

APG News

www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

Published in the interest of the people of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

October 7, 2010 Vol. 54, No. 40

Post Shorts

Reduced holiday gate operations

The Harford (Route 22) Gate in the Aberdeen Area will close 7 p.m. and the Wise Road (Route 755) Gate in the Edgewood Area will close 6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 8 for the Columbus Day holiday. Both gates will reopen 5 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 12.

The Maryland (Route 715) Gate in the Aberdeen Area and the Route 24 Gate in the Edgewood Area will remain open 24 hours a day.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Department of the Army theme for Domestic Violence Awareness Month is "Imagine an Army free of domestic abuse: Prepare, Prevent and Protect."

"Hands Are Not For Hitting" story times will be conducted in the Aberdeen and Edgewood Area Child Development centers Oct. 7.

On Oct. 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., an information booth with staff from the Harford County Sexual Assault and Spouse Resource Center (SARC, Inc.) will be in the Main Post Exchange lobby.

The DVAM activities conclude with a Candlelight Vigil 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Chapel Oct. 27.

For more information, contact Aida Rivera, ACS Family Advocacy Program Manager, at 410-278-7478 or e-mail aida.rivera@conus.army.mil.

Kirk closes Oct. 7 through 12

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed Oct. 7 through 12 for electrical updates to the facility. During the power outage, there will be no medical services or pharmacy services provided at the clinic. Regular operations are expected to resume Oct. 13.

Arrangements have been made with the local community Urgent Care Clinics to meet medical needs. Call the staff duty officer, 443-807-0725, for authorization. During the closure, call 1-877-874-2273, for Tricare Service Center needs.

It is highly encouraged

See **SHORTS**, page 9

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2

Commander's Corner
SSCF receive conflict cooperation and U.S. national interests training on Capital Hill

Page 3

After school activities connect

Page 4

At the right place at the right time

Page 5

Three APG civilians retire during September ceremony

Page 6

New Web site offers public health, healthy living info

Page 8

Community Notes

Page 9

Post Shorts

Page 13

FMWR

Page 14

IMCOM Smoke alarms save lives



Photo by RACHEL PONDER

From left, Sarah Sevillano, Margareth Olivo and Florella Sevillano and Raquel Montoya, not shown, from the dance group D4C perform a traditional Columbian dance during Aberdeen Proving Ground's annual Hispanic American Heritage Month Celebration held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Sept. 29.

APG celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Story by
RACHEL PONDER

Members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community gathered to celebrate Hispanic American Heritage Month Sept. 29 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center. Janice Burke, APG Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, served as the mistress of ceremonies for the event. Daniel Wimbley, husband of Sgt. First Class Laquita Wimbley, sang the national anthem. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jimmy Davis from the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) gave the invocation. During the program the dance group D4C performed three traditional dances from Columbia, Venezuela

and Mexico.

Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander gave welcoming remarks and introduced the guest speaker.

"We are glad you are here; we are one team, unifying and moving forward," he said.

Ortiz added that Hispanic Heritage month is important to him, as his family is from Puerto Rico.

He said that the importance of ethnic observances is that it gives the APG community an opportunity to give thanks for the service of those who went before us, who come from diverse backgrounds.

Ortiz said that collectively, Hispanics represent the history, culture and traditions of 20 nations and form a vital part of the Army's rich and diverse social fabric.

He added that Hispanic Soldiers are prevalent throughout the Army, making up nearly six percent of commissioned officers, eight percent of warrant officers, 12 percent of enlisted personnel, and six percent of the Army civilian workforce.

"Hispanics have served with honor and distinction in every conflict since the Revolutionary War," he said. "They have made invaluable contributions through their service to our country."

See **HISPANIC**, page 7

Commentary - D6 Sends: Safety is key

By
LT. GEN. RICK LYNCH
IMCOM Commanding General

As Commanding General of IMCOM, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the co-chair of the Services and Infrastructure Core Enterprise, my installation management and safety responsibilities extend beyond the boundaries of IMCOM. My Commander's Intent is to provide the facilities, programs and services required to support Army readiness, sustain the all-volunteer force and provide the infrastructure for current and future mission requirements. Safety is key to accomplishing my intent. It involves the prevention of material loss, but the focus is really on saving lives. Each loss, whether in combat or in the garrison, has an impact on our force.

In September I spoke at the Army Senior Safety Tactical Symposium. It was my opportunity to say "thank you" to almost 500 safety professionals for the work they do to keep Soldiers, Civilians and Families safe. Their work impacts the conditions in which we train, work, live and play, both on



duty and off duty. This includes driver training, home safety, child and family safety, weather conditions assessment, fire prevention, hazardous material handling, and weapons and range safety, to name just a few ways in which their work touches our daily lives.

I thanked them for their continuing diligence, their continuing efforts to monitor trends and address issues to prevent loss. A recent example was a six-month Army-wide fire safety campaign in 2009. The campaign was launched to reverse the increasing number of military housing and facility fires, and succeeded in netting more than \$20 million in cost avoidance in the second half of the

year. An ongoing example is a motor vehicle and motorcycle traffic safety program that is contributing to a downward trend in accidental fatalities. We are at the lowest level in more than seven years, and other military services are looking at our model.

So we can point to examples of how our Safety Program is working. However, as I said to the safety professionals, for whose work I am truly grateful, we can never become complacent or act as if what we are doing is good enough, as long as we are still losing lives through senseless, preventable accidents. Everyone is a safety officer. Everyone has an obligation to look out for themselves and the Soldiers, Civilians and Families around them. The requirements are in place—we have The Army Safety Program, AR 385-10 and IMCOM's Safety Program Regulation—so we need to make sure we act on them. In order to improve our safety efforts, there are six things I ask us all to consider:

First, we will not cut corners or funds to save money at the expense of our Safety Program. It is fundamentally unwise to

do so. Why would we want to negatively affect a program that saves lives? Rather than cutting corners to save money, we should put money toward the right resources in order to improve the Safety Program. In doing so, we will have a positive impact in keeping the Army Family in tact.

Second, when we allocate resources for Safety Programs, we need to make sure to reach all members of the Army Family, not just active duty Soldiers. Funds need to be allocated for our Safety Programs to reach Soldiers of all components, retirees, Civilians and all their Families. Only by reaching every member of our communities can we instill a culture that puts safety first—a culture that protects our Army Family and keeps the Army mission ready.

Third, everyone must support the Senior Commanders as they are responsible for the life of every Soldier, Civilian and Family member on their installation. Everyone must embrace the Safety Program and be actively involved. While the Commander is the one ultimately responsible for mission accomplishment

See **SAFETY**, page 2

CFC Silent Auction up and running, seeks additional donations

CFC Office

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Combined Federal Campaign office is seeking donations for an Online Silent Auction to raise money to support Combined Federal Campaign charities.

"The APG CFC is seeking items in new or good condition such as sports memorabilia, antiques/collectibles, gift cards, Christmas crafts, home craft ceramics, paintings and much more," said Lesley Bell, CFC chairperson.

Donated items for the auction and winning bids may be tax deductible. Items will be accepted at building 4313, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bell added that the CFC Auction is now active online. Items can be viewed by clicking a link at the bottom of the APG

Web page, www.apg.army.mil/apghome, near the CFC Thermometer. Items range from sports memorabilia, toys, artwork and other collectibles.

"Check the auction regularly as we will be adding new items throughout the campaign," Bell said.

Federal employees can make donations to the CFC by check, cash, or payroll deduction. The Chesapeake Bay Area CFC Online Pledge System, NEXUS, is active and will be open 24 hours a day 7 days a week to civilian and military personnel. Online pledging can be accessed through the APG Web pages referenced above through a link next to the CFC Thermometer.

See **CFC**, page 10



TRAFFIC ALERT

Beginning after 7:30 p.m., Oct. 8 extensive road closures are planned involving Aberdeen, Harford and Maryland Boulevard intersections. All lanes of Harford Boulevard will be closed in both directions from the AAFES shopette entrance to the intersection near building 2484 in front of the Post Chapel. High Point Road will be closed in both directions at the Maryland Boulevard/Harford Boulevard intersection as well. In addition, Maryland Boulevard will be closed in both directions from the Harford and Maryland Boulevard intersection to just south of the Maryland and Aberdeen Boulevard intersection at the commissary

See **TRAFFIC** page 10

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

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by
MAJ. GEN. NICK JUSTICE
U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and Aberdeen Proving Ground Commanding General



Greetings to the entire Aberdeen Proving Ground community. I want to take this opportunity to tell you some of the exciting things happening at APG. We continue to rapidly move forward with the Base Realignment and Closure process.

Earlier this month, I met with a group of military and local officials to discuss the regional transformation set in motion by the closure of Fort Monmouth, N.J. and the movement of organizations to and from Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Base Realignment and Closure is well on its way to becoming reality as major units move to and from the proving ground.

We are at the tipping point. There is a tremendous synergy going on and the opportunities are exciting.

For example, we are standing by to officially receive the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command from Fort Monmouth. They cased their colors in a New Jersey ceremony Sept. 13. The entire Team APG will welcome them

with a proper ceremony Oct. 22.

This is one thing I want you to embrace -- all of us who live and work on Aberdeen Proving Ground are part of one team. We are Team APG! Consider the people we have working here in our community, the kinds of missions we have here. It is truly breathtaking. All of us, Soldiers, civilian employees and contractors working on this installation have one goal in mind -- supporting the Warfighter.

About 2,700 people have already

moved to APG due to BRAC, and we can expect thousands more to join us in the coming months. Our installation is growing -- and it's growing fast.

Recently I participated in some fantastic community events. We cut a ribbon to officially open the Harford Community College Education and Training Center Sept. 28 at the Gate Complex. Our partnership with local educational institutions is the key to our future. When you think about workforce development and professional education opportunities, you don't even have to leave the installation. They want to be part of Team APG. They know that the future of this region includes being good neighbors with Aberdeen Proving Ground. We welcome Harford Community College and value their friendship!

Every month, we honor Servicemembers and civilian employees moving on to greener pastures at the Installation Retirement Ceremony. The last ceremony was Sept. 29 at the Ball Conference Center. This is a bittersweet event. We're happy to honor the accomplishments of our longtime employees, but sad to see them go. I encourage you to attend these events. Your attendance will add meaning to the ceremony and show your com-

mitment to the community.

Finally we celebrated the vibrant contributions of our Hispanic community with an event Sept. 29 at the APG Recreation Center. We showed our support, enjoyed the food sampling and got to know our fellow community members. Again, these are the types of events Command Sgt. Maj. Marin and I encourage you to attend.

Folks, APG is transforming into an installation of the future. Did you know we have more than \$1.4 billion invested in ongoing projects? Our mantra is build, renovate and demolish. I guarantee you will find it hard to recognize APG when it's all said and done. But transformation is not just limited to buildings. It's also about the spirit and pride of our community. Working at APG is not just getting a paycheck from the Army. You are part of a team focused on supported our Soldiers. Team members look out for each other and stay involved.

I hope to see you at all our future events. Again, congratulations to our retirees, a well-deserved salute to our Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month and welcome to our new partners at Harford Community College.

Senior Service College Fellows receive conflict, cooperation and U.S. national interests training on Capitol Hill

Story and photo by
PARKER B. BENNETT
*Defense Acquisition University
SSCF*

Fellows from the Senior Service College Fellowship at Aberdeen Proving Ground, as well as from Warren, Mich., and Huntsville, Ala., spent Sept. 20 and 21 in Washington for a Capitol Hill Workshop as part of the 10-week Program Manager's Course, PMT 401.

Over the course of two days, the Fellows heard from speakers representing a variety of crucial viewpoints and perspectives on U.S. National Interests and Security. The workshop was arranged by Alan L. Freed Associates, Inc. and hosted at the Capitol Hill Club, one block south of the Capitol building.

Walter Oleszek, Senior Specialist in American Government, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, served as the Program Moderator and provided an overview of The Evolution of Power in Congress which touched upon policy making and partisanship. Next, Kenneth Duberstein, former Chief of Staff, Reagan Administration, explained his experience in the Reagan White House and the demands of serving as Chief of Staff. Jon Etherton, Defense and Intelligence Consultant, and former professional staff member discussed transformations and issues in Acquisition Policy. After lunch, Afshin Molavi, Fellow, New American Foundation, described working as an Iranian-American reporter covering pivotal events in the Islamic Republic of Iran. His personal experiences and reflective anecdotes effectively depicted the rise to power of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The last speaker of the day, Charles Cushman, Associate Dean, Graduate School of Political Management, George Washington University spoke about the growth in complexity of the United States system

of governing and its subsequent distribution of power.

On day two, Lucian Niemeier, professional staff member, Senate Armed Services Committee described the function of the Senate Armed Services Committee and his role in support of the committee. Then, the last speaker, Larry LaRocco, former Democratic Representative from Idaho, examined the current dynamics of Congress and relationships of its members. Each speaker presented a unique reflection on his area of expertise which in turn impressed upon the Fellows a greater understanding of the workings of Congress and its relationship to the Defense Department.

In the afternoon, the Fellows were given free time to visit their representatives, explore the Capitol buildings and sit in on Senate or House Committee and Subcommittee hearings. Several of the Fellows obtained Senate Gallery passes from Senators' offices to observe legislation in action. From their seats above the Senate floor, the Fellows watched Arizona Senator, John McCain and Connecticut Senator, Joe Lieberman, present arguments against and for, respectively, the passing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. This Act, which ultimately did not pass, included important changes to the legislation of the Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy and the implementation of the DREAM Act.

These two days spent in the heart of the nation's capital provided a framework for the Fellows' understanding of their role as civil servants working assiduously in support of American interests and security. Appreciation for the "bigger picture," goals of maintaining and promoting core American values, will ultimately enable the Fellows to provide better support to the Warfighter and leadership within their organizations.



Members of the Senior Service College Fellowship Enterprise from Huntsville, Ala.; Warren, Mich., and Aberdeen Proving Ground stand in front of the Capitol Building as part of the 10-week program manager's course, PMT 401.

Safety

From front page

and the safety of people and resources assigned to him or her, all of us must know the Safety Program and carry it out to standard. The Safety Program is the Commander's program and all of us are safety officers.

Fourth, I have been a motorcycle driver my entire adult life and have never had a motorcycle accident. I firmly believe that it is not a matter of luck, but preparation. I drive my motorcycle only if I have the right frame of mind, the right protective equipment and a planned route.

Many people label motorcycles as

unsafe. However, it is not the motorcycle that is unsafe, it is the driver. That is why leaders need to make sure the appropriate safety training is available prior to a new rider driving a motorcycle. It is not smart for an untrained motorcycle driver to drive his or her new motorcycle on post in order to learn how to operate it properly. Motorcycle driving simulators are necessary and should be made available at every IMCOM installation.

Fifth, the Installation Management Campaign Plan 2.0 is being launched this month at the Garrison Commanders' Conference in San Antonio. The plan's Line of Effort on Safety charges commanders and other leaders to lead the way in changing behavior to prevent accidents, and to empower Soldiers,

Civilians and Families at all levels to speak up when they see someone ignoring safety rules or doing something risky. Safety is everyone's business, and it is our responsibility to ensure safe performance in all we do. Everyone will be held accountable for accident prevention. The LOE calls for providing effective POV safety programs; heightening safety awareness; employing hazard control measures; requiring and promoting safe, healthy practices; and support for the Senior Commander.

Sixth, I challenge all of you to look at the IMCP's Safety LOE and ask yourselves, "What are we missing?" I often mention the 80 percent solution as being good enough to proceed, but this LOE is an instance when we need to keep aiming

for 100 percent. We cannot be satisfied as long as we have a single accident. If safety requirements are not adequate, we will improve them. If we are doing something ineffective out there, we will stop. But if no one tells me, we cannot correct the issue. I need your input.

When we think about the Safety Program, we should not focus on saving money. We should not concentrate our efforts on finding different ways to reduce costs, but on how to make our Safety Program better. It is about saving the lives of our Army Family. That is the passion every individual must pursue. When you practice safety and teach others about safety, you are saving lives -- and I cannot think of a higher calling.

APG News

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

tunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

Editorial content is prepared, edited and approved by the APG Public Affairs Office. The APG News is printed by Homestead Publishing Company, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with APG. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising and mailing. To obtain a yearly subscription, which costs \$16, the price for weekly mailing, or for problems with incorrect mailing addresses, contact the publisher at 10 Hays Street, Bel Air, MD 21014, or call 410-838-0611.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Homestead Publishing Company of the products or services advertised.

For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to

the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 305, IMNE-APG-PA, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1153, DSN 298-1153; send a fax to 410-278-2570; send e-mail to editor-app@conus.army.mil or pat.mcclung@us.army.mil or contact reporters Yvonne Johnson, yvonne.johnson5@us.army.mil or 410-278-1148, or Rachel Ponder, rachel.ponder@us.army.mil or 410-278-1149.

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

Staff

APG Commander Maj. Gen. Nick 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

After school activities connect

Story by
KAREN JOLLEY
Special contributor

The end of summer means more than a return to school for students. It's also the time to establish a routine that will carry them through the school year, and help them succeed.

For more than two decades, The Boys and Girls Clubs (B&GC) of Harford County has helped local youths thrive. Early in the club's history, the clubs and Aberdeen Proving Ground established a partnership; today, the clubs continue to provide summer and after-school activities for military and civilian personnel.

"Our job is to make it easier for parents to go to work every day, in their military or civilian jobs, and know their children are in a safe, supportive environment," said Randy Acosta, B&GC Director.

"The Army and APG focus on providing outstanding support programs for youths," he added. "Our clubs seek to augment that support, especially for those who live off post. The Boys and Girls Clubs and APG both have the same goal, which is to help our young people realize their full potential."

With clubs in Aberdeen, Bel Air, Edgewood and Havre de Grace, more than 400 children and teens use the clubs every day. That's a benefit that some military personnel on post can appreciate.

Staff Sgt. Shantai Jones of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion appreciates the flexibility the clubs provide, which made this summer a treat for her daughters, ages 10 and 14.

"This is exactly where they need to be," she said, praising the fun summer activities, as well as the after-school program they attended last year and began again a few weeks ago. "They love it."

Jones, whose daughters go to the club in Bel Air, said the clubs are military friendly.

"The civilian sector isn't always flexible, but the Boys and Girls Club will work with you," she said. "During the school year and the summer, there are so many activities. I wouldn't be able to take them to all these places."

After-school activities are important for younger students, but teens also benefit from the structure and support. For her 14-year-old daughter, she said "it keeps her involved in activities." And the 10-year-old "listens to her sister when she's at the club!"

The cost of the program? Dues are \$12 per school year, which includes the after-school program, and the club is working to offset the fee for next year's summer attendees.

It's not just the reasonable expense that drew Lt. Col. Karlotta Richards of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense to the program. She has a long history with the Boys and Girls Club, beginning as a volunteer while attending graduate school in Mississippi.

"It's a positive place for kids. It's a safe haven," Richards said of the club. "In society now, you never can tell. I know from personal experience that the staff goes through a background check."

Her niece, 5, and nephew, 8, are spending the summer with her, and love their time at the Havre de Grace Boys and Girls Club. Compared to the year she spent caring for them while their mother was deployed, Richards noted that the club offers a far more flexible and affordable alternative.

As a bonus, she said she has learned a lot through the children, and as a native of South America is enjoying their American upbringing vicariously.

"There are so many things I missed, not growing up in America," Richards said. "They're telling me things I don't know. The secondary and tertiary effects

are evident. These children go home and teach their parents.

She not only recommends the club for children, but also adults who want to volunteer.

"It's open so late, I can volunteer after work. We have so much to offer youths, and it's possible to make a difference in a child's life," she said. She added that while volunteering in Mississippi, she was drawn to one young boy who wanted a "big brother." She asked if a big sister would do.

"He said 'I just want somebody,'" Richards said. She filled that role, maintained contact as she traveled around the world with the Army, sent him to college, and he chose to serve in the Army, finishing Officer Candidate School recently.

Acosta noted that while children have fun and play games part of the time, studying comes first.

"We believe in instilling a strong foundation," he said. "The kids have to complete their homework to get computer time, and participate in athletics."

Terry Sexton, immediate past president of the B&GC Board of Directors, said he became involved with the clubs 20 years ago because he believed it could

make a difference in the community.

"The Boys and Girls Clubs offer a positive alternative to all the negative influences out there," Sexton said. "It's because of our staff, our parents, our volunteers, and all the people who support our fundraisers that we are able to offer these programs to these kids. I've never met anyone who said that this effort isn't worth it. This is the future."

• Aberdeen Branch, 100 East Bel Air Avenue

• Bel Air Branch, 525 W. MacPhail Road

• Edgewood Branch, 2002 Cedar Drive

• Havre de Grace Branch, 351 Lewis Lane

The clubs offer programs that focus on character and leadership, education and career, health and life skills, art and sports, fitness and recreation. The clubs in Aberdeen and Edgewood are open Monday-Friday, 3-8 p.m. during the school year; Bel Air Club and Havre de Grace are open 3-7 p.m.

For more information about the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County, APG military and civilian personnel can go to www.bgcharfordco.org/ or call the Administrative Office at 410-272-0010.

At the right place, at the right time

Army doctor's quick response saves lives

Story and photo by
CHANEL S. WEAVER
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

Capt. David Kassop, M.D. had only been assigned to the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) for about two weeks Aug. 4 when he showed up late for work.

But he had a good reason.

The new surgeon for the 22d Chemical Battalion had just spent two hours rendering medical assistance to save the lives of a man and woman who were involved in a horrific accident on I-95 in Baltimore.

On his way to work that morning, Kassop stopped to pay the toll on I-95 at the Fort McHenry Tunnel. While he was paying the toll, a car suddenly slammed into the concrete barrier next to him and ignited into flames immediately.

"It sounded like a big explosion," Kassop said.

Kassop, who recently completed a three-year residency in internal medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, knew he had to do something.

"I pulled over to the side of the road and immediately rushed to the scene to see what I could do to help," Kassop said.

As Kassop announced he was a doctor, the assembling crowd made way to let him through. What Kassop saw was devastating.

"The car was on fire, the front end was demolished, the windows were smashed, and I could see the airbags had been deployed," Kassop said.

Kassop rushed to the driver-side window and observed an elderly man who looked unconscious.

"My first instinct was to get the guy out of the car," Kassop said.

Events unfolded quickly.

Kassop, and a team of three other commuters, including Master Sgt. Mark Lugenbeel, ran to the scene. They tried to open the car door, but their labor was to no avail. A toll booth attendant rushed over, carrying a fire extinguisher. The team used the fire extinguisher to put out the flames. After the fire was extinguished, a police officer arrived with a crow bar, and tried to open the door to pull the man from the vehicle.

Despite these attempts, Kassop, Lugenbeel and the rest of the team could not get the man out.

In the meantime, one of the team members ran to the passenger side of the



Capt. David Kassop, 22d Chemical Battalion physician, listens to the heartbeat of a patient at the Edgewood Troop Medical Clinic at Aberdeen Proving Ground Sept 13. Kassop helped save the lives of two victims in a car crash Aug. 4

vehicle, and smashed the window to see if the team could pull the driver out of the vehicle through the passenger side.

To everyone's surprise, there was an elderly female in the front passenger seat.

"We didn't know she was in there," Kassop said. "There was so much smoke that we didn't see her."

The team pulled her out of the vehicle.

Lugenbeel said they got the woman out just in time.

"As soon as we pulled her from the wreckage, the center console and her seat engulfed into flames," Lugenbeel said.

Kassop rushed to the woman's side to offer first aid.

"Since we couldn't get the man out, I thought I could at least help this lady," Kassop said.

In that traditional Army leadership style, Kassop began barking orders.

"Lay her on her back!" he said.

As Kassop began to perform an initial assessment, he was relieved to see that his patient was conscious.

"Did you get my husband out?" the lady murmured.

"We're still working on that," Kassop said.

Kassop determined the woman would survive her injuries.

"She was talking and could move all of her extremities — her arms, legs, fin-

gers, and toes," Kassop said. "She also had some bruises and cuts on her, but I saw no signs of hemorrhaging. I knew she would be okay."

So Kassop ensured a team member stayed with the woman, instructed him to keep the victim on her back, and rushed back to assist the driver.

"I checked the driver's neck, and felt a pulse, so I was relieved," Kassop said. "I also saw that the guy had dentures, so I removed the dentures to ensure his airway wasn't obstructed."

By this time a passing paramedic, who was on his way home from work, arrived on scene and brought a medical bag that included an intravenous bag of electrolytes, or IV.

"We got the IV going to ensure the man didn't lose any more fluids," Kassop said.

Almost 25 minutes after the crash, the paramedics arrived.

"It took the paramedics a while to get there because they initially responded to the wrong scene," Lugenbeel said. "They thought the accident was in the adjacent Harbor Tunnel on Interstate-895."

The paramedics and firefighters used the "Jaws of Life" and successfully removed the driver from the car and placed him onto a stretcher.

"I'm glad that we could keep both victims alive," Kassop said. "In these

types of situations, time is life."

While both car crash victims were on their way to the hospital, Kassop, Lugenbeel, and another witness remained on the scene to fill out numerous witness statements. The morning's events were certainly ingrained in their minds.

"The police officers kept thanking us," Kassop said. "It was admirable to see how we all came together for a common purpose."

This chance meeting was not the first time Kassop and Lugenbeel met. As Lugenbeel read the doctor's name on his Army uniform, he recalled that Kassop was once his doctor and treated him while he was a patient at Walter Reed.

"It's a small world," Lugenbeel said.

"It was certainly an extraordinary day," Kassop echoed.

As he continued his commute to work, Kassop couldn't help but credit all of the training he has completed in the Army with helping him to react so quickly to save lives.

"I recently re-certified on the Advanced Cardiac Life Support Course at Walter Reed, and those direct skills and lessons learned in the classroom were applicable to this situation," Kassop said.

When Kassop finally arrived to work at Edgewood, he explained his tardiness to 22nd Chemical Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Chadwick Bauld. The commander praised him for his actions.

Bauld said he was not surprised that Kassop reacted so honorably to save the lives of two people he didn't know. He said Kassop, who was still waiting on an office space at the clinic, was already demonstrating that a doctor does not need to be working in an exam room to make a difference.

"Captain David Kassop is already focused on improving the medical readiness of the battalion," Bauld said. "He is a very hard worker, is genuinely concerned for the Soldiers and Family members' well-being, and is a tremendous asset to the battalion. He is constantly studying to improve his profession."

A few weeks after the incident, a police officer investigating the accident reported that both victims survived.

Although Lugenbeel helped to remove the victims from the car, he said Kassop was the real hero, and the car crash victims were fortunate to have Kassop's expertise.

"If Doctor Kassop had not been there, those victims would have perished — there's no doubt," he said.

Three APG civilians retire during September ceremony

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Three Aberdeen Proving Ground civilians with careers totaling 110 years of government service formally retired before colleagues, family members and friends during the Installation Retirement Ceremony at the Ball Conference Center Sept. 29.

Brigadier Gen. Timothy K. Adams, commander of the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional), presided over the ceremony. Guests included Maj. Gen. Nick G. Justice, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin.

Richard "Dick" B. Belmonte who ends his 37-year career as the deputy chief of staff, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Joseph M. Murphy, who retires with 34 years of service as the division chief for Environmental Technologies and Technical Services, U.S. Army Environmental Command; and Charles Nietubicz, director of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory's Department of Defense Supercomputing Resource Center who retires after a 39-year career, were the honorees.

The ceremony included music by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band brass quintet led by Staff Sgt. Alan Harold and the invocation by deputy Garrison Chaplain (Maj.) Steven Simpson.

Adams welcomed the audience and said that it was not only a privilege but also a "distinct honor" to participate in the ceremony.

"Today we recognize these three for what they have given through hard work and personal sacrifice," Adams said.

He thanked each honoree for their "dedicated service to our Army," and told them, "You will always be a part of the APG Family."

"On behalf of a grateful nation, U.S. Army and APG, thank you for your dedication and contributions."

Richard "Dick" B. Belmonte

Belmonte was awarded the Department of the certificates of Appreciation and Retirement and retirement pin. He officially retired Aug. 3, 2010 and was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

A native of Worcester, Mass., Belmonte earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Worcester



Richard "Dick" B. Belmonte



Joseph M. Murphy



Charles Nietubicz

Polytechnic Institute and a master's in industrial engineering (safety) from Texas A&M University before entering federal service. His first position was as an Army Safety intern and over the years he served in more than 25 assignments in engineering, risk management and command staff positions.

Awards earned during this time include a Research and Development Achievement award in 1979 for his contributions to stabilizing the flight of a 155mm smoke projectile. In 1992, he earned a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for several chemical-biological defense equipment developments as the Deputy Program Manager for NBC Defense and another achievement medal for his work in characterizing the protection factors for chemical-biological suits as part of the Domestic Preparedness Program in 1999. Belmonte retires with 37 years of service.

Belmonte said he and his wife LuAnne, who joined him in retirement after 30 years with Harford County Public Schools, plan to travel and stay involved in the community.

"Retirement is wonderful and the gift of time is priceless," Belmonte said, adding that he will miss the "great people" he worked with.

"They are talented and selfless and I wish them the best. And I will do my best to stay in touch," he said. "It's all about the people."

Joseph M. Murphy

Murphy was awarded the DA certificates of retirement and appreciation and the retirement pin and his wife Mary received the APG Certificate of Appreciation.

Murphy was born in Newark, N.J. He holds masters' degrees in environmental engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and in engineering management from the Florida Institute of Technology.

He began his federal career at Picatinny Arsenal before accepting a position with the former Army Toxic and Hazard-

ous Materials Agency which became the U.S. Army Environmental Command. Over the years he held numerous positions including range response program manager, senior regional environmental coordinator and division chief for Environmental Technologies and Technical Services.

His accomplishments include development of the Department of Defense Range Rule which established the initial regulatory framework and guidance for cleaning up unexploded ordnance on closed ranges. In addition, he led efforts of 55 interdisciplinary engineers and scientists engaged in strategic environmental initiatives focused on sustaining the Warfighter mission. He retires with 34 years of service.

Murphy said he appreciated APG senior leaders taking time to attend the ceremony.

"This ceremony was awesome and a testament to my thirty-plus years of service," he said. "It's been a great career that was all about the opportunities I had and took advantage of, and about the great people I worked with in AEC and in the Army.

"I couldn't be happier."

Charles Nietubicz

Nietubicz was awarded the DA certificates of achievement and retirement and the retirement pin.

Nietubicz was born in Sayreville,

N.J. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of Dayton where he received a master's in Mechanical engineering. He served three years in the Ordnance Corps at APG in the Ballistic Research Laboratory as a wind tunnel program engineer. After leaving the service, Nietubicz remained in the high performance computing field, eventually advancing to the positions of acting and deputy director of the ARL Computational and Informational Sciences Directorate and manager of the Army High Performance Computing Research Center.

Nietubicz is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and has received two Army Science Research and Development Achievement awards, the bronze medal for achievement at the Army Science Conference, the Army Superior Civilian Service Award and the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

He retires with 39 years and five months of federal service.

Nietubicz said he owes his career to the "folks I worked with."

"I couldn't have accomplished anything without them," he said. "I've seen a lot of changes over my career and I consider myself fortunate to have been part of the computer modernization program, which helped move forward the use of high performance computing."

He said the best parts of his career were the "unlimited research opportunities."

"It was about taking opportunities made available in research which allowed you to learn more and do more," he said, adding that he developed programs from California to Europe by taking advantage of Army research opportunities.

"I hope to one day contribute in other arenas," he said.

New Web site offers public health, healthy living info

Story by
LYN KUKRAL

U.S. Army Public Health Command
(Provisional)

The U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) has launched its new Web site, making Army-related public health information more accessible to Soldiers and retirees, their Families, Army civilians, and medical and other professional colleagues.

“Our mission is to promote health and prevent disease, injury and disability in the Army Family,” said Shawn Bowman, site content manager. “To that end, we’ve reorganized our content to help our users get to public health information in a more ordered fashion than our old site did, and to encourage them to communicate with us about what they need.”

The site is a collaborative effort between USAPHC’s Health Information Operations, Information Systems, and Visual Information divisions. Content covering healthy living, deployment and environmental health, health surveillance and evaluation, diseases and conditions, food and drinking water protection, workplace health, animal medicine and more has been contributed by all of the organization’s technical directorates.

Visitors should find this content more accessible.

“Consistent global navigation allows visitors to access any page on the site in four clicks or less,” said Marilyn Swantkowski-Hughes, a visual information specialist who developed the site’s content structure.

“As a result of research, we have

The screenshot shows the homepage of the United States Army Public Health Command (Provisional) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, FAQ, Contact Us, Related Sites, Site Map, Army Medicine, Access to Care, Army.mil, AKO, PHC on AKO, and PHC Intranet. Below this is a search bar and a 'New USAPHC Website' banner. The main content area is organized into several sections: 'Topics and Services' with sub-sections for Animal Medicine, Deployment & Environmental Health, Diseases & Conditions, Emergency Preparedness & Response, Food & Drinking Water Protection, Health Surveillance & Evaluation, Healthy Living, Laboratory Sciences, PHC Region-Specific Information, and Workplace Safety & Health. There are also links for 'Find DoD Veterinary Treatment Facilities' and 'Health Information Product eCatalog (HIP eCatalog)'. On the right side, there are social media links for Facebook and Twitter, an 'Announcements' section, and 'Periodic Publications' including HIG Weekly Update and Vet Corps News. A footer contains a privacy notice and a disclaimer.

organized content and built features that support the different methods our site visitors use when accessing and making sense of our information,” she added.

“People no longer need to understand our organizational structure to find information,” said Jason Edmondson, an Information Management specialist who led the IM team. “By using key features of SharePoint™ [the software on which

the site is based], we’re better able to serve up relevant information to our customers, especially through the search function.”

In addition to new organization and a powerful search function, the site boasts a new appearance and enhanced e-catalog for ordering public health and prevention products.

The development team also has built in better ways to ensure content

stays timely.

“Unlike our old site, the new site gives our content managers the ability to keep their content current,” Edmondson said. “Our old site had content from as far back as the early 1990s—a cardinal sin—but the new site will automatically remove most content from user access after one year if it is not certified or updated.”

The site’s creators take special pride in its appearance.

“The site’s home page welcomes visitors with new branding, a clean uncluttered design, and moving images with featured content,” Bowman said.

“Additionally, the new site will more actively engage our customers through the use of ... social networking sites that allow for feedback and discussions,” he added. “We also offer RSS feeds that will push new and updated information to users in real time.”

Links and bookmarks to content on the old site will be redirected to the new home page. Visitors can then update their links and bookmarks.

Visit the new USAPHC (Prov) Web site and provide comments at <http://phc.amedd.army.mil>.

The U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) focuses on promoting health and preventing disease, injury and disability in Soldiers and military retirees, their Families, and Army civilian employees. As well, when it reaches full operational capability in October 2011, the USAPHC will oversee effective execution of full-spectrum veterinary services throughout the Department of Defense.



Photo by RACHEL PONDER

From left, Stacie Beard, a prevention specialist for Harford County’s Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades sign the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation on Oct. 1.

The Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program will host activities on APG to raise awareness during the month of October. “I am thrilled that we (SARC) are partnering with this installation to raise awareness of domestic violence and the resources available both on base and off,” Beard said. “Domestic violence affects more than just the victim – it affects the Family, the workplace, and the community at large.”

Hispanic

From front page

The guest speaker for the event was retired Brig. Gen. Alberto J. Jimenez.

Jimenez is currently the chief of staff of the Maryland Military Department. Prior to his retirement, he was assigned as the assistant adjutant general for the Maryland Army National Guard and the Maryland Army National Guard Commander.

Jimenez is also combat veteran of the Vietnam War, where he served as an attack-helicopter pilot; and was an honor graduate of the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Ga. Jimenez said that the influence of Hispanic culture is prevalent in America today.

"There is something about being Hispanic, we like to be in everything," he said.

Jimenez added that the Hispanic community is quite diverse. He said that he is troubled when the local press and the national press polarize Americans, putting Hispanic Americans against non-Hispanic Americans.

"I am troubled when they begin to infer that anyone that is Hispanic in America must be here illegally," he said. "I served our nation and my blood also runs just as red as anyone else. The Constitution of the United States of America does not say black American, white American, it says one nation under God."

Jimenez said that many great Hispanic Americans have served their country bravely and proudly.

"From the Civil War until today there have been forty-three Medal of Honor recipients from Hispanic ancestry," he said. "They never asked to be heroes; they just did what their country asked them to do."

After the program attendees looked at displays featuring Hispanic clothing, art and history, and sampled Hispanic food from La Tolteca and Super Chicken Rico. Homemade desserts were also available for sampling.

Several attendees commented that they enjoyed the program.

"I like that programs like these support having a diverse workforce on APG," said John Parraz, from Aberdeen Test Center. "I try to attend programs like these whenever possible."

Jill Foulke, a visitor, said that she attended the program with her friends because they were interested in hearing the guest speaker. Foulke added that she has been interested in learning more about Hispanic culture in recent years.

"America's Hispanic population is on

the rise so I think it is important to learn about the Hispanic culture," she said. "I have been helping my granddaughter with her Spanish homework and I am trying to learn some Spanish too."

Margareth Olivo who performed during the program in the group D4C, which stands for Dance for Christ, said she was glad that the group had a chance to perform at APG. Olivo said that the group strives to send a positive message by performing to Spanish Christian music.

"We want to positively influence Hispanic youth," Olivo said. "We want to get the youth involved to celebrate their Hispanic culture and we want to show others that we can dance and still worship God."

Janice Burke, APG Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, thanked Sgt. 1st Class LaQuita Wimbley, U.S. Army Research, Development, Engineering Command Equal Opportunity Advisor; Carmen Adrover, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency; Linda Patrick, U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional); Master Sgt. Michelle B. Davis, 20th Support Command Equal Opportunity Advisor; Capt. Jodi Santiago, USAPHC (Prov.) Equal Opportunity Liaison; Rosa Satz, U.S. Army Materiel Command, League of United Latin American Citizens; and Sgt. 1st Class David B. Pickett, 61st Ordnance Brigade EOA, for helping organize the event.

LULAC celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month at APG

The local chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month with a cultural and community outreach event at Top of the Bay Sept. 17.

Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander gave remarks and guest speaker Maj. Charles Edward Geter, recruiting retention officer, U.S. Army Cadet Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., delivered the keynote address.

The event included music by the U.S. Army Blues, the ensemble jazz band from the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," from Washington, D.C.

Rose Satz, president of the local LULAC chapter, said the organization partners with the U.S. Army Accessions Command to support national and local Reserve Officers' Training Corps recruiting efforts.

"The LULAC mission is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans," Satz said. For more information about LULAC activities or membership, call Satz at 732-580-0766 or e-mail lulac-maryland@gmail.com.

Community Notes

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 8 BASKET BINGO

Tall Cedars of Lebanon, HarCe Forest No. 142 will sponsor basket bingo in support of Families with muscular diseases at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, Aberdeen. Basket Bingo will be held 7 p.m.; doors open 6 p.m. Cost is \$12 per ticket for all 20 bingo games (all paper cards); extra packs cost \$5 each. Bring a non-perishable food item for a chance in a special drawing. Needed items include peanut butter, jellies, stews, chili, chunky soups, pancake mixes and syrup. This is a non-smoking event. Food, drinks and baked goods will be available. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 9 THIRD ANNUAL GRAW DAYS FESTIVAL

Havre de Grace Main Street presents the third annual Graw Days Festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the

downtown Havre de Grace shopping district. Bring the Family to the first annual free street festival celebrating a significant era in Havre de Grace history — horse racing at "The Graw." Events include kids games, a wheeled horse parade, artisans, craftspeople, pumpkin making, live music, food, historic presentations and more.

For more information, call 410-939-1811 or e-mail hdgmainstreet@verizon.net.

HAUNTED HISTORY GHOST TOUR

Is Havre de Grace Haunted? Take a Haunted History Ghost Tour and find out.

Havre de Grace Main Street, Inc., will conduct two Haunted History and Ghost Tours through the historic downtown district, at 7 and 8:30 p.m. The history and murder stories are true stories documented either by newspaper or local historians. And the ghost stories are first-hand accounts told to Main Street from the people who experienced them. Private tours can be arranged for groups of at least 8 or more throughout the

year. Tickets cost \$12 per person plus a small service fee for online purchase.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-1811 or visit www.mainstreethdg.com/ArtsandEntertainment/HauntedHistoryGhostTours/tabid/104/Default.aspx.

KAYAK WITH YOUR KIDS

Bring the kids out to the Bosely Conservancy and learn to kayak together. This program will be held 9 a.m. to noon for ages 5 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.

WHITETAILED DEER SURVEY

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

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

IF YOU FEED THEM, THEY WILL COME

Join birder, Phil Powers, to learn what birds frequent backyards in Harford County and their feeder and food preferences. This free program will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. Registration is required.

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

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 10 MONTHLY PHOTO CLASS

Meet with other photographers, complete monthly photo assignments, and share assignment photos with the group. Instruction will be offered. Bring a flash drive or prints to share. This program will be held 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 15 to adult. The cost is \$10 per class. 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.

BOTANY CSI

Ever wondered about the dirty secrets plants can tell? Come explore how forensic botany can track down clues to solve crimes. This program will be held 3 to 5 p.m. for Families. The cost is \$3 per person or \$10 per Family. Registration is required.

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

TUESDAY

OCTOBER 12 COLLEGE FAIR AT HCC

Education After High School offers Harford County students and parents the opportunity to connect with more than 100 colleges. This college fair will take place at Harford Community College's Susquehanna Center from 6 to 8 p.m. There is no admission fee. Admissions experts will be there to answer questions along with college alumni.

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 13 AFCEA CHAPTER LUNCHEON

The Aberdeen Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronic Association will hold its monthly luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Ripken Stadium, Club Level, 873 Long Drive, Aberdeen. Keynote Speaker will be Gary Martin, Executive Deputy, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, APG. Cost is \$20. AFCEA is a non-profit organization for information technology professionals. The chapter's primary mission is to serve the community by raising funds to support merit-based scholarships. With over 200 members and growing, the chapter serves APG, three Maryland counties - Harford, Cecil, Kent - and Southern Delaware.

For more information, call Michael J. Bowen, programs chapter vice president, 301-490-4299, or mjbowen@praxiseng.com.

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

Post Shorts

that patients refill any medications at KUSAHC before Oct. 6. The pharmacy refill line is 1-800-248-6337.

Shuttle services will pick up patients for appointments at Fort Meade or Walter Reed Medical Centers at 7:15 a.m. at the Edgewood Clinic. Due to construction equipment and barricades, there will be no shuttle stops at KUSAHC during the closure.

For medical services needed after hours, weekends or federal holidays, call 410-278-1725 or 443-807-0725. The staff duty officer will coordinate your care with the Referral Management Office. To avoid Point of Service copayment charges, you will need authorization and/or a referral to go to any urgency clinic.

Emergency Rooms do not require a referral.

MCSC upcoming events

'Tis the season to join the APG Military and Civilian Spouses' Club! Spouses of all military branches – regardless of status - and all female Aberdeen Proving Ground and tenant activity active duty personnel, civilians and contract employees, active or retired, and spouses of APG and tenant activity civilians and contract employees and anyone who volunteers in an APG philanthropic organization are eligible to join. Membership information and application forms are available at www.apgmcs.org.

For more information, contact Tiffany O'Sheal, 937-260-1647, membership@apgmcs.org; or Annie Brock, 443-686-1484, president@apgmcs.org.

See APG Newswatch

The APG video news program, APG Newswatch, is available for viewing online at <http://www.army.mil/media/amp/?bctid=604972674001>.

The lineup includes:

RDECOM Receives the Army Superior Unit Award; CECOM Holds their Casing of the Colors Ceremony at Ft. Monmouth as they officially move to APG; The Chesapeake Science and Security Consortium meet at the HEAT Center discussing the APG transformation; Two state-of-the-art Army Test facilities open; APG Police, Firefighters and EMS Personnel honored in ceremony at Ripken Stadium; RDECOM NCO's take Professional Development training at APG to look at how Science supports the Warfighter; Three long-time Army employees retire; Top of the Bay closes for six months for major upgrade.

Filing for Reimbursement of Real Estate Expenses at APG

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, will perform the customary and reasonable review of expenses incurred for real estate claims for PCS moves of DA civilians transferring into and away from the APG area. Employees wishing to file a reimbursement request are required to access the APG Real Estate Reimbursement Guide for APG specific information and structure their requests IAW with the APG guide. Guidance obtained from any other website is not applicable to the APG Program. Employees should read the APG guide, those resources cited in the guide, and the Part II, Chapter 5 of the JTR, prior to incurring real estate expenses so they have a full understanding of what is reimbursable and what is not before these expenses are incurred. These resources can be found at www.apg.army.mil, Services Directory, Installation Support Offices, then Legal. Employees must currently be making the daily round-trip commute to and from the new dwelling to the new duty station prior to submitting a request for reimbursement.

Transportation suggestions needed

As the population of APG continues to grow, traffic congestion and delays will increase and affect the quality of life of the APG workforce.

APG, working with Army leadership and the surrounding communities to find a solution to mitigate these effects, needs your help. The Transportation Demand Management Council asks that you participate in a survey which will assist APG officials in determining the demand and interest in alternative forms of transportation at APG. This includes carpools and vanpools as well as mass transit options such as buses and trains. The survey will allow APG to identify the characteristics of the typical APG commuter and thus identify the most effective solutions to prevent traffic gridlock and long commutes.

One potential solution is better access to train and bus service in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas. However, in order to establish trains and commuter bus routes to APG, we need to demonstrate to the state and local communities that there exists a demand. We cannot achieve this goal without your help.

Using your AKO account, fill out

the survey at: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/640015>.

For more information, call Eric Pils-maker, 410-278-8607, or email, eric.pils-maker@us.army.mil.

Sample Harford County, Fair Oct. 9

The Harford County Office of Economic Development will host a Community Fair and motor coach windshield tours of the county areas neighboring Aberdeen Proving Ground 9:30 a.m. to

3:30 p.m., Saturday Oct. 9. Information on schools, home builders, day care centers, realtors, parks and recreation, local businesses and more will be featured. The fair is open to government civilians and contractors and their Families. Registration is required. To register online, go to www.harfordbusiness.org. For more information, call the Office of Economic Development at 410-638-3059.

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

2010 Community Awareness Day this Saturday

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Fire and Emergency Services Division invites the public to the annual Community Awareness Day which is held in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9 at the Aberdeen Area Police/Fire Station, building 2200. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With."

The event will feature firefighting and helicopter crash/rescue demonstrations, high-angle rescue static display, CPR/EMS demonstrations, a safety house with smoke house, youth firefighter challenges, fire extinguisher training, APG youth soccer clinic, an entomology display, visits from Sparky the Fire Dog and McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog, face painting, balloon art and much more. Help celebrate McGruff's birthday at his cake cutting ceremony and help kick off the annual Red Ribbon Week campaign, "We Can Be Drug Free."

There will be complimentary refreshments, music, give-aways, and more.

This is a rain-or-shine event. For more information, contact Chris Starling, DES fire inspector at the Edgewood Area fire station at 410-436-0572.

EDGE! youths and teens explore different interests after school



From left to right: Malcolm Whitehurst, Cassandra Miller, Angelique Gonzalez-Soto, Samantha Miller, Edward Sheu, Peter Sheu, Marangely Quinones, Addie Cannizaro, Sarah Grace McCannon and Marisol Quinones participate in an EDGE! Hip-Hop Dance program held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center during September. Cannizaro, the program instructor, taught the youths and teens several dance techniques. The Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation EDGE! program offers out-of-school opportunities for children and youth 6-18 years old to experience art, fitness, life skills and adventure activities. For more information about upcoming EDGE! programs, contact Chuck Rose, FMWR partnership specialist with Child Youth and School Services and the program lead, at 410-278-1399 or e-mail at chuck.rose1@us.army.mil.

Photos by RACHEL PONDER

EDGE! teens, Peter Shue, left, and Edward Shue, right, discuss clues during the "Amazing Adventure," with Chuck Rose Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation partnership specialist, center, at the Ordnance Museum. This EDGE! program, held in August, was based loosely off the popular television show "The Amazing Race." Participants were grouped into teams of two to find clues on the history of Aberdeen Proving Ground and successfully perform a variety of tasks at specified locations.

Life and logistics support in the North Country

1/10 Mountain Division BLST

The austere environment in Regional Command – North (RC-North) in northern Afghanistan is very different from what most logistics assistance representatives (LARs) in that country are used to. While living conditions on bases in other parts of Afghanistan may include containerized housing units with a bathroom and shower, there can be 10 people to a tent up in the "North Country."

Such is life for the 21 military and civilian LARs of the Brigade Logistics Support Team (BLST) supporting the 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 10th Mountain Division. The LARs provide technical expertise, assistance and training to the BCT, which arrived in the German Army-commanded RC-North in March.

The 1st BCT, 10th Mountain Division BLST includes logistics management specialists from CECOM, the Army Sustainment Command, Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command and Joint Munitions Command and specialized contractors. They support Blue Force Tracker systems, digital combat ground systems, biometric identification collection systems and intelligence tracking systems which all tie together to provide a common operating picture for the BCT. The BLST also provides area coverage for the 13 U.S. facilities in RC-North.

While many of the BLST have deployed before, this is the first deployment for some, including The U.S. Army Communications-Electronic Command Standard Army Management Information System LAR Tony Jackson.

"I did not know what to expect prior to arriving in Spann [Camp Mike Spann]," Jackson said. "Being a part of the...BLST has been a great experience for me. Regardless of sleeping in an Alaskan tent or working out of an EELs [Early Entry LSE System] Tent, I believe it is what you make out of your deployment which determines your experience."

The BLST is headquartered at Camp Spann, a forward operating base (FOB) located 18 miles from Mazar-e-Sharif, the fourth largest city in Afghanistan. While Camp Spann had already been established, the 1st BCT's arrival caused the creation of Combat Outposts (COPs) Kunduz and Griffin, which have since also grown into FOBs.

To accommodate the influx of the BCT's 3,000 personnel, much of these three bases had to be constructed from scratch. The 1st BCT BLST played a major role in establishing the life support and communications infrastructure for these FOBs and additional COPs as they developed over the course of several months.

When the BCT Headquarters outgrew its Tactical Operations Center (TOC), the BLST assisted in their move into a new TOC in only 48 hours, working to ensure all communications packages were operational and in unison.

CECOM Sensor LAR Greg Janeczek spent four months at the remote FOB Kunduz as a radar expert. Besides establishing the radar site and resolving critical force protection issues, Janeczek



Camp Mike Spann, a forward operating base in northern Afghanistan, is home to the Brigade Logistics Support Team supporting the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. The team includes logistics management specialists from CECOM, the Army Sustainment Command, Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command and Joint Munitions Command and specialized contractors.

helped in matters that were outside of his experience, including technical issues with power generation equipment and tactical wheeled wheels.

"Being the only LAR on the FOB, I

was asked to assist in areas that I would not normally engage in," Janeczek said. "However, at such a remote and austere FOB, I could not in good conscience tell a Soldier, 'no.'"

The 1st BCT BLST work together, eat together and sleep together in tight quarters up in the "North Country." In doing so, bonds have been forged that will survive beyond this deployment.

Traffic

From front page

entrance. This will include a full closure of both inbound and outbound lanes of Aberdeen Boulevard from the museum parking lot to Springfield Street. Commissary customers will be allowed to use the Maryland Boulevard entrance to the commissary, but will be required to exit via Springfield Street to Susquehan-

na Avenue.

In preparation for this work, the ramp lane from inbound Maryland Boulevard onto inbound Aberdeen Boulevard will be closed on Thursday, Oct. 7, to allow repairs to the rail crossing. The detour for the ramp closure will route traffic through the light at the intersection for the right turn onto Aberdeen Boulevard. The following day, Friday, Oct. 8, there will be moving lane closures at the railroad crossing on Maryland Boulevard for repairs.

During the same weekend time

frame, Combat Drive and the right turn lane from Maryland Boulevard onto Combat Drive will be closed for repairs as well. Darlington Street will be reopened to provide access to the C4 Phase I campus and Boothby Hill Avenue.

These closures will extend through the Monday, Oct. 11 with roads reopening prior to 4 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12. As always, the work is weather dependent. Drivers are asked to change their travel routes to avoid these construction areas and to please drive safely.

CFC

From front page

Temporary personnel, retirees, reserves, and contractors are permitted to donate to CFC by cash or check only. Although key workers cannot solicit con-

tractor employees working at APG, contractors are permitted to contribute to the CFC by cash or check.

Aberdeen Proving Ground will conduct the 2010 Combined Federal Campaign now through Dec. 15 and hopes to exceed \$485,000 in donations from over 1,653 donors.

Last year, APG raised \$518,776. The

average donation for 2009 was \$313.84. The overall goal for CBA CFC increases to \$6.5 million for the 2010 campaign. This year's campaign theme is "Together We Will Make a Difference."

For more information, visit the APG CFC office, Bldg. 4313, or call 410-278-9913/9915/9916.



FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Activities/Events

Autism support group

Army Community Service support group will host the Autism Network and Support Group at APG, 5 to 7 p.m., Oct. 13, at Ruggles Golf Course Club House. Aberdeen Proving Ground EFMP Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Network and Support Group will join meetings with the Autism Society of Harford County. Shelly McLaughlin of Pathfinders for Autism, will speak about programs and what Pathfinders does for the community. PATHFINDERS FOR AUTISM is a parent sponsored, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with autism and their families.

For more information, call 410-278-2420.

New York City shopping trip

Leisure Travel will offer eight hours of shopping in New York City Oct. 16. 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 on Route 24 and return 10:30 p.m.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call MWR Leisure Travel Office, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil.

2010 White House ornament sale

FMWR Leisure Travel Services is selling the latest White House ornaments for \$17, but supplies are limited. The 2010

White House Christmas Ornament is in honor of William McKinley's 25th presidency and celebrates the role of music in the traditions of the White House. Visit <http://www.whitehousehistory.org/> for more information.

For more information or to purchase an ornament, call 410-278-4011/4907, MWR Leisure Travel Services at the AA Recreation Center, building 3326 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

Special Education Law

Aberdeen Proving Ground EFMP Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Network and Support Group will join meetings with the Autism Society of Harford County. Mark Martin and Lisa Frank will be guest speakers on Special Education Law, 5 to 7 p.m., Nov. 8, at Ruggles Golf Course Club House.

Martin, is an attorney with extensive experience advocating for the rights of children and individuals with disabilities. Lisa Frank, with The Special Kids Company, is an educational and behavioral consultant serving children, Families, and schools throughout Maryland.

For more information, call 410-278-2420.

Greens Keeper Revenge at Exton Golf Course

A four-man scramble/Greens Keeper Revenge will be held Oct. 16 at Exton Golf Course, start time is 8:30 a.m. Play the hole challenges the greens keeper has created. Refreshments and awards will be provided upon completion of the event.

APG Fall Bazaar Oct. 7

Find that special gift or complete your holiday shopping early at the APG Fall Bazaar. A multitude of vendors will display their wares during this Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation event in the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center ballroom 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7. Purchase crafts, jewelry, custom t-shirts, baked goods and more from local crafters and businesses. Visitors can register to win incredible door prizes and enjoy a live jazz performance by Rare Pleasure. Complimentary light refreshments will be provided and lunch is available for purchase. For more information, call Earlene Allen, FMWR programmer, at 410-278-3854 or visit the MWR Web site at www.apgmwr.com.

Cost to participate is \$20 for annual patrons; \$35 for value card and authorized patrons; and \$40 for guests.

For more information or to register, call 410-436-2213.

Three new Fitness classes added

Sports and Fitness added three new classes to its fitness schedule: bodyblast, cardio kickboxing and cardio/core fusion. Classes will be held at lunch time and after work at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center and Edgewood Area Hoyle Gymnasium. The fitness classes are free and no registration is required. Participants must be over 18 years of age and have valid identification to participate. Ages 13 to 18 may participate with parent or guardian present.

For more information, call Dan Dolce, 410-278-7934/7933.

Disney on Ice Toy Story 3

Have you heard the 'buzz?' The toys are back in town. Tickets are available for Disney on Ice Toy Story 3 at the 1st Mariner Arena located on 201 West Baltimore

Street, Baltimore.

Show times include 7:30 p.m., Oct. 27 and 28; 10:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m., Oct. 29; 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m., Oct. 30; and 12:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m., Oct. 31. An opening day special of \$14.25 per ticket is available for Oct. 27 only. All other tickets cost \$17.25 per person. Limited quantities are available. The last day to purchase tickets is Oct. 20.

To purchase tickets, visit the MWR Leisure Travel Services at the Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil.

Discount tickets for APG Tickets available for Toby's Dinner Theatre

Toby's Dinner Theatre has two locations: Best Western Hotel and Conference Center located on 5625 O'Donnell Street, Baltimore and 4900 Symphony Woods Road, Columbia, Md. (South Entrance Road between Route 29 and Little Patuxent Parkway). Shows are open to all DoD ID card holders.

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.

Driver's Ed classes start up again

Driver's Education classes are scheduled through Oct. 19; Oct. 25 through Nov. 8; and Nov. 29 through Dec. 13. There is no class on federal holidays. Classes will be held Monday thru Friday, 5 to 8 p.m. by The Ultimate Driving School, LLC, located at 13 North Parke Street, Aberdeen.

Classes include 30 hours classroom instruction and six hours behind the wheel instruction. The last day to register for the first class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between the ages of 15.9 and 18 years old. Open to all DoD ID card holders. Driver's Ed costs \$335 per student. Prices are subject to change without notice.

Jazz Hip-Hop

Learn age-appropriate dances and hip-hop themed routines from popular movies and music including Miley Cyrus, High

School Musical, Camp Rock, and more in a fun filled workshop that will have everyone up on their feet and feeling the groove. Cost of the dance class is \$45 per student

Dance classes will be held at Aberdeen Area Youth Services, building 2522 on Thursdays, Oct. 7 to Nov. 18, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for ages 6 to 9 and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for ages 10 to 11; or Saturdays, Oct. 9 through Nov. 13, 9 to 10 a.m. for ages 6 to 9 and 10 to 11 a.m. for ages 10 to 11.

Students must wear comfortable clothing and shoes they can move in. No jeans or denim.

Private Piano Lessons

Private piano lessons will be given for ages 4 through 18, through Nov. 13, on Tuesdays or Fridays, 3 to 9:30 p.m., and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturdays at the AA Youth Center, building 2503.

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

Students will be responsible for purchasing the required books for the course

as recommended by the instructor.

Private Guitar Lessons

Private guitar lessons for ages 7 through 18 will be held through Nov. 13, on Tuesdays or Fridays, 3 to 9:30 p.m., or 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the AA Youth Center, building 2503.

No experience is necessary. Cost of the lessons is \$102 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for six weeks.

Students also are required to purchase books for the course as recommended by the instructor. Books are a onetime purchase. Students must also provide their own guitar.

Martial Arts at APG present Tiny Tigers

Children ages 4 to 6 can join the Tiny Tigers Unity Tae Kwon Do School of Martial Arts at APG. Parent participation is required. Instructor Sabunim Sean A. Williams will teach this program. Classes are 5:30 to 6 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, and will be held monthly. The Tiny Tiger program is an age appropriate version of Taekwondo that will help direct energy into confidence and character building skills. Students will learn traditional Taekwondo techniques such as blocking, punching and kicking including "Stranger Danger" and "Fire Safety" skills.

Unity TKD's Tiny Tiger's program plac-

Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at www.apgmwr.com.

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

es great emphasis on confidence and character building in all students. Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited to 12 parent and child pairings, so register early.

Musical Theater Workshop

Boys and girls ages 6 to 18 can join this fun-filled workshop series as they learn songs and routines from famous Broadway musicals, movies and hit shows including Hairspray, Glee, and Cats: the Musical. So get ready to say "Good Morning, Baltimore" and join in to all the singing and dancing. The workshop will be held at the Aberdeen Youth Center, building 2522 on Tuesdays or Saturdays. On Tuesdays, the class will be 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. through Nov. 9. On Saturdays, the class will be noon to 1 p.m. from Oct. 9 through Nov. 13. Cost of the workshop is \$45 per student. Students must wear comfortable clothing and shoes they can move in. No jeans or denim. Open to all DoD ID card holder Family members.



HIRED!

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

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

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

UMBC College Tour rescheduled from Oct. 30 to Oct. 9

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County Campus College Tour has been rescheduled for 9:30 a.m., Oct. 9. The tour is for high school teens ages 15 to 18 only. Register at the Aberdeen Area CYSS administrative building 2503. Bring money for lunch. Spaces are limited.

Overcoming Test Anxiety and Stress Reduction for teens

This class will be held for teens ages 13 to 18, 6 to 7 p.m., Oct. 28 at the CYSS Administration building, 2503, room 214. Participants will learn how to assess their own level of stress in particular situations. They will be taught research proven techniques for dealing with stress and anticipatory anxiety before major tests, classroom presentations, or other daily stressors. The facilitator will be a Child and Youth Behavioral Military and Family Life Consultant.

To register, sign up at the CYSS Central Registration, building 2503. For more information, call Jay McKinney, 410-278-3250, or e-mail jay.a.mckinney@us.army.mil.

Dress for Success

Dress for Success for Teens will be held 6 to 7 p.m., Oct. 21. Teens will learn how to dress appropriately for an interview and a job.

Education After High School College Fair

An Education After High School College Fair for high school students

will be held Oct. 12, at Harford Community College. High school students will have the opportunity to visit over 100 colleges and universities with representatives in one setting. Admission experts and college alumni will be on hand to answer questions. Spaces are limited. Transportation will be provided. Students will depart AA Youth Services, building 2522 at 5 p.m. and return 8:45 p.m. Registration deadline is Oct. 8.

To register, sign up at the CYSS Central Registration, building 2503. For more information, call Jay McKinney, 410-278-3250, or email jay.a.mckinney@us.army.mil.

Resume Writing 101

A Resume Writing Workshop will be held for teens ages 15 to 18, 6 p.m., Oct. 7, at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. Students will identify and script their skills, knowledge and character traits to develop a personal resume.

Teens explore their true colors

Exploring True Colors will be held for ages 15 to 18, 6 to 7 p.m., Oct. 14, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. The True Colors Personality Assessment provides easy to understand insights into participants behavioral style and personality type and those of others. Participants can have better communication and build rapid rapport, whether it is in their personal life, professional life or in the areas of relationship, sales, leadership, team effectiveness and management.

October bowling specials

- Early Bird special: Bowl from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. for \$1 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Monday through Friday, 2 to 4 p.m., bowl for \$.75 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Cosmic Saturdays: Each Saturday, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra) and one pitcher of soda for \$32.
- Each Friday, 9:30 to 11 p.m., bowl one game for \$3.50 and bowl one game free. Shoe rental costs \$2.

New bowling leagues to choose from

Sign up today for fall and winter leagues. There also will be a youth league on Saturday mornings for ages 18 months through 21.

Sign up for Monday lunch league beginning the third week of September.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 8 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. Lunch delivery is available for all orders \$25 or more. Call for delivery before 11 a.m.

Week of Oct. 4

Special #1: Double bacon cheeseburger with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.95.

Special #2: Chicken salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25

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



Smoke alarms provide a sound you can live with

IMCOM Public Affairs

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 3-9, but Installation Management Command safety officials, from headquarters to garrison level, say such concerns remain a constant priority.

That's especially true this year as Army installations experienced more than 300 reportable fire incidents in the first three quarters of fiscal year 2010 - resulting in three deaths, nine injuries and \$18 million of damages.

"We are committed in keeping Soldiers and their Families prepared and safe whether deployed or at home ... every day, every week, every month, every year," said Gerald Adams, IMCOM fire protection specialist.

"We really emphasize safety and prevention during Fire Prevention Week, but it's something that needs to be a year-round concern," noted Steve Collins, fire chief at Fort Rucker, Ala. "It doesn't matter if it's in the home or at a workplace, fire prevention is essential."

This year's theme for the weeklong event is "Smoke Alarms! A Sound You Can Live With." The campaign is designed to educate people on the importance of smoke alarms, while encouraging everyone to take the steps necessary to update and maintain their home smoke alarm protection.

And the reason is simple, said Adams: "If you were asleep and a fire broke out in your home, do you think the smoke would awaken you? If you think so, you

may be dead wrong. In fact, fire and smoke are sedatives that will only put you into a deeper sleep while the squelching sound of a smoke alarm will awaken you."

Home owners and renters should take the following precautions:

- Install and maintain a smoke alarm on every level of the home.
- Never remove or disable smoke alarms.
- Test smoke alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- If an alarm "chirps," a warning that the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

Some smoke alarms have strobe lights, also called visible notification appliances, which signal people with hearing loss. Replace batteries at least twice a year in battery-operated smoke detectors, at daylight savings time in the spring and fall.

Having a working smoke alarm in all buildings is a first step to preventing possible disaster.

"It's important to have them and to make sure they work." Collins said. "Checking a smoke alarm at least once a month is a good idea. They usually have a test button on the outside that will let you know if it still works. When the battery is getting low, the detector usually makes a sound to indicate it needs a new one."

There are two basic types of smoke alarms: ionization and photoelectric. A combination of the two allows sensors to detect slow and fast developing fires. They provide an early audible warning of a potential fire, allowing residents the precious but limited time it takes

to escape, which could reduce the risk of dying from a home fire by almost half, said Adams.

Army Family Housing leases executed on or after Oct. 1, 2006, and renewals or extensions of existing leases on or after Oct. 1, 2007, require hard-wired smoke alarms throughout the building and that they be interconnected. Leases executed prior to those years have smoke alarms installed in hallways leading to bedrooms. Occupants can, at their own expense, install additional smoke alarms. Army barracks have smoke alarms installed in all sleeping areas.

Collins said he believes the smoke alarm is a time-tested, proven life-saving device no home or business should be without.

"When an alarm goes off, people should react accordingly," he said. "The device gives plenty of warning and that has saved numerous lives over the years."

Fire Prevention Week was established to remind folks of the importance of fire safety and the lessons learned following the Great Chicago Fire that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and destroyed a business empire. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and it has been observed since 1922.

Army Fire and Emergency Services partners observe and promote Fire Prevention Week annually with the National Fire Protection Association.