

# APG News

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

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See page 2 for Year of the NCO article.

## Post Shorts

### Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Oct. 28 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



### Piceme Military Housing Town Hall tonight

Piceme Military Housing will hold a Town Hall meeting 6 p.m., Oct. 22 at top of the Bay, to ensure housing residents have all the information they need. All military Families, DOD civilians and geographic bachelors should attend tonight's meeting.

Piceme representatives will present information about privatization and how it will affect the Aberdeen Soldiers and Families. They will also assist residents in completing the Resident Occupancy Agreement which must be signed in order to live in privatized family housing. The ROA is a 12-month lease that renews month-to-month unless PCS, ETS or retirement orders require earlier termination.

Privatization of Family housing will take place Dec. 1. See article on front page.

For more information, call Angela Marcum, 410-672-4041, 410-365-9354 or e-mail amarcum@picernemh.com.

See SHORTS, page 7

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

### Page 2

Year of NCO: RDECOM CSM recognized by Technica Magazine; CECOM LCMC loves very minute

### Page 3

Community Notes

### Page 4

Partners in Education

### Page 5

Canadians visit ATC

### Page 6

ACS holds job fair

### Page 8

Teaching children about fire safety

### Page 9

Army Family Covenant

### Page 11

Series: Fort Monmouth History Corner Part 1

### Page 13

FMWR

### Page 14

FMWR: Children learn about nonviolent behavior; The EDGE! group completes paint-ball program

### Page 15

Health Notes; Chapel News

### Page 16

FAQs about RCI, privatized housing

### Page 17

Fall Fest focuses on fire prevention

## APG Garrison, Picerne host town hall meeting for housing residents

Story and photos by YVONNE JOHNSON  
APG News

To deliver information and address concerns about the imminent changeover to privatized Family housing, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison commander and representatives from Picerne Military Housing hosted a town hall meeting for residents of on-post housing at Top of the Bay Oct. 15.

Piceme Military Housing is poised to assume control of Family Housing on APG Dec. 1 under the Residential Communities Initiative, or RCI. The APG Garrison and Picerne worked together to develop the Community Development and Management Plan, which is the blueprint for the 50 years of the project. The CDMP's congressional approval by the Department of the Army was announced Oct. 10.

Colonel Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, opened the meeting in the main ballroom which was filled with Soldiers, spouses and children.

Ortiz said the gathering was the first in a series of key meetings that will be held to educate



Elizabeth Thompson, a Family Services program manager with Picerne Military Housing, right, chats with Sgt. Sean Thompson of the 20th Support Command and his wife Eileen and their 6-month-old daughter Victoria after the Town Hall Meeting held at Top of the Bay Oct. 15 for those affected by the impending change to Privatized Family Housing which goes into effect Dec. 1.

the community on the upcoming change in responsibility for Family housing.

"This is a Department of Defense level program to ensure military Families are taken care of," Ortiz said.

He introduced Greg Cannito, Picerne Military Housing program director, and said that he and Cannito would talk through the key facts of the program.

Ortiz said that privatization has been around since 1996 and

that Picerne was chosen in 2008 due to its proven success record at other installations.

"While we [the Garrison and Picerne] are joined at the hip, the Garrison and installation

See RCI, page 16

## DPW encourages greening of the workplace

Story by ED STAATS  
DPW

In a statement regarding Energy Awareness Month, Secretary of the Army John McHugh spoke to what is being done by the Army to conserve energy through large-scale projects and technologies. However, McHugh also stressed the importance of the small steps that all Soldiers, Family members, civilian employees and contractors can also take.

"At a minimum, these items include turning off interior and exterior lighting when not required, shutting down office equipment when not in use and limiting the idling of vehicles," McHugh said.

"With a few simple steps, everyone working at Aberdeen Proving Ground can help promote a healthier environment, help APG reach its national goals and save energy resources," said Anh Dang, Garrison Energy manager.

"For starters, parents have been yelling it for decades: turn off the lights," Dang said.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, commercial buildings account for 18 percent of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions, a good portion of the problem caused by leaving lights on in vacant rooms.

"Surveys show that's a habit shared by about fifty percent of Americans," Dang said. "Switch off the lights whenever you leave your workspace empty for more than three minutes, and especially when you leave for the day. In addition, while you're flipping switches, don't forget to turn off the lights when you leave the bathroom, break room, stairwell or other unoccupied areas."

Computers and monitors should be turned off every day when not actively in use.

"Every PC left on twenty-four seven over the course of a year results in more than one thousand extra pounds of greenhouse gases," Dang said. "Think about the thousands of computers at APG; the widespread use of sleep mode could prevent the

See ENERGY, page 3

## ACS hosts events for Military Family Appreciation Month

ACS

The Army recognizes November as Military Family Month. To celebrate the sacrifices made by military Families, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Community Service office will present varied events throughout the month.

"Although only celebrated officially during November, our military Families are very important to us," said ACS Director Celestine Beckett. "My staff has put together some special things for our Families in November, but remember that many of our events occur throughout the year as well."

### Hearts Apart Support Group

Hearts Apart Support Group is one way to stay connected in the community and learn what ACS has to offer the Family. As part of the ongoing commitment to support the Army Family Covenant, ACS Hearts Apart Support Program seeks to empower Families (military and Department of Defense civil-

ians) with information to help prepare the Families for the separation during deployments and TDYs. ACS offers a comprehensive array of programs and services dedicated to maintaining the readiness of the Total Army Family and military community by fostering self-reliance, stability and resilience.

The group meets the first Wednesday of each month, (next meeting is Nov. 4) 6 to 7 p.m., in building 2754, Rodman Road.

An ACS staff member attends each monthly meeting so participants can learn about free services and resources it offers to the installation.

For the month of November, Kenya Procter, Installation Victim Advocate coordinator, will speak about 50 Ways to take Care of Yourself as a Family-Part II. RSVP for seating purposes.

For more information contact Phyllis Ethridge, ACS Relocation Readiness Program specialist, 410-278-2464/7572.

See FAMILY, page 3

## TRAFFIC ALERT

### Update to latest traffic changes

DPW

Traffic changes continue in the Aberdeen Area.

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.

Reconstruction of Darlington Street is scheduled to start soon with the installation of storm drain lines across Boothby Hill Avenue on each side of the Darlington Street intersection. This work will be done using lane closures with flaggers for traffic control, primarily on Boothby Hill Avenue, and will cause traffic delays on both Boothby Hill Avenue and Darlington Street, so motorists are advised to avoid the area. When the reconstruction starts in earnest, 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 work draws nearer.

As a reminder, new speed limits are now 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.

In the Edgewood Area, there will be upcoming lane closures on Ricketts Point Road to allow installation of a water line for the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense campus. The exact dates and times will be announced as the work draws nearer.

Once again, all of the construction activities are subject to weather delays, and additional updates will be provided as needed.

Motorists' patience and attention to safety are paramount to driving while on the installation.

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



## Soldier show Nov. 1

Photo by TIM HIPPS, FMWR PUBLIC AFFAIRS Specialist Julio Petersen III of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Sgt. Jennifer Noel of Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., dance during rehearsals for the 2009 U.S. Army Soldier Show. The show comes to Aberdeen Proving Ground Nov. 1 for one open-to-the-public show, 7 p.m. at the Post Theater.



# APG celebrates The Year of the NCO



## RDECOM CSM recognized by Hispanic engineers

Story by **JOSEPH FERRARE**  
RDECOM

The command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command was recognized by Technica Magazine, the national Hispanic Engineering and Science publication, with its Role Model of the Year Award for 2009.

Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin received the award at the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards conference in Long Beach, Calif., in October.

Technica Magazine's editor, Carmela C. Mellado, said that Marin's success in making sure that engineers and scientists in Army laboratories understand the requirements of Soldiers on the battlefield was the primary reason for the award.

Marin, a native of Honduras who now holds a degree in aeronautical science, spoke of his life and his work to hun-

dreds of college-aged Latino science and engineering students at the HENAAC student leadership awards dinner.

"When I go into those laboratories and look at those scientists and engineers working hard to solve our problems, it really makes me feel good," Marin said. "Our guys on the battlefield don't understand the amount of effort that goes into the equipment and innovations and they shouldn't have to, but we've got individuals from all sorts of backgrounds and all kinds of degrees working hard twenty-four seven to save Soldiers lives. I've got a lot of respect for all they do."

The magazine featured Marin in its October issue and specifically cited his efforts in developing the Unitized Group Ration Express, a method to provide a complete hot meal for up to 18 Soldiers in remote field locations where group feeding would not otherwise be possible. That concern was brought up to Marin during a fact finding visit to Soldiers serving on remote battlefields in the the-

ater of operations. He also recently led a collaborative initiative to develop a safety restraint for gunners on MRAP [mine resistant ambush protected] vehicles so that they would not get thrown from the vehicle in an accident.

His story of growing up a poor Honduran immigrant and pushing himself to pursue a career focused on aviation brought the student leadership audience to its feet in a standing ovation. Marin described to them that as a barefoot, shirtless child in Honduras, he would chase after helicopters he saw flying overhead and wish that one day he would somehow be involved in aviation.

"I wanted one day to either fly or repair whatever it is that was flying overhead. That is how my passion started for aviation," Marin said.

He also told the audience how he overcame his language barrier over the years to join the Army as an aircraft power plant mechanic.

"When I joined the Army, I told the

recruiter 'I want anything to do with aviation,'" he explained.

Eventually, Marin got his degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle University and before coming to RDECOM had risen in the field of Army aviation to command sergeant major of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Marin is also focused on attracting young talent into the Army's research and development workforce to keep the Army on the cutting edge of technology.

Looking out over the roomful of 300 potential Latino scientists and engineers at the awards dinner, he said, "This room, because of all of your efforts in school, is full of solutions. You are what we call a combat multiplier because what is in this room is exactly what we need to keep our nation safe."

Marin immediately followed this award recognition event with another trip back to the theater of operations for more insight from Soldiers on the battlefield.

## Everyday hero, the noncommissioned officer

Story and photo by **ANDRICKA THOMAS**  
CECOM LCMC (Forward)

Since 1775, noncommissioned officers have exhibited courage, honor and the willingness to do whatever it takes to accomplish the mission.

Master Sgt. Walter M. Farrell, senior enlisted advisor to the CECOM Life Cycle Management Command (Forward), continues to add to the NCO legacy through his dedication to accomplishing the mission.

Presently, he and his team are pioneers as they prepare for the CECOM LCMC mission to relocate to Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Farrell said he always knew he wanted to serve as he grew up all over the world as a military child. His father served in the U.S. Air Force, but Farrell saw a different destiny, the Army NCO Corps.

"I wanted to join the Army because people used to joke with me and say I couldn't handle Army life," said Farrell with a smile. "Well, I joined and seventeen years later I'm still going strong, and loving every minute of it."

Of his many duty stations, Farrell's most memorable assignment was his time spent in Italy and Germany.

"I had a great time overseas. I encourage all Soldiers, if they have the opportunity, to take advantage of an overseas tour," Farrell said. He said that traveling expanded his outlook on life, people and other cultures.

Farrell is no stranger to deployments as he has served in two conflicts and peacekeeping missions to include the Balkans, Sarajevo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I never thought to myself 'why,' when I found out I was going to be deployed," Farrell said. "This is what I signed up for."

Farrell lives his commitment to duty everyday by accomplishing missions before him and serving as a role model to others.

"NCOs should be role models, period," Farrell said.

He recalled a particular drill sergeant who, in basic training, remained on his case.

"I used to see this guy and purposely go the other way," laughed Farrell, "but he always found me. He made sure I was squared away at all times, and that's why I believe NCOs are role models. We are here for the younger Soldiers to learn from, to guide them in the right direction. When I became an NCO, I felt like I could really make a difference in Soldiers' lives."

And an example is what he's become.

"Master Sergeant Farrell is one of the most professional and competent NCOs I have worked with in more than twenty-five years of service," said Col.



Master Sgt. Walter M. Farrell, senior enlisted advisor for CECOM Life Cycle Management Command (Forward), right, speaks to Soldiers from the Fort Meade Wounded Warrior Program about career opportunities with the CECOM LCMC.

Augustus L. Owens, deputy commander, CECOM LCMC (Forward).

Developing Soldiers is more than a duty to this master sergeant, it's a passion. Farrell encourages Soldiers to have a life development plan. He says a Soldier should always have a plan.

Challenges never cease when adversaries are alive and well; that's why Farrell holds continuous improvement and self-development as high priorities.

Farrell completed his bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in business management so he can apply his classroom knowledge to his work in the Army.

"Do something that you want to do... something you have a passion for," Farrell said. "Just have a plan to get to the next level."

Most recently, Farrell has poured his efforts into reaching out to the nation's wounded warriors to inform them of job opportunities within the command.

"His work with the Army's Wounded Warrior Program speaks volumes about his selfless service and caring attitude," Owens said.

Farrell doesn't credit his career growth to himself but to a wealth of mentors throughout his career who showed him what a good NCO should be like.

Specifically, Farrell credits Command

Sgt. Maj. Tyrone Johnson, CECOM LCMC, as his mentor and an example of how a senior enlisted leader in a command comprised largely of civilians should operate.

"Admittedly, my current position has been challenging," said Farrell who is accustomed to working with a majority of Soldiers rather than civilians. "But with Command Sergeant Major Johnson's leadership and guidance, I have learned to acclimate to the civilian environment so, together, our mission is accomplished."

Farrell explained that working with civilians is different in that a Soldier readily takes orders and executes, while the civilian operates in a work environment that is more collaborative.

"Master Sergeant Farrell takes the same caring approach of taking care of the civilian work force as he does in taking care of his Soldiers," Johnson said.

Maintaining that balance between Soldier and civilian culture has been essential in his most recent task of 'taking care of people.' At CECOM LCMC (Forward), Farrell is tasked with ensuring advanced party personnel have what they need to transition to APG so they can execute their missions for Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Sur-

veillance and Reconnaissance, or Army Team C4ISR.

"I could not ask for a better leader to be a part of the command team of APG (Forward) and tackling such an important job of relocating the current workforce from Fort Monmouth to the new C4ISR Center of Excellence at APG," Johnson said.

Challenges aside, Farrell continues to grow as an NCO and sharpen his interpersonal skills needed to get his job done.

"Master Sergeant Farrell is very approachable and is consulted by many of our advanced party personnel for advice on a variety of issues ranging from sponsorship to motorcycle safety," Owens said. "He keeps me in line and makes sure that we keep our focus on the health, welfare and safety of our workforce."

A father of two, Farrell said his Family keeps him grounded.

"My girls have been supportive throughout my entire career," Farrell said. "Their strength has made me stronger."

As retirement slowly but surely approaches, Farrell said his service won't stop.

"When I take off the uniform, I see myself continuing to support the Warfighter as a civilian. I want to continue to give back," he said.

## APG News

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

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# Community Notes

## FRIDAY

### OCTOBER 23

#### FRIDAY FAMILY CAMPFIRE - SPIDERS

Come 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.

#### BASKET BINGO

The Aberdeen High School Wrestling Team will sponsor Basket Bingo at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rodgers Street, 7 p.m.; doors open 6 p.m.

Tickets cost \$12 each for 20 bingo games, paper cards; extra packs cost \$5 each. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available. Bring a canned good and/or non-perishable food item for a bonus prize ticket.

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

#### BASKET BINGO

The American Cancer Society, Harford County Chapter, will sponsor Basket Bingo, 7 p.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 201 Mt. Royal Avenue, Aberdeen. Doors open 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 each, extra packs cost \$5 each. Proceeds will benefit breast cancer research. Kitchen proceeds will benefit St. Paul's Ministries. Bring a non-perishable food item for FISH.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Deb Leadore, 410-272-6157 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

## SATURDAY

### OCTOBER 24

#### APGFCU FLAPJACK BREAKFAST AT APPLEBEE'S

The APG Federal Credit Union will sponsor a Flapjack Breakfast, 8 to 10 a.m., at Applebees, 1225 Churchville Road, Bel Air. Tickets cost \$6 for adults; \$4 for children ages 3 to 12; and ages 3 and under free. Proceeds to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Mary Ellen Cantrell, 410-272-0010 ext. 14 or e-mail Maryellen@bgcharfordco.org.

## RONNIE DOVE AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 17

American Legion Edgewood Service Post 17, 415 Edgewood Road, will sponsor Ronnie Dove, popular 60's artist who sang "Say You," "Sweeter Than Sugar" and more. Doors open 6 p.m., show starts 8 p.m. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Tickets cost \$25 per person.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call June Clark, 410-592-2729.

#### MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the Center's live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This free program will be held at 3 p.m. for all ages. No registration required.

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

#### BASKET AND PURSE BINGO

Basket and Purse Bingo to benefit the Ladies Auxiliary to the Water Witch Fire Company will be held at VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors open 6 p.m., basket and purse bingo begins 7 p.m. Cost is \$12 per person for all paper cards. Food, beverage, baked goods, door prizes and raffles will be available. Bring a nonperishable food item and receive a free ticket for a special prize.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or Stephanie Gibson, 410-378-2672.

#### BASKET BINGO

VFW Post 8185 located at 520 Susquehanna River Road, Port Deposit, will hold Basket Bingo, 7 p.m.; doors open 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 per person for all paper cards, extra packs cost \$5 each. Food, drink and baked goods will be available. Proceeds will benefit VFW Post 8185 Ladies Auxiliary Water Witch Fire Company. No smoking allowed.

For more information, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338, e-mail missanne1047@zoominternet.

## WEDNESDAYS

### OCTOBER 28 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

members, or to simply provide information about an activity or organization to active duty service members, civilians, retirees and Family members. Participating agencies are authorized to distribute literature, handouts, giveaways and registration forms to attendees.

For more information, contact an ACS Relocation Readiness Program specialist, 410-278-2464, or call the ACS Information and Referral office, 410-278-7572.

#### Military Family Appreciation Night

Free dinner and a movie will be provided to all service members, Family members and civilians 6 to 9:30 p.m., Nov. 18, at the APG Recreation Center (ballroom), building 3326 (Main post). Movie to be announced.

Set back temperatures on all heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, including window air conditioners. If automated controls are not installed, activate procedures for manual adjustment of all heating and cooling equipment at the end of the every work day and for any periods an area is unoccupied during work hours (such as locker rooms, lunch and break rooms). Required setback temperatures are found in AR 420-1, chapter 22.

Doors and windows between conditioned spaces and non-conditioned spaces should not be propped or left open.

"Active management of doors and windows that control conditioned spaces is critical to reducing energy waste," Dang said. "In addition, heating and cooling of vestibules (entry areas) should be eliminated (except to prevent freezing of pipes in those areas). Thermostats for heating of vestibules should be set at no higher than forty-five degrees Fahrenheit and, in most cases, can be set at forty degrees where the weather stripping is properly installed for entry doors."

Stop idling government vehicles. The office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management urges that government vehicles should be shut off when unattended or waiting for more than 30 seconds.

These are just a few no cost ideas that go a long way to conserve resources and make APG 'greener.'

"We ask each member of the Army community to promote energy security and improve energy conservation," McHugh said. "Achieving and sustaining energy security requires all of us to be proactive in conserving our precious energy resources."

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.

## FRIDAY

### OCTOBER 30

#### BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit the Viper All Stars Cheer and Dance Team will be

held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, 7 p.m.; doors open 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 each for all paper cards, extra packs cost \$5 each. Bring a canned good and/or non-perishable food item for a bonus prize ticket. Food, drinks, baked goods will be available. This is a non-smoking event.

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

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

# Family

From front page

#### Wise Use of Credit seminar

To learn what credit is and why it is used; the advantages and disadvantages of using credit; knowing how to identify different types of credit and how to establish credit, a class will be offered 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 18.

#### Newcomer's Orientation

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Newcomer's Orientation is 1 to 3 p.m., Nov. 18, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. This is an opportunity to recruit volunteers, register new

# Energy

From front page

annual release of tons of global warming gases, saving thousands of dollars in the process."

Per Army Regulation 420-1, chapter 22, any equipment that is Energy Star® rated (as required by statute and regulation) has a sleep mode. If the sleep mode is activated after any 20 minutes of inactivity, then the equipment is not required to be turned off when not in active use.

"If there are printers, scanners and copiers that are used only on an occasional basis, turn them off until you need them. Same with other gizmos: unplug things like your cell phone charger, lamp and fan when you're not using them (this is where a power strip comes in handy)," Dang said.

In homes alone, the total energy lost from phantom power - the electricity drawn even when products are turned off and in standby mode - adds up to an estimated 65 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year, sending 87 billion pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, said the Union of Concerned Scientists.

At the end of the day, don't forget to shut down any other office equipment.

"For scanners, copy machines, faxes, printers and other office equipment, program the sleep modes to activate automatically when not actively in use," Dang said. "All of this equipment is required to be Energy Star® rated and have a sleep mode by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and AR 420-1."



# Community and APG: Partners in Education

## NMTC meeting focuses on local STEM education



After the Northeastern Maryland Technology Council meeting, attendees were invited to tour Harford Community College's new state-of-the-art building for student to study science, technology engineering and mathematics, also known as the STEM subjects. HCC offers programs of study that prepare students to transfer into a four-year program.

Story and photo by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Members and guests of the Northeastern Maryland Technology Council gathered at the Chesapeake Hall Dining Center at Harford Community College Oct. 8 to discuss science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, also known as STEM education, in Harford and Cecil counties schools.

"As an organization, we champion STEM education at all levels," said John Casner, executive director of NMTC, during his presentation of new members.

During the meeting presenters said that STEM education is a special focus of Harford and Cecil counties schools.

Presenters said that there is currently a strong demand in America for employees with an educational background in the STEM subjects. Need for a workforce with a STEM background is especially necessary with Harford and Cecil counties Public Schools' close proximity to Aberdeen Proving Ground and even more so with the additional jobs that will be available due to Base Realignment and Closure.

Many of the jobs that will be available due to BRAC will require a strong background in STEM disciplines.

"Harford Community College is very committed to STEM education and certainly BRAC has extenuated that," said Jim LaCalle, president of Harford Community College.

LaCalle added that HCC has organized a new STEM division to position the college to improve STEM education in the county, with a new state-of-the-art building that uses updated equipment.

Harford Community College offers programs of study in mathematics, engineering, biology, physics, chemistry and environmental science that prepares students for a transfer to a four-year program. The Nursing Division has also been expanded to include new programs in related health care professions.

The college offers certificates and degrees in science laboratory technology and environmental technology that prepares students for immediate employment in a science/technology field.

Dr. Robert Tomback, superintendent of Harford County Public Schools, said during his presentation that BRAC will make a big impact and change Harford County, so it is important to prepare students for these changes. Tomback added that HCPS is looking at ways to spark interest in the STEM subjects early, in hopes that students will develop a life long interest in these subjects.

One of the ways that HCPS is doing this is by engaging students in the Harford Glen Environmental Education Center, where students learn about their role in protecting, conserving and improving natural resources.

Tomback said that one goal of HCPS is to focus an interest in a STEM subject by providing magnet programs, specialized programs, career pathways, electives and advance placement courses that will prepare students for college.

Tomback added that teachers are being trained to teach STEM subjects through high quality, content-driven teacher professional development. Parents and community partnerships, such as APG employees mentoring Aberdeen

High School Science and Math Academy students, are also encouraged.

Henry Shaffer, superintendent of Cecil County Public Schools, said that STEM education is a high priority for the school system.

"We believe that directing students into STEM courses will improve our local and global economy," he said.

Shaffer said that CCPS is working to spark the attention of the students with special events like the "STEM rally" held in the beginning of the school year which featured science exhibits and a presentation by Dr. Don Thomas, retired NASA astronaut, who encouraged the students to study hard in school to achieve their goals and to never give up on their dreams.

Shaffer said that there are some challenges for CCPS, like decreased funding.

"I believe that funding education is not only a moral decision, it is an economic decision," he said.

Shaffer said that there is also a great need for adults in Cecil County to have bachelor's degrees.

"In Cecil County only sixteen percent of adults have a bachelor's degree, that is a challenge," he said.

Shaffer said that CCPS is rising to the challenge by being more creative and innovative with programs offered to students like Project Lead the Way and the STEM Academy.

Project Lead the Way is a national non-profit organization established to help schools give students the knowledge they need to excel in high-tech fields by giving them hands-on technical application of science providing students the skills they need to succeed in tomorrow's technical fields. Classroom instruction, generally one-third theory and two-thirds application, gives students meaningful, hands-on experience in problem solving, teamwork and project based learning.

Students take pre-engineering classes for courses designed to have them think about studying engineering in college or pursuing a career as a medical technician.

This year, 724 students across the five CCPSs are participating in the PLTW program. This is 14.5 percent of the high school population.

The STEM Academy is a challenging program of study to develop advanced science and math students. It is part of a continuum of educational programs offered to the students of CCPS. This program offers opportunities for students to work with experts in the field. The STEM Academy is offered at every CCPS high school, aligning with the CCPS policy of inclusion, so that the program can serve a greater number of students. This program also takes advantage of the honors and advance placement courses already offered throughout the county.

Seniors in the STEM Academy develop a capstone project and work with Cecil College to develop additional rigorous STEM Academy course offerings.

Shaffer concluded his presentation by emphasizing the importance in STEM education in schools across America.

"We must be the best in creativity and innovation to make this country great," Schaffer said. "That is what makes STEM education so great."

## CMA changes public Web site

CMA

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's public Web site, [www.cma.army.mil](http://www.cma.army.mil), has been updated to reflect key milestones and changes to the program, using an interactive timeline, a rotating news block and a new Fact File section.

CMA's Interactive Timeline can be accessed from the Home page, the About CMA page or the Press Room page. The timeline features historical milestones throughout CMA's history. Viewers can trace when the chemical weapons were

made, how the weapons are destroyed and milestones throughout the years.

CMA's "Home Page" has a new look that includes a news block that cycles through five photos that touch upon various areas of the program. A brief summary is included with each photo.

Lastly, the newest addition to the site is the Fact File, which highlights CMA's munitions and destruction technologies with an illustration of each, along with a brief summary. It is located on the About CMA page, under the Learn More section or on the Press Room page, under For the Media. Viewers can learn about the munitions CMA has safely eliminated, the incineration and neutralization technologies CMA uses, and how the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project destroys chemical materiel.

The data collected from AWStats, the software package used by CMA's Information Management Office to track Web site usage, shows that viewers have noticed these changes. Viewership to the 'Top Ten Permanent Web site pages Visited' has increased by 28.3 percent, compared to the same time period last year, according to statistics gathered.



# Canadians check out ATC

Story by  
**JUAN R. MELÉNDEZ JR.**  
ATC

A high-level delegation from Canada's Department of National Defence got an extensive tour of ATC Sept. 30. The Canadians came to check out the facilities and they liked what they saw. In the near future, ATC could expect to see the allied nation's next generation of armored vehicles going through their paces here.

Headed by Daniel L. Ross, the assistant deputy minister (Materiel) and Brig. Gen. Alex C. Patch, the director general, Land Equipment Program Management, the Canadian delegation was escorted by ATC commander Col. Jeffrey P. Holt and U.S. Army Developmental Test Command Director James B. Johnson.

Ross holds a position in his national defense structure similar to that of the U.S. Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

The all-day visit began with a command overview at ATC headquarters. Afterward, Ross indicated he was particularly taken with the VISION [Versatile Information Systems Integrated On-Line] system and the capability it gave technicians located in Canada to get direct access to testing data on their vehicles at ATC.

The delegation headed outside for briefings and demonstrations at the Munson Test Area and Profile 4 road course, then caught two helicopters to travel to the Churchville Test Area about 12 miles north of ATC.

There, the visitors had the opportunity to experience the cross-country trails as passengers in one of the tactical vehicles being tested.

A return to the main post area followed with visits to the Moving Target Simulator, the Automotive Instrumentation Laboratory, the Roadway Simulator, Trench Warfare and finally to the Perryman Test Area, with another chance to experience a cross-country test route in a Marine Light Armored Vehicle. A follow-up discussion followed at ATC headquarters.

The Canadian interest in ATC is focused on their testing of two upcoming armored force acquisitions: the Close Combat Vehicle, an infantry fighting



Photos by DAMION WILSON

*The visiting Canadian delegation and their escorts watch an M1 Abrams tank manage a 60 percent slope at the Munson Test Area.*

vehicle and the Tactical Armored Patrol Vehicle.

Ross indicated during the visit that a major focus would be on the vehicle's mobility. Firepower and survivability are important, he acknowledged, "...but they're no good if they can't get there."

The Canadians are hardly strangers to ATC, however. Under the Canada-U.S. test and evaluation program, both nations use each other's test facilities.

According to Canadian liaison officer Maj. Angelo Battiston, the Canadians tested their LAV-3 [Light Armored Vehicle, Third Generation] here last year, and they are presently testing their LAV-2, commonly known as the Coyote. Both are wheeled vehicles similar to the Army's Stryker and the Marine Corps LAV.

The U.S. military has used Canadian facilities in Canadian Forces Base Suffield, Alberta, and Val Cartier, Quebec.

"This was a very informative visit," Ross said. "I was very impressed with the technology, the facilities and the depth of knowledge and expertise of all the managers we saw all day long. I look forward to working with ATC over the next couple of years."



*U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center commander Col. Jeffrey P. Holt, right, prepares to fly with the visiting Canadian delegation to the Churchville Test Area. With him in the helicopter are, from left, Daniel L. Ross, Canadian assistant deputy minister (Materiel); David W. Duma, principal deputy director, Operational Test and Evaluation, OSD; James Johnson, director of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command and Canadian Col. Scott Kennedy.*

# Job fair held in honor of Disability Employment Awareness Month

Story and photo by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

In celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Army Community Service held the second annual Disability Expo and Career Fair Oct. 8 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center.

The event was put on in part by a grant by the Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor through the Maryland Department of Disabilities.

About 280 job seekers attended the event which was open to the public. Thirty-five employers attended the event, which included Apex Systems, Inc., APG Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Bowhead Science and Technology, LLC, Department of Justice, CSX Railroad, CACI, Goodwill Industries of Chesapeake, Delmarva Broadcasting, Booz Allen Hamilton, U.S. Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and more.

The event also featured three workshops for attendees from the Susquehanna Workforce Network. These workshops focused on how to apply for a federal job, how to



Job seeker Laura Sanginette, right, listens to Rachel Claxton, left, and Nancy Chrisman, center, senior recruiters from IntelligenceCareers.com, about job opportunities at the second annual Disability Expo and Career Fair Oct. 8. The event was held in celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

use the local workforce center and Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income counseling.

Sign language interpreters were also available as well as other disability-related accommodations were made upon request. Transportation from the Aberdeen MARC Train Station to the Recreation Center was

available with a reservation.

Patricia McGill, a human resources director for General Resonance, said that she appreciates the event because it gives job seekers a chance to network with employers in the area.

"I think it is an excellent opportunity for businesses and job seekers," she said. "It gives businesses a chance to get their name out to the public and it is free, you can't beat that," McGill said.

McGill added that at the event she had the opportunity to talk to many qualified candidates.

Stephen Tooney, a CSX Railroad recruiter, said that his company is in the process of forming a program for employees with disabilities.

"Currently our employees go through disability awareness training," he said.

Tooney added that CSX Railroad has a successful program for recruiting military veterans.

"CSX is number eight in the GI jobs list for top thirty military friendly employers," he said. "One in five CSX employees has served our country."

For more information on CSX Railroad visit [www.csx.com](http://www.csx.com).

Ed Jackson, management analyst and veterans recruiter with the Social Security Administration, said that the SSA has a program in place to recruit wounded warriors, as well as military spouses.

"The Social Security Administration is always pleased to come out and support the military community," Jackson said. "We are supportive of military initiatives." He added that there is a program set up where those that are about

to retire from the military can intern or volunteer with the SSA.

"This is a great transitional tool," he said. "For those who become disabled while in service, they can learn to live with a disability while working in a supportive work environment." Jackson added that the SSA was ranked number seven of all federal workplaces as the best place to work.

For more information, contact Jackson, 410-965-5511 or e-mail [edjackson@ssa.gov](mailto:edjackson@ssa.gov).

Nancy Chrisman, a recruiter with Intelligence Careers, said that she was at the job fair to tell job seekers about **IntelligenceCareers.com**, a job search Web site where job seekers can post their resumes and seek career advice. Chrisman said that this Web site advertises a variety of jobs and skill levels.

Laura Sanginette said that she came to the event to see what job opportunities were available in the area.

Sanginette, who is diagnosed with cerebral palsy, said that she would like to find a clerical position in Harford County.

"I am glad that there is an event like this that lets me meet employers in the area," she said.

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Martinez said that he attended the event because he would like to work on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Martinez, who is currently living in Michigan said that he enjoyed living on APG when he was active duty military, and would like to come back to the area.

Martinez became disabled in the military, after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in both knees.

"I think events like this [job fair] are really important and informative," he said.

"The success of the event was attributed to the strength of the cross-community partnerships, which has grown since last year, and the prestige of Aberdeen Proving Ground," said Marilyn Howard, Army Community Service Employment Readiness program manager and chair person for the Disability Job Fair committee.

"The Disability Job Fair committee is comprised of representatives from many agencies, and we all share a commitment to this event as a coordinated forum for matching workforce talent with employers who need good employees," Howard said.

For more information on the Army Community Services - Employment Readiness Program, contact Marilyn Howard, 410-278-9669.

**See JOB FAIR, page 8**

## POST SHORTS

### 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.

### Restoration Advisory Board meeting Oct. 29

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

The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Aberdeen Area Study Areas.

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

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

### Celebrating Halloween activities on APG

Halloween and the traditional "trick or treat" activities will be celebrated at Aberdeen Proving Ground Oct. 31. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. "Trick or Treat" activities are specifically limited to 6 to 8 p.m.

Personnel driving in the housing areas during this period are cautioned to exercise extreme care and to be especially watchful for young children who may not be readily visible or attentive to moving vehicles. It is strongly recommended that children wear reflective markings on their costumes or carry a flashlight.

The cooperation of all concerned is being solicited to ensure a safe and happy Halloween at APG.

### Estate Planning workshop

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate Client Services Division will hold an Estate Planning Workshop, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 P.M., Nov. 4. The location has been changed to the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center. The workshop

is open to service members, Family members, retirees and DoD civilians.

A very important part of taking care of the Family is proper planning for them after death. Learn about wills, beneficiary designations, property ownership methods, powers of attorney, advanced medical directives (living wills), and how to hold assets to minimize probate. An estate tax mini-briefing also will be included.

Registration is limited – sign up early. Copies of the briefing will be available for download at <https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/8525761700412C32/0/E7010247BBA2F52B8525761E004B93FB?opendocument>, on Nov. 2.

For more information or to register, call Jason Barocas, 410-278-1583, or e-mail Jason.a.barocas@conus.army.mil and place "register" in the subject line. List the name, rank, branch of service or civilian status of the attendees in the body of the e-mail.

### TMTI Industry Day Workshop

Transformational Medical Technologies Initiative will be held as an ancillary workshop during the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Chemical and Biological Defense Science and Technology Conference on Nov. 18 and 19 at the Hyatt Regency, 300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas, Texas. Professionals from government, academia, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical industries are invited to attend to learn about TMTI and discuss collaborative opportunities with the program, the current state of medical countermeasure preparedness, and plans for enhancing national capabilities to respond to emerging and novel biological threats.

For more information or to register, visit [www.tmti-cbdefense.org](http://www.tmti-cbdefense.org).

### 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 for-

## CFC Book Fair begins Nov. 1

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Combined Federal Campaign office will hold its 2nd Annual Book Fair at the Top of Bay Down Under 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday thru Friday beginning Nov. 2.

Come browse through children's books, romance, classics, cowboy adventures, mystery novels and more as well as used movies and music CDs. For more information or a list of book, call 410-278-9915/9913. All funds go to the undesignated charities fund.

In addition to books, a range of collectibles are available for bid in the APG CFC Online Silent Auction at [www.apg.army.mil/AKOSSOprompt/CFCSilentAuction.cfm](http://www.apg.army.mil/AKOSSOprompt/CFCSilentAuction.cfm).

Donations to CFC charities can still be made online at [http://cfcnexus.org/\\_chesapeake](http://cfcnexus.org/_chesapeake).

warded 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](mailto: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 Nov. 26

The Thanksgiving Day Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 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 giblet gravy, candied yams, buttered corn, green beans almondine, assorted salad bar, bacon and tomato salad, cucumber salad, waldorf salad, cranberry sauce, assorted breads, buttered hot rolls, bread sticks, assorted traditional pies, assorted fresh fruits, hard candies and mixed nuts, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, egg nog and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

### New Web site for Ordnance Museum

The U.S. Army Ordnance Museum has a new official Web site. Information and updates, including closures can be found at this location: [www.goordnance.apg.army.mil/MUSEUM/frame.htm](http://www.goordnance.apg.army.mil/MUSEUM/frame.htm).

### Wanted: Stories about NCOs

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

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



# NFPA, Johns Hopkins to study how best to teach children about fire safety

## First time groups work together to enhance fire safety education

NFPA

The National Fire Protection Association and the Center for Injury Research and Policy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health announced a joint project titled Strengthening the Impact of Fire and Life Safety Messages on Children.

The goal is to determine the best way to communicate fire safety messages to children ages 3 to 9. Each year approximately 290 children ages 3 to 9 die as a result of fire in the United States. This project is made possible by funding from FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, AFG Fire Prevention and Safety grants.

"Fire departments and other safety educators reach out to millions of children each year to help them learn how to keep themselves safe from fire and other hazards," said Judy Comoletti, NFPA's division manager of Public Education. "As safety educators, it is vital that we understand and continually review what types of messaging have the greatest impact on children when encouraging them to practice safe behaviors. Resources being developed through this project will guide us and others interested in ways to best reach this young audience and their families with life-saving information."

Through this project, the two organizations are seeking to increase safety behaviors among children. Children will be asked to



JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG  
SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH

observe video vignettes that vary how safety content is communicated and how safety messages are framed. Researchers will evaluate what they learn, which types of messages have the most impact on children and how their parents react to the program.

"The outcomes of this study will contribute to understanding how children and their parents react to safety messages," said Andrea Gielen, ScM, ScD, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy. "Despite the fact that injuries are the number one cause of death for children in the U.S., little is currently known about how best to reach them with safety information."

To ensure the outcomes of this study will impact future health education work, a guide for developing educational materials will be developed to help others involved in fire and life safety programs. The guide will be available on NFPA's Web site for use by any fire department or other fire safety organization. The project is slated to be completed by July 2010.

About the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy The Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy is com-

prised of a team of multi-disciplinary scientists, teachers and practitioners committed to reducing the burden of injuries through research, education, and service. Using a public health approach in which science informs practice, and practice questions science, the Center has been able to save lives and reduce the burden of injuries. Visit the center's Web site, [www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter](http://www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter).

### About NFPA

NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. Visit NFPA's Web site at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

*(Editor's note: Reference sites: [www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1915&itemID=44967&URL=Safety%20Information/Fire%20Prevention%20Week%202009/For%20the%20fire%20service/Media%20materials/PSAs and www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter](http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1915&itemID=44967&URL=Safety%20Information/Fire%20Prevention%20Week%202009/For%20the%20fire%20service/Media%20materials/PSAs%20and%20www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter).)*

## Job fair

From page 6

### Committee membership

- APG Army Community Services - Employment Readiness Program
- U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command
- Equal Employment Opportunity Office Special Emphasis Program
- APG Equal Employment Opportunity Office

- APG Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
- The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region
- Harford County Department of Community Services' Commission on Disabilities
- Maryland Department of Disabilities
- U.S. Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers Veteran Employment Representative State of Maryland - Division of Workforce Development
- Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Rehabilitation Services
- Disability Support Services
- Harford Community College
- Abilities Network

## 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 #56

You have stopped at an intersection behind another car. You see in your rear view mirror that the car behind you has not slowed down and is coming fast. You can see he is going to run into the back of your car. What should you do?

A. Foot off brake, head back against head rest, brace yourself with hands on the wheel. After impact, apply your brakes.

B. Abandon the car immediately and run toward the approaching vehicle.

**Answer A.** Sure, your choice of action to take your "foot off brake, head back against head rest, brace yourself with hands on the wheel, and after impact, apply your brakes" is the thing to do. So, why do you take your foot off the brake? If he's coming at you faster than 20 mph, it's best to let him move you than sustain that degree of impact behind you. Otherwise, if he's going slower than that you can save damage to your front end and not hurt yourself by having the brakes on when he hits. Your shoulder and seat belt will hold you away from the wheel. And with your head back against the head rest and bracing yourself with your hands on the wheel, you'll not be jarred too much. Then if you aren't stopped by the car ahead, you med-

**Answer B.** Your decision to "abandon the car immediately and run toward the approaching vehicle" would be a serious mistake. You wouldn't have time to get out of your car. And trying to get away would put yourself in a worse position, with little or no protection when the crash comes. Check out

**Answer A.** Sure, your choice of action to take your "foot off brake, head back against head rest, brace yourself with hands on the wheel, and after impact, apply your brakes" is the thing to do. So, why do you take your foot off the brake? If he's coming at you faster than 20 mph, it's best to let him move you than sustain that degree of impact behind you. Otherwise, if he's going slower than that you can save damage to your front end and not hurt yourself by having the brakes on when he hits. Your shoulder and seat belt will hold you away from the wheel. And with your head back against the head rest and bracing yourself with your hands on the wheel, you'll not be jarred too much. Then if you aren't stopped by the car ahead, you med-



# ARMY FAMILY COVENANT

SOLDIERS ★ FAMILIES ★ ARMY CIVILIANS



## The Army examines programs for military Families

Story by  
**ROB MCILVAINE**  
FMWRC

“Never before have we asked our Families to do so much,” Brig. Gen. Reuben Jones, commander, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, told more than 600 Family members, Soldiers and guests at the Association of the United States Army 2009 Meeting and Exposition.

The second and third days of the AUSA Family Forum series brought Army and civilian leaders together to examine the progress of its existing programs, such as Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, benefits through the Veterans Affairs, outreach to veterans of OIE and OEF, Franklin Covey’s Power pilot program and the Military Child and Adolescent Center of Excellence.

Community partners who embrace Soldiers and their Families presented briefings about their programs, as well. These included Project Home Front, Operation Give a Hug, Azalea Charities and INOVA.

“Our Families are showing stress,” Jones said. “We know the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of our Families, as Gen. Wickham so eloquently said.”

Retired Gen. John A. Wickham Jr., former Army Chief of Staff and former Secretary of the Army John Marsh signed the white paper “The Army Family” on Aug. 15, 1983 because they wanted to increase funding and oversight of programs like child development centers, Family counseling and suicide prevention.

“Yesterday, Secretary of the Army John McHugh, Army chief of staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr., and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston reaffirmed the Army’s promise to Soldiers and Families by signing the Army Family Covenant – to build resilience in our Soldiers and Families,” Jones said. “Your Army is working to relieve your stress.”

Brigadier Gen. Colleen McGuire,

director of the Army’s suicide prevention task force, reported on what she called an unfortunate trend -- the steady increase in the rate of Army suicides.

The Army has identified a long list of factors that increase the risk of suicide, including: infidelity, alcohol abuse, high-risk driving, multiple drug offenses, use of opiates, sleep deprivation, erratic behavior, compressed dwell times between deployments and undiagnosed PTSD.

“We have the programs, we have relationship counseling, we have drug testing, but we’ve been heavy on the treatment and not on how to deal with the stress,” McGuire said.

He said the Army continues to examine its counseling, drug testing and medical treatment programs to see if they are effective at mitigating those risks and addressing the needs of today’s Soldiers.

Brigadier Gen. Rhonda Cornum directs Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, the Army’s new effort to ensure its Soldiers, Families and DoD civilians are strong mentally, as well as physically. The motto is Strong Minds, Strong Bodies.

“We all know how to perform CPR, the method to revive someone after they suffer a heart attack,” Cornum said. “It’s better, though, if we can prevent that heart attack through exercise and diet and medication. In CSF, that’s what we are doing for behavioral health.”

“People enter the service with a wide variety of mental strengths, but we can make them better through good training and good risk preventive maintenance,” Cornum said.

Cornum said this training is most needed by the Army’s recent influx of very young Soldiers who face the complex array of stressors inherent to warfare in Iraq and Afghanistan. These young Soldiers, who enter the Army with varying degrees of mental preparedness, are often asked to accomplish offensive, defensive, stability and civilian support tasks within a very short period of time.

CSF will be available for the entire

force beginning this month, and will be available in January 2010 for Families and in March for DoD civilians.

The comprehensive effort has four components: an online self-assessment tool, online self-development tools guided by the assessment, resilience training and master resilience training.

But the big issue, said Family Readiness Group leaders, was the stigma involved with any behavioral health program.

“There will be no stigma associated with going through CSF training because everyone will have to enter the program which will accompany them throughout their career,” Cornum said.

The Army is also building many partnerships with civilian corporations to make sure services are available for Soldiers and their Families.

Mike Carr, management and program analyst from the Veterans Benefits Administration, explained its five groups of programs: compensation and pension, education and loan guaranty, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment.

Some of these benefits and services are available for active duty Soldiers after they have served for 90 days or 180 days prior to separation and pre-discharge.

Jennifer Perez, acting chief consultant of the Office of Patient Care Services, outlined the nationwide VA network of hospitals, vet centers and outpatient clinics, as well as the special programs for OEF [Operation Enduring Freedom] and OIF [Operation Iraqi Freedom] vets, caregivers and Families and the liaison program aimed at coordinating healthcare between the military and the VA.

One unique private-public partnership that serves Family members is the Fisher House program, which serves more than 100,000 Families annually for free so they can be in a home away from home and be close to a loved one during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease or injury.

Alfonso R. Batres, chief officer of the Readjustment Counseling Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center program, described the confidential counseling services available for veterans and their Families at vet centers and provided contact info: [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov) or 866-644-5371.

“Vet Centers began in 1979 to serve Vietnam vets but now we’re at the forefront of research into PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder),” Batres said. “Usually, though, it’s not the vet who comes in by himself, he’s brought in by a Family member because they’re the first ones to see the changes.”

Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Services are also available for their Family members for military-related issues. Veterans have earned these benefits through their service and all are provided at no cost to the veteran or Family.

The 232 community-based Vet Centers are located in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Preventing caregiver burnout was the subject discussed by Wayne Boswell and Shawn Moon of Franklin Covey. Providing Outreach While Enhancing Readiness, or POWER, is a new program for chaplains, teachers, medical providers and others who support Soldiers experiencing compassion fatigue.

“The needs of caregivers are not addressed enough,” Boswell, who leads the Compassion fatigue program, said. “They are burned out and struggling with the new norm, and they’re asking for helps. Who in here has scheduled time for themselves?”

About half of the more than 600-member audience raised their hands.

“You’re lying,” Boswell said. “But we’re here to help by training the trainers, assessing the baseline of individuals and implementing a method to build resilience.”

## Army focuses on children of warriors at AUSA Family Forums

Story by  
**ROB MCILVAINE**  
FMWRC

The third day of the Association of the United States Army 2009 Meeting and Exposition Family Forum series focused on the stress children are experiencing as a result of their parent or parents going off to war.

Lieutenant Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the Army’s Reserve Command, reported on his experience with geographically dispersed Soldiers and their Families.

“A while ago, I promised a group of Soldiers and their Families stationed on the remote islands of Guam and American Samoa that I would be back to visit. That got me to thinking that we’ve got many ‘islands of communities’ across this nation. New York City, for instance, might be remote to someone who doesn’t have access to resources – either they don’t know what is available or how to get them, so the Virtual Installation is a great idea. Bring the resources to the Family rather than the Family having to travel to the installation,” Stultz said.

Laura, Stultz’s wife, is really the inspiration for this idea, he said.

“Whether you’re active, Reserve or Army National Guard – no matter which component you’re in – you’re in the

Army Family,” Laura Stultz said to a cheering audience.

“But we want that personal touch, that one-on-one that you can’t get from the Internet. And besides, not everyone has access to a computer or the Internet. So my dream was to have local permanent centers, just like the post office. And I’m not talking for Soldiers only, I’m talking for parents, grandparents, everyone.”

On Sept. 12, her dream became a reality with the grand opening of the first pilot program for Army Strong Community Centers in Rochester, N.Y.

“This will be a place where anyone can go in and get help with ID cards, health concerns, summer camps, in other words, a place that will strengthen and enhance our Soldiers and their Families in the expeditionary force,” she said.

With one-third of active Families living off base, she said, her plan is to have these centers across the country, although this grandmother of five believes she’ll be old and in a rocking chair when her dream is fully realized.

Colonel Kris Peterson told the crowd about the Military child and Adolescent Center of Excellence of Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis, Wash. The center focuses resources on behavioral and emotional health screening and delivering psychoeducation and resilience-based strategies related to the

unique stresses of military children.

“After eight years of war, our Army Families feel like they’re about to crash. We need clinical support for pre-school, school-age and adolescent children, and spouses because we’ve seen increased aggression, increased issues of child neglect or abuse and the outcomes of dealing with depression and anxiety on their own,” Peterson said.

Echoing Stultz, Peterson said there are islands of care across the country but they can’t do it all. As a result of the challenges of the rapidly growing up-tempo of the war, he said, the center is strategically looking at what’s out there – the quality of programs and how to access these programs that typify and understand what it’s like to be a military child.

“This is a work in progress that is now about twenty-five percent staffed with MEDCOM funding,” Peterson said.

Supporting Army Dads was presented by Tim Red, director of Military Programming, National Fatherhood Initiative.

“We need to help dads be better dads, not just teaching them how to change diapers,” Red said.

To inspire military dads across the land he repeated what Gen. Douglas MacArthur said in 1942, “By profession I am a Soldier and take great pride in that fact. But I am prouder – infinitely prouder – to be a father.”

**Isn't it time you made a suggestion?**

<https://armysuggestions.army.mil>

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ARMY SUGGESTION PROGRAM  
Installation ASP Coordinator  
Marjorie Sexton  
410-278-0944

# FORT MONMOUTH HISTORY CORNER



Photos courtesy of CECOM LCMC HISTORICAL OFFICE

The first Soldiers at what would become Fort Monmouth, N. J., stayed in tents until wooden structures could be built.

## Meet Fort Monmouth and the U.S. Army CECOM LCMC

Story by  
**MELISSA ZIOBRO**  
CECOM LCMC

(Editor's note: This is part one of a three-part series intended to introduce some of the history of Team C4ISR and its predecessors at Fort Monmouth to the APG community, as well as to those Team C4ISR members who have joined the team at Aberdeen Proving Ground.)

Originally a tiny cluster of Army tents pitched in a clearing not far from the seashore in Monmouth County, N.J., Fort Monmouth is now home to the U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, or CECOM LCMC. The CECOM LCMC develops, acquires, fields, supports, and sustains command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillances, reconnaissance, or C4ISR, and information systems for the joint Warfighter.

Several independent and inter dependent organizations comprise the Command and "Army Team C4ISR," to include the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, or CECOM; the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications Tactical, or PEO C3T; the PEO for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, or PEO IEWS; the PEO for Enterprise Information Systems, or PEO EIS and the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, or CERDEC.

Fort Monmouth also hosts numerous tenant organizations, to include the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School and Patterson Army Health Clinic.

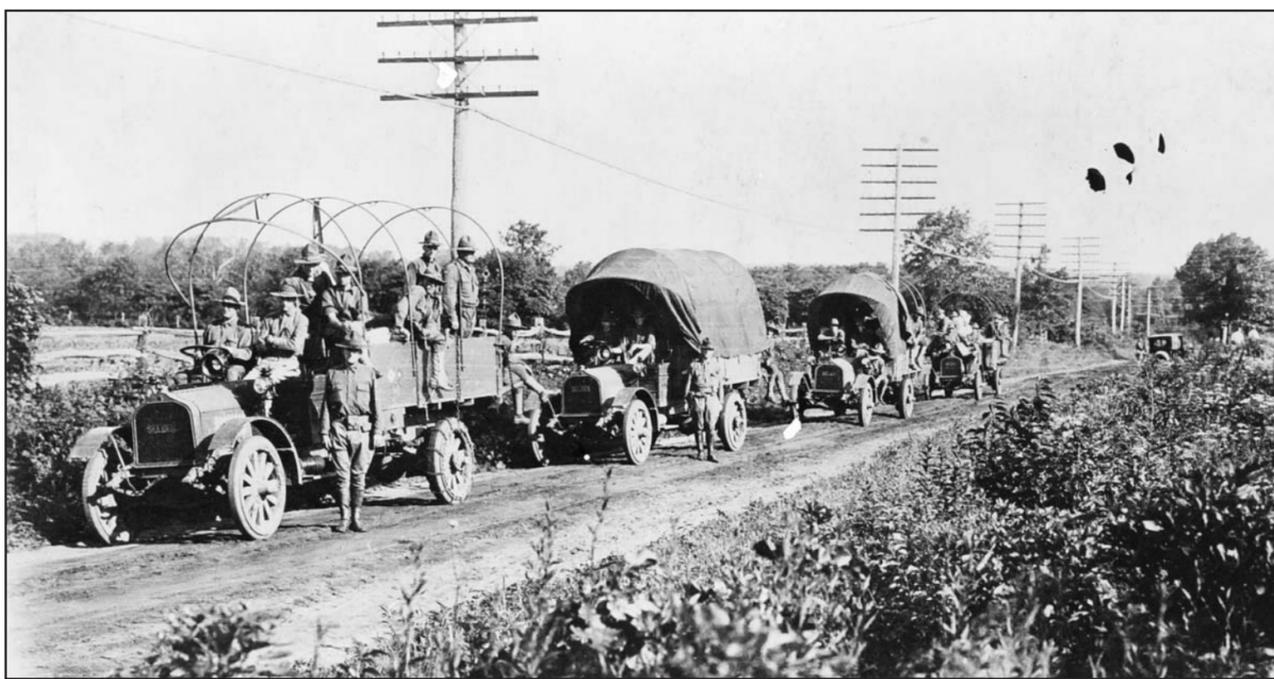
The Fort Monmouth site has supported America's fighting men and women for the last 90 years; however, it was not always so.

When the outbreak of World War I led the Army to search for land for additional Signal Training Camps, investigation led them to the land where the old Monmouth Park Race Track and luxury hotel had been. This track flourished during the latter half of the 19th century when some of Monmouth County's wealthier habitués first brought horse racing to the area.

"The exuberantly colorful" people of the era frequented the races and the hotel. Some of the celebrities included actress and singer Lillian Russell, financier "Diamond Jim" Brady; barbed wire promoter John Warne "Bet a Million" Gates; tobacco millionaire Pierre Lorillard; poet Alfred Lord Tennyson; boxer James Corbett; and Jesse Lewisohn of the banking family.

Lavish suppers were hosted by Mike and Charlie Dwyer, whose stable included the world's finest thoroughbreds. The Drexel family of Philadelphia gave exclusive soirees. Even politicians like Governor Bowie of Maryland and Senator Stockton of New Jersey tried their luck at the races.

Monmouth Park Race Track closed when a "moralist movement" led the New Jersey legislature to outlaw gambling. While much of the legislature tried to protect the tracks, "ministers, priests, lawyers



The first 32 signal Soldiers arrived at Fort Monmouth in June 1917. Here, troops head toward the camp with supplies.

and others" heartily opposed and ultimately defeated them. Deserted, the grandstand, track and hotel fell into ruin. The hotel burned to the ground; the grandstand succumbed to a nor'easter in 1899. Read more at [http://www.monmouth.army.mil/historian/pubupdates/Fort\\_Monmouth\\_and\\_the\\_Jersey\\_Derby.pdf](http://www.monmouth.army.mil/historian/pubupdates/Fort_Monmouth_and_the_Jersey_Derby.pdf).

Amidst the turmoil of World War I, retired Col. Carl F. Hartmann, then the signal officer of the Eastern Department in New York City, tasked retired Maj. Gen. Charles H. Corlett to "go out and find an officer's training camp."

Corlett recalled his initial discovery of the Monmouth Park land in a 1955 letter addressed to Col. Sidney S. Davis, chairman of the Fort Monmouth Traditions Committee.

He reported that after examining several other sites, he "finally stumbled onto the old race course near Eatontown. I found part of the old steel grandstand with eleven railroad sidings behind it, the old two-mile straight away track and two oval race tracks, all badly overgrown with weeds and underbrush." Corlett continued to describe how he arranged a meeting with the owner of the land.

"Upon inquiry, I learned that the land belonged to an old man who lived in Eatontown who was very ill (on his death bed in fact), but when he learned my business, he was anxious to see me," Corlett said.

He learned that the owner, Melvin Van Keuren, had offered to give the land to the Army free of charge during the Spanish American War. Van Keuren regretfully informed Corlett that he could no longer afford to do so. He offered instead to sell the land for \$75,000.

Corlett returned to his superior officers to report his findings. With the authorization of the Adjutant General of the Army, [then Lt. Col.] Hartmann leased 468 acres of the tract from Van Keuren on May 16, 1917, with an option to buy.

The land, which was a potato farm at the time, included 468 acres. Notwithstanding the desolation of the site in 1917 – largely overgrown and infest-



As World War I loomed, the Army recognized the need to train additional Signal Corps troops. The Army located the Fort Monmouth site, once the Monmouth Park Race Track, in May 1917. Remnants of the track lay everywhere and included this former Ticket Booth.

ed with poison ivy – it afforded the Army significant advantages: 600 feet of siding on a rail line of Hoboken (a Port of Embarkation), proximity to the passenger terminal in Little Silver, some good stone roads and access by water.

The June 6, 1917, Red Bank Register reported that the land leased by the government had been "farmed for the past four years by Charles Prothero. He will continue to work the farm south of the railroad tracks but all property north of the tracks has been leased by the government. On this property is a seventy acre field of potatoes. The government will recompense Mr. Prothero for this crop."

The first 32 Signal Soldiers soon arrived at Fort Monmouth, reportedly in two Model T Ford trucks.

The installation was originally called "Camp Little Silver," based merely on its location. General Orders dated June 17, 1917, named Hartmann the first commander.

Corporal Carl L. Whitehurst was among the first men to arrive at Camp Little Silver. He later recalled that the site appeared to be a "jungle of weeds, poison ivy, briars, and

underbrush." While he claimed that remnants of the old Monmouth Park Racetrack seemed to be everywhere, only one building remained habitable. He and his comrades awaited the delivery of tents there, in that former ticket booth.

Railroads soon brought the tents, as well as lumber with which to build barracks. Unfortunately, most of the lumber was green.

According to Whitehurst, "By the time the wood was dried out it was winter, and in December there were cracks you could put your finger through. The winter of 1917 to 1918 was a tough one, and sometimes the snow would pile up on your blankets, coming through the gaps in the boards."

The Army renamed Camp Little Silver "Camp Alfred Vail" in September 1917 to honor the New Jersey inventor who helped Samuel Morse develop commercial telegraphy.

By the end of 1918, some reportedly called it the "best equipped Signal Corps camp ever established anywhere."

Just 19 months after its acquisition by the military, 129 semi-permanent structures had been built. The radio labora-

tories used 47 of these exclusively. Housing was available for 2,975 Soldiers and 188 officers. Should those men fall ill, a hospital stood equipped to handle 40 patients. Two temporary stables could house up to 160 horses. Hard surfaced roads facilitated transportation. Soldiers converted one swamp into parade grounds and another into four company streets, lined by 200 tents.

The Chief Signal Officer authorized the purchase of Camp Vail in 1919 for \$115,300. The Signal Corps School relocated to Camp Vail from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in that year. The Signal Corps Board followed in 1924. The installation received permanent status and the name "Fort Monmouth" in August 1925. The designation honored the Soldiers of the American Revolution who died in the Battle of Monmouth Court House in 1778.

Next week, read about the development of the first U.S. aircraft detection radar at Fort Monmouth during the inter war years and Fort Monmouth's contributions to World War II. (Editor's note: Author is the CECOM LCMC command historian.)



# FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

## Activities/Events

### 2009 White House ornament sale

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

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

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

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

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

Strong Beginnings Pre-K is a program designed to prepare children to be successful to enter school. The curriculum focuses on the social, emotional and physical development of children. It is a basic academic program to enhance school readiness. Children will participate in a variety of activities to include the Smart Start Sport program. There will be SKIES JR classes offered as well.

If there is interest, a part-day program will be offered to children from

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Aberdeen Center. The centers look forward to an exciting school year for the children.

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

### 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-Leisure-

Travel@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.

### Youth Basketball registration

APG Youth basketball registration will take place through Nov. 9 at building 2752, Rodman Road. Walk-in registration will be held 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.; after 10:30 a.m., call for an appointment at 410-278-7571. To register for the Edgewood Area Youth Center program, call John Lee, 410-436-731.

There will be league teams for ages 7 to 8 (boys and girls); 9 to 10; 11 to 12; and 13 to 14 (age as of Dec. 31, 2009). Cost to join a league is \$45 per person; the clinic costs \$35 per person.

A clinic will be held for ages 4 to 6 (age as of Dec. 31, 2009).

Practices will be held weeknights. Games will be held Saturdays beginning Jan. 2. Volunteers are needed.

For more information, e-mail: Wil-

liam.Kegley@us.army.mil or call 410-306-2297.

### Radio City Christmas Spectacular

See the Rockettes perform in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular at the 1st Mariner Arena, 201 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore. There will be two shows, 4 or 7 p.m., Dec. 17. Tickets cost \$76.75 for adults and \$67.75 for children ages 2 through 12. Children ages 2 and under do not need a ticket if seated on a parent's lap. All tickets must be pre-ordered. Tickets are limited and are available on a first-come first-serve basis. Seats are located in the lower levels. There is no guaranteed seating. The last day to purchase tickets is Dec. 3.

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

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For more information or to RSVP, contact Phyllis Ethridge, 410-278-2464/7572.

## 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 Voice Lessons

Ages 6 through 18 can register for private voice lessons, 3:30 to 7 p.m., Mondays, Jan. 5 through Feb. 2, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

No experience is necessary. Singing lessons cost \$96 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for six weeks. Students are required to purchase books required for the course as recommended by the instructor.

Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child.

### Private Flute Lessons

Private flute lessons for ages 8 through

### Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

All jobs for Aberdeen Proving Ground are listed at <http://acpol.army.mil/employment/naf.htm> or check out AAFES Jobs link <http://odin.aafes.com/employment/> for additional job opportunities.

18 will be held 3:30 to 7 p.m., Mondays, Jan. 5 through Feb. 2, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Cost of the lessons is \$96 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for six weeks.

Students must provide their own flute and also are required to purchase books required for the course as recommended by the instructor.

Books are a one-time purchase. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child.

### 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.

### 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.

## Youth Bowling League

The Youth Bowling League has openings for all youth ages 18 months to 20. Youth leagues will bowl on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the day. No open bowling until 1 p.m. Evening leagues will bowl on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. There is

no open bowling on Thursday after 5 p.m. and no open bowling on Friday until after 9:30 p.m. On Wednesday, bowling lanes may be available on a first come/first serve basis. Call 410-278-4041.

## 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. 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.

### Week of Oct. 26

Special #1: Turkey club sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.96.

Special #2: Crab cake platter with French fries, coleslaw, cookie and regular soda for \$9.95.

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





# FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

## Family advocates teach nonviolence to children



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

The children in the Edgewood Area Child Development Center were brought a message of nonviolence as part of the month-long observance of the Army's Domestic Abuse Prevention/Awareness Month Oct. 14.

The 'Hands Are Not For Hitting' program featured a visit from 'Alex the puppet' to children in the 2- to 3-year-old and 4- to 5-year-old classrooms.

"Activities like these teach them that there are nice things to do with hands," said Aida Rivera, Army Community Service Family advocate, who was assisted by Kenya Proctor, victim advocate.

"We try to start with children early on with the message that hands are for creative and nice things," Rivera said. "The children are always very positive and happy to participate, and we love working with them."

Alex the puppet, with assistance from Proctor, guided the children in listing all the things that can be done with hands besides hitting.

When asked what they could do with their hands, the children called out answers like 'brush hair,' 'wave' and 'play baseball.'

When asked what they should not do with their hands, one quick reply was, "Don't touch germs!"

"Should you hit?" Alex asked the children.

"No," was the unanimous response.

Proctor said children always respond well to the puppet show.

"It brings the message to children to avoid domestic violence in a way they



Ashley Johnson gives Alex the Bear a hug at the conclusion of a Hands Are Not For Hitting session with Kenya Proctor from Army Community Service Family Advocacy, right, during a Domestic Abuse Prevention/Awareness Month program in the Edgewood Area Child Development Center Oct. 14.

can understand," she said.

"Hands are not for hitting, hands are for hugging," she told the children, who all took turns hugging Alex.

Rivera and Proctor then divided the children into groups for an arts and craft project in which they created puppets of their own. They applied the glue to the puppets as the children pressed eyes, hair and noses into place.

"You're all using your hands to create such wonderful things," Rivera told the children.

After the children finished their puppets, Rivera distributed gift bags with activity books for the children and informational brochures about child safety and domestic violence resources for their parents.

Domestic Abuse Prevention/Aware-

ness Month activities continued with a Parenting Game at Top of the Bay Oct. 20.

On Oct. 29, a Dating Violence class will be held 4 to 5 p.m. at the Edgewood Area Youth Center.

For more information, call Rivera at 410-278-7478; email her at aida.rivera@us.army.mil or visit the Family Advocacy Office in ACS building 2752.



During a 'Hands Are Not For Hitting' art project, Olivia Kalb seems delighted with her hand puppet.



From left, Landon Zobel, Evan Dawson, Noah Hargrave and Catherine Kaminsky get help from Kenya Proctor from Army Community Service Family Advocacy, right, who applies glue as they work on their hand puppets.



Tristan Howe shows off his creation.

## The EDGE! program offers free paintball classes, more for APG youths

Story and photo by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Every Tuesday for four weeks a group of Aberdeen Proving Ground youths went to Robin Hood Paintball after school for free paintball classes.

The classes, which were offered from Sept. 22 through Oct. 13, are part of an ongoing Child, Youth and School Services program called The EDGE! These classes, open to youths whose Families work on APG as service members, civilian employees, or contractors, are designed for children and teens in grades 1 through 12 to learn new skills using FMWR and partner facilities.

During the paintball classes the youths who participated learned different paintball techniques including safety practices.

Malcolm White, the owner of Robin Hood Paintball, said that the youths also worked on team building.

"Communication is very important when playing paintball," White said, "as well as working together as a team to accomplish a task."

Chuck Rose, a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation specialist with FMWR's CYS Services office who is the lead for the program, said that paintball classes will be offered again in the spring. These classes will give youths who participated in the fall class the opportunity to build on their skills. Those who did not participate in the fall class are also welcome to attend.

"I hope that more youths will take advantage of the free paintball classes in

the spring," Rose said.

Youths who participated said that they enjoyed the class.

"I never played paintball before joining this class," said Durnier Young II, an Aberdeen High School sophomore. "I participated because I wanted to learn how to play. I had a lot of fun, and I definitely want to do it again."

Raymond Burroughs, a senior at Havre De Grace High School, said he appreciates the new classes being offered.

"I have been paintballing for about six years, and I was able to learn some new techniques," he said.

Patricia Nubine, a mother of two children who participated in The EDGE! classes said that she is grateful that the classes are being offered.

"My children are homeschooled so The EDGE! classes give them a chance to socialize and learn new skills for free. Many of the classes offered fulfill their physical education requirement," she said.

Nubine added that she hopes that more youths participate in the program.

"These are great classes for youths. I wish more youths would participate so that the funding doesn't get cut," Nubine said.

### About The EDGE! program

The EDGE! is a free program for teens. School aged children, first through fifth graders will be charged the school age child care rate, which is \$5 per hour.

Rose added that The EDGE! program offers 5 to 10 hours of free monthly School Age Services Open Recreation to eligible school-aged children. Parents whose children are regulars SAS users



Eddy Nubine Jr., 14, plays paintball during a free The EDGE! class held at Robin Hood Paintball Oct. 13.

will not be charged additional fees for participation in The EDGE! program.

Military Family members receive 15 hours of free programs each month, which can be applied to The EDGE! program. Rose said that The EDGE! program is an opportunity for youths and teens to experience a variety of programs, make friends and have fun while learning what other programs FMWR and CYS Services has to offer. The EDGE! is not a vocational program, the program is designed to get youths to think and start planning for the future by helping them build life skills.

The next program will be a cooking class for youths ages 11 to 18, held at Top of the Bay, on Mondays and Wednesdays, 4 to 6 p.m., Oct. 26 through Nov. 18.

Pet Care and Dog Grooming program will be offered at APG on Mondays 4 to 6 p.m., Oct. 27. In addition, the same program will be offered at the Edgewood Area Youth Services building Oct. 29.

Registration at the CYS Services Central Registration Office, building 2752, is required. For more details, contact Rose, 410-278-1399 or chuck.rose1@us.army.mil.



# Health Notes

## Getting ready to quit Great American Smokeout is Nov. 19

Health Net Federal Services

Making the decision to quit smoking can be hard, but it is the best decision a person can make to improve their overall health. While others may want a friend or Family member to quit, the decision and commitment must come from the individual.

Research shows that smokers are most successful in kicking the habit when they have some means of support, such as nicotine replacement products, counseling, prescription medicine to lessen cravings, guide books and the encouragement of friends and Family members.

To increase the chance for success, a smoker needs to understand their reasons for wanting to quit. Once identifying these reasons, the smoker can use them to stay motivated throughout the quitting process.

A smoker should choose a quit date and circle it on the calendar. Tell Family members and friends about the decision to quit smoking. Talk to each of them about a plan, and ask if they will provide support throughout the quitting process.

Next, the smoker should figure out their tobacco "triggers" and decide what to do instead of using tobacco. Create a quit plan to help deal with triggers, cravings and slips, managing stress and controlling weight gain. Having a plan to follow will help the smoker cope and reduce their urge to smoke.

Finally, prepare for the quit day by throwing away all ashtrays, lighters and tobacco products in the home, office and car.

Also, a doctor can offer advice and

help the smoker decide if medication, group therapy or other treatments are right for them.

"Quitting can be challenging, but with the right tools and support, you can quit smoking for good," said Sue Singh, a registered nurse at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. "Take a step in the right direction for your health."

At Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, Tobacco Cessation Class is available noon to 1 p.m., Oct. 28 in the Ortiz Training Center, 1st floor.

"Please call Kirk Community Health at 410-278-1964 to register for class," Singh said.

The American Cancer Society holds the Great American Smokeout® every year on the third Thursday in November. This year the Great American Smokeout® will take place Nov. 19. The purpose of the event is to set aside a day to help smokers quit smoking, quit using tobacco products, for at least one day, with the hope that they will quit completely. Not only does the event challenge people to stop using tobacco, it helps to raise awareness about the dangers of smoking and the many effective ways available to quit smoking permanently.

Visit the Tobacco Cessation section on Health Net Federal Services' Web site for more information at [www.healthnet-federalservices.com](http://www.healthnet-federalservices.com).

(Editor's Note: Article written from research at [http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/content/PED\\_10\\_5\\_Great\\_American\\_Smokeout\\_History.asp?sitearea=PED](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/content/PED_10_5_Great_American_Smokeout_History.asp?sitearea=PED).)

## HHS unveils new features on Flu.gov

Evaluation guide, flu myths and facts, flu essentials flyers among new resources

HHS

The Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius unveiled Oct. 7 several new resources on the federal government's one-stop resource for flu information -- [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

The Web site now features a new H1N1 Flu Self-Evaluation guide for adults 18 and older along with a new Flu Myths and Facts section, which provides the public with the latest and most accurate information about the flu.

"Flu.gov is a one-stop clearinghouse for the latest news about the flu," Sebelius said. "These new resources on [flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) will help individuals get critical information on how to protect themselves and their Families from the H1N1 virus. They will also help us to get accurate information out into the public realm so people know what the facts are about the flu."

The new Flu Myths and Facts section on [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) debunks some of the myths about the H1N1 virus and vaccine and provides accurate information on vaccinations, the flu and public health.

The H1N1 Flu Self-Evaluation guide (<http://www.flu.gov/evaluation/>) on

[flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) will give individuals 18 and older more information about what they can do to take care of themselves, prevent the spread of the flu to other members of their Family and identify the warning signs of more serious flu symptoms -- symptoms that require the attention of a medical professional.

The information in the H1N1 Flu Self-Evaluation guide is designed for educational purposes only and is not a substitute for a doctor's advice. It does not capture identifiable information in any manner and is completely anonymous. Organizations providing public health education, blogs and members of the media can add it to their Web sites.

"One way that we can help relieve some of the burden on the states and local providers this flu season is by helping people understand what the warning signs are when it comes to the flu," Sebelius said.

"In addition to the Self-Evaluation guide, we have also created some handy one-page information sheets called Flu Essentials that people can share with Family, friends and neighbors," she added.

## DoD weighs in on E-cigarette testing

DoD

It's hard to miss the onslaught of ads for a new "fantastic, risk-free, clean and absolutely amazing" invention that lets people continue to smoke without all the dangers of smoking. It sounds too good to be true, but electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) manufacturers brazenly advertise their product as the first healthy cigarette, free of the harmful chemicals and tar typically found in tobacco products, and compare them to the nicotine patch. One of the product's largest distributors has stated that they are "pretty sure" e-cigarettes are safe.

### Analysis refutes health claims

However, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has recently found otherwise. On July 22, it announced that its laboratory analysis of electronic cigarettes indicate that these products contain detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals to which users could potentially be exposed. Tests were conducted on a small sample of cartridges from two leading brands of electronic cigarettes. One contained diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze that is toxic to humans.

Captain David Arday, a U.S. Public Health Service physician and chairman of the Department of Defense Alcohol and Tobacco Advisory Committee, commented.

"I strongly caution service members to avoid e-cigarettes, and to instead choose to make a commitment to give up all tobacco products," Arday said. "Substituting a product designed to keep you hooked on nicotine and that the FDA has legitimate safety concerns about is not the answer. And we know from research that nicotine is as addictive as heroin."

Other members of the medical and scientific community have voiced their concerns.

"Nicotine is not the thing in tobacco smoke that causes cancer, but inhaling pure nicotine may be dangerous," said Dr. Steven Schroeder, a physician and smoking cessation expert at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center.

The FDA has rebutted claims by manufacturers that an electronic cigarette is no different than an approved nicotine inhaler.

"The Nicotrol inhaler is an approved smoking cessation device," said FDA spokesperson Rita Chapelle.

The FDA has long considered e-cigarettes an unapproved drug-device product, because there is no scientific proof that they are safe and effective, and they have not been submitted to the FDA for evaluation or approval.

### WHO does not approve

The World Health Organization has taken a strong stance against electronic cigarettes and called for marketers to immediately remove language in their ads that suggests that WHO considers e-cigarettes a safe and effective smoking cessation aid.

"If the marketers of the electronic cigarette want to help smokers quit, then they need to conduct clinical studies and toxicity analyses and operate within the proper regulatory framework," said Douglas Bettcher, director of WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative. "Until they do that, WHO cannot consider the electronic cigarette to be an appropriate nicotine replacement therapy, and it certainly cannot accept false suggestions that it has approved and endorsed the product."

There are proven and safe alternatives for nicotine replacement therapy to help tobacco users stop smoking and using smokeless tobacco, such as the patch and gum, both of which are approved by the FDA and safe when used according to directions.

"Active duty personnel can learn more about these cessation aids from their installation health care professionals," Arday said. "And there are excellent online tools to support a tobacco-free lifestyle at [www.ucanquit2.org](http://www.ucanquit2.org), headquarters for DoD's tobacco cessation campaign, Quit Tobacco—Make Everyone Proud."

### How e-cigarettes work

Electronic cigarettes run on a battery. When the user inhales them like a typical cigarette, the battery warms liquid nicotine stored in a plastic filter. The nicotine is dissolved in propylene glycol, the same liquid that is vaporized in nightclub and stage show smoke machines. The combination of heat and liquid creates the puff of vapor that looks like smoke when exhaled.

Those who make a living convincing consumers to spend their hard-earned money on these and other tobacco products do not want anyone to look too closely at the scientific evidence, but the recent FDA findings will be hard to overlook.

The obvious purpose of the e-cigarette is to deliver an addictive substance, nicotine, to the user to perpetuate addiction and increase sales. However tobacco users look at it, e-cigarettes mean bad business and continued health risks.

For more information and strategies on going tobacco free, visit the award-winning Web site dedicated to serving active duty enlisted personnel, [www.ucanquit2.org](http://www.ucanquit2.org).

## Chapel News

# Commentary: The anchor holds when faith is firm

By

CHAPLAIN (MAJ)  
CLAY DAVIS  
20th SUPCOM (CBRNE)

In the past 12 months, our country has experienced a severe economic downturn which has affected not only our civilian population, but many military Families as well.

Many of our service members have experienced losses in their investments or have had Family members who have lost jobs. It can be extremely frustrating and discouraging to watch this happening and to feel powerless to do anything about it.

It reminds me of the fleeting and temporary nature of money and possessions. A verse from the Bible says, "Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven."

I certainly do not intend to minimize the terrible situation in which many of our fellow citizens find themselves; however, it must be pointed out that sometimes we are so distraught over financial reverses because we have put so much dependence on them for our happiness and fulfillment in life. Unfortunately, too many make finances and possessions their "anchor" in life.

Think for a moment about how and why an anchor works. A vessel drops an

anchor when it stops in a harbor or port and sometimes even in the open sea. The purpose of the anchor is to hold the vessel fast in one place. The anchor secures it from drifting to and fro. An anchor can do this for two reasons. One is because of what an anchor and its chain are made of. Most are made of steel or a similarly strong material to withstand the pressures of wind and wave. A second reason an anchor can hold is because of what it grips on the ocean floor. It may be a rock or it may bury itself deep in the ocean bed. The point is that the anchor must grip something solid or it will simply be dragged along by the weight of the vessel.

The questions I want to put to you are these: What is your anchor? What is it made of? And what is it holding on to?

I encourage you to let faith be your anchor and to commit it to God as the one it should hold on to. Faith can be a strong material in difficult and stormy times such as those our nation is facing at this time in history.

A faith that is confident in the love, mercy, grace, and ability of God makes a strong anchor. And every day you exercise that faith, that anchor grows stronger.

But faith must be exercised in something or someone and that one is God. Like the strong rock on the ocean floor that an anchor grips and holds tight, God is the rock that our anchor of faith grips

and finds refuge in.

A wonderful thing about depending upon God in life is that he will not fly away as we see that money and possessions often do. He is an ever-present and unwavering Lord who upholds us in good times and bad.

Whether we are rich or poor, sick or

well, he is with us and will never forsake us.

Let me finish with the words of an old hymn by Ruth Caye Jones: "In times like these you need a Savior; in times like these you need an anchor; be very sure, be very sure your anchor holds and grips the solid rock."

## Chapel events

### Aberdeen Area Main Post Chapel

- Oct. 30, 9 a.m. to noon, Clergy Day: APG UMT will hold training with local clerics on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

- Oct. 31, 6 to 8 p.m., Hallelujah Harvest

- Nov. 1, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m., themed Sunday service to recognize the Marines

- Nov. 20, 11:30 to 1 p.m., Thanksgiving Appreciation Luncheon at Top of the Bay. Major Gen. Paul S. Izzo will be the guest speaker. During the program, the chapel noncommissioned officer in charge will present a check to the Garrison Command Sergeant Major.

- Dec. 6, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m., themed Sunday service to recognize the Maryland Free State ChalleNGe cadets

### Edgewood Area Chapel

- Dec. 24, 7 to 9 p.m., Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### 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 if at all possible. Prizes will be awarded for the most innovative costumes.

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

Parents are to accompany their children.

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

## RCI

From front page

leadership will never abandon service Families. We will always look to our partners to maintain a high standard and hold them accountable," Ortiz assured listeners.

At the same time he expressed "absolute confidence" with Picerne as the installation partner.

Key facets of privatization are that sponsors who wish to remain in on-post housing must sign a Resident Occupancy Agreement, or ROA before Dec. 1. The leasing agreement with Picerne and the Department of the Army requires Soldiers to devote their full Basic Allowance for Housing, which sponsors will begin receiving in January, for on-post housing.

Ortiz called the ROA a "solid document protecting your interests."

He said the garrison worked with Picerne to identify the vision of what they wanted to achieve for Families. These include enhancing the quality of Family live and community life; retaining the ability to provide housing for all grades; maintaining security, safety, public health and environment; and maintaining a long-term partnership with a developer with the vision, commitment and financial ability to provide quality housing in quality neighborhoods.

"We want to provide quality for every rank, military and civilian," Ortiz said. "For the next fifty years we will work side by side with this organization to protect your interests."

Cannito talked about the Picerne mission, Families First®, which he said has the goal of building homes and communities that improve the quality of life, promoting a sense of belonging and a source of pride.

"Our mission is putting military Families first," Cannito said, noting that Picerne has established communities on six other installations.

He presented renderings of the future look of APG homes and neighborhood center which will be accomplished over the next six years, and he invited residents to visit the Picerne office located at 2727 Chesapeake Boulevard.

"We have a dedicated property management and maintenance staff there seven days a week," Cannito said, adding that the office was fully staffed as of Oct. 15.

He said Picerne will assume maintenance responsibilities including lawn service, landscaping, pest control and snow removal.

The immediate impact residents will notice Dec. 1 is the maintenance plan



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON  
Greg Cannito, Picerne Military Housing program director, left, looks on as Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison commander, center, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Rhoades, right, sign their Resident Occupancy Agreement forms in the commander's office, Oct. 19.

that will be implemented to alleviate the deferred maintenance.

"We will begin right away attacking the work order backlog," Cannito said, "and we will begin landscaping and improving curb appeal around the community."

He stressed that emergency maintenance services will be available 24 hours and that the property management office will be staffed seven days a week.

"During the initial development period Picerne will build two-hundred ten new homes, renovate historical homes and build a neighborhood center," Cannito said.

Development begins in 2011, the first new homes in 2012 and the neighborhood center in 2015.

Christina Sonnier, Picerne vice president of Property Management Operations, said Picerne will provide maintenance and management teams for both the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas.

"We are open starting tomorrow," Sonnier said. "The best way to describe what we do is we take care of your Families. On December first, if you call a work order into our office, we will fill that work order within three days."

"Our maintenance techs will not leave," she added, "until they have thanked you and asked if there is anything else they can do for you."

"Bigger jobs may have to be rescheduled," she added.

She said that residents will come to

know the management and maintenance staff which will aid in security and that Picerne provides a year-round full-service program.

The maintenance program covers homes and grounds; playgrounds and curb appeal; ongoing energy efficiency upgrades; preventive maintenance and response to severe weather and emergencies.

"If we think a bad storm is coming, we'll knock on your door to ask you to [secure] your lawn furniture, for example," she said.

"We focus on building a sense of community, and we will partner with Army Community Service and Morale, Welfare and Recreation to bring you community events," Sonnier said, noting that a Holiday Party – Picerne's first Family event – is being planned for December.

She encouraged all to read the materials handed out at the door including 'Frequently Asked Questions' brochures and other information pertaining to the transition.

During the question and answer session, several people asked questions about BAH and allotments, pet ownership, renter responsibilities, renovations, work orders and more.

Those who were comfortable with the information were invited to sign their ROA before leaving.

"The purpose of today was to educate you on specific aspects of this transition," Ortiz said. "We will continue to educate

you to the best of our ability to make sure you are comfortable with what you are being asked to sign," Ortiz said.

As he exited with his Family, Staff Sgt. Eddy Nubine of the Army Materiel Command Band said he wanted to learn more about damage insurance coverage and deductibles.

"It sounds like a good program overall," Nubine said. "Quality of life is important for any Family."

Lori Rhoades, wife of APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, added that her Family lived in privatized housing while stationed at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

"It was fine," she said. "And it brings a lot of quality changes for Soldiers and their Families."

Picerne will host a lease signing event for current residents 6 p.m., Oct. 27 at Top of the Bay. Staff members will be available to answer questions and assist with paperwork. Residents should bring their military ID and a copy of their LES and DEERS form (DD 1172) to complete their ROA.

For more information, stop by the Picerne Military Housing Office located at 2727 Chesapeake Boulevard; call Angela Marcum at 410-276-6649 or E-mail [amarcum@picernemh.com](mailto:amarcum@picernemh.com); or visit the Web sites: [www.rci.army.mil](http://www.rci.army.mil) or [www.picernemilitaryhousing.com](http://www.picernemilitaryhousing.com). A new Web site coming soon will be [www.aberdeenpicerne.com](http://www.aberdeenpicerne.com).

## Frequently asked questions about RCI and privatized family housing

### What is RCI?

RCI stands for the Residential Community Initiative. It is a program that will improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families living on the installation. Picerne Military Housing, a private company, is responsible for Family housing management, new construction, renovation and maintenance.

### Who will manage housing at APG?

APG has entered into a partnership with Picerne and together, they have formed a Limited Liability Corporation. The LLC managing partner is called Aberdeen Proving Ground Communities, LLC. Congress has approved the Community Development and Management Plan, which is the proposed 50-year business plan for the partnership. Picerne assumes full operations Dec. 1.

### How does the new housing program impact community standards (Army Regulations)?

APG Regulation 210-50 will no longer be the governing document. However, enforced community standards will be applied using the partnership guidelines outlined in the Resident Responsibility Guide provided upon signing the Resident Occupancy Agreement of ROA.

The Garrison commander will continue his authority to take appropriate actions when required.

### How will the change affect Families planning to live on post?

- Soldiers who choose to live on post will be required to sign a Resident Occupancy Agreement with APG Communities, LLC or its assigns. Essentially, this is a leasing agreement through Picerne Military Housing.
- The Department of the Army requires Soldiers to devote their full BAH for on-post housing.
- Rent will be paid in the form of an allotment equal to BAH. Utilities and limited renter's insurance are included. Take home pay remains the same.
- Short and long-term improvements will be made to on-post housing.

### Can you tell me more about the lease agreement?

Each Soldier living in Family housing will be required to sign an ROA. A special power of attorney must be provided to the spouse if a Soldier is not available to sign. The ROA is a document similar to a lease. It will be accompanied by a Residential Responsibility Guide that describes the terms of the agreement.

### When will I have to sign the ROA?

New residents will sign the ROA when a house is accepted. Current residents must sign their ROA prior

to Dec. 1 to continue residing in on-post housing.

### Will I have to make a second move at a later date?

The majority of renovations will occur between occupancy when houses are vacant. Any required move will be to a larger, better quality on-post home and the partnership will pay for the move.

### Will there be any out of pocket expenses once the ROA is signed?

No. One of the benefits of living on post is that the components of BAH (rent, utilities and limited renter's insurance) are included. You will still be responsible for cable-TV and telephone/computer services.

### Can you explain more about the BAH entitlement and rent allotment?

Currently, occupants of on-post Family Housing do not receive BAH. Under the new program, Soldiers in on-post housing will receive BAH. This entitlement is initiated by the sponsor's signature on the ROA, or by an authorized spouse's signature using a Special Power of Attorney.

This entitlement will start automatically when Picerne assumes operational control of APG Family Housing Dec. 1.

The rent allotment will equal the BAH entitlement for the period of time you reside in on-post housing at APG.

### How will BAH be collected?

The Army has contracted with the Military Assistance Company) for a full automated financial BAH payment system to interface with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. This system will facilitate starting, managing, tracking, updating and stopping military payroll allotments to pay the rents in support of the RCI privatized Family Housing program.

### Will the changes affect my LES (Leave and Earning Statement) and net pay?

Soldiers will see no changes in the net pay amount on their LES due to the transition. Take home pay stays the same. The BAH amount will appear on the left side of the LES under entitlements. The rent allotment will appear in the third column of the LES under allotments for an amount equal to the BAH amount.

### What is the difference if married to another service member?

Both service members will receive the appropriate BAH. Rent will equal the senior grade member's BAH at the 'with dependent' rate. The remaining BAH is yours to keep.

### When will the rent allotment stop?

Rent stops on the agreed upon move out date.

### What happens if I stop the rent allotment?

Stopping the rent allotment while occupying on-post housing is a breach of the housing agreement and will result in eviction from on-post Family Housing.

### Will we still mow our own grass and shovel our own snow?

No. Under the new plan, all grass in the housing area will be mowed by Picerne. They will also remove snow from streets. However, residents are responsible for their own sidewalks and driveways.

### Will military members have to pay for trash pick up?

No. Trash pickup is included in the rent.

### Will military members have to pay a security deposit?

No security deposit is required.

### Will there be a requirement for a pet deposit?

A pet deposit will be required. However, pets registered on post prior to transition will be grandfathered into the Picerne system and no fees will be collected. For pets brought on post after transition there will be a refundable \$150 pet deposit.

### Will self help (Re-Nu-It) remain open?

No. Residents will no longer need to do self-help repairs. These will be done by the neighborhood maintenance team.

### Who do I call for maintenance?

Maintenance will be performed by Picerne at the neighborhood level. Picerne will be responsible for all maintenance and service order requests. The neighborhood office is conveniently located near Bayside Village with management and maintenance representatives available seven days a week.

### What happens when I need to move out?

The housing agreement (ROA) requires 30 days notice. However, there are exceptions for Soldiers who receive short suspense orders. Move outs will be easy and will not require "white glove" inspections. Picerne will require only surface cleaning prior to any move out. Residents should schedule pre-inspections to identify any problems that may need correcting or assessment for damages.

### Do I need to obtain renter's insurance?

Occupants are highly encouraged to obtain renter's insurance to cover losses caused by negligence. Under the new program, there is limited coverage, which is a percentage of the BAH allotment. The limit of this coverage is \$20,000 for personal property and \$100,000 for general liability with a \$250 deductible.

# Fall Fest focuses on fire prevention



Aberdeen Proving Ground firefighters put out a car fire during a demonstration held during Fall Fest at the Directorate of Emergency Services building Oct. 10 in honor of National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4 through 10.

Story and photos by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Despite the rainy weather, more than 300 guests turned out for Fall Fest held at the Directorate of Emergency Services building Oct. 10 in honor of National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4 through 10.

The theme of National Fire Prevention Week this year was "Stay Smart, Don't Get Burned," which focuses on burn awareness and prevention.

The free event included educational activities and fire and rescue demonstrations that focused on fire safety and more.

During the kitchen fire demonstration, Christopher Starling, fire protection specialist, informed attendees what to do should a fire occur. Starling emphasized the importance of Families having a fire escape plan in the event of an emergency, and to practice the plan every month.

In the event of a fire, time is the biggest enemy, and every second counts, he said. In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get out of hand a turn into a major fire.

Starling emphasized that that when a fire occurs, it is important to leave the house immediately.

"Poisonous gasses are released during fires which can disorient a person causing smoke inhalation and possibly death. To prevent smoke inhalation when escaping a fire, crawl low, under the smoke and keep the mouth covered," Starling said.

After escaping the fire, he said, notify the fire department using the 911 system or proper local emergency number in the area.

Never go back into a burning building for any reason, he added.

"Fire fighters wear special clothing and are equipped to perform rescues safely," Starling said.

At the end of the presentation he thanked attendees for attending the event despite the rain.

"If we can spread the word of fire safety to just one person we have done our job," Starling said.

After the kitchen fire demonstration, a car extraction was performed by personnel using a hydraulic rescue tool used to assist vehicle extrication of crash victims, as well as other rescues from small spaces. This tool is also known as the "Jaws of Life," which has 10,000 pounds of strength.

Captain Jonathan Ruff, who works for the APG Fire Department, said that the department routinely performs car extractions as part of their training. Around prom time in the spring, the Fire Department usually performs a car extraction in front of the DES building to serve as a drunk driving deterrent.

The fire department also performed a car fire demonstration, which is a popular annual attraction with attendees.

Between demonstrations attendees visited booths in the DES building and looked at static displays of fire trucks and equipment used and maintained on the installation.

The U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center also displayed tanks and A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, or MRAP vehicle.

These vehicles are armored and designed to survive Improvised Explosive Device attacks and ambushes.

The Junior Firefighter's Combat Challenge, an obstacle course, was a popular attraction with children, and the fire department's new fire extinguisher simulation was available as a training tool for adults.

The APG Fire Department's Safety Trailer, which simulates natural disasters and house fires, was also showcased.

Special guests at the event included Daren the Lion, Sparky the Fire Dog and Retro Bill, "the official D.A.R.E. safety buddy" who spoke to attendees about making positive choices in their everyday lives.

There were many other fun activities for guests including balloon animals, caricature paintings, and temporary tattoos, arts and crafts, an inflatable slide and a rock climbing wall provided by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Outdoor Recreation.

Free popcorn and hotdogs were provided by DES.

Gus Kowalewski, who attended the event with his grandson, said that he tries to attend the event every year.

"I enjoy coming to this event because it is educational and fun," he said.

Doug Farrington, a fire protection inspector and event coordinator, said that he appreciates all the support from the APG community that the event gets every year.

"I think everyone who attended and participated had a great time. I want to especially thank the twenty Soldiers from Alpha Company [16th Ordnance Battalion]. They did a great job helping us with the event. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have been able to pull the event off," he said.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week 2009, go to [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

### Participants included

- Army Community Service
- Army Substance Abuse Program
- D.A.R.E.'s Retro Bill
- Bank of America
- APG Federal Credit Union
- Army Air Force Exchange
- APG Police Department
- APG Fire Department
- MD American Legion Aux.
- Emergency Medical Services
- Child, Youth and School Services
- FMWR
- U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center
- First Sergeants Food
- Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion



APG firefighters put out a kitchen fire during a demonstration. Christopher Starling, a fire protection specialist (not pictured) informed attendees what to do should a fire occur. Starling emphasized the importance of Families having a fire escape plan in the event of an emergency.



Christopher Starling, a fire protection specialist, left, watches as Pvt. Bobby Joseph Kyle Dixon from Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion uses the fire extinguisher simulation. The simulation is a training tool acquired by the APG Fire Department to teach adults how to properly use a fire extinguisher.



Aberdeen Proving Ground Firefighters perform a car extraction demonstration using the "Jaws of Life" which has 10,000 pounds of strength.



Aiden Gantz, right, tries to play tic tac toe using "drunk goggles," which simulates vision conditions experienced when impaired by alcohol. Bountieng Somsamayvong, center, a volunteer for the Army Substance Abuse Program, and Charles Schmidt, observe the results of his attempts.



Michael Davis, left, an APG paramedic, shows Riley Smith intubation equipment used by paramedics.