

Post Shorts

Picerno takes over recycling

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

For more information, contact the Picerno Neighborhood Office 410-305-1076.



RAB meeting topics have changed

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., March 25, at a new location: Aberdeen Senior Center, 7 Franklin Street, Aberdeen.

The new topics of the meeting will be an update on the O-Field, and Performance Based Contracts. Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited.

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

"The Predator in Your Home"

In commemoration of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Dateline NBC's Chris Hansen (To Catch a Predator) will visit APG, 9 a.m. to noon, April 22 at the Top of the Bay, Mezzanine Room. Hansen will speak on the growing problem of internet predators and child safety. This event is open to the entire APG community at no cost. RSVPs are required and can be made by contacting the ACS Family Advocacy Program at 410-278-7478.

Days of Remembrance April 14

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory will sponsor the Days of Remembrance observance, 10 a.m., April 14, at the Post Theater. The 2010 Days of Remembrance theme is "Stories of Freedom: What You Do Matters." Guest speaker will be Morris Rosen (Moniek Rozen).

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

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Spring brings more weather challenges

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
With a Directorate of Emergency Services vehicle close by, a driver sprays water in all directions while driving through a flooded portion of Boothby Hill Avenue during the Monday afternoon storm that knocked out power to most of Aberdeen Proving Ground March 22. Power was fully restored to the installation by shortly before 6 p.m. March 20, was the first day of Spring.

Maryland Adjutant General speaks at monthly AUSA meeting

Story and photo by RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The Adjutant General of Maryland spoke at the Top of the Bay March 16 for an Association of the United States Army luncheon.

Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins is responsible for the daily operations of the Maryland Military Department, which includes the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency and Maryland Defense Force.

As the adjutant general, he serves as a member of the governor's cabinet, and as the official channel of communication between the governor and the National Guard Bureau.

Adkins thanked the Aberdeen AUSA chapter for the support that it provides to Soldiers and their Families.

"This (support) is so very important during these most difficult times when our Army is being stretched like no other time in recent history," Adkins said.

Adkins remarked that Aberdeen Proving Ground is going through exciting times, with the growth that is associated with Base Realignment and Closure.

Adkins added that APG is important to the Maryland National Guard. The Freestate Challenge Academy, located on the Aberdeen Area, is a program run by the Maryland National Guard.

The mission of the Freestate Challenge Academy is to provide work skills and alternative learning opportunities for at-risk youth.

APG is also home of the Maj. Gen.



Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the Maryland Adjutant General speaks during an Aberdeen Chapter of the Association of the United States Army luncheon held at Top of the Bay March 16.

Warren Hodges Armory in the Edgewood Area, named after a former adjutant general. The armory is the headquarters of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, a Maryland National Guard unit.

"We have always had close ties with APG, and we want to continue those close ties in the future," he said.

Adkins said that future plans involve moving the Maryland National Guard's 70th Regiment to the Edgewood Area. The 70th Regiment conducts Officer Candidate School as well as other Military Occupational Specialty Qualification courses.

Adkins said that the Maryland National Guard has dual federal and state missions. The Maryland Military Department staff trains, equips and deploys its National Guard units in support of federal and state missions as directed by the President of the United States and the Governor of Maryland.

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Port to Fort 6K Run/Family Walk helps military Families with critically ill children

Story by RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The Believe in Tomorrow National Children's Foundation will hold the 14th Annual Port to Fort 6K Run/Family Walk on Sunday, April 25, at 9 a.m. in Baltimore, Md.

Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation provides hospital and respite housing as well as other supportive programs for Families with critical ill children.

Two of Believe in Tomorrow's respite facilities, the Believe in Tomorrow House on the Bay in Ocean City, Md., and the soon to open Believe in Tomorrow House at Pinnacle Falls, outside of Asheville, N.C., prioritize military Families with critically ill children.

"We hope that the respite care facilities enable Family members to restore their energy and reconnect so they can create joyful memories outside of a hospital," said Susan Murrow, director of communications.

Murrow encourages more involvement from the Aberdeen Proving Ground community. Participants can organize teams to participate the day of the race. Awards will be given for military, corporate and community teams.



Believe In Tomorrow Children's Foundation

"We want to attract as many service men and women as possible," Murrow said. "Participating in Believe in Tomorrow's Port to Fort 6K Run/Family Walk is a way that Soldiers can support Believe in Tomorrow's military initiative."

Murrow said that military Families often live far away from their hometowns and extended Families.

"They need all the support they can get," she said.

Stacy Williams, an APG employee and spouse of Sgt. 1st Class Michael Williams, 22d Chemical Battalion, said that her Family stayed at the Believe in Tomorrow House on the Bay twice when their son Carim was

See BELIEVE, page 5



AER 2010: Helping the Army take care of its own

www.aerhq.org

AER is a private nonprofit organization incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff. AER's sole mission is to help Soldiers and their Family members.

AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own." AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of soldiers.

AER funds are made available to commanders having AER Sections to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers - active and retired - and their Family members when there is a valid need.

AER funds made available to commanders are not limited and are constrained only by the requirement of valid need.

For these reasons, the AER assistance program is conducted within the Army structure by major commanders and their installation/organization commanders through AER sections and other related organizations.

AER questions and answers

Who is eligible?

- Soldiers on extended active duty and their Family members.
- Members of the Army National Guard and Reserve on continuous active duty for more than 30 days and their Family members. This applies to Soldiers on active duty for training and serving under various sections of title 10, United States Code.
- Soldiers retired from active duty because of longevity or physical disability, or retired upon reaching age 60 (Reserve Components) and their Family members.
- Widows, widowers and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after they retired.

What type of assistance is available?
AER provides help with emergency financial needs for:

- Food, rent or utilities
- Emergency transportation and vehicle repair
- Funeral expenses
- Medical/dental expenses
- Personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen

See AER, page 5

APG WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

celebrates

Director of CHRA motivated by mission, results

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Women's History Month 2010: Writing Women Back into History

The year 2010 is the 30th anniversary of the National Women's History Project. After a 1980 message by President Jimmy Carter declaring March 2 to 8 as National Women's History Week, Congress declared March National Women's History Month in 1987. In keeping with the 30th anniversary theme, "Writing Women Back into History," the APG News will profile the achievements of APG women in leadership positions – military and civilian – as well as various post-wide events marking the observance.

According to the National Women's History Project Web site, "National Women's History Month provides an opportunity to educate the public about the significant role of women in American history and contemporary society. This perspective can encourage girls and women to think larger and bolder, and can give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience."

The director of the Civilian Human Resources Agency is motivated by CHRA's mission of helping managers fill civilian ranks.

"It is a compelling mission," said Barbara Panther who has served as CHRA director for a year and a half, and is a member of the Senior Executive Service. "Our agency impacts the support from the generating force that Soldiers receive," Panther said.

As Director of CHRA, Panther is responsible for providing comprehensive civilian human resources services, advice, and support to commanders, directors, and employees at installations and activities throughout the Department of the Army. Panther manages operations in Headquarters CHRA and the seven CHRA regions in the United States and throughout the world.

In her 30-year career Panther has worked either as a government employee or contractor for five different federal agencies in addition to the Department of the Army, including the Departments of Labor, Commerce, Agriculture, Energy and Veterans Affairs.

Panther, who grew up in Minnesota and Pittsburgh, Pa., said that she did not envision a particular career path while she was pursuing a bachelor's degree in English literature at the University of Utah.

"I give credit to my sister, who is two years older than I," she said. "At the



time, she was in school studying geography. Her college department advised her to take the PACE exam (Professional and Administrative Career Examination) and she entered federal service in that fashion. She passed on the information to me. I took the PACE exam and based on the results from that exam I was offered an interview for a human resources job within the Department of Labor."

While working full-time as a federal employee, Panther continued her education by obtaining a Master in Public Administration degree from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Panther said that she had an informal mentor while she progressing in her career or "going through the ranks."

"This person guided me through the process of becoming a seasoned professional," she said. "She provided me with a lot of good advice on how to think about doing work and how to work with a variety of different individuals and how to elicit from them the information that I need. We are still friends to this day."

Panther said that she would recommend seeking out a mentor.

"I would recommend to anybody that if you find a person with whom you feel comfortable discussing your (job) challenges, get his or her advice," she said. "His or her purpose is to not to tell you what to do. He or she is going to give you advice and options on different ways you can approach problems and challenges. So even if there is no formal program, I would recommend that when those opportunities arise, take advantage of them."

Panther added that someone can have multiple mentors that excel in different areas.

"A formal program is great, but even if there is not one available, there is no reason why an individual employee shouldn't pursue and recognize when there is an informal opportunity and take advantage of it," she said.

Panther said that when she first became supervisor it was helpful to listen to the advice of her staff, especially those who had more experience than her in a particular area.

"When I became a supervisor, I managed people who had more experience than I did," Panther said. "It was an interesting experience. My approach was to respect that senior person and ask them how they arrived at a particular decision, sharing with them what I would have done and asking them what they knew. There was a good possibility that they knew something that I didn't know. That seemed to work well for me. It helped me create a respectful relationship. They knew that I did not think that I knew all the answers. My job (as supervisor) was to make sure that the work got done."

Panther said that she was fortunate in that she didn't receive opposition to being a woman in a leadership position.

"By the time I got into leadership positions, there were many women who had gone before me who paved the way. These women made our entry into the workforce and ability to progress possible," she said. "Particularly in human resources, there were many women in leadership positions."

Panther said that what she likes most about her current job position is that what CHRA does directly affects the generating force that supports Soldiers.

"We have an important mission," she said. "In supporting Soldiers, you can see how your job affects them. If we don't get the supply specialist job filled, that can impact whether the Soldier in the field gets the supplies that he or she needs. It is a compelling mission to me and I enjoy that quite a bit."

Panther added that CHRA receives large numbers of applications every day. In 2009, CHRA received 7 million applications.

"I like the challenging aspects of my job. Every time we turn around there are new projects, new assignments, sometimes they are quite unexpected," she said, "One of the biggest projects we are working on now is supporting the Army in its Base Realignment and Closure efforts. While we were working on this project, we got notice that we are converting out of NSPS (National Security Personnel System). It is exciting, a lot of

work. I enjoy the challenge of planning the activities, working with the CHRA regional directors, helping the staff frame how we are going to get the next project launched. That is very satisfying for me and intellectually challenging."

Panther recommends to those who wish to achieve leadership positions to focus on getting the job done.

"Being able to accomplish a task, being solutions oriented is what having a job is about," she said. "I also recommend to my staff that they need some variety in their careers. Although I have worked for almost my whole career in human resources, after [September 11, 2001], I worked in emergency preparedness. This was very valuable in the way I saw the world. Whenever you are in a leadership position, you need to be able to look beyond your immediate task or program, and think about second, third and fourth order of consequences and issues that need to be considered."

With leadership comes an awesome obligation, she added.

"A leader meddles in the very important business of other people's lives every single day," she said. "It is important to recognize that we are servant leaders. We have to take care of our staff members and give them what they need, hold them accountable. The second aspect of being a servant leader is it gives you a mindset that helps you avoid some of the pitfalls in the ethics area. We are working for our employees; we are working for the American public. It is their tax dollars that is paying for our programs, our salaries. We need to keep in mind that we are ultimately serving the American public and the Soldiers. We should not be presuming upon our positions for our own profit or benefit."

Panther said that her mother is one woman in her life that inspired her to do her best.

"I think about what my mother did. She was a wife, and raised four kids, worked full-time as a secretary in a hospital, drove us around to all of our activities, and still managed to keep a home making sure we were where we needed to be," she said. "I have often reflected at family get-togethers how she got all of that done. I have always really admired that, and I look up to her."

Panther added that anyone can be an inspiration to others.

"You don't need to be a head of state to inspire, you can certainly inspire by doing what you need to do, accomplish more, and be persistent in your goals and get it done," she said.

Senate resolution celebrates women in military

Story and photo by
ALEXANDRA HEMMERLY-BROWN
Army News Service

During the Joint Services Women's History Month Observance on Capitol Hill March 4, a Senate Resolution to recognize the accomplishments of women in the military was presented and accepted by a female wounded warrior.

Sgt. 1st Class Juanita Wilson, who lost her left arm in 2004 after an improvised explosive device hit her convoy in Iraq, accepted the resolution on behalf of "each and every woman that's served in the U.S. military." The resolution, introduced by Sen. Barbara Boxer of California was given in Wilson's honor.

"I wouldn't have thought that six years down the road, someone would be thinking about me," Wilson said of her surprise at being asked to accept the resolution.

Boxer's office said the sen-



Sen. Barbara Boxer of California, speaks during the Joint Services Women's History Month Observance on Capitol Hill Thursday, where she presented a Senate Resolution to recognize the accomplishments of women in the military.

ator introduced the resolution because she wanted to highlight the accomplishments, contributions, and sacrifices of women like Wilson in the military.

The resolution concludes with five points that the Senate pledges to uphold: to acknowledge the contributions of women in the military, celebrate the role women play, recognize

the unique challenges women face, to strengthen programs for women and to honor women veterans.

Present at the observance were female generals and flag officers from each service, along with Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Rep. Susan Davis of California, and event host Boxer, who participated in

a panel discussion about military women in leadership roles.

The panel members gave advice from their years of leadership and 'growing up' in a military they said is now more accepting of women among its ranks than it once was. Many spoke to the difficulty of balancing a successful career with a family, while others gave advice with a dose of jest.

Klobuchar, the first female senator elected in Minnesota, explained that women today generally set higher expectations for themselves than in the past.

She gave an example, saying that while playing with a friend, her young daughter said, "You can't have a baby until you run for office and win an election."

While a humorous misconception, her daughter's statement also made Klobuchar proud—she said her daughter saw her success as the norm.

Navy Rear Adm. Janice Hamby quipped that when dealing with men, the communication

breakdown is in their hearing.

"Men hear at a lower frequency than women ... speaking low and slowly is the key," Hamby joked.

Boxer spoke of losing her first election in 1972 after her competitor advised her to drop out because she was a woman.

"I will always remember that first election, because people doubted my abilities simply because of my gender," Boxer said. "That made me want to work that much harder to prove them wrong."

She said that many of the successful women in the military have had to fight at one point for where they are today, but that struggle makes a person stronger and tougher, and spurs them to help the next generation.

A hot topic regarding women in the military is women's roles on the front lines in a war zone. Davis said every three years Congress addresses the issue of women in combat, and they are scheduled to later this year.

APG News

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

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ECBC, RDECOM employees connect with Warfighters

Story by
ROGER A. TEEL
RDECOM

Two Edgewood Chemical Biological Center employees led an inspired collection effort called Treats for Troops that resulted in 68 comfort packages being mailed March 22 to 44 individual servicemen and women in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We know how important it is for Soldier's to get boxes from home," said Terry Gustafson and Sue Procell, both speaking from experience. "It's also really important for people working here to remember that we're working for the Soldier; that we support the Warfighter."

"My son, Marine Cpl. Matthew Procell, just came back from Afghanistan," Procell said. "For me, I like working where I'm serving the Soldier, where I'm helping the Soldier. My son being there made me more aware of how hard it is for them and how much receiving a package with some treats means to them."

Gustafson's son-in-law, Army Sgt. Scott Davis, deploys in May for a second tour in Afghanistan.

"When he was there, I'd find out what he wanted through my daughter and send him packages. When he returned I ask him if I sent the right things. He told me, "Everything you sent was great, but it doesn't really matter what you send. What was really important is knowing that someone was thinking of me."

Inspired by their personal experiences, Gustafson and Procell organized a collection of snack, entertainment and hygiene items, doing so in a way that linked members of ECBC with deployed Army Warfighters. After garnering command support and clearing all legal hurdles, Procell and Gustafson lined up a group of people who were willing to collect donations and then drafted a message to the workforce along with a list of items suitable for shipment.

"The idea was to send boxes to Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Sailors in Iraq and Afghanistan who are the friends and Family members of ECBC personnel," Gustafson said. "The effort quickly expanded to the Research, Development and Engineering Command headquarters, and that was great because we got a lot more contributions and names."

"We have a daughter, we have a couple of sons, we have a brother-in-law, we have several cousins, a whole lot of friends and we have a grandson - all connected to ECBC and RDECOM headquarters in some way."

"One of our employees used to be with the [22d] Chemical Battalion and knew some of them who were deployed. We got their addresses, too," Procell added.

Once donations started coming in, Procell and Gustafson targeted shipping day.

"Terry also had the idea of inviting Family members to pack their Soldier's box. So at lunch time over the course of a couple weeks, mom or dad came and packed their kid's box," Procell said.

They included a letter in each box to explain to the Soldier why they were receiving the treats.

"We explained that they're our customer and yet most of us don't interact with Soldiers on a daily basis. This way we can reach out and touch a Soldier, connect with one. In the letter, we would say, "Your mom gave us your address..." so they would understand how they got linked with us and why they received the box."

"The boxes were tightly packed," Procell said. No space was left because it was [\$11.95] to ship each one, more than [\$800] for all 68 boxes.

"I typed all those names twice on the mailing labels and on the customs forms," Gustafson said of the last-minute rush. "I signed [272] customs



Photo by MIKE BARNETTE

Terry Gustafson and Sue Procell push the first of 68 comfort boxes, called Treats for Troops, to a loading dock to be picked up by U.S. Mail handlers. Jerry Starnes, left, helps get the boxes on their way to Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan who have a personal connection with members of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, or the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort).

forms. As I was packing boxes I found myself walking around the piles of donations talking to these Soldiers, saying, "Hey Ryan, do you like this kind of oatmeal or do you like this kind?"

"It was fun. I don't know these people but it felt like I did. And sometimes I felt like I was getting a message from them about what kind of cookies they liked. So that was fun."

"In addition to contributing more than 700 pounds of items to be shipped, people were real-

ly, really generous in donating for the postage," Gustafson continued. "The first day one of the ECBC employees came in my office and handed me \$60. The response by the workforce was overwhelming."

"We didn't know until the very end how many boxes we'd have. At one point we were about [\$150] in the hole. The last day someone gave us a twenty-dollar bill and that just topped it off, exactly the amount we needed."

Procell and Gustafson agree

that the project brought personal satisfaction from doing something meaningful for a small number of troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"My hope," said Gustafson, "is that many of the people who supported this effort will also feel good about it and will continue to support the troops by adopting a Soldier through a website such as anysoldier.com or anymarine.com. As for me, I'll soon be packing and shipping boxes to my son-in-law again."

Community Notes

THURSDAY

MARCH 25 USAF SATELLITE JAZZ ENSEMBLE CONCERT

The Havre de Grace Arts Commission and Recreation Committee will present a free concert, 7 p.m., by the USAF Satellite Jazz Ensemble. The Jazz Ensemble will bring the big band sound to the Havre de Grace Activity Center located on 351 Lewis Lane, Havre de Grace. The concert is open to the public. For more information, call 410-939-5121.

SATURDAY

MARCH 27 BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

The Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44, Nelson J. Briggs Demolay Chapter located on 136 East Gordon Street, Bel Air, will hold Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, 8 to 11 a.m. Photos taken with the Easter Bunny cost \$6 each and include card for mailing. Breakfast costs \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. Menu includes cereal, milk, juice, eggs, sausage, pancakes and coffee. Door prizes will be available. Proceeds will benefit muscular dystrophy. The Child Identification Program will be available at no cost.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-420-1001.

BEEF AND SHRIMP

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will serve Beef and Shrimp, 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 per person and include draft beer and musical entertainment provided by the Harmonizers who will perform music of the 50's and 60's.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-642-2771.

SPRING SUNRISE KAYAK

Help kick off our much anticipated boating season with a paddle on Otter Point Creek. The sun will have slipped above the horizon, the water should be calm, and the natural world will be tuning up. This program will be held 7 to 9:30 a.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

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

CRITTER DINNER TIME

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

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

I SPY SPRING HIKE

Come play the "I Spy..." game while searching outside and around the center for Spring. Everyone wins. This program will be held noon to 1 p.m. for ages 6 to 10. The cost is \$2 per person. Registration is required.

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

WOOD DUCK CANOE TRIP

Explore the wooded marsh on the first canoe trip of the season to welcome back the wood ducks. Dress warmly and bring binoculars. This program will be held 4 to 7 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

MARCH 28 SPRING TIME IN TUSCANY FUNDRAISER

Family and Children's Services will host its fifth Annual Spring Time in Tuscany wine tasting fundraiser, 2 to 5 p.m., at the Residents' Club at 1200 Bulle Rock Parkway, Havre de Grace. The event will feature wine tastings from a variety of local vineyards, heavy hors d'oeuvres and dessert buffet, jazz music and a raffle board. Tickets cost \$55 per person.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Family and Children's Services at 410-838-9000, extension 221.

NATURAL EGG DYEING

Let's go hunt for eggs in the "wild" and then return to the center to use natural materials to color and decorate eggs. Bring a dozen boiled eggs and wear clothes that can get colorful. This program will be held 1 to 2:30 p.m. for all ages. Ages 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$2 per person or \$5 per family.

Registration is required.

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

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 31 DEADLINE FOR CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART AWARDS

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is sponsor of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Awards. Entries must be submitted to the Ladies Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman by March 31. Students in grades 9 through 12 and home-schooled students who attend school in the same state as the sponsoring Ladies Auxiliary are eligible to participate.

Rules: Art must be on paper or canvas. Water color, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen-and-ink or oil may be used. Digital art may be used but must be on paper or canvas. No discs will be accepted. When submitting computer/digital art, be aware that all images need to be original, i.e., do not scan in or otherwise use photographs or art created by others. Do not frame.

For more information or for a complete list of rules, visit <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.org/html/resources.html> and click on Young American Creative Patriotic Art Brochure.

WEDNESDAYS

MARCH 31 THRU MAY 5 NATURE'S PLAYGROUP

Little ones and parents play and learn in the natural world. Stories, songs, simple crafts and discovery outings will highlight each day's theme. Topics vary weekly. This program will be held for Session I from 9 to 10 a.m. or Session II from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. (choose one session) for ages 0 to 4. The cost is \$30 per child. Registration is required.

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

SATURDAY

APRIL 3 CLOTHES GIVE AWAY

St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will give away clothes on the first and third Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be held on the lower level of the church parsonage at 742 Otsego Street, Havre de Grace.

For more information, call Pattie Ford, 410-939-2267.

TEXAS HOLD'EM

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will host a day of Texas Hold'em. The first game starts 1 p.m., the second game starts 6 p.m. Register by noon and 5 p.m. with a \$50 buy in. First come, first served. There will be side tables. Sandwiches and light fare will be available.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

EGG HUNT PONTOON

Hunt for bird, fish, insect, and amphibian eggs and welcome the spring season of new life on the estuary. Bring a small basket for each child. This program will be held 10 to 11:30 a.m. for 30 lbs. through adult. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$5 per child. Registration is required.

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

GONETO THE DOGS

Come on a fun hike at Anita Leight with the dog. Four-legged friends must be on a leash, licensed and friendly to other dogs. Don't have a dog but thinking of adopting? The Harford County Humane Society will have dogs to meet and greet. Be sure to browse local dog gear vendor exhibits. This free program will be held 1 to 3 p.m. for Families. 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 - EGGHEADS AND PETER RABBIT GARDEN

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 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.

SWAN HARBOR SINGING FROG HIKE

Come to Swan Harbor for an evening hike to listen to the music of frogs. Wear boots and bring a flashlight. Pond nets or collecting jars will be helpful. Participants will get wet! This program is rain or shine and will be held 8 to 9:30 p.m. for ages 6 through adult. The cost is \$3 per person or \$5 per Family. Registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

APRIL 4 SUNDAY BREAKFAST AT VFW POST 5337

VFW Post 5337 located on 3705 Pulaski Highway, Abingdon, will hold Sunday Breakfast 8 to 11 a.m. Breakfast costs \$6 per person.

TUESDAY

APRIL 6 HOOKED ON FISHING, NOT ON DURGS YOUTH FISHING CLINIC

Learn how to rig the fishing rod, bait a hook, casting techniques, fishing regulations and ethics; everything needed to get started enjoying a lifetime sport. All equipment supplied. This free program will be held 10 a.m. to noon for ages 8 to 15. Registration is required.

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

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

POST SHORTS

Registration open for Operation Purple

The National Military Family Association is now accepting applications for Operation Purple. Operation Purple is a free summer camp program for military children of all ranks and services. The goal of the Operation Purple camp program is to give military children tools to help deal with the stress that results from a parent's deployment, through a memorable camp experience in a "purple" environment.

The dates and locations for camp sessions held in Maryland are as follows: Chestertown, Aug. 15 to 19 for ages 8 to 13; North East, July 18 to 23 and July 25 to 30, both sessions for ages 7 to 17.

Go to www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/ to register and for more information.

Please direct questions regarding the Operation Purple program to OPC@militaryfamily.org.

Military ID Section closed March 30

The APG Military Personnel Office, Identification Section will be closed March 30 for mandated training. Closure will affect the issuance of Common Access Cards, Army Civilian Identification Cards (DA Form 1602), Military Dependent Identification Cards, Military and Government Civilian Retiree Cards and the updating of the DEERS/RAPIDS database. The Identification Section will return to full operations at 8 a.m. on March 31.

Customers that have military identification material expiring March 30 should make an appointment now for reissuance of the Common Access Cards through the CAC online scheduler or call 410-306-2404 for an appointment. DA Civilian Identification Card holders should call 410-306-2328 to make

their appointment and military sponsors should bring their Family members in for reissuance of dependent and retiree identification material prior to the close of business March 29. Individuals requiring DoD identification material service March 30 may contact the Air National Guard, 175th Wing, 410-918-6204 or the Maryland National Guard Headquarters, 410-702-9050, for assistance.

This closure will not affect CAC pin reset operations which will continue to be provided 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30. For more information call the DHR, Military Personnel Officer Tom Shumate, 410-306-2303.

Harford Gate and Wise Road Gate hours change

The Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area will be open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the Wise Road Gate in the Edgewood Area will be open from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. The Harford and Wise Road gates will remain closed weekends and holidays.

The Maryland Boulevard Gate (Route 715) in the Aberdeen Area and the Route 24 Gate in the Edgewood Area will remain operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Magnolia Gate will also continue to be open from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., weekdays for outbound traffic only.

Basic Boating Classes

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

The course will feature instruction on essential topics of boating to include

navigational rules, safety equipment and boat handling along with lessons on essential knot tying and nautical history. Graduates will receive a State of Maryland certification.

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

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

For more information and registration, call Army Fox, 410-287-8863, or e-mail captainsly@comcast.net.

APG hosts Earth Day events

Aberdeen Proving Ground will host a series of events to honor Earth Day on April 16.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, an annual event meant to draw recognition to environmental issues and appreciation for the earth and the natural environment.

Events will be held throughout Harford County and the State of Maryland to commemorate Earth Day, including clean-up of local woods, parks and waterways, and tree and flower plantings.

An Earth Day poster contest was held for grades pre-K through 12 with posters submitted to North Harford High School. Visit <http://mdchem.org/earth-day-poster-contest-for-more-information>.

APG's April 16 Earth Day will be held 9 a.m. at the Top of the Bay. Events include a recognition ceremony for the Earth Day poster contest winners and awards presentations.

Everyone is encouraged to take part in additional activities to include a viewing of the poster submissions, an APG Eagle Program display, a visit from Woodsie the Owl, six different hands-

on Earth Day science activities, native Maryland tree seedling give-aways and vegetable seed plantings at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

UMBC Training Centers are granted GI Bill Eligibility

University of Maryland Baltimore County Training Centers have been approved for GI Bill eligibility, enabling veteran students to receive tuition reimbursement via the Montgomery GI Bill. For a full listing of eligible programs, visit: www.umbc.edu/trainctr/admissions/financial.html.

For more information, call Nick Driver at 443-543-5413.

CAC Appointment Scheduler

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

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

Customers can access the CAC renewal appointment scheduler through the APG Web site - www.apg.army.mil/AKOSSOprompt/cacrenewal.cfm.

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

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

AER

From front page

• Give undergraduate-level education scholarships, based primarily on financial need, to children of soldiers

AER does not provide funds:

- For nonessentials
- To finance ordinary leave or vacation
- To pay fines or legal expenses
- to liquidate or consolidate debt
- For purchase of home or home improvements
- To purchase, rent or lease vehicle
- To cover bad checks or pay credit card bills

Can my spouse obtain AER assistance if I am deployed or TDY?

Yes. Your spouse should bring the

following to the AER Section:

- Power of Attorney
- Military ID Card
- Substantiating documents such as car repair estimate

What kind of assistance can I expect?

- You can expect to receive:
- An interest-free loan
 - A grant if repayment of loan will cause undue hardship
 - Or part loan and part grant

For more information about AER services or to make a donation, contact a unit representative or AER campaign coordinators Maj. Matt Petraitis, 410-278-2104, mathieu.petraitis@us.army.mil; Capt. Ginger Hammerquist, 410-436-4432, ginger.hammerquist@us.army.mil; AER officer Marge Fissel in building 2754, 410-278-2508, marge.fissel@us.army.mil; or visit www.aer-hq.org;

Believe

From front page

sick with leukemia.

The House on the Bay, which is located within walking distance from the beach and boardwalk, features condominium units that allow for close Family interaction in addition to the chance to meet and gain support from other Families in similar situations.

"It gave us a chance to get away and to talk to other parents that are going through the same thing," she said. "We were able to just relax and have a good time. It lifted our spirits."

Williams added that while her Family was staying at the House on the Bay many activities were provided for the Families for free.

"Carim has been in remission for a

year," Williams said. "My Family plans to volunteer the day of the race as a way to give back to Believe in Tomorrow."

For more information, and to register for the Port to Fort 6K Run/Family Walk go to www.believeintorrorrow.org.

Prior to race day the cost to register is \$25 for the general public, \$15 for active duty military and students. The cost the day of the event is \$30.

The race will start at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Highway (Inner Harbor South). The 3.72 mile course winds through one of the most historic areas of the city, including the birthplace of the United States anthem, and ends at the Baltimore Museum of Industry.

This year, participants can also support Believe in Tomorrow by using the "Virtual Run" option found on Believe in Tomorrow's Web site, www.believeintorrorrow.org. This option is for those who are not able to attend the race.

tinued support of the nation's Soldiers and their Families.

"This generation of Soldiers stands as tall as any generation that has gone before them," he said. "I am extremely proud of them."

The AUSA Aberdeen Chapter meets monthly to listen to guest speakers, discuss business, and recognize outstanding community members. The AUSA chapter has grown to more than 475 members and has been nationally recognized as the best all-around chapter in the nation. The chapter supports Soldiers, Army civilians and the APG community through fundraisers, scholarships and informational meetings.

Mary Jane Jernigan, chapter president, said that having Adkins as the guest speaker was a privilege.

"Bringing Maryland's Military Department into our program adds another whole dimension to the AUSA support," she said.

"Our AUSA chapter will work with Brig. Gen. Adkins and Maryland's military to better provide stronger support to APG."

Maryland

From front page

In the federal role, the Maryland National Guard has mobilized and deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Kosovo, Peru, Haiti and several critical civilian and military facilities in the continental United States under Operation Enduring Freedom.

Adkins said that the Maryland National Guard also responds to emergency situations in the state. Recently, approximately 700 members of the Maryland National Guard served the citizens of Maryland during the record-breaking snowstorms in February.

"We had a great opportunity to serve the citizens of Maryland, this is important to us," he said. "We are unique in our responsibility to not only serve the President of the United States but to also serve the Governor of Maryland and the people of Maryland. This is extremely rewarding to our Soldiers."

Adkins concluded by asking for con-

AAFES NEWS

Varying levels of Exchange support available to entire military community

AAFES

Bring a contractor, Family member, Department of Defense civilian or other visitor into the Aberdeen Main Store and the first words out of their mouth typically are, "who can shop the exchange?"

While authorizations governing who can buy merchandise and services at the PX often apply to a chosen few, the doors to AAFES' fast food and convenience stores, including

the Burger King, building 2330; Anthony's Pizza, building 2401 and Subway, building 2514 are open to virtually anyone looking for a quick bite to eat.

In fact, DoD policy allows all federal government employees, and even installation visitors, to dine at AAFES restaurants as long as their orders are consumed on the installation. Furthermore, anyone can purchase single-serve consumables from a Shoppette, an option that is

especially valuable late at night considering the shoppette is open until 9 p.m.

"Snack Avenue inside most AAFES Shoppettes offers a robust selection of single-serve consumables," said main store manager, Debbie Armendariz. "Candy bars, soft drinks and even hot dogs can be picked up by just about anyone with business on the installation."

Exchange service authorization begins with the House

Armed Services Committee and ultimately ends with the Aberdeen Proving Ground commander. The guidelines, as prescribed by Army Regulation 215-8/Air Force Instruction 34-211 (I) and the Armed Services Exchange Regulations, Department of Defense Instruction 1330.21, require proper identification of authorized customers, including uniformed personnel and members of the Reserve Components and Family members, applicable

DoD civilians, exchange associates, retirees and their Family Members who possess a basic exchange purchase privilege authorization card.

Anyone who believes they may qualify for exchange benefits, including access to the main PX, can contact Armendariz at 410-272-6828 for additional guidance as well as information regarding possible exceptions at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Survey Says APG Shoppettes Drive for Value at the Pump

AAFES

According to a recent Short-Term Energy Outlook report from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, "the annual average regular-grade retail gasoline price will increase from \$2.35 per gallon in 2009 to \$2.84 in 2010."

Forecasts of increasing energy prices has exchange officials reaching out to drivers to ensure they are aware of the procedures in place to determine pump prices at Aberdeen Proving Ground as well as the benefits available to authorized exchange patrons.

While overall energy prices are beyond the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's control, their Military Star® Card, for example, can help curb added expenses and, in turn, save service members money when filling up.

"Anytime a customer uses a bank issued debit or credit card, the retailer pays a portion of the transaction to a third-party financial institution," said the PX Manager, Debbie Armendariz. "Because the Military Star® Card is administered by the Exchange Credit Program, our Shoppettes are not subject to the additional fees incurred through other 'pay at the pump' options. As a result, we're able to pass savings on to authorized exchange shoppers by taking a nickel off each gallon dispensed."

In addition to the five cents a gallon savings Military Star® Card holders enjoy every day, APG Shoppettes periodically also offer steeper discounts, up to 20 cents a gallon.

Beyond exclusive discounts, AAFES Shoppettes rely on a survey process to ensure prices are fair and competitive with the local community.

Specifically, AAFES conducts daily

surveys of at least five locations selling motor fuel, deemed by the local general manager to be the competition. Pump prices are then set equal to the lowest price surveyed for each grade of fuel available.

"Because market-based pricing is not contingent on cost, we survey and change prices as frequently as necessary to remain competitive," said Armendariz. "In fact, even though AAFES is responsible for charging sales tax on gasoline, the surveys can result in prices that are actually even below cost."

Charging sales tax on fuel can raise the eyebrows of shoppers used to the tax-free benefit that the exchange provides on almost everything, except gas.

While it is true that AAFES, as a U.S. government instrumentality, is immune from state and local taxes, the immunity specific to fuel has been waived by Congress (Hayden Cartwright Act, 4 U.S.C. 104). AAFES, and by extension its customers, also pay federal tax pursuant the U.S. code that covers Federal Tax on gasoline (26 U.S.C. § 4081(a)).

Accordingly, AAFES pump prices include state, federal and local motor fuel taxes, as well as underground storage fees, etc. The federal and state taxes, as well as other applicable fees, are included in the price and paid to the appropriate taxing authority.

"Gas pricing is a very complex issue, impacted by world markets, political and economic factors," said Armendariz. "With that said, we remain focused on delivering the best value possible to drivers at APG."

For more information about the Military Star® Card fuel discount, visit the PX at building 2401 or log on to www.aafes.com and click the Military Star® Card icon.

Checks Go High-Tech at AAFES

AAFES

The check "float" at the BX/PX is going the way of rotary phones and dot matrix printers as the Army & Air Force Exchange Service converts to a paper check conversion (PCC) system this year.

"PCC scans and instantly converts paper checks into electronic debits to the check writer's account," said Chief Financial Officer Harold Lavender. "This

technology has been operational in contingency locations for roughly ten years now and commercial industry for about five; it's an extremely efficient system."

Rollout of the PCC program began in AAFES CONUS locations on March 7 and will be totally implemented in all facilities by June 6. Concurrent rollouts of Pacific and European exchanges will begin early April with complete implementation by June 6.

Ka-pow! Free Marvel Comics Flying onto Exchange Shelves

AAFES

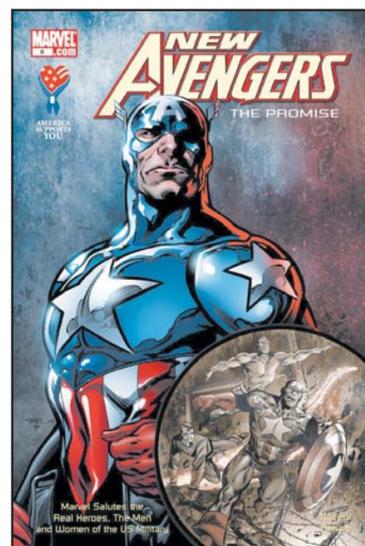
Captain America is coming to BXs and PXs to deliver on a promise made to a World War II Soldier in a new Marvel comic book www.flickr.com/photos/aafespa/4307277950 that takes readers from occupied France to the front lines of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Other superheroes joining "Cap" in "The Promise" by Paul Tobin include sidekick Bucky, the Human Torch, Sub Mariner and Miss America.

"The Promise" is now available at BXs and PXs around the world, including facilities throughout Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom," said the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Chief of Staff Col. Virgil Williams.

Available for the asking, The Promise is the eighth free Marvel Comic offered exclusively through AAFES locations since the partnership between the Department of Defense's oldest and largest exchange service began in April, 2005.

"Frankly, the project started as a way to provide a taste of home and a bit of escapism to troops serving overseas," said Williams. "We were a little surprised at how quickly the popularity of the comic books went beyond the front lines as collectors and troops' Family members expressed great interest."



www.flickr.com/photos/aafespa/4307277950
The Promise is the eighth free Marvel Comic offered exclusively through Army & Air Force Exchange Service locations since the partnership between the Department of Defense's oldest and largest exchange service began in April, 2005.

Authorized exchange shoppers can contact their nearest BX or PX to confirm availability. Contact information for AAFES operations is available through the "Store Locator" link at www.aafes.com.

AAFES to award slam dunk of a trip

AAFES

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Coca-Cola are teaming up to offer exchange shoppers a shot at a fantastic free collegiate weekend of a lifetime.

Two grand prize winners will each receive a trip for two to their favorite college town, deluxe hotel accommodations for two nights, airfare and transportation as well as \$500 in spending cash as part of the "Coke NCAA Sweepstakes." Additionally, one winner per store will win an indoor basketball goal as part of the military exclusive giveaway.

"Exchange shoppers will definitely want to make a 'fast break' to their

BX/PX to register for this sweepstakes and get one of the basketball goals being given away or the college getaway," said AAFES' Chief of Staff Col. Virgil Williams. "With an approximate value of \$3,000, you don't want to be caught 'out of the game' and 'pass' on this exciting opportunity."

Tip off for the "Coke NCAA Sweepstakes" was March 19 and the shot clock will run out on April 1. BXs and PXs across the globe, including facilities in Europe, the Pacific and Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, will have entry forms. No purchase is necessary to enter and entrants need not be present to win.

Pentagon Channel

for March/April 2010

The Pentagon Channel will feature the following programs on WAPG-TV, Channel 21, during the months of March and April. These programs are subject to change each week.

MONDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m.
Down Range, 10:30 a.m.
The Grill Sergeants, noon
Battleground, 3 p.m.
Around the Services, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m.
The Grill Sergeants, 10 a.m.
Recon, noon
Army Newswatch, 4 p.m.
Around the Services, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m.
Down Range, 10:30 a.m.
The Grill Sergeants, 2 p.m.
Around the Services, 7:30 p.m.
This Week in the Pentagon, 10 p.m.

THURSDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m.

Army Newswatch, 10 a.m.
Down Range, 10:30 a.m.
Battleground, 3 p.m.
Around the Services, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m.
Down Range 10:30 a.m.
The Grill Sergeants, noon
Battleground, 3 p.m.
Around the Services, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m.
Army Newswatch, 9 a.m.
Battleground, 3 p.m.
Down Range, 5 p.m.
The Grill Sergeants, 6:30 p.m.
Command Performance, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY

Fit for Duty, 6:30 a.m.
Command Performance, 12:30 p.m.

Balad and Beyond, 2 p.m.
This Week in the Pentagon, 6 p.m.
Down Range, 8:30 p.m.

- Around the Services: Features military news from top defense officials and the military services from around the world.

- Command Performance: Military journalists take you backstage with today's top entertainers for conversations with a uniquely military perspective.

- Fit for Duty: A high-energy 30-minute workout led by service members with expertise in fitness training.

- The Grill Sergeants: Cooking show featuring some of the military's top chefs.

- Recon: A look at real-world operations, missions, military events, history and subjects high-

lighting the accomplishments of U.S. military men and women.

- Army Newswatch: Bi-weekly report on the men and women of the Army.

- Around the Services: Features military news from top Defense officials and the Military Services from around the world.

- Battleground: Features historic films from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

- DownRange: The latest news from Iraq and Afghanistan affecting U.S. military members.

- This week in the Pentagon: An update on news coming out of the Pentagon.

- Balad and Beyond: Brings stories from Joint Base Balad, Iraq from bases involved in the logistics mission all over Iraq.



Capt. Brian McKay, commander of the 361st Training Squadron, U.S. Air Force Detachment, part of the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, has his blood drawn by HM3 Rebecca Diehl of the Armed Services Blood Program during the blood drive held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center March 16.

Armed Services blood drive returns to APG

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Members of the Armed Services Blood Program returned to Aberdeen Proving Ground March 16 to pump up needed resources for the National Capitol Region's Armed Services Blood Bank Center headquartered at Bethesda Naval Base.

Hospital corpsman Secorro Huynh said the team, which consists of Sailors and Airmen, visits area installations about every three months to replenish the blood supply.

"The difference between us and the Red Cross is that our units go directly overseas to Iraq, Afghanistan and

Kuwait," Huynh said. "The reason for the wait between visits is because once donors have given blood they have to wait fifty-six days before they can donate again and we don't want to over tax our suppliers."

She said the numbered response to the blood drive was "about average."

"Sometimes we get seventy to one-hundred donors and sometimes we get only a few. What's important is that people who are eager to support our troops realize this is the best way to do it."

For more information about the ASBP or to view scheduled blood drives visit the National Capitol Area Web site at www.militaryblood.dod.mil or call 301-295-2109 or 301-319-4115.



Photo by 1ST SGT LARRY TYSON

Private Amy Phillips of Company A 16th Ordnance Battalion accepts a box of cookies from Fallston Girl Scout Troop #4181 members, from left, Emma Lofland, Emma Rossman and Rachel Hart.

Girl Scouts thank APG troops

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Junior Girl Scouts from Fallston Troop #4181 delivered a special 'thank you' to American Troops by presenting boxes of donated cookies and Valentine cards to Soldiers in the Garrison dining facility Feb. 22.

Troop cookie leader Jenny Hart said troop members decided that this year they would do more than just sell cookies.

"They wanted to work to sell donations to support the men and women who serve our country and who are right here in our backyard at APG," Hart said.

"During their annual cookie drive, the girls agreed to not let a door go unknocked and to not let a person walk past the booth sale table without asking for a

donation to support their efforts."

She said the event had to be rescheduled due to the heavy snows in February and the girls invited scouts from Troop #4224 to help deliver the cookies.

The scouts delivered boxes of cookies to the Soldiers as they dined during the dinner meal.

"The girls loved the experience of thanking our service men and women and we look forward to getting more cookies and making more thank-you cards to donate next year," Hart said.

She added thanks to 1st Sgt. Larry Tyson, Garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company, for arranging the event.

"The girls would like to thank first sergeant Tyson for his help in making the experience wonderful," she said.



Legally Speaking

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/ilo.cfm

President passes Military Spouse's Residency Relief Act

OSJA

On November 11, 2009, President Obama signed into law the Military Spouse's Residency Relief Act. MSRRA amends the Service members Civil Relief Act to permit military spouses to retain the domicile of their service member spouse for voting and tax purposes.

Prior to MSRRA, a service member stationed outside of his or her legal state of residence pursuant to military orders could retain that state for tax and voting purposes under the SCRA as long as the service member was on military orders and continued to maintain ties to that state. Unfortunately, the military spouse did not share that same SCRA protection. This meant that that each time the service member moved to a new duty station, the military spouse would have to re-register to vote, change their tax withholding state, and/or file separate or multiple income tax returns.

In a statement issued by the White House, President Obama stated "This legislation will alleviate these and other burdens on our military families. As the Congress has recognized, and as the leg-

islative history reflects, this legislation is an important means of maintaining the morale and readiness of our armed forces and significantly enhances the ability of our military to effectively recruit and retain these highly valued service personnel."

While MSRRA appears on its face to be simple, it is extremely important for a military couple to be aware that MSRRA, just like the SCRA, is dependent upon an individual's "domicile" or "legal residence."

A "domicile" is generally defined as the place where a person has his/her permanent principal home to which he/she intends to return. Such intent is usually evidenced by certain factors, such as: "registering to vote, purchasing residential property or an unimproved residential lot, titling and registering your automobile(s), notifying the State of your previous legal residence/domicile of the change in your State of legal residence/domicile, and preparing a new last will and testament which indicates your new State of legal residence/domicile." See DD Form 2058.

For most service members, the determination of their "domicile" is simple. The service member came into the military from State A, claims State A for taxes every year, votes in State A, registers their vehicle in State A etc..

For others, however, determining their "domicile" may be complicated due to the frequency of PCS moves. It is not uncommon for a Soldier to have a "Home of Record" (meaning the location used for fixing travel and transportation purposes) in State A, pay state income taxes in State A, vote in State B, have real property in State C, have their vehicle registered in State D, and be residing in State E. In these types of cases, what would their "domicile" be if it were to be challenged? The service member may assert State A, but States B, C, D and E may think differently.

The important legal issue for military couples to know and understand is that changing one's domicile after MSRRA is not as easy as just checking a box on a tax form. The military spouse choosing to rely on MSRRA must take affir-

mative steps to make their spouse's domicile their own. For example, the military spouse may register to vote in the military spouse's domicile state. Failure to do so could result in the state revenue authority challenging the military spouse's domicile claim, potentially resulting in the imposition of tax penalties and interest. If there is a question of what the service member's domicile state is, couples should speak with a legal assistance attorney.

Those with MSRRA questions, or plans to use it in Tax Year 2009 should first contact their state revenue authority for guidance, as each state is currently in the process of implementing its own MSRRA rules.

For Maryland filers, MSRRA information can be found in "Administrative Release No. 1" located at www.marylandtaxes.com. Eligible clients may also call the Client Services Division, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 410-278-1583, or visit building 4305, third floor, room 346, for more information. Attorney consultations require an appointment.



Holy Season worship schedule

Lenten and Easter services

All are welcome to attend Easter Sunrise service, 7 a.m., April 4, inside the Main Post Chapel. Refreshments will be offered after the service.

Lenten and Bible Study will be held 11:30 a.m., March 31 in the Main Post Chapel Social Hall.

Main Post Chapel (Aberdeen Area)

Catholic services

- March 28, 8:30 a.m., Palm Sunday
- March 31, 6:30 p.m., Anointing Mass
- April 2, 3 p.m., Veneration of the Cross
- April 3, 8 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass
- April 4, 8:45 a.m., Easter Sunday

Protestant

- March 28, 10:15 a.m., Easter Cantata
- April 4, 10:15 a.m., Easter Sunday

Gospel

- March 28, noon, Palm Sunday
- April 4, noon, Easter Sunday

Edgewood Area

Catholic services

- March 26, 6 p.m., Stations of the Cross, soup and bread
- March 28, 10:45 a.m. Palm Sunday
- April 1, 7 p.m., Holy Thursday Mass
- April 2, 3 p.m., Veneration of the Cross
- April 4, 10:45 a.m., Easter Sunday

Protestant

- March 28, 9:15 a.m., Palm Sunday
- April 4, 9:15 a.m., Easter Sunday

Jewish events

The Passover Seder, is March 30.
For more information, call Lt. Col. Jonas Vogelhut, 410-306-4051, or e-mail jonas-vogelhut@us.army.mil.



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

APRIL 4, 7 a.m.

Inside Main Post Chapel (AA)
Hot breakfast after service

ALL WELCOME!



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Special needs information session April 6

A Special Needs Entitlement and Resources session will be held 1 to 3 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Chapel, building 2485 in Classroom 3 on April 6. Sandi Johnson, R.N., the Special Needs/Case Management Coordinator for the TRICARE Regional Office –North, will host the session. Military Families with special needs, health care providers, case managers and anyone who works with special needs beneficiaries are encouraged to attend. Topics will include basic TRICARE benefits; ECHO; a Department of Defense Autism demonstration; permanent dependant status; and SSI considerations. For more information, contact Nancy Goucher, Exceptional Family Member Program, at 410-278-2420 or e-mail nancy.e.goucher@us.army.mil.

Free showing of Avatar

School's out! Avatar will be shown 1 p.m., April 5, in the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Ballroom on the big screen. Admission is free; concessions will be sold.

Leigh Jones concert this Sunday

The Army I. AM. STRONG. Tour featuring Leigh Jones will be held 2 p.m. this Sunday, March 28 at the Aberdeen Post Theater. Doors open 1 p.m. This is a

free ticketed event. Tickets can be picked up (limit four each) at the Leisure Travel Office in the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, or at Stark Recreation Center in the Edgewood Area. Also appearing will be the band Animate Objects and comedians Jessi Campbell and Drew Thomas. Jones is a Peak Records recording artist who uses jazz and R&B influences to create a rich, soulful and sultry sound. She will perform songs from her debut album 'Music in My Soul.'

For more information, call 410-278-4011 or visit www.apgmwr.com.

ACS Egg Hunt Extravaganza

Picerne Military Housing will sponsor the Army Community service Egg Hunt Extravaganza, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 27 at 2754 Rodman Road. All military, DoD civilians and Family members are invited to come. This is a free ticketed event.

For more information or to pick up free tickets, visit the Aberdeen Area ACS, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, building 2754, 410-278-7572/4372.

Gettysburg tour

FMWR will offer a trip to Gettysburg April 25. Cost of the trip is \$72 per person and includes roundtrip transportation and dinner at Cozy's Restaurant. The bus will depart the Best Western Invitation Inn, 1709 Edgewood Road, Edgewood,

6:15 a.m. and return 7:30 p.m. Space is limited, make reservations now.

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

Experience the Cherry Blossom Festival

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

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

Come to the Southwest Waterfront at 5 p.m. as the Washington Waterfront Association kicks off the fifth annual Prelude to the Fireworks, which is a free three-hour festival of Family entertainment that includes live musical performances, kids' craft activities, cuisine from local restaurants, and special guest appearances for the kids to enjoy. At 8:30 p.m. all eyes will head toward the sky for a spectacular fireworks display. The fireworks will occur rain or shine. Space is limited; Reserve your seats today.

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

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

Youth Baseball and Tee ball

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

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

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

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.

Free babysitting course

Become a certified babysitter after taking the free 4-H/Army Child, Youth and School Services babysitting class for ages 13 to 18.

The class will be held 9 a.m. to 3

p.m., April 5 and 6, at the Aberdeen Area Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522. The objective is to familiarize participants with the responsibilities of babysitting. Class is open to all DoD ID card holders.

Private Piano Lessons

SKIES Unlimited private piano lessons will be given for ages 4 thru 18, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., on Tuesdays or Fridays, April 13 through May 21. Lessons cost \$102 per student and include

six weeks of 30-minute lessons once a week. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child.

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

Beginner Tae Kwon Do School

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

6 to 14 at Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522, 6 to 7 p.m., April 12 through May 5; and May 10 through June 7. Cost is \$65 per student per four week session or \$150 per student for a 12 week session. Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited so register early.

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

Learn to bowl

Youths ages 6 through 14 can learn to bowl, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, April 14 through June 2 at the Bowling Center, building 2342. Participants will learn techniques of bowling as well as technology of ball evolution, equipment, etiquette and scoring. They will also learn skills to improve accuracy and pin fall. Class is limited to 12 participants. Cost is \$80 per person. Open to all DoD ID card holder Family members.

Easter Brunch

Reserve your seat now for Easter Brunch, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 4 at Top of the Bay. Cost is \$21.95 for adults, \$9.95 for children ages 6 to 11 and \$2 for children ages 3 to 5.

The breakfast buffet includes an omelet station, waffles with toppings, scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon, biscuits with sausage gravy, home fries and grits, bagels, muffins, danish and cereal.

The luncheon buffet includes chick-

en cordon bleu, carving station with prime rib and roast pork, shrimp creole, rice pilaf, parsley buttered red skin potatoes and assorted vegetables.

Cost also includes assorted desserts, mimosas, juice, coffee and tea.

Reservations are required by March 31.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-278-3062/2552/5915/5936, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

APG golf course events

Ruggles Golf Course MSGA/Golfnet Handicap Tournament

There will be a Maryland State Golf Association (MSGA)/Golfnet Handicap Tournament March 27. Entrance fees cost \$30 for annual patrons; \$52 for all authorized patrons; and \$55 for guests. Cost includes annual handicap fee, light refreshments and prizes. Carts are not included.

For more information or to enter, call Dave Correll, 410-278-4794, e-mail david.correll@us.army.mil.

Mustang Spring Golf Scramble

A Mustang Spring Golf Scramble will be held April 17, with a four person scramble. This golf tournament celebrates the birth of the Ford Mustang. Hinder Ford will sponsor a Mustang Hole-in-One; the golfer who gets a hole-in-one will win a car. The four person team must have a combined handicap over 20. Single players will be paired by the golf pro. Fees for the tournament is \$25 for annual patrons; \$40 for authorized and value card patrons; and \$60 for guests. Fees include range balls, golf cart, food and prizes.

For more information or to register, call Dave Correll, 410-278-4794, e-mail david.correll@us.army.mil.

Black Eyed Susan Blind Nine Scramble

This golfing event celebrates Preakness Week on May 15. Tee time start will be 8:30 a.m. Test your horse racing knowledge by selecting the winner of this year's Preakness Stakes. Winning teams will be determined by golf score and accuracy of horse selection. Winners will be posted on May 16 at the Clubhouse. Prizes will be awarded for win, place and show. Fees for the event cost \$10 for annual

patrons; \$25 for authorized and value card patrons; and \$34 for guests.

For more information or to register, call Dave Correll, 410-278-4794, e-mail david.correll@us.army.mil.

Annual Golf Tournament

A golf tournament for men and women, "Putting for the Community," will be held May 14. Registration will take place 7:30 a.m.; shot gun start at 9 a.m. Cost is \$500 donation per team. Awards will be presented to the top three teams. There will a 50-50 prize for a putting contest; cost is \$10 per person. Prizes will also be awarded to men and women for closest to the pin and a hole-in-one at the eighth hole. There will be a prize drawing for golfers holding tickets from these events. A portion of proceeds will benefit local Wounded Warriors.

For more information, call Rhonda Traylor, 301-512-6852 or Terrell Boothe, 443-910-3688 or 410-297-9777.

Exton Golf Course Scramble for the Roses Blind Nine Outing

Celebrate Derby Day at Exton Golf Course on May 1. Tee time start will be 8:30 a.m. Test your horse racing knowledge by selecting the winner of this year's Kentucky Derby. Winning teams will be determined by golf score and accuracy of horse selection. Winners will be posted on May 2 at the clubhouse. Prizes will be awarded for win, place and show. Fees for the event cost \$10 for annual patrons; \$20 for authorized and value card patrons; and \$30 for guests.

For more information or to register, call Ruben Ferguson, 410-436-2213, e-mail reben.ferguson@us.army.mil.

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.

Sessions for teens

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program, CYSS SKIES Unlimited, HIRED program and CYSS Edge, in partnership with the Financial Education Department of APG Federal Credit Union, will hold the following sessions for teens ages 13 through 18. Space is limited.

Job vs. Career classes for teens

This class will be held 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., April 6 and Aug. 3, at ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road.

Today's workforce offers many challenges and rewards. Learning has a tremendous impact on future earnings. Teens will learn the benefit of a career over a job.

The class will help guide teens through the job and career preparation process so they can achieve their own employment success. Topics include:

- What employers are looking for
- How to apply for a job
- Tips on resume writing, interviewing experience

Mad Money City session

Mad Money City will be held 12:30 to 3 p.m., June 30, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

Experience life in the future with Mad Money City. You have just been transported into the future with your friends. Some of you have just graduated from college or technical school. You already have Families of your own and you've just started your first full-time, professional job. You're earning money and have bills to pay. Now you have to select housing, transportation, food, household necessities, clothing, day care, and other wants and needs. Lots of choices to make. Oh, and you need to build a budget based on your income and debt.

For more information or to enroll teens in these free sessions, call Marilyn Howard, ACS Employment Readiness specialist, 410-278-9669.

March bowling specials

Bowling specials

- Bowl for \$.75 per game, 1 to 5 p.m. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Cosmic Saturdays: Each Saturday, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra) and one

- pitcher of soda for \$32.
- Every Friday, bowl from 9:30 p.m. till closing for \$12 per hour. Shoe rental is included.

Call for availability of lanes on discounted days and hours.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials Building 2342

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

Week of March 22

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

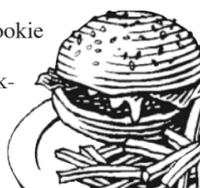
Special #2: Pork barbecue with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25.

Week of March 29

Special #1: Grilled ham and cheese with tomato soup, cookie and regular soda for \$4.95.

Special #2: Turkey club sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25.

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



Army Test and Evaluation Command sends teams to war theater to assess system operational effectiveness

Story by
MIKE CAST
U.S. Army Developmental Test Command

Since the United States sent troops to topple the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein in Iraq, U.S. military forces have had to rely on a wide range of weapon systems that had either never been fielded before the ongoing conflicts or that need modifications so troops can effectively wage a counter-insurgency war that keeps on evolving.

The U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) – the major command responsible for helping Army acquisition organizations field systems that are effective, reliable and as safe as possible to operate – has responded to this challenge by deploying forward operational assessment (FOA) teams to the combat theater.

The first such team deployed to Kuwait in the early stages of the war in Iraq, to assess the performance of Army vehicles that Soldiers were driving more rapidly in theater than expected when tested, to keep from becoming easier targets than they would be at slower speeds. Since then, 13 ATEC forward operational assessment teams have deployed to the area of operations for both Afghanistan and Iraq, with the critical mission of assessing the performance of everything from counter-IED technologies to unmanned aerial and ground systems that can gather intelligence on enemy activities.

Deployed teams stay in theater for several months, although some team members have stayed there for as long as a year, and their mission may require working six or seven days a week with workdays as long as 14 hours or more.

Maj. Samuel Ancira of the Operational Test Command said the work week he and his colleague in Kuwait have had to put in has been “hectic”.

“The typical workday is approximately twelve to fourteen hours, six days a week, with Sunday being a half day consisting of six hours of work after church services,” he explained.

A large number of the forward-deployed team members have been ATEC Soldiers, but many civilian ATEC employees have volunteered to participate in the deployments from ATEC’s three primary test-and-evaluation organizations: the U.S. Army Evaluation Center, Developmental Test Command and Operational Test Command. According to several of the team members queried for this article, no one minds the rigors of the mission because they know how crucial it is to the Soldiers facing the threat of serious injury or even death, day in and day out.

ATEC’s Col. Brian Dosa, commander of the 13th FOA at Camp Victory at the time this article was written, emphasized the importance of FOA team members working as the “mouthpiece of the Soldier.” In that role, they have obtained critical feedback from Soldiers and Army units that can lead to weapon-systems improvements; changes to tactics, techniques and procedures; and adjusted test-and-evaluation procedures back in the United States at ATEC’s various test facilities and ranges. One result of the team’s deployment is a stateside test-and-evaluation program that as closely as possible reflects the realities of operations in theater.

Soldiers on the receiving end of ATEC’s forward support very much appreciate what the command is doing for them, said Capt. Brian Hartigan of



Photos courtesy of U.S. ARMY
As a member of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command’s Forward Operational Assessment Team XIII, Sgt. 1st Class Dedrick Waterford, right, looks over an aviation component with Sgt. Jonathan Vince, F Troop, 317th Cavalry Regiment.

the 37th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, a unit that is normally stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

“I was impressed on a daily basis with the level of commitment that these guys showed, not just for their specific project but to supporting the guys on the ground,” he said of FOA Team Speicher. “Not only were they willing to go outside the wire and put themselves in harm’s way, they were hungry for the real-time data that our Soldiers were providing them.”

“The ATEC forward operational assessment team here in support of OIF is essential to the collection process of (determining) what works in theater and what does not,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles of the 49th Military Police Brigade, a unit assigned to Camp Liberty. “It allows decision makers at the highest level to capture what the maneuver commanders see as a relevant force enabler and what is not. Ultimately, it’s the Soldiers that pay the price of the good-idea guy with no experience of ever being on the ground.”

Some of the systems under assessment during ATEC’s 13th FOA team rotation include mini-robots for clearing explosive ordnance; systems designed to protect Soldiers or to support intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations; enhanced armor protection for various heavy wheeled vehicles used regularly in the combat theater; and a variety of unmanned aerial systems.

“Generally speaking, Soldiers are pleased with the equipment they have received,” said Maj. Melinda Kalainoff of the Operational Test Command about her stint with one of the teams in Afghanistan. “They were eager to tell us about their equipment, and they are never at a loss about their opinions and recommendations. To get the ground truth, you need to get on the ground and talk directly to the user, the Soldier, and that is what we do. We were speaking with a captain about how fast the acqui-



Maj. Melinda Kalainoff, left, a member of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command’s Forward Operational Assessment Team XIII, is briefed on the Puma unmanned aerial system by Spc. Josh Coryell, 2/77th Field Artillery Battalion, at Forward Operating Base Kalagush.

sition system has to work to meet the needs of the Soldiers, and he said, ‘The Army really tries to make things better.’ He gave the example of the Puma (unmanned aerial system) as well as all the cold-weather clothing items that Soldiers have received.”

The data FOA team members collect from Soldiers includes written feedback, face-to-face recorded interviews, telephone interviews and PowerPoint presentations. Some participants in the forward operational assessment program have gone on missions with units in their area to get a real-time look at how systems are operating.

Kalainoff said there were times when problems with equipment in theater surfaced while testing was taking place simultaneously back in the United States. That made it possible to modify the test plan to address the emerging issue, she said.

“In other cases, the problem may be such that additional testing is initiated by a theater-level concern,” Kalainoff added. “The FOA team can serve as a liaison to link the combatant commander in theater with the tester in the continental United States and facilitate information flow.”

“We were providing data no less than on a weekly basis as part of an assessment,” added Sgt. 1st Class Dedrick Waterford, one of Kalainoff’s colleagues from ATEC’s Operational Test Command. “Our efforts there directly affect the test-and-evaluation process by gathering additional information that may have been omitted during rapid fielding initiatives that brought new equipment to Soldiers sooner.”

At the time this article was written, ATEC was preparing for the next rotation of a forward operational assessment team into theater.

Environmental Management System

Carpooling offers alternative to traffic backups

Story by
BARBARA SEKER
Directorate of Public Works

Traffic backups may happen at Aberdeen Proving Ground for various reasons including marching troops, road closures due to construction, rush hour traffic and an increase of the APG work force due to Base Realignment and Closure.

There was a noticeable increase in traffic jams during the evening rush hour with the opening of the Route 24 Gate in the Edgewood Area. The re-opening of the Magnolia Road Gate for outbound traffic from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on duty days has helped rush hour traffic in the Edgewood Area. The Harford Gate in the Aberdeen Area operates from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the Wise Road Gate from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. on duty days.

The installation of new gates and roads at APG is beneficial to traffic flow within APG. However, without improvements to the state and county access road infrastructure, the potential for bottlenecks during rush hours remains, especially with the expected increase of APG’s workforce.

As part of planning for BRAC, the APG Transformation Office, Office of the Master Planner, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have conducted traffic

studies at APG. In addition, the Maryland State Highway Administration has initiated a study of highway transportation needs associated with BRAC at APG.

A Transportation Demand Management Group is being formed to study the various alternatives to reduce the private vehicular traffic on APG. The Transportation Demand Management Group, made up of representatives from the APG Garrison’s Directorate of Public Works (Master Planners Office and Environmental Division), Directorate of Logistics, Transformation Office and garrison-supported organizations, will be reviewing various traffic reducing options to include carpooling, vanpooling, MARC Train, Harford Transit, MTA bus, biking to work, alternate work schedules and telecommuting.

Besides reducing traffic, there are various reasons to seek alternatives to driving to work separately. The list of reasons includes saving on fuel, reducing road congestion, saving commuting time, reducing air pollution and greenhouse gases, reducing wear and tear on vehicles, reducing roadway degradation and saving taxpayer money. In addition, using mass transit offers an employee time to relax, surf the Internet, sleep or catch up on e-mail.

To get a jump on contributing to the reduction of

APG traffic congestion, opportunities are available now to join a carpool or van pool. There are incentives through the Federal Transit Subsidy Program and the Harford County Commuter Assistance Program for vanpooling. Federal employees can earn up to \$230 per month, tax free, for joining a vanpool.

In addition, the Maryland Department of Transportation is in the process of establishing a Guaranteed Emergency Ride Home Program which will provide a phone number that vanpool participants can call in case of emergency. Transportation home free of charge may be available up to four incidences per year.

Harford County’s Commuter Assistance Program provides FREE car and van ride matching services, up-to-date bus and train schedules (MTA, MARC, and Harford Transit), employer/employee incentives, cycling information and a Park-and-Ride Lots Locator. To sign up for a carpool or vanpool you can register online at www.harfordcountymd.gov/com-muter. For more information, please contact the Harford County Commuter Assistance Program 800-924-ToGo (8646).

May is Clean Commute Month. Look for commuting awareness campaigns in the future including “Bike to Work Day” scheduled for APG on May 20.



Sports

In battle of the undefeated, JPED rolls past 22d Chemical, 55-45



Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

A meeting of two undefeated intramural basketball teams at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center March 15 saw the Joint Personal Effects Depot run away with a win over the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), 55-45.

The game might have signaled the start of a cross-post rivalry - the two evenly-matched opponents battled hard from start to finish and shooters had to fight for every basket.

The JPED posted a double-digit lead of 12-4 before 22d Chem shooters warmed up on offense. Defense lagged, however, as JPED pushed to a 21-9 lead with 7:31 left in the half. Both teams scrambled even harder in the final five minutes. Costly turnovers hurt 22d Chemical. Despite a brave offensive push, JPED held on to lead 21-16 at the half.

JPED coach Robert Cromwell said that during the break he told his players to play hard and take "smart shots."

"We've had a great season and we're hoping to go all the way," he said. "We have the talent; we've just got to play."

Lisa Bradford, 22d Chemical coach, said "things could be going better."

"We have to start getting rebound," she said adding that the defense would switch to man-to-man in the second half.

"The zone [defense] wasn't working."

JPED poured on its own defense after pulling away to a 30-21 lead just a few minutes into the half. Although they put up a good fight, 22d Chemical never got closer than six points the rest of the game due to a stiff JPED defense that capitalized on every miscue.

Davon Growckson, a JPED forward and the game's high scorer, said his second year with the team has been hard work but fun.

"It takes a lot of team work and team spirit to get where we are," he said. "But we're like a family and we feel like we're going all the way."

"We played well but we can always play better," added Coach Cromwell in reference to the upcoming post season tournament. "It will show what we're made of," he said. "We don't play as individuals, but we do play as one."

JPED's Daniel Whyte, 22, snatches a rebound in front of 22nd Chemical's Kevin Galik, teammate Davon Growckson and 22d Chemical's Robert Nevils. Looking on from left is JPED's Jorge Diaz, 23, and Montague Williams, 32, of 22d Chemical.



JPED's Jorge Diaz rolls in an easy layup over 22d Chemical's Wayne Goode during intramural basketball action at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center March 15. JPED rolled to a 55-45 win in the contest of two undefeated teams.



JPED teammates, from right, Jorge Diaz, 23; Allen Warfield, 8, and Manu Cooper, 11, watch the action as JPED's Davon Growckson, center, is sandwiched during double-team coverage by 22d Chemical's Wayne Goode, left, and Montague Williams, 32.

Civilian raquetball champs

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
From left, Worrell Wilson, a paralegal specialist with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and Joe Martinez, a military spouse who's wife works for the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional), pose with the first and second-place medals they won, respectively, in the APG intramural raquetball tournament that was held at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center Feb. 17 through 24. Both players said the other was the toughest opponent in the week-long, single elimination tournament.

