

APG NEWS



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Soldiers, vets honored at Pearl Harbor observance

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Members of the Elkton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8175, local dignitaries and guests honored Soldiers, veterans and Family members during a military appreciation ceremony, Dec. 10. The event was also an observance of the 70th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks that took place Dec. 7, 1941. The aerial bombing killed more than 2,400 Americans, sunk 12 ships and destroyed 188 aircrafts. As a result of the attack, President Franklin Roosevelt said that Dec. 7, 1941, was "a date which will live in infamy."



McBride

The event opened with a color guard procession composed of active and retired Army Soldiers. Students from Elkton High School led the singing of the national anthem.

"It was really important to us to get young people involved in this event, as there are not many Pearl Harbor observances these days. The younger generation needs to hear about what

See **PEARL**, page 11

Recycle Smart in 2012

Special to the APG News

How do you get rid of that Christmas tree after Christmas?

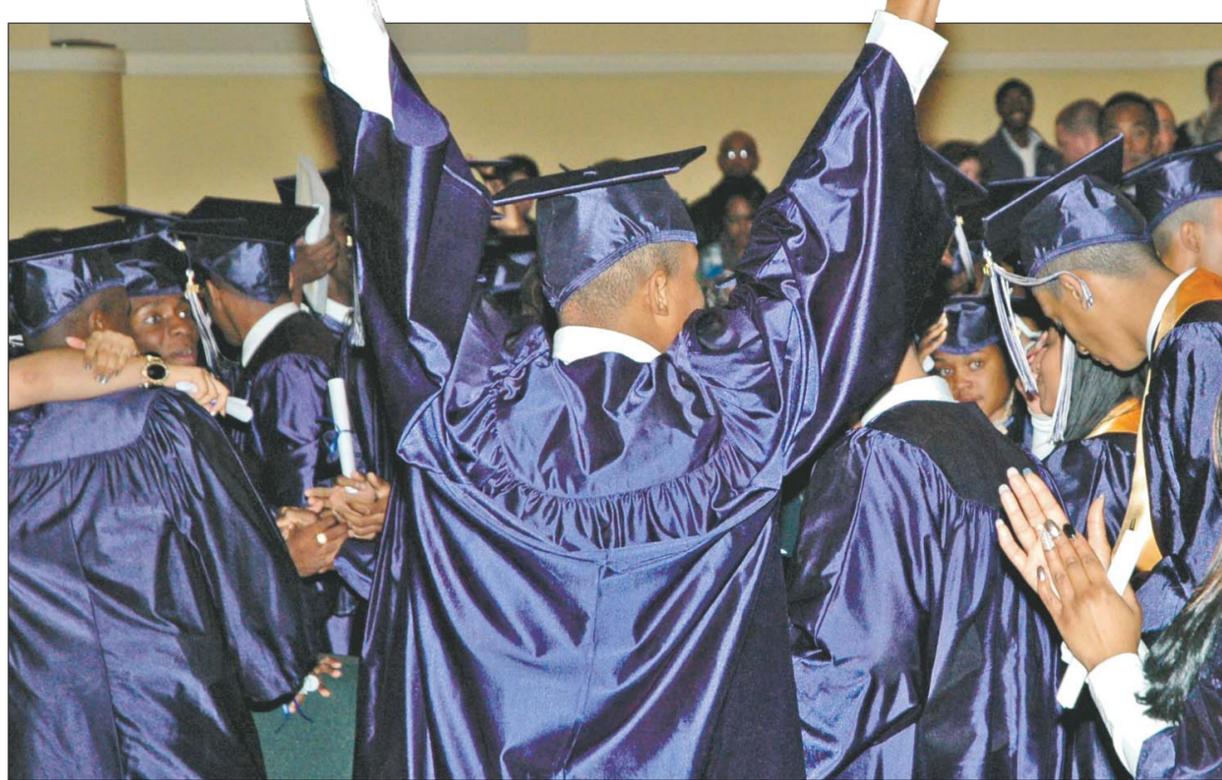
What kinds of materials go in those large blue collection bins?

How do you recycle all those plastic bottles and aluminum cans?

Can batteries, paints and excess chemicals be recycled on post?

APG Pollution Prevention (P2) specialists can answer these questions and more regarding recycling, treatment and disposal programs and locations on and off post. Voluntary participation in the post recycling program can be as simple as using personal receptacles to store used plastic bottles and then placing them next to the nearest blue collection bin. Specifically, pollution prevention practices include considering and using less polluting processes; improving communication and training regarding pollution prevention initiatives; and maximizing reuse and recycling materials.

See next week's edition of the APG News to learn more about installation and local recycling programs.



Maryland National Guard Freestate ChalleNGe Academy cadets celebrate their graduation after five months of "Army tough love" during commencement ceremonies at the Post Theater Dec. 10. The 116 cadets of Class #37 received thousands of dollars in scholarships and awards from local businesses, groups and educational institutions.

ChalleNGe graduates 116 during commencement

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

With heads held high after meeting the ChalleNGe of their young lives, 116 cadets received certificates of completion during commencement ceremonies of the Maryland National Guard's Military Youth Corps Freestate ChalleNGe Academy at the Post Theater Dec. 10.

Hosted by MDNG Col. Richard Knauer, the academy's special projects officer, and retired MDNG Col. Richard "Thun-

der" Young, the ceremony included the awarding of scholarships from area educational institutions and special achievement awards from the academy.

Guests included Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, APG senior leader and commander of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and Col. Orlando Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander. Honorary guests and award presenters included Maj. Gen. Errol Schwartz, commander Joint Forces, District of Columbia National Guard;

Brig. Gen. Annette Deener, chief of staff, Maryland Military Department; and Owen Johnson, director, Capitol Guardian Youth ChalleNGe Program; Ernie Gonzalez from the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs; Clarence "Tiger" Davis, former Maryland delegate and keynote speaker retired MDNG Brig. Gen. Alberto Jimenez.

Before introducing Jimenez, Deener recognized Ortiz and the Garrison staff

See **CADETS**, page 6

Sale of APG lighthouse painting benefits Wounded Warriors

Special to the APG News

Emotions ran high at the unveiling of the Pooles Island Lighthouse painting in the newly renovated Susquehanna Room - the former Regiment Room - at the Top of the Bay Dec. 9. A small group of observers, including Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, APG senior leader; Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz; artist Anna

Sang Justice, the wife of the post commander; Wendy Roberts, CEO Future Skies; and representatives from the Fisher House Foundation, gathered to see the painting of the lighthouse on display in its new home. Roberts purchased the donated painting at the annual "Support Our Heroes" Ball

See **SYMBOL**, page 11



Photo by Conrad Johnson

The Pooles Island Lighthouse painting by artist Anna Sang Justice sits on display in the Susquehanna Room at the newly-renovated Top of the Bay which reopened for business in late November.

Charming Dickens classic debuts at APG Dec. 19

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

For nearly two centuries Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" has charmed holiday audiences and that tradition continued during the debut of the famous play at the Clarion Hotel in Aberdeen Dec. 11.

Aberdeen Proving Ground's MWR Theater Group and the Chesapeake Community Players put on the dinner theater production under the direction of Silvia

Meranski and producer Tricia Devine.

The production debuts on post 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 19 at the APG North recreation center, Bldg. 3326. General admission is \$5; free for active duty military and children under 12. Food and beverage concessions will be available.

Purchase tickets at the Leisure Travel Office in Bldg. 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or at the APG South recreation center, Bldg. E4140, 410-436-2713.

A Christmas Carol, first published in 1843, tells the story of stingy miser Ebenezer Scrooge and his transformation into a caring and emotional benefactor after spectral visits from the ghost of his dead business partner Jacob Marley, followed by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come (or Future). Popular American adaptations of the story include the 1970

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WEATHER

Thurs.



57° | 47°

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FMWR leads holiday celebrations

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CFC Holiday Booth at Post Commissary

Today is your last chance to purchase poinsettias, stocking stuffers, ornaments and more

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APG SNAPSHOT

Get a glimpse of what's going on around post. **PAGE 15**

OPINION

Enjoying religiously good health

Do people who go to the Chapel live longer? Do they have better health? Chapel going people claim that their religious practices make them healthy. Is it true?

Let's look at the longest living people. On Jan. 3, 2009, after the death of the Guinness Book of World Records' oldest person, Maria de Jesus age 115, next in line was Gertrude Baines from Los Angeles, Calif. Born to slaves near Atlanta, Ga. in 1894, Baines was described at age 114 as "spry," "cheerful," and "talkative." When she was 112, Baines was asked by a CNN correspondent to explain why she thought she has lived so long.



Her reply was, "God. Ask him. I took good care of myself, the way he wanted me to."

Is there a scientific basis to her claim? Many people claim a religious preference and it is to that preference that they turn to in moments in which they need comfort, support and hope.

Dr. Harold Koenig, director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University Medical Center, has made a study of the research relating religious beliefs and practices to health concerns. His research and that of others can be found

on the website <http://www.spiritualityand-health.duke.edu/>.

Koenig reports that in the matter of depression, 61 percent of 444 studies show that religious involvement - meaning church attendance, following religious edicts and prayer - relates to faster recovery from depression. Whereas only six percent show that religious involvement led to more depression.

Religious involvement also is seen to be related to less anxiety and faster recovery from anxiety in 49 percent of 299 studies. Additionally, 106 out of 141 studies showed less suicide and more negative attitudes toward suicide with persons religiously involved. This would seem natural in that religious practices for most practitioners carry messages of hope.

While depression deals with mental conditions, how do religious practices relate to physical conditions? Two-hundred-forty out of 278 studies reported less alcohol use/abuse/dependence among those scoring higher on religious involvement studies.

Religious involvement provides a world view that gives a reason for living. Whether it is a divine entity or a philosophical position, there is a meaning to an individual's life. There is a purpose, and the person, in order to accomplish the goal or meaning of their life, needs time and direction. Since humans

by nature are social, joining with others of like understanding provides not only a support base but a system of reinforcement of the world view. With a purposeful life, it is necessary to do what is required to keep on living. Thus an actively religious person lives a life style that increases life expectancy. This encompasses a wide variety of aspects from healthy eating and exercise to the individual's driving style.

A six year study of 3,851 elderly persons revealed that those who reported rarely-to-never participating in private religious activities had an increased relative hazard of dying over those who participated more frequently in religious activity. Whereas most previous studies showed a positive effect for organized religious activities, this study showed that personal religious activity was also effective at reducing mortality.

Not only does religion impact on living longer. This is because of a desire for better health care. Religious involvement is related to a greater likelihood of participation in disease screening behaviors such as mammography, glucose, Blood Pressure, prostate, etc., as seen in 64 percent of the studies and a greater likelihood of complying with treatment is seen in 56 percent of the studies.

This is illustrated in the correlation between religious activities and blood pressure in a six-year study of 4,000 older adults. Among those who attended religious services

once a week or more and prayed or studied the Bible once a day or more, the likelihood of diastolic hypertension was 40 percent lower than among those who attended services and prayed less often.

With hypertension an issue with many in today's workforces, it's good to know that chapel attendance and involvement may lower the collective high blood pressure.

Furthermore, a 28-year follow-up study of 5,286 persons living in Alameda County, Calif., initially seen in 1965 compared frequent church attendees to infrequent attendees:

I. Frequent attendees had 35 percent lower mortality rates

II. During follow-up frequent attendees were more likely to stop smoking, increase exercise, increase social contacts and stay married.

III. Adjusting for the four health practices did not significantly change frequent attendees' mortality rates.

Therefore studies show that religion/faith is a powerful coping resource related to better mental health, health behaviors and better physical health longevity.

Religious coping is not just for the sick; it is for the well who wish to stay well.

Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan Morse

With a purposeful life, it is necessary to do what is required to keep on living. Thus, an actively religious person lives a life style that increases life expectancy. This encompasses a wide variety of aspects from healthy eating and exercise to the individual's driving style.

December is National 3-D Month

December is "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month" or "3-D Month," an effort to bring special attention to the problem of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

An estimated 258,000 persons were injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present - an average of one person injured approximately every two minutes.

If you find it hard to figure out if you've had too many drinks to drive - don't risk it. Chances are if you're feeling "buzzed" you are too impaired to drive safely.

"Risk driving at an illegal level and chances are law enforcement will catch you and you'll spend the holiday in jail," said Cindy Scott, Army Substance Abuse Program prevention coordinator.

Nine out of 10 Americans

who participate in social events where alcohol is served feel that people should use designated drivers. The ASAP suggests that party hosts include alcohol-free beverages and protein-rich foods, along with reminding guest to plan ahead and remember the following advice:

- Don't risk it - If you plan to drive, don't drink.

- Choose a sober designated driver before partying.

- Take a taxicab or ask a friend to drive you home.

- Spend the night where the activity is being held.

- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.

- Always wear your safety belt - your best defense against an impaired driver

For information, call Scott at 410-278-DRUG (4013) or e-mail cynthia.m.scott4.civ@mail.mil.

Know the facts when it comes to alcohol and driving

Myths and misconceptions about alcohol and its effects on safe driving are widespread. Knowing the truth could mean the difference between life and death.

Myth: Alcohol is a stimulant.

Fact: Alcohol is a depressant. It acts on the central nervous system like an anesthetic to lower or depress the activity of the brain.

Myth: "Drinking coffee sobers me up."

Fact: Coffee cannot rid your system of alcohol. It just makes you a nervous, wide-awake drunk. Only time reverses the impairment.

Myth: "I always stay away from the hard stuff."

Fact: Alcohol is alcohol. One 12-ounce glass of beer has as much alcohol as a 1.5-ounce shot of whiskey or a 5-ounce glass of wine.

Myth: "I am bigger so I can handle my liquor better than other people."

Fact: Size is only one factor in how much you can drink. Metabolism, amount of rest and food intake all play a part in how you handle liquor. Impairment in motor reflexes and judgment can begin with the first drink.

Myth: "Once I roll down my car window, I am okay to drive."

Fact: No amount of fresh, chilly air can reverse impairment. You gain nothing by rolling down a window or turning on the air conditioner.

Myth: "I just drive slower after drinking."

Fact: Many people believe that by driving more slowly, they can compensate for being impaired. The truth is, drunk drivers are dangerous at any speed.

Myth: "All I have to do is splash my face with cold water."

Fact: Cold water or even a cold shower will not sober you up, or make you a safer driver.

For more information, contact Cindy Scott at 410-278-4013 or e-mail cynthia.m.scott4.civ@mail.mil Information obtained from the National Highway Traffic Safety

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



57°|47°

Fri



49°|33°

Sat



43°|30°

Sun



46°|33°

Mon



48°|40°

Tue



50°|40°

Wed



47°|36°

APG NEWS

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

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Runners take off at the start of one of two Holiday Fun Runs hosted by FMWR during Holiday Celebrations held Dec. 6 and 7. For more fun holiday events or winter activities check www.apgmwr.com.

Holiday celebrations offer fun for families

Story and photo by
JASON DOMINGUEZ
FMWR

The folks at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation were in high spirits during their annual holiday celebrations and fun runs Dec. 6 and 7. More than 400 people from around APG attended the festivities at the APG North and South recreation centers. Prior to the celebrations, approximately 60 attendees took part in the traditional fun runs around APG that were more about holiday spirit than competition.

Both events offered fun for the entire family such as holiday arts and crafts, face paintings, balloon sculpting, book readings, caricature paintings and pictures with Santa Claus.

Attendees were also given the chance to sing holiday songs on stage in front of family and friends.

The evenings were kicked off with tree lighting ceremonies, one hosted by APG senior leader Maj. Gen. Nick Justice and APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz. The events featured gingerbread house contests in which winners were selected based on creativity and age groups. Although the two nights of holiday festivities may have come and gone, it doesn't mean the fun has to end this holiday season.

FMWR has tickets to a number of holiday-themed events for the entire Family at discounted rates.

Featured events include ski tickets to Roundtop and Liberty Mountain Resorts and Whitetail Resort in Virginia on sale now thru March 30, 2012. Ticket options include weekend passes for holiday and non-holiday weekends, night lifts, two-hour tubing and learn-to-ski weekend passes.

Tickets to ICE featuring Madagascar at the Gaylord National Hotel in National Harbor, Md. would make perfect stocking stuffers this holiday season. Weekday and weekend tickets are available for purchase. Visitors will meet their favorite DreamWorks characters as colorful, interactive ice sculptures.

In addition to tickets to other holiday events such as Busch Garden's Christmas Town and Colonial Williamsburg's Holiday Experience in Williamsburg, Va., discounts are also available to purchase holiday keepsakes such as White House Christmas Ornaments. According to www.whitehousechristmasornament.com, "Christmas tree collectables from The White House Ornament Collection make great keepsakes for friends, for family, and for that son or daughter proudly serving in the armed forces, in Washington, D.C. or overseas."

There is still time to take advantage of these discounts. For more information about purchasing discounted tickets to holiday events, call 410-278-4011. For a list of all tickets available for purchase, visit www.apgmwr.com/recreation/travel/totickets.html.



Hundreds attend Top of the Bay grand re-opening

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Community was treated to free food and live entertainment during the Top of the Bay grand re-opening celebration, Dec. 8. The installation's premier restaurant, catering and conference center underwent extensive renovations this past year. Improvements include video teleconferencing, infrastructure upgrades, commercial elevator, new carpets, furnishings, fixtures, and custom moldings, along with many other special touches. Historic artifacts from the local area also are on display.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



Courtesy photo

Ribbon cutting celebrates new SSCF permanent facility

From left, Bob Daugherty, Dean of Defense Acquisition University Capital and Northeast Region and Gary Martin, Deputy to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony during the grand opening of APG's DAU permanent facility, Nov. 30. "The grand opening of the APG facility represents the culmination of more than three years of planning, coordination, and the efforts of multiple individuals," said Jim Oman, director of the Senior Service College Fellowship Program. "Further, it symbolizes, in a very tangible way, DAUs commitment to provide a superb learning environment for members of the Acquisition Workforce."

SSCF program now accepting applications

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center is currently accepting applications for the 2012-13 SSCF program through March 15, 2012. The SSCF Program is a 10-month educational opportunity conducted under the auspices of the Defense Acquisition University at Huntsville, Ala., Warren, Mich., and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

To prepare senior level government

civilians at the GS - 14/15 levels or equivalent for senior leadership roles, the SSCF program provides training in leadership and acquisition.

For complete program information and application requirements, visit <http://asc.army.mil/> or the Fellowship website at www.dau.mil/sscf.

For more information about the program, contact Jim Oman at 703-254-3255 or e-mail james.oman@dau.mil

Cadets excel at meeting the ChalleNGe

Continued from Page 1

for their continued support of the program which provides a second chance for at-risk youth and high school drop-outs to become productive members of society. Many either enter college or the military after graduation, she noted.

"You have proven that you are in control of your life and you have made a commitment to succeed," she told the cadets. "Today is the first day of the rest of your lives."

Jimenez also thanked Ortiz and the Academy staff and cadre, calling them "unique in the ability to produce young men and women like this."

To the family members and mentors, who will continue to monitor the cadets' progress for 12 months beyond their graduation, Jimenez advised, "We gave them Army tough love. Hopefully, they can instill in others the same discipline."

"Everything you do, from now on, do it with dignity," he told the cadets. Resist temptation to do wrong and go forward with your lives. Nothing will be given to you; you have to earn it. May this day be the beginning of your path to success to become productive U.S. citizens."

Class spokespersons, Cadets Harly Ventura and Scott Peteraf shared their stories about how the academy has changed them.

Ventura said her parents had given up trying to correct her behavior and that she felt blessed to receive "this second chance."

"It has rearranged my priorities and given me the realization that seeking



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

APG Senior Leader, Maj. Gen. Nick Justice presents the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy Leadership Award to Cadet JaJun Lee during the commencement program for Class #37 at the Post Theater Dec. 10.

self-improvement is more important than tending to my social life," she said.

Noting his failure to complete school due to a greater interest in street life, Peteraf, who hails from Havre de Grace, thanked his parents for helping him obtain a "court-free" status so he could enter the academy.

"I realized I would have to make up for years of mistakes in the next five months," he said, "and I was a different person once it started."

He said he learned all he could, includ-

ing participation in the drill team and job shadowing programs, to graduate with honors. He enrolled in Harford Community College and said his plans include attending a four-year university ROTC program to become an Army officer.

Addressing the academy staff, cadre and volunteer mentors, he said, "On behalf of all cadets, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the past and for the impact you will have on us over the next year."

Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan Morse

delivered a stirring invocation and benediction that had the cadets and audience shouting "God is good all the time!"

The Maryland Defense Force Band provided the ceremony's music.

Top ChalleNGe Academy awards went to the following:

- Leadership, Cadet JaJun Lee
- Most Improved, Cadet Emmanuel Dadzie
- Cadet of the Cycle, Cadet Colin Clarke
- Academic Excellence, Cadet Yeny Guevara
- Physical Fitness, Cadets Ruben Madrid and JaJun Lee

Scholarship presentations

- Prince Georges Community College, \$6,000 scholarship
- Harford Community College, \$5,000 scholarship
- Maryland National Guard Foundation, \$1,000 scholarship
- Towson Rotary Foundation, Inc., \$1,000 scholarship
- Nancy H. Sevier Award, \$1,000 scholarship
- Pedro 66 (Afghanistan Memorial), \$1,000 scholarship
- ChalleNGe Academy (Academic Excellence), six \$1,000 scholarships

Holiday Worship Services

There will be a combined Christmas Eve Candelight Service, Saturday, Dec. 24, 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

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

Gospel worship

- 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

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



ECBC partnership seeks to curb decline in STEM

ECBC

For the first time, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center partnered with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Chemical and Biological Technologies Directorate in the execution of a joint science, technology, engineering and mathematics educational outreach initiative.

They collectively increased awareness of emerging STEM career fields for 25 Rancho High School students enrolled in the biotechnology magnet program within the Clark County Public School District Nov. 14 in Las Vegas, Nev., on the opening day of this year's Chemical and Biological Defense Science and Technology Conference.

STEM professionals from government, industry and academia offered the group of aspiring biotechnologists seven different hands-on experiences that reinforced STEM concepts and techniques that are critical in solving the nation's current and future challenges.

Looking to immerse students into the real-world application of science, ECBC biologists Alena Calm and Janna Madren-Whalley conducted an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay experiment with the group, while ECBC Research Biologist Dr. Brady Redmond, engaged them in using the DNA agarose gel electrophoresis method. In addition, the center's outreach team educated students about STEM scholarship and career opportunities in a fun way, letting them compete in a Jeopardy game.

"I think it was very interesting to learn about the need for professionals in these fields," said mother and chaperone Nikole Gomez. "This event will hopefully help my daughter figure out which career pathway she would like to pursue."

David Miller, K-12 Science and Math Coordinator for Clark County School District, said that "the mix of hands-on activities and presentations was very helpful in giving students a real-world perspective of the various STEM career fields outside of the classroom."

"At the high school level, they real-



Photo by Jennifer Carroll

A group of biotechnology students from the Clark County School District engage in the real-world application of agarose gel electrophoresis with ECBC Research Biologist Dr. Brady Redmond, right.

At the high school level, they really need to think about where they would like to go and what their goals could be.

David Miller

Science and Math Coordinator, Clark County School District

ly need to think about where they would like to go and what their goals could be," he continued.

DTRA CB and ECBC closely work together in developing technologies that help counter chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive threats to warfighters and the nation. On a regular basis, they support the Department of Defense's CBD Program through the delivery of cutting-edge research and development solutions.

The conference, which DTRA CB

held until Nov. 18, coincided with the 90th anniversary of American Education Week. While most attending ECBC workforce members participated in the conference to expand their network and identify collaboration opportunities in their respective science and technology fields, the center's Community and Educational Outreach team joined DTRA CB in celebrating the nation's commitment to students and educators.

Dr. Alan Rudolph, the director for DTRA CB within the Research and

Development Enterprise, kicked off this STEM education initiative addressing participating biotechnology students with words of encouragement and reiterating the nation's dire need for subject matter experts in fields such as biosurveillance, diagnostics and therapeutics.

Students also participated in a discussion with leading CBD scientists over lunch, facilitated by Presidential Management Fellow Dr. Matthew Tobelman and Army Maj. Dale Taylor. This opportunity allowed them to ask targeted questions about various R&D areas and careers in the CBD arena.

Additional organizations that supported the event with educational outreach activities and presentations included GenSpace, Battelle Memorial Institute, iGEM, and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

For more information about ECBC, visit <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/>.

Post Shorts

Trial program can assist garrison over-hires

IMCOM has established the IMCOM Enterprise Placement Program (IEEP). This trial program is designed to place over-hires from one installation to vacancies at another installation.

APG garrison employees can apply for positions that they qualify for at the same or lower grades. New vacancies will open each Tuesday with the closing date set for the following Monday at midnight. Vacancies are posted at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/662838>.

Permanent change of station costs are paid by the losing garrison.

Employees who are interested in relocating to another IMCOM location should contact their supervisors for a detailed package about the program or call CPAC's Carolyn Russell at 410-306-0173. For assistance updating or writing resumes, contact Marilyn Howard, ACS employment assistance manager, at 410-278-9669.

CFC Booth offers holiday items Dec. 15

Poinsettias, stocking stuffers, ornaments and more will be available for purchase at the APG Combined Federal Campaign booth in front of the Commissary today from 5 to 7 p.m. The event will also feature live caroling. All profits will go to the APG 2011 CFC campaign. Donations are welcome.

Fitness Center soft opening

The APG North Fitness Center, Bldg. 320, is now open for use, although some services are unavailable at this time. Fitness Center hours are 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The facility will close Dec. 23 through Jan. 2 and reopen Tuesday, Jan. 3.

All exercise equipment is in place and ready for use, however, some services, such as TV, cable and electronic scan equipment are unavailable.

Patience is appreciated during the soft-opening period.

For more information, call the APG North athletic center at 410-278-7933/7934.

Manager/Supervisor EEO Training

The APG Equal Employment Opportunity Office will host Equal Opportunity Training for Supervisors and Managers 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 3147, room 208, Feb. 9, 2012.

The purpose of the training is to increase awareness of specific equal opportunity-related responsibilities unique to supervisory and managerial positions within the federal government. Awareness of programs requirements and command affirmative program/EEO goals are critical for those in leadership positions that impact the civilian workforce. Attending EEO training will enable managers and supervisors to clearly articulate a commitment to a fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory workplace free of harassment; state expectations for employee conduct; and understand personal accountability for a successful EEO Program.

Training for supervisors and managers is recommended within 45 days of assuming responsibility as a manager or supervisor. Sign-up through ATTARS course code: IB8AMEO or contact Charles Thomas at 410-278-1131 or charles.e.thomas47.civ@mail.mil.

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 you bring it in, the cost is \$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 held 11:30 a.m.

at the Wetland Golf Club in Aberdeen, Dec. 15. The 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.

Environmental Assessment

Aberdeen Proving Ground has 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/directorates/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 e-mail connie.m.lucas4.civ@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.

Join APG Community Women's Club today

Join the APG Community Women's Club and make friends while making a difference in the community. Activities are scheduled during the day, in the evening, on post and off post. There is no obligation to attend meetings – just come to events that interest you. There is something for everyone – bunco, luncheons, book club, dinners, and local trips. Prospective members are welcome to come to events before joining – and bring a friend. Membership is open to all with an affiliation with APG, whether military, civilian, contractor, or spouse. Learn more by visiting www.apgwc.org or call Gerry Reno, membership chair, at 410-642-3080.

Special Emphasis volunteers sought

APG's Equal Employment Opportunity Office Special Emphasis Program is seeking volunteers from the garrison and tenant activities to establish Special Emphasis Program Committees (SEPC).

We are also seeking employees who previously engaged with the SEP to return and assist. The SEPC is a working committee composed of civilian and military personnel from various organizations on APG. Committee representatives are designated by unit commanders and directors, and they are placed on official orders to attend regularly scheduled monthly meetings and to assist in workforce development programs.

Individuals interested should call Charles Thomas at 410-278-1131.



MORE ONLINE

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

COMMUNITY NOTES

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 15 NATURE STORYTIME

Eden Mill Nature Center offers "Nature Story Time" at 11 a.m. All who enjoy children's literature are welcome to attend. Join us for a children's story and craft related to a theme about nature. Pre-registration is required. Call 410-836-3050 or e-mail edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.org for information.

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 16 NATURAL GIFTS WORKSHOP

Spend the evening creating hand-made gifts for the holiday season. Several gift making stations will be set up in the center, such as woolen soaps and tin ornaments. Hot cider and cookies will add to the festive atmosphere. This program will be held 6 to 9 p.m. for all ages, children under 12 must be with an adult. The cost is \$25 and online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

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

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 17 CRITTER DINNER TIMES

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat while learning more about these fascinating creatures. This program will be held at 10:30 a.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

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

WINTER TREE MYSTERY

Decipher clues to buds and bark to solve the mystery of who's who in the often confusing world of winter trees. This program will be held 11:30 to 1 p.m. for Families, ages 6 to adult. The cost is \$2 and online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

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

NATURAL ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

Create unique ornaments using natural materials. Refreshments will be offered to aid creativity. This program will be held 2 to 4 p.m. for all ages, children under 12 must be with

an adult. The cost is \$5 and online registration is required at 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 18 CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PARTY

The community is invited to the Children's Christmas Party at 1 p.m. Enjoy pictures with Santa, presents and refreshments. The event is sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 135, 300 Cherry St., Perryville, MD 21903. For information call 410-642-2771.

WINTER CELEBRATION

Enjoy a brisk, sunny day (hopefully) and create a wreath or swag to brighten the holiday season. Refreshments will be provided. There will also be a cookie exchange and participants can bring a batch of cookies on a plate or tray. This program will be held 1 to 4 p.m. for all ages, children under 14 must be with an adult. The cost is \$8 and online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions to

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

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 30 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT - EVE OF NEW YEAR'S EVE SUNSET SOCIAL

Gather around the fire, surrounded by good friends and good food and by what is surely the finest sunset on the east coast, for an evening of celebrating 2011 and looking forward to 2012. Beverages and appetizers will be provided. Please register by Dec. 28. This program will be held 4:30 to 7 p.m. for active volunteers only. The program is free but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

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



MORE ONLINE

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

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. **All donations must be submitted by Dec 22.**

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Patricia Adams
Audrey Alba
Debra Bonsall
Cheryl Black
Diane Bratton
Roberta
Brown-Thurman
(Ft Huachuca)
Mikale Gerdes Brutus
Holly Cacciapaglia
(Vets Administration)
Sara Campbell

Cheryl Cerqueira
Sang Cha
Sharon Colclough
Kelly Correia
Kathy Crouse
Vikas Dane
Megan Davis
Edward Delnero
Dawn Direnza
Celeste Disciullo
Teresa Doonan
Meg Downey

Wanda Dudek
Anhtung Duong
Gary Dunn
Joanne Eberhardt
Megan Farley
Meghan Faughnan
Tiana Ford
Melanie France
(PSI-COE)
Christine Federisko
Arya Golriz
Marilyn Grebe

Shawn Heinlein
LaTasha Hines
Walter Holland
Sarah Ingram
Kari Jackson
LaKia Johnson
Bernard King
Subria Kelly
Ann Laughton
Jessica Leach
Cindy Learn
Robert Luce

Christopher Lyles
Shantiea Mack
Betty May
Cassandra Morrison
Margaret Nahrgang
Theresa Padron
Ella Patrick
Linda Patrick
Mary Pettitway
Donna Pierce
Edward Rath
Sheba Ratliff-Coble

Pedro Rodriguez
Lee Anne Sellare
Paul Shelley
Lena Shelton
Bridgette Smith
Danielle Smith
Robynn Squires
Nicole Stallings
Melissa Steffen
Sonya Taylor
William Taylor
Lorena Thompson

Joya Tucker
Veronica Turner
Juan Vitali
Matthew Warne
Ann West
Emily Whaley
Aaron Wilson
Heather Williamson
Fatisha Wright
Melvin Wright

FAMILY AND MWR

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.

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.

Discounts are valid for Space Available Inventory only.

Remember to enter base code 105 at the time of the booking.

If you have questions, please call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

EFMP Bowling on Sundays

Exceptional Family Member Program Families and all individuals with disabilities are invited to bowl at APG bowling center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday. The APG bowling center is on Aberdeen Proving Ground next to the Burger King and Post Exchange.

The center offers video games, food and fun for all. Contact Ann Battaglia to reserve lanes at 410 838- 5026 or tabat@msn.com.

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.

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 Rountop, 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

Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia

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

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.

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

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 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.

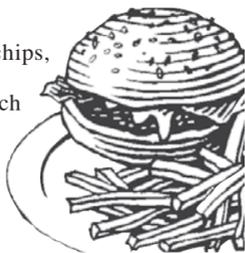
Week of December 19

Special #1: Roast beef on Kaiser roll with chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.75.

Special #2: Pepperoni pizza sub with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.25.

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.



MORE ONLINE

For a listing of FMWR activities and events, or to read the weekly MWR newsletter, scan the code.

Symbol of sacrifice

Continued from Page 1

held last summer at APG. The benefit ball raised more than \$300,000 to support wounded warriors and their families at “comfort homes” around the nation.

“During the busy work day, we sometimes forget the heroism of each Soldier, that they are the most important person out there,” Roberts commented. “Anna’s paintings are a reminder of their sacrifice,

and an inspiration to work even harder, longer hours. It’s not just a lighthouse—it’s a symbol. That lighthouse was neglected, dark, and covered up. Now, it shines again, and inspires all of us to be that light that supports our military.”

For more information on The Fisher House Foundation, visit <http://www.fisherhouse.org>



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

Moira Espinosa, as the Ghost of Christmas Past, and Richard Delbrook as Ebenezer Scrooge watch events of the past unfold during the play, “A Christmas Carol” at the Clarion Hotel in Aberdeen Dec. 11. The play runs for one showing at the APG North recreation center Monday, Dec. 19.

Play ushers in season

Continued from Page 1

musical film starring Albert Finney who won a Golden Globe as Scrooge; Bill Murray in the 1988 comedy ‘Scrooged,’ and “Disney’s A Christmas Carol” starring Jim Carrey in 2009.

In the APG production, cast members include Richard Delbrook as the tight-fisted Scrooge; Nigel Nicholson as his struggling employee, Bob Cratchit; Danita Lawrence as the unfortunate Marley and Moira Espinosa, Brett Comer and Michael Massarelli as the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, respectively.

The production is very much a family affair with several members from the same family in the cast. This is a good thing and a great attraction, said Staff Sgt. Marcus Daigle, 22d Chemical Battalion. Daigle attended with his wife, Brenda and 15-year-old daughter Nicole. His daughter Paula, 19, and son Jake, 8, are cast members in the play.

“They got involved when they heard about it from our neighbor,” Daigle said. “Our family typically does things together. You might see us all in the next play.”

Devine said the Dec. 19 production will be more traditional and more up-to-date with the use of graphics for background and scenery. She encour-

age anyone “looking for an outlet” to get involved with the theater group.

“Theater production has always flown under the radar,” she said. But we have drawn a lot of interest from military and civilians. We have whole families involved and the kids love it.”

Future productions being considered include popular Broadway musicals, she added.

“Meranski, who doubled as stage manager, called the ballroom environment “challenging” for this type of production.

“We weren’t able to rehearse here so this was a first in a lot of ways,” she said.

A former “military brat,” Meranski said she sees the Theater Group as a fun way for newcomers to learn about their community.

“The main thing we try to do is get everyone involved; whether you’re acting or working behind the scenes, we can use your talents. This is a good way to meet people, network and learn about your community. Plus, it’s a wonderful family event.”

Organizers are hoping for a “good turnout” on Monday, she added.

“This is a nice way to usher in the season.”

Pearl Harbor remembered

Continued from Page 1

happened at Pearl Harbor, it is an important part of our history,” said Kevin Miksis, from Mason Dixon Pro-Tainment who organized the event with Lewis Bolt. “We are not only honoring those who served in the past and present, we are also honoring those who will serve in the future.”

The event included a Pearl Harbor lecture from Professor Nicole Dombrowski-Risser and remarks from several dignitaries including Jim Mullin, president of the Cecil County Board of Commissioners; Joe Fisona, the mayor of Elkton; and Carol Roddy, president of the Maryland Chapter of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Staff Sgt. Sean M. McBride, Aberdeen Proving Ground’s Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, said that he was honored to speak in front of “true heroes” —Purple Heart recipients and veterans who bravely fought in wars. McBride said that after the Pearl Harbor attacks, many young men and women volunteered to serve in the military, to defend the wounded nation.

“Your generation really set the mark for us, and gave future generations something to aspire to,” McBride said. “When the twin towers fell on that somber September morning my generation remembered the contributions and fortitude of your generation, so the answer of what had to be done was absolutely clear. We needed to follow the footsteps of the men and women who changed the world. We needed to take all actions necessary to defend our nation.”

After a moment of silence to remember the victims of the Pearl Harbor attack, APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz spoke about his expe-

riences as a battalion commander and asked the young people in attendance to consider military service.

“The total number of people serving in the military is less than one half of one percent of our total population,” he said. “Our veterans are dying off; it is up to you to rise to the challenge to take pride in your nation and to serve your nation well.”

Retired Command Sgt. Major Fred Posadas, who helped plan the program, said that he was proud to continue his family’s tradition of supporting VFWs. Posadas said that he was grateful to have grown up in a family that valued military service.

“I was truly blessed to serve this country,” he said. “Today I am proud to see our future, the active duty military and the youth who will serve. I know they will continue America’s fight for freedom and help shape America’s future. I embrace them as comrades and I know they will serve our country well.”

At the end of the ceremony a plaque honoring Cecil County veterans who have served the nation was presented to the VFW from Mason Dixon Pro-tainment.

After the ceremony attendees said that they enjoyed the program.

“I enjoyed how they presented the information, I learned some new things today,” said Dexter Thompson, a Vietnam veteran.

“I was glad to see the young people involved in the ceremony, they got to hear things that they might not have learned in school,” said Tom Johnston, a Vietnam-era veteran. “I am involved in the American Legion Cecil Post 15 and we try to get young people involved as much as possible. We want them to learn about America’s history and the sacrifices that were made by generations before them.”

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>.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT

From left, Isaac Butz and Michael Fascetta, from the Youths Benefit Elementary School Gatorbots robotics team operate their robot while referee Howard Kash, an employee of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, looks on, during a FIRST Lego League scrimmage held at Churchville Elementary School, Dec. 11. Students on the First Lego League teams were asked to design and program Lego robots to complete tasks. Several scientists and engineers from APG volunteer in local schools to help students prepare for scrimmages and competitions. "This is play with a purpose," said Jim Snyder, an ARL scientist, who serves as a coach for Churchville Elementary School. "It's important to teach the kids early on how to think critically and creatively. I think this is a fantastic program."

SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Members of the Knights of Columbus Corpus Christi Council No. 6188 and Havre de Grace Council No. 2002 along with volunteers from the Main Post Chapel assemble an outdoor wooden nativity scene Dec. 8. The Knights of Columbus donated the nativity as a show of appreciation to the United States military.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



Courtesy photo

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

The APG Boys U-8 soccer team members and coaches celebrate with their trophies after winning the ESSL championship Dec. 6. Undeclared for two years, the team has won back-to-back ESSL championships. APG Youth Sports hosted the event at the Youth Soccer Field on Bayside Drive. Players and coaches are front row, from left, Ja'Zae Jones, Maddox Gifford, Alex White, Max Cardenas, Rylan Carroll, Felix Cardenas and Keshawn Gardner. Back row from left, Gerard Jones, Jake Kegley, Coach Bill Kegley, Ty Stroud, Justin Dorsey, Javon Chambers, Michael Shepard, Tristan Hoskins and Coach Jason Hayes.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

'TIS THE SEASON!

Several Aberdeen Proving Ground residents decorating their homes and yards shortly after Thanksgiving. One Plumb Point Loop family displays their holiday spirit with strung lights, wreaths and a nativity scene.