

Post Shorts

Ruggles reopens today

Ruggles Golf Course will open today as a nine-hole course, partially ending a closure caused by the discovery of unexploded ordnance on the course on May 6. The practice range and putting green will also open and the entire course could be open as early as the weekend. For more information, call 410-278-9452.



Armed Forces Day celebration set for Friday

The APG 2010 Armed Forces Day Celebration begins 9:30 a.m. with opening ceremonies by post commanders and music by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band on the grounds of the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum tomorrow, May 14.

The 2010 theme is "Educating our Youth." Festivities, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., include an environmental display featuring live animals; Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Kidz Corner; D.A.R.E. activities, McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog, and firefighting equipment from the Directorate of Emergency Services; and Soldiers in period uniforms mingling with the crowd.

Organization displays will include military equipment and vehicles currently used by Warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more information, contact George Mercer, Garrison PAO, at 410-278-1147.

Office Eagle Customer Appreciation Day May 18

The Aberdeen Area Office Eagle will hold a Customer Appreciation Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 18. The theme is, "Murder Mystery at the Deadwood Saloon." Office Eagle associates and vendors will play characters in a story line for visitors to "guess" who the murderer is. Food and door prizes will be available. The Office Eagle store is located at 320 Johnson Road, building 320. For more information, call Barry Council, 410-297-4950, or e-mail bcouncil@bism.org.

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CYSS Youth Sports' Spring into Action promotes health and fitness



From left, a guidon bearer holds the U.S. Army Environmental Command colors erect; incoming commander Col. Scott Kimmell rolls up the colors assisted by APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades; and Staff Sgt. Gabrielle Martinez, sergeant of the colors, stands ready with the case cover during the color casing ceremony at McBride Parade Field May 6. The organization is relocating to Fort Sam Houston, Texas under base realignment and closure.

USAEC holds final change of command at APG

Organization cases colors, readies for move to Texas

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

The U.S. Army Environmental Command officially ended its 38-year stay at Aberdeen Proving Ground May 6 during a change of command ceremony that included the casing of the organization colors in preparation for its move to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Part of the 2005 base realign-

ment and closure act called for the partial realignment of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the relocation of USAEC to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where it will be the first IMCOM organization to "stand up" its colors. The USAEC has been located at Aberdeen Proving Ground since 1972.

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command

hosted the change of command portion of the ceremony during which Col. Maria R. Gervais relinquished command to incoming commander Col. Scott D. Kimmell.

Lynch praised Gervais and her husband, Lt. Col. Chris Gervais of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, for leading successful military careers while raising their daughter, Brandi, who is a junior at Tow-

son University. He presented Col. Gervais' father, a retired Army officer, with an IMCOM coin of excellence in recognition of his service.

Noting that the Gervais are deploying to the Multinational Force-Iraq in Baghdad, Lynch said that Col. Gervais was, "the most dedicated commissioned officer I've had the pleasure to serve with."

See CHANGE, page 9

U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC) employees, past and present, swap fond memories

Story by **BARRY R. NAPP**
 USAEC Public Affairs

In 1972, Richard Nixon was the president, the cost of a gallon of gas was .55 cents and American swimmer Mark Spitz would win a record seven gold medals in the Summer Olympics in Munich.

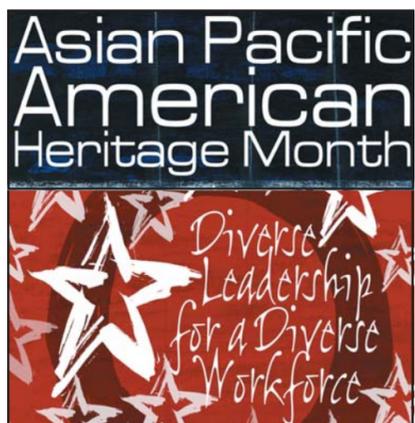
That was 38 years ago, and also the year the Army activated the Project Manager for Chemical Demilitarization (PMCD) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, the opening chapter on what is the present day U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC).

Col. Sam H. Bass, Jr. became the unit's first commander one October day in 1972 and PMCD was charged with the initial mission of destroying the nation's toxic chemical agents and munitions.

See MEMORIES, page 13



Photo courtesy of USAEC
 Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, commander, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (second from right) watches the festivities at the U.S. Army Environmental Command "Night To Reminisce" event held at CAPA Field May 5.



Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

The Asian Pacific American Heritage Month program will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 19 at the Edgewood Area Stark Recreation Center, building E4140. The theme is "Diverse Leadership for a Diverse Workforce." Guest speaker will be Dr. Rehan Khan, MD, MS, of Johns Hopkins Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

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

ATC employees walk for health



Photo by JUAN R. MELENDEZ JR., ATC
 Members of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center team walk together around Aberdeen Proving Ground at mid-day April 29. Led by ATC commander Col. Jeffrey P. Holt and his wife, about 35 employees walked a two-mile course from ATC headquarters down to the bay and back. The event, called "Put Some Spring in Your Step," was organized by the ATC Safety Division to encourage good health habits for the spring and summer months.

Commentary - Supporting Army Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families with Information Technology

By
LT GEN RICK LYNCH
IMCOM Commanding General

The Installation Management Community is committed to leveraging the power of technology to expand our communication capabilities and enhance our ability to serve and support Soldiers, Civilians, and Families. In today's world, IT (information technology) is at the core of all we do at work, at home, and at play. Smaller, more powerful, and less expensive IT products hit the market every day. Becoming savvy with state-of-the-art technology helps us work smarter, learn more efficiently, and play harder.

Over the past six months, I have visited many garrisons, listening to many members of the Army Family to better understand how they prefer to receive information and communicate. Because more than 75 percent communicate and retrieve information through the Internet and other electronic means, I now communicate through my Facebook page and the IMCOM Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube sites. This implements the Deputy Secretary of Defense, 25 February 2010, memorandum that requires Department



of Defense unclassified networks be configured for Internet-based capabilities like YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, and Google Apps.

Because IT is so critical to how we do business and communicate, I have made IT one of the focus areas of the Services and Infrastructure Core Enterprise (SICE) in my role as co-lead of the SICE board. SICE is a collaborative and cross-functional team of more than 15 commands, organizations, and

staff offices formed to develop solutions to Army-wide challenges. Presently, the SICE team is developing plans to modernize and standardize IT services on Army installations. The results will enhance delivery of IT in the deployment process, training, and programs such as Comprehensive Soldier Fitness. Also, look for improved IT to lead to improvements on how we deliver on our promises of the Army Family Covenant and Army Community Covenant.

The most important components of IT -- telecommunications, information assurance (IA), and data processing -- tie into every aspect of installation management. We use telecommunications to connect Soldiers to their Families by video teleconference when they deploy. Tech-smart Soldiers and Family members use it when they 'tweet' to friends and Family through their Twitter accounts. Information assurance (IA) measures and practices reduce risk and ensure our communication and information remain secure from malicious attacks. IA enables Soldiers and Civilians to communicate with Government-issued Blackberries, knowing conversations are secure from unauthorized individuals. Most of

us use data processing to manage our bits and bytes of information each day when we work on desktop computers, laptops, scanners and copiers. And, cell phones may be the most powerful device of all since they incorporate all three of these IT components.

Every day, the universe of IT products expands. Mobile handheld devices like the current generation of smartphones open up possibilities only dreamed of a few years ago. The convergence of cell phones, digital cameras, music players, GPS, video games, camcorders, electronic book readers and mobile web browsers rapidly change how we communicate and interact.

As the IMCOM commander, I am dedicated to embracing these new, exciting technologies and adapting them to continue to be ahead of the curve in supporting Soldier, Civilian, and Family well-being and mission readiness. Each generation of Soldiers brings a valuable, new perspective to the Army. It is up to us to stay in step with communication capabilities that are in synch with a quality of life commensurate with service.

We Are the Army's Home.
Defender 6

Environmental Management System

Commentary - Clean Commute Month 2010

By
JOHN WROBEL
DPW

May is Clean Commute Month. So, for a few days in May, keep your car parked. Try another way to get around. It's not hard!

You can take transit, bicycle, or car pool. If you do drive, share your ride with a friend or co-worker, and make sure to keep your car in tip-top condition. You could cut your commute costs in half.

This month, Aberdeen Proving Ground's Directorate of

Family, Morale, Welfare & Recreation, in conjunction with Harford County, is sponsoring Bike to Work Day. Get ready to have a lot of fun when you attend the rallies on Thursday, May 20, APG's official Bike to Work Day.

This year, Bike to Work Day has grown! Harford County is supporting three Bike to Work Day Rally sites. For the very first time, the Aberdeen Proving Ground DFMWR will be co-hosting two satellite Bike to Work Day Rallies Thursday, May 20 at APG.

These rallies will be held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center (building 3326) and Stark Recreation Center (building E4140) in the Edgewood Area.

The APG satellite rallies will be held on post from 6:30 to 8:00 am.

When you register and come to the rally you will receive the official Bike to Work Day T-shirt and free refreshments. Rain or shine. Register at www.apgmwr.com/events.html#bike2work.

You don't have to be an

Olympic athlete to bike to work -- even if you live far from the workplace.

Those who live farther away will be happy to know that you can easily combine a combination of car or other commuter options with a bike trip.

It's easier than you might think. Especially if you plan your ride ahead of time and use the information available on the www.Bike2WorkCentralMD.com site to get prepared. Once you have a plan, bicycle commuting is simple. And it becomes easier the more

you do it.

In addition, it is also worthwhile to take a few minutes and complete the Harford County Bicycle Survey located at www.apgmwr.com/events.html#bike2work. The survey is one of the most effective ways to inform decision makers about how we get around Harford County on our bicycles.

Register today at www.apgmwr.com/events.html#bike2work and begin your journey of biking to work. Call 410-638-3069 for more information. We hope to see you!

Bike to Work Day May 20 at both Recreation Centers

Bicycle safety emphasized

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation in conjunction with the Installation Safety Office and the Directorate of Emergency Services, will host two satellite Bike to Work Day rallies on APG May 20.

The rallies will be held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, and Stark Recreation Center, building E4140 in the Edgewood Area 6:30 to 8 a.m., rain or shine.

Registered participants will receive official Bike to Work Day t-shirts and free refreshments, and a chance to win door prizes from sponsors like the Laurapin Grille, The Green Turtle, MaGerk's, Looney's, the Bel Air Athletic Club, and the Aberdeen IronBirds.

APG Rally registrants are encouraged to either bike to work or to drive to the rally site closest to their workplace, leave their cars and bike on post for rest of the day. The organization with the most persons registered will win a trophy.

For more information and to register for the AA/EA rallies contact Ralph Cuomo of the APG Sports office at 410-278-3868 or visit the FMWR Web site at www.apgmwr.com.

Along with FMWR the Installation Safety Office and DES are stressing safe riding habits for all participants.

Participants should be aware that bicy-

cle safety requirements on post apply to all riders on the installation.

Department of Defense Instruction 6055.4, APG Policy dated Feb. 24, 2009, and APGR 190-5 require all personnel riding bicycles on DoD installations to wear approved and properly secured helmets. This applies to all bicycle riders on APG.

An approved helmet is one that meets or exceeds the American National Standards Institute standards. Ensure the helmet fit is snug, level, and stable, with the helmet comfortably touching the head all the way around.

In addition, when riding on APG, utilize a brightly reflective belt worn diagonally over the right shoulder and down under the left arm or an orange/green/yellow vest must be worn both day and night for visibility. If a back-pack is worn a reflective vest or belt will be placed around it. Fully enclosed shoes must be worn at all times when riding with soles that provide a good grip on pedals.

The wearing of portable headphones, earphones or other portable listening devices is prohibited for anyone riding a bicycle, motor scooter, or EPAMD (Electric Personal Assisted Mobility Device) on any DoD installation.

Bicycles must be equipped with a suitable headlight visible at 500 feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear visible at 300 feet.

DES police officers will be on hand



Illustration by NICK PENTZ

to distribute more safety information and assist participants the day of the event.

For more information contact Lynda Rice, APG Safety Office at 410-306-1154.

The Bike to Work Day rallies are part of the Harford County Department of

Community Services' Commuter Assistance Bike to Work Day program.

For information on the Bel Air rally, contact Patricia Fielder at pwfielder@harfordcountymd.gov or visit www.harfordcountymd.gov/commuter and click on the Bike to Work Day icon.

APG News

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

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Chapel News

Commentary - Acceptance

By

**CHAP. (MAJ.)
FRED C. TOWNSEND**
APG Chapel Ministry



Margaret raced into the classroom after recess—she was late again! Ms. Garner, the teacher, was furious—shouting, “Margaret, we have been waiting for you! Get up here to the front of the class, right now!”

Margaret walked slowly to the front of the classroom and was told by the teacher to face everyone—the worst day of her life had begun.

Ms. Garner said, “Boys and girls, Margaret has been a bad girl. I have tried to help her to be responsible, but, apparently, she doesn’t want to learn. So we must teach her a lesson. We must force her to face what a selfish person she has become. I want each of you to come to the front of the room, take a piece of chalk,

and write something bad about Margaret on the blackboard. Maybe this experience will motivate her to become a better person!”

One by one the students came to the blackboard to write down their negative criticism of Margaret and one by one they sat down taking a little something of Margaret’s soul with them. One student wrote, “Margaret is stupid!” another wrote, “Margaret is selfish!” another, “Margaret is fat!” Twenty-five students came to that blackboard that day! When they were done, collectively they filled the board with only one clear message, “Margaret, you are worthless—we hate you!”

Twenty-five statements changed one young girl’s life for the next forty years.

In marriages today it is too easy to be too “honest” and tell our loved ones, “what we really think.” Slowly but surely that chalkboard fills up, line-by-line, until our 25 messages deliver one message loud and clear—“You are worthless—I don’t like you—I don’t accept you!” Judgment and criticism are potentially the most damning words that can ever be used—therefore, they should be used only when surrounded with the greatest of love and acceptance. One’s love and their acceptance of the other should never be in doubt after a critical word is spoken.

This truth is never more tested than in marriage and Family.

I have been married now for 29 years and have learned that there seems to be three distinct phases to married life. The goal is to successfully progress to the third phase without giving up.

The first phase of marriage is most definitely felt in the first one to two years of marriage. Often, unfortunately, this is the only phase experienced in many marriages. In this phase the married couple is getting accustomed to each other’s peculiarities (distinguishing characteristics). Criticism is the keyword of this phase. It seems that every little thing bothers us about the other. After all, we lived most of our lives up to this point doing things our own way—now we have to consider another person’s way. If we stick to it and press-on we will learn to adapt and progress to the second phase.

The second phase is characterized by the realization that what irks us most about the other person is usually what we will miss most about them. These are their distinguishing characteristics (remember the first phase?). Acceptance is the keyword of this phase. My wife is notoriously late it seems for every engagement under the sun. This irks me to no end. I have come to realize that this is what makes my wife who she is. She whistles and sings to herself as she gets ready like a beautiful Meadowlark. This is her gentle spirit. In the end I would have it no other way. If anything were to ever happen to her, I now know that I would miss her lateness—and the spirit that goes with it—more than anything. I would gladly sell everything I have to get her and that confounded lateness back again!

I rarely criticize her lateness anymore!

See ACCEPTANCE, page 8

Community Notes

FRIDAY

MAY 14

VARIETY QUARTER AUCTION

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 201 Mount Royal Avenue, Aberdeen, will host a Variety Quarter Auction, 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Doors open 6 p.m.

Cost is \$2 per paddle, maximum two paddles per person. Proceeds will benefit the the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Haiti Outreach Project. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Bring a non-perishable food item or canned good for a bonus prize ticket.

For more information, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

MAY 15 AND 16

MEDIEVAL DAYS

Steppingstone Museum, 461 Quaker Bottom Road, Havre de Grace, will host Medieval Days, noon to 5 p.m. each day. Cost of admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 12 and under and members. Attractions include a medieval encampment, heavy weapons fighting, period craft demonstra-

tions and music, equestrian activities, archery, crafts, games, food and more.

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

SATURDAY

MAY 15

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.

CLOTHES GIVE AWAY

St. James A.M.E. Church will give away clothes on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The location of the event is on the lower level of the Church Parsonage at

742 Otsego Street, Havre de Grace.

For additional information call Pattie Ford at 410-939-2267

BEGINNER'S KAYAK

This kayak trip is designed for the new learner or someone who wants a refresher course. Expect a relaxed pace. This program will be held 11 a.m. to 1:30 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.

CRITTER DINNERTIME

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat while learning more about these fascinating creatures. This free program will be held at 1:30 p.m. for all ages. No registration 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.

SUNDAY

MAY 16

BIRDING BY BOAT

Join birder Phil Power, on a search for the beautiful marsh birds of Otter Point Creek. This program will be held 9:30 to 11 a.m. for ages 10 to adult. The

cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. 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.

ALL ABOUT MAPS

Take a look at several types of maps while studying the topography of Leight Park. This free program will be held 2:30 to 4 p.m. for ages 8 to 12. Registration is 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

MAY 22

FLY A FISH

Create funky fish kites and watch as the kites swim across the sky. This program will be held 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 7 to adult; ages 7 to 10 must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$4.50 per person. Registration is required.

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

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

Riders ready for anything

Story by

MOLLIE MILLER

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

There was little time to react.

By the time retired Master Sgt. Earl Daniels saw the car pull out of the driveway along Rucker Boulevard near Fort Rucker, Ala., the impact that took his leg and nearly took his life was imminent.

"I saw her pull to a stop and, with my bright gear and the motorcycle's headlight on high, I thought she saw me too," Daniels said as he recounted the events of the morning of Feb. 19, 2009. "I checked her face and her tires to make sure she wasn't moving and slowed my speed just in case."

As Daniels passed the car, he saw motion out of the corner of his eye and glanced to his right just in time to see the driver as she hit him with the passenger side bumper of the car.

The impact trapped Daniels' right leg between the car and the motorcycle, nearly ripping it from his body and shattering his pelvis. He hit the hood of the car hard enough to leave an impression of his body before he flew 75 feet through the air. He came to rest near a curb where he remained as passersby worked to place a tourniquet on his leg to stop the profuse bleeding before paramedics got there.

When help arrived, Daniels was quickly evacuated to a near-by medical center where doctors determined they would not be able to save his right leg. The doctors took the leg and worked to fix his crushed pelvis. By the time doctors were able to stabilize Daniels, the retired helicopter mechanic had lost four pints of blood.

In theory, Daniels shouldn't have been the victim of such a crash. At the time of the accident, he had many years of motorcycle riding experience under his belt and was a lead instructor for the Army Traffic Safety Training Program at Fort Rucker. He spent most of his days preaching motorcycle safety to other riders and prided himself on his own strong riding skills and full set of superior Personal Protective Equipment.

Still, on a bright, chilly morning, a nearly fatal motorcycle accident found him. But, thanks to his training and PPE, when that accident found him, Daniels was ready to react and, because he was ready, he got away with his life.

"When I saw her coming, I swerved the bike the way we always teach the students to do in an emergency," he said. "Had I not swerved the way I had practiced a hundred times before, she would have crushed the entire right side of my body and probably killed me."

Last year, the Army lost 32 Soldiers to motorcycle accidents. In general, the Soldiers killed were leaders, sergeant through captain, between the ages of 21-47. More than half the fatal accidents involved speeding and rider overconfidence and almost 20 percent involved alcohol.

"We are losing far too many Soldiers to preventable motorcycle accidents and we need to make every rider understand that readiness and risk management extend beyond the duty day," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Eyer, senior noncommissioned officer at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. "Saving our Soldiers from these accidents and preserving our fighting force comes down to each rider's choice to train, practice, gear up and ensure they are ready for anything out on the road."

Steve Kurtiak, Privately Owned Vehicle and Recreational Safety Specialist at the USACR/Safety Center, said being a "rider ready for anything" comes down to getting the proper training, wearing appropriate PPE and being vigilant of all the possible risks on the road.

"The safety burden always resides with the man or woman riding the motorcycle," he said. "He or she, at all times, needs to be thinking that every single driver is out to get them."

As the days turn warm and riding season rolls into full swing, Kurtiak said refresher training and caution on the road is even more important as drivers aren't used to seeing motorcycles.

"Right now, riders have to be on their toes all the time," he said.

Army installations around the globe offer Soldiers, Civilians and Family members a wide variety of training and mentorship programs to help create a new generation of "riders ready for anything."

Basic and Experienced Rider Courses, the Military Sportbike Riders Course and the Motorcycle Mentorship Program

See RIDERS, page 5

POST SHORTS

Gallery Walk of Capstone Projects

The Science and Mathematics Academy invites the community to the Gallery Walk of Senior Capstone Projects to be held 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Aberdeen High School dining hall, 251 Paradise Road, May 18. Capstone projects are year-long research projects that students conduct in their senior year under the mentorship of professional scientists, mathematicians or engineers. APG defense contractors and organizations providing mentors to the program include the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense; Army Research Laboratory; Public Health Command (Provisional); APG Garrison and Edgewood Chemical Biological Center.

For more information, contact Donna Clem, SMA director, at 410-273-5500.

Ceremony reroutes traffic May 13

Roads leading to the Ryan Building, building 314, will be closed temporarily May 13 for a ceremony denoting the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command's change of responsibility.

The shutdown will begin at approximately 9 a.m. and will last about two hours. During this time traffic will be diverted to an alternate route.

Barricades will be placed at four locations. Longs Corner Road where it forks from Aberdeen Boulevard (directly in front of building 300); Johnson Street where it intersects Longs Corner Road (adjacent to the building 305 parking lot); Plumb Point Loop's east side where it intersects Plumb Point Road; Longs Corner Road at the building 310 traffic circle.

Spouse Appreciation event May 21

A Military Spouse Appreciation Day event is the Beef & Burgundy dinner to be held 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Top of the Bay main ballroom. Free childcare

will be provided for this event. To register by May 10 contact Marilyn Howard, ACS, at 410-278-9669/7572 or e-mail marilyn.e.howard@us.army.mil.

USO to host Deployed Family Fun Day

USO will host Deployed Family Fun Day, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 22, at Castle Park, Fort Belvoir, Va., located on the water at Tomkins Basin. This free event is a hit with military Families experiencing or preparing for deployment. It is open to active duty military in all branches of service. Guests include Washington Redskins cheerleaders, Boxer from WMZQ's morning show and country star Justin Moore. Activities include crafts, games, moon bounces, re-ball, laser tag, balloon twister and prizes. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

For more information, call USO Program specialist Lindsay Raymond, 703-805-4277.

Edgewood Community Flea Market May 22

A Community Flea Market will be held 8 a.m. to noon, May 22, at Capa Field in the Edgewood Area. There will be opportunities for tables for yard sale items and home businesses. More information will be forthcoming in the *APG News*.

Kirk after-hours medical needs

For urgent medical services needed after hours, weekends or federal holidays, please contact Staff Duty at 410-278-1725 or call 443-807-0725. The Staff Duty NCO will coordinate your referral. To avoid Point of Service copayment charges, you will need a referral to go to any Urgent Care Center/Clinic. Care from a hospital Emergency Room does not require a referral. If unable to reach Staff Duty and you cannot wait, seek the nearest participating facility. Please call the clinic the following business day. The KUSAHC Referral Management telephone number is 410-278-1736. The Patient Advocate

VA needs volunteer drivers



The VA Maryland Health Care System needs a few good drivers to transport patients to and from appointments at the Fort Howard Outpatient Clinic. Volunteer drivers are needed weekday mornings or afternoons at least once-a-week. For more information, contact David Sevinsky, volunteer service specialist, at 410-605-7102/7000, ext. 3929.

telephone number is 410-278-1724.

RAB meeting May 27

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., May 27, at a new location: The Ramada Conference Center, 1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood.

The topics of the meeting will be an update of J-Field, Canal Creek and Follow-up on O-Field Study Area.

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

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

Ironhorse Bike Rally highlights safety

All are invited to the 2nd Annual Ironhorse Bike Rally on May 27. Registration opens at 8 a.m. at Aberdeen VFW Post #10028. Bikes will leave at 9:30 a.m. and tour the Northern Maryland area, finishing at Havre de Grace American Legion Post #47 for a raffle of door prizes provided by community sponsors. Free registration is also available online at www.apgmwr.com. Safety is paramount! Safety brief at 7 a.m. at the APG Aberdeen Area PX parking lot, with a review of T-CLOCS basics and a bike inspection.

Kirk closes for holiday

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed May 28 for a Training Day and May 31 for Memorial Day.

It is important to pick up prescriptions before May 28.

For medical services needed after hours, weekends or federal holidays, contact Staff Duty, 410-278-1725 or 443-807-0725 and initiate a referral. To avoid Point of Service charges, patients will need a referral to go to any urgency clinic. Emergency room visits do not require a referral. If unable to reach Staff Duty, seek the nearest participating facility. Call the clinic the following business day.

KUSAHC Referral Management telephone number is 410-278-1799. The Patient Advocate telephone number is 410-278-1724.

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

Riders

From page 4

all present important information meant to prepare riders of all experience levels to meet the challenges of sitting in the saddle of a potentially deadly machine.

"These programs bring riders together to learn and have some great, high-energy fun," said Eyer. "These shared experiences help every biker learn from their peers what and what not to do to stay safe out on the roads."

Today, more than a year after the accident, Daniels is back on his bike and once again teaching motorcycle safety courses to riders, emphasizing the importance of practicing emergency techniques as often as possible. Before every ride, he dons his complete set of PPE including a full-face helmet and, as often as he can, practices the emergency swerve that very likely saved his life.

"It never crossed my mind to stop riding after the accident," Daniels said. "Everything out there is dangerous and

safety is just about understanding that fact and being ready for the risk."

For information about motorcycle safety, visit <https://safety.army.mil/povmotorcyclesafety>. To register for a motorcycle safety course at your installation, visit the Army Installation management Command Registration System (AIRS) Web site at <https://airs.lmi.org/>.

Revised Motorcycle Safety Courses

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

Basic Rider Course (BRC)

- Day 1: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., building 4303, Hazardous Waste Training Room.
- Days 2 and 3: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Motorcycle Range on Darlington Street.

Schedule: May 25-27, June 22-24, July 20-22, Aug. 27-19, Sept. 21-23, Oct. 19-21.

Experienced Rider Course (ERC)

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

Schedule: May 14, June 2 and 3, June 25, July 8 and 9, July 23, Aug. 20, Aug. 30 and 31, Sept. 1 and 2, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 12.

Teen gains customer service skills through HIRED! program

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

A C. Milton Wright High School junior is gaining work experience this spring by working as a receptionist at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center.

Dylan Doggett, 17, said that he wanted to participate in the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation HIRED! program to obtain work experience before graduating high school. The HIRED! program, which was introduced to the Aberdeen Proving Ground community last fall, provides paid apprenticeships for 15-to-18 year-olds.

The apprenticeship lasts for 12 weeks, with the option of working in the same location for another semester.

Doggett said that he does a variety of tasks including checking in patrons at the front desk, answering phones and assisting the Athletic Center's staff and patrons. He works at the Athletic Center after school.

"This is my first job," Doggett said. "It has given me experience working with people, which is an important job skill. I would recommend this program to others who need job experience."

Donna Coyne, APG intramural sports director and Doggett's on-site mentor, said that she has enjoyed working with him.

"Dylan has fit in well here at the Athletic Center," she said. "He is enthusiastic and willing to work and jumps in to help with all of our programs and he is not afraid to ask questions."

Coyne added that she thinks that the HIRED! program is beneficial FMWR facilities, and provides good "hands-on" experience for high school students, experience that can be added to resumes and college applications.

"The HIRED! program helps the young folks get a taste of the working world and helps us out by giving us an extra set of hands to help run our facilities," Coyne said.



Dylan Doggett, right, a C. Milton Wright High School junior checks in patron Joe Noble, left, at the front desk. Doggett is working as a receptionist at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center as part of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's HIRED! program introduced to the Aberdeen Proving Ground community last fall. The HIRED! program provides paid apprenticeships for 15-to 18-year-olds.

About HIRED!

The HIRED! program offers a variety of job placements in FMWR facilities for teens of military and government civilians assigned to APG. To secure apprenticeships, candidates must achieve and maintain a 2.0 grade point average or higher before completing a pre-assessment and interviews with facility manag-

ers. Depending on the skills and interest teens show in these interviews, they are placed under the direct supervision of a designated on-site mentor who is responsible for tutoring their individual apprentices.

Jay McKinney, a youth workforce preparation specialist with APG's Child Youth and School Services Office, said that the

program offers more than just a job. It offers valuable experience for teens.

"Many teens are unsure of what career they want to pursue," McKinney said. "This program gives them a chance to explore these options."

Some of the career options offered in the HIRED! program include: education, child and/or youth development, marketing

or graphic design, library and information science, food and beverage management, pet care education, information technology, sports studies and sports management.

Students may participate in the program twice a year and can participate in the program every year while they are between the ages of 15 and 18.

During the summer, apprentices are allowed to serve two terms at one time, meaning they would participate 30 hours during a seven-day period. There is also potential for the stipend to increase depending on the number of times the student enrolls in the program.

Additional requirements for the students include participating in other career preparation enrichment activities such as workshops and classes where students learn how to fill out financial aid forms and scholarship applications. Students will also be expected to keep a journal of their experience.

"Teens will receive experience that will make them competitive in future job opportunities and college applications," McKinney said. "Students will develop work and life skills, like customer service, and resume writing, that will be applicable to any job they might pursue in the future."

To find out more information about the HIRED! program contact McKinney, 410-278-3250, who is now signing up teens for the next semester.



HIRED!

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

The program gives teens guidance on preparing a resume, teaches interview techniques and provides work experience in their chosen field. Participants will receive a stipend for their work at the end of the term.

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

Youth Career Seminar

The Seminar will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 15 at Aberdeen CYSS, building 2752. Teens ages 13 to 18 will attend four sessions: Payday Lesson in Life: saving and budgeting; Career Workshop: prepares teens for workforce entry; Staying Positive and Motivated: Teens learn to

handle their emotions and be productive; and Goal Setting.

Register at the CYSS central registration, building 2752.

Time Management and Organization for Teens

Teens, ages 13 to 18 can register for

Time Management and Organization for Teens. The program will be held 6 to 7 p.m., May 13, at Child, Youth and School Services, building 2522. Teens will learn how to prioritize and organize responsibilities and leave enough time for fun too. Register at the CYSS central registration building 2752.



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Birdie Cafe opens at Exton Golf Course

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

Get Toby Keith concert tickets while they last

Don't wait too long to get your tickets for the Army Concert Tour featuring Toby Keith at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Shine Sports Field June 5. Gate opens 6 p.m. and show begins 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 and \$45 the day of the show. Tickets are available at the Leisure Travel Office in the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4721, Tuesday thru Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Stark Recreation Center in the Edgewood Area, building E4140, 410-436-2713/3595, Monday thru Friday,

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Or, order tickets online at www.apgmwr.com. Non-ID card holders can order tickets through TICKETMASTER at www.ticketmaster.com. This is a rain or shine event with lawn seating and no refunds. For more information, visit the MWR Web site at www.apgmwr.com or call 410-278-4011.

MWR Leisure Travel offers discount tickets to amusement parks

MWR Leisure Travel offers discount tickets to amusement parks in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia. Get discount tickets for Six Flags America, Six Flags Great Adventure, Dorney Park/Wild Water Kingdom, Dutch Wonderland, Hershey Park, Sesame Place, Busch Gardens, Kings Dominion, Colonial Williamsburg and more.

Take advantage of the Atlantic City Daily Run for \$28 per person, roundtrip transportation included. Discount tickets are also available for the Baltimore Zoo, Luray Caverns, Va., Longwood Gardens, Pa., Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, the National Aquarium, Regal Movie Theaters, Spirit Cruise in Washington, D.C. and more.

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

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

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

Government Vacation Rewards

Government Vacation Rewards is a travel discount program specifically designed for government employees and military personnel to save money on their vacations. Consumers will have access to the savings online at www.GovVacationRewards.com or by calling one of their experienced vacation consultants. Government Vacation Rewards offers more than 40 cruise lines, more than 4,000 different resort properties to all major destinations worldwide with no blackout dates. Every booking comes with a Best Price Guarantee and even

friends and Family members can take advantage of the prices.

A portion of Government Vacation Rewards proceeds support Department of Defense MWR activities, the Wounded Warrior Program, and Vacations for Veterans Eligible groups including

- Active duty and retired military
 - National Guard and Reservists
 - Veterans
 - Federal, state and local employees
 - Retired federal, state and local employees
 - Civilian government contractors
- Remember to select "APG" at the time of booking.

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.

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.

Private Piano lessons

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

Lessons cost \$68 per student and include six weeks of 30-minute lessons once a week. Parents choose which time frame session they want to sign-up for when they register their child.

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

Pirate Clinic for Mateys

Arrgghh, mateys! Ages 4 to 6 can join a Pirate Clinic, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., from

June 28 to July 1 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522.

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

Little Princess Workshop

Girls ages 4 to 6 will stretch their imaginations as well as their toes as they dance their way through a storybook collage of fairy tales. The Little Princess Workshop will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., June 21 to 24, at the Edgewood Area Youth Center, building E1902. Children will explore elements of creative movement, modern ballet, tap, and jazz, and construct simple cos-

tumes and props in a daily craft activity. Look forward to an enchanting dance presentation for Family and friends. Clothing should include solid color leotard, pink tights, ballet slippers, tap shoes (or hard-soled shoes) or a favorite princess costume. Bring a snack and drink daily. Cost is \$45 per child.

Private Guitar Lessons

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

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

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

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

May bowling specials

- Bowl Monday through Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. for \$1 per game. Shoe rental costs \$.75.
- Cosmic Saturdays: Each Saturday, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza and one

- pitcher of soda for \$32.
 - Cosmic Fridays, bowl 9:30 to 11 p.m.; up to six people can bowl for \$16 for one hour. Includes shoe rental.
- 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 May 10

- Special #1: Cheese steak wrap with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$4.75.
- Special #2: Chicken cheese steak wrap with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$4.95.

Week of May 17

- Special #1: Crab cake with French fries, coleslaw, cookie and regular soda for \$10.50.
- Special #2: Chicken salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.95.

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



ACS high noon tea honors military spouses

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Army Community Service honored Aberdeen Proving Ground spouses by hosting a high noon tea May 5 at the Top of the Bay. The event was in celebration of Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is a day set aside each year to recognize and honor the contributions and sacrifices of military spouses. In 1984, then President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the Friday before Mother's Day to be designated as Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

Celestine Beckett, ACS director, opened the event by welcoming guests and thanked the spouses for the everyday sacrifices they make for their country.

Beckett read a Military Spouse Appreciation proclamation from President Barack Obama.

"Military spouses share the sacrifices of service with our nation's men and women in uniform. As members of the Armed Forces serve in the United States and across the world, military spouses also serve our nation," Beckett read. "Wives and husbands of service members display an uncommon courage and strength as they steadfastly support their spouses during long and arduous deployments. Military spouses offer the love and encouragement that help service members endure the challenges



From left: Patti Harkins, Civilian Welfare and Post Restaurant Fund serves tea to military spouses, Jennifer Bray, Karla Jones and Angela Foye. Army Community Service honored military spouses by hosting a high noon tea May 5 at the Top of the Bay in celebration of Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Tea was served by ACS and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff.

of serving our nation. All Americans should express appreciation for military spouses and let them know they are not alone."

Beckett said the event was held to show Aberdeen Proving Ground's appreciation for military spouses.

"Along with a nation that

appreciates you, APG appreciates your unshakeable commitment and support to our service men and women," Beckett said. "I also want you to know that you are not alone, we are here for you."

After Beckett's remarks, four flavors of tea were served by ACS and Family and Morale,

Welfare and Recreation staff. Guests also dined on soup, sandwiches, scones and mini deserts, while Spc. Natanael Afanador, from the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, played piano.

To entertain guests, Angela Keithley Scarlato, from FMWR, dressed up in an 18th centu-

ry costume and gave a presentation of the "Language of the Fan," which showed how women communicated using fans during the 18th century.

As a token of appreciation, spouses received the book "Chicken Soup for the Military Spouses Soul," flowers and spa kits.

Wanda Wheeler, a military spouse, said that she enjoyed coming to the event because she liked meeting other military spouses.

"It is important to be active in the community, and to give each other [military spouses] support," she said.

Priscilla Kelly, a military spouse, said that she enjoyed the event because it gave her a chance to relax and socialize.

"The tea made me feel very special," Kelly said. "I felt privileged to be honored. I enjoyed the food that was served and being able to spend time with my friends."

"This was a fun-filled afternoon for the spouses," said Marilyn Howard, ACS employment manager.

Howard added that ACS is hosting a Military Spouse Appreciation Beef & Burgundy Dinner at the Top of the Bay Main Ballroom, building 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., May 21. Childcare is provided at no cost for those attending the dinner event. Children are also welcome to dine with their parents. To RSVP call Howard at 410-278-9669. Please RSVP by May 17.

Acceptance

From page 3

The third phase is what I am striving for now. Several years ago an elderly woman and I were talking in the car as we drove back from her late husband's memorial service—I had just conducted the service. She could not stop talking about how her husband was the most wonderful person she had ever known. I told her about the two stages of marriage that I had discovered and asked her if there was something about marriage that yet awaited me. She immediately answered, "Oh my! There most

certainly is—you will get to the stage in marriage where you cannot deliberately hurt the one you love." THAT set me back on my heels! How right she is! Self-sacrifice is the keyword of this phase.

I have learned, however, that a great foe stands in the way of this particular phase—it is UNFORGIVENESS! Our hearts (those pesky blackboards) are daily written upon by life's painful experiences. If we do not learn to erase this blackboard, it will one day become full. If we do not erase these awful scripts written on our hearts, we will eventually be filled with hatred—we will only want to hurt others to GET EVEN.

To forgive is to erase.

Imagine not even being able to deliberately lash out and hurt your spouse, sacrificing your chance of getting even so that they can go free from pain. Can you imagine being loved in this way? No more critical/judgmental words! Can you imagine loving in this way?

This is acceptance.

In conclusion, I believe that marriage is the primary classroom that teaches us how to love and be loved. I know that this is not a perfect world and our partners sometimes bring into the mix some awfully destructive behaviors where outside help may be necessary. But a marriage is a system of interrelated beliefs and their resultant behaviors that continually grind

on one-another. There are indeed two enemies of love/acceptance: 1) the scripts of judgment and criticism we write on the hearts of others and 2) the failure on our part to erase those scripts from our own hearts. Both acts are equally responsible for filling the blackboards! Filled blackboards simply do not work—they never have and they never will!

Words of encouragement and corrections stated in complete love (acceptance and commitment never in doubt) go far in helping those we love to grow—both spouse and children alike (co-workers too). I believe that this is exactly what each and every one of us desires—we want to be accepted—unconditionally.

Change

From front page

"I see great things in your future," he said.

He then praised the accomplishments of USAEC and asked current and former employees to "stand and be recognized."

"Many people don't realize the importance of USAEC," Lynch said. "They have taken the Army from pure compliance to sustainability."

Gervais was awarded the Legion of Merit and her husband received a certificate of achievement.

Lynch welcomed Kimmell and his family and added that he expects the organization's success to continue under Kimmell's leadership.

"You will do a magnificent job," Lynch said. "Good luck and God bless."

Gervais, who has been the commander of USAEC since 2008, expressed her thanks to former and current superiors, command sergeants major and regional directors who "took me under their wings."

"I can't thank you enough for your patience and friendship," she said.

She also thanked APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades who helped organize the event and participated in the change of command and color casing ceremonies. Incoming USAEC Command Sgt. Maj. Earlene Lavender was present but will not take on senior enlisted responsibilities until she relocates from Korea in August.

Gervais said she was "honored and humbled" by the ceremony and that the "real heroes" of her successful command were the employees of USAEC.

"They are professionals who work tirelessly to protect the environment," she said.

Expressing her thanks to them, she said that despite the challenges of the last 22 months, USAEC has led the way in Army Environmental Program management.

"Your efforts during this period are unmatched," she said. "For all your hard work and sacrifices I thank you on behalf of Soldiers and our Army."

"You have a great command here," she told Kimmell. "Take good care of them and they will take good care of you."

Kimmell thanked all for attending and said he was proud to assume command "of this tremendously professional organization."

He thanked senior commanders and former USAEC commanders in attendance and told the Soldiers on the field, "You are the best of the best."

"I just hope I can live up to everyone's expectation; most of all to 'Team Kimmell,'" he said in reference to his wife Kelly and children Alex and Drew, "who have sacrificed much to allow me to lead again."

"I look forward to working with you all in the great Army mission to support our Soldiers."

The ceremony closed with the casing of the USAEC colors, led by Kimmell and Rhoades. As they drew the green casing over the colors, narrator Laurie Decker, USAEC chief of Public Affairs, explained that the colors will be uncased during an activation ceremony in Texas.

"As the U.S. Army Environmental Command colors are cased, a new era in environmental history will begin, leaving a proud legacy at Aberdeen Proving Ground," Decker said.

Guests of the ceremony included IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, who assisted Lynch in the awards presentation, and Maj. Gen. Nickolas G. Justice, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command. After the ceremony, both Ciotola and Justice congratulated



Col. Scott D. Kimmell, incoming commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Command, left, passes the unit colors to APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney J. Rhoades during a change of command ceremony at the Edgewood Area's McBride Parade Field May 6. The 17th USAEC commander, Kimmell will lead the organization through its transitions to Texas under base realignment and closure after 38 years at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Outgoing Commander Col. Maria Gervais, looks on from left.

the members of the salute battery and color guard on their performances.

Chaplain (Maj.) Fred Townsend, APG Garrison, delivered the invocation for the ceremony and the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, led by Sgt. Maj. Wendy Thomson, provided the ceremony's music. Alicia Booher, a USAEC environmental protection specialist, sang the national anthem. The color guard for the ceremony consisted of Soldiers from the 20th Support Command (CBRNE), led by Staff Sgt. Gabrielle Martinez, color guard sergeant, and Sgt. Jangardy Ducheine, noncommissioned officer in charge.

Staff Sgt. Wayne Perkins led the salute battery, which consisted of Soldiers from the APG Garrison, the Joint Personal Effects Depot, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and Headquarters and Headquarters Company 61st Ordnance Brigade.

USAEC history

The U.S. Army established the Project Manager for Chemical Demilitarization and assigned it to the U.S. Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM) headquarters at Rock Island, Ill. in 1972. In 1975, the Army Program Manger for Chemical Demilitarization expanded its mission and began managing the newly established Installation Restoration Program, which became the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency (USATHAMA) in 1978.

In 1980, the Research, Development and Test and Evaluation Program, Pollution Abatement and Environmental Control Technology were added to the USATHAMA mission.

The Army established a separate Program Manager for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal cleanup mission in 1985, which previously was assigned to USATHAMA, and in 1986, its chemical demilitarization mission also was assigned to a separate program manager so the agency could focus on environmental programs.

After the USATHAMA was reassigned from the U.S. Army Materiel Command to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1988, it was designated

the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC) in 1993, with the mission of supporting the Department of the Army staff. The USAEC reported to the Army's first Director of Environmental programs to provide management and technical support for environmental programs across the Army.

Eight months later, the USAEC and the Army Director of Environmental Programs began reporting to the newly established after its designation, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM). In addition, the USAEC took on the responsibility for Conservation Programs from the Center for Public Works.

In 1995, USAEC established Regional Environmental offices in Denver, Colo., Atlanta, Ga., Kansas City, Mo., and at Aberdeen Proving Ground to work with

state and federal regulators.

The 2005 base realignment and closure act realigned APG and relocated USAEC to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In 2006, USAEC became a major subordinate command under the Installation Management Command and was renamed the U.S. Army Environmental Command.

The Regional Environmental offices became operational components of the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installation Environment in 2007.

On June 18, 2009, Col. Maria Gervais hosted the "AEC Forward" ceremony which officially sent advance party personnel to Fort Sam, Houston under the direction of Technical Director Randy Cerar. The ceremony marked the start of the formal relocation process.

Sesame Street Workshop visits APG

Story and photos by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground's Month of the Military Child celebration ended on a high note May 1 with two shows from the Sesame Street Workshop held at the Post Theater.

Approximately 600 people attended each showing of the "Sesame Street/USO Experience." The free show, for military children and their Families, featured Elmo and his friends Rosita, Cookie Monster, Grover and Zoe, as well as free giveaways, such as twirly lights and bandanas for children and DVDs and handouts for parents.

The tour serves as an extension of traditional USO entertainment and is a continuation of Sesame Street's Talk, Listen and Connect initiative for military Families. The initiative provides support and offers resources for Families with young children who are experiencing the effects of deployment, multiple deployments or when a parent comes home injured.

The show featured singing and dancing from the Sesame Street characters, which interacted frequently with the audience.

At one point in the show, Elmo expressed sadness that his daddy was away. "Do you ever feel sad, like when you miss your mom and dad? He said. His friends responded by providing suggestions of ways to stay connected to his parents when they are away.

At the end of the show Elmo said that he was proud of military children. "You make Elmo proud!" he said, to a cheering audience.

Lonnie Cooper, the show's tour manager, said that it seemed like the energetic audience enjoyed the show.

"There was a high quantity of smiles," he said.

Kate Fortney said that her son, Nathan Fortney, 5, was excited to attend the show.

"He was looking forward to the show all week. He wanted to wear his suit because he was going to a special event and wanted to look nice for meeting his favorite Sesame Street characters," she said. "He really enjoyed dancing and cheering when the characters sang "Dance to the Music."

Marion Byars, who attended with her son Bryce Byars, 3, and his friend Braden Gabrish, 4, said that she appreciated the free event.



Grover, Cookie Monster, Rosita and Zoe greet audience members during the "Sesame Street/USO Experience," held at the Post Theater May 1.

"We had a wonderful time," she said. Ruth Strauss, Child Youth and School Services coordinator, said that the event ran smoothly.

"We were so excited to be able to help sponsor this event," she said. "Stacie [Umbarger, CYSS program specialist] did a wonderful job organizing and coordinating the event."

About the "Sesame Street / USO Experience for Military Families" tour
www.uso.org

Logging more than 45,500 miles, the "Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families" has toured around the world for more than two consecutive years and brought smiles to more than 120,000 service members and military Families. The tour is made possible as the result of an ongoing partnership between the USO and Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization that



Sesame Street characters perform a song during the "Sesame Street/USO Experience."

revolutionized children's television programming with Sesame Street. The tour has spanned nine countries and visited 76 military bases. To date, the tour is the

longest-running entertainment tour in USO history and the first-ever traveling USO tour designed specifically for military Families.



Aberdeen Proving Ground youths compete in the 50-yard dash while attendees cheer them on during the annual Child, Youth and School Services Youth Sports' Spring into Action Day held at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center sports field May 1.

CYSS Youth Sports' Spring into Action promotes health and fitness

Story and photos by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Hundreds of children, teens and parents showed up for a day of fun and games that included parent and child team competitions and team photos during Spring into Action Day held at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center sports field May 1.

The event is a kick-off to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Child, Youth and School Services' summer sports program and encourages attendees to stay active and make healthy choices.

Bill Kegley, the CYSS sports director, said that the Youth Sports staff wanted to plan an event that combined March's Health and Nutrition Awareness Month and April's Month of the Military Child.

Events and activities included a water balloon toss, a fitness course, home run derby, 50-yard dash and team building activities like the football-relay race. A moon bounce, slide and three carnival

games also added to the fun.

Children wore their basketball, baseball, softball, football or cheerleading uniforms for team photos and participants received medals for first and second-place finishes. In addition, a health station displayed information on asthma and the importance of proper nutrition and exercise. Water bottles and healthy snacks like yogurt and animal crackers were also provided.

"I had a great time being outside enjoying the hot weather and being with friends," said Maggie Kilmon, 7. "My favorite part was getting first place in the 50-yard dash in the six to eight age group."

For more information about CYSS Youth Sports, visit www.apgmwr.com or call Kegley at 410-306-2297. CYSS Sports provides a comprehensive set of programs for military children and children of Department of Defense civilians, retirees and contractors.



From left: Beth Kegley, a registered nurse from Franklin Square Hospital, talks to Tyler Long, 8, and Alaynah Chrisikos, 3, about how asthma is negatively affected by smoking at the Spring into Action health station.



Santos Ruiz, 9, prepares to throw a baseball at the Baseball Toss, one of the event's carnival games.



From left: Ja'Quan Hayes, 9, aims for a hole-in-one while Eric Henderson, CYSS Youth Sports staff member, watches.

Memories

From front page

In 2006, after several organization name and many mission changes, the U.S. Army Environmental Command was activated as a subordinate command of the newly created Installation Management Command.

On May 5, the organization's 16th and final USAEC commander here at APG, Col. Maria R. Gervais, hosted a farewell party for USAEC and invited all present and former employees to a night of reminiscing at CAPA Field in the Edgewood Area.

"Because USAEC is scheduled to complete the BRAC move to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, next year, we decided to bring together as many present day and former commanders and employees, as well as those of us still remaining at APG, to have a party and reminisce," said Gervais. "Almost forty years in one communi-

ty is a long time and we wanted to locate and invite those still around APG that had worked so hard and for so many years, to lead our Army in sound environmental stewardship initiatives and programs."

The response was overwhelming. An estimated 300 USAEC employees and alumni attended the BBQ and beer event.

"I'm so glad the organization leaders decided to have this event," said Jill Reilly-Hauck, Environmental Planning Branch, USAEC, who has worked for the unit for two years. "It's bittersweet to see a unique, one-of-a-kind organization like USAEC leave APG, but the needs of the Army come first."

Reilly-Hauck is one of the USAEC employees that opted to move to Fort Sam Houston with the organization.

"The environment is so important to me and now, after talking with some of our past employees, I get it, what

we do here," she said. "If we keep the ranges open and well maintained, our Soldiers can train so they are well prepared and safer when they deploy overseas in harm's way. I'm proud to be a part of the USAEC team and [I'm] looking forward to working toward sound environmental stewardship for our Army and Soldiers."

Maj. Gen. Nickolas G. Justice, commanding general of the U.S. Army Research, Engineering and Development Command, attended the event and said farewell to Gervais and USAEC.

"It's an Army tradition that the commander gives of themselves during command and then takes back a bit of the command with them once they leave the unit," said Justice. "This framed print is something to hang on the wall and remember the unit and Aberdeen Proving Ground. You won't find many American Eagles down there (in Texas)

nor have your own lighthouse like up here at the top of the Chesapeake."

Murals of former commanders and past employees were part of the CAPA Field decorations and a closed loop slide show of USAEC images from days past was shown, along with [background] music a lot of folks recognized as coming from the Disco era. A farewell scrapbook was available for attendees to review and sign.

Long time employee Mike Dette, chief of USAEC's Technology Services Branch, has already moved to Fort Sam Houston and is excited about the change.

"I've got twenty-two years with USAEC and have seen lots of changes, but the environment remains the focus, but the important thing remains - people," he said. "The people on the USAEC team care about the environment and the Army, so they want to stay with this organization because of its unique mission; a lot of them are even

following the organization to Texas."

On May 6, Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commanding general of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, hosted the USAEC change of command and casing of the colors ceremonies at McBride Parade Field. Col. Scott D. Kimmell assumed responsibility of the organization, becoming USAEC's 17th commander and the symbolic casing of the USAEC colors signified the final transition of the mission from Maryland to Texas.

This was the closing chapter for USAEC at APG but a new one begins very soon at Fort Sam Houston as the colors are scheduled to be unfurled May 21. Employees new to USAEC will soon join veterans to make up a mixed team of dedicated professionals that remains the Armed Forces' premier environmental organization primed and ready to sustain military readiness and communities world-wide.