



See page 2 for Year of the NCO article.

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Nov. 23 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



ECBC, MRICD sponsor blood drive today

The Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense will jointly sponsor an Armed Services Blood Drive, 8 a.m. to noon, today at the Hoyle Gymnasium, building E-4210.

While everyone prepares to celebrate Thanksgiving and thinks about their blessings, remember to thank the troops by donating blood. A cornucopia of goodies (refreshments and prizes) will be available for donors. For more information or for an appointment, visit <https://www.militarylifeforce.com/>.

FMWR Holiday Bazaar today

FMWR will hold a Holiday Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 19, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

For more information, call 410-278-4011, or visit www.apgmwr.com.

KUSAHC closes early today

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed for its Fall

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20th SUPCOM honors one of its own

OMMS Soldiers 'stay with the team' during mass re-enlistment

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

The U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School hosted a mass re-enlistment ceremony as 24 Soldiers raised their hands and extended their military careers at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Nov. 10.

The Soldiers hailed from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade and the 16th and 143rd Ordnance battalions.

The Brigade Commander Col. Dan J. Reilly, and Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Tolbert traveled from Virginia for the ceremony. While APG is their primary duty location, the leaders are splitting time between Aberdeen Proving Ground and Fort Lee, Va., the new home of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools.

With the re-enlistees gathered on the ballroom stage, Reilly told the audience of Soldiers and Family members that every one of them was "special."

"The nation has been at war for eight years and these are its heroes," Reilly said, adding that nearly all the reenlistees have



Colonel Dan J. Reilly, commander of the 61st Ordnance Brigade, Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, administers the Oath of Enlistment to 24 Soldiers during a mass re-enlistment ceremony at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Nov. 10.

served in the combat zone. "We're proud of them because they know what they are facing. They are truly treasures."

"It's all about teamwork," Tolbert added.

"These Soldiers have decid-

ed to remain members of this team," he said. "Today is a testimony of the good things this brigade has to offer."

He thanked the ceremony organizers who included Master Sgt. Rosalyn Grayson,

brigade retention noncommissioned officer; Master Sgt. Gail Brennan, equal opportunity advisor; and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Wilfredo Cruz, Army Community Service volunteer

See RE-ENLIST, page 2



From left, Milton Feliberty, the commander of Catholic War Veterans Post 1841; Elizabeth Kruger of post 1841 and Officer of the Day Robert Hanson salute after placing the Wreath for the Future during the Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10028 in Aberdeen Nov. 11.

Garrison commander lauds uncommon valor of Warriors during Veterans Day gathering

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

Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison leaders joined veterans, Soldiers, Family members and community leaders for the annual Veterans Day remembrance ceremony held at the Aberdeen Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10028 in Aberdeen Nov. 11.

Colonel Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander and the program's guest speaker, shared remarks on the accomplishments of veterans past and the legacy they left for today's Warriors.

The ceremony was moved indoors from the Aberdeen Memorial Park due to inclement weather.

Catholic War Veterans Post 1841, led by Milton Feliberty, post commander, hosted the event in conjunction with the Bernard L. Tobin American Legion Post 128, Korean

War Veterans Chapter 271 and the VFW.

Retired Lt. Col. William (Randy) Conlon of posts 128 and 10028, served as master of ceremonies, and the Officer of the Day was Robert Hanson, Post 128.

Conlon welcomed all and asked that they visit Memorial Park which underwent a beautification effort earlier this year.

"A tremendous amount of effort went into making the park something we can all be proud of," Conlon said.

Retired Lt. Col. and the Rev. John Bauer presented the invocation and benediction.

Bauer reminded guests that the day marked the 91st year since the end of World War I when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as Armistice Day. He offered a prayer of recovery for the nation and strength for its veterans.

"Use our veterans to remind us to trust in

See VETERANS, page 15

Company E 16th discontinues in accordance with BRAC requirements

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

After more than 19 years of training ordnance officers, warrant officers and international students on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Company E, 16th Ordnance Battalion conducted a discontinuance ceremony in accordance with mission requirements under base realignment and closure. The ceremony was held in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center Oct. 16.

The 16th Ordnance Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Stephen T. Cheng officiated over the ceremony that included the casing of the Company E, 16th colors.

Cheng talked about the decades of ordnance officers who received their initial training in the unit.

"This is a pretty special day for us," Cheng said. "Everyone



Company E, 16th Ordnance Battalion 1st Sgt. Byrd Johnson Jr., right, and company commander Capt. Rachel M. Wills, left, case the unit colors during a Discontinuance Ceremony in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center Oct. 16.

received their first instruction as ordnance officers and warrant officers right here. We're talking about decades and decades of Army officers."

He noted that the unit was being discontinued as opposed to deactivated.

"You don't deactivate a [Table of distribution and allowances - TDA], you discontinue it," Cheng said.

Noting that due to the discontinuance, there would be no incoming commander, Cheng expressed high praise for company com-

mander Capt. Rachel Wills. He said he worked with Wills for 15 months and was "impressed by her dedication to the job."

"She is driven by a sincere desire to do what's right for her unit, her Soldiers and the Army,"

See COMPANY E, page 14

TRAFFIC ALERT

Maryland Boulevard work continues

DPW

Daisy Construction will continue working on Maryland Boulevard this week with the following tentative schedule:

Thursday, Nov. 19 - Mill inbound lanes of Maryland Boulevard from Susquehanna Avenue to Darlington Street. Work will occur from 6 p.m. Thursday evening until 5 a.m., Friday morning. Inbound Maryland Boulevard will be closed from Combat Drive to Susquehanna Avenue. Use Combat Drive or Deer Creek Loop

See TRAFFIC, page 6

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

CFC contributions continue to grow

APG CFC Office

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Combined Federal Campaign exceeded the \$235,000 mark with more than 795 donors contributing toward the target goal of 3,000 participants.

The CFC Office congratulates the CECOM-LCMC and PEO Integration Office, the APG Garrison's religious support office and the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) for exceeding their tenant goals.

The CFC Book Fair in Top of the Bay's Down Under remains open for business with more than 2,000 books

See CFC, page 8



APG celebrates The Year of the NCO

APG NCO has lead in local production of Rent



Sergeant Ashley Sangret, who plays the French horn for the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, sings "Rent," the opening song for the rock musical "Rent." Sangret is currently playing a lead part, Joanne Jefferson, in the Havre de Grace community theater production.

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

An Aberdeen Proving Ground non-commissioned officer from the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band is currently a lead in the Havre de Grace community theater production of the rock musical "Rent."

Sergeant Ashley Sangret, who plays the French horn for the AMC Band, is currently playing the role of Joanne Jefferson, a lawyer who is the partner of Maureen Johnson, a performance artist.

"Joanne is a really funny character, and has some anger issues," Sangret said. "She is fun to play, and I am excited that I got the opportunity to play her."

Sangret acted in several plays and musicals in middle school and high school in her hometown of Detroit, Mich., and studied at Eastern Michigan University's summer program for dance and voice before joining the Army.

Sangret said that performing has always been a creative outlet for her.

"I came from a rough neighborhood but being involved in music and theater gave me something to look forward to and gave me positive influences," she said. "I am very grateful that I got involved in band and theater when I was in school, it has made me who I am today."

Past productions include "School House Rock Live!," "Leader of the Pack," "The Pajama Game," "Godspell,"

and "Little Shop of Horrors."

Sangret, who joined the Army when she was 17, said that she appreciates that she has had an opportunity to be in an Army band.

"For students who display talent in their high school band, I highly recommend that they consider looking into joining an Army band," she said.

She added that during her military career she has also been able to sing with the band, which has helped her prepare for her role in "Rent."

Sangret sang with the "2ID Shockwave Show Band," part of the 2nd Infantry Division Band, while she was stationed in Korea and won South Korea's northern division of Military Idol. Sangret was promoted to E5 while stationed in Korea during her first duty assignment, with just 18 months in the Army.

After Korea she went to Jump School at Fort Benning, Ga., and was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. She then deployed to Afghanistan and performed with the 82nd Airborne Division Show Band, called "Level 82."

"I was their feature [or lead] female vocalist, performing a wide variety of music and was always told I had great energy and earned the nickname, 'Tweak,' from the show 'South Park,'" Sangret said. "I also sang with the Jazz Combo and an acoustic duo, performed all across Afghanistan and for the big Fourth of July concert on Fort Bragg."

At APG, Sangret has sung on tour, for Fourth of July concerts, and will be singing for an upcoming holiday concert.

"I am not a feature vocalist since my horn playing is the priority here at APG," she said. "Vocalists, unless in a special band, are not considered their own job, so it's an additional duty. I also have run sound, worked in the operations shop coordinating gigs and work as an administrative NCO."

Sangret has trained Soldiers as a combat instructor for band units and has also taught a Special Population Physical Training program.

"I have not used my vocals to teach, just to motivate and inspire," she said. "I have helped other vocalists read music if they can't though, and have also helped the group by printing charts and lyrics and doing show prep and set up."

Sangret, who has been in the Army since September 2004, said that she thinks that the Year of the NCO is a great honor.

"I have worked with a number of great NCOs, and have been motivated to be better by their leadership," she said.

"I am constantly striving to be the best NCO I can be. This year is just a reminder of how amazing the Army is and how much it has done for me and for

others who I know."

"Rent" is Sangret's first musical that she has acted in since joining the Army.

"I wanted to act in a play or musical, and was happy to hear that the community theater of Havre de Grace was doing a production of "Rent," she said. "It is one of my favorite musicals."

Sangret credits organization to her ability to juggle her Army career and her love of theater.

"I always have a back-up plan," she said.

Sangret said that the location of Tidewater Players, the community theater of Havre de Grace, has been very convenient for the frequent rehearsals that she and the other cast members had before the show started.

Sangret added that she is also currently taking physicians assistant courses, which she is planning to use for her career after she leaves the Army.

"Being a physician's assistant is a back-up plan," she said. "I would ultimately like to be an actress on Broadway."

Show information

"Rent" is showing on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. now until Dec. 13. All seats are \$15.

For tickets visit www.tidewaterplayers.com, or call 410-939-5046.

Caution: "Rent" contains adult language and themes and may not be suitable for children under 14.

The Tidewater Players is located on 121 N. Union Avenue, next to the volunteer fire department.

About "Rent"

"Rent" is Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer and Tony Award winning musical, and is one of the longest running shows on Broadway. "Rent" is about the lives of poor young artists who are trying to survive the harsh reality of living or loving someone with acquired immune deficiency syndrome. "Rent" takes place in the thriving days of bohemian Alphabet City, part of New York City's Lower East Side.

According to www.rentmusical.net, Larson took inspiration from Giacomo Puccini's opera La Boheme which premiered in 1896, 100 years before Rent's premiere. Many of the characters in "Rent" are closely related to characters in La Boheme.

"Rent" has received many accolades such as the Pulitzer Prize for Best Drama, Tony Award for Best Musical, Tony Award for Best Book, Tony Award for Best Score, Drama Desk for Outstanding Book and Drama Desk's Outstanding Musical.

(Editor's note: some background information from this article was taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rent_\(musical\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rent_(musical)).)

Re-enlist

From front page

coordinator, who provided an information table and numerous giveaways for the Soldiers and their Family members.

The re-enlistees formed two ranks onstage as Reilly faced them from the floor and administered the Oath of Re-enlistment.

After the oath, Family members in attendance were escorted on stage to receive brigade certificates of appreciation for supporting their Soldiers.

Reilly said that holiday block leave for OMMS Soldiers will take place as normal only this year from two fronts – APG and Fort Lee.

"This will probably be the last mass re-enlistment at APG but not the last [holiday block leave]," Reilly said, noting that the 143rd Ordnance Battalion is slated to remain at APG until sometime in 2011.

He added thanks to the APG Garrison for its support of OMMS Soldiers.

Grayson said that the retention mission is more than re-enlistment.

"We don't just reenlist Soldiers, we advise them on their careers," she said. "We're here to assist no matter what path the Soldier chooses."

She thanked all who supported the event, including the 61st Ordnance Brigade Family Readiness Group and brigade and battalion retention NCOs, and said the event was unique for more reasons than just the large number of re-enlistees. Ninety-five percent of the Soldiers re-enlisted indefinitely – meaning this will be their final re-enlistment – and of the 24, only one received a re-enlistment bonus, she said.

"That means they did it for love of country, for job security and for their Families," Grayson said. "This command takes that kind of commitment very seri-

ously and we wanted to arrange something different and unique for the Soldiers and their Families to show our appreciation for their service."

Soldiers and spouses agreed that re-enlisting was their best option.

Staff Sgt. Bryan Ferguson, an instructor with HHC 143rd, took the oath of re-enlistment as his dual military spouse Staff Sgt. Janice Ferguson looked on.

"We didn't really talk about it," Janice said when asked if re-enlisting was a joint decision.

With three children and 10 years in the military, Bryan, who served in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division, said he opted to re-enlist indefinitely.

"There's nothing else out there for me," he said. "It didn't take a lot of thought."

With nine years in the Army, Sgt. 1st Class Chandrapaul Lallbachan, HHC 61st, said re-enlisting was a "no brainer."

"I knew what I wanted and with help from Master Sergeant

Grayson, I re-enlisted for six years," Lallbachan said. He was accompanied by his wife Samtri and daughter Sarah Rose.

"He told me he was planning to re-enlist so I asked if he had any doubts," Samtri said, adding that she was "happy and sad" about the event.

"Well, he's already deployed three times," she said. "You just don't know what the future

might bring."

The brass quintet of the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band provided music for the ceremony.

Re-enlistees received gym bags filled with Army notebooks, flashlights, pens and other accessories. Spouses received complimentary Afghans and children were given Frisbees.

The OMMS reenlistees included:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| HHC 61st Ordnance Brigade | Sgt. Lloyd Childress |
| Sgt. 1st Class Frederic Banks | Sgt. Philip Millard |
| Sgt. 1st Class Chandrapaul Lallbachan | 143rd Ordnance Battalion |
| Staff Sgt. Noah May | Sgt. 1st Class Gary Stone |
| Sgt. Aaron Griesinger | Staff Sgt. Corey Smith |
| Sgt. Herber Romero | Staff Sgt. Dewayne Davis |
| Spc. Jessie Hahn | Staff Sgt. Bryan Ferguson |
| Spc. Robbie Medina | Staff Sgt. Carlos Guardado |
| 16th Ordnance Battalion | Staff Sgt. Joseph Kittok |
| Staff Sgt. Alberto Blanco | Staff Sgt. Ryan Rivers |
| Staff Sgt. James Brown | Sgt. Burnis Johnson |
| Staff Sgt. Adrian Graham | Sgt. George Thompson |
| Staff Sgt. Phillip Pena | Sgt. Jeffrey Hughes |
| | Pvt. Derrell Simmons |

APG News

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Army's largest dining facility opens at Fort Lee



Private Ernest Rael takes in lunch at the facility's dining area. The new dining facility located at the Ordnance Campus is part of the BRAC plan that mandated the relocation of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools from Aberdeen Proving Ground, and Redstone Arsenal, Ala., to Fort Lee, Va.

Story and photo by
T. ANTHONY BELL
Fort Lee Public Affairs

The largest Army-owned dining facility is officially open for business.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Oct. 14 to celebrate the completion and opening of the 75,000-square-foot facility located on the new Ordnance Campus at Fort Lee, Va.

It was the first ribbon-cutting ceremony held on the \$700 million campus comprised of more than 30 new buildings, many still under construction.

Members of the post leadership, local dignitaries and about 75 others were on hand for the event.

Colonel Michael Morrow, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Lee commander, said the opening provided the opportunity to celebrate the facility, but more importantly, to recognize the Soldiers who will dine there.

"This is the first time we get to really welcome all the ordnance Soldiers who are coming here from the 61st Ordnance Brigade [relocating from Aberdeen Proving Ground as a result of base realignment and closure]," he said after

the ceremony. "They will benefit from a state-of-the-art dining facility which will feed them three meals a day and help sustain them through their training."

The 61st Ordnance Brigade provides command, control and personnel services for all cadre and students assigned to the school.

The dining facility is a two-story structure that features a large, first floor kitchen, elevators to transport food to the second level and expansive dining areas on both floors. It cost \$29 million to build and another million to furnish and equip.

This is the largest Army-owned DFAC, said Lisa Babotas, Norfolk District's Center of Standardization Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There is a larger DFAC under construction at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, which is a U.S. Air Force funded project.

The facility has a staff of more than 30 workers who will serve more than 3,600 meals three times a day when the campus is at full capacity.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Tolbert, the 61st's top noncommissioned officer,

said the facility will go a long way in helping to prepare Soldiers for training.

"This ribbon-cutting ceremony marks an important milestone," he said, noting all the hard work to bring the dining facility to fruition. "It's a milestone that is well-deserved, and it will more than meet the needs of the Soldier."

Tolbert also said a good dining facility can do wonders for Soldiers' morale.

"The Soldiers think that this is pretty much heaven for them," he said. "They are really enjoying the meals, and we are relieved that they are."

The dining facility opened for business nearly [six] weeks ago when the first ordnance students - roughly 500 of them - arrived on campus from APG.

Colonel Ed Gully, the post's senior Base Realignment and Closure engineer, said the facility was designed and built in only 18 months, and the fact that it was ready when students arrived spoke of the hard work by all those involved.

"Our timelines were very tight due to linkages (to operations) at other installations including Aberdeen Proving Ground and Fort Monmouth [New Jersey]," he said during his speech. "I know that there were some who were skeptical on whether or not we could make and hit these required milestones, given both the scale of the construction and the complexity of the moves that we are undertaking. On behalf of the entire team, I'm proud to say the required milestones were met as a result of the tremendous team effort."

The Ordnance School is situated on about 300 acres located north of Route 36.

Construction on the numerous campus facilities is scheduled for completion in 2011.



Army continues seeking improvements to combat uniform

HQDA, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, G-4

Nothing says pride like a Soldier in uniform. Today's Soldier has much to be proud of in the current Army Combat Uniform.

As Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston said, the ACU was designed by Soldiers, for Soldiers. Developed with functionality in mind, many design aspects of the uniform lend themselves to low maintenance, such as the 50/50 cotton/nylon wrinkle-free fabric and the shine-free boots. The uniform also has pockets for elbow and knee pad inserts for added protection, and drawstrings at the ankles and waist for improved comfort and fit.

Since introduction of the ACU in 2004, the Army has made more than 25 improvements to the uniform and associated equipment based on Soldier input. These include a reinforced seat, buttons on the cargo pockets, and better attachment of the infrared tab. This improvement process is ongoing, as Soldiers keep suggesting new ways to adapt the uniform to their needs.

Now the Army is focusing on the concealment the ACU provides to Soldiers operating in Afghanistan's unique environment of mountains, deserts and woodlands.

"The Army is all about taking care of Soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey J. Mellinger of the U.S. Army Materiel Command. "That means providing Soldiers with the best equipment. In this case, it means evaluating what is the best camouflage for uniforms in current operating environments."

The Army is exploring alternate camouflage patterns in two ways. First, the Army is equipping two battalions in Afghanistan with uniforms and personal equipment in alternate camouflage patterns. One battalion is receiving uniforms in MultiCam, a pattern worn by some Special Forces troops in Afghanistan. The other battalion is receiving uniforms in Universal Camouflage Pattern - Delta (UCP-Delta), a variant of

the current ACU camouflage pattern that incorporates the Coyote Brown color and reduces the percentages of sand and gray colors. The battalions also will retain their standard ACUs.

Second, the Army is evaluating six candidate camouflage patterns, including the currently used Universal Camouflage Pattern. The intent is to determine which of the six currently available patterns, with corresponding personal protective equipment, provides Soldiers with the most effective concealment in Afghanistan.

"We already have extensive data on the performance of various camouflage patterns in particular environments, but we need to keep building the science for Operation Enduring Freedom," said Brig. Gen. Peter N. Fuller, the Program Executive Officer Soldier. "For example, we need more information on how the uniform camouflage blends with the Soldier's combat equipment in specific environments."

While the issue of camouflage patterns has recently been in the news, the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center has studied and reported on the effectiveness of different camouflage patterns for many years. The current ACU provides Soldiers with concealment in a variety of environments, from urban to desert, both during the day and at night.

A team has deployed to Afghanistan to collect data in the various environments, outside the Forward Operating Bases, where Soldiers are fighting the enemy. The team includes representatives from the Program Executive Office Soldier, Army G-4, U.S. Army Infantry Center, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, the Asymmetric Warfare Group, the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory and NSRDEC.

Feedback from the two battalions, as well as results of additional tests being conducted by NSRDEC on multiple camouflage patterns, are expected to be presented to Army leadership in early 2010.

DPAS training offered post wide

RDECOM Contracting Center

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Contracting Center is sponsoring training on the Defense Priorities and Allocations System Dec. 2 at the Aberdeen Post Theater, building 3245.

Under Title I of the Defense Production Act of 1950, the President is authorized to require preferential acceptance and performance of contracts or orders supporting certain approved national defense and energy programs, and to allocate materials, services and facilities in a manner to promote these approved programs. The DPA's definition of "national defense" has been amended to include emergency preparedness activities conducted and critical infrastructure protection and restoration. Additional priorities authority is found in Section 18

of the Selective Service Act of 1948, in 10 USC 2538 and 50 USC 82.

The Department of Commerce is delegated authority to implement these priorities and allocations provisions for industrial resources. For more information and regulations, visit their site at www.bis.doc.gov/dpas/default.htm.

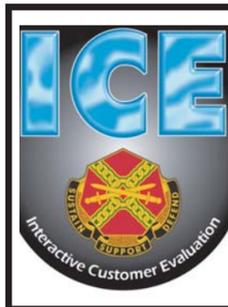
The training will be presented by the Army DPAS Officer, Joseph Tappel, who will provide two separate sessions; one for the contracting community from 8:30 to 10 a.m., and one for the "requirements" community from 10:30 a.m. to noon as each group has a different prospective.

The requirements community could include the Contracting Officer's Representative, budget and logistics individuals, and program managers who may be responsible for placing the DPAS rating on the purchase request.

Many of the requirements that the center processes are eligible to receive a DPAS rating.

Tappel will discuss the advantages and responsibilities of using DPAS. A time for questions and answers will be available at each session.

All activities are invited to attend. For more information, call Rita Maclary, RDECOM Contracting Center, 410-278-0844.



Go to <http://ice.disa.mil>. Click on "ARMY" then "Aberdeen Proving Ground."



ARMY FAMILY COVENANT

SOLDIERS ★ FAMILIES ★ ARMY CIVILIANS



APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, left, chats with Rebecca Ann Jackson, center and Ashlee Menzies, right, after presenting them with Garrison coins at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center Oct. 24.

AFAP youths awarded for efforts

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Three Aberdeen Proving Ground youths who participated in the Army Family Action Plan symposium – a three day conference focused on quality of life issues that was held at Top of the Bay in October – were recognized for their contributions during a visit to the Aberdeen Area Youth Center by Garrison leaders Oct. 24.

Colonel Orlando Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades congratulated the youths and presented them with Garrison coins during an informal assembly in the center's gym.

"They took part in a weeklong conversation presenting problems they wanted us to address on your behalf," Ortiz told the gathering.

Recognized were Ashlee Menzies and Germanie Lewis of the AA Youth Center and Rebecca Ann Jackson of the Edgewood Area.

"Kids can make a difference," said Jackson, a 12-year-old 7th grader. "I volunteered because I thought it would be nice to represent the Edgewood Area, and I hope more [youths] volunteer so we have better ideas to present."

Menzies said the trio presented ideas about recycling and other suggestions to improve the environment.

"I wanted to be a part of it [AFAP]

because I like helping," the 15-year-old 10th grader said. "I learned a lot about the suggestion process, and I'd like to do it again."

Menzies father, Staff Sgt. Lee Menzies, Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion, and his wife Tiffany Menzies said their daughter consistently tries to help others.

"She volunteers here every day," Tiffany Menzies said. "She's always looking to make a difference."

"We're very proud of her," Staff Sgt. Menzies added. "She's just a bright, futuristic teenager who likes to stay involved."

Lewis was unable to attend the ceremony.

Also in attendance was Wilfredo Cruz of the Army Community Service volunteer program who co-coordinated the AFAP and Norma Warwick, AA Youth Center lead.

A retired command sergeant major, Cruz told the youths he was grateful that his son attended the youth center which he said "promotes community involvement."

"Having this center is a wonderful thing, and the youths we're here to recognize did an outstanding job for you and the community," Cruz said.

Warwick said the three honorees, along with all youth center members, learn the 'Six Pillars of Character' which are similar to the Army Values.

"They're just a sample of the positive work being done by our young people," Warwick said. "They did a fantastic job."

President proclaims Military Family Month

American Forces Press Service

President Barack Obama pledged his support of military members and their Families and said Americans have a "solemn obligation" to preserve their well-being in his proclamation declaring November as Military Family Month.

The proclamation reads:

"No one pays a higher price for our freedom than members of our nation's military and their Families. As sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and mothers and fathers are deployed, military Families endure with exceptional resilience and courage. They provide our troops with invaluable encouragement and love, and serve our nation in their own right. During Military Family Month, we honor the Families of our Armed Forces and thank them for their dedication to our country.

"Though only a small percentage of our nation's population, our troops bear the great responsibility of protecting our people. They, along with their Families, serve us every day with courage and dignity. Ensuring that military Families receive the respect they deserve and the support they have earned is a top priority for my administration.

"The strength of our nation is mea-

sured not just by our success on the battlefield, but also by our ability to support those Families who have made so many sacrifices for us. Time and again, military Families have shown their heart in the face of adversity. We have a solemn obligation to ensure that while our men and women in uniform discharge their duties, we do all we can to promote and preserve the well-being of their Families. We must also support the Families of our wounded warriors and our fallen heroes who have paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy.

"This month, we celebrate the tremendous contributions of military Families, convey to them our deepest respect and appreciation, and recommit ourselves to their support.

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2009 as Military Family Month. I call on all Americans to honor military Families through private actions and public service for the tremendous contributions they make in the support of our service members and our nation."

Traffic

From front page

as alternate routes.

Friday/Sun- Finish milling balance of Maryland Boulevard as necessary and mill Boothby Hill Avenue from Combat Drive to Darlington Street. Detours will be signed.

Weather permitting, repaving of the

milled areas may possibly start as early as Thursday and continue through the weekend and into next week. Paving will most probably be done with single lane closures during the day because of temperature limitations.

Additional information will be provided as conditions change or updates become available.

Motorists are asked to drive carefully and use extra caution in the work areas.



United States Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground
proudly presents

A Family Holiday Celebration

featuring the
United States Army Materiel Command Band



Amoss Performing Arts Theater
401 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air

Sunday, December 13, 2009 ~ 3:00 P.M.

The concert is **FREE** and open to the public, however tickets are required. For **FREE TICKETS**, clip the coupon below and mail it back with a **SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED envelope to AMC Band, Holiday Celebration, 2201 Aberdeen Blvd., APG, MD 21005**. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis. Limit 6 tickets per request. Ticket request must be received no later than December 8. If handicapped seating is required, please contact 443-412-2211. For more information, please call 410-278-8769.

Please send me _____ tickets for *A Family Holiday Celebration* concert at the Amoss Performing Arts Theater on December 13, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.





Regional senior enlisted advisors expand DeCA's military outreach

Story by
KEVIN L. ROBINSON
DeCA

There was a time when military commissaries were staffed by Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen working right alongside civilians. These uniformed members served as cashiers, stockers, store officers and more. Those days are long gone. However, in October, the Defense Commissary Agency took a page from that past by adding senior enlisted advisors to its regional offices.

Joining Command Sgt. Maj. Victor M. Garcia, DeCA's senior enlisted advisor to the director, are Army Reserve Sgt. Maj. Linda K. Ricker in DeCA Europe, Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Larry Fullilove in DeCA East, and Coast Guard Reserve Master Chief Petty Officer Joe L. Valdez in DeCA West.

"We thought it was only right, being that we had a command sergeant major at the headquarters, that we should also have some senior enlisted leadership in the regions," said Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., DeCA director and CEO. "Fortunately we were able to do that with the cooperation of the military services. These are our senior enlisted advisors – professional leaders, experienced, multiservice and diverse."

The added manpower will help Garcia

in his mission of advising DeCA's civilian leadership about the needs of enlisted service members' commissary benefit and connecting with the senior enlisted leaders of the armed services. The agency's senior enlisted advisors are also military advocates for DeCA customers – the 12 million active duty, retired and forces in reserve and their Families – and responsible for increasing the awareness of the commissary benefit and its savings to these authorized patrons.

DeCA's decision to add senior enlisted advisors to its geographic areas mirrors the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which currently employs an Air Force chief master sergeant in the senior enlisted advisor position at its Dallas headquarters, and two Army sergeants major – one in the Pacific and the other in Europe.

"Since becoming the commissary's senior enlisted advisor almost a year and a half ago, the opportunities to talk with service members and their Families have taken me around the world," Garcia said. "However, this is not a one-man job. I want all of our uniformed commissary authorized patrons to have someone in their area who can listen to their needs and address their concerns about their benefit – someone who walks in their shoes and knows what it's like to be deployed and away from their Families."

Collectively, DeCA's regional senior

enlisted advisors have almost 90 years of military experience.

Ricker, for example, has served in the Army Reserve for 27 years, and was deployed to Iraq from March 2008 to March 2009 and mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Fullilove, a veteran of 36 years in service, was mobilized for operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, as well as in support of the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

Valdez is a veteran of 24 years in the Coast Guard Reserve and more than 12 years of other military service including active duty in the Air Force and the Army Active Guard Reserve program, and reserve service in the Army Reserve and the Texas Army National Guard. He was mobilized on active duty for seven years with the Coast Guard immediately after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"As senior enlisted advisors we are here to help connect our authorized customers with their commissary benefit. We understand what it's like to serve in this twenty first century military because we also are wearing the uniform," Garcia said. "With the addition of Ricker, Fullilove and Valdez in our regions, I have no doubt that they will be valuable assets to our 'One DeCA' team and join our civilian employees in delivering a world-class benefit."

AAFES NEWS

Aberdeen Main Store's revamped layaway program makes it easier to 'Shop now, pay later' at AAFES

AAFES APG Store

Visit the Aberdeen exchange and it soon becomes apparent that reports of layaway's demise have been greatly exaggerated.

In fact, the Aberdeen Main Store is reintroducing and, in some cases, expanding layaway options.

"Clothing, handbags and shoes are still eligible for thirty-day layaway, but full payment on many other categories can be put off for up to sixty days when shopping the exchange," said the exchange's Store Manager Debbie Armendariz.

Shoppers with an eye for something that sparkles have even more time as fine jewelry can be put on layaway for up to 120 days at the Aberdeen Main Store.

Delaying full payment might even be mom and dad's secret weapon in keeping presents under wraps this year as toys can be put on layaway up until Christmas Eve.

"Let the kids look in the attic, under the tree or even your car trunk," Armendariz said. "Keeping the toys on layaway, and in the exchange's back room,

can really take a lot of stress out of the holidays."

Any purchase of \$25 or more is eligible for layaway at the Aberdeen PX. A 15 percent deposit on the total purchase price is required to hold a product.

Merchandise excluded from AAFES' layaway program includes clearance merchandise, computers, peripherals, major appliance, furniture, mattresses, exercise equipment, electronics \$299 and up as well as seasonal and outdoor living products.

Post Shorts

Feast, noon to 4 p.m., today.

Since there is no emergency room at KUSAHC, call 911 for true emergencies.

For medical services needed after hours, weekends or federal holidays, contact the Staff Duty Officer, 410-278-1725, who will coordinate patient's care with the Medical Officer of the Day.

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

RDECOM holds change of command Dec. 4

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command will hold a

CWF hosts trip

Christmas in Williamsburg, Va.

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

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

Reduced gate hours for holiday weekend

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Thanksgiving holiday.

On Nov. 25, the Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area will close at 10 p.m. and the Wise Road Gate in the Edgewood Area will close at 8 p.m.

The Harford Gate and the Wise Road Gate will reopen at 4 a.m., Monday, Nov. 30.

The Maryland Gate in the Aberdeen Area and the Magnolia Road Gate in the Edgewood Area (Route 152) will be open throughout the holiday weekend.

Thanksgiving Day specialty meal Nov. 26

The Thanksgiving Day Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

During this event all military person-

nel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The holiday meal rate of \$7 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilians, retirees and their guests. The holiday discount meal rate of \$5.95 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in the ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The menu includes hearty turkey and wild rice soup, shrimp cocktail, savory roasted turkey, orange-honey glazed baked ham, carved to order steamship round, apple and sausage cornbread dressing, savory bread dressing, fluffy mashed potatoes with giblet gravy, candied yams, buttered corn, green beans almondine, assorted salad bar, bacon and tomato salad, cucumber salad, waldorf salad, cranberry sauce, assorted breads, buttered hot rolls, bread sticks, assorted traditional pies, assorted fresh fruits, hard candies and mixed nuts, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, egg nog and assorted beverages. Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

2009 FMWR 5K Rudolph Run [2K walk]

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

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

participants. Awards also will be presented for the first team of four walkers who cross the finish line together.

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

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

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

Support Military Families in need this Thanksgiving

USO-Metro's Holiday Food Basket program received twice as many requests as it can support. The USO of Metropolitan Washington is calling on the community for help in the form of grocery store gift cards to meet the need.

Using donated grocery store gift cards, USO-Metro will provide active duty military Families in need with holiday baskets that will include turkey, milk, assorted vegetables, turkey pan, butter, stuffing, potatoes and yams, gravy and pie. The suggested donation to help a Family of six have a holiday meal is \$50.

Grocery store gift cards for holiday food baskets can be mailed to Holiday Food Baskets, P.O. Box 1710, Fort Myer, VA 22211. To make a cash donation to support this program, visit www.uso-metro.org/donate and click on holiday programs.

For more information call Lauren Ross, 703-805-4277 or e-mail Lauren@USOmetro.org.

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

APG Holiday Ball Dec. 18

APG PAO

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

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

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

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

Dress is semi-formal for civilians

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

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

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

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

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

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

CFC

From front page

in stock offering subjects like history, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, psychology, cookbooks, children's books and more. Prices range from \$.50 for paperbacks to \$1 for hard covers. Donated books are accepted during regular business hours.

The APG CFC Silent Auction is still in progress with many collectibles and other items up for bid. Click the 'Online Silent Auction' link next to the CFC logo on the APG Website to view items and place bids. You must have a CAC or

AKO password to access the Web site.

Keep checking the APG News for information about Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's 1st Annual Rudolph 5K Run/2K Walk in support of CFC to be held Dec. 10 and for other events. Visit www.apgmwr.com for more information.

For a Contributor's Guide or online pledging instructions, click the 'CFC Coordinators and Keyworkers POC' link next to the CFC logo on the APG Web site.

For more information, or to make a contribution, contact a CFC key worker; visit the APG CFC Office in Top of the Bay's Down Under, building 30; or call 410-278-9913/9915.

Community Notes

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 19 SAME CHESAPEAKE POST MONTHLY MEETING

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at the Top of the Bay. Guest speaker will be Karen Holt, Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor BRAC Manager, APG-CSSC Regional BRAC Office. Holt's presentation is titled, "BRAC: From Military Installation to Knowledge Economy." Holt also will provide updates on infrastructure, workforce, transportation and more. Space is limited.

Reservations are required online at www.same-chesapeake.org.

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 20 FRIDAY FAMILY CAMPFIRE

Meet at the Pontoon Pier for a campfire program. Marshmallows are supplied, just bring a chair and s'more fixings. This program will be held 6 to 8 p.m. for all ages. The cost is \$2 per person or \$8 per Family (limit five per Family). 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

NOVEMBER 21 THANKSGIVING OPEN HOUSE

The Maritime Museum staff will host a Thanksgiving Open House, 1 to 4 p.m., at the Steppingstone museum, 461 Quaker Bottom Road, Havre de Grace. Admission is free for members of both museums, all others pay a suggested donation of \$3 each. Learn what foods were popular in the 18th and 19th centuries. There will be activities for children and plenty of free samples.

For more information, call 410-939-2299/4800 or e-mail museum@comcast.net.

TEXAS HOLD'EM

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold a day of Texas Hold'em. The first game starts at 1 p.m., the second game starts at 6 p.m. Register by noon and 5 p.m. with a \$50 buy in. First-come, first-served. There will be side tables. Sandwiches and light fare will be available.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

CLOTHES GIVE AWAY

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

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

TRAIL TREK

Enjoy a splendid day hiking with volunteer Eugene Burg along the banks of the Susquehanna or Gunpowder rivers. Bring a snack and water. Registrants will be notified of the meeting location. This free program will be held 9 a.m. to noon for ages 10 to adult. Registration is required.

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

CRITTER DINNER TIME

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat while learning more about these fascinating creatures. This free program will be held 10:30 a.m. for all ages. No registration required.

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

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 22 MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center's live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This free program will be held 1 p.m. for all ages. No registration required.

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

BEACHCOMBERS HIKE

Walk along the beautiful shoreline of Otter Point Creek. Bring along a bag to collect finds. This free program will be held 3 to 4 p.m. for all ages; ages 12 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.

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 24 DUNKIN DONUTS SALUTES THE ARMED FORCES

The Dunkin Donuts located at 1928-A Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, will offer a 'Salute to the men and women in the armed forces' every Tuesday in November. Active duty and retired military will receive a free medium coffee, (or a large coffee for \$.20 and extra large for \$.40) every Tuesday of this month. It's a small token of the Edgewood Dunkin Donut's appreciation for all the work the military does in keeping this country safe. Those service members not in uniform have to show valid ID to receive the offer.

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

Extreme Family Outreach to host Breakfast with Santa

Extreme Family Outreach will host Breakfast with Santa fundraisers at two locations in December. The first will be held at Pat's Family Restaurant, 1961 Pulaski Highway in Edgewood, Dec. 12 and the second is at Pat's on 1201 Revolution Street in Havre de Grace, Dec. 19. Time for both events is 8 to 10 a.m.

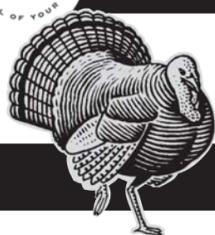
Enjoy pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea, milk and juice along with balloons by the Extreme Balloon Man and face painting along with a visit from Santa.

Extreme Family Outreach is a community-based nonprofit organization that provides after school and summer programs for elementary and middle school-aged youths and links with other community-based organizations to foster creativity, team building skills and self-esteem to produce contributing citizens.

For more information, call 410-676-1212; visit Extreme Family Outreach, 1612H Pulaski Highway in Edgewood; or visit their Web site, www.extremefamilyoutreach.com.



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION



DFMWR facilities Thanksgiving schedule

| | THU 26-Nov | FRI 27-Nov | SAT 28-Nov | SUN 29-Nov |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| FITNESS: | | | | |
| AA ATHLETIC CENTER | 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. | 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. | 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. | 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. |
| AA HEALTH & FITNESS CTR | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| EA HOYLE GYM/FITNESS CTR | 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. | 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. | 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. | 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. |
| FOOD & BEVERAGE: | | | | |
| TOP OF THE BAY | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| BOWLING SNACK BAR | CLOSED | 5 - 10 p.m. | 3 - 10 p.m. | 1 - 6 p.m. |
| SUTHERLAND GRILL | CLOSED | 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| AA REC CTR SNACK BAR | 3:30 - 10 p.m. | 3:30 - 10 p.m. | 3:30 - 10 p.m. | Noon - 5 p.m. |
| SOUTH SIDE GRILL - LUNCH | CLOSED | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. | 1 - 5 p.m. |
| SOUTH SIDE GRILL - EVENING | CLOSED | 5 - 9 p.m. | 5 - 9 p.m. | CLOSED |
| DONNA'S PIT BEEF | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| RECREATION: | | | | |
| AA RECREATION CENTER | 3 - 11 p.m. | 3 - 11 p.m. | 3 - 11 p.m. | 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. |
| BOWLING | CLOSED | 5 - 10 p.m. | 3 - 10 p.m. | 1 - 6 p.m. |
| RUGGLES | CLOSED | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| EA RECREATION CENTER | 3 - 11 p.m. | 3 - 11 p.m. | 3 - 11 p.m. | 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. |
| EXTON | CLOSED | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| SELF SERVICE: | | | | |
| AUTO CRAFTS CENTER | CLOSED | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| ODR & EQUIPMENT CENTER | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| LIBRARY | CLOSED | CLOSED | 1 - 5 p.m. | 1 - 5 p.m. |
| MWR LEISURE TRAVEL | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| CHILD CARE/ COMMUNITY SERVICES | | | | |
| CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES* | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| ARMY COMMUNITY SVC | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |

*CYS Services facilities are: Child Development Centers, Youth Centers/School-Age Services programs and Family Child Care homes.

Activities/Events

FMWR Holiday Bazaar today

FMWR will hold a Holiday Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 19, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

For more information, call 410-278-4011, or visit www.apgmwr.com.

Volunteer today

Explore a new career, develop new skills, network with other professionals and create opportunities. Army Community Service has many opportunities and needs support for its various programs.

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

Holiday Gift Wrap Program begins soon

Sign up today to volunteer with your organization or Family readiness group to make this upcoming holiday season even more special by donating some time to wrap gifts for our Soldiers, Families and civilians at the Army and Air Force Exchange.

Gift wrapping will start Nov. 28 and run through Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

2009 White House ornament sale

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

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

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

Leisure Travel Services available at EA Recreation Center

Limited services are available at Leisure Travel Services, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays, at the EA Recreation Center, building E-4140.

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

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

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

See the Rockettes perform in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular at the 1st Mariner Arena, 201 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore. There will be two shows, 4 or 7 p.m., Dec. 17. Tick-

ets cost \$76.75 for adults and \$67.75 for children ages 2 through 12. Children ages 2 and under do not need a ticket if seated on a parent's lap. All tickets must be pre-ordered. Tickets are limited and are available on a first-come first-serve basis. Seats are located in the lower levels. There is no guaranteed seating. The last day to purchase tickets is Dec. 3.

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

The Great Russian Nutcracker

The Lyric Opera House, located on 140 West Mount Royal Avenue, Baltimore, will present the Nutcracker, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 19 and 5 p.m., Dec. 20.

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

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

Hearts Apart Support Group meets

Hearts Apart Support Group is one way to stay connected in the community and learn what Army Community Service has to offer the Family. Family members from all branches of service, Department of Defense civilians and contractors may participate in Hearts Apart Support Group meetings held in the APG Army Community Service building 2754, Rodman Road 6 to 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month (Dec. 2).

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

Digital Photography 101

Learn how to use a point and shoot digital camera like a pro. Professional photographer Ben Michalski will teach students all the functions of the camera so that aspiring photographers will be able to take high quality pictures in a variety of conditions.

Cost is \$37 for two 90-minute sessions. Minimum class size is six, maximum is 15.

Ongoing classes will be available on Tuesdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. thru Dec. 15.

Digital Photography 201

Professional photographer Ben Michalski will teach digital photography for DSLR users. (Camera's with interchangeable lenses). Learn basic to advanced concepts of digital image capture, photography fundamentals and camera capabilities.

Students completing this basic class will be eligible for advanced classes. Cost is \$65 for 2 two-hour sessions.

Classes are available on Thursdays, 6 to 8 p.m., thru Dec. 9.

Classes will meet at Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

FMWR Registration is located in building 3326 or call 410-278-4011/4907 or Stark Recreation Center in the Edgewood Area, call 410-436-2713.

CDC implements Army's Strong Beginnings for Pre-K children

The Aberdeen and the Edgewood Area Child Development Centers will be implementing the Army's Strong Beginnings Pre-K program for children who turned 4 before Sept. 1, 2009. The children enrolled in the centers will automatically participate in this program.

Strong Beginnings Pre-K is a program designed to prepare children to be successful to enter school. The curriculum focuses on the social, emotional

and physical development of children. It is a basic academic program to enhance school readiness. Children will participate in a variety of activities to include the Smart Start Sport program. There will be SKIES JR classes offered as well.

If there is interest, a part-day program will be offered to children from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Aberdeen Center. The centers look forward to an exciting school year for the children.

For more information, call Ruth Strauss, Aberdeen Area CDC director, 410-278-7111.

FMWR daily bus trips to Atlantic City

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

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

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

November bowling specials

- Each Friday, 9:30 to 11 p.m., bowl for \$1.25 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Purchase a special from the snack bar and receive one free game.
- On Nov. 22 through 25, anyone who bowls three strikes in a row (a turkey), that game is free.
- Anyone that bowls three turkeys in one game wins a gift certificate up to \$25 for a free turkey.
- Cosmic Saturdays: Each Saturday, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra) and one pitcher of soda for \$32.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

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

Week of Nov. 16

Special #1: Chicken tender sub, french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.96.

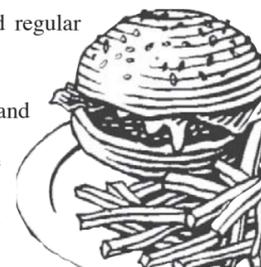
Special #2: Pork BBQ, French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.95.

Week of Nov. 23

Special #1: Grand daddy sub, french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$8.25.

Special #2: Italian sausage, french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25.

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



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION



HIRED! program allows teen to learn more about childcare

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

A sophomore home school student is gaining experience supervising children by working mornings at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center's technology lab.

Melinda Harden, 15, is one of seven teens participating in the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's HIRED! program introduced to the Aberdeen Proving Ground community this year. The HIRED! program provides paid apprenticeships for 15 to 18 year olds.

"I saw an article in the APG News about the HIRED! program, and I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to gain some work experience," she said.

Harden said that during the HIRED! program orientation, she likes working with computers and has had experience working at her church's nursery.

"I was assigned to work in the technology lab at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center," she said. "I love being around children so I think that being assigned to the tech lab at the Youth Center worked out well for me."

Harden said that she helps the children with computer questions and has led group activities.

She added that she helps around the center whenever she is needed.

"I have enjoyed working with the children and the staff, they are very helpful and friendly," she said.

Harden is at the center before school from 6 to 9 a.m., and then works on her school work.

Harden said that she would recommend the program to others because it



Melinda Harden, center, helps Sanoe Marsh, left, and Makayla Lewis, right, with a fall coloring project at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center. Harden is currently working mornings at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center as part of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's HIRED! program introduced to the Aberdeen Proving Ground community this year. The HIRED! program provides paid apprenticeships for 15 to 18 year olds.

has given her a chance to learn more about childcare, and it has given her work experience.

"I would like to participate in the HIRED! program again, perhaps at another job site so I could gain experi-

ence in a different area," she said.

Charles Novak, the youth center's tech lab specialist and Harden's on-site mentor, said that he appreciates the work that she has done at the Youth Center.

"Melinda is doing a great job, and

she goes beyond what is expected of her. She has helped me out a lot in the tech lab and also around the youth center," he said.

"I think that the HIRED! program is a good idea for young adults. It gives them a chance to gain experience before they go out in the workforce and lets them try different careers," Novak said. "It also gives them a chance to learn how to interact with different people."

Lucinda McDaniel, Youth Services program assistant, added that she has also enjoyed working with Harden.

"Melinda is always willing to help out whenever she can," she said. "She is a good sport."

About HIRED!

The HIRED! program offers a variety of job placements in FMWR facilities for teens of military and government civilians assigned to APG. To secure apprenticeships, candidates must achieve and maintain a 2.0 grade point average or higher before completing a pre-assessment and interviews with facility managers. Depending on the skills and interest teen show in these interviews, they are placed with an appropriate organization under the direct supervision of a designed on-site mentor who is responsible for tutoring their individual apprentices.

For more information about the HIRED! program contact Jay McKinney, APG HIRED! coordinator, 410-278-3250. McKinney is now signing up teens for the next semester which begins Nov. 30.



Kathleen Conner, front, a contracted aerobics instructor, uses fitness balls to teach an EDGE! program fitness class. Pictured in background from left is Shamica Reid, Emmylyn Reid and Brianna and Elijah Nubine. "One of the goals of this class is to get youths interested in fitness so that they will continue to exercise when they are adults," Conner said. The classes took place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Oct. 13 to Nov. 10 at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center.

APG youths have fun with fitness through EDGE!

Photo by RACHEL PONDER

SKIES Unlimited

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

Driver's Ed

Driver's Education classes will be held Dec. 7 thru Dec. 22 (There is no class on federal holidays). Classes will be held Monday thru Thursday, 2:30 to 5:45 p.m. and 6 to 9:15 p.m. Cost is \$315 per student.

All Drivers Education classes 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 class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between the ages of 15.9 and 18 years old. Parents must attend the first day of class. Open to all DoD ID card holders.

Prices subject to change without notice.

Free babysitting course

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

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

Class is open to all DoD ID card holders.

Private piano lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given for ages 4 thru 18, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., on Tuesdays or Fridays, Jan. 5 through Feb. 12 (no class on Jan. 15) and Feb. 23 through April 2.

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 will be responsible for purchasing the required books for the course as recommended by the instructor.

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.

the edge

The EDGE

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

Let the Good times Roll!

A bowling program will be held 4 to 6 p.m., Mondays, Nov. 30 through Dec. 31, at the Aberdeen Area Bowling Center. The program will provide youths and teens, ages 6 through 18, the opportunity to enhance their bowling skills and get ready for a new youth bowling league set to begin in January.

For those youths and teens interested, the new bowling league will be conducted by the APG Youth Sports program on Monday evening's beginning after the first of the year.

Transportation will be provided for EDGE program participants from AA Youth Services to the Bowling Center and return.

The EDGE Dodge Ball program

The EDGE Dodge Ball program is set to begin Monday, Nov. 30 at the Boys and Girls Club as part of a new partnership agreement. Department of Defense youths and teens ages 6 through 18 are eligible to participate. The program will be conducted from 3:30 to 5:30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays and provide youths the opportunity to meet and play with new friends from the Boys and Girls Club. The program is free to ages 11 through 18; a fee of \$80 will apply to ages 6 through 10 who are not current users of our Child, Youth and School Services programs. Current users of the CYS Services School Age Services program will not be charged a fee.

hired!

HIRED!

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

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

Teens Goal Setting Workshop

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

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

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

Youth Bowling League forming

The Youth Bowling League has openings for youths ages 18 months to 20. Youth leagues will bowl on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the day. No open bowling until 1 p.m.

Evening leagues will bowl on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

There is no open bowling on Thursday after 5 p.m. and no open bowling on Friday until after 9:30 p.m. On Wednesday, bowling lanes may be available on a first come/first serve basis.

Call 410-278-4041.



Veterans' Voices

Commentary: Recognizing our veterans

By

**COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
HECTOR G. MARIN**
RDECOM AND APG

Each year on Nov. 11, Veterans Day, we express our gratitude and pay tribute to the men and women who have served and are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Many ceremonies mark this history-rich day and serve as a reminder of the ultimate price of war and freedom.

The origins of Veterans Day date back to 1918 with President Woodrow Wilson declaring a national day of remembrance on the anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I. Today Veterans Day honors all veterans of all wars and those who served during peaceful times.



To gain further understanding of the needs of today's Warfighter, I regularly travel to the theater of operations to gain insight from Soldiers on the types of technologies that would assist them on the battlefield. Their responses reminded

me of the importance of the role and responsibility of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and Aberdeen Proving Ground toward ensuring the safety of our Warfighters who will be our veterans of tomorrow.

In support of our Warfighters, RDECOM and APG must be on a never-ending pursuit to find innovative and technological ways to dominate the battlespace for today's Soldiers. We work to ensure that our Soldiers are equipped with cutting-edge technology so that we remain dominant while facing an ever-changing enemy.

While RDECOM stands at the forefront of what Soldiers eat, wear, fire and drive, the importance of communicating

our capabilities are more important than ever.

Just in time for Veterans Day, RDECOM launched Army Technology Live on Nov. 2. This new blog will assist Soldiers and the public in gaining a better understanding of the work done in research, development, engineering and testing. The Army Technology Live blog accompanies other social media tools currently being used by the Army's science and technology community. Open to Soldiers, veterans, Family members and the public, this blog will serve as a powerful tool to communicate the work that we do for our Warfighters. To access the Army Technology Live blog visit <http://armytechnology.armylive.dodlive.mil/>.

armylive.dodlive.mil/.

The importance of leading technological advances cannot be understated.

Additionally, as we celebrate our veterans we must also focus on taking care of our Soldiers and their Families. Throughout APG, we are committed to the Army Family Covenant and are proud to take care of veterans, Soldiers and their Families.

Since the very first Veterans Day in 1918, the military has continuously evolved to meet the needs of the men and women who serve this great nation. This year, as we do every year, we pay tribute to our veterans, celebrate their lives and recognize their sacrifices, which affords us the right to live freely.

JPED Soldiers talk to SJA students in honor of Veterans Day

Story by

RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Two Soldiers from the Joint Personal Effects Depot visited Saint Joan of Arc School to speak to students on Nov. 10 in honor of Veterans Day.

The Soldiers, Sgt. Mayra Maldonado and Sgt. 1st Class Chester Craig, said that JPED has had a partnership with the school since 2007, and Soldiers frequently volunteer at the school. The school, located in the city of Aberdeen, has a number of students in military Families.

Maldonado and Craig talked to students in kindergarten through seventh grade about the history of Veterans Day, answered questions for students about life as a Soldier, emphasizing the importance of education in a military career, and encouraged the students to stay in school.

"The Army operates some of the highest technical equipment in the world," Craig said. "If you are thinking about having a career in the Army, you need to study hard while you are in school."

Craig added that more Soldiers in the Army are obtaining college degrees while they are in the military, especially if they are planning to stay in the Army long term.

"You can only go so far in the Army without a college degree," Craig said.

Maldonado and Craig said that while military life can be difficult, there are also many advantages to serving, including obtaining a free college education.



Sergeant 1st Class Chester Craig from the Joint Personal Effects Depot plays a marching game with clockwise from the top, Iman Bhatti, Serenity Brocalo and Grace Babington, who are in the Saint Joan of Arc kindergarten class. Craig and Sgt. Mayra Maldonado from JPED, not pictured, visited SJA Nov. 10 to speak to the students about the history and meaning of Veterans Day.

"My favorite thing about serving in the Army is the camaraderie, getting to

know my fellow Soldiers," Craig said. "Teamwork is important."

Maldonado said that her favorite thing about serving in the Army is that it encourages her to remain physically fit.

Maldonado, who has been in the Army for nine years, and Craig, who has been in the Army for 25 years, said that they have enjoyed the traveling that comes with a career in the military.

Craig said that he has lived in 11 different states and has been to 36 countries, including going to Iraq 11 times throughout his career.

Craig said that United States Soldiers are helping the Iraqi people obtain freedom.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is building schools so that the children can have an education, just like you, he said."

Craig said that whenever he travels he tries to learn as much as he can about the culture, by trying their food, learning their language and talking to the people.

"I got to travel a lot in the Army and it was all free since they sent me there," he said. "I like learning about local cultures. Most people are like us once you get to know them."

SJA teachers thanked the Soldiers for speaking to their students.

Lou Mabe, SJA's kindergarten teacher, presented the Soldiers with Thanksgiving cards made by the students for any Soldiers unable to go home for Thanksgiving.

"We have many military Families at SJA," she said. "We understand the difficulties that military Families go through."

American Legion launches new Web site--new look, content

www.legion.org

America's largest veterans service organization has launched a new Web site, bulging with new content and featuring a completely redesigned look. American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill said the new Web site, "is a tremendous addition to our online presence. It's more informative, better-looking, and easier to navigate than our previous site. I encourage Legionnaires to visit www.legion.org and explore the wealth of content in its pages."

Initial planning for The American Legion's new Web presence began in

September 2008, according to Hill. The new site includes more than 30 separate landing pages for American Legion programs and activities, including baseball - www.legion.org/baseball, scholarships - www.legion.org/scholarships, troop support - www.legion.org/troops, membership/post activities - www.legion.org/membership and the Family Support Network - www.legion.org/familysupport.

Two prominent programs - The American Legion Riders www.legion.org/riders and Sons of The American Legion www.legion.org/sons - also have their own

landing pages. Online visitors will also find the Legion's popular blog site, "The Burn Pit" - <http://burnpit.legion.org>.

"We've got everything there from our COP Keating fundraising drive for Soldiers attacked in Afghanistan, to film footage of the Legion's 1927 National Convention in Paris, France," Hill said. "It's a very impressive online compilation of what The American Legion is all about."

The Legion's new home page features two major stories, headlines and news links that are updated each morning. The

page's new design also includes links to the Legion's social media such as Twitter <http://twitter.com/AmericanLegion> and Facebook www.facebook.com/the.american.legion, to major hubs of legion activity such as the Veterans Benefits Center - www.legion.org/veteransbenefits and Legislative Action Center - www.legion.org/legislative, and to the national commander's Web site - www.clarencehill.org.

"Our national staff has worked very hard to create this new Web site as a fantastic calling card to the entire world," Hill said.

Company E

From front page

he said. "She really cares about not only officers but the future of the officer corps in the Army. She does what she does because she knows the country is in a time of crisis."

He expressed thanks to Company E, 16th 1st Sgt. Byrd Johnson Jr., to former 1st Sgt. Jack Logan and the Company E, 16th civilian staff.

"It's been a remarkable experience watching five or six people support the future leaders of the Ordnance Corps," he said.

Wills thanked Cheng and fellow commanders for their support and said it was a "distinct honor" to lead Company E, 16th.

"I accepted the challenge with open arms, and it was the toughest yet most rewarding of my career," she said.

"Over the past fifteen months, I've seen some amazing young men and women take charge of defending this country, and I've had the pleasure of watching extraordinary noncommissioned officers take the giant leap to become warrant officers."

She thanked 1st Sgt. Byrd Johnson Jr. for his support, calling him, "one of the most professional and compassionate NCOs I ever worked with."

She also thanked the NCOs who supported the unit's mission as well as the civilian staff and supporting organizations.

In particular, she thanked her sister, Shirley Deardorf, for caring for her son, Jacob over the past 15 months.

Both her sister and son were in attendance. Deardorf was presented with a bouquet of yellow roses, and Jacob Wills received a certificate of achievement and a battalion coin.

In addition, Cheng, who recalled that Wills was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan, presented her with a football autographed by former Steeler Franco Harris, who was a guest at the opening of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' new dining facility in Fort Lee, Va. (See article on page 3.)

Wills will assume duties in the battalion S-1 and will undergo a permanent change of station to Fort Hood, Texas, in January. Johnson will assume duties in the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Academy. He called his 12 months as Company E, 16th

first sergeant "rewarding."

"It was outstanding," he said. "I dealt with the officers on a limited basis and mainly communicated with a lot of good people who assisted and supported our officers and the mission. I'm proud of what we accomplished, and I really love what I do."

Company E, 16th Ordnance Battalion

Company E, 16th Ordnance Battalion was activated in April 1990 to provide leadership, command and control and administrative support for new ordnance lieutenants attending the Officer Basic Course at APG.

From April 1990 to February 1995, Company E continued to provide leadership for those preparing to take their first assignment as ordnance officers.

With the discontinuance of Company D, 16th Ordnance Battalion in February 1995, Company E assumed the additional responsibility of providing the same support to ordnance warrant officers attending basic and advanced courses.

Also during this time, the ordnance officer structure changed, combining the Maintenance and Munitions tracks for Ordnance lieutenants. This meant that lieu-

tenants no longer attended OBC at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. They all now passed through Company E.

In April 2000, Company E gained the role and functions of Company F, which discontinued, and assumed the mission of training international military students attending the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School. Since assuming this mission, Company E has provided support for more than 800 students from more than 40 countries.

In April 2005, Company E assumed the mission of Company G which was activated to support officers from the Reserves and Inactive Ready Reserve who were activated in support of the War on Terror. At this point, Company E became responsible for providing leadership and support for all officers attending training at OMMS.

Company E 16th past commanders

- Capt. Rachel Wills, July 2008 - October 2009
- Capt. Marcus Davis, December 2007 - July 2008
- Capt. Tameka Lewis, January 2006 - December 2007
- Capt. Jonathan Miller, April 2004 - January 2006

- Capt. Thomas Stocks, July 2002 - April 2004

- Capt. Ramon Sanchez, January 2000 - July 2002

- Maj. Charles Wilson, September 1998 - January 2000

- Capt. Paul McBride, April 1997 - September 1998

- Capt. Karen Barnes, November 1995 - April 1997

- Capt. Kim Ghan Goodwin, June 1994 - November 1995

- Capt. Mike Vanderlin, January 1993 - June 1994

- Capt. Theresa Rice, August 1991 - January 1993

- Capt. Thomas Martinez, April 1990 - August 1991

International military students from the following countries attended training at Company E:

- Afghanistan, Albania, American Samoa, Antigua Barbuda, Bahrain, Barbados, Bosnia Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, India, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, St. Vincent, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, United Arab Emirates

Chapel News

Commentary: Share the joy at Thanksgiving and beyond

By
**CHAP (CAPT)
JONATHAN MORSE**
Chapel Ministry

Thanksgiving day was approaching and the Family had received a Thanksgiving card with a painting of a pilgrim Family on their way to church. Grandma showed the card to her small grandchildren, observing: "The Pilgrim children liked to go to church with their mothers and fathers."

Oh yeah?" her young grandson replied. "So why is their dad carrying that rifle?"

We could celebrate Thanksgiving several times a year as far as I'm concerned.

There was a kindergarten teacher named Rosemary who also believed in celebrating holidays more than once a year. She liked a good celebration and saw no reason to wait until a holiday came along before celebrating it. In fact, every Monday morning Rosemary's class celebrated a different holiday. In an average school year, the children might celebrate Memorial Day, Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving and Easter two or three times each. Every child in Rosemary's class also had his or her birthday celebrated at least three times each year. Rosemary's spirit of celebration made that year magical for her students.

What a great idea! Why not celebrate every holiday two or three times a year? I'll bet our children wouldn't mind Christmas at least a couple more times a year, would you?

This is an especially good idea when it comes to celebrating Thanksgiving. True thanksgiving has a multiplying effect anyway. It has been said that "a

thankful person tastes joy twice---once when it happens, and again when gratitude is expressed to God for the joy."

Did you know that President James Madison declared the celebration of Thanksgiving twice in the year 1815? I don't know why he chose to do this. Was he a devout man who wanted to honor God, or did he just like a good thanksgiving dinner?

Did you know that the ceremony of thanksgiving is more than 3,000 years old? That's what the book of Deuteronomy tells us. God's first instruction to the Hebrew people was to give thanks---not for what God had done for them in the past, but what he would do for them in the future. God instructs the Hebrew people to make an offering of the first fruits of their new land, the first harvest. This is an exercise in faith. What if there isn't a second harvest? What if drought or flood or disease comes along and destroys their crops? By requiring an offering of their first fruits, God is telling them to trust that he will provide for them in the future.

True faith means telling God "Thank you" first, then watching for his blessings to come later.

A few years ago, Holly and Sam went through a rough period that taught them to trust in God's providence. Sam couldn't find work, and the Family finances were dwindling rapidly. One morning, Holly opened the pantry to find bags of potatoes and onions---and absolutely nothing else. Then Sam came home and he asked Holly to take some food to the new Family moving in down the road. What was he doing? Didn't he realize how dire their situation was? In spite of her misgivings, Holly load-

ed a picnic basket with potatoes and onions and delivered it to their new neighbors.

A short time later, Holly answered the door to find the neighbor's son on their front steps. He was carrying bags of groceries. His Family's refrigerator hadn't been installed yet. They needed to get rid of the food they had brought from their old house. Would she accept a couple of bags of groceries? Of course, she would---with great joy. Holly and Sam could only interpret the neighbor's kindness like this: God had rewarded their giving by giving back to them abundantly.

In Genesis, we learn the story of Joseph, a promising young man whose life was thrown into turmoil by his jealous half brothers. They sold him into slavery. Then in his new homeland---just as he was earning his master's trust, he was falsely accused of a crime and thrown into prison where he was forgotten. It was only by God's guidance that Joseph overcame his past and was reconciled to his Family. Yet after years of injustice and hardship, Joseph was able to say that what others had meant for evil in his life, God had used for good. (Genesis 50: 20)

When we reach into our "grab bag" of memories, we have a choice as to what we pull out. We can pull out memories of hardship, failure, disappointment and bitterness, or we can filter all these memories through God's promise of redemptive love, knowing that he can use even our worst moments to mature us and bring us joy.

From a young age, singer Tony Bennett found security in the love of his Family. Tony's father died when he was

10, and his mother worked hard to support her three children. It was not easy. Things were tight.

Tony's favorite times were Sunday afternoons when all of the extended Family gathered together to eat a meal, sing some songs and share memories.

"There was never a touch of loneliness, never a thought of what's going to happen to me? It's funny that, in the middle of deep poverty, it was the warmest time of my life," Bennett said.

You see, wealthy, famous, infinitely successful Tony Bennett looks back on his youth spent in poverty as one of the best times in his life. He remembers his Family's love and support, not their poverty. And these warm memories strengthen his character and bring him great joy. The life of faith says that even the darkest times can be times of growth and times of redemption.

And the final instruction God gives to the Hebrew people is to thank God for the present.

How? By rejoicing. After you have given back to God, after you have recalled God's guidance in the past, leave the altar and go home rejoicing. In other words, get happy; have a party. And don't just keep the party to yourself. Invite the community, even the strangers in your midst, to share in your joy. Let them see how much fun it is to live a faith-filled, God-honoring life. Joy is contagious, so spread it around. Give others something to thank God for, too. You never know whose life will be touched, whose perspective will be changed, by this simple act of thanksgiving.

Christmas worship services Nov. 25 through Jan. 1

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

Main Post Chapel (Aberdeen Area) Catholic Mass

| | |
|--|------------|
| • Wed, Nov. 25 Mass of Thanksgiving | 6:30 p.m. |
| • Sun, Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent | 8:45 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 6 Second Sunday of Advent | 8:45 a.m. |
| • Tue, Dec. 8 Creche blessing | 3 p.m. |
| • Tue, Dec. 8 Day of obligation | 11:45 a.m. |
| • Sat, Dec. 12 Hispanic mass/social | 4:30 p.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent | 8:45 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent | 8:45 a.m. |
| • Thur, Dec. 24 Christmas caroling | 11:30 p.m. |
| • Thur, Dec. 24 Midnight mass | midnight |
| • Fri, Dec. 25 Mass/pageant | 9 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 27 Holy Family | 8:45 a.m. |
| • Thur, Dec. 31 Holy Day/obligation | 6:30 p.m. |

| | |
|--|------------|
| • Fri, Jan. 1 Holy Day/obligation | 11:45 a.m. |
| Protestant worship | |
| • Sun, Nov. 29 First Sunday in Advent | 10:15 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 6 Freestate/Advent | 10:15 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 13 Christmas cantata | 10:15 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent | 10:15 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 27 First Sunday in Christmas | 10:15 a.m. |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Gospel worship | |
| • Sun, Nov. 29 First Sunday in Advent | noon |
| • Sun Dec. 6 Second Sunday in Advent | noon |
| • Sun Dec. 13 Third Sunday in Advent | noon |
| • Fri, Dec. 18 Dance/drama play | 7 p.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent | noon |
| • Sun, Dec. 27 First Sunday in Christmas | noon |
| • Thur, Dec. 31 Watch night service | 10 p.m. |

Edgewood Area Catholic Mass

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| • Sun, Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent | 10:45 a.m. |
|---------------------------------------|------------|

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|--|------------|
| • Sun, Nov. 29 Thanksgiving lunch | noon |
| • Sun, Dec. 6 Second Sunday of Advent | 10:45 a.m. |
| • Tue, Dec. 8 Holy Day/obligation | noon |
| • Sun, Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent | 10:45 a.m. |
| • Sat, Dec. 19 Penance service | 4:30 p.m. |
| • Sat, Dec. 19 Holiday dinner | 5:30 p.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent | 10:45 a.m. |
| • Fri, Dec. 25 Christmas Day | 11:15 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 27 Holy Family | 10:45 a.m. |
| • Fri, Jan. 1 Holy Day/obligation | noon |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Protestant worship | |
| • Sun, Nov. 29 First Sunday in Advent | 9:15 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 6 Second Sunday in Advent | 9:15 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 13 Third Sunday in Advent | 9:15 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent | 9:15 a.m. |
| • Sun, Dec. 27 First Sunday in Christmas | 9:15 a.m. |

Veterans

From front page

you," Bauer said.

Ortiz said he was honored to address the gathering and said that the "courage and sacrifices of American veterans have secured liberty" for future generations.

"In times of darkness, peace and prosperity, American veterans have always been there," he said.

With the nation at war, Ortiz said, Soldiers serving in harms way, "continue the fight to preserve our way of life."

Noting that four Medals of Honor have been awarded since 9-11, Ortiz shared the story of 1st Sgt. Eric Geressy, a Silver Star recipient who in 2008, heroically led his company in high intensity combat, often exposing himself to direct enemy fire, to care for his wounded and lead his company to victory.

"First Sergeant Geressy's personal courage, uncommon valor and selfless service contributed directly to the safety and evacuation of two wounded and the recovery of one fallen Soldier," Ortiz said, adding that this was a sample "of the American veterans we have come to honor today.

"They represent the millions of American men and women who have served the republic over the past two-hundred years," he said. "American Soldiers today have the example you have given them to guide them. We are proud to be Americans and proud to stand before you today."

Conlon thanked all participants and guests who included Aberdeen Mayor Michael Bennett, Maryland Delegate B. Daniel Riley and Aberdeen City Council members Ruth Ann Young and Ruth Elliott as well as Robert Slutzky of the Harford County Council.

The American Legion Post 128 honor guard posted and retired the colors, presented a rifle salute

and played Taps, and the Aberdeen Middle School Band, led by Susan Hopkins, provided musical selections for the program.

"The turnout was wonderful even though we had to move it indoors," Conlon said. "And having the children here brought a whole new meaning to the ceremony. It's important for them to see how we honor our veterans."

Ortiz was accompanied by Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades and Spc. Carlos Rios, president of the APG Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program. The three addressed a Veterans Day program at the Edgewood Middle School earlier in the day.

Rios said the children seemed very interested in what they had to say.

"They asked questions about the military today and they were most interested in why we do what we do," Rios said. "I told them we took an oath to protect our country and those around us."

He added that BOSS frequently visits with children at Southampton Middle School.

"We love talking with them. They pay attention and they want to know about everything," he said. "Overall, today was excellent," he added. "We sent the message that veterans paved the way for our future. Because of them we are here today and because of them we'll be here tomorrow."

Organizers and guests shared comments after the program.

Air Force Reserve Senior Master Sgt. Erick Stone, a former APG police officer, said he retired from the reserves in 2003 but was recalled to fly C5 missions.

"For me Veterans Day was just a day until I went to Iraq," Stone said, adding that experiencing the transport of service member remains gave him a new respect for the fallen.

"Now it's more of a personal thing," said Stone who wore his dress blue uniform. "I had to come show my pride and my respect. I will never look at the



Jim Smith, an 85-year-old Battle of the Bulge veteran from Churchville, chats with APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades after the Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10028 in Aberdeen Nov. 11.

American flag the same way as I did before Iraq," he said. "It's a holiday but it's a lot more than a day off."

Feliberty, a retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 and former personnel officer at APG, has been with the Catholic War Veterans since 1991.

He said he thought the ceremony went great despite the rain, and praised organizers and volunteers who he said were focused on presenting a respectful program.

"The main thing is paying respect to service members," he said. "It's important for our young people to realize the sacrifices their grandparents or parents had to go through. They need to realize what freedom costs."

"I just couldn't stay away. Our mission today is Veterans Day," said George Martin, a member of the Patriot Guard Motorcycle Club which often rides escort in military funeral processions.

Martin said he'd like to see more community involvement in Veterans Day programs because "everyone benefits from their sacrifices."

"It all boils down to, 'Why do you do this,'" he said. "My

answer is, 'How can you not?'"

A member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Judy Fortier of Aberdeen also is president of the Women's Army Corps Veteran's Association, Freestate Chapter 70. A former WAC once stationed at APG, Fortier said she attends the ceremony every year.

"I go because I'm proud of my service, and I'm proud to be a veteran," she said. "This was a great Veterans Day as all Veterans Days are."

A veteran who served in World War II from 1943 to 1946, at age 85, Jim Smith of Churchville was one of the oldest veterans in attendance. Smith served with the 17th Airborne Division during the Battle of the Bulge and with the 9th Armored Division during the capture of the Bridge at Remagen. During that time he earned the Bronze Star and Silver Star medals.

He said he received the Silver Star for picking up a fallen Soldier and carrying him out of harm's way during a sniper attack.

After the war, like so many other GI's Smith returned home, and used his GI Bill to go to school and become a physical

education teacher.

He said the man he saved more than 60 years ago is 81 and calls him every Christmas.

"People are always impressed by what we did even though it didn't seem like a big deal back then," Smith said. "We weren't thinking about being heroes. We were just young fellas doing what we had to do."

The traditional placing of the wreaths included:

Gold Star Mothers
Betty Bain

Departed Comrades
Retired Lt. Col. Elizabeth Kruger, Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary

Wreath for the Past
VFW Post 10028 - Robert Brown, commander and Carol Brown, Ladies Auxiliary

Wreath for the Present
American Legion Post 128 - David Johnson, commander and Betty Hale Ladies Auxiliary

Wreath for the Future
Catholic War Veterans Post 1841 - Milton Feliberty, commander, and retired Lt. Col. Elizabeth Kruger



Health Notes

Unregulated tobacco products maintain addiction

Story by
MARCIE BIRK
CHPPM

Tobacco manufacturers have responded to increased smoking regulations with the development of new “smoke free” tobacco products. These new products contain the same amount of nicotine, or even more, than a cigarette. Products include “dissolvable tobacco” made from finely milled tobacco and held together by food grade binders, teabags filled with flavored tobacco and a battery-powered “cigarette.”

Manufacturers market these products as a “socially acceptable” alternative to cigarette smoking because there is no smoke, no spit and no litter. But medical experts fear these products may discourage smokers from quitting by sustaining their nicotine addiction and through use in a growing number of places where smoking is not allowed. For example, Soldiers are not

QUIT TOBACCO.

make everyone proud

www.ucanquit2.org

allowed to use tobacco during Initial Entry Training. This break in tobacco use gives young Soldiers the chance to kick the tobacco habit. But these new tobacco products are easy to conceal, enabling Soldiers to use tobacco despite regulations.

These “alternatives” to smoking also present the potential for “dual use”—using the smokeless products along with cigarettes or other smokeless tobacco products. Smokers who

use these products may get a higher dose of nicotine than they are used to, resulting in tremors, nausea, vomiting, agitation and in more extreme cases, seizures, coma and death. The health impact of such dual use also has not been studied.

Some manufacturers are marketing these products as aids to tobacco cessation, claiming the products are safe and risk-free. However, in July 2009, the Food and Drug Administration released

an analysis of 19 varieties of electronic cigarettes that said half contained nitrosamines (the same carcinogen found in real cigarettes) and many contained diethylene glycol, the poisonous ingredient in antifreeze. The FDA has not approved dissolvable tobacco products or e-cigarettes as nicotine replacement therapies.

Individuals who want to quit tobacco should use scientifically proven methods such as counseling and telephone quit lines, and only use FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapies such as the patch and gum.

For more information, visit these Web sites:

- www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm173401.htm
- <https://www.acep.org/Print-Friendly.aspx?id=44740#story1> (See “Dissolvable Tobacco Products”)
- www.in.gov/itpc/files/Dissolvable_Tobacco_Products.pdf

New TRICARE video counseling can help military Families see ‘eye-to-eye’ with their problems

TRICARE

November is the Month of the Military Family, but military Families face stress all year long. It doesn’t hurt to get help.

From deployment worries to strained relationships to dealing with a tragedy, TRICARE is testing a new video counseling service to help military members and Families see “eye-to-eye” with their problems. The TRICARE Assistance Program is just one of several ways to get convenient, confidential help through a licensed behavioral health counselor.

Services are available to any active duty service member in the United States, their spouse, and other eligible family members 18 years of age or older. All that’s needed is a computer, Webcam and the associated software.

TRIAP “visits” are unlimited and include assessments, short-term counseling and, if the TRIAP counselor determines more specialized care is necessary, referral to a more comprehensive level of care. Get

details and get linked up to the appropriate TRICARE region at www.tricare.mil/TRIAP.

The program is also open to those military members in the Transitional Assistance Management Program or to members of the Selected Reserve who are in the TRICARE Reserve Select plan.

Help is also available to military Families through dozens of other options: online, phone and face-to-face. Click to www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth for additional TRICARE mental health benefits information, links, programs, assistance phone numbers and downloads, including the comprehensive “A TRICARE Guide: Understanding Behavioral Health Care.”

Assistance with other behavioral health services and appointments is also available by phone. In the South Region, ADSMs and Family members should call the Humana Military Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Line, 1-877-298-3514. All other South Region beneficiaries can call

1-800-700-8646.

In TRICARE’s North Region, ADSMs and Family members can call Health Net’s Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Line at 1-877-747-9579 during business hours. All other North Region beneficiaries should call 1-877-TRICARE (1-877-874-2273).

In the West Region, all beneficiaries can call TriWest’s Behavioral Health Contact Center at 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378) for appointment assistance 24/7.

Other counseling resources include Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647, or check www.militaryonesource.com for more information, including a listing of phone numbers worldwide. The Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury help-line is available at 1-866-966-1020 or www.dcoe.health.mil. Live chat is available at www.realwarriors.net/livechat.

TRICARE assistance program reaches out over the Web to ease post-deployment stress

U.S. DoD Military Health System

What do you do when you think a loved one or friend may be having difficulty readjusting to life on the home front following an overseas deployment? For TRICARE beneficiaries the answer to this and many other behavioral health questions is just a few mouse clicks away.

The Web-based TRICARE Assistance Program uses today’s constantly evolving Web-based technologies to bring short-term professional counseling assistance closer to the people who often need it most: service members and veterans recently returned from overseas and their Families who’ve persevered through the deployment.

The TRIAP demonstration program launched Aug. 1 and is available in the United States to active duty service members, those eligible for the Transition Assistance Management Program and members enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select. It is also available to these beneficiaries’ spouses, no matter their age, and other eligible Family members 18 years of age or older.

From the security of their homes, or anywhere else for that matter, beneficiaries with a computer, Webcam and the associated software can speak “face-to-face” with a licensed counselor over the Internet at any time of the day or night. Eligible beneficiaries can link to their regional contractor’s TRIAP site and get

more information about the program at www.tricare.mil/TRIAP.

“As joyful as homecomings are for our Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Soldiers and their Family members, these can also be times of great stress for everyone in the Family,” said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director of the TRICARE Management Activity. “TRIAP counselors give our beneficiaries an opportunity to discuss matters such as relationship issues, sleep disturbances or readjustment difficulties from the comfort and security of their own homes.”

Eligible service members and Family members can log on to TRIAP an unlimited number of times for supportive counseling or advice when dealing with short-term personal problems impacting their work performance, health and well-being. Services include assessments, short-term counseling and, if the TRIAP counselor determines more specialized care is necessary, a referral to a more comprehensive level of care. A referral or prior authorization is not needed to use TRIAP services.

Service members and their Families have many other behavioral health resources available to them either online or by telephone. For more information about TRICARE and the Department of Defense’s many existing behavioral health resources, download A TRICARE Guide: Understanding Behavioral Health at www.tricare.mil/tricaresmart.

TRICARE telemental health services bring patients, providers together via video

U.S. DoD Military Health Care System

Behavioral health care is now closer and more convenient than ever following the introduction of TRICARE’s telemental health program. TRICARE’s telemental health program uses real-time telecommunication technologies to bring behavioral health care closer to the people who need it most.

The program, which launched Aug. 1, 2009, uses medically supervised, secure audio-visual conferencing to link beneficiaries with offsite providers. TRICARE’s regional contractors have established networks of offsite providers and telemental health originating sites and are expanding these networks to increase their coverage areas. The offsite providers can evaluate, treat and refer patients as necessary by video. All aspects of behavioral health services are available to all TRICARE beneficiaries, including psychotherapy and medication management.

“Most service members and their Family members who need behavioral health care still get face-to-face care in military treatment facilities or through the TRICARE network,” said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director of the TRICARE Management Activity. “The valuable addition of telemental health care really helps us enhance our beneficiaries’ access to TRICARE’s already robust behavioral health care services.”

For more information about TRI-

CARE’s telemental health options, go to the Getting Care link at <http://tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Mental-HealthAndBehavior>.

To request telemental health services in the North Region, active duty service members and their Family members can call Health Net’s Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Line, 1-877-747-9579. All other beneficiaries should call 1-877-TRICARE (1-877-874-2273).

In the South Region, ADSMs and their Families should call the Humana Military Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Line, 1-877-298-3514 for telemental health services. All other beneficiaries can call 1-800-700-8646.

In the West Region, all beneficiaries can contact TriWest’s Behavioral Health Contact Center at 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378) for an appointment.

Assistance is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Service members and their Families have several additional behavioral health resources available either online or by telephone.

For more information about TRICARE and the Department of Defense’s many existing behavioral health resources, download A TRICARE Guide: Understanding Behavioral Health at www.tricare.mil/tricaresmart.

TRICARE extends over the counter Medication Demonstration Project

U.S. DoD Military Health System

TRICARE’s over-the-counter medication demonstration project has been extended. The program allows TRICARE beneficiaries to substitute over-the-counter versions of certain prescription drugs.

The OTC program, which was scheduled to end Nov. 4, as TRICARE’s new pharmacy contract started, will continue. However, due to systems changes necessary for the beginning of the new TRICARE Pharmacy program, participants in the OTC demonstration program will need to pay \$3 copay while the demonstration program is under review. The program previously did not require any copayment.

“We have decided to extend this demonstration project to fully evaluate the success of offering OTC drugs through our pharmacy bene-

fit program,” said Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, chief of the TRICARE Pharmaceutical Operations Directorate. “We hope beneficiaries will continue to use the program while we review the demonstration.

Examples of OTC medications available through the program include the allergy medications cetirizine and loratadine, and heartburn medications (proton-pump inhibitors) Prilosec OTC and its generic form omeprazole.

As before, beneficiaries cannot just walk into a pharmacy and get OTC medications. To use the program they still need a prescription from their health care provider for the OTC drug.

For more information about the TRICARE Pharmacy Program, go to <http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy>.

LEAVE DONATIONS

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

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Debra Bonsall (daughter has brain tumor) | Wayne Erb Bennie Ford John Furchert | Michael Naegele Marie D. Nowak Ron Spencer |
| Georgia Braun | Erin Griffin | Linda Tignor |
| Veronica Brown | Walter Holland | Luis Villafane |
| Jason Burr | Kari Jackson | Paul Wynne |
| John Daigle | Angela Lambert | Veronica Yates-Sparks |
| Meg Downey | Deborah Moore | |

CBRNE Command remembers one of their own

Story by
CHANEL S. WEAVER
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

Family members, fellow Soldiers and civilians from the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) solemnly gathered at the Edgewood Chapel Nov. 5 to honor the life and service of Sgt. 1st Class Fernando Preciado.

Preciado was killed in a motorcycle accident Oct. 11 while riding his beloved Harley-Davidson motorcycle near Ontario, Calif., his hometown. He had recently relocated to California, assigned to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin.

From May 2007 to September 2009, Preciado was the CBRNE Command's G2 (Security/Intelligence Section) Watch Noncommissioned Officer in Charge and master intelligence analyst for the command on the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"One of the things that struck me about Sergeant Preciado, who most people called "Sergeant P" because they couldn't pronounce his name, was that he always had his priorities right," said Lt. Col. James Baker, G2 chief, during his remarks at the service. "With Sergeant P, his Family always came first, then the Army. And anybody who knew him couldn't help but see the kind of Soldier he was —



Sergeant 1st Class Fernando Preciado participates in a training exercise. Preciado was killed in a motorcycle accident Oct. 11 while riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle in Ontario, Calif.

Photo by MAJ JOE SCROCCA

always there, always ready to do whatever was asked, with no mission too difficult."

Baker said a high point of Preciado's career was his service as the Intelligence NCOIC of Task Force McCall in Iraq. Preciado provided key intelligence threat analysis that helped secure sensitive weapons of mass destruction-related mate-

rials and eliminated a potential threat to U.S. and coalition forces assigned to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The memorial ceremony included a commander's tribute by Capt. Norven Charles, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander; section leader remarks by Baker, and personal reflections by close friend and colleague Steven Sieranski.

Members of the command rendered final military honors, including a Last Roll Call and a 21-gun salute with seven riflemen firing three volleys each.

Sergeant Eric Tunkel, trumpeter from the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, played Taps before members of the command paid their last respects to the helmet, weapon, dog tags and boots of their fallen brother in arms.

A slide show of personal Preciado images was presented before the service began.

Sieranski remembered Preciado as a man who had served his nation with honor and devotion.

"Sergeant First Class Preciado went above and beyond what was required of him as an

NCO," Sieranski said. "No matter what happened, he always maintained a positive attitude.

"He used to wear a cap that had a glass on it that was half full. I truly believe that is how he viewed life. He was always so upbeat, so optimistic about what lies ahead," Sieranski said.

"He was looking forward to his assignment in California to be near his Family again," he added.

Directing his comments to Preciado's mother, Yolanda Rodriguez, and brother, Victor Preciado, who were in attendance, Baker said Preciado possessed a passion to exceed and was known for his selfless attitude.

"Sergeant First Class Preciado's greatest legacy was his love for his Family, his fellow Soldiers and his friends," Baker said.

Preciado was born in Ontario, Calif. He was a Marine for nearly 11 years before transitioning to the Army. His awards include the Army Commendation Medal (one oak leaf cluster), the Army Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the Marksmanship Qualification Badge.

Preciado is survived by his parents, brother, sister and four children, Mae, 11, Nathan, 10, Adrianna, 7, and Isaac, 6.



Photo by ROGER TEEL

Seven riflemen fire three volleys each - a 21-gun salute - at the Nov. 5 memorial for Sgt. 1st Class Fernando Preciado.



Photo by CHANEL S. WEAVER

Captain Norven Charles, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, 20th Support Command (CBRNE), renders a final salute to Sgt. 1st Class Fernando Preciado during a memorial ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground Nov. 5.

20th SUPCOM Soldiers support Veterans Day



Photo by ROGER TEEL

Captain Jerry Starr, left, 20th Support Command (CBRNE) personnel officer, and Sgt. 1st Class Abid Shah, Headquarters and Headquarters, 20th SUPCOM, place a commemorative wreath during the Korean War Memorial Veterans Day ceremony in downtown Baltimore Nov. 11. Due to wet, windy weather, the ceremony was held in the Clarence "Du" Burns Arena adjacent to the memorial. About 70 veterans, mostly members of the Maryland Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association, attended the ceremony, as did color guards from the state and city police, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army's 20th Support Command (CBRNE).