

# APG NEWS



www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

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

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## Post shuttle service running

APG Transformation Office

As of April 4, Aberdeen Proving Ground began operating a government-run shuttle bus to and from the Aberdeen train station to support daily commuters.

The shuttle will operate on government work days, Monday through Friday, and not on federal holidays.

The shuttle will consist of one run in the morning to meet the MARC 502 out of Baltimore/Washington and two runs in the evening to meet the AMTRAK 85 and the MARC 579 return trip to Baltimore/Washington.

Important rules to follow to prevent bus delays:

- The shuttle bus is available to all military personnel, DoD civilian employees and contractors who possess a valid military ID card or a Common Access Card (CAC).

- All riders must have a valid government CAC or military ID card and display it to the driver upon entry. In order to ensure timely service, riders should have the ID ready and not cause delays by searching for the card.

- Visitors to APG who do not have the proper ID are not

Call 410-278-0915 or email APG TransformationOfc@conus.army.mil for info on the Mass Transportation Benefit Program, providing civilians up to \$230 for approved mass transit costs

See *SOME*, page 10



Photo by Conrad Johnson

## A supreme event

Mary Wilson, a founding member of the Supremes visited Aberdeen Proving Ground March 31 as part of Women's History Month. Wilson delivered the keynote address, sang several of her hit songs and signed CDs for fans during the Army Test and Evaluation Command-sponsored event. Pick up the APG News or visit any of the garrison's social media sites to find out what APG has planned for upcoming observances.

## 9th AML deploys to Japan

Soldiers to perform radiation testing after power plant meltdown

Story and photo by **RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

A casing ceremony was held at noon March 30 in front of the 9th Area Medical Laboratory warehouse to farewell the unit's 19 Soldiers who deployed to Japan the following day.

The unit will perform radiation testing, air sampling and disease surveillance in Japan,

where a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck and set off a tsunami that drowned cities and farmland in the northern part of the country.

Japan is facing the worst nuclear emergency since Chernobyl because the tsunami caused partial meltdowns and released radioactive material into the atmosphere at one of its nuclear plants.

See *AML*, page 10



9th AML Soldiers deployed to Japan and will perform radiation testing, air sampling and disease surveillance.

## RDECOM selects top NCO, Soldier



By **ROGER TEEL**  
RDECOM

The "best of the best" -- the top noncommissioned officer and Soldier serving in the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command -- were announced at Aberdeen Proving Ground April 1 as the command's Soldier and NCO of the Year competition drew to a close.

Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, RDECOM commanding general, presided over the awards ceremony and told Soldiers in attendance they are helping "to operationalize this command."

Justice referenced a ceremony earlier in the day when the organization bid farewell to Sgt. 1st Class Amin Henriquez, operations sergeant for Command

See *GEREN*, page 10

**Spc. Bernard Quackenbush, an avionics and survivability repair technician from the Army Research Laboratory, navigates over, around and through an obstacle course March 30 as part of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's week-long Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition.**

Photo by Tom Faulkner

## WHAT TO EXPECT

### Budget negotiations and potential furlough

Staff report

Given the uncertainties of how the current federal budget negotiations will play out, yet looking out for those who live, work and visit Aberdeen Proving Ground, the APG garrison team continues to plan for a variety of possible outcomes and remains dedicated to serving the APG community.

The garrison is focusing its efforts to ensure life, health and safety and well-being of our Soldiers, Families and civilian employees.

Community members are encouraged to take advantage of the various available communication media and look for updates on APG's homepage, FaceBook page, APG Live blog site or by calling 410-278-7669.

## WEATHER

Thurs.



61° | 48°

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## ARMY SUGGESTION PROGRAM

Saving suggestions could net you a cash award of up to \$25,000 **SEE PAGE 4**

# OPINION

## The 27th annual AFAP conference identifies 16 quality-of-life issues

The 27th Annual Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference identifies 16 new quality-of-life issues

Earlier this month, I discussed the progress we made resolving 17 of 40 quality-of-life issues at the AFAP General Officer Steering Committee held in February.



During the same week, AFAP delegates representing Army garrisons and commands worldwide met in our nation's capital to review and prioritize 88 quality-of-life issues that had been identified throughout the year at midlevel AFAP conferences across the Army.

As the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the overseer of the AFAP process, I had the privilege to speak to these delegates and impress upon them the great responsibility of identifying the most critical issues for the Army to work. Delegates were comprised of Soldiers, Spouses, DA Civilians, Wounded Warriors and Survivors. Each brought their own ideas, perspectives and experiences to share in the decision making process. The task before them was not an easy one, yet they met the challenge with an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm and energy. They reviewed, they discussed and they challenged each other on the issues. At the conclusion of the conference, 16 new quality of life issues were identified and reported out to senior Army leadership.

The top five issues identified to senior Army leaders are:

- ID cards for surviving children with an active duty sponsor
- Wounded Warrior caregiver training

I encourage you to learn more about these new issues by visiting the Army OneSource website at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/>.

- Medically retired service members' eligibility for concurrent receipt of disability pay

- Military Child Development Program fee cap

- Medical retention processing time restrictions for Reserve Component Soldiers

Currently, there is no way to annotate both dependent Survivor status and active duty status on an identification card. This issue affects dependants of dual military parents when one military parent dies or children of a surviving parent who remarry a service member. This may cause undue emotional stress when Survivors must justify their Survivor status in order to qualify for Survivor specific services. The delegates recommend ID cards annotate both dependant survivor status and active duty status to ensure Survivors quickly receive all Survivor services available.

Delegates also recommend providing caregivers of Wounded Warriors formal standardized training on self-care, stress reduction, burnout and prevention of abuse/neglect. Without this training, caregivers may suffer from caregiver fatigue which may ultimately lead to neglect of a Wounded Warrior or damage to the Wounded Warrior and caregivers' relationship. The implementation of formal standardized, face-to-face training for designated caregivers of Wounded Warriors is critical to those

who help heal our nation's heroes.

The elimination of the 20-year time in service requirement for medically retired service members to be eligible for concurrent receipt of disability pay (CRDP) was also identified as an issue to be worked this year. The CRDP eliminates the offset between retirement pay and VA disability compensation. Removal of the 20-year restriction would restore the full retirement pay and VA entitlements to the medically retired service members with less than 20 years of active service.

Some military families using Military Child Development Programs pay greater than 25 percent of their total monthly Family income for childcare. The recommendation is to cap program fees at 25 percent of the military Family's total family income.

Lastly, Medical Retention Processing for Reserve Component Soldiers is limited to six months from their date of release from active duty. However, medical conditions resulting from active duty service are not always visible within the first six months of release from active duty. Extending the medical retention processing to five years would allow Reserve Component Soldiers to receive proper medical treatment.

The remaining 11 issues identified by the AFAP delegates are Survivor, Medical, Family Support and Civilian personnel issues. I encourage you

to learn more about these new issues by visiting the Army OneSource website at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/>. In addition, you can follow the progress on all issues that are currently being worked by selecting "Active Issue Search" at the bottom of the page and then search by issue number or keyword. The website also allows you to submit a new issue directly to your garrison or unit AFAP process, and provides AFAP brochures, articles and videos to download. You can also download the "HQDA AFAP Issue Search" application for free on your iPad®, iPhone® and iPod Touch®.

As I have said many times before, our Army will not break because of its Soldiers but it will break because of the stress placed upon our Soldiers and their Families. Never before have we asked so much of our Army Families. Because of this, the Army will continue to fully fund and staff Army Family programs and keep our promise of providing Soldiers and Families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service. In order to ensure the promise is always kept, we must continue to identify inefficient, redundant or obsolete programs and services so we can redirect those resources to where we truly need them. I challenge each of you to help us in this endeavor. In the near future, I will communicate to you where and how you can help. Moving forward, the AFAP process will not only be the identification of quality-of-life issues, but also the identification of potential offsets to resource those quality-of-life issues.

Support and Defend,

**Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch**  
IMCOM Commanding General

### On the dotted line

Col. Orlando Ortiz, Aberdeen Proving Ground garrison and deputy installation commander, signs proclamations that recognized April as Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The event took place April 4 in the garrison headquarters conference room and was attended by ACS Family Advocacy's Aida Rivera, who coordinated the event. Guests included Jerry Ryerson, director of the Harford County Department of Social Services; Luisa Caiazza-Nutter, executive director of SARC and Stuart Bokser, clinical director of the Army Substance Abuse Program, as well as representatives of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Army Community Service and the Directorate of Emergency Services. "We're proud of how we live, work and play on APG," Ortiz said, "but we would be remiss if we did not apprise every one of the available resources."

April Child Abuse Prevention Month Events  
April 5-30, Information table at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic  
April 6-7, Child Safety presentations at the Aberdeen North/Aberdeen South (Edgewood) Child Development Centers  
April 15, Information Table at Aberdeen South (Edgewood) Recreation Center, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
April 16, Information Table at the Post Exchange, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson



### APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



## APG NEWS

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

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# Edgewood Contracting Division establishes early cutoff dates for 2011 procurement requests

*ECD news release*

The Edgewood Contracting Division – a contracting division under the Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground (Soldier, Chemical, Research & Test) formerly the RDECOM Contracting Center – provides contract support for APG South (Edgewood).

The following guidance is published to highlight the established Fiscal Year 2011 cutoff dates for submission of purchase requests for those customers receiving contract support through the ECD.

Advance planning in identifying and submitting PRs on or before the published cutoff dates greatly enhances the ability of the ECD to meet customer needs.

The peak processing time for most contracting offices is between July 1 and Sept. 30 of each fiscal year. It is no different for ECD.

“Last year ECD processed 395 procurement actions during the July through September time period,” said Ruby Mixon, Chief, ECD Policy Office. “The number of procurement actions processed is anticipated to increase this year as a result of new contract support missions assumed by the ECD during the fourth quarter 2010. Therefore, it is extremely important that customers identify their needs as early in the cycle as possible to avoid the year end rush.”

Equally as important is the submission of complete procurement packages. Mixon said, “Incomplete packages delay the process.”

“It is essential that upfront coordination with the appropriate Contracting Officer takes place,” said Mixon. “This will ensure that all purchase request packages contain the necessary documents and approvals in order to avoid delays in processing awards.

All purchase requests must be submitted electronically to the ECD using the following SHARED MAILBOX: RDECOMCCEAdminSupport@conus.army.mil [with the exception of Edgewood Chemical Biological Center actions that

are processed via the Web Request and Approval Process System, or WRAPS]. Customers that typically submit their requests via WRAPS to be processed by the new ECBC Small Purchase Team should continue to do so.

Notwithstanding any prior approved milestones, the cutoff dates for new procurement requests are as follows\*:

- Noncommercial items over \$150,000 – July 1\*\*
- Services over \$150,000 – July 1\*\*
- Commercial items between \$150,000 and \$6.5 million – July 30
- Delivery orders and task orders under existing contracts – Aug. 2
- GSA schedule procurements – Aug 8
- Commercial items under \$150,000 – Aug. 15
- Short-of-Award actions – June 15\*\*\*

\* *All actions that require a justification and approval document prior to processing must be submitted by July 1.*

\*\* *There may be instances where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. These actions must be coordinated with the Branch Chief prior to this date.*

\*\*\**Customers submitting “short-of-award” Requirements must consider whether funding will materialize. Time spent processing these actions can be better utilized on funded actions.*

“ECD will make every effort to accommodate those customers whose procurement packages are submitted after the established cut-off dates,” said Ms. Mixon. “However, there is no guarantee that the award will be processed prior to year’s end—Sept. 30.

**For more information, contact:**

**Jerry Taulbee**, Branch A (ECBC, ACWA & CMA Customers) at Gerald.taulbee@us.army.mil or 410-436-2449;

**Thomas Dickson**, Branch B (JPEO-CBD Customers) at Thomas.dickson@us.army.mil or 410-436-8621; or

**Diane Street**, Branch C (JPEO-CBD Customers) at Diane.Street@us.army.mil or 410-436-3750.

# Change could be just a suggestion away

## Cash awards up to \$25,000 offered for saving ideas

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
*APG News*

Got a \$25,000 idea?

According to the Army Suggestion Program, you just might. The program encourages Soldiers and civilians to submit ideas that increase the efficiency and productivity of the Army. Suggestions that save the money are eligible for cash awards, up to \$25,000.

“We are always in search of quality suggestions,” said Marjorie Sexton, Aberdeen Proving Ground’s Army Suggestion Program coordinator, adding that ideas don’t have to be high tech or terribly complicated to make a good suggestion.

“Think smarter. Think safety. Think savings,” she said. “It’s all about saving time, saving money and saving lives.”

In 2009, two suggestions adopted by the U.S. Army Public Health Command netted the organization more than \$250,000 in first-year savings after

**“We are always in search of quality suggestions. Ideas don’t have to be high tech or terribly complicated to make a good suggestion. Think smarter. Think safety. Think savings. It’s all about saving time, saving money and saving lives.”**

**Marjorie Sexton**

APG Army Suggestion Program coordinator

employee Joseph Sutphin, suggested procedural and materiel changes in air sample collecting. Along with DA commendations, Sutphin also received a sizeable monetary award.

Two recent suggestions adopted by APG organizations came from Maj. Michael Berez of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense and Michael B. Voit, a civilian with the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center. Both

received Department of the Army commendations for their suggestions.

Berez questioned the necessity of printed banner pages that organization copy machines produced automatically after every transaction and Voit suggested suspending the use of bar soap for the more economical, and sanitary, liquid soap in facility hand-wash areas.

The suggestions resulted in significant savings to their organizations,” Sex-

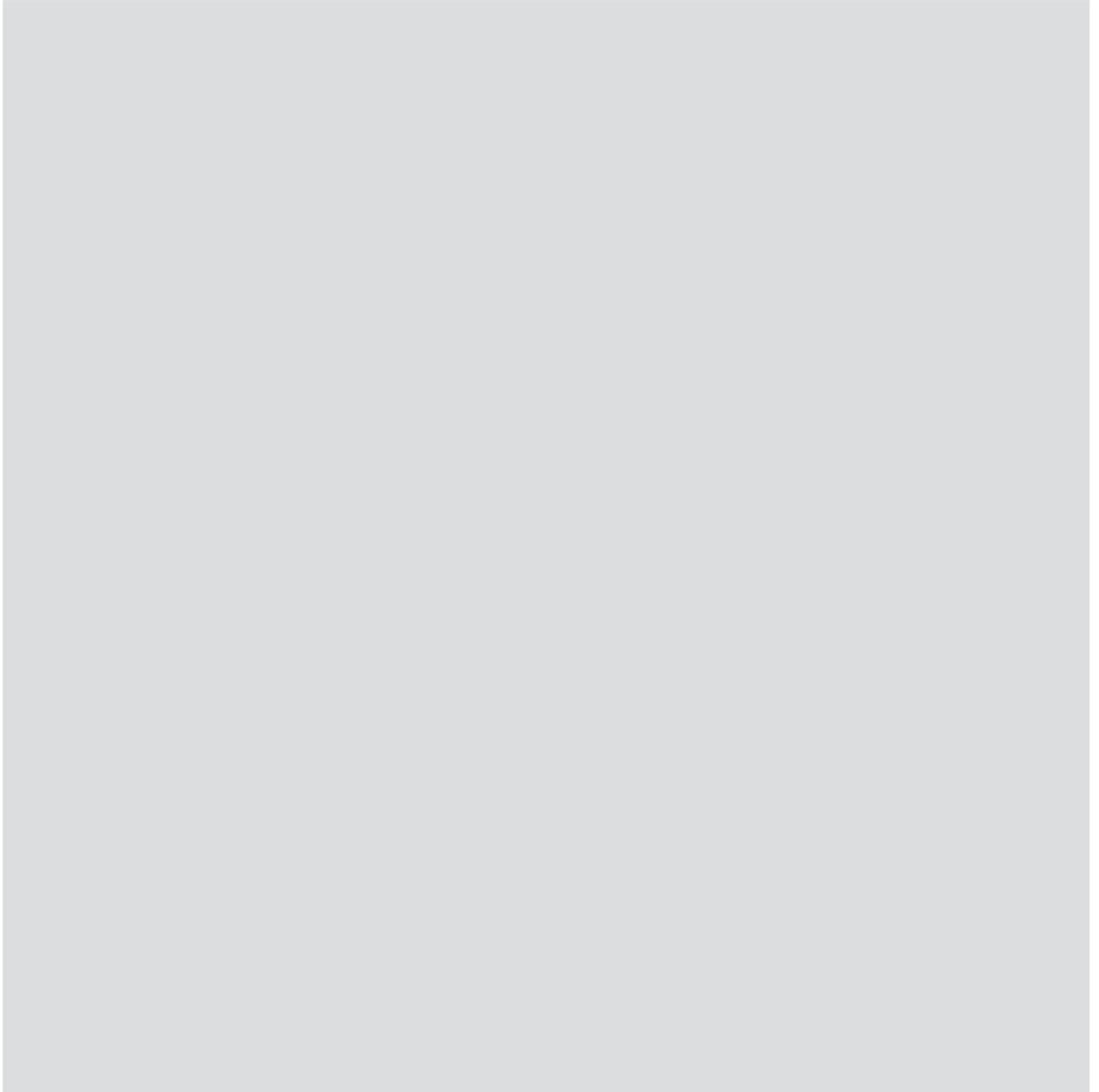
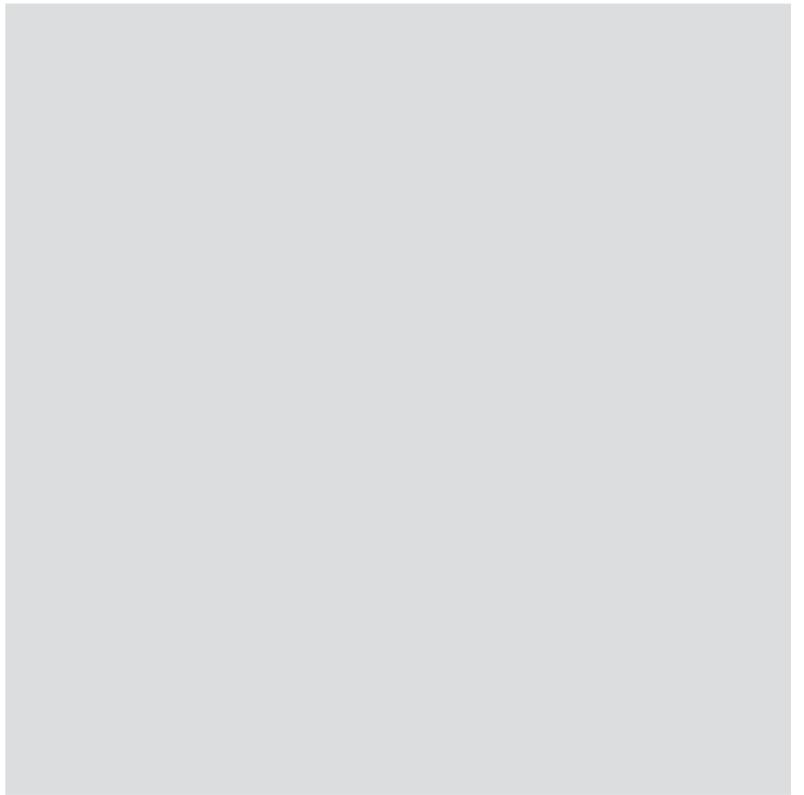
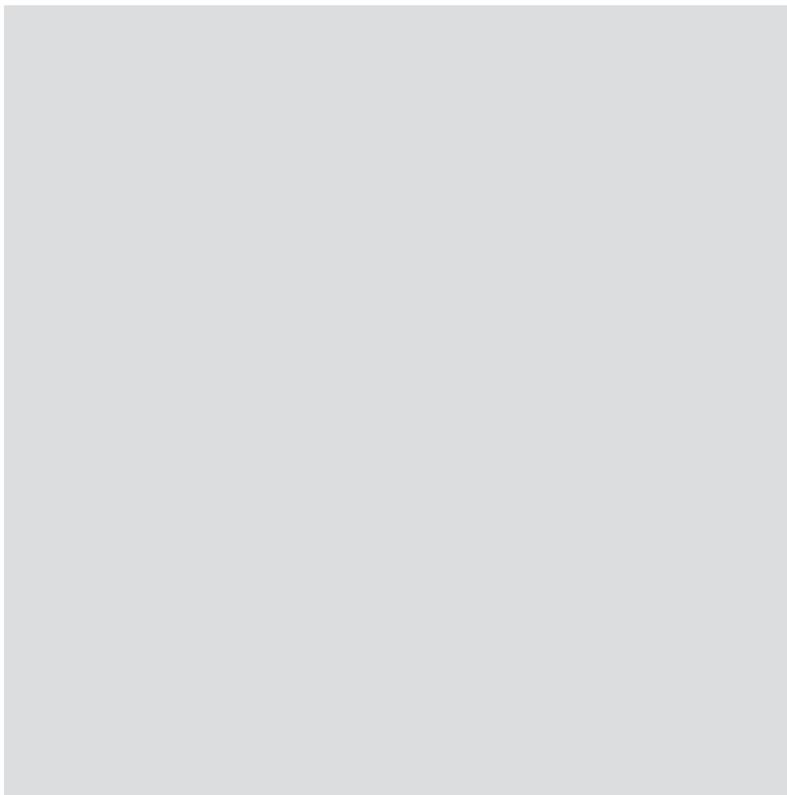
ton said.

“If you see a problem, have a solution, and that solution saves the government money, then it qualifies for submission into the Army Suggestion Program,” Sexton said.

The suggestion must present a problem or situation, propose a solution and state the benefit to the government. And the more money that a suggestions saves, the larger the potential award, said Sexton.

Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians can visit [www.armysuggestions.army.mil](http://www.armysuggestions.army.mil) to offer suggestions. Users must have a CAC card or AKO account. Users can also link to the site from the APG Garrison homepage at [www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/](http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/). The site includes a detailed user guide and link to Army Regulation 5-17, The Army Ideas For Excellence Program, which governs the program.

For more information, contact Sexton at 410-278-0944 or [marjorie.sexton1@us.army.mil](mailto:marjorie.sexton1@us.army.mil).



## APRIL IS WOMENS' EYE HEALTH AND SAFETY MONTH

# CVS – the syndrome, not the store

By  
**MAJ. ANTHONY J. JARECKE**  
*U.S. Army Public Health Command  
(Provisional)*

According to the American Optometric Association, Computer Vision Syndrome is now considered the No. 1 occupational hazard of the 21st Century. If you are surprised, you shouldn't be.

Today, there are more than 264 million personal computers in the United States alone (Computer Almanac 2008) and more than 98 million American workers use a computer on a daily basis (2001 U.S. Census). This widespread computer use has fueled growing complaints of eye strain and fatigue. The AOA reports that 14 percent of all optometric patients report computer-related symptoms and more than 10 million eye examinations are given annually in response to these complaints. With the range and scope of computer use increasing annually, it is important to understand the causes of CVS and how it can be managed.

The AOA defines CVS as the complex of eye and vision problems related to near work that people experience during or related to computer use. CVS is characterized by a wide variety of visual symptoms that result from the user's interaction with the computer display and/or its environment.

Not surprisingly, studies have shown that 50 to 90 percent of computer users will experience visual symptoms while working on a computer. Users experience these visual symptoms because the visual demand of the task exceeds the abilities of the user.

Research has revealed that the visual demands of computer work are much more challenging for the eye than the visual demands required to read the printed page. This is mostly due to the differences in contrast between the letters and the backgrounds on which they are placed. Even though computer screens have improved drastically over the last decade, they are still unable to provide a



contrast comparable to the printed page. Until this is possible computer users will experience CVS symptoms.

What are other visual symptoms and causes of CVS?

### DID YOU KNOW?

**There are more than 264 million personal computers in the United States.**

**More than 98 million American workers use a computer on a daily basis.**

**14 percent of all optometric patients report computer-related symptoms.**

Reduced blink rates are another common cause of CVS symptoms. Computer users often experience red, irritated or dry eyes due to evaporation of the tear film. Studies have shown that blink rates under normal circumstances measure about 22 blinks per minute, while computer users' blink rates measure less than seven blinks per minute. These drastically reduced blink rates allow the tear film to degrade and evaporate—resulting in a dry eye.

Uncorrected refractive error can also contribute to CVS symptoms. When the eyes are not corrected with the proper prescription, it puts undue stress on the visual sys-

tem. The eyes try to compensate for this deficiency by using the accommodative or focusing system. This often results in complaints of blur and headaches depending on the individual's age and focusing ability.

Lighting has been identified as the most significant environmental factor contributing to CVS symptoms. Light from windows, overhead and supplemental lighting can cause glare and reflection problems that result in complaints of eye strain and headaches. Today most offices and workstation lighting are designed for desktop use, not computer use. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, lighting should only be as bright as necessary to complete the task. OSHA claims that most office lighting is at least twice as bright as it needs to be and recommends 20 to 50 foot-candles for CRT use and up to 73 foot-candles for LCD use.

CVS isn't just a vision-related syndrome, it also has musculoskeletal symptoms. According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, 22 percent of computer users experience disorders. These disorders range from neck, shoulder and backache to wrist and hand pain. Proper ergonom-

ics plays a large role in alleviating these symptoms.

Working distances and monitor placement are keys to combating neck and back pain. It is generally agreed that acceptable working distances should be at least 16 inches, ideally 20 to 26 inches, and source documents should be placed at the same viewing distances. Monitors or LCD screens should be placed approximately 10 to 15 degrees below the line of sight or 4 to 5 inches down from the center of the screen.

Don't forget about adjusting your chair, keyboard and work material. Proper placement of these will result in less stress on the body, which means fewer CVS symptoms. For more information on ergonomic standards please refer to the DOD Ergonomics Working Group's guide "Creating the Ideal Computer Workstation: A Step by Step Guide" available at: [http://www.ergo-workinggroup.org/ewgweb/SubPages/ProgramTools/Publications/Workstation\\_Guide\\_Web.pdf](http://www.ergo-workinggroup.org/ewgweb/SubPages/ProgramTools/Publications/Workstation_Guide_Web.pdf)

How do you combat CVS? Prevention plays a large role in treating CVS symptoms. First and foremost, a computer user experiencing symptoms should obtain a comprehensive eye examination. Be sure to mention how often you use a computer and what symptoms you are experiencing. A new or updated prescription will often reduce or even eliminate CVS symptoms.

Another step you can take to help alleviate CVS symptoms is taking breaks during computer work. NIOSH, among others, recommends taking a 10 to 15 minute break every hour. Another recommended practice is to follow the 20-20-20 rule. This entails looking away from the computer every 20 minutes to something that is at least 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

In addition to the items listed above computer users can also increase their blink rates, upgrade to an LCD flat screen monitor and adjust the brightness and contrast of their computer screen.

For more information on CVS:

- All About Vision, [www.allaboutvision.com/cvs](http://www.allaboutvision.com/cvs)
- American Optometric Association, [www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org)



## Holy Season worship schedule

### Lenten and Easter services

All are welcome to attend Easter Sunrise Service, 7 a.m., April 24 at the Aberdeen Area Shore Park. Breakfast will be served at the Main Post Chapel following the service. Lenten and Bible Study will be held noon, April 6, 13 and 20 in the Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall.

### Main Post Chapel (Aberdeen Area)

#### Catholic services

- April 8, 6 p.m., Stations of the Cross, soup and bread
- April 10, 8:45 a.m., fifth Sunday of Lent
- April 22, 3 p.m., Veneration of Cross
- April 23, 8 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass
- April 24, 8:45 a.m., Easter Sunday

#### Protestant

- April 10, 10:15 a.m., fifth Sunday of Lent
- April 17, 10:15 a.m., Easter Cantata
- April 24, 10:15 a.m., Easter Sunday

#### Gospel

- April 10, noon, fifth Sunday of Lent

- April 17, noon, Palm Sunday
- April 24, noon, Easter Sunday

### Edgewood Area

#### Catholic services

- April 7, 6:30 p.m., Rosary Devotion
- April 10, fifth Sunday of Lent
- April 17, 10:45 a.m., Palm Sunday
- April 21, 7 p.m., Holy Thursday Mass
- April 22, 3 p.m., Veneration of the Cross
- April 24, 10:45 a.m., Easter Sunday

#### Protestant

- April 17, 9:15 a.m., Palm Sunday
- April 20, 9:15 a.m., fifth Sunday of Lent
- April 24, 9:15 a.m., Easter Sunday

## MORE ONLINE

To view more photos of events going on at and around the U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground, visit the garrison Flickr site <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/> or scan the QR code.



## RDECOM NEWS

# SPOTA receives Sec Army award

RDECOM scientists help reduce pollution, save \$1 billion over 15 years

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**  
RDECOM Public Affairs

U.S. Army scientists have developed an improved surface-coating method to reduce air pollution and save \$1 billion during the next 15 years.

Senior Army leaders gathered at APG's Ball Conference Center April 1 to recognize the Sustainable Painting Operations for the Total Army program.

Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, commended the team on its commitment to the environment.

"You are doing the right thing for the environment, the Army, the nation and future generations," Dunwoody said. "Through your incredible efforts, we are bringing capabilities to the field faster."

The Environmental Acquisition and Logistics Sustainment Program

of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command was recognized with the Secretary of the Army's environmental award in weapon system acquisition for developing surface-coating products free of hazardous air pollutants.

SPOTA developed 45 distinct technologies with more than 1,000 products affected because of the variations in type, class, color and unit of issue. It is expected to eliminate more than 4,000 tons of organic HAPs and other pollutant emissions from Army surface coating. SPOTA will impact about 6 million gallons per year.

Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army for installation, energy and environment, said the team's work is

SPOTA has **five** areas of emphasis:

1. paints
2. sealants and adhesives
3. solvents
4. de-painting
5. rubber-to-metal bonding

a prime example of the Army's environmental efforts.

"There are some wonderful innovative minds here. We have more expectations in the realm of sustainability," Hammack said. "It's an example for the Army and nation. You have proven your commitment to sustainability."

Hammack also discussed the Army's initiative for net-zero energy, which means installations would generate as much power and energy as they consume. Reducing Army water usage and waste is also vital, she said.

RDECOM facilities, logistics and environment EALSP manages SPOTA. RDECOM's centers and laboratories execute the program.

"We wanted to eliminate that environmental liability," said Erik Hangeland, program director for EALSP.

Painting, bonding, sealing and de-painting weapons systems emit HAPs and are subject to Environmental Protection Agency regulations. As the EPA began issuing standards regulating HAPs produced by industry, several standards would also apply to the Army.

"If all of the standards that were germane to the Army were actually applied, it would have been a nightmare for us to

do the record keeping and compliance. So, the environmental community in the weapon systems world began looking for ways to overcome that obstacle," Hangeland said.

The EPA accepted public comment from the defense community and agreed to develop a consolidated standard that would apply across all military operations. That standard is expected to be announced in 2011.

"In the Department of Defense, we cover many different sectors. It doesn't make sense to apply numerous standards with different sets of metrics to one organization. The point here was not to get away from compliance, but to have one standard that is rational for the military to comply with," Hangeland said.

EALSP, as part of the Army's Environmental Quality Technology Program, began looking for ways to improve Army installation environmental postures. SPOTA was born.

SPOTA focuses on eliminating organic HAPs with a secondary focus on reducing VOCs and other hazardous materials. It has five areas of emphasis: paints, sealants and adhesives, solvents, de-painting

and rubber-to-metal bonding.

SPOTA employed an evolutionary acquisition approach that fielded materials as soon as they were developed and approved for use. This provided the opportunity to make several revisions for maximum effectiveness.

"We put products out early in the process so a continuous improvement was being implemented. We were also able to determine that when we had completed one product, we could take look at another one," Hangeland said.

"Many of these actually work better than the old stuff," said Patrick Taylor, chemical engineer from Hughes Associates, which supports EALSP. "People hear environmental and they roll their eyes, but these are performance improvements that were just driven by environmental requirements."

Furthermore, the Army will be ready when the EPA announces its HAP regulations for defense-wide surface-coating operations.

"The SPOTA program is almost complete and it will put us in the position of compliance whenever the regulation comes out in the future," Taylor said.

The EALSP team will compete against other award winners in its category within the Department of Defense to determine the overall winner. Winners of that competition will be announced in 2011.

"This was a huge collaborative effort across all of the RDECOM elements involved, and I think that was really a big part of the success of this program,"

SPOTA developed **45** distinct technologies with more than **1,000** products affected

It is expected to eliminate more than **4,000** tons of organic HAPs and other pollutant emissions from Army surface coating

# Aspiring scientists explores future



Photo by Conrad Johnson

Steve Yurechko, lead test engineer for Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's protection factor team, demonstrates gas masks at the Futures 11 conference at Harford Community College in Bel Air, Md.

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**  
RDECOM PAO

The U.S. Army's cutting-edge technology was on display for hundreds of aspiring scientists and engineers March 24 at Harford Community College.

The exhibits were part of the Futures 11 conference for 11th-grade students in Harford County.

Mayur Darji, who attends the Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School, said he is interested in robotics and engineering.

"[I enjoyed] getting to meet people who work at different facilities and what they do on a daily basis at their jobs and how they impact today's society," Darji said. "The engineering presentation about the 3D printer was interesting."

Students met Aberdeen Proving Ground workers from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center; Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center; Communications-Electronics Command; and Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense.

Lawry Brooks, who works at APG in strategic planning for JPEO CBD, encouraged the students to consider serving America.

"We want to inspire the best and brightest of future generations to public service," Brooks said. "There is honor in serving your country. It's a rewarding and fulfilling career."

Brooks said his organization will be hiring in all engineering fields as well as biology and chemistry.

"[Students] are interested in the types of products we develop and how we develop it," Brooks said. "How we take basic science and technology and take it through the product life cycle, ultimately to providing capabilities to the Warfighters."

Ashley Brewer, who attends Harford Technical High School, said she would like to study engineering and design products to help people.

"I learned a lot of [the presenters can] open different opportunities for what I want to do. It gives me more options that I didn't think I had before," Brewer said.

# APG Leadership Cohort kicks off third year

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**  
RDECOM PAO

Budget constraints are the most important issue that APG's senior leaders will face in the near future, the installation's senior civilian said March 22.

Gary Martin, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command executive deputy to the commanding general, kicked off the third session of APG Leadership Cohort with remarks to the participants.

"Cohort is more important now than when we started it a couple of years ago," Martin said. "The leadership we need here [at APG] and in the Army is driven by the fiscal realities of what we're facing as a country."

Cohort is a year-long professional development program to develop future civilian leaders.

Martin referenced the continuing resolution and lack of a federal budget. He encouraged the Cohort participants not to shy away from tough budget decisions.

"Every leader in an organization, down to every level, [needs to] make the hard call [to identify what is] not in the Army's best interests," Martin said.

Martin also mentioned the memo from Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh to Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command. McHugh has directed Dunwoody to develop a plan to save \$3 billion annually by eliminating redundancies in Army research, development and acquisition.

The Office of Personnel Management, with the help of leadership development experts and APG senior executive service members, designed the program.



Photo by Tom Faulkner

Gary Martin, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command executive deputy to the commanding general, speaks March 22 during the kick-off to APG Leadership Cohort.

# Nominate, recognize APG volunteers

By **RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground organizations are encouraged to recognize the contributions of their volunteers as the nation observes National Volunteer Week April 10 - 16.

"Every day on every Army installation throughout the



**Helmick**

world, thousands of Soldiers, civilians, military retirees, and Family members make the decision to dedicate their time to assist and improve community organizations and activities," said Tina Helmick, Army Volunteer Corps program manager for Army Community Service.

Helmick noted that volunteers perform numerous activities on APG ranging from copying documents for customers to conducting training courses, assisting Families during personal crisis and sending items to deployed Soldiers.

Volunteer hours are tracked by a Department of the Army tracking system to determine how much money is saved. Last year, volunteers saved APG \$221,000.

"The Army is greatly indebted and appreciative of the contributions that volunteers continue to provide out of a sense of internal duty, responsibility, and honor particularly while our nation is at war," said Helmick.

The APG community can show their appreciation to volunteers during the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, slated

May 5 at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Organizations can nominate volunteers in the youth, civilian, Family member, retiree and military categories from April 13 to 18.

This year's Volunteer Week theme is "Celebrating People in Action."

For information about the ceremony or volunteer opportunities on post, call 410-278-2453. Or visit [www.myarmyresource.com](http://www.myarmyresource.com) for local volunteer opportunities.



## POWER FOR PEACE



## Armed Forces Week May 16-21, 2011

*Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD*  
Directions to APG

### May 16 (Monday)

Golf tournament at Ruggles,  
Debra Long 410-278-4794

### May 17 (Tuesday)

Veteran's Lunch at APG North DFAC  
410-278-3000

### May 18 (Wednesday) Armed Forces Day observed

- Gold Star Family Event (Breakfast)
- Official Opening Ceremony
- Community Covenant
- Live Demonstrations throughout the Day: Aircraft flyovers, EOD Demonstrations, Re-enactors
- Technology displays, Environmental Displays
- Children's Activities
- Live entertainment
- Food Vendors

### May 19 (Thursday)

Harford County Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Day Luncheon

### May 21 (Saturday)

- Armed Forces Day Run 10K, 8AM  
Race information: [APG FMWR](http://APG FMWR)  
Registration page link: [active.com](http://active.com)
- Dinner Cruise (Spirit of Baltimore)
- Official Re-lighting of Poole's Island Light House after Cruise

# COMMUNITY NOTES

## SATURDAY

### APRIL 9

#### AFCEA 4TH ANNUAL RACE FOR EXCELLENCE

The Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association (AFCEA) Central Maryland Chapter will hold its 4th Annual Race for Excellence 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run at 6841 Benjamin Franklin Drive, Columbia, Md.

The race will benefit AFCEA's Central Maryland Scholarship Fund, which provides merit-based scholarships to local high-school students.

Special guests include the Oriole Bird, SAIC senior vice president Larry Cox and Howard County Executive Ken Ulman.

Registration/packet pick-up opens at 7:30 a.m.; the race starts 9 a.m.

For more information or to register, visit [http://www.afceacmd.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=79&Itemid=100](http://www.afceacmd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=79&Itemid=100).

## SUNDAY

### APRIL 10

#### PREVENTING IDENTIFY THEFT

Harford Community College will hold Preventing Identify Theft, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Edgewood Hall, Room 146.

Learn to eliminate risky behaviors that lead to identity theft, the fastest growing crime worldwide. Topics include simple methods to eliminate common security breaches, the use and misuse of ID cards, protection of hard copy and electronic communication, passwords and other security measures.

Tuition costs \$139 per person; course fee is \$18 per person. To register, call 443-412-2173.

## MONDAY THROUGH

### WEDNESDAY

#### APRIL 11 THROUGH 13 IN-DEMAND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

Harford Community College will offer Certified Wireless Technology Specialists 25390 course from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 11 to 13 at the Higher Education Center at HEAT, 1201 Technology Drive, Room 137, Aberdeen. CWTS is an intensive, three-day exam prep course providing the knowledge and skills to install and configure wireless network hardware components and prepare for the CWTS certification exam. Tuition is \$2,000. Course fee is \$400. Call 443-360-9108.

## TUESDAY

### APRIL 12

#### SCIENCE CAFÉ

The Northeastern Maryland Technology Council will offer a Science Café, 7 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Tollgate Marketplace, 620 Marketplace Drive, Bel Air, just off Route 24. Science cafés are a fun way for everyone to take in a short presentation and discussion on how science and technology affects everyday lives. Cafés are open to the general public. Dr. Melanie Cole, a Fellow of the Army Research Laboratory (ARL), Aberdeen Proving Ground will be the guest speaker. Cole will present "Where Did All the Towers Go? – Next Generation Communications," and will share discuss materials research, translating discoveries into improved capabilities and technologies for Soldiers and what developments civilians may be enjoy in the future. Reservations not required but appreciated. Register at [www.nmtc.org](http://www.nmtc.org), email [sciencecafe@nmtc.org](mailto:sciencecafe@nmtc.org) or leave a voice mail at 443-360-9134.

## WEDNESDAY

### APRIL 13

#### SCIENCE CAFÉ

The Northeastern Maryland Technology Council and Cecil County will offer a Science Café, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cecil County Public Library located on 301 Newark Avenue, Elkton, Md. Cafés are open to the public. Dr. Dennis Hiebert will present Room-bas, Rovers and Retinas: the (Less and More) Serious Side of Robotics. Reservations not required but appreciated. Register at [www.nmtc.org](http://www.nmtc.org), email [sciencecafe@nmtc.org](mailto:sciencecafe@nmtc.org) or leave a voice mail at 443-360-9134.

## THURSDAY

### APRIL 14

#### ANNUAL CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

Local child care providers and members of the Harford/Cecil County Child Care Directors and Child Care Home Providers Associations are invited to attend Harford Community College's annual child care conference, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Chesapeake Center Dining Rooms, Harford Community College

Sessions are developed around the theme Please Read With Me: Helping Toddlers and Preschoolers Fall in Love With Books. Guest speaker is Linda Mawhinney, speech pathologist. Call 443-412-2376.

## FRIDAY

### APRIL 15

#### KARAOKE

It's back! VFW Charlton-Miller Post 6054 located on 206 Spesutia Road, Aberdeen will have karaoke with TC and company, 8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month.

For more information, call 410-272-3444.

## SATURDAY

### APRIL 16

#### TEXAS HOLD'EM

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold Texas Hold'em. A cash game will be held 1 p.m. Registration at 3 p.m., game begins 4 p.m. There is a \$50 buy in. Side tables will be available. First come, first served. There will be sandwiches and a cash bar.

For more information, call 410-642-2771.

## SATURDAY

### APRIL 30

#### BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo will be held at the VFW Darlington-Dublin Memorial Post 10146 located on 3440 Conowingo Road, Street, Md. Doors open 6 p.m.; Bingo starts 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 each with \$5 for extra packs. There will be a drawing for a basket of cheer and a voucher for a free bushel of crabs. Food and drinks will be available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Sue Rigdon 410-838-1542 or Shirley Wagner, 410-939-2045 or email [shirley.wagner@com-cast.net](mailto:shirley.wagner@com-cast.net).

#### STEPPINGSTONE MUSEUM FLEA MARKET

An outdoor flea market will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Steppingstone Museum, 461 Quaker Bottom Road, Havre de Grace. Search for great bargains or sell stuff that's just been cleaned out of the closet. Vendor spaces cost \$20. Admission is free. For information, call 410-939-2299 or 888-419-1762, or email [steppingstonemuseum@msn.com](mailto:steppingstonemuseum@msn.com).

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

# Post Shorts

## MCSC Cookbooks on sale

The Military, Civilian and Spouses' Club of APG has compiled its best recipes from members and friends into a keepsake cookbook. The one-of-a-kind cookbooks cost \$15 and are available from any MCSC member or online at [www.apgmcsc.org](http://www.apgmcsc.org). Delivery is free on APG and within Harford County. Proceeds go to the MCSC Welfare and Scholarship Fund. Cookbook recipes include appetizers, main dishes, desserts and much more. Contact Annie Brock at 443-686-1484 or [president@apgmcsc.org](mailto:president@apgmcsc.org).

## Blue Cross/Blue Shield visits April 12

A claim representative from the Service Benefit Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield will visit APG April 12 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 314, Room 151E, and from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Bldg. E4520, Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, to discuss claim problems and coverage. No appointment is necessary. Call Teri Wright at 410-278-4331.

## Tax centers close April 15

This year's Installation Tax Assistance Program, directed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, will conclude April 15. After April 15, the staff of the Client Services Division will only provide limited

income tax preparation assistance to service members returning from combat zones and contingency operations.

Income tax questions should be addressed to Client Services at 410-278-1583 or by visiting Bldg. 4305, third floor, room 346.

Taxpayers are reminded that the deadline for filing federal tax returns has been extended to April 18.

## Jefferson Proving Ground

The JPG Heritage Partnership produced a book on Reminiscences and Reflections of former Army base U.S. Army Jefferson Proving Ground. There will be a book signing and sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 4 at the JPG Permanent Exhibit of the Jefferson County Historical Society, located on 615 West First Street 47250, next to the Red Caboose, one street up from the Ohio River. The book tells of the creation, support and history of Jefferson Proving Ground, established in 1940 and closed in 1995. Visit [www.jpgheritage.org](http://www.jpgheritage.org).

## View CAC meetings online

Miss the March Community Action Council Meeting? View the video online at <http://www.youtube.com/usagappao/>.

## Blood Drive

The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, the Medical Research

Institute of Chemical Defense and the Public Health Command are jointly hosting an Armed Services Blood Program blood drive at the APG South (Edgewood) Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, Bldg. E4516 April 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In an effort to open the spring season benefiting warfighters and their Families, the Aberdeen Proving Ground community is invited to join this ASBP Blood Drive and to give the gift of life.

To participate as a donor, please sign at <http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/>.

## Fire hydrant flushing event

Aberdeen Proving Ground's DPW Waterworks Branch will be conducting its semiannual fire hydrant flushing event to maintain water quality in the system. Activities will continue through the month of April. Brown water issues are possible during this time. If residents or personnel have any questions or concerns including extended periods of brown water, call Ron Gentry at 436-2196.

## Local Hazards Course

The Local Hazards Course is designed to familiarize drivers new to the installation with local driving hazards. The course is mandatory for all Soldiers and Family members who drive, civilians and contractors within 90 days of their arrival at APG. It is also mandatory for anyone who is TDY for 30 days or more at APG and Soldiers younger than 25.

The 30-minute course is held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bldg. 4305, Room 243B.

#### Intermediate Driver's Course

This two-and-a-half hour course is held 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Bldg. 4305, Room 243B. Course dates are April 11, May 11, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 31, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

Additional LHC and IDC classes will be added as needed.

Attendees must register online at AIRS through the APG Web site or at [airs.lmi.org](http://airs.lmi.org).

For more information, call 410-306-1081.

## Wholesale discounts

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor BJ's discount membership registration, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on April 13 at the APG South (Edgewood) Stark Recreation Center in Bldg. E4140; and from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 20 at the Newcomer's Orientation, APG North (Aberdeen) Recreation Center in Bldg.

3326.

BJ's Wholesale Club offers 14-month membership for \$40 for civilian and military personnel, retirees and contractors. Renewal membership holders should bring their current card with them. Call 410-436-4467 or e-mail [patti.harkins@us.army.mil](mailto:patti.harkins@us.army.mil).

## DFACS serving up customer appreciation meal April 19

The Customer Appreciation Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building 4503 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m. April 19.

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 civilian, retiree 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.

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

## Arbor Day event set April 29

This year's APG Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration theme is "APG-Light of the Bay." Arbor Day will be held 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 29 at the APG museum. Events will include awards for best poster essays as written by students from Harford, Cecil and Baltimore county schools. For more information, call 410-278-5014.

## Armed Forces Day Race

Sign up now for the APG Armed Forces Day Race, a 10K (6.2 mile) race commemorating Armed Forces Day. The race will take place 8 a.m., Saturday, May 21 at the APG North (Aberdeen) Athletic Center, Bldg. 3300.

Race day registration is 6 a.m. Entry fees cost \$25 through April 1; \$30 through May 15; and \$35 after May 15 and on race day. Military will receive a \$5 discount; all E-1 through E-3 run free (contact your first sergeant). This event is open to the public and T-shirts will be provided to all runners. Entry forms are available at [www.charmcityrun.com](http://www.charmcityrun.com). For directions to APG, visit [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com)

For more information, call Donna Coyne at 410-278-7934.

Visit [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Shorts to view more shorts.

## LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Joan Campbell, 410-278-5668, e-mail [joan.campbell@us.army.mil](mailto:joan.campbell@us.army.mil).

### Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Tidy Baptiste	Holly Geppi	Ulrike Neyens	Diane Simmons
Sarah Blevins	Charles Giles	Marie D. Nowak	Philip Sibley
Debra Bonsall	Lynae Green	Stephanie Parrett	Danielle Smith
Diane Bratton	Walter Holland	Ella Patrick	Patricia Stitley
Georgia Braun	Debra Ingram	Richard Pecoraro	William Taylor
Jeanie Calles	Kari Jackson	Christi Peterson	Joya Tucker
Clark Capers	Maia Kaiser	Donna Pierce	Luis Villafane
Lori Clark	Dawn Kowalewski	Michele Reamey	Emily Whaley
Hennither Cole	Jessica Knight	Melissa Rickey	Fletcher "Chip"
Glenda Cosenza	Teresa Lawson	Russell	Williams
Vikas Dane	Shantiea Mack	Pedro Rodriguez	Taryn Wilson
Meg Downey	Sheila Martin	Maria Santiago	Tammy Woodard
Chris Edwards	Andrea Miller	Gloria Scott	Bruce Woodmansee
Sabrina Faulkner	Margaret Nahrgang	Paul Shelley	Victoria Yates-
Thomas Garrett	Randy Newton	Lena Shelton	Sparks

# FAMILY AND MWR

## Activities/Events

### Spring Celebrations

MWR is hosting Spring Celebration activities for the whole Family as follows:

■ At the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326 April 12 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Activities include an egg hunt with secret prizes at 5:30 p.m. in four age groups-- 0-3, 4-7, 8-12 and 13 and up.

A spring hat contest will also take place. Prizes will be awarded for the silliest, most creative, most team spirit and most patriotic in three age groups—9 and under, 10-17 and 18 and up. Judging is at 6 p.m.

Get your photo with the Easter Bunny. Children's fun includes live entertainment, face painting, balloon animals, refreshments and more.

Call 410-278-4011 for information.

### Experience the Cherry Blossom Festival April 9

MWR Leisure Travel Office will offer a trip to Washington, D.C. for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival April 9. Cost of the trip is \$30 and includes roundtrip transportation. Bus departs APG North (Aberdeen) at 7:30 a.m. Space is limited. Call 410-278-4011/4907, email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil or visit MWR Leisure Travel Office, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, Bldg. 3316.

### Scrapbooking crop April 16

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a Scrapbooking crop for seasonal scrapbookers or anyone who has always wanted to try it. "Crop Till You Drop" 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326. The cost to attend is \$25 per person and includes lunch, door prizes and giveaways. Vendors will have items for sale

and optional classes will be offered. Call now to reserve a spot or table of friends.

Contact Patti Harkins at 410-436-4467 or patti.harkins@us.army.mil.

### Indoor walking during lunch

Rain or snow, walkers on APG can still get their exercise every day. Walk at lunch time, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326. Indoor walking with DVD. For more information, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil

### Developmental delay service offered

ACS/Exceptional Family Member Program is sponsoring Harford County Infants and Toddlers at the Ruggles Golf Course Sutherland Club House March 16 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The Harford County Infants and Toddlers Program provides a variety of early intervention services (speech, occupational, and physical therapies and special instruction, etc.) to children from birth to age 5 and who are at risk for developmental delay, have developmental delays or atypical development.

Services are provided at no cost to children living in Harford County.

Nicol Elliott, Program Manager will provide an overview of the program, its services and the eligibility/referral process.

Kelly Nelson, family support services coordinator will discuss the services and resources available to family members participating in the program.

For information, call Nancy Goucher at 410-278-2420.

### New to volunteering?

ACS Army Volunteer Corps Program will host a Volunteer Management Information System Class. This class is to help new volunteers register at **Myarmyone-**

**source.com**, apply for volunteer position and answer questions about the volunteer program. VMIS classes will be held once a month in ACS Bldg. 2503 in the Employment Readiness Room 122.

The first class is set March 1 from 2 to 3 p.m. The class will again be offered April 1 and May 3 from 2 to 3 p.m. Slots are limited. Call 410-278-2453 to register or for information.

### American citizenship class

The Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Office will offer a free class for military personnel, civilian employees and Families preparing to take the test for American Citizenship given by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The class will be held every Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m., March 3 to April 7 at ACS Bldg. 2503 on High Point Road. The class will cover citizenship procedures, how to fill out the application for American Citizenship, basic American History and the Constitution. Attendees must attend all sessions to receive a Harford Community College certificate for attending a citizenship class. Seating is limited.

For more information or to register, call the Relocation Readiness Office at 410-278-2464/7572.

### Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program

The Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program is committed to offering support to the APG Family through a series of dynamic classes. What makes FAP classes so dynamic is a mix of the community members who participate, the exciting and innovative materials, and the facilitators. Classes are free and are open to all members of the APG community, so don't delay. Families can get the tools that they need to get on the right track by joining a FAP class today.

All programs will be held at ACS, Bldg. 2503 High Point Road.

- Effective Parenting for ages birth through age 5: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., April 12, 19 and 26

- Couples Communication Class: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., April 13, 20 and 27

- Blended Families (Stepfamilies): 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., May 5, 12 and 26

- Staying Connected With Your Teen: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

For more information or to register, call 410-278-7478.

### APG Softball

APG Softball Leagues signup deadline is April 21. Rules meeting is April 28 at 5 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center. The regular season will begin the week of May 3 and is open to all eligible MWR patrons. This is a coed program. There are leagues in both the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas and play is by modified ASA rules. There is a fee of \$250 per team due before the season starts.

Call the Sports Office at 410-278-3929.

### Personal Training

APG Sports Branch is offering personal training programs. All active duty military and Family members, DoD civilians and family members, and DoD contractors are eligible.

Training is offered at the athletic center, fitness center and Hoyle Gym to assist customers in meeting their personal fitness needs. The program is offered in individual half-hour and one-hour sessions and blocks of sessions. Individual half-hour sessions cost \$40 each; one-hour sessions cost \$55 each. Blocks of six half-hour sessions for the cost of five sessions is \$200; blocks of six sessions for the cost of five sessions is \$275

Contact the athletic center or Hoyle Gym for details.

## SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a SKIES Unlimited class, call the Central Registration Office, Bldg. 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. Open to all DoD ID cardholders. For an appointment, e-mail stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil.

### Ice skating lessons at Ice World

SKIES Unlimited offers ice skating lessons for ages 4 to 18 at Ice World, located at 1300 Governor Court in Abingdon. Lessons cost \$74 per person after using the \$25 coupon. Participants must register with CYSS to receive the \$25 coupon.

Lessons will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, through May 17; and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays, April 9 to May 21.

Lessons are open to all DoD ID cardholding Family members.

LEARN TO SKATE is based on the fundamentals of the United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA), and is necessary for those wishing to proceed on to ice hockey or freestyle.

The six weekly sessions offer professional instruction with a half-hour of instruction time and half-hour of practice

each week. Limited free skate rentals.

Classes will be grouped by age and ability. Three free passes to public sessions will be provided.

There will be no make-up classes or refunds. For more information or to register, call Central Registration at 410-278-7571/7479, Bldg. 2503.

### Martial Arts present Tiny Tigers

Children ages 4 to 6 can join the Tiny Tigers Unity TaeKwonDo School of Martial Arts at APG.

Parent participation is required. Cost to register is \$40 per person and classes are open to all DoD ID cardholders and Family members.

Instructor Sabunim Sean A. Williams will teach the program. Classes will

be held 5:30 to 6 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays to April 18.

The Tiny Tiger program is an age-appropriate version of taekwondo that will help direct energy into confidence and character building skills. Students learn traditional taekwondo techniques such as blocking, punching and kicking

including "Stranger Danger" and "Fire Safety" skills.

Students will test every three to six classes. Class size is limited to 12 parent and child parings, so register early.

The Tiny Tigers program will be held at the Aberdeen North Youth Center, Bldg. 2522.

## 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://www.armycivilianservice.com> or check out AAFES Jobs link <http://odin.aafes.com/employment/> for additional job opportunities.

## April bowling specials

- Early Bird Special: Bowl from 7 to 10 a.m. for \$1 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.

- Each Friday, 9:30 to 11 p.m., bowl for \$1.50 per game. Shoe rental costs \$1.

- Cosmic Saturdays: Each Saturday, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra)

and one pitcher of soda for \$32. Shoe rental costs \$2.

### Bowling rates

Bowling costs \$3 per game, Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; games cost \$3.50 each on Fridays, 9:30 to 11 p.m.; Cosmic Saturdays cost \$3.75 per game; and \$3 per game on Sundays.

## 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 orders of \$25 or more. Call for delivery before 11 a.m.

### Week of April 4

Special #1: Chicken parmesan sandwich on bowler burger roll with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.25.

Special #2: Egg salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$4.50.

### Week of April 11

Special #1: Veal parmesan on bowler burger roll with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.25.

Special #2: Egg salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$4.50.

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.



# Some transportation costs covered

Continued from Page 1

permitted to ride the shuttle bus at this time.

■ Riders should be at designated stops and ready to board the bus when it arrives.

■ The bus will pick up riders in the AM on the north bound side of the tracks (the same side that you depart from the train) in a government bus. The bus will drop off riders in the evening on the south bound side of the tracks (on the same side that you board the train).

■ Passengers must board and discharge at authorized shuttle bus stops. Drivers are not authorized to stop the bus at other locations. (Stops are designated on the schedule and map).

The following are prohibited on all APG shuttle buses:

- Eating and drinking
- Smoking
- Playing radios, MP3 players and other audio devices without headphones
- Fighting
- Driver harassment
- Profanity
- Defacing shuttle bus

Complaints, recommendations and comments regarding the shuttle bus should be directed to Nick D. Curcio,

the installation's transportation officer, Directorate of Logistics, at 410-278-2697 or [nick.curcio@us.army.mil](mailto:nick.curcio@us.army.mil).

The Guaranteed Ride Home program provides a free ride home for registered commuters who ride in a carpool or van-pool, take transit, bike or walk to work at least twice a week.

In the event of an emergency or unscheduled overtime, GRH will arrange for a free taxi ride, free transit ride or free rental car up to four times yearly to get commuters home. Call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433) for information or sign-up at <http://www.mwcog.org/commuter2/commuter/grh/index.html>.

For information on the Army Mass Transportation Benefit Program, which provides DA civilians up to \$230 for approved mass transit costs, contact the APG Transformation Office at 410-278-0915 or [APGTransformationOfc@conus.army.mil](mailto:APGTransformationOfc@conus.army.mil).

This information is provided by the APG Transformation Office (formerly APG BRAC).

For more information on the shuttle bus, BRAC or Transformation, visit <http://transformation.apg.army.mil>, e-mail [APGTransformationOfc@conus.army.mil](mailto:APGTransformationOfc@conus.army.mil) or call 410-278-0915.

## APG Shuttle Schedule

Aberdeen Train Station to APG North			APG North to Aberdeen Train Station			
AM Route			PM Routes			
	Train No:	502		Train No:	A85	579*
Aberdeen Train Station APG Side	Depart	0742	Ordnance Circle (Bldg 3072)	Depart	1631	1741
Ordnance Circle (Bldg 3072)	Stop	0751	Parking Lot (Bldg 324)	Stop	1634	1744
Parking Lot (Bldg 324)	Stop	0755	Bldg 310 Parking Circle	Stop	1637	1747
Bldg 310 Parking Circle	Stop	0757	Bldg 4117 Parking Lot	Stop	1642	1752
Bldg 4117 Parking Lot	Stop	0801	C2CNT East (Bldg 6010)	Stop	1645	1755
C2CNT East (Bldg 6010)	Stop	0803	Bldg 4311 Parking Lot	Stop	1649	1759
Bldg 4311 Parking Lot	Stop	0806	C4ISR Phase 1 (Bldg 6001)	Stop	1653	1803
C4ISR Phase 1 (Bldg 6001)	Stop	0811	Train Station Route 40 Side	Stop	1708	1818

# AML deploys in support of nuclear emergency

Continued from Page 1

"We in the 9th AML are all deeply honored to have this opportunity to help a nation in its time of need," said Commander Col. Rachel Armstrong to the Soldiers and their Family and friends in attendance. "I am grateful to the Army for its confidence in us, and we are all excited about the challenges that lay before us."

Traces of radiation have been found in Tokyo's water and water pouring from the reactors in the ocean. As of March 31, the nation's death toll hit 11,600 and

16,000 people were listed as missing.

Aberdeen Proving Ground's 9th AML boasts a unique mission within the Department of Defense. Deploying worldwide as a unit or by task-organized teams, the highly trained Soldiers perform surveillance, confirmatory analytical lab testing and health hazard assessments of environmental, occupational, endemic and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive threats.

Despite its intended duties, "we

all know that our mission will evolve once people realize the knowledge and expertise that lies within the Soldier scientists of the 9th AML," said Armstrong.

The deployment was unexpected, but one that they are always prepared for.

"I am really proud of our ability to pack up and get ready on such short notice," said Maj. Amy King.

"This unit really embodies the Army's values of duty and selfless service," said Armstrong.

**We in the 9th AML are all deeply honored to have this opportunity to help a nation in its time of need.**

**Col. Rachel Armstrong**  
Commander 9th AML

# Geren, Quackenbush named NCO, Soldier of Year

Continued from Page 1

Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin, the command's senior NCO.

"All you had to do was be there this morning to know the strength of the non-commissioned officer corps. You could see that bond of brotherhood and sisterhood. This Army is Family, and you can see it," Justice said.

"That impresses our civilian workforce because they don't work in an environment where it's that strong. That's what you bring into this organization, and it impresses them with the knowledge and skill that we have in our ranks."

Marin called the formation of Soldiers on stage to attention and ordered Sgt. Joshua D. Geren to step forward.

"Sgt. Geren - you are the command's NCO of the Year," Marin said. "Congratulations!"

He then called Spc. Bernard J. Quackenbush one step forward.

"Specialist Quackenbush - you are the command's Soldier of the Year," Marin said. "Congratulations!"

Geren is a 41-year-old former infantry Soldier from Tulsa, Okla., with tours to Iraq and Afghanistan on his resume'. He now serves as a satellite communications operator/maintainer assigned to the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, Fort Monmouth, N.J. He will relocate to APG this summer with his family.

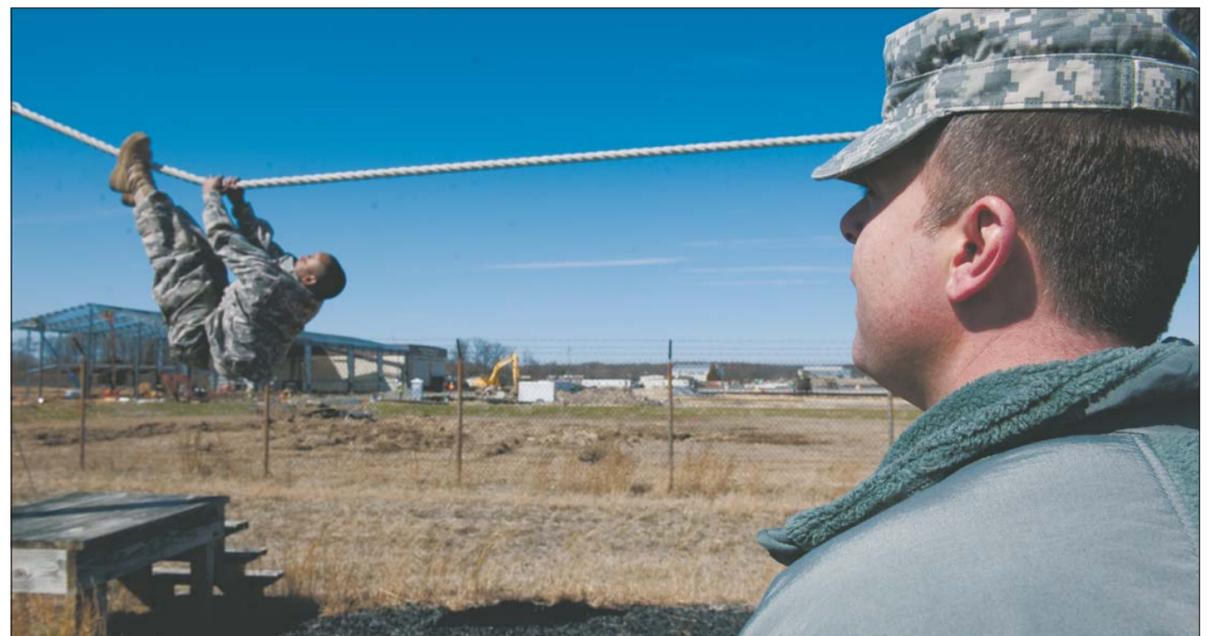
"I love the Army," Geren said in an earlier interview. "I love the [American] flag on my sleeve. I'm where I'm supposed to be right now."

Quackenbush is a 23-year-old former Stryker Soldier who deployed to Iraq with 1st Battalion, 25th Stryker Brigade from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, his first duty station. He has since reclassified as an avionics and survivability repair technician, currently assigned to the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and stationed at White Sands, N.M.

Quackenbush is a sturdy 6-foot, 5-inch Soldier from Michigan's Shelby Township, just north of Detroit. He set the pace for the 12-mile road march with full rucksack, and was a strong performer in all areas of the competition.

Married with a 2-year-old daughter, Quackenbush said he plans to return to White Sands and continue work on his college degree.

The competition for NCO of the Year award was waged by four NCOs. Quackenbush had an easier avenue as he was the only junior enlisted Soldier taking part. RDECOM has only 90 Soldiers in



Photos by Tom Faulkner

The competition for NCO of the Year award was waged by four NCO's Sgt. Josha Geren (below) took top honors.

its ranks, and very few junior enlisted, Marin noted.

### Also vying for the NCO award were:

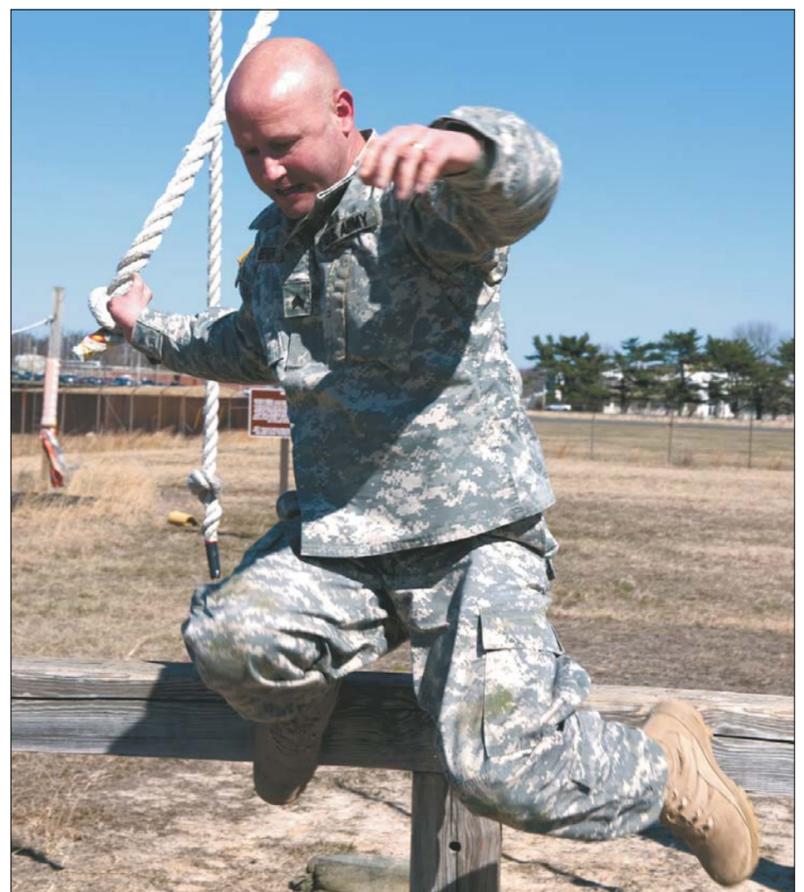
■ Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Duff, an explosive ordnance disposal technician assigned to the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

■ Sgt. Carl A. Philpott, a supply NCO assigned to Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, Natick, Mass.

■ Sgt. Larry D. Wesley, Jr., a chaplain's assistant also assigned to Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, Natick, Mass.

The week-long competition began with an Army Physical Fitness Test in the early hours March 28, and concluded with each candidate facing an interview board of command senior NCOs. In between were some grueling challenges, including the 12-mile road march with full rucksack, a land navigation course, an obstacle course, weapons qualification, and test on a number of Warrior skills in situational training scenarios.

Geren and Quackenbush now advance to the U.S. Army Materiel Command Soldier and NCO of the Year competition at a date and location to be determined.



Sgt. Josha Geren navigates the course during the NCO of the Year competition.

# Photo security in focus

By  
**JOE FERRARE**  
Garrison APG Public Affairs Specialist

An anonymous – and so far unproven – allegation posted online this weekend gives us the perfect opportunity to think about another part of our increasingly digital lives and what we need to do to keep ourselves and our information safe.

The story is that a person who works at a cell phone store went onto a website notorious for bad behavior and claimed he was systematically copying every photo on every cell phone people gave him to work on. He would then take the photos home, go through them and keep the ones of naked people. Eventually – and again, allegedly – he started sharing these photos on the website – including one supposedly of a minor.

First, there's the obvious lesson of this story: don't keep nude pictures on your phone. People will do crazy things for and with nude photos. Take the filter off your favorite search engine (on your personal computer, at home) and do an image search for pretty much any combination of words. It's harder to figure out a phrase that won't return an image of nudity than it is to find one that will.

## The take down

But that's only part of what this story can teach us, whether it's true or not. That's because people on this site – a group famous for taking down bank websites, attacking governments, religions and even cyber-security firms – decided they needed to take down this photo thief. All they needed was a little information and a little digging and it seems they have done it.

Cameras contain data you can see and data you can't see. The invisible data is Exchangeable Image File data. EXIF data is the information about a photo that you often see on your computer or photo sharing sites: the time and date the photo was taken, the settings used, the kind of camera, etc. But there is no standard set of information in EXIF data, so it can

**Before you leave your social media site, make sure your password is up to snuff. Remember, there are people out there who have found their dream jobs: sitting at a computer hacking other people's accounts and stealing naked photos.**

also contain things like your name, and if your camera (or cell phone) has a GPS, your location.

## EXIF exposure

In this case, members of the anonymous group claim to have identified the photo thief using a combination of EXIF data and clues found in the photos themselves. The clues they say helped them zero in on the perpetrator were things like a unique restaurant name on a T-shirt and check-ins using a location-aware social media service. They claim to have alerted the local police.

It's well known that things get crazy when nudity is involved. Teenagers have been convicted for sex texting, or sexting, nude images of themselves. Celebrities (and others) have lost their phones in taxis, stores or bars, and quickly found their most intimate photos online for the world to see.

It is perhaps no better to have such photos supposedly safe on a password-protected photo or social media site. A quick internet search (from home, unless you are ready to look for a new job) will find porn site after porn site of which the owners claim they hack into social media and online storage sites to steal such photos (and videos) so anyone can see them – for a small monthly fee. Worse in their own way are the revenge sites full of intimate photos of former spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends posted online by jilted lovers.

## Digital breadcrumbs

Even outside of the scandalous nature

of these activities, it's easy to feel danger creep into the situation. Think about what photos and associated EXIF data might reside on your cell phone, camera or tiny, easily lost storage card. Ever taken a photo of your children or grandchildren? Anybody in one of those photos wearing a shirt or jacket with the name of their school, church or soccer team on it?

Ever taken a photo of your house? Have addresses in your contact database? School names or doctor's phone numbers? They're all bread crumbs anyone with an interest and a little knowledge can follow.

## Any help out there?

Unfortunately, it doesn't seem like it's anyone's business to help us out. Companies are busy making two cameras (one on the front, one on the back) the norm for any fully featured smart phone or tablet.

They were also quick to put sharing buttons in the software, but are not as quick when it comes to a button to help us protect our photos.

So we have to help ourselves.

The first thing to do is to use the one security feature all cell phones, cameras, tablets and computers have: the delete button.

Choosing which photos to delete and which to keep is easy: assume you're going to lose your phone (camera, etc.) tomorrow. Now imagine the last person you would want to find it. Next, go through your photos and delete every one that person might find interesting.



Next, go through your photo sharing and social media sites and do the same.

While you're there, make sure your security settings are set to keep out prying eyes.

One lesser-known social media site I visited for a while was frequented by a guy who had a webpage called something along the lines of "Facebook Skank of the Day." He would comb through open profiles, find photos of girls in revealing attire and poses, and put them on his site.

Before you leave your social media site, make sure your password is up to snuff. Remember, there are people out there who have found their dream jobs: sitting at a computer all day hacking other people's accounts and stealing photos of naked people.

They are powerfully motivated, so you need a strong password to stop them.

## Figure it out

Next, go through the user's guides most of us never use (or search for it online; it'll be faster) and look for security features for your gadgets: password protection, encryption and things like that. Take the time to figure out how to use them.

Lastly, set up a schedule to go through these things and check them: empty your memory cards, change your passwords, delete photos, check your privacy settings.

Consider it preventive maintenance for your privacy.

How are we doing? E-mail comments and suggestions for the APG News to the editor at [editor-APG@conus.army.mil](mailto:editor-APG@conus.army.mil)

# APG SNAPSHOT

A peek at the events making news in and around U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground. For complete photo coverage, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/> or <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rdecom>.



## PATTY-CAKE WITH POP

Staff Sgt. John Story (right) from Charlie Company 1-169th Aviation General Support Aviation Battalion, plays a game with daughter Julissa Story-Cruz, 5, at the APG South (Edgewood) youth center. Throughout April, the Month of the Military Child, U.S. installations around the globe will recognize the contributions and sacrifices that the children of service members' make daily. See the APG News and visit APG Live, [www.apg.armylive.dodlive.mil](http://www.apg.armylive.dodlive.mil), to find out how APG is celebrating military children.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

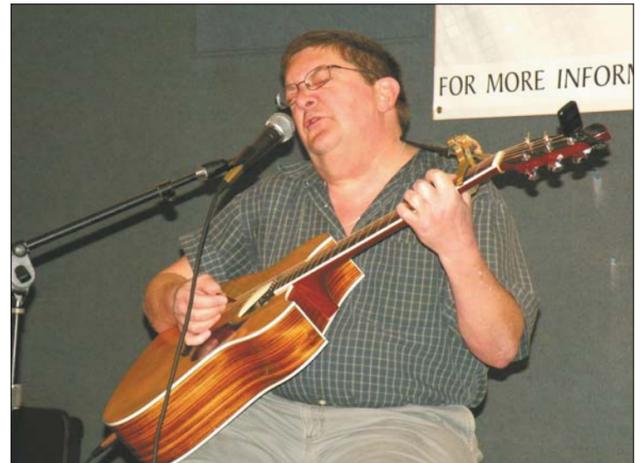


Photo by Eric White

## OPEN MIC

A community member performs during the March 31 Open Mic night at Aberdeen Proving Ground's North Side Grill. Want to show off your talent? Find out when the next Open Mic will be held by calling 410-278-4698.

## FOR THE BIRDS

Jordan Richards, 7, Jayden Lindsay, 8, and 4-H volunteer Linda Bullis construct birdhouses at the APG South (Edgewood) youth center March 30. Linda and her husband Gerry were special guests during the activity hosted by the youth center's bird watching club. Facility manager Renee Main said the youth center offers lots of activities throughout the year, and the bird club is one of several clubs they host with the 4-H. "It's always nice to have guests come in and give us a fresh approach to activities and bring share their expertise," said Main. For more information youth center activities, call 410-436-2862.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

## A TOUR OF BRAC SUCCESS

APG is quickly becoming the U.S. Army's hub for science and technology, installation senior commander Maj. Gen. Nick Justice told staff from Maryland's Congressional delegation March 30. "This place will be the biggest success story in BRAC," he said, referencing base realignment and closure that is bringing thousands of high-tech jobs to northeast Maryland. Because of BRAC, APG serves as the headquarters for several of the Army's science-focused commands, including U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command; U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; and Communications-Electronics Command. APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz led the group, including representatives of U.S. Sens. Barbara Mikulski and Benjamin Cardin and U.S. Reps. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Andy Harris and Roscoe Bartlett, on a tour of BRAC new construction and renovation.

Photo by Tom Faulkner

