

## Post Shorts

### Picerno takes over recycling

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

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



### Gate operations for the holiday weekend

The Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area and the Wise Road Gate (Route 755) in the Edgewood Area will close 10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15 and reopen 4 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 19 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The Route 715 Maryland Boulevard gate in the Aberdeen Area and the Route 24 Hoadley Road gate in the Edgewood Area will remain open 24 hours a day.

### Garrison commander to speak at MOAA dinner

Colonel Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, will be the guest speaker at the Military Officers Association of America annual dinner meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Bayou Restaurant, 927 Pulaski Highway, Havre de Grace, Jan. 15.

The meeting is open to MOAA members and officers serving or who have served in the armed forces. Cost for dinner is \$26.50. For reservations or more information, contact retired Maj. David Robinson, 410-272-0328.

### MLK commemorative program

The APG Garrison will host an observance in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 27.

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

### Installation calendar available online

The installation calendar is available to everyone on the APG website.

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## All aboard the Glory Train

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS

Rafael the Angel, a conductor on the Glory Train played by Frank Burch, second from left, keeps an eye on Sister Knows-It-All, played by Lakeya Brown, left, as Sister I've-Got-A-Testimony, LaTanya Steele swoons and Javon Averett, as Mr. Worldly Goods takes it all in during the Aberdeen Proving Ground Gospel Service performance of the play 'Glory Train' at the Post Theater Jan. 10. See next week's APG News for the full story of this dance and drama presentation.

## Credit reports can affect security clearances

Story by **JUDY PATISHNOCK**  
DPTMS

What is a credit report and how does it affect receiving or maintaining a personnel security clearance? A credit report contains financial information or credit history, and is maintained by reporting companies such as Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion.

Examples of the type of financial information available on the credit report or credit history would be the names of creditors (i.e., credit card companies, bank or vehicle loans), number of delinquent payments, high dollar amount owed to creditors, number of charge offs to creditors and the dollar amount of the charge offs, bankruptcies, or foreclosures. A poor credit history could possibly affect eligibility to receive or maintain a personnel security clearance or access to a government computer.

The personnel security clearance process begins after receipt or acceptance of an offer of employment. If the position requires a personnel security clearance, you will be required to complete the Standard Form (SF) 86, Questionnaire for National Security Positions. In addition to personal identifying data on the SF86, applicants will also be required to provide information regarding their finances.

The information provided on the SF86 and the credit history listed on your credit report, is an indicator of loyalty, character, trustworthiness, and reliability, and is part of the investigative process in determining eligibility for receiving or maintaining a personnel security clearance.

Attempting to conceal indebtedness on the SF86 could be an indicator of unreliability or dishonesty. When in doubt about providing credit information on the SF86,

list it; if warranted, you may be asked to provide additional information pertaining to your financial concerns. If you are a current employee and experience credit problems, you have an obligation to self report this to your security manager.

Everyone in the state of Maryland is entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. A suggestion would be to use [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com); however, there are numerous other Internet sites available or via telephone to obtain your credit report. Keep in mind that some sites have a service charge for this service.

Knowing what is listed on your credit report will help you to identify and correct any credit errors, discover if you're a victim of identity theft, or possibly pay off or close out accounts that might have been overlooked or forgotten.

## West Point grad grabs Guinness record, joins EOD

Story by **ROGER TEEL**  
20th SUPCOM

Second Lt. Sophie Hilaire does not particularly fit the general image of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Warrior.

Weighing a mere 120 pounds, one wonders how she could possibly be strong enough to function in an 85-pound bomb suit, handling the physical and mental demands of defusing improvised explosive devices.

But Hilaire is strong enough to run a marathon in full battle armor; in fact, she holds a world record for it.

After graduating from an all-girls Catholic school in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Hilaire was accepted at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. She graduated last spring with degrees in management and environmental engineering, making her parents, Vincent and Sung-Suk Hilaire, of Longmont, Colo., proud.

She was also a member of the Army Women's Fencing Team at West Point.

"My dad's uncle was in the Army, a warrant officer, but we really didn't have anyone particularly pushing us to go to West Point," Hilaire said.

She used the collective "we" because her younger sister and brother both attend the U.S. Military Academy. Her sister Nicole is in her junior year, and her brother Philip, is a plebe (freshman) this year.

See **EOD**, page 8



Photo courtesy of ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY  
Second Lieutenant Sophie Hilaire sprints to the finish of the Philadelphia Marathon, setting a Guinness World Record for women by running the Nov. 22 race in 4 hours 54 minutes wearing full battle rattle.

## TRAFFIC ALERT

### Providing notice on road closures

DPW

Starting on or about Jan. 18, there will be single lane closures on Deer Creek Loop between the intersections of Gadsden Road and Rodman Road. Flaggers will provide traffic control during the work and the road will be plated during off hours. There may be brief periods of full closures to install and remove plates. The closures are for Walbridge contractors to install telecommunications ducts for the Army Research Laboratory Vehicle Technology Directorate facility. The closures will continue until approximately Feb. 22.

As always, please use caution in all construction areas.

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





Photos by TONY SUBRIZI

Fellow Medhat Abuhantash, right, interacts with two cultural role players in the village of Medina Jabal at the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, Calif.

# CNE SSC Fellows visit JRTC, NTC

Story by  
**JAMES OMAN**  
Defense Acquisition University

Capital and Northeast Fellows from Aberdeen Proving Ground accompanied by the CNE Senior Service College Fellows director visited the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, La., Nov. 16 through 18 and the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, Calif., Nov. 18 and 19.

The trips to two of the Army's three "dirt" combat training centers provided unique experiential education and represents one of the core components of the SSCF Program: a field study or Warfighter trip.

The purpose of the visits to the Army's premier training facilities was to provide first-hand, eyes-on exposure to the latest technological advances in testing, training and end user application in a stressful environment that replicates the current operating environment; observe the vital role that the JRTC and NTC play in preparing individuals, leaders and units for combat deployments; observe leaders demonstrate leadership competencies of directing people (coaching/teaching, managing conflict, and team development) and leading change to attain results (creativity and innovation, resilience, problem-solving and adaptability); and gain a deeper understanding of the modular, brigade-based force, its capabilities, and how it meets the requirements of the geographic combatant commanders.

The JRTC mission is to "conduct tough, realistic, multi-echelon, joint and combined arms training to develop bold innovative leaders able to deal with complex situations; flexible, skilled Soldiers imbued with the Warrior Ethos; and highly proficient units capable of conducting operations across the

full spectrum of conflict."

The JRTC fields a world class opposing force which allows them to develop and implement scenarios reflective of the COE such as linked events incorporating the latest enemy tactics, techniques and procedures.

These events are intended to exercise all of the battlefield operating systems and are characterized by joint, inter-service, interagency, multinational and coalition participation that features operations in more than 20 villages with more than 600 buildings, and includes more than 1,000 role players, including more than 200 cultural role players. In turn, this provides, a learning environment that is facilitated by instrumented after-action reviews, and continuous feedback from expert trainers/mentors.

At the JRTC Operations Group, the Fellows received a command brief from the operations officer which provided rotational objectives and training methodology highlighting pre-rotational training, engagement training, situational training exercises, theater based, live fire training, command post exercises, and force-on-force exercises. The briefing also addressed how the COE is replicated with dynamic battlefield effects such as improvised explosive devices, vehicle borne IED, suicide bombers, indirect fires, and rocket propelled grenades that when combined with civilians, non-governmental organizations, foreign security forces, insurgents, foreign fighters, and militia come together to "make the battlefield come to life."

After the Operations Group command overview, the Fellows heard from the senior trainer/mentors representing Brigade Command and Control, Task Force 1, 2, 3 and 4, who described the most prev-



CNE Fellows visit the village at the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, Calif.

alent observations and trends occurring during the rotational unit's mission rehearsal exercise. The final Operations Group briefing addressed the emerging concept of embedded Company Intelligence Support Teams, along with their collective development, equipping, and employment. The Fellow's time with the Operations Group was punctuated with a visit to the "maneuver box" where they visited the villages of Sadiq, Sulliyah, and Forward Operating Base Forge. Each of the urban sites realistically replicates a village and a FOB that could be found in a multitude of locations throughout the COE. The Fellows were given an in-depth Fort Polk Command Briefing by the JRTC and Fort Polk Chief of Staff Col. Rick Bloss where he described the many ongoing initiatives, planned activities, and modernization effort.

Transitioning to Fort Irwin, Calif., the Fellows were welcomed by the NTC Chief of Staff, Col. Joseph Wawro, who provided them with a rundown

of the NTC and Fort Irwin, specifically addressing their training methodology; the preparation of units for combat; the development of scenarios reflective of the COE; the development of adaptive, agile leaders; the forging of partnerships; and ongoing initiatives.

The Fellows toured the Division Tactical Operations Center and while there, they received a rotational in-brief which provided them with an overview of the ongoing MRE that focused on force on force play.

Next, the Fellows received a terrorist explosive network brief which described how IEDs are constructed and employed. Afterwards, SSCF Fellow Corde Lane, playing the role of a trigger-man, demonstrated the relative ease of using an IED against a high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle when he effectively detonated a series of faux devices. Prior to transitioning to the "maneuver box," the Fellows received a series of briefings from members of the Joint IED Defeat Organization at the Army Center of Excel-

lence Detachment, focused on Terrorist Explosive Networks, Robotics/IED exploitation and biometrics.

These presentations provided context and set the stage for the Fellows' visit to the village of Medina Jabal. At the time of the visit, the village was occupied with a "fully engaged civilian population," foreign security forces, active insurgents and criminal elements all of which when combined provided an extremely complex background reflective of the current COE.

While there, the Fellows gained a deeper appreciation for the complicated nature of the modern battlefield as they watched the rotational unit interact with the villagers, national governmental forces and respond to the numerous threats generated by the local insurgents.

The visit to the JRTC and the NTC provided a unique opportunity for the Fellows to view and consider the many leadership challenges faced by Army's leaders as they collectively defend national interests.

## APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMNE-APG-PA, Building 2201, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal oppor-

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

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# ARMY FAMILY COVENANT

SOLDIERS ★ FAMILIES ★ ARMY CIVILIANS

## Commentary: Delivering the Army Family Covenant

By  
**LT GEN RICK LYNCH**  
*IMCOM Commanding General*

Defender 6 sends:

On Oct. 8, 2007, the Army unveiled the Army Family Covenant, institutionalizing the Army's commitment to providing Soldiers and Families – Active, Guard, and Reserve – a quality of life commensurate with their quality of service. However, as I travel around the Army meeting with Soldiers and Families I'm surprised to find that many are not familiar with the Army Family Covenant and the commitment Army leadership has made to provide a better quality of life to Soldiers and Families.

We are delivering the Army Family Covenant with a focus on five specific areas: standardization and funding of existing programs and services, increasing accessibility and quality of health care, improving Soldier and Family housing, ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care and expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members.

Some accomplishments over the past two years include: standardized Army community staffing and programs at all Garrisons, added 1079 Family Readiness



Support Assistants positions to provide administrative and logistical support to commanders and FRG leaders, funded Exceptional Family Member respite care providing up to 40 hours of care per month for Families; increased primary care visits to more than 7 million people, meeting access standards for 90 percent of acute, routine and specialty appointments; authorized TRICARE standard coverage for more than 500,000 eligi-

ble members of the Selective Reserve and their Family members and lowered the co-payment; funded the Training Barracks Modernization Program to allow 11,306 Soldiers to move into newly designed or renovated barracks in FY09, introduced the First Sergeants Barracks Initiative to enhance single Soldier quality of life; reduced financial burden on Army Families by eliminating CYSS registration fees and reducing program fees; collaborated with more than 373 school districts to support military-connected students transferring to new school districts and increased placement of military spouses through the Army Spouse Employment Program, a partnership with Fortune 500 companies and government agencies, to provide employment opportunities.

We are indeed making progress on delivering the Army Family Covenant, but we have much more work to do. I

am dedicated to deliver on the Army leadership's promise to continue to provide the best care and quality of life possible to Soldiers and their Families. Our commitment to delivering the Army Family Covenant is non-negotiable. We will not depart from this commitment.

I would ask that we always take the time to accentuate the positive. We have so very much to be thankful for when it comes to healthcare, housing, services and programs, and many other things. Many times we immediately start talking about negative items, and many of those conversations are based on anecdotal evidence without firsthand knowledge.

Let's be grateful for what we have, and strive together to improve. An attitude of appreciation will go a long way. Optimism is a combat multiplier.

As always, thanks for your continued service to our Army, and our nation. Together we are making history.

## APG closing announcements

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

A recorded telephone mes-

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

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

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



## Deployment News

### Families can see off, greet troops at airport gates

Story by  
**SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY**  
*American Forces Press Service*

It's a scene that's played out in airports across the country numerous times in the past eight years: Families and service members clinging to each other, either sad to leave or happy and vowing to never let go again.

The emotion always is appropriate, but the location of the scene - just beyond the airline ticket counters and before the security checkpoint - robs those departing of precious minutes with loved ones. Those lost minutes are unnecessary, at least as far as the Transportation Security Administration is concerned, a TSA spokesman said.

"TSA permits the airlines to offer a gate pass to Family members of arriving or departing U.S. service members," Greg Soule said. "So, Family members who

want to accompany a ... service member being deployed to the boarding gate, or greet them [as they return] from deployment at the arrival gate may receive passes to enter the secure area of the airport."

Although TSA allows this practice, the final decision rests with the airlines, from which Family members must request the passes. Each airline, and possibly even airport, has its own rules and procedures, Soule said.

Families interested in obtaining a gate pass need to check with the airline before arriving at the airport to determine the exact rules and procedures.

"It's an airline procedure," Soule said. "It is something that TSA has permitted the airlines to do, though we have security regulations that we provide to the airlines."

"Typically, only passengers who are flying and have a boarding pass are allowed to pass through security," he added.

TSA makes this allowance out of support for the armed forces, Soule said.

Military Family members with gate passes can pass through security, they must adhere to all security regulations. This includes removing coats, jackets and shoes, and the liquids regulation. Anything of a liquid or gel consistency must be 3.4 ounces or less and be sealed in a quart-sized storage bag to pass through security, Soule said.

Each Family member would have to present the gate pass as well as a valid government-issued identification card, Soule added.

TSA doesn't keep statistics on how frequently military families take advantage of this opportunity. Volunteers at the Washington-Dulles International Airport USO lounge in Virginia, said they are not frequently asked about the program

or for assistance in obtaining the passes.

Separations and reunions are emotional enough in normal situations, but with holidays, they're even more poignant. And thanks to the TSA and cooperating airlines, they can be more positive.

"We're happy to do this and make this small exemption," he added, noting that TSA officials recognize that military Families, as well as service members, make sacrifices for the country.

The TSA has no jurisdiction overseas, so U.S. military Family members wishing to see off or meet their service member at a foreign airport are encouraged to check with the airline for local policy.

The policy on gate passes is available on the Transportation Security Administration's Web site at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) under the heading "Accommodations for U.S. Military Personnel."



## Veterans' Voices

### DoD, VA officials announce disability evaluation system pilot expansion

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

To expedite the delivery of benefits to many injured service members who receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA officials have announced the expansion of a program with the Department of Defense to streamline the application process for people retiring or exiting the military due to disabilities.

"Streamlining our disability claims system and working closely with DoD to care for today's generation of heroes are among VA's top priorities," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We will never lose sight of the fact that veterans and military personnel have sacrificed for their country and earned the right to access services from VA and DoD."

The Disability Evaluation System pilot began in November 2007 and is expanding to an additional six military installations, bringing the total number to 27 military facilities where a single

physical examination serves as the basis for determining whether military personnel are fit enough to stay on active duty and to determine their eligibility for VA disability compensation. To date more than 5,431 service members have participated in the pilot.

The new locations will be Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Fort Riley, Kan.; and Portsmouth Naval Medical Center, Va. The estimated completion date for the new expansion is scheduled for March 31, 2010.

"The decision to expand the pilot was based upon favorable reviews focusing on the program's ability to meet timeliness, effectiveness, transparency, and customer and stakeholder satisfaction," said Noel Koch, deputy under secretary of Defense, Office of Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy.

Before the DES pilot, military personnel leaving active duty with medical

problems had to go through two different, sometimes lengthy, processes before eligibility for VA benefits was determined. During the first process, military specialists determined suitability to remain on active duty. The second process through VA focused on protecting lifetime income that may be threatened by service-related disability.

"VA must continue to focus on creating processes that are transparent and promote accountability," Shinseki said. "Service members need to know that VA is working to cut bureaucratic red tape and provide faster services."

The Defense Authorization Act of 2008 authorized the DES pilot, which was recommended by the Task Force on Returning Global War on Terrorism Heroes, the Independent Review Group, the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors - the Dole/Shalala Commission - and the Commission on Veterans' Disability Benefits.




# Sports

## AEC tops ATC#1 12-6 to win civilian flag football championship



Photo by ROSITA STEWART, MWR  
Members of SUR/AEC/CTO pose with their trophies after winning the 2009 Aberdeen Proving Ground civilian flag football championship at Shine Sports Field Dec. 9. From left, front, Mike Pines, Jenny Mueller, Matt McVey, Thomas Melendez, Ian Meason, Dan Przybylski, Rob Wetzel and Coach Fred Dimpfel. Team members not pictured are Jeremy Butanis, Michelle Hicks, Chris Jais, Antonio Lema, Andy Loncarich, Matt Petraitis, Kelly Swinson, Clark Dutterer and Dave Scooler.

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

The U.S. Army Evaluation Center flag football team defeated the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center's Team #1, 12-6, to win the civilian flag football championship held at Shine Sports Field Dec. 9.

The team, known as SUR/AEC/CTO, is made up of employees from AEC and government contractors SURVICE and CTO. Led by player-coach Fred Dimpfel, an AEC mechanical engineer, the

team defeated the U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity, 19-6 and then won by forfeit over ATC #2 to reach the championship game. Dimpfel said the team rebounded after losing to ATC #1 earlier in the season.

"When we lost we knew we had to get better and we changed our scheme to beat this team," said Dimpfel who completed his second year with the team, his first as coach. He said the team made it to the second round in the 2008 post season and the majority of players returned wanting to do more.

"They really had to earn the victory," said Rose Stewart, Morale, Welfare and Recreation intramural sports program manager. "They won in the worst conditions I've ever been in for a flag football game," she said.

"The field was absolutely soaked and the wind was howling," said Dimpfel, "I really couldn't feel my hands."

He expressed pride in his teammates for coming together to beat a tough opponent; particularly in the female players who he said stayed with the team even after the female requirement was dropped.

"Everybody worked together so there was no one specific person to cover

or to go after. Everybody helped out," Dimpfel said. He added thanks to Maj. Dave Scooler of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, the team's previous coach.

"He introduced everybody and made this team happen," Dimpfel said. "Winning was what we worked for all last season and this season and we'd like to repeat but it all depends on if we can return with a lot of our players."

"This team has a lot of chemistry and everything we accomplished was due to a team effort."

Dimpfel is a 2004 graduate of Fallston High School where he played football and baseball.



Captain Brian McKay, commander of the U.S. Air Force Detachment 1, 361st Training Detachment, center; Tech. Sgt. Christopher Moreau, 2009 Sports Representative of the Year, right; assistant sports representative Tech. Sgt. Timothy Newcomb, left; and the noncommissioned officers and Airmen of the USAF Detachment pose with the 2009 Commander's Cup trophy in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center Dec. 9.

## USAF Detachment repeats as Commanders Cup champions

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

For the second consecutive year the U.S. Air Force Squadron 1, 361st Training Squadron accumulated the most points in intramural sports to win the coveted Commander's Cup trophy. The trophy was presented during a ceremony at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center Dec. 9.

In addition, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Moreau, the detachment's sports representative, received the 2009 Sports Representative of the Year award.

Moreau thanked his command and Tech. Sgt. Timothy Newcomb who coached and played in several events. He said that while the detachment didn't finish first in any category, it participated in every event, never forfeited any games, and he never missed a sports council meeting.

"We worked hard," Moreau said. "Our technical school lasts four months so if you work hard you can develop a core group of players with each group. We had instructors we could count on to

come out for every game and we never lacked in students who wanted to get out of the barracks and play."

He thanked his fellow instructors for "taking time out of their personal lives," to spend time with the young Airmen.

"A lot of them are away from home for the first time and sports gives them a team outside of the work environment."

Detachment Commander Capt. Brian McKay congratulated his noncommissioned officers on their achievement.

"As small a cadre as we have I was amazed they could compete so successfully at that level in multiple sports," McKay said. "It shows commitment when NCOs are willing to give up their off-duty time."

"It's a great feeling winning the Commanders Cup back-to-back," added Detachment 1st Sgt. Dennis Westbrook. "This is our last hurrah here on APG, and we'll be proud to remember what we accomplished while we were here."

The USAF Detachment is due to relocate to Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas during the summer of 2010.

# Community Notes

FRIDAY

## JANUARY 15 VARIETY QUARTER AUCTION

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 201 Mount Royal Avenue, Aberdeen, will host a Variety Quarter Auction, 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Doors open 6 p.m. Items include new, homemade and handmade items; collectibles and gift cards. Vendors and much more will be available. Everyone bring their quarters and have an evening of fun! Cost is \$2 per paddle, maximum two paddles per person. Proceeds will benefit the Tyler Boone Foundation. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. The kitchen will be hosted by Roye-Williams PTA and the Military and Civilian Spouses' Club. Bring a non-perishable food item for a special drawing. Pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti, jelly and stews are needed. For more information, call Sandy Matthews at 410-272-9130 or Brenda Conjour at 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY

## JANUARY 16 EYE OF THE EAGLE... RETURNS!

Grab a pair of binoculars and come out to Swan Harbor Farm to scan the sky and tree line for the majestic bald eagle. This program will be held 10:30 to 11:30 a.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.

## PINECONE PARADISE

Feathered friends may think warm weather is on the way when pinecone treats are found in the forest. This program will be held 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for all ages, under 8 with 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 17 MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the Leight Center's live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This

free program will be held at 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.

## ON SILENT WINGS

Meet at Swan Harbor to listen for owls. Last year Great Horned and Eastern Screech Owls were heard. Bring a flashlight and bundle up. All ages want to enjoy the sounds of the night, so 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.

WEDNESDAYS

## JANUARY 20 THRU 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 0 to 4. The cost is \$30 per child. Registration is required.

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

THURSDAY

## JANUARY 21 SAME CHESAPEAKE POST MONTHLY MEETING

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at the Top of the Bay. The featured speaker is Rich Takacs, restoration manager, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center, Annapolis. Takacs will speak on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Space is limited and reservations are required. RSVP online by Jan. 19 at [www.same-chesapeake.org](http://www.same-chesapeake.org).

## APG SCHOOL LIAISON

### Seventh Annual College Night Feb. 22

The Seventh Annual College Night will be held 6 to 8 p.m., Feb. 22, at C. Milton Wright High School, located on 1301 N. Fountain Green Road, Bel Air. Snow date is Feb. 23. College night is free to all Harford County public school students and parents. More than 80 colleges, universities, technical schools and military from the Mid-Atlantic region will be available. College Night will enable high school students and their parents to meet directly with college admissions representatives to explore academic studies, campus life, the admission process and tuition.

For more information, call 410-638-4110.

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).

FRIDAY

## JANUARY 22 BASKET AND PURSE BINGO

Basket and Purse Bingo to benefit the Arena Starz 13 and under baseball team will be held at Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, Aberdeen. Doors open 6 p.m., game begins 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 each for three cards, additional sets cost \$5 each. Bring a non-perishable for a special drawing. Items needed include pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti, jelly and stews. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Lisa Kriss, 410-598-2933 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

## THE FINTON FORMULA FUN VISITING SCIENTIST SERIES

Come to the Leight Center for exciting hands-on chemistry and environmental science fun, guided by guest scientists from the local community. Topics vary by month. Hurry as space is limited. January topic is DNA Extraction. 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 program. 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 23 BASKET AND PURSE BINGO

Basket and Purse Bingo will be held 7 p.m., at VFW Post 8185, 520 Susquehanna River Road, Port Deposit. Doors open 5:45 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Hope's Angels Relay for Life Team. Door prizes, refreshments, raffles and

more will be available. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets cost \$12 and include paper packets for 20 games; extra packs cost \$5 each. Tickets are available at the door.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-642-9297, 410-658-5628 or 410-378-3338.

## WHERE DID THEY GO?

Learn what insects do when the cold weather sets in. Do insects die, fly, crawl away, hibernate or what? This program will be held 1 to 2:30 p.m. for all ages; under 12 with an adult. The cost is \$2 per person or \$4 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 will receive an Invasinators T-shirt. This program will be held 10 a.m. to noon 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.

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

## POST SHORTS

To view the calendar, click on the "Click here to View the APG Calendar" located near the top on the right side. The intent of this calendar is to effectively communicate key installation and community-wide events.

Everyone is encouraged to use this calendar for their own planning purposes. We hope they find the information valuable. As the calendar is viewed, each entry with a red mark in the upper right corner has a call out box which provides further details on the particular event.

For more information or to address problems accessing the calendar, call John Kearney, 410-306-2291, or e-mail john.kearney1@us.army.mil.

### Restoration Advisory Board meeting Jan. 28

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., at a new location: Richlin Ballroom, 1700 Van Biber Road, Edgewood.

The topic of the meeting will be an update on the Westwood Study Area.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited.

For more information, call the Information Line at, 410-272-8842 or 800-APG-9998.

### KUSAHC closes for holiday

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed Jan. 15 for a training holiday and on Jan. 18 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday holiday.

Patients should plan accordingly to pick up prescriptions prior to these dates.

For medical services needed after hours, weekends or federal holidays, contact Staff Duty, 410-278-1725. The Staff Duty Officer will coordinate patients' care with the Medical Officer of the Day.

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

### New web-based work request site - VIOS

DPTMS-Visual Information has a new web-based work request site called VIOS (Visual Information Ordering Site), [www.vios.army.mil](http://www.vios.army.mil). Current customers will receive an email detailing the new site

and receive a user's guide. All APG supported units can request VI services through this site. Users must have a CAC or active AKO registration. The current photo studio scheduling system on the APG web site is still active but will transition to VIOS during January.

For more information, call VI Chief Phil MacKenzie, 410-306-4700.

### CPR, AED classes available

Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Services is offering CPR and automated external defibrillator classes on APG.

Two classes will be held 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month.

In the Aberdeen Area, classes will be held at the Post Chapel, classroom 3, Jan. 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, Sept. 15 and Nov. 17.

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Conference Center, building E-4810, Feb. 17, April 21, June 16, Aug. 18, Oct. 20 and Dec. 15. Class size will be limited to 30 participants.

For more information or to register, call Mike Davis, 410-306-0572, or e-mail Michael.ray.davis@us.army.mil.

### Free basketball tickets for military

Camouflage Kids, Inc. offers free tickets to see Lafayette College vs. Navy, 7 p.m., Jan. 16, at Alumni Hall Arena, Annapolis, Md. There are a limited number of free tickets for adults and children. Tickets are provided on a first-come first-served basis. All Families from the U.S. Naval Academy and all military branches from the Maryland, Virginia and D.C. area are eligible for tickets.

It is requested that each Family limit their ticket request to a maximum of six tickets with a ratio of two adults and four children. All children must have adult supervision at the game. Tickets are for immediate Family members only. All Families should arrive one and one-half hours prior to game time so that the program can get organized for the event.

For more information, call Beth Stoddard, 410-576-2994, e-mail [theresa.stoddard@us.army.mil](mailto:theresa.stoddard@us.army.mil) or visit [www.camokids.org/games.cfm](http://www.camokids.org/games.cfm).

### Planning for retirement

The Directorate of Human Resources provides retirement services to all military members assigned or attached to

Aberdeen Proving Ground. An important part of these services is the Transition Assistance Program.

This three-day training session incorporates lecture, practical exercise and guest speaker methodology, with materials provided by the U.S. Department of Labor, Veteran's Employment Training Service and National Training Institute.

This program replaces the former ACAP training, and is mandatory for active component service members, and is strongly encouraged for eligible Family members. Classes are offered monthly and are held in the Aberdeen Area in the Soldier Processing Room, building 4305. To register, visit the DHR Web site, [www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/humanresources/dhrindex.html](http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/humanresources/dhrindex.html) and select the "TAP Training Registration" tab located under "Retirement Services."

For more information contact Janet L. Dettwiler, 410-306-2301.

### Getting help with heroin addiction

The use of heroin and cocaine is on the rise in Maryland. Heroin will likely remain one of the largest problems in the state, and will likely continue to spread.

Find out what to do to help. For a brochure about the signs of addiction, call Narconon, 877-413-3073, or visit [www.DrugsNo.com](http://www.DrugsNo.com).

### Translators needed

The APG Garrison Public Affairs Office is updating a list of people who are interested in serving as volunteer translators for foreign-speaking visitors, as well as individuals who can interpret foreign written documents.

Those interested in serving as a translator should forward their name, activity, telephone number, email address and language (written and/or spoken) to [lynn.witkowski@us.army.mil](mailto:lynn.witkowski@us.army.mil). For more information, call 410-278-1151.

### BRAC contract Fraud, Waste, Abuse hotline opens at APG

Anyone with knowledge of contract fraud, waste, abuse or allegations of mismanagement involving base realignment and closure related construction and maintenance operations on Aberdeen Proving Ground can speak to an agent at 410-278-0206 or e-mail [cid382.maryland@us.army.mil](mailto:cid382.maryland@us.army.mil). Calls can be

made anonymously and confidentially.

### Become a CBRNIAC Subject Matter Expert

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Information Analysis Center, or CBRNIAC, maintains a database of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense and Homeland Security professionals who volunteer as Subject Matter Experts. From the Department of Defense, federal, state and local government agencies, research and development organizations, academia and private industry, CBRNIAC SMEs expand the resources available to the CBRN Defense and Homeland Security communities.

SMEs may be contacted by CBRNIAC inquiry analysts responding to questions in the individual's area(s) of expertise. At their option, SMEs may interact directly with a requester. If an individual's research, work, or operational experience fits into the CBRNIAC's technical scope, they will likely qualify as a CBRNIAC SME.

To apply as a SME, visit <https://ws-cbiac-apps2.cbiac.apgea.army.mil/cbrn-start/registerSME.do>. A brief resume or biographical sketch is optional.

For more information, call James M. King, Ph.D., 410-676-9030 or visit <http://www.cbrniac.apgea.army.mil>.

### CBRNIAC offers technical inquiry service

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Information Analysis Center, or CBRNIAC, provides a technical inquiry service.

The service offers up to four hours of technical analysis service at no cost to authorized users from Department of Defense agencies, other federal government agencies, DoD and federal contractors, state and local governments and emergency response organizations. The service covers the full range of CBRN defense and related homeland security topics.

To take advantage of CBRNIAC's Inquiry Service, complete the "Submit an Inquiry" form on its Web site, <http://www.cbrniac.apgea.army.mil/info/inquiry.php>, or call James M. King, 410-676-9030.

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

# EOD

From front page

“We all had to work for it,” Hilaire said. “We all had the same values. My mom is Korean and she really stressed values in our family, and a sense of service, you know, of giving something back.”

Hilaire said she started a running regimen out of necessity during her junior year.

“After a summer of not running, I was worried about an Army Physical Fitness Test I had coming up. I ended up performing better than I expected, and was motivated to continue running afterwards.

“I started running with a friend who helped me develop a training plan. My idea at that time was to train for a half marathon.”

Her running “just took off” from there, she said.

Hilaire ran her first marathon at Virginia Beach, Va., in 2008, followed by the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., later that year. In May 2009, she ran the New Jersey Marathon at Long Branch/Monmouth Beach in 3 hours and 37 minutes, qualifying (by three minutes) for the 2010 Boston Marathon.

By the time she was in training for her fourth marathon in Philadelphia in November, she was looking for additional motivation.

“I was just killing time until Boston next April, so I started looking for a cause. After a Google search, I chose to run for the American Veterans with Brain Injuries [www.AVBI.org](http://www.AVBI.org).

“I read about the founder’s son, Pfc. Chris Lynch, a runner who suffered a brain injury which caused a lack of coordination to the point that he could no longer run. Since his injury, he has relentlessly trained and competed in marathons on a hand cycle.

“After reading about courageous servicemen like Chris, I felt humbled and inspired to do something for this organization.

“I was also looking for ways to increase my fund-raising. I ran the 2008 Marine Corps Marathon for charity. My goal was to raise \$1,000 and I raised more than \$1,500,” she said.

“I just happened to look at the Guinness Book of World Records for marathons and saw an entry for the fastest time with full battle rattle - Army Com-

bat Uniform, boots, Army Combat Helmet, and the protective vest with full body armor. A British soldier owned the record with a time of 5 hours, 11 minutes.

“This was the goal I intended to beat, but they opened a separate category for me, one for females. And before I ran the Philly marathon, the Brit’s record was beaten. I think the current men’s record is three hours and change,” she added.

Weighing down her slight frame with 30 pounds of additional gear, she focused on her goal.

“It made sense to me to raise funds for AVBI while embracing the challenge of running in combat gear to generate awareness of this noteworthy cause,” she said.

As she trained, she also engaged social media, notifying her friends by e-mail what she was doing and establishing a Facebook group to collect donations for her cause. She raised more than \$4,000 for the AVBI, exceeding her goal of \$2,000.

“They were overwhelmed,” Hilaire explained of the donation to AVBI. “They were down to their last \$200 when they received my sponsors’ donation, so they were just elated.”

She also added her name to the Guinness Book of World Records, finishing the marathon (26.2 miles) in 4 hours and 54 minutes.

“I joined a five-hour pace group and stayed with them until I pulled away at the end,” she said, explaining her race tactics.

“I ran the final 6.2 miles for seven different individuals,” Hilaire added. “The first few I texted during the race to let them know; the final few I was too exhausted. I ran for veterans like Pfc. Lynch and Captain Sam Brown, a personal hero and friend who was severely burned by an IED.”

She explained that her name is not officially in the Guinness Book yet.

“I haven’t received the certificate. I’m waiting for them to process it,” she said.

“I trained with my friend, Second Lieutenant Courtney Miller. She ran with me for the first half of the marathon, despite an injury. She carried my Gatorade and took pictures to document the venture for Guinness.”

“It’s hard to put into words what running a marathon does for me,” Hilaire added. “At heart, I’m a long-distance runner. It gives me a reason to work out and train, but I had never pushed myself before.”

“The feeling of being just a couple

miles out from the finish line, knowing that you won’t hit the wall and are about to meet this goal or time that you’ve dedicated every day of the last six months to, is incredibly emotional. Crossing the finish line is even better.”

“Everything became easier after I started running. Basic Army requirements, like the semi-annual physical fitness test, became so much easier after I started training for marathons.”

“I’m not a natural runner - I’ve got flat feet, knock-knees and one leg is shorter than the other,” she said, laughing.

“It’s just fun to set and meet goals along the way,” she added.

“Would she run in battle-rattle again? “Only if someone beats my record,” she said.

In mid-December, while Hilaire attended the Ordnance Branch Officer Basic Course at Fort Lee, Va., she was assessed as part of her request to become an EOD technician.

The assessment included two 30-minute sessions of mental and physical tests in an EOD bomb suit and in hazmat/chemical suits. The bomb suit weighs about 85 pounds. During the evaluation, candidates are required to carry a 100-pound, 155mm projectile 100 meters.

“For the typical Soldier this is a challenge,” said Capt. Rob Busseau, an EOD officer from 20th Support Command (CBRNE) who conducted the assessment. “For a 120-pound second lieutenant, it required a massive amount of determination, motivation and intestinal fortitude.”

Hilaire also completed multiple sets of push-ups, side-straddle hops and other demanding exercises. During both suit tests, she maintained a positive attitude and support for her classmates, according to Busseau.

“She’s an exceptional Soldier with

tremendous potential,” he said. “After the evaluation, I interviewed Hilaire to determine her suitability to serve in the EOD field.”

“She is a modest, yet confident officer with a true passion for serving in the U.S. Army,” Busseau reported.

Hilaire was one of four candidates accepted into the Army EOD program following the assessment.

“I talked to a lot of mentors, specifically First Lieutenant Danielle Peek, a 2008 West Point grad who is now an EOD officer,” she said, explaining how she came to her career choice.

“Everything about EOD appeals to me - small teams, tight-knit working environments, technical skill sets, and most importantly, saving lives. It just fits my personality well, and I decided to give it a shot.”

Her immediate plans include finishing officer basic on Jan. 20, then reporting Feb. 1 to Phase One of EOD training at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. After Phase One, Hilaire will report to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to finish EOD training at the U.S. Navy-run Kaufmann EOD Training Complex.

“It’s a funny coincidence, but the family who started AVBI resides in both Huntsville and just a few minutes from Eglin. So EOD School will soon bring us together and we will finally get to meet,” Hilaire said.

She also has a date to run the Boston Marathon in April.

“Many of my peers may deploy soon after graduation,” Hilaire said. “And it bothers me a little that I will be in a year-long training program. But I believe the benefits of the training will be worth the effort.”

*Editor’s Note: Read more about 2nd Lt. Hilaire’s marathon for AVBI at: <http://s2.webstarts.com/SophiesMarathonforAmericanVeteranswithBrainInjuries/>*



Go to  
<http://ice.disa.mil>.  
Click on “ARMY” then  
“Aberdeen Proving  
Ground.”



# FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

## Activities/Events

### 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 in the weekday evenings and Saturday mornings.

All youths participating in a team sport must have a current sports physical. Registration will be held from Feb. 3 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.

### Discount ski lift tickets and more

Let MWR help get skiers on the slopes.

Purchase discounted ski lift tickets at MWR Leisure Travel.

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

Enjoy the snowy slopes of Ski Round-

top, Ski Liberty or Whitetail. Anyone who doesn't know how to ski or snowboard can pick up a learn-to-ski pass and be taught by professionals. Ski and snowboard rentals, beginner's lesson and a beginner's eight hour lift pass are included. Cost for the learn-to-ski weekend is \$69.

Discounted ticket prices include weekend and holiday eight hours lift ticket for \$52; weekday and non-holiday eight hours lift ticket costs \$37.75; a five hours night lift ticket costs \$30; a two hour tubing ticket on a weekend costs \$23; a two hour tubing ticket on a weekday costs \$17.50.

Skiers can rent ski equipment or have equipment tuned up at Outdoor Recreation.

For more information, call 410-278-4124.

### Walt Disney World Salutes the Armed Forces

Now through July 31, active duty military and retirees, including members of the U.S. Coast Guard and active members of the National Guard or Reservists may purchase a four-day Walt Disney World Armed Forces Salute Tickets for themselves and up to five Family members and/or friends for \$99.

There are three different ticket types:

- Base ticket is valid for one park per day into one of the four Walt Disney World theme parks.

- The Park Hopper option allows

guests to enter multiple parks within the same day.

- The Water Park option includes two water parks – Typhoon Lagoon and Blizzard Beach. Also included are Disney Quest, the Sports Complex and Downtown Disney.

Tickets for Family members and friends do not include the Park Hopper or Water Park options. Tickets cost \$25 for each add-on/upgrade applied. All Tickets must be purchased at least three weeks prior to departure dates.

All tickets and options are non-transferable and must be activated by Sept. 26. Block out dates are March 27 through April 9 for all locations and July 3 and 4 block out dates are for the Magic Kingdom only.

For more information, call 410-278-

4011/4907 or visit the AA Recreation Center, building 3326.

### Dog Obedience Training

Sit! Heel! Stay! An eight-week Dog Obedience Course for dogs and their owners will be held 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Jan. 13 through March 3, at the Aberdeen Area Recreational Center, building 3326.

Learn how to teach a dog basic obedience commands. Classes will introduce dog owners to the use of positive reinforcement/clicker training to teach dogs in a happy, non-aversive manner.

Cost of class fee is \$80 per person.

For more information or to register, stop by FMWR Registration, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or Stark Recreation Center, 410-436-2713.

## January bowling specials

### Bowling specials

- Early bird special: Bowl 7 to 10 a.m. for \$.50 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.

- In January, bowl Monday through Friday, 2 to 4 p.m. for \$.75 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.

- Cosmic Saturdays: Jan. 9 and 23, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza and a pitcher of soda for \$32.

- Each Friday, 9:30 to 11 p.m., bowl one game and receive one game free. Cost of shoe rental not included.

The Bowling Center will have a 5:30 p.m. Monday night bowling league starting Feb. 1. The Center is looking for all interested bowlers and those that are not 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 Jan. 11

Special #1: Crab cake with French fries, coleslaw, cookie and regular soda for \$10.50.

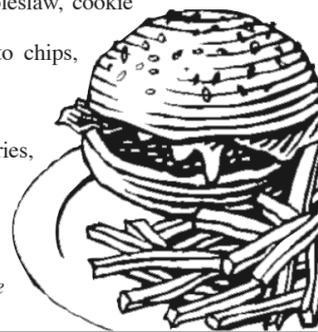
Special #2: Egg salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$4.25.

### Week of Jan. 18

Special #1: Chicken tender sub with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.25.

Special #2: Pork barbeque with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25.

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



### HIRED!

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

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

### Dress for Success for Teens

Dress for Success for Teens will be held 6 to 7 p.m., Jan 22. Teens will learn how to dress appropriately for an interview and a job.

### Communication and Assertiveness Training for Teens

Communication and Assertiveness Training for Teens will be held 6 to 7 p.m., Feb. 5. Teens will learn how to communicate effectively and how to make their point without turning people off.

### Loyola University Campus Tour

There will be a Loyola University Campus Tour, 9:30 a.m., Feb. 20 for ages 15 thru 18. Sign up at the Child, Youth and School Services central registration, building 2752 by Feb. 5. Bring money for lunch. Spaces are limited.

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

## 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 through 4 at 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.

### Tae Kwon Do

Join the Unity Tae Kwon Do School of Martial Arts at APG. Tae Kwon Do promotes discipline, as well as muscle toning and conditioning.

Classes will be held at the Child, Youth and School Services building 2522, Monday and Wednesday; through Feb. 1 and Feb. 3 through March 3, 6 to 7 p.m. (ages 6 to 14). Cost is \$65 per student for a one-month session or \$150 per student for a three-month session.

Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants.

Class size is limited so register early.

### Private piano lessons

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

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

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

### Martial Arts at APG presents Tiny Tigers

Children ages 3 to 5 (parent participation required) can join the Tiny Tigers Unity Tae Kwon Do School of Martial Arts at APG. Instructor Kyo Sa

Nim Sean A. Williams will teach this program.

Tae Kwon Do builds confidence and self-esteem in young students.

Classes will be held at the Child, Youth and School Services Center, building 2522, Monday and Wednesday, 5:30 to 6 p.m., through Feb. 1. Cost is \$40 per parent/child pairing.

Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited to 12 parent and child pairings, so register early.

### 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.

# APG Canine Police Officers take first place in grueling regional competition

Story by  
**LT. EDWARD J. SALA**  
DES

Two police canine teams from Aberdeen Proving Ground's Directorate of Emergency Services competed in the 2009 Pennsylvania Police Work Dog Association K9 Triathlon held in Mechanicsburg, Pa., Sept. 12.

Officer Christopher Damko and canine partner Laga and Officer Ronald Colbeck and canine partner Heidi started that morning out by eating a hearty breakfast, trying to store some energy for the physically demanding competition that was just a few hours away.

Colbeck and Heidi placed second overall in 2008 in the same competition; however, it was Damko and Laga's first competition as a team.

The triathlon is a three-mile obstacle course that winds through the Pennsylvania countryside. The course is designed to challenge each police canine team in most aspects of actual events they may encounter during their normal police duties.

The course includes five water crossings, high jumps, long jumps, tunnels, hollow logs, fences, a team shoot for accuracy, a dog carry and a suspect apprehension.

Colbeck and Heidi took first place overall for the best dog team and combined with the team of Damko and Laga, APG Police Canine Teams took first place in the team category. Colbeck said he was chomping at the bit all year knowing he could have done better at last year's event and this year he got to prove it.

When asked about his performance, Colbeck stated, "This year's PA Iron Dog Triathlon was just as difficult and grueling as I remembered it to be last year. My only goal was to try and beat the time I ran it in last year's competition. The twenty-seven minute run I posted this year not only beat my time from last year, but gave me the "Top Dog" honors in the triathlon. I am both proud to be part of and grateful to the DES for supporting us again this year,

and many thanks to our garrison commander and kennel master for their continued support.

"I have gained a better understanding of Heidi's physical endurance and ability to react under demanding circumstances. I learned that my nine-year-old shepherd still has a lot of pep in her step and can endure for many more years to come," Colbeck added.

"It [the competition] was much more strenuous than I expected," Damko said. "Next year I will be giving Officer Colbeck a run for the title. I learned that Laga's ability and eagerness to complete the course, with all the obstacles and events, surpassed what I thought he was capable of doing. This has given me a whole new sense of confidence in, Laga and I, as a team, for years to come. I now have the reassurance that when called to service, Laga will perform his duties quickly and efficiently.

"Canine competitions like these afford our officers the opportunity to exchange thoughts concerning training and utili-

zation methods with other federal, state and local canine agencies; furthermore, competitions act as measuring sticks to see how well our canine teams perform under demanding circumstances.

"The benefits are immeasurable mainly due to the extreme amount of planning and work that go into the competitions by the sponsoring agency that provide a rigorous real world training scenario that cannot be duplicated at the local level. These competitions test our canine teams' fitness and readiness to be one step ahead of our adversaries," Damko said.

The mission of the DES Police Canine Section is to support the APG community on a daily basis with explosive/narcotic detection and provide a psychological deterrent to criminal elements through canine law enforcement patrol activities.

Colbeck and Heidi have been a team for more than five years; Damko and Laga have been a team for almost two years.



## Army News

# Homeless dogs help healing troops

Story and photo by  
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Lawrence Minnis never met a dog he didn't like.

"I want just about every dog I see," the Army captain said with a laugh.

Minnis is especially fond of pit bulls, and he somewhat resembles his favorite breed - broad-shouldered, stocky and muscular.

He sat on the floor in the back of a classroom at a Washington Humane Society shelter recently, stroking his adopted black pit bull, Ebony.

As happy and healthy as the two appear now, they met when they were both on the mend - Minnis from a near-crippling infection and Ebony from nearly starving and freezing to death. The two shared a companionship that helped them heal and ultimately altered the course of their lives.

Minnis met Ebony through the Humane Society's Dog Tags program in which Soldiers recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center sign up to help the shelter dogs learn to behave. It's a program in which everyone benefits, officials said; the Soldiers get out of the hospital and learn to care for and train the dogs, and the dogs learn better behavior, making them more adoptable.

"They're really loving those relationships with the animals," said Diana Foley, Behavior and Training counselor with the Humane Society. "It gives them a way to get away from Walter Reed. They can come here and interact with the animals."

The program began simply enough more than a year ago. The shelter is located just across the street from the Walter Reed campus. Soldiers out walking would come across shelter staff members walking the dogs. They would stop and pet the dogs and seemed to enjoy getting to know them. Officials at the shelter had the idea to hook the two together through a training program for the troops and the dogs.

The society now offers two classes weekly that teach Soldiers about dog behavior and training. Troops filter through the Georgia Avenue shelter learning the basics of dog behavior and how to read dog body language and train the dogs. The mix of hands-on and classroom training offers the troops enough expertise that they can use the skills as a launching pad for a career.

"We want the program to be educational so that if there are service members in the program who want to potentially pursue this as a career, ... they're getting as much information as possible and as much hands-on time as possible with the dogs," Foley said. "We also want it to be recreational, too, for people who ... just love animals and like spending time with the dogs."

The six-month program is split into three levels, ranging from beginner to advanced. In the beginner class, troops learn basic animal body language and obedience commands such as "sit" and "stay." In the advanced classes, troops learn to evaluate the dogs' temperament and how to begin working with aggression issues and separation anxiety.

The skills the dogs learn in the classes translate to better placement opportunities, Foley said. The program has far expanded the amount of training the



Captain Lawrence Minnis sits with his two adopted pit bulls at the Washington Humane Society's Behavior and Learning Center, Nov. 12. Minnis met the dogs through the humane society's Dog Tags program, in which Soldiers recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center sign up to help teach animals housed at the shelter how to behave.

shelter's dogs received previously.

"This is another way our dogs are outside of their kennels being talked to and touched and interacting with people," she said. "That's extremely beneficial to reduce the stress levels of the animals in our kennels, and at the same time, it makes the animals far more successful in their new homes if they come into it with some basic obedience training."

But for all of the good it is for the dogs, it is equally beneficial for the recovering troops, Foley said.

"It's really just an outlet to be social with people and social with the animals and have time away from the hospital," she said.

Foley described one Soldier who came to the class who was having difficulty interacting with people. He didn't make eye contact and kept to himself. Working with the dogs built his confidence and helped to bridge his shyness with the staff.

"It really helped him develop social relationships with people," Foley said. "He went from being a very, very shy person when he first entered. [Now] he's totally not that same shy person that he came into the program being."

Some of the dogs are at the shelter for a few months, and many of the Soldiers develop close relationships with them. Others develop friendships with the staff. Some Soldiers remain on as volunteers at the shelter long after the classes end, Foley said.

Minnis continues to work with the shelter. After a viral infection in his brain stem left him temporarily unable to walk and barely able to talk, the Army officer found himself recovering at Walter Reed. He was deployed to Iraq at the start of a promising Army career when he got sick. At Walter Reed, he found out he couldn't deploy again.

In May 2008, his occupational therapist recommended him to the Dog Tags program. Minnis said he had wanted to get a dog for a pet anyway, so he thought it would be a good opportunity to learn a few skills. The shelter had several of

his favorite breed on hand, and the dogs were good companions and good for his physical therapy.

"It helped me while I was still trying to walk, being active, having to walk around with the dog. [During training], I'm not focused on me having balance issues or [not] being able to speak. I'm concentrating on what I need to do to train the dog [to do]," Minnis said. "It takes the focus completely off of me and puts it on the dog and what we're doing."

But Minnis' interests soon expanded, and often he would visit the shelter just to sit and play with the dogs. He said it was his quiet time.

"You don't have anybody asking you what's going on. You don't feel a threat. It's just a dog to bond with and have fun with," he said.

As it looked more like he would be medically retired, Minnis said the training took on a different perspective. He was a business major in college and always wanted to be an entrepreneur. He figured a dog training business would be easy to start and not require a lot of money or overhead.

"I figured it's a perfect opportunity," he said. "I get to learn how to train [and] have a business I can work on, or at least a side business."

Minnis eventually adopted Ebony, one of his favorite dogs. The two now regularly attend the shelter classes, helping to train others on animal behavior.

Minnis also takes Ebony to the Metropolitan Police Department when he speaks to cadets going through training there, noting that he hopes to cast a more positive light on a breed that has captured a lot of negative attention.

He teaches the cadets to read a dog's body language so they can tell when there is a real threat.

"I would take her with me ... so they can get used to seeing a pit bull that's not what they see on TV," Minnis said. "Often, officers don't really know if the dog is friendly, scared or ready to attack."

In fact, Ebony is one of the friendliest

dogs the cadets will meet, he said - friendly enough that he felt comfortable bringing her home to his two small boys.

"It's never about the breed. It's about who owns them and how well you train them and the structure you have around them," Minnis said. "From day one, she was perfect around my kids. She respected them."

In the end, though, it is not a dog-training business that Minnis decided to pursue. It is, however, what he learned from the lessons during the training and while working with the dogs that led to what he hopes is a promising career.

During the training, Minnis said, he began pondering how leadership principles in dog training are the same as with dealing with people.

"Dogs are pack creatures. Humans are pack creatures. It's the same leadership," he said. "It's not about a title, or in our case in the military, your rank, that makes you a leader. It's if you're doing the natural things that make you a leader in your pack."

Now Minnis is researching and writing a book on the principles of leadership and packaging a presentation targeting businesses, the military and government. He already has given a few presentations on his theories, and is refining and expanding on them.

Minnis still is a few weeks away from his medical retirement, and is working to get back to 100 percent. He has joined a gym, started jogging, and adopted another pit bull from the shelter named Nina.

Between working on his recovery and his book, Minnis said, he hopes to help the humane society expand the Dog Tags program. It is worthy, he said, of reaching beyond the Capital Beltway and out to other active duty installations.

"Anywhere you go, there are going to be dogs that need training and Soldiers who are going through some type of therapy who will benefit from it," he said. "I want to make sure that's going to be able to expand and reach out to a lot more Soldiers. It's a great program."