become ill; and there are preventive measures you can take to stay healthy."

CHPPM's role as a public health organization is not to treat individual patients, but to identify and monitor diseases and injuries in the Army population, as well as provide preventive and health promotion information and services.

Soldiers, Family members or APG civilians who think they have the flu should minimize their contact with others and see their healthcare providers for



Improving health by Cutting down on drinking

APG ASAP

Anyone concerned about how much they drink, can improve their life and health by cutting down on alcohol consumption.

Knowing what is too much to drink

These yes or no questions can determine if help is needed.

Do you drink alone when you feel angry or sad?

Does your drinking ever make you late for work?

Does your drinking worry your Family?

Do you ever drink after telling yourself you won't?

Do you ever forget what you did while you were drinking?

Do you get headaches or have a hang-over after you have been drinking?

A "yes" answer to any of these questions indicates a person may have a drinking problem. Checking with a doctor to be sure would be the next step. The doctor will be able to tell whether cutting down or abstaining is in order.

Alcoholics or those who have oth-

er medical problems, should not just cut down on their drinking--they should stop drinking completely. The doctor will advise about what is the right corrective action for the problem.

If the doctor says to cut down on drinking, these steps can help:

- Write down the reasons for cutting down or stopping. Why do you want to drink less? There are many reasons why you may want to cut down or stop drinking. You may want to improve your health, sleep better, or get along better with your Family or friends. Make a list of the reasons for drinking less.

- Set a drinking goal. Choose a limit for how much to drink. You may choose to cut down or not to drink at all. If you are cutting down, keep below these limits: Women: No more than one drink per day. Men: No more than two drinks per day.

- A standard drink is: a 12-ounce bottle of beer; a 5-ounce glass of wine; or a 1 1/2-ounce shot of liquor. These limits may be too high for some people who have certain medical problems or who are older. Talk with the doctor about the limit that is right for you.

- Write your drinking goal on a piece of paper. Put it where you can see it, such as on the refrigerator or bathroom mirror.

- To help you reach your goal, keep a "diary" of your drinking. For example, write down every time you have a drink for 1 week. Try to keep your diary for 3 or 4 weeks. This will show you how much you drink and when. You may be surprised. How different is your goal from the amount you drink now?

Now you know why you want to drink less and you have a goal. There are many ways you can help yourself to cut down. Try these tips:

- Limit alcohol at home. Keep a small amount or no alcohol at home. Don't keep temptations around.

- Drink slowly. When you drink, sip your drink slowly. Take a break of 1 hour between drinks. Drink soda, water, or juice after a drink with alcohol. Do not drink on an empty stomach. Eat food

when you are drinking.

- Take a break from alcohol. Pick a day or two each week when you will not drink at all. Then, try to stop drinking for 1 week. Think about how you feel physically and emotionally on these days. When you succeed and feel better, you may find it easier to cut down for good.

- Learn how to say "No." You do not have to drink when other people drink. You do not have to take a drink that is given to you. Practice ways to say no politely. For example, you can tell people you feel better when you drink less. Stay away from people who give you a hard time about not drinking.

- Stay active. What would you like to do instead of drinking? Use the time and money spent on drinking to do something fun with your Family or friends. Go out to eat, watch a movie, or play sports or a game.

- Get support. Cutting down on your drinking may be difficult at times. Ask your Family and friends for support to help you reach your goal. Talk to your doctor if you are having trouble cutting down. Get the help you need to reach your goal.

- Watch out for temptations. Watch out for people, places, or times that make you drink, even if you do not want to. Stay away from people who drink a lot or bars where you used to go. Plan ahead of time what you will do to avoid drinking when you are tempted.

- Do not drink when you are angry or upset or have a bad day. These are habits you need to break if you want to drink less.

Do not give up. Most people do not cut down or give up drinking all at once. Just like a diet, it is not easy to change. That is okay. If you do not reach your goal the first time, try again. Remember, get support from people who care about you and want to help. Do not give up.

For more information contact Cindy Scott, ASAP prevention coordinator, 410-278-4013 or e-mail Cynthia.Scott1@us.army.mil. To take the alcohol self-awareness quiz, visit the ASAP Web site, <https://www.apg.army.mil/apg-home/sites/humanresources/asap/>.

TRICARE launches new Web page to down alcohol abuse

U.S. DoD Military Health System

April was Alcohol Awareness Month and TRICARE is committed to creating a "buzz" about the effects of alcohol abuse. A new TRICARE Web page at <http://www.tricare.mil/alcoholawareness> sheds some light on alcohol abuse and promotes responsible drinking.

Heavy alcohol consumption is a significant problem in the military that affects not just uniformed service members, but their Families.

The 2005 Department of Defense-Health Affairs Survey on Health Related Behaviors Among Active Duty Personnel reports young men in each service branch had significantly higher rates of heavy drinking than their civilian counterparts. Of young men in all military branches, 32.2 percent engaged in heavy drinking, compared with

17.8 percent of civilian men.

The survey also reports that service members often use alcohol to cope with stress, boredom, loneliness and the lack of other recreational activities. Similar factors also may encourage their Family members to abuse alcohol. Underage alcohol use by military personnel and children of service members is also an issue of major concern.

The new Web page serves as a starting place for beneficiaries to find information, links and news about alcohol, underage drinking, alcoholism and substance abuse. Another excellent resource that coincides with Alcohol Awareness Month is the DoD-funded site, <http://www.thatguy.com>, which highlights the social consequences of binge drinking.

Find out more about alcohol consumption at http://www.tricare.mil/press-room/press_article.aspx?fid=459.

ARMY FAMILY COVENANT

SOLDIERS ★ FAMILIES ★ ARMY CIVILIANS



Pat Skebeck, Harford County Public Schools superintendent, reads "Ten Little Fingers, Ten Little Toes," to a preschool group at the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center April 23 as part of the Month of the Military Child celebration. Eileen Campbell, Aberdeen Proving Ground school liaison, center, and Julia Courts, child youth assistant, far right, sit in on the activity.

Harford County superintendent visits AA CDC

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The superintendent of Harford County Public Schools visited the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center April 23 in honor of Month of the Military Child. This year's theme is "Everyday Heroes."

Pat Skebeck, the interim superintendent of Harford County Schools, toured the facility, led by Ruth Strauss, the CDC director, along with Mike Lupacchino, director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Gina Dannenfesler, director of Child, Youth and School Services.

Strauss commented that throughout the month of April the children had participated in special activities like a military vehicle visit, a visit from a violinist, and theme days like "stuffed animal day" and "crazy sock day."

"These activities are planned to make them feel special during this month that they are being recognized, and to get the parents involved," said Lisanne Blake, a training and curriculum specialist for the AA CDC.

Skebeck commented that opportunities for socialization and establishment of routines helps prepare the children for school. She added that she was interested

in partnering with the center and offered to provide training for caregivers.

"It's a win-win. It benefits us in the end. The CDC students come to us more prepared," she said.

Skebeck also commented that she has Family in the military, and has observed that military children face special challenges. Her son-in-law is a noncommissioned officer stationed in Hawaii with her daughter Julie and their two sons. Skebeck said that she looks forward to visiting them.

After Skebeck's tour, she read "Ten Little Fingers, Ten Little Toes," to a preschool group and "America's Promise" to a pre-kindergarten group. After reading "America's Promise," a story about a class that worked together to clean up a playground, Skebeck told the children that if they put their minds to it they can do any job they want, sending the message about holding high personal expectations and goals.

"If you think you can do it, you are probably right," Skebeck said.

She also touched upon the science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, subjects, by telling the children about a simple machine technique that was included in the story, in which a

big stone was moved with a stick wedged under it to make it move more easily.

"Harford County is working towards introducing the STEM subjects to even its youngest elementary-aged students in all subject areas," said Eileen Campbell, Aberdeen Proving Ground School Liaison.

After the readings, Skebeck thanked the children for their participation and gave both books to the CDC.

Skebeck said that there is a need to provide Impact Aid responses to the schools quickly and responsibly. Impact Aid is designed to directly reimburse public school districts for the loss of traditional revenue sources due to a federal presence or federal activity. Impact Aid is one of the only federal education programs in which the funds are sent directly to the school district.

"The aid will help all students. Filling out the form will not invade Family privacy," she said. "If Families send their Impact Aid forms back, the U.S. Department of Education will send funds that the schools need as a result of the recent state budget cuts."

The superintendent then met with representatives of APG Partnerships in Education.



Commissary News



May case lot sale promises more bulk for less Shop APG Commissary May 14 through 16 to stock up and save

Story by
KEVIN L. ROBINSON
DeCA

How do you improve on a good thing? Offer more of the same. That's exactly what the Defense Commissary Agency is doing in May with its first worldwide case lot sale of 2009.

This year's May case lot event is shaping up to be the biggest spring sale yet, offering about 100 more products than last year's 260.

"Our customers love these worldwide sales," said DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. "Where else are you going to see products in

bulk, offering savings that approach fifty percent? During Commissary Awareness Month, nothing speaks to the heart of what we do better than these events."

Last May, military customers around the globe came in droves to their commissary to buy bulk-sized products ranging from canned goods, beverages, toilet paper, paper towels, produce, fresh meat, seafood, frozen foods, health and beauty items, pet supplies, cleaning and laundry products and more. Some 50 to 60 percent of the items are sold in "club pack" prod-

uct assortments similar to the oversized or multiple products sold at commercial warehouse club outlets.

To the new shopper, a case lot sale can be an experience to remember, said Charlie Dowlen, promotions manager for the DeCA sales directorate.

"Imagine rows of products in cases lined across a commissary parking lot or packed inside a store warehouse," he said. "Now, add the people who are all there to take advantage of tremendous savings, and it's a sight to behold."

Smaller commissaries, such

as some overseas, may carry only one-third the volume of products offered at larger stores, but "our customers still benefit from the huge savings offered at these events," Dowlen added.

Last May's event posted a nearly 25 percent increase in sales over the May 2007 sale. DeCA held its first worldwide case lot sale in September 2001 and added a second event in May 2004, making it a pivotal part of Commissary Awareness Month.

Most commissaries hold case lot sales but schedule them on different weekends

throughout May.

For the Aberdeen Proving Ground Commissary, the case lot sale will be held indoors May 14 through 16, but to find out when other commissaries in the area are holding their sales, visit www.commissaries.com/case_lot_sale.cfm.

Also, because individual commissaries have a measure of flexibility in the products offered at case lot events, it's prudent for customers who live near multiple commissaries to use the DeCA Web site to frequent all sales in their area.

Commentary: Reusable shopping bags, energy-saving bulbs help commissary shoppers 'go green'

By
TA'LISHA BROWN
DeCA

Reusable, recyclable bags have really caught the attention of commissary shoppers who want to help protect the environment. Shoppers have purchased nearly 2 million of the reusable bags since commissaries began offering them in October 2007.

Three new bags have been added to DeCA's stock assortment for 2009: a larger green bag, a thermal green bag and a sturdy canvas bag.

"These additions should result in increased sales of reusable bags and give our earth-friendly customers what they need to 'go green' when they shop," said Linda Callery, a commissary management specialist in DeCA's marketing business unit.

Another "green" initiative that has caught on with commissary shoppers is the compact fluorescent bulb, or CFL – the swirl-shaped bulbs found in the commissary's household goods aisle. DeCA has increased its selection of the energy-saving bulbs for fiscal 2009, adding new Compact Fluorescent Smart Packs. Displays and shippers have helped sales of CFLs continue to grow and expand.

According to DeCA marketing officials, household penetration of CFLs is still only around 20 percent of the average home's energy bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy Web site, so there is still a long way to go in expanding this category.

"We are committed to being an environmental leader in the food marketing industry," said DeCA Director and Chief Executive Officer Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. "Everyone benefits from these initiatives – customers, our installation partners, the agency and most importantly, the environment."

20th SUPCOM commander addresses AUSA Aberdeen Chapter

Story by
MAJ JOE SCROCCA
20TH SUPCOM (CBRNE)

The commander of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE – Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives) addressed the Association of the United States Army Aberdeen Chapter at the organization's monthly luncheon at the Richlin Ballroom in Edgewood April 15.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Snow presented the chapter with an overview of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) and spoke about the importance of AUSA's support for Soldiers at Aberdeen Proving Ground and deployed overseas.

Mary Jane Jernigan, AUSA Aberdeen Chapter president, welcomed Snow, his wife Lisa, and the crowd of nearly 100 Soldiers and civilians attending, which included Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, commander of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and APG.

Jernigan said she was pleased to have Snow speak as she had been trying to schedule him as the chapter's keynote

See AUSA, page 18



Legally Speaking

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

Using government owned or controlled non-tactical vehicles

Story by
CAPT SEAN MAHONEY
OSJA

Unauthorized use of government owned or controlled non-tactical vehicles is an area where many personnel, military and civilian alike, can get into trouble.

Of concern is apparent confusion resulting from a recent change in policy regarding use of NTVs. The purpose of this article is to point out particular restrictions and to keep users safe from adverse actions.

The rule is simple: an NTV is for official purposes only. Whether a use is for an official purpose is a matter of administrative discretion, and commanders (or their designated representatives) determine what constitutes official use of motor vehicles.

That doesn't seem confusing or difficult to adhere to but sometimes it is hard to strictly adhere to the rule when the driver makes detours for convenience. Locally, a problem arises when personnel use an NTV to travel from one area (Aberdeen or Edgewood) to the other. It is a reasonable desire to simply want to take the NTV in which one is riding to grab food for lunch. Unfortunately, the rule doesn't allow for personal convenience. The rule states that the use of Army-owned or controlled NTVs is restricted to official purposes only. Use of the NTV to buy lunch while in a non-travel status is not official.

In September of 2007, Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison and deputy installation commander, attempted to clarify the policy and recognize the need to be able to get lunch when a person is on a different area of post. However, this policy has since been rescinded due to apparent conflicts with federal law and Army regulations.

Travel to any eating establishment, on or off the installation is prohibited.

When using a government vehicle for any official purpose, employees must always be sensitive to the image projected to the public. Apparent misuse of

NTVs is often reported to the inspector general who will thoroughly investigate all reports.

Frequently asked questions, answers to help clarify the regulation

1. May I run a quick personal errand using an NTV?

No, official use does not include transportation to unofficial private social functions; personal errands or side trips for unofficial purposes. Government vehicles may not be used for transportation to, from, or between any location for the purpose of conducting personal business or other personal activities.

2. May I use my NTV to have lunch at the PX?

No, NTVs must not be used for transportation to or be parked at commissaries, post exchanges (concessions), bowling alleys, Officer and NCO clubs or any non-appropriated fund activity unless on official business or TDY. For example, in a federal court case, the court upheld a 30-day suspension for using a government vehicle to stop at McDonalds when returning from a meeting when employee knew such use was unauthorized.

3. Why is this regulation so important?

The statutory minimum, non-discretionary penalty for use of an NTV for other than official purposes is a 30-day suspension. Military personnel, who willfully use or authorize the use of a government vehicle for other than an official purpose, can be disciplined under provisions of the UCMJ or other administrative procedure. The bottom-line is that civilians can lose their jobs and military can lose their liberty.

Anyone with questions regarding destination or use, should seek their supervisor's guidance before driving to that destination. Keep in mind that "official use only" is the rule.

For more information, contact Dave Scott, chief of Administrative and Civil Law, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 410-278-1553 or DSN 298-1553.



Trial Results

Trial results of Summary Courts Martial on APG

OSJA

March 20

Staff Sgt. Andrew M. Houghtaling, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion, 61st Ordnance Brigade, pled guilty to one specification of Article 92, a Violation of a Lawful General Regulation and not guilty to one specification of Article 107, False Official Statement, in connection to Houghtaling's fraternization with an Initial Entry Trainee/Soldier. Houghtaling was found guilty of both offenses and was sentenced to reduction in rank to sergeant E-5 and forfeiture of \$1,885 pay per month for one month.

March 30

Pvt. Jerry Parker, assigned to Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, 61st Ordnance Brigade, pled guilty to one specification of Article 121, Larceny, in connection to his theft of jewelry belonging to a fellow Soldier. The summary court-martial officer found Parker guilty and sentenced him to confinement for seven days, reduction in rank to private E1 and forfeiture of \$933 pay per month for one month.

March 30 and 31

Pvt. Michael S. Keller, assigned to Company A, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, 61st Ordnance Brigade, pled guilty to one specification of Article 81, Conspiracy, and seven specifications of Article 121, Larceny, in connection to his part in the theft of personal items belonging to fellow Soldiers. A panel of officer and enlisted Soldiers sentenced Keller to receive a reprimand, confinement for nine months, forfeiture of \$933 pay per month for nine months, reduction in rank to Pvt. E1 and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

April 1

Pvt. Joshua Robertson, assigned to Company A, 143rd Ordnance Battal-

ion, 61st Ordnance Brigade, pled guilty to five specifications of Article 121, Larceny, and one specification of Article 107, False Official Statement, in connection to his part in the theft of personal items belonging to fellow Soldiers. The summary court-martial officer found Robertson guilty of all charges and sentenced him to confinement for 30 days, reduction in rank to private E-1 and forfeiture of \$933 pay per month for one month.

April 21

Pvt. Travion M. Wilson, assigned to Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, 61st Ordnance Brigade, pled guilty to one specification of Article 86, Absence Without Leave, and one specification of Article 134, Breaking Restriction. The summary court-martial officer found him guilty of both charges and sentenced to confinement for 21 days and forfeiture of \$933 pay per month for one month.

April 22

Pvt. Christopher M. Curry, assigned to Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, 61st Ordnance Brigade, pled guilty to three specifications of Article 112a, Wrongful Use, Possession of Controlled Substances, one count each, for wrongful use, possession, and distribution of a controlled substance (marijuana). The summary court-martial officer found him guilty of all three offenses and sentenced him to confinement for 30 days and forfeiture of \$933 pay per month for one month.

Pvt. David L. Murrow III, assigned to Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, 61st Ordnance Brigade, pled guilty to one specification of Article 112a, Wrongful Use of a Controlled Substance (marijuana). The summary court-martial officer found him guilty and sentenced him to confinement for 30 days and forfeiture of \$933 pay per month for one month.

Getting help through AER

AER Office

Army Emergency Relief is a private nonprofit organization, its sole mission is to help Soldiers and their eligible Family members who are experiencing financial emergencies.

Eligibility

- Soldiers on extended active duty and their Family members
- Members of the Reserve Components of the Army (Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve) under title 10 on continuous active duty for more than 30 consecutive days and their eligible Family members
- Soldiers retired from active duty for longevity or physical disability, or retired upon reaching age 60 (Reserve Components) and their eligible Family members.
- Surviving spouses and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after they retired.

What AER can do

- AER can help with emergency financial needs for:
- Emergency transportation and vehicle repairs

- Food, rent, or utilities
- Funeral expenses
- Medical/dental expenses
- Personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen.

What AER cannot do

- Help pay for nonessentials
- Finance ordinary leave or vacation
- Pay fines or legal expenses
- Help liquidate or consolidate debt
- Assist with house purchase or home improvements
- Help purchase, rent, or lease a vehicle
- Cover bad checks or pay credit card bills

Applying for AER assistance

Active duty Soldiers assigned to APG can request an application for AER assistance (DA Form 1103) through their unit or the AER office located in building 2754, room 201. The form is also available on PureEdge. Soldiers will need to fill out the front of the form and provide all required information. The Soldier's first sergeant or commander must then review, approve and sign the form. The Soldier should

bring the signed form, latest end of month Leave and Earnings Statement, military ID card and all documentation supporting the request for assistance (such as leave form, rental agreement, written estimate of car repairs, utility bill) to the AER office. No appointment is necessary and 98 percent of all AER requests for assistance are completed the same day. Each AER request is personal and considered on its own merit. Any emergency must have originated from other than the Soldier's own actions.

Note to retirees: Army retirees needing AER assistance should bring all documentation supporting their request for assistance and their military ID card to the AER office. Retiree's will fill out the application for assistance in the AER office.

What kind of assistance:

- The majority of AER assistance is provided in the form of an interest free loan with repayment of these loans helping to fund future assistance
 - Under extreme circumstances, assistance may be given as a grant
- (Grants are not given for routine expenses that suddenly become a problem or provided simply because a Soldier has a monthly deficit and cannot repay a loan. Grants are never given for



expenses that will be reimbursed by other sources such as insurance companies or the government).

AER's record of assistance:

Since it was established in 1942, AER has helped more than 3 million Soldiers and Family members with more than \$1 billion. In 2008 AER provided \$83 million in assistance to more than 70,000 Soldiers and their Families representing a 12 percent increase over 2007 assistance levels.

The APG AER office dispersed \$369,351.24 in assistance in 2008 to 327 individuals (248 active duty Soldiers, 64 Army retirees, 2 Navy retirees, 3 Army widows, 2 Navy widows, 5 active duty Marines, and 1 active duty Air Force)

For more information on AER, contact the APGAER officer, 278-2508 or visit the AER Web site, www.aerhq.org.

APG SCHOOL LIAISON

eKnowledge Corporation, NFL players tackle SAT & ACT test preparation

In alliance with the Department of Defense and a group of patriotic NFL football players, eKnowledge Corporation is extending its donation of SAT & ACT Test Prep Software to military Families and veterans for a fourth consecutive year.

The donated eKnowledge SAT/ACT Power Prep programs come in a single DVD or two CD-ROM set that includes more than 11 hours of high quality classroom video instruction with up to 40 hours of student interactive learning participation. The test prep programs can be used as a stand-alone instruction tool to prepare thoroughly for the SAT/ACT or as a supplement to other SAT/ACT preparation materials. Each student can select the areas where they need additional or special instruction and then study at their own pace using the 120 classroom video lessons.

Members of military Families or veterans interested in receiving the FREE SAT/ACT Power Prep software should visit www.eknowledge.com/military for details.

For more information, call Lori Caputo, vice president, Military Donation Programs, 770-992-0900, or e-mail LoriCaputo@eKnowledge.com.

SMA Gallery Walk May 19

The Gallery Walk of Senior Projects at the Science & Math Academy will take place 4:45 to 6:45 p.m., May 19, at the Aberdeen High School cafeteria. An awards banquet will be held 7 p.m. in the AHS auditorium.

Parent Conference May 20

The Harford County Public Schools Title I Annual Parent Conference will take place 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., May 20, at the Richlin Ballroom. The event will feature a sharing of Title I quilts and a unity poem presentation.

For more information, call the Office of Compensatory Education, 410-588-5278.

KUSAHC offers medical internships, volunteer opportunities

The Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic Deputy Commander for Health Services Maj. Shannon Jones is the contact for internships. The secretary, Nancy Bruck, can be reached at 410-278-1726.

Students may also sign up with the Red Cross to volunteer at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic by going on-line at www.mybackgroundcheck.com/order/arcvts/.

When filling this out select Central Maryland Chapter as the chapter choice. Before working as a volunteer at KUSAHC, the American Red Cross does a financial and criminal background check.

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



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

APG Talent Shows May 8 and 9

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

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.

Runners wanted for Army 10-Miler

FMWR will sponsor an active duty team to compete in the Army 10-Miler Race Oct. 4 in Washington, D.C. A team captain and runners are needed to represent APG in this event.

Team will consist of eight permanent party active duty personnel assigned to APG.

For information contact Ralph Cuomo, 410-278-3868 or Donna Coyne, 410-278-3929.

Job vs. Career classes for teens

Army Community Service will hold Job vs. Career Classes for teens ages 13 through 18, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., June 24 and July 29, at ACS, building 2754.

Today's workforce offers many challenges and rewards. Learning has a tremendous impact on future earnings. Teens will learn the benefit of a career over a job. The class will help guide teens through the job and career preparation process so they can achieve their own employment success.

Topics include:

- What employers are looking for
- How to apply for a job
- Tips on resume writing, interviewing experience

For more information or to enroll in this free class, call Marilyn Howard, ACS Employment Readiness specialist, 410-278-9669.

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

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

Family support issues and services.

Classes will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

- May 12, Rear Detachment Commander
- June 16, Trauma in the Unit
- July 21, Financial Planning for Deployment

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

Hearts Apart Support Group schedule

Family members from all branches of service, DoD civilians and contractors may participate in Hearts Apart Support Group meetings held in the APG Army Community Service building 2754, Rodman Road 6 to 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month (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.

APG holds Armed Forces Day 10K run

Charm City Run will sponsor a 10K run (6.2 miles), 7:30 a.m., May 16, commemorating Armed Forces Day, at the Aberdeen Athletic Center, building 3330.

The race is open to the general public, military or civilian. Entry forms can be found on Charm City Run Web site, www.charmcityrun.com.

Entry fees are \$30 through May 15 and \$35 race day. There is a \$5 discount for active duty military and privates (E-1) through private first class (E-3) are free. Military grades E-1 through E-3 may register with their unit.

Runners will receive a 10K Run T-shirt, and water will be provided on the course and at the finish line.

For more information, call Ralph Cuomo, APG Sports Office, 410-278-3868 or contact a unit first sergeant.

Annual Travel Fair slated for May 20

By plane, train, boat or automobile – choose a travel destination at the annual Travel Fair, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 20, at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center, building 3300.

Representatives from Great Wolf Lodge, the National Aquarium, Six Flags, the Maryland Zoo, Kings Domin-

Army 10-miler annual T-shirt design contest is open

The Army Ten-Miler is proud to announce that its annual T-shirt design contest is open and submissions are being accepted through June 1. Artists, designers and would be artists are invited to submit a T-shirt design for the 25th anniversary race.

After the June 1 deadline, a Blue Ribbon Committee will judge the entries and the top five will be posted on the Army 10-Miler Web site. The 30,000 registered runners will be able to vote for their favorite design from June 10 through 19. The first, second and third place entries will be announced on June 24 at www.armytenmiler.com.

The grand prize winner will receive \$1,000 and will have his/her design printed on over 30,000 official race and volunteer T-shirts. The second place winner will receive \$500 and the third place winner will receive \$250.

The Army 10-Miler T-shirt design contest is open to all U.S. residents, age 18 and older. Designs must be original artwork and reflect the unique tradition and experience of the Army 10-Miler.

For design guidelines and specifications on the contest, visit www.armytenmiler.com.

About the Army 10-Miler

The Army Ten-Miler is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year on Sunday, Oct. 4 in Washington, D.C. This unique road race has both its start and finish lines at the Pentagon. Race weekend activities include a two-day race expo, fitness clinics, youth runs, post race party and HOOAH tents from Army installations around the world.

The ATM is produced by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, with proceeds benefiting Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, a comprehensive network of support and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of Soldiers and their Families. The mission of the Army 10-Miler is to promote the Army, build esprit de corps, support fitness goals, and enhance community relations.

For more information, visit www.armytenmiler.com.

ion, Spirit Cruises, Broadway Across America and more will be available to speak directly with visitors to the Travel Fair.

Door prizes include a 32-inch HD Flat Screen TV, hotel stays, bus trips for two, theme park tickets, gift certificates and more. Fire 4 Effect, an all new Army brass band, and a jazz combo will provide live entertainment. Wine tasting by Paradox Vineyard, light refreshments, snacks and promotional give-a-ways also will be provided.

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

Bunco at Top of the Bay

Win door prizes at Bunco, 7 p.m., May 21 at Top of the Bay Chesapeake/Mez-

zanine. Cost to play is \$5 per person.

Walt Disney World Salutes the Military

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

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

Ticket prices expire Dec. 23.

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

SKIES Unlimited

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

Price of Driver's Ed increases end of June

Driver's Ed classes will be held Monday thru Thursday, 2:30 to 5:45 p.m. or 6 to 9:15 p.m. Classes will be held April 30 thru May 5; May 11 thru 27 (no class May 25); and June 1 thru 16. Cost is \$295 per student.

The cost of the Driver's Ed classes will increase to \$305 per student starting with the June 22 class. Classes will be held June 22 thru July 7; July 13 thru 28; and Aug. 3 thru 18 (there is no class on federal holidays), Monday thru Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.; 2:30 to 5:45 p.m.; or 6 to 9:15 p.m.

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

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

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

Baby Signs play class

SKIES Unlimited invites parents and children to join Baby Signs, a sing, say and play class, 6 to 7 p.m., May 18, at the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center Gross Motor Room. Meet a certified Baby Signs instructor and enjoy a demonstration of Baby Signs play class. Learn new signs with songs, interactive play activities and find out more about the Baby Signs program.

Open to all DoD ID card holders and their Family members.

Beginner Tae Kwon Do

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

Beginner Tae Kwon Do classes will be held for ages 6 through 13 at the Child, Youth and School Center, building 2522, Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. April 28 through May 21 and

June 2 through 25. Cost is \$65 per student for a one-month session or \$150 per student for a three-month session.

Private piano lessons

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

Lessons cost \$102 per student and include six weeks of 30-minute lessons once a week. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child.

Students are responsible for purchasing the required books for the course recommended by the instructor.

Ice skating lessons

SKIES Unlimited offers a comprehensive group lesson program ice skating lessons for ages 4 through 18. Classes will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, May 26 through June 30 and July 2 through Aug. 11 at Ice World in Abingdon.

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

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

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

Free babysitting course

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

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

Class is open to all DoD ID card holders.

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

Infant/Child First Aid, CPR Class

An Infant/Child First Aid and CPR class will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for ages 13 and older, June 18, building 2752, Child and Youth Services administration building. The class costs \$5 per person.

Drawing, sketching

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

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

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

Class costs \$120 per student for eight weeks.

Toddler Art

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

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

Cost is \$60 per student for eight weeks.

Introduction to water colors

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

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

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

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.

May bowling specials

During May, between 1 and 5 p.m., bowl one game and get the second game free. Shoe rental is not included.

On May 7, 14, 21 and 28, bowling costs \$12 for one hour after 5 p.m.

Cosmic bowling special on May 9 and 23: bowling costs \$16 for one hour.

Cosmic bowling, pizza and soda special on May 16 and 30: one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza and a pitcher of soda for \$32.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

Week of May 4

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

Special #2: Chicken cheese steak wrap with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$4.95.

Week of May 11

Special #1: Pepperoni pizza sub with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.50.

Special #2: Chicken tender sub with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.95.

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



Community Notes

THURSDAY

MAY 7 KARAOKE/LADIES NIGHT

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

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

U.S. NAVY BAND FREE CONCERT

The United States Navy Band will perform a free concert, 7:30 p.m., at the Chesapeake Arts Center located on 194 Hammond's Lane, Brooklyn Park, Md. The band will perform traditional marches and patriotic fare. The winner of the 2009 Navy Band High School Concerto Competition will be featured.

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

FRIDAY

MAY 8 BASKET BINGO

St. John's Lutheran Church of Blenheim, located on 13300 Manor Road, Glen Arm, Md., will hold Basket Bingo, 7 p.m. Doors open 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 each, extra packets cost \$5 each. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available. No smoking allowed. Proceeds benefit Youth of St. John's Lutheran Church of Blenheim.

For more information or to purchase

tickets, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332 or Nancy Hobbs, 410-877-3378.

MOTHER'S DAY SUNSET CANOE TRIP

Canoe the marsh in search of critter moms and babies. Finish at sunset on the creek. This program will be held 6 to 8 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 and registration is required.

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

FRIDAY NIGHT FULL MOON HIKE

See Leight Park under the beauty of a full moon. This free program will be held 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. for all ages. Ages 8 and under must be accompanied by an 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.

SATURDAY

MAY 9 PANCAKE BREAKFAST, CAR WASH

The St. Joan of Arc School basketball team will host a pancake breakfast, 8 to 10 a.m. at Applebee's, Beards Hill Shopping Center, Aberdeen. The cost is \$5 per person and includes pancakes, sausage, orange juice, coffee and tea. The car wash will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Applebee's parking lot. Donations are appreciated. All proceeds go towards the basketball

Harford County opens H1N1 call center

Harford County Health Department opened a Call Center to address questions related to H1N1 influenza.

Anyone can call 410-838-5800, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Questions can also be answered by calling the state's information line, 1-877-MD-FLU-4U (633-5848).

Information about H1N1 is also available on the Health Department's Web site, www.harfordcountyhealth.com.

team's expenses.

For more information, call 410-272-1387.

MOSEYING WITH MOM CANOE TRIP

Bring mom out for a day of paddling Otter Point Creek. This program will be held 1 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

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

WILDFLOWER WANDERING

Meander through the park in search of the showy and the elusive flowers of spring. This free program will be held 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 5 to adult. Ages 5 to 12 must be accompanied by an 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.

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit Bethany's Buddies Relay for Life, will be held 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd School, 800 Aiken Avenue, Perryville. Doors open 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 per person for all

paper cards; extra packs cost \$5 each. Door prizes and raffles will be available. No smoking is allowed.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or JoAnne Bierly, 410-378-3320.

MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS BANQUET

The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States will hold a banquet, 6 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express, 1305 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Companions of the order and guests are encouraged to attend the banquet. Cost of the banquet is \$55 per person and includes a buffet dinner, wine with dinner and one drink ticket. A cash bar will be available. Dress for the banquet is black tie/military formal optional; medals and decorations are encouraged.

Subscriptions should be sent to Capt. J. Curtis Brewer, 4403 Briar Hill East, Lafayette Hill, PA, 19444-1022

For more information, call Ted Neilson, 215-870-2352, or e-mail LLNeilson@pobox.com.

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

Post Shorts

Commission Good Neighbor Award, an annual awards program that honors local volunteer organizations for their contributions to the community.

Harford County residents and businesses are invited to nominate candidates for the Community Service Organization of the Year award in the categories of business, faith-based, government/military, nonprofit, and/or youth organizations. One organization from each category is awarded the community service of the year award and one will receive special recognition as the Bridge Builder of the year because it created awareness, respect, unity and cooperation among diverse groups/individuals in the community. Nominations must be received by 5 p.m., May 8.

To obtain a nomination form, or for more information, contact Neslie Ethridge, special emphasis program manager, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command at 410-436-3477 or e-mail neslie.a.ethridge@us.army.mil.

Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage celebration

Aberdeen Proving Ground will commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 11:30 a.m., May 12, at the Edgewood Area Stark Recreation Center, building E-4140. Guest speaker will be David Lee, senior executive director, from the Governor's Office on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, RDECOM, 410-436-4810; Sgt. 1st Class David Pickett, 61st Ordnance, 410-278-5598; Linda Patrick, CHPPM, 410-436-1023; Meh-ta Uday, RDECOM, 5-2843; Master Sgt. Gail Brennan, USAOC&S, 410-278-

2529; Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Davis, 20th Support Command, 410-436-9786; Staff Sgt. Wendy Spohn, U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, 410-278-8769; or Phan Lihn, ECBC, 410-436-9062.

715 Gate ribbon cutting ceremony May 8

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at noon, May 8, to officially mark the completion of the Route 715 Gate entrance and visitor's center. Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, garrison and deputy post commander, will give opening remarks. For more information, call John Kearney, director, Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, 410-306-2291.

Blue Cross/Shield visits APG May 12

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

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

BJ's membership sale

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

Sign up for membership from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 13, at the APG Bowling Center, building 2342.

This offer is good for new customers and for membership renewals. Save

\$10 and get three months free. Renewal membership holders should bring their current card with them.

National Convention for Vets

Participate in the National Convention for Veterans, May 13 and 14, in the Reserve Officers' National Headquarters, One Constitution Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. The Convention will advance a comprehensive veterans' platform and raise the priority for veterans in the nations' agenda. The two-day program will feature national veterans' leaders from around the country; leading members of the U.S. Congress; continuous media opportunities, complimentary morning and afternoon passes each day are issued until the hall is booked up; complimentary tickets for veterans' leaders luncheon on Wednesday May 13; Congressional leaders' luncheon on Thursday May 14; cocktail receptions; and more.

For more information or to RSVP, visit www.vetsvision.org/registration.html or call 800-528-5385.

Director of CERDEC to speak at AUSA meeting

The director U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, Gary W. Blohm, will be the guest speaker at the Aberdeen Chapter of the Association of the United States Army meeting to be held 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., May 19, at the Richlin Ballroom, 1700 Van Bib-

ber Road, in Edgewood. The cost is \$18 (cash or check only) and will include lunch. Meetings are open to non-members as well as members. RSVP and include rank and title. To register, e-mail Youlanda at youlanda.a.coleman@us.army.mil.

CWF hosts trip to NYC

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City on May 16. The cost is \$45 per person for round trip charter bus. Departure time is 6 a.m.

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

HHC hosts Blood Drive May 21

The APG Garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company will sponsor an Armed Services Blood Program blood drive, May 21, time will be announced. Pass the word through the units and organizations to help spread awareness about the blood drive, especially during these times when the nation and armed forces blood banks are critically low.

For more information, call Maj. Matt Petraitis, 410-278-2104; for appointments, visit the Armed Services Blood Program Web site, www.militarylifeforce.com; walk-ins welcome.

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

LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Carolyn Russell, 410-306-0078, fax 410-306-0100, or e-mail carolyn.russell2@us.army.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Neoma Amberman	Miriam Garcia	Deborah Moore
Stacey Belcher	Allen Gregory	Richard Morris
Debra Bonsall (daughter has brain tumor)	Erin Griffin	Marie D. Nowak
Jeanie Bowman	Sharon Hardesty	Dorothy Nowak
Georgia Braun	Kitty Harris	Cindy Orwig
Alberta Brown	Jerome Hesch	Mary Pettitway
Michelle Brooks	Linda Hindman	Rosina Poole
Kimberly Carns	Karen Kaminsky	Judith Ratledge
Donna Cianelli	Beverly King (caring for husband)	Gloria Scott
Angela Claybourn	Kari Jackson	Donna Sexton
Frank Costa	Sinclair Joe	Melvin Showell
Kenneth Cox	Janet Kipp	Ron Spencer
Joyce Clark	Randolph	Willie Stevenson
John Daigle	Larracuenta	Lavonne Telsee
Bonnie Day	Lillian Mantilla	Gale Thompson
Carol DeVoid	Joy Meadows	Darlene Treston
Meg Downey	Richard McKay	Jamie Turner
Wayne Erb	Nicole McKew	Elizabeth Usmari
Rita Fowler	Frantz Midy	Joyce Woods
Gregory Fox	Karen Milton	Barbara Zenker



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 #32

You're driving along a two-lane city street with cars parked parallel along the curb on each side. Suddenly, a car pulls out just a car length ahead of you. There is no oncoming traffic. What should you do?

A. Honk and stomp on your brakes to stop.

B. Honk, hard brake, release, and medium brake to swerve left.

Answer A. To “honk and stomp on your brakes to stop” is not what you'd want to run into something, the best thing is to stop if you can. But where you can't stop, then look for a place to escape. Read Answer B.

Answer B. In this case, it only makes sense to “honk, hard brake, release, and medium brake to swerve left.” You couldn't stop, you couldn't go to the right, and you're absolutely sure you aren't going to get trapped across the center line by any oncoming traffic, so swerve left.



Community and APG: Partners in Education

20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) helps mold young patriots at Churchville Elementary School



Churchville Elementary School patriots salute the flag during a Patriot Program training class with Soldier and civilian volunteers from the 20th Support Command (CBRNE). From left, front row, Samantha Koga, Alyssa Carestia, Leah McNally, Courtney Koga and Daniel Harman; second row, Emily Lempka, Sarah Lempka and Pamela Koga and back row, Alexander Krass and Gino Macri.

Story and photo by
QUENTIN MELSON
20TH SUPCOM

20th Support Command (CBRNE) Soldiers and civilians volunteered their time and energy from January to March to help with a local elementary school's early morning voluntary civics program that rewards children who learn about America and become better citizens.

The Churchville Elementary Patriot Program is a civics program available to all students, kindergarten through fifth-grade, as a voluntary before-school program. The requirements are tailored to the grade level and progressively get more difficult as children progress through the grades. Fifth-graders who successfully complete the most difficult of the school's Patriot Program requirements are rewarded with a field trip to a national landmark.

The program promotes patriotism in students by having them accomplish tasks such as: reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Star Spangled Banner, Preamble to the Constitution and Gettysburg Address; defining and explaining what an American Patriot is; knowing the 50 states, United States flag etiquette, the American's Creed; and completing a report on a patriot or President.

"I think this is a very positive link between the military and the surrounding community," said Dave Parker, human resources manager with the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE). "It gives the kids a better perspective of us. They often don't real-

ize the work Army civilians and Soldiers do. This program helps strengthen links between us and the local community. As it relates to the Patriot Program, the Soldiers are patriot models for these young students."

Once he found out about the program, it didn't take long for Capt. Timothy Sikorski, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander for the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE), to jump in and support the program.

"I volunteered because it sounded like a great program," Sikorski said. "I support civics education and looked forward to helping kids learn about patriotism."

20th SUPCOM volunteers met the students in the cafeteria each morning and tested them on patriotic skills and important events in American history.

"I really enjoyed seeing the children learn about American history," Sikorski said.

A 1999 study by the U.S. Department of Education indicated that three-quarters of America's high school seniors are not proficient in civics. As civics is not taught as part of the regular curriculum in many school districts as it was in the past, the Patriot Program gives Churchville children the opportunity to learn about a subject they might not otherwise have been exposed to.

"It's a program to help them learn more about their country," said Tina Carestia, a Churchville Elementary Patriot Program volunteer. "It used to be that you learned about Gettysburg in grammar school. You learned

about patriots and Presidents. You just don't learn about those things anymore. It's not in the curriculum, and it's an important thing for the kids to learn."

This year, 33 fifth-graders successfully completed the program. These students started the rigorous program in December and successfully completed the program in March.

"They have eight to nine weeks to finish the program", Carestia said. "If the students finished the program, then they participated in a special ceremony in April. [Then, they had an] opportunity to attend a field trip to Gettysburg in May. The program is voluntary and is designed to be incredibly challenging. It's not a requirement, but when they finish the program, they feel good about it."

The sense of accomplishment the kids get when they finish the program is what motivates the volunteers of the program.

"Every so often, we get kids who we know worked [hard]," Carestia said. "We know that they really struggled. The look on their faces when they finish is priceless. It really is. They are so proud of themselves, because they did something that they didn't think that they could do."

The students who completed the program found it to be challenging, but worth it.

"I thought it was a challenge for young students to learn about American history," said Alex Krass, an eleven-year-old fifth grader. "It was fun to learn about Gettysburg. Everybody should participate."

APG employees plan to participate in Bike to Work Day

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Harford County's annual Bike to Work Day Rally on May 15 is in celebration of national Bike to Work Day. This free rally, sponsored by Harford County Government, promotes riding a bicycle as a viable commute option.

The rally runs from 7 to 9 a.m. and is open to the public, and in particular, to those who have registered for Bike to Work Day.

With the weather getting warmer, more Aberdeen Proving Ground employees are deciding to leave their cars at home and bike to work. APG employees are encouraged to participate.

Those who decide to bike to work can sign up to participate in the Briefcase Challenge. This competition occurs when companies or agencies register as many employees as possible to bike to work on May 15. Awards are given at the rally to three separate companies or agencies representing a small, medium and large company category that has the largest participation. APG has won the Briefcase Challenge several years in a row and will once again be participating in the large company category.

Those who do not wish to bicycle alone can join a bicycle convoy that will depart from various Harford County locations that day. For convoy information, visit the Harford County Web site, www.harfordcountymd.gov, and click on the "Bike to Work Day" icon.

Pat Fielder, rideshare coordinator for Harford County Government, said that there will be prizes at the rally including two bike giveaways, courtesy of Contes Bikes, a long-time supporter of Bike to Work Day, and Chesapeake Cycle and Sport.

"Interest and support continues to grow for bicycling in Harford County," Fielder said, "This year will be no different. There will be no shortage of fun and prizes at this year's Bike to Work Day Rally thanks to our registered participants and sponsors."

Attendees will also have the opportunity to win gift certificates for bike rentals from Biller's Bikes and bicycle commuter gear from the Bicycle Connection. Other giveaways include gift certificates for Mountain Branch, Ironbird tickets, and a one-month Family membership at the Bel Air Athletic Club. Attendees will also have the chance to win gift certificates from local restaurants like MaGerk's, Looney's and the Greene Turtle.



Photo courtesy of JACK MCLAUGHLIN, HARFORD BUSINESS LEDGER
Offie Clarke, a biochemist from the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, accepts the 2008 Briefcase Challenge Award trophy on behalf of the APG participants for the third year in a row. Pat Fielder, Harford commuter assistance, is pictured to his right.

The Harford County Bike to Work Day Rally sports several unique features in addition to the traditional T-shirts and refreshments. Other rally highlights include Harford County Executive David R. Craig as the grand marshal leading the annual Bicycle Parade. Riding in a bicycle rickshaw, County Executive Craig will share the spotlight with the winner of the Green Pedal Essay contest.

Benefits of biking

Biking provides many benefits for the environment and for the biker.

Fielder said that May is Clean Commute Month because it is the beginning of the ground-level ozone season when code red days begin to appear.

Ozone is formed by the combination of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides (NOX) and sunlight. VOCs come from gasoline, paint, solvents, pesticides and charcoal lighter fluid. NOX comes from cars, trucks, and buses, as well as power plants, and coal-burning stoves. "Incorporating bicycle usage as a mode of transportation cuts down on these gases in the environment," she said.

Fielder added that biking to work cuts down on gas consumption, which helps the environment and the wallet.

According to the One Less Car Organization, the United States could save 462 million gallons of gasoline a year by increasing cycling from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of all trips. (<http://oneless-car.org>).

In fact, cycling has a lower cost per mile than any other form of transportation except walking.

Biking to work also promotes physical fitness and reduces stress.

Offie Clarke, an APG employee, who works as a research biochemist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, said that he has been biking to work for more than 10 years, and looks forward to participating in the Bike to Work Day Rally, as it encourages more people to use biking as a form of transportation.

Clarke, who lives in Aberdeen and works in Edgewood, said that it takes him 45 minutes to bike to work, and that he rides on Route 40 for the majority of his trip.

"The state has improved the shoulder of the road on Route 40, so the commute is even better," he said.

Clarke said that there are many benefits to biking and one is that he doesn't have to wait at the gate.

"It is a joy, I get to pass everyone," he said.

Clarke said that he feels that biking to work has added to the quality of his life, and he encourages others to do the same.

"I always have a good day if I bike to work," he said. "I like enjoying the fresh air and the exercise. Biking energizes me in the morning and relaxes me after work. Driving in a car is experiencing life second hand. When I bike, I get to experience life first hand."

Clarke said that he especially enjoys interacting with the community during his bike trips and feels if more people biked to work it would bring the community together.

"I feel like when you bike you are closer to the community, and you have opportunities that you might not otherwise get to meet," he said.

Clarke added that people generally like to see people biking, as it sends a positive message of promoting physical activity and environmental conservation.

"People get used to seeing me out biking, and if they do not see me for awhile, they want to know where I have been," he said.

Ben Capacio, a pharmacologist for MRICD, said that he was encouraged by Clarke to bike ride to work, and said that his first time biking to work was on last year's Bike to Work Day.

"I liked the experience so much that I started doing it on a regular basis," he said.

Capacio said that the bike trip from Joppatowne to the Edgewood Area, which is a six mile trip, takes him about 25 minutes.

"It takes only a few more minutes for me to bike to work than to drive to work, because when I bike I get to bypass traffic."

Capacio said that because of the rise in gas prices last year, biking to work was an even more attractive option.

"There are many benefits to biking," he said. "You save money, you are doing something good for yourself, and you are helping the environment."

Biking to work tips

Clarke offered suggestions for those who would like to start biking to work:

- Start by using your bike to do errands around town.
- Conduct a test run on the weekend to determine how long it will take to bike to work.
- Lay out what you need for the bike ride into work the night before. If possible, leave dress clothes at work to change into when you arrive.
- Check the weather forecast for the day you bike, and dress accordingly.
- Always wear reflective gear and a helmet (installation requirement.)
- When you arrive at APG, shower at one of the athletic facilities to get ready for the day.

For more information about Bike to Work Day, visit www.harfordcountymd.gov.



APG celebrates The Year of the NCO

APG NCO, Soldier of the Year announced

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

With confidence and poise, two Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldiers out-shined their competitors enough to be named the Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year during selection board proceedings April 30.

Sgt. Elizabeth Thompson of the 1st Army Medical Laboratory is the APG NCO of the Year and Spc. Benjamin Salazar of Company B, 22nd Chemical Battalion, is the APG Soldier of the Year.

The candidates, all of whom were previous NCO and Soldier of the month and quarter winners in their respective units, included Sgt. Selinda Rosario, Company B, 22nd Chemical Battalion; Sgt. Robert Bruns, U.S. Army Materiel Command Band and Spc. Daniel Crowfoot, 1st AML.

The selection process began with an early morning Army Physical Fitness Test consisting of push-ups, sit-ups and a 2-mile run. First Sgt. Larry Tyson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, APG Garrison, oversaw the proceedings assisted by Sgts. 1st Class Elwood Veney, and Michael Brickley and Sgt. Harold Hawthorne.

Tyson said that because of the way the garrison is structured, Soldiers who come under different major commands are permitted to compete.

"Every installation must have an NCO and Soldier of the Year, and all of them are Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldiers," he said.

The NCOs who nominated the candidates accompanied them as they faced the physical and mental demands of the day.

"There's no limit to her potential," said Sgt. Kyle Clanton, Thompson's first-line supervisor. "She's highly responsible in the way she handles her job and

leads other Soldiers."

"He's almost the perfect Soldier," said Salazar's supervisor, Staff Sgt. Aaron Hammond. "He needs minimal direction and takes complete ownership of every task I give him."

Sgt. Adrian Barnes, 1st AML, said that Crowfoot was not hesitant about testing himself.

"When he wants to go for something, he lets you know it," Barnes said. "He had back surgery and didn't let that stop him. He did outstanding on his PT test which lets you know how hungry he is."

Staff Sgt. Jessica Cho, Company B, 22nd Chemical Battalion, described Rosario as "very dedicated and responsible."

"She understands the concept of leadership," Cho said. "I foresee her progressing well through the ranks."

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Brown said that Bruns, who holds a master's degree and is often called upon to lead the band, is one of the best Soldiers he's served with.

"He takes on responsibilities and conducts himself way above the level of E-5," Brown said. "His ability to lead the organization is on par with the commander."

Sustained by weeks of study and preparation, the candidates exuded confidence before facing the selection board of senior NCOs led by APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez. Board members included Tyson, Sgt. Maj. Juanita Krueger, 1st AML; Sgt. Maj. Osvaldo Ponzio, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine; and Master Sgt. Gilbert Huerte, 22nd Chemical Battalion.

Rodriguez said that along with the prestige of being named the installation's top Soldiers, the winners are expected to represent APG during vari-



Aberdeen Proving Ground Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year candidates take off on the two-mile run portion of their Physical Training test April 30. From left, Sgt. Elizabeth Thompson, 1st Area Medical Laboratory; Sgt. Robert Bruns, U.S. Army Materiel Command Band; and Company B, 22nd Chemical Battalion's Spc. Benjamin Salazar and Sgt. Selinda Rosario. Thompson and Salazar were selected the APG and Soldier of the year, respectively, by the Garrison selection board later that afternoon.

ous events throughout the year.

"We are looking for the best of the best because they will be the face of Aberdeen Proving Ground," he said.

Dressed in Class A uniforms, candidates reported to the president of the board and answered an array of questions from board members who tested their Soldier skills and knowledge.

Each seemed confident after their board appearance.

"Overall I'm happy with my performance," Thompson said.

Clanton was more excited. "She was great," he said. "She carried herself well and she answered every question."

Rodriguez congratulated the candidates and said they were the sharpest group he's seen during his time as garrison command sergeant major. Although a non-voting member of the board, he said he was impressed with the "total package" of all the candidates.

"They had it all," he said.

"College degrees, Airborne wings, community service, great records and awards. They were all winners and the installation's cream of the crop."

"I was most impressed with their knowledge," he said of Thompson and Salazar. "They demonstrated that they not only knew the answers, they understood them. I think they'll represent the installation very well."

Thompson and Salazar will be honored with other top service members during the Military Appreciation Week luncheon at Top of the Bay May 21, and they will participate in the Armed Forces Day Army Family Covenant signing and tree dedication May 16.

Sgt. Elizabeth D. Thompson

A native of California, Thompson is a 68K preventive medicine specialist. With just under five years in the Army, she said she wants to fly Army aircraft and is working on her war-

rant officer pilot application.

She thanked Clanton and Sgt. Maj. Krueger for their leadership and Crowfoot who she studied with as a team.

"This is all due to the leadership in my unit," she said. I want to thank them for their support and belief in me. I'm ready to represent APG."

Spc. Benjamin U. Salazar

Also a native Californian, Salazar is a 74D chemical operations specialist. His goals include attending Ranger and Air Assault School, obtaining a degree in fire science and becoming a sergeant major.

"I'm very proud I came out a winner," he said. "I'm ready to represent APG and come back next year to compete for NCO of the Year."

He thanked his unit and all of his mentors.

"They've all been very supportive," he said. "My thanks go out to my whole team."



Fort Monmouth-based interns tour APG

Story by
ANDRICKA THOMAS
CECOM LCMC (FORWARD) PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND NICOLE CAWTHERN, APG TRANSFORMATION OFFICE

Bus loads of Fort Monmouth-based interns visited Aberdeen Proving Ground as part of an orientation tour April 9 to get acquainted with their future place of business.

Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via, commander, CECOM, Life Cycle Management Command, welcomed the approximately 300 interns before Lt. Gen. Jeffery Sorenson, Army Chief Information Officer/G-6, briefed them, charting the future path of Army information technology infrastructure. The interns then toured APG and the construction site for the new Army

Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, or Army Team C4ISR, Phase I campus, culminating with a luncheon at Top of the Bay.

During his briefing, Sorenson explained the Army's information technology infrastructure, initiatives, challenges and changes expected over the next few years. Sorenson stressed the important role interns will play in the transition of Army IT across the globe.

"It's going to take the ingenuity of you, the interns, to see this change through," Sorenson said. "The plans we [Army G-6] are making now, many of you will see to fruition."

He told the interns that there was a new recipe for success and encouraged

them to take hold of the concept.

"Passion, creativity and innovation; those are the success factors for the future," Sorenson said. "You are the future."

He engaged in a question and answer session with the interns.

Renesha Robinson, U.S. Army Materiel Command Fellow, said the trip to APG was helpful and that he felt honored that the leadership felt it important to keep the interns in the loop.

"I appreciate the fact that Major General Via thinks the interns are important enough to keep us informed," Robinson said. Robinson, like many other interns and personnel stationed at Fort Monmouth, will soon make the move to APG as the implementation deadline for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law

nears. Robinson said getting acclimated to APG and the area is a smart move for those relocating.

The visiting interns represented only about half of the interns whose jobs will relocate from Fort Monmouth as a result of BRAC law implementation. A similar opportunity to visit will be available for the remaining interns in the fall.

The transition to APG is being made in phases. These phased moves will continue until the entire C4ISR mission has transitioned. The congressional law dictates that the mission transition will be completed by September 2011. Nearly 400 Army Team C4ISR employees have already either relocated to APG or been hired there.

AUSA

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speaker for months but was unable due to the general's tedious travel and training schedule.

"I invited Brigadier General Snow to speak last October. Due to his tremendous travel schedule it took a long time to get him here, but it was well worth the wait," Jernigan said.

"I am a long-standing supporter of AUSA and its work in support of our Soldiers," Snow said. "Understanding that APG is primarily an AMC [U.S. Army Materiel Command] post, my goal is to increase Soldier representation at these meetings and provide AUSA the same support you provide our Soldiers."

Snow went on to discuss the unique capabilities of the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE), the only FORSCOM unit on APG. The CBRNE Command has command and control of the preponderance of the Army's active duty explosive ordnance disposal and chemical forces. This includes two EOD groups, one chemical brigade, and the almost entirely civilian organization, the CBRNE Analytical and

Remediation Activity.

"All told, that equates to approximately six thousand Soldiers and DA civilians, in twelve battalions – more than eighty companies on more than twenty installations across the United States," Snow said. "At any time more than twenty percent of this command is deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, to include eleven members now deployed from the 20th CBRNE headquarters here at APG."

The 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) is also APG's only deployable headquarters, he stated. When combined with the Joint Elimination Coordination Element, or JECE, a joint unit of CBRNE experts and planners co-located with the 20th SUPCOM headquarters on APG, the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) has the mission to command and control the Joint Task Force for the Elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

"I would have loved to speak to you earlier, but our headquarters just returned from a major combined-joint training exercise, Key Resolve, in Korea," Snow said. "We deployed more than two hundred Soldiers and civilians from this headquarters to Korea in support of this exercise where we trained with some of our subordinates from Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Lewis, Washington;

and the Republic of Korea NBC Defense Command. It was truly a great event," he said. "In fact, the four-star deputy commander of the Combined Forces Command in Korea, ROK General Sung Chool Lee, will be visiting our command in May. I believe we made a statement during Key Resolve, and people are just beginning to realize the unique capabilities our organization and JTF-Elimination bring to the table to counter CBRNE hazards and to conduct WMD elimination operations, especially in a theater like Korea."

Snow also mentioned how he appreciates the support of AUSA and the APG community and is looking forward to moving the headquarters up to the Aberdeen Area of APG.

"As part of the growth and transformation of the 20th Support Command, I look forward to making the long move up to the Aberdeen Area in the near future and establishing APG as the 'Home of the CBRNE Command,'" Snow said.

Jernigan then expressed her thanks on behalf of the chapter.

"Having Brigadier General Snow as our speaker today was indeed a privilege and a pleasure," Jernigan said. "The Aberdeen Chapter of AUSA is growing by leaps and bounds and this is partial-

ly because of people like Brigadier General Snow who take the time to come speak to us about their mission and their passion. He had a great rapport with the audience. We will certainly ask him to speak again," Jernigan said.

"Hearing him speak about the 20th Support Command and his Soldiers, I realized he places significant importance on supporting his Soldiers," she said. "He travels so much because he wants his troops to know he supports them and their mission."

"The Aberdeen Chapter of AUSA encourages people to attend the monthly meetings," Jernigan said. "The meetings are informative, interesting, and where else do you have the opportunity to listen to such high level speakers, in such close proximity?"

The Aberdeen Chapter of AUSA will hold its next meeting May 19 at the Richlin Ballroom in Edgewood. Gary Blohm, director of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center in Fort Monmouth, N.J., will be the guest speaker. In July the Aberdeen Chapter of AUSA will hold its Soldiers' Picnic.

For more information, contact Jernigan via e-mail at mjernigan@quantumintl.com.

ATC

From front page

Under Rooney's leadership, ATC has excelled in supporting a nation at war. As stated in the justification for his DSM, because of Rooney's efforts, ATC has delivered comprehensive test services for more than 1,000 Department of Defense programs annually on major acquisition systems. These systems include, but are not limited to: Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, Stryker Mobile Gun System (MGS), Abrams M1A1 tank, vehicle up-armoring programs, counter-improvised explosive device programs and body armor.

During his remarks, Nadeau stated that "this officer [Rooney], on this day, in this command, deserves the largest recognition that we could give him."

The ceremony also included Rooney's retirement ceremony which marked the end of a 31-year military career.

Nadeau also presented Rooney with the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement and Kathleen with the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal and the Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation.

"Soldiers are alive today because of what happens at ATC," Nadeau remarked.

During his emotional farewell, Rooney thanked his Family for their love and dedication, and he extolled the work of the non-commissioned officer and especially those who had taught him throughout his career. The entire contingent of ATC's non-commissioned officers participated in some way during the ceremony.

"I consider ATC's work force the Army's civilian equivalent to our noncommissioned officer," Rooney said. "The people here at ATC are doers, and they get things done time and again. The Army and the Department of Defense continue to ask more and more of them, and they meet the challenge every single time."

Once the official ceremony was complete, the ATC work force showcased some of ATC's



During her father's emotional farewell remarks, Caitlin Rooney wipes away tears as her mother, Kathleen, gives her a hug.

Photos by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

work with a parade of vehicles and equipment followed by a firing demonstration. The parade of vehicles highlighted three of five variants of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, three Stryker variants, an Abrams tank, and three high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles each with a different iteration of the up-armoring fragmentation kits.

Holt ready to embrace challenges

Holt has just returned to the states from an assignment where he commanded Military Transition Team 0500 assigned in support of the 5th Iraqi Army Division in Diyala Province, Iraq. He is very enthusiastic about taking command at ATC.

"I promise that I will give the same passion and intensity that John has given to make this command what it is today,"



An M1A2 Abrams tank fires a round during the vehicle demonstration portion of the ATC Change of Command Ceremony April 28.

Holt said during his remarks. "I see an organization that simply refuses to accept boundaries and refuses to accept a limit to the talent and spirit of its work force. You can see that's what ATC has done, and I will do

everything to support the men and women of this command."

Holt was born at Fort Campbell, Ky., and began his military career when he received a commission as a second lieutenant in Infantry in 1982 from the

Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of South Alabama.

He and his wife Peggy are the parents of son, Seth, who is an ROTC cadet at the University of New Mexico.