

Post Shorts

Celebrate "Holiday by the Bay" with Picerne Military Housing Dec. 3

All residents are invited to join in the festivities and celebrate the holiday season with neighbors and the Picerne team during the "Holiday by the Bay." The event is free for residents and will be held at 2727 Chesapeake Blvd. Friday, Dec. 3 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Hear the sleigh bells ring as you take a ride in a horse-drawn carriage, enjoy live holiday music, sip a warm cup of hot chocolate, eat scrumptious holiday treats, work on crafts, take a picture with Jolly ol' St. Nick and most importantly, celebrate the season with friends and family.

For more information contact the Neighborhood Office.

Blood drive for the troops Dec. 2

Support the troops by donating blood. The Armed Services Blood Program blood drive will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 2 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. The blood drive is open to everyone.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 301-295-2109 or visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

RAB meeting Dec. 2

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Dec. 2 at the Ramada Conference Center, 1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood.

Topics will include Other Edgewood Areas, Aberdeen Study Area and Western Boundary Study Area.

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.

Study complete on APG WWI barracks

Aberdeen Proving Ground conducted an environmental assessment of potential environmental, cultural and socioeconomic effects associated with options for the reuse or demolition of the World War I Barracks (E4400 Block) in the Edgewood Area of APG.

The 13 barracks buildings, a heating plant and former bakery building comprise a historic district that is eligible for listing on the National

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Elkton students receive robo kits

Council has the answers

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

If you want answers and you want them now, the Community Action Council may just be your best bet.

The installation's CAC is a monthly meeting where community members can ask questions and voice their opinions to senior installation representatives.

For several community members who regularly attend the CAC, standing toe-to-toe with the command group and

director leaders and getting real answers, real quick, is reason enough to show up every month.

"Two examples of success stories from the CAC are the creation of the fitness trails at Plumb Point and fixing the lighting problems in the on-post housing areas," said Susan Myers, regular attendee at the meetings and wife of RDECOM Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. Harold Greene.

In addition to getting problems solved and questions

answered, Annie Brock, Military and Civilian Spouses' Club president, said she gets a wealth of general information during the meetings.

Myers noted that as a result of information being distributed through the CAC, more than 500 people have signed up for the Dec. 10 Santa Ball, making it one of the largest installation functions in decades.

And while it has proven to be a great place for answers, it's not the place to go if all you

See **COMMUNITY**, page 13

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Recent issues that have been resolved through the Community Action Council include:

1. the creation of fitness trails at Plumb Point
2. lighting outages in on-post housing areas
3. free admission to pools for troops and dependents



Garrison officials say they are aware of the concern about the tree and are working to find ways to extend the tree's beneficial impact on APG.

Great oaks from little acorns grow

An old tree comes down, but its heritage lives on

Story by
GEORGE MERCER
Garrison APG Public Affairs

On Saturday, Nov. 27, Aberdeen Proving Ground's Garrison cut down a locally famous black oak tree in the former Maryland Boulevard Picnic Area.

WHAT NOW:

- Acorns have been collected for replanting at Aberdeen Proving Ground.
- Portions of the trunk will be used for environmental education outreach and natural resources.
- Slices, or biscuits, of the trunk will be professionally preserved and shared in local educational forums.

The tree, which was 203 years old, was removed as part of an Enhanced Use Lease development plan for a 417-acre site adjacent to the Maryland Route 715 Gate.

"Needless to say the tree removal was a significant event for many people on- and off- post," said Scott English, APG forester. "The tree had achieved a kind of iconic status in the area and many people were upset over the fact that it was coming down."

A Facebook page and other social media were engaged at various times to voice protest and concern over the

See **OFFICIALS**, page 13

Readers urged to 'go social'

APG News keeps pace, posts articles to blog site

APG News staff report

Readers who want to get the latest news before the paper comes out can start following the APG News team's blog postings on MilBlog, which is run by the Program Executive Office Command, Control and Communications, Tactical.

The blog is just one part of the growing military social media presence called MilSuite that APG tenant PEOC3T has been building behind the Army Knowledge Online firewall.

Blog visitors need an AKO username and password or CAC card to log in, but once there they have access to the blog; MilWiki, a Wikipedia-like site where users can create and edit documents; MilBook, a site featuring profiles, status updates and other social

media standards that Facebook users will find familiar; and the brand new video sharing service MilTube.

The blog can be found at <https://blog.kc.us.army.mil/>. APG News content will be tagged as such, and the blog allows readers to filter content by category or tag. So those who only want to see APG News content can go to this web address: <https://blog.kc.us.army.mil/index.php/tag/apg-news/>. Other categories and tags are listed on the blog.

Over the next few months the APG Garrison Public Affairs Office will start posting more content there, until eventually many of the newspaper's news briefs and announcements will appear on the blog first, said Garrison Public Affairs Officer George Mercer.

"Blogs and social media sites have transformed how people get their information," Mercer said. "The industry wisdom is that you have to be where your audience is. We think MilBlog is perfect

See **APG NEWS**, page 13

APG bids farewell to Anzio Annie

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

In 1945 President Franklin D. Roosevelt died after 12 years in office, linoleum kitchen rugs were all the rage, and a gallon of gasoline cost 15 cents.

It was also the year Anzio Annie became the star of the Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Annie is the Krupp K5 German heavy railway gun famous for the shelling of Allied Forces at the Anzio beachhead in Italy during World War II.

Hailed as one of the largest land-based cannons ever built, Annie was discovered by Allied troops on a railroad siding outside of Rome in 1944 and was shipped to the Ordnance Museum the following year.

After a 65-year stay at APG, Annie was disassembled during the

See **RIGGERS**, page 13



Anzio Annie, hailed as one of the largest land-based cannons ever built, is prepped for her haul to Fort Lee, Va.

COMMAND SGT. MAJ.'S CORNER

Focus on friends, Family this season

The holiday season is here and it's time for an overview of responsibilities. As Soldiers, we are mission focused. But people-focus needs to be a priority too.

As members of one team – Team APG – we must always look out for each other.

Taking care of our people is a concern during this time of year. Each of us may celebrate the holiday season in our own way and use the time to pause, recharge our energy, reconnect with Family and friends and reflect on the accomplishments of the year. I encourage you to not leave anyone out.

Leaders must develop an open, supportive environment where Soldiers and civilians can contribute, develop and succeed.

When we talk about a people focus, I mean caring about the people at your side. No one should go it alone. Regardless of your particular mission, the burden will be less if we seek partnerships



“Contrary to popular belief, American suicide rates actually decline during major holidays; however, the Army is unique. We have a different set of circumstances involving extended deployments, dangerous missions and a pace of combat operations that may stress our people.”

and work together.

Many say the holiday season can lead some people into depression. This is serious. One of the problems in today's Army is the record number of suicides.

Each of us must be alert and remember the acronym “ACE.” It stands for Ask, Care and Escort. If you observe your buddy, coworker or Soldier acting irrationally or depressed, have the courage to ask the question. Actively listen and show that you understand. Never leave your buddy alone. Escort him or her to the chain of command if you suspect a potential problem.

The Army is battling this problem

head-on because it's the right thing to do. We take care of our own.

Contrary to popular belief, American suicide rates actually decline during major holidays; however, the Army is unique. We have a different set of circumstances involving extended deployments, dangerous missions and a pace of combat operations that may stress our people. When you mix in feelings brought about by the holiday season, it may reach a boiling point. We must be vigilant, always.

During this holiday season, stay safe and celebrate responsibly. If you drive, don't drink. If you drink, be responsible and ensure you have a designated driv-

er. The last thing anyone wants to see is your name on an accident report. So, look to your left and to your right and take care of each other. Don't become a statistic.

This has been a great year. All of us on Aberdeen Proving Ground have seen a major transformation on the installation. There are new buildings going up and new organizations reporting for duty. It's an exciting time to be part of Team APG.

We have momentum. That's something all successful organizations share: Forward Movement. As we look back on where we've been we can be proud. Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldiers and civilians form a cohesive team with common vision and goals.

We look forward to an even better year in 2011. From my Family to yours, have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Army Strong!

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. HECTOR MARIN

U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and Aberdeen Proving Ground Senior Enlisted Advisor

Ward off the blues with compassionate ear

When I was a little kid, the holiday season from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day was a time of pure joy for me. I highly anticipated each and every aspect of the holiday season.

Whether it was the wonderful baked goods or looking forward to a long-awaited Christmas gift, the whole period was, and still is, my favorite time of year.

As I became an adult, and especially after I became a minister, I became aware that not everyone experiences the holidays with such joy. Some have what is described as “holiday blues.”

There are a number of reasons for this outlook. Some people have experienced



“I will never forget speaking with a woman in my office a few years ago who told me that her mother had passed away at Christmas the prior year.”

the death of a loved one over the holidays and find it hard to experience the season without a measure of grief and sorrow.

I will never forget speaking with a woman in my office a few years ago who told me that her mother had passed away at Christmas the prior year.

She tearfully described how she and her mom would decorate their house together every year, but this year she could not even bring herself to get the decorations down from the attic because it just hurt too much.

Others may have experienced the break-up of a marriage the previous holiday season and for the first time in a long time, they will spend the holi-

days alone. The pain that they are going through is almost unimaginable and left unchecked can lead to despair and hopelessness.

These are just two examples of why many people, maybe even someone you know, will have a miserable time this holiday season.

What is the remedy?

First, be aware of those around you that seem subdued or sad during the holidays. Despite the fact that it was all around me, I was blissfully unaware of other people's pain during the holidays. I urge you to not be like that. Instead, be sensitive and observant as you mingle with others this season.

And if you notice anyone who seems to have the blues, ask them if they are okay and offer to listen. Many times, just offering a compassionate ear will encourage people going through a difficult time.

Second, if you know of someone who will be spending the holidays alone for whatever reason, invite them to your home for a meal, to watch a football game, or even just to share a cup of coffee or hot chocolate.

You can never underestimate the value of human compassion when someone is hurting, and the good thing is that you don't even have to be a professional caregiver to offer compassion.

When I think about it, I can't imagine a more wonderful way to be a blessing to someone this holiday season!

CHAPLAIN (LTC) JIMMY C. DAVIS
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

Military folks forge close bonds, unlike any other

By **JACEY ECKHART**
CinChouse.com

Melissa said that K9 and Jan and Christine put together a spread sheet to figure out how to get all the Wisconsin relatives to and from the airport, back and forth from the funeral home, the viewing, the church, the burial at Quantico.

When 17 year-old Forrest Peterson died in a car crash, an entire cadre of Peterson friends—so many military friends—poured in to help. The way we do.

And the Wisconsin relatives couldn't understand who any of us were. They kept asking puzzled questions, thinking puzzled thoughts:

Jeff and Melissa had only moved to Virginia a year ago, right?

How can a thousand people know you well enough to stand in line for hours to console you after only a year?

How come the streets from the funeral home to the burial were lined with people getting out of their cars to salute? For some new kid?

“If you knew Forrest Peterson, if you know Jeff and Melissa, if you know siblings Brett and Merritt, then I don't really have to explain. Awesome kid. Devoted parents. Hilarious siblings.”

If you knew Forrest Peterson, if you know Jeff and Melissa, if you know siblings Brett and Merritt, then I don't really have to explain. Awesome kid. Devoted parents. Hilarious siblings.

The Wisconsin relatives knew all that. They knew that the clan was chock full of nice people. They just couldn't understand the rest of us knowing that already.

I can hardly blame them. Like so many other extended family members of the military, these civilians lived in the same Wisconsin communities for many years, if not all their lives. They saw the same people at church and the store. They sat next to the same people at hockey practice year after year. They understood how a family, how a community, would come

forward for one of their own.

In Wisconsin, a family is known. How could it be possible for a military family like the Petersons who move and move and move have this kind of community?

I wish the relatives had asked me. I would have told them that it's simple, really.

We are their Wisconsin. We military folks become Wisconsin to each other. I don't really know how exactly this happens. I just know I love Forrest and Merritt and Brett as if they are my blood. I'm closer to Jeff and Melissa than to some of my own siblings. I may have only met Christine and Jan and K9 at the hospital, but I immediately recognized in them my

friends, my neighbors, my home.

The rest of the world thinks that we military people share only scraps of each other's lives. And in a way they are right. We're there for the pregnancy, but not the birth. We know each other during soccer season, but we move before wrestling starts. We send pictures of kids clustered around the steps in our Christmas cards. Homecoming dance photos are posted on Facebook. We run into each other by chance on Bourbon Street, at the Smithsonian metro stop, in the commissary at Fort Riley or Camp Pendleton or Sasebo.

And somehow, this really does add up to something big. As big as Wisconsin. During our military lives, other military families become something more than friends, something somewhere beyond family. We don't have a name for what this means.

I only know that when Forrest died, when I saw all those good people come together around the Petersons, that we were all part of something so much bigger than ourselves. And that has made such a difference.

APG News

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

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Apply now for Senior Service College Fellowship

Special to APG News

Community members can apply through March 15 to participate in a 10-month senior service college fellowship, hosted by the Defense Acquisition University.

The program will begin July 25 at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Fellows selected for the program will participate in leadership training, program manager's course, a speaker's program, national security module, acquisition-related tours and field trips, a mentoring program and research on acquisition topics. Participants may also take part in an optional master's program.

The college fellowship develops senior acquisition civilians in preparation for roles as product and project managers, program executive officers and other leadership positions with greater responsibility by providing each fellow with the knowledge, skills and tools to be successful in future assignments.

This is an excellent opportunity for high potential employees at the GS14/15 or equivalent level, according to SSCF officials.

The DAU-SSCF is a nationally rec-



Courtesy photo

Keith Snyder describes the battle at Burnside Bridge at Antietam National Battlefield during a Nov. 9 Senior Service College Fellowship staff ride.

ognized academic program and comparable to the Senior Service Colleges. Applicants must apply for consideration and meet the following requirements:

- Be a GS 14/15 or in an equivalent pay band.
- Be a member of the Acquisition Corps

- Be a Level III certification in at least one functional area
- Possess or attain a secret clearance, and
- Have a command endorsement letter from the first general officer or senior executive service member in the applicant's chain of command.

The application and board process for the DAU-SSCF program will be conducted by the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center and fellows will be selected by a centralized selection board.

Visit <http://asc.army.mil/default.cfm> for application requirements and program details.

Interested individuals will participate in a question and answer presentation Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Bldg. 6008, the Mission Training Facility, Classroom 4.

Additional presentations will be made Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 1:15-2:15 p.m. and 4-5 p.m. in the DAU telepresence room, Bldg. E5027, at 5027 Blackhawk Road, on Edgewood.

For more information, call Jim Oman, DAU-SSCF program director, at 410-436-7257 / 703-254-3255, or by e-mail at james.oman@dau.mil.

To attend the presentation, e-mail your name and which presentation you'd like to attend to Parker B. Bennett, SSCF coordinator, at parker.bennett@dau.mil by noon Monday, Dec. 6, or call at 410-436-5761.

Holiday worship services

There will be a combined Christmas Eve Candelight Service, 7 p.m., Dec. 24, at the Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 2485. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Main Post Chapel (Aberdeen Area)

Catholic Mass

Sun., Dec. 5 Second Sunday of Advent 8:45 a.m.

Wed., Dec. 8 Holy Day/Obligation 11:45 a.m.

Sat., Dec. 11 Hispanic Mass/Social 4:30 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 12 Third Sunday of Advent 8:45 a.m.

Protestant worship

Sun., Dec. 5 Second Sunday of Advent 10:15 a.m.

Sun., Dec. 12 Christmas Cantata 10:15 a.m.

Gospel workshop

Sun., Dec. 5 Second Sunday of Advent noon

Sat., Dec. 11 Dance/Drama Play 4 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 12 Third Sunday of Advent noon

Edgewood Area

Catholic Mass

Sun., Dec. 5 Second Sunday of Advent 10:45 a.m.

Wed., Dec. 8 Holy Day/Obligation noon

Sun., Dec. 12 Third Sunday of Advent 10:45 a.m.

Protestant worship

Sun., Dec. 5 Second Sunday of Advent 9:15 a.m.

Sun., Dec. 12 Third Sunday of Advent 9:15 a.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration

The APG Catholic Community is sponsoring a celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 11 at the main post chapel at 4:30 p.m. There will be a re-enactment of the Miracle of Juan Diego followed by Mass and dinner. Main dish will be provide at no charge. Attendees are asked to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert. Contact Connie Richardson at 410-676-0179 or connie.richardson@conus.army.mil

Advent Wreath Workshop

Celebrate "Christmas Around the World," 3 p.m., Dec. 5, at the main post chapel. For more information, call 410-278-4333.

Post Shorts

Register of Historic Places.

The proposed action is to retain, restore, and reuse one of the barracks buildings (Bldg. E4405), while the remainder of the historic district is demolished.

The barracks buildings were built in 1918 as permanent housing for the enlisted Soldiers operating the then-Edgewood Arsenal's newly constructed chemical warfare production plants.

The draft environmental assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact are available for review at <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/about/history.cfm#4405> until Jan. 4. Comments can be addressed to:

USAG APG DPW,
Environmental Division
ATTN: IMNE-APG-PWE
(Carol Young)
4304 Susquehanna Ave.,
3rd Floor, Wing B
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
21005-5001

MLK committee forming

The APG Martin Luther King Jr. committee is looking for volunteers. To help plan the MLK observance in January, contact Sgt. 1st Class LaQuita Wimbley, RDECOM equal opportunity advisor, at 410-306-2053 or Linda Patrick, U.S. Army Public Health Command, at 410-436-1023. The next meeting is 10:30 a.m. in Bldg. E5158 in the Edgewood Area, Dec. 7.

Tree Decorating and Gingerbread House Competitions

All Garrison supported organizations and community activities are invited to participate in the Tree Decorating and Gingerbread House Competitions. Each event is open to all members of the APG community and their Families. The Aberdeen and Edgewood Area events will be held in conjunction with the APG Festival of Trees and Holiday Celebrations on Dec. 8 and 14.

Tree decoration competition

The Tree Decorating Competition will take place between 5 to 5:30 p.m. Trees will be provided. Each group needs to bring their ornaments and decorations to the Aberdeen or Edgewood Recreation Center where they will be given 30 minutes to complete their project.

Gingerbread house competition

Participants will bring their completed creation to the Aberdeen or Edgewood Recreation Center by 4:30 p.m. for set-up.

Those who would like to participate may call the AA Recreation Center, 410-278-2621 or e-mail Joyce.founds@us.army.mil. When responding, identify the name of the representative, phone number, e-mail and name of organization represented. Participants should indicate if they are participating at Edgewood or Aberdeen.

COSTCO wholesale membership

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a COSTCO Wholesale Membership Registration 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 7 at the Edgewood Area Southside Grill located in the Stark Recreation Center, Bldg. E4140 and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 9, at the Aberdeen Area Bowling Center, Bldg. 2342, Party Room. Receive a \$20 Costco Cash Card when you join as a new executive member or a \$10 Costco Cash Card when you join as a new gold star member.

For more information, call Patti Harkins at 410-436-4467 or e-mail patti.harkins@us.army.mil.

AFTB hosts independence training Dec. 7-8

The installation's Army Family Team Building will host a Level III volunteer-supported class to teach individuals and families how to be more independent within the military environment.

The class will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7-8 in ACS Bldg. 2503, second floor, in the CYS conference room # 214.

Pre-registration is required. For information, call Tina Helmick, AFTB program manager at 410-278-2453. On Dec. 8 after the AFTB Level III graduation, there will be a 17-year AFTB birthday celebration.

Santa Ball slated Dec. 10

The Aberdeen chapter of the AUSA will host the Soldier Santa Ball 6 to 11 p.m. at the Baltimore Hilton, 401 W. Pratt Street in Baltimore Dec. 10.

Those interested in attending to visit www.ausa-aberdeen.org/ for more information.

Call ACS to sponsor military Family for the holidays

With the holiday season fast approaching, the nation is still facing its greatest economic challenge since the great depression while still fighting the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground community is constantly reminded of the great sacrifice of the men and women in the U.S. armed forces. During these difficult and stressful times, some military Families are experiencing financial hardship and require additional assistance.

Army Community Service works closely with these military Families providing supportive services throughout the year. To make this holiday season a little bit brighter for some of these Families, Army Community Services is hosting the Holiday Sponsor program. Individuals, groups, and/or agencies desiring to sponsor a military Family can contact Arcelio V. Alleyne, ACS Financial Readiness Program Manager, 410.278.2450, fax 410.278.9685, or e-mail arcelio.alleyne@us.army.mil.

NAF Open Season begins

All enrollment options will be available during Open Season to Regular Full-time and Part-time employees with the exception of Long Term Care which will be available only with Evidence of Insurability.

Health plan participants must enroll their dependent children, age 19-26 who

were previously enrolled but aged out of coverage at 19, dependents who were never enrolled because they were over 18, and dependents age 19-26 who were covered as a full-time student.

If you have dependents ages 19-26 failure to update your records during Open Season will result in these children not being eligible for coverage until the next Open Season.

FSA's also require yearly election.

Since employees will need a variety of information and/or documents, they should contact NAF Human Resources Office, 410-278-5127/8992/8994 to arrange an appointment as soon as possible if they wish to add dependents and/or update their records.

Changes requiring Open Season eligibility will be effective Jan. 1 2011 provided the employee is actively at work.

Edgewood Area kicks off holiday season with food, toy and gift drive

The Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground has kicked off the 2010 holiday season with its 23rd Annual Food, Toy and Gift Drive. Through Dec 7, volunteers will collect donations from 30 locations across the area and workforce members are encouraged to support this charitable event with generous donations of new toys and gifts for all ages, as well as non-perishable food items.

Collected items will be donated to the Mason Dixon Community Services, an organization that provides emergency food and energy assistance to low-income residents in Harford County, and to Extreme Family Outreach, an organization that provides after school and summer programs for elementary- and middle school-aged youth in Edgewood, Joppatowne, and Havre de Grace.

For more information, contact Beth Hirsh of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at 410-436-5185.

Freedom Award nominations

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency opened nomination season for their annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award earlier this month. Now through Jan. 17, Guard and Reserve service members and their Families are eligible and encouraged to nominate their supportive employers for this prestigious award at www.FreedomAward.mil.

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

LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Carolyn Russell, 410-306-0173, e-mail carolyn.russell2@us.army.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Debra Bonsall	Kari Jackson	Earl Taylor
Georgia Braun	Jessica Knight	Joya Tucker
Clark Capers	Jocelyn Miller-Harris	Jamie Turner
Meg Downey	Ulrike Neyens	Luis Villafane
Wayne Erb	Marie D. Nowak	Christina Weber
Sabrina Faulkner	Angel Quander	Roy Weismiller
Thomas Garrett	Michele Reamey	Emily Whaley
Holly Geppi	Paul Shelley	Fletcher "Chip" Williams
Walter Holland	Lena Shelton	Victoria Yates-Sparks
Michele Hornberger	Philip Sibley	
Debra Ingram	Rachel Swearingen	

CORRECTION

Due to a copyediting error in the Nov. 24 issue of the APG News, Linda Placzankis was misidentified as the mother of Brian Placzankis. Linda is the mother of local Boy Scout Mac Placzankis. In the article, titled "Local Scout enhances post," Linda said son Mac "has never been afraid to try anything."

COMMUNITY NOTES

FRIDAY

**DECEMBER 3
LIGHT UP THE NIGHT KICKS
OFF THE 2010 HOLIDAYS**

Havre de Grace Main Street First Friday's "Light Up Night" kicks off the holiday season at 6 p.m.

Santa will arrive in style on The Susquehanna Hose Company's fire truck up St. John Street to Washington St. in Havre de Grace.

Experience the Winter Wonderland sponsored by the Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce with new lights throughout downtown and the lighting of the city's Christmas tree donated by the Havre de Grace Masons, Susquehanna Lodge 130.

The Havre de Grace High School Warrior Marching Band and the Havre de Grace Middle School Band will perform.

Tell Santa your Christmas wishes at the new Santa's workshop on Washington Street and warm up with the charm of Havre de Grace. During the holiday season, the shops may have extended hours and many specials to remind visitors to shop and dine local.

For more information, call 410-939-2100.

SATURDAY

**DECEMBER 4
IT'S GOING TO BE A
STORYBOOK CHRISTMAS**

Events include breakfast with Santa 7 to 11 a.m. at Grace Methodist Church (tickets available at the door); Nativity scene display, 1 to 2 p.m. at Grace Methodist Church; a Christmas Craft Fair 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Aberdeen Fire House and street entertainment, 2 p.m., on West Bel Air Avenue.

See the window contest winners. The Christmas Street Parade begins on West Bel Air Avenue - Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive on their sleigh.

Santa will visit with children and hear their wishes in Aberdeen Festival Park.

For more information, call 410-272-1600 or visit www.aberdeen-md.org.

TEXAS HOLD'EM

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

wiches and light fare available.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

KNEE-HIGH ADVENTURES

Let's go explore. Participants are out and about on the Discovery Trail investigating nature with songs, games and sensory activities. This program will be held 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 3 to 5 with adult. The cost is \$4 per class and 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.

STAMPING IT UP, NATURALLY

Take a walk to find natural items to use for printing. Then use these items to create impressions on tote bags or drawstring bags. This program will be held 1 to 2 p.m. for ages 4 to adult. The cost is \$5. Registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

**DECEMBER 5
CHRISTMAS MURDER
MYSTERY TEA**

A murder mystery tea will be held 2 to 4 p.m., at the Vandiver Inn, located on 301 South Union Avenue, Havre de Grace. The tea is a fundraiser to benefit the Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy. Come and participate in the Murder at the Earl of Grey's Hound Manor which includes an elegant five-course tea and silent auction. Tickets cost \$35 each.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

**LEARN HOW TO TAKE GREAT
HOLIDAY PHOTOGRAPHS**

Participants will learn how to improve skills at photographing people, places, events and objects during the holiday season. This program will be held 1 to 3 p.m. for ages 15 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

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

ALL DAY BINGO

American Legion Auxiliary Unit of Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street Perryville, will hold All Day Bingo, 12:30 p.m. Doors open at 11 a.m.; Early Bird Games starts at 11:45 a.m. Cost is

\$25 per person and includes 50 games (all paper cards), meal and free coffee. No one under 18 is allowed in the Bingo Hall. No smoking is allowed. This event is open to the public.

For more information please call 410-642-2771

NATURE TALES - HIBERNATION

Story time with a nature twist. Come listen to stories, learn new songs and move like the animals. This free program will be held at 3:30 p.m. for all ages. No registration is required.

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

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

**DECEMBER 4 AND 5
STEPPINGSTONE MUSEUM
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

The Steppingstone Museum, located on 461 Quaker Bottom Road, Havre de Grace, will hold its annual Christmas Open House noon to 4 p.m., Dec. 5 and 6. Admission is free. There will be tours of the historic farmhouse decorated for the holidays, Christmas music, cookies and cider. The museum store will be open for holiday shopping. The event will be held rain or shine.

For more information, call 410-939-2299, 888-419-1762, e-mail steppingstonemuseum@msn.com or visit www.steppingstonemuseum.org.

MONDAY

**DECEMBER 6
GUNPOWDER TOASTMASTERS**

Going on a job interview? Giving a presentation? Toastmasters can help.

Toastmasters will help you:

- Develop better speaking and presentation skills
- Learn to think quickly and clearly on your feet
- Build strong leadership abilities
- Hone your listening skills

You will learn these skills and more in a supportive, self-paced atmosphere. Visit the Gunpowder Toastmasters, Monday, Dec. 6 and begin to discover your confidence.

The Gunpowder Toastmasters meet the first and third Mondays each month (except on federal holidays), 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. in the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility.

The next meeting is Dec. 6 in

Assembly Room B1. Visit <http://gunpowder.freetoasthost.info> for directions or call Heather McDowell at 410-436-7816 for more information.

TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY

**DECEMBER 7, 9 AND 11
SUPER SOAPS AND NATURAL
SKINCARE**

Come learn about natural skincare and how to make great gifts for the holidays. Attend the series to learn soap making, milling, and how to make other bath treats. This program will be held 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday for ages 14 to adult. The cost is \$25 per series. Registration is required.

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

FRIDAY

**DECEMBER 10
NATURAL GIFT WORKSHOP**

Spend the evening creating hand-made gifts for the holiday season. Gift-making stations, from herbal vinegar to beaded stars, will be set up in and around the center. Hot cider and cookies will add to the festive atmosphere. This program will be held 6 to 9 p.m. for all ages. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$20 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.

HOLIDAY COMEDY SHOW

Susquehanna Post 135 will present a Holiday Comedy Show, 8 p.m., at the American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street, Perryville. The show will feature various comedians performing stand-up and slap stick comedy, skits, and improvisation. Tickets cost \$12 per person. Purchase tickets early for a relaxing evening of rip-roaring laughter and comedy. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information or to purchase tickets, stop by Susquehanna Post 135 or call 410-642-2771.

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



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Holiday Fun Run and Walk

Run, Run Rudolph! FMWR will host the annual Holiday Fun Run and Walk, 3:30 p.m., Dec. 8, at the Athletic Center, building 3300. Registration is open to all active duty military and DoD civilians and their Family members and all DoD contractors. There is a \$15 fee for people who wish to receive a t-shirt. Participants may register through the AA Recreation Center or at www.apgmwr.com/events.html. A "Special Guest" will be on hand to start the race.

APG Festival of Trees and Holiday Celebration

The Aberdeen and Edgewood Area Festival of Trees and Holiday Celebrations are open to all members of the APG community and their Families. The Aberdeen Area event will be held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Dec. 8, at the Recreation Center, building 3326. The Edgewood Area event will be held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Stark Recreation Center, building E4140.

This fun-filled event includes

- Post tree lighting
- Live entertainment
- Pictures with Santa
- Story telling
- Children's crafts
- Family activities
- Tree decorating competition
- Refreshments
- Gingerbread house competition

(bring creations to the Recreation Centers by 4:30 p.m. for set-up)

Board horses at APG Stables

The APG stables are a self-care boarding facility located in the Edgewood Area, Bldg. E5286, for privately owned horses of military and civilian employees, retirees and Family members.

All patrons must have a valid military or installation ID card.

Monthly stall fees include:

- Four turn-out pastures
- Lighted riding arena
- Water troughs in each pasture
- Run-in sheds
- Barn with water and electricity
- Tack rooms, grain room and hay storage provided

For more information or to sign up, call Outdoor Recreation at 410-278-4124 or visit www.apgmwr.com/recreation/odr/stables.html.

Taekwondo classes to begin

Join the Unity TaeKwonDo School of Martial Arts at APG.

Taekwondo promotes discipline, muscle toning and conditioning.

Classes will be held for ages 6 to 14 Mondays and Wednesdays from Jan. 24 to Feb. 16; Feb. 23 to March 21; and March 28 to April 18 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522.

Instructor Sabunim Sean A. Williams will teach this program. Classes will be held 6 to 6:45 p.m. for white belts through

yellow belts and 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. for yellow with green stripe belts and above.

Cost is \$65 per students for a four-week session or \$150 per student for a 12-week session.

Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited so register early.

Harlem Globetrotters

The Harlem Globetrotters will perform 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Dec. 28, at the 1st Mariner Arena Baltimore at 201 West Baltimore Street in Baltimore. Tickets cost \$18 each, a savings of \$14 per ticket. All seats are located in section 113 or 114.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit MWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326, at 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGRUSAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

Christmas Boutique, Candlelight Tour slated in December

The Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House located on 817 Conestogo Street, Havre de Grace will hold a Christmas Boutique, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Dec. 11 and noon to 8 p.m., Dec. 12.

Purchase handcrafted gifts, decorations, and quilts. Visit the Gourmet Room for baked breads, cakes, candies and more. There will also be a silent auction and a raffle.

Tickets are available for the 38th annual Candlelight Tour. The tour will be held

noon to 8 p.m., Dec. 12 and starts at the Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House.

Tickets cost \$14 per person and include a tour of homes with historical value and unique architectural styles from different periods in the city's history.

Caroling and light refreshments will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are limited, order them now.

To purchase tickets, visit the MWR Leisure Travel Services at the AA Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326, 410-278-4011/4907.

Freestyle motorcross event

Come see Nuclear Cowboy, the greatest cast of freestyle motocross riders ever, assemble and take their apocalyptic power to the massive ramps, conveying the action-packed narrative through choreographed, synchronized awe-inspiring tricks and the Nuclear CowgirlzSM Dancers.

The event will take place Jan. 15 at the 1st Mariner Arena in Baltimore. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$19. All seats are located in Section 217.

To purchase a ticket, visit MWR Leisure Travel Services at the AA Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326. For more information, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil

For more information and seating chart, visit <https://www.baltimorearena.com/>

Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at www.apgmwr.com.

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

SKIES Unlimited

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

Driver's Ed runs through December, open to cardholders

Driver's Education classes are sched-

uled through Dec. 13. There are no classes on federal holidays. Classes will be held Monday thru Friday, 5 to 8 p.m. at The Ultimate Driving School, LLC, 13 North Parke Street, Aberdeen.

Classes include 30 hours classroom instruction and six hours behind the wheel instruction. The last day to register for the first class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between the ages of 15.9 and 18. Open to all DoD ID cardholders. Driver's Ed costs \$335 per student. Prices are subject to change without notice.

Martial Arts at APG present Tiny Tigers

Children ages 4 to 6 can join the Tiny Tigers Unity TaeKwonDo School of Martial Arts at APG.

Parent participation is required. Cost to

register is \$40 per person and classes are open to all DoD ID cardholders and Family members.

Instructor Sabunim Sean A. Williams will teach the program. Classes will be held 5:30 to 6 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays Jan. 24 to Feb. 16; Feb. 23 to March 21; and March 28 to April 18.

The Tiny Tiger program is an age-appropriate version of taekwondo that will help direct energy into confidence and character building skills. Students learn traditional taekwondo techniques such as blocking, punching and kicking including "Stranger Danger" and "Fire Safety" skills.

Students will test every three to six classes. Class size is limited to 12 parent and child pairings, so register early.

The Tiny Tigers program will be held at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522.

December bowling specials

- Early Bird Special: Bowl from 7 to 10 a.m. for \$1 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Monday to Friday, 2 to 4 p.m., bowl for \$.75 per game. 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. Shoe rental costs \$1.
- Each Friday, 9:30 to 11 p.m.,

bowl one game for \$3.50 and bowl one game free. Shoe rental costs \$2.

Please call for availability of lanes on discounted days/hours.

New bowling rates

Bowling costs \$3 per game, Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; games cost \$3.50 each on Fridays, 9:30 to 11 p.m.; Cosmic Saturdays cost \$3.75 per game; and \$3 per game on Sundays.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 8 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. Lunch delivery is available for all orders \$25 or more. Call for delivery before 11 a.m.

Week of Nov. 29

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

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

Week of Dec. 6

Special #1: Gyro with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.50;

Special #2: Chicken salad sandwich, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25.

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



Beware of suspicious calls

Special to the APG News

Recently telephone numbers associated with Department of Defense activities within the Continental United States began receiving automated telephone calls from what appears to be a telephone number in Haiti.

The reported calls originated from area code 509 (the international dialing prefix for Haiti). The substance of the telephone calls was a pre-recorded message in Haitian Creole advocating for a political candidate in the upcoming Haitian elections, according to U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command officials at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Elements affected include installations and activities of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Navy.

The telephone calls came in to landlines, government issued cellular telephones, and military personnel personal cell phones.

CECOM officials urge service members and employees to immediately notify their chain of command if they receive such a call. Personnel are reminded to continue to report unusual e-mails or phone calls and anything that seems suspicious.

Who and how you report should be in accordance with your

local standard operating procedures, but when in doubt report to your chain of command or the CECOM LCMC Operation Center at 443-861-6509.

Personnel should always call 911 or any other designated number for your area in case of an emergency.

Contact the CECOM G2, G3/5 or G6 for more information or to report phone calls.

FOR MORE INFO

Personnel should report suspicious phone calls through their chain of command and in accordance with their organization's standard operating procedures.

When in doubt, personnel can call the CECOM LCMC Operation Center at 443-861-6509.

For more information or to report suspicious calls, contact:

CECOM G2 - 443-861-7013
CECOM G6 - 443-861-6582



Guard, Reserve can nominate employers

Special to APG News

While Americans are reflecting on what they are thankful for, members of the Guard and Reserve and their Families across Maryland are encouraged to thank supportive employers this Holiday Season by nominating them for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the highest recognition the U.S. Government gives to employers for their outstanding support of employees serving in the Guard and Reserve.

To date, 16 Maryland employers have been nominated. Fifteen employers will be recognized with the award at a ceremony on Sept. 22, 2011 in Washington D.C.

Nominations are accepted at www.FreedomAward.mil through Jan. 17.

Guard and Reserve members and their Families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers that have provided exceptional support to military employees above the federal law requirements. Award nominees will be announced in the spring and the 15 recipients will be announced in early summer.

Almost one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of the Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these citizen warriors with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support to their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense Agency, to recognize exceptional support from the employer community.

In the past 15 years, 145 employers from across the nation have received this prestigious award. Established in 1972, ESGR's mission is to develop and promote employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members.

For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-696-1171, ext. 539 or via e-mail at ESGR-PA@osd.mil.



File photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Yes, APG, there is a Santa Claus

Old St. Nick checks the Letters to Santa mailbox for holiday wishes from Aberdeen Proving Ground children. The mailbox is located next to the Emergency Services building, 2200 Frankfort Street. Letters will be collected daily through Dec. 21, and each letter will be answered, according to APG fire inspector T.C. Glassman. For more information, call 410-306-0600.

Elkton students receive robo kits

Army center offers higher learning with Lego bricks

ECBC

In support of its partnership with Cecil County Public Schools, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's educational outreach program recently delivered five Lego Mindstorm Robotic Kits and six Resource Kits funded by the National Defense Education Program to 27 physics students in Cecil County's STEM Academy.

ECBC engineer Matthew Brown helped Elkton High School 10th-grade teacher and students examine the robotic materials, while applying STEM concepts in the form of interactive classroom activities.

"Our partnership with CCPS enables us to provide educators and students with effective educational outreach materials, such as the Lego® Mindstorm® Robotic Kits that supplement STEM education in the classroom," said Community and Educational Outreach Program Manager Mary Doak. "Our goal is to entice students to pursue STEM career pathways and to make their traditional science and math classes more compelling with hands-on experiences."

CCPS Science Instructional Coordinator Frank Car-do embraced the implementation of the robotic kits sponsored by NDEP and praised their additional value to the curriculum of Cecil County's STEM Academy. Upon accepting the robotics materials, he expressed his gratitude and excitement about the addition of real-life components to the traditional science and math classes of the County's STEM Academy.

"I am very thankful that ECBC extended this opportunity to our teachers and students, as we are always striving to make our STEM program more meaningful for our students," he said. "Robotics is a piece we have been missing, and thanks to ECBC, we now have a robotics component in our physics classes and in our new research and design course."

Applying the knowledge

This past summer, Brown and Alison Hapka, lead science teacher at Elkton High School, had attended a one-week teacher professional development training from NDEP that demonstrated how to use robots to teach a math-based inquiry and design course. While introducing Hapka's physics class to Lego Mindstorm Robotics, they were able to apply the knowledge and



Photo by MARY DOAK, ECBC

Elkton High School's Lead Science Teacher Alison Hapka assists 10th-grade students Briana Vanreenen, Amanda Artrip, Brooke Nabb, Jack Krier, and Jack Shepard to conduct physics experiments using Lego Mindstorm Robotic Kits in the classroom.

skills acquired in this training.

Offering his real-world expertise in engineering, Brown assisted Hapka to engage students in investigating the different types of wheels and gears that came with the new robot models to calculate their speed. Through testing and analysis, they determined the strengths and weaknesses of each model and quantitatively explained the varying speed based on the nature of its wheels and gears.

For my future

"This class is actually preparing us for potential careers we may pursue in the future," said Elkton High School 10th-grade student Sarah Gold. "The applications of science and math are encouraging for my future."

The hands-on classroom activity included recording processes, data and calculations to discover the mathematical relationship between the physical variables. First, they made the connection between diameter of wheel and how far the robot travels. Second, they investigated the relationship between linear distance, number of revolutions and gear ratio.

"The class differs from previous classes, in which we were not interactive," said 10th-grader Briana Vanreenen. "The interactions with the engineer and robot kits make this class productive and enjoyable."

According to science teacher Hapka, this type of educational outreach support had a tremendous impact on the learning in her classroom and created a productive environment.

"Allowing the locally based Army engineer to come co-teach the class with me helped us practice the skills we learned over the summer, as the students worked through an inquiry-based lesson on robotics," she said.

More than the Elkton High School physics students will benefit from the robotic material that CCPS received through its partnership with ECBC. Teachers from Elkton and Perryville high schools will utilize the robotics kits to enhance their math, programming, physics and Advanced Placement science classes.

"The robotics equipment that the Army has loaned us will not only impact my own classes, but many others at the school as well," Hapka said. "Our top students can benefit by increasing the challenge of their curriculum, and our struggling students can be motivated to engage in the learning progress."

Real-life experiences

Wesley Zimmerman, principal of Elkton High School, recognized the Center's educational outreach support and welcomes the opportunity incorporate real-life experiences in the STEM classes at his school.

"Thank you for your partnership and assistance in working with our STEM students at Elkton High School," he said. "The robotic material will be a great addition to our STEM program, as they allow students to apply concepts learned in math and science classes."

For more information about ECBC, visit <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/> or call (410) 436-7718.

Riggers get creative to dismantle historic cannon

Continued from Page 1

week of Nov. 15 in preparation for her move to the new home of Ordnance at Fort Lee, Va.

The Meadow Lark Transportation Company and the A&A Rigging Company conducted the dismantling and loading of Annie, under the supervision of museum director Christopher Semancik and logisticians from the Ordnance School's Base Realignment and Closure Office and the garrison's Directorate of Logistics.

The job required not only skill but innovation. During the dismantling process, riggers were forced to create a tool to remove rusted bolts that were resisting up to 50,000 pounds of pressure from hydraulic jacks. It took more than two days to remove the pins from Annie's undercarriage.

"We knew there'd be hurdles," said Tom Anhalt, A&A Rigging sales manager. "You always expect them in a job this size."

A 200-ton and a 130-ton crane were needed to lift Annie's gun tube. When it was found to weigh more than expected—in excess of 200,000 pounds—it was determined that it would travel to Virginia by railcar.

Contractor Robert Cade, owner of Meadow Lark, said the operation was more material- than time-sensitive.

"You can't rush these things, especially when you're dealing with one-of-a-kind items like this," Cade said. "We have to get it right the first time."

With the relocation of the Ordnance Museum, plans continue for the opening of the APG Museum in 2012. The new museum will house artifacts and historical items of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, which relocated at APG from Fort Monmouth, N.J.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

A 200-ton and a 130-ton crane were needed to lift Annie's gun tube. When it was found to weigh more than expected—in excess of 200,000 pounds—it was determined that it would travel to Virginia by railcar.

Officials work to extend tree impact

Continued from Page 1

tree's removal.

"We were very aware of the concern and interest about the tree and have worked very hard to find ways to extend the tree's beneficial impact on APG and the community," English said.

"Prior to its removal, the garrison collected acorns from this year's crop, in an effort to preserve progeny for use here at APG," English said. "We also are planning on using portions of the trunk for natural resources and environmental education outreach purposes within the local community. Slices, or biscuits, of the trunk will be professionally preserved and shared with local educational forums by APG."

An examination of the tree after it was felled showed that it was not quite as healthy as originally estimated and most likely would not have fared well surrounded by development.

"There was significant internal disease and a sizeable hole extended from the

root system up through the entire length of the trunk," English said. "That kind of damage is difficult to assess when the tree is still standing. Just like people, an outer examination can't always tell you what's going on inside the tree."

According to English, the first phase of construction of the current site involves land clearing and preparation including removing approximately 41 acres of forest.

With the exception of that black oak tree, any merchantable timber in those 41 acres will be sold to the EUL lessee (St John Properties) at fair market value and 100 percent of those proceeds will be returned to Army forest management here at APG and at other Army Garrisons around the United States.

"APG is quite proud of its forest heritage," English said. "Since 1917 we have increased the post's forest cover from about 3,000 acres to more than 17,000 acres and in Fiscal year 2010 alone we invested more than a quarter of a million

dollars on forest management. Just in the past month or two we have, through forest inventory we have located four previously unrecorded trees of more than sixty inch diameters. One southern red oak tree in our Edgewood Area is estimated to be more than [375] years old. We have currently identified at least a dozen trees large old trees.

"We're very proud of our environmental and conservation work at APG," English said. "While the loss of this tree is traumatic, we are very well focused on accomplishing our many missions, serving the community and protecting and enhancing the environment."

According to English, a few organizations and municipalities have already expressed interest in biscuits. Other interested parties should contact the Garrison Command office at 410-436-9804.

Other portions of the tree are available for woodworking and firewood. Call 410-306-1128 or 410-436-2066 for information regarding purchase permits.

APG News increasing news reach

Continued from Page 1

for APG's increasingly technology-savvy community, so it's only natural for us to extend the reach of our news service to the community using that medium."

MilBlog is just the latest extension of the office's efforts to keep the community informed, he said.

"We moved onto the Web long ago, and started posting things to Facebook and Twitter when those services became popular. We also have a regular video news program that appears on YouTube and Channel 97. It's meant some fairly significant changes to how we do business, but we think it will pay off for the community."

Community Action Council proves worthwhile forum

Continued from Page 1

want is good news.

"Spouses don't always go away happy," said Brock. "That is the trouble with asking questions, you don't always get the answer you want. A lot of times the reason a problem cannot be solved is due to lack of funds, or other issues."

The bottom line, she said, is that the directors show up, ready to hear, discuss and solve issues.

And it's not just for any one group. Brock said there is the perception that this meeting is "for high ranking people or representatives from units or offices. This meeting is for all people, for every Soldier's Family."

APG's Eileen Campbell and Stephen Clapper attend as school liaisons and say they "get a stronger feel for what parents really care about."

Campbell said when concerns are raised during a CAC meeting, directors are required to research and address the issue by the next meeting. These due-outs are announced at the beginning of the meeting.

"[Garrison Commander] Col. Ortiz really elevated this meeting to a new level by making sure that anyone who has a question gets a research-based explanation," said Campbell.

Myers agrees. "Col. Ortiz is always really good about holding his staff accountable," she said. "He basically says we need to have an answer by next month's meeting, and we get it. Accountability and personal contact—you don't get that in other forums."

Topics discussed at the post chapel Nov. 18 included recycling, lighting in on-post housing areas and building renovations. An overview of the meeting follows:

DPTMS

John Kearney, director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, noted that artifacts have recently been moved from the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum. This collection will be moved to Fort Lee, Va. and items will be received to stock the new APG museum, slated to open October 2012. "We are beginning the process to begin a collection," he said. "It is a long process, but we are

making good progress."

Kearney said the tentative date for next year's Armed Forces Day celebration is May 12. "Our goal is to have it be a much bigger event next year with more community involvement," he said. "And ideally we will be able to keep the event open for a longer period of time."

AAFES

Debbie Armendariz, manager of the Aberdeen Area Post Exchange, announced that civilians who live on post are allowed to shop at the PX. "They will not be able to purchase tax-free items like cigarettes and alcohol, but they can purchase anything else in the exchange," she said.

Commissary

Anne Morrison, commissary manager, noted that the commissary is offering a festive holiday option—gift baskets. She also said community members can place orders for fruit, vegetable, deli and cookie trays.

DENTAC

Col. Robert K. Zuehlke, commander of the dental clinic, reminded attendees that the Aberdeen facility is in the 90-day planning phase for renovation. "We are working very hard on the final floor plan [that will give] Soldiers the 21st century dentistry" they deserve," Zuehlke said. He noted that the Edgewood facility continues to support the Advance Individual Training mission.

KUSAHC

Lt. Col. Mark Ireland, commander of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, announced that influenza vaccinations are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the clinic. Ireland said a six-year plan is in place to renovate the clinic, and the renovation's main focus will be on the pharmacy and primary care clinic. "We have areas that haven't been renovated since 1963." He said the clinic will continue to provide service during the renovations. For lunch options, he noted that the clinic has opened Ruben's Rotisserie and Grill, a deli-style eatery that is open 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

DPW

Thomas Kuchar, head of the Directorate of Public Works, said the fitness

path around Plumb Point Loop has been completed and more paths will be constructed. "This is a multi-year project," he said. Kuchar also said that during a snow event, if the post closes or opens late, information will be provided to residents and personnel via local radio and television stations and the APG Web site, www.apg.army.mil/apghome. Information will also be posted on Channel 21 and Channel 97. He said information is also updated frequently on the APG weather line 410-278-SNOW. "As an installation, we got very well versed in this last year," said Kuchar, referring to last year's historic snowfall. Ortiz added that residents and personnel can expect to get the closure and delay information relatively quickly as inclement weather decision are usually made by 4 a.m.

DES

Director of Emergency Services Robert Krauer said APG residents can take advantage of a safe-home service by requesting police officers to check on their homes while they are away for extended periods. To request the service, residents should visit the Aberdeen or Edgewood police station and fill out a form.

Logistics

Directorate of Logistics' Gene Schneck asked attendees to spread the word: If anyone sees government vehicles being driven recklessly, they should report the incident immediately at 410-306-1607. He made note of a recent report in which a driver was behaving inappropriately in a government vehicle. Schneck said the situation was being dealt with.

PAO

Garrison Public Affairs Officer George Mercer introduced Adriane Foss, the new editor of *APG News*. Foss can be reached at 410-278-1150, adriane.foss@us.army.mil or editor-apg@conus.army.mil.

School Liaison

Clapper announced that the Bel Air Sylvan Learning Center provides free SAT practice tests. The practice test includes a personalized evaluation of the student's performance, along with suggestions for ways to improve scores. For

more information, call 410-420-7340 or visit www.sylvanbelair.com.

He said eKnowledge also provides SAT and ACT test preparation kits. The eKnowledge sponsorship covers the complete \$200 purchase price for the SAT or ACT preparation kit. For more information, visit www.eknowledge.com/imcom.

He also mentioned a student educational employment program, hosted by the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command. For more information, visit www.atec.army.mil.

Picerne Housing

Corinne Williams communications specialist for Picerne Military Housing, announced Holiday by the Bay, a free event for residents that will take place Dec. 3 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Williams said that they are actively addressing and accessing the lighting issues in post the housing areas. "This should be done in one to two weeks," she said.

Williams also addressed recycling concerns brought up by several residents. A detailed article on this subject can be found in the Nov. 24 edition of the *APG News*. For more information about recycling Picerne residents can call the Neighborhood Office at 410-305-1076 or Allied Waste Services at 410-727-6161.

BOSS

Spc. Carlos Rios, president Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers, said that on Dec. 11, BOSS will be doing volunteer work for the Harford Family House which provides transitional housing for homeless families with children in Harford County.

Everyone is invited to help with this project. For more information, call Rios at 410-306-2649.

BOSS is also doing a toy and coat drive that will benefit the homeless shelters that they serve. Donation boxes can be found at military units on post. A box is set up by the library at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326.

The next Community Action Council meeting will be held Dec. 16 at the Edgewood Area Chapel at 9:30 a.m.