

## Post Shorts

### Reduced gate hours

The Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area will close 7 p.m. and the Wise Road Gate (Route 755) in the Edgewood Area will close 6 p.m. Friday, May 28 for the Memorial Day holiday. The Harford and Wise Road gates will reopen 5 a.m., Tuesday, June 1.

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.

### RAB meeting today

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](http://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.

### Edgewood Area blood drive

The U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) will hold a blood drive 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 3 at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, building E4516. Come out and support the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP)

See **SHORTS**, page 4

## New director assumes responsibility for Army Developmental Test Command

Story by **MIKE CAST**  
DTC Public Affairs

James Johnson, the first civilian to lead the Army Developmental Test Command (DTC), passed the organizational guidance to Mike Etzinger May 13, continuing the civilian leadership of DTC for the foreseeable future.

Headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, DTC oversees diverse military test-and-evaluation programs at its test centers in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Maryland, New Mexico and Utah. Johnson was selected to be the director of the Army's Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity (USATA) at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., a unit subordinate to the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command.

Johnson, who headed Redstone Technical Test Center at Alabama's Redstone Arsenal before moving on to the number two job at DTC headquar-



Photo by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER  
Dr. James Streilein, executive director of the Army Test and Evaluation Command, passes DTC's colors to Mike Etzinger, DTC's new director, as James Johnson looks on.

ters in January 2007, said before he arrived at DTC he thought it burdened its test centers with too many "taskers," as the Army refers to tasks that pass down

from an Army organization to its subordinate units. But after arriving at DTC headquarters, he discovered taskers were largely requests by "external stakehold-

ers" for information, and that DTC headquarters staff screened out many taskers to keep test centers as free as possible from

See **DTC**, page 13



Bob Dennison and Shaun Blische of the Directorate of Public Works buildings and structures division (in bucket) return to the task of removing Ordnance emblems from building 3071, after handing co-worker Tony Vincenti part of the sign from the former U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools headquarters about 5:45 p.m., May 19.

## 61st Ordnance Brigade cases its colors, prepares for BRAC move

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

The 61st Ordnance Brigade and the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School held its final ceremony on Aberdeen Proving Ground May 17, during a colors casing ceremony at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center.

Col. Dan J. Reilly, brigade commander and OMMS commandant, hosted the ceremony, which symbolized the movement of the brigade and the 16th Ordnance Battalion to Fort Lee, Va. along with the rest of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools under base realignment and closure.

The 143rd Ordnance Battalion in the Edgewood Area will remain at APG until its facilities at Fort Lee are completed, sometime in 2011.

Guests included Maj. Gen. Nick G. Justice, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and Brig. Gen. Lynn A. Collyar, commander of OC&S and Chief of Ordnance.

Reilly, assisted by OMMS Command Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Tolbert, drew the casing over the brigade colors and then commended the units on the 'field.'

They included representatives of the brigade, the 16th and 143rd Ordnance battalions, and the Marine Corps and Air Force detachments. The commander of troops was Maj. Richard McConico, Brigade S3. Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Edwards served as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the color guard.

See **ORDNANCE**, page 19

## U.S. Army Materiel Command Band conducts final change of command at APG

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

With its time at Aberdeen Proving Ground winding down, the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band conducted its final change in leadership during a change of command ceremony at the band's practice facility May 18.

Lt. Gen. James H. Pillsbury, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, presided over the ceremony and led the passing of the guidon as Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frederick Ellwein surrendered the position of band commander to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Gillies.

In keeping with the 2005 base realignment and closure act, the band will relocate to the new AMC Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. later this year.

Guests of the ceremony included Maj. Gen. Nick G. Justice, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Gary Martin, RDECOM deputy to the commander; Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander; Col.

Thomas Palmatier, U.S. Army Field Band, Fort Meade; RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin; APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades; and Command Sgt. Maj. Loren McClung, U.S. Army Field Band, Fort Meade.

AMC Band Sgt. Maj. Wendy Thomson served as commander of troops and RDECOM Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeffrey Zust delivered the invocation.

During the ceremony, Ellwein was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service" during his leadership of the band from February 2007 to May 2010. During this time, he led more than 620 missions supporting AMC and major subordinate missions nationally and internationally, including two short deployments into the war zone to entertain troops engaged in the War on Terror.

Pillsbury said that, "as folks in Aberdeen know and as folks in Huntsville discovered earlier this year, this is the best band in the Army."

"I've heard nothing but excellence from this band," he said, "and it starts at the top, with great noncommissioned officers and officers."

See **BAND**, page 17

## APG Summer Ball tickets still available

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground will host the 2010 APG Summer Ball at the Top of the Bay on June 4.

"This event celebrates both the Army's Birthday and our growing and changing community," said Capt. Ginger Hammerquist, APG Garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander.

The event, which is open to military and civilians 18 years and older, features a grand buffet with vegetarian entrees and carving stations for sirloin of beef, boneless ham, and smoked turkey breast and two cash bars. Entertainment for the evening will feature live music from the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band's jazz combo, a live DJ, dancing, and a taste of Army Grog tradition.

The guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. James Pillsbury, the U.S. Army Materiel Command's deputy commanding general.

"We hope to share in LTG Pillsbury's passion for the Army Values and to gain a better perspective of APG's role in the Army's Transformation."

Hammerquist added that the APG Summer Ball is a good opportunity for APG to come together to celebrate as a community.

"For a more personal ambience for spouses with deployed service members, we have reserved Yellow Ribbon Tables and we have invited our Gold Star Families to join us again," Hammerquist said.

Civilian attire is semi-formal, dark suit for men and military attire is the service uniform with white shirt and bow tie for men.

The event is open to all Department of Defense cardholders, military, civilian, contractors, retirees, Family members and guests.

The Ball will begin with a receiving line and cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m. in the Chesapeake Room, followed by bugle call to the Main Ballroom at 7:30 p.m.

RSVP to HCC, USAGAPG at 410-278-3000 and purchase tickets at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com). Price is \$40 per person. The cost for junior service members and their guests is reduced from \$40 to \$25 per person to promote professional development and military tradition at the lowest level.

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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# Carter's Chord to open Toby Keith Concert

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Inspired by the Dixie Chicks, yet with a sound all their own, Carter's Chord will bring their three-part harmony to Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Army Concert Tour featuring Country star Toby Keith at Shine Sports Field June 5. Gate opens 6 p.m. and the show starts 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 in advance, \$45 the day of the show. Organizers anticipate this show will sell out so fans should hurry and make their purchases.

Tickets are available at the Leisure Travel Office in the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4721, Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Stark Recreation Center in the Edgewood Area, building E4140, 410-436-2713/3595, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Or, order tickets online at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com). Non-government ID card holders can order tickets through TICKETMASTER at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). This is a rain or shine event with lawn seating and no refunds.

### Looking for volunteers

FMWR needs volunteers to work at

concert venues. To volunteer, e-mail [mwr.marketing@conus.army.mil](mailto:mwr.marketing@conus.army.mil).

For more information, visit the MWR Web site at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com) or call 410-278-4011.

### Carter's Chord

[www.carterschord.com](http://www.carterschord.com)

Becky, Emily and Joanna Robertson make up the Country music trio Carter's Chord. The singing sister-songwriters are the daughters of Barney and Carter Robertson who toured with Waylon Jennings as members of the Waylons. The sisters caught the ear of Toby Keith in 2006 and he signed them to his Show Dog Nashville label. The sisters named their group "Carter's Chord" in reference to a musical triad. Their self-titled debut album is co-produced by Keith and their Grammy-winning father, Barney Robertson. Their debut single, "Young Love" was released in 2007 followed by the full-length CD in 2008.

The trio has been singing and writing music since they were youngsters. On their debut album, they bring their modern musical flair to a tradition that includes Southern rock and the blues as

well as Outlaw country to create a distinctive new rocking country that is all their own.

"As soon as I saw these girls perform I knew they had to be on Show Dog,"

said Keith. "I could see and hear that they not only have the talent but also the combination of musical roots and contemporary artistry to take them all the way."



Photo courtesy of FMWR  
From left, Emma, Becky and Joanna Robertson make up the Country music trio Carter's Chord who will perform during the Army Concert Tour featuring Toby Keith and special guest Katherine McPhee at Shine Sports Field June 5.

## APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMNE-APG-PA, Building 2201, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

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

### Staff

APG Commander ..... Maj. Gen. Nickolas G. Justice  
APG Garrison Commander ..... Col. Orlando W. Ortiz  
Public Affairs Officer ..... George P. Mercer  
Acting Editor ..... Pat McClung  
Editorial Assistant ..... Marguerite Towson  
Contract Photojournalists ..... Yvonne Johnson  
..... Rachel Ponder  
Graphic Designer/Web Designer ..... Nick Pentz  
Web site ..... [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil)



# Community and APG: Partners in Education

## ECBC shows Edgewood Middle School students the Magic of Science

Story by  
**JENNIFER CARROLL**  
ECBC

The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) supported Project DREAM Work a Harford Community College partnership program with its fifth annual Edgewood Middle School Career Expo on May 11. Demonstrating the importance and excitement of a future career path in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to eighth-grade students, the Center's participation was funded by the National Defense Education Program.

ECBC scientists offered 410 Edgewood Middle School students their expertise, provided career insight and interacted with them during a hands-on science demonstration called the 'Magic of Science.'

"This Career Expo is a moving opportunity for students to recognize their own potential and skills, and apply them to the different occupations," said Edgewood Middle School Student Counselor Peg Taibi. "We are thankful ECBC participated again this year and contributed to the event's success by sharing the Magic of Science with our students."

Exhibiting real-life environmental bacteria samples, ECBC Research Biologists Lalena Wallace and Lisa Smith taught the students about the existence of biological phenomena in every-day life and explained the process of col-

lecting, culturing and identifying bacteria to them.

Additionally, Wallace and Smith invited students to participate in a 30-second contest allowing them to apply their pipetting skills one of the most basic and important activities in a biology lab. The hands-on experiment challenged students to use precision while transferring sample liquid from a container into the small tubes, and to compete against their friends.

"This type of activity was really fun," said Edgewood Middle School student Brittany Crabill, who won the pipetting contest against her two girlfriends Chaelin Despres and Edith Gathura. "I didn't realize how much fun biology can be and would actually consider working in this field."

Taking the science experience at Edgewood Middle School a notch up, ECBC Scientists Ken Collins, Ph.D., Mike Ellzy, Ph.D., Mike Feasel and Terry Roop showed 47 eighth-grade students selected by their science teachers to participate in this scientist-in-the-classroom event the Magic of Science.

"Our daily life depends on our current science and technology, which you might want to be a part of one day," Collins said introducing ECBC's Magic of Science demonstration. "I've wanted to be a chemist since second grade, and these types of presentations helped

inspire me to follow through with my plan. So, we hope to spark your inspiration today and will give you some fun and interesting science facts."

Collins, Ellzy, Feasel and Roop waved their magical science wands over the group of students assembled in Edgewood Middle School's gymnasium and each of them equipped with a pair of science goggles.

Revealing their scientific secrets, ECBC's chemists fascinated the crowd of students with the effects of chemical reactions, temperature changes and pressure displacements on different types of materials.

"My favorite part of this presentation was to watch how liquid nitrogen made racquet balls shatter, roses crumble and balloons shrink," said Edgewood Middle School eighth-grader Devon Avery. "I really liked what I saw and want to be a biological, electrical or software engineer one day preferably for the Army."

While immersed into the world of science, the students remained completely silent during ECBC's performance sequences, but volunteered to assist in experiments with enthusiasm.

"I don't know when I have last seen our eighth-graders this attentive and engaged," said Edgewood Middle School Principal Lawrence Rudolph, Ed.D. "It was obvious how much they enjoyed this learning experience, and I am very grate-

ful for ECBC's support in encouraging our students to pursue a STEM-related career path."

But ECBC's performing scientists enjoyed reaching out to Edgewood Middle School's students and sparking their interest in science and technology at least as much as the students.

"To get out of our labs and share our passion for science with the students is extremely rewarding," said Feasel. "And, to see how much fun the students had with each of our science demonstrations and how they engaged in the hands-on activities made the event even more amazing."

Project DREAM Work Program Director Mindy Costanzo-Romero was very pleased with the outcome of this year's Edgewood Middle School Career Expo, recognizing ECBC's Magic of Science as a valuable addition to the event.

"We began working with ECBC four years ago when they supported our first Career Expo, and they have continued to be an incredible partner," Costanzo-Romero said. "ECBC has played a vital role in helping Edgewood Middle School students make the connection between school and work, especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. The Magic of Science presentation today was an exciting experience for the students."

## Aberdeen Test Center employees judge annual science fair

Story by  
**CRYSTAL MAYNARD**  
ATC Public Affairs Specialist

Three U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center employees journeyed beyond ATC's gates to judge a science fair at Chapel Hill Elementary School in Perry Hall April 23.

Fourth and fifth graders from the school competed for top honors at the seventh annual Chapel Hill Elementary Science Fair. The students proudly displayed their projects and answered questions from other students, parents and the judges at the school's gymnasium.

Judges are volunteers from the community, especially the local scientific community of Johns Hopkins, Aberdeen Proving Ground, NASA and GM among others. This year, three of the 20 judges were from the ATC, one of the Defense Department's key test centers where much of our Warfighters' equipment is tested.

Fifth grade teacher and fair organizer Anne Bloom stated that "when the students first learn that there will be judges who are scientists, engineers, researchers and other science-related professionals here at our fair, they are amazed and quite fascinated."

When the call went out for judges,

Fabio Frisone, Bill Burch and Robert Stastny all jumped at the chance to help out. "I think it is essential to the future of the U.S. to put today's scientists in contact with the future of the sciences and the other students to give the correct impression of science in our daily lives," said Burch, a physical scientist.

This sentiment was echoed by Frisone, ATC's deputy chief information officer, who said, "It was an honor to be a part of such a worthwhile event. The chil-

dren were so vibrant and squirming with anticipation to explain to us judges how they performed their experiments and what they learned. It was refreshing to witness a younger generation with such a thirst for knowledge."

The air was filled with nervous energy as the students prepared to present their projects to a team of judges. Fifth graders are required to create a science project for the fair, and while fourth graders are not required to participate,

they can and often do.

Each judge interviewed 10 to 12 students and evaluated their projects. Each project was evaluated by two judges, and then the scores were tallied. The scores are then reviewed, and the top scores were chosen as winners.

The fourth grade and fifth grade first-place winners will go on to the All-County Baltimore Science Fair to be held May 14 to 15 at Randallstown High School.

**Visit  
APG News  
online at  
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apg.army.mil**

## Post Shorts

by donating a unit of blood. Donors are reminded to bring photo identification.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil) and enter sponsor code EDGMD.

### Blue Cross/Blue Shield visit June 1

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit APG June 1, 9 to 11:30 a.m., in building 314, Room 151E, and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., building E4520, Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, Edgewood Area, to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, call Teri Wright, 410-278-4331.

### 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.

### 235th Army Birthday Specialty Meal June 15

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

During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

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

through specialist/corporal.

The menu includes buffalo wings with bleu cheese dressing, chilled spiced shrimp, grilled steak with sautéed mushrooms and onions, Maryland fried chicken, vegetarian casserole, barbecue riblets, pub burger, chili dogs with cheese and onions, chicken tenders, smoked hoagie, assorted deli wraps, old bay fries, onion rings, potato chips and pretzels, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, baked potato, baked sweet potato and all the fixings, buttered corn on the cob, broccoli and cheese sauce, Southern style potato salad, macaroni salad, cole slaw, fruit salad, assorted condiments, hot dinner rolls, corn bread, assorted breads, Army birthday cake, apple pie, big chocolate chip cookies, watermelon, assorted fresh fruits, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

### ACS to celebrate 45th Birthday July 22

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

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

### Green Dragon Ball

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

### Military receive a discount on Florida's Amelia Island

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

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

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

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

For more information, visit [www.ameliaisland.com/seasidesalute](http://www.ameliaisland.com/seasidesalute).

### Volunteer drivers needed

The Veterans Administration Maryland Health Care System needs a few good drivers to serve at the Fort Howard Outpatient Clinic, transporting veteran patients to and from scheduled appointments. The VA Maryland Health Care System will work around a volunteer's availability. Drivers for weekday mornings or afternoons are needed. Volunteers can work one day a week or more, or whatever best suits their schedule.

For more information or to sign up, call David Sevinsky, voluntary service specialist, 410-605-7102/7000 ext. 3929.

### Hunter safety classes offered

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

An additional class will be offered Sept. 19 for ages 16 and older.

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

### Independence Day Specialty Meal July 5

The Independence Day Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facility building 4503 and the Edgewood Area dining facility building E4225, noon to 1:30 p.m., July 5.

During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$4.25 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilians, retirees and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$3.65 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in the ranks private

through specialist/corporal.

The menu includes barbecue chicken, barbecue pork spareribs, grilled pub burgers, grilled pub cheeseburgers, grilled hot dogs, Boston baked beans, freedom fries, corn on the cob, seasoned green beans, make your own salad bar, potato salad, macaroni salad, Cole slaw, assorted seasonal fruit, watermelon, chewy chocolate brownies, apple pie with vanilla ice cream, ice cream with assorted toppings and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

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

### Basic Boating Classes

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 22-04 will offer Basic Boating classes, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 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](mailto:captainsly@comcast.net).

### KUSAHC 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 Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic Referral Management telephone number is 410-278-1736. The Patient Advocate telephone number is 410-278-1724.

### FMWR wants to know

To enhance and improve the food service facilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground, FMWR requests readers complete the following survey regarding food and beverage needs. Please visit [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com) or go directly to <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2tv88qog7hw6ln8/start>.

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

# Community Notes

## THURSDAY

### MAY 27 MARYLAND WINE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Maryland Wine Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$40 per person (21 years of age or older). The ship will take a 90-minute cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area offering wine from a local vineyard, cheese and fruit tray. Reservations are required. For more information or for reservations or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

### FULL MOON HIKE

Come to the Center for a hike in the Park under a full moon. This free program will be held 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. for all ages; ages 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required.

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

## FRIDAY

### MAY 28 MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Margaritaville Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$40 per person (21 years of age or older). Set sail with island tunes, light munchies and margaritas. Reservations are required.

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

### PONTOON DATE NIGHT

Drop the kids off at the Center at 6:30 p.m. then get swept away for an evening of romance while cruising the estuary and watching the sun go down. This program will be held 7 to 9 p.m. for ages 21 and up; children ages 3 to 12 must be potty trained. The cost is \$30 per couple. 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

### MAY 29 MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Margaritaville Cruise, 7 to 9 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis.

Tickets cost \$40 per person (21 years of age or older). Set sail with island tunes, light munchies and margaritas. Reservations are required.

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

### MEMORIAL DAY PADDLE AND PICNIC

Pack a bag lunch and hit the water for a canoe trip to Snake Island and picnic among the beaver and sassafras. 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.

## SUNDAY

### MAY 30 SUNSET CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Sunset Cruise, 7 to 8:30 p.m., on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Experience a sunset to remember. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for children ages 10 and under. The ship will cruise around the Susquehanna flats area for a relaxing sail. Reservations are required.

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

### KAYAK WITH YOUR KIDS

Have some outdoor fun with the kids while paddling around Otter Point Creek. Bring water and a substantial snack. This program will be held 1 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 5 to adult; only one 5 to 7 year old per boat. 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.

## MONDAY

### MAY 31 LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE

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

A box lunch is also included.

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

## FRIDAY

### JUNE 4 FIRST FRIDAYS – LET'S SWING INTO SUMMER

The Havre de Grace Main Street, Inc. First Fridays program will be held 5 to 9 p.m. Enjoy a summer fun-filled evening with bands playing music throughout downtown Havre de Grace; includes activities for the kids, shops stay open late (check out their specials), beer garden with delicious food, a car show on Franklin Street and more.

For more information, call 410-939-1811.

## SATURDAY

### JUNE 5 13TH ANNUAL WADE IN

The Anita C. Leight Estuary Center will sponsor the 13th Annual Wade In Festival. Join the Tributary Strategy Team and the Estuary Center for an afternoon of watery fun. Retired Senator C. Bernie Fowler began the Wade In to measure water quality and carry on the tradition of wading into the waters of Otter Point Creek. There will be lots of Family activities, including live music, fish printing, decoy carving demonstrations, pontoon boat rides, fish seining, canoeing, face painting and more. The festival will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. This event is free. No registration required.

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

### IRS HOSTS TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Internal Revenue Service will hold Taxpayer Assistance Open Houses around the nation, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for those needing assistance with notices and payments, return preparation or help with a variety of tax issues. Those wanting to set up installment agreements or simply needing help filling out IRS forms or schedules can work directly with IRS staff members to get the job done. The Open House is to help taxpayers who are unable to visit an IRS office during the week. For more information, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Locations in Maryland are:

- 190 Admiral Cochran Drive, Annapolis
- 31 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore
- 1260 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown
- 8401 Corporate Drive, Landover
- 11510 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton.

### 42ND ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Holy Cross Episcopal Church, the Rocks, located on 4603 Rocks Road, Street, Md. invites the public to its 42nd Annual Strawberry Festival and Craft/White Elephant event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be strawberry shortcake, ice cream, crab cakes, hot dogs, hamburgers, bounce house, face painting, music and more. This event will be senior accessible.

For more information, call 410-452-5502.

## SATURDAY

### JUNE 12 HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

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

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

## SUNDAY

### JUNE 13 24TH ANNUAL CELTIC FESTIVAL

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

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

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

# Exceptional Family Member Program supports Families with special needs

Story by  
**WILLIAM BRADNER**  
FMWRC PAO

According to the National Health Information Center, part of U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, there were 41 National Health Observances last month alone—everything from Asthma and Allergy Awareness to Ultraviolet Awareness—and a total of more than 208 observances each year.

The sheer volume of information available to Family members with special needs can be overwhelming. The Army wants to make it easier for Soldiers and their Family members to navigate the complicated system of resources available to them.

“To do this, we’ve got to fix EFMP so it works better, and we have to get the word out,” said Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, at a recent conference.

He was referring to the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), a DoD-mandated program to support Soldiers with Family members with special need. In the Army, the proponent activity for EFMP is the Army’s Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (FMWRC). FMWRC’s EFMP Managers are currently working with the Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) and sister-service counterparts to strengthen the program.

“Rather than just creating another awareness campaign, we’re staffing an action plan now that includes hundreds of steps—both baby steps and sweeping changes—that will help create a seamless flow of EFMP information and resources to Soldiers and Families with Special Needs,” said Marcia Hagood, EFMP Program Manager.

“It’s important to note that the program isn’t broken, we’re just making it better,” Hagood continued.

The Army’s EFMP currently has 52,573 Soldiers enrolled and 69,493 Family members registered. Program managers expect enrollments to increase as program education and awareness is raised. Hagood emphasized it’s important for all Soldiers who have Family members with special medical and/or educational needs to enroll in the EFMP. Not only is enrollment mandatory, enrollment ensures optimum use of Permanent Change of Station (PCS) money by considering the Army’s requirements, the Soldiers career and the special needs of Family members.

“It’s not ‘big brother’ wanting to know,” Hagood said. “It’s all about ensuring the Army allows the Soldier to focus on the needs of the military without unnecessary concerns for his/her Exceptional Family member.”

The program was established in compliance with public laws, which collectively mandate that eligible preschool and school-age children with disabilities be provided a free and appropriate education. The Army expanded EFMP to include all authorized Family members with special needs (spouse, child, stepchild, or adopted child).

If a Soldier is enrolled in EFMP, the Army reviews the special requirements of the Family member, and confirms the availability of special medical and/or educational resources and required services at the next duty station prior to orders being released.

The Army Community Service (ACS) EFMP Managers also works with the Soldiers Family members by providing information and referral and advocacy assistance, referral to support groups, medical providers, housing and respite care services. Once enrolled, the file should be updated by the Soldier every three years, or when there is a change in the Family member’s medical condition or educational needs.

“It can be challenging caring for a Family member with special needs and also having to worry about deployments and permanent changes of station every three years,” Hagood said. “Imagine having to start from scratch seeking special medical care every time you relocate.”

The EFMP works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, educational and medical and personnel services to Families with special needs.

The EFMP Strategic Communication Plan is slated to be implemented and information disseminated to all levels of leadership in the coming months to include new posters, brochures, and campaigns which will be launched to help raise EFMP education and awareness.

Soldiers who have Family members with special needs should visit their local ACS EFMP office at the garrison for resource and referral assistance and the nearest medical treatment facility for enrollment or to update current EFMP status.

Garrison Commanders and unit leaders are encouraged to support and remind Soldiers of the importance of enrollment.

# Museums offer free admission to military Families

Story by  
**ELAINE WILSON**  
American Forces Press Service

Active duty service members and their Families will gain free access to hundreds of museums throughout the nation this summer, thanks to a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families.

More than 600 museums in 50 states and the District of Columbia have signed up so far to participate in Operation Appreciation: Blue Star Museums. The program offers active duty service members -- including activated Guard and Reserve -- and up to five of their immediate Family members free admission to participating museums from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

“The Blue Star Museums initiative is a tangible expression of appreciation to servicemembers and their Families,” said Barbara Thompson, director of the Pentagon’s office of family policy, children and youth. “It warms our hearts to see how other federal agencies and local communities can think creatively to recognize their sacrifice and contribution to the nation.”

People can visit <http://www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index.php> for a complete list of participating museums, which run the gamut from children’s and fine arts to history and science museums. Participating museums include the Art Institute of Chicago, Dallas Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia, Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and all of New Mexico’s 14 state-run museums and historic monuments.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for servicemembers and their families to enjoy the cultural experiences that might have otherwise been inaccessible because of cost,” Thompson said. “We truly appreciate the generosity of the National Endowment for the Arts and the participating museums.”

While admission is free of charge,

This summer more than 600 museums are free to all active duty military personnel and their families!

arts.gov

**Blue Star Museums**  
A Partnership among Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more than 600 museums across America.

Participating museums include: Art Institute of Chicago, Dallas Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia, Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and all of New Mexico's 14 state-run museums and historic monuments.

some special or limited-time exhibits may not be included in the program, according to a Blue Star Museums news release. People should contact the museum directly for specifics.

“There have always been wonderful examples of partnerships between museums and military installations, but the scale of this gift from the museum community to military families is thrilling,” Kathy Roth-Douquet, chairman of Blue Star Families, said in a news release. “Military families work hard for this country, and it is gratifying for us to be recognized for that.”

“We anticipate that thousands of military Families will participate in the program and visit museums this summer - many of them for the first time,” she continued. “Blue Star Families will work hard to help our military families make the most of these opportunities.”

A group of military spouses formed Blue Star Families in December 2008 to raise awareness of the challenges of military Family life in partnership with civilian communities and leaders, according to the organization’s website. The nonprofit group has grown to include spouses and families from all services and walks of life, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as veterans and civilians.



**Staff Sgt. James Stewart**



**Dale Richmond**



**Jamie Colopietro**



**Kathleen Santana**

# Volunteers save APG more than \$221,000

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

During the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at Top of the Bay May 12, service members civilians and organizations from Aberdeen Proving Ground were praised for saving the installation \$221,406.15 and contributing 10,619 hours.

Sponsored by Army Community Service, the annual program includes the selection of the Volunteers of the Year in six categories: military, civilian, retiree, Family member, youth and organization. During the ceremony, 46 individuals and five organizations were recognized for their volunteer efforts.

Celestine Beckett, ACS director, opened the ceremony by welcoming the audience and thanking them for their support.

"Through their work, volunteers demonstrate the kindness and generosity that makes the Army and the nation great," Beckett said.

Beckett said that winners will receive an APG Garrison Certificate of Appreciation, a plaque and a \$200 U.S. savings bond.

Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, also thanked volunteers for their gift of time to the installation.

"This is why we are here; we are not here to serve ourselves, we are here to serve the community," he said. "Volunteerism is what makes our country great. The fact that we are a free and independent nation right now is [due] to the fact that volunteers stepped forward in the cause of our defense. They put their lives on the line for the benefit of others."

Ortiz said that the history of volun-

teerism on APG is well-documented, and that volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds, from many different organizations on- and off-post, and share a commitment to the happiness and welfare of the Army Family.

He added that volunteers bring joy and improve the quality of life for people who live and work on APG.

"Besides saving money, when you look at the smiles of the people and benefits of what their volunteer efforts bring, it is pretty tremendous," he said. "We as a community are better off because of you."

## Military volunteer

Staff Sgt. James Stewart, from the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) has volunteered on numerous occasions with the 20th Support Command Family Readiness Group, helping with set up and clean up during FRG events. Stewart also volunteers with the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5337 in Abingdon, Md. Stewart assists with VFW ceremonies and helps make care packages to send to troops overseas.

"I know that the VFW packages sent overseas help out my fellow Soldiers that are deployed," he said. "It helps them know that people care about them while they are put in harm's way. I remember receiving packages from people and how it made me feel while I was deployed away from my Family. I just want to return the service and the feeling that I got to others while they are away from their Family."

Stewart said that he is ecstatic to win adding that there are many individuals on post who volunteer their time.

"I know that there are others out there

that have done outstanding volunteer work and I applaud them," he said. "It is nice to be recognized for the help that I have given to others, but I do it out of kindness and wanting to help others in need.

"I enjoy helping out where I can. It's a great feeling knowing that I'm able to help make an event memorable and put a smile on someone's face," he said.

## Retiree volunteer

Dr. Tony Reeves assists with the reflexive fire training for the 143rd Ordnance Battalion Soldier Competitions and Officer Professional Development for 20th Support Command, Wounded Warrior day and several Maryland Hunter Education classes.

Reeves said that he was surprised to win, adding that he enjoys volunteering.

"Volunteering allows me to share shooting, one of my favorite hobbies, with others," he said.

## Civilian volunteer

Dale Richmond has been actively involved in Child, Youth and School Services' Youth Sports program for five years, coaching basketball, flag football and girls softball teams.

"Winning is humbling," he said. "I didn't volunteer for the award, but it is nice to be recognized."

Richmond said that he enjoys coaching because he believes that sports teach children and youths important life skills.

"When a child learns a sport it is a big confidence builder, it gives them satisfaction," he said. "Sports also teaches children how to work together as a team."

## Youth volunteer

Jamie Colopietro, 15, volunteers at the APG Post Chapel, as a senior altar server during the Catholic service, and trains new altar servers. She is also involved in helping and leading out in many of the chapel's programs and activities, including being the youth group co-leader. Colopietro also volunteers as a co-captain for a Relay for Life team, which raises money for the American Cancer Society.

"It's not about winning, but I feel overjoyed," Colopietro said. "This is an extra reward for volunteering, something that I really enjoy doing."

Colopietro said that she especially enjoys working with children and has started babysitting during meetings at the APG Post Chapel.

"I want to show the children that some teenagers do the right thing and can be good examples," she said.

## Family member volunteer

Kathleen Santana has been volunteering for the APG Post Chapel for 12 years. Santana is active in religious education for the APG Post Chapel Catholic service where she serves as a second grade catechist, which prepares children for sacraments. Her other outreach activities include serving as co-chair for the annual Taste of Home dinner, a dinner to honor Soldiers serv-

ing at APG, and volunteering for the 16th Ordnance Battalion outreach ministry called The Lighthouse.

"There were many worthy people nominated," Santana said. "It is a privilege to be able to volunteer for Soldiers and their Families. I always feel honored to share God's word and help people grow in their faith. Sharing God's word also gives me a chance to grow in my faith."

Santana said that she appreciates her Family who support her volunteer work.

"With their support I am able to volunteer," she said.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Marilyn Howard, ACS volunteer coordinator, 410-278-9669.

(Editor's note: Dr. Tony Reeves was unable to attend the program.)

## Military Nominees

Staff Sgt. Jessica Barron, second place  
Staff Sgt. David Ribar  
Spc. Adam Cobb

## Retiree Nominees

Stella Bouldin, second place winner  
Dr. Tony Reeves  
Diane Frankensfield  
Charles Tuck

## Civilian Nominees

Kerry Van Shura, second place winner  
Dr. Ben Capacio  
Leanne Chacon  
Karlyn Hughes  
Nora Farrell  
Alexious Hayes  
Wilhelmina Bess  
Jeanne Colopietro  
Daniel Sexton  
Ebony Sexton

## Youth Nominees

Michael Hughes  
Bishop Burch  
Javon Averett, second place winner  
Daniel J. Colopietro Jr.  
Ashlee Menzies

## Family Member Nominees

Mickey Kienzle  
Natasha Caruso, second place winner  
Stephanie Key  
Ronota Newton  
Jessica Harting  
Elizabeth Jackson  
Olivia Wheaton  
Arlene Baptist  
Ivana Olacirequi  
Tiffany Menzies  
Dennis Reabold  
Jennifer Rebelledo  
Erica Lee  
Kristine Galik  
Hillary Manigault  
Wanda Wheeler  
Roma Dimatulac  
Sabrina Bauld  
Shomona Hooks  
Leslie Washington

## Organizations recognized

The Maryland National Guard  
Freestate ChalleNGE Academy  
Gunpowder Neck Boat Activity  
Spesutie Island Boat Activity  
Bowman's Club  
Skeet and Trap Range



## Health Notes

# TRICARE Management Activity makes key decisions on regional health care support contracts

### TRICARE

TRICARE Management Activity, also known as TMA, announced today its intent to enter into a contract with Health Net Federal Services, LLC, Rancho Cordova, Calif., as the TRICARE Managed Care Support contractor for the TRICARE North Region. Health Net is also the current contractor for the TRICARE North Region.

The total potential contract value including the base period and five one-year option periods for health care delivery is estimated at approximately \$17 billion.

A contract for the North Region, awarded to Aetna Government Health Plans, Hartford, Conn., has been terminated as of May 5, 2010, for the convenience of the government. The termination is consistent with a Government Accountability Office sustainment of a formal protest filed by Health Net immediately following the July, 2009, award to Aetna.

The award to Aetna Government Health Plans was one of three United States regional support contracts awarded in July 2009.

Transition to the three new regional contracts in the United States, known as "T-3," was initially slated for completion April 1, 2010. Protests filed with TMA and the GAO put transition activities on hold in all three regions. In late October and early November of 2009, the GAO sustained the protests by Health Net and the current South Region contractor, Humana Military Healthcare Services, and recommended reevaluation of

proposals for both the North and South Region.

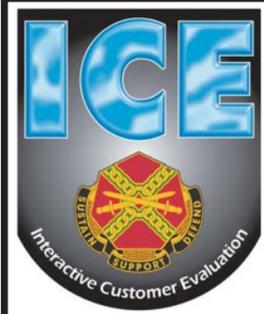
After careful consideration and consistent with GAO recommendations, TMA is also issuing an amended Request for Proposal for the TRICARE South Region. UnitedHealth Military and Veterans Services was awarded the T-3 contract in July 2009. The original bidders will have the opportunity to respond.

An agency-level protest regarding the West Region award to TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. is still pending.

"We value all those who help us deliver health care and appreciate all the time and effort put into proposals for the T-3 contracts," said Dr. Charles L. Rice, acting director of TMA, also performing the duties of the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "Our top priority is our beneficiaries and we want to reassure them that contract extensions are in place through March 31, 2011, and they will continue to receive high-quality care and customer service."

TMA administers the health care plan for more than 9.6 million members of the uniformed services, retirees and their families worldwide. Regional support contractors provide health, medical and administrative support services while ensuring beneficiary satisfaction at the highest level possible through the delivery of outstanding health care.

For additional information and updates on the T-3 contracts go to [www.tricare.mil/t3contracts](http://www.tricare.mil/t3contracts).



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

# DTC

From front page

unnecessary workload.

“We also act as their advocate,” Johnson said of the headquarters staff. “We are always interfacing with senior leaders in the Army, and we advocate for the test centers, telling them what their capabilities are and explaining test results. I see DTC as the bridge between what I call the tactical level and the strategic level. When I talk of the strategic level, I mean the secretary of the Army, the chief (of staff) of the Army, the vice chief (of staff) of the Army and the congressional staff. Typically, when you get called in to see people like that you only have a very brief chance to answer questions and provide information, so part of what we do here is condense what could be hours and hours of information into very succinct chunks of it.”

One of the biggest challenges facing DTC under Johnson’s leadership, and that of his predecessors, is to provide timely and accurate test reports so commanders in Afghanistan and Iraq will know systems’ strengths and weaknesses as well as whether or not units need to alter tactics, techniques and procedures to use them most effectively.

“When we ramped up for Iraq, there were a lot of programs that were rapid acquisition, meaning the capability was so badly needed to fill a gap that they were experiencing in theater, that they wanted that capability over there in a matter of weeks and not the traditional acquisition cycle of years,” Johnson said. “So we had to tailor our test programs to trim time out of the test process. We tailored them for the specific theater of operation, and that worked very well, so we were able to tell decision makers what a piece of equipment did in that specific theater of operations. When we ramped up for Afghanistan, the environment was different. The terrain, the temperature and many aspects of Afghanistan are different from Iraq. Again, we had to be flexible in how we operate.”

He said DTC personnel who deployed to the combat theater to support the Army Test and Evaluation Command’s forward operational assessment teams were worthy of recognition, not only because of the support they gave Soldiers in theater but also because they volunteered to deploy for missions that would last for several months and expose them to many of the risks Soldiers face. The people who deployed were experts in the test and evaluation of specific weapon systems, and

they brought a depth of expertise to the table that is unmatched, Johnson added.

“There is basically nobody in theater who can go to that level of depth when it comes to advising unit commanders on how their equipment operates,” he said. “These people are mostly civilians, so they are taking six months out of their lives, and some of them have gone on multiple deployments and are right there in harm’s way like Soldiers are. I couldn’t be more proud of the selfless service they have given to our country and to DTC.”

He said rugged and high-altitude terrain in Afghanistan challenges some of the weapon systems fielded to that area of operations. Because of the steep, mountainous terrain, and operations that force Soldiers to carry heavy loads, DTC has been involved in testing systems that lighten that load, he said. Testing of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle (MRAP-ATV) was one of DTC’s top priorities, he said.

“It’s much more mountainous and the temperature is colder,” Johnson explained. “For example, we’ve been involved in a lot of initiatives, and one has been lightening the load on Soldiers because they are climbing mountains, and they can’t afford to have excessive weight. So we’ve tested systems that

were being modified to lighten the load of the Soldier.

“It is much more maneuverable than the basic MRAP that we tested a couple of years ago, and many other systems have been modified,” Johnson said. “We’re testing all of those just like we did for the systems that went to Iraq, to make sure those systems are working – and telling the decision makers what they do and what they don’t do.”

While supporting the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, DTC has had to keep an eye on the future, Johnson added.

“We’ve been so engaged for years in what I would call the 50-meter target,” he said. “We have not had the luxury of looking out and doing some strategic planning, especially in the area of technology requirement and the skill-set requirements of our personnel, so that’s something DTC has got to take the time to start looking at again.

The “graying” of the work force has been a concern, he said, adding that the Army experienced a “hiring gap” in the 1990s, but there are now more potential employees with the technical skills to work at DTC and its test centers, and advance to management positions.

“What we were missing due to that gap in hiring was the work force in the mid-range area, but we are making up for it, to my pleasant surprise, by hiring quite a few people right out of college in the last three or four years. Part of that was due to the BRAC situation here and at Redstone. But due to the war, a lot of our young people have been exposed in just a couple of years to things that might have taken them 10 years to see during peacetime. So while we were worried that these young people might not be able to pick the ball up and run with it, they have been exposed to so much in so little time that I’m not worried about that now. I see time and time again – on systems such as MRAP, body armor, counter-IED systems, and just about any commodity you could name – you will find people that don’t have that much time here, but they know what they are doing.”

Regardless of the increase in resources such as personnel, DTC must carefully manage all of its resources, including budgeting, he said.

“Eventually the conflict in Afghanistan will start scaling back, so you can figure there will be some cuts in spending,” Johnson said. “It always happens, so we have got to plan for that. At the test centers especially, we have got to dig in and cut our operating costs and our overhead costs. We have got to control our spending the best we can and posture ourselves for what we would do if we got a 10 percent cut or a 20 percent cut in our budget. We’ve been working on that and there is still a lot of work to be done.”

Despite the challenges ahead, the work force across all of DTC’s test centers and its headquarters will continue to meet them because of their willingness to work long days and weeks without complaint, Johnson added.

“Workload has steadily increased for the past several years, and I was worried about how much workload our workforce can take, but they never complain,” he said “They always get the job done. They work nights and weekends – lots of overtime to get it done. So as long as new capabilities are brought in and as long as old capabilities are modified, they will be right there testing those systems.”

When asked what changes he would make if he could again lead DTC, he said defending DTC’s budget is one of the things he wanted to improve.

“A couple of things come to mind,” he said. “One is that I wanted to clean up how we determine our workload requirements, how we budget for that workload and how we allocate money to the test centers. We have a very large budget at DTC, and every time you have a large budget that sort of makes it a target for people to go after. So every year we’ve had to defend why we need what we need. Testing is a very expensive business just by its nature. There is a lot of infrastructure to maintain and it typically takes a lot of people to test. We are very confident in the numbers we put together, but we’ve got to work more on defending these numbers. That’s something we’ve been working on and something we didn’t get finished under my watch.”

Asked what advice he gave Etzinger as he took the reins at DTC, Johnson said he told him he should take care of his people and thoroughly enjoy his job.

“I gave him the same advice I gave new commanders at our test centers, which is that when you take over a command, you basically have two things to worry about. One is your mission and the other is your people. I have found through trial and error, and through many years of leadership, that if you take very good care of your people, the people will take care of your mission for you. The other advice is to have fun. This is about the most fun job I’ve ever had. It’s a lot of responsibility for a lot of people – and a lot of test activities and infrastructure to worry about – and you have to step back from that and enjoy it because it is a very enjoyable job.”



# FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

## Activities/Events

### Build a Scion xB; win cash, trip to Las Vegas

The Scion Battle of the Builds is a military design challenge offering the opportunity to construct your ideal Scion xB. If you think you have the skills to build something special, put

together a team of five service members, go to [www.battleofthebuilds.com](http://www.battleofthebuilds.com) for the official rules, and upload a basic sketch of the car you would like to build (no fancy design tools needed). Add some basic facts about your team, your installa-

tion auto center and the car. Entries must be in by June 11. Semi-finalist proposals will be displayed on [www.battleofthebuilds.com](http://www.battleofthebuilds.com) for friends, Family and the world to vote on. Three finalists will be given use of a Scion xB and \$15,000 to

make their vision a reality. The winning team will be flown to Las Vegas, Nev. to show off their Scion xB at the 2010 SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association) Show. The three top finalists receive a healthy cash prize for the team and their installation auto center. Cash prizes are \$14,000 for first place, \$12,000 for second place and \$10,000 for third. Contestants must be active duty military, Reserves or National Guard, age 18 or older. For more information, visit [www.battleofthebuilds.com](http://www.battleofthebuilds.com) or [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

### New York City shopping trip

Leisure Travel will offer eight hours of shopping in New York City June 19. Enjoy the city without the driving or parking problems. Cost is \$36 per person and includes roundtrip bus transportation. The bus will depart 7:55 a.m. from the Edgewood Best Western parking lot at Route 24 and return 10:30 p.m.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call MWR Leisure Travel Office, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, build-

ing 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail [APGR-USAG-MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil](mailto:APGR-USAG-MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil).

### Birdie Cafe opens at Exton Golf Course

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

## Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park and post pools opening this weekend

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

As summer quickly approaches, Aberdeen Proving Ground offers many enjoyable activities on post through Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Two activities, the Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park and the on post pools will open this Saturday, May 29.

"The post pools and the Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park offer a great time for everyone," said Ken Singleton, Community Recreation Division "The activities speak for themselves, come out and have fun."

The post pools and the Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park are open to all Department of Defense identification card holders and their guests.

"Guests must leave when you do as you are their sponsor," Singleton said.

### Post pools

New this year, active duty military personnel and immediate Family members will not be charged to use the post pools.

"They must show their ID cards to the individual at the desk," Singleton said.

Pool passes can be purchased at Aberdeen Area Outdoor Recreation, building 2407 and Edgewood Area Recreation Center, building E4140.

### Aberdeen Area

#### Olympic Swimming Pool, building 3325

Open weekends only through June 13, plus Aug. 28 and 29, Sept. 4 thru 6. The Olympic Pool will open May 31.

- Daily operation: June 13 thru Aug. 22
- Labor Day weekend: Sept. 4 thru 7
- Closes Monday, Sept. 6
- Child, Youth and School Service Day Camp 9 to 11 a.m., Monday thru Friday, June 14 thru Aug. 16
- Open swim: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Lap swim lane available during standard hours
- Weekend operation schedule: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Olympic pool will be closed June 5 and 6 due to the concert.

### Edgewood Area

#### Bayside Swimming Pool, building E4655

Open weekends only thru June 13 thru Aug. 22, plus Aug. 28 and 29, Sept. 4 thru 6. The Bayside Pool will open May 31.

- Daily operation: June 13 thru Aug. 22
- Labor Day weekend: Sept. 4 thru 7
- Closes Monday, Sept. 6
- Child, Youth and School Service Day Camp 9 to 11 a.m., Tuesday and Friday, June 15 through Aug. 13
- Open swim: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Lap swim lane available during standard hours
- Weekend operation schedule: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Pool pass fees

Daily passes	
Daily	\$5
Under 5	Free
Guest of eligible patron	\$9
5 and under (guest)	\$2
Active duty and immediate Family members	Free
Lap swim	\$2

### 30-day pass

Individual	\$35
Family	\$70

### Season passes

Individual	\$85
Family	\$175

Swimming lessons will be offered in the Aberdeen and Edgewood Areas. Lessons cost \$50 per person for the first session and \$45 for each additional member of the same Family. There will be a 10 percent discount for each additional session.

### Chesapeake Challenge hours and prices

#### Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park

Chesapeake Challenge opens May 29 for weekends only through June 13, plus Aug. 28 and 29, Sept. 4 thru 6. Chesapeake Challenge will open May 31.

Summer hours will be 4 to 8 p.m., Monday, Thursday and Friday, June 17 thru Aug. 22; 2 to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Patrons can use the park on Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment. Chesapeake Challenge will close for the summer Sept. 6.

Amusements include go-kart rides, miniature golf, batting cages and arcade room.

Patrons must be 10 years of age and 54 inches or taller to ride go-karts alone. They must meet both requirements and cannot drive if only fulfilling one requirement. Those patrons who are unable to drive go-karts solo can ride as a passenger with another individual who is age 16 or older.

- Patrons must be 7 years of age to use Batting Cages
- Go-kart rides cost \$6 for five minutes
- Batting cage tokens cost \$.50 for 10 pitches
- Miniature golf costs \$3 per person for 18 holes, for age 6 and older
- Miniature golf costs \$1 per person for 18 holes, for age 5 and younger

### Party at the Park

Birthday Party packages for groups of 10 or more are available ranging from \$7 to \$15 per person.

A two hour party costs \$300 unlimited use of all activities (arcade not included).

## Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

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

## SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a SKIES Unlimited class, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. Open to all DoD ID card holders. For an appointment, e-mail [stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil](mailto: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 Monday or Tuesday, June 21 through July 19, and July 26 through Aug. 16, at the AA Youth Center, building 2522.

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

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

### Pirate Clinic for Mateys

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

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

Every pirate should bring a nut-free snack daily.

### Little Princess Workshop

Girls ages 4 to 6 will stretch their imaginations as well as their toes as they dance their way through a storybook collage of fairy tales. The Little Princess Workshop will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., June 21 to 24, at the Edgewood Area Youth Center, building E1902. Children will explore elements of creative movement, modern ballet, tap, and jazz, and construct simple costumes and props in a daily craft activity. Look forward to an enchanting dance presentation for Family and friends. Clothing should include solid color leotard, pink tights, ballet slippers, tap shoes (or hard-soled shoes) or a favorite princess costume. Bring a snack and drink daily. Cost is \$45 per child.

### Private Guitar Lessons

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

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

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

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

## 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 24

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

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

#### Week of June 1

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

Special #2: Double bacon cheeseburger with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.75.

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





# Aberdeen Proving Ground Summer Ball

## Top of the Bay

### June 4, 2010



**\$40 per person**  
**6:30 p.m. - Receiving line and cocktails**  
**7:30 p.m. - Bugle Call**  
**8:00 p.m. - Dinner**

For more information contact CPT Hammerquist, 410-278-2104, [ginger.hammerquist@us.army.mil](mailto:ginger.hammerquist@us.army.mil)

Must be 18 years of age or older to attend.



# USAPHC (Prov) Soldiers learn about Civil War battle

Story and photo by  
**JANE GERVASONI**  
U.S. Army Public Health Command  
(Provisional)

You could almost hear the cannons firing and the sounds of black-powder rifles on the chilly, gray morning of May 14, at the Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland, as military members of the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) visited the site as part of a command-sponsored staff ride.

Led by Peter Kindsvatter, command historian at the Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground, 35 officers and enlisted Soldiers heard Kindsvatter explain the battle and give information about the leadership, objectives and maneuvers during the fighting. Kindsvatter described the Sept. 17, 1862, battle as the bloodiest day of fighting in American history, with an estimated 23,500 casualties.

Staff rides have been historically a method of officer development and a mentoring opportunity. The ride is linked to a historical event and attendees participate by reading, studying the event, and sharing their knowledge by explaining selected portions of the event.

The importance of the training and camaraderie activities such as staff rides afford was acknowledged by Army Medicine's current head of the Army Medical Department Center & School, home of AMEDD training and doctrine.

"There's always someone smarter than you; [you should] find out who can help you," Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein said in an August 2009 address at the Texas A&M Health Science Center. In addition to finding a mentor, Rubenstein said it takes networking, education and professional development to prepare to become a good leader.

Keeping in mind Rubenstein's advice,



Sgt. 1st Class Sumid Smith, NCOIC at Kirk Dental Clinic, Aberdeen Proving Ground North, examines the barrel of a 10-pound Napoleon cannon.

Col. Casmere Taylor, USAPHC (Prov) chief of staff tasked Capt. William Bosley and Capt. Donald Crady, health physicists, to put together a staff ride that would support the principles of officer development and mentoring. Working with Kindsvatter, the two officers coordinated the staff ride to Antietam National Battlefield.

"There was a lot to be learned about leadership styles in this battle," according to Bosley. "It was a great opportunity to examine the roles played by Gen. Robert E. Lee, the Confederate gener-

al, and his opponent, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, head of the Army of the Potomac."

Bosley also commented that disease and non-battle injuries played a great part in reducing the number of Soldiers available to fight in the battle. He said that this battle was a great example of the detrimental effects of DNBI.

Kindsvatter, who has been conducting tours like this for 11 years, said that Antietam is one of his favorite locations for a staff ride because so much of the battlefield has been

preserved, and it is easy to track the progress of the battle. He said that the briefings done by the Soldiers on the staff ride contributed greatly to understanding what happened during the battle.

Taylor commended Kindsvatter for his knowledge and his ability to make the battle come alive for those who attended the staff ride. Taylor also indicated that he would continue to use staff rides as a method of officer professional development and mentoring at the USAPHC (Prov).

## Band

From front page

He said the band has performed worldwide for a wide range of audiences and in times of conflict, it was tasked to do even more. He thanked Ellwein's wife, Sgt. Maj. Dianne Ellwein of the National Guard Bureau and their three children. "For the support you have given him throughout this time."

Pillsbury also welcomed Gillies and his Family to the AMC Family.

Ellwein thanked Pillsbury for his comments and the band's Brass Quintet, which provided music for the ceremony. He thanked his Family for their support and presented AMC Band coins of excellence to two exchange students from the Netherlands – Yannick Weijenberg and Nicki Ackermam – who were guests of his Family.

"I'm so glad you could join our Family today at this special event," he told them.

He told Pillsbury that he and AMC Commander Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, were "the best" in their support of and concern for the band, and thanked Garrison leaders, Ortiz and Rhoades for their support, calling them, "a great influence on APG."

He commended the band members as a "great team."

"Your passion for music and your passion for delivering it are unmatched," he said. "Your patriotism is inspiring and your selfless service in accomplishing the mission has been breathtaking."

"I'm grateful to have served with consummate leaders and Soldiers and I'll never forget you."

He added thanks to Band Sgt. Maj. Wendy Thomson, calling her, "simply the finest Soldier I have ever had the honor of serving with."

"It was a tremendous honor and a complete blessing to have been team mates with you," he said.

Calling Gillies a "perfect fit for the AMC Band," Ellwein assured him that all he has to do is "tell the AMC Band what is to be done."

"Articulate your vision and that of the command," he said. "They will amaze you with the results."

Ellwein moves on to Fort Myer, Va. to lead the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (Old Guard) Fife and Drum Corps.

Gilles noted his "slightly awkward situation" in having to "pack up your Army Band and move them to Huntsville."

"The good news is that the AMC Band is not permanently folding its flag; it's simply moving to a new home," he said.

"AMC has made sure that the band has a world-class facility to move into and the city of Huntsville is eagerly awaiting the band's arrival."

He thanked Ellwein, who he has worked with for the past year, and told the band that they have "three simple goals."

"First, to respect the history and tradition of the band and to further



Photos by SEAN KIEF, GARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER  
Lt. Gen. James H. Pillsbury, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, right, passes the AMC Band colors to incoming commander Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Gillies, left, during the band's final change of command ceremony at its Aberdeen Proving Ground practice facility May 18.

enhance that reputation; secondly, to make the remaining time here at Aberdeen and follow-on duty at Redstone the best in the Army; and finally I will try to leave the band better than I found it," he said.

Gillies said that the band would continue to support community activities during its remaining time at APG. Future performances include the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Edgewood Area Cemetery, 10 a.m. May 31; Havre de Grace Concert in the Park, 7:30 p.m. June 25; Aberdeen Concert in the Park, 7 p.m. June 29; Cecil County Independence Day Celebration in North East, Md., noon, July 3; Havre de Grace Independence Day parade, 2 p.m. July 4; and the AMC Green Dragon Ball at Top of the Bay, 5:30 p.m. Aug. 14.

For more information, visit the AMC Headquarters Web site at [www.amc.army.mil](http://www.amc.army.mil).

### Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Gillies

Gillies graduated from Michigan State University and taught high school band and chorus for five years before enlisting in the Army as a tuba player in 1989.

In 1995, he was appointed as a Warrant Officer and he assumed command



From left, Spc. Aaron Bizuela, trumpet; Sgt. 1st class Jeremy Davis on trombone; Spc. Joseph Harper on Tuba, Staff Sgt. Todd Swank on French Horn and Spc. Mark Mitchell on trumpet provide the change of command ceremony's music.

of the 1st Cavalry Division Band at Fort Hood, Texas. Subsequent assignments include the 2nd Infantry Band in South Korea; the 399th Army Band in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; the 82nd Airborne division Band in Fort Bragg, N.C.; and the U.S. Army Japan Band (296th Army Band) in Camp Zama, Japan.

His civilian education includes a master's degree in Music Performance from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell

and a doctorate in Education from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

His military education includes the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Warrant Officer Candidate School, the Air Assault and Basic Airborne schools; and the U.S. Army Advanced Airborne School Jumpmaster course.

Gillies is married to Johanna Myers. They have one son, Tyler, 16.



# Army News

## Officers have new deadline to claim joint-service experience

Story By  
**ALEXANDRA HEMMERLY-BROWN**  
Army News Service

Beginning Oct. 1, active-duty officers wanting to get self-nominated credit for serving in a joint-service environment will need to do it quickly - the Joint Qualification System is changing its requirements.

Under the current JQS, a validation system that documents officers' joint service in their official records, officers can file for joint credit dating back to Sept. 11, 2001. However, after Sept. 30, active-duty officers will only be able to file retroactively within 12 months from the date they completed their joint-experience assignment.

Having joint-service credit is important for officers, because it portrays them as being well-rounded, and active-duty officers can't make the rank of general without it, Army Human Resource Command officials said.

"The cut-off date is a management mechanism to finally close out the old legacy retro-

active joint-duty credit system ... which is a good thing," said David Quimby, deputy chief of plans and operations for the officer directorate at Army Human Resources Command.

Quimby said that for years, services were requesting waivers for officers to receive this retroactive credit, and now that grace period has expired.

Bottom line: if you want joint credit to count, don't wait.

"The global environment that the United States is in right now and the potential threats from any direction demands that we think, act, operate and train in a joint-service environment ... It's a must," said Quimby.

"Putting emphasis on joint experience is critical because when you fast-forward to the younger generation today, when they are our generals and senators, and they don't understand how to operate in a joint environment, we will fail in our mission to defend the United States," Quimby explained.

In 2007, Congress modified the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act of 1986

to allow officers to gain joint experience through two paths. Previously joint credit was only given to those in an officially sanctioned joint-duty billet, considered the 'standard' path.

Now officers can also self-nominate themselves to receive joint credit if they've served in a non-appointed joint position, such as on a deployment, or a combined joint task force for humanitarian relief. This is called the 'experience' path.

Using a point system, one point is awarded for every 30 days served in a joint environment, and 'intensity factors' depending on what kind of assignment the service is fulfilled in, can add additional points.

The Army's goal is for all officers to have at least 36 points by the time they are eligible for brigadier general -- achievable in one year for an officer in a combat zone, where the 'intensity factor' is three.

The JQS packets are then sent to the Joint Manpower Information System, and quarterly pan-

els are convened to determine the validity of the points, and if the assignment meets the definition of 'joint matters.'

"To have this credit, it really distinguishes you and sets you apart from your peers," said Lt. Col. Maria Quon, a public affairs officer with the Army's Human Resources Command in St. Louis.

The Army Reserve is implementing a similar deadline, but it is more relaxed because of the difficulty Reserve officers have accumulating JQS points, explained Maj. Mary Lepley, an Army Human Resources Command Reserve Career Manager.

Reserve officers will have until 2013 to file for JQS dating back to 1986. The retroactive date goes further back for the Reserve because the 2007 Congressional modification to the Defense Reorganization Act was only for active duty.

Reserve officers can also get joint credit for attending joint military education courses under certain circumstances.

After 2013 though, just like

their active-duty counterparts, Reserve officers will have a maximum of one year after completion of their joint-related assignment to submit their self-nomination application into JQS.

The Army National Guard's new JQS deadline mirrors the Reserve's.

"It's human nature to procrastinate, until it's right at your doorstep," said JQS manager Joe Palermo, who warned of putting off filing.

Palermo however, made it clear that as long as officers file their paperwork by Sept. 30, 2010, they've met the deadline for applying for retroactive joint-service credit.

To self-nominate for JQS, go to [www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/jmis/JQSindex.jsp](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/jmis/JQSindex.jsp), or call (703) 325-8192 for active duty, and (314) 592-0096 for Reserve. Also, more information is available at the Web site of U.S. Army Human Resources Command at [www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/active/opdistjp/index.htm](http://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/active/opdistjp/index.htm) (AKO login required).

## Ordnance

From front page

Reilly said that since the Ordnance Corps colors were cased one year ago, "we always knew this day would come."

"I must tell you personally and professionally that this day has a bittersweet flavor to it," he said, noting that his first day on active duty was when he arrived at APG as a young Ordnance officer in 1986.

"This has been the home of my corps, the Ordnance Corps, for ninety-two years," he said.

"I do know first hand, though, the wonderful transformation that is occurring here at APG as it truly becomes the center for Army research, development and communications for our Army and [about] the state-of-the-art training facilities at our new Ordnance home at Fort Lee that will allow us to better train America's most precious resources - its young men and women - who have made the commitment to serve our nation as ... an Ordnance Soldier.

"This is the right move at the right time for our nation."

Reilly thanked all who supported his Ordnance Soldiers. In particular, he thanked the APG Garrison for reopening the dining facilities and barracks when Soldiers were prevented from going on holiday block leave due to a Dec. 19, 2009 snowstorm.

He said that support from Justice, the Directorate of Public Works, which cleared the roads and parking lots, the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, which reopened the recreation centers, and Harford County, ensured that every troop got home in time for Christmas.

"I want to thank the leadership at APG, the Garrison and the local community not only for this amazing act of support but for the thousands of similar acts of kindness and support over the ninety-two years in which [they] have embraced Soldiers, Airmen and Marines and their Families

"We have enjoyed school partnerships, parades and ceremonies throughout Harford County and even Delaware. You have embraced us like Family and it is very hard to leave.

"I will always be proud to speak about the incredible relationship our Corps and our Brigade enjoyed with the APG Garrison, support agencies, tenants and the surrounding communities.

"Our relationship is forever linked in the pages of history."

Collyar agreed that it was a bittersweet time for the brigade and said that like the OC&S, the APG community will "benefit in the long run."

"APG will welcome in a whole new corps of civilians who will bring a lot more to the community," he said.

Regarding the ongoing construction at APG, which has seen the destruction of several former OMMS classrooms, Collyar said it was good to see the buildings come down.

"They were old buildings. I trained in them," he said. "The new facilities they're building here will benefit the whole community just as the facilities at Fort Lee are benefiting Ordnance Soldiers.



As their last official act on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Col. Dan J. Reilly, commander of the 61st Ordnance Brigade and the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, right, and OMMS Command Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Tolbert, left, slide a cover over the brigade colors in preparation for its move to Fort Lee, Va. during a colors casing ceremony at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center May 17.

"It's sad to see it all end but only because we've been partners for so long."

Tolbert added that he realized what APG and the Ordnance Corps meant to the community during the Armed Forces Day Celebration at the Ordnance Museum May 14.

"We've been here for over ninety-two years and you could see the appreciation the community has for us," he said.

"But change occurs and this move to Fort Lee is a great opportunity for Ordnance Soldiers to interact with the Transportation and Quartermaster Soldiers they will serve with.

"We're all committed to making better quality Soldiers. Our Soldiers are grateful for everything they had here and they're grateful for all that is awaiting them."

Chaplain (Capt.) Kurt O'Donnell, OMMS, led the Ordnance Corps Prayer for the invocation and the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, led by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Spohn, provided the program's music.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS  
Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Directorate of Public Works personnel remove the Ordnance bomb emblem from the façade of building 3071, the former headquarters of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and schools May 19, two days after the casing of the 61st Ordnance Brigade colors.