

# APG News

www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

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## Post Shorts

### Picerne takes over recycling

Picerne Military Housing is responsible for the collection of residential household trash and recycling in Aberdeen Proving Ground housing areas. Both the trash and recycling pick up will be on Tuesdays.

For more information, contact Angela French Marcum, 410-672-4041 or Meagan Murray, 410-672-4072.



### SAME Chesapeake Post Monthly Meeting today

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post will meet Feb. 18, 11:30 a.m. at Top of the Bay with featured speaker John Resta, scientific advisor, U.S. Army Chemical Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine (CHPPM) on "Overview of CHPPM's mission and transition to the Public Health Command."

Space is limited and reservations are required. Visit [www.same-chesapeake.org/](http://www.same-chesapeake.org/).

### Black History Month program

U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and the U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground will present the History of Black Economic Empowerment, 11:30 a.m., Feb. 24, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. Guest speaker will be Michael E. Crutcher Sr. as "The Spirit of Frederick Douglass." There will also be food samplings.

For more information, Call Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, 410-436-4810.

### CAC Appointment Scheduler

The Directorate of Human Resources launched an online CAC renewal appointment scheduler application Feb. 8 to support the empowerment of DHR customers. The CAC appointment application provides customers the ability to access an automated appointment calendar and schedule their CAC reissuance within 90 days of its expiration date based on time and date availability.

Additionally, the application allows customers the flexibility to cancel and reschedule appointments to avoid work schedule conflicts and a confirmation appointment e-mail, through their AKO, as well as appointment instructions.

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BOSS program provides for single soldiers



## Splashing through the snow

Photo by MIKE "BIG MIKE" FARLOW, DES

Despite a swirling snow storm, Sparky the Fire Dog (actually APG fire inspector Doug Farrington), braves the icy waters of the Chesapeake Bay with an Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Emergency Services sign during the 14th Annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park Jan. 30. One dozen APG police officers and firefighters - including DES director Robert Krauer and fire Chief Edward Budnick - and their family members participated in the annual fundraiser for the Special Olympics of Maryland.

## Picerne Military Housing responds to dual blizzards

Story by  
**MEAGAN MURRAY**  
PMH

Twin blizzards, only days apart, left the surrounding area of Baltimore with more than forty inches of snow. Picerne Military Housing responded quickly to the snow fall by mobilizing supplies and manpower to begin clearing streets and sidewalks.

When the first snow started on Friday, February 5, Picerne had team members on the ground all day and they stayed throughout the weekend to respond to emergency calls and to begin snow removal efforts. Many staff members worked around the clock. "We didn't want to abandon our residents," said Ron Kyle, Picerne Military Housing Maintenance Supervisor. "We had cots in the office. We brought in food for the Picerne staff and geared up."

Picerne called in additional assistance from their prime snow removal contractor, Snow Movers, for both storms. Their priority was to clear the main streets first.

After those were clear, they started clearing the side streets. "We continued to stay ahead of significant snow accumulation on the roads," said Rick Cunefare, Community Management Director for Picerne.

In the days before the second snow, Picerne developed a similar plan of attack. "The first storm allowed us to see what roads were going to be hit the hardest. Depending on the wind direction, not all roads were the same as far as the amount of snow accumulated," said Kyle, who is originally from Buffalo, New York. "We made sure we had enough salt, and marked different areas that we'd need to focus on. I got our guys lined up and we were ready." Kyle added.

Picerne and Snow Movers did face one main challenge throughout the storm. "Our biggest challenge was the weight of the snow. It was very heavy, so it was hard to push and it required constant maintenance on vehicles and equipment. If you don't maintain equipment, your tool is useless to

you," Kyle responded. "We kept in continuous communication with Snow Movers and that helped us a lot. We worked better that way," Kyle commented.

Once Snow Movers and Picerne groomed the main streets and sidewalks, they began working on residential streets. "We shoveled a resident's driveway and walkway who was a cardiac patient. We also opened

See PICERNE, page 6



## TRAFFIC ALERT

### Notice of road closures

On or about Feb. 18 and 19 Scully Road in the Edgewood Area will be closed to through traffic at the intersection of Bush River Road. Detour signs will be posted to guide motorists around the construction. The closure is to allow construction of water and sewer lines.

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



Photo by JIM FOARD, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

Aberdeen Proving Ground Installation Commander Maj. Gen. Nickolas G. Justice, center, cuts the ribbon to the APG Tax Center with the help of Karie Harry, left, deputy installation tax coordinator and Sandi Williams, installation tax coordinator, during a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house Jan. 8. Looking on are tax preparers Avelino Nahil, Steven Peltz and Darlene Odom-Scruggs.

## APG Tax Center offers free tax preparation to military, retirees and Family members

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for the 2010 Tax Assistance Program at the Tax Center's new location, building 30, downstairs, Top of the Bay Jan. 8.

Commanders or their designees were invited to preview the facility and talk with the Tax Center staff members.

Civilian personnel have been hired to work at the Tax Center on a full-time basis and are trained in federal and Maryland state income tax return preparation. An Internal Revenue Service examination at the end of the course certifies each preparer for the Volunteer Return Preparation Program.

Aberdeen Proving Ground Installation Commander Maj. Gen. Nickolas G. Justice U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, the guest speaker for the event remarked that the tax preparers were providing a valuable service to active duty service members, retirees, and Family members. Justice added that the tax preparers will show young Soldiers, many who are filing taxes for the first time, another aspect of what it means to be a responsi-

ble citizen by teaching the tax file process.

Lt. Col. Bobbi Davis, Staff Judge Advocate for Aberdeen Proving Ground, said that the Tax Center is an installation commander's program, a service provided by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

"We can't always put a price tag on the value of the services we provide to our Soldiers, their Families and retirees but in this case the tax services we provide will save hundreds in commercial preparation fees," Davis said. "The mission of the legal assistance program is based on readiness, fostering high morale, avoiding disciplinary problems and an effort to maintain the goal of attracting quality people."

Sandi Williams, installation tax coordinator, has coordinated the program for the last 10 tax seasons. "It is very rewarding to work with Soldiers, educating them on their individual tax situations."

Williams said that 2008 was the first year that the Tax Center staff consisted of temporarily hired civilian employees, instead of active duty volunteers.

"I want to thank the Ordnance Center and Schools and Brigade Commander Colonel Dan Reilly for the generous funding for the past three years," Williams said.

See TAX, page 4

## Nominations open for Military Child Award

Story by  
**HEATHER FORSGREN WEAVER**  
American Forces Press Service

Military children often are referred to as unsung heroes. With grace and resilience, they endure unique challenges including frequent moves, new schools and the stress of a loved one's deployments.

While their sacrifices take place mostly behind the scenes, many organizations are working to bring these children into the spotlight.

There is a special award for military children, ages 8 to 18, offered through Operation Homefront and the Lockheed Martin Corp. People can submit nominations for the 2010 Lockheed Martin Military Child Award through Feb. 25, according to an Operation Homefront release.

The top 20 nominations will be posted for public voting beginning March 1. This voting will be a factor in determining the winner, who will be announced March 16. The winner will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for a \$5,000 award and recognition ceremony.

Anyone can nominate a child, but the nominee must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System.

"The sons and daughters of America's service members learn what patriotism is at a very young age," said Jim Knotts, Operation Homefront's chief operating officer. "Children in military Families understand sacrifice and live with the concept of service. This is what the Military Child Award honors."

To nominate a child, go to <https://eбалot.votenet.com/operationhomefront/register>, [www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net) or [www.homefrontonline.com](http://www.homefrontonline.com)

To read about last year's winner, read the American Forces Press Service article: "Operation Homefront Names First Military Child Award Winner" at [www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=54017](http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=54017)

# On To Next Phase: Forward Leader to Leave

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

Faced with one of the most important realignment moves in the Army, Col. Augustus L. Owens took his mission orders and executed with full steam ahead and passion.

"Take care of the workforce." Those were the orders Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via, then U.S. Army Communications Electronics Command, Life Cycle Management Command commander, gave Owens his first day as deputy commander, CECOM LCMC (Forward) at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Owens was charged with coordinating, integrating and synchronizing all efforts to support CECOM and Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) elements and personnel as they moved to Aberdeen Proving Ground. He was also charged with serving as the principal connection with the APG Garrison and senior mission command staff for topics concerning CECOM and Army Team C4ISR.

Since then, Owens said he has held himself to the high standard of taking care of the workforce and ultimately supporting the warfighter. His efforts contributed to CECOM delivering C4ISR services to Soldiers in the midst of a historic transition: the closing of Fort Monmouth and the CECOM headquarters' relocation to APG.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law dictates that CECOM and other organizations at Fort Monmouth relocate by Sept. 15, 2011, and Owens was charged with managing that transition as an advance party senior presence for the Army Team C4ISR community.

Coming from a tactical background, it wasn't the first time Owens was expected to begin and manage an operation from scratch. "I have served with advanced parties with the [82nd] Airborne and [1st] Armored Divisions, as well as U.S. Army Special Forces Command," said Owens.

As a young captain, he was assigned to CECOM's Intelligence Materiel Management Center (IMMC) in Vint Hill Farms Station, Va., as an operations and fielding officer when Vint Hill Farms Station received orders to close as a result of BRAC 1993.

"Ironically, many personnel from IMMC integrated into our Logistics and Readiness Center at Fort Monmouth," said Owens. "I saw similar responses to BRAC from that workforce in Vint Hill, but had no idea I would be back at CECOM 15 years later involved in another BRAC move."

"When I showed up for work [at APG] the first day, we didn't have trash cans," recalled Owens. "My first action was ordering two-hundred trash cans and then they asked me what color I wanted—the decisions started to grow from there."

Owens was responsible for quality of life initiatives such as heating, air conditioning, lighting, desks, chairs, computers, break areas and food services. But he didn't stop there. He empowered his staff to provide more information and services, such as information on schools; ensuring incoming personnel and their families were established in their homes



Col. Augustus L. Owens, deputy commander, CECOM Life Cycle Management Command (Forward), talks with CECOM LCMC intern Michelle Timmons during a lunch at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Dining Facility at APG-South.

and communities; and creating opportunities for the workforce to network and socialize with each other.

"Sometimes the best thing a leader can do is get out of the way and let your staff innovate and be creative," said Owens.

The CECOM Forward command staff, with help from volunteers from other C4ISR organizations, established a variety of social and informative activities to include: town hall meetings, fireside chats, meet-and-greets, objective site visits of the new C4ISR campus, in-processing schedules, and a sponsorship program.

"There were things that needed to be established, just to keep normal operations moving efficiently," said Owens.

Fostering a team environment, Owens said he could not have done his job without his staff and assistance from many Army Team C4ISR personnel. Owens' primary staff included: Master Sgt. Walter Farrell, Karen Quinn-Doggett, Lorie Moses, Alison Whitmarsh, Linda Chapturinov, Christine Vazquez, Ruth Cline and Jane Wettig.

"With minimal guidance, all of these fine professionals put in extra work and time to ensure our workforce was taken care of," said Owens. "It was tough for them because their duties and responsibilities changed on a routine basis based on what was going on at the time."

"I supported activities that fostered community building. I wanted to see a new organizational culture grow where co-workers knew each other and networked across organizational boundaries. That's how I envision it will be in our new campus," said Owens.

"A mesh of cultures," is how Owens described those who volunteered to move early - a collection of "pioneers" or "trailblazers." He said that starting with a population of 14 people, he knew it would be a feat no one organization could accomplish alone; it required teamwork. Now, the Army Team C4ISR population at APG is nearing 1,500 personnel.

"That's one thing that sticks with me the most," said Owens, "watching members of Army Team C4ISR collaborate

and build esprit de corps." He explained that at Fort Monmouth, different elements of Army Team C4ISR may or may not have interacted with one another face-to-face, but at APG all personnel sit together and use the same kitchen resources, printers, video-conference facilities and break areas, etc. "At APG, the team concept is a reality," he said.

Owens said he's never been a person to sit behind the desk all day. He feels compelled to get involved and interact with people to get things done.

"My leadership style is 'management by walking around.' I invited myself to APG Garrison meetings to represent Team C4ISR; but now there are five different people attending those meetings, each representing their own organizations," said Owens. "That means Army Team C4ISR organizations currently have an APG workforce in place with sufficient staffing and supervisory controls to support themselves and fully execute split-based operations. "Army Team C4ISR at APG has matured," he said.

Presently, Army Team C4ISR is spread over 31 different buildings at APG. Whether they are in trailers, basements of buildings, renovated barracks or former Ordnance Center and Schools buildings, with the cooperation of APG Garrison and tenant organizations, Army Team C4ISR has been occupying buildings wherever they can find a workspace.

"Garrison and tenant organizations on post have been great about helping us get our personnel placed," said Owens. "They have really been supportive and I thank them for that high level of support."

Owens added that the local community has also been supportive in providing information and reaching out to workforce members who are new to the area.

"The Maryland community has really embraced our workforce, welcoming them and making information and resources available and accessible to them. They have bent over backwards and have given our folks first class treatment as they re-

locate to Maryland," said Owens.

Owens said he hopes CECOM keeps the momentum of teambuilding going within the organization and Army Team C4ISR during the transition to APG.

"I want our workforce to look at this move as a catalyst for change," said Owens, "and to take charge of new ideas and integrating them into our business systems. This move is a fresh start; an opportunity to use new technologies and ideas to improve the procedures, systems, technologies and business practices we have in place."

Owens described the end of his tour as bittersweet. "It would have been great to be able to see people move into the new buildings, but it's time for me and the organization to move on to the next phase of this transition," he said.

Edward Thomas, CECOM deputy to the commanding general, arrived at APG the first week of February, and the CECOM Chief of Staff is slated to relocate in March, soon to be followed by Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong, CECOM commander, who is expected to move to APG in July, according to Owens. "My mission is complete, but we have so much more to do as an organization," he said.

In the coming months, there will be a major shift of leadership from Fort Monmouth to APG and later in the year, Fort Monmouth will become known as CECOM Rear, and CECOM Forward will become CECOM headquarters at APG. The C4ISR campus is nearing completion and personnel will begin moving into the GMS Tower, part of the Phase I campus, as early as this summer, according to Owens; many more will move in the fall when construction of the Phase I campus is expected to be completed.

Owens has not yet learned his next Army assignment but he said he looks forward to whatever the future holds.

"I'm not ready to retire. I'm still enjoying the Army," Owens said. "Everything starts with people and ends with people. Wherever you are, the mission remains the same: take care of the warfighter. Always keep that mission in mind."

## MOVES AFOOT: Deputy's move signals 'gravitational' shift south

Story by  
**TIMOTHY RIDER**  
CECOM LCMC

The top civilian employee of an 8,500-person-strong organization that is relocating from Fort Monmouth, N.J., in accordance with base realignment and closure legislation began work Feb. 1 in temporary office space at Aberdeen Proving Ground, a critical milestone in a series of events that will center the command at the new location later this year.

"Really, the center of gravity is beginning to move to APG," said Edward C. Thomas, deputy to the commanding general of the CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, who has been working at Fort Monmouth for 35 and one-half years.

His relocation is the first step in the transition of the CECOM Command



**Edward C. Thomas**

Group to APG. It will be followed in March by the moves of the CECOM chief of staff and other CECOM staff

personnel, followed in July by the arrival of the CECOM commanding general and command sergeant major; all "culminating in October as we move into our new headquarters building and unfurl the command flag at APG," said Thomas.

Thomas said his move is just one of several important markers that the Army Team C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) presence at APG is growing strong and that a significant shift is fast approaching.

Other markers include:  
More than 1,400 Team C4ISR personnel are at APG.

The number of people relocating to APG will begin to increase significantly this summer when newly constructed buildings become available.

Top Team C4ISR leadership is in

place at APG, including Brig. Gen. N. Lee S. Price, program executive officer for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical (C3T); Gary Blohm, director of the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center; Dave Sharman, director of the CECOM Logistics and Readiness Center; and Ned Keeler, director of the CECOM Software Engineering Center as well as many Army Team C4ISR military project managers who are part of the program executive offices for C3T and for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors.

Col. Augustus Owens, who has been serving as the deputy commander, CECOM Forward at APG, will begin to transition to a new assignment, as the need for a special element that provides

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## APG News

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

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## DoD awards \$300,000 math intervention grant to Roye-Williams Elementary School

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground children attending Roye-Williams Elementary School are benefiting scholastically from a \$300,000 grant awarded to the school by the Department of Defense. The grant, known as Eagles AIM, (Achievement through Interventions for Military Students), was awarded by the Department of Defense Education Activity, or DoDEA, which began Sept. 1, 2009 and runs through August 31, 2012.

The DoDEA grant funded approximately \$30 million to schools across the country that provide education to military children. The awards were based on military student enrollment and ranged in size from \$300,000 to \$2 million, depending on the number of military students at the target schools.

The Educational Partnership Program branch of the DoDEA works with the Office of Economic Adjustment, the military services and the U.S. Department of Education to facilitate DoD's plan to provide assistance to school systems that experience growth or loss as a result of force structure changes such as base realignment and closure.

"This is a significant achievement," said Eileen Campbell, APG Schools Liaison. "Roye-Williams is the main feeder school for APG's Aberdeen Area children and all children attending Roye-Williams will benefit from this grant."

According to Dr. Pamela Tabor, a math specialist who oversees the math program at Roye-Williams, the school was the only recipient of the grant in the state of Maryland.

Tabor said the intervention-based goal targets military children needing help in math and reading. The grant funds programs such as Extend-a-Day, in which students remain after school for 45-minute sessions for additional tutoring, and the First In Math® Online Program, an educational tool to solidify basic math skills and improve test scores.

"Programs such as these have had a significant impact in the past," Tabor said. "For the parents of military children, as well as those of government civilians and contractors, this means that the federal government deemed it nec-

essary to provide intervention for children moving all over the country. It gives us a chance to target those needing help so we can give them additional intervention.

Dr. Tabor partners with the Aberdeen Area Youth Center Youth Technology Specialist Charles Novak to allow students continued access to some of the First in Math Programming. Several students use a Dream Box Learning Program while they attend post after-school care.

Except for some difficulties with internet access, Novak, an educator as well, is encouraged by the prospect of supporting the students' academic work.

"My students enjoy working with the computers and learning their math facts while they play," he said. "It supports the need for our Comcast Connection."

Tabor stressed that parents can help by taking an active role in their child's learning experience by keeping abreast of changes and updates on the HCPS Web site and participating in interactive learning programs.

"The First In Math® Web site helps to develop basic skills and facts," she said. "Parents can visit the site and click the 'Parents' link to learn how to better aid their children."

"Funds from the grant will provide intervention for reading and math to the military children of Roye-Williams Elementary School, which is home to many students from military Families, including DoD civilians and contractors," according to the HCPS Web site. "The idea behind this program is to focus on working with military children who are believed to often develop special needs because of how frequently they change school districts."

### **DODEA**

The Department of Defense Educational Activity is a field activity of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The DoDEA mission is to plan, direct, coordinate and manage the education programs for eligible Family members of U.S. DoD military and civilian personnel.

The DoDEA Educational Partnership Program is dedicated to every military child's right to a quality education regardless of their location or how often their Family moves.

### **LEAVE DONATIONS**

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

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

Shanelle Bell	Walter Holland	Anna Smelley
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Dawn Day	Deborah Moore	Victoria Yates-
Meg Downey	Marie D. Nowak	Sparks
Wayne Erb	Michele Reamey	
Catherine Halsted	Deborah Shirley	



Photo by T.C. GLASSMAN

From left, Dave Stamper and Dennis Hancock, Directorate of Public Works Facilities Maintenance and Operations Division brave the blizzard in order to do necessary repair work in the 3500 block in the Aberdeen Area Feb. 10.

## Tax

*From front page*

“Without it we wouldn’t be able to hire such a talented group of tax preparers. I would also like to thank the Maryland State Comptroller’s Office and the IRS for providing hands-on training and the necessary instruction booklets and forms, the Directorates of Installation Operations and Information Management in assisting with the Tax Center set up, the Public Affairs Office and *APG News* for support in promoting our program each year, and a very special thank you to Top of the Bay.”

The Tax Center operates on a first-come, first-served basis. Williams recommended that those planning to visit the Tax Center call ahead to check on the wait, because the wait time will vary from day to day.

She added that processing an individual tax return can take from 30 minutes to an hour and a half.

Prior to arriving at the Tax Center,

customers should access, download and complete the agreement and questionnaire located on the APG homepage at [www.apg.army.mil](http://www.apg.army.mil), or the Legal Web site at <https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/8525761700412C32>, click on Legal Assistance, then APG Tax Center. This document is extremely helpful in gathering the information needed to file an accurate tax return. The Tax Center cannot prepare a return unless the taxpayer brings all necessary documentation. Inaccurate tax returns caused by incomplete/faulty information may incur IRS penalty and interest assessments.

Federal tax forms are available at the APG Tax Center, public libraries, post offices, and at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). State tax forms are available online at the taxpayer’s state department of revenue Web site.

The Tax Center Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Tax Center officially closes April 15. For more information regarding the Tax Center call 410-278-9916 or refer to the Feb 11 edition of the *APG News*, [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil).

## Deputy

*From page 2*

for the common requirements of personnel from disparate Team C4ISR elements has been replaced by growing directorate and office leadership that is now robust enough to care for their own people.

Bottom Line: “There’s enough leadership there that we can transition to a more traditional way of doing business and caring for our employees down there,” said Thomas.

When he arrives as the advance party for the CECOM Command Group, Thomas’ first order of business will be to cultivate relationships. “One of the first things I want to do is get out and visit and start getting to know our new work force down there,” he said, referring to the fact that almost 50 percent of the 1,400 plus Team C4ISR personnel that are already on the ground at APG are newly hired employees.

“There are a lot of people down there that I’ve never met. I want to get out and meet them,” said Thomas. “Right now, I’m not even sure where everybody is. There are all these nooks and crannies, you know, throughout APG North and South, where we have temporarily

located people. So I think it’s important from a leadership perspective to have an understanding of where people live.”

Second, he said, “I want to begin cultivating relationships with those other senior leaders on APG.”

Finally, Thomas said he wants to build relationships with the community: with local, county and state officials as well as the military associations that are already well established, but are growing now to support Team C4ISR at APG.

Thomas said people ask him why with more than 35 years he didn’t simply retire rather than deal with the strains of for all intents and purposes.”

“I could leave now and not be part of the move, but that’s not what I want to do. I want to be part of the move. I want to try to help us along and help us work through the challenges that we’re going to have over the next few years or so and beyond, but especially over the next eighteen to twenty-four months when we’re physically moving everything and reconstituting [our] capability at APG.

“I feel that it’s important to ... have some continuity of relocation. The real critical time period for the command is still coming up ... next summer and fall through the fall of [2011] ... where we’re really moving the entire team leadership and ... I’d like to be part of that,” said Thomas.

# Senior Service College Fellowship Program Visits U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and Team Orlando

Story by  
**PARKER BENNETT**  
and **JIM OMAN**  
SSCF

The Senior Service College Fellowship Program from Aberdeen Proving Ground visited key locations in central Florida that represent and play a significant role in national security Jan. 25 to 29.

The APG Fellows were joined by their counterparts from the Defense Acquisition University - South SSCF program. Participants from APG included SSCF Program Director Jim Oman, Fellows Medhat Abuhantash, Rick Cozby, Corde Lane, Deirdre Sumpter, Tony Subrizi and Chris Manning and Coordinator Parker Bennett. Representing the SSCF Program from DAU-South were Fellows Dave Browning, Edgar Dalrymple, Janet Fletcher, Ed Helms, Wayne Leonard Jr., April Miller, Christina Ridgeway and Steve Stegman along with Learning Support Faculty member Marsha Dollarhide. This onsite, interactive trip deepened the Fellows' understanding of the role played by combatant commands in protecting national interests as well as afforded an opportunity to observe and experience some of the latest modeling, simulations, and gaming capabilities available and in use throughout the Department of Defense.

The visit began at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla., with briefings at U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command. At CENTCOM, Navy Captain, Jack Hazlik, public affairs officer, briefed on area of responsibility explaining the command's mission, challenges, and interests. Later, Ron Quave from Northrop Grumman presented a National Security Strategy Overview brief touching on the pillars of National Security along with previous administrations' defense strategies and documents. Concluding the morning briefs, was a Logistics Overview brief provided by Lt. Col. Gary Spearow who spoke about strategic relationships, contracting, and distribution networks in the USCENCOM area of responsibility.

In the afternoon, the group traveled to SOCOM and heard from multiple speakers. Col. Stephen Goto, Chief J7/9-K, provided an overview briefing on the inception of the command, its mission, and values along with a discussion of the current operational plans such as CONPLAN 7500. Deputy Director for Acquisition James Geurts, Senior Executive Service, discussed SOCOM's approach

to acquisition including the nuances, practices, and challenges. Geurts pointed out SOCOM's blend of acquisition policies which included its ability to take and manage risk while exploiting proven acquisition techniques and methods. The last brief of the day, USSOCOM's Role in the Global War on Terrorism, given by the J51, Col. Clayton Sheffield, explained the command's planning, synchronizing, and as directed, executing global operations against terrorist networks.

The next day in Orlando the group visited the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation.

At PEO STRI, the group received a Command Overview from Pete Marion, Customer Support Executive and a Strategic Integration Overview from Scott Pulford, Strategic Integrator. In small groups the fellows tried the latest technological training simulators. In the Product Manager, Air and Command Tactical Trainers Game Lab, the fellows played out scenarios found within the AOR in a video game format, with an after-action review used to help Soldiers make more astute battlefield decisions. In the Simulation and Training Technical Center, they shot a variety of small arms using the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, a low-cost simulation which provides marksmanship, collective tasks, and discretionary instruction. Additional demonstrations included the Medical Simulation Technology lab's realistic dummies and wounds used to prepare medics for quick responses to battlefield injuries.

The day concluded with a test drive in the Common Driver Trainer. The CDT is a motion based, low-cost driver simulation with interchangeable parts used to train members of the armed services to drive Strykers, M1A2 Abrams, and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. Many of the Fellows have worked with PEO STRI in previous assignments and the visit to the PEO STRI headquarters gave them a deeper understanding of PEO-STR's capabilities, strengths, and areas of responsibility.

The last day of the trip began with a brief on Team Orlando by Michael Willoughby, Deputy Director of the Joint Training Integration and Evaluation Center.

He spoke about Team Orlando's unique partnership between industry, academia, and government and its ability to leverage collaborative uses of technology and information to address the military's training and simulation issues. Then, Dr.

Brian Goldiez provided an overview of the University of Central Florida Institute for Simulation Technology. Tours of UCF's projects included the Human Experience Modeler which blends reality with the virtual world to aid with the cognitive rehabilitation of a traumatized brain. Such technology is revolutionary in helping those afflicted with brain injuries readjust to their lives at home.

The trip wrapped up with a behind the scenes tour of TEQ Games at Universal Studios. Marc Watson, President of Imagine Creative Technology explained the development of learning tools which embed education into a game like story line. He described how the programs used by TEQ Games have had enormous success at educating otherwise failing students using encouragement and engagement. One of the key techniques is the incorporation of a suspension of belief that draws the learner into the problem and keeps them engaged throughout the learning process. Watson used Universal's Spiderman Ride to demonstrate an example of storytelling which creates this sense and draws in the participant from start to finish. The fellows observed how

this type of entertainment technology could have endless implications and possibilities for the development of military training simulations.

In conclusion, the group walked away from the trip with a clearer understanding of the roles played by the combatant commands and a more comprehensive appreciation for the technological training tools in use and under development that have come about as a result of the unique collaborative alliance found within Team Orlando.

# Community Notes

## SATURDAY

### FEBRUARY 20 MAPSTELL THE STORY

Take a look at several types of maps while studying the topography of Leight Park, and hike to ground-truth those maps. This program will be held 10:30 a.m. to noon for ages 8 to 12. The cost is \$4 per person. Registration is required.

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

## SUNDAY

### FEBRUARY 21 ALL TIED UP

Knowing how to tie a few types of knots is a great skill for making life a little easier. Learn some basic knots and what they are used for. Plenty of practice opportunity! This is a great program for scouts. This program will be held 3 to 4 p.m. for ages 8 to 14. The cost is \$2 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.

### MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the center's live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This free program will be held 1 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.

## WEDNESDAY

### FEBRUARY 24 NATURE'S PLAYGROUP

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. Session I will be held 9 to 10 a.m. and Session II will be held 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Both sessions are for ages infant to 4. The cost is \$30 per child. Registration is required.

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

## FRIDAY

### FEBRUARY 26 THE FINTON FORMULA FUN VISITING SCIENTIST SERIES

Come to the center for exciting hands-on chemistry and environmental science fun, guided by guest scientists from the local community. The topic will be Harry Potter Potions Lab. This program will be held 4:30 to 6 p.m. for ages 10 to 12 or 5th to 7th grade. 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.

## SATURDAY

### FEBRUARY 27 KNOW YOUR FISH AND EAT THEM TOO!

Learn to identify the fish found in Otter Point Creek and the Bush River. Participants use icings to do biologically accurate decorating of fish cookies before munching down the favorites. This program will be held 10:30 a.m. to noon for ages 7 to 12. 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.

### COLD COMPASS CAPERS

Learn how to use a compass while negotiating a scavenger hunt in and out of the center - warm treats will be the reward. This program will be held 1 to 2:30 p.m. for all ages. Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$4 per person or \$8 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.

### INVASINATORS

Become a part of the volunteer team of invasive plant removers and native plant restorers. Learn why non-native invasive plants are a threat to our ecosystem, how to identify problem plants, and removal and restoration strategies. Wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and work gloves for field work in the reserve each meeting date. Participants receive an Invasinators T shirt. This program will be held 3 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.

## SUNDAY

### FEBRUARY 28 PARENTS CAMP AND EDUCATION FAIR

County Parents Magazine will host its eighth annual County Parents Camp and Education Fair, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the John Carroll High School, 703 Churchville Road, Bel Air. This free, fun-filled event will feature a variety of exhibitors offering summer activities and camps from around the region and is designed to be a great resource for Families. Parents can learn about and sign up for programs specializing in sports, academics, education, science and nature, and the arts. There will also be fun children's entertainment, demonstrations, prizes and giveaways, and the largest collection of camps, schools and summer activities under one roof. For more information visit [www.countyparents.com](http://www.countyparents.com) or call 410-893-1511.

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

## Motorcycle Safety Courses

The APG Safety Office, Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment, hosts Motorcycle Safety Courses throughout the year. Attendees must register online at AIRS at <https://airs.lmi.org>. For more information, contact H. Mike Allen, APG Safety Office at 410-306-1081.

The following are schedules for the Basic and Experienced courses for 2010.

### Basic Rider Course (BRC)

Day 1: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., building 4303, Hazardous Waste Training Room

Day 2 and 3: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Motorcycle Range on Darlington Street

**Schedule:** March 23-25, April 27-29, May 25-27, June 22-24, July 20-22, Aug. 17-19, Sept. 21-23, Oct. 19-21.

### Experienced Rider Course (ERC)

Motorcycle range on Darlington Street, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Schedule:** March 19, April 30, May 14, June 25, July 23, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 12.

A Military Sport Bike Rider 2010 course is being offered by the Fort Meade Safety Office throughout the

year. The Military Sport Bike Course, MSBC, is held 8 a.m. at the Safety Office classroom, 8548 6th Armored Cavalry Road, Fort Meade, MD 20755.

### Fort Meade MSBC

Class and range time is dependent on the amount of students and their abilities. Classes should end by 5 p.m.

Attendees must register online at AIRS at <https://airs.lmi.org>. For more information, contact Bob Hansen at 410-804-6343.

Fort Meade MSBC classes are scheduled for the following dates: April 12, April 15, May 10, May 13, June 14, June 17, July 12, July 15, Aug. 9, Aug. 12, Sept. 13, Sept. 16, Oct. 14.



## Picerne

*From front page*

up driveways for a lot of residents since the snow banks were so high," said Willie Brodie, Picerne Military Housing Maintenance Technician. Combined, the two companies had more than 40 people and numerous pieces of equipment over the duration of the two storms. Together they worked over 1,200 hours to plow

the snow from approximately 12 miles of roads in the neighborhood.

"It's coming along," said Amy Shepherd, Assistant Neighborhood Manager. "We worked closely with the installation and Snow Movers, and all around, it was a great and successful team effort."

Picerne would like to thank residents for their continued patience. Residents should feel free to contact their Neighborhood Office at 410-305-1076 with any questions or concerns they may have.

## POST SHORTS

Customers can access the CAC renewal appointment scheduler through the APG Web site - [www.apg.army.mil/AKOSSOprompt/cacrenewal.cfm](http://www.apg.army.mil/AKOSSOprompt/cacrenewal.cfm).

For questions or more information contact Tom Shumate, 410-306-2303.

### Black History Month lunch time movies

The APG Black Employment Program presents free lunch time movies 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326 and the Stark Recreation Center, building E4140 in the Edgewood Area.

#### Aberdeen Area

- Feb. 18, A Time to Kill
- Feb. 23, Obama Road to the White House (Documentary)
- Feb. 25, Imitation of Life

#### Edgewood Area

- Feb. 18, Imitation of Life
- Feb. 23, Rosewood
- Feb. 25, A Time to Kill

For more information, contact Bridgette Smith, 410-278-0892.

### Picerne Housing has moved

The Picerne Military Housing Office has moved to 2727 Chesapeake Boulevard. The temporary offices are no longer in use. For more information, call the Neighborhood Office at 410-305-1076.

### MCSC Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast

APG Military and Civilians Spouses Club invites you to a Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast to support the MCSC, Saturday, Feb. 20, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Applebee's, 991 Beards Hill Road in Aberdeen. For tickets or information, contact Judi Wurm, [judimeister@gmail.com](mailto:judimeister@gmail.com), 410-937-2941, or Mickey Kienzler, [dmkienzler@yahoo.com](mailto:dmkienzler@yahoo.com), 910-261-0787.

### American Sign Language class underway

A lunch time Basic American Sign Language class will be held 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Tuesday, through May 4 in the conference room in building 1950 on the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The class is for beginners to advanced students. The class text book, "ABC: A Basic Course in American Sign Language," can be purchased online or from

a book store. To receive credit for the class, military and civilian personnel must complete 10 sessions and submit SF 182. There is no fee for the class. Obtain supervisor approval as needed. Bring your own lunch.

To register, or for more information, contact BethAnn Cameron at 410-436-7175, [BethAnn.Cameron@us.army.mil](mailto:BethAnn.Cameron@us.army.mil); or instructors Pat Reeves, 410-436-2917, or Randy Weber, 410-436-8546.

### Basic Boating Classes

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 22-04 will offer Basic Boating classes, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 27 and 28; March 27 and 28; April 10 and 11; April 24 and 25; May 1 and 2; and May 29 and 30. Classes will be held at the Middle River Yacht Club located at 200 Nanticoke Road, next to the Riverwatch Restaurant in Essex, Md.

The course will feature instruction on essential topics of boating to include navigational rules, safety equipment and boat handling along with lessons on essential knot tying and nautical history. Graduates will receive a State of Maryland certification.

Maryland law states that anyone born on or after July 1, 1972, must possess a certificate of boating safety education in order to operate any motorized vessel.

The cost of instruction is free; however a charge of \$25 per student is needed to cover administrative costs. All required material will be provided.

For more information and registration, call Army Fox, 410-287-8863, e-mail [captainsly@comcast.net](mailto:captainsly@comcast.net).

### Desert Storm veteran's reunion Feb. 27

The VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association will host its 19th Annual Memorial Ceremony and Reunion at Fort Myer, Va. Feb. 27. A chapel service will be held 5 p.m. at the Fort Myer Memorial Chapel followed by a reception at the Fort Myer Officers' Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Dana Pittard. Cost is \$25. Make checks payable to "VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association" and mail to: VII Corps DSVA, Attn: Dinner; 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. To make reservations, call 800-506-2672, EXT 4163 by Feb. 22. Dress is civilian informal.

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

## APG SCHOOL LIAISON

# Maryland's public schools ranked first in the nation

Maryland State Dept. of Education

The 2010 Quality Counts annual report from the newspaper Education Week shows Maryland ranking first in the nation for a second year in a row. Maryland consistently placed at the top of its class in the report's six determining categories and scored no lower than a B in any given area.

In Chance for Success, one of the most comprehensive categories, Maryland earned a B+ or sixth in the nation based on 13 indicators ranging from infancy to adulthood. The state also earned a B+ in Standards, Assessment, and Accountability for its elementary, middle, and high school curriculum and testing standards, and accountability policies.

This year's Quality Counts provided an extensive overview of state policies addressing the Teaching Profession and Maryland ranked fifth in the nation with a B in the category.

Maryland placed seventh in the nation with a B in School Finance to round out the 2010 rankings at seventh in the nation.

Previous Quality Counts reports gave Maryland an A For Transitions and Alignment, reflecting how

well the K-12 education system, as a whole, helps students become ready for school, progress through the education experience, and prepare for college/university and/or the workforce and ranked second with a B in Maryland's K-12 Achievement for students' national test performance in both math and reading at key grade benchmarks – fourth, eighth and Advanced Placement – as well as the high school graduation rate.

Education Week is the nation's leading education newspaper. The newspaper's annual Quality Counts report provides a survey of states' educational policies and performance based on key criteria and benchmarks. The results are based on data collected and analyzed by the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center as well as investigations conducted by Education Week reporting staff.

In addition, each annual report hones in on key national topics for in-depth examination — this year's being The Teaching Profession and the Common Core Standards. To access the full report after the embargo date/time, go to [www.edweek.org/rc](http://www.edweek.org/rc).

## GEMS application deadline nears

Gains in the Education of Math & Science (GEMS), is getting ready for the start of its fifth year at APG in the summer of 2010. GEMS is an in-depth laboratory-based experience for students who will be in grade 7 (by Fall 2010) to grade 10 (in Spring 2010) that is held at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Older students in grades 11 through 12 will be considered provided that they have not participated previously. Students must commit to participating in the entire week, with four weeks to choose from: June 21 to 25; July 12 to 16; July 26 to 30; and Aug. 9 to 13.

Detailed information on GEMS can be found at the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Web site at [www.usaeop.com](http://www.usaeop.com). Applications can only be submitted through the Web site. Click on 'Apply Now' and choose 'APG' as the site.

Students are required to write a short essay about why they want to attend GEMS. Students who are military Family members should note it on their applications. Applications will be accepted through March 15. Applying to the program does not guarantee admission. Applicants should be notified if they have been accepted into the 2010 program by April 30.

For more information on any APG school related topic, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857 or e-mail [eileen.campbell@apg.army.mil](mailto:eileen.campbell@apg.army.mil).



# FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

## Activities/Events

### New York City shopping trip

Leisure Travel will offer a shopping trip to New York City March 5. Enjoy the city without the driving or parking problems. Cost is \$36 per person and includes roundtrip bus transportation. The bus will depart 7:55 a.m. from the Edgewood Best Western parking lot at Route 24 and return 10:30 p.m.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call MWR Leisure Travel Office,

Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

### Broadway Across America

To purchase advance tickets for shows at the Hippodrome Theater in Baltimore,

Warner Theatre in Washington, D.C., or at the Chrysler Hall in Norfolk, Va., please follow these steps:

Based on the theater's location, visit the appropriate website:

Baltimore: <https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=baabal&o=62101240&g=448>

Washington: <https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=baawdcmem&o=62101240&g=449>

Norfolk: <https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=baanor&o=62101240&g=450>

After selecting a show, click on BUY TICKETS. Enter the password 105MWRAPGMD, then create a new account or log into an existing one. After choosing number of tickets, follow on-screen prompts to check out.

Tickets are offered for a limited time. Check the website frequently for prices, show times, dates, seat availability, and expiration date.

For more information, call FMWR Leisure Travel Services at the Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011 or 4907 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

### Experience the Cherry Blossom Festival

MWR Leisure Travel Office offers a trip to Washington, D.C. for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival and fireworks show April 3.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is an annual event that celebrates springtime in Washington, D.C., as well as the 1912 gift of the cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Japan.

Come to the Southwest Waterfront at 5 p.m. as the Washington Waterfront Association kicks off the fifth annual Prelude to the Fireworks, which is

a free three-hour festival of Family entertainment that includes live musical performances, kids' craft activities, cuisine from local restaurants, and special guest appearances for the kids to enjoy. At 8:30 p.m. all eyes will head toward the sky for a spectacular fireworks display. The fireworks will occur rain or shine. Space is limited; Reserve your seats today.

Cost of the trip is \$25 per person and includes roundtrip bus transportation. The bus will depart APG at noon and return at midnight.

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

### Scrapbooking crop Feb. 20

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a Scrapbooking crop for seasonal scrapbookers or anyone who has always wanted to try it. "Crop Till You Drop" will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Top of the Bay. Cost of the event is \$25 per person and includes lunch and door prizes. Vendors will have items for sale for all scrapbooking needs. Optional classes may be offered.

For more information, call Patti Harkins, 410-273-2075.

### Youth Baseball and Tee ball

Boys and girls ages 4 through 12 as of April 30 may register. Cost of registration is \$45 per child for tee ball. Cost of registration is \$35 per child for baseball. Boys and girls ages 4 and 5 may register for tee ball; ages 6 through 8 may register for coach pitch baseball; and boys and girls ages 9 through 12 may register for kids pitch baseball. Practice will start week of April 1. Games will be held weekday evenings and Saturday mornings.

All youths participating in a team sport must have a current sports physical. Registration will be held through Feb. 26 at Central Registration in the Aberdeen Area, building 2752 Rodman Road, 410-278-7571/7479. Walk-in registration will be held 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. After 10:30 a.m., call for an appointment.

For more information, call Bill Kegley, 410-306-2297.

# hired!

## HIRED!

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

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

### College Night at C. Milton Wright High School

High school students will have the opportunity to visit more than 80 college and university representatives at C. Milton Wright High School, Monday, Feb. 22.

Sign up at Child, Youth, and School Services central registration, building 2752 by Feb. 18. Group will depart from Youth Services, building 2522 at 5 p.m. and returning at 8:45 p.m.

For more information on the HIRED! Program, call Jay McKinney, workforce preparation specialist, 410-278-3250, or email jay.a.mckinney@us.army.mil.

For more information on CYSS, contact the Central Registration Office, Bldg 2752, 410-278-7571/7479.

# the edge

## The EDGE

The EDGE Program is designed to highlight opportunities for children and youths in grades 1 through

12, to Experience, Develop, Grow and Excel in FMWR partner facilities.

### Youth Football Combine Training

Are you ready for some football? Youths have the chance to improve those skills and techniques to take their game to the next level. The CYSS EDGE! program will conduct a free Youth Football Combine Training 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesdays in March. This program is open to eligible DOD Family members ages 11 to 18.

Training sessions will be conducted on the sports fields at Aberdeen Youth Services. Youths will learn more about speed and agility training and how to get faster. Teens will also learn more about pass catching, running receiver routes, running with the ball and everything they need to improve their skills. This combine will be just like the one the pros conduct in Indianapolis, Ind. each year. It will also prepare teens for the football combine scheduled by the Youth Sports Office for early May. Participants should be prepared to work outdoors during this program; dress according to the weather.

For more information or to register, call the CYSS Central Registration Office, 410-278-7571/7479, building 2752, or call Chuck Rose, 410-278-1399, e-mail chuck.rose1@us.army.mil.

## 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.

## SKIES Unlimited

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

### Toddler Art

Calling all young Picassos. Toddler Art lessons will be given 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Saturdays, through Feb. 20, for ages 2 to 4 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Hands-on creativity is the theme as children explore paint, clay, color, texture and shapes. Dress little ones in old clothes or smock and be prepared for a messy good time. Parent participation is required.

Cost is \$70 per student.

### Beginner Tae Kwon Do School

Join the Unity Tae Kwon Do School of Martial Arts at APG. Tae Kwon Do promotes discipline, as well as muscle toning and conditioning. Beginner Tae Kwon Do classes will be held for ages 6 to 14 at Child, Youth and

School Services, building 2522, 6 to 7 p.m., March 8 through 31; April 12 through May 5; and May 10 through June 7. Cost is \$65 per student per 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.

Classes will be taught by instructor U.S.K.B.A. Fighter Kyo Sa Nim SeanWilliams.

### Private Piano Lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given for ages 4 to 18, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., on Tuesdays or Fridays, April 13 through May 21. Lessons cost \$102 per student and include six weeks of 30-minute lessons once a week. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child.

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

## February bowling specials

### Bowling specials

- Early bird special: Bowl 7 to 10 a.m. for \$.50 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Each Friday, 9:30 to 11 p.m., bowl one game and receive one game free. Cost of shoe rental not included.
- It's Cosmic Saturday on Feb. 20 and 27. Rent a lane for one hour (shoes included, up to 6 people), a whole

cheese pizza (toppings extra) and a pitcher of soda for \$32.

The Bowling Center has started a 5:30 p.m. Monday night bowling league open to all interested bowlers and non-bowlers as well. Anyone interested in joining should call 410-278-4041.

Call for availability of lanes on discounted days and hours.

## APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

### Building 2342

The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday and Tuesday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday; 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday; 1 to 11 p.m., Saturday; and 1 to 6 p.m., Sunday.

### Week of Feb. 15

Special #1: Turkey club sandwich with chips, regular soda and cookie: \$7.25.

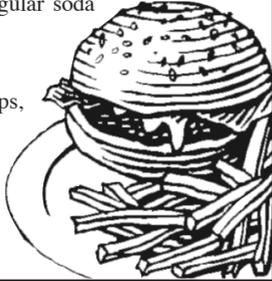
Special #2: Spaghetti with salad, garlic bread, regular soda and cookie: \$7.95

### Week of Feb. 22

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

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

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





Range instructor, Dave Andrews, explains the correct way to hold a shotgun to Spc. Hector Pichardo during Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers skeet shooting activities at Aberdeen Proving Ground Feb. 3.

## Program provides for single Soldiers

Story and photos by  
**MATTHEW HICKMAN**  
RDECOM

The Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers council met Feb. 3 to discuss what activities it would sponsor this winter for APG Soldiers and to confirm its role during the I. A.M. STRONG concert tour headlined by Leigh Jones.

The BOSS program was started in 1989 to respond to the recreational needs of single Soldiers, who make up 35 percent of the U.S. Army. Every month the BOSS council, led by Spc. Carlos Rios with representatives from nearly every unit at APG, meets to provide updates on quality of life, community service and recreation and leisure issues in which BOSS is engaged.

As president of the BOSS council, Rios' job is to ensure there is a standard of living for single Soldiers on post. BOSS tackles quality of life issues such as broken lights, littered surroundings and snow clogged sidewalks. Work orders are submitted to solve these issues, but there can be a long lag from the time problems arise to when they are fixed.

"Half of the people at my meetings live in the barracks and they see what's going on out there," Rios said. "What they're reporting is what's going on and how we can fix it." A solution could come down from the garrison chain of command if work orders are ignored, but more often than not members of BOSS volunteer to personally solve issues.

At larger Army installations the garrison can fund a BOSS program upwards of \$20,000 to start, but because APG is classified as an extra-small installation the BOSS program here starts with no money. To sustain the program, members participate in fundraisers ranging from car washes to grocery bagging at the commissary.

"We recently sold concessions for a Soldier show and we ended up pooling around fifteen hundred dollars and that was in four hours," Rios said. "The money goes to supplies that we need, such as t-shirts, BOSS logos and other marketing materials, and it also goes to pay for trips for single Soldiers."

Skiing in New York and travel to Atlantic City are just a couple of tentative trips being considered for the remainder of the winter. Fundraising money also goes to pay for social gatherings for single Soldiers. This month, BOSS hosted a Super Bowl party and has plans for a Mardi Gras party.



Research, Development and Engineering Command Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin lines up a shot with help from range instructor, Dave Andrews, as Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers council members Spc. Roy Champion, Spc. Carlos Rios and Spc. Hector Pichardo and range instructor, Bill Armstrong, look on during skeet shooting activities at Aberdeen Proving Ground Feb. 3.

The organization recently conducted a successful trip to the Baltimore Aquarium.

"The transportation was paid for and the tickets were paid for, and the Soldiers got a day off," Rios said.

The BOSS program isn't just about providing for single Soldiers. The organization is serious about community service and outreach. In a short time many members have volunteered for close to 50 hours and some have spent more than 100 hours in outreach activities.

In fact, some members are donating their time to the Armed Forces Retirement Home located in Washington, D.C. during the Super Bowl.

"A few of us are going down there to serve refreshments and clean up afterwards, whatever we can do to give back to them," Rios said.

One particular area of community outreach that Rios is excited about is a tentative visit from the League of Dreams, an organization that provides self-esteem and confidence for special needs children through baseball and softball. The BOSS program is currently working with local child youth services to gauge the level of interest in the program.

"They start a baseball team



Range instructor, Dave Andrews, provides skeet shooting tips to Spc. Hector Pichardo during Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers activities at Aberdeen Proving Ground Feb. 3.

and we encourage them and walk them through the steps," Rios said. "The big picture is if we get enough people coming from Edgewood and Aberdeen [areas] it's another little way to give back to our community and build camaraderie."

The outreach BOSS provides to the community and the morale it provides to single Soldiers has not gone unnoticed. Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin serves

as the senior enlisted advisor to the BOSS Council.

As part of his duties as installation command sergeant major, the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command senior leader approves members selected to serve on BOSS committees and participates in BOSS activities.

Marin recently went skeet shooting with members of the BOSS council, and said he's

extremely proud of the group and the service they provide.

"These Soldiers are really doing a tremendous job," Marin said. "They're doing everything to make life better for the troops here at Aberdeen Proving Ground."

To learn more about the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program visit [www.apgmwr.com/community/boss.html](http://www.apgmwr.com/community/boss.html).