



See page 2 for Year of the NCO article.

## Post Shorts

### Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Nov. 4, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



### Time to fall back

Don't forget to turn clocks back one hour on Nov. 1. Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. officially on the first Sunday in November in each time zone.



### Restoration Advisory Board meeting tonight

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.

See **SHORTS**, page 9

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APG honors Hispanic American heritage

## ARMY FAMILY COVENANT

SOLDIERS ★ FAMILIES ★ ARMY CIVILIANS

# AFAP Conference identifies needs of APG community

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

The needs and desires of Aberdeen Proving Ground service members, employees and Families were brought to the forefront during the 23rd Army Family Action Plan Conference held Oct. 6 through 8 at Top of the Bay.

The AFAP is an Army-wide program to improve Army quality of life. Through AFAP, all members of the Army, including active, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, Family members, retirees, surviving spouses,

Department of the Army civilians and military technicians have a forum to voice concerns to Army leadership and make recommendations for change.

Marilyn Howard and Wilfredo Cruz of Army Community Service coordinated the conference which began with opening remarks by Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander.

Celestine Beckett, ACS director, welcomed the participants who consisted of service members, employees and Family members and youth vol-

unteers from around the installation serving as delegates and encouraged them to be proactive throughout the process.

"Those who have been around more than a few years have witnessed changes brought about by AFAP," Beckett said.

Ortiz told listeners that their energy and efforts can improve not only APG but the Army as well.

"The AFAP process is widely respected," Ortiz said, noting that 104 legislative changes and more than 150 programs have been established as a result of

APAP conferences.

He commented on the impending transition from government to leased housing and efforts to keep residents informed of the changes through scheduled town hall meetings that will address the issues.

He said that since assuming command in July, he has been meeting with directors on a regular basis and working with Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation to identify resources on the installation.

"We are checking areas

See **AFAP**, page 15

# Big 5 CFC Forum promotes success

APG CFC Office

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Combined Federal Campaign coordinator, Mikey Graziano, recently attended a meeting of the Big 5 CFC in the Chesapeake Bay Area CFC.

Along with the National Security Agency, Social Security Administration, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Fort George G. Meade, APG makes up nearly 80 percent of the overall campaign dollars received by CBACFC, accounting for \$4.8 million of the \$6.2 million raised in the 2008 campaign. These agencies have large-scale campaigns, plan and execute a wide variety of CFC activities and events, and have large and widespread campus popula-

tions; all of which bring unique challenges and opportunities.

The first-ever forum of campaign leaders was held to allow the agency coordinators to interact and discuss topics ranging from planning charity events to the use of the electronic pledging process, as well as campaign structure and support, process and procedures.

"This was a great chance for our larger agency campaigns to sit down together and share many of their best practices, and also help each other address issues and concerns," said Linda Siegle, chair of CBACFC.

"All five of these campaigns have unique cultures, but share many commonalities that allow them to help each other improve pro-

cesses and save time," Siegle said.

She said the attendees found the meeting so successful they decided to meet quarterly to improve their overall campaigns as well as the overall success of CBACFC.

In addition, participants agreed to share their proven practices with other agencies in the CBACFC, regardless of size.

"The knowledge that the larger campaigns have is so valuable to other agencies throughout the campaign region and really can make a difference to the smaller scale campaigns that are integral to our overall success," Siegle said.

She praised Graziano's enthusiasm, noting that he worked with Carole Warble

See **CFC**, page 6



Photo by TIM HIPPS, FMWRC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Specialist Julio Petersen III of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., sings Kanye West's "Love Lock Down" during rehearsals for the 2009 U.S. Army Soldier Show. The show, which is free and open to the public, returns to APG this Sunday, 7 p.m., at the Post Theater

## Soldier Show comes to APG this weekend

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

The 2009 U.S. Army Soldier Show makes a stop at Aberdeen Proving Ground for one show that is open to the general public, 7 p.m., Nov. 1, at the Post Theater.

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

With the theme, 'Lights! Camera! Action!' this year's show features a lot of dance, rap, rock, R&B, visuals, patriotic tunes, movement, love of country and even roller skating according to the show's producer-director, Victor Hurtado.

"The audience is going to have the rare experience of feeling and being in a live television studio," Hurtado said.

Popular songs that will be performed include the new retro sounds of Duffy's "Mercy," Dominican Juan Luis Guerra's "La Llave de Mi Corazon," which translates in English to "Key to My Heart," and "I Decided," by Solange Knowles, younger sister of Beyonce.

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

"It's a combination of that and a song called "Make Them Hear You," Hurtado said. "It's a declaration of being heard."

Hurtado, during the past year, founded Martenvee Media to help expand the entertainment horizon for enlisted troops who aspire to perform.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

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

## TRAFFIC ALERT

### Update to latest traffic changes

DPW

Traffic changes continue in the Aberdeen Area.

Both Combat Drive and Boothby Hill Avenue are 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 sev-

eral 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

See **TRAFFIC**, page 6

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

## Clocks fall back for daylight saving time this weekend

wikipedia.org

The eastern United States will turn back its clocks one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1.

Two years ago daylight saving time was switched from the last Sunday in October to the first Sunday in November under Section 110 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

From 1987 to 2006, daylight saving time in the United States began on the first Sunday of April and ended on the last Sunday of October. Since 2007, daylight saving time starts on the second Sunday of March and ends on the first Sunday of November, with all time changes taking place at 2 a.m. local time.

Daylight saving time in the

United States was first observed in 1918. Most areas of the United States currently observe daylight saving time, with the exceptions being the states of Arizona and Hawaii along with the territories of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Congress has retained the right to revert to the daylight saving time schedule set in 1986. One potential issue is that some northern regions on the western edges of time zones are, for the first time since the 1974 to 75 "almost year round" daylight saving time experiment, experiencing sunrise times that occur later than 8 a.m. Many computers were affected by this change.



# APG celebrates The Year of the NCO



## USASMA commandant speaks to changes in NCO development

Army News Service

The commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy laid out specific changes to noncommissioned officer education curricula during a Sergeants Corner presentation at the Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting earlier this month in Washington, D.C.

Titled, "Leader development: developing NCOs in an era of persistent conflict," Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Chandler, spoke to an audience of officers, NCOs and civilians about how the NCO courses are changing to provide career-long learning.

"We're transitioning from a training based organization to an educational based organization," he said. "We know that a Soldier that is trained performs

well. What we want is a Soldier [who] is educated and can solve problems in a variety of conflicts."

The Warrior Leaders Course will use both performance-based testing and performance evaluations.

"In the past, we tested Soldiers on tasks. Now, they're going to have a performance based assessment and a cognitive module-based assessment," he said.

The Sergeants Major Course will also undergo improvements. One of them is to align the 10-month course to the academic school year, which will accommodate the students who bring their Families to Fort Bliss, Texas.

Chandler also mentioned the integration of more senior enlisted students from across the services and nations into the school.

"We don't have a directive like the officers to train with international Soldiers, but we know inherently that NCOs will have to operate in a joint environment. We have to expose them to it earlier," he said.

The biggest change will happen between operational experiences and schoolhouse education through structured self-development. The self-paced, professional development is designed to fill the gaps and teach other lessons such as the rank systems of other services and how to conduct drill ceremonies.

"We've had correspondence courses. What we want to do is provide structure, and that structure is going to give Soldiers what they need between education and the operation," Chandler said.

Soldiers will complete scheduled SSD

modules as a prerequisite to schoolhouse classes. For example, SSD1, which teaches the rank system of sister services and drill ceremonies, will be completed after advanced individual training, but before the Warrior Leaders Course. The complete program will be available by September 2010.

Chandler closed the update highlighting the educational accomplishment of today's NCOs.

"Our last two classes you have started to see the educational impact on NCOs. Ninety-three percent of people who graduated [two classes ago] graduated with a college degree ... we're proud of what we do, and we're proud of where we're going, and we're proud to be a part of TRADOC [U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command]," he said.



## Ordnance Museum looks to future

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

(Note: This story wraps up the Ordnance Museum move series documenting the Phase 1 relocation of 60 ordnance tanks and guns to the new home of Ordnance at Fort Lee, Va., that was conducted Aug. 3 thru 7. Future moves of additional artifacts in 2010 and 2011 are in the planning stage.)

Museum Director Dr. Joseph T. Rainer is charged with the care of hundreds of priceless ordnance artifacts at the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum which began its move to Fort Lee, Va., in August.

Sixty fully restored tanks and guns were shipped out over a five-day period. Rainer said that phase two of the movement will take place sometime during the first quarter of 2010.

He noted that only restored pieces are being moved which has prompted the museum to speed up the restoration process which is carried out by technicians with EDSI, Inc., the company contracted to restore the museum's aging artifacts.

The recent purchase of a computer-operated plasma torch should speed the process, he said.

"We can cut out pieces a lot faster. That alone will be a huge step forward," Rainer said.

"As we restore them they'll receive a solid protective coating. Unfortunately, they'll have to stay outdoors for a few more years but they'll have a good protective coat for protection."

He said the museum is exploring the cost of temporarily housing the artifacts in a warehouse in or around Petersburg or Hopewell, Va.

Artifacts that have not been restored will not be transported and the museum will be fully relocated by the Dec. 15, 2011 deadline, Rainer said.

Regarding the August move, Rainer was on the ground at Fort Lee where he said he received a



The Jagdtiger (Tiger) Tank is a German tank destroyer (self-propelled antitank gun), the heaviest armored fighting vehicle to see service during World War II. The Tiger saw service from late 1944 to the end of the war. The one at the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground is one of only two left in the world.

lot of support from the Transportation and BRAC Office.

"They had to make some adjustments as far as delivery schedules, but those crane operators were amazing to watch," he said. "They were able to line up pieces, dress-right-dress."

He extended thanks to "the folks at APG who made it all happen." They included Gene Schneck, director of Logistics; Toni Probst, Installation Transportation officer; Gregory Mullins, John Antal, Jeff Crawford and Jim Hardy of the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School BRAC office; and Ed Hasley and Nat Grogan of the museum staff.

The move will be completed in three phases and a new facility will house the entire collection near the site of the Women's Army Corps and Quartermaster Museums on Fort Lee, Rainer said.

"Pretty soon, we'll be part of a museum campus," he said.

The museum remains open and veterans and fans of ord-

nance still can visit the museum to view these items before they depart.

Museum hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

For more information, visit the Ordnance Museum's new Web site at [www.ordnance-museum.org](http://www.ordnance-museum.org).



The Chu Sensha, Type 94 is a Japanese tank that held a 3-man crew with a 37 mm main gun and two 7.7 mm machine guns. The one at the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground was captured on Attu in the Aleutian Islands during World War II.

### APG News

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

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# COMMANDER'S CORNER

## Commentary: Embracing the fierce urgency of now

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

Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, was a time of celebration as we recognized the contributions made by Hispanic-American Soldiers and all Latinos who honorably and valiantly served our nation. We reflected upon their legacy, both past and present.

It is the lessons and examples set before us that build the foundation of the future. The examples of those like Loretta Janeta Valasquez, who fought in the Civil War battles of Bull Run, Ball's Bluff and Fort Donelson, at a time when women weren't even allowed to serve in the military; Sgt. Jose Lopez, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for single handedly holding off two groups of Germans that surrounded his outnumbered company during World War II; Staff Sgt. Roy Benavidez, who received the Medal of Honor after saving the lives of fellow Soldiers who were under heavy enemy attack in Vietnam; or Vice Adm. Richard H. Cormona, M.D., M.P.H, FACS, who dropped out of high school but earned his General Equivalency Diploma while serving as a Soldier and ultimately a master's of public health. In 2002, he was sworn in as the 17th surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service.

We can continue to honor these men and women every day by serving our country with the same valor and commitment. The Army has had a long history of Americans from all backgrounds serving our great nation, and Hispanic-Americans hold a significant role in defending our country.

This year's National Hispanic-American Heritage theme, "Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now," was selected to remind all of us that equality is the "fierce urgency of now." The theme is a partial quote taken



from the famous "I Have a Dream" speech delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Aug. 28, 1963. I'm also reminded of another line from that same speech, which reads: "Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy."

Soldiers and other military members are serving our country in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations around the world to preserve democracy for all Americans. October 7 marked eight years since troops were sent to Afghanistan to defeat the terrorists who planned the September 11th attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Soldiers continue to fight today to protect our democracy. And in

Afghanistan and Iraq, they are fighting to give others the "promise of democracy."

The theme also reminded me of our continuing mission at the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command because it also speaks to me about embracing the fierce urgency of continually developing or transforming the equipment we provide our Warfighters.

Across Aberdeen Proving Ground we must remember that there is a fierce urgency to keep the Army on the cutting edge of technology so our Soldiers can maintain battlefield superiority. We have the responsibility to support Soldiers as they face the challenges of asymmetrical warfare. We must be prepared to provide Soldiers with the best equipment, weapons, ammunition, and even food that technology can offer. We also must see the urgency in harnessing emerging technologies for the next generation. The solutions we are developing here and now will benefit the Soldiers of both today and tomorrow.

Our commitment to ensuring the Army's ground dominance on the battlefield depends on every team member of this installation creating, integrating, testing and delivering technology-enabled solutions to support the Warfighter.

Hispanic Heritage Month was a great opportunity to take time to remember the contributions the Latino community has given our country. Their sacrifices and dedication have helped to show us the way ahead. But, we must also remember that the fierce urgency of now is rooted in our continuing efforts to preserve democracy. We must maintain and reinforce that commitment to Soldiers and ourselves every day.

(Editor's note: See article on APG's Hispanic Heritage celebration on page 17.)

## October Well-Being meeting highlights upcoming community events

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community gathered at the Edgewood Area Post Chapel Oct. 15 to discuss upcoming events.

Colonel Orlando W. Ortiz, APG garrison and deputy installation commander, welcomed attendees to the meeting, and then turned the meeting over to Michael Lupacchino, director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

### **AFFES**

Carol Chancellor, representing the Army Air Force Exchange Services, said that there is an updated "Power Zone" in the Post Exchange where customers can buy electronics. She added that the Aberdeen Area Burger King has a new manager.

### **Commissary**

Anne Morrison from the Commissary said that anyone can buy gift vouchers but only authorized patrons can redeem those vouchers. Morrison added that for vouchers valued at more than \$300, 75 hours notice is needed. For more information, go to [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

### **KUSHAC**

Lieutenant Col. Mark Ireland, commander of the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, said that the regular seasonal flu influenza is available for all beneficiaries on a walk-in basis.

He said that they will be getting the H1N1 vaccine soon. Priority will be active duty and essential health care employees. Call the flu hotline, 410-306-3588, for more details and updated information. Also visit [http://kusahc.narmc.amedd.army.mil/default.aspx/Pandemic\\_Influenza.htm](http://kusahc.narmc.amedd.army.mil/default.aspx/Pandemic_Influenza.htm).

Ireland said that there will be a shortage of health care providers at KUSHAC due to deployments and retirements.

He added that the goal for the clinic is to have all active duty military to be seen by health care providers at KUSHAC. Patients that cannot be seen at KUSHAC will be sent to network providers. Appointments can be made by calling 410-278-5475 (KIRK) or 1-866-756-5475.

### **DPW**

Thomas Kuchar, director of Public Works, said the Route 22 Gate in the Aberdeen Area and the Route 24 Gate in the Edgewood Area will be open in December.

"I appreciate your patience while construction is being completed," he said.

Kuchar also talked about the Residential Communities Initiative. The contractor Picerne Military Housing will begin managing Army housing on or close to Dec. 1. He said that there will be ample housing available for Soldiers and their Families under RCI. Some housing might be available to Department of Defense civilians, with military Families having first priority, Kuchar said.

"This policy will be clearly established," he said.

### **DES**

Robert Krauer, director of Emergency Services, said the Fall Fest, held on Oct. 10, was a great event and thanked the community for providing their support.

Krauer said that trick or treating will be held in the residential areas 6 to 8 p.m., Oct. 31.

"Residents are asked to please be aware of children," Krauer said. "Children should wear reflective gear so they can be seen by motorists."

He also cautioned that deer are now running rampant, especially during dusk and dawn, when traffic is heavy on APG. He asked attendees to use caution as there has been an increase of accidents involving deer on post.

"If you see one deer, you will probably see another one; use caution," he said.

He also asked attendees to use extra caution in the rain, as leaves get slippery when wet.

"The leaves, when wet, can be comparable to ice," he said.

Krauer added that there will also be an increase of construction traffic in the next few months. He asked attendees to pay close attention while driving and to not practice distracted driving habits like eating or changing the radio while driving.

"In Maryland it is illegal to text message while driving," he said. "The number of accidents are caused by distracted

See **WELL-BEING**, page 15

## Winter fire safety: Eliminating fire hazards around the home

DES

Pushing toward the end of yet another year and with the holiday's fast approaching, the Fire and Emergency Services Division of the Directorate of Emergency Services want to insure these times remain fire safe and family friendly.

As cold weather becomes the norm, the fire hazards associated with this time of year tend to increase. Eighty-three percent of the reported 2,755 civilian fire deaths in 2008 occurred at home and almost two thirds of these occurred in residences where there was no operational smoke detector.

Inspector Doug Farrington stresses the need for everyone to be aware of the status of their home smoke detectors.

"A recent survey and check of all smoke detectors in living and sleeping quarters on post found that out of nearly fifteen hundred detectors, eighty seven of them failed to function for a variety of reasons and needed to be replaced," Farrington said. "As we fall back out of day light saving time, we ask everyone to change the batteries in their detectors and test them to insure they function properly."

Inspector T.C. Glassman adds, "It is critical when you test your detectors to review your Family escape plans and insure everyone understands what should be done in the event of a fire emergency at home. Go over the very basics like how to activate the 911 system and

practice your home escape plan."

About one third of the fire deaths tend to occur in the months of December, January and February, and this concerns the fire service greatly. Common fire hazards and carelessness continue to be the leading cause of fires in the United States. These include unattended cooking and improper use of cooking devices, improper handling of smoking material, overloaded electrical circuits and improper use and maintenance of heating devices.

There are simple things that can be done to eliminate these common fire causes as Inspector Ernie Little explains.

"Insure that you never leave cooking unattended even for a short period of time," Little said. "Keep combustible materials away from stoves and ovens. Do not use multiple plug adapters and light weight extension cords, and remember the use of portable heating devices is strictly regulated on post.

"Take the time to look around your home and office; these hazards are very easy to recognize and in most cases very easy to eliminate," Little said.

"Fire hazards exist at the workplace also and with the tempo of things occurring here at APG, we all must maintain a high level of awareness and concern for safety in general. Once again these hazards are usually very easy to identify and get cleared up.

"All building occupants have a responsibility to

understand their facility evacuation plans and workplace safety efforts. They should be aware of the location of fire protection and notification systems as well as the location and appropriate use of portable fire extinguishers," he said.

"Those occupants who have been assigned fire marshal or building custodian duties should insure these first line fire safety items are checked regularly and in top working condition," Little said.

"It goes without saying that our concern for everyone's safety is a daily priority for us," said Fire Chief Ed Budnick. "We provide a lot of information, and we do not expect you to do this alone. Our division offers training in fire marshal requirements, fire extinguisher inspection and use, building custodian training, CPR/AED training and we can tailor fire safety education to specific work groups or hazard areas.

"Even though we have just finished a very successful fire prevention week full of activities and exercises, we ask everyone to understand that fire safety is a three hundred sixty-five-day a year job, and it should be a critical part of everyone's life both at home and work," Budnick said.

Contact the fire department at any time for assistance by dialing "911" for an emergency or 410-306-0572 in the Aberdeen Area and 410-436-4451 in the Edgewood Area for other training and administrative needs.

## Fire Prevention Week is reminder of tragic historical events, awareness

NFPA

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on Oct. 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on Oct. 9, 1871.

According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire.

Chances are people heard some version of this story; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. But recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to debunk this version of events.

### The 'Moo' myth

Like any good story, the 'case of the cow' has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows. But there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out - or

that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening.

But if a cow wasn't to blame for the huge fire, what was? Over the years, journalists and historians have offered plenty of theories. Some blamed the blaze on a couple of neighborhood boys who were near the barn sneaking cigarettes. Others believed that a neighbor of the O'Leary's may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on Oct. 8, starting several fires that day - in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in Chicago.

### The biggest blaze that week

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on Oct. 8, 1871, and roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that

the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wis., that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

### 8 decades of fire prevention

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism.

But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety.

On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Associa-

tion), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which Oct. 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

## SMARTX disposal campaign recommends safe disposal of prescription, OTC medication

### APG ASAP

How prescription and over-the-counter medications should be properly and safely disposed of is a question being asked by everyday Americans.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; American Pharmacist; Association of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America have joined together and developed the SMARTX disposal program to answer this question.

When the clocks are turned back most people also check the batteries in the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and flash lights.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program staff wants one more item added to that checklist, the expiration date on prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

"Everyone should check their prescription bottles and OTC medicines in their medicine cabinet and follow the disposal directions listed," said Cindy Scott, ASAP Prevention coordinator.

"Follow the medication prescriber's instructions and use medications as instructed. Follow any specific disposal instructions on the drug label or patient information that accompanies the medication. If all of your prescribed or over-the-counter medication were not used, take these take a few small steps and make a huge impact in safeguarding lives and protecting the environment by disposing of

unused medicines properly," she said.

- Do not flush unused medications and do not pour them down a sink or drain.
- Be proactive and dispose of unused medication in household trash.
- When discarding unused medications, ensure protection of children and pets from potentially negative effects by:
  - Pouring medication into a sealable plastic bag. If medication is a solid (pill, liquid capsule, etc.) crush it or add water to dissolve it.
  - Adding kitty litter, sawdust, coffee grounds (or any material that mixes with the medication and makes it less appealing for pets and children to eat) to the plastic bag. Seal the plastic bag and put it in the trash.
  - Removing and destroying all identifying personal information (prescription label) from all medication containers before recycling them or throwing them into the trash.
- "When used as prescribed and directed, prescription and OTC medicines provide assistance with medical illnesses; when they are not, they can cause serious problems and even death. Keeping everyone and our environment safe is the goal of your ASAP staff," Scott said.

For more information, contact Scott, Cynthia.Scott1@conus.army.mil, 410-278-4013 or visit the SMARTX Web site, [www.smarxtdisposal.net](http://www.smarxtdisposal.net).



Andre Sconion, an employee of the Aberdeen Area Office Eagle, stocks shelves as part of his job responsibilities. Sconion was named Employee of the Year by the Harford County Commission on Disabilities Oct. 22 at the Maryland Golf and Country Club in Bel Air during an annual Employment Awards Luncheon, which is held in honor of Disability Employment Awareness Month.

## APG employee named Employee of the Year by Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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

The Harford County Commission on Disabilities named an Aberdeen Proving Ground employee its Employee of the Year Oct. 22 at the Maryland Golf and Country Club in Bel Air during an annual Employment Awards Luncheon.

Award recipient Andre Sconion, an employee of the Aberdeen Area Office Eagle, works as a cashier and is currently studying business at Harford Community College. His goal is to have a career in retail management.

The luncheon was held in honor of Disability Employment Awareness Month. The commission also used the event to recognize contributions made by employers, Families, friends and organizations to change attitudes about employees with disabilities in the workforce.

This year's theme, announced by the U.S. Department of Labor, is "Expectation + Opportunity = Participation."

The luncheon's main purpose was to "celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of people with disabilities who overcome obstacles in their pursuit of excellence," according to Committee Co-Chair Niki Biggs.

Sconion has been employed at Office Eagle, which is a division of Blind Industries and Services of Maryland, since June of 2005.

Sconion's main duties include assisting with the opening and checking of freight, the handling of sales merchandise to government credit card holders and keeping the shelves stocked.

"Andre is learning first hand what 'retail' really means," said Barry Council, manager of the Aberdeen Area Office Eagle. "He has been totally blind since age four but the way he carries himself while working at Office Eagle is amazing."

Council added that Sconion is an inspiration to many.

"Andre is a true rising star in Harford County. Many of our customers watch in disbelief as he scans their items and swipes their cards," Council said. "They

are truly amazed as I was the first couple of times I saw it. He is a true asset to BISM."

Council added that in high school Sconion was on the wrestling team at Edgewood High School and later at Aberdeen High School.

"His prowess on the mat was featured in the Baltimore Sun on January 24, 2007," Council said.

Sconion said that he was surprised and proud to receive the award.

"My favorite thing about my job is helping other people," he said.

Scion added that he uses no special equipment while he works.

"My typing classes in high school helped me learn how to use the cash register," he said.

Sconion added that he looks forward to accomplishing his goals of one day being a manager.

## New 'Women In Defense' group sells out inaugural luncheon

Story by  
**JOAN MICHEL**  
Special contributor

More than 100 people attended the inaugural luncheon of the newly-formed Mid-Atlantic chapter of the national organization Women In Defense at Vitale's Restaurant in Edgewood Oct. 8.

"We literally sold every seat the restaurant had available for us," said Tamera Rush, Mid-Atlantic Chapter vice president. "I think the overwhelming turnout speaks to the need women who work in the defense sector have for networking and professional development opportunities."

The luncheon featured guest speaker Michelina LaForgia, project director, Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) and Women In Defense Fort Monmouth, New Jersey Chapter President. LaForgia is responsible for developing, implementing and managing requirements for commercial Information Technology solutions for the Army. She spoke about her own career and the things that made her successful. She offered advice ranging from "speak truth to power" to "being yourself" in a job and in an organization.

Women In Defense is a national networking and professional development organization for women work-

ing in the national security sector. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter consists of two groups -- the newly formed Aberdeen group and the Fort Monmouth group. Aberdeen's alignment with the Fort Monmouth organization is intended to ease the transition of women moving to Maryland because of base realignment and closure changes. Membership is open to military personnel, civilian employees and contractors who are supporting national security.

Created just a few months ago, the Aberdeen group of Women in Defense's Mid-Atlantic Chapter plans to hold an event every month, alternating between lunch-time and after-work activities to accommodate the busy schedule of today's professional woman.

The next event is scheduled for Nov. 12, and will be an after-work networking event held at Bliss Coffee and Wine Bar in Riverside.

"We're here to provide women opportunities to enhance their careers and learn from each other," Rush said. "The defense sector needs more talented well-trained women. Women In Defense can help foster more women going into defense-related careers and support those who have already done so. We want to continue to build a strong community of women here at Aberdeen."

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## CFC

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*From front page*

of NSA on the development of APG's newest special event, the CFC Online Silent Auction and shared the information with the SSA coordinator.

Graziano also proposed CFC golf tournaments at APG and other installations and worked with the CBACFC office to plan the APG CFC Charity Fair that was held Sept. 17 at the post Recreation Center.

Graziano said he appreciated the forum because it provided him with the chance to share and gather ideas and recommendations from other campaign coordinators.

For more information on the CBACFC or the 'Big 5,' visit the CBAFC Web site, [www.cbafc.org](http://www.cbafc.org), contact Siegle, 410-962-4049 or e-mail [lindasiegle.baltfeb@verizon.net](mailto:lindasiegle.baltfeb@verizon.net).

For more information on the APG CFC campaign or special programs, visit the APG Web site, [www.apg.army.mil](http://www.apg.army.mil) and click on the CFC links at the bottom of the page; call 410-278-9913; or e-mail [apgr-usag-cfc@conus.army.mil](mailto:apgr-usag-cfc@conus.army.mil).

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## Traffic

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*From front page*

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.



# APG, Picerne keeping Families first

## What housing privatization means to Soldiers, their Families

### Picerne Military Housing

The terms Residential Communities Initiative, or RCI, and privatized Family housing are now being used at Aberdeen Proving Ground. They both have to do with a new program that will change the face of Family housing on post over the next 50 years.

In the mid 1990s, the federal government realized that in order to retain service members, their quality of life had to improve on the installations. Building better homes and making significant renovations and improvements to existing homes could accomplish this. The government also knew it did not have the means to achieve this goal and decided to privatize military Family housing on installations. Privatization means that private sector expertise and private financing could be brought on post by private sector partners to improve the Family housing situation faster than the government could do it.

The Army established the Residential Communities Initiative to partner with private developers. In 2008, the Army and APG selected Picerne Military



tary Housing as its partner to build, own, renovate, manage and maintain Family housing on post for the next 50 years.

"The partnership is long-term and focused on the sustainability of housing and enhancing the quality of Family and community life for Aberdeen Proving Ground's Soldiers and their

Families," said Greg Cannito, Picerne Military Housing Program director.

Aberdeen Proving Ground 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 final approval by Congress was announced on Oct. 10, which means Picerne will assume responsibility for the Family housing at APG on Dec. 1.

"We have gone to great lengths during the planning phase to ensure that neighborhoods are designed to create homes that appeal to today's modern, military Families," Cannito said.

What will this mean for Families living on post?

As in the private sector, Soldiers will sign a lease and will start receiving their Basic Allowance for Housing to pay rent for the homes they live in on post. The rent equals the BAH received by the service member and includes basic utilities and some renter's insurance. (See article on BAH this page.)

The lease, called the Resident Occupancy Agreement, is for 12 months and

renews month to month unless PCS, ETS or retirement orders require earlier termination. To live in privatized Family housing, residents must sign a lease prior to Dec. 1.

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

Picerne's property management and maintenance staff is located at 2727 Chesapeake Boulevard. Eventually, a new Neighborhood Center will be constructed in the new neighborhood that will be built in Bayside.

An immediate maintenance plan will be implemented to alleviate the deferred maintenance and other maintenance concerns of residents. Picerne will also mow the lawns, do the landscaping, enhance street lighting, repair streets and sidewalks and build new playgrounds. These services are an expression of Picerne's Families First® philosophy.

## Picerne explains what happens to BAH under housing privatization

### Picerne Military Housing

As the privatization of on-post housing approaches, some Soldiers may be wondering how the transfer of responsibility will affect their Basic Allowance for Housing.

Before privatization, a military Family essentially forfeited the BAH in exchange for living in government quarters on post. Beginning Dec. 1, Families living on Aberdeen Proving Ground will start seeing their BAH show up on their Leave and Earnings Statement. At the same time the BAH starts being paid, service members living in on-post housing will allot it to APG Housing, LLC. This limited liability company is made up of APG-Picerne Partners, LLC and the U.S. Army.

"Rather than receiving the BAH into their accounts and then making monthly rental payments, service members have signed a Resident Occupancy Agreement, or lease," said Rick Cunefare, Picerne Military Housing Communi-

ty Management director. "The signed ROA gives the government permission to start the rent allotment, which equals the Soldier's BAH entitlement for his or her rank and should reflect any BAH increases or decreases that occur."

If a Family is dual military (both husband and wife are on active duty), both service members will receive the appropriate BAH. Their rent will equal the senior grade member's BAH at the "with dependent" rate. The couple will be able to keep the other service member's BAH.

After the ROA is signed, the Soldier's information will be entered into a database for the company collecting allotments.

The BAH will be collected and managed by the Military Assistance Company, an allotment management contractor that reports to the Army. The MAC has been processing allotments since 1985 and serves military housing offices in all branches of the service. The payment sys-

tem is fully automated and is interfaced with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. This system facilitates initiating, managing, tracking, updating and stopping the BAH allotments. The BAH is paid to the APG Communities partnership on the last day of the month, which means the allotment for December will be paid on the last day of December. That is when Soldiers will see the first transaction appear on their LES.

The BAH amount being paid will appear on the left side of the LES under "Entitlements." The rent allotment will appear in the third column on the right side of the LES under "Allotments" for an amount equal to the BAH. There will be no change in a Soldier's take home pay.

"Stopping the BAH allotment upon move out will be as easy as starting it. Once Picerne Military Housing has officially cleared the resident, the allotment will be stopped," Cunefare said.

After move out, any refund due will

be made within 10 business days after APG Communities receives the allotment for the month's rent. The rent payment process is designed to be transparent and seamless.

If a Soldier's BAH does not appear on his or her LES on the last day of December, or if they receive the entitlement but it is not taken out as an allotment, the Soldier should see their Neighborhood Manager immediately. The BAH money is earmarked for rent. If the Soldier spends it, he or she will be responsible for paying rent until the problem is corrected.

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

"Picerne Military Housing looks forward to serving the Families of APG," he said.

# Bringing the holidays to military men, women

## Recommended mailing dates to APO/FPO addresses

**USPS**

For military service members stationed around the globe, holiday gifts are a big morale boost. To help the Families and friends of U.S. military personnel, the Postal Service offers a discount on its largest Priority Mail Flat Rate box.

The recommended mailing date for the most economical postage to overseas military installations, including Iraq and Afghanistan, is Nov. 13.

Mail sent to overseas military addresses is charged only domestic mail prices. The domestic mail price for the Priority Mail Large Flat Rate Box is \$13.95, but for packages to APO/FPO addresses overseas the price is reduced to \$11.95. Additional discounts are available for customers printing their Priority Mail postage labels online at [www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov) at Click-N-Ship.

Flat-Rate boxes are free at any Post Office, or can be ordered online at [shop.usps.com](http://shop.usps.com). Postage, labels and customs forms can be printed online any time using Click-N-Ship, <https://sss-web.usps.com/cns/landing.do>.

The Postal Service continues to show support to those serving in the armed forces by offering free Military Care Kits, designed specifically for military Families sending packages overseas. The mailing kits can be ordered by phone by calling 1-800-610-8734 and asking for the Care Kit. Each kit includes two "America Supports You" large Priority Mail Flat-Rate boxes, four medium-sized Priority Mail Flat-Rate boxes, six Priority Mail labels, one roll of Priority Mail tape and six customs forms with envelopes.

For online ordering of the Large Priority Mail APO/FPO Flat Rate boxes featuring the "America Supports You" logo and APO/FPO addressing block, Click here. More information about mailing letters and packages to military destinations is available online at <http://www.usps.com/supportingourtroops>.

"Mailing holiday gifts to service members early will help insure that a piece of home arrives in plenty of time to make the celebration complete," said Pranab Shah, vice president and managing director, Global Business.

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by Dec. 25 to military APO/FPO addresses overseas, the Postal Service recommends that mail for ser-

vice members be entered no later than the mailing dates listed below. Mail addressed to military post offices overseas is subject to certain conditions or restrictions regarding content, preparation and handling. APO/FPO address-

es generally require customs forms. To see an online table of updated APO and FPO addresses and mailing restrictions by individual APO/FPO zip codes, visit <http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/pb.htm>, select "Pull-Out Infor-

mation" and click on "Overseas Military/Diplomatic Mail."

The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

### 2009 International and Military Mail Christmas Mailing Dates

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by December 25 to military APO/FPO addresses overseas and to international addresses, we suggest that mail be entered by the recommended mailing dates listed below. Beat the last-minute rush and take your mail to your U.S. Post Office<sup>®</sup> by these suggested dates. And don't forget you can print postage labels, and Customs forms online 24/7 using Click-N-Ship<sup>®</sup> service at [www.usps.com/clicknship](http://www.usps.com/clicknship).

Remember, all mail addressed to military post offices overseas is subject to certain conditions or restrictions regarding content, preparation, and handling. APO/FPO addresses generally require Customs forms. To see a table of active APO and FPO addresses and mailing restrictions by individual APO/FPO ZIP<sup>™</sup> Codes, go to <http://ps.usps.com> and click Postal Bulletin, or go to the current issue and see the article "Overseas Military Mail."

Military Mail Addressed to	Express Mail <sup>®</sup> Military Service (EMMS) <sup>1</sup>	First-Class Mail <sup>®</sup> Letters/Cards	Priority Mail <sup>®</sup>	Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) <sup>2</sup>	Space Available Mail (SAM) <sup>3</sup>	Parcel Post <sup>®</sup>
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-392	Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 1*	Dec 4	Nov 27	Nov 13
APO/FPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec 4	Dec 4	Dec 1	Nov 20	Nov 13
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 084-399	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 1*	Dec 4	Nov 27	Nov 13
APO/FPO AA ZIPs 340	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 1*	Dec 4	Nov 27	Nov 13
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 980-988	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 1*	Dec 4	Nov 27	Nov 13

- EMMS is available to selected military post offices. Check with your local Post Office<sup>™</sup> to determine if this service is available to your APO/FPO address.
- PAL is a service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 35 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.
- SAM parcels are paid at Parcel Post postage rate of postage with maximum weight and size limits of 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined. SAM parcels are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis.

International Mail Addressed to	Global Express Guaranteed <sup>®</sup> (GXG) <sup>1</sup> **	Express Mail International <sup>®</sup> (EMI) <sup>2</sup> **	Priority Mail International <sup>®</sup> (PMI) <sup>3</sup> **	First-Class Mail International <sup>™</sup>
Africa	Dec 22	Dec 17	Dec 4	Dec 4
Asia/Pacific Rim	Dec 21	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Australia/New Zealand	Dec 21	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Canada	Dec 20	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11
Caribbean	Dec 22	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Central & South America	Dec 22	Dec 17	Dec 4	Dec 4
Mexico	Dec 23	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Europe	Dec 22	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Middle East	Dec 22	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11

- GXG is available to over 190 countries via an alliance with Federal Express. See a retail associate at participating locations for a complete list of countries and money-back guarantee details, or go to <http://ps.usps.com> and click International Rates and Fees, then Country Listing. You can also see the March/April 2007 issue of MailPro at [www.usps.com/mailpro](http://www.usps.com/mailpro). Some restrictions apply. Free shipping supplies are available. Purchase postage online and receive 70% discount.
- EMI is available to over 190 countries with delivery in 3 to 5 average business days. Overseas, money-back service is available to Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, and Korea (Republic of/South). Air rate shipping options and free packaging are available. Purchase postage online and receive an 8% discount.
- PMI is available to over 190 countries with delivery in 6 to 10 average business days. Air rate shipping options and free packaging are available. Purchase postage online and receive a 5% discount.

\*Average number of days may vary based upon origin and destination.

### LEAVE DONATIONS

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

### Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

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

# Community Notes

**FRIDAY**  
**OCTOBER 30**  
**ENTRY LEVEL JOB FAIR**

There will be an entry level job fair held by the Susquehanna Workforce Network 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 18 to 21 at the Cecil County Workforce Center, 1275 West Pulaski Highway, Elkton. For more information call 410-996-0550, or go to [www.swnetwork.org](http://www.swnetwork.org).

**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.

**HALLOWEEN AT THE LEGION**

Enjoy Halloween at American Legion Edgewood Service Post 17. Doors open at 7 p.m.; Horn's Punch & Judy Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Children under 11 welcome, costumes optional.

For more information, call Carol Carden, 443-506-6561.

**YOUNGTEEN HALLOWEEN**

Grab a buddy or two for a dark of night canoe ride to Snake Island. Campfire there will include roasted snacks and ghost stories. Be prepared to share some favorite ghostly tales. This program will be held 6:30 to 9 p.m. for ages 13 to 15. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

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

**SPOOKY CRUISE**

Bring the kids for an evening on the water, full of ghostly tales, a spooky scavenger hunt, and Halloween treats. Warm up for the evening with s'mores around the campfire, then board the Water Strider for some slightly spooky hi-jinks. This program will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for ages 30 lbs. to adult. The cost is \$10 per person (regardless

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

**SATURDAY**  
**OCTOBER 31**  
**GONE BATTY**

Learn all the tricks that make bats so cool and discover how they communicate. This program will be held 11 a.m. to noon for Families. The cost is \$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.

**FAREWELL TO FALL FLOAT**

Tool around the creek enjoying fall colors and migratory activity on the final cruise of the 2009 season. Dress for the weather. This program will be held 4 to 5:30 p.m. for ages 30 lbs. to adult. Cost for adults is \$6 and \$4 for children. 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.

**HALLELUJAH NIGHT**

Please join Bread of Life Church, located on 14 Aberdeen Plaza, for Hallelujah Night, 6 to 8:15 p.m. A great alternative to Halloween, this will be an exciting event for Families sharing in food, fun, and fellowship. No costumes, please.

For more information, call 410-273-1660 or visit [www.breadofflifenistries.org](http://www.breadofflifenistries.org).

**CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY**

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 135 will host a Children's Halloween Party, 1 to 3 p.m. for children up to age 12 at American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville. There will be refreshments, treats and a haunted hallway.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

**SUNDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 1**  
**ALL DAY BINGO**

The American Legion Auxiliary will hold All Day Bingo, 12:30 p.m., at the American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street, Perryville. Doors open 11:30 a.m., early bird games begin 11:45 a.m. All Day Bingo is open to the public. Cost is \$25 per person and includes 50 games (all paper cards), meal and free coffee. A 50/50 raffle will be held for early birds. No one under 18 years of age is allowed in the Bingo Hall. No smoking is allowed.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

**HEALING HERBS**

Explore the medicinal and therapeutic values of herbs and wild plants. Take home Herbal Soap Balls, old-fashioned soap balls (like grandma used to love) made with parsley and peppermint for a cool, clean feeling. This program will be held 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. The cost is \$4 per person. Registration is required.

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

**MT. ZION MALE CHORUS 29TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Mt. Zion Male Chorus of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 520 Lewis Street, Havre de Grace will celebrate its 29th Anniversary at 4:30 p.m. Harford County Male Choirs will participate in this event.

For more information, call Gloria Pinkard at 410-939-1294.

**MONDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 2**  
**GUNPOWDER TOASTMASTERS HOLDS MEETING**

Learn to speak confidently and effectively by joining Toastmasters. The Toastmaster's mission is to help people improve communication, leadership, evaluation and public-speaking skills in a fun and friendly environment.

The Gunpowder Toastmasters meets the first and third Mondays each month (unless the date falls on a fed-

eral holiday), 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., in the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility in building E-4516 Seminar Room.

For more information, contact Adam Freeland, 410-652-8026 or Carmen Kifer, 410-436-8969.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 4**  
**NATURE'S PLAYGROUP**

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

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

The cost is \$30 per child. Registration is required.

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

**THURSDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 5**  
**COMEDY NIGHT AT THE GREENE TURTLE**

Comedy Night featuring "The Dee Shaw Show" will perform at the Greene Turtle, 10 p.m. Live entertainment includes recording artist Jewli Feat and CJ DJ June love (after party). Cover charge costs \$10, military pay a discount of \$7. Come get your laugh and party on all in one night. A part of the proceeds benefits Hoop It Up.

**SATURDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 7**  
**ALL DAY BINGO**

American Legion Edgewood Service Post 17 will hold all day bingo; doors open 10 a.m., play begins 11 a.m. Lunch will be served. Out of 60 games, three games will be played for Vera Bradley purses, two are \$200-guaranteed jackpots, two are \$500-guaranteed jackpots. Cost is \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door. For tickets, call Carol, 443-506-6561, and ask about the early purchase lay away plan.

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

**Post Shorts**

**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.

**NAF Open Season Nov 2 through 30**

Flexible Spending Accounts are being offered for the first time to NAF employees during Open Season. The ability to elect Long Term Care without evidence of insurability is being offered for the first time in five years.

During Open Season NAF Regular Full-time and Part-time employees can:

Enroll, change or cancel their Health Benefit plans,

Automatically keep their Pre-Tax Health Premium Deductions unless they opt out,

Enroll in Life Insurance and/or Long Term Care Plan without evidence of insurability or make changes in their current coverage and

Elect Flexible Spending Accounts.

Employees should contact NAF Human Resource Office, 410-278-5127/8992, to arrange an appointment

to make the above changes during Open Season. These changes would be effective Jan. 1, 2010. NAF employees may contact NAF HRO immediately to make changes to their 401(k) Savings elections and/or to elect retirement since these changes may be made at any time.

**Picerne holds ROC signing event Nov. 3**

As privatization of on-post housing approaches, Picerne Military Housing wants to remind Families that every Soldier living in on-post housing is required to complete and sign a Resident Occupancy Agreement prior to Dec. 1. Picerne has organized an open signing event 6 to 8 p.m., Nov. 3, at Top of the Bay to assist Soldiers in submitting their ROAs.

Soldiers who have not yet signed their ROA are encouraged to attend and complete the documents required to continue living in housing at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Picerne representatives will be on-hand throughout the day to answer questions and assist Soldiers with the forms. The ROA is for 12 months and renews month to month unless PCS, ETS or retirement orders require earlier termination.

For more information, call 410-672-4041.

**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](mailto: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.

**KUSAHC closed Nov. 11**

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans' Day. Patients should plan accordingly to pick up prescriptions prior to this date.

For medical services, contact the Staff Duty, 410-278-1725. The Staff Duty Officer will coordinate patient's care with the Medical Officer of the Day.

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

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

**APG closing announcements**

If the installation is closed, is experiencing a delay in opening or if liberal leave is in effect due to weather or other emergency situations, check for postings on the local television and radio stations, WAPG-TV Channel 21 (on Aberdeen Proving Ground) or call 410-278-SNOW (7669).

A recorded telephone

message will contain updated information and should begin at about 5 a.m.

Announcements about federal offices in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to APG; listen for those that name APG specifically.

For general information, call the APG Public Affairs Office, 410-278-1147.

Station	Frequency	Location
WAMD	AM 970	Aberdeen
WXCY	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WARM	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WBAL-TV	Channel 11	Baltimore
WMAR-TV	Channel 2	Baltimore
WBFF-TV	Channel 45	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13	Baltimore

**Thrift Shop to disburse funds**

The APG Thrift Shop will accept requests for donations from service organizations and military units through Oct. 31.

The request should include the name of the organization, point of contact, address, telephone number, amount requested and specific details on what the funds will be used for.

In the past, donations have been granted to Army Emergency Relief, Army Community Service, the APG Fire Department and veterans' organizations.

Mail or drop off requests to APG Thrift Shop, building 2458, APG, MD 21005-5001 by Oct. 31.

For more information, call the store during operating hours, which are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the first Saturday of the month, 410-272-8572.

Consignments are only taken 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday.

Everyone is reminded not to use the area in front or to the back of the shop as a dumping site.

The Thrift Shop only wants items that are in 'good as new' condition.



# FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

## HIRED! program helps teen learn customer service skills

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

A C. Milton Wright High School sophomore is learning customer service skills first hand by working at the APG Bowling Center this fall.

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

Hedgmon has been working at the Bowling Center during the weekends.

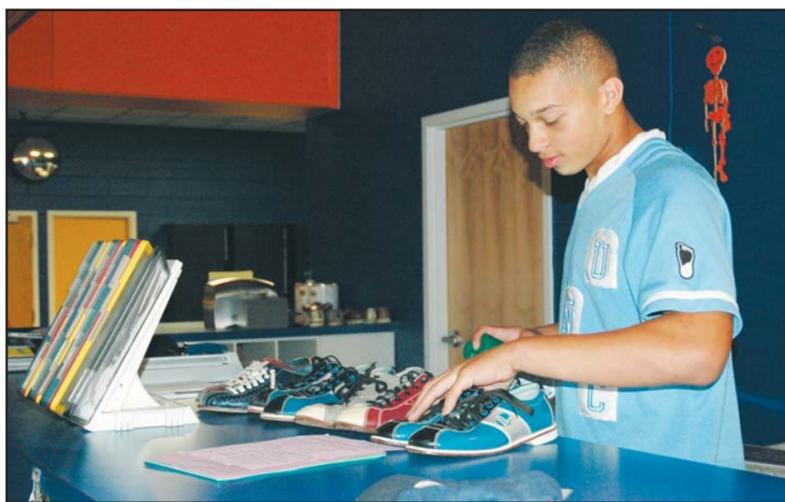
The apprenticeship lasts for 12 weeks, with the option of working in the same location for another semester.

Hedgmon said that he does a variety of tasks around the bowling center, including working the cash register, cleaning and cooking.

He said that he would recommend the program to other teens.

"I am glad that I have had this chance to gain some work experience," Hedgmon said. "It is also something that I can add to my resume and college applications later."

Lora Owens, who is the manager of the



Earl Hedgmon, a C. Milton Wright sophomore, cleans shoes at the APG Bowling Center. Hedgmon is one of seven teens participating in the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's HIRED! program introduced to the Aberdeen Proving Ground community this year. The HIRED! program provides paid apprenticeships for 15- to 18-year-olds.

Bowling Center and Hedgmon's on-site mentor, said that she feels like the program provides good work experience for teens.

"It gives teens necessary experience before going out into the work field. I think it is a very good program," she said. "Earl is a natural with customers and is always

keeping himself busy with work."

Owens said that another benefit of the program is that it gives teens an opportunity to learn about a variety of career fields before they graduate high school.

He added that more APG employees

should consider mentoring teens.

"Earl has done a fabulous job working with customers and boosting the overall morale of the APG Bowling Center," she said. "Hopefully I will get a chance to work with more teens like Earl in the future. It has also been a pleasure working with Jay McKinney [APG HIRED! program coordinator]."

### About HIRED!

The HIRED! program offers a variety of job placements in FMWR facilities for teens of military and government civilians assigned to APG.

To secure apprenticeships, candidates must achieve and maintain a 2.0 grade point average or higher before completing a pre-assessment and interviews with facility managers.

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

To find out more information about the HIRED! program contact McKinney, 410-278-3250, who is now signing up teens for the next semester, which begins Nov. 30.

## Activities/Events

### Free dinner and a movie

Celebrate Military Family Month with Army Community Service. ACS will present a free dinner and a movie, 6 to 9:30 p.m., Nov. 18, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaur" will be shown.

This is a free ticketed event. Pick up tickets 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Aberdeen Area ACS, building 2754. This event is open to all service members, Family members and civilians.

For more information, call 410-278-7572.

### 2009 White House ornament sale

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

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

For more information or to purchase, call FMWR Leisure Travel Services,

410-278-4011/4907, visit AA Recreation Center, building 3326, or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

### Leisure Travel Services available at EA Recreation Center

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

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

For full services, visit or call the APG Leisure Travel Office located in the AA Recreation Center, 410-278-4011 or e-

mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

### Christmas in Williamsburg, Va.

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

## 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 piano lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given for ages 4 thru 18, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., on Tuesdays or Fridays, Oct. 30 thru Dec. 18 (no class on Nov. 3, 6, 24 and 27).

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

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

### Private piano lessons

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

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

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

### 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.

## 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.

## Youth Bowling League forming

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

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

## 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. 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.

### Week of Nov. 2

Special #1: Chicken salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$4.75.

Special #2: Pepperoni pizza sub with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.50.

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

## North Side Grill Menu lunch specials

### Building 3326

The North Side Grill, located in the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326 is open 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Lunch specials

Oct. 29, Chicken tender sub, potato chips and medium soda for \$5.60

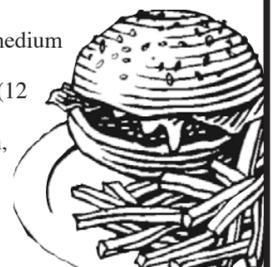
Oct. 30, Turkey bacon wrap, French fries and medium soda for \$5.25

Nov. 2, Grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup (12 oz.) and medium soda for \$3.75

Nov. 3, One half ham, turkey or tuna fish sandwich, cup of soup (12 oz.) and medium soda for \$3

Nov. 4, Sloppy Joe sandwich, potato spuds and medium soda for \$3

For more information, call 410-278-2621.



## HIRED!

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

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

### Towson University Campus Tour

There will be a Towson University Campus Tour, 9 a.m., Nov. 14 for high school teens only. Sign up at the Child, Youth and School Services central registration. Bring money for lunch. Spaces are limited to 10 teens.

### Ultimate Career Guide

The Ultimate Career Guide Workshop for high school teens will be held 3 to 4:30 p.m., Nov. 12 at CYS Services, building 2752. The workshop will cover different types of careers. Sign up at CYSS central registration.

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

## The EDGE

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

### Girls' Fitness Class

A Girls' Fitness Class for ages 11 to 18 will be held 4 to 5 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Fitness Center, building 320, every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning Oct. 13. Events include, but are not limited to aerobics, medicine balls, versa balls, strength training and yoga.

### Learn to bowl

Let the good times roll! Youths ages 6 through 18 can learn to bowl, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Mondays, Nov. 30 through Dec. 21 at the APG Bowling Center. Youths will learn the techniques and fundamentals of bowling, how to keep score, individual and team play and more. A new Youth Bowling League will be available for sign up in January 2010.

Bowling is free for ages 11 through 18; ages 6 through 10 pay a \$40 fee per person.

Transportation will be provided for The EDGE! program participants from the Aberdeen Area Youth Services to the Bowling Center and return. Register at the CYS Services Central Registration Office, building 2752.

For more information, call Chuck Rose, 410-278-1399.

# APG updates area retirees during Retiree Appreciation Day

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

Military retirees from around the community who gathered at the Post Recreation Center Oct. 17 received updates on installation services, finance, health, education and other benefits during Retiree Appreciation Day activities.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Retiree Council, led by retired Lt. Col. Joseph A. Traino, council chairman, hosted the event.

An array of installation and community organizations greeted the more than 200 retirees, spouses or survivors of retirees who attended.

The programs featured remarks from guest speaker Brig. Gen. Reuben D. Jones, commander of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, as well as from Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander and Col. John R. "Buck" Surdu, chief of staff to Maj. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

Ortiz told attendees he was "especially proud" to address them.

"You put your lives on the line to defend our freedom, and thanks to your dedication and commitment we enjoy these freedoms today," he said. "Today you have the opportunity to learn about the rights and privileges you have truly earned. If we do not satisfy your questions or concerns, come to me and I will do my best to address them. I hope this event is truly beneficial to you and your Families, and I look forward to serving with you."

Surdu welcomed the retirees on behalf of Izzo and assured them that they are "part of the Army Family."

"You and your Families are part of the fabric that is our military community," he said. "As members of that community, it is important to keep you informed of changes that may affect you and your Families."

He commented on the ongoing base realignment and closure activities and the APG 2012 Transformation which he said, "continues to focus on quality of life issues," for incoming organization and existing tenants as well as for the extended Army Family which includes retirees.

Surdu said the transformation can be seen in renovations of the installation gates, recreation centers, gyms, bowling center and golf course and that a new community center and parks are planned in the near future.

He encouraged attendees to gather information from organization representatives, thanked them for their service to the country and asked that they keep the service members and civilians serving in Iraq and Afghanistan in their thoughts and prayers.

"Thank you all again for your faithful service to the nation," he said.

Jones told listeners he had great news about the Army and some of the things being done for Army Families.

"The Army is truly stepping up to the plate and taking care of our Soldiers," he said.

He talked about the Army Family Covenant, calling it "a promise the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army made to our Soldiers and their Families."

He said the Army doubled the investment in funding for Family programs between fiscal year 2007 and FY09 and that the budget request for FY10 is \$11.7 billion.

He said Soldiers asked the Secretary of the Army to put money into Family services to provide the same service at every installation, "and that's what we delivered."

"Our Army has changed," he said. "We actually survey our Soldiers and our civilians to see what they need, and it's going well."

He detailed the Soldier Family Action Plan and encouraged attendees to visit the Army One-



Detective Mike "Big Mike" Farlow, right, hands a police whistle from the Directorate of Emergency Services display to Cookie Garbinski of Aberdeen, a retiree spouse, left, as other retirees view displays and visit with service representatives during Retiree Appreciation Day activities at the Post Recreation Center Oct. 17.

Source Web site, calling it a "one-stop site where you can find just about everything you need to know."

"You can get your child or grandchild help with their homework or talk to a real person if you're stressed," he said. "It's specifically designed so you can access it from your home. We think of it as a link to our Families."

He said the office has also supported 249 National Guard Family Assistance Centers. In addition it has increased Military Family Life Consultants, which provides counseling outside the military system for Soldiers and Family members seeking help with mental health issues.

"Sometimes Soldiers are afraid to seek help and we're also putting them in the school systems," he said. "It's a great resource that's getting rave reviews."

Other focus areas include Survivor Outreach Services, a system designed to fill in the gaps in maintaining contact with survivors. Jones said the system is "reaching all the way back to Vietnam to try to bring Families forward."

"The feedback we're getting is, 'It's about time,'" he said. "The bottom line is when bad things happen, the Army will be there now, and we won't forget about you."

Jones touched on other issues such as youth activities, the Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers and Armed Forces Recreation Centers. In closing, he commented on the Army Family Action Plan symposium that concluded the week before at Top of the Bay and invited listeners to follow him on his Twitter and Facebook Internet sites to keep up with FMWRC happenings.

"If you have anything to show for those who couldn't make it, I will put your AFAP and retiree issues on my Facebook and Twitter," Jones said. "I don't want you to have any excuse for not knowing about your Army."

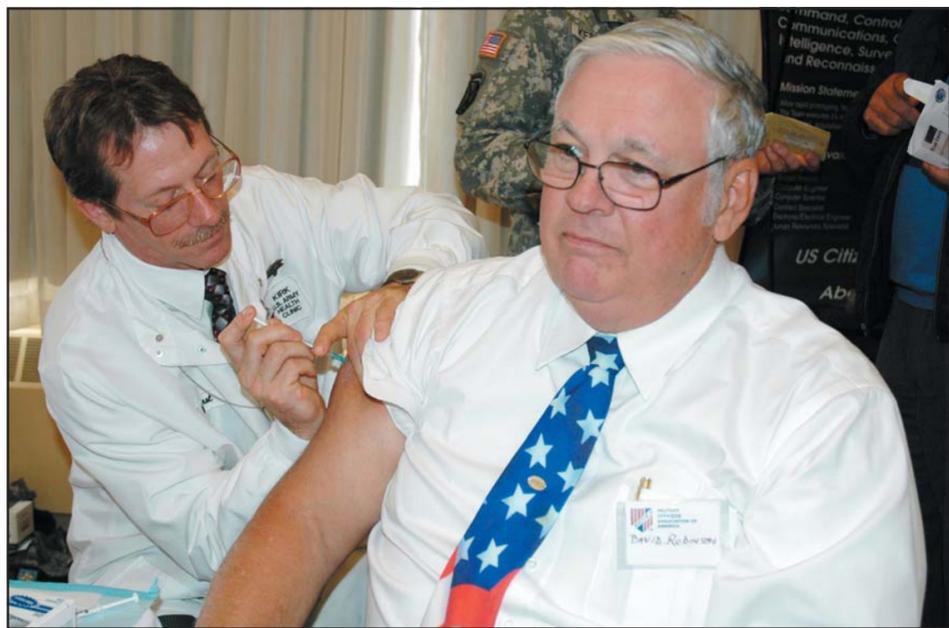
Follow Jones, FMWRC and keep abreast of other Army issues and services at the following Web sites:

- [http://twitter.com/BG\\_reubenjones](http://twitter.com/BG_reubenjones)
- <http://twitter.com/FamilyMWR>
- <http://facebook.com/FamilyMWR>
- <http://youtube.com/FamilyMWR>
- <http://myArmyOneSource.com>

Other speakers included retired Navy Lt. Ed Kreiner Sr., a member of the Maryland Retired Veterans Taskforce who gave an update on veterans and retiree-related issues in the state legislature, and James Lint of the U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Command G-2 who talked about job opportunities due to base realignment and closure.

Lint said openings were available and called the command's early movers "adventurous pioneers."

He said more than 1,100



Daniel Wurst, a nurse from Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, left, administers a seasonal flu shot to David Robinson, a retired major and member of the Military Officers Association of America.

employees were on the ground at APG with another 7,000 expected by BRAC's conclusion in 2011, but that openings were available due to retirements and those declining to relocate to APG.

"We're hiring everybody, not just veterans, but a lot of veterans already have security clearances," Lint said.

Kreiner said the task force has been successful in supporting veteran related bills except in the case of removing taxation from retired pay.

"If you don't call your legislators, we won't get anything done," Kreiner said. He said the task force represents all 28 Veteran Service Organizations in Maryland.

"You do have a voice in Annapolis," he said.

He encouraged listeners to visit the Maryland General Assembly Web site or call their legislators for information on veteran bills.

"And finally make arrangements for your remains," he added. "Too many spouses out there don't know what a DD 214 [separation papers] is or what an honorable discharge looks like or where you hid it. Think about that, and make the proper arrangements."

### Open Forum

A discussion panel of organization representatives followed. The panel included representatives from the Post Chapel and Commissary; Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; HealthNet (TRICARE); the Defense Finance and Accounting Service; Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs; the Harford County Social Security Administration; the Maryland Retired Veterans Task Force and U.S. Family Health Plan at Johns Hopkins.

Along with the representatives, Ortiz fielded questions from the audience.

In response to a question about the military presence and commissary and PX privileges after BRAC, Ortiz said that while the military population will be very small, about 25 percent of what is now, Commissary and PX priv-

ileges will be unchanged.

"The Commissary will remain and continue to provide for Soldiers, Families and retirees," Ortiz said, "and the PX will remain. Its inventory will change to accommodate an older generation."

Tammy Spickler, Commissary store director, assured one inquirer that the Commissary does not raise its prices.

"We don't control the prices at all," Spickler said, adding that pricing is controlled by the Defense Commissary Agency. "Overall we are cheaper and more convenient. You just have to be selective. We have a lot of items on our shelves usually not found in small stores only because customers have requested them."

In addition, KUSAHC will remain in place to support the population, he said.

"We're looking at the categories and how we can support each one of those categories. We're anticipating what is coming, and I think we have a good plan," he added. "That's why forums like this are so good."

Chaplain (Maj.) Young Kim, deputy garrison chaplain, invited all to check out upcoming chapel activities which include full Protestant, Gospel and Catholic services at the Edgewood and Aberdeen Area chapels. In addition, upcoming holiday events include the Thanksgiving Luncheon, Christmas Eve candlelight service and the National Prayer Luncheon in January. For more information and to check on upcoming events, see the APG News or call, call 410-278-4333 or 410-436-4109.

When asked about a new recreation area planned for the Shore Park area, Chris Lockhart, FMWR Marketing manager, said plans were delayed due to gate construction.

Ortiz added that enhancement plans remain and that St. John Properties will break ground soon for the G.A.T.E. project.

Regarding health care plans, Robert Townsend of HealthNet said service will remain the same at KUSAHC and assured listen-

ers that with two personnel on at all times, delays for pharmacy prescriptions have been reduced during the lunch hour.

Traino thanked attendees, participants and council members for a successful event and encouraged all to visit the Retiree Council Web site at [www.apgretiree.com](http://www.apgretiree.com).

"The council has made progress to improve awareness of our existence," Traino said. "We also have framed information in major buildings on the installation. Everyone is welcome to visit our site, communicate with us and share ideas."

Retired Sgt. Maj. Frank Yoakum, retiree council member, said organizers were pleased with the event.

"We had a great turnout despite the rain. People asked good questions and got good responses," Yoakum said.

"It was nice to see the Garrison commander stay through the whole program and be willing to put on armor and take pot shots," he added.

He said that Jones, who is an old friend, added to the program with "the same sense of accountability as the Garrison commander shows."

"They're willing to own up to the fact that as leaders they are willing to be accountable," Yoakum said.

Organization presenting displays included the Directorate of Emergency Services; Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic; the RDECOM Inspector General's Office; FMWR Marketing; the APG Combined Federal Campaign; the Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs; Freedom Federal Credit Union; Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve; Free State Chapter 70 Women's Army Corps Veterans Association; the Korean War Veterans Association and the Marine Corps League from the Jarrettsville Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The U.S. Army Materiel Command Band's brass quintet provided music for the event.

The next Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for Oct. 16, 2010, Traino said.

## TECHINT Capabilities Day showcases 203d Military Intelligence Battalion



Photo courtesy of 203D MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

During the Technical Intelligence Battalion's TECHINT Capabilities Day Oct. 17, attendees had the opportunity to ride in foreign threat vehicles and fire and foreign weapons. The 203d Military Intelligence Battalion, the U.S. Army's only TECHINT Battalion supported with National Ground Intelligence Center TECHINT capabilities, was showcased during the event.



Photos by RACHEL PONDER

Maj. Chris Kunz, who is assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency at Bolling Air Force Base, Md., talks to Sgt. 1st class Douglas Webb, 203d Military Intelligence Battalion, about special equipment that the unit uses.



Staff Sgt. William Rivas, 203d MI Battalion, guards a Russian 15mm self-propelled gun Howitzer during a demonstration.



The 203d Military Intelligence Battalion showcases chemical, biological, radiological nuclear equipment used by the unit.

## History of the 203d Military Intelligence Battalion

Story by  
203d Military Intelligence Battalion

The 203d Military Intelligence Battalion is the functional descendant of the Ordnance Technical Intelligence Teams that were first established in 1943 during World War II and served the Army in varying capacities through the end of the Korean War.

The Battalion's formal lineage may be directly traced to 1966, when a Captured Materiel Exploitation Center was organized to coordinate TECHINT operations during the Vietnam War. The CMEC was soon redesignated as Company D, 519th Military Intelligence Battalion. Company D was the parent unit of all Army personnel assigned to the CMEC and for five field teams that were deployed in direct support of each Field Force. The CMEC produced several significant reports during this period concerning the Russian Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG-7) and the Russian Amphibious Tank (PT-76). Company D remained in Vietnam until 1970 when it departed for Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Training opportunities and access to foreign materiel were limited at Fort Bragg, so the unit returned to Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1978. At that time the unit was redesignated, becoming the 11th Military Intelligence Company and was assigned to the Intelligence and Security Command's Intelligence Threat Analysis Center.

The Army's requirements and training needs continued to evolve throughout the late 1970s.

The Army also recognized that the Aggressor Program, which had provided an opponent force for training, was inadequate and unrealistic. In 1978, this realization resulted in an expanded mission for the 11th MI Company - support of the Army's new Opposing Forces training program as outlined in AR 350-2. The added responsibilities incumbent with the OPFOR support mission led to the redesignation of the unit as 11th Military Intelligence Battalion (Provisional) which provided additional personnel and a larger command and control structure.

The new structure included C Detachment, 11th MI Company Augmentation, which was organized at Fort Irwin, Calif., in September 1978. Detachment C was authorized 60 Soldiers from 1978 to 1982 and was commanded by a major, although personnel strength never approached the authorized limit.

The provisional 11th MI Battalion grew and continued to perform its worldwide missions of tactical technical intelligence and OPFOR foreign materiel for training support to the Army until 1982 when it was once again redesignated, becoming the 203d Military Intelligence Battalion (Provisional). At that time, Detachment C was redesignated as the NTC OPFOR Detachment with a much-

reduced authorization of 16 Soldiers.

At about the same time, the Provisional Battalion was detached from ITAC and reassigned to the 513th Military Intelligence Group, Fort Monmouth, N.J. This reassignment was part of the Army wide reorganization and establishment of Echelons Above Corps Military Intelligence Groups.

In November and December 1983, elements of the 203d MI Battalion performed their technical intelligence mission under combat conditions in Grenada during operation URGENT FURY. Two TECHINT teams were deployed along with a five soldier Exploitation Team and nineteen soldiers who created a Captured Materiel Exploitation Center. The CMEC's mission was to support U.S. Forces in Grenada with foreign materiel exploitation, type classify and develop inventories, assist combat units in searches; operate a collection point; and ship appropriate items to APG for more detailed analysis.

As a result of continuing echelon above corps intelligence architecture studies, the Battalion lost the 203d MI Battalion designation and was detached from the 513th MI Group in October 1986. At that time, the Battalion was redesignated as the Foreign Materiel Intelligence Group and made a direct Major Subordinate Command of INSCOM. This redesignation virtually coincided with the completion of the group's new facilities at APG and the National Training Center.

In December 1985, ground was broken for the Aaron and Toftoy Buildings, which replaced World War II vintage temporary wooden buildings at APG and for the new Detachment and maintenance operations buildings at Fort Irwin. All of the new multi-million dollar buildings were occupied in late 1986. Direct subordination to INSCOM lasted only three years.

On 17 October 1989, the Group was resubordinated to the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade and redesignated as the Foreign Materiel Intelligence Battalion at a much lower authorized manning level.

During the FMIB period, Soldiers have supported a number of important military operations. For example, from January to May 1990, Soldiers of the FMIB supported Operation JUST CAUSE, by identifying and cataloging over 25,000 weapons and items of equipment that were evacuated from Panama.

In August 1990, elements of the battalion also deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield. The remainder of the battalion deployed on Jan. 6, 1991, to support the 18th Airborne Corps.

Consistent with doctrine, the battalion formed the nucleus of the Captured Materiel Exploitation Center, which was based in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. More than 238 personnel eventually joined the CMEC, which was operated as a Joint

and Combined activity. Marines and U.S. Air Force and Navy, Soldiers joined the CMEC, as did representatives of the British Royal Air Force and Canadian Army and numerous civilian representatives of the U.S. scientific and technical intelligence community. The JCMEC collected and analyzed more than 1500 line items of foreign equipment, several of which were of national interest. For example, the add-on armor found on a captured T-55 tank at Khafji was a tactical technological surprise that demonstrated resistance to the coalition's light and medium strength anti-tank weapons. The JCMEC rapidly exploited these packages and provided information on how to defeat them, should they be encountered again.

JCMEC and CENTCOM J2 personnel also located the remains of three different SCUD missiles. This materiel was immediately shipped to the Missile and Space Intelligence Center at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., for further exploitation that contributed to changes made in the Patriot Missile counter-measures effort.

Overall during the Desert War, the JCMEC obtained six of DIA's top ten foreign materiel target items, and 207 additional items of interest, many of which were encountered for the first time...

On Aug. 10, 1995, as a result of another organizational self-analysis, the Foreign Materiel Intelligence Battalion returned to its former designation as the 203d Military Intelligence Battalion (Provisional).

On Oct. 1, 1995, the battalion subsequently created Detachment D (MASINT), which has the mission of collecting MASINT data for the Army under the Technical Reconnaissance and Surveillance Program. Detachment D is the home of four highly skilled civilian technicians, who will eventually be joined by five or six soldiers. Detachment D is also augmented with an engineer from the Night Vision Electro Optics Directorate, Fort Belvoir, Va., who works in direct support of the sensor research, development, and maintenance program.

The battalion became a standard organization under a new MTOE on 10 October 1996, when the Battalion's ancestor organizations - Foreign Materiel Intelligence Battalion and the 11th Military Intelligence Company - are formally deactivated.

In November 1996, the battalion deployed one officer and more than twenty of its soldiers in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR to form the nucleus of the Allied Military Intelligence Battalion Headquarters Company in Bosnia. These Soldiers were soon followed by a Technical Intelligence Liaison Team, which has since been augmented by three Technical Intelligence Exploitation Teams.

By June 1998, the 203d was selected to become the prototype for a future MI concept involving Active Component and Reserve Component Soldiers. This

concept, called the multi-component concept, seeks to build on the strengths of both components by integration both into a single unit.

Today the 203d Military Intelligence Battalion is the only battalion organized under an Army Reserve flag.

On Nov. 14, 2002, the 203d the Battalion deployed four Soldiers as an advance party for planning and RSOI for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. On Jan. 22 Company A deployed into Kuwait and immediately started final preparations for conducting TECHINT operations into Iraq. Company A established the Combined Joint Collection Materiel Exploitation Center in Kuwait. The initial emphasis was a capabilities overview in which each coalition TECHINT entity provided an in depth overview of capabilities of personnel and equipment. This laid the groundwork on the final establishment of the CJCMEC.

On April 6, Team Two from Alpha Company deployed into Iraq and supported theater TECHINT operations within V Corps. On April 22 Team One deployed into Iraq and provided a TECHINT presence in I MEF area of responsibility. Each team was augmented with coalition partners from the United Kingdom, National Ground Intelligence Center and other intelligence organizations. The remainder of the battalion received its mobilization orders in February 2003 and completed a complex and demanding schedule of individual and collective tasks.

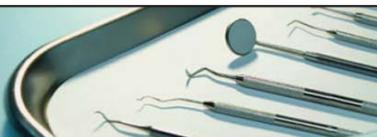
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Companies B and C deployed to Kuwait in May 2003 and rapidly completed required training, vehicle configuration and a full integration into the CJCMEC. In June 2003, the nucleus of the battalion moved into Iraq.

More than 2,000 individual sorties were conducted within Iraq, with many first seen items being discovered and subsequently exploited. The battalion redeployed in September 2003 after successfully completing its assigned mission.

In summary, the function of battlefield Technical Intelligence began after American Forces suffered considerable technological surprise at the hands of German forces in North Africa during World War II. Avoiding technological surprise remains a core goal of the 203d MI Battalion. As the nature of warfare becomes more complex with advances in technology, the essential value of the TECHINT contribution to the current intelligence picture also increases. This is simultaneously the great opportunity and challenge for the contemporary TECHINT professional, understanding an increasingly complex technological environment and making a much quicker and relevant contribution to the Warfighter's current intelligence picture. The 203d MI Battalion remains committed to the task of mastering this challenge.



# DENTAC Health Notes



## Protecting children's teeth from harm on Halloween

Academy of General Dentistry

More than 90 percent of children go trick or treating and return home with bags full of sugary candy that can turn anyone's mouth into a nightmare. By taking a few preventive steps, however, children can enjoy Halloween without harming their teeth.

Since sugar-free gum is one treat that actually helps prevent cavities, it is a smart choice to drop in Halloween bags. Parents can also give it to their children to help neutralize the effects of sugary snacks after eating.

Chewing sugar-free gum

containing the artificial sweeteners sorbitol and xylitol reduces cavities. The chewing motion stimulates the flow of saliva, which helps cleanse the teeth.

Sweets are especially harmful, since damaging acids form in the mouth every time you eat a sugary snack and continue to affect the teeth for at least 20 minutes before they are neutralized. The sweetening agents in sugarless gum are effective in combating the bacteria in plaque and fighting the acid that eats away at enamel.



## AFAP

From front page

across the board to make sure we're doing things right," he said. "This is a great opportunity because of people like you."

Under the direction of facilitators and subject matter experts, the service members, civilians, Family members and youth volunteers separated into five workgroups that focused on five subject areas – community services; Family and force support; housing relocation; medical and youth.

At the conference's conclusion, group spokespersons presented the group's issues and recommendations to Ortiz and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney J. Rhoades.

Cruz, who is the installation volunteer coordinator, said the process went well and that the workgroups raised important issues.

"We had a great turnout, and the commander was very impressed. He sat in on every workgroup," Cruz said.

"The goal was for delegates to come to a consensus within the group with the help of the facilitator and subject matter expert," he said. "They all did a great job in presenting their ideas, and the commander was very impressed."

"Feedback was very positive," he added. "Everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity. Several said they learned a lot about how to reach a consensus, work out solutions and identify issues relevant to the installation. They liked the suggestion process knowing it would help the community."

He thanked FMWR for providing a free lunch for participants and credited Howard with "orchestrating the whole thing."

"She showed me how to put it together but she was the one who made it happen," Cruz said, adding that he is the new ACS Army Volunteer Corps coordinator and will be the lead coordinator in 2010.

A retired sergeant major, formerly with the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, Cruz said he's happy to remain involved with the community.

"I'm just grateful to have a

job where I can interact with Soldiers, retirees and Family members," he said. "As long as I can do that, I'm doing what I love to do."

Participants in the 23rd AFAP Conference presented the following subjects, issues and recommendations to the commander.

### Community Services

Briefed by Amber Tillar

#### Information disconnect

**Scope:** Community services information is not being disseminated to the user level because of the diversity of the installation. APG has many tenant organizations that do not operate under a single network of communication. Therefore, valuable community services are not being supported and/or utilized because the community is not aware of their existence.

**Recommendation:** Encourage leaders to support community activities by directing distribution of information to all levels through the APG News, FMWR InDemand and e-mail.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Resolve at APG level.

#### Healthier food options

**Scope:** Healthy food options on the installation are scarce. The community is trending toward a more healthy/organic eating lifestyle. Availability will promote usage by more of the community, creating a more productive and healthier workforce.

**Recommendation:** Provide healthier/organic grab-and-go options at the Commissary as well as current and future food/beverage establishments.

Provide more [health and nutritional] information through classes, clinics or nutritional news letter via FMWR and Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Forward to higher headquarters.

#### Family and Force Support

Briefed by William Green

#### APG infrastructure improvement

**Scope:** The current infrastructure is insufficient to support the future growth of APG. Increased traffic volume, without adequate infrastructure (road, transportation options, traffic signals), creates congestion. Increased congestion and commuting time impacts morale, productivity levels,

and well-being of the entire APG community and leaves the potential [of] increased safety issues.

**Recommendation:** Promote increased use of telework, staggered work schedules and change in core hours.

Establish and coordinate mass transit implementation between APG and Harford County to include:

- Review Fort Belvoir, Va., transportation plan and consider adopting similar service at APG.
- Establish park-and-ride/shuttle service.
- Add bus/shuttle lane entrance at gates.

Authorize use of dining facilities for Department of the Army civilians.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Resolve at APG.

#### Closing the educational gap

**Scope:** An inconsistency exists in magnet or equivalent programs offered in Harford County middle schools. Some middle schools do not offer the magnet/equivalent programs like the ones that exist in some elementary and high schools. This creates a gap in learning between the elementary and high school levels and impacts APG Families' decisions about which schools they want their children to attend.

**Recommendation:** Form a committee to collect information from the Harford County School Board about possible magnet/equivalent program implementations in community middle schools.

Investigate other successful middle school programs in other Maryland counties.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Resolve at APG.

#### Housing and relocation

Briefed by Alvin White

#### Lack of housing availability

**Scope:** Many units on APG go unfilled while personnel are being told there is a lack of units. This affects quality of life because personnel are forced to find housing off post, creating numerous financial and lifestyle hardships.

**Recommendation:** If a hardship exists, temporarily house Families in smaller homes until proper quarters are available.

Increase speed of turnover between occupants. Accurately [disclose] all

available units [to requesting personnel] at time of request regardless of bedroom needs.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Resolve at APG

#### Undesirable guest housing

**Scope:** Guest housing on APG is in poor quality. The units have peeling wallpaper, stained furniture and floors and are in general disrepair. There is a lack of available units for incoming/outgoing personnel. These conditions add financial and emotional stress to Families during permanent change of station moves.

**Recommendation:** Renovate units.

More units should be made available to support transitioning personnel.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Resolve at APG.

#### Medical

Briefed by Kristina Ducheine

#### No-cost dental care for Family members

**Scope:** Soldiers must pay monthly premiums and cost share percentages for dental care. In addition, there is a lifetime cap for orthodontic services and an annual cap for all other dental care. This negatively impacts Soldier readiness and Family finances.

**Recommendation:** Eliminate all costs associated with dental care for Family members.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Forward to higher headquarters.

#### Medication availability at Edgewood Area pharmacy

**Scope:** Medications that are readily available at KUSAHC are not available at the Edgewood Area pharmacy. Soldiers and civilians are unable to obtain medications such as controlled drugs or medications that are not pre-measured. This delays treatment and affects well being, performance and unit readiness.

**Recommendation:** Develop and implement a plan to provide full formulary access at the Edgewood Area pharmacy.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Resolve at APG.

#### Behavioral health and basic awareness training

**Scope:** Current mandatory training only covers suicide prevention. However, Soldiers and DoD personnel are experiencing difficulty identifying warning signs and symptoms of behavioral changes in areas other than suicide prevention and substance abuse. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other behavioral health issues should be addressed as well. Lack of education causes a delay in [identifying problems and providing] appropriate treatment. This negatively impacts Soldier and civilian performance and mission readiness.

**Recommendations:** Provide mandatory training to encompass additional Behavioral Health issues. Provide mandatory training to include all DoD civilians, contractors and military personnel. Establish classes open to military Family members.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Forward to higher headquarters.

**Youth input**  
**Scope:** Youths lack the opportunity to communicate with the Child, Youth and School Services administrative staff. Many youths lose interest in activities planned by staff members. This [negatively impacts] youths, staff members and programming.

**Recommendation:** Create a youth council to provide ideas and make decisions [on behalf of members of the APG youth centers].

Establish [regular meetings] between youths and CYS Services staff.

Eliminate communication issues between youths and all staff members.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Resolve at APG.

**Youth projects**  
**Scope:** The [post] youth centers create an immense amount of waste. Valuable resources are overused. This affects the cleanliness of the overall facilities and community environment.

**Recommendation:** Place recycling receptacles throughout both centers.

Establish proper protocol for recycling pick up. Install automatic bathroom appliances in both facilities.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Resolve at APG.

#### Youth input

**Scope:** Youths lack the opportunity to communicate with the Child, Youth and School Services administrative staff. Many youths lose interest in activities planned by staff members. This [negatively impacts] youths, staff members and programming.

**Recommendation:** Create a youth council to provide ideas and make decisions [on behalf of members of the APG youth centers].

Establish [regular meetings] between youths and CYS Services staff.

Eliminate communication issues between youths and all staff members.

**Workgroup recommendation:** Resolve at APG.

## Well-Being

From page 3

driving are rising."

Krauer added that it is also prohibited to talk on a cell phone without using a "hands free" headset on APG.

### Logistics

Gene Schneck, director of Logistics, announced that there will be a special Thanksgiving dinner at the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building 4219, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

### FMWR

Christina Lockhart, director of Marketing for FMWR, said that the Soldier Show will be held 7 p.m., Nov. 1, at the Aberdeen Area Post Theater.

Lockhart added that FMWR facilities, like the APG Bowling Center, have rooms available for parties.

The 2009 All Army Digital Photography Contest entry deadline is Nov. 30. For more information, call 410-278-2621.

Lockhart said that Child and Youth School Services Sports is holding registration for cheerleading for youths ages 5 to 14. For more information, contact Youth Sports, 410-306-2297.

Lupacchino told attendees to check the APG FMWR Web site, which highlights FMWR activities for the next two months. [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

### Safety

Mike Allen from the Installation Safety Office said that attendees should consider winterizing their vehicles for the upcoming season.

Allen added that there has been an increase in motorcycle fatalities in the Army.

"Watch out for debris when riding," he said.

### Chapel

Gerri Merkel, director of Religious Education, said that the Hallelujah Harvest will be held at the Aberdeen Area post chapel 6 to 8 p.m. as an alternative to the Halloween celebration. The event will feature special games and activities

for children. Parents or caregivers are asked to attend with children.

### BRAC Transformation Office

Syreeta Gross from the Base Realignment and Closure Transformation Office, asked attendees to check the APG News and their e-mail for upcoming changes in traffic patterns.

### HHC

Major Matt Petraitis, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, APG Garrison, said that he is assisting in the annual Combined Federal Campaign, and would be happy to answer any questions at 410-278-3000, if Mike Graziano, the CFC chair, 410-278-9915, or Leslie Bell, the assistant chair, 410-278-9913, cannot be reached.

Petraitis added that APG will hold a holiday gala on Dec. 18 at Top of the Bay for all APG employees. Cost to be announced.

"This is a chance for everyone to come together and celebrate the holidays," he said.

During closing remarks Command

Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades said that he is looking forward to Picerne Military Housing managing Army Family housing.

"It will make things better for military Families in the future," he said.

Rhoades added that the Interactive Customer Evaluation comments are being closely monitored and followed up. He asked attendees to fill out their whole name and contact information when leaving a comment. Rhoades said that leaving detailed ICE messages can help improve APG.

"I look at APG as a great opportunity," he said. "Make APG your home."

Ortiz thanked attendees and remarked that he wants to encourage more community members, especially military Families, to attend the Well-Being meetings.

Ortiz added that the meetings are important in that they present the opportunity for APG to come together as a community.

The next Well-Being meeting will be held at the Aberdeen Area chapel 9:30 a.m., Nov. 19.

# FORT MONMOUTH HISTORY CORNER

## Meet Fort Monmouth and the U.S. Army CECOM LCMC: Part 2 of 3

Story by  
**MELISSA ZIOBRO**  
CECOM LCMC

(Editor's note: This is part two 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.)

The Signal Corps' Electrical Laboratory of Washington and the Signal Corps' Research Laboratory of New York merged with the Radio Laboratories at Fort Monmouth in 1929 to form the consolidated "Signal Corps Laboratories." The scientists of these labs developed, among many other things, the first U.S. aircraft detection radar.

These radars detected the incoming Japanese planes at Pearl Harbor, and helped to win World War II. Read more at [http://www.monmouth.army.mil/historian/pubArtifacts/Articles/2007-09-10\\_1100-FILE-Fort%20Monmouth%20Invention%20Warned%20of%20Pearl%20Harbor%20Attack.doc](http://www.monmouth.army.mil/historian/pubArtifacts/Articles/2007-09-10_1100-FILE-Fort%20Monmouth%20Invention%20Warned%20of%20Pearl%20Harbor%20Attack.doc).

President Roosevelt's proclamation of a state of "limited emergency" on Sept. 8, 1939, following the outbreak of war in Europe, significantly impacted Fort Monmouth. The Army was immediately authorized additional personnel.

The Signal Corps School curriculum, both officer and enlisted courses, changed to accommodate the increased enrollment.

One year following the "limited emergency" proclamation, Congress passed the Selective Training and Service Act providing for one year of compulsory military training. The President simultaneously called the National Guard into Federal Service, and the Army increased in size yet again.

With the passage of the Selective Service Act, the chief signal officer ordered a Replacement Training Center at Fort Monmouth where enlisted personnel could receive their one year of training. The Signal Corps Replacement Center opened in January 1941 with a capacity of 5,000 men. By December, however, the capacity increased to 7,000 and the one-year training period shrunk to 13 weeks.

Fort Monmouth's other wartime training focused on officer candidates. The Officer Candidate Department activated within the Signal Corps School on June 2, 1941. The first class commenced July 3, 1941. Four hundred ninety students chosen from warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers based on leadership, communications knowledge and prior service comprised that class. A total of 335 newly commissioned second lieutenants graduated after three months of training. Subsequent classes averaged about 250 men, but gradually grew to 1,000 men per class.

Fort Monmouth received its first contingent of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, or WAAC, April 30, 1943, shortly after Public Law 554 on 14 May 1942 granted women the right to serve "with" [not "in"] the Army. The headline of the post newspaper that week read, "Vanguard of WAAC arrives to plan invasion of fort." The article began by



Col Thomas K. Trigg, Kenneth Creveling and Robert A. Rose unveil the state historical marker, Oct 1963

exhorting men to straighten their ties and comb their hair, "press those uniforms more carefully than ever because a new impetus has been added to Army life at Fort Monmouth."

A Signal Corps board convened at Fort Monmouth in 1948 eventually contributed to the Army's decision to retain women in peacetime. The board deemed women "more adaptable and dexterous than men in the performance of certain specialties." Read more at [http://www.monmouth.army.mil/historian/pubArtifacts/Articles/2007-09-04\\_0800-FILE-Signal%20Corps\\_women.doc](http://www.monmouth.army.mil/historian/pubArtifacts/Articles/2007-09-04_0800-FILE-Signal%20Corps_women.doc).

The Signal Corps leased numerous local sites during the war to facilitate Fort Monmouth's expanded missions, to include luxury beachfront hotels and Asbury Park's famed Convention Center (later made famous in part by local legend Bruce Springsteen, and now on both the state and national historic registries). Read more at [http://www.monmouth.army.mil/historian/pubArtifacts/Articles/2007-09-04\\_0800-FILE-Signal%20Corps\\_women.doc](http://www.monmouth.army.mil/historian/pubArtifacts/Articles/2007-09-04_0800-FILE-Signal%20Corps_women.doc).

Fort Monmouth laboratory development during this period included the SCR-510 in 1941. This early FM backpack radio, a pioneer in frequency modulation circuits, provided front line troops with reliable, static free communications. Multichannel FM radio relay sets (such as the AN/TRC-1) were fielded in the European Theater of Operations as early as 1943. FM radio relay and RADAR, both products of the labs at Fort Monmouth, are typically rated among the top weapon systems that made a difference in World War II.

Wartime training subsided quickly after the cessation of hostilities. Reductions

began in May 1943 with orders to inactivate the Replacement Training Center. The center produced more than 60,000 Signal Corps specialists during the 30 months of its existence. Then, in August, the capacity of the Officer Candidate School was set at 150. Classes entered at 17-week intervals. Enrollments fluctuated thereafter. Most of the functions of the Enlisted Department of the Signal School transferred to Camp Crowder, Mo., with the decline in requirements for trained replacements within the Signal Corps. Many expansion facilities leased or purchased during the war were abandoned.

Research in radar technology, however, continued at the Evans Signal Laboratory despite the end of World War II.

The site witnessed a milestone in scientific history on Jan. 10, 1946, when Signal Corps scientists, under the direction of Lt. Col. John J. DeWitt (1906 to 1999), used a specially designed radar antenna (called the Diana Tower) to successfully reflect electronic signals off the moon. The project was named in honor of Diana, Greek goddess of the moon.

The Diana antenna focused a beam of high frequency energy at the moon, traveling at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second). Scientists achieved success shortly after moonrise when an audible ping came over the loudspeaker of their receiver, signaling the return of the radio wave just two and a half seconds later. Continuous recordings were made at regular 2.5 second intervals. The Diana experiment proved the feasibility of communicating across vast distances of space, and newspaper reports at the



Photo courtesy of H.W. ANDREWS, ZAHL PAPERS  
In St. Pol, France, Soldiers from Headquarters 42nd Division prepare pigeons to carry dispatches May 13, 1918.

time put the feat into the same category as the development of the atomic bomb.

Read more about our technological "famous firsts," to include the first weather radar, first weather satellite, first televised weather satellite, first communications satellite and first high capacity communications satellite, at [http://www.monmouth.army.mil/historian/pubupdates/Fort-MonmouthandTeamC4ISR-FamousFirsts\\_Sept2008.pdf](http://www.monmouth.army.mil/historian/pubupdates/Fort-MonmouthandTeamC4ISR-FamousFirsts_Sept2008.pdf).

Although overall military strength decreased rapidly following the end of World War II, the need for trained signal personnel continued throughout the post-war period. Fort

Monmouth remained intact as the "Home of the Signal Corps." Personnel strength, however, dropped markedly by January 1948.

Things soon changed as world tensions increased with the Cold War and the Berlin Airlift. Enlarging the capacity of every activity on post again became necessary to sustain the Army's worldwide commitments.

The introduction of Automatic Artillery and Mortar Locating Radars AN/TPQ-3 and AN/MPQ-10 proved to be a major success during the Korean War era.

Other developments of the period included a lightweight field television camera with a back-pack transmitter; a pocket dosimeter for detecting radiation; an ultrasonic quartz saw and super-small experimental field radios.

Advancements in communications systems came so far that in 1957 the Army discontinued the pigeon service, a fixture on post since the end of World War I. Fort Monmouth sold many homing pigeons at auction, while "hero" pigeons with distinguished service records retired to zoos.

Times certainly were changing. Brigadier Gen. Walter E. Lotz, assistant chief of staff for Communications-Electronics, U.S. Army, Vietnam, stated in 1966 that "Electronics has never been so vital in a war as it is here in Vietnam."

The U.S. Army Electronics Command, which was located at Fort Monmouth during the Vietnam War era, supplied much of those electronics. Don't miss that story in next week's APG News.



Photo courtesy of H.W. ANDREWS, ZAHL PAPERS  
The first aircraft detection radar in the United States was this SCR-268, developed and built at Fort Monmouth in 1938. Aircraft detection radars were vital to Allied victory in World War II in both the Pacific and European theaters.

# APG celebrates Hispanic American Heritage Month



Staff Sgt. Jose Arroyo, left, who works for the Noncommissioned Officers Academy, dances with Spc. Neti Hafoka, 22nd Chemical Battalion, during the Hispanic American Heritage Month celebration held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Oct. 14.

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

Members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community gathered to celebrate Hispanic American Heritage Month Oct. 14 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center.

Lieutenant Col. Harold Lopez from the U.S. Army Environmental Command served as the master of ceremony for the event and Bridget N. Smith, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, sang the national anthem.

Chaplain (Capt.) Kurt A. O'Donnell from the 16th

Ordnance Battalion gave the invocation.

"We thank you for this day as we celebrate Hispanic American Heritage month; we thank you for the many diverse cultures that you have given us that make our country vibrant," O'Donnell said.

Guest dancers Lucero McDannell and Dario Morales were joined by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Harrington and Spc. Neti Hafoka, from the 22nd Chemical Battalion. They performed a salsa, bachata and a merengue. (See accompanying article on Harrington.)

Colonel Orlando Ortiz, APG garrison and deputy installation

commander, gave welcoming remarks.

"Throughout our nation's history, Hispanic Americans have served bravely in the United States Armed Forces earning dozens of Congressional Medals of Honor and numerous distinguished military decorations," Ortiz said. "These coveted decorations applaud their leader-

ship, courage and patriotism." Ortiz continued by saying that in every major American conflict, Hispanic Americans have sacrificed greatly in the defense of freedom. Currently, there are 1.1 million Hispanic service members in the armed forces.

The guest speaker for the event was Maria Tezanos Pinto to Johnson, director of Hispanic Ministry, Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Maryland Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Pinto's work for the Archdiocese of Baltimore includes ministry with the Hispanic community in a parish church as well as her work at the Office of Hispanic Ministry.

Pinto said that it was a great honor for her to address a military installation in time of war.

"I want to express my solidarity with you men and women, in your life-giving efforts of building a more just and peaceful world," she said.

Pinto said that this year's theme, "Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now," is attributed to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement.

"What does it mean to embrace that fierce urgency of now in view of the fact that America is becoming more integrated with Hispanic culture and people?" she asked.

Pinto said that to her the "now" is beyond celebratory, even though there is much to celebrate. She said that Hispanic Americans are now offering to the nation a Supreme Court Judge in Sonia Sotomayor; Tom Perez, who was Secretary of Labor for Governor Martin O'Malley's administration and is now Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and many significant contributions of distinguished Hispanic Americans continue to appear in the different areas of American society.

"For me and maybe for you too, the contributions of a significant few is not enough, but the now needs to be meaningful to the average person; it needs to make an impact on the lives of the average Hispanics by building a level field of opportunities, of structures that would produce a more radical cultural and sociological shift in which difference is not a threat but a building [block] of society," she said.

Pinto concluded by saying

that in the future a larger part of the American population will be Hispanic American.

"This is not an 'if,' it is only 'when' the fierce urgency is to begin now to put the foundations [in place] and the Army could be one of those institutions that as in the past would model and lead the country in that fierce embracement," she said.

After the program attendees looked at displays featuring Hispanic clothing, art and history, and sampled Hispanic foods, including arroz con gradules (pigeon peas and rice), maduros (sweet plantains), tostones (fried green plantains) from Puerto Rico, chicken picante (spicy stewed chicken), enchilada de pollo (chicken enchilada), encilada de carne (beef enchilada) from Mexico and ensalada de pollo al carbon (charbroiled chicken salad) and yuca frita (yuca fries) from Peru.

Mai Seray-Wurie, who works for U.S. Army Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, and is originally from Sierra Leone, said that she thought having cultural programs are important.

"I liked the speaker's remarks. I liked how she tied Martin Luther King Junior's words to Hispanic American Heritage month. I think it is important for Americans to be exposed to other cultures," she said.

Russell Hall, director of the Northeast Region Installation Management Command who was visiting APG that day and attended the program, said that the event was important because America is a melting pot of cultures.

"Programs like this one showcase how the world can come together and live in peace and harmony," he said. "Our nation stands for peace and liberty for all."

Sergeant 1st Class Elwood E. Venev, garrison equal opportunity advisor, or EOA, with RDECOM who was the lead for the event, thanked the Joint Personnel Effects Depot for cooking; Arlene Torres, BRAC Transformation Office program analyst, Linda Patrick, U.S. Army Center for Health and Preventive Medicine; Master Sgt. Michelle B. Davis, 20th Support Command EOA; and Sgt. 1st Class David B. Pickett 61st Ordnance Brigade EOA for helping organize the event.

## Soldier learns to dance while deployed in Iraq

Story and photo  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

A 22nd Chemical Battalion Soldier learned how to dance while he was deployed in Iraq last year.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Harrington, who recently performed at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Hispanic American Heritage Month celebration, said he learned how to dance at Camp Slayer, part of the Victory Base Complex, a main base in Baghdad, Iraq.

Harrington said that the classes were facilitated by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and were taught by volunteer instructors, who taught classes six nights a week. Harrington said that he would go to class three to four times a week. While taking the classes he learned several Latin dances such as the salsa, bachata and merengue.

"I had great instructors who volunteered their own time for free to teach us how to dance," he said. "They have an excellent FMWR program in Iraq."

Harrington added that no matter where he is he likes to meet different people and learn new skills.

"When I have an opportunity to do something different I take that opportunity. I don't want to be a barracks rat. I want to meet new people and have fun," he said.

Harrington added that now that he knows how to dance he has volunteered as an instructor.



Specialist Neti Hafoka, left, from the 22nd Chemical Battalion, dances with Staff Sgt. Jeremy Harrington, from the 22nd Chemical Battalion. Harrington decided to learn to dance after attending a Hispanic American Heritage Month celebration last year held at Camp Slayer, part of the Victory Base Complex, a main base at Baghdad, Iraq.



Dario Morales, left, dances with Lucero McDannell, during the Hispanic American Heritage Month celebration held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center on Oct. 14. McDannell and Morales volunteered to perform at the event to show attendees traditional Hispanic dances.