



See page 2 for Year of the NCO article.

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Oct. 21, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



Retiree Appreciation Day this Saturday

Military retirees and their Families are invited to attend the annual Retiree Appreciation Day, 8 a.m. to noon, Oct. 17, in the APG Recreation Center, building 3326, with lunch to follow at the Installation Dining Facility. The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Reuben D. Jones, commander of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Command.

For more information, contact retired Sgt. 1st Class Rich Zalusky, 410-278-5036, richard.zalusky@us.army.mil or Janet Dettwiler, 410-306-2301, janet.dettwiler@us.army.mil.

Dining facilities serve Oktoberfest Specialty Meal

The Oktoberfest Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Oct. 20.

During this event all military personnel, Family members, See **SHORTS**, page 9

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Housing goes privatized Dec. 1

Picerne Military Housing to host town hall meetings

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

In a memorandum dated Oct. 1, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison and deputy installation commander announced that Picerne Military Housing will assume on-post housing operations beginning Dec. 1.

One of the most immediate meanings for housing residents is that every service member currently living in on-post housing is required to complete and sign a Resident Occupancy Agreement or lease prior to Dec. 1. The ROA is a 12-month lease authorizing the sponsor and their Family to continue living in Family housing.

Picerne will begin ROA signings at the Picerne Military Housing temporary Neighborhood Office located at 2727 Chesapeake Road Oct. 15.

To ensure Families have a complete understanding of privatization when it occurs, Picerne and the Garrison will host town hall meetings at Top of the Bay at the following times:

6 p.m., Oct. 15, for military Families; 6 p.m., Oct. 19, for single Soldiers; and 6 p.m., Oct. 22, for Department of Defense civilians.

Residents should bring their military ID and a copy of their LES and DEERS (DD 1172) form to complete their ROA at the town hall.

Colonel Orlando Ortiz said the Garrison leadership and Picerne Military Housing have worked together as a partnership to develop the Community Development Management Plan, which will be the blueprint to change the face of on-post housing.

"We are now in a transition period which allows them to assume full responsibility December first," Ortiz said.

"This partnership is long term and focused on the sustainability of housing and enhancing the quality of Family and community life for Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldiers and their Families," said Greg Cannito, Picerne Military Housing program director.

"When Picerne begins managing Family housing, residents will see positive changes beginning day one," Cannito said. "Our neighborhood management office is staffed with professional teams dedicated to providing Soldiers and their Families with exceptional service."

He said that includes the implementation of an immediate maintenance plan to allevi-

ate the deferred maintenance and other maintenance concerns of residents. In addition, Picerne will mow the lawns, do the landscaping, enhance street lighting, repair roads and sidewalks and build new playgrounds.

"These services are an expression of Picerne's Families First ® philosophy," Cannito said.

The final approval for the CDMP was announced Oct. 10. Starting Oct. 15, Picerne will activate its neighborhood office in building 2727 on Chesapeake Boulevard and actively communicate with residents about privatization and what it means for Families. Garrison leadership and Picerne Military Housing representatives will be on hand to answer questions and assist Soldiers and Families with the transition.

Picerne Military Housing is Family owned and operated and has been building and managing residential communities for 85 years. The company has also partnered with Forts Meade, Bragg, Polk, Rucker, Riley and Sill under the RCI program.

For more information, contact Pat Hector, RCI manager, 410-306-2010 or Aaron Jones, Picerne Military Housing, 410-305-1076.

President Obama orders federal agencies to trim greenhouse gases

Story by **ED STAATS**
DPW

Following his proclamation of October as National Energy Awareness Month, President Obama demonstrated a commitment to lead by example, signing an executive order on Oct. 5 that sets sustainability goals for federal agencies and focuses on

making improvements in their environmental, energy and economic performance.

The executive order requires federal agencies to set a 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target within 90 days; increase energy efficiency; reduce fleet petroleum consumption; conserve water; reduce waste; support sustainable communities;

and leverage federal purchasing power to promote environmentally-responsible products and technologies. The new executive order makes reducing greenhouse gas emissions a priority for the federal government, which occupies nearly 500,000 buildings and operates more than 600,000 vehicles.

"As the largest consumer of

energy in the U.S. economy, the federal government can and should lead by example when it comes to creating innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, conserve water, reduce waste and use environmentally-responsible products and technologies," Obama said. "This

See **ENERGY**, page 13

Garrison commander encourages support of CFC

CFC silent auction up and running

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

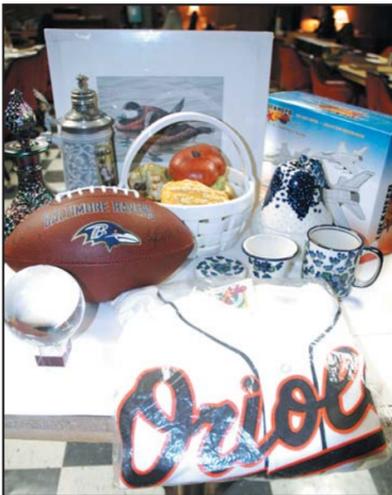
Colonel Orlando W. Ortiz, Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison and deputy installation commander, is encouraging installation-wide support of the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign.

"The CFC is a worthwhile effort that is historically well supported by this installation, and we have a pretty good crew spearheading campaign efforts in campaign chair Mikey Graziano and Major Matt Petraitis," Ortiz said, "as well as a realistic goal."

"There are a number of social activities to promote the program," he added, citing the campaign kickoff that was held at the post Recreation Center Sept. 17 and the ongoing book sale and online silent auction. "We're getting great support from the directorates to make sure key workers are identified, trained and capable of properly marketing the campaign and collecting contributions."

He said the installation goal is to make 100 percent contact and to reach \$450 thousand in donations.

See **CFC**, page 8



An array of items available for bid in the CFC Online Silent Auction include, clockwise from top, a Maryland Migratory Waterfowl stamp print from Maryland and APG artist Chris White; a 1994 Lockheed F-16 fighting falcon airplane bank; Boleslawiec Pottery from Poland; a Cal Ripken Jr. autographed jersey; a crystal globe and stand; an autographed Baltimore Ravens football; hand painted Italian pottery white lattice work basket and squash; a Fenton iridescent wine/whiskey decanter; and a German beer stein by Gerz.

Nationally recognized parenting game inventor comes to APG

ACS

Nationally recognized parenting game inventor, author, speaker and entertainer Kevin McMahon, will be at Aberdeen Proving Ground for "That's The Ticket" parenting and "Train the Trainer" workshops, on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Top of the Bay.

There's no job more challenging than being a parent. Balancing career and parenting roles, single parenting, military tours of duty and reintegration upon redeployment, can all take

their toll on military Families who are trying to provide children with the structure, discipline and nurturing necessary to help them become healthy and productive adults.

"Parenting is a definite challenge, especially when you're trying to gain the cooperation of all Family members," said Aida Rivera, ACS Family Advocacy Program manager. "It's even harder for military Families who have to parent while

See **PARENTING**, page 13

TRAFFIC ALERT

Update on traffic changes

Traffic changes will continue in the Aberdeen Area for the next few weeks.

Both Combat Drive and Boothby Hill Avenue are now open for traffic. Boothby Hill Avenue between Combat Drive and Maryland Boulevard remains closed for future demolition.

With Boothby Hill Avenue reopened, reconstruction of Darlington Street is scheduled to start with the installation of storm drain lines on each side of the street. To facilitate this construction, Darlington Street will be closed to through traffic and only local traffic will be allowed for the next several weeks. Through traffic that formerly used Darlington Street will now be required to use either Susquehanna Avenue or Combat Drive and Boothby Hill Avenue.

The next big traffic event will come near the end of October and into early November, when Maryland Boulevard will be milled and will

receive a new pavement overlay. This work will include several hundred feet of milling and overlay on Harford Boulevard and will impact the Maryland Boulevard intersections with Aberdeen Boulevard and Susquehanna Avenue as well. The contractor is evaluating the feasibility of doing this work at night in order to minimize impacts to traffic. More information will be made available as the time draws near.

As reminders, the Aberdeen Boulevard Gate is now closed and new speed limits are in effect on both inbound and outbound Maryland Boulevard from the Bush River and Deer Creek Loop intersection to the Aberdeen Proving Ground property line.

All construction activities are subject to weather delays, and additional updates will be provided as needed.

Patience and attention to safety are necessary during these ongoing traffic changes.

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

Soldier show Nov. 1



Photo by TIM HIPPS, FMWR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Staff Sgt. Nakita Fox of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Spc. Allah Johnson of Fort Lee, Va., stand front and center with fellow performers during a performance of the 2009 U.S. Army Soldier Show at Fort Belvoir, Va. See article on page 2.



APG celebrates The Year of the NCO



APG DENTAC NCO helps keep Soldiers mission ready

Story and photos by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Over the course of their careers, non-commissioned officers are asked to take on leadership responsibilities, often facing challenges and opportunities that help them grow professionally and personally.

Sergeant Julissa Torres, the NCO in charge at the Edgewood Area Dental Clinic, which is part of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Dental Command, said that her experience as a leader has positively impacted her life and has given her confidence to continue to set high goals for herself.

Torres said that her faith in God has strongly influenced her life and is grateful to God for the opportunities that she has had.

"I would like to thank God before anything else," she said. "Without him nothing is possible in this life."

Torres said that before joining the Army she never thought that someday she would be in a leadership position.

"Before joining the Army, I was a single mother with three kids. I was living with my sister, and I was having a hard time providing for them," she said.

Torres said that she desired to have a home of her own so she took guidance from her mother, who taught her that if you want something you have to work hard for it.

Torres said that she decided to join the Army to create a better standard of living for her children and herself.

"When I told people that I wanted to join the Army some told me that I wouldn't be able to do it because I was a single mother with three children," Torres said. "But I wanted to join despite what they said."

Torres was able to achieve her goal and joined the Army in 2000.

She said that today she is grateful for the opportunities that joining brought her.

"The Army changed my life," she said adding that when she first joined the Army she was stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, working with the 502nd Dental Command as a dental assistant.

While serving at Fort Hood she deployed to Kuwait at Camp Virginia for six months and served six months in Iraq at Camp Anaconda. A year later she served at Camp Liberty in Iraq for a year.

Torres said that while it was hard being away from her children, she is thankful for her family and friends who helped raise her children while she was deployed, making it possible for her to have a career in the Army.

In 2007, Torres was stationed at APG where she served as a dental hygienist for APG DENTAC in the Aberdeen Area.

She said that Col. Colleen Shull, the former commander of APG DENTAC, was a great mentor who exhibited confidence in her by encouraging her to take on leadership roles and go back to school.

"I learned so much from her," Torres said. "Colonel Shull helped me learn how APG DENTAC is managed and how to set and achieve goals for the clinic and for myself. She encouraged me



Sergeant Julissa Torres, left, the noncommissioned officer in charge at the Edgewood Area Dental Clinic, talks to Spc. Veronica Dankwa-Smith about the clinic's schedule for the upcoming week.

to move forward and showed me that I have potential."

Torres added that by setting goals and having someone believe in her she had the strength to grow as a leader and take more responsibility.

In 2008 Torres became the NCOIC of the Edgewood Area Dental Clinic. She said that at first she was a little intimidated by the position as it was her first leadership role, but with experience and guidance from her mentors she now feels comfortable and enjoys her job.

Torres said that in her position she is in charge of making sure that the clinic achieves goals set by the Department of Defense.

Torres said that APG DENTAC meets the DoD readiness standard of 95 percent of service members stationed at APG being in Class 1 or Class 2, which means they are deployable world wide.

Torres also said that APG DENTAC has also successfully implemented First-Term Dental Readiness, which is aimed at providing dental care in the initial training of a Soldier's career so that Soldiers will be fully deployable.

Torres said that Shull impressed upon her and the rest of the APG DENTAC staff that dental health is important to the overall health of the Soldier. She said that it is important for Soldiers to be in good dental health so that they do not face any dental emergencies that could have been avoided while they are deployed.

Torres said that as NCOIC it is her responsibility to make sure that readiness is up at the clinic and to supervise nine civilians and two Soldiers.

Torres said that she aims to be a good leader and mentor and to take time to listen to those who she supervises. She added that everyone is a valuable asset to the team, and appreciates their work.

"I feel like when you are an NCO it is



Randi Lynch, left, a receptionist at the Edgewood Area Dental Clinic, asks Sgt. Julissa Torres a question regarding paperwork.

your responsibility to help younger Soldiers who will be future NCOs," Torres said. "I love my job. I love being able to help people and help Soldiers become ready for the mission."

Torres said that she continues to work on her personal goals by attending school at Harford Community College. She said that one day she wants to be a dentist.

Torres, who was born in Panama, said that school is a bit of a struggle as English is her second language, but she is determined to achieve her goals.

"It is always good to have a dream," she said. "In my life I have overcome fears, and I have pursued my dreams."

Colonel John Barker, the officer in charge at the Edgewood Area Dental Clinic, said that Torres is dedicated to

her job as the NCOIC.

"She is highly motivated and very professional," Barker said. "We are very fortunate to have an NCO of her caliber. She is a great mentor to the junior enlisted Soldiers."

Neshia Hoke, who is a dental assistant, said that she enjoys having Torres as her supervisor.

"She is very easy to work with, and her door is always open," Hoke said.

Torres said that outside of work she enjoys spending time with her family, which often means going to her children's sports games with her husband, Warrant Officer Michael McVay who she married while she was stationed at Fort Hood. He now works for the 20th Support Command (CBRNE).

U.S. Army Soldier Show comes to APG November 1

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The 2009 U.S. Army Soldier Show comes to Aberdeen Proving Ground for three shows – one of which is open to the general public – 7 p.m. at the Post Theater Nov. 1.

The 2009 U.S. Army Soldier Show is a high-energy 90-minute live musical showcasing the talents of active duty Soldiers who were selected by audition from throughout the Army. They are amateur artists who have a passion for music, dance and performing. The show is assembled in five weeks and then tours for six months.

With the theme, 'Lights! Camera! Action!' the audi-

ence is going to have the rare experience of feeling and being in a live television studio, according to the shows' producer-director Victor Hurtado.

Hurtado said the show consists of a lot of dance, rap, English R&B, visuals, patriotic tunes, movement, love of country – even roller skating. Popular songs include the new retro sounds of Duffy's "Mercy," Dominican Juan Luis Guerra's "La Llave de Mi Corazon," which translates in English to "Key to My Heart," and "I Decided," by Solange Knowles, younger sister of Beyonce.

For the finale, troops combined "The Warrior's Anthem" by Michael Peterson, with the late Robert Humphrey's "Warrior's Creed" and put it to music.

"It's a combination of that and a song called "Make

Them Hear You," Hurtado said. "It's a declaration of being heard."

That, in itself, is the director's goal for the show.

"I'm an artistic person by nature," said Hurtado, who during the past year founded Martenvee Media to help expand the entertainment horizon for enlisted troops who aspire to perform. "This is basically writing an hour-and-a-half record with feet and hands and clothes and hearts. Either way, I answer to the same boss: the Soldiers in the show." The U.S. Army Soldier Show is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.apgmwr.com.

(Editor's Note: Information in this article compiled from an article written by Tim Hipps, FMWRC Public Affairs.)



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

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Meet the APG Garrison commander

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Colonel Orlando W. Ortiz assumed command of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison July 11. Since then he has been on the go familiarizing himself with the installation's 70 tenant organizations, overseeing the ongoing transformation under the vision of APG 2012 and the base realignment and closure, meeting with politicians, business representatives, educators and other stakeholders, all while tending to the everyday responsibilities of the Garrison directorates.

"Looking beyond BRAC is where we need to dedicate our energies," Ortiz said. "BRAC is law, it must occur within the specific timeline – and it will. Under the previous Garrison leadership, a synchronized and detailed plan was established and a capable workforce executed extremely well."

The future beyond 2012, however, and the installation's ability to identify activities and services, fulfill those requirements and pursue meaningful initiatives to improve the installation remains his focus.

"This is a period of great opportunity," he said, noting that with the addition of corporate partnerships, community outreach and professional educational programs, APG is well on its way



to becoming an Army Center of Excellence, not only for research, development, test and evaluation, but also for C4ISR [command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance].

"It's a wonderful time, and it's exciting," he said.

He added that military retirees and beneficiaries off the installation still will benefit despite the fact that there will be a reduced military presence on the installation.

"We will always take care of our Family," he said.

"Just about everyone, ranging from elected officials to community leaders, educators, law enforcement and other Department of Defense organizations are very interested in BRAC and concerned about what takes place on the installation," Ortiz said.

He credited Col. Andrew B. Nelson, commander of the Garrison Transformation Office, for his leadership in transformation planning.

"Colonel Nelson's folks are doing tremendous work," he said. "They've developed a good plan, and every project is within scope, specified timeline and budget."

Prior to his assignment to APG, Ortiz attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., and shortly after taking over at APG, he attended the Garrison Commander course at Fort Belvoir, Va.

He is a career intelligence officer who has served in light infantry, airborne, armor and special forces units. He said that this is his first experience working in a garrison.

"Although you learn something new in every capacity in which you serve, this is enlightening," he said. "I never served in a garrison, and I never realized the daily grind of managing these types of issues."

"Our directorates are working very well," he added. "They have proved

themselves skilled, insightful in their recommendations and input as they also accomplish requirements and missions."

He said he has made it a point to visit as many of the Garrison-supported organizations as possible.

"Every week I incorporate a visit into my schedule," he said. "I haven't met them all but I've gone to a great many."

He said that he looks forward to seeing APG through the transformation and serving with Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, who assumed his position at the same time.

"In my mind, he's one of the Army's best," Ortiz said of Rhoades. "I like his energy, his approach and his insights. He's just a great team player who I'm proud to serve with."

"We think alike, even though we don't always agree," he added. "He's everything you'd expect from a command sergeant major. And our wives get along too."

A native of northern New Jersey whose wife is an Army nurse and Pennsylvania native, Ortiz said he and his Family are happy to be at APG.

"My Family likes the community, and we're not too far from home," he said. "We're happy to be here. Great people, great opportunities, what more can you ask for?"

USACE awards more contracts for C4ISR

Story by
NICOLE CAWTHERN
Garrison Transformation Office

With the 2009 fiscal year at an end, the Aberdeen Proving Ground U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Integrated Program Office wrapped up their contract awards for Phase 2 projects.

In the last few weeks, all but one of the remaining Phase 2 buildings have been awarded, with the Integration Facility set for award in 2010.

All five of the construction contracts are design-bid-build, meaning the design is completed by an architectural firm, and the project is then awarded to a contractor firm for construction.

The contract to build the Consolidated North facility was awarded to James G. Davis Construction in the amount of \$20.7 million. The late August award was the second APG BRAC project for the Rockville, Md., based company this year. Consolidated North will be located in the Aberdeen Area on Susquehanna Avenue, between Bel Air and Havre de Grace streets.

Construction mobilization to the site will begin late October or early November. The facility will be 140,000 square feet of new integration, fabrication and research and development space and is scheduled for completion in December 2010.

Davis Construction has already begun construction on the first project, the Command, Control/Communication Network Transport East facility, the largest building of the Phase 2 portion of C4ISR.

"Our team is looking forward to capitalizing on the experience and relationship we have already built with Davis on C2East and rolling right into the Consolidated North Project," said Capt. B.J. Kraemer, construction program manager for C4ISR, commenting on the award.

On Sept. 15, the contract for the Joint Satellite Communication Engineering Center was awarded in the amount of \$19 million. Endicott Constructors Corporation of Wakefield, Mass., was granted the contract to build the 98,000 square foot facility. Also in the Aberdeen Area and located west of the intersection of Boothby Hill Avenue and Raritan Avenue, this building will consist of satellite engi-

neering and research and development space. Completion of the facility is scheduled for December 2010.

The last Phase 2 award for FY 2009 was the renovation of building 5100, a 109,000 square foot facility. The contract was awarded to Forrester Construction Company of Rockville, Md., on Sept. 29 in the amount \$14.5 million. The building is located on the south side of Havre de Grace Street and the project will consist of adaptive re-use of space for integration, fabrication and research and development. As with all C4ISR facilities, the renovation of building 5100 is also set for completion in December 2010.

The Integration Facility is the fifth building of C4ISR Phase 2 and the only new building yet to be awarded. It is currently in the design phase and scheduled for award in May 2010. The Integration Facility will be located west of the intersection of Boothby Hill Avenue and Havre de Grace Street and will be 85,000 square feet of new integration and fabrication space. This construction project will be the last of the C4ISR buildings, completing the awards for the major BRAC projects at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Critical infrastructure construction will begin in 2010 to support the numerous new facilities in the Aberdeen Area. A new electrical substation will be built and the utility poles along Boothby Hill Avenue will be buried along with a new information technology loop. Significant construction along the roadways of Frankford, Susquehanna and Aberdeen will occur or has already begun.

"We are excited about the awards for the Phase 2 contracts and moving into the construction phase. APG is going to be busy and changing rapidly. It will be

an updated post ready to house C4ISR and other missions that are critical in supporting our Warfighters," Kraemer said.

SARC....coming together to end abuse

Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc.

In 1978, Harford County citizens reacted to a sexual assault with the determination to ensure that no victim would ever have to walk alone again.

Dedicated individuals organized what would later become the Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc. and on July 10, 1978, began serving victims of sexual violence in the community. One month later, its services expanded to include victims of domestic violence. By September 1978, the center was operating a 24-hour helpline, which is still the primary way clients enter SARC today.

Since that first day, SARC has been committed to providing quality services for tens of thousands of victims struggling to survive in [the Harford County] community.

Its mission statement reflects the organization's commitment and persistence: "We work to end domestic and sexual violence, to aid its victims and to create a society free from abuse and fear."

Over the years, SARC has continued to develop and change in response to the needs of the people it serves.

SARC offers the community an entire



package of services to provide a safety net for its clients including a 24-hour helpline, crisis intervention, clinical services, legal services, a confidentially-located safehouse, information and referrals, an abuser intervention program for perpetrators of domestic violence, community outreach, and volunteer opportunities. SARC's services empower victims to break free from the cycle of violence and become survivors. Last year alone, SARC provided services to more than 2,500 individuals.

SARC offers individual counseling and crisis intervention for female, male, and specialized services for child victims/survivors. Group counseling is available for adults molested as children, domestic

violence victims, perpetrators of domestic violence, victims of sexually abusive relationships and rape survivors.

Its Legal Services program provides legal representation, advocacy, accompaniment, information and referrals to victims. SARC is able to provide services in Family law cases, protective orders, peace orders and other civil remedies. Last year, program attorneys provided representation at 118 FPO and Peace Order hearings.

Confidentially located safehouses provide emergency shelter to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Each year nearly 150 community members seek safe shelter with SARC. More than half of them continued living an abuse-free life in permanent or transitional housing after leaving SARC.

The outreach component provides education to community groups, literature and advertising to educate the community about SAARC's services and the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence. Each year SARC representatives provide nearly 200 presentations in the community through educational presentations and media interviews. Outreach projects also include its volunteer program and hospital companions who are available 24 hours a day to sexual and domestic violence victims seeking medical treatment in local hospitals.

For information about services provided by SARC, call 410-836-8431.

Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc.

P.O. Box 1207
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
• 24 Hour Helpline: 410-836-8430
• Phone: 410-836-8431
• Baltimore: 410-879-3486
• Fax: 410-838-9484
• www.sarc-maryland.org
• Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On point in the war against sexual assault

CID

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command wants to reassure and remind the Army community - Soldiers, leaders, Family members and civilians, that sexual assaults are investigated as serious crimes and that there are several ways to report these crimes, and various agencies available to assist victims.

Criminal investigators also want victims to know they have several options when reporting these crimes and to remind leaders at every level it is their legal and moral duty to report any acts of violence or misconduct.

"Let it be known, we are on call twenty-four hours a day to investigate crime, and we consider any and all allegations of sexual assault of the utmost importance and take them very seriously," said Chris Grey, chief of Public Affairs, USACIDC. "We cannot investigate what we do not know, so we strongly encourage victims to contact us immediately if they decide to take that course of action."

The following are reporting options and resources available to sexual assault victims.

Unrestricted Reporting is for victims of sexual assault who want medical treatment, counseling and an official investigation of the crime.

A victim has many options when taking this course of action. They can report the crime through their chain of command and or they can go directly to the Military Police or their local CID office for help. They can also contact their local sexual assault response coordinator or request healthcare providers to notify law enforcement.

"Sexual assault is a felony and commanders must report acts of violence such as this to the proper authorities... unless a victim chooses to restrict her or his report," Grey said. "If a victim is not certain the crime has been properly reported, they should contact their local CID office immediately."

If a victim wants to report a sexual assault to law enforcement, it should be done as soon as possible after the assault. The victim should remember to preserve as much evidence as possible. CID recognizes how traumatic a sexual assault can be for victims, but at the same time it stresses how vital evidence can be.

At the victim's discretion/request, the healthcare provider shall conduct a

sexual assault forensic examination, or SAFE, which may include the collection of evidence. Details regarding the incident will be limited to only those personnel who have a legitimate need to know about the investigation.

"CID wants to do everything possible to ensure we bring to justice anyone who has committed a sexual assault and more importantly, to help prevent it," Grey said. "CID Special Agents are some of the most highly trained sexual assault investigators in law enforcement and victims need to understand our door is always open, and they can always come to us for help at any time."

Restricted Reporting is for victims of sexual assault who wish to confidentially disclose the crime to specific individuals and receive medical treatment and counseling without starting the investigative process. Service members who are sexually assaulted and desire restricted reporting under this policy must report the assault to a sexual assault response coordinator, victim advocate, healthcare provider or a chaplain. The policy on restricted reporting is in addition to the current protections regarding communications with a chaplain and does not affect those protections.

The U.S. Army is on the offensive to put an end to sexual assault and sexual harassment within its ranks. The Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program and I. A.M. STRONG campaign aim to combat sexual assault through prevention.

Also, CID has brought onboard seven highly qualified experts in the field of sexual assault and is hiring 30 additional criminal investigators with extensive backgrounds in sexual assault case management and investigations.

"Our goal is to erase sexual assault and sexual harassment from the life of the United States Army," said Pete Geren, secretary of the United States Army. "We've proven in so many other areas that we can distinguish ourselves from the rest of society, and this is going to be one of those examples that we're going to set for the nation."

Additional resources to help victims of sexual assault or other violent crimes can be found under the Victims Assistance link on the CID home page.

To report a crime or for more information, contact the local CID office or visit www.cid.army.mil.



DoD targets drug abuse during Red Ribbon Week

U.S. DoD Military Health System

“Drug free is the key” is the theme for Red Ribbon Week 2009 and is a reminder to TRICARE beneficiaries of the dangers of unhealthy lifestyle habits.

Red Ribbon Week is the nation’s oldest and largest drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year. The Defense Department’s 2009 Red Ribbon Week observation is Oct. 23 through 31. Since 1990, DoD has officially participated in this event to raise public awareness and mobilize communities to combat tobacco, alcohol and drug use among military personnel, civilians and their Families.

Each year DoD and the military services sponsor Red

Ribbon Week activities to focus attention on the destructive effects drugs have on America. To celebrate DoD’s efforts to keep Americans drug-free, the Pentagon will host an awards ceremony 9:30 a.m., Oct. 23, at in the Pentagon Hall of Heroes. The ceremony is open to all DoD employees.

TRICARE urges beneficiaries dealing with substance abuse issue to take advantage of the many available options to treat substance abuse and disorders. Services include detoxification, rehabilitation and outpatient group and Family therapy.

There are also a number of DoD and TRICARE educational programs to raise awareness of some of these issues. For example, the award-winning “Quit Tobacco. Make Everyone Proud” smoking cessation campaign

can be found at www.ucequit2.org. Users can develop a personalized plan for quitting, play games, listen to podcasts, connect to on-line cessation programs and even chat with a trained cessation counselor, seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST.

“That Guy,” is an award-winning social marketing initiative to raise awareness about alcohol abuse. The campaign targets 18- to 24-year-old service members and highlights social disapproval of excessive drinking by featuring the embarrassing consequences. Check out the interactive Web site at www.thatguy.com.

For more information about DoD observation of Red Ribbon Week, visit <http://tricare.mil/tma/DDRP/red-ribbon-week.aspx>.

Commanders attend ASAP risk reduction luncheon



Jareta Coyle, Army Substance Abuse program manager, right, and Bill Sanchious, ASAP employee assistance program manager, left, brief Aberdeen Proving Ground military unit commanders during a risk reduction luncheon Oct. 1.

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Army Substance Abuse Program staff provided a buffet luncheon of balanced foods for new commanders of Aberdeen Proving Ground units and their first sergeants as they learned about the importance of complying with Army Regulation 600-85, the Army’s substance abuse program regulation.

Guest speakers included the Risk Reduction Program coordinator Ron Solod who briefed on the commander’s program that measures 14 high risk behaviors of APG Soldiers, unit by unit, by collecting statistics on those behaviors from various APG functional offices.

Subsequent data analysis is provided online to commanders quarterly to enable

the commander to determine a course of action to reduce high risk behaviors identified. He also discussed the Unit Risk Inventory given directly to the Soldiers on an anonymous basis asking about their personal experiences, positive and negative. The URI is another tool in the commander’s arsenal for identifying and helping to solve potential problems.

Agnes Agnew, ASAP clinical director from Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, also briefed the commanders who included APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando W. Ortiz.

Army Substance Abuse Program manager Jareta Coyle conducted the ASAP training with staff members Solon; Judith Smith, drug testing coordinator; Vivian Jackson, assistant DTC; Bill Sanchious, employee assistance program

manager; and Cindy Scott, drug prevention specialist.

Topics discussed included a review of commander responsibilities; SMART testing; intervention; self referral policy and bio-testing.

In addition, Coyle counseled on the levels of alcohol use, abuse and dependence. She encouraged the group to adhere to the regulations as stated in Army Regulation 600-85 and to make use of the services provided by the ASAP staff.

“If you don’t operate within the parameters of the regulation [AR 600-85], you put your career at risk,” Coyle said.

She provided various examples of commanders who failed to recognize the nature of substance abuse and its consequences.

“This is a problem that often not only results in death for those individuals but for others as well,” Coyle said. “The termination of their commander status

could follow if they have not complied with the appropriate steps,” she said.

Captain Itsara Ounnarath, KUSAHC company commander, called the training “informative” and said he learned things he didn’t know about legal rights and issues although he was familiar with much of the medical information.

“There are more than fifty Soldiers in the unit, most in the medical field,” Ounnarath said. “They may be more educated about these subjects than typical Soldiers.”

Captain David McCormick, commander of Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, said he thought the training was excellent.

“I learned a lot; especially about the self-referral process,” McCormick said. “This type of training makes you feel better prepared as a commander. You need to know what you have to do to get your Soldiers treatment.”

Chapel News

Commentary: Hidden sacrifice—visible virtue

By
**CHAP (MAJ)
FRED C. TOWNSEND**
APG Chapel Ministry

The following story takes place in the days when vaccines were not yet available.

The doctor looked down at the little girl in the hospital bed. He knew that her only hope was to receive blood from a Family member who had already recovered from the same disease.

The doctor knelt down beside Johnny, the little girl's brother, and said, "Your sister needs your kind of blood to make her well. Would you be willing to give blood so that she can live?"

Johnny's eyes grew large. The doctor watched them well up with fear, but the little boy hesitated only long enough to swallow the lump in his throat.

"Sure, doctor, I will do it," he replied.

After the needed blood was taken from Johnny's small arm, he remained quiet for a few minutes as he had been instructed. Then he stood up, and asked

softly, "Well, doctor, when do I die?"

Only then did the doctor realize the full extent of this child's sacrifice. Johnny had offered his life to save his sister.

Every Soldier now serving overseas in hostile territory or healing from having been there or preparing to go into harm's way will probably never receive the full recognition for his or her sacrifice. Like the little boy in this story, each of us know full well what that sacrifice might be, yet still give. This is most honorable. So often we focus on what is sacrificed: however—what might be there to gain? Consider:

Remove all ability to see or hear from birth, and you have the unstoppable Helen Keller.

Bury him in the snows of Valley Forge, and you have a George Washington.

Raise him in abject poverty, and you have an Abraham Lincoln.

Strike him down with infantile paralysis, and he becomes a Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Burn him so severely in a school-

house fire that the doctors say he will never walk again, and you have a Glenn Cunningham, who set the world's record in 1934 for the mile.

Deafen a genius composer, and you have a Ludwig van Beethoven.

Have him born of parents who survived a Nazi concentration camp, paralyze him from the waist down when he is four, and you have the incomparable concert violinist, Itzhak Perlman.

Call him a slow learner, "retarded," and write him off as uneducable, and you have an Albert Einstein.

Train him or her often and hard with little time for self or Family and send them to the deserts of Iraq or Afghanistan in scorching heat, rain mortars upon them, send them out regularly into harm's way, work them 7 days a week for one year and you have—the proud, undaunted, American Soldier!

Hidden sacrifice—visible virtue!

Chapel hosts 11th Annual 'Hallelujah Harvest' celebration

"Hallelujah Harvest," an alternative to Halloween, will be celebrated and hosted by the Gospel, Protestant and Catholic congregations 6 to 8 p.m., Oct. 31, at the Main Post Chapel.

Exciting games, food and prizes will be provided. Children are invited to dress as Biblical characters or saints.

Prizes will be awarded for the most innovative costumes.

Everyone is welcome to be part of this cooperative chapel event.

For more information, contact Sondra Watson, Olivia Wheaton, Deneen Henson, Shirley Simmons, Shannon Kittok, Ebony Sexton or Gerri Merkel, 410-278-2516.

Chapel honors USAF Detachment during themed Sunday service

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Protestant Service at the Aberdeen Area Chapel and Senior Pastor Chaplain (Maj.) Young D. Kim have resumed the monthly honoring of installation organizations during themed Sunday observances held the first Sunday of each month.

The Oct. 4 service honored the 361st Training Squadron U.S. Air Force Detachment, a part of the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School.

Detachment commander Capt. Brian McKay and 1st Sgt. Dennis Westbrook led the group of Airmen who assisted ushers during the offering and communion. In addition, Airman 1st Class Alan Pasel read the morning scripture from the book of Job.

Dr. Walter Egerton, lay leader, welcomed the Airmen.

"We're very privileged to have the Airmen of the [361st] Training Squadron with us

today," Egerton said.

He presented the commander with a plaque marking the occasion and each Airman with engraved copies of the Airmen's New Testament bible.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeffrey Zust of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command gave the call to worship and opening prayer, and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Scott Weichl of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, delivered the morning message.

McKay said the unit had looked forward to the event.

"This really shows the connection between us and APG," he said. "We really like it here but as you know they're calling us home," he added in reference to the unit's return to its home station at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, next year.

Egerton said the themed Sunday programs are held to show that the Protestant Service is



During a themed Sunday honoring the U.S. Air Force Detachment, Airman 1st Class Travis W. Reuther and Airman Kyle B. Bustos, left, light communion candles as Chaplains (Lt. Cols.) Jeff Zust and Scott Weichl, center, and Airman 1st Class Alan Pasel and Dr. Walter Egerton, lay leader, right, look on during the start of the Oct. 4 Protestant service at the Aberdeen Area Chapel.

"committed to every aspect of the community."

"We seek to be a positive force for all units in the community, internal and external,"

he said. "We look on it as a kind of outreach and an opportunity to show them more of his word. Spiritual training is just as important out in the field."

The APG Military and Civilian Spouses Club was the September honoree. The U.S. Marine Corp Detachment will be honored Sunday, Nov 1.



Commentary: Look for Smart Choices in your commissary

By
LT. COL. KAREN E. HAWKINS
DeCA

The Smart Choices check mark is appearing on hundreds of products in your commissary. This first-ever, uniform, front-of-pack nutrition labeling program, developed by scientists, nutritionists, consumer organizations and food industry leaders was created to help shoppers make informed food and beverage choices when shopping.

Unlike nutrient scoring systems, rankings or store-based programs, Smart Choices uses a single, green check mark on the front of the product package to provide “at-a-glance” guidance that a product has met strict science-based nutrition criteria. These standards use the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, reports from the Institute of Medicine and other sources of authoritative nutrition guidance. Foods that qualify for the Smart Choices symbol also will display calorie information on the front of the package, including calories per serving and number of servings per container. The goal is to help people stay within their daily calorie needs and make

it easier for calorie comparisons.

Participating companies with their own “better for you” nutrition labeling symbols have begun replacing them with the Smart Choices symbol. Because of its scope and the science behind the new nutrition labeling system, this new program will bring clarity and consistency to the U.S. marketplace. So make sure to look for the Smart Choices check mark on foods the next time you are shopping in the commissary, where you’ll not only find healthy choices, but savings of 30 percent or more on your purchase compared to “downtown.”

Nutrition criteria

To display the Smart Choices symbol, a food or beverage has to meet the standards for specific “nutrients to limit” and, depending on the food, also include “nutrients to encourage” or “food groups to encourage.” Special criteria were developed for 19 different product categories, such as beverages, cereals, meats, dairy and snacks:

- Nutrients to limit: total fat, saturated fat, trans fat, cholesterol, added sugars and sodium



- Nutrients to encourage: calcium, potassium, fiber, magnesium, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin E

- Food groups to encourage: fruits and vegetables, whole grains, low-fat or fat-free milk products

The Smart Choices Program was created through the Keystone Center, a nonprofit organization that addresses public health problems. Now, NSF International, a nonprofit public health organization, and the American Society for Nutrition together currently administer the new nutritional front-of-package labeling program.

The nutrition guidelines are designed to be updated along with new public policy, dietary guidelines and emerging science. This includes adjusting the criteria to reflect the upcoming 2010 Dietary Guidelines.

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

ARL reaches out to West Point cadets

Story by
SARAH MAXWELL
ARL

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory showcased its technologies to hundreds of cadets, family members and the local community Sept. 18 at the annual U.S. Military Academy’s Engineering Expo at West Point, N.Y.

Joining about 24 other federal and private organizations at the expo, ARL displayed energy technology, armor research and software engineering that gave a glimpse into the diverse areas ARL scientists explore.

“This event is very useful in exposing our lab to the future Army leadership,” said Weapons and Materials Research Directorate’s Steve Taulbee, who presented samples of developmental armor helmets along with other engineering information.

The cadets and other attendees were given a couple of hours to talk with the subject matter experts and learn about the research that will eventually support them as future Warfighters.

“I could see things that my

classmates do in the lab aren’t just in the lab anymore,” said Cadet Casey Roberts, who was interested in ARL’s energy research. “That’s the neat thing for me.”

Roberts said the expo provided him an understanding of what ARL is researching, what the Army needs and what his fellow upper-class cadets are studying in the lab.

“Fuel cells aren’t very complicated, but seeing them put to work very differently [for the Army] is interesting,” Roberts said.

The cadets being able to see

firsthand the research ARL is doing was just one of the benefits of the expo, said Maj. Patsy Gomez, the USMA event organizer. Other benefits came from networking and learning about future career paths.

Although the event was open to the community, it was the freshman and sophomore cadets who were the target of ARL and the other organizations. Cadets must declare majors in the fall of their second year, and the expo showed them engineering paths that they could choose.

“I came by to see if I want

to go this route,” said first-year Cadet Richard Wycklendt. “I’m still learning about the Army.”

Educating the students was one thing ARL could offer, but the laboratory also supports the cadets through sponsored internships when the cadets are upperclassmen and women.

“They [cadets] really are the right kind of personality and attitude that can enrich an organization,” said ARL computer scientist Gunjan Verma. “They’re really interested in the bigger picture and were very motivated.”

RDECOM senior leader promoted to brigadier general

Story by
MATTHEW HICKMAN
RDECOM

U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command deputy commanding general and senior commander of the Soldier Systems Center, Brig. Gen. Harold J. Greene was promoted from colonel on Oct. 9 in a ceremony held at Top of the Bay.

Greene, a native of upstate New York with 29 years in the Army, had his new rank pinned on by his wife, Col. Sue Myers, study director at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., his daughter Amelia Greene, Maj. Gen. Nickolas G. Justice, program executive officer for the Program Executive Office Command, Control and Communications at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and Lt. Gen. Stephen M. Speakes, U.S. Army deputy chief of staff, G-8.

“When you look at a leader like [Greene] what you’re looking at is somebody who has that singular ability to display wisdom, and wisdom is a combination of a great background, a great sense of self, a sense of humility, and the ability to work extraordinarily hard, and [Greene] has all those qualities in ample profusion and proliferation,” Speakes said commenting on Greene’s qualifications.

“He has the rare ability to make others better, and that’s something very special too because at the level he’s at right now his ability to inspire others, to show



Photo by TOM FAULKNER
U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Deputy Commanding General Brig. Gen. Harold J. Greene has his new rank pinned on by his daughter Amelia Greene and his wife Col. Sue Myers, study director at the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle, Pa., during his promotion ceremony held at Top of the Bay Oct. 9.

others the way, is so important as well,” Speakes added.

Greene, who holds a doctorate from the University of Southern California in materials science, gained this ability over time while serving at Fort Polk, La.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Monmouth, N.J.; and the Pentagon as well as in Athens, Greece and Istanbul, Turkey.

Speakes said he believes RDECOM is lucky Greene has settled at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

“[Greene] is the right person for this great organization, and I’m thrilled that he’s a part of what’s a really remarkable team. You will be a part of...a wonderful period in the time of this extraordinary command because RDECOM, as the seminal place in today’s Army, is overlooking very difficult issues,” Speakes said, noting that RDECOM has had to make crucial decisions for the Army.

Greene remained humble as he spoke, not of himself, but of his friends, Fami-

ly and senior leaders he worked for who influenced him and taught him valuable lessons throughout his career.

“What I learned from [Speakes] was the ability to maintain a polite and professional relationship with people under incredible stress. That attitude of mentorship and training and trying to help subordinates move forward is something I’ll take with me,” Greene said of his working relationship with Speakes while at the Pentagon.

The other qualities that Greene credits with his success include a sense of innovation, the ability to let subordinates make important decisions, the ability to ask the right questions, and a stoic characteristic.

“In every job I had we got things done that I think made our Army better, and it was done by other people...all I did was try to pull people in the right direction and they went and did great things. So the reason I’m up here is not what I did, but what all of you did. I know it was truly you guys and gals who did the work the Army recognized today, and for that I thank you,” Green said stating his success was a team effort.

“I was very lucky. I worked with tremendous people, and over the years I was honored to have jobs where I could work with great people and we could get great things done,” he added.

LEAVE DONATIONS

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

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Vicki Bailey	Meg Downey	Deborah Moore
Debra Bonsall	Wayne Erb	Michael Naegele
(daughter has brain tumor)	Dawn Folck	Marie D. Nowak
Georgia Braun	Rita Fowler	Ron Spencer
Veronica Brown	John Furchert	Linda Tignor
Randy Carroll	Holly Geppi	Luis Villafane
John Daigle	Erin Griffin	Veronica Yates-Sparks
Bonnie Day	Kari Jackson	Barbara Zenker
	Angela Lambert	

CFC

From front page

“I’m confident we can achieve this goal,” Ortiz said. “We have great organizations here. If they know about something, they support it.”

Online Silent Auction

Aberdeen Proving Ground employees are enthusiastically bidding on items in the Combined Federal Campaign silent auction which stood up in September and ends in December.

Items range from an autographed Baltimore Ravens football and Cal Ripken jersey, to pottery, artwork and other collectibles.

To view items in the Silent Auction, from the APG Web site at www.apg.army.mil, scroll down to the CFC section at the bottom of the

page and click on ‘CFC Online Silent Auction.’

Users must have a CAC card or AKO UserName and password to access the site.

To bid on items, users must register and have the option of posting a nickname for privacy. Bids are automatically posted as soon as they’re made, and current and previous bidders are notified by e-mail when a bid is increased or expired. All bids are binding and winning bidders are expected to make payment on their bid following notification of winning bid and upon receipt of the invoice issued by the APG CFC Office. All proceeds go to the charity chosen by the item donor. Item donations are still welcome for the silent auction.

For more information, visit the CFC Office in the Top of the Bay Down Under, building 30; call Mikey Graziano, CFC Chair at 410-942-9983 or 410-278-9913/9915.

Community Notes

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 15 THURSDAY STEAK NIGHT

The American Legion Edgewood Service Post 17, 415 Edgewood Road, Edgewood, will hold Steak Night every Thursday, 5 to 9 p.m. Steak dinner costs \$12.95 per person. For more information, call 410-676-1147.

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 16 SOUPER SUPPER PONTOON

Sample a selection of hearty harvest season soups accompanied by crusty breads and a seasonal greens salad while afloat on the estuary. Apple cider will be served hot or cold, as the weather dictates. Be sure to dress warmly to help ward off the autumn nip in the air.

This program will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m. for 30 lbs. to adult. The cost is \$15 per person. Registration is required.

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

BASKET AND PURSE BINGO

The Aberdeen Lioness Club will host Basket and Purse Bingo, 7 p.m., at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street. Doors open at 6 p.m. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available.

Tickets cost \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Extra packets cost \$5 each. Bring a canned good and/or non-perishable food item for bonus prize ticket. Needed items are stews, chili, chunky soups, pancake mixes and syrups. Also old/new/used/prescription/non-prescription/regular/sun glasses/cases are needed. Proceeds will benefit Aberdeen Lioness Lions.

This is a non-smoking event.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332 or Sandy Pierce, 410-808-1131.

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 17 THE VERNON SEWELL ENSEMBLE HOSTS JOY NIGHT

The Vernon Sewell Ensemble of St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street will host Joy Night at 5 p.m. The event will feature local choirs and dance teams. For more information, call 410-939-2267.

BRING YOUR BABY HIKING

Get out and exercise with the little ones while hiking, playing and learning with a naturalist and his little one. This free program will be held 10 to 11 a.m. for ages up to 5. 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.

MARSH IN FALL CANOETRIIP

Tour the marsh as Mother Nature prepares for winter. Bring a snack for a stop on Snake Island. This program will be held 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

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

TEXAS HOLD'EM

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135 located on 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.

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN HIKE & CAMPFIRE

Spend a spooky evening at the park hiking through the woods to discover the creatures of Halloween. Meet these real "scary" critters up close and listen to the tales spun by Halloween characters. After the hike, enjoy music

and roasted marshmallows down by the cozy campfire.

This program will be held 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. for anyone able to handle a three-quarter mile hike in the woods at night. The cost is \$5 per person. Registration is required.

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

BASKET AND PURSE BINGO

Basket and Purse Bingo to benefit Linking All So Others Succeed (LASOS) will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, 7 p.m.; doors open 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. Extra packs cost \$5 each. Bring a canned good and/or non-perishable food item for a bonus prize ticket. School supplies also will be collected at this event. Food, drinks, baked goods will be available. This is a non-smoking event.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Kim Edge, 410-688-1305 or 410-836-0333 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 18 TINTURTLES

Learn to make quick, easy, delicious and nutritious meals by cooking in foil on coals. Great program for scouts. This program will be held noon to 1:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult; ages 8 to 1 must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$5 per person. Registration is required.

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

A PUNKIN CHUNKIN' HIKE

This is the event everyone's been waiting for. While hiking the Discovery Trail, examine the jack-o-lanterns closely to see what creepy crawlers have taken up residence. Then, let the biodegradable punkin chunkin' begin. This free program will be held 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. for ages 3 to adult; ages 3 to 8 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.

WEDNESDAYS

OCTOBER 21 THRU NOVEMBER 6 NATURE'S PLAYGROUP

Little ones and parents play and learn in the natural world. Stories, songs, simple crafts and discovery outings will highlight each day's theme.

Session I will be held 9 to 10 a.m. and Session II will be 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 0 to 4.

The cost is \$30 per child. 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.

WEDNESDAY WEE WONDERS

Celebrate fall by joining the naturalist and her wee one for stories, songs, live animals and outdoor exploration.

This program will be held 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for ages 0 to 4. The cost is \$2 per person. Registration is required.

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

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 23 FRIDAY FAMILY CAMPFIRE - SPIDERS

Come on out to the Pontoon Pier for a campfire program. Marshmallows are supplied; just bring a chair and s'mores fixings. This program will be held 7 to 9 p.m. for all ages. The cost is \$2 per person or \$8 per Family (limit 5 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.

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

Post Shorts

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

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

The menu includes old fashioned bean soup, pork schnitzel (jager schnitzel), German style chicken with vegetables, German pickled beef roast (sauerbraten), spicy spareribs (gewurzte schweinsrippchen), grilled bratwurst with sauerkraut, parsley buttered potatoes, egg noodles, sweet and sour red cabbage (rotkohl), peas with onions, mushroom gravy, assorted salad bar, cole slaw with creamy dressing, cucumber relish salad (gerkensalat), assorted breads, hot rolls, bread pudding with vanilla sauce, snickerdoodle cookies, German chocolate cake, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

BOSS holds Haunted House

Better Opportunities for Single Solders will sponsor a BOSS Haunted House, 5 to 10 p.m., Oct. 24, and 1 to 6 p.m., Oct. 25, at Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522. The event includes face painting, ring toss, pumpkin carving contest, magic show, pie in the face, balloon dart toss and more. Tickets cost \$.50 each. Individuals will need 3 to 4 tickets per event/activity.

For more information, call Spcs.

Francisco Rios, 410-436-4335; Sharia Leal, 410-436-8587; or Jessica Fulda, 410-298-3000.

Nominations for the General Douglas MacArthur Award

The General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award recognizes company grade officers who demonstrate the ideals for which MacArthur stood – duty, honor, country – and promotes and sustains effective junior officer leadership in the Army.

A total of 28 officers will be selected for the award: 25 officers and three warrant officers. Nominees must be in company grade officers 2nd lieutenant, 1st lieutenant, captain, or warrant officer 1 or 2 in the U.S. Army.

All award nominations should be forwarded by Nov. 19 to Karen Smith, Human Resources Division, e-mail Karen.smith17@us.army.mil, fax DSN 332-0810, commercial 703-602-0810.

For more information, call Lt. Col. Jay Carlson, 703-604-0669, or e-mail jay.carlson@conus.army.mil.

U.S. Army card game marching onto PX shelves

The 82nd Airborne and 101st Air Assault Divisions, 4th and 3rd Infantry Divisions as well as a host of Cavalry and Mountain Divisions are rolling into PXs as an updated version of the classic "War" card game gets an Army makeover.

Developed using the U.S. Army brand guidelines, the new, Top Trumps series <http://www.flickr.com/photos/aafespa/3941005071/sizes/o/> comes with stats, pictures and facts on units ranging from the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment to the 10th Mountain Division.

Each card profiles an Army element and includes specifics such as the year founded, manpower and a brief description of each division, regiment and brigade's unique function.

The U.S. Army Top Trumps series is now available at more than 100 AAFES PXs and Shoppettes throughout the Continental United States, Pacific and Europe.

Thanksgiving Day specialty meal

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. Nov. 26.

During this event all military personnel, 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 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, apples and sausage cornbread dressing, savory bread dressing, fluffy mashed potatoes with gibley 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.

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



Adventures in driving decision making

Panic on the highway!

Installation Safety Office

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

Test your driving expertise in the following situation and then from the options provided, select the best answer. Find out the correct response the answers printed upside down.

Situation #55

You are driving 60 mph in your SUV on a four-lane interstate. You've been buffeted by high winds for more than an hour, but it seems to be letting up. You approach a large bridge spanning a body of water. Suddenly the full force of the wind hits you and pushes you over into the next lane of traffic. What should you do?

A. Brake gently to slow as traffic permits, and grip the wheel firmly to steer back into your lane.

B. Accelerate and steer in opposite direction from which the wind is pushing you.

Answer A. Yes, your choice of action to "brake gently to slow as traffic permits, and grip the wheel firmly to steer back into your lane" is the best action. This is the time when you want to decrease your speed to increase your steering control. And two other things: be sure of what the traffic is doing behind you so you don't get run into from the rear, and be sure you have a place to move into.

Answer B. No, Answer A was the best choice. You need to "brake gently to slow as traffic permits, and grip the wheel firmly to steer back into your lane." You need to slow down, not speed up. You have better steering control at a slow-speed than you do at a high speed. Be careful not to slow too quickly so you don't get run into from the rear, and be sure you have a place to move into.

Annual Fall Technology Expo Oct. 21

The Edgewood Chemical, Biological Center Corporate Information Office of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering command and the U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center (formerly the Directorate of Information Management) will host the 2009 Annual Fall Information Technology Expo 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Oct. 21, at Top of the Bay.

State of the art technologies will be featured from 3M Projection Systems, Adobe Systems, Advanced Video Systems, Avocent, CACI, CCS Presentation Systems, Commercial Data Systems Inc., Control Cable Inc., Corning Cable Systems, Dell, F.A. O'Toole Office Systems, GovConnection, Hartford Computer Group, Konica Minolta Business Solutions, Link Solutions, Log Sec, Nelson White Systems, New Horizons CLC, Newark, Office Eagle, Perot Systems, Plantronics, Praxis Engineering, RGB Spectrum, Raritan, Spirent Federal Systems, SRC, STG, Inc., StorageHawk /Quantum, Tektronix, Tripp Lite, Vizada, Wright Line, Xerox and more.

Admission is free and open to all civilian, military and contractor personnel. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call FDAE toll-free 877-332-3976 or Deb Daniel 410-436-6087, or Susan Suppa, SIGNETEC, 410-278-7598.



Army News

Financial problems or PTSD need not affect security clearance

Story by
TAMARA HAIRE
Army News Service

With the nation in the throes of an economic downturn and entering the seventh year of overseas combat, some Soldiers and civilians are worried about their security clearance.

The stress of combat and the rise in foreclosures have some Soldiers wondering if their security clearance will be impacted.

"All Army personnel should understand that they can obtain counseling services for financial and mental health issues without undue concern of placing their security clearance status in jeopardy," said Col. Edward Fish, commander, U.S. Army Central Personnel Security Clearance Facility, known as the CCF.

Army leaders want to ensure Soldiers that the security clearance process is fair, equitable and comprehensive and the Army is taking steps to ensure it remains that way. Leading this effort is the deputy chief of staff, G-2, who is responsible for policy formulation, evaluation, and oversight of intelligence activities for the Department of the Army. This includes policy development and oversight of the security clearance process, to include oversight of the CCF.

The CCF reviews personnel security investigations to grant security clearances for Soldiers, civilian employees and contractor personnel. The CCF uses the national adjudicative guidelines to process security clearance requests. These guidelines outline the standard application of the process, which includes consideration of both favorable and

unfavorable information, identify specific concerns and highlight associated mitigating factors.

A bankruptcy or foreclosure will not automatically prevent one from obtaining or maintaining a security clearance, according to G-2 officials. They explain there are many conditions surrounding financial hardships that often mitigate security concerns.

The guideline for financial considerations focuses primarily on individuals who are financially overextended because they may be at risk of engaging in illegal acts to generate funds. For instance, financial guidelines consider "the conditions that resulted in the financial problem were largely beyond the person's control...and the individual acted responsibly under the circumstances." Adjudicators identify such conditions as mitigating circumstances.

For example, if an individual did not have financial problems in the past, yet was forced into foreclosure because of a permanent change of station, or PCS move, adjudicators would consider this a mitigating circumstance. However, if the individual has a history of not meeting financial obligations and now forecloses on a home, this would display a pattern of financial irresponsibility that cannot be easily mitigated, officials said.

Likewise, a bankruptcy will not automatically prevent obtaining a security clearance.

There are many other conditions surrounding financial hardships that often mitigate security concerns, officials said. About 98 percent of cases received by the CCF which involve financial issues

were granted a security clearance. This trend has been consistent since 2005.

Individuals under financial duress are encouraged to contact their local Army Community Service or Military One Source to obtain financial counseling to determine how to best manage their debts.

In addition, Soldiers, civilians and contractors should not be forced to weigh the detrimental impacts of a possible loss of a security clearance against the choice of whether or not to seek mental health counseling or treatment, officials said.

Many Soldiers expressed an unwillingness to participate in behavioral or psychological health programs based on the perception that a "Yes" answer to the mental health question (Q21) on the U.S. Office of Personnel Management Standard Form 86 Questionnaire for National Security Positions would lead to denial, suspension or possible loss of a security clearance.

The OPM conducts the background investigations on Army personnel seeking a security clearance. The OPM ensures that investigations are conducted in a manner compliant with the revised Q21, which excludes the reporting of treatment related to adjustments from service in a military combat environment, such as post traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, or mild traumatic brain injury.

Executive Order 12968, Access to Classified Information, states mental health counseling in and of itself is not a reason to revoke or deny a security clearance. Seeking support to address mental health issues demonstrates inner strength and embodies the Warrior Ethos, Army

leaders have said.

Professional mental health counseling is not a threat to an individual's security clearance; rather it can be a positive factor in the security clearance process, officials said.

CCF's adjudicative history indicates that 99.98 percent of cases with psychological concerns obtained/retained their security clearance eligibility. Most cases that resulted in a denial or revocation had other issues in addition to psychological concerns.

The current policy provides both adjudicators and commanders flexibility to allow individuals undergoing counseling to maintain their security clearance.

Leadership must make it a priority to educate Soldiers, civilians and contractors that acting responsibly with regard to indebtedness and seeking mental health counseling is a positive course of action and will not result in the denial, loss or suspension of a security clearance, G2 officials said.

Ultimately, the well-being and safety of Soldiers, civilians and contractors, especially those in the demobilization process, is of great concern to Army leaders, and personnel must not be discouraged from seeking assistance, Fish said.

Communication from leaders is key, Fish said. He added that Army personnel need to know that their chain of command, fellow Soldiers and coworkers will support their decision to seek the proper help for both mental health and financial concerns.

(Editor's note: Tamara Haire serves with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2.)

Study focuses on identifying IED detection experts in Army

Story by
J.D. LEIPOLD
Army News Service

Some Soldiers seem to have a sixth sense at being able to spot improvised explosive devices, researchers found, while others were unable to see the deadly weapons hidden in brush or buried in the middle of a road.

How and why only certain Soldiers could see IEDs was something the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization decided needed to be studied. For the last 18 months a joint group of researchers has been striving to identify what particular skills, abilities and characteristics are needed to detect IEDs.

The study's director, Jennifer Murphy, Ph.D., said JIEDDO leadership was hearing stories from the field every now and then that there would be a Soldier who just happened to be exceptional in his ability to identify IEDs, so she and the Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences came into the picture.

"Wouldn't it be great if there was a way we could identify people who have this skill before they deploy because it would save so many lives," she said, "because right now the way it is, we have to wait for the tour to unfold to see who is good and who's not."

She said being able to identify who these sixth-sense Soldiers are in advance would allow the Army to strategically place them in various locations throughout a convoy. It would save time and lives since most IED casualties occur at the beginning and at the end of a Soldier's tour - at the beginning because Soldiers are learning about their surroundings; at the end because Soldiers start to focus on returning home.

Murphy and her team first started to question the reasons why some Soldiers were particularly good at finding IEDs - what was it that made them good and why?

"If you talk to a Soldier about what he thinks makes him good, he'll say, 'I've got a 'Spidey' sense, a sixth sense, and I can just feel something is wrong, I don't know what it is, but something is out of place, not quite right,'" she said. "Obviously we can't measure 'Spidey' sense, but I can tell you that we can determine to a large degree how eyes and certain cognitive functions work together."

The research team began studying the human factors such as measuring the light that enters the eyes to the information

being passed to the brain, added in personality factors, through a variety of tests as well as the personal experiences a Soldier has in the field and what they might have had in earlier life. Things like, did the individual hunt or fish; were they familiar with their terrain? Those are all components of what could possibly make somebody good at finding IEDs, Murphy said.

Next the researchers identified core components, broke them down into basic processes, figured out ways to measure them, then began assessing IED detection ability. They assessed 800 Warfighters, including Soldiers, Marines and Airmen who were each given a battery of 15 or 16 tests. Through statistical analysis, the researchers were able to filter out the most important predictors of performing well in finding IEDs.

Tests the Warfighters went through included a training-lane criterion measure which provided a performance-based measure of visual IED detection skill. It comprised three factors: physical environment, targets and emplacement locations. Another was DARWARS Ambush, a virtual-reality game-based system that measured the ability to visually detect IEDs on a simulated route-clearance mission.

Vigilance performance was also studied using a computer-based assessment. Also included were Peer-rating tests that Murphy said are used by Fortune 500 companies to determine who should go where in a company structure.

Paper-and-pencil tests measured knowledge, skills and abilities that could be related to IED detection. They covered detection of hidden objects, abstract reasoning skills, knowledge of the IED threat and also personal and military background.

"We're not just looking for an ability in someone, we're looking for differences between people because that's how we identify the ones who are going to be best at this task," said Murphy. "Most Soldiers have vision that has been corrected, but there are some people who can see above and beyond that. I'm not going to know what 'above and beyond' is unless I know how everyone else performs."

Murphy added that aside from having strong vision, there are skills the researchers were looking at which are inherent in Soldiers who can spot IEDs -- certain cognitive capacity characteristics, working memory spatial representations Soldiers

keep in their brains. These are things the researchers can measure, but they can't train.

"Some of the things we're looking at are skills that actually can be trained," Murphy said. "Things like the ability to pay attention for a long period of time. We can train vigilance, that's something research has show we can actually do to improve performance."

What the team found is that Soldiers who are sensitive to various subtleties often are the same folks who go down the same route every day - such as in a convoy -- are able to see and sense that something is missing or is new that was or wasn't there the day before.

"These are people who notice

extraordinary subtle changes in the environment," Murphy explained. "They can recognize the tread marks of their vehicles and they can see where another vehicle has gone over and down the road that's not theirs."

"The one thing that you'll find is that the good route-clearance guys understand this and they'll set themselves up so they can notice changes," she said. "In their minds, they'll proactively clear the area. It's called desanitization, which is where they are able to get rid of all the trash, all the garbage, all the foliage, virtually everything along the side of the road and in the process they minimize IED hiding places. They're able to segregate items from the background."

Presently the research team is compiling its data and will file the results and recommendations to JIEDDO headquarters in the next month.

"What will happen if this all gets implemented is that the folks who have the most potential to be successful at IED detection will get extensively trained, then strategically placed so they can do the most good," Murphy said.

"Now that we've identified the critical skills, such as vigilance, the question will be how do we train so that everybody improves in the detection process," she said. "That will maximize our capability to detect and that will be a great weapon that insurgents can't stop."

Rules spelled out for G.I. Bill transferability

Story by
C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

Soldiers can now go online and elect to transfer their Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits to their spouse or children.

Rules for transferring educational benefits under the "Post-9/11 Veteran's Education Assistance Act Of 2008," sometimes called the "Post-9/11 G.I. Bill," were spelled out June 23 by Bob Clark, the Department of Defense's assistant director for Accession Policy and Military Personnel Policy.

According to Clark, Soldiers will be able to transfer benefits to dependents only if they were active or Select Reserve on Aug. 1. The benefit cannot be transferred by those serving in the Individual Ready Reserve, who are retired, or who are separated on that date.

Additionally, under the transferability rules, a Soldier must have served six years and must commit to serve an additional four years.

Soldiers can elect to transfer benefits to Family members beginning June 29, through the Transferability of Educational Benefits Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB>.

After Soldiers make those elections, the Army will verify and approve the election and assign the four-year commitment, if required. Following that approval, a Soldier's Family member can then apply for benefits through the Veterans Administration Web site.

According to Clark, it is recommended that Soldiers add all Family members as potential beneficiaries of their Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits. Once a Soldier has retired or separated from the Army, they can no longer add new Family members as potential beneficiaries.

Under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, thousands of qualified Soldiers or Family members of qualifying Soldiers will have the opportunity to go to college at no cost to them.

Soldiers, Army veterans, and Family members of qualifying Soldiers began using benefits under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill beginning Aug. 1. Benefits from the program can be paid out for a total of 36 months. Under a typical degree program, where students attend school for nine months at a time and are then off during the summer months, the plan could allow veterans to get a four-year degree while attending school

POST - 9/11 GI BILL A NEW BILL FOR A NEW CENTURY



in residence.

With the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, tuition payments are sent directly to the school. Additional payments for books and supplies go directly to students.

Tuition is not the only benefit extended to potential college-goers. For students attending school more than half the time, the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill also pays housing costs, up to a rate equivalent to the Basic Allowance for Housing rate for an E-5 with dependents in the zip code where the school is located.

Students are also entitled to a yearly stipend of up to \$1,000 to cover the cost of books and supplies, and students from highly rural areas who are transferring to a school may also be entitled to a one-time payment of \$500.

Soldiers on active duty may tap in to the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill and apply benefits toward tuition. However, active-duty Soldiers are not entitled to receive the housing allowance from the program, nor the books and supplies stipend.

Benefits under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill can be used for all levels of degree programs. The program allows Soldiers to earn a second degree, a master's degree or even a doctorate.

Soldiers meeting the eligibility requirements to transfer benefits to their Family members already exceed the requirements to earn 100-percent of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits.

Soldiers who have served less than the time required to earn 100-percent of the benefit under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill may receive benefits at a prorated amount. The amount of active service members have after 9/11 determines what percentage of benefits they can receive under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

HIRED! program allows teen to gain work experience

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

An Aberdeen High School senior is putting her knowledge of history to use by working as an apprentice at the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum this fall before she heads off to college next year.

Jessica Callison, who plans to major in history in college, 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.

Callison said she heard about the apprenticeship through her mother, Lt. Col. Myrna Callison, who works for the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine in the Edgewood Area.

Callison said she is grateful to have the chance to work in a job that interests her.

"When I lived on base my dad would take me here all the time, so I grew to love the museum and the history," she said. "I was excited when I heard about the chance to work in a museum, especially this one. I know that there are not



Jessica Callison, an Aberdeen High School senior, prepares a mannequin that will represent a German Waffen SS soldier from World War II for a display in the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Callison is of seven teens currently participating in the APG Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's HIRED! program, which provides paid apprenticeships for 15 to 18 year olds.

many opportunities like this for people my age."

Callison, who is a graphics designer apprentice, said that she works 15 hours a week, Monday through Friday, in the museum after school.

Currently Callison is assisting with a display on Ordnance Enemy Equipment Intelligence teams that will go inside the museum. Previously, she created a stencil that will go on the

side of the tank and applied to the turret of the T26, E1, the prototype vehicle to the M26 Pershing Tank.

Callison also put black ink on the boots of mannequins that will represent German Waffen SS soldiers from World War II. "The mannequins previously wore brown boots, which wasn't historically accurate. German Nazi soldiers wore black boots, so I was asked to

put black ink on all the boots of the mannequins that will represent Nazi soldiers in the museum," she said.

Callison said that the apprenticeship lasts for 12 weeks, with the option of working in the same location for another semester.

"I enjoy this job and am happy to do whatever projects that they ask of me," she said.

Callison works with an on-

site mentor, Dr. Joseph Rainer, the museum's director.

Rainer said that he appreciates the work that she has completed thus far.

"Jessica is a great help around here, and I am glad that Mister Jay McKinney [APG HIRED! program coordinator] brought the program to my attention," Rainer said. "I would be glad to give Jessica more projects to work on in the future."

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 teens show in these interviews, they are placed with an appropriate organization under the direct supervision of a designated on-site mentor who is responsible for tutoring their individual apprentices.

To find out more information about the HIRED! program, contact McKinney, 410-278-3250. McKinney is now signing up teens for the next semester.

Activities/Events

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 auto-

matically 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 partici-

pate 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.

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.

Disney on Ice presents Celebrations!

Tickets are available for Disney on Ice presents Celebrations! at the 1st Mariner Arena located on 201 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore.

Show times include 7:30 p.m., Oct. 28 and Oct. 29; 10:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m., Oct. 30; 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m., Oct. 31; and noon or 4 p.m., Nov. 1.

Tickets cost \$19.25 for all ages. All seats are located in the lower levels.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit FMWR Ticket and Leisure Travel Office at the 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 (Nov. 4 and Dec. 2).

Kenya Procter, Installation Victim Advocate coordinator, has been requested to do another segment of her "50 Ways to Manage Your Stress" class, which is scheduled for the Nov. 4 meeting.

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

Leisure Travel offers specials

The Leisure Travel Office has the following items on sale. Some tickets may need to be pre-ordered. Ticket pricing and dates are subject to change without notice. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact or visit the Leisure Travel Office located in the AA Recreation Center, building 332, 410-278-4011/4907, APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil or the Edgewood Recreation Center Leisure Travel Office on Wednesdays.

Event tickets

- Maryland Renaissance Festival - weekends through Oct. 25
- Pennsylvania Renaissance Festival - weekends through Nov. 1, adults \$23, children \$9 (11 and under)
- Disney on Ice - Oct. 28 - Nov 1 at First Mariner Arena, \$19.25
- Radio City Spectacular - Dec. 17 at First Mariner Arena, \$76.75
- The Russian Nutcracker - Dec. 19 & 20 at Lyric Theatre, \$70.50
- Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament

Stage Theater tickets

- Hippodrome Theatre Broadway Across America: Visit www.baasales.com/GroupTour and enter APG FMWR special pass code 105MWRAPGMD
- Toby's Dinner Theatre Toby's Baltimore Theatre - "Aida" through Nov. 12
- Toby's Columbia Theatre - "Sweeney Todd" through Nov. 8

Bus trips

- New York City (transportation only): Oct. 24, Nov. 14, 21 and 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19 and 26, Jan. 2
- Atlantic City Day Trip - Visit Trump's Taj Mahal Casino for \$28 per person. Offered daily departing Edgewood at 9:05 a.m. returning at 8 p.m. Receive \$25 back in casino money and a \$5 buffet coupon for the day of the trip

Miscellaneous

- 2009 White House Christmas Ornaments \$16 each
- Coming soon: Ski Lift Passes to Roundtop, Ski Liberty, Bear Creek Mountain and Whitetail.

SKIES Unlimited

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

Private guitar lessons

Private guitar lessons for ages 7 through 18 will be held 3:30 to 8 p.m., Tuesdays or Fridays, Oct. 30 through Dec. 18, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

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

Cost of the lessons is \$102 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for six weeks, once a week. Students must provide their own guitar and also are required to purchase books required for the course as recommended by the instructor.

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

Basic Arts and Crafts Class

Basic Arts and Crafts will be taught on Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for ages 6 thru 10; and 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. for ages 11 thru 15, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Children will learn about the art of other cultures and famous artists. They

will explore art techniques, processes, and mediums through a variety of activities, including painting, drawing, print-making and paper mache.

Cost is \$100 per student.

Driver's Ed

Driver's Education classes will be held Oct. 26 thru Nov. 10; Nov. 16 thru Dec. 2; and 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.

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, Oct. 30 thru Dec. 18 (no class on Nov. 3, 6, 24 and 27).

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.

October bowling specials

- Bowl for \$.75 per game, 1 to 4 p.m. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Cosmic Saturdays: Each Saturday, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra) and one pitcher of soda for \$32.
- 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.

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 Oct. 12

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

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

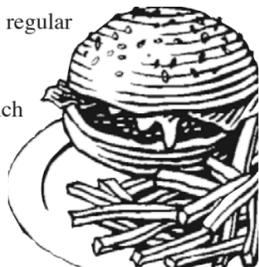
Special #3: Lasagna with side salad, cookie and regular soda for \$9.95.

Week of Oct. 19

Special #1: Double bacon cheeseburger with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.25.

Special #2: Egg salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$4.25.

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



Local male a cappella group hits the right notes

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Every Monday night at the Lorien Riverside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Bel Air, residents, employees, and visitors can hear the Bay Country Gentlemen, an all male a cappella four-part chorus, perfecting their music for upcoming performances.

Bryant DeBruyne, a member of the BCG who works for Geographic Information Systems at Aberdeen Proving Ground, said that he and other members of the BCG sing for the pure enjoyment of singing and performing for others.

"There is definitely a camaraderie in being part of a singing group," he said. "We work together to learn the songs. When the songs come together and everyone is singing their part correctly it is a great feeling. It actually makes my hair stand up on my arms."

DeBruyne added that singing is a great stress reliever after a day of work and provides a fun creative outlet for him and the other members.

"I look forward to singing in the group every Monday night. It is a great way to start the week," he said.

The BCG first sang in 1978 and now represents the Harford County Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

According to the Barbershop Harmony Society's Web site, www.barbershop.org, "Barbershop music features songs with understandable lyrics and easy to sing melodies, whose tones clearly define a tonal center and imply major and minor chords. It is music in a very pure form created with nothing but human voices coming together to create rich and satisfying texture that is pleasing to the ears and invigorating to the ears."

The unique barbershop chord structure originated in Tulsa, Okla., in 1938, and is now enjoyed by men and women in singing groups worldwide. Currently there are 30,000 men in America that sing in a barbershop singing group.

Clark Scott, a retired Directorate of Public Works employee who now works for Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education at APG, said that while many people are aware of the older classic barbershop songs like "Sweet Adeline" and "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen." The BCG also performs recent popular songs in the barbershop chord structuring that will appeal to contemporary audiences like "In My Room" by the Beach Boys and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" by Elton John. The group also frequently performs songs from musicals and show tunes.

"We do a variety of songs from different genres, including holiday music, hymns, and patriotic songs," DeBruyne said.

The chorus has sung in shows, parks, nursing homes and many other venues, including an annual performance at



Kathy Zamonstry, center, directs the Bay Country Gentlemen, an all male a cappella four-part chorus, during practice which is held every Monday evening at the Lorien Riverside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Bel Air.

Camden Yards before a Baltimore Orioles game.

"This year we sang the Canadian national anthem, 'O Canada,' because the Toronto Blue Jays were playing the Orioles," said Walt Pratt, a BCG member. "The audience really seemed to enjoy it because most people do not hear a cappella music performed live very often."

Pratt added that he enjoys working with the choir director Kathy Zamostry, also known as "Kathy Z."

"Kathy is a talented director who brings her own style to the music," Pratt said.

Zamostry, who also directs a church choir in Delta, Pa., is new to the group this year.

"Bay Country Gentlemen are a delight to direct," she said. "They are more talented than they realize."

Ned Wilson, a BCG member who is retired from the former Directorate of Information Management, said that BCG members come from all walks of life and all levels of singing ability.

"Some read music, but most have no musical experience and learn their music with the benefit of learning tapes and compact discs which have been especially recorded with emphasis on one part with three parts sung in the background," he said.

"I listen to that CD in the car while I am driving, and it helps me learn my part," DeBruyne said.

Scott added that males of all ages who are interested are encouraged to join. No audition is required.

"We like to say, if you can sing 'Happy Birthday' on pitch and in tune, come visit us for a night; you will be surprised how much fun it can be," DeBruyne said.

are loaded with fun, lots of humor, and solid parenting techniques that will help parents and their kids get on the right track and develop good habits that will last a lifetime."

During the parenting workshop, every participant will receive a free copy of "That's The Ticket" that they can use as a tool throughout the class. McMahon will guide parents in customizing the games to meet individual Family needs, making them ready for play as soon as parents return home.

Workshop topics include: Turning Specific Goals Into Ways Kids Can Win, Building the Game Board, Introducing the Game, Playing to Ensure Kid's Victory, Allowing the Game to Grow With the Kids, Playing the Final Rounds and much more.

agencies to meet a number of energy, water, and waste reduction targets, including reducing their vehicle fleet petroleum use by 30 percent by 2020; beginning in 2020, designing all new federal buildings to achieve net-zero energy use by 2030; improving their water efficiency by 26 percent by 2020; minimizing their buildings' impacts on storm water runoff; recycling or diverting 50 percent of their waste by 2015; and meeting sustainability requirements in 95 percent of



The Bay Country Gentlemen perform the national anthem at Camden Yards in Baltimore before a baseball game in 2007. The BCG performs yearly at Camden Yards.

Scott said that the group also needs members to do "behind the scenes" work, such as lights, sound and bookkeeping.

"Even if you do not sing, your talents can be used," he said.

In addition to performing at events, the BCG also supports music education in the public and private schools in Harford County. The group actively participates in outreach activities, partners with area music educators in SingAmerica, and is actively involved in fundraising efforts to provide refurbished musical instruments to Harford County students.

Those who are interested in the group are invited to attend the Oct. 19 rehearsal. The chorus meets Monday nights at the Lorien Center on Emmorton Road near Plum-

tree Road in Bel Air, starting at 7:15 p.m.

Although BCG is an all male singing group, visitors of all ages are welcome to listen in.

For more information, go to www.baycountrygentleman.com, or call DeBruyne at 410-679-3957.

Members

Tenor Section

- Jim Hobbs
- Larry Mock

Baritones

- Larry Bain
- Barry Gabler
- Charlie Hand

Leads

- Harry Benninghoff
- Ray Garofalo
- Bob Gulas
- Don Rutter
- Joe Klingmeyer
- Bud North

- Bill Petty
- Walt Pratt
- Terry McKnight
- Bob Sauvageot
- Skip Schatz
- Howard Smith
- Linden White
- Ned Wilson, former DOIM employee

Bass

- John Clayton
- Tony D'Antoni
- Bryant DeBruyne, GIS employee
- Mike Drossner
- Geo Dryden
- Gerry Grimes
- Bert Hess
- Sandy Mitchell
- Clark Scott, retired DPW employee, currently with ORISE
- Everett Smith
- Jim Voss
- Jim Wilson

Parenting

From front page

dealing with the added stressors of constant deployments, permanent changes of station, long work hours, reintegration, and so on."

In today's fast moving world, Families need positive ways to foster cooperation among all Family members and they need to connect. That is why more and more Families are turning to McMahon's widely acclaimed parenting game, "That's The Ticket."

"Kevin teaches parents how to gain cooperation from their children in a fun way that also brings Family members together," Rivera said. "His workshops

During the Train the Trainer workshop, McMahon takes his fellow trainers through every step of successfully facilitating their own "Ticket Game" workshops. Each participant will receive their own "Ticket Game Trainers" packet, which includes a copy of the game, full- and half-day workshop discussion guides and a CD containing complete PowerPoint presentations.

"This is an exciting way to get parents on the same sheet of music, and get parents and their kids on the right track in a conflict and stress-free way," Rivera said. "Bringing Kevin here is part of our commitment to Soldiers and their Families. We want them to have every opportunity to succeed as couples, parents and Families."

The "That's The Ticket" parenting

workshop is scheduled to take place at the Mezzanine Room, Top of the Bay, 9 a.m. to noon, on Tuesday, Oct. 20. The Train the Trainer workshop is scheduled to take place 1 to 4:30 p.m. and is open to professionals interested in becoming "That's The Ticket" game trainers and facilitators.

McMahon and the "That's The Ticket" game have been featured on the Oprah Show, Fox TV, CBS, NBC and other major networks. He has travelled extensively to other military installations where he has helped Families get on track by teaching them how to play the game of success that lasts a lifetime.

For more workshop information and to register, contact the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program office, 410-278-7478.

Energy

From front page

executive order builds on the momentum of the Recovery Act to help create a clean energy economy and demonstrates the federal government's commitment, over and above what is already being done, to reducing emissions and saving money."

In his order, President Obama requires

all applicable contracts. Within 180 days of the order, the federal government will also develop guidance for locating federal buildings in a manner consistent with sustainable development.

Implementation of the new Executive Order and managing energy assets in the dynamic environment at APG is an ever more complex task.

The garrison's Energy Action Team will be focused on integrating achievement of the new sustainability goals as well as stra-

tegic planning to optimize performance and minimize implementation costs.

Aberdeen Proving Ground Energy Manager Anh Dang stated that "the EAT will continue to reach out to all commands in order to meet these new goals as well as continue to meet the exiting goals."

Emphasizing positive gain, not deprivation, Dang assured that the EAT would "work hard to meet mission requirements and provide for quality working conditions and Soldier comfort at APG."



CECOM LCMC commander greets Army Team C4ISR Forward workforce

Story by
ANDRICKA THOMAS
CECOM LCMC (FWD) Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong greeted forward personnel of Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, or Army Team C4ISR, late last month at Aberdeen Proving Ground. It was his first APG Town Hall Meeting since becoming CECOM Life Cycle Management Command commander last summer.

Strong emphasized that he looks forward to continuing the teamwork between Army Team C4ISR organization partners as the relocation to APG of CECOM and its partners continues.

Summarizing his philosophy and expectations as commanding general, he said "As a Soldier, I was [your] customer and, as your new commander, I intend to make our services even better than they were when I was a recipient of [those] services."

Strong introduced to his APG audience his 'work hard, play hard' philosophy," cautioning that one must know the proper time to do both and adding that personnel who enjoy what they do are much more likely to put their hearts into it.

"That is how you get the best product," he said. "Delegate and allow your team to take ownership of their tasks."

Strong noted that leaders and managers always do best to utilize their people's skills and by allowing them to shine.

"Our strength is in our people; we have a tremendous reputation of commitment and professionalism," he said.

Addressing his open door policy of encouraging people to come to his door to discuss issues, he added, "I even invite those not in my command to come to me with a problem if necessary, but please, try your chain of command first."

Strong encouraged Army Team C4ISR civilians and Soldiers to remember that their day-to-day efforts result in value being added for Warfighters and urged them to keep accepting challenges to do even more.



Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER
Major Gen. Randolph P. Strong, commander, CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, addresses the Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Forward personnel at a his first town hall meeting Sept. 23 at Aberdeen Proving Ground introducing them to his command philosophy and priorities.



Photo by SEAN KIEF, APG GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER
CERDEC C2D Military Deputy Col. William C. Slade is pinned by his wife Teka and CERDEC C2D Director Dr. Gerardo Melendez in a ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground Sept. 18.

C2D MILDEP promoted to colonel

Story by
EDRIC THOMPSON
CERDEC

The CERDEC Command and Control Directorate military deputy was promoted to colonel in a ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground Sept. 18.

"I'm honored and humbled. I've been blessed to work with great teams, great NCOs [noncommissioned officers], great officers and great civilians," said Lt. Col. William Collier Slade. "I thank the CERDEC workforce; every day I'm impressed by the quality of the employees. We're moving in the right direction. The job we're doing at CERDEC is having an impact on the war; we are making a difference."

As MILDEP, Slade serves as the link between CERDEC C2D engineers and Soldiers. Slade has initiated a series of programs with the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., Fort Benning, Ga., and other installations. He has also engaged units deploying to and returning from theater.

Slade, CERDEC's senior officer at APG, came to C2D from Paris where he served as commander for the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's International Technology Center-Atlantic-France. He served as the deputy chief of the Office for Defense Cooperation in Prague, Czech Republic, from 2001 to 2004.

Slade is a graduate of the French Senior Service Armaments College and the Command and General Staff College. His awards include the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster and the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

"He is a citizen of the world who sees the strength in cultural differences when many of us see line fractures and faults, and he is a leader who can coalesce and motivate people through caring and establishing one-on-one relationships," said Dr. Gerardo Melendez, director of C2D. "If Colonel Slade were a company, I would say that his slogan would be 'We deliver results one relationship at a time.' I would definitely buy stock in that company."

Slade was pinned by his wife Teka and Melendez.

Conference connects C4ISR community to support Army mission

Story by
KRISTEN KUSHIYAMA
AND **SHARON RUSHEN**
CERDEC

On Sept. 11, 2001, Maj. Gen. Randy Strong, CECOM LCMC commanding general, was at a meeting in the Pentagon when the first plane hit the World Trade Center.

Instead of walking his normal route back to the office, he took a short cut to his boss' office, to watch the news, knowing his boss was away in Atlantic City, N.J., attending the 2001 Army Team C4ISR Symposium as a keynote speaker.

As he watched the news, American Airline Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon. It struck the building right where Strong would have been if not for his retreat to his boss' empty office.

During his opening remarks at the 2009 Army Team C4ISR Symposium, Strong credited the symposium for saving his life. The symposium's audience of civilians, Soldiers and industry partners were motivated by a similar mission -- saving the lives of our deployed Soldiers by working together to better their technology initiatives.

The Team C4ISR Symposium, themed, "From Concept to Combat," was held Sept. 15 through 17 and included briefings, exhibits and a recognition luncheon, featuring Chief Information Office/G-6, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sorenson as the guest speaker.

Participants were continuously reminded to be more adaptive than ever before by working together to sustain systems in both near and real term products and to address challenges in transitioning technologies more effectively to the Warfighter.

"The key messages from the symposium were 'how do we get technology to the field faster' and 'how can we look at the processes to get technology into the field?'" said Gary Blohm, director of the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center.

The conference provided participating employees from CERDEC an opportunity to not only share their own research and development initiatives with their colleagues, but to also work as a community to discuss the need to get increased C4ISR capabilities into the hands of Soldiers.

"These are the partners we deal with everyday. It gives us an opportunity where we can all get together and understand each other; find out about technologies we might not have known about," said Col. John Kilgallon, CERDEC military deputy.

As an organization that isn't located in one central area, the conference also gave CERDEC employees, who are located at Fort Monmouth, N.J.; Aberdeen Proving Ground Md.; Fort Dix, N.J.; and Fort Belvoir, Va., a chance to come together across the organization to directly engage industry partners.

According to Col. Mike Hummel, military deputy for Night Vision Electronics Sensors Directorate located at Fort Belvoir, Va., the conference "gives Night Vision the opportunity to visit with vendors and government and industry partners to see what programs they are working on that we can possibly collaborate on."

Although the conference served as a chance for the C4ISR community to talk about their own work and meet potential business partners, a main focus was on the workforce and how operating as a "team" is significant to success.

"The 'Glory' goes to the team," Staff Sgt. Joebob Parker stated, as he received the Army Aviation Association of America's Avionics Award during the symposium's Wednesday luncheon.

Parker, who is currently deployed with the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Division in Afghanistan, reiterated to the audience that their work has been beneficial to Soldiers in the battlefield.

The emphasis on teamwork and cross-collaboration among all sectors of the audience was a recurring theme during technology briefings.

Mike Skurla, director of the Software Engineering Directorate, gave a presentation on the software engineering workforce and in his conclusion stated, "We are a team. We are a team with CERDEC and with our industry partners."

As the crowd listened in on briefings and toured the exhibit halls, sharing the needs of their respective organization and networking with colleagues, they were all doing their part for the C4ISR team and all with same motivation: supporting the Warfighter.

Legally Speaking

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/ilo.cfm

PCLAIMS makes it easier to file for property loss

Story by
COL. R. PETER MASTERTON
U.S. Army Claims Service

A new claims computer program, the Personnel Claims Army Information Management System, or PCLAIMS, was fielded in October 2009.

The new program permits Soldiers and Army civilian employees to file personnel claims through the Internet, rather than having to physically visit or mail documents to a military claims office. Although paper copies of claims will still be accepted, the new program should make it easier to file claims for property loss.

"Personnel claims" allow Soldiers and Army civilian employees to be compensated for property loss and damage sustained incident to service. Many Soldiers file personnel claims when their household goods are lost or damaged during shipment; these comprise the vast majority of personnel claims. Personnel claims may also be filed in other situations, such as when Soldiers sustain losses due to fire or flood at on-post quarters.

The new program can be accessed at the Judge Advocate General's Corps Internet site, www.jagcnet.army.mil. Click on the U.S. Army Claims Service link and then click on the PCLAIMS link. The PCLAIMS link will describe the rules for filing personnel claims and allow claimants to fill out all of the required forms. Claimant must have an Army Knowledge Online account to use PCLAIMS; claimants without such accounts should contact their nearest military claims office to file their claims.

When using PCLAIMS, user will be asked to list all of their lost or damaged property, the purchase dates and costs,

and replacement or repair costs, something that is required whether filing a claim in paper or electronically. Basic supporting documents, such as a government bill of lading (for transportation-related claims), estimates of repair and photos of damaged property can be scanned and added to the electronic claim. Documents can be mailed or hand-carried to a military claims office, and will be added to the claimant's file.

After entering all of the necessary information, claimant will be asked to verify and submit their claim. It will be electronically sent to a military claims office which will adjudicate the claim and arrange for payment, as appropriate. Claimant also will be asked to provide an e-mail or telephone number so the claims office can contact the claimant with any questions. Providing accurate contact information is critical; if claimant cannot be contacted the payment may be delayed.

PCLAIMS should not be confused with the Full Replacement Value program, the new system applicable to household goods and other transportation-related claims since 2007 or the Defense Personnel Property Program, a new computerized transportation program applicable to many household goods shipments since 2008.

Under FRV and DP3, Soldiers and Army civilian employees are encouraged to file transportation-related claims directly against the carrier responsible for the loss. Claimants only have nine months to file such claims. In return, they are paid the full replacement value for their destroyed property.

PCLAIMS cannot be used to file claims against carriers; it can only be

used for personnel claims filed against the government. If, however, claimants are dissatisfied with carrier offers to settle claims under the FRV or DP3 programs, they may reject the offers and file their claims against the government. Such claimants can use PCLAIMS to file these new claims, but should contact the nearest military claims office before doing so. There is no interface between DP3 (which also involves electronic claims filing) and PCLAIMS, so it is important to contact a military claims

office for specific guidance on how to transfer these claims from a carrier to the military.

PCLAIMS is designed to give Soldiers and Army civilian employees more options for filing personnel claims.

Comments on the new program should be mailed to the U.S. Army Claims Service at 4411 Llewellyn Avenue, Fort Meade, Maryland 20755, or e-mailed to USARCSFRVclaims@conus.army.mil. (Editor's note: Author is the commander of the U.S. Army Claims Service.)

Law school available to junior officers

Installation Legal Office

The Office of the Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education program. Under this program, up to 25 Army officers may be selected to attend law school at government expense while on active duty.

Selected participants in the FLEP will attend law school at either their state's supported school or a school that grants military members in-state tuition beginning the fall of 2009 and remain on active duty while attending law school.

Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine their eligibility.

This program is open only to active duty commissioned officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain and must have at least two but not more than six years of active duty at the time legal training commences.

Further eligibility requirements are governed by statute (10 U.S.C. 2004)

and are non-waivable.

Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test.

Selected officers will attend law school at a state-supported school in their state of residence or a school that grants military members in-state tuition. Register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test.

Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at Army Human Resources Command, with a copy furnished to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT

(Yvonne Caron-10th Floor), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received before Nov. 1.

Submission of the application, well in advance of the deadline, is advised.

Interested officers should contact Maj. Stephen Coutant, deputy staff judge advocate, or Nora L. Farrell, paralegal specialist, 410-278-1112/1107, respectively.

RDECOM conducts staff ride to Saratoga National Battlefield

Story and photos by
MATTHEW HICKMAN
RDECOM

U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command senior leaders conducted a staff ride to Saratoga National Battlefield in Stillwater, N.Y., Sept. 29 to relate one of the most decisive battles during the American Revolution to the current conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The staff ride concept originated in the mid 19th Century with the German general and theorist Helmuth von Moltke and consists of an intensive study of a specific campaign or battle, a visit to the actual sites associated with that campaign and an opportunity to integrate the lessons derived from each.

The staff ride provides each participant with a deeper understanding and appreciation of how their jobs impact the Soldier in theater, according to RDECOM historian and staff ride coordinator Jeffrey K. Smart.

The participants visited a number of different sites related to the Revolutionary War Saratoga Campaign, including Freeman's Farm, the Barber Wheatfield, the Breymann Redoubt and the Saratoga Monument. At each site staff ride members analyzed both American and British battle tactics. They also discussed how the organization they work for would have benefited the Continental forces at Saratoga.

Smart explained that staff rides can be extremely beneficial to all those involved.

"Staff rides benefit senior leaders by having them think about leadership roles and the decision making process in times of crises. They study both poor decisions and brilliant strategies while standing on the spots where the action took place," he said.

"I think [the staff ride] is important...standing out there and listening and talking...it's all going to come back to you," RDECOM Commander Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo said in support of the staff ride. "Just to get the concept of what happened here is unbelievable."

"It allowed me to analyze current techniques that G2's use, and see how they applied back in the seventeen hun-



Staff ride participants discuss American and British war strategy at the Saratoga National Battlefield Visitor's Center Sept. 29

dreds," RDECOM security officer Dr. Sandra Gibson said. "For instance, we still study similar applications in military operations, such as weather, terrain and communications, and all those were important back then as they are today."

Discussing the Saratoga Campaign on site led to many comparisons between the invading British Army during the American Revolution and the U.S. Army entrenched in Iraq and Afghanistan.

RDECOM Command Sergeant Major Hector G. Marin also made a comparison between the logistical problems the British encountered in 1777 with the logistical problems that currently plague the U.S. Army in the Middle East.

"The British generals couldn't be everywhere on the battlefield at once, and it took a while for information to get back to them, which prevented them from making good, immediate decisions, and we're seeing some of that in Afghanistan right now," Marin said.

Maj. Thomas Rider, assistant professor of History for



Major Thomas Rider, assistant professor of History for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., describes the battle that took place at Freeman's Farm, one of the many sites visited during the staff ride to Saratoga National Battlefield in Stillwater, N.Y.

the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., who specializes in the American Revolution, assisted the staff ride participants by briefing the members on the Saratoga Campaign, including key individuals, key

sites and key terms, and he also moderated discussions on the field during the exercise.

"The staff ride was a tremendous success. The participants studied the campaign prior to the staff ride and were prepared

to discuss strategy, tactics, personnel and terrain issues," Smart said.

"We are planning the next staff ride to Little Bighorn Battlefield in Montana for the June 2010 timeframe," he said.



Health Notes

Suicide - Fighting an unseen enemy

Story by
**STAFF SGT
ALEXANDRA
HEMMERLY-BROWN**
FORSCOM

One look at the Army's current suicide rates makes it clear that Suicide Prevention Month could not have fallen at a more appropriate time: in the past seven months there have already been more reported active duty suicides than during the same period in 2008.

Released Sept. 10, the Army's statistics show 11 potential active duty suicides for the month of August, bringing the tally up to 110 since January.

"Everybody wants to know why Soldiers are killing themselves," said Bobby Norton, program manager for the suicide prevention program at U.S. Army Forces Command. "The Army is weary after more than seven years of combat. It's probably a combination of factors; two contingency operations, multiple deployments, high stress, relationship struggles, substance abuse ... like a perfect storm."

With the added stressors of combat, Army suicide rates have been record-breaking for the past three years and show no signs of slowing down unless something changes.

"Suicide has had such a devastating impact on Soldiers and their Families," said Chaplain (Col.) Bradford Fipps, FORSCOM staff chaplain. "To set a month aside, I think it's important to let everyone know it affects all of us."

While multiple deployments are a factor in the increase in suicides, 2008 Army statistics show that one-third of Soldiers who commit suicide have never deployed. Fipps explained that the most common denominator in Army suicides is actually failed relationships.

He said that when a Soldier doesn't have a support system at

home, or when that support system reaches a breaking point, deployed Soldiers may not feel they can go on in an already difficult environment.

"The effects of persistent conflict have been a major contribution to the number of suicides ... the problem is you accumulate stress," Fipps said. "When things aren't going well at home, you really have nowhere to go."

He added that when he speaks with Soldiers, Family or close relationships are often what they name as the most meaningful aspect of their life. Why? Because trust, support, safety and strength are found inside close personal relationships, which nurture the emotional fortitude needed to push through a difficult situation like war.

Fipps said that when Families go through multiple deployments, they experience anticipatory grief—a defense mechanism that protects the individual from anticipated pain to come. With anticipatory grief both the person leaving and those staying behind pull away from each other and become distant so that the separation won't be as painful.

The problem with anticipatory grief, Fipps said, is when Family members start building walls to protect their emotions, it is more difficult to communicate, and that's when relationships often fall apart.

"If we don't feel that our lives have meaning, then we can be more susceptible to suicide," he said.

Fipps also said the majority of suicides in the Army are found in 17 to 30 year-old men, the majority of whom are combat arms Soldiers. He said that often younger people see no way out of fixable situations or minor setbacks, which at the time may seem overwhelming.

Army statistics are the oppo-

site of civilian statistics, where older people are more likely to commit suicide.

Fipps explained that the way to combat suicides in the Army is to train Soldiers and their Families to look for the warning signs, reduce the lingering stigma for getting emotional or mental help in the Army, train Soldiers to be resilient and be a good battle buddy to your fellow Soldier.

"Soldiers need to get to know one another and develop friendships so they can notice a change in behavior, should it occur," Fipps said. "Soldiers need friends to hold them accountable."

An example of a Soldier using his training to help prevent suicide is Spc. Luke Hendricks, a chaplain's assistant at FORSCOM.

Even though helping Soldiers is part of his daily routine, the McDonough, Ga., native said his most notable experience with intervening in a possible suicide attempt was not with a Soldier—it was with a civilian.

"I always felt it was better to ask if someone needed help than to not," Hendricks said.

Using his training as the gatekeeper for chaplains, when talking to an old friend from high school, Hendricks became worried at the way she was describing her feelings. His friend was going through a divorce and battling a bout of depression, and he decided to ask a tough question—if she was considering hurting herself.

"We talked, and in talking, I felt concerned about her will to live," Hendricks explained.

His friend said that although she hadn't made any actual plans to do so, she had considered hurting herself. That's when Hendricks leaned on his newly-learned Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, or ASIST, a suicide intervention model, and reminded his friend

of all of the good things in her life she still had to live for.

Hendricks said his friend did not attempt suicide, and he likes to think it's because he asked some tough and potentially embarrassing questions. He also said that now he's more confident he would do the same again in a similar situation.

As a chaplain's assistant, Hendricks said one of the most important aspects of counseling someone is following-up and making sure that person is still okay.

Another example of a Soldier using his suicide prevention training is Sgt. John Huggins, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who was instrumental in saving another Soldier on Fort Stewart, Ga., in April.

While on staff duty for a barracks building, Huggins was notified that a suicide attempt was in progress. Huggins ran outside and saw that another Soldier was attempting to hang himself out of a second story barracks window.

Huggins called the Military Police for help and hailed a vehicle with a ladder on it, climbing up to reach the Soldier. While Huggins was climbing the ladder, the MPs arrived, scaring the Soldier, who retreated back into his room. Huggins followed inside and found the Soldier in his bathroom attempting to cut his arm with a pair of scissors.

Huggins ordered the Soldier to stop, but when he refused, Huggins tried to disarm him and pinned him to the floor. The report states that Huggins, who received three staples in his scalp after the struggle, refused medical treatment until the other Soldier was treated by the paramedics.

Huggins was awarded the Soldier's Medal for his bravery Sept. 15 in front of 2,700 Soldiers from the Vanguard Brigade.

"It was instincts, really,"

Huggins said in a Tampa Tribune interview. "I saw the situation and it played out in my head what I needed to do, and I did it. The guy is alive. He has another chance to do something. That was enough for me."

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli said that effective suicide prevention programs and resources are a crucial part of the suicide prevention effort and also stresses the importance of small-unit leadership.

"There will never be a substitute for noncommissioned officers who know their Soldiers, know when a Soldier is suffering and have the moral courage to act and get that Soldier the help that they need," Chiarelli said.

Leadership and training is just what Chiarelli is focusing on this year and has implemented a mandatory three-part training series on suicide prevention featuring interactive videos.

Norton agrees that for some Soldiers, the increase of training might seem excessive, but he believes it is the Army's best line of defense for combating the rising rates.

"It's a constant barrage of information ... but I think it's important to have that awareness. It keeps it in the forefront," Norton said.

The new training combined with the Army's No Soldier Stands Alone campaign aims to eliminate suicide as an option for Soldiers and encourages Soldiers to befriend and help each other—and to act should the situation arise.

"A lot of people think training doesn't help ... but that's a metric you can't put your finger on," Norton said. "You'll just never know how many suicides good training prevented."

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Veterans may press 1 when connected.

Vice says mental health more than stopping suicides

Story by
C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

The Army must go beyond preventing Soldier suicides and take a look at addressing other symptoms of a force struggling with eight years of persistent conflict, said the service's vice chief.

During testimony in July before the House Armed Services military personnel subcommittee, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli told lawmakers the Army is concerned with not only suicides, but also acts of violence, increased use of alcohol, drug abuse, infidelity and reckless driving.

"We've been at war for nearly eight years," Chiarelli said. "That has undeniably put a strain on our people and our equipment. Unfortunately, in a growing segment of the Army's population, we have seen increased stress and anxiety manifest itself through high-risk behavior, including acts of violence, excessive use of alcohol, drug abuse and reckless driving."

In the most extreme cases, however, Soldiers commit suicide. And the Army has seen an increase in Soldiers taking their own lives. In 2008, 140 Soldiers in the active duty Army took their own lives. That puts the 2008 active-duty suicide rate at 20.2 per 100,000 -- the highest ever for the Army and, for the first time, higher than the civilian rate.

In order to better understand the rise in suicides, the Army asked the National Institute of Mental Health to study its causes in the ranks. The study commissioned by the Army will focus on behavioral health, psychological resilience, suicide risk, suicide-related behaviors, and suicide deaths across the active and reserve components.

Chiarelli told lawmakers he thinks limited time at home between deployments is one cause of stress for Soldiers and families and that increasing dwell time is a solution.

"I think the thing that would give us a leg up on this, that would help us out so much, is to increase the amount of dwell time that our Soldiers have at home," Chiarelli said. "There is no doubt in my mind that this reduced dwell time -- is causing a tremendous amount of stress on the force, on Soldiers, and on Fam-

ilies. And I have to believe the NIMH will identify that early as one of the stressors that is affecting us."

Chiarelli also told lawmakers the Army has several initiatives to improve the psychological wellness of Soldiers.

"Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and Chief of Staff of the Army General George Casey consciously made the decision to expand our efforts to improve the overall behavioral health and well being of the force," Chiarelli said. "Ultimately, we want to get left of this very serious problem. And to do so we must improve the resiliency of our Soldiers and their Family members. In the past the Army's approach was primarily reactive. That has changed today -- it is in fact proactive."

Part of that proactive approach to Soldier well-being is the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program, Chiarelli told legislators. The program is meant to begin for Soldiers in basic training and continue throughout their career.

In written testimony to the Congress, Chiarelli wrote that the CSF program is designed to raise "mental fitness" to the same level the Army considers physical fitness.

"We recognize people come into the Army with a very diverse range of experiences, strengths and vulnerabilities in their mental as well as physical condition," he said. "Studies have shown that mental and emotional strength are just as important as physical strength to the safety and well being of our Soldiers."

Chiarelli said he believes that there is an uptick in substance abuse problems in the Army as a result of ongoing stressors on the force. The Army has responded to that with an increase in substance abuse counselors, and recently, a pilot program at one installation to allow Soldiers to self-identify for alcohol abuse without the knowledge of their command.

"We've set up special hours, after-duty hours on Saturdays and Sundays where these appointments can be made where a Soldier who self-refers can go in and get the care and counseling he needs and hopefully head off a problem before we end up in the reactive mode," Chi-

arelli said. By the end of August, he added, the pilot program will be expanded to three installations.

The Army is also looking at a Web-based program to deliver care to Soldiers, Chiarelli told lawmakers. A special "Web-Care" program would provide "online 'real-time' counseling via video, e-mail, live chat, or instant messaging."

The general also said part of helping Soldiers is making it permissible for them to help themselves -- that means

changing the culture so Soldiers are not ashamed to seek out mental health care. Chiarelli said recent assessments in theater have shown more Soldiers are willing to seek out mental health care without the concern that it is perceived as weakness or that it will affect their careers.

"We are committed to getting the message out to Soldiers that it is okay to get help," Chiarelli said. "We are making progress."

10 mental health tips to help de-stress the Military Family

Health Net Federal Services

Daily stresses for military Families are compounded by the unique challenges faced. For a quick mental health pick-me-up, check out these top 10 tips:

1. **Get to know yourself** – Whether it's journaling or meditating, get to know who you are, what you want and what makes you happy to take control of your life.
2. **Build self-esteem and self-confidence** – Behave in ways that show you care about yourself; use body language and dress to express a positive attitude.
3. **Don't overvalue material things** – Balance your level of comfort with spending time with loved ones and enjoying the simple pleasures in life.
4. **Avoid negative people** – Avoid toxic relationships that make you feel sad, angry or inadequate; seek out optimistic, positive relationships.
5. **Think positively** – Successful people learn from disappointments and are not defeated by them; use a positive attitude to turn a negative situation into a positive experience.
6. **Exercise, exercise, exercise** – Physical activity, whether it's a stroll outside or a workout, helps relieve stress and keeps your mood on an even keel.
7. **Spend some time alone** – Being happy in your own company and having time for yourself, alone, is important for your mental well-being; learn to be happy with yourself.

8. **Help others and let them help you** – Remember to give as well as receive. The people you share the good times with will be there to help you through the bad times too.

9. **Communicate** – Express your feelings in a calm, clear manner and listen with your full attention when they reply to relieve the pressure of unexpressed feelings.

10. **Seek help when you need it** – Find people you can talk to when you have problems and be willing to seek counseling if your worries seem overwhelming.

For more information about the MFLC Program, visit <https://members.mhn.com/home> or call 1-800-646-5613. Dozens of helpful articles on emotional health, wellness, Family and relationships, work and life, and many more topics are available on the Web site.

If you or a loved one are experiencing stress associated with the challenges of a military lifestyle or combat-related experiences, call a Primary Care Manager or MHN at the number above or reach out to Family and friends for support.

This article is for informational and self-help purposes only. It should not be treated as a substitute for financial, medical, psychiatric, psychological or behavioral health care advice, or as a substitute for consultation with a qualified professional.

Chemical unit holds wartime decontamination exercise



Sergeant 1st Class Peter Upson, of the 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) far left, evaluates team members decontaminating an injured casualty during a Chemical Response Team exercise held in the Edgewood Area Sept. 24.



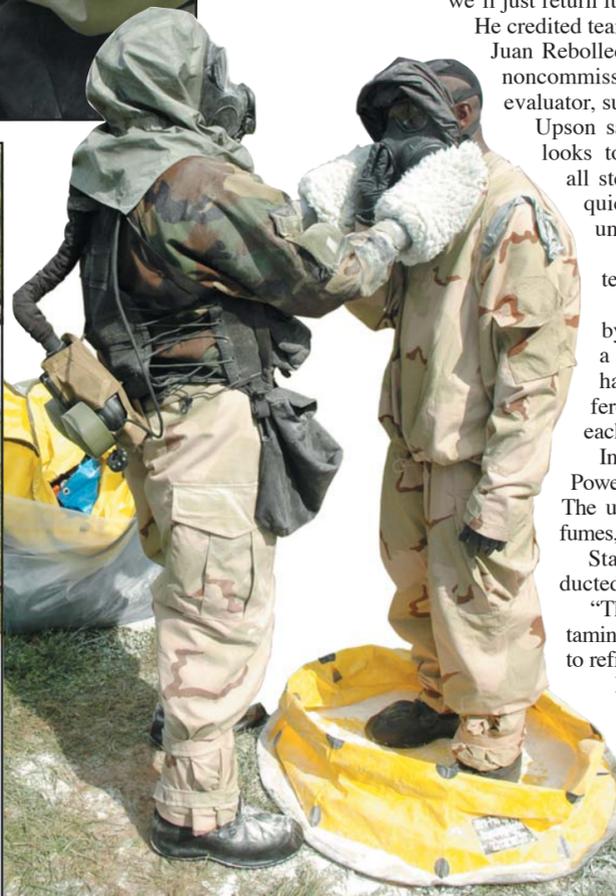
Team members evacuate a casualty for decontamination during the 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) Chemical Response Team exercise.



A team member uses a J-knife, like those used by emergency medical responders, to cut away the victim's uniform.



Bags containing Soldier's body armor, helmets and equipment and Soldiers waiting to be decontaminated wait outside the red "contaminated" area.



A Company C 22nd Chemical Battalion chemical response team member, left, decontaminates Capt. Daniel Stanley, team leader of Chemical Response Team 4, right, at the end of the exercise.

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Soldiers of the 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) underwent a vigorous exercise testing their skill and knowledge in decontamination for chemical agents during a Chemical Response Team exercise in the Edgewood Area Sept. 24.

Captain Siyoung Lee, team leader for the Chemical Response Team (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high yield Explosives), explained that two chemical response teams were being evaluated by the unit's subject matter experts.

The scenario was a response by the teams to a chemical agent exposure incident on front line troops. Team members formed three ranks, approximately five meters apart inside a 'contaminated' area marked by red tape. Casualties had to move forward into the area, stopping at each rank, to be decontaminated by team members.

Soldiers being evaluated were from Company C, and Soldiers from the unit's sister organizations served as the 'contaminated' casualties.

"Team members are being evaluated on their execution of procedure," Siyoung explained.

After removing and bagging their body armor, helmets and equipment, the contaminated Soldiers moved forward into the red area. At the first station team members dusted the Soldiers with absorbent powder. From there, they moved to the cutoff station where team members cut the uniforms from their bodies. At the monitoring station, Soldiers removed their masks and were checked for any remaining chemical agents by team members using a Joint Chemical Agent Detector device. Those declared free of chemical agents moved forward across the green line into the 'clean' area.

Major Isaac Manigault, 22nd Chemical commander and 1st Sgt. Johnnie Nash watched the training from outside the area's perimeter.

Nash said the training began around 1 p.m. after a mission brief earlier in the day. He said the casualties, though not being evaluated, benefited from the training as well.

"They're from our sister units so they get to see how it's set up and how it's done, although they don't train to this scale," Nash said.

He said that teams should be able to process personnel quickly "so they can be medivaced out quickly."

"In a real world event they would have to decontaminate their equipment and move it to the other side of the green line," Nash said. "Today, we'll just return it to the Soldiers."

He credited team leaders like Capt. Daniel Stanley, Team 4 and Capt. Juan Rebolledo, Team 2, for the exercise's smooth operation and noncommissioned officers such as Sgt. 1st Class Peter Upson, an evaluator, subject matter expert and S-3 Plans NCO in charge.

Upson said while observing decontamination procedures he looks to ensure cross contamination does not occur, that all steps are followed, that the procedures are performed quickly and that casualties told to cross the line are uncontaminated and ready to be evacuated.

Upson said the casualties wore different uniforms to test the knowledge of those being evaluated.

"They're provided a J-knife, which is commonly used by emergency medical responders to cut away seat belts; a shark blade and surgeon scissors," Upson said. "Each has a different purpose, and Soldiers will encounter different types of uniforms so they have to know the use for each one."

In addition to their protective uniforms, team members had Powered Air Purification Respirators harnessed on their backs. The units, which protect against particulates such as smoke, fumes, gases and vapors, are unique to chemical units.

Stanley said for the most part, the exercise, which is conducted quarterly, went very well.

"The teams coordinated well to simulate this mass decontamination exercise," he said. "The goal is to enable the unit to refit and continue the mission."

Rebolledo agreed.

"Everything went as planned, but our evaluators will let us know how well we did," he said.

He credited team NCOs, Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Gaveros, Sgt. 1st Class Joel Carter and Staff Sgt. Daniel Williams for "a successful operation."

Company C executive officer 2nd Lt. Michael Shepard added his thanks to the elements supporting the exercise.

"We want to thank the other units for their support," Shepard said. "We couldn't have done this without them."