



## Call hotline or visit web for weather updates

By **RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Winter's almost here which means there is a greater chance of weather events which result in post closings or delays.

John Kearney, the director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, said that the decision to close to the post is made by the garrison commander by 4 a.m. on the day of the weather event.

**Information about closing and delays can be found on APG's homepage at [www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/](http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/), [Twitter feed](#), [Facebook](#), or by calling the weather hotline at 410-278-SNOW (7669).**

Information about closing and delays can be found on APG's homepage, Twitter feed, Facebook, or by calling the weather hotline at 410-278-SNOW (7669). These options provide the fastest, most up-to-date, accurate and detailed information," he said.

Kearney said while post closings are also broadcast on Channels 2, 11 and 13, and on major radio stations, they are not able to provide as much information as the garrison social media websites and weather hotline.

"Eventually we would like to move away from broadcasting weather announcements on television and the radio," said

See **FIND OUT** page 9



Photo by Matthew Aughey

## Holiday Spirit

APG's Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers President Spc. Jack Pardue shows he is a good sport for the holiday season by sitting on Santa's lap at the garrison holiday party. Hundreds of Soldiers, family members and employees attended the annual event, which included live entertainment, a gingerbread house competition, games and crafts, free giveaways and more.

## Volunteers bring holiday to stage

By **ADRIANE FOSS**  
APG News Editor

Aberdeen Proving Ground's MWR Theater Group spread holiday cheer, performing It's A Wonderful Life at the post theater Dec. 3-4.

The all-volunteer group performed a Saturday evening performance and Sunday matinee of Frank Capra's timeless Christmas classic that originally starred James Stewart and Donna Reed.

"We love the movie, so we wanted to see 'It's a Wonderful Life,'" said retired Army veteran Rudolph Brannigan,

who attended the show with his wife, Gloria. "I think the play has an uplifting story for the holiday season. Even during bad times you have to trust that things will get better."

The Brannigans were just two of the nearly 200 people who purchased tickets for the weekend event.

"The theater group is really gathering a following, the audience is growing with each performance," said MWR's Earlene Allen. "A lot of people who saw 'It's a Wonderful



Photo by Rachel Ponder

APG employees and volunteer actors (from left) Alyssa Buxbaum and Charlie Burgos-Lopez perform at the post theater Dec. 4.

See **NEXT**, page 9

## APG coordinates CSSC visit to wounded warriors at Walter Reed



By **ROGER TEEL**  
RDECOM

For Denise Carnaggio, when asked to participate in the second annual Spirit of Thanks Tour, the answer was an emphatic "Yes!"

"It changed my life forever," Carnaggio said, referring to the inaugural Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor visit to Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center last year.

The CSSC was initially founded to bring together eight jurisdictions in three states (Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland) to ensure a successful BRAC implementation and high quality of life for those who live and work in the growing APG defense community. The mission has been continued as the CSSC serves as a communications clearinghouse and event coordination hub for regional military information and activities.

Carnaggio, deputy director of the Harford County Office of Economic Development, was one of

See **APG**, page 9

Denise Carnaggio talks with an American serviceman during the CSSC's Spirit of Thanks Tour to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda. Carnaggio said her first visit to the wounded warrior center last year had changed her life.

## NORAD gears up to track Santa Claus

By **CHERYL PELLERIN**  
American Forces Press Service

For the 56th year running, the North American Aerospace Defense Command will add the job of tracking the global flight of Santa on Christmas Eve to its mission of North American aerospace warning and control.

"NORAD stands the watch protecting the skies of North America 365 days a year, but on Christmas Eve the children of the world look to NORAD and our trusted partners to make sure that Santa is able to complete his mission safely," said Army Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr. Jacoby commands NORAD, as well as U.S. Northern Command, both based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado.

The NORAD Tracks Santa mission "is a duty to the children of the world," he added, "and a privilege we've enjoyed for 56 consecutive years."

From a NORAD video of the 2010 Santa flight, a military specialist looks up from a bank of computer screens:

"Sir," he says, turning to look at the

See **NORAD**, page 10

### WEATHER

Thurs.



43° | 31°

### INDEX

Pg 2	Opinion
Pg 2	Weather
Pg 6	FMWR
Pg 7	Post Shorts
Pg 7	Community Notes
Pg 11	RDECOM News
Pg 15	APG Snapshot



### Baltimore lights

City block draws thousands of visitors during annual light extravaganza

page 16



### Holiday Guide

Find out more about the top holiday spots in your area

page 17

### ONLINE

www.apg.army.mil  
apgnews.apg.army.mil  
apg.armylive.dodlive.mil/  
facebook.com/APGMd  
twitter.com/USAGAPG  
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**YES, APG, THERE IS A SANTA**

Read the most reprinted editorial ever to run in any newspaper in the English language. **PAGE 2**

# OPINION

## Yes, APG, there is a Santa Claus!

In 1897, Dr. Philip O'Hanlon, a coroner's assistant from Manhattan's, was asked by his then 8-year-old daughter, Virginia (1889-1971), whether Santa Claus really existed. O'Hanlon suggested she write to The New York Sun, a prominent New York City newspaper at the time, assuring her that "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." He unknowingly gave one of the paper's editors, Francis Pharcellus Church, an opportunity to rise above the simple question and address the philosophical issues behind it.

Church was a war correspondent during the American Civil War, a time which saw great suffering and a corresponding lack of hope and faith in much of society. Although the paper ran the editorial in the seventh place on the page, below even one on the newly invented "chainless bicycle", its message was very moving to many people who read it. More than a century later, the famous reply, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," remains the most reprinted editorial ever to run in any newspaper in the English language, and an indelible part of popular Christmas folklore in the United States.

DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. "Some of my little friends say there

Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence...



is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

"VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

"115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and

generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you

ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

## '0-0-1-3' - a different approach to responsible drinking

A program called "0-0-1-3" is an alcohol abuse prevention program that promotes making responsible choices with regard to alcohol use.

It supports the National Prevention Strategy to have a healthy and fit nation, by improving links between substance abuse, mental health, juvenile and criminal justice agencies to develop and disseminate effective prevention models.

In 2004, Warren Air Force Base developed the 0-0-1-3 program to address alcohol misuse as a result of a base-wide survey that found that the average airman thought "unsafe" drinking began with eight drinks or more.

Within the first year of implementing 0-0-1-3, alcohol-related incidents declined by 74 percent; there were 81 percent fewer cases of underage drinking and 45 percent fewer cases of drunk driving.

The U.S. Naval Academy also implemented the program in 2006. The 0-0-1-3 program has expanded from the Air Force to schools, colleges and communities nationwide with a goal of decreasing alcohol-related incidents. Several states have implemented -0-1-3 in order to curb underage drinking.

The 0-0-1-3 program emphasizes personal responsibility and is a way to also help change the drinking culture in the military. Think of 0-0-1-3 more as a way of life. It gives people a tool that they can use when they do consume alcohol.



**0-0-1-3 is based on science and is defined as "responsible, periodic drinking" by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Academy of Sciences.**

So, what does 0-0-1-3 actually stand for?

■ 0 - Zero drinks, if you're under the age of 21.

■ 0 - Zero DUIs (driving while under the influence)

■ 1 - One drink per hour (amount of alcohol that the liver can process in one hour)

■ 3 - No more than three drinks of alcohol per outing

0-0-1-3 is based on science and is

defined as "responsible, periodic drinking" by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Academy of Sciences. 0-0-1-3 became a community standard for underage drinking and for responsible use of alcohol among adults. People might not follow this standard, but they will at least start counting their drinks and comparing their habits to the standard.

In order to follow 0-0-1-3 and be

able to compare one's drinking habits to the standard, we need to know the size of a drink based on alcohol content.

What defines a drink?

A standard drink is equal to 13.7 grams (0.6 ounces) of pure alcohol or:

- 12 ounces of beer
- Eight ounces of malt liquor
- Five ounces of wine
- 1.5-ounces or a "shot" of 80-proof distilled spirits or liquor (e.g., gin, rum, vodka or whiskey).

Most people know that drinking alcohol can be harmful. It can affect a person's health and well-being by causing illness and injury. It can also affect a military person's career by causing them to be passed over for promotion or cause loss of time from duty.

The 0-0-1-3 program is about making responsible choices about drinking alcohol. It is not an excuse to drink every day. If you're underage or driving, don't drink; if you are of legal age to consume alcohol, be responsible. Think 0-0-1-3 before you drink.

■ 0 - Zero drinks, if you're under the age of 21

■ 0 - Zero DUIs (driving while under the influence)

■ 1 - One drink per hour

■ 3 - No more than three drinks per event

**BethAnn Cameron**

Health Educator

U.S. Army Public Health Command

### APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



43°|31°

Fri



46°|34°

Sat



41°|27°

Sun



43°|30°

Mon



46°|36°

Tue



49°|35°

Wed



48°|36°

## APG NEWS

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

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# OPD ROCKS event set Dec. 16

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground officers are encouraged to attend the ROCKS Inc. professional development session set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ball Conference Center Dec. 16.

The ROCKS Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides mentorship, scholarship and fellowship to ROTC cadets, active duty, reserve component, commissioned officers and active duty or reserve warrant officers. The organization, headquartered in Forestville, Md., also assists retired or former active duty commissioned or warrant officers.

According to its website ([www.rock-sinc.org](http://www.rock-sinc.org)), the ROCKS Inc. has "positioned itself as an essential leader in providing developmental guidance to members of the Army officer corps and ROTC cadets. Simultaneously, the organization provides information and processes to assist members transitioning into the civilian sector. The organization was formed to provide mentorship, professional development and social interaction to strengthen the officer corps and has steadily grown to a membership of more than 1,100 members in 14 chapters worldwide and two interest groups in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Lt. Col. Charles Asowata, director of the Chemical, Analytical and Remediation Activity (CARA, a sub-unit of the 20th Support Command -CBRNE), is an organizer of the upcoming event. He said one goal of the meeting is to form a group that will generate interest in the Aberdeen area. Mentorship and professional development are prime concerns of Brig. Gen. Leslie Smith, commander of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) and host of the event, Asowata said.

"He loves mentoring young officers.

**The best formula is for young officers to be mentored by senior officers and this provides a great forum for that. If we can gain enough interest then we might be able to form a new chapter here at APG.**

**Lt. Col. Charles Asowata**

Director of the Chemical, Analytical and Remediation Activity

This is something he's been trying to put together for some time."

Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, APG senior leader and commander of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, will be the guest speaker for the event.

"We have a number of dedicated officers working hard in preparation," Asowata said, adding that the event basically will be a "coming-out meeting" for officers' professional development.

"If we can gain enough interest then we might be able to form a new chapter here at APG," he said.

A medical service corps officer with a Ph.D. in biology, Asowata is a former executive officer of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense who helped plan the new complex currently under construction.

He said that ROCKS stands for Resourcefulness, Officership, Commitment, Knowledge and Scholarship and that the ROCKS Inc. vision is to be the premiere mentoring and networking organization to strengthen the U.S. Armed Forces Officer Corps.

"The best formula is for young officers to be mentored by senior officers and this provides a great forum for that," he said.

The ROCKS, Inc. began in the mid-1960s as an informal meeting of Army officers assigned to the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The group initially met to help support one another at Fort Leavenworth, and many members continued to meet after being reassigned to the Pentagon and elsewhere in the greater Washington, D.C., area.

In October 1974, Gen. R.C. Cartwright and Col. Robert B. Burke led an initiative to formally organize the growing network. They dubbed themselves the No Name Club until they agreed on a

formal name. Cartwright was killed in a plane crash shortly after and club members to name itself The ROCKS, Inc. and established the Roscoe C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund in their namesake's honor. Today, The ROCKS, Inc. has 23 active chapters across the Army (including one in Iraq).

ROCKS Inc. national programs include the R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund which annually recognizes ROTC cadets academic achievement; leadership outreach which assists students in transitioning from college to active duty; and the ROCKS 5-miler, an annual Washington, D.C. race and fundraiser for the R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund.

In addition to its scholarship fund, Leadership Outreach Programs enable ROCKS team members to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBUCs) to provide professional career and development guidance to ROTC students.

For more information, contact Capt. Malukah McCormick, commander of HHC Garrison, at 410-278-3000, or e-mail [malukah.s.mccormick.mil@mail.mil](mailto:malukah.s.mccormick.mil@mail.mil).



**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.

# APG civilians honored at retirement ceremony

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

Two civilians with 71 years of combined experience formally retired in front of family and friends during a Dec. 1 ceremony at APG's Ball Conference Center.

Retirees included Ardella Jackson and John D. Waltermyer who worked for U.S. Army Garrison.

"These ceremonies are important," said Col. Orlando W. Ortiz, APG garrison commander, who hosted the program. "They give us a way to say 'thank you' for all the sacrifices that you made serving our country throughout the years."

## **Ardella Jackson**

Ardella Jackson, who officially retired Oct. 31 after 39 years of service, received the Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation and the



**Jackson**

Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement, both signed by Ortiz.

Jackson, who was born in West Chester, Pa., began her federal service career as a clerk typist and later worked for Logistics Division. After working at APG for a number of years, she decided to apply for an apprenticeship in the Water and Wastewater division. During her interview for the apprenticeship, she was informed of the rotating work shift, working in inclement weather, working holidays and weekends, lifting, and coming in contact with chemicals; this information did not discourage her from accepting this position. Jackson later learned that there were not many women working in this occupation on the installation.

"I have a great appreciation for a career field that is often taken for granted," she said.

Jackson said she is not going to miss driving in rush hour traffic and sticking to a daily routine.

"I am looking forward to staying in bed when it rains, sleets and snows," she said.

Jackson plans to fill her days spending time with family, doing projects and

activities around the house and continuing her gospel music ministry.

Jackson was married to the late Michael L. Jackson; and has two daughters, three grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

## **John D. Waltermyer**

Waltermyer, who officially retired Oct. 31, after 32 years of service, received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for exceptional meritorious service as a contract performance specialist for the Directorate of Logistics, Maintenance Division, and U.S. Army Garrison APG, signed by Ortiz.



**Waltermyer**

Waltermyer also received the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement and the Army Certificate of Appreciation. Waltermyer's wife, Vicki Lynn, also received the Army Certificate of Appreciation, signed by Ortiz.

Waltermyer worked several jobs until taking a position in March of 1976 with the United States Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Md., as a firefighter. After the closure of the Bainbridge Naval Training Center in 1979, he transferred to the APG Fire Department as a firefighter. Some of the positions he held during his tenure at APG include: firefighter, protection specialist, federal employees' compensation act administrator, occupational safety and health specialist, and contract performance specialist.

Waltermyer's hobbies include working in his yard and volunteering with the Cub Scouts.

During retirement, he plans to continue working as an ordained minister at the Tabernacle Regular Baptist Church in Brogue, Pa. where he has served as a pastor for the past 20 years.

Waltermyer's retirement plans also include spending as much time with his family as possible. He has two children and six grandchildren.

"Time flies; it doesn't feel like I have worked at APG for 32 years," he said. "During retirement I want to continue to live each moment to its fullest."

# Federal employee? Know job hunting restrictions

By **LT. COL. ARTHUR KAFF**  
*CECOM, Office of the SJA*

Are you thinking about retiring? Are you thinking about leaving the government for a job in the private sector?

If so, be aware that there are laws that restrict your activities while job hunting. There are also laws that may restrict your activities after you have retired or left the government.

For example, if you are seeking employment with a company (e.g. you are interviewing with a company, or sending a resume), the federal conflict of interest law prohibits you from participating in a contract or other matter in the government that affects the financial interests of the same company.

This restriction applies to employees who make decisions on a contract, and also to employees who give advice or recommendations on a contract. You may also need to issue a written disqualification to your superiors and possibly others.

After you have retired or left the government, a number of post-government employment restrictions may apply to you. For example, a federal law prohibits you from representing a contractor or someone else before the government on a contract or other matter that you worked on while in the government.

This is the so-called “lifetime” ban. In addition, you are prohibited by law for two years from representing a contractor or someone else on a contract or other matter which was pending under your responsibility in your last year of government service. This is known as the “two-year ban.”

The Procurement Integrity Act also contains an employment restriction called the “1-year compensation ban.” The one-year ban applies to certain employees who hold certain positions, or makes certain decisions, on a contract over \$10 million.

Retired and former general officers and Senior Executive Service (SES) members are subject to a law called the 1-year “cooling off” period. Under this



## It's the Law

law, a former general officer or SES member may not communicate with their former agency for one year after retiring or leaving the government, on behalf of a company or anyone else, on a matter where official action is sought.

Military officers are not permitted to engage in representational activities before the government on behalf of a contractor or other non-Federal entity during transition leave. This prohibition extends to working in a government workplace during transition leave as a contractor employee.

Retired military members must seek permission from the secretary of the Army and the secretary of state before they can be employed by a foreign government.

This includes employment by commercial entities that are owned, operated, or controlled by a foreign government. A request for permission must first be submitted to the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, where it is reviewed before it is forwarded for a decision.

This article is general in nature.

There are also other restrictions that are not discussed in this article. Some of the above restrictions do not apply to enlisted members. Always contact an ethics counselor in your servicing legal office for advice and information on the rules that pertain to seeking employment, and the post-government employment restrictions.

# FAMILY AND MWR

## December bowling specials

■ Early Bird Special from 7am till 10am. Bowl for \$1.50 each game.

■ Friday Night Special after 9pm. Rent A Lane for \$10.00 for the hour. Includes up to 6 people as well as their shoes.

■ Sunday Football Special: 1 Hour of bowling for \$10.00, wings \$.50 each, Jr. Hot Dogs \$1.00 each, Slice Cheese Pizza \$1.00 each slice, 16oz

soda \$.50 and draft beer \$1.50.

### 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

### Week of December 5

Special #1: Grilled Ham and cheese with soup of the day, cookie and regular soda for \$5.95.

Special #2: Chicken tender Sub with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.25.

### Week of December 12

Special #1: Tuna salad sandwich with chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.75.

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

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

*Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.*



## Tickets for Sale

All tickets can be purchased at the Family and MWR Leisure Travel Services. For more info, call 410-278-4011/4907

Discounted tickets from Family and MWR Leisure Travel Services will make great stocking stuffers for Family, friends and co-workers. Save money this holiday season when you purchase these tickets at the Family and MWR Leisure Travel Office.

### Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia

The public is invited to see scores of original buildings, hundreds of homes, shops, and public buildings

re-constructed over 301 acres - most on their original foundations- and rare animal breeds. Trades and gardens add layers of authenticity to the re-created town. Tickets are \$30.25 for two adult consecutive day passes and \$15.25 for children ages 6-17.

### Harlem Globetrotters

1st Mariner Marina Dec. 30 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18.50 per person. Seats are located in Section 104.

### White House Christmas Ornament

Their price: \$18.95 and up  
Our price: \$16.50

### AMC Movie Tickets

Their price: \$10.50  
Our price: \$8.75

## Regal Movie Premiere Tickets (no expiration and good for any movie)

Their price: \$10.50  
Our price: \$8.25

### National Aquarium Tickets

Their price: \$26.90/adults  
\$21.90/children  
Our price: \$23.25/adults  
\$17.50/children

### Ski Lift Tickets to Roundtop, Liberty, and Whitetail, Pa.

Their price: \$66-\$68/person  
Our price: \$55/person

### Cirque du Soleil Tribute to Michael Jackson on May 6, 2012 at 4 p.m.

Their price: \$200  
Our price: \$175

### Universal Orlando Resort

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.

### Top of the Bay opening

Community members are invited to attend the Top of the Bay grand opening celebration Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information about the Top of the Bay or to schedule an event, call Teri Hall at 410-278-3062.

### 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.

### APG Running Club

The APG Sports and Fitness Branch has begun a Running Club for organized weekly runs. Club members meet at 5 p.m. every Tuesday at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center and 5 p.m. every Thursday at Hoyle Gym in the Edgewood Area.

Byron Reasin, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Aberdeen Athletic Center, oversees the club. For more information, contact Byron at 410-278-7933/7934 or e-mail, Byron.a.reasin@us.army.mil.

### Slots still open on girls basketball team

The APG Youth Services girls basketball team is seeking members, ages 10-12. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. To register or for more information, call CYSS at 410-278-7571 or Youth Sports and Fitness at 410-306-2297.

### Armed Forces Vacation Club

Planning a vacation? The Armed Forces Vacation Club has tons of incredible discounts on spacious accommodations all over the world. Seven-night stays at select location start as low as \$349.

All active military service members and their direct dependants, retired military and their direct dependants, DoD civilian employees and their direct dependants and 100 percent disabled American Veterans are authorized to take advantage of these amazing deals.



# POST SHORTS

## Blue Cross rep visit

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim rep of the Service Benefit Plan (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) to visit APG Dec. 13. The rep will be available 9 to 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 314, Room 151E to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. Reps will be available from 12:30 to 13:30 p.m. in Bldg E4516 (CDTF). No appointment is necessary.

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

## Vet clinic update

The APG Veterinary Clinic is offering dog and cat baths. Includes shampoo, nail clipping and expressing their anal glands. Large dogs \$25, small dogs \$15 and cats \$15. If your pet is on a medicated shampoo and your bring it, the cost will be \$5 less.

The clinic always has a vaccine boarding package for \$38, which includes wellness exam, Bordetella shot (kennel cough) and K9 influenza shot for well dogs.

Patrons can meet the new vet Dr. Carol Bossone during the clinic's regular operating hours: Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday

from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Call 410-278-4604 to schedule an appointment.

## Military Engineers meeting

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post December 2011 meeting will be at the Wetland Golf Club in Aberdeen at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 15. This month's featured speaker is Col. Bill Montgomery, chief of staff for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command. Montgomery's presentation is titled, "CECOM Priorities, Accomplishments and Business Opportunities." Register online at <http://www.same-chesapeake.org> or call 410-638-9699.

## Ormond named new RDECOM deputy to CG

The Office of the Secretary of the Army Civilian Senior Leader Management

Office has officially announced Mr. Dale A. Ormond to the position of deputy to the commander, RDECOM, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, effective Jan. 1, 2012. Ormond is currently the deputy to the commanding general, Combined

Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

## Environmental Assessment

Aberdeen Proving Ground prepared a draft environmental assessment of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with the construction of recreational facilities within APG North (Aberdeen).

The project involves building recreational vehicle campsites along Swan Creek, a tributary feeding into the Chesapeake Bay, along with a number of other recreational and support facilities. The draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact are available for review at <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/directories/dpw/>. Comments will be accepted until Jan. 4, 2012. They can be addressed to USAGAPG, ATTN: IMNE-APG-PWE (Carol Young), 4304 Susquehanna Avenue, 3rd Floor, Wing B, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005-5001.

## Mini PDI set Jan. 26 APG

The American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) Chesapeake Chapter is hosting a Mini Professional Development Institute Jan. 26, 2012, at

Bulle Rock located in Havre de Grace.

Themed "The Future Is Now", the Chapter's first full-day training event will feature current Resource Management and Acquisition topics, the latest in professional development opportunities, and motivational speakers.

The cost of the event is projected at \$130 for ASMC Members (\$160 non-members) and will include lunch and CPE credit.

Those interested in becoming an ASMC Chesapeake Chapter member should contact Connie Lucas at 443-861-6947 or [connie.m.lucas4@mail.mil](mailto:connie.m.lucas4@mail.mil). ASMC is a non-profit educational and professional organization for military and civilian personnel involved in the overall field of military comptrollership.

Visit <http://www.orgsites.com/md/asmc-chesapeake/index.html> for information. Registration details will be announced soon.



**MORE ONLINE**

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

# COMMUNITY NOTES

## THURSDAY

### DECEMBER 8 TINY WONDERS

Eden Mill Nature Center offers "Tiny Wonders." What do preschoolers wonder about? Let us answer their questions on topics of high interest for 2-5 year olds. A former teacher works to cultivate a child's natural curiosity through stories, music, crafts, movement and dramatic play.

Tiny Wonders will be offered on Dec. 8 from 10-11:30 a.m. (Hiding From Winter), and Dec. 14 (Mouse House) from 10-11:30 a.m. The fee for each date is \$8 per member and \$6 per member sibling or \$10 per non-member. Pre-registration is required by calling 410-836-3050 or by emailing [edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com](mailto:edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com). Visit [www.edenmill.org](http://www.edenmill.org) for information.

## SATURDAY

### DECEMBER 10 NAME THAT TREE - WINTER EDITION

Ever wondered what a certain evergreen tree is? Bring in a twig sample and learn a quick and easy way to tell a pine from a spruce from a fir from a hemlock from a cedar from a... In fact, bring in many twigs from many different needled trees. Have a Christmas tree? Bring in a twig from that as well. This program will be held 1 to 2 pm for all ages and online registration is required at [www.otterpointcreek.org](http://www.otterpointcreek.org).

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

## SUNDAY

### DECEMBER 11 TRIM THE TREE FOR WILDLIFE

Share the holiday spirit with wildlife. Create simple outdoor decorations that also benefit the critters that live outside.

This program will be held 3 to 4:30 p.m. for all ages, children under 10 must be with an adult.

The cost is \$5 per person and online registration is required at [www.otterpointcreek.org](http://www.otterpointcreek.org).

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

## MONDAY

### DECEMBER 12 AMERICAN LEGION EVENTS

The American Legion Susquehanna Post 135 (300 Cherry St. in Perryville) will host a Chicken & Dumpplings dinner Dec. 12 and 19 4:30 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$8/person for all-you-can-eat or \$5/quart for carry-out. Open to the public.



**MORE ONLINE**

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

# Army finds STEM Superstars in Bel Air

Story and photo by  
**ALLISON BARROW**  
*RDECOM CERDEC Public Affairs*

“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

It’s a question children are asked often and a U.S. Army educational outreach program hopes to increase the number of children who respond with “an engineer.”

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command’s communications-electronics center, or CERDEC, piloted a science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, program for students in first-through-fifth grade, Nov. 7 – 10, Hickory Elementary School, Bel Air, Md.

## **Career path**

“Piloting a STEM program with local elementary schools allows CERDEC to demonstrate to students that engineering is an enjoyable, attainable and rewarding career path. Encouraging students to pursue science and math early in their education can help ensure our country has a competitive and successful S&T workforce in the future,” said Jill Smith, CERDEC director.

The STEM Superstar program aims to teach students what an engineer is, to show how they practice science and engineering in their everyday lives and to demonstrate that engineering can be a fun and creative science, said Erica Bertoli, CERDEC Outreach Program Office team lead.

Upon hearing about the plans for this new program, the fourth grade teachers at Hickory approached Bertoli to have it piloted at their school.

“We are always looking for ways to get the students excited about learning. We have also been exploring ways to incorporate more STEM-related activities into the curriculum,” said Verna Hiser, fourth grade teacher at Hickory.

## **Global learning**

“Students need STEM opportunities to learn about the world around them. Incorporating problem solving and inquiry into curricula in the form of real world problems helps students learn to think critically about their world,” Hiser said. “Teaching students to problem solve and persevere will help them become global learners.”

During the week-long pilot, each class



Fourth grade students at Hickory Elementary School create a prototype that could assist a superhero as their “engineering mission” in the STEM Superstar program pilot.

received an hour-long lesson on engineering, which including participation in an “engineering mission” based on their grade level, where they were presented with a problem then given a box of arts-and-craft supplies in order to build a prototype technology to solve it.

“It was very fun making a prototype,” said Tara, a fourth grader whose class was placed on a mission to create technology that would assist a superhero. “We made ‘Supermom;’ she can fly and walk really fast.”

## **Stuck on the moon**

The first and second grade classes were given the scenario of being stuck on the moon after their spaceship stopped work-

ing, and their mission was to build something that would help their parents find them. The third grade classes’ mission was to build something to defend their school from an alien attack. The fifth graders had the mission to create a technology to make the world a better place.

“The students loved the activity. They were all excited to talk about their designs,” said Hiser.

## **Just imagine**

“One of the things that we find when we talk to elementary students is that it’s less about knowing how to do the science than it is about understanding what the science is,” said Bertoli. “The idea of this program is to take something that

these students are already doing; something they already love, which is using their imagination, building things, creating ideas and tying it to the idea of engineering for them, so that it gives them this whole new avenue of possibility to explore as they get older,” said Bertoli.

## **Taking it further**

CERDEC Outreach and the teachers from Hickory will evaluate the pilot of the program to determine what worked and what can be improved with the potential of bringing it to more schools in the future.

“Our goal is to always bring the programs to as many students as resources will allow,” said Bertoli.

# APG takes Spirit of Thanks Tour II

Continued from Page 1

24 CSSC professionals to make the trip Nov. 28.

The venue had changed, as Walter Reed merged in September 2011 with the Bethesda Naval Hospital to form the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The patients they visited, however, were the same – American service men and women wounded in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Armed with baskets of donated gift cards and other goodies, the group visited three WRNMMC sites: patient wards, therapy clinics and the Fisher House. The tour had been preceded by many others, as the Wounded Warrior Center is continually visited by members of congress, professional sports teams and other luminaries.

APG's Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades coordinated the visit as one of his last official acts as garrison senior enlisted adviser. Rhoades is being reassigned in early 2012.

Calling the wounded warriors "our brothers and sisters," Rhoades prepared the visitors for what they were about to see.

"We have a unique opportunity to lift the spirits of some of our nation's very finest," he said. "When we do that, you

**For many of us our work keeps us connected to national defense and some aspect of homeland security, but nothing brings home the true sacrifice of our service men and women in protecting our freedoms than a first-hand encounter with those who have put themselves in harm's way.**

**Karen Holt**  
CSSC manager

have to be cautious about what you say and what you show. I am always cautious about the emotions that I show when talking to them about what they have gone through.

"They just want to be Soldiers. They want to continue to serve their country. So take the time to put your game face on – do just that. Put a smile on your face and put your game face on. And in each room you go in you're going to have to figure out what touches that individual, what's the driving force for that individ-

ual. Many of them will tell you stories, and many of them will look for you to tell them stories.

"Our nation is doing an incredible job taking care of our service members and I couldn't be prouder to be a member of your Army. And that's truly who we represent – you and this great nation," Rhoades said.

CSSC manager Karen Holt said the visit is a valuable experience for everyone.

"For many of us our work keeps us

connected to national defense and some aspect of homeland security, but nothing brings home the true sacrifice of our service men and women in protecting our freedoms than a first-hand encounter with those who have put themselves in harm's way," Holt said.

"Saying 'Thank you for your service' seems but a small gesture; however, the genuine interest, compassion and support shown by each of you representing the APG community goes a long way to boost spirits and reinforce that our service men and women are a valued and integral part of our community."

Because of tour-size restrictions, the CSSC offered the visit to fewer participants this year. Those who took part helped reinforce the partnership between APG and the surrounding community. They also took away poignant memories of the great sacrifices America's service members have made in service of their country.

"Keep that spirit alive beyond this experience," Holt said. "Reaching out in small ways to a passing Soldier at a local diner, a military family you see at an event or a veteran in your neighborhood can keep our community connected in ways we may never know."

## Find out where to get your weather news

Continued from Page 1

Terri Kaltenbacher, acting Garrison public affairs officer. "With the prevalence of smart phones, most people can access this information fairly quickly on their own."

Kearney said the closure of federal offices in the Greater Baltimore metro area does not apply to APG, and the delay or closure of Harford County schools does not indicate the installation's operational status. During a snow event the garrison takes into consideration how quickly the Department of Public Works can clear the roads, sidewalks and major parking lots on APG.

He said with the installation's 82 garrison-supported organizations and their multifaceted critical missions, the command group does not take decision to close the post lightly.

The garrison also coordinates with the Harford County Emergency Operations Center to determine local driving conditions. If conditions are safe to drive on post but deemed dangerous off post, then a liberal leave policy may go into effect for APG personnel.

"During liberal leave, employees need to get in touch with their supervisor to take annual leave," said Chris Gomez, a Human Resources specialist with the Civilian Human Resources Agency. "It is up to management to determine if the mission of the organization can survive that day without that person. On days where there is a delay or the post closes, employees do not need to take annual leave, if they were scheduled to work that day."

For weather updates, visit the APG homepage at [www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/](http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/), APG's Twitter <http://twitter.com/USAGAPG>, Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/APGMd>, or call 410-278-SNOW (7669).

### Where to go for info

If the installation closes, experiences a delay or if liberal leave is in effect due to weather or other emergency situations, visit the APG homepage at [www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/](http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/), APG's Twitter <http://twitter.com/USAGAPG>, Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/APGMd>, or call 410-278-SNOW (7669).

Or check for postings on local television and radio stations.

Station	Frequency	Location
WXCY	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WARM	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WBAL-TV	Channel 11	Baltimore
WMAR-TV	Channel 2	Baltimore
WBFF-TV	Channel 45	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13	Baltimore

## Next performance set at rec center Dec. 19

Continued from Page 1

Life,' said they would also be purchasing tickets for 'A Christmas Carol.'"

Play director Tricia Devine, who leads the theater group, called the two-hour performance a shining success, thanks to the devotion and skill of the actors.

"We have a very diverse group of people in the cast, but common thread is their utter dedication," said Devine. "Collectively, they put in hundreds of volunteer hours and hundreds of dollars for props and costumes to make this show a success.

"That lets you know it's coming from that heart, and that you're going to get a great show, because these people are in it, just for the love it," she said.

Tim McNamara, the deputy to the garrison commander, attended the show and said it got him and wife Gail in the Christmas spirit. McNamara said he was impressed with the director's adaption.

"I wasn't sure how it would translate from the screen to stage, but it was done well," he said.

McNamara said he was also impressed with the acting skill of the main characters and the graphic scenery.

Devine said she chose to use digital screen graphics instead of costly backdrops to both save money and keep the



Photo by Rachel Ponder

The cast of "It's A Wonderful Life" gather onstage for the final scene of the Christmas classic at the post theater Dec. 4. The group will perform "A Christmas Carol" Dec. 19 at the APG North recreation center Dec. 19.

audience engaged.

"It's a technique I have seen used on Broadway, and I wanted to bring it here to APG," she said. "I received a lot of positive feedback on the digital screens."

Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz and APG Command Sgt. Maj. Rod-

ney Rhoades, who were unable to attend the weekend performances, stopped by the group's Dec. 5 end-of-season wrap party at the recreation center to thank the actors for their performances.

The group will perform A Christmas Carol at the recreation center Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. Active duty military members and

children 12 and under get in free. Tickets are \$5 for the general public.

To purchase tickets online or in person, call 410-278-4011/4907 at APG North or 410-436-2713 at APG South.

To view and download photos, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>.

# Toy-shopping tips make for a safer holiday

By **LISA J. YOUNG**  
*U.S. Army Public Health Command*

This season, choose toys that will make the holiday season a safe one.

Toys should be a source of fun and learning for children. Too often toys with poor design, toys that are too old for a child, or a toy in bad repair can lead to serious, even fatal injuries.

When choosing a toy, make sure to match the toy to the child's abilities. A toy that is too advanced or too simple for a child may be misused, which can lead to injury.

Keep in mind these handy tips when shopping for holiday toys:

- Think BIG when choosing toys. All toy parts should be larger than the child's mouth to prevent choking and other injuries.

- NEVER give any toy with small parts to a child under three, and keep small parts away from older children who still put toys in their mouths.

- Make sure small parts of larger toys cannot break off.

- Keep deflated or broken balloons away from children. If suddenly inhaled, they can cause suffocation.

- Read the instructions before buying a toy. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide.

- Hold noisemaking toys next to your own ear to determine whether it will be too loud for a young child.

- Look for sturdy toy construction. The eyes, nose and other small parts on soft toys and stuffed animals should be securely fastened.

- Avoid toys with sharp edges.

- Ensure that tips of arrows and darts are blunt, made of soft rubber or plastic, and securely fastened to the shaft.

- Reserve hobby kits, such as chemistry sets, for a child older than 12. Provide proper supervision for children ages 12 to 15.

For information on recent recalls and product safety news, visit the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at <http://www.cpsc.gov/> or the American Academy of Pediatrics at [http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/collection/health\\_alerts](http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/collection/health_alerts).

The chart below provides some age-appropriate toy suggestions:

Newborn – 1 Year	1 – 2 Years (Toddler)	3 – 5 Years (Preschooler)	5 – 10 Years
Toys for this age group should be colorful and textured to appeal to baby's sight, hearing and touch.	Toys for this age group should be soft and able to withstand a toddler's curious nature.	Toys for this age group are usually experimental and should imitate the activities of parents and older children.	Toys for this age group should help promote skill development, creativity, and play with others.
large blocks	cloth and plastic books with large pictures	books/puzzles with large pieces	blunt scissors, sewing sets
pots and pans	sturdy dolls	Large Mega Blocks	card games
rattles	kiddy cars	outdoor toys (swing sandbox, slide)	balls/sports equipment/roller skates
soft, washable animals, dolls and balls	musical tops	crayons, finger paint, clay	crafts
bright, moveable objects out of reach of infant	nesting and stacking toys	black board and chalk	hand puppets
floating bath toys	push and pull toys (with no long strings)	dress up clothes	bicycles
squeeze toys	toy telephones	tea party utensils	easy computer games

# NORAD Santa tracker

Continued from Page 1

camera, "we've picked up 'Big Red' on the radar. He's entering from the northeast.

"Recommend fighter escort as he transitions over North America," the specialist adds, as the video shows an F-16 moving down the runway.

This year, the NORAD Tracks Santa website went live Dec. 1 and features a Countdown Calendar, a Kid's Countdown Village with holiday games and activities that change daily, and video messages from students and troops from around the world.

The website is available in English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese and Chinese.

For the first time, using free apps in the Apple iTunes Store and in the Android market, parents and children can use their smart phones to count down the days until Santa and his reindeer take off from the North Pole to deliver presents to kids everywhere.

Facebook, Google+, YouTube and Twitter also offer tracking opportunities. Santa followers can type "@noradsanta" into each search engine to get started.

And that's not the only technology that goes into the Santa tracking mission. To track the big man in red, NORAD uses radar, satellites, Santa cams and fighter jets.

A NORAD radar system called the North Warning System consists of 47 installations strung across the northern border of North America. On Dec. 24, NORAD monitors the radar systems continuously for indications that Santa Claus has left the North Pole.

The moment radar indicates a lift-off, satellites positioned in geo-synchronous orbit at 22,300 miles from the Earth's surface are equipped with infrared sensors, which enable them to detect heat. Rudolph's bright red nose gives off an infrared signature that allows the satellites to detect Santa's sleigh.

NORAD started using the Santa cam network in 1998. Santa cams, according to

NORAD, are ultra-cool, high-tech, high-speed digital cameras prepositioned at many locations around the world. They use the cameras once a year to capture images and videos of Santa and his reindeer.

In the air, Canadian NORAD pilots flying the CF-18 fighter will intercept and welcome Santa to North America.

In the United States, American NORAD fighter pilots in F-15s, F-16s or F-22 Raptors will fly alongside Santa's airborne sleigh pulled by his famous reindeer: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph.

Once data is collected on Dec. 24, it is pushed into Google Maps and Google Earth so families all over the world can follow Santa.

Thanks to these systems and technologies, starting at midnight Mountain Standard Time on Dec. 24, visitors to the NORAD Santa website can watch Santa's progress around the globe.

It all started in 1955 when a Sears media advertisement directed kids to call Santa Claus but printed a telephone number that rang through to the crew commander on duty at the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center.

The colonel on duty told his staff to give all children who called in a "current location" for Santa Claus. The tradition continued when NORAD replaced CONAD in 1958.

"The [NORAD Tracks Santa] effort," Jacoby said, "could not be carried out without the superb assistance of numerous government and nongovernment contributors."

"It is the generosity of these contributors, the hard work of the more than 1,200 volunteers who man the NORAD Tracks Santa Operations Center, and vigilance of the Canadian and U.S. forces who work at NORAD that guarantees the program's success each and every year," Jacoby said.

# RDECOM NEWS

## APG celebrates holiday at Aberdeen parade



Story and photo by  
**DAN LAFONTAINE**  
RDECOM

Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldiers joined the Aberdeen community Dec. 3 on a sunny, brisk afternoon for festivities, including a holiday parade and a visit from St. Nick.

About 1,000 people gathered along Bel Air Avenue for Aberdeen's 35th annual Christmas Street Parade. The crowd enjoyed an up-close look as APG leadership rode atop Army vehicles that are

researched, developed and tested here. Maj. Gen. Nick Justice and Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command led the convoy on a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle. Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco and Command Sgt. Maj. Allen Fritzsching of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command donned helmets in the turrets of a Stryker Armored Fighting Vehicle. Col. Thomas Langowski of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) followed in an MRAP Buffalo.

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The APG Fire Department drove Col. Orlando Ortiz and Master Sgt. John Cavaliere of the garrison in a ladder truck. Col. Jeffrey Holt of Aberdeen Test Center concluded the Army section in a Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle Wrecker.

## Army finalizes STEM vehicle for recruiting trail

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**  
RDECOM

After five months of engineering and production work, the U.S. Army has completed its first vehicle designed for recruiting civilian scientists.

The Army will unveil the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Asset Vehicle during All-American Bowl Week Jan. 6 in San Antonio. The Army demonstrates its latest technological advancements in the Army Technology Zone before the annual game.

Before the vehicle's official launch in January, students from seven Maryland schools will have an opportunity for a hands-on look. The STEM Asset vehicle is a modified tractor-trailer equipped with high-definition TVs and touchscreen computers. Students will explore a futuristic scenario by designing new Army technology to protect lives from civil unrest.

Elkton, Dundalk and Joppatowne high schools and Perryville, Holabrid, Parkville and Havre de Grace middle schools are scheduled for beta testing Dec. 5 to 8, said Louie Lopez, STEM outreach coordinator for the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

The STEM Asset Vehicle is designed to publicize STEM careers and demonstrate how civilian scientists and engineers help to ensure America's national security, right along with uniformed Soldiers, Lopez said.

After the vehicle's unveiling, Army recruiters and subject matter experts will drive it across the United States to STEM education outreach events.



Photo by Conrad Johnson  
The Army will unveil the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Asset Vehicle during All-American Bowl Week Jan. 6 in San Antonio. Before the vehicle's official launch in January, students from seven Maryland schools will have an opportunity for a hands-on look.

# 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>.



## MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

James Brasco (left) demonstrates a basic wrestling position for a double leg takedown by dropping a level on Ponyboy Miller (right) during a mixed martial arts seminar held at the APG North (Aberdeen) Athletic Center Nov. 30. Tony Strapa, a black belt karate instructor, and Jerry Estrada, who has an extensive background in boxing and standup jujitsu, will lead an on-post MMA class beginning Dec. 12. "Mixed martial arts teaches you self defense, promotes physical fitness and improves stamina," said Brasco, a global cage fighting MMA champion who created the curriculum for the class. In the spring Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host another seminar featuring standup jujitsu and boxing. For more information call 410-278-4011/7934.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

(From left) Theresa Porter, administrative assistant to the APG garrison commander, Spc. Billie Pardue of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and HHC Garrison commander Capt. Malukah McCormick, lead "Joy to the World" during the Nov. 30 APG North Tree Lighting festivities. Guests were served hot chocolate along with a holiday message from APG senior leader, Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, who encouraged everyone to "make sure you pause to give thanks for all the blessings."

Photo by Yvonne Johnson



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

## CHRISTMAS WISHES

APG North firefighter volunteers will collect and respond to Letters to Santa through Dec. 21. The annual event started six years ago and has become a tradition within the fire department according to Fire Inspector T.C. Glassman, who said this is the firefighters' way of contributing to the holidays. Children should include their age and gender in the letter, as well as their return address on the envelope. Glassman credited the installation's Thrift Shop with helping make the program possible by donating funds for stamps, envelopes and stationery. For more information, call Glassman at 410-306-0600.



Courtesy photo

## APG YOUTH SPORTS

In APG Youth Sports' latest achievement, the Under 10 (U-10) girls soccer team (pictured) defeated Havre de Grace to win the Eastern Southern Soccer League championship. The deciding games took place at the APG North Youth Center sports field Nov. 5 and 6. Bill Kegley, team coach and director of youth sports, said the U-8 boys prevailed as well with both teams playing two games each, both days. Kegley said the feisty girls beat a tough opponent. Assistant coach Steve Medinger said four of the players had never played before but had excelled by the end of the season and unified as a team. Kegley expressed appreciation to the players and to all parents and volunteer coaches, including assistant coaches Jason Hayes and Gerard Jones and team mom Christine Gifford.

# Hampden's Miracle on 34th Street brings holiday cheer



By **RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Every year during Christmastime, the 700 block of 34th Street in Baltimore's Hampden community glows—literally—thanks to a tradition that started in 1947. This free event, organized by the street's residents, is a popular Baltimore attraction.

Every house on both sides of the street is adorned with bright lights and a variety of holiday decorations including trains, inflatable Santas, themed Christmas trees and more.

The location becomes a major local tourist attraction for visitors from throughout the U.S. and abroad as people travel the area. The block sometimes draws more than 1,000 visitors on a single evening.

One resident, artist Jim Pollock, is known for his hubcap Christmas tree on his front lawn and snowmen made of bicycle wheels. Pollock also allows visitors into his house which displays work from local artists.

Residents Elaine Doyle-Gillespie and husband Ed are known for their "Peace House," which features blue lights, doves, peace symbols and various religious symbols. Visitors are invited to leave comments about world peace.

"I love seeing the looks on the children's faces when they see our decorations," said resident Cynthia Spriggs, who has been decorating her house since she moved to the street eight years ago. "This year is special to our family because this is Isabelle's first Christmas; she is the second youngest resident on the street; she loves seeing all the decorations and the people."

According to the event website, the block is listed as No. 8 on the Top Ten Places to Visit for Holiday Lights across the USA on MSN.com. The site also reminds motorists that because it is a residential area and there is no reserved parking, all street and parking signs should be observed. Motorists are also asked to be mindful of the neighbors when parking and walking the block.

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

**Miracle on 34th Street, located on the 700 block of 34 Street in Baltimore's Hampden community, received recognition this year as No. 8 on the list of Top 10 Places to Visit for Holiday Lights across the USA on MSN.com. Every house on both sides of the street is brightly adorned with lights and a wide variety of holiday decorations.**

Photos by Yvonne Johnson



A robot nativity scene decorates a house on the street.



Whimsical themed Christmas trees, like this tree made out vinyl LP records, attracts visitors.

(At left) Santa and Mrs. Claus give their undivided attention to a child.

# APG News Maryland Holiday Guide

Are you new to Maryland? Or just looking for something festive to do with the family this holiday season? Well here's a listing that should save your computer mouse some mileage.

The APG News staff put together a one-stop listing of local holiday events taking place between now and the New Year – a little something for everyone if you will - in Harford, Baltimore and Cecil counties.

This listing may not be all inclusive but it is a good starting point and most of the events are free.

Happy Holidays from the APG News staff!

## Baltimore City

For other Baltimore holiday activities see <http://baltimore.org/holiday>.

### Power Plant Holiday Light Show Spectacular

Power Plant lights up the Inner Harbor this holiday season with an unforgettable display of lights, lasers, music and more!

**Where:** Power Plant Live (Two blocks north of the Inner Harbor at Market Place and Water Street) in Baltimore, Maryland)

**When:** Saturday December 31, Sunday – Thursday: 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, Friday – Saturday: 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm.

**Price:** Free

### Power Plant's "Rock the Dock" Family Holiday Bash

Festive live music, holiday themed arts and crafts, games, food and drink, great giveaways and even train rides along the promenade.

**Where:** Power Plant Live in Baltimore, Maryland

**When:** Saturday, December 10, 1pm – 5pm.

### The Chanukah House

A Baltimore tradition since 1980, the Chanukah house celebrates the miracle of Chanukah

Visitors hail from places as far away as Israel and Russia. The house will be open for the whole month of December.

**Where:** 6721 Greenspring Avenue. Baltimore, Maryland 21209

**Price:** Free (donations accepted)

**Website:** <http://thechanukahhouse.com/home.html>

### Kwanzaa Family Day

This year's celebration of community and family features a special performance by Keur Khaley African Dance Company and fascinating stories brought to life by actress Maria Broom. The event is inspired by Hand Held: Personal Arts from Africa.

Come and create your own African textiles and hand-held treasures!

**Where:** Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Drive Baltimore, MD 21218

**When:** Dec. 28, 2011

**Price:** Free

**Website:** [www.artbma.org](http://www.artbma.org)

## Harford County

For other holiday events see [www.harfordmd.com/harford-county-maryland-events](http://www.harfordmd.com/harford-county-maryland-events).

### Holiday Art Show

Find holiday shopping ideas like fine art paintings, prints, photography, note cards, artisan jewelry, pottery and more. This site will be a drop off center for "TOYS FOR TOTS."

The event will also feature local artists Diane Quick, Jackie Swartz and Alex Kopp.

**Where:** Harford Artist Gallery, 503 Churchville Road, Bel Air, Md.

**When:** Thursdays and Fridays 1 to 6 p.m., Saturdays noon to 6 p.m., Sundays noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 8-11, 15-18, 22-23.

**Price:** Free

**Website:** <http://www.artinharford.org>

### Applewood Farm Christmas Season

Applewood Farm features Christmas trees, a petting zoo, hay rides, train rides, lawn games and a 1773 decorated Log Barn.

**Where:** Applewood Farm, 4435 Prospect Road, Whiteford, Md.

**When:** Dec 10, 11, 17 and 18

**Price:** Admission is \$3 per person. Children under 3 get in free. Only cash is accepted at the gate; Visa and MasterCard are accepted on the farm.

**Website:** [www.applewoodfarm.org](http://www.applewoodfarm.org)

**Phone:** 410-836-1140



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

Decoration like this one abound in the 700 block of 34th Street in Baltimore's Hampden community, where thousands visit the neighborhood's annual Christmastime tradition of decorating every home. This free event, organized by the street's residents, is a popular Baltimore attraction.

### Hays House Museum Holiday Open House

The museum is arrayed in natural decorations for the holidays. Listen to music by the Catherine Street Consort.

**Where:** Hays House Museum, 324 Kenmore Avenue, Bel Air, MD

**When:** 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

410-838-7691

**Website:** [www.harfordhistory.net](http://www.harfordhistory.net).

### Hometown Bel Air Holiday Christmas

Features faculty and staff of Maryland Conservatory of Music, directed by Duke Thompson.

**Where:** Bel Air Armory, 37 N Main St, Bel Air, MD

**When:** Dec. 10, 2 p.m.

**Price:** Free

**Website:** [www.musicismagic.com](http://www.musicismagic.com)

### Handel's Messiah

The Harford Choral Society will perform excerpts from Handel's Messiah and the Bach Christmas Oratorio with orchestra and soloists.

**When:** Dec. 17, 7-9 p.m.

**Where:** St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 1200 Churchville Rd, Bel Air, MD

**Price:** adults \$20, seniors \$15, students \$10

**Website:** <http://www.harfordchoralsociety.org>

### Second Annual Menorah Lighting

People of all faiths can celebrate together in the lighting of the Jewish Menorah. The celebration includes music, magic for kids, food & community fellowship.

**Where:** Shamrock Park, 39 N. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, MD

**When:** Dec. 20, 4:30 to 6:00 pm

**Price:** Free

### 1st Annual Holiday Movie Night

Come see *Elf* at the Armory starring Will Farrell.

**When:** Dec. 16, 6 – 9 pm

**Price:** Admission is free, popcorn for \$1. Bring a wrapped toy and popcorn is free!

**Phone:** 410-638-1023

**Website:** [www.downtownbelair.com](http://www.downtownbelair.com)

### Havre de Grace Historic Church Tour

Begin at Havre de Grace Methodist Church, 101 S. Union Avenue, Havre de Grace Enjoy a self-guided tour of the 19th & 20th century churches of Havre de Grace. Beautiful stained glass windows, Christmas decorations & Nativity scenes. Presented by Susquehanna Ministerium.

**Price:** Free

**Phone:** 410-939-2464

### Dec 31st Havre de Grace New Year's Eve Duck Drop and Fireworks display

Close to Midnight Havre de Grace Middle School/ HdG Activity Center, 401 Lewis Lane, HdG Celebration of the New Year 2011 featuring annual "Duck Drop" and great fireworks display.

**Price:** Free

**Phone:** 410-939-2100,

**Website:** [www.hdgtourism.com](http://www.hdgtourism.com)

## Cecil County

For other holiday events see [www.ccgov.org/tourism](http://www.ccgov.org/tourism).

### Hidden Holiday Treasure Hunt

Visit the downtown Elkton merchants and view beautifully decorated storefront windows and businesses while playing a scavenger hunt game. Once the game is completed, you will be entered to win a Merchant Gift Basket filled with gift certificates and items donated by local members. Last day to play the game is Friday, December 16, 2011.

**When:** Through December 16

**Where:** Downtown Elkton, Md.

**Price:** Free

**Phone:** 410-398-5076

**Website:** [www.elktonalliance.org](http://www.elktonalliance.org)

### Cecil County Holly Tree "Santa Night"

The Cecil County Holly Tree, also known as the B&O Holly Tree and the Traveler's Christmas Tree has been a holiday tradition for more than 60 years.

**Where:** 1 Holly Tree Lane, Perryville

**When:** Dec. 17, 5-8 p.m.

**Price:** Free

**Website:** [www.cecilhollytree.com](http://www.cecilhollytree.com)

### Visit Santa & Mrs. Clause

Visit Santa and Mrs. Clause and get one free photo per family. Purchase gift baskets and fruit baskets available for holiday giving.

**Where:** Milburn Orchards, 1495 Appleton Road, Elkton

**When:** Dec. 10, 11am - 3pm

**Price:** Free

**Contact:** 410-398-1349

**Website:** [www.milbumorchards.com](http://www.milbumorchards.com)

## Baltimore County

### Holiday Train Garden at the Fire Museum of Maryland

See 42 antique fire engines and a new 1950s "O" Scale Train Garden. Have your picture taken with Santa today! Open Saturdays in December, and December 27-31.

**Where:** Baltimore County, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1307 York Rd

**When:** Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 24 and Dec. 27.

**Price:** Children \$5, adults \$10, seniors and fire fighters \$10.

**Phone:** 410-321-7500

**Website:** [www.firemuseummd.org](http://www.firemuseummd.org)

# Holiday Worship Services

There will be a combined Christmas Eve Candelight Service, Saturday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend. For Information call 410-278-4333.

## Main Post Chapel (Aberdeen Area)

### Catholic Mass

Thur., Dec 8	Holy-Day/Obligation	1 1:45 a.m./5:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec 10	Hispanic Mass/Social	5 p.m.
Sun., Dec 11	3rd Sunday of Advent	8:45 a.m.
Sun., Dec 8	4th Sunday of Advent	8:45 a.m.
Sat., Dec 24	Christmas Caroling	11:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec 24	Midnight Mass	Midnight
Sun., Dec 25	Christmas Mass/Pageant	8:30 a.m.
Sat., Dec 31	Holy Day/Obligation	6:30 p.m.
Sun., Jan 1	Holy Day/Obligation	8:45 a.m.

### Protestant worship

Sun., Dec 11	Christmas Cantata	10:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec 18	4th Sunday of Advent	10:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec 25	Christmas Day Service	10:15 a.m.

### Gospel worship

Sun., Dec 11	3rd Sunday of Advent	Noon
Sun., Dec 18	Dance/Drama Play	7 p.m.
Sat., Dec 24	Christmas Eve	7 p.m.
Sun., Dec 25	Christmas Day Service	Noon
Sat., Dec 31	Watch Night Service	10 p.m.

## South Post Chapel (Edgewood Area)

### Catholic Mass

Thur., Dec 8	Holy Day/Obligation	Noon
Thurs., Dec 11	3rd Sunday of Advent	10:45 a.m.
Sun., Dec 18	4th Sunday of Advent	10:45 a.m.
Sun., Dec 25	Christmas Day Mass	10:45 a.m.
Sun., Jan 1	Holy Day/Obligation	10:45 a.m.

### Protestant worship

Sun., Dec 11	3rd Sunday of Advent	9:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec 18	4th Sunday of Advent	9:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec 25	Christmas Day Service	9:15 a.m.