

Post Shorts

Bike rodeo, community cookout June 26

Directorate of Emergency Services will host a bike rodeo in conjunction with Picerne Military Housing's community cookout on Saturday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., adjacent to the Picerne Military Housing office building 2727.

The bike rodeo is designed to spread bike safety awareness to Families with children up to 18 years old. The bike rodeo will feature stations for children to visit to learn about bike safety. Picerne Military Housing will provide food and refreshments as well as entertainment for all ages, like face painting, an arcade trailer, and music provided by a DJ.

Army Community Services and the Army Substance Abuse program will also provide entertainment and activities for attendees.

Everyone is invited. For more information call Community Policing Officer Mike "Big Mike" Farlow at 410-278-3609.

New hours for Aberdeen Shoppette

Effective June 13, operating hours at the Aberdeen Shoppette will change to Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, call Carol Chancellor, 410-272-6828, ext. 301.

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KUSAHC Medicine Healthcare Covenant affirms community health commitment

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and Aberdeen Proving Ground leaders reaffirmed a commitment to provide quality health care to APG Service members, retirees and civilians during the Army Medicine Healthcare Covenant [signing] Ceremony on the clinic's front lawn May 20.

Lt. Col. Mark A. Ireland, KUSAHC commander, hosted the signing ceremony during which he, Maj. Gen. Nick G. Justice, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, signed their names on the covenant.

The covenant is part of an Army-wide program based on the Army Family Covenant in which leaders from the Army medical community reaffirm the commitment to provide world-class care to Soldiers and their Families.

Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, Army Surgeon General, and



Photo by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER
Maj. Gen. Nick G. Justice, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, center, signs the Army Medicine Healthcare Covenant as Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, left, and Lt. Col. Mark A. Ireland, commander of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, right, look on during the covenant signing ceremony in front of the clinic May 20.

Command, Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon, U.S. Army Medical Command signed the cove-

nant earlier this year and similar public-signing ceremonies within regional and subordi-

nate medical commands are taking place Army-wide, with
See **COVENANT**, page 5

APG honors America's fallen heroes

Story and photos by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community and surrounding communities gathered together at the Edgewood Area Cemetery on the morning of Memorial Day, May 31, to pay tribute to those who heroically served and died for their country.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Gillies and the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band led a procession of veterans, scouts and supporters who marched to the cemetery.

Awaiting the procession near the cemetery's entrance was APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, the ceremony's guest speaker; Garrison chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Morse, who would deliver the invocation; Rev. Jack Ward, Knights of Columbus Corpus Christi Council 6188, who would deliver the benediction and Timothy "Jake" Kluchinsky III of Boy Scout Troop 810 of Abingdon's Francis de Sales Church who led out in a restoration project to improve the appearance of the once-weathered cemetery.

Tim Baird from the Knights of Columbus, Corpus Christi Council 6188, served as the master of ceremonies. He thanked those for attending the event.

Ortiz said that it was an honor to speak



Leola Bogdan, president of Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary Harford County Memorial Post 2337, places a wreath on the Edgewood Area cemetery to honor America's fallen Soldiers.

at the event and said that on Memorial Day Americans should show appreciation to those who have served their country. He said that the day should be one of remembrance and celebration.

"Today we celebrate Americans who harvested and cultivated the most precious crop known to man, which is freedom," he said.

See **MEMORIAL**, page 23

APG unveils new Web portal

Story by
DAVID MCNALLY
RDECOM Public Affairs

Staying on top of news and information at Aberdeen Proving Ground just got easier. Army officials unveiled a new Internet portal for the installation June 10.

The installation is home to many tenant commands and organizations. The new portal page, online at www.army.mil/apg, is a collaborative effort between these units.

"This is a team effort," said Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz. "We are committed to keeping our Soldiers, Family Members and civilian employees informed and educated about what is happening on this installation."

With the Base Realignment and Closure process ongoing, thousands of new employees are coming to APG. Ortiz said there is a need to tell the installation story using all available communication venues.

"The portal page will be the jumping off point for all kinds of information -- from newcomer in-processing, to community support and social media, you name it," Ortiz said.

Ortiz said the garrison's recent social media efforts have garnered great public support.

"We just surpassed 2,000 fans on the garrison's Facebook page, and we have a following on Twitter and Flickr," he said. "This is an indicator that we have a community

seeking a dialogue with us on the Internet. We want people to know we're here and we have answers to their questions."

The portal page uses the Army CORE system "to manage public communications for effect." The CORE is an online content management system, which allows Army public affairs offices to contribute images, videos, news releases and more to a central site that offices worldwide can see and use.

An editor quickly evaluates and posts new information. The CORE offers Army branding, a consistent interface and multimedia hosting. Many major installations have already transitioned to the Army.mil look and feel, such as Fort Huachuca in Arizona, Jackson in South Carolina and Rucker in Alabama.

For APG, a new feature will be the online video news program "APG News-watch." The 15-minute, monthly program will be available from the portal site.

Officials said the portal page has links to all major tenant units and organizations along the left-hand navigation column, including links to Garrison Services. The U.S. Army Garrison, APG Web site is still active.

Along the bottom of the new portal, visitors will find links to social media, BRAC information and APG job openings.

"Our goal is to create a place where people can visit daily and always find new content," Ortiz said. "This portal is all about better serving the community."

61st Ordnance Brigade announces NCOs and Soldiers of the Year

Edgewood Area staff sergeant named top Retention NCO

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The 61st Ordnance Brigade and U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School announced its selections for the brigades' top noncommissioned officer, Soldier, Platoon Sergeant and Retention NCO for 2010.

The annual competition was held April 19 to 22 at various sites in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas. The NCOs and Soldiers competed in eight events: Land Navigation; M16 weapons qualification; Warrior tasks and Battle Drills; in-ranks inspection; the Army Physical Fitness Test; conducting a physical fitness event; a written test and a formal board appearance. Senior instructors, first sergeants and members of the brigade training staff conducted the testing. The final day, the NCOs and Soldiers appeared before a selection board led by Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Tolbert.

Tolbert said the competition is designed to select the best the brigade has to offer in each category for competition at the U.S.

See **ORDNANCE**, page 12

Commentary - Sponsorship: Start Strong to Be Strong

By
LT GEN RICK LYNCH
IMCOM Commanding General

I have moved many times in my career, within the United States and overseas. I have deployed several times, leaving my wife to pull double duty at home. I know the good, the bad and the ugly of moving firsthand from my Family's experience and the stories shared by other Soldiers, civilians and Family members. Every move brings new opportunities but also challenges and stress that can have a negative impact on work and home life.

I also know from personal experience that sponsors can be the determining factor between a good or bad move. An excellent sponsor plays a key role in making a positive first impression and helping the new person and Family integrate into the unit, workplace and community.

During the past several years the Army has been experiencing a high volume of transition due to Army Force Generation, modularity, Grow the Army, Base Realignment and Closure and troop mobilization. Now more than ever we need effective sponsorship to mitigate the stress of transition; however, Soldiers, civilians and Families continue to express frustration with the Army's Sponsorship Program.

Sometimes our personnel and Family members have an exceptional sponsor – someone who truly makes them feel welcome and gets them off to an excellent start – but that is not always the case. There may be sponsors who are not well-equipped or motivated to provide the needed assistance or, even worse, no sponsorship at all. These experienc-



es make sponsorship a pressing Army Family Action Plan issue. I am taking this opportunity to improve on our Total Army Sponsorship Program (TASP) to enhance the readiness of our Soldiers and Civilians, and deliver on our promise to take care of Families.

The Army's Sponsorship Program, as prescribed in AR 600-8-8, The Total Army Sponsorship Program, requires every first-term Soldier have a sponsor. The sponsor acts as a big brother or sister and helps the Soldier learn Army standards and develop a sense of responsibility and teamwork. After that initial assignment, TASP offers sponsors for every Soldier, private through colonel, and likewise for every civilian in grades up to GS-15. A vital part of the Sponsorship Program that is often forgotten or overlooked is the rear detachment support provided to Family members of deployed Soldiers and civilians.

So, we have in our regulations a Spon-

sorship Program that covers all members of our community. I want to make sure that what is outlined on paper is also happening in our communities. Soldiers, civilians and Family members will have a sponsor to provide information and support before, during and after transitions, mobilizations and deployments.

We must make sure sponsors are well-equipped for their important role. Sponsors must understand their role and have the necessary information and resources to fulfill it. Even more so, sponsors must be willing to reach out and make human contact, especially with new Soldiers, first-time civilian employees, and Family members who are unfamiliar with the Army way of life.

Above all, I want to ensure that commanders are invested in the success of the Sponsorship Program within their community. TASP is a commander's program. Its success is contingent upon the commander's involvement and support. It is leadership's responsibility to send the message that sponsorship is something important to do and to do it right. At the most basic level, that means having an adequate pool of sponsors to meet the needs of the community and supporting those sponsors with reasonable time and resources to do a good job.

I have asked Command Sergeant Major Neil Ciotola to lead a working group to review sponsorship from a holistic perspective and to update the program to meet the needs of Soldiers in today's Army. Two important aspects of the Sponsorship Program under examination are integration and tracking. We must have a means to collect, transmit

and follow up on their needs and issues. We do not want Soldiers carrying unresolved issues from assignment to assignment. We do not want Families to fail to connect or to become disconnected from their community, especially if their Soldier is deployed. We are looking at the feasibility of using current systems to integrate and track TASP processes Army wide, among other possible improvements. I anticipate that new recommendations, guidance and requirements will be forthcoming as a result of our review.

We are approaching summer, the traditional moving season for the military. Most of us in an Army environment, Soldiers, civilians and Family members alike, know what it is like to relocate. We know what a difference it makes to have a helping hand along the way.

Leaders, your direct experience alone, whether good or bad, should be enough incentive to make the Sponsorship Program in your sphere of influence as effective as possible.

With a successful sponsorship program, we can treat every one of these moves as an opportunity to show that we will do right by Soldiers, civilians and Families. The time and effort invested up front will pay big dividends in the satisfaction, commitment, and increased cohesion and mission readiness of Army units. All Soldiers, civilians and Family members must be provided with quality programs and safe communities that meet their needs while enabling them to thrive and maintain resiliency. We will keep our promise.

Support and Defend.
Defender 6

APG NCO, Soldier of the Year hailed during Military Appreciation Luncheon

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Harford County Chamber of Commerce hailed the Aberdeen Proving Ground Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year as part of its annual salute to the military community during the Military Appreciation Luncheon at Top of the Bay May 20.

Maj. Gen. Nick G. Justice, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command was the guest speaker.

Pete Bucha, co-chair of the chamber's Military Affairs Committee hosted the event that included remarks from Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and

deputy installation commander and William B. Seccurro, chamber president and chief executive officer.

Ortiz commented on the installation's "long history of working side by side" with the surrounding community and said with ongoing construction and refocusing of missions due to base realignment and closure, the work has just begun.

"The work ahead of us as a community is pretty significant," he said, "but we are confident in our neighbors."

He gave special thanks to those who put the program together, and he presented a Garrison coin of excellence to Kelleigh Pangratz, a Harford Technical High School senior who sang the national anthem.

"This is a wonderful day and we are very appreciative of your time and effort," he said.

Justice began with a short video – synapses that depicted Soldiers on the ground in theater using new technologies, weapons and vehicles and the engineers and scientists who design and test the equipment.

"We are always looking for the best and brightest and I expect my NCOs to plant them as well or better and have them grow into future leaders," Justice said.

He spoke about the history of APG, its achievements in design and testing of military equipment, and its increased value to the Army due to base realignment and closure.

Noting that the installation will become the headquarters of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command as well as the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, he said, "This is going to be a vital place."

"I can't imagine anywhere else in this country where the stimulus package will have more effect than this area," he said, noting that the projected growth due to the addition of thousands of civilian positions also will stimulate the local economy.

"Be ready for it, participate in it and welcome them to our community," he said.

William Vanden Eynden, chairperson of the Board of Directors, conducted a short business segment and extended his

thanks to the military affairs committee and to the military.

"We appreciate what you do every day to protect our way of life," he said.

The honorees, Sgt. Hiram E. Hendri, APG NCO of the Year, and Spc. Sharia Leal, APG Soldier of the Year, both hail from the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional). Assisted by RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, Justice and Ortiz presented them with Army Commendation medals.

In addition, the Aberdeen Chapter of the Association of the United States Army presented them with \$100 gift cards and a proclamation from Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley. Additional gifts included dress blue uniforms from the Chamber of Commerce, savings bonds from Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Bank of America and the APG Federal Credit Union; and gift cards from the Applebee's and Olive Tree restaurants.

In addition, Justice and Ortiz were given proclamations from local and state elected officials including the Maryland House and Senate, the Harford County council and the cities of Aberdeen, Havre de Grace and Bel Air.

"It's been a great day," Bucha said at the program's conclusion. "I want to especially thank General Justice for taking time from his busy schedule to join us in this celebration."

APG News

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

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Office Eagle hosts Customer Appreciation Day



Marguerite Woods, left, a representative of Blind Industries and Services of Maryland, talks to Martha Kite, a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation supply clerk during the Aberdeen Area's Office Eagle Customer Appreciation Day, May 18. The Aberdeen and Edgewood Area Office Eagle stores support Blind Industries and Services of Maryland. BISM provides free training programs to Maryland residents who are blind or partially blind.

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The Aberdeen Area Office Eagle said "thank you" to customers by hosting its annual Customer Appreciation Day festivities on May 18. The Edgewood Area Office Eagle held its celebration the following day.

The event had a "murder mystery" theme with vendors dressed up as characters who live in the Wild West. To solve the mystery, called "Murder at the Deadwood Saloon," attendees were encouraged to ask questions to vendors for clues to find out "who did it." Those who solved the mystery correctly received a prize from Office Eagle. Everyone who attended the event also received a goody bag with Office Eagle products.

The event featured a wide selection of products available to Office Eagle purchasers.

Many of the vendors present featured environmentally friendly products. For instance, the South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind featured recyclable binders and compressed recyclable paper, and 3M featured Scotch Bright Green Clean products, which are made out of bamboo.

All suppliers to Office Eagle stores offer AbilityOne approved products and provide employment opportunities for the blind or the developmentally disabled. The AbilityOne Program (formerly JWOD) creates jobs and training opportunities for people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. All of the products displayed at the event could be purchased or ordered in the store. The Aberdeen and Edgewood Area stores support Blind Industries and Services of Maryland. BISM provides free training programs to Maryland residents who are blind or partially blind.

Marguerite Woods, a representative of BISM, talked to attendees about the various training programs and opportunities provided by BISM and showed attendees a Braille alphabet card.

Woods, who has been entirely blind for two years, is a graduate of the CORE Program, a comprehensive orientation, rehabilitation and empowerment training for blind and partially blind adults. Woods described the CORE Program as "life-changing."

"I have always been an independent person," she said. "The CORE Program has given me the confidence to feel comfortable no matter where I am."

Woods said that the CORE program taught her necessary life skills like Braille reading and writing, cane travel, home management, computer technology and more.

She added that many CORE instructors are also blind themselves, serving as an inspiration to those in the program.

"You recognize that there is a lot to life beyond being blind," she said.

Woods said that BISM provides instruction for blind or partially blind individuals of all ages. This summer BISM will have a six-week residential training program, called Independence 2010, where blind and low vision teens learn non-visual skills and gain the confidence necessary to transition from high school to college and/or employment. For more information on Independence 2010 and other BISM programs, visit www.bism.org, or call toll-free call Toll Free 1-888-322-4567.

In addition to providing free training, BISM employs 400 blind and disabled employees in Maryland.

Barry Councill, Aberdeen Area Office Eagle store manager, said Office Eagle greatly appreciates their loyal customer base. He added that the Aberdeen Area store employs eight disabled employees and the Edgewood Area store employs two disabled employees.

"I appreciate what our customers do to support the AbilityOne Program," Councill said.

Ken Barnett, Office Eagle director of store operations, also expressed appreciation to loyal customers.

"Thank you for helping us create blind employment opportunities," he said. "This store provides excellent customer service. We want customers to have a good experience shopping here."

Marcella Heilig, who works for the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, said she enjoyed the event.

"This is my first time in Office Eagle," she said. "I liked visiting the vendors and I am planning on shopping here if I need office supplies. It is very convenient, right on post."

Martha Kite, a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation supply clerk, said that she shops frequently at Office Eagle for her organization.

"I shop here at least once a week. I always receive excellent service," Kite said. It is convenient and personal. Everyone knows me by name."

"The personal shopping experience makes it enjoyable to come here," added Preston Hill, supervisor supply technician for FMWR.

After viewing the vendor displays, guests enjoyed a meal of barbecue pork, hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw and desserts from Dover, Del.-based caterer "Where Pigs Fly" led by owners Tom and Kelly Devine. Vendors included Edwards Sales; Grainger; MSC; 3M; ABM Federal Sales; Alphapoint Association for the Blind; Susquehanna Association for the Blind; Blind Industries and Services of Maryland; South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind.

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CECOM Chief of Staff visits nearby VFW to pay tribute on Memorial Day

Story and photo by
ANDRICKA THOMAS
CECOM Public Affairs

“Our calling today is clear, to honor our country’s men and women who’ve died in its service,” said Col. William “Bill” Montgomery during a Memorial Day service in Delta, Pa. “[Those] who’ve laid down their lives in defense of their fellow citizens, who’ve given their last full measure of devotion to protect the United States of America—these are the men and women I honor this weekend, and I know many of you are doing the same.”

Montgomery, chief of staff for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, was one of thousands of American citizens who paused May 31 to pay tribute to America’s men and women in uniform who have lost their lives in defense of the United States.

Montgomery joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars John S. Murphy Post 7130 as a guest speaker for the Memorial Day service and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action re-dedication ceremony.

“We must always remember in a special way those Americans who remain missing and unaccounted for from all [of] our nation’s past wars and conflicts,” said Ruth Myers, chaplain of the VFW Post 7130 Ladies Auxiliary. Myers explained the sig-



Col. William ‘Bill’ Montgomery, chief of staff for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, speaks with Louise Poole (right) and Dean Shanbarger, Army veteran, at a Memorial Day service and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action table re-dedication ceremony May 31 in Delta, Pa. The ceremony was held by the Veterans of Foreign Wars John S. Murphy Post 7130. Poole is a long-time civil servant at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

nificance of each item on the re-dedicated POW/MIA table and charged the audience to remember and to never forget.

“We call them comrades,” Myers began in tribute to the POWs and MIAs. “The table is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his or her suppressors. The table cloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their [POW/MIA] intentions to respond to their country’s call to arms,” said Myers.

A red rose was placed in a vase to remind people of the Families and loved ones who are awaiting their Soldier’s return. The red ribbon on the vase represents all those who demand a proper accounting for our missing. The table was set with a piece of lem-

on on the bread plate to remind those of their bitter fate, and salt for the tears of their Family members as they wait.

“The glass is inverted, as they cannot toast with us tonight and the chair is empty because they are not here,” said Myers. The candle represents the light of hope that lives in the hearts of Family members waiting for their safe return home.

During the tribute, two volunteer soloists sang “God Bless America” and “America the Beautiful.” The program culminated with a prayer for the service members of the past, present and their Families.

Post 7130 post commander, Scott Mullins, spoke of the dedication and ser-

vice young men and women render as they enter the military services today, and thanked them for their bravery. Post 7130 has been involved in a variety of activities to support America’s service members past and present. Founded in 1949, the Post is comprised of about 95 members who, each year, place 900 American flags on the gravesites of America’s service members to honor them. John S. Murphy Post members have made care packages to send overseas; visited and sponsored excursions to local fairs for veterans residing at the Perry Point Veterans Administration Medical Center and greeted returning Soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan at the Harrisburg, Pa., airport.

CECOM Commanding General visits Germany

Story by
JENNIFER L. KING
405th AFSB PAO

Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong visited Germany in early May to meet with CECOM Europe team members.

“Major General Strong was very interested in seeing firsthand the work that we are doing in support of U.S. Army Europe,” explained Barron Williams, the senior command representative for CECOM in theater. “He also met with key customers to establish a direct dialogue with them and get feedback on our operations.”

Part of Strong’s itinerary included a visit to the headquarters of the 405th

Army Field Support Brigade. During his visit to the brigade, Strong met with primary staff members and received a briefing on the brigade’s operations.

“Major General Strong seemed very impressed by the broad scope of our mission,” said Col. John Haley, commander of the 405th Army Field Support Brigade. “We talked at length about how, in addition to logistics, we also handle the synchronization of acquisition and technology across the European and African theaters.”

Strong also attended a luncheon with CECOM employees, including logistics assistance representatives who came to CECOM headquarters from various field locations. Strong took advantage of the

large crowd to express his sentiments to the CECOM personnel.

“I am extremely proud of everything that you do for our Soldiers,” Strong said.

“Everywhere I go in theater, I’m hearing about the great things you’re doing and that the units are very happy with your support and that speaks volumes to me about the quality of service that you provide.”

Strong’s visit included attendance at the U.S. Army Europe distinguished visitor summit in conjunction with Austere Challenge 10 and visits to the 75th Fire Brigades and the 170th Brigade Combat Team.

BOSS shifts focus to community outreach

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program is hoping to provide better opportunities for the community as well.

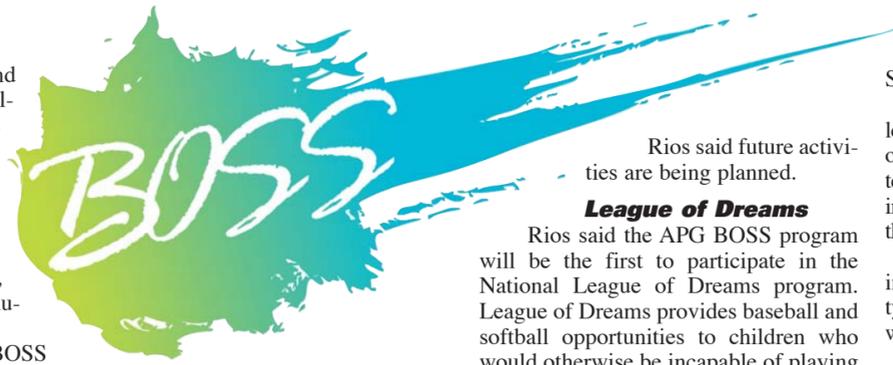
Members of BOSS participated in the construction of a storage shed with the Harford Habitat For Humanity and BOSS president, Spc. Carlos Rios, said more community service activities are planned.

“We want people to think of BOSS as a program that looks for better opportunities to help and advance community awareness,” Rios said.

The BOSS Soldiers earned seven hours of community service points with BOSS and with Habitat For Humanity during the seven-hour job.

Rios said members completed 85 percent of the project leaving only the roofing unfinished.

“The Habitat people really know their stuff,” he said. “They are very meticulous and know how to assign tasks. At the end of the day, all the pieces of the puzzle came together. They reminded



me of drill sergeants.”

He said BOSS members worked hard and very enthusiastic about the task.

“Everyone was excited to help out. This was a storage shed for a Family that will occupy a Habitat For Humanity home so we built something that will mean something.”

Participants included Soldiers from the APG Garrison, the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional), and the 20th Support Command (CBRNE).

Rios said future activities are being planned.

League of Dreams

Rios said the APG BOSS program will be the first to participate in the National League of Dreams program. League of Dreams provides baseball and softball opportunities to children who would otherwise be incapable of playing in “traditional” leagues due to physical limitations. Volunteers from BOSS and the Noncommissioned Officer Academy will collaborate with League of Dreams later this month to “give children the opportunity to play softball at their level,” according to Rios.

He said an introductory meeting will be held June 26 (time and location to be announced) and the program will last through July 31, finishing up with games at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen with League of Dreams participants from around the state. Military and civilian parents of challenged children are

encouraged to participate.

Rios said the BOSS involvement is a vision of Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades.

“He’d like for us to bring it in and then let Child, Youth and School Services take over,” he said. “Right now we need volunteers; people who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for others and helping them become the best they can be.

“This goes back to BOSS becoming known as a part of the community. Not because we have to, because we want to.”

BOSS is a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program that single Soldiers can participate in to enhance their quality of life, contribute to their community through community service activities, and assist in the planning and execution of their own recreation and leisure events. The BOSS program focuses on the Army active duty Soldier, but BOSS activities are open to MWR patrons to include the National Guard, Reserve and other branches of service, Department of the Army civilians, foreign service members and geographical bachelors. For more information, visit www.armymwr.com.

CMA names director of stockpile operations

CMA

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has named Col. John J. Megnia as the Director of Stockpile Operations (DOSO). Megnia is expected to report to CMA on June 25.

Megnia began his career in 1977 at Fort Campbell, Ky. He has served in areas of the United States such as Fort Devens, Mass.; Fort Leonard Wood Mo.; Fort Hood, Texas; the Pentagon; San Francisco, Calif.; and Johnston Island in the Pacific Ocean. Megnia is not new to the CMA family having served as commander of the Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., where he oversaw storage of the chemical weapons stockpile and completion of several environmental restoration projects.

Internationally, Megnia played key roles in peace-keeping operations in Bosnia; as the U.S. Forces Korea Chemical Officer in Korea; and as an assistant operations and chemical officer in Germany.

As CMA DOSO, Megnia will oversee operational activities and support the overall mission. He will provide leadership and direction to CMA commanders responsible for safe storage and destruc-

tion of the national chemical weapons stockpile.

CMA remains committed to the safe and timely destruction of the nation’s chemical agent and chemical war-

fare materiel. Final blister agent campaigns continue at CMA’s four remaining destruction sites in Anniston, Ala.; Pine Bluff, Ark.; Tooele, Utah; and Umatilla, Ore. CMA continues to safely store

chemical agent munitions at the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternative sites near Richmond, Ky. and at Pueblo, Colo.

For more information about CMA, visit www.cma.army.mil

Covenant

From front page

poster-sized images of the Healthcare Covenant being prominently displayed in installation medical treatment facilities.

“It means we believe strongly in our commitment to provide the best quality healthcare we possibly can,” Ireland said.

He said that like the Army Covenant, the Medicine Healthcare Covenant is adjusting to the changing Army environment.

“We’re transforming to support our Warriors and civilians who work on APG,” he said.

He said increased focus in other areas means KUSAHC will hand over the Army Substance Abuse Program, revamp its Medical Focus Tasker, and improve quality outcomes and services.

He said the activity just received a 3-year accreditation and is committed to improving access to patient-centered healthcare by partnering with providers such as Johns Hopkins Medicine and HealthNet.

“We’re partnering to focus on the whole person – physical, spiritual, emotional and psychological,” he said.

He thanked Justice and Ortiz for their support.

Justice said the covenant speaks to the importance of having whole body-focused medical care available due to the imminent arrival of thousands of new civilians as new organizations make APG their home due to base realignment and closure.

“A part of the Army environment is its commitment to community; it’s about Family,” Justice said.

As it has with some of the longtime organizations here, the medical community will “emerge and blossom” with the units that will plant their flags here, he added.

“[The covenant] means we are willing to move forward with decisive action to support [the community] with a medical commitment,” Ortiz added. “And we are revalidating our commitment to [the community] with this signing today.”

Community Notes

FRIDAY

JUNE 11 RELAY FOR LIFE BASKET BINGO

Relay for Life Basket Bingo will be held 10:15 p.m. at the Havre de Grace Middle School Cafeteria, 401 Lewis Lane, Havre de Grace. Doors open 9:30; Early Bird Games start 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 each for 12 games. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. Checks are payable to American Cancer Society.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332 or Karen Mitchell, 410-272-7098.

MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Margaritaville Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$40 per person (21 years of age or older). Set sail with island tunes, light munchies and margaritas. For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-4078.

SATURDAY

JUNE 12 HORSESHOETOURNAMENT

The American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold a Horseshoe Tournament 1 p.m.; registration begins at noon. Cash prizes will be awarded. Entry fee costs \$25 per person and includes free draft beer. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

For more information, call Gordon at 410-322-7168.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Good Shepherd Parish and School, located on Aiken Ave., Perryville, will hold its annual Strawberry festival 2 to 8 p.m. Radio station 101.9 Lite FM will broadcast live from 2 to 3 p.m. A spaghetti and meatball dinner will be served from 4 to 8 p.m. There will be live music, a rock climbing wall, watermelon eating contest, chinese auction, games, prize wheels and strawberries galore. For more information, call 410-642-6265.

BREWS AND CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer Brews and Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$40 per person (must be 21 years of age or older). Passengers will be treated to a cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area

and offered samplings of micro brews from area breweries and munchies. Reservations are required.

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

WHITE-TAILED DEER SURVEY

Harford County seems to be experiencing explosive population growth and not just with humans. Come help determine if the deer population of Leight Park is a healthy size. Come get the scoop on poop and conduct pellet (deer scat) counts out on the trails to determine how many deer call the Park home. This program will be held 9 a.m. to 12 noon for ages 16 to adult. The program is free but 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.

FLOATING FEAST – BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS

Enjoy the perfect summertime recreational combo -- boating and eating. Choose the meal and date that works best. Local food and local businesses for each cruise will be featured. This program will be held 9 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 30 lbs. to adult. The cost is \$7 per person or \$30 per family (limit 5 per family) and registration is required.

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

SUMMER'S ALMOST HERE KAYAK

Paddle Otter Point Creek in the waning days of spring before lush summer bursts on the scene. This program will be held 1 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 and registration is required.

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

CHILDREN'S GARDENING - STEPPING STONES

Have fun growing food and flowers here and at home. Enjoy crafts, games, and science disguised as fun, while learning about seeds, life cycles, and growing food and flowers in a watershed-friendly way. This program will be held 3 to 4 p.m. for ages 5 to 10. The cost is \$5 and registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

JUNE 13 LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a narrated lighthouse cruise, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., aboard the Skipjack Martha Lewis in Havre de Grace. Tickets cost \$35 for adults and \$17 for children ages 10 and under. Reservations are required. Cost includes a three-hour cruise enjoying water views of three area lighthouses: Concord Point, Turkey Point and Fishing Battery Island. A box lunch is also included.

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

24TH ANNUAL CELTIC FESTIVAL

Steppingstone Museum, located on 461 Quaker Bottom Road, Havre de Grace, will host the annual Celtic Festival, noon to 5 p.m. Cost of admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 12 and under and members, and includes pipe band music, dancing and singing, sheepherding demonstrations, clan gatherings, military regiment, spinning and weaving, amateur highland games competitions, vendors, food and more.

For more information or directions, call the museum office, 410-939-2299 or toll free, 1-888-419-1762; e-mail steppingstonemuseum@msn.com or visit Web site www.steppingstonemuseum.org.

DAY IS DAWNING

Slide quietly onto the creek to share the new day with the early-rising wildlife. This program will be held 7 to 9:30 a.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 and registration is required.

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

MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the Center's live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This program will be held at 12:30 p.m. and is free 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.

BEGINNING NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

This class is best suited to participants who have a DSLR, SLR, or point-and-shoot camera with the ability to change aperture and shutter speed settings. Nature photographer Dave Gigliotti will lead this workshop designed to improve the quality of photos through the use of composition, camera settings, lighting, etc. Bring a camera (and tripod), as part of this two-session workshop will be hands-on. To see some of Dave's photos, please visit his website www.shuttermonkey.net. This program will be held 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. June 13 for ages 15 to adult. The cost is \$25 per person and registration is required.

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

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 the 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 after attending two work days. This free program will be held 1 to 3 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.

WATER, WATER, WHAT DO YOU DO?

Plan on getting wet as we experiment and discover the unique properties of water. Bring a change of clothes. This program will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 7 to 11. 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.

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

Post Shorts

First Public Health Command 'O-Day' June 18

The U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) will hold its first organization day June 18. Before June 11, tickets cost \$13 for adults; \$5 for children ages 5 through 10; children ages 5 and under are free. There is a Family cap of \$50. After June 11, tickets will cost \$15 for adults and \$6 for children ages 5 through 10; the Family cap will rise to \$55.

Menu includes pit beef, pit ham, pit turkey, hot dogs, hamburgers and salads.

Events include swimming, golf, volleyball, softball, skeet shooting, horse-shoes, a magic show by "Nothing Up My Sleeve," face painting, 4K run, giant slide, Wii Games, a bakeoff, door prizes, health fair, climbing wall, pie throw, Father's Day box drawings and an appearance by the Harford County Sheriff's Department with Deputy Dawg.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Stephanie Cregar and Amy Bowen, 410-436-3919/3816; Donna Kutchey, 410-436-2024; Shirley Eller and Tami Dillon, 410-436-2577/4160; Carolyn Johnson, 410-436-2332; Leah Badham, 410-436-3980; Ashley Wilmoth, 410-436-7654; Carroll Guthrie and Neoma Amberman, 410-436-2714; Claudia Coleman (Library), 410-436-3432; and Valerie Valiant, 410-436-2602.

Visit <https://ichppm2.amedd.army.mil/functions/commandinfo/Org-Day2010/default.aspx> for times and sign up for activities.

Blood drive for the troops June 15

Support the troops by donating blood. The Armed Services Blood Program blood drive will be held 3 to 8 p.m., June 15, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. The blood drive is open to everyone.

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

235th Army Birthday Specialty Meal June 15

The 235th Army Birthday Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facility building 4503 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m., June 15.

During this event all military person-

nel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The Holiday meal rate of \$7 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$5.95 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green, 410-278-3142/3892.

APG R&D showcase set for June 16 and 17

Harford Community College will host a two-day showcase of Aberdeen Proving Ground technology and research and development contract opportunities at the Amoss Center, 200 Thomas Run Road in Bel Air June 16 through 17.

The showcase will highlight business opportunities with APG test and evaluation and research and development organizations. Participating APG organizations include the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command; Research, Development and Engineering Command; Army Test and Evaluation Command; Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center; Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical Biological Defense (JPEO CBD); and more.

Those who should attend include:

1. Companies - ranging from startups to large - that are interested in tech transfer and/or collaborative projects
2. Entrepreneurs, independent and academic researchers and inventors
3. Current and potential contractors
4. Economic and workforce development professionals

For more information, or to register, visit the HCC Web site at www.harford.edu/apgshowcase/ or call Pam Holt at the Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor Base Realignment and Closure Office in Aberdeen at 410-273-5708 or visit the CSSC Web site at www.apg-cssc.com.

NFFE Local 178 to host town hall meeting

Local 178, National Federation of Federal Employees will host a town hall meeting 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Union Hall, building E4415 Miles Road, on the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen

Proving Ground June 24.

The guest speaker will be John Griffin, National Business Representative, eastern region.

Topics will include a lab demonstration, overtime grievances, NSPS transitions, and more, followed by an open discussion.

The meeting is open to all APG employees.

For more information, contact Lisa Foust, Local 178 president, at 410-436-5786 or Jan Kolakowski, Local 178 vice president, at 410-436-2755.

RAB meeting June 24

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board Meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., June 24, at the Ramada Conference Center, 1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood.

The topic of the meeting will be an update of the Canal Creek Study Area.

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

Registration open for VBS

Registration is now open for the APG Main Post Chapel Ecumenical Vacation Bible School, which will be held 6 to 8:45 p.m., for ages 5 through the sixth grade June 21 through 25. This year's theme is "Egypt: Joseph's Journey From Prison to Palace." To register, call 410-278-2516.

ACS to celebrate 45th Birthday July 22

Forty-five years of Army Community Service support to APG will be celebrated, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 22, at the Shore Park Area. All military, DoD civilians and Family members are invited to attend. Free tickets are available at the Aberdeen Area ACS, building 2754, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 410-278-7572/4372.

Hunter safety classes offered

Hunter safety classes will be held June 8, 10 and 12 and July 13, 15 and 17 in building 4303. Classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays will be held 6 to 10 p.m. Classes on Saturdays will be held 8 a.m. to noon. All classes will be held in building 4303. Students must attend class all three days. An additional class will be

offered Sept. 19 for ages 16 and older.

For more information or to register, call 410-671-9070. Please leave a message if no one answers. An instructor will contact students to verify their space in the class and obtain additional registration information. Do not call after 9 p.m.

Military receive a discount on Florida's Amelia Island

Active duty, reserve and retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their Families can now take advantage of savings of up to 20 percent through a special "Seaside Salute" on Amelia Island in Florida.

Ten of the island's award-winning resorts, inns and hotels are offering an arsenal of special offers and discounts.

Participating properties include The Addison on Amelia Island; Amelia Hotel at the Beach; Amelia Island Plantation; The Amelia Island Williams House; Beachside Motel Inn; Comfort Suites; Elizabeth Point Lodge; Hampton Inn Amelia Island; Hampton Inn & Suites Amelia Island; Residence Inn Amelia Island; and Summer Beach Resort.

Advance reservations are required. Military ID must be presented at time of check-in. Some blackout dates or other restrictions may apply. Rates shown do not include applicable taxes. Offer may not be combined with any other offer, promotion, or package. Check with individual property for specific terms and conditions.

For more information, visit www.ameliainland.com/seasidesalute.

Green Dragon Ball

The National Capital Region 2010 Joint CBRNE Green Dragon Ball will be held Saturday, Aug. 14, at Top of the Bay. Keynote speaker will be Honorable Paul McHale, Jr., former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense. For more details visit the Green Dragon Ball Web site www.edgewood.army.mil/greendragonball/index.html. For more information, call Tracey Kelly, 410-436-4438 or Capt. Jessica Perez, 410-436-4000, or email to apg.green.dragon.ball@conus.army.mil.

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

DoD launches personalized quit tobacco training

[ucanquit2.org](http://www.ucanquit2.org)

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has announced the launch of Train2Quit, an innovative Web-based tobacco cessation training specifically designed for military personnel and Families.

Train2Quit is a step-by-step process with proven methods and interactive activities and tools to help tobacco users quit for good. The free customizable training, accessible anytime to service members online, is the newest, most comprehensive addition to the DoD campaign, Quit Tobacco—Make Everyone Proud (QTMEP), at www.ucanquit2.org.

“Soldiers, sailors, seamen and marines are used to training. Train2Quit doesn’t take eight weeks or even eight hours. And although quitting tobacco is tough, we know members of the armed forces are even tougher. They can get through this unique and easy-to-use online training to get quit—and stay quit.” said Capt. David Arday, M.D., a U.S. Public Health Service officer and chairman of the DoD Alcohol and Tobacco Advisory Committee.

Train2Quit accommodates users based on where they are in the process of quitting tobacco, whether thinking about quitting or in the midst of a quit attempt. A self-assessment tool during enrollment determines where users fall on the spectrum and starts them in the corresponding module. The training then offers customized tools and individual support based on their specific situation and stage in the quit process.

Tobacco users who get support are more likely to succeed in their quit attempt. Those who use a tailored interactive online program can double their chance of becoming tobacco free, especially when used in conjunction with counseling and medications. Train2Quit is a customized interactive support system that provides service men and women with access to personalized Web-based resources 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Anonymous live chatting with expert quit coaches is available from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. EST, and will soon be available 24/7.

The training consists of a self-paced series of four modules based on Prochaska and DiClemente’s Stages of Change model of behavior change. The curriculum, developed in consultation with certified tobacco cessation specialists, incorporates U.S. Public Health Service tobacco cessation guidelines and best practices. Users can stop at any point in the process and then re-start where they left off, tracking their progress through the training. After successfully going through all four modules, they receive a certificate of completion.

“I urge military service members who use tobacco to enroll in this new training,” said Arday. “Receiving support whenever it’s convenient in their busy and changing schedules gives them a real advantage to succeed in becoming tobacco-free, particularly when used as an adjunct to counseling and medications available on their installations.”

Train2Quit, along with a demo of the training, is available at <http://www.ucanquit2.org> where visitors can find additional QTMEP tools and resources for tobacco cessation.



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you like what he sees.

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Do it for yourself. And everyone who cares about you.
Visit www.ucanquit2.org



Army inspires next generation rocket scientists

Story by
JENNIFER CARROLL
ECBC

The Army is inspiring the next generation of rocket scientists through the world's largest rocket design contest.

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center supported the 8th Annual Team America Rocketry Challenge May 15. As exhibitor at this year's TARC, whose participation was funded by the National Defense Education Program, encouraged middle and high school students to pursue careers in aerospace, as well as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines.

"With the NDEP's goal to foster a new generation of scientists, mathematicians, engineers and technologists, it is a pleasure to witness the rocket performances of America's highly skilled youth," said NDEP Director Bob McGahern. "I foresee a bright future for these talented individuals."

At the launch site in The Plains, Va., a clear blue sky provided excellent weather conditions for students to demonstrate their rocket constructions. During the national anthem at the opening ceremony, the American flag waved across the field, and the nation's TARC finalists were ready for take-off.

After 669 teams from 30 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands competed in local qualification flights, the top 100 qualifying teams were invited to launch their team-produced rockets at the final fly-off competition. Vying for \$60,000 in scholarships and prizes, the finalists took on the challenge of designing, building and flying their model rocket at a specified altitude and duration determined by a set of rules that is developed each year.

"This year's challenge was to reach an altitude of 825 feet with a flight time of 40 to 45 seconds," reported ECBC Community and Educational Outreach Manager Mary Doak. "Also, the



Photo by HEATHER LYONS

Timothy Lyons, an Edgewood Chemical Biological Center chemical engineer, and Robert Carestia, an ECBC mechanical engineer, explain the technologies used to build grenades, rockets during a Team America Rocket Challenge at The Plains, Va., May 15.

teams had to return a raw egg payload to the ground unbroken without using a parachute.

"I was very impressed with the talent and ambition of all participants."

Army representatives displayed models of smoke items such as grenades, artillery projectiles, and rocket warheads, and explained their function to students. In addition, ECBC Mechanical Engineer Robert Carestia and ECBC Chemical Engineer Timothy Lyons brought an animated munitions library that students could manipulate to see how military smoke delivery systems are deployed in theater.

According to Carestia, TARC participants followed the same process steps and tackle the same challenges as ECBC engineers when developing rockets

and grenades that carry smoke payloads.

"We start with assembling a team, distributing project responsibilities and defining requirements; then we build a prototype and deliver the final design," he said. "But, it is also crucial to calculate factors such as G-forces and the weight of launch payloads throughout the engineering process."

Using three laptops as prototype simulators for 10-minute training videos, Carestia and Lyons illustrated how ECBC utilizes video animation to provide the warfighter with an enhanced interactive training tool. They showed students animated scenarios in a Kiowa helicopter or a Paladin Howitzer to give them an idea of deploying rockets in a battlefield situation while maneuvering in Army vehicles.

"This was my first year supporting TARC, and I was truly fascinated by the enthusiasm and engineering talent the students demonstrated today," said Carestia. "I very much enjoyed interacting with them and discussing the use of smoke and obscuration in combination with animated simulation as a cost-effective life saver and force multiplier in theater."

Participating in TARC teaches students the basics of physics and engineering design that scientists and engineers use for their projects in the real world.

"At first, I wasn't sure if I wanted to attend, but it was so much fun winning all the exciting science games," said Allissa Lyons, a 12-year-old TARC participant. "I learned that you don't have to be a rocket scientist to walk away with lots of

prizes."

The four-person team from Penn Manor High School in Millersville, Pa., took first place in the rocketry challenge. In addition to monetary prizes, they won a trip to the Farnborough International Air Show in England in July to compete against the United Kingdom and French national champions in the International Youth Rocketry Challenge.

This year's TARC was sponsored by Aerospace Industries Association and the National Association of Rocketry. Other partners included the American Association of Physics Teachers; the Department of Defense; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and more than 30 AIA companies, such as Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.

OPSEC protects deployed personnel and Family members

Story by
JUDY PATISHNOCK
DPTMS

Operation Security, or OPSEC, is a process used to identify and protect sensitive information from adversaries.

While OPSEC is primarily used in the work place, it can also be used to protect personnel and Family members in their everyday routine, whether at work, at home, shopping, or on vacation.

OPSEC helps identify information that might be used against personnel and their Family members, and apply countermeasures to safeguard that information.

Here are some examples of how to use OPSEC to protect personal information, Family, and home while deployed or on a temporary duty assignment.

Documents such as TDY or travel orders, wills, life insurance policies, credit card or bank account statements should not be thrown in the trash.

They contain personal information such as full name, home or duty address, date and place of birth, SSN, bank account numbers, travel dates, unit and unit location, unit mission, destination, and Family member information and could possibly jeopardize Family members, unit, mission, and even a person's career if in the wrong hands. Documents or envelopes containing a home address could be retrieved by a terrorist and used to target Family members.

Documents containing personal information should be safeguarded and shredded when no longer needed. Shredding documents will help keep personal information more secure.

Personal information isn't restricted to just paper documents; it is also on personal laptops or desktops.

Personnel who take their personal laptop with them on deployment or TDY should also take measures to protect and safeguard the per-

sonal information contained on the laptop. A few examples would be to keep passwords secure and strong, do not use the same password or pin numbers, do not have automatically saved passwords or pin numbers on your laptop, and use security software that updates automatically.

A fun and quick way to stay in touch with Family and friends while deployed or on TDY is through Instant Messenger and Internet social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, or MySpace.

However, use caution when providing information regarding deployments, mission data, travel dates or destination, or even photos to those who don't have a need to know, as this can leave Family members and the home vulnerable to harm. Do not post photos of base camp, base camp defenses, or any other information that could be used to target an installation or the personnel, on various Internet Web sites or send them to Family members. A photo of a blown up vehicle, for example, can provide information to an adversary on the vulnerabilities of the vehicle, or type of ordnance to use to effectively target our Armed Forces.

Family members should protect their loved ones who are deployed or on a temporary duty assignment by not posting detailed information online or providing information to others who do not have a need to know about when, where, or how long their loved ones will be deployed. Not only does this put the deployed personnel and their unit at risk, it can put the Family members who remain at home at risk also.

There are many ways in which OPSEC can be used in an everyday routine to safeguard personal information from getting to those who do not have a need to know and who might wish to use this information to harm, personnel, Family members, a unit or a workplace.

Environmental Management System

APG EMS schedules internal audit

Story by
BARBARA SEKER
DPW Environmental Division

The APG Environmental Management System program has scheduled an internal audit for Aug. 16 through 20.

During this time, auditors from U. S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) along with Garrison employees will be canvassing the APG Garrison directorates and garrison supported organizations to identify EMS nonconformances and other issues of concern.

It is imperative that directorates and GSOs work together with the Environmental Management System teams to organize their paperwork, specifically EMS plans, and prepare

for the auditors.

Auditors may inspect areas such as aspect and impact development, monitoring and measuring procedures, objectives and targets, or training. The internal audit is a key piece of the EMS continual improvement process. Audits will be performed annually with the exception of years when Environmental Performance Assessment System audits occur.

Results of the audit will be briefed at the Senior Level Environmental Quality Control Committee meeting and will be used to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the program.

For questions about the upcoming audit, contact April Tull, 410-436-2902, or e-mail april.tull@us.army.mil.

Ordnance

From front page

Army Combined Arms Support Command, or CASCOM, level at Fort Lee, Va.

"The winners of this competition are the very best the Brigade has to offer and are among the best Soldiers in the Army," he said.

Because the brigade cased its colors May 17, indicating the final step in its relocation to the new Home of Ordnance at Fort Lee, only one of the Soldiers is currently stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The 61st Ordnance Brigade NCO of the Year is Aaron M. Greisinger, a company operations NCO with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade, Fort Lee, Va.

The 61st Ordnance Brigade Soldier of the Year is Sgt. Justin R. Bayliss of the 16th Ordnance Battalion, Fort Lee, Va.

The 61st Ordnance Brigade Platoon Sgt. of the Year is Staff Sgt. Gina R. Aceves, HHC 16th Ordnance Battalion, Fort Lee, Va.

The 61st Ordnance Brigade Retention NCO of the Year is Staff Sgt. Kevin N. Gray, the Battalion Retention NCO for the 143rd Ordnance Battalion in the Edgewood Area.

The winners received Savings Bonds from Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Army Commendation Medals and plaques from the



Staff Sgt. Kevin N. Gray

Commentary - Remembering operational security and the Korean War

By
JAMES LINT
CECOM CECOM G2/Intelligence
and Security

By 1950, five years had passed since the U.S. Army achieved victory during World War II. The Army had a major drawdown and cut troop units and staff. Most of the remaining junior personnel had not served in World War II nor did the draftees have actual combat experience. June 25, 1950 was a picture perfect summer day, the sun was shining, spirits were high and Americans were preparing for a big installation softball event. It was a great day to leave the office behind, enjoy life, and relish downtime even if you were stationed in Korea.

June 25 was a day for great operational security practices, and a busy day for unwitting others. Motor pools were emptied covertly and troops by the masses trudged south. The North Korean invasion of South Korea was just about to commence and lemonade was still being poured at the big Post softball event.

There was no warning, just complete surprise. The U.S. Army's focus was on softball. An Embassy Marine driving an orange painted jeep near the U.S. Embassy compound noticed a plane in the morning air flying lazy circles. He waved, and the North Korean Yak came in for a strafing run. The Marine barely survived, but the jeep was an early combat loss.

Even with the recent memories of 1941 Pearl Harbor still fresh in the minds of military and civilian personnel serving overseas, the obvious question was how yet another surprise attack could happen again. The better question is how this attack could have been prevented.



Photo courtesy of U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY
The American Soldier, 1950: A North Korean force of about 10 divisions invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950 and drove the South Korean Army to the south. Stunned by this deliberate Communist aggression, the free world turned to the United Nations. The U.N. Security Council demanded immediate cessation of host.

North Korea's use of intelligence and surveillance served them well in the attack of an organization not focused on operational security, or OPSEC, in all working conditions, to include fun. The need to observe and implement good OPSEC practices is evident, and could have saved lives.

Our lack of OPSEC practices and the North Korean's good use of OPSEC and intelligence information helped our enemies attack the U.S. military. Lesson learned? When we lower our guard and our OPSEC practices, we create and expose our vulnerabilities for our enemies to exploit. Protecting our country, our servicemen and women and their families begins with good OPSEC behaviors.

June 25 holds a special place in the hearts and minds of security and intelligence professionals. For us, we see an intelligence failure that cost lives. There were no indications

and no warnings presented to the command leadership that could have prevented the attack or at least allowed an evacuation of the area to save lives.

Then, there was little tracking because 'we were the victorious Army of World War II; who would dare attack us?' Security stood at a readiness level best described as, 'When we need to, we will upgrade to meet the threat.' People believed that when the time comes, we will be ready, so let's enjoy the day.

It is so easy to sit back 60 years later and see the errors in the ways of those professionals at the time. Even so, this assessment would do little to provide meaningful value to us today. Instead, I like to sit back and compare the intelligence and security operations of June 25, 1950 to today. We are better prepared. We have implemented a more robust and fine-tuned intelligence system.

However, first we must ensure that we maintain our focus and support the overall command mission. Through improved OPSEC behaviors and practices, we decrease opportunities for our enemies to exploit our perceived weaknesses.

As our military navigates its way through our present conflicts abroad, I challenge all of us to remember the valuable lessons of the past and move on with the new security requirements of daily life on the home front.

Bottom line: we must ensure we stay informed with the best intelligence information available and be vigilant concerning any security breaches, or imperfections. Minor security issues will most always exist; however, I charge our military communities to think of how we can improve our security practices. This is a group effort that requires each and every

one of us to adhere to OPSEC with saving lives in mind.

We are in the same military community, and serve the same country, the United States of America. If we see problems with the regulations, we have a responsibility to raise these issues through the chain of command and report it to Department of the Army Headquarters. We have to balance security, risk, and mission accomplishment. Too much security can hamper mission accomplishment, just as too little can destroy a mission and possibly cause loss of life.

Having served seven years in Korea, both active duty and as a civilian, I have had the opportunity to see the history through the eyes of the people who were there that day. The 50-year anniversary of the Korean War brought the veterans of 1950 back to Korea. My conversations with them and the U.S. Forces Korea Historian Office, highly energized me to be a good professional in the security realm of operations at the brigade and headquarters levels. At any level, good security practices are essential.

I ask that as June 25 approaches, you will reflect on where our security capabilities were 60 years ago compared to the technology and security and intelligence operations we engage in today. As you reflect, perhaps you may find where improvements can be made within your organization and its operations.

Be informed, be safe, be secure!

James Lint (U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army, Retired) is currently the G2 of CECOM LCMC at Aberdeen Proving Ground. He has 34 years of Military Intelligence experience, covering the USMC, U.S. Army, contractor, and civil service.

APG SCHOOL LIAISON

On-line programs available for military children and their classmates

The Military Impacted Schools Association, or MISA, along with leaders in education and formative assessment, have come together to ease the transition of military families and to provide resources to assist with the unique challenges for military children and their classmates as we prepare them for a global future.

Military children and their classmates now have access to SOAR (Student Online Achievement Resources). This on-line program provides students, parents and teachers the standards in all 50 states and DoD schools overseas. SOAR's focus is on math, reading, and language arts for students in grades 3 through 12.

It helps parents manage their children's education with cutting edge technology.

Students can take a test on any of the state learning standards, receive immediate feedback, and be directed to

a tutorial that will improve their skills, where needed.

Parents can monitor the progress of their child from anywhere in the world. In addition, parents are provided with resource materials that will assist their child in areas where they may need help.

SOAR is not a placement program. It is a program that can assist students, parents and teachers:

- Identify strengths and areas where students may need improvement
- Tailor instruction to address the specific needs of a student
- Provide remediation and enrichment resources
- Provide Families who are moving with a look at the state standards in their next school district

To begin the process go to www.soarathome.org. For more information about MISA visit www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org/misa/.

For more information on any APG school related topic, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857 or e-mail eileen.campbell@us.army.mil.



The Salsa Ensemble of the 248th Army Band, Puerto Rico National Guard performs for diners in the Southside Grill June 2. The band visited Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Conference of American Armies. From left, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Luis Santiago; Staff Sgt. Jose Nogueras; Sgt. Leonardo Ayala; Staff Sgt. Pedro Sanchez; Spc. Jose Ferrer; Sgt. Jorge Pabon; Staff Sgt. Carmelo Molina; Sgt. Luis Sepulveda; Staff Sgt. Luis Mercado and Staff Sgt. Jorge Ramos.

248th Army Band performs at Southside Grill during American Armies conference

Salsa Ensemble entertains during Summer Ball

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Diners at the Edgewood Area's Southside Grill had a hard time keeping their feet still, June 2, during a lunchtime performance by the Salsa Ensemble of the 248th Army Band from the Puerto Rico National Guard. The band visited Aberdeen May 31 to June 4 to perform during the Conference of American Armies hosted by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command. The band also entertained guests of the APG Summer Ball at Top of the Bay June 4.

Though RDECOM hosted the CAA conference, U.S. Army South, headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, serves as program manager for the CAA.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Luis Santiago, ensemble director, and Staff Sgt. Pedro Sanchez led the ensemble.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Luis Santiago dons a hat and sunglasses to lead a spicy Salsa song.



Felix Cruz, a logistician with the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command and Barbara Godbolt, a retired AAFES civilian and Army spouse 'cut the rug' in the Southside Grill to the music of the 248th Army Band, Salsa Ensemble.



From left, Yosira Martinez, a CECOM technical engineer, dances with Chief Warrant Officer 2 Luis Santiago and APG visitors Clemente Cortez and his wife Sandra salsa to the rhythm of the Puerto Rico National Guard's 248th Army Band.



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Tee times near for Military Long Drive Championship preliminaries

Story and photo by
TIM HIPPS
FMWRC Public Affairs

It's time for military golf's big hitters to head to the driving range and prepare for local qualifiers in the 2010 Military Long Drive Championship presented by 7UP.

Long-driving ability with a touch of accuracy will be tested on or near 21 military installations during first-round competitions, July 15 through Aug. 22. The full schedule of dates and times will be available soon at ArmyMWRGolf.com.

The Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation-backed competition is open to active-duty U.S. military and Family members 18 and older, including National Guard, Reserve and retirees from all services.

After a second round of competition, nine regional winners will advance to Mesquite, Nev., to challenge three-time Military Long drive champion Ensign Ryan Hixson of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Hixson has won all three editions of

the Military Long Drive Championship with blasts of 343, 389 and 367 yards in the final rounds.

The finals of the Military Long Drive Championship will be waged Nov. 3 on the same grid as the 2010 RE/MAX World Long Drive Championship powered by Dick's Sporting Goods – in a desert oasis resort town where the best in the business of tape-measure tee shots congregate annually to crown their champions.

The Military Long Drive champ will earn \$10,000 and an exemption into the 2011 RE/MAX World Long Drive Championship, which will result in another all-expenses-paid trip to Mesquite.

First-round competitions will be hosted by Aberdeen Proving Ground; Fort Lee and Fort Belvoir, Va.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Forts Bliss and Hood in Texas; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Naval Air



U.S. Coast Guard Ensign Ryan Hixson wins his third consecutive Military Long Drive Championship with a 335-yard drive on his final shot Oct. 28, 2009, at Mesquite, Nev.

Station North Island, Calif.; Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; Camp Zama, Japan; Wiesbaden, Germany; Yongsan, Korea;

and a location to be determined in Iraq. Competitors are welcome to travel to several qualifiers.

Activities/Events

New York City shopping trip

Leisure Travel will offer eight hours of shopping in New York City June 19. 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 e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil.

Birdie Cafe opens at Exton Golf Course

The Birdie Café is now open for the golf season at Exton Golf Course in the Edgewood Area. Patio or indoor seating is offered at the Exton Clubhouse. The café is open 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Menu options include grilled hot dogs, burgers, chili and pulled BBQ Chicken sandwiches, chips, snacks, and assorted beverages.

MWR Leisure Travel offers discount tickets to amusement parks

MWR Leisure Travel offers discount tickets to amusement parks in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia. Get discount tickets for Six Flags America, Six Flags Great Adventure, Dorney Park/Wild Water Kingdom, Dutch Wonderland, Hershey Park, Sesame Place, Busch Gardens, Kings Dominion, Colonial Williamsburg and more. Take advantage of the Atlantic City Daily Run for \$28 per person, roundtrip transportation included. Discount tickets are also available for the Baltimore Zoo, Luray Caverns, Va., Longwood Gardens,

Pa., Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, the National Aquarium, Regal Movie Theaters, Spirit Cruise in Washington, D.C. and more.

Prices are subject to change without notice. Gate prices may include tax and other applicable fees. Season passes are only available for a limited time; season passes are prepaid tickets, and should be ordered three weeks in advance.

For seasonal tickets and specials visit www.apgmwr.com. Prices are subject to change without notice.

For more information, call MWR Tickets and Leisure Travel Services, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

Firecracker Fun Run/Walk July 1

Celebrate Independence Day early during the 5K Firecracker Fun Run/2K Walk to be held 3 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center, building 3326, July 1. Registration is \$10 through June 25; \$15 through June 30; and \$20 July 1. All participants will receive an event t-shirt. Register online as www.apgmwr.com.

The event is open to all Department of Defense ID card holders: military, civilians, contractors, retirees, Family members and guests.

For more information call 410-278-7571/7479.

APG Running Club

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

dan.dolce@us.army.mil.

Army 10 Miler

Slots are available for runners interested in representing APG at the Army 10 Miler scheduled for Oct. 24 in Washington D.C. From the point of the Armed Forces Day 10K Run, the running club will begin serious training for the Army 10 Miler. The Sports and Fitness Branch will continue the process of recruiting competitive runners until the team is selected sometime prior to the deadline for team submission. Runners can compete for a spot on the APG Team during a 10K qualifying run July 17 at Hoyle Gym. Runners who qualify for the APG Team will be provided with an APG running uniform. There is no registration fee for team members. Those wishing to participate on TEAM APG should contact Dolce at 410-278-7933/7934 or MWR staff members in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center, building 3326; the Fitness Center, building 320; Hoyle Gym, building E4400; e-mail APG_Sports@apgr-mwr-sports@conus.army.mil; visit the MWR Web site at www.apgmwr.com.

Child, Youth and School Services summer program

The Aberdeen and Edgewood Summer Program will run for nine weeks, June 21 through Aug. 21, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The program is open to all qualifying children who have completed first through eighth grades. Parents can sign up for the weeks that fit their schedule.

Fees are based on total Family income.

Waiting list applications may be picked up daily at the Edgewood Area Youth Services, building E1902, or the Outreach Services, building 2752 or faxed to 410-278-4658.

Waiting list applications will not be

distributed or accepted at the Aberdeen Youth Services.

This year the Summer Program waiting list applications will also be available online at www.apgmwr.com under Child & Youth Services, Central Registration.

Registration will be held Saturday, April 17, at the Edgewood Youth Services and Saturday, May 1, at the Aberdeen Youth Services for all sponsors who have been offered openings by the Central Registration office. Registration packets, an up-to-date physical and Family income information must be completed prior to a registration appointment.

A \$20 non-refundable deposit is required per child at the time of registration for each week that a parent selects. There will be no registration fee or changes in fees.

For more information, call the Outreach Services Office, 410-278-7571/7479.

Leisure Travel Services available at EA Recreation Center

Limited services are available at Leisure Travel Services, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays, at the EA Recreation Center, building E-4140.

For more information, visit or call 410-436-2713.

For full services, visit or call the APG Leisure Travel Office located in the AA Recreation Center, 410-278-4011 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

Volunteer today

Explore a new career, develop new skills, network with other professionals and create opportunities. Army Community Service has many opportunities and needs support for its various programs.

For more information, call Army Community Service, 410-278-2453.

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.

Local Heroes Workshop

Have you ever dreamed what it would be like to be a fire fighter or policeman? Children ages 4 to 6 will get an inside scoop in this local heroes workshop, 9 to 11:30 a.m., from July 19 through 22, at the CYSS Administrative Building, 2522. Cost is \$45 per child. Children will read stories of bravery and courage and then use their imagination for an activity afterwards. They may even get to meet a real live local hero. Bring a nut free snack daily.

Twilight Teen workshop

Twilight fans ages 9 to 14 can join a workshop, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. from July 19 through 22. Take time to explore the wonders of the books and movies. Participants will make Team Edward or Team Jacob t-shirts, create a trivia game, get creative by writing alternate endings to the story and maybe even view one of the movies. Bring a white t-shirt and a lot of imagination and dive into this saga together. Every diehard Twilight fan should bring a nut-free snack daily.

Private Piano lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given for ages 4 to 18, 1 to 7 p.m., on Monday or Tuesday, June 21 through July 19, and July 26 through Aug. 16, at the AA Youth Center, building 2522.

Lessons cost \$68 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.

Pirate Clinic for Mateys

Arrgghh, mateys! Ages 4 to 6 can join a Pirate Clinic, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., from June 28 to July 1 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

Welcome to SKIES Unlimited pirate cove where all the pirates will gather for a brand new adventure. Pirates aboard our ship will make their very own feather swords, discover the many places pirates explored or searched for buried treasure and more. Cost is \$45 per person. There will be a pirate ship race at the conclusion of festivities. Yo Ho, Ho... It's a Pirate Cove for you. Every pirate should bring a nut-free snack daily.

Private Guitar Lessons

Private guitar lessons for ages 7 through 18 will be held 1 to 7 p.m., on Monday or Tuesday, June 21 through July 19 and July 26 through Aug. 16, at the AA Youth Center, building 2522.

No experience is necessary. Cost of the lessons is \$68 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for six weeks, once a week.

Students also are required to purchase books required for the course as recommended by the instructor.

Books are a onetime purchase. Students must also provide their own guitar.

Little Princess Workshop

Girls ages 4 to 6 will stretch their imaginations as well as their toes as they dance their way through a storybook collage of fairy tales. The Little Princess Workshop will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., June 21 to 24, at the Edgewood Area

Youth Center, building E1902. Children will explore elements of creative movement, modern ballet, tap, and jazz, and construct simple costumes and props in a daily craft activity. Look forward to an enchanting dance presentation for Family and friends. Clothing should include solid color leotard, pink tights, ballet slippers, tap shoes (or hard-soled shoes) or a favorite princess costume. Bring a snack and drink daily. Cost is \$45 per child.

Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at www.apgmwr.com.

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

June bowling specials

• Early bird special: Bowl 7 to 10 a.m. for \$1 per game. Shoe rental costs \$1.50.

• Dollar night: Each Friday, bowl 9:30 to 11 p.m., bowl for \$1 per game. Shoe rental costs \$1.

• Cosmic Saturdays: Each Saturday, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza and one pitcher of soda for \$32.

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 6 p.m., Saturday; and 1 to 6 p.m., Sunday.

Week of June 7

Special #1: Italian sausage with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.95.

Special #2: American hero sub with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.25.

Week of June 14

Special #1: Pork barbecue with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25

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

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





Army News

Army provides platform for strong stories Army Strong blog opens to the world

Story by
BRIAN LEPLLEY
Army Accessions Command PAO

The Army blog previously limited to Soldiers and civilian employees, www.Armystrongstories.com is now open to anyone who wants to tell an Army story.

Launched in January 2008 by the Army Accessions Command as a social media outreach effort, armystrongstories.com also has an updated look, easy-to-navigate layout, and greater integration with video and Facebook.

"Everyone connected to our Army is invited to visit ArmyStrongStories.com and share their story," said Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, Army Accessions commander. "Your experiences - as a spouse, parent, grandparent, child or friend of our men and women in uniform - are invaluable to all Army supporters. We're pleased to offer a program that brings these stories to life in an online platform that encourages conversation and participation."

As of the first week of May when the Web site relaunched, more than 160 Soldiers with backgrounds ranging from medical and human resources to legal and public affairs have written more than 860 blog posts.

One of those Soldiers is Staff Sgt. Genevieve Chase, a Reserve Soldier with the 301st Military Intelligence Battalion.

"Soldiers should join Army Strong Stories for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that the Army doesn't always



do the best job at telling its own story," she said. Online and in the media, the negative stories are always given a platform. Soldiers, every one of us, have some of the best stories to tell."

Born at Fort Campbell, Ky. and raised around and on military bases, Chase brings many perspectives to her blogging: NCO, Afghanistan deployment veteran, female, and active duty and Reserve service.

"Soldiers see things the aver-

age American never gets to see or experience. We've been places and done things that ninety-five percent of Americans will never do or see," Chase said. "We learn to not take our liberties, our freedoms, our Families, our lives for granted. Communicating that experience to Americans can help narrow the gap between what they don't know and what they should know about the military, Soldiers, and the world."

The service range of the armystrongstories.com contributors is wide. From Chase's 10 years, to Col. Thomas Palmatier at 32 years, to Pvt. Robin Davis, who joined the Army in 2009, the blog's voices are diverse.

"I was looking to write about my experience in joining the Army," Davis said. "I found a few Web sites and decided to sign up for this one (armystrongstories.com)."

The 20-year old from Sol-

dotna, Alaska, was not aware that the Web site was associated with the Army. His online writing experience did not begin on armystrongstories.com.

"I started blogging on a Facebook personality page I created," he said. "I was in advanced English classes in high school. I write when I am inspired to do so."

Davis said he appreciated that the Web site's intent was "To present the inside, unfiltered side of a Soldier's story."

Freakley said he realizes that open, honest communication on armystrongstories.com is a benefit for both the Army and American citizens. He encourages Soldiers to join the site in a video at www.armystrongstories.com/about-site/.

As the higher headquarters for U.S. Army Recruiting Command and U.S. Army Cadet Command, Accessions Command is made up of more than 18,400 Soldiers and civilians that have more direct contact with the American public than any other Army command.

"We anticipate this platform will contain topical, relevant and realistic discussions about issues and events facing our Soldiers and those influenced or impacted by their service to this nation," Freakley said.

See more at:

- www.armystrongstories.com
- www.armystrongstories.com/about-site/
- www.armystrongstories.com/blogger/robin-davis/

Portal to standardize Army branding

Story by
E. VANPOOL
Army News Service

The Army is making its branding tools available through a new portal, that went live June 7.

The U.S. Army Brand Portal will provide in one place Army brand elements such as Army logos, camouflage backgrounds, color palettes, typography, and released Army photography. The site will also provide guidelines on how to use those elements together to ensure consistent Army branding.

Soldiers, Army civilians, Army contractors, or commercial agencies who want to develop Army-themed signs, Web sites, posters, PowerPoint slides or advertising can visit the site first before embarking on their individual design efforts.

By visiting the site and getting the Army design elements and guidelines from the same place, they can ensure their use of Army branding is consistent with the Army's own designs - ensuring a strong "Army brand." The site provides instructions, even templates, so users can put together their own professional-looking Army-themed products that will be visually consistent with what others are making.

Today, said Robert Strahler of the Army Branding group, there are inconsistencies in how Army branding is being used - in the use of logos, and colors, for instance.

"Where they get the information and graphics from is different, for instance. So there's a need, from a real practical side, to put it all this in one place," he said.

The Army has spent considerable mon-

ey and effort to develop branding elements like the Army logo, the gold-framed star, use of universal camouflage pattern as a design element, or selection of the color schemes and typefaces that many now associate with the U.S. Army, Strahler said. Maintaining those associations in people's minds, and strengthening them, is central to Army brand development.

Strahler said when developing an Army-themed presentation slide, newspaper ad, or flyer for a unit function, for instance, using the same colors, typefaces and graphics as others might "seem like a small thing, in some cases it is a small thing, but once you start to allow your brand to become diluted - not controlled - where does it stop?"

Right now, Strahler said, the U.S. Army Brand Portal will focus on supporting accessions command - Army recruiting.

"If you're a recruiter on a college campus, a novice who knows a little about design, or a fairly skilled designer - everything on there will be of that professional quality that you can use to do an ad and put it in *Sports Illustrated*," he said. "We have a very robust user manual and there is going to be tutorials put on there as well, so you should be able to go on there and develop whatever you need."

The next version of the portal will include information for commercial agencies to license use of Army logos for commercial use. Also in the future could be the addition of video, audio and music elements to help standardize audio/visual presentations.

The new portal went live June 7 at usarmybrandportal.com.

Military compensation under review

Story by
LISA DANIEL
American Forces Press Service

Defense Department officials announced May 11 the start of the congressionally mandated 11th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation.

The review's focus, officials said, will be on combat pay, compensation for reserve-component service members, caregivers and survivors and pay incentives for critical career fields.

Thomas L. Bush, a recently retired senior executive who worked in the office of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness and as the principal director for manpower and personnel in the office of the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, was tapped to lead the review. He will report to Clifford Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The last review, released in two volumes in 2008, focused on housing allowance, retirement pay, Tricare health system premiums, pay incentives for health care professionals and quality of life.

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Jan D. "Denny" Eakle chaired the 10th review and said upon its release that the first question for any quadrennial review of compensation is whether military pay is comparable to that in the private sector. The second is whether military pay is adequate to maintain the force.

William J. Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel poli-

cy, testified April 28 before a Senate subcommittee that military pay is competing well against the private sector, as evidenced by the high rate of recruitment and retention.

Using regular military compensation - basic pay with housing and food allowances and federal tax advantages - as a comparison, military members are paid higher than 70 percent of their private-sector peers of similar education and experience, Carr told the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel subcommittee.

Carr also called specialty and incentive pays essential to maintaining the force, especially for special operations forces and people with medical, dentistry, mental health, aviation and nuclear backgrounds.

The 11th review, which will take about two years to complete, will focus on:

- Compensation for service performed in a combat zone, combat operation, or hostile fire area, or while exposed to a hostile fire event;
- Reserve and National Guard compensation and benefits for consistency with their current and planned utilization;
- Compensation benefits available to wounded warriors, caregivers, and survivors of fallen service members; and
- Pay incentives for critical career fields such as mental health professionals, linguists and translators, remotely piloted vehicle operators and special operations personnel.

Military pay competitive with private sector

Story by
LISA DANIEL
American Forces Press Service

Military compensation is competing well against the private sector, as evidenced by the high rate of recruitment and retention, a Defense Department official told a Senate subcommittee today.

Therefore, the department is focusing on targeted special pays and bonuses as an efficient means to give incentives for people to sign up for hard-to-fill and hard-to-retain specialties, William J. Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel policy, told the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel subcommittee.

A \$340 million investment in such pays could provide \$30,000 bonuses to more than 11,000 service members the military especially needs, Carr said, while the same amount would buy only a 0.5 percent across-the-board basic pay raise for

all service members. At the same time, however, it is important to ensure regular compensation remains competitive, he said, noting the department's request for a 1.4 percent across-the-board pay increase for next year.

Carr called specialty and incentive pays "essential," especially for special operations forces and people with medical, dental, mental health, aviation and nuclear skills. The services paid out \$6.4 billion in specialty pays last year, comprising 4.4 percent of the personnel budget. The department is requesting \$5.6 billion for 2011.

The decrease does not mean such targeted incentives are less important, Carr said. Rather, he explained, it reflects less need to use them during the slow economic recovery.

When recruiting and retention dropped in the strong job market of the late 1990s, Congress and Defense Department officials reacted quickly, Carr

said. Since 2002, pay has risen 42 percent, housing allowance has gone up by 83 percent, and the subsistence allowance has grown by 40 percent, he said, compared to a 32 percent rise in private-sector salaries.

Three outside military experts - Brenda Farrell of the Government Accountability Office, Carla Tighe Murray of the Congressional Budget Office and James Hosek of the RAND Corporation think tank's national security division - testified with Carr and agreed that the overall military compensation package compares well against the private sector, with some studies placing military compensation equal to or greater than 80 percent of their civilian counterparts.

Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, a former Navy secretary who chairs the subcommittee, said military pay has risen dramatically in the three decades of the all-volunteer force.

ACS dinner celebrates military spouses

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground military spouses and their Families were treated to a special beef and burgundy dinner in honor of military spouses at Top of the Bay May 21. The event was hosted by Army Community Service.

Celestine Beckett, ACS director, opened the event by welcoming guests and thanked the spouses for the everyday sacrifices they make for their country. Beckett also read President Barack Obama's 2010 Military Spouse Appreciation Day proclamation.

"At the heart of our armed forces, service members' spouses keep our military Families on track," Beckett read. "They balance Family life, military life and their careers, all while supporting other military Families and giving back to their communities. Many have served in uniform themselves and, understanding the obligations involved, can provide unparalleled support. They are pillars of strength in their Families, often celebrating their children's life milestones while the other parent is away."

"APG appreciates your unshakable commitment and support to our service men and women," Beckett said.

Garrison Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Morse, gave the invocation.

"We give thanks to military spouses wherever they may be," Morse said. "We praise you because you gave them the strength to be Army Strong."

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades led a toast to military spouses.

"You allow us to do our jobs, allow us to focus on our Soldiers," Rhoades said addressing the military spouses. "You are strength. You take care of our children, our community and our installation."

Angela Scarlato, from the Business Operations Division



From left: 1st Lt. Haven Tillar, 16th Ordnance Battalion, and Capt. Amber Tillar, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, dine with their daughter, Zailey Tillar, 2, during a special beef and burgundy dinner in honor of military spouses hosted by Army Community Services, at Top of the Bay May 21.

of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation read a proclamation signed by Daniel Craig, Harford County Executive, which declared May 21 to be Military Spouse Appreciation Day for Harford County.

Scarlato also asked attendees to write down why they appreciate their spouse. The responses, which were given anonymously, were read throughout the dinner.

At the end of the evening Picerne Military Housing gave each spouse a Spouse Appreciation bag containing a coffee mug, a Chick-Fil-A gift card, biscotti cookies, a hand sanitizer and notepad and pen set. Spouses also received a t-shirt and tote bag from ACS.

"We wanted to give something nice to show appreciation to our military spouses for all that they do," said Elizabeth Hinton, Picerne Military Housing program manager.

Tammie Lewis, a military spouse, said that she enjoyed the event, which allowed her to spend time with her Family and



From left: Marilyn Howard, Army Community Service, inspects a military spouse appreciation bag while Elizabeth Hinton, a representative from Picerne Military Housing, hands Courtney Thompson, a military spouse, a copy of the 2010 Military Spouse Appreciation Declaration by President Barack Obama.

meet other military spouses.

"It is nice to be appreciated," Lewis said. "Military spouses have to be strong for their spouse, so they can do their

job. They have great responsibilities and have to make sacrifices, but I wouldn't trade my life for the world. I love being a military spouse. Being part of

the military community is a way of life for my Family. It is wonderful that we as a community can come together and support each other."

'I appreciate my spouse....'

Attendees at the Army Community Service military spouse appreciation dinner held at the Top of the Bay, May 21 were asked to anonymously write down why they appreciate their spouse. Below are a few comments from attendees.

"For blessing me with my beautiful children."

"Because she has taken care of myself and children through good and bad times both during deployments and stabilization."

"Because even after a long day at work, he is still incredibly helpful at home...dishes and all."

"Because no matter how tired he is when he arrives home, he always makes time for me and the kids...and even helps do the dishes."

"Because he put up with me for 37 years. I'm grateful for the time together."

"Because she is the guiding light of my life."

"He works hard at work but never forgets spending good quality time with me in order to express himself and how much he loves me. I appreciate that he has good morals and never lies."

"He works hard all day, and then comes home and works some more (helping with kids, etc). Plus he's a Disney freak like me."

"No one knows me better and still loves me."

"For taking care of the Family and house when I am away. For adapting to a crazy work schedule and being so patient."

"She has made me who I am today... a stronger person. I love her."

"For being so caring, supportive and brave."

"For being dedicated to our Family."

"She watches out for my welfare and takes good care of me."

"Who copes with two teens and a geographical bachelor for four years."

"For putting up with the stress of my demanding job. For coping with the stress of maintaining our home and standing by my side."

"Because of his thoughtfulness and paying attention to what I and the Family needs."

"For loving me unconditionally."

"For always telling me that I am a great wife, mother and community member."

"His honor and service to our Country. Also, for being a wonderful husband and dad."

"Because she is an amazing wife and mother and I could not accomplish my duties as a Soldier without her."

"When after long days, he still does all the dishes, listens to me rant about something or other and he still manages to get my uniform ready for the next day."

"For being dedicated to his Family."

"Because he accepts me, flaws and all."

"My love, he has been my everything and always keeps me smiling even when hard times come."

"For being there - whenever, whatever, no questions asked; for her love, patience and understanding."

"He is loyal, loving and steadfast and allows me to be me, even when he doesn't agree with me."

"He is a wonderful husband and loving father to our children."

"He's always there for me."

"He does housework without having to be asked."

"I LOVE YOU!"

"I appreciate my spouse...yes I do."

"Without her, I am lost... 'nuff said."

"She is truly a 'super woman'. I have no worries or fears when I am away. She is a terrific mother and wife. She loves me and I love her back. Words can't describe how I feel about her."

"For the man he is, kind, thoughtful, loving & smart, giving, handsome & a wonderful father."

"He supports and loves his Family, in good and bad times. He's a wonderful husband, father and Soldier...and because he's HOT!"

"For the 21 years of unconditional support and understanding."

"Hard worker...awesome father... very diligent and determined."

"He helps people and loves me and serves our country"

"He cooks for us and supports me with the kids and all of the things, good and bad, life throws our way."

"She has made our children into two great young adults."

"Great sense of humor."

"She rarely gets mad (anymore) when I come home late from work."

"She has given of herself so that we can have a Family and allow me to do the best job for the army and the nation that I can. Thank You...I Love You."

"He is brave, he is kind, he is a leader, he is a Soldier, he is my friend and I love him."

"He's the epitome of Soldier. He does the unthinkable."

"When I refuse to share, she trusts me. When I want to quit, she encourages me. When I am pulled away she stays with me. She gave me my life, my Family and she loves me."

"For all she does for the Family & community, but most of all for her support to me as I answer the call to duty."

"For reminding me constantly that life will pass us by if we don't take time out for ourselves."

"Mike Bishop is a beautiful glamour-pus. I love you Mr. Spouse. Meow!"

"For taking care of me and my children."

"For continuous support for the military - providing our Soldiers with modernized equipment to help them in the battlefield."

"For caring, loving, and cherishing me more each day over the past 33 plus years."

She is the love of my life and my best friend of 23 years. She gave me a perfect son and raised him in my absence.

She loves me without question."

"For stepping back in his career to allow me to shine through my military career and for being the star in our daughter's eyes."

"Her extreme dedication towards our great country and dedication to our wonderful little girl."

"For caring, willing, loving, volunteering and supporting me, my career and the United States Army."

"For being the wonderful caring person that is always there to support me."

"For the amazing support and sustenance provided to me; making our home so enjoyable and peaceful, and loving me so deeply."

"For his unending support & encouragement toward my goals. He is the greatest blessing from God I have ever received."

"Because she keeps me focused on my mission, whether in Iraq or Afghanistan, my mission above all is to come home safely to her and my children [and] that keeps me focused on my mission wherever I am."

"For being my best friend. For managing the home front when I am away."

"She does so much, for so many, for so little, producing so much joy for others."

"Because he lets me be me, at my best and at my worst, and loves me still!"

"For dealing with the children and all they demand. She sacrifices her time for our time."

"She loves me and appreciates me and brings out the best in me."

"Because she centers my world."

"Because she is my rock, foundation, light, best friend, and mentor. Through thick and thin, sick and healthy, good and bad, she has been there. Thank you!"

"She is loyal to me and our children. She is warm and caring."

Story of achievement highlights Asian Pacific celebration

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The story of a rise from humble beginnings to become a leader in his field in one of the nation's most respected hospitals highlighted the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration at the Edgewood Area's Stark Recreation Center May 19.

Dr. Rehan Khan is the director of Orthopedic Rehabilitation at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He leads resident physician training in musculoskeletal disorders at Johns Hopkins and Good Samaritan hospitals in Baltimore. Khan shared his story of achievement during the program that included dance, self-defense demonstrations, music and artwork from Asian Pacific cultures.

Master Sgt. Michelle Davis, 20th Support Command equal opportunity advisor and Bernie Schech, chief of Civilian Personnel plans and policy, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, co-hosted the program.

"Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are truly a diverse group of people," Davis said. "Their heritage encompasses many different languages, religions and cultural traditions."

She said the Asian Pacific sub-ethnic groups include Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Vietnamese, Korean and Japanese Americans as well as those of national origins from Cambodia, Malaysia, Pakistan, India and Thailand including Guam, Samoa, Tahiti and New Zealand.

"On April twenty-ninth, President Barack Obama issued a proclamation calling on Americans to learn more about the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander," Davis added. "In answer to the president's call, we have done just that with today's event."

Schech dedicated the entertainment segment of the program to Liz Williams, a Guamanian dancer who with her mother Annie Rosario, regularly entertained during the annual celebration.

Williams died in from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Las Vegas the week before.

"I think it would mean a lot to their family that we dedicate the entertainment segment of our program to Liz," Schech said.

APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney J. Rhoades gave remarks and introduced the guest speaker on behalf of Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander.

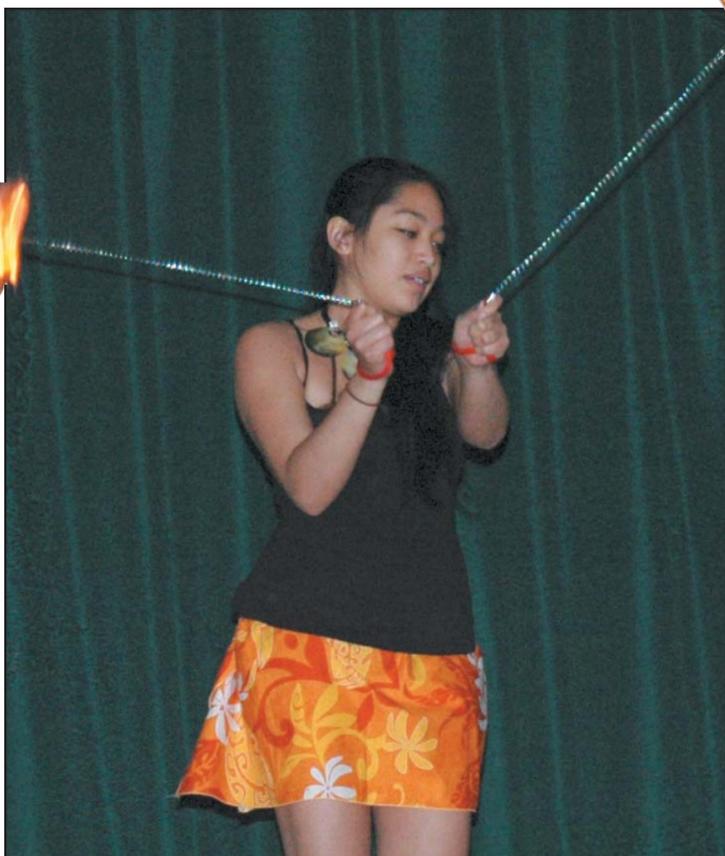
Commenting on the large gathering, Rhoades said he was pleased to see the amount of people who took time out of their day to, "come learn about different cultures."

"I love to sit back and experience life in a different way and I commend the group that put this together," Rhoades said. "It is awesome and amazing."

He introduced Khan as, "one who knows about muscles and bones," and he encouraged guests to "learn from his experience."

"We all should listen and be inspired by his story of achievement," he said.

After thanking the committee, Khan said he came to America from a small town in India for higher studies and research. He said that after graduating



DeLizzia Camacho, a college student who performs with a Polynesian dance organization, performs the dance of the Fire Poi Balls, a traditional dance of New Zealand during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month observance at the Edgewood Area Stark Recreation Center May 19.

from Eastern Michigan University, he decided to intern at Cook County Hospital in Chicago.

"People said it was the best place to learn and I wanted to learn everything," Khan said.

He said that although the work was tiring and seemingly never ending, he appreciated the experience.

"I saw things you never see in suburban hospitals," he said.

He said he eventually moved on to what was then the new field of Physical Medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

"Many of my colleagues never heard of it [physical medicine], but it seemed new and exciting to me," he said. "In a nutshell, this is the story of my life and it says a lot about this country," he added.

"What makes it great is that a person can come here from India to fulfill their dream. In a great nation, possibilities are endless, but you have to have passion. You have to set a goal and never forget it."

"I like the slogan, 'be all you can be.' In a nation where a person like Barack Hussein Obama can become president, anything is possible."

"Thank you for inviting me to this beautiful program."

Thanking Khan for his comments, Rhoades added that the U.S. Army is "the most diverse organization in the United States."

he said. "We worked together and exchanged ideas to deliver a message based on the theme, 'Diverse leadership for a diverse workforce.'"

Display winners

Faulcon, who won first place for her photo display, agreed.

"It was a great opportunity and a great learning experience," she said.

The second-place display winner was Capt. Amber Tillar, executive officer of Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion. Tillar said she could not pass up the chance to participate due to her Hawaiian roots.

"I just wanted to get involved because I'm proud of my heritage," she said.

Entertainment included music by the Island Breeze Guamanian Band.

In addition, Master Kwang Hyun Lee of the AAA U.S. Tae Kwon Do College in Abingdon led a Korean Sword demonstration that included a Nunchucks and board breaking demonstration by Dionisio Carter, a 10-year-old junior Black Belt; Bharatha Natyam dances by Sheetal Pauli, a student from the School of Indian Classical Dance; and Polynesian and Tahitian dances by Delizzia Comacho, Aly Tugaoen and her 7-year-old daughter, Noelani.

Program displays included Hawaiian artifacts by A.J. Tugaoen; a Mastery of Sword display by the Tae Kwon Do College and Doni Comacho graded coconuts for drink samplings at his Guamanian display.

"I think it went wonderful," said Davis, who credited Schech with assembling the entertainment and acquiring the guest speaker.

She thanked the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month committee members who along with she and Schech included 1st Sgt. Larry Tyson, APG Garrison; Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, RDECOM equal opportunity advisor; Sgt. 1st Class David Pickett, OMMS; Sgt. 1st Class Damon Pannell, Staff Sgt. Somsamayvong Bountieng, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense; Renu Kastogi and Uday Mehta, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center; Rofino Chrisostomo, CMA; Missy Uncango, U.S. Army Material Systems Analysis Agency; and Annie Tsai, U.S. Army Chemical-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center.

"It is a place where you can definitely be all you can be," he said.

"We can't help but be encouraged by a person who came to this great nation and was afforded the opportunity to achieve."

The program included award presentation to the winners of the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School's essay and display contests and concluded with a food tasting courtesy of the Sizzling Bombay restaurant in Bel Air. Chaplain (Maj.) Fred Townsend gave the invocation and benediction and Bridgette Smith of RDECOM sang the national anthem.

Essay winners

Karen Price, a training and development specialist with the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, won first place, and Gregory Jones, Northeast Region Central Resume Processing Center, came in second.

A retired Army major, Price said she likes to write and appreciated the learning experience on a subject she "didn't know much about."

"I chose to put into words thoughts that others may be inspired by," she said.

Jones said he collaborated with display winner and co-worker Erica Faulcon as a "shared learning project."

"It was a learning experience for us,"



The Ote'a Fakateretere, a Tahitian hula dance which traditionally consists of Tahitian headdress, brightly colored grass skirts and swirling hips, is performed by DeLizzia Camacho.



Doni Camacho of Guam demonstrates the way to grade coconuts for use in traditional foods and drinks of Asian Pacific islanders.

Memorial

From front page

Ortiz said that Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd President of the United States who served during the Civil War as a Brigadier General of Tenth Corps of the Army of the Cumberland stated, "I have never been able to think of the day as one of mourning; I have never quite been able to feel that half-masted flags were appropriate on Decoration Day. I have rather felt that the flag should be at the peak, because those whose dying we commemorate rejoiced in seeing it where their valor placed it. We honor them in a joyous, thankful, triumphant commemoration of what they did."

Ortiz said that the first Memorial Day observance was on May 5, 1866, when the village of Waterloo, N.Y. was decorated with flags at half mast, draped with evergreens and mourning black to praise the living Union veterans of the Civil War and to remember the patriotic dead. Veterans, civic societies and residents, led by Gen. John B. Murray, marched to the village cemeteries and placed flowers on the graves of those who gave their lives during the war.

Since that time, Decoration Day, as it was once known, has evolved to include remembrances for American veterans from both the North and South, from both World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Iraq, Afghanistan and every conflict in between.

"I challenge you to look inside your hearts to find the true meaning of the word 'memorial,'" he said. "What is a memorial but a fitting tribute intended to celebrate the memory and honor of a person?"

Ortiz said that on Memorial Day Americans should rejoice in the courage of Soldiers.

"Rejoice in the selfless actions of these brave men and women who thought themselves ordinary but rose to meet seemingly impossible expectations to keep hope and freedom alive. Not just in America, but throughout the world," he said. Rejoice in the hope that veterans have given the world for its future. For it is not as sad and hopeless people that we come together in remembrance, but as strong, determined, optimistic, free people that cherish the lives of our service members and look to the future and envision a better world."

After Ortiz spoke, Kluchinsky read a few words about the history of the cemetery.

He then received an Eagle Scout Award from Ortiz for leading the revitalization of the cemetery, to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

"He has done a lot of good work for us in the Edgewood Area," Ortiz said. "He researched the cemetery, he improved it, and it serves our community well."

Following Ortiz's remarks, the AMC Band played the National Anthem and memorial wreaths were placed at the entrance of the cemetery.

The program ended with the firing of a salute by Soldiers from the 143rd Ordnance Battalion. A lone bugler played TAPS followed by the benediction and a service medley by the AMC Band.

Participating groups included representatives of Knights of Columbus, St. Xavier Assembly; Knights of Columbus,



Photo by RACHEL PONDER

Veterans, scouts and supporters stand at attention during the annual Memorial Day ceremony held at the Edgewood Area cemetery, May 31.

Corpus Christi Council 6188, including the Auxiliary; Veterans of Foreign Wars Harford County Memorial Post 5337; Edgewood American Legion, Service Post 17, including the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion; Girl Scout Troop 4230, Abingdon; and Boy Scout Troop 810, Abingdon.

Several participants and guests commented on the significance of the annual observance.

Keith Sandlass, commander of the Sons of the American Legion, Service Post #17, said the group exists to support the American Legion and frequently participates in military services. Sandlass, whose father served in World War II, said that participating in military programs is a way to give back to those who dedicated their lives serving their country.

"This is how I can give back, by honoring the sacrifices that they made for our country," he said.

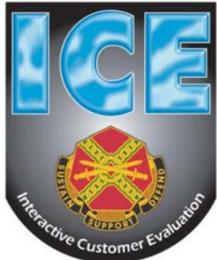
Sandlass said that Service Post #17 was destroyed by the winter storms that occurred this year and is currently accepting donations to restore the building. For more information, contact Sandlass at ksandlass@comcast.net or 410-937-3421.

Walt Scowden, scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop #810 said that members of his troop volunteered to participate in the ceremony.

"In general, Boy Scouts are very willing to do community service activities," said Scowden. "They want to do community service because it is the right thing to do. I am very proud that Jake completed a project that honored so many military members and their Families."

Robert Graulich, a Korean War veteran, commented that Memorial Day is much more than the unofficial start to the summer season.

"This was a wonderful service, I am glad to see that people still remember the reason for this day," Graulich said. "Memorial Day has a significant meaning, it must never be forgotten."



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