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## Aberdeen Road Gate hours extended

Starting Jan. 3, the Aberdeen Road Gate in the Aberdeen Area will be open from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on duty days, for outbound traffic only.

## Post phone prefix changes Jan. 18

Beginning Jan. 18, dialing off post will change.

Back in May, the commercial prefix was changed from 9 to 99.

This led to some issues when on several occasions people misdialed, accidentally calling 911 when attempting to reach non-emergency numbers.

To correct this issue, beginning Jan. 18 the new commercial prefix is as follows:

**Commercial Numbers** 9-7  
**Long Distance Numbers** 9-7-1

The DSN dialing prefix, 94, will not change. Additionally, the emergency call number, 911, will stay the same.

APG employees should ensure their organizational publications reflect the new numbers. For information, call Carrie Silbernagel at 410-306-1310.

# Locals visit Warfighters

## Officials spend time with wounded troops at Walter Reed

By **ROGER TEEL**  
*RDECOM Public Affairs*

Photography is prohibited inside Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and it is just as well.

The images visitors take away are indelibly etched in memory, and will last a lifetime.

Thirty-eight associates of the Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor, a consortium of local and federal government, education officials and members of the private sector, said they

were honored - and humbled - to have the opportunity to visit wounded American warfighters Dec. 8.

The group departed Aberdeen, Md., before dawn. After a warm welcome by Karen Holt and other members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground-CSSC BRAC Office, Harford County Executive David Craig recalled his first visit to Walter Reed.

"When I applied to go to the military academy, the first thing they did was send you to Wal-

ter Reed so you could see what Soldiers looked like after they had been in war. The very first person I met only had half a body - no body below the waist. You really have to appreciate what these people have done," Craig said to the group.

APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades then asked who in the group had previously visited wounded warriors. Only a few raised their hands.

"They are very proud men

and women," he said of the Warfighters. "Your emotions and your demeanor, your body language will say a lot to them. So I ask you to prepare yourself for what you may have never before seen in your life, and try to control your body language and your emotions as best you can."

"They need your strength, not your pity," Rhoades stressed, bolstering the group for their

See **RHOADES**, page 15



Annie Brock, president of the installation's Military and Civilian Spouses Club, raises a concern for garrison leadership during the Community Action Council meeting Dec. 16 at the Edgewood Area Chapel. Brock was one of many community members who turned out for the monthly meeting.

## Council meeting goes live

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

The installation's Community Action Council meeting has gone live.

The Dec. 16 gathering was opened up to a wider audience this month when it was broadcast in real time on Channel 21 on post and Channel 97 off post.

In addition to watching the show from the comfort of their homes, community members also had the option of submitting questions and feedback via Twitter, <http://twitter.com/USAGAPG>.

Garrison leaders are banking on the fact that today's audience is tapped into Twitter

“Many Family members would like to get involved... By using Twitter they can follow along and give input while they are at work.”

**Candy Surdu**  
Military Spouse

and other popular social media sites like Facebook and Flickr.

Specifically, they hope community members will take advantage of how easy it has become to take part in the monthly meetings, without leaving home or the office.

"(We want) to bring people together as a community to receive relevant updates," said Col. Orlando Ortiz, U.S. Army Garrison APG Commander, during the meeting. "Our interest is serving you well and we are trying to proceed along that path."

See **LEADERS**, page 15

## 'Don't Ask' in effect as leaders tackle plan

By **DONNA MILES**  
*American Forces Press Service*

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, welcomed the Senate's vote Saturday to repeal the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, while emphasizing that the current law and policy will remain in effect until they and President Barack Obama certify the plan to implement it.

"Once this legislation is signed into law by the president, the Department of Defense will immediately proceed with the planning necessary to carry out this change carefully and methodically, but purposefully," Gates said in a statement released Saturday.

The legislation specifies that the repeal will take effect only after Gates, Mullen and Obama certify that new policies and regulations to implement it are "consistent with the standards of military readiness, military

**No longer will able men and women who want to serve and sacrifice for their country have to sacrifice their integrity to do so.**

**Navy Adm. Mike Mullen**

See **OBAMA**, page 15

## Conference showcases defense transformation

By **CLAIRE HEININGER**  
*Special to APG News*

With dramatic changes on the horizon for the way tactical electric power is delivered to the battlefield, Project Manager Mobile Electric Power will use an upcoming conference to keep the military community connected and informed.

Registration for the "Power User Conference 2011" began Nov. 17, and it will take place April 11-15, 2011 at the Shades of Green Resort, Armed Forces Recreation

Facility in Orlando, Fla. The agenda for the fourth annual event includes presentations on current programs in production, future programs in development, and "lessons learned" from deployed power users. The conference will also include displays of equipment and system prototypes.

During the conference, several breakout sessions will address Service-unique issues and a variety of tactical electric power (TEP) topics, products and users.

See **POWER**, page 12

## Signs of the Season

Members of the Knights of Columbus, Corpus Christi Council No. 6188 and Havre de Grace Council No. 2002, along with volunteers from the post chapel assemble a wooden nativity scene outside of the Aberdeen Area Dec. 8. The Knights of Columbus donated the nativity to show their appreciation to the United States military.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Christmas in the Desert

Relishing the warmth of family and friends during the holidays is a blessing many take for granted and few people can appreciate the value of this privilege more than those who serve in the Armed Forces.



Unlike the average public servant, most Soldiers labor far from home, often in hostile environments, and equally as often, surrounded by little to indicate this precious time of year.

Every Christmas I'm reminded of the one I spent in the Saudi desert during the First Gulf War.

I remember it so well that it's hard to believe it was 20 years ago this month that my unit first touched down in Dhahran to join the thousands of troops who arrived months before us.

Although most of us were seasoned Soldiers, always on standby, ready to deploy at a moment's notice, we didn't see this one coming.

### Our shock and awe

I was stationed in Nuremberg, Germany, with the VII Corps at the time. We, of course, knew about the buildup of coalition forces in the desert in response to Saddam Hussein's aggressive move into Kuwait. Round-the-clock news coverage detailed the daily arrival of new units. But it was with "shock and awe" that we learned of our pending deployment.

President George H. W. Bush made history in November 1990 when he announced plans to deploy troops serving in Germany to the desert. Our leaders informed us that it was the first time in U.S. military history that forward deployed troops were further deployed.

The day after the announcement, we switched to 12-hour shifts, working

**The most important thing a lot of us learned from our time in the Gulf War was the knowledge that we were not alone in our struggle and our shared adversity was the mighty thread that binds all Soldiers together, like Family.**

nonstop to ready our equipment and get our personal affairs in order.

We spent Thanksgiving Day that year on an 18-hour operation, loading our vehicles on rail cars headed for Belgian docks where they would be loaded on ships for transport to Saudi Arabia.

I kissed my two sons goodbye about two weeks before we deployed. I was a squad leader at the time with more than a dozen Soldiers with various needs to tend to, equipment to ready, and a myriad of other responsibilities facing me that left little time to focus on family. And so, I sent them away early to avoid neglecting them as I knew I must if they stayed.

We left behind Germany's below-freezing temperatures and arrived, thankfully at night, on the Saudi desert, Dec. 5, 1990. It must have been around 75 degrees even then, and we were grateful that there was no scorching sun to greet us.

Our first view of the tent city that housed much of the U.S. forces in the area bordering the Persian Gulf was equally memorable. A sea of white festival-sized tents stretched out before us, nearly as far as the eye could see, and each one held about 500 troops.

We were told that most units stay in the tent city about two weeks before moving out to the desert, but we were loaded up and headed out within five days. We traveled overnight about eight hours before the trucks left the road and headed across the desert. Eventually, they formed a circle in a remote

area. As far as you could see was sand and where the sand ended, there was only sky. "Welcome home," my platoon leader said as we climbed off the vehicles. In that moment, we knew how America's Pilgrims must have felt when they arrived in the New World.

### No time to marvel

There was no time to marvel, however, as we had tents to erect, perimeter to dig, and latrines to build before nightfall. During those first few days we learned exactly what we could live without.

We learned that we could survive without television and appliances. Water came in bottles, not out of a faucet, and each troop received two liter-sized bottles per day. We washed our uniforms and showered with cold water that was trucked out to us.

By the time Dec. 25 rolled around, we were functioning as if we'd been there for years. Christmas Day dawned cloudy and dreary. It was a time for sergeants to put their feelings aside and tend to the younger troops who were missing home.

At dinnertime, we lined up at the mobile mess truck, as usual, where our commander voiced as much cheer as he could into the day. Donned in a chef hat, he worked the serving line with the other food service personnel and helped serve the meal.

### Try the celery

He greeted each Soldier with a hearty "Merry Christmas" and encour-

aged them to try the celery, peanut butter and raisin snacks he made himself. The meal was amazingly good. Turkey, dressing, potatoes, vegetables, and assorted deserts, including pumpkin pie had been delivered the day before. A group of us decided to eat our meals in the GP-Medium tent where we slept. When we got there, we set up a field table and chairs to eat on instead of sitting on cots like we usually did.

One Soldier surprised us with a large candle she'd been saving for the occasion. We lit the candle, placed it in the middle of the table, then held hands and said grace. The sense of warmth that spread over us in that moment is truly indescribable. Never before had I felt such a feeling of camaraderie with my fellow Soldiers and when I raised my head and looked around, I knew the others had felt it too.

"This is nice," one of them said quietly.

We nodded in agreement and ate our dinner in silence.

As much as I missed my Family, it was one of the best Christmas moments of my life.

### Facing the unknown

At the time, we were facing the unknown, with Scud missile attacks and potential chemical weapon threats a part of our daily lives. The most important thing a lot of us learned from our time in the Gulf War was the knowledge that we were not alone in our struggle and our shared adversity was the mighty thread that binds all Soldiers together, like Family.

Every year, especially since the most recent Gulf conflict, I think about and say a prayer for all of our service members serving far from home. I hope that wherever they are, no matter how desolate or how distant, a candle burns with the same glow that warmed us that Christmas Day in the desert.

### Yvonne Johnson

Army veteran and APG News reporter

## Commentary: deployed troops think of others during holidays

Commentary and photo by  
**STAFF SGT. MARK BURRELL**  
Army News Service

Eastern Afghanistan's scenery is stunning. Its beauty lies in lush river valleys, rocky, terraced farms and snow-peaked mountains.

Though it is a combat zone, the beauty is unparalleled. Yet, there is a darker side to this land. Hungry Afghan children with wide, inquisitive eyes and dirt-caked faces stare back at U.S. Soldiers with curiosity and wonder. The children huddle close to each other, building up enough confidence to stare back and maybe even smile.

Are the children here much different than anywhere else? No, they were just born into less-fortunate circumstances. Their lives don't include white picket fences and manicured lawns.

As the holidays approach, think about those less fortunate around the world. For the most part, Americans are lucky to be born Americans and haven't earned it.

A few weeks ago, U.S. Soldiers cleared a portion of the Pech River Valley in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province. The area is typical of the region with rocky and mostly undeveloped farmland threatened continuously by Taliban fighters.

Most of the children there only have a few sets of clothes. Most of those sets are tattered or ripped and in constant need of repair. Some of the villages have running water, but imagine taking a cold bath with one bar of soap about once every week.

Some Soldiers on the patrol were empathetic to the plight of these children and used the opportunity to hand out food. The children tentatively accepted the small gifts and, once they figured out what

See *EVEN*, page 13



An Afghan girl carrying her baby brother clutches a box of food while her older brother stands by at a small village overcropping on a mountainside overlooking the Pech River Valley in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province Nov. 23. Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Bulldog, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, cleared this village during Operation Bulldog Bite and handed out food to this girl and her siblings.

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## For a good cause

More than 500 people attended the 2010 Soldier Santa Ball hosted by the Association of the United States Army Aberdeen Chapter at the Baltimore Hilton Dec. 10. Chapter President Mary Jane Jernigan promised more community events in the future as the installation continues to grow.

RDECOM photo

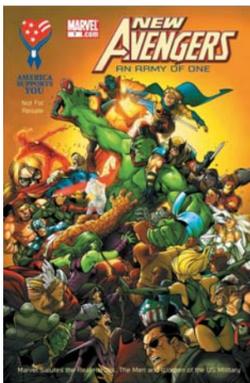
# AAFES NEWS

## Superheroes wage battle in free comic books

AAFES news release

Three of Marvel Comics' biggest superheroes each face epic battles as they all work to rendezvous at an Air Force base in the latest free "military-only" New Avengers comic.

Titled "Hero Exchange," the tenth installment in the Exchange/Marvel partnership finds Captain America taking on Whiplash, Thor dueling Abomination and Iron Man facing off against Fin Fang Foom. All must vanquish their enemies in order to arrive at an Air Force base in time to open a new Exchange and dedicate it to the men and women in uniform.



AAFES file photo "An Army of One" was the seventh in the AAFES/series.

AAFES file photo "An Army of One" was the seventh in the AAFES/series. The comic is available throughout the continental United States in early December and downrange, including 54 locations in Iraq and Afghanistan, beginning in early January.

"We are thrilled that the Exchange and Marvel continue to work together to provide these complimentary comics to authorized patrons around the world," said the Exchange's Senior Enlisted Advisor Jeffery Helm. "We could not have imagined when the first one came out in 2005 that they would be as popular and so well received by the military community."

"Hero Exchange" will be available, for free, exclusively at Exchange's throughout the continental

## Got a great story about an energy drink? Tell us and win a guitar

AAFES news release

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Monster Energy Drink are giving away 10 Epiphone Monster guitars to troops currently deployed to Operations New Dawn or Enduring Freedom.

Now through December 31st, these select patrons are invited to post a story about their memorable experience involving Monster Energy Drinks and/or the Exchange to their personal Facebook account and provide a link to the Exchange's Official Facebook Fan page at <http://www.facebook.com/AAFES.BX.PX>.

"Patrons serving the contingency theater are invited to let their imagination run wild; sing, rap, jingle, monologue or animate," said the Exchange's Senior

Enlisted Advisor Jeffery Helm. "Just keep it clean, and original."

Entries can range from thirty seconds to five minutes and can either be in a video or audio clip.

Only authorized Exchange patrons currently deployed to OND/OEF theater are eligible to participate in Weeman's Monster Experience. Entries receiving the most "likes" by December 31st will take an Epiphone Monster Guitar home.

Log on to the Exchange's The Monster Experience <http://apps.facebook.com/youtubebox/video.asp?uvid=11318027&ref=profile-tab> to see a video by Weeman.

For more information, visit [http://www.facebook.com/AAFES.BX.PX#!/note.php?note\\_id=466302982009](http://www.facebook.com/AAFES.BX.PX#!/note.php?note_id=466302982009).

# COMMUNITY NOTES

## 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](mailto:brigitteP@havredegracemd.com).

## SUNDAY

### JANUARY 2 NATURETALES - SNOW

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

## SATURDAY

### JANUARY 8 WHITE-TAILED DEER SURVEY

Come help determine if the Har-din Country deer population of Leight Park is a healthy size. Get the scoop on poop and conduct pellet (deer scat) counts out on the trails to determine how many deer call the Park home. This free program will be held 9 a.m. to noon for ages 16 to adult. Registration is required.

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

## CRITTER DINNER TIME

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat while learning more about these fascinating creatures. This free program will be held at 1:30 p.m. for all ages. No registration required. For more information or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

## TO BUILD A FIRE

Learn the basics of winter survival from someone who lived in Alaska. Take a hike on the Discovery Trail and learn animal tracking, shelter building, and fire making skills in the heart of winter. This program will be held 2 to 4 p.m. for ages 12 to adult. The cost is \$3 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.

## SUNDAY

### JANUARY 9 MICROSCOPE EXPLORATIONS

Take a closer look at what is happening in the estuary. Use microscopes to explore various plant and animal specimens to gain appreciation for the complexity of life in the estuary. This program will be held 12:30 to 2 p.m. for ages 11 to adult. The cost is \$5 per person. Registration is required.

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

### PHOTOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP TO MARINER POINT PARK

Meet in the parking lot and then walk the easy trail to photograph the birds and other critters of Joppatowne at Mariner Point. Chickadees, Titmice, Cardinals, White-throated Sparrows, and Woodpeckers should be abundant. 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.

## MAKING ANITA'S QUILT

The quilt squares are crafted, the top has been assembled, and now it's time for sandwiching and quilting. Novice and experienced quilters are needed to lend their loving hands to finalize the Estuary Center's memory quilt. This free program will be held 2

to 5 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. Registration is required.

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

## MONDAYS

### JANUARY 10 THRU FEBRUARY 28 NATURE TOTS

Explore and discover the natural world during the winter season through sensory activities, songs, movement and a short hike. This program will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 2 to 5 (with parent). The cost is \$30 per child. Registration is required. For more information, to register, or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

## NATURE KIDS

Explore and discover the natural world during the winter season through sensory activities, songs, movement and a short hike. This program will be held 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. for ages 3 to 5 (parent not required to stay if child is 4 or 5). The cost is \$30 per child. Registration is required.

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

## TUESDAY

### JANUARY 11 AUSA MEETING

The AUSA monthly general membership meeting is set for Jan. 11. The guest speaker will be Brig. Gen. Harold Greene, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and commanding general of the Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.

Due to ongoing renovation at the Top of the Bay, AUSA will hold its January meeting at the Richlin Ballroom in Edgewood from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm.

RSVP (with rank) is required, should be e-mailed to [c2402@ausa.org](mailto:c2402@ausa.org) and must be received by Jan. 7, the Friday before the event. Seating is limited, so please RSVP promptly to ensure attendance.

The cost is \$21 (non-refundable) and can be paid via PayPal. Multiple tickets and tables may be purchased via PayPal. To pay at the door, indicate this in your RSVP to help ensure an accurate headcount and seating availability.

This meeting may qualify for CLP.

## WEDNESDAY

### JANUARY 12 LOCAL FOOD - SAFE, SECURE AND GREEN

Everyone eats and food choices have environmental, social, and economic consequences. Join a Naturalist and a representative from Brad's Produce to learn how local food can be part of a green tool kit. Explore the possibility of picking up a weekly share of veggies at the Estuary Center as part of a Brad's Produce Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. This free program will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m. for adults. Registration is required.

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

## SATURDAY

### JANUARY 15 BONSAI BEAUTIES

Learn about bonsai plants, how to care for them, and start one to take home. This program will be held 3 to 4 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. Ages 10 to 14 must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$6 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.

## ON SILENT WINGS

Come to Swan Harbor to listen for owls. Last year both Great Horned Owls and Eastern Screech Owls were heard. Please bring a flashlight and bundle up. All ages are welcome to enjoy the sounds of the night but children must be able to be quiet when listening. This program will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m. for Families. The cost is \$5 per Family. Registration is required.

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

## SUNDAY

### JANUARY 16 BACKYARD BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Learn to attract birds to the backyard for feathery photography fun. Bird identification, feeder selection, food preferences, and tips for getting the best shots will be discussed. 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.

## WEDNESDAY

### JANUARY 19 THRU FEBRUARY 23 NATURE'S PLAYGROUP - SESSION I

Little ones and their parents play and learn in the natural world. Stories, songs, simple crafts and discovery outings will highlight each day's theme. This program will be held 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 0 to 4. The cost is \$30 per child. Registration is required.

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

### NATURE'S PLAYGROUP - SESSION II

Little ones and their parents play and learn in the natural world. Stories, songs, simple crafts and discovery outings will highlight each day's theme. This program will be held 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for ages 0 to 4. The cost is \$30 per child. Registration is required.

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

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

# Post Shorts

## Holiday gate hours

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

The Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area and the Wise Road Gate in the Edgewood Area will close at their normal times Thursday, Dec. 23 and remain closed until 5 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27.

The following week, the Harford and Wise Road gates will close at their normal times Thursday, Dec. 30. Both gates will reopen at 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 3.

The Maryland Gate in the Aberdeen Area and the Route 24 Gate in the Edgewood Area will be open throughout the holiday period.

## Health Clinic hours

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.

## CFC campaign extended

The 2010 Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Campaign has been extended. With this extension, the solicitation period will run through Jan. 7. Aberdeen Proving Ground has raised \$475,000 for local, national, and international charities so far, and expect to exceed their goal of \$485,000. Donors can pledge online ([www.cfcnexus.org/\\_chesapeake](http://www.cfcnexus.org/_chesapeake)) through Jan. 14. Paper pledges will be accepted through February.

## Volunteers needed for research study

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory is seeking male volunteers between ages 18 and 35 to participate in a study assessing how well individuals can detect vibrations produced by vibrators held next to the head by a head band.

Hair must be short and conform to military regulations. The vibrators in the study are similar to those used in cell phones. The task will be to detect the vibrations while sitting, walking and jogging.

The aim of the study is to develop ways of presenting information to Soldiers. By volunteering, participants will influence the development of a new communication method.

Time commitment is one hour. Non-government civilians will be paid \$20 per hour for their time. For males in the military, no compensation will be provided, other than helping further research that benefits troops.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Kimberly Myles at 410-278-5998 or [kim.myles@us.army.mil](mailto:kim.myles@us.army.mil).

## 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.

## Starting Small Business

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program will sponsor four sessions of How to Start Your Small Business, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 2, May 4, Aug. 3 and Nov. 2 at Child, Youth and School Services, Bldg. 2503.

The free 90-minute program provides an overview of starting a business, successful entrepreneurship and how to write a strategic business plan.

This sessions are open to DoD cardholders, including contractors and retirees, and Family members and guests. Space is limited.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Marilyn Howard at 410/278-9669/7572.

## 2011-2012 Acquisition University Senior Service College Fellowship program accepting applications through March 15

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center is currently accepting applications for the 2011-2012 SSCF Program through March 15.

Over the course of 10 months, the program provides leadership and acquisition training to prepare senior level government civilians at the GS-14/15 level or equivalent for senior leadership roles such as product and project managers, program executive officers and other key acquisition leadership positions.

For complete program information and application requirements, visit <http://asc.army.mil/default.cfm> under Events and on the Fellowship website at [www.dau.mil/sscf](http://www.dau.mil/sscf).

Contact Jim Oman at 703-254-3255 or [james.oman@dau.mil](mailto:james.oman@dau.mil) for more information.

## 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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, Bldg. 4305, room 210, or call 410-272-8269 or 410-306-2048 or visit [www.umuc.edu](http://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](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Shorts.

# Saving the Baghdad Zoo

## 20th SUPCOM officer helps save animals tells the tale in a new children's book

By **CHANEL S. WEAVER**  
20th Support Command

William "Wes" Sumner is a unique Soldier working in a unique command.

The Deputy Chief of Current Operations for the U.S. Army 20th Support Command Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives (CBRNE), doesn't work a typical '9 to 5 schedule,' but works in an office that operates on a non-stop 24/7 pace.

Sumner helps to maintain operations and to keep his finger on the pulse of a command that is charged with combating weapons of mass destruction and defeating all types of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive threats.

But few people know Sumner's story — the story of a man who not only worked to restore the Baghdad Zoo, but recently published a children's book about it. The individual stories in the memoir depict how a small group of people helped to save a large population of animals forgotten with the misfortune of being caught in the middle of a war.

### Zoo Restoration

Sumner (who has a master's degree in archaeology) was deployed to Baghdad in 2003, helping to recover and archive the contents of the Iraq Museum International and manage the numerous archaeological sites throughout the country. He did this for his first few months in Iraq participating in the recovery of several artifacts including the ancient Assyrian Treasure of Nimrud.

As a civil affairs officer on the Special Functions team, he routinely undertook projects that would be considered out of the ordinary. At the request of a local commander, Sumner found himself at the Baghdad Zoo, helping to save the undernourished and neglected animals that, after surviving the invasion, were now in a fight just to stay alive.

What Sumner found at the zoo was devastating.

"Hundreds of animals were missing, and the few that remained were in desperate need of care," Sumner said.

The Baghdad Zoo was once home to more than 600 animals, but after the 2003 invasion and subsequent looting, only 32 animals remained.

"The only animals that were left were the ones that could defend themselves from looters, mainly lions, tigers and the large mountain bears," Sumner said.

Before long, Sumner had organized a team of zoologists, conservationists and veterinarians to feed the animals and provide a safe living environment.

Sumner said the recovery effort was a symbol of the international cooperation that he had been told to expect in Iraq, but had not previously experienced.

"Iraqis, South Africans, Americans and Britons struggled together daily to provide basic amenities for the remaining animals," he said.

The zoo restoration effort was not without opposition, however. Sumner said people would often ask why they are helping animals instead of the Iraqi people.

"I believed we were doing both," Sumner said. "We were not only saving the animals, but we were also helping the people who worked with them. We gave them jobs, fed their families, provided medical care and forged friendships that last until this day. We also



Courtesy photo

**Capt. William "Wes" Sumner checks on a cheetah in his new enclosure at the Baghdad Zoo in 2003. Sumner recently published a children's book about a small group's efforts to restore the Baghdad Zoo.**

provided a space in Baghdad where families could go to avoid the worst of the ongoing violence in the city."

And despite the team's peaceful intent, they were still caught in a war zone where they had to ensure the safety of themselves and the innocent animals they were helping.

"Unexploded ordnance was scattered throughout the area, weapons were stored in cages, and looters wandered throughout the park trying to steal anything that was of value," Sumner said. "It was also not unusual to hear nearby explosions and fighting nearby while we worked to stabilize the animals."

As the team began to gain control of the situation at the Baghdad Zoo, Sumner and his team also took possession of the many palace zoos maintained by Saddam and his relatives.

During the year they were in charge of the zoo, they increased the animal population to nearly 120 and expanded their scope of operations to various areas throughout Iraq. Near the end of his tour, Sumner had accumulated 19 lions, two tigers, four mountain bears, and 16 Arabian horses from black markets, smaller zoos and other sources. He also rescued a number of other animals such as hyenas, porcupines, falcons and ostriches.

"The zoo survived the conflict and now thrives because of the commitment and courage of a group of people who fought to keep the animals alive," Sumner said.

### Hope and Heroes

Sumner redeployed in 2004, and shared his experiences in Iraq with several zoos and conservation organizations. After speaking on CBS Sunday Morning, he received a call from Kelly Milner Halls, a children's book author, who wanted to interview him about another topic — the rescue of 16 Arabi-



**An Arabian horse peer out from a stable before being transported to the Baghdad Zoo in 2003. After the Iraq invasion, Sumner and a small group of people helped to increase the zoo population from 32 to 120 animals, including 16 Arabian horses.**

an horses. During the interview, Sumner mentioned that he and his team recovered and cared for a number of other animals as well.

This story prompted Hall to ask Sumner to write a children's book on the topic.

Sumner said initially he was not comfortable with the idea of writing a children's book.

He said Halls, however, convinced him that kids would be interested in the story too.

"At first, I wasn't sure if a children's book was a good idea," Sumner said. "I wanted to tell a bigger story about the staff, the work, and how the people working there became such a close team."

While he was deployed, Sumner started a program to educate Iraqi children about their country and its animals.

"What I didn't think about is that American children might be equally interested in this same subject."

After extensive collaboration, Sumner and Hall published, *Saving the Baghdad Zoo: A True Story of Hope and Heroes* (Harper Collins, 2010).

Sumner has been interviewed by numerous news agencies but he doesn't seek the spotlight.

"What we did in Baghdad was nota-

ble, but not unique," Sumner said. "There were many goodwill and charitable projects that occurred in the country, including donating medical supplies to hospitals, rebuilding schools and helping to support local orphanages and special needs children."

### Sumner Today

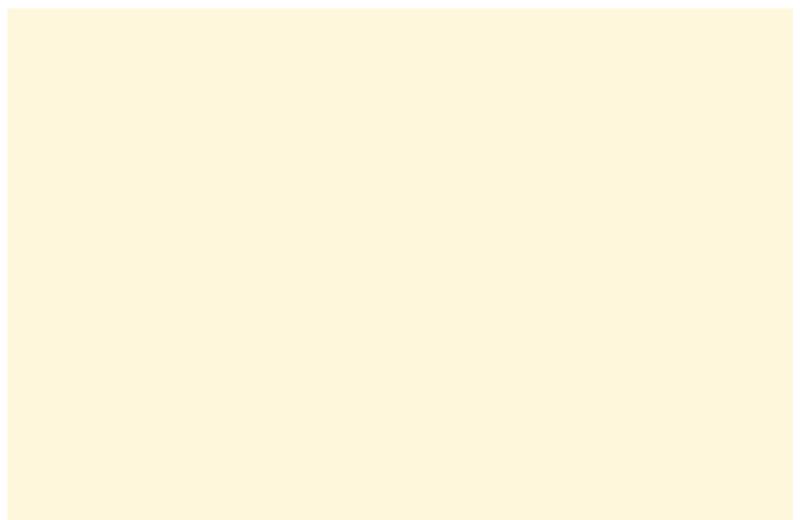
Sumner is committed to life-long learning. He earned two master's degrees, one in archaeology and another in instructional systems design. He also earned a bachelor's degree in political science. Despite these accomplishments, he is currently enrolled in a program to earn a doctorate in Biodefense.

When he is not working at the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) or continuing his education, Sumner enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters. He also enjoys scuba diving.

Sumner said the time he spent restoring the Baghdad Zoo was one of the highlights of his Army career.

"I feel humbled to know that I was part of a mission that helped to unite people from all backgrounds in Iraq and from all over the world and save a portion of Iraq's national heritage for future generations," Sumner said.

Visit [www.cbrne.army.mil](http://www.cbrne.army.mil)



# FAMILY AND MWR

## Activities/Events

### Open Mike Thursday

APG community members can express themselves at the APG North Side Grill during Open Mike Thursday, 5 to 8 p.m., Jan. 27. Doors open at 4 p.m. Featured performers will lead the "Wide Open Mike" in categories including spoken word, vocals or instrumental. The grill will offer light fare. A full service snack menu, beer and wine will also be available. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Walk-ups are welcome.

For more information or to sign up, call 410-278-3854 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

### Spoken Word

The Spoken Word is a free program that gives youth the opportunity to learn how to express themselves through poetry, prose, song, writing and more. This is an intuitive and thought-provoking. Open to all DoD-eligible youth and teens ages 11-18. This program will be held 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 4 to 25 at the Edgewood Area Youth Services, Bldg. 1903 and on Thursday, Jan. 27, at the Aberdeen Area CYSS Conference Room, Bldg. 2503. Snacks and beverages will be provided. For more information or to register, call 410-278-7571/7479.

### 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.

### 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 Cowgirlz<sup>SM</sup> 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 Rec-

reation 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/>



### Resume Writing 101

A Resume Writing Workshop will be held for teens ages 15 to 18, 6 p.m., Jan. 6, at the CYSS Administration Bldg. 2503. Students will identify and script their skills, knowledge and character traits to develop a personal resume.

### Dress for Success

Dress for Success for Teens will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Jan 20 at the CYSS Administrative Bldg. 2503. Teens will learn how to dress appropriately for an interview and a job.

### Teens explore True Colors

Exploring True Colors will be held for ages 15 to 18, 6 to 7 p.m., Jan. 13, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522. The True Colors Per-

sonality Assessment provides easy to understand insights into participants behavioral style and personality type and those of others.

### Stevenson University Campus Tour

Tour Stevenson University in Stevenson, Md., Jan. 22. For high school teens only. Sign up at CYSS Central Registration. Teens will depart the youth center, Bldg. 2522, at 8:30 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. Registration deadline is Jan. 14. Bring money for lunch. Space is limited to 10 teens.

### Teen Interview Skills

This class will be held for teens ages 15 to 18, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Jan. 27 at the CYSS Administrative Bldg. 2503. Teens will learn to successfully conduct job interviews.

To register for these programs, register at Bldg. 2503 Central Registration. For more information APG HIRED! Program Coordinator, call Jay McKinney at 410-278-3250.

## 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](mailto: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-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.

### Tots and Tutus

This toddler dance class is full of stimulation in sight, touch and sound.

Held 5:30 to 6 p.m. Fridays from Jan. 21 to Feb. 25, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522, for ages 18 months to 2 and a half years.

This class is a wildly interactive introduction to dance for little ones. Adult participation is required. Open to DoD ID cardholders.

### Princess Series

Girls ages 3 to 4 will stretch their imaginations as well as their toes as they dance their way through a storybook collage of fairy tales. The Little Princess Workshop will be held 6:15 to 7 p.m., Jan. 21 to Feb. 25, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522. Each of the six-week sessions features one of two fairytales that have been turned into a ballet. Cost is \$45 per child. Open to DoD ID cardholders.

### Pip Hop

Children ages 4 to 5 can participate in Pip Hop from 7:15 to 7:45 p.m. Jan. 21 to Feb. 25 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522. Parents, do your pip-squeaks want to dance like the big kids? Well now is their chance Pip Hop is full of rhythm, body awareness, simple choreography and high energy craziness all set to cool funky music. Parents, let your pip-squeaks get their groove on in this class. Cost is \$45 per child. Open to DoD ID cardholders.

## Looking for a job?

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

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

## 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. 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.

### Week of Dec. 27

Special #1: Double bacon cheese burger with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.95.

Special #2: Roast beef sandwich on Kaiser roll with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.50.

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.



## From the Garrison

# It's the season to celebrate life

It's important to keep things in perspective as we head into the next two holiday weekends. Whichever holidays you celebrate, in whatever way you choose to celebrate them, on some level all holidays are about celebrating life. Sometimes it's about giving thanks for our lives, sometimes it's remembering those who lived before us whose actions or legacies still enrich our days. Even when that tie to life isn't clear, the celebrations themselves are often the best times of our lives.

These good times and holiday breaks help us balance our lives. If there's one thing the Army has learned in recent years, it is the need for balance. Not that long ago many Soldiers thought only about charging ahead. They topped each rise with eyes already looking up for the next challenge. Plenty of time to rest when you're dead, they would say.

Now those same Soldiers talk about the need to take a knee once in a while, because they know you can't go full-out forever. Not only do you have to rest, it's the only smart thing to do. Burned out Soldiers make mistakes, they develop bad habits and suffer injuries both physical and mental from which they have trouble recovering. Now we realize that you have to balance going full-out with stopping completely. You have to balance putting your life on the line to protect others with allowing yourself to be taken care of. This kind of balance makes us resilient, which is criti-

cal to the future of our Soldiers and our Army.

Those same Warfighters know it isn't only about Soldiers, and it isn't only about the actual fight. Every-

one on APG has been pushing hard for the last year. Some of it has been dictated by our mission, some of it by the changes going on at the installation, some of it by things going on in the country or the world. We have to remember that even the positive changes and occurrences create stress. We can recognize that stress, but we can't always recognize the toll it takes on us until that toll is higher than we would like it to be, sometimes higher than we can handle.

The smart way to deal with that is to take the breaks before life forces you to. You'll be able to go longer and recover more quickly if something should happen to you. People have known this seemingly forever. If you look into the history behind our current holidays,

whether they are religious or traditional, you'll find cultures all over the world have always built these breaks into their calendars. Observation of the winter solstice goes back at thousands of years

in many cultures. Many of these same cultures celebrated the spring, the middle of summer, the harvest and so on. They worked hard when they had to and took breaks when they could.

We all know this, but it's so easy to forget, especially when the challenges seem to loom over your every thought. Those of us who keep a tight focus on supporting our Soldiers in the fight can feel guilty taking time off when they are away from their families facing danger on our behalf.

But as much as we need our Soldiers to be resilient, they need us to be resilient. They don't need us to burn ourselves out of new ideas, to work ourselves sick so that we have to stop coming in, or to lose focus in the hundreds

of other ways that present themselves when you don't take a break. They need us sharp and focused and that means rested.

Aberdeen Proving Ground will need us sharp and focused next year as well. We have a big year coming up. Change is going to come fast and thick even as the mission continues to be just as challenging. However much time you are taking, and however you are choosing to use it, make the most of it. Whether that means going somewhere new and pushing yourself in ways you never have before, sitting around the table with friends, or mining every channel your TV offers for entertainment or escapism, make the most of it.

No matter which option you choose from among the many out there, remember that you can't make the most of it if you're hurt, in trouble or worse. Just as you need to balance work with breaks, you need to balance going crazy with taking precautions. So before you cut loose, designate that driver, find those exits, locate the lifeguard, check your fluids and tires, and lay in a stock of bandages, antacids or pain killers – whatever's appropriate. Then go crazy. Then come back, recharged and ready for what may be one of the biggest years in APG's history. I look forward to facing that year alongside you.

Happy holidays, from the garrison

**Col. Orlando W. Ortiz**  
Commander, U.S. Army Garrison APG

“These good times and holiday breaks help us balance our lives. If there's one thing the Army has learned in recent years, it is the need for balance. Not that long ago many Soldiers thought only about charging ahead.”



## 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

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. 26 First Sunday in Christmas 10:15 a.m.

#### Gospel workshop

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

### Edgewood Area

#### Catholic Mass

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. 26 First Sunday in Christmas 9:15 a.m.

# Power generation systems featured

## Continued from Page 1

Personnel representing the Combat Developer, Materiel Developer, Sustainment Commands and HQ offices from each Service will attend to address TEP issues including requirements generation, production, fielding and sustainment of hardware, and “boots on the ground” experiences.

“It’s a one-stop shop,” said Paul Richard, deputy project manager for PM MEP. “We try to get a two-way dialogue going, because from the Warfighter we want to find out, ‘What needs of yours are we not meeting?’ Or, ‘What things can we do with our operational equipment that will reduce your footprint on the battlefield and help you achieve mission success?’”

The discussions are relevant to users from all branches of the military, said Eric Scott, a member of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC Crane) Energy, Power & Interconnect Technologies Division who attended the 2010 conference.

“This is a window into what everyone else is doing,” Scott said. “Having one place to go where you can hear presentations about not only problems in the field, but also solutions that people are tinkering with or trying out, is really valuable. It’s certainly better to be able to get the information firsthand.”

Consuming less fuel on the battlefield will decrease the risk to supply convoys transporting fuel to remote areas, Richard said. The next generation of Department of Defense standard generators,



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

**A demonstration of a hybrid generator prototype that combines solar, wind, and a fuel cell battery with a fuel-run generator at the Project Manager Mobile Electric Power (PM MEP) Users' Conference May 5 in Orlando, Fla. (The image was electronically altered. Portions of image blurred.)**

known as the Advanced Medium Mobile Power Sources (AMMPS) family, are 21 percent more fuel-efficient than the systems currently in production.

The Milestone C decision for AMMPS is currently scheduled for March 2011, and fielding could begin later that same year, Richard said. When fully fielded, the fleet is expected to save the Army more than 50 million gallons of fuel a year.

Even more fuel savings will be possible through the next phase: a shift to microgrids. PM MEP has already made strides to move the Army away from a stovepiped approach – where “anything that needs power gets its own generator” – to “power islands,” which use fewer larger generators coupled with power distribution equipment to feed the same loads, Richard said.

“A microgrid approach is looking at taking those larger generators and actually linking them together so you make a common grid that services all the loads that are within its operating range,” he said. “You couple that with an intelligent system that can autonomously start and shut off generators as they’re needed to meet power demand.”

Other future power generation systems that will be showcased at the conference include fuel cell technology and hybrids of standard Tactical Quiet Generators and solar powered systems, ranging in size from 3-5 kW to 30-60 kW.

Mark Meeter, who works for the Navy Expeditionary Medical Support Command, said the 2010 conference provided both broad perspective on the future of TEP and hands-on practical information. For the expeditionary community, he said, the breakout sessions can help users identify and solve common issues.

“There’s so much that they can gain in that aspect,” Meeter said. “We’re in a huge transition phase right now.”

PM MEP will also use the conference to recognize outstanding power professionals from all Services. For information on award nominations, as well as the conference agenda and how to register, visit the PM MEP website at <https://www.pm-mep.army.mil/index.htm>

Claire Heininger is a staff writer for Symbolic Systems, Inc. supporting the Army’s Program Executive Office Command, Control and Communications-Tactical (PEO C3T).

# AROUND THE FORCE

## Army outlines ground combat vehicle RFP



Photo by Lori Grein

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli addresses a crowd of industry participants during a Ground Combat Vehicle Pre-Proposal Conference Dec. 18, in Dearborn, Mich.

By **KRIS OSBORN**  
Army News Service

The Army plans to build a versatile, highly capable Ground Combat Vehicle in seven years that can deliver a nine-man squad under armor, across a full spectrum of military operations and protect against mines, Improvised Explosive Devices, Rocket-Propelled Grenades and a host of other threats, service leaders told members of industry Dec. 18, at a GCV pre-proposal conference in Dearborn, Mich.

"The Ground Combat Vehicle represents the centerpiece of the Army's long-term combat vehicle modernization strategy," said Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli.

"In the Request for Proposal, we clearly define our big four priorities: force protection, capacity, full-spectrum operations, timing - all based on the immediate need of size, weight and power," he said.

A key rationale for the conference was to afford an open dialogue between Army developers and their industry partners in order to answer questions and clearly define the parameters of the RFP.

"We must ensure we deliver a vehicle that provides a much-needed capability on time and on budget. Your (industry partners) input is critical to our success. We want to make sure we address any

outstanding requests you have regarding the RFP," Chiarelli said.

Industry bidders have until Jan. 21 to submit proposals. The Army plans to award up to three 24-month Technology Demonstration contracts.

The TD phase will include three major reviews, according to the RFP: a System Requirements Review, System Functional Review and a Preliminary Design Review.

The RFP outlines the need for mature technology and clear cost goals. The RFP states that the government intends to hit a target unit manufacturing cost of \$9-10.5 million per vehicle with operational sustainment costs of \$200 per mile, Chiarelli said.

"All of this should be achieved without exceeding a contract ceiling of \$450 million dollars," he added.

"Let me be clear, this is not to reduce contractor profitability, but rather to reduce costs and improve performance.

We want to encourage creativity and innovation in today's environment," Chiarelli added.

The RFP calls for a "tiering" of requirements designed to provide industry with trade space or technological flexibility.

"Tiering supports trade space so that industry can balance cost schedule and technical risk in order to achieve the goal of delivering a vehicle in seven years" said Col. Andrew DiMarco, program manager, Ground Combat Vehicle.

During the conference, Army experts and program managers provided industry-specific and detailed answers to a range of questions regarding the RFP. In total, Army experts provided answers to more than 200 questions.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the proposals come in January," DiMarco said.



**Note: Generic representation of a combat vehicle only. The final Army Ground Combat Vehicle may bear little to no resemblance to this representation. There is no requirement for the vehicle to be either tracked, or wheeled.**

## Even in war zone, troops find way to give

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the packages were, they clutched them close to their small bodies.

This year, try not to think about what cool, new trinket would dazzle your friends. Instead, be appreciative for what you already have.

Recently, some other Soldiers did just that at Combat Outpost Fortress, also in Kunar Province. Army 1st Sgt. Corey G. Myers explained this season he is grateful for what he has and reflected on what he can do for others.

Myers has a family with two growing boys and expenses that go along with that. Yet, even while deployed to

Afghanistan, he has set aside money to help children from different nations experience their dream.

"All children want is to go to Disneyland or some place like that," said the Fort Campbell, Ky., native assigned to Company B, 2nd Infantry Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force No Slack.

One of the funds that he donates to allows for terminally ill children to visit Orlando, Fla., to live out their dream.

"Every Thursday is Christmas there with a Santa Claus because some of these children won't live to see their next Christmas or birthday or holiday," Myers said.

Because he donates to children's funds like this every year, he said he

encourages his Soldiers to donate to whatever cause they believe in.

"I believe in karma," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jacob M. Murphy, tactical operations center noncommissioned officer in Myers' company.

Murphy, a native of San Bruno, Calif., has two children and another one on the way. This year, he donated to a fund to help prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome because he said he believes in something greater than himself.

"You do good to others and they do good to you," Murphy said.

With all the pains in the economy and bills rolling in, it's important to do as these Soldiers have already done -

put others first.

Walking around Afghanistan, it's easy to see firsthand what a couple of dollars or a few packages of food can do for children throughout the world. And as Myers said, he can take the \$20 he spends in tobacco a month and put it toward something greater than himself.

This season when coming together to celebrate the holidays with family and friends, try to remember the examples of these Soldiers deployed thousands of miles away. Try to remember that even though they live in a war zone, some still find it in their hearts to give what they can to make life a little easier for those less fortunate.

# Leaders eye CAC improvements

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Military spouse Candy Surdu attended the meeting and said the social media option should definitely boost participation.

"Many spouses and Family members would like to get involved with the council meeting but can't because they work or are watching their children during the meetings," she said. "By using Twitter they can follow along and give input while they are at work. It would also be helpful if free child care was provided at the [child development centers] during CAC meetings so that those with young children would be unable to attend."

Garrison Public Affairs Officer George Mercer, who helped implement the new technology into the CAC, said the leadership is looking for ways to improve the meeting and asked community members to be patient as they work out the kinks in the new system. Mercer can be reached at 410-278-1147.

Topics presented at the Dec. 16 meeting included upcoming events, snow removal, military scholarships and heating issues.

An overview of the meeting is as follows:

## DPMTS

John Kearney, director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, noted that the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration will be held Jan. 12 at the Edgewood Area Recreation Center at 8:30 a.m.

The next installation retirement ceremony will be held Jan. 26.

Kearney also announced that the garrison has begun planning the Armed Forces Day celebration scheduled for May 19. He said local students will attend the event, which is expected to be significantly larger than last year's celebration.

Ortiz said that garrison leadership needs feedback from the community to improve the Armed Forces Day celebration. The goal is to have more attendance from the people outside the installation.

"We want to reenergize that program," said Ortiz, who hopes to increase attendance from people who live off post. "We need [community] feedback and participation, and it will be a great event for all."

## DPW

Thomas Kuchar, head of the Directorate of Public Works, told the audience that that the Bald Eagle nesting season



Photo by Rachel Ponder

"(We want) to bring people together as a community to receive relevant updates," said Col. Orlando Ortiz, U.S. Army Garrison APG Commander, during the meeting. "Our interest is serving you well and we are trying to proceed along that path."

runs Dec. 15 to June 15. On APG, over 60 nests are protected by 500 meter buffers. APG is host to six communal roosts that receive year-long protection.

Kuchar also briefed the audience on DPW's plan for snow removal.

In anticipation of a snow event, government vehicles and personal vehicles should be consolidated into one area so DPW can efficiently remove snow from parking lots.

Kuchar clarified for attendees that federal office closures in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to APG and that employees should listen to radio and television stations that specifically name APG for post closings.

Ortiz said the garrison is well prepared for a snow event.

"You should know that we have a trained and ready crew capable of responding to snow contingencies here on the installation, north and south. In the summer season when many people were not thinking about snow, we were planning," Ortiz said. "We understand that this is a significant requirement and that it is very important."

## DES

Director of Emergency Services

Robert Krauer said residents with visiting Family members may request a Family member pass that is valid up to 7 days.

To receive a pass, the sponsor should meet the visiting Family member at the Visitor Center to sign a request form. Visitors over the age of 18 must have a photo ID (ID card, driver's license, passport, etc.) and valid vehicle registration or rental agreement if operating a vehicle.

Krauer said the Magnolia Road Gate in the Edgewood Area open 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. duty days for outbound traffic only. The Aberdeen Gate in the Aberdeen Area will also be open starting Jan. 3 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on duty days for outbound traffic only.

## KUSAHC

Lt. Col. Mark Ireland, commander of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, announced that construction on KUSAHC will begin in March. During this time medical services will not be hindered as primary care will be moved into temporary buildings.

The renovated primary care space will improve patient flow and enhance the implementation of patient centered medical care.

"We appreciate your patience," he said. "We are trying to make Kirk the appropriate place for you to get your health care for the next 50 years."

Ireland also told attendees that influenza vaccinations are still available, on a first-come, first-served basis at the clinic.

## Commissary

Anne Morrison, the commissary manager, said scholarships for military children are now available at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

Applications must be turned in by Feb. 22. Applications can be hand carried or mailed to the commissary.

"In the past people have had problems turning in applications due to snow. I recommend turning in applications early. Do not procrastinate," she warned.

## FMWR

Linda Edwards, business manager for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said that the 2011 FMWR directories have been published. The directories will be available online at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

Edwards added that FMWR is aware of the heating issues in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center and lack of hot water in the men's locker room.

"We are working very hard to remedy that situation," she said.

## DOL

Directorate of Logistics' Gene Schneck said there will be a holiday meal Dec. 25 and an Italian specialty meal Jan. 18 at both dining facilities.

## Picerne Military Housing

Corinne Williams, a communications specialist for Picerne Military Housing, said new lights are set to be installed at Patriot and Bayside villages by the end of the week. New lights for the Patriot and Bayside villages will be installed by January.

Williams said that Our Family for Families First Foundation has scholarships for children and educational grants for spouses of active-duty Army Soldiers stationed at APG.

Applications and more information can be found on the Foundation Web site at [www.ourfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.ourfamilyfoundation.org). "This program is not just for residents."

Ortiz closed out the meeting by thanking attendees and asking them to bring friends and coworkers to the next meeting, Jan. 20 at the Aberdeen Area Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

# Obama calls DADT repeal right thing

Continued from Page 1

effectiveness, unit cohesion and retention of the armed forces," the secretary noted.

"As I have stated before, I will approach this process deliberately and will make such certification only after careful consultation with the military service chiefs and our combatant commanders and when I am satisfied that those conditions have been met for all the services, commands and units," he said.

Mullen said he looks forward to working with Gates and the service chiefs and said he's "committed to making sure that process is well-led, maintains our combat readiness and upholds our high standards."

In the meantime, Gates said it's important that the men and women in uniform understand that, although today's vote means the policy will change, the implementation and certification process will take time.

"In the meantime, the current law and policy will remain in effect," he said.

"Successful implementation will depend upon strong leadership, a clear message and proactive education throughout the force," he said. "With a continued and sustained commitment to core values of leadership, professionalism and respect for all, I am convinced that the U.S. military can successfully accommodate and implement this change, as it has others in history."

Mullen welcomed legislative over judicial repeal of the law, noting that it "preserves the military's prerogative to implement change in a responsible, deliberate manner."

He echoed Obama's conviction that repealing the policy is "the right thing to do."

"No longer will able men and women who want to serve and sacrifice for their country have to sacrifice their integrity to do so," the chairman said. "We will be a better military as a result."



Photo by Chad J. McNeele

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff conduct a press briefing at the Pentagon discussing the public release of the "Dont Ask, Dont Tell" Comprehensive Working Group report Nov. 30.

# Rhoades: They need your strength, not your pity

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visit. "They don't need you feeling sorry for them. They need your strength."

Rhoades said Team APG, including Senior Installation Commander Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz, and Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin, the installation and U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command senior enlisted advisor, were supportive of the trip.

Joe Ricci, representing the Susquehanna Workforce Network, was proud to have contributed to the trip.

"The CSSC received donations of more than \$3,300 from area businesses and organizations in support of this visit, and I'm honored to be here," he said.

Carol Baker from the Harford County Veterans Commission, representing the Vietnam Veterans of America, was excited about her first visit to Walter Reed.

"Extremely excited," she said. "I just want to say thank you for your service,

and welcome home. They deserve our complete support. They don't always get that."

A Vietnam-era veteran herself as a member of the Women's Army Corps, Baker is secretary-treasurer for the Harford County chapter of Vietnam vets, past president of the chapter, and a state delegate for their cause.

"I'm also sergeant-at-arms for the Department of Maryland American Legion," she added. "The motto for the Vietnam Veterans of America is, 'Never will one generation of Americans abandon another' because they didn't get a welcome home. That's why I'm here," she said.

"Obviously you feel humbled to be around these young kids," said Jim Costigan, a retired Army officer now with General Dynamics. "More importantly, you feel humble and proud to be around the parents, the moms and dads who are here. They're here for the long haul. A lot of them don't have anything

to do with what we do in the profession, so it's hard for them to feel a part of it. Just reaching out to them and letting them know that there's a community backing their son or daughter meant a lot to a couple we saw."

"The young Soldiers and the Airman we saw seemed to be in great spirits, but the moms and dads and brothers and sisters out in the hallway - you can just see them being drained," he added.

Denise Carnaggio from the Harford County Department of Economic Development said she saw a connection between the wounded and research taking place at APG.

"I went to the therapy sessions and learned a lot about the Soldiers and the strength and the sacrifice they're making. I saw a real connection with some of the research that's going on at the Proving Ground that's supporting the rehab treatment of these young Soldiers."

Holt said the cost of the trip was off-

set by donations.

"We had approximately 25 different organizations, government agencies, and private industries - from Baltimore to Cecil County -- participate today. The donations went into the gift cards and gift packages delivered to the Warfighters."

"We felt passionate about doing this in lieu of an award ceremony that we typically have among those service groups to talk about what we achieved with BRAC implementation. This was an opportunity to put into perspective why we're supporting APG. It put a face on that message."

"County Executive Craig indicates all the time that the real focus is the warfighter, and this [was] an opportunity to see firsthand."

"Despite their injuries they were so optimistic," said Luwanna Spells, CSSC administrative assistant. "The little stuff we complain about is nothing compared to what they have to endure."