

Post Shorts

Health Clinic hours

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed for the KUSAHC holiday party at noon, Dec. 17.

Patients should refill medications at Kirk before 5 p.m. on Dec. 16. Kirk will be closed Christmas Eve and Dec. 27. The clinic will be closed Dec. 31 for New Year's Day and Jan. 3 for a training holiday.

Patients should plan accordingly to pick up prescriptions before 5 p.m. Dec. 23 and 30.

For medical services after hours, weekends or on federal holidays, call staff duty at 410-278-1725 or 443-807-0725 and initiate a referral.

In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. Emergency rooms do not require a referral.

Flu vaccine available for troops, civilians

Influenza vaccine is available at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic for TRICARE beneficiaries and Department of Defense civilians on a first-come, first-served basis. Walk-ins are welcome. Hours of operation for the immunization clinic is 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Patients who are receiving the vaccine must be observed for possible allergic reactions and should arrive before 4 p.m. For more information, call 410-278-1746.

DENTAC hours

The Aberdeen and Edgewood Area Dental Clinic holiday will be open

Dec. 20-22, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dec. 23-24, closed

Dec. 27-29, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dec. 30-31, closed

For emergencies, call staff duty at 410-278-1792.

Call ACS today to sponsor a Family for the holidays

With the holiday season fast approaching, the nation is still facing its greatest economic

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Health Department issues cold weather advisory

APG preps for winter

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Surprise snow storms that blanketed Aberdeen Proving Ground last winter, along with back-to-back blizzards in February, had residents and personnel digging themselves out of one snow heap after another.

This year, whether it snows two inches or two feet, Thomas Kuchar, director of Aberdeen Proving Ground's Directorate of Public Works, says the post team is ready for what may come.

Better than ever

"As an installation, we got very well versed in this last year," said Kuchar of APG's record-breaking snowfall.

APG was one of many areas hit with record temperatures and snowfall as the city of Aberdeen and the surrounding areas received more 55 than inches.

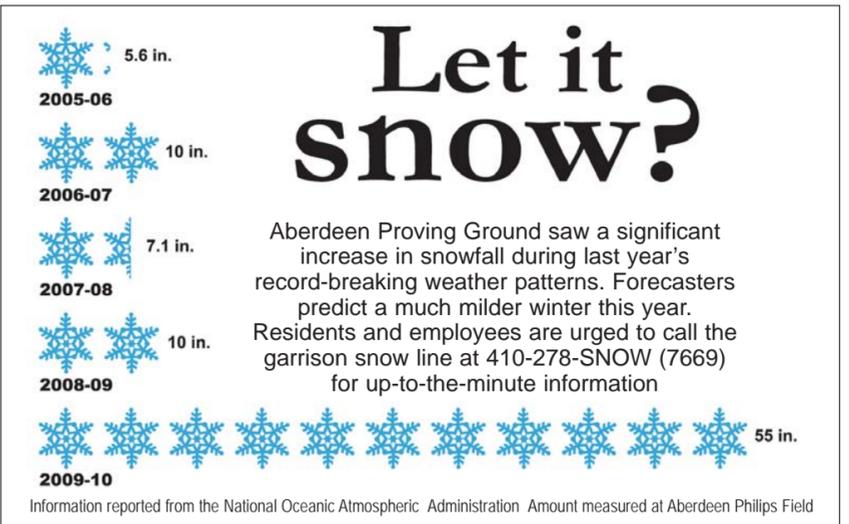
This led the installation to stand up operations control centers in the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas, acquire new snow removal equipment and hone their response skills. The new equipment includes additional

snow plows, small vehicles and pickup trucks, items that DPW will put to good use on an installation with two acres of sidewalk area, 243 acres of parking lot and about 265 lane miles to clear.

Tony Hale, site manager for the Edge-

wood Area operational control center, said his facility is equipped with televisions that monitor weather stations and computers that tap into the APG Emergency Opera-

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Happy Holidays

Capt. Annette Paglia of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and daughter Chelsea, 5, smile for the cameras while posing with Santa during the holiday celebration at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Dec. 8.

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Obama proposes federal pay freeze

Story by **TERRI MOON CRONK**
American Forces Press Service

President Barack Obama proposed a two-year federal pay freeze to aid in reducing the federal deficit Nov. 29.

The proposed freeze would not affect military pay and would require congressional action to become law.

"[The freeze] would save \$2 billion over the rest of this fiscal year and \$28 billion in cumulative savings over the next five years," the president said in announcing the proposal.

Defense Logistics Agency Human Resources Director Brad Bunn said agency officials are working to determine what this proposal would mean for the DLA workforce.

"DLA leadership is aware of

'This is not just a line item on a federal register. These are people's lives.'

Barack Obama

President of the United States

the president's pay-freeze proposal. We will follow this closely and ensure the DLA workforce is aware of the ultimate determination," Bunn said. "I'm sure the DLA team is wondering whether this applies to anything other than the annual pay increase

– promotions, within grade increases, etc. – and I am pressing the Office of the Secretary of Defense to get clarification from the Office of Personnel Management on that issue."

Obama said federal employees must help bear the burden of economic sacrifices to put the federal budget back on track along with Americans in the private sector, but he acknowledged the pay freeze proposal is a decision that didn't come easily.

"This is not just a line item on a federal register," he said. "These are people's lives. They're doctors and nurses who care for our veterans, scientists who search for better treatments and cures, men and women who care for our national parks and secure our borders and our

skies, Americans who see that the Social Security checks get out on time, who make sure that scholarships come through, who devote themselves to our safety."

When Obama took office in January 2009, he immediately froze salaries for senior White House officials. Earlier this year, he also proposed freezing salaries for all political appointees throughout the government, White House officials said.

Obama noted today that he also has proposed a three-year freeze on all nonsecurity discretionary spending, a step he said would bring that spending to its lowest level as a share of the economy in 50 years.

(DLA Strategic Communications contributed to this article.)

APG theater group seeking local talent

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Want to be a star? Want to showcase your creative talents in the community?

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Theater Group, sponsored by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, will have its first meeting Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center.

"We are hoping that a large group of people are interested so that productions that we do will be diverse," said Earlene Allen, FMWR special events coordinator and the theater group's facilitator. "We need a variety of talent."

Besides actors, actresses, singers, dancers and comedians the group needs behind-the-scenes volunteers who can build scenery and make costumes. The group is also seeking technical expertise,

See **NOW**, page 10

In the wake of WikiLeaks: Cybersecurity must balance 'need to know'

Story by **JIM GARAMONE**
American Forces Press Service

Commanders in the field understand the advantage that comes from sharing intelligence and information and they do not want to give up that capability, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for cyber and space policy said in an interview Dec. 9.

Robert J. Butler said sharing information within the military, with coalition partners and even with outside agencies will continue, but there will be more controls placed on the information.

The WikiLeaks posting of stolen classified information has highlighted the tension between the strategy of "share to win" and the necessity to enforce "need to know."

Share to win refers to the idea of getting information and intelligence out to the personnel who need it.

See **DoD**, page 10

Wounded Cav trooper selected for extreme home makeover

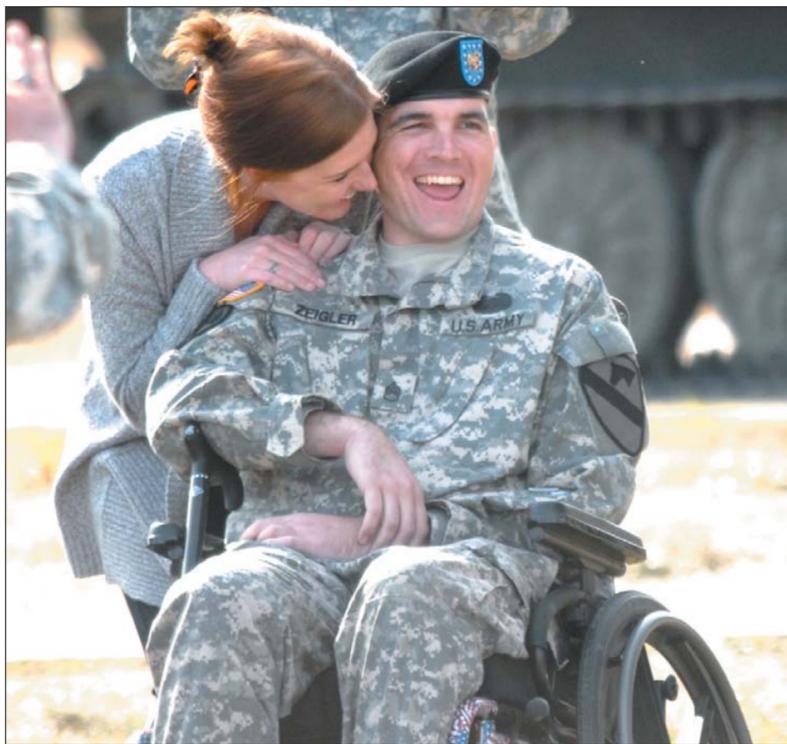


Photo by Sgt. ROBERT TRAXEL

Staff Sgt. Patrick Zeigler and his fiancée, Jessica Hansan, react to the surprise of a home makeover by Extreme Makeover: Home Edition on ABC, Dec. 6.

Story by
SPC. SHARLA LEWIS
3rd BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

A Soldier with 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division was surprised with an early Christmas present, Dec. 6, at Fort Hood, Texas.

ABC producers with Extreme Makeover Home Edition selected Staff Sgt. Patrick Zeigler, a scout formerly with the squadron, and his fiancée to receive a home makeover.

Zeigler was shot multiple times in the head and body during the Fort Hood shootings last year. Zeigler and his fiancée have spent the time working on his recovery.

The makeover couldn't have come at a better time than now, said Ty Pennington, the head designer on the show.

"I think this is our chance to honor a man that's sacrificed a lot for his country," he said. "It's a miracle he's here today. What they need right now is a sense of security and permanence on the path to recovery and this will really give them that."

Soldiers stood in formation at the 1st Cavalry Division Museum for an awards ceremony to cover up the surprise.

With Zeigler in attendance, two Bradley fighting vehicles roared to a stop near

the formation and dropped their ramps to reveal Pennington, Paul DiMeo, rapper Xzibit and special guest Leigh Anne Tuohy.

Soldiers clapped and cheered at the sound of Pennington's voice over a megaphone. The excitement of the crew and troopers spread to a gathering crowd and the recipients.

The designers rushed to Zeigler, who shared a wide smile with his fiancée, to congratulate them on being selected and to talk with them about their experiences over the previous year.

Zeigler and his fiancée talked about the shooting, his extensive recovery and their need for a home to start a family. After the initial surprise, Zeigler, his fiancée and the design team loaded onto the show's bus to take a tour of the build site.

The delight on the faces of everyone there was contagious and by the end of the day, conversations buzzed with excitement over the upcoming events.

Zeigler and his fiancée said they couldn't be more honored to be recognized and thankful for such a gift.

"I'm ready to move out and move in and get started!" Zeigler said. "It's one of those things where I want to push the pause button and enjoy it, but I also can't wait to see the end result."

December is 'National Drunk, Drugged Driving Prevention Month'

ASAP news release

The Army Substance Abuse Program reminds everyone that December is "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month" or "3-D Month," an effort to bring special attention to the problem of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

An estimated 258,000 persons were injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present - an average of one person injured approximately every two minutes.

"If you find it hard to figure out if you've had too many drinks to drive - don't risk it. Chances are if you're feeling 'buzzed' you are too impaired to drive safely.

Risk driving at an illegal level and chances are law enforcement will catch you and you'll spend the holiday in jail," said Cindy Scott, ASAP Prevention Coordinator.

Nine out of 10 Americans who participate in social events where alcohol is served feel that people should use designated drivers.

The ASAP suggests that party hosts include alcohol-free beverages and protein-rich foods, along with reminding guest to plan ahead and remember the following advice:

- Don't risk it - If you plan to drive, don't drink.
- Choose a sober designated driver before partying.
- Take a taxicab or ask a friend to drive you home.
- Spend the night where the activity is being held.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- Always wear your safety belt - your best defense against an impaired driver

For information or questions, call Scott, ASAP Prevention Coordinator, (410) 278-4013/DRUG, Cynthia. Scott1@us.army.mil.

20th SC team tests nuclear response

20th Support Command Public Affairs

20th Support Command (CBRNE) Nuclear Disablement Teams conducted a validation exercise at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. Nov. 15 through 19 along with several other governmental agencies to help sustain and streamline its role in the National Technical Nuclear Forensics Sample Collection Task Force.

The VALEX was coordinated through and observed by all taskforce partners, comprised of members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other Department of Justice personnel, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense. The NTFN Sample Collection Task Force will play a crucial role in the immediate aftermath of a nuclear detonation by collecting vital information and evidence at the incident site. In August, the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) Nuclear Disablement Teams officially assumed responsibility for executing the DoD portion of the NTFN-TF mission.

The reason for this exercise was the validation of the ability of the NTFN-2 to assume the NTFN mission, said Lt. Col. Bret Kinman, NTFN commander. "The NTFN is new for the NDTs, but this mission is a small step for a NDT to perform because they have the equipment and the right skill sets."

The exercise began with the team exiting the simulated NTFN Forward Operating Base compound at Aberdeen Proving Ground and deploying personnel and equipment to the simulated contaminated incident area established at McGuire AFB. Upon arrival, team members collected and documented samples. Once collection and documentation was complete, the Soldiers went through decontamination procedures and the simulated samples were passed to awaiting subject matter experts for analysis.

In the event of nuclear detonation, the NTFN Sample Collection Task Force will mobilize and deploy to the incident site to collect debris samples which will be transported to designated laboratories for analysis and evaluation. Results will be reported to the FBI, which in turn, will pass the information to those responsible for fusing this information with intelligence and law enforcement information to develop an attribution assessment.

Complicated multi-agency exercises involving

critical components can involve a number of challenges and obstacles, according to Maj. Daniel Mattei, deputy team chief and exercise planner and coordinator.

"The Soldiers got the opportunity to understand the operations of the interagency partners who brought a full flavor to the exercise because of their experience," Mattei said.

"The interaction with the Air Force was critical in performing joint inspections for loading aircraft," Kinman added, a critical part of the NTFN mission involved getting the team from Aberdeen Proving Ground to the incident.

The exercise was a good start for the DOD elements present and it allowed the 20th SUPCOM Soldiers to gain a better understanding of the process, according to one government agency official.

Working with the other government agencies in the NTFN Validation exercise allowed the 20th SUPCOM Soldiers to gain an understanding of their role and how they fold into a multi-agency effort if and when an event occurs.

"NTFN is a part of the continuum of government efforts to counter nuclear and radiological threats," Kinman said. "The mission is evolving and NDTs have the right skill sets and training."



Photo by MAJ. ROBERT MOORE

20th Support Command Nuclear Disablement Team Soldiers simulate post-incident sample collection procedures during a validation exercise at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., in November. The multi-agency exercise tested the NDT's ability to react to a nuclear event.

APG News

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

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Community comes out for holiday fest

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Zippered in by sleigh, Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz and APG Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades kicked off the installation's annual Festival of Trees and Holiday Celebration Dec. 8 at the post recreation center.

The event drew hundreds of Soldiers, civilians, and Family members who mingled to Christmas music throughout the facility, enjoying food and drinks and participating in several craft activities.

The evening, which included a holiday run/walk and concluded with the ceremonial lighting of the holiday tree, also included boasted gingerbread house and tree decorating competitions.

Ortiz called the celebration a "special night for APG."

"The holiday season really affords us the time to come together as friends to celebrate what we have," he said.

Ortiz also encouraged everyone to remember deployed service members serving in harm's way and led a moment of silence in their honor.

Other events throughout the night included picture taking with Santa, caroling by Izolda's Carolers and a reading of "The Night Before Christmas" by Rhoades.

Entertainment was provided by caroling students from the APG Child Development Center, dancers from the Baltimore and Maryland schools of ballet and musicians from the Maryland Conservatory of Music.



Members of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command decorated their tree during the APG Festival of Trees competition in an MTV-inspired Jersey Shore theme.

Picerne spreads holiday cheer at Holiday by the Bay

Story by
CORINNE WILLIAMS
Picerne Military Housing

The Picerne Neighborhood Office at 2727 Chesapeake Boulevard came to life with the sights and sounds of the holiday season at Picerne Military Housing's Holiday by the Bay Dec. 3.

More than 100 residents came out to celebrate with family and friends and to participate in free holiday activities and games. Children were bundled in layers of clothing to stay warm while playing outside and enjoying the games and activities.

"The Picerne team looks forward to making this an annual event," said Angela Marcum, a Picerne communications manager. "Holiday by the Bay was a great success and it really warms our hearts to be able to give back to those who serve and protect us."

Santa Claus, his elves and Mrs. Claus

officially kicked off the festivities with their arrival aboard an Aberdeen Proving Ground fire truck.

Community members also enjoyed a ride—in a horse drawn carriage along Chesapeake Boulevard. As residents waited their turn to take a carriage ride, they were treated to a selection of food and drinks.

As sleigh bells from the carriage filled the frosty air outside, the inside of the Neighborhood Office was festively decorated with holiday garland and a tree with brightly colored and wrapped gifts underneath.

Children lined up to take pictures with Santa and craft seasonal door knob hangers, ornamental gift tags and holiday coloring pages.

The evening came to a close as the children gathered around the tree for a story with Mrs. Claus, who read the classic *Twas the Night before Christmas*.

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

Sarah Blevins	Holly Geppi	Angel Quander	Luis Villafane
Debra Bonsall	Walter Holland	Michele Reamey	Christina Weber
Diane Bratton	Michele Hornberger	Pedro Rodriguez	Emily Whaley
Georgia Braun	Debra Ingram	Gloria Scott	Fletcher "Chip" Williams
Clark Capers	Kari Jackson	Paul Shelley	Bruce Woodmansee
Meg Downey	Jessica Knight	Lena Shelton	Victoria Yates-Sparks
Wayne Erb	Jocelyn Miller-Harris	Philip Sibley	
Chris Edwards	Ulrike Neyens	Rachel Swearingen	
Sabrinna Faulkner	Marie D. Nowak	Joya Tucker	
Thomas Garrett	Stephanie Parrett	Jamie Turner	

Local scientists promote STEM

Cecil County teachers get first hand glimpse into life application

ECBC

Scientists and engineers from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) recently hosted 36 high school science teachers from Cecil County and demonstrated the real-life application of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts at their workplace.

The opportunity to visit the Center's laboratories and interact with STEM professionals gave the teachers insight into the type of research ECBC employees conduct and the technologies used to help protect the warfighter and the homeland.

"The tour of ECBC was very informative and interesting," said Chemistry Teacher Nathan Ndiformang. "It was revealing to see that scientists next door are applying what we are learning in the classroom."

When welcoming the group of educators to the Center, ECBC's Acting Safety Director Carol Eason emphasized the important role that educators play in fostering the Center's future STEM workforce.

"Teachers have a huge impact on students, and we

See CECIL, page 12



Photo by JENNIFER CARROLL, ECBC

ECBC Research Chemist Frederic Berg simulates how scientists at the center safely work with unknown samples in laboratory hoods as Cecil County science teachers (from left) Connie Wartenburg, Jessica Wukitsch, Richard Bard and Wendy Lubber look on.

'Greatest Race' delivers message of unity

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Unity through diversity was the focus of a play presented by the Child, Youth and School Services SKIES Unlimited program at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center Dec. 4.

The play, "The Tortoise and the Hare: The Greatest Race," told the story of the annual race between the brown mammals and green reptiles who never mingle, and how they came together to solve a crisis despite their differences.

The show was a production of the Missoula Children's Theatre, a touring nonprofit organization that fosters developmental life skills for children in communities nationwide.

Aberdeen Proving Ground is the second phase of installations hosting these shows, according to CYSS director Ruth Strauss.

Local youth, Missoula Children's Theatre use the stage to spread the news: unique differences make us one and the same

She credited Stacey Umbarger for heading up the project with SKIES.

"These are all school-age children who participate in SKIES," Strauss said. "They did it all with only one week of practice. We didn't realize our kids were that talented. Hopefully, [the Missoula Children's Theatre] can come out to do another show."

Dusharne Sparks played the over-

confident hare who was chosen by his fellow mammals to run the race. Emily Karlewicz of the Missoula Children's Theatre played the old tortoise and Evan Karlewicz portrayed the news reporter covering the race.

When a tiny bunny is lost in a nearby gulch during the race, the mammals and reptiles forget their differences and unite in the search. In the end, the ani-

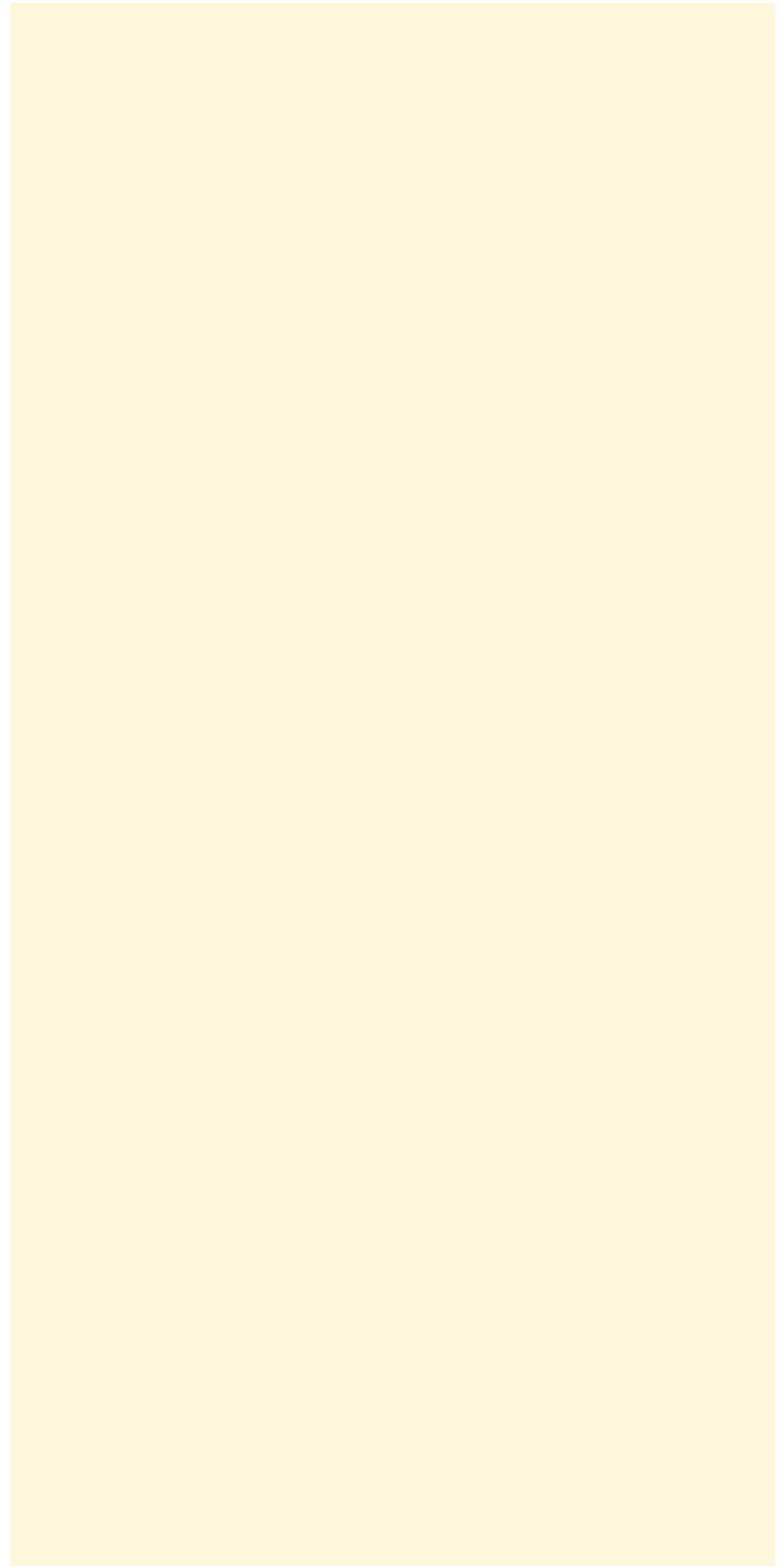
mals realize the folly of their ways and live happily ever after.

The cast of characters included reptiles Sanoe Marsh, Toni Lee Roberts, Marc Vogelhut, Joel

Barnes and Sean Valentine. Mammals were played by Graciela Rodriguez, Jasmine Boyington, Isabele Avina, Erykah Tisdale, Aaliyah Tisdale, Malcolm Whitehurst and Javon Scott.

Members of the Curly Hare Junior Fan Club included Nia Webb, Angeliz Rosado-Torres, Chris Marsh, Quianna Numa, Justin Styles, Madison Whitehurst, Annabelle Elliott, Keshawn Gardner and Saliyah Regin.

Sixty-five thousand children in 1,200 communities in 50 states and 17 countries participated in the Missoula Children's Theatre this year. For more information, visit www.mctinc.org.



COMMUNITY NOTES

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 16 OPEN HOUSE/CHRISTMAS PARTY

Havre de Grace Main Street will hold an Open House and Christmas Party Covered Dish Reception from 5 to 9 p.m. at La Banque de Fleuve on 321 St. John Street, Havre de Grace.

Special holiday music will be provided by Suzanne S. Chadwick, Duke Thompson of the Maryland Conservatory of Music, Al Peteraf and Bob and Amy Frank.

Attendees can bring a covered dish, light hors d'oeuvres or dessert for the community table. Non alcoholic drinks will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP, call 410-939-2811 or e-mail hdgmainstreet@verizon.net.

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 17 THEATERWORKS USA PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Theaterworks USA will perform A Christmas Carol, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the Amoss Center in Bel Air. The show is recommended for ages 5 and up.

Tickets cost \$7 to \$12 per person. Reasonable accommodations

for a documented disability may be requested by calling Disability Support Services, 443-412-2402, in advance of participation. A minimum notice of 10 working days may be needed to provide some accommodations.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 443-412-2211.

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 18 CRITTER DINNERTIME

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

For more information call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

NATURAL ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

Create unique ornaments using found natural material. Refreshments will be offered to fuel creativity. This program will be held 1 to 3 p.m. for all ages. Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$4 per person. Registration is required.

For information, registration or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-

879-2000, ext. 1688.

BIRD FEEDER PROJECT

Give a gift of wild birds. Build a bird feeding station for a yard. Bring a drill if able. This program will be held 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 6 to adult. Ages 6 to 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$10 per kit. 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

NAMETHATREE

When is a "pine" tree really a spruce? Is it a fir tree or a cedar? Bring a twig (about 6") from a Christmas tree and several other needled shrubs or trees to learn how to identify conifers. This program will be held 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult, 8 to 12 with adult. The cost is \$2 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.

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 31 DUCK DROP RINGS IN THE NEWYEAR

Begin the countdown to 2011 with the annual Duck Drop and Fireworks

celebration on the grounds of the Havre de Grace Activity Center and Havre de Grace Middle School, 451 Lewis Lane.

For more information, call 410-939-2100 or e-mail brigitteP@havredegracemd.com.

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

MARCH 15 AND 16 ANNUAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

Registration is open for the Sea Service Leadership Association's 24th Annual Women's Leadership Symposium.

This year's theme is "Connect. Empower. Succeed." The symposium will offer women from all military branches an opportunity to focus on leadership development. It will also highlight the achievements of women leaders on the front lines across the globe. The symposium will take place at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego, Calif.

For more information or to register, visit www.sealeader.org through March 7.

More calendar events can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Community Notes.

Post Shorts

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.

Spouses Club seeking fave recipes for new cookbook

The Military and Civilian Spouse Club is looking for recipes to include Family favorites, entertaining delights, holiday specials, and more for a new MCSC cookbook. It has been almost 10 years since the last cookbook.

Anyone affiliated with APG or in the

local community can turn in their favorite recipes. Pre-orders are being accepted now. Save \$2.50 per book by ordering now. Cookbooks will have a padded cover with artwork done by a local military Family member.

Cookbooks will be in a three-ring binder with stand and include 300 to 400 recipes. The MCSC Cookbook with stand costs \$15 each or \$25 each with a CD. Don't miss out.

Submit recipes and pre-order a book now. Simply mail recipes to APG MCSC Cookbook, PO Box 52, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005. Delivery date is April 2011.

For more information, call Annie Brock, 443-686-1484 or e-mail president@apgmcs.org.

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.

BOSS volunteers serve lunch to homeless

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS), along with single and married Soldiers from units and companies assigned to the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas of APG, will serve lunch 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the third Saturday of each month at the Eastern Family Resource Center located at 9100 Franklin Square Drive in Rosedale, Md. BOSS representatives will wear BOSS T-shirts; military and civilian volunteers can wear company t-shirts and civilian attire.

For more information, call Cpl. Mathew Beach, 410-652-2710 or BOSS President Spc. Carlos Rios, 410-306-2649.

Updated link posted for completed study on APG's 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 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 www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/directorates/dpw 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

Registration opens for UMUC classes at APG

Register now for Spring 2011 University of Maryland University College classes at APG.

BEHS 364 Alcohol in U.S. Society (3 credits), Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Jan. 24 through March 9, Online Hybrid Class

IFSM 304 Ethics in the Information Age (3 credits), Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 and 9:30 p.m., March 15 through May 15, Online Hybrid Class

Additional classes are available through distance education formats.

For more information or to register, visit the Aberdeen Proving Ground office of UMUC, building 4305, room 210, or call 410-272-8269 or 410-306-2048 or visit www.umuc.edu.

Support Native American Heritage by volunteering

The APG Native American Heritage planning committee is looking for volunteers. Anyone who would like to join, contact Sgt. First Class LaQuita Wimbley, Equal Opportunity Advisor, 410-306-2053; Jan Burke, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, 410-278-1161; or Linda Patrick, 410-436-1023.

More Shorts can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Shorts.

FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

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 student 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.

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 choreo-

graphed, 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-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil

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

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-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil.

Daily bus trips to Atlantic City now cost \$29 per person

The cost of the daily bus service to Trump Taj Mahal Casino has increased to \$29 per person.

Only for ages 21 and over. The bus will leave Vitali's Restaurant, Best Western in Edgewood 9 a.m. and return 9 p.m. Seating is limited and sells quickly. Seats must be purchased at least two weeks in advance.

For more information, contact MWR Leisure Travel Services, AA Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGRUSAG-MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil.

APG Running Club

The APG Sports and Fitness Branch has begun a Running Club for organized weekly runs. Club members meet 5 p.m. every Tuesday at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center and 5 p.m. every Thursday at Hoyle Gym in the Edgewood Area. Dan Dolce, Morale, Welfare and Recreation fitness coordinator, oversees the club. For more information, contact Dolce at 410-278-7933/7934 or e-mail, dan.dolce@us.army.mil.

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 Dec. 13

Special #1: Pepperoni pizza submarine with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.75;

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

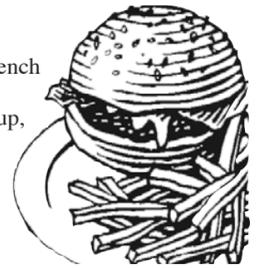
Week of Dec. 20

Special #1: Chicken parmesan on roll with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.95.

Special #2: Grilled ham and cheese with soup, cookie and regular soda for \$5.25.

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.



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.

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-appro-

priate 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 parings, so register early.

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

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.



Photo by RACHEL PONDER

Lighting up the holidays

Several Aberdeen Proving Ground residents began decorating their homes and yards shortly after Thanksgiving. One family on Plumb Point Loop got in the holiday spirit with strung lights, wreaths and a nativity scene.

Monmouth separation notices to be issued earlier

Story by
HENRY KEARNEY
Public Affairs Office

To enable civilian employees declining a transfer of function from Fort Monmouth to Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md., to apply for retirement and severance pay benefits as soon as possible, the projected date for beginning to issue separation notices to those personnel has been moved up from June 15, 2011, to January 18, 2011. However, all those personnel are still entitled to continue to serve and to remain on the rolls until the closure of Fort Monmouth on Sept 15, 2011, if they so desire.

That decision was announced Thursday, Dec. 9, by senior leaders of Army command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) organiza-

tions slated to complete their relocations from Fort Monmouth to APG by Sept. 15, 2011, as part of the implementation of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) legislation. Those C4ISR organizations include CECOM; the Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center; and Army Program Executive Offices for Command, Control and Communications Systems-Tactical and for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors as well as the CECOM Contracting Center.

“We’ve said from the beginning of this relocation and Fort Monmouth closure process that taking care of all of our employees and giving them as many options and opportunities as possible is one of our primary goals and we’re fulfilling that promise with this deci-

sion and action”, said Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong, Fort Monmouth’s senior commander.

The decision allows those employees eligible for discontinued service retirement and severance pay the decision-making flexibility to begin their job search process earlier and to plan to depart earlier if they so choose without risking their eligibility for those benefits, Strong explained.

Discontinued service retirement provides an immediate annuity for employees who are separated from federal service involuntarily because of organizational actions such as a transfer of function which they’ve declined. It’s designed to lessen the impact of an involuntary separation on a long-service employee, CECOM Human Resources

officials said.

To be eligible for discontinued service retirement, an employee must be at least 50-years-old with at least 20 years of federal service or any age with at least 25 years of federal service.

Severance pay for federal employees consists of one week’s basic pay for each year of civilian federal service up through 10 years plus two weeks’ basic pay for each year of service beyond 10 years. Additionally, an age adjustment allowance of 2.5 percent is added for each full quarter of a year an individual is over 40 years of age.

The maximum amount of severance pay is one year’s salary. This maximum is a lifetime limitation meaning federal severance pay previously received is taken into account in applying the limit.

DoD closing cyber threat window

Continued from Page 1

“Commanders in the field recognize ... it’s really about coalition war-fighting, and it’s about sharing information with partners,” Butler said. This is true whether the military is involved in humanitarian operations or warfighting.

Sharing information can range from the intelligence and information sharing the United States has with traditional military allies to non-governmental agencies.

“They are part of the fight, they are part of the recipe for success,” Butler said.

Need to know is the shorthand for how the department thinks about security, Butler said. “It’s about how information is shared, who has the information, for what purposes and for what period of time,” he said.

Butler does not see share to win and need to know as mutually exclusive. “We need to share information to win and we also have to be conscious of the

need to know,” he said.

Afghanistan is an example of both concepts. There are 48 countries in the coalition under NATO’s International Security Assistance Force. The United States has the largest number of troops in the country and the largest intelligence/information-sharing network. “We share information at different levels, based on the need,” Butler said.

Information sharing networks range from local to national in Afghanistan, he said. All are governed by policies that seek to balance share to win with need to know.

“Based on our agreements with countries and their mechanisms for how they control information, we look for ways we can bridge accountability within their workforce and commanders with what we’re doing,” Butler said. “In Afghanistan, where we have a joint task force and we’re working on common objectives, it’s clear what information needs are. Those needs are transmitted down to

subordinate units and those will include coalition partners with information requirements that need to be satisfied.

“We need to link the effects we want to achieve with an information-sharing approach,” he added.

The future will be more of the same, Butler said. “What I see happening is an absolute recognition that we have to share information, and at the same time recognizing an increasing challenge from the cyber threat,” he said.

DOD is taking near-term steps to address that threat. Some of those steps include examining the content on the networks and examining the tactics, techniques and procedures used. “A broader and longer-term perspective is an education program – one that helps them understand what classification means, how information is classified,” he said. “Beyond the classification scheme, who has access to information?”

Butler also spoke about role-based

access.

“You have this position, you have this mission, and we expect your access to stay open through this time,” he said. “There are re-visit decision points and there is accountability up the chain [of command].

“There are also ways to look for anomalies,” Butler continued, “so if something happens and we expect this individual to have access to this information and that person is looking at something else, that should set off a flag to look at the situation. There may be a perfectly valid reason for the anomaly. But it could be another WikiLeaks situation.”

DoD is closing the window against potential threats and potential adversaries, Butler said, through technical retro-fitting, and through educational and accountability programs.

“This is part and parcel of what it means to be a soldiers, sailor, airman or Marine in the field protecting yourself, your comrades and your entire operation,” he said.

Now is prime time for theater group

Continued from Page 1

volunteers who can control the lighting and sound, and individuals with directing and choreography experience.

Those who have never participated in theater but have an interest are welcome to join the group, said Earlene.

“Acting workshops will be provided by the Department of the Army,” she said. “The Chesapeake Community Players will also provide classes.”

Allen added that all group volunteers

can log hours with Army Community Services’ Army Volunteer Corps.

Once the theater group is up and running, they will decide on an inaugural performance. Productions will be held at the APG Theater and the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center.

“Right now the plan is to have two performances a year,” said Allen. “The program might expand if we have enough support.”

Allen also said this is the first time

in recent history that FMWR has sponsored a community theater group. People in the APG community indicated they would like an theater group after seeing the FMWR sponsored variety show “Tribute to The Troops,” at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center in September, which featured members of the APG community and the Chesapeake Community Players.

“With all the new people coming to work at APG because of BRAC, and the

interest shown, we think that this is a great time to form a theater group,” she said.

The APG Community Theater Group is open to all FMWR authorized customers ages 16 and older. Children 16 and younger may participate if a parent accompanies them to all practices and performances.

To sign up, contact the MWR Leisure Travel Office at 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil.

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. 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent	8:45 a.m.
Fri., Dec. 24	Christmas Caroling	11:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 24	Midnight Mass	midnight
Sat., Dec. 25	Mass	9 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 26	Holy Family	8:45 a.m.
Sat., Jan. 1	Holy Day	11:45 a.m.

Protestant worship

Sun., Dec. 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent	10:15 a.m.
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Sun., Dec. 26	First Sunday in Christmas	10:15 a.m.
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Gospel workshop

Sun., Dec. 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent	noon
Sun., Dec. 26	First Sunday in Christmas	noon
Fri., Dec. 31	Watch Night Service	midnight

Edgewood Area

Catholic Mass

Sat., Dec. 18	Penance Service	4:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 18	Holiday Dinner	5:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 18	Stable Liturgy	7 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent	10:45 a.m.
Sat., Dec. 25	Mass	11:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 26	Holy Family	10:45 a.m.
Fri., Dec. 31	Holy Day	6:30 p.m.

Protestant worship

Sun., Dec. 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 26	First Sunday in Christmas	9:15 a.m.

Cecil educators get glimpse of lab

Continued from Page 4

need more scientists, more engineers and more mathematicians," she said. "We thank you for what you do [in helping to foster a highly-skilled technical workforce]."

The tour of ECBC's research and technology facilities included the Advanced Chemistry Laboratories (ACL), Environmental Monitoring Laboratories (EML), Biosciences and Aerosol Sciences.

"It was interesting to see how an Army research lab actually runs and how scientists have to follow protocol," said Alison Hapka, a physics and chemistry teacher at Elkton High School. "I thought it was very exciting to hear about the general research areas."

At the ACL, the Center's staff showed local STEM professionals the laboratories' filter area and explained the procedure of exchanging filters once a year. While air quality is always strictly monitored, all hoods must be recertified after replacing filters and before resuming operations. Furthermore, they simulated how scientists at the Center analyze unknown samples in laboratory hoods and protect themselves from any exposure in the process.

"Safety always comes first and everything else second," ECBC Research Chemist Frederic Berg reiterated as one of the Center's top priorities.

In addition to the Center's EML,

teachers visited its Mobile Environmental Laboratories and learned about the Center's capabilities to analyze air, water and soil samples at remote locations. In an effort to protect and unburden the warfighter, highly skilled and trained personnel deploy with mobile laboratories to provide on-the-spot analysis of unknown samples.

When opening its doors to Cecil County's educators, the BioSciences Division unveiled its deoxyribonucleic acid sequencing technology that helps characterize the genomes of organisms and detect biological agents. The division's laboratory infrastructure allows scientists to effectively evaluate biological and chemical data and subsequently counteract against potential biological and chemical threats.

"Even though we currently are not facing any severe biological or chemical threats, we have got to be prepared in order to respond rapidly," said ECBC Research Biologist Nicole Rosenzweig, Ph.D.

The Aerosol Sciences Branch displayed fielded and next generation aerosol sampler systems that gather particles in the air to identify organisms. ECBC scientists also showed local teachers the wind tunnels and chambers that provide the capability to test the sampling efficiency of these systems. According to ECBC Aerospace Engineer Dan Wise, they apply basic mathematics and phys-

ics to conduct experiments and interpret test data and results.

ECBC's Modeling, Simulation and Analysis Branch discussed analytical products they develop to assist customers in decision-making processes at all stages of the Research, Development, Technology, Evaluation and Acquisition process. The Body Region Hazard Assessment modeling tool, for example, evaluates the efficacy of individual protective equipment based on mass transport and airflow calculations as well as toxicology data.

Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS) science teachers appreciated the professional development experience that enabled them to explore the different aspects of science and mathematics employed at ECBC on a daily basis.

"The most impressive aspect of the tour was ECBC's professional, yet academic setting," said physics teacher Kerry-Anne Kedzierski. "It was fantastic to see the level of safety and research."

"I really liked the fact that scientists at the Center not only conduct real-life research, but also publish their results. I also teach my students to share, show and be proud of their work," she added.

According to CCPS Science Instructional Coordinator Frank Cardo, it is crucial for science teachers to draw a relationship between the concepts students learn in the classroom and the

future job market. The skills students acquire today are the foundation for potential employment opportunities tomorrow.

"I agree with the message Peter Emanuel [ECBC's BioSciences division chief] shared with our group, when saying that today's scientist is no longer just a biologist or a chemist, but rather a blend of various disciplines to include mathematics, biology, and chemistry," Cardo said. "We appreciate the time the Center's staff has dedicated to make this tour a meaningful educational experience for our teachers."

For more information about ECBC, visit <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/>.

ECBC is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and field operations. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for the warfighter and for our national defense, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is a U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command laboratory located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. For more information about the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, please visit our web site at <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/> or call (410) 436-7718.

<https://crc.army.mil>

U.S. ARMY

OWN the EDGE

U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER

Tell them you saw it in the APG News



Courtesy photo

Last year's record breaking snowfall desposited 55 inches on Aberdeen Proving Ground. The installation's Directorate of Public Works, other organizations and volunteers helped the post recover from the unexpected snowfall and will put to good use this year lessons learned.

Forecasters expect lighter winter

Continued from Page 1

tions Center system.

Last year's blizzards also prompted DPW to set up rest areas in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas, giving employees a location for breaks when 24-hour response is needed.

Lessons learned, new equipment and preparation will help the installation weather this year's storms, but it Kuchar said it was the pure grit and dedication of post employees that helped restore normalcy last year.

"The DPW shops worked hard, day and night, handling the impossible, to get the installation opened on time," Kuchar said.

He said Picerne Military Housing and volunteers from the Aberdeen Test Center also helped the post recover.

Post closings

Scott Freeman, who works at the APG EOC, said the post doesn't close often due to adverse weather.

"Many factors go into the decision to close the post," he said.

Road and parking lot conditions as well as off-post road conditions are deciding factors, he said.

Freeman said the closure of federal offices in the Greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to APG, and the delay or closure of Harford County schools also do not indicate that the post is closed.

Residents and employees are urged to listen to radio and television stations that specifically name APG for post closings. In addition to TV and radio updates, personnel can find out about closings via

the Internet at www.apg.army.mil and by calling the garrison SNOW line at 410-278-SNOW (7669). (See accompanying box for details.)

Gerry Luft, a meteorologist from the U.S. Aberdeen Test Center, said his team provides forecast support to the garrison when inclement weather hits APG. Decision for post delays and closures are made by the garrison, usually by 5 a.m.

"When we have treacherous traveling conditions and people want to know if the post is operating normally, we strongly recommend folks call the SNOW line, where the garrison provides a recorded message about the status of post operations for the day," Luft said. "Many times, liberal leave policy is put into affect so people won't have to drive in the snow or ice, but they will have to use annual leave should they not report to work."

With post closings, personnel will not be charged annual leave.

Winter outlook

Luft said his team gathers information for forecast and warning support from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center and the Baltimore/Washington National Weather Service Office.

Greg Schoor, from the Baltimore/Washington National Weather Service Office, said his team monitors atmospheric signals when forecasting the weather. These atmospheric signals refer to changes in the ocean and in climate patterns around the globe.

"A big or little change in our weather is probably because of some other big or little change in another part of the world," he explained.

Schoor said a moderate to strong La Niña, or cooling climate pattern, will be the dominant climate factor influencing weather across most of the U.S. this winter. However, weather for the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic regions is often driven not by La Niña but by weather patterns over the northern Atlantic Ocean and Arctic.

"Based on the signals the atmosphere is showing we are not expecting near-

ly as much snow or blizzards this winter," he said.

While this year's forecast appears much brighter, post officials are not letting down their guard.

"What we went through last year really improved our skills," said APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Otiz. "We have a trained and ready crew and I think we're going into this season with a pretty good plan."

Know where to go for info

If the installation closes, experiences a delay or if liberal leave is in effect due to weather or other emergency situations, check for postings on local television and radio stations, WAPG-TV Channel 21 (on post) and Channel 97 (off post), 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 at 410-278-1147.

Station	Frequency	Location
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

Health Department issues cold weather advisory

Hypothermia factor in three Maryland deaths so far this season

Maryland Department of Health

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is urging Marylanders to prepare themselves and their loved ones for severe weather and avoid serious health consequences as temperatures are expected to dip below freezing several times over the next 10 days.

So far this cold weather season, hypothermia has been a contributing factor in the death of three Marylanders dating back to the end of October according to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

The deceased include an Anne Arundel County senior (65 or older) who died the week of Dec. 10; a Cecil County senior who died in early November and a Baltimore City adult who died at the end of October.

In each case, hypothermia was a contributing factor to other underlying health-related conditions. No additional personal details about the individuals involved will be released to protect the privacy of the individuals and their families.

"Although winter doesn't officially begin for another few days, we are already experiencing the effects of severe cold weather. We can save lives with a little preparation and common sense," said John M. Colmers, DHMH

Secretary. "Keep yourself and your family safe and warm during the days and nights of sub-freezing temperatures this winter. Check on friends and neighbors, especially seniors who may be living alone. A little care and awareness will help us avoid these tragedies."

Hypothermia was a contributing factor in the deaths of 42 Marylanders during the last cold weather season. There were 54 hypothermia deaths during the 2008-2009 season.

"Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable during extended periods of cold weather," said Fran Phillips, DHMH Secretary for Public Health Services. "Low temperatures and even moderate wind can threaten life or limb if you don't dress appropriately and pay attention to the warning signs of frostbite and hypothermia."

DHMH reminds Marylanders of the dangers associated with winter weather include cold weather health hazards such as hypothermia and frostbite, as well as carbon monoxide and injuries from heat sources.

Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature falls below 95°F. Nearly 600 Americans die each year from hypothermia.

Symptoms of hypothermia may include:

- uncontrollable shivering;

- cold, pale skin;
- numbness;
- fatigue;
- poor circulation;
- disorientation;
- slurred speech; and
- bluish or puffy skin.

Frostbite refers to actual freezing and subsequent destruction of body tissue that is likely to occur any time skin temperature gets much below 32°F. The areas most likely to freeze are toes, fingers, ears, cheeks and the tip of the nose.

Persons at greatest risk for frostbite include those with impaired circulation, the elderly, the very young and anyone who remains outside for prolonged periods. The danger increases if the individual becomes wet.

Symptoms of frostbite include:

- Gradual numbness;
- Hardness and paleness of the affected area during exposure,
- Pain and tingling or burning in affected area following warming; and
- Possible change of skin color to purple.
- Never massage or rub frostbitten areas as this may cause further damage to skin

Follow these tips to "weather" the winter temperatures in a healthy way:

- Cover your head. You lose as much

as 50 percent of your body heat through your head.

- Wear several layers of lightweight, loose-fitting clothing. The air between the layers acts as insulation to keep you warmer.

- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect lungs from direct, extremely cold air. Cover your ears and lower part of your face as well.

- Wear mittens rather than fingered gloves. The close contact of fingers helps to keep your hands warm.

- Wear warm leg coverings and heavy socks, or two pairs of lightweight socks.

- Wear waterproof boots or sturdy shoes to keep your feet warm and dry.

In addition to these cold temperature hazards, other common hazards in winter come from carbon monoxide and injuries from heat sources. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced by small gasoline engines, stoves, generators, lanterns, and gas ranges, or by burning charcoal and wood. This colorless, odorless gas can cause severe illness and death. Heating sources can also cause fires, electrical injuries, and burns, if not properly installed, operated, and maintained.

Tips to stay safe in cold weather can be found by visiting www.dhmh.maryland.gov/ and clicking on "Hypothermia & Frostbite" found under Hot Topics.