



Discontinuation ceremony ends APG Ordnance era



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

The 68-year history of the 143d Ordnance Battalion came to an end July 29 as the last Ordnance unit on Aberdeen Proving Ground cased its colors for a final time during a discontinuation ceremony at McBride Parade Field.

The battalion will become part of the 59th Ordnance Brigade at Fort Lee, Va., the new home of Ordnance, and its Soldiers will expand the 16th Ordnance Battalion, forming companies D, E and F.

Senior APG leaders joined senior Ordnance leaders in the farewell to the battalion. Speakers included Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Col. Pharissee Berry, commander of the 59th Ordnance Brigade; and Lt. Col. Steven W. Fletcher Jr., commander, 143rd Ordnance Battalion.

Guests included Col. Clark W. LeMasters Jr., Chief of Ordnance and



From left, the last leaders of the 143d Ordnance Battalion, Lt. Col. Steven Fletcher and Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Ness, case the battalion colors during the organizations' Discontinuation Ceremony at McBride Parade Field July 29. The battalion was the last remaining Ordnance unit on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

commandant, U.S. Army Ordnance Schools; OC&S Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan A. Muhammad; and 59th Ordnance Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey D. Crawford.

The Maryland National Guard's 229th Army Band provided music for the ceremony.

"You are the reason the

Army keeps rolling along," Justice told the departing Ordnance Soldiers.

He called the day bittersweet, and said "despite the sadness and memories, it's a new beginning and starting anew is what we do best. I trust you are proud Soldiers and I know you are proud members of the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps."

"Thank you for coming," he said to the audience. "Thanks for making this a meaningful experience and helping us say farewell to one of the greatest corps in the Army."

During his speech, Berry said two milestones were reached in saying goodbye

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Final APG Ordnance School Graduation

By **MAJ. KEN MCCRORY**
OC&S

On July 27, 42 Soldiers proudly walked across the stage to receive their diplomas as 91B (wheel mechanic) advanced individual training (AIT) graduates during an Edgewood Area ceremony.

The 143d Ordnance Battalion has been hosting AIT graduations almost weekly for the past 25 years. However, the significance of this ceremony is that it was the last for the battalion and for the U.S. Army Ordnance

School at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"We've graduated nearly 8,000 Soldiers to the operational Army since I've been here, but this last one is bittersweet," remarked the battalion's Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Ness.

The graduation guest speaker, Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Steven Fletcher, challenged the new Ordnance Soldiers to never forget that they represent 92 years of Ordnance Corps history on Aberdeen Proving Ground and that their future lies at

Fort Lee, Va., where they will train in state-of-the-art facilities with state-of-the-art equipment.

The AIT courses once taught at Edgewood have relocated to Fort Lee where Ordnance mechanical maintenance Soldiers will continue to train and graduate.

The 143d Ordnance Battalion has successfully completed its mission of providing the Army with physically-fit, disciplined Ordnance Warriors. It will discontinue effective Sep. 15, 2011.

Excess Ordnance furniture donated

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

Faced with handling a large influx of furniture left by departing organizations due to base realignment and closure, the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Compliance Division orchestrated a dual donation/ exchange of property to benefit a local charity.

As a result, the Chesapeake Health Education Program, a nonprofit corporation which provides transitional housing for homeless veterans, located on the grounds of the Veterans Affairs Hospital at Perry Point, received excess couches, tables, chairs and other furniture and appliances from the departing

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Soldiers of the 143d Ordnance Battalion hand sofa cushions and other furniture from the former training facility at Downer Hall to staff members of the Chesapeake Health Education Program (CHEP) as part of a donation of excess furniture to charitable organizations.

WEATHER

Thurs.



84° | 72°

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ARSENIC & OLD LACE THIS WEEKEND

APG Theater Group presents the comedy classic 6 p.m. Saturday at the Post Theater. **SEE PAGE 8**

OPINION

How the military just might keep you together

My parents just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary —the darlings. All year people have asked them how they did it—as if marriage was a craft project. As if love was a recipe. My mom kept patting people’s arms and saying, “We are so lucky. We are just so lucky.” My dad just told people that their success was all due to home cooked meals and his secret cereal mix—the one my mom refers to as “twigs and rocks.”



Yet I am their child. Their witness. I’m a woman whose job it is to analyze and agonize over how the demands of modern military life affect Families. I can’t help but see that long ago my parents went through a 25-year military career that included war and separation and lack of money and multiple moves and five kids born in eight years. I see how that should have been too much for them. They surely should have divorced in the Seventies when women were burning their bras and going on strike from the housework.

But they didn’t. They didn’t stay together as a mark of endurance or because they had no other choices. They didn’t stay together because they were lucky or ate whole grains. Sometimes I think they stayed together because their

military life taught them to respect each other. It makes me wonder how the rest of us are doing in comparison. Are we doing what they did? Can we predict 50 deeply good years for our own marriages? Ask yourself these questions:

Did you go with your gut?

My parents had no idea what they were doing. Really. When my dad returned from flight school the summer of 1960, he told me himself he had no intention of asking my mom to marry him. They were too young, too poor. Then she stepped out of her house wearing a yellow sundress. And he could not wait to get her alone to ask her to be his Air Force wife. They were married all of six months later.

Is war normal for you?

As an anniversary gift, we had boxes of my parents photos put on CD. In picture after picture of base housing, I am so aware of how my parents were surrounded by other couples who were raising their kids inside the military. Here is a picture of my mom in an evening gown pregnant with me. Here is a picture of the lady who angrily scrubbed her kitchen floor every day when her husband was away on training. There go the dads in uniform. The kids in umbrellas and bathing suits playing in the rain. The ladies who traded babysitting and cups of sugar and watched their husbands leave for Viet-

nam. This was our normal. Typical. Acceptable.

Do you understand him?

I don’t think my dad ever spent a lot of time analyzing my mother’s needs. But my mom never stopped trying to understand the silent serious man that she married. She said they were married 27 years before she realized that when she asked him about his day and he did not immediately respond that he was not ignoring her. Instead he was going through all possible answers and the result of each answer. If she would just wait, he would speak. And they grew closer than ever.

Are you self-actualized?

In the Seventies, my dad was required to take a course at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. Part of the course was Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs. It shows how people have to fill their physical needs before they look for safety and then love. At the top of the pyramid is self-actualization—where you are creative and forward thinking and firing on all cylinders. My dad always said that my mom was the only truly self-actualized person he ever knew. She rolls her eyes and says, “Oh, John!”

Are you ready for your midlife crisis?

The end of my dad’s military career

left him adrift. He got a job as a contractor....and hated every minute. My mom urged him to quit, showing him how with his retirement pay and her income they could squeeze through. He did. A few months later he got a job at an airline where he was satisfied on a deep level—exhausted, but satisfied.

I want you to know that at my parents anniversary party, my mother stood up and said again how lucky they were. My dad stood beside her, looking down at his hand on the table, trying not to cry. Everyone else wept for him. Because we know what went into those 50 years. And we know that we are the lucky ones, benefiting in three generations from all they did for love.

Jacey Eckhart

CinCHouse.com

About Jacey

As an Air Force brat, Jacey Eckhart grew up swearing she would never enter the military or marry anyone who did. Of course, she married the first Navy guy she ever met. Eighteen years later, she and her husband Brad have moved 13 times. Tackled five deployments. Raised three kids. And Jacey has written over 400 columns that encourage, empower and entertain military Families everywhere. To read more, visit cinchouse.com, where military wives and women in uniform are commanders in chief.

What you hear in a war zone

While living in Portsmouth, Ohio a few years ago, I had an apartment located no more than 150 feet from a rail yard. My first few weeks living there presented a small challenge. I had a hard time sleeping through the screeches, bangs, bumps and grumbles in the night as rail workers prepared trains for their departures across the country.

Over time, my mind and ears seemed to filter out the once annoying sounds, and I slept peacefully. In fact those sounds became so common-place that it almost seemed possible to hear a mouse skitter across the kitchen floor or a mosquito buzz around the room over the industrial sounds coming from the rail yard just outside my front door.

In some circles, this ability to filter out ambient noise is also called Mommy-Daddy deafness: a syndrome affecting children who are able to tune out their parents voices and peacefully go on their merry way, as if their parents aren’t actually talking-but I digress.

Today, I discovered that I am once again filtering out the noise of unwanted sounds to allow me a peaceful night’s sleep, and further, to filter out the everyday sounds of the military

“It’s a strange shift in reality when the sounds of a war zone actually become peaceful. When what once brought fear brings comfort. When what used to keep me up at night now lulls me to sleep.”

operation going on all around me.

At 5:30 this morning my unit met for another installment of early morning physical training. My platoon sergeant put us in a PT formation, got us all stretched out, warmed up and ready for an unexpected 3-mile run around Z lake here.

That’s when it hit me. As I ran, I noticed a few things. I could hear the breeze rustling the reeds that line the lake shore; I heard a duck and a bird squawk on the shoreline. I could hear my feet strike the pavement and the crunch of gravel underfoot as I ran. I could hear my breathing and the rhythmic jangling of my dog tags bouncing between my chest and shirt. I could hear the voices of my Soldiers yelling encouragement across a small span of the lake. What I heard were the peaceful and pleasant sounds of a morn-

ing run along a beautiful lake. It was invigorating.

Here is what I did not hear, though I can promise you these sounds fill the air around us 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The “whomp, whomp” of helicopters flying overhead. The constant drone of hundreds of diesel generators all around the base. The revving of engines from humvee’s, MRAP’s, Strykers, buses and cars. The scream of jet engines from Baghdad International Airport. Whining sirens from convoys headed outside the wire. Automatic weapons fire from distant combat engagements off post and test fire pits at entry control points. And a cornucopia of everyday sounds and noises that are the constant audible backdrop to our life here.

Somehow in the past few weeks

my mind has made a change, like the change that occurred years ago in Portsmouth, Ohio. All those noises that, when I arrived, were so obvious to me, that at times raised my adrenaline level, or might have made me duck and cover, have become almost silent to me.

And again, just like those days back in Ohio, when I could hear the small noises over the rail yard next to my apartment, it’s the noises that aren’t normal that raise my attention now. I had always wondered about that before coming here. How it was that our ground pounder’s, military police and ordnance Soldiers could know when something bad was going to happen or how they knew when not to go around a corner, go into a building or avoid certain areas of the city or road. It’s all about filtering; knowing the difference between normal and not normal.

It’s a strange shift in reality when the sounds of a war zone actually become peaceful. When what once brought fear brings comfort. When what used to keep me up at night now lulls me to sleep.

1st Sgt. Anthony Martinez
MND-B PAO

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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APG Team aids CMA in successful mustard stockpile destruction

By **TERRI KALTENBACHER**
DPW Environmental Division

Environmental success stories have multiplied at Aberdeen Proving Ground in the past two decades since Army Regulation 200-1 (Environmental Protection and Enhancement) was set into motion.

In a recent APG News issue, “Spotlight on APG” profiled the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, one of the organizations that call APG home for their headquarters. One of the CMA’s main missions is eliminating the nation’s chemical weapons stockpile in compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention ratified in 1997.

Count APG among those installations that have a success story to tell—one in which we disposed of our chemical weapons, in this case a large stockpile of mustard agent formerly stored in the Chemical Agent Storage Yard (CASY), and one in which we destroyed the stockpile without fines, violations or major incidents.

Mustard agent, a syrupy blister compound with the consistency of molasses, had been stored and monitored at the CASY in the Edgewood Area of APG for more than 60 years.

High-temperature incineration was the original preferred method of destruction until the surrounding community voiced the concerns. APG revisited this decision based upon public input and ultimately employed neutralization to get rid of the agent.

The construction of the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, or ABCDF, began in 1999 and continued for several years. Increased security concerns after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, significantly impacted the design and operation of the ABCDF.

Overnight, public apprehension had shifted from the potential risk posed from an accidental release of agent undergoing treatment, to the immediate threat of a future terrorist attempt on the stockpile itself. Without delay, CMA adopted a revised approach involving a resequencing of the ABCDF process to allow the bulk of the agent to be drained from the ton containers and neutralized in the first phase of the operation, with complete cleaning, decontamination, and recycling of the ton containers in the second phase.

The bulk mustard was drained from the ton containers in a former warehouse that was outfitted with special equipment and safety features. Once the bulk mustard agent from the ton containers was neutralized, the containers were cut and cleaned in a facility that was finished later (and part of the original plant).

This resequencing accelerated the mustard destruction process in a manner that did not pose undue threat to public health and the environment. The plant operated from April 2003 to February 2006. During that time, the plant safely neutralized 1,623 tons of mustard agent stored in 1,817 large steel bulk containers by mix-



ing the agent with hot water and sodium hydroxide.

The ton containers were then decontaminated and recycled. The byproducts of the process—Thiodiglycol a chemical found in ink pens, water, salts, and trace minerals—were containerized and shipped offsite to DuPont to further break down the liquid in the most efficient manner via biotreatment, or “bugs.”

The agent destruction contributed to CMA’s goal to destroy the entire U.S. chemical weapons stockpile by the April 2012 deadline.

According to Judy Weintraub, current National Environmental Policy Act Manager for DPW’s Environmental Division and a contractor during the ABCDF operation, “it truly was a team effort, with coordination between many stakeholders. The Environmental Protection Agency and Maryland Department of the Environment had regulatory oversight of the project, the CMA managed private contractors like Bechtel and Battelle as they performed day to day operations, and APG coordinated environmental permitting and overall safety and environmental compliance.”

The community also played an active role in the effort from initial discussions through the successful completion of the project, via public meetings and an open communication policy on the installation. The Maryland Citizens’ Advisory Commission was created especially for the ABCDF and acted as a liaison group between APG, the community and the Governor’s office.

“Everyone at the ABCDF, government staff, and Bechtel Aberdeen workers alike, along with APG’s environmental compliance personnel, worked very closely with MDE officials throughout the life of the project to anticipate regulatory concerns and clarify reporting requirements,” said site project manager Brian O’Donnell.

APG was the first chemical demilitarization site in the United States to formally close its chemical weapons destruction facility by achieving regulatory agency Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) closure certification in 2007. “Closing ABCDF’s RCRA permit in record time was an outgrowth of that history of cooperation” O’Donnell said.

For more information on the ABCDF and the chemical demilitarization project, check out the APG Live Blog at <http://apg.armylive.dodlive.mil/>.



Article No. 6 in the monthly series



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

Army in training: pardon our noise

By **JANE GERVASONI**

U.S. Army Public Health Command

“Growing up near Aberdeen Proving Ground in the ‘40s and ‘50s meant that you heard a lot of big guns firing and felt a lot of vibration from those guns,” explained lifelong Harford County, Md., resident Jack Molnar. “But you understood that the testing was important and was just part of life in the area.”

In today’s world, the vibrations and the noise are important issues affecting both military facilities and the communities located close to them, according to Catherine Stewart, the operational noise program manager at the U.S. Army Public Health Command. The Army’s need to maintain ranges and airspace is significantly impacted by the attitudes of those who live near military airfields, ranges and training facilities, she added.

When installations were established, they were usually in rural areas isolated away from large population areas. That has changed, Stewart said, adding that Army installations are now surrounded by large urban areas due to rapid residential growth and development.

As a retired government employee who worked on both the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas of APG, Molnar watched the local area develop rapidly with little coordination with the needs of the defense industry in its midst.

“Developers and planners didn’t take the needs of the military into consideration when they started all this building,” he said.

With the growing demand for realistic training and Base Realignment and Closure, noise issues are becoming more serious according to Stewart. She works to develop installation operational noise plans that include quantification of the noise environment, community outreach, complaint management, noise and vibration mitigation, and land use planning. These noise plans take into consideration the needs of the military and the local communities and try to address the

issues from both sides.

According to Army regulations, installations are required to have noise plans, and Stewart and the eight people in her program are paid by installations to develop them.

“We perform noise assessments using computer models for noise produced by aircraft, small arms, large caliber weapons and demolition, usually at the request of installation environmental personnel. Then we provide reports to installation commanders and personnel that can be shared with the local community,” Stewart explained.

The local community became involved when the Army decided to move its Explosive Ordnance Disposal School to Fort A.P. Hill, Va., as part of the BRAC process, and the USAPHC operational noise specialists were brought in to perform noise testing by measuring the noise levels and the effects of different weather conditions and locations.

Stewart and her team set up 12 monitoring stations, and she arranged for members of the community to stand by the monitors and record their impressions of the noise as well.



U.S. Army photo

Noise produced by large-caliber weapons and demolition is monitored by personnel in the USAPHC’s operational noise program.

“The pivotal issue with noise is annoyance. Our military environmental noise management efforts are intended to minimize annoyance.”

Catherine Stewart

Operational noise program manager, U.S. Army Public Health Command

“This helped the community to feel that the installation cared about them. Neighbors start to complain when peak noise levels reach about 115 decibels [the sound of thunder from a close lightning strike],” explained Stewart. “Even if the noise lasts only a short time, it can be annoying to those who live nearby.”

Local weather conditions have a big effect on noise transmission, further complicating the program’s work.

“Under certain weather conditions,

the sound levels. Plus, when the community members understand the issues, they become more willing to work together with the military, Stewart added.

“The pivotal issue with noise is annoyance. Our military environmental noise management efforts are intended to minimize annoyance,” said Stewart. “It is in everyone’s best interest to educate the public on readiness missions and to work together to lessen the impact of military training.”

sound travels well, so a blast that may rattle windows on an overcast day may not even be heard on a clear day,” she said.

Information like this can help the military plan their exercises so that the weather actually helps them mitigate

Send newspaper submissions to new email address

Due to ongoing issues with the recent DISA migration, community members are asked to send all submissions for the APG News to adriane.foss@us.army.mil, and CC the editor-apg@conus.army.mil address. Type APG NEWS SUBMISSION in the Subject Line. You should receive a response within three business days letting you know that the submission has been received. If you do not receive a response, please call 410-278-1150 to inquire.

PM Navigation Systems welcomes new leader

By **BRANDON POLLACHEK**
PEO IEW&S PAO

The organization responsible for ensuring situational awareness and preventing fratricide for troops in the field witnessed the start of a new era as the project manager for Navigation Systems (PM Nav/Sys) assumed command during a ceremony held at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) July 29.



Davis

Col. Christopher Davis, PM Nav/Sys, accepted the reigns of the organization from Brig. Gen. Harold Greene, Program Executive Officer for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare & Sensors (PEO IEW&S) during an Assumption of Charter ceremony at the Mallette Auditorium - Mission Training Facility.

Davis will lead a team that is composed of a product manager for GPS

and a product manager for Joint Combat Target Identification-Ground (JCTIG), both located at APG. Additionally, as the PM for Nav/Sys, Davis will serve as the Chief of the GPS Current User Equipment Division at the GPS Directorate, Los Angeles AFB.

As the newest project manager for Nav/Sys, Davis will take on the leadership role for an organization that has fielded close to 500,000 critical systems in recent years. PM Nav/Sys products touch virtually every Soldier on the battlefield, with a combination of GPS devices and Joint Combat Identification Marking Systems (JCIMS) on their persons or in their vehicle as well as providing meteorological data for artillery targeting with the Profiler system.

Prior to his assignment at PEO IEW&S, Davis was assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense responsible for directing staff activities concerning oversight of 102 major defense acquisition programs for the director of Acquisition Resources and Analysis serving

the Undersecretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) at the Pentagon.

Davis' other assignments include: Commander, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), Aviation Integrated Maintenance Operations Enterprise; Commander, DCMA Northern Iraq; Director, Contingency Contracting Division, U.S. Army Contracting Agency- Pacific Region, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; Contingency Contracting Officer, Division Support Command, 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii; Assistant Product Manager Apache, Program Executive Office Aviation, Huntsville, Ala.; Chief, Aviation Electronic Warfare Branch, Directorate of Combat Developments, Fort Rucker, Ala.; Operations officer and Company Commander, 4-4 Aviation Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo., with deployment to Mogadishu, Somalia, and Platoon Leader, 3-1 Attack Aviation Regiment, Katterbach, Germany, with deployment to Saudi Arabia/Iraq/Kuwait.

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."

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

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KUSAHC School physical marathon this Saturday

KUSAHC

Back-to-school season is here and Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is encouraging parents to make appointments for their children's school physical. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment during KUSAHC's mini health fair that will be held Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

During the mini health fair, representatives from the Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Rescue Squad, Child Youth Services, Army Substance Abuse Program and the Dental Clinic, and McGruff the Crime Dog will be in attendance. Prizes and information will be

given out for patients.

Deborah Dodsworth, KUSAHC advocate, said parents are encouraged to schedule their children as soon as possible because the appointments fill up fast. School physicals are a covered benefit at KUSAHC and at no cost to the parent. Parents are requested to bring all appropriate paperwork from the school.

"It is helpful if parents complete all the blanks except the medical portion," Dodsworth said.

Please schedule your appointment by calling 410-278-5475 or inquire at the Pediatric Clinic, 410- 278-1928.

APG ordnance closes

Continued from Page 1

to the Aberdeen community and retiring the battalion colors on the same day. He praised Fletcher and Ness for "carrying on with drive and professionalism" in preparing the battalion and its Soldiers for the transition.

"They carried on their legacy of excellence," he said. "Thanks for your care and leadership. You will write a new chapter in the history of the Ordnance Corps."

Fletcher thanked the installation for its support of the battalion through the transition period and reminded his Soldiers that they represent 92 years of Ordnance training.

"Today we honor the Ordnance Corps and Ordnance Soldiers, past and present," he said. "At Fort Lee, we will

train in state-of-the-art facilities and on state-of-the-art equipment, which they deserve as they will deploy to combat shortly after.

"Professionals in Gear and Go Ordnance," he added.

Ness said he was proud of the battalion's performance—Soldiers and instructors—during the transition.

"They will begin a new era in great training facilities and continue to carry on a proud tradition," he said.

Prior to the ceremony, Fletcher was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. Ness will remain at APG until his permanent change of station to Fort Polk, La.

See more ceremony photos at flicker.com/photos/usagapp.

BRAC furniture to vets

Continued from Page 1

143d Ordnance Battalion. Items belonging to the unit were donated and items belonging to the garrison were hand-receipted and transferred from the Post Housing Office.

Vickie Venzen, DPW environmental protection specialist, said the donation and exchange help solve a growing problem being experienced by other Army installations facing BRAC-related issues.

"The 143rd is one of our largest tenants leaving and the Garrison DOL typically handles removing installation furniture, warehousing them or disposing of them," Venzen said. "We've been looking at different avenues for our tenants and the garrison to use, excess furniture ending up in the landfills in accordance with the Net Zero Waste Program."

She thanked Maj. Kenneth McCrory, transition officer, and Capt. Erin Arellano,

assistant transition officer, for coordinating the donations and exchanges.

On July 19, CHEP representatives, veteran residents of CHEP houses and Soldiers of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion, worked together in loading the furniture and appliances at the Downer Hall training facility, at Bldg. E4221, the former Company C 143d headquarters and at Bldg. E4215, the former Company B 143rd barracks.

CHEP CEO Gerard Kelly expressed his thanks to the battalion and to APG on behalf of the CHEP residents.

"The veterans who will use the furniture will certainly appreciate your generosity and especially your thoughtfulness in remembering those who have already served," Kelly said, adding that all items would be utilized in the five transitional houses located at Perry Point.

POST SHORTS

Women's Equality Day Awards program

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Women's Program (FWP) will host the annual Women's Equality Day Observance 1:30 to 3 p.m., Aug. 23, at the Ball Conference Center, Bldg. 3074. The FWP will honor the Outstanding Woman of the Year, Outstanding Supervisor/Manager of the Year and Activity Most Supportive of FWP Goals.

For more information, call Sheryl Coleman, 410-278-5898.

Military shuttle service to WRAMC ending

Beginning Aug. 9, the APG Directorate of Logistics will discontinue the daily route between the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas and to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The suspension of these bus routes is due to Army base realignment and closure changes and the departure of the last remaining Ordnance battalion. APG regrets any inconvenience caused to retirees or Family members who utilize the shuttle bus service. Military personnel who continue to require transportation to WRAMC should con-

tact Nick Curcio at 410-278-2697.

These changes do not affect the daily commuter shuttle bus to the Aberdeen MARC Train Station.

CMU meet and greet Aug. 10

Come and meet Central Michigan University representative 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bldg. 4305, room 219 during the fall Meet and Greet Aug. 10. Learn about obtaining a Master of Science Degree using Post 9/11, (Chapter 33) benefits. It is not too late to apply for fall classes. This event is open to military and civilians. For more information, contact Barbara Jenkins, 410-272-1532.

Couples retreat set

An all-expense paid couples retreat will be held for all APG military couples Aug. 17-19. For more information, call 410-278-4333 or visit www.strongbonds.org.

Health Promotion Activities

■ **Aug. 6:** Back to School Physical Fair, KUSAHC, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ **Aug. 9, 16 & 23:** Tobacco Cessation Class, APG South Recreation Cen-

ter, Noon to 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Ann Laughton at ann.laughton@us.army.mil or 410-278-1774.

Home Ownership Workshop set Aug. 23

ACS will offer a free home ownership workshop Aug. 23 at 1 p.m. at ACS Bldg. 2503 on Highpoint Road. The workshop will guide Families through most of the financial and administrative hurdles of purchasing or selling. Topics will include Learn Effective Ways To Buy and Sell Real Estate; New & Exciting First Time Buyer Programs; The Four Keys to Home Ownership; Competing Successfully in Today's Market; Breaking Through the Down Payment Barrier; The Home Financing Process; Selecting an Area; Building a Credit Profile and more. Call 410-278-2464.

Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 15

The APG Retiree Council will host the annual Retiree Appreciation Day 8 a.m. to noon, Oct. 15 at the APG North

(Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326. The event will include exhibitors who provide goods and services to the retiree population and a panel discussion with APG organizations. For more information, contact Drew Nobles, Retirement Service Officer/Retiree Council, at 410-306-2320 or drew.a.nobles.ctr@mail.mil or contact Richard Zalusky, Retiree Council, 410-278-5036 or richard.n.zalusky.civ@mail.mil.

Breast health presentation

A Breast Health Presentation will be presented by Dr. Atsuko Okabe, breast surgeon with the Breast Center at Franklin Square, Aug. 11 from 1-2 p.m. Learn about mammography guidelines, treatment options, new trial studies, genetic testing and more. Call Sue Singh at 410-278-1771 or Ann Laughton at 410-278-1774 for information.



MORE ONLINE

More shorts can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Shorts.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

AUGUST 6

SATURDAY CRITTER FEEDING

Eden Mill Nature Center, located on 1617 Eden Mill Road Pylesville, Md. will offer critter feeding for Families at 3 p.m. Join the staff at the nature center as they feed the critters. Take a turn feeding one of the turtles or a snake. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, call 410-836-3050, email edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com, or visit www.edenmill.org.

MARYLAND WINE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a Maryland Wine Cruise,

7 to 8:30 p.m. on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. Tickets cost \$40 per person (21 years of age or older). The ship will take a cruise around the Susquehanna Flats area as passengers enjoy fine wines. The wine cruise will have a representative from the featured winery onboard telling passengers about their wines and vineyards and to answer any questions. Cheese and a fruit tray will be served. Reservations are required. Credit cards will be accepted.

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

SUNDAY

AUGUST 7

SUNSET CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conser-

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

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

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 10

FAMILY CAMPFIRE

Eden Mill Nature Center, located on 1617 Eden Mill Road Pylesville, Md. will host a Family Campfire, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Hear a presentation from

a guest speaker and enjoy making smores around the campfire. This program is fun for all ages. Donations are accepted to cover the cost of the s'mores. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, call 410-836-3050, email edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com, or visit www.edenmill.org.



MORE ONLINE

More calendar events can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Community Notes.

FAMILY AND MWR

Movies under the stars

Enjoy a fun Family night out free of charge. Pre-movie festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. and include games, a deejay and karaoke. The movie will begin at 8 p.m. or at dusk. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and snacks. Food and refreshments will also be available for purchase.

The next movie will be held Aug. 5, Happy Feet, AA Shore Park

For more information, call 410-278-4124

NYC day trip Aug. 6

Leisure Travel will offer eight hours of shopping in New York City Aug. 6. Enjoy the city without the driving or parking problems. Cost is \$46 per person and includes roundtrip bus transportation. The bus will depart from Mountain Road Park and Ride I-95 (Exit 74) at 7:55 a.m. For information on New York City, visit www.nyc-tour.com. For information or to reserve a seat, call MWR Leisure Travel Office at the APG North recreation center, Bldg. 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil.

Lynyrd Skynyrd plays APG Aug. 20

The legendary rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd returns to Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Army Concert Tour featuring special guests, The Doobie Brothers and

Dilana, at Shine Sports Field Aug. 20.

Gates open 6 p.m., show starts 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 in advance, \$40 the day of the show. Purchase tickets in person at the APG MWR Leisure Travel Office, bldg. 3326, 410-278-4621; or online at TICKETMASTER.com.

Volunteers are needed to work concessions and in other areas. To volunteer, contact Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854 or e-mail earlene.allen.naf@mail.mil. For more information, visit www.apgmwr.com.

Free babysitting course

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

The class will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug. 8 to 10, at the Aberdeen Area

Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs available at 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.



Child, Youth and School Services, Bldg. 2522 and will highlight the responsibilities of babysitting. Class is open to all DoD ID cardholders.

To register or schedule an appointment, call Central Registration at 410-278-7571/7479, Bldg. 2503. For information, call 410-278-4589 or email stacie.e.umbarger.naf@mail.mil.

Universal Studios discount tickets

Universal Orlando® Resort is proud to offer a discount ticket program to all active duty, retired military and Department of Defense personnel. All Universal Studio tickets must be purchased at least 3 weeks before the trip.

Universal Studios includes two theme

parks, non-stop nightlife and more all in one convenient location. At Universal CityWalk® enjoy the best in restaurants, nightclubs, shopping and movies.

For more information, call 410-278-4011 for price breakdown.

APG Fitness Center closure

The APG Fitness Center, Bldg. 320, will be closed through Labor Day weekend. Work to install a new air conditioning system with duct work, expanded shower and locker rooms, new flooring and entrance area will be done.

Fitness Center is located in bldg. 2407. Hours are Monday- Thursday, 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Call 410-278-9725.

August bowling specials

• Early Bird Special: \$1.50 per game from 7 to 10 a.m. Plus \$2 shoe rental.

• Each Friday, 6 to 10 p.m., bowl one game for \$0.75 per game. 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.

New hours for summer

Effective through September, The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday; 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday; the Bowling Center will be closed on Sundays. Holiday hours will be announced at a later date.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Lunch delivery is available for orders of \$25 or more. Call for delivery before 11 a.m.

Week of August 1

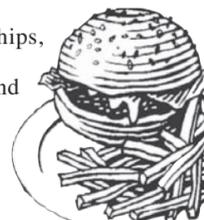
Special #1: Turkey club sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$7.45.

Special #2: Kielbasa and sauerkraut with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.50.

Week of August 8

Special #1: Chicken salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.75.

Special #2: Pork BBQ with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.20.



The Bowling Center also serves breakfast. For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041.

Arsenic and Old Lace onstage this weekend

Enjoy a fun Family night out this Saturday, with the APG Theater Group players as they present the American comedy classic Arsenic and Old Lace at 6 p.m. at the Post Theater. Written in 1939 by playwright Joseph Kesselring, Arsenic and Old Lace opened on Broadway in 1941 and closed 1,444 performances later in 1944. Cary Grant starred in and Frank Capra directed the better-known film adaptation of the play.

The dark comedy revolves around

Mortimer Brewster, a drama critic who on the eve of his marriage, discovers his two spinster aunts are sweet homicidal maniacs and that insanity runs in the family, as evidenced by other nutty relatives.

Purchase tickets at MWR Leisure Travel Services, Bldg. 3326. Call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for active duty military, and \$5 for children.

Army medical centers on track

By **ELIZABETH M. COLLINS**
Army News Service

The transfer of Walter Reed Army Medical Center's functions to Bethesda, Md., and a new hospital on Fort Belvoir, Va., is expected to finish on schedule, top military health care leaders said today.

Navy Vice Adm. John M. Mateczun, commander of Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical, told Pentagon reporters that the consolidation and integration of military health care functions in the National Capital Region is well underway, with 9,400 medical personnel and patients expected to finish moving by the end of August.

Under the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005, the Department of Defense was required to combine four National Capital Region, or NCR, inpatient hospitals -- Walter Reed, Bethesda National Naval Medical Center, DeWitt Army Community Hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va., and Malcolm Grow Medical Center at Joint Base Andrews, Md. -- into two while, maintaining the same patient care capacity.

"This is the largest medical restructuring ever undertaken in the military health system," Mateczun said, adding that military medical officials have focused on three things throughout the process: "One is quality of care -- all of the patient care that we're providing. A particular patient population we're always aware of are wounded, ill and injured (service members). And then the capacity to take care of the wounded, ill and injured who are returning now from Iraq and Afghanistan as we do these moves."

The new facility at Bethesda will include 345 medical-surgical beds, 50 intensive care unit beds and 20 operating rooms, while the expanded DeWitt will hold 120, 10 and 10, respectively, Mateczun said, adding that the numbers have been carefully studied.

The two facilities should have more than enough capacity to care for all combat casualties, as well as Family members and veterans, Mateczun said, especially because military medical facilities nationwide and civilian TRICARE partners can take additional cases if the need should arise.

Of the 445 wounded, ill and injured Soldiers currently assigned to the Warrior Transition Brigade at Walter Reed, about a third will transition to DeWitt, while the other two-thirds will move to the Bethesda campus, added Lt. Col. Larry Gunther, the Warrior Transition Brigade executive officer.

Both Bethesda and Belvoir have added and renovated barracks and lodging spaces for these service members and their families.

The Soldiers who will move to DeWitt are more ambulatory and need less specialized and intensive care, Mateczun



U.S. Army photo

The new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, seen from the air, with Wisconsin Avenue in front, still shows the original tower that Franklin Delano Roosevelt designed. But the growth around that tower has expanded to include portions of the old Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

explained. They may also have post-traumatic stress disorders, mild-to-moderate traumatic brain injuries and/or substance abuse problems, as the Fort Belvoir hospital is adding additional inpatient behavioral health and substance-abuse programs.

Service members evacuated from theater and patients who need very specialized care for catastrophic injuries such as complex orthopedic trauma and open traumatic brain injuries will go to the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center along with the specialized doctors and other medical professionals who care for them. Complex surgeries such as organ transplants will also occur at the Bethesda site.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center,

which has served the nation for 102 years, will close its doors Sept. 15, although a ceremony to ease the colors of all Walter Reed activities took place July 27.

WRAMC commander Col. Norvell V. Coots pointed out that the history of the Walter Reed campus actually goes back much further, and that the Army recently found remnants of a Civil War battle that took place on the grounds. Miniballs, musket balls and even a West Point uniform button from the 1860s have been recovered from the 1864 battle of Fort Stephens.

"This is a national icon," Coots said about Walter Reed. "The name is iconic and the name will ... continue on. In fact, this next iteration will be closer to the original dream of Walter Reed."

Boating safety for a safe summer

Installation Safety Office (ISO)

A life preserver can't "preserve a life" if it is stuffed in a boat compartment, slung across a seat, or lying under a pile of fishing equipment. According to Larry Merrill, APG Marine, Wildlife & Environmental Officer, "There is simply no good reason not to wear a life preserver while out on a boat. Having one inside the boat is not enough; it has to be worn."

Routinely not wearing a life vest while on the water is a common occurrence but thousands have learned the deadly consequences the hard way after the drowning of a friend or family member. Merrill went on to say that "Maryland law has special requirements for children ages 4 and under and less than 50 pounds, and boats of various lengths."

Vessels 16 feet in length and longer are required to have a Type V throwable flotation device. Maryland law requires that "all children under the age of 13 MUST WEAR a U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) (life jacket - Type I, II, III or V) while underway on a recreational vessel under 21 feet in length on Maryland waters." (A recreational vessel includes motorboats, sailboats, canoes, kayaks, rowboats, and any other device capable of being used for transportation on the water when the vessel is being used for recreational purposes). Merrill cautions that the life jacket must be the proper size for the child and in serviceable condition.

He went on to say that a child under the age of 4 must wear a PFD which features additional safety precautions, as appropriate for an infant, toddler, or young child, so as to:

- Hold the child securely within the PFD, including a strap that is secured between the child's legs to fasten together the front and back of the PFD;
- Maintain the buoyancy of the child, including an inflatable headrest or high collar; or
- Ensure the ready accessibility of the child from the vessel, including a web handle.

Merrill added that these requirements do not apply when a vessel is moored or anchored, or when a child is below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

Another Maryland law states that as of October 1, 2010, "anyone under the age of 16, operating a motorized vessel 11 feet in length or greater without a valid boating safety certificate, must be under the supervision of an individual 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid boating safety certificate or an individual born before July 1, 1972. If an individual under the age of 16 is operating a motorized vessel LESS than

11 feet in length, a person of any age possessing a valid certificate of boating safety can provide supervision."

For complete information on Maryland regulatory requirements, go to <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/boating/pdfs/recreationvessels.pdf>. For APG specific requirements go to: <http://www.apgmwr.com/recreation/odr/boating.html> where a Boater's orientation course can be obtained and viewed by all eligible MWR patrons using the waters of APG.

The USCG posts statistics every year on its Boating Safety Resource Center website for everyone's use. This year shows both a 6.9 percent decrease in deaths and 2.66 percent decrease in injuries from last year's statistics. In 2010 there were 4,604 boating accidents that resulted in 672 deaths and 3,153 injuries. The data echoes the message that life jacket wear is critical since 88 percent of all drowning were not reported as wearing a life jacket or what the military call Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's).

Coast Guard Officials are encouraging everyone to snap into a life preserver before setting out on any water adventure regardless of the many excuses people have for not wearing life preservers: "they are too bulky," or will "mess up tan lines." None of these excuses are valid.

Today's life jackets come in all shapes, sizes, types, and colors to fit every style and water activity and there is absolutely no reason not to wear one. A life jacket is the most vital part of staying safe on the water as well as paying attention to your environment. The USCG reports five common factors that contribute to boating accidents every year. These factors are operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed and alcohol use.

Personal Water Craft (PWC) Information

Personal water craft, often called Jet Ski's or Wave Runners, are the fastest growing form of boating in Maryland and across the United States. There are over 12,000 registered PWC's in the state. The state's Safety Education Division wants to make sure that all owners and operators ride in a responsible manner and do not speed," stated Merrill. "Remember, a PWC is a boat and must follow all the rules of the road. The waterways are for everyone to enjoy so please respect the rights of others and practice common courtesy while riding."

Vessel Safety Checks

At the beginning of every boating season, boats should be checked thoroughly from bow to stern. The Coast Guard

Auxiliary offers a free vessel safety checklist online at: <http://sites.google.com/site/uscg0542207/home/vessel-safety-check>. Also for boats stored and used at APG, the local Coast Guard Auxiliary club will offer a free inspection. Contact Ben Capacia at 410-436-1944.

A five point check includes inspecting the engines, navigational equipment, communication devices, lights and safety equipment as well as a weather report that should be completed every time a boat leaves the dock. The Coast Guard also expects all boats to have some sort of emergency kit on board which should contain a first aid kit, whistle or horn to use as a distress signal, a towline, binoculars, emergency radio, bailing device, fire extinguisher, flashlight, PFD's, ring buoys, a paddle, extra batteries, sun screen, matches, flares, mirror and a local map.

Danger in the Water

Chris Sollers, Installation Safety Office, says, "Anyone boating around Aberdeen Proving Ground knows that it contains numerous scenic areas ideal for boating, but the water, shorelines, and islands of APG are used for weapons and ammunition testing, and can be heavily contaminated with unexploded ordnance.

The use of APG's surrounding waters is restricted IAW APGR 210-10 and APGR 210-26 with authorities prohibiting the beaching of boats or walking on the shorelines or islands within the restricted water zone at all times. Sollers added that boaters are advised not to handle or attempt to remove any items found within the proving ground. "These items may be extremely dangerous and may include UXO."

He added that "Per 33 CFR 334.140, it is illegal for anyone to come ashore or enter within restricted waters in the Maritime Jurisdiction of APG without permission from the post commander. This is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months." For additional information on APG restricted water openings and closings from Range Control please call 410-278-2250.

Merrill suggested that when a boater is in doubt about navigating the restricted waters, request assistance from one of APG's patrol boats which are positioned at the perimeter of the restricted water zone during testing; these boats have loud speakers and flashing red or blue lights installed for easy identification. They can be contacted on VHF channel 68.

Float Plans

Being an avid boater and fisherman himself, Sollers advocates developing a float plan. "A float plan outlines such things as where the boater is going and when they will be back. A copy of the plan should be left with a friend or Family member who can notify authorities if the boat does not return." A sample float plan is available at www.floatplan-central.org.

Types of Life Jackets



Type I
Offshore
Life Jacket



Type II
Near Shore
Buoyant
Vest



Type III
Flotation
Aid



Type IV
Throwable
Device



Type V
Inflated
Hybrid
PFD

Sollers concluded by saying, "Maryland's waters offer wonderful opportunities for recreational boaters. With the ever-increasing number of boaters on our waters, it is the responsibility of all of us to work together to ensure that our waters are clean and safe."