

APG NEWS



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

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Sgt. Nathan Cibrian and his misty-eyed daughter Madison, 7, await the start of the deployment ceremony send off of his unit, the Maryland National Guard's 1729th Field Support Maintenance Company from Havre de Grace, to Iraq for a year. The ceremony was held at the Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges Armory in Aberdeen Proving Ground South (Edgewood) Feb. 12.

Survivor Services set at APG

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Are you a family member, relative or friend of a fallen Soldier? Are you having trouble handling the grief? Has the loss hurt you financially as well as emotionally?



For survivors of fallen Soldiers, unsure of where to turn for answers, help has arrived.

Sanders

The Survivor Outreach Services program provides long-term emotional and financial planning support to the Families of fallen

See **SURVIVOR**, page 17

Havre de Grace Guard unit deploys

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

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, local and state politicians and senior military leaders hailed the Soldiers of the Maryland National Guard's 1729th Field Support Maintenance Company Feb. 12 during a deployment ceremony for their impending rotation to Iraq.

The event was held at the Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges Armory in Aberdeen Proving Ground South (Edgewood). More than 170 Soldiers, Family members and friends received assurances from O'Malley and Maj. Gen. James A.

Adkins, Maryland adjutant general, that the best wishes of the people of Maryland go with them.

"You carry not only a legacy of serving the nation but also the prayers and best intentions of the people in our state," O'Malley told the unit. "We will be praying and looking forward to your safe return."

"Know that I am proud of you - as you should be proud - of what you have done and what you will do," Adkins added while commending Family members for handling the "toughest job" of taking care of home.

See **DEPLOYING**, page 17



Governor Martin O'Malley

SKIES students win big at taekwondo competitions

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

Two Aberdeen Proving Ground taekwondo students recently won first place at regional and world competitions.

Hannah Secrist, 9, a green belt, received first place in weapons at the Mass America Sport Martial Arts League World Games, a taekwondo competition held in Boston, Mass., Jan. 29.

See **TAEKWONDO**, page 17



Leah Jones (pictured) and Hannah Secrist's taekwondo lessons at APG pay off big during recent competitions.

First of STEM summit series kicks off, aims to coordinate local efforts



RDECOM photo

John Casner, executive director, Northeastern Maryland Technical Council, opens the APG STEM summit Feb. 11.

BY **MARQUES CHAVEZ**
RDECOM Public Affairs

Area education, government and industry leaders gathered here Feb. 11 to convene the first of what is expected to be a series of summits on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM education.

"Our real focus is to bring the community together, organize ourselves and find the way to keep the momentum behind our STEM initiatives in the area," said Gary Martin, executive deputy to the commanding general, Research, Development and Engineering Command.

The conference centered around four panels -- government, industry, K-12 education and higher education -- discussing the successes, gaps and

Read more about the long term STEM investment in Gary Martin's commentary Page 2

See **NEXT**, page 17

WEATHER

Thurs.



59° | 44°

INDEX

Pg 2 **Weather**
Pg 2 **Opinion**
Pg 8 **Com Notes**
Pg 9 **Post Shorts**
Pg 11 **FMWR**
Pgs 15 & 16 **Classifieds**



Local employee give the skinny on Low Impact Development at APG in article 2 of the Clean Talk series.

Put a LID on it
page 6



Black History Month
page 13

ONLINE

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TODAY'S THE DAY!

Community members are gathering for the Community Action Council 9:30 a.m. at the APG South (Edgewood) post chapel.

OPINION

Local STEM efforts building steam

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, along with other members of Aberdeen Proving Ground, understands the responsibility to help usher in the next generation of scientists and engineers.

A key component of achieving this is through successful education of students of all ages in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM.

STEM education is a multi-tiered undertaking by educators, administrators, government and private industry seeking to improve students' performance in STEM subjects. It is an initiative that leaders at all levels have proclaimed as critical to secure America's standing in the world for generations to come.

"The quality of our math and science education lags behind many other nations. America has fallen to ninth in the proportion of young people with a college degree. And so the question is whether all of us - as citizens, and as parents - are willing to do what's necessary to give every child a chance to succeed," President Barack Obama said during his State of the Union address last month.

Team APG has already taken steps to fulfill the president's call to improve STEM education for our children.

STEM initiatives are being implemented throughout the country, albe-



RDECOM photo

Dr. Kate Blanding opens the Aberdeen Proving Ground STEM Summit Feb. 11 by outlining the goals and ambitions of area STEM proponents. A full house of educators, school administrators and government representatives took part in the kick-off meeting that hopes to inculcate STEM awareness in and around APG.

it on an individual basis. Educators and administrators have embarked on substantiated efforts with results already proving such efforts valuable. However, the lack of a coordinated STEM effort among APG, local educators and officials, government and private industry has us lagging behind successful programs elsewhere in the country.

Team APG convened a STEM summit on Feb. 11 to coordinate regional

STEM efforts. The goals of the summit were to channel support to advance STEM curriculum; propose STEM enrichment opportunities for teachers; and identify ways to stimulate student participation in STEM disciplines. We achieved these goals.

We also asked for volunteers to sign up for one of four different workgroups: lighting the spark, teacher enrichment, curriculum enhancement and strategic

communications. Each workgroup will analyze the data collected at the summit. It is our expectation that they will come prepared to our next summit with recommendations on what we need to do to advance our effort.

The resources in this area are so abundant; we just need to harness them. Identifying and consolidating these resources is a role that Team APG can - and must -- fulfill.

Through STEM, we will foster a fundamental change in our culture, one that praises students who excel at science and math. It is a sentiment echoed by the president.

"We need to teach our kids that it's not just the winner of the Super Bowl who deserves to be celebrated, but the winner of the science fair," he stated during the State of the Union address.

Team APG has an obligation to a broad and diverse public. The success of STEM education is essential for the mutual success of both students and the workforce development at APG. It is a cycle of success that must begin during the early stages of education.

STEM is a long-term investment that has already proven successful. Imagine the results after a decade of these initiatives being implemented. Luckily, for those of us at APG, we won't have to. It will be our reality.

Gary Martin

Executive Deputy to the Commander, U.S. Army RDECOM

Great American Spit-Out: Combating smokeless tobacco

By **WENDY LAROCHE**
U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional)

The Great American Spit-Out occurs in February of each year as a means to raise awareness of the dangers associated with smokeless tobacco. This year, the Great American Spit-Out will occur Feb. 24.

Unfortunately, myths concerning smokeless tobacco still exist, giving tobacco users a false hope that smokeless tobacco is a safe alternative to smoking tobacco. In reality, smokeless tobacco increases the risk of oral cancer, which includes lip, tongue, cheeks, gums and the roof of the mouth. Constant exposure to the tobacco juices causes cancer of the esophagus, pharynx, larynx, stomach, bladder and pancreas. Gum recession, disease and tooth decay have also been associated with smokeless tobacco use.

Smokeless tobacco contains 28 carcinogens (cancer-causing agents). Although many smokeless tobacco users know there are cancer-causing affects, they just can't stop. Why? The nicotine in these products causes them to become addicted. Nicotine absorption in smokeless tobacco products is three to four times that of smoking

tobacco products. Nicotine is as addictive as heroin or cocaine, so it may take smokeless tobacco users many attempts before they are able to fully kick the habit.

The key is to continue trying, as this will bring you one step closer to a healthier you.

To combat smokeless tobacco use, several organizations to include the American Academy of Otolaryngologists, have developed similar campaigns such as "Through with Chew" in conjunction with the Great American Spit-Out. Through with Chew, a one week smokeless awareness campaign, also occurs in February; it has a Web site that provides a variety of additional tools that help with putting a stop to smokeless tobacco use.

If you or someone you know uses smokeless tobacco, here are a few steps to take either on the Great American Spit-Out or as part of the quit plan:

- Let your healthcare provider know of your decision to quit. There are medications that can help, if necessary.

- Chew sugarless gum or have sugarless candy on hand for when you have an urge. Other munch items include raw carrots, celery and nuts.

- Drink plenty of water and use a straw to help with the need to chew.

- Create your personalized "to-do lists" for each day in advance or simply keep busy when you have an urge.

- Consider relaxation walks as part of your lunch or work breaks.

- Have an emergency support plan in place. "Make Everyone Proud," also known as UCANQUIT2, has counselors available via telephone with supporting resources online.

- Call a friend that will support your efforts of being tobacco-free.

- Plan to use the Great American Spit-Out as the day that you say "no" to tobacco and "yes" to a healthier you.

Helpful resources:

- Through with Chew, <http://www.throughwithchew.com/>
- UCANQUIT2, <http://www.ucanquit2.org/facts/gaspo/Default.aspx>



U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) photo illustration

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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

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Photo by Renee Main

Iyania Story-Cruz takes part in a stream study at the Ashland Nature Center during APG's 2010 summer camp program.

APG gearing up for summer camp program

Parents urged to register early to ensure weekly slots

FMWR news release

As the end of the school year approaches, parents are encouraged to register as early as possible for the installation's full-day summer camp program.

Children of active duty military, DoD civilians, and contractors can participate in summer camp at APG North (Aberdeen) and APG South (Edgewood).

The full-day program—a service of APG's Child, Youth and School Services—will run from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, June 20 to Aug. 19.

Summer camp is open to qualifying students completing first through eighth grade. Tuition fees are up to \$110 per week, based on age and family income. Parents can sign children up for only the weeks when child care is needed.

The programs will be held at the youth centers at APG North and South, and breakfast, lunch and snacks are included in the tuition.

"Campers will enjoy art, sports, games, computer labs and swimming," said Chris

Lockhart, marketing director for the installation's Directorate of Family Morale Welfare and Recreation. "And every week the entire camp goes on a special field trip. Past trips have included tours of the DC area museums, the zoo, amusement parks and everyone's summer favorite—the Harford County Farm Fair."

Central Registration will accept waiting list forms beginning Feb 22 at 7:30 a.m. This form can be downloaded from www.apgmwr.com under CYSS, Central Registration, or pick up the form at Outreach Services, Bldg. 2503, Rooms 210 & 211 and Edgewood Youth Center Bldg. E1902 starting Feb. 22.

Completed forms may be faxed, e-mailed or dropped off per the form instructions. Waiting list forms will not be distributed or accepted at the Aberdeen Area Youth Services building.

Lockhart said the Central Registration office will begin setting up appointments for registration in March. Packets will be given to individuals who have scheduled an appointment. A \$20 non-refundable deposit per child will be required for each week selected at the time of registration.

Call 410-278-7479 or 7571 for more information.



APG pauses for prayer

Aberdeen Proving Ground community members pray for Soldiers and the nation during the National Prayer Breakfast event at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Feb. 10. The event featured remarks by USAG APG Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz and installation chaplain Col. Orman Boyd. The event also featured gypsy jazz, a unique style of music significant to Boyd, who discovered this musical genre during a difficult time in his life. "This music gave me a spiritual experience," he said. Boyd challenged attendees to find spiritual meaning in their everyday life.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

DoD to now award supportive employers of military spouses

ESGR news release

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve announced an expansion of the Patriot Award Program to include employers of Guard and Reserve members' spouses.

The Patriot Award was previously presented only to employers of Guard and Reserve members. After learning of the growing number of employers adopting supportive initiatives for military spouses, ESGR embraced the opportunity to recognize these employers with their own Department of Defense award.

The employer of a military spouse has no legal obligation to provide unique support, but Guard and Reserve spouses often share the challenges of military service.

Child care, managing the household, and work schedules often have to be adjusted when one spouse leaves to serve our country. Military spouses value the cooperation and encouragement of their employers just as much as those in the Guard and Reserve.

The expansion of the Patriot Award honors these patriotic employers and is the only Department of Defense award designated for spouses' employers.

The nation has relied heavily on Guard and Reserve service members since entering continuous operations nearly 10 years ago. These service members have deployed and fought side-by-side active duty members, each time leaving a spouse behind to do the work of two.

Unlike their counterparts on active duty, Guard and Reserve spouses' may

not live near the supportive network of large military bases. In many cases, an employer is a Guard and Reserve spouse's strongest support community.

Guard and Reserve spouses are already coming forward to share how employers have gone above and beyond in their support. For one spouse, her supervisor shifted her nursing schedule when her husband deployed to allow the mother of three to continue working, but also to be at home for their children during the school year.

Robyn Gellerup, a Wisconsin mother of three, works as an office manager for a construction company showroom.

"While my husband was deployed both times, Rod and Becky Cook have taken care of us like we are part of their family; from mowing our lawn, plowing snow from our driveway, to performing maintenance on our vehicles and home. It gave my husband peace of mind knowing that if something goes wrong I could just pick up the phone and they'd be there," praised Robyn.

All spouses of Guard and Reserve members are eligible to nominate their employers. Spouses can log on to www.esgr.org/PA to fill out the Spouse Nomination Form. Each nominated supervisor will receive a Department of Defense Certificate of Appreciation, presented by the spouse employee or the local volunteer from the ESGR State Committee.

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APG doing part to boost forest coverage

By **KATHY THISSE**
 Directorate of Public Works

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2011 the International Year of Forests to raise awareness about forest management and conservation and development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

At Aberdeen Proving Ground, forest lands are an important part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and sustaining their functions is the key to improving the Bay's health while insuring successful execution of the Army's testing and training missions.

According to environmentalists in the Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Division, healthy forests here at APG provide many valuable environmental benefits such as wildlife habitats, shoreline stability, noise buffers, dust and particulate material migration reduction, visual cover for testing and training.

Forests also remove carbon and other air pollutants, reduce sediment and other water pollutants, release oxygen, help moderate the climate by releasing water into the air and providing shade, filter and trap pollutants, moderate floods, store nutrients and water and help prevent erosion.

Scott English, a DPW forester said federal statutes require Department of Defense installations and facilities to establish and maintain resource management plans.

Aberdeen Proving Ground is responsible steward for forest resources," English said. "We plant trees along streams, near the bay and along water ways to ensure good regeneration of healthy trees."

He said that both the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review resources management plans.

"Then they tell us what it needs or



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011

lacks," he said. "This provides APG with a roadmap to ecosystem management requirement.

Worldwide, forests are also an integral part of global sustainable development. According to World Bank estimates, more than 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihoods.

The forest product industry is a source of economic growth and employment, with global forest products traded internationally in the order of \$270 billion, with the U.S. trading in the order of \$30 billion.

Forests are a vital resource which produces well known forest products like paper products, lumber, flooring, furniture, and forest products and lesser-known products like cosmetics, anti-cancer drugs and chewing gum.

"More than 5,000 products come from wood," said English, "and with the world's population soaring to more than 6 billion, the demand on the nation's forests has never been greater."

Fire wood and wood pellets are two of the products obtained from trees that are considered "green energy."

Pellets are a renewable fuel made

As part of the continuing practice of responsible stewardship with natural resources, Aberdeen Proving Ground has increased forest coverage from 3,300 acres in 1933 more than 15,000 acres in 2009.

of ground, low-grade green and dry wood and other biomass by-products and wastes compressed into wood pellets. Pellets are one of the cleanest burning and heating appliances available today deliver high BTUs and overall efficiency.

English explained that because they pollute so little, pellet stoves do not require EPA certification. Wood pellets are considered to be "CO2 neutral" by many environmentalists, which basically mean that even though they do produce CO2 when burned, the material was once part of a tree that lived on CO2, so the two factors cancel each other out.

APG and other DoD installations are legally required to receive a fair market value for any and all forest products removed from the garrison to accomplish mission and ecosystem management requirements.

The Army also works with the local community by returning 40 percent of the net proceeds to the local counties in the form of a state's entitlement payment, said English.

Chemicals and other tree components are found in many everyday products -- not just in furniture and building materials! There's some part of a tree in tires, paint, adhesives, cereals, chewing gum, hair spray, mouthwash, shampoo, toothpaste, even Twinkies®!

Of all the common building products, wood requires the lowest amount of energy to produce and has the least impact on air and water quality, and

wood products come from the world's most renewable resource: trees.

The North American forest products industry is responsible for planting well over half of the 2.15 billion trees planted each year.

The success of these efforts was reflected in the last two United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's "State of the World's Forests" reports, which indicated that forest cover had increased by 20 percent in the last 30 years.

As part of the continuing practice of responsible stewardship with natural resources, APG has increased forest coverage from 3,300 acres in 1933 more than 15,000 acres in 2009, according to English.

The Chesapeake Bay watershed encompasses more than 64,000 square miles in Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, and is home to 17 million people.

Fifty-eight percent of the watershed is still forested and 90 percent consists of citizen-owned, small wooded lots.

"However, the watershed is losing forests at a rate of 100 acres a day due to development pressures and other threats such as invasive species, fragmentation and overabundant deer populations," said English.

For more information about the United Nations International Year of Forests, visit <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>.

Green landscaping puts LID on runoff

By **TERRI KALTENBACHER**
 DPW Environmental Division

The next time someone asks you to put a LID on it, don't take offense.

They may simply be asking whether you've considered putting a green roof on that new building you are designing. Low Impact Development, known as LID, is essentially

a management approach using special landscaping techniques and small-scale green technologies to slow, filter and absorb stormwater.

The overarching objective is to keep a construction site as close to natural, pre-development conditions as possible. Protecting the natural water balance or hydrology of a site protects the overall watershed. Congress has required federal agencies to provide national leadership to reduce water quality problems from stormwater runoff under the "Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007."

By 2013, all military projects must incorporate LID technologies "to make water go up or down, instead of horizontally," according to Todd Beser of the Chesapeake Bay Team, USAG Aberdeen Proving Ground Department of Public Works.



Courtesy photo

Porous pavers installed in the office parking area near the Canal Creek Water Treatment Plant at Aberdeen Proving Ground South (Edgewood).

Stormwater runoff in urban areas is one of the leading sources of water pollution in the United States. Impervious surfaces like paved parking lots and concrete walk ways do not allow stormwater to slowly soak into the ground, becoming cleaner in the process. Instead, this runoff picks up sediment and pollutants like nitrogen and phosphorus and flows into storm drains that dump directly into the

Bay, disrupting the sensitive ecosystem.

Examples of LID techniques include establishing rain gardens, installing bio-retention cells and infiltration planters, planting grassed swales, trees, and pocket wetlands up to a half-acre in size, and other revegetation efforts that use native plants and grasses when possible. Porous pavements also serve to slow the rate of runoff and increase water infiltration into

the ground. Rain cisterns can capture rainwater to reuse for other purposes.

The Chesapeake Bay Team has recently partnered with Army Research Laboratory and the Army Test Center to take the lead on LID. Two projects have been chosen and centrally funded by the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management as demonstration/pilot

See SMART, page 17



Article No. 2 in the monthly series



WHAT IS CLEAN TALK?

Clean Talk is a monthly series that highlights APG's continuing efforts to restore our environment and protect our natural and cultural resources.

These articles, focusing on the garrison's environmental program, will profile cleanup success stories, bioremediation breakthroughs, pollution prevention and greening efforts on the installation, both past and present.

Who we are: Your DPW Environmental Team

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

The task of ensuring the area's natural environment is not disturbed by Aberdeen Proving Ground missions, falls on a little-known group of Directorate of Public Works Environmental Inspectors.

The Environmental Compliance Team, a part of the directorate's Environmental Industrial Operations Branch, or (EIOB), is led by branch chief Janmichael Graine. Key to the success of the IOB is the inspection team led by Ken Warren.

Graine said the purpose of the EIOB is to ensure that APG and its tenants are in compliance with environmental laws and regulations. They do this by directing, administering, monitoring and maintaining records for environmental programs and managing daily operations and making certain appropriate actions are taken to enhance the environment.

"The Environmental Compliance Team has a very high op-tempo that ensures the garrison and garrison-supported organizations remain in compliance, and they do an awesome job," Graine said.

Warren said the inspection team averages 1,200 inspections a month and totaled 9,967 inspections over the past year. The inspection team consists of Michael Breidenbaugh, Dave Kateley, Tim Hall and Patrick Eures. Breidenbaugh said that the Environmental Compliance Tracking System tracks all inspections for compliance or non-compliance.

"ECTS is a database of programs and reports still being developed, but we can call up information to track compliance or other issues in specific areas or sites," he said.

Eures is responsible for the radiation control and compliance part of the operation. This includes the ever-so-careful job of monitoring radioactive waste from post laboratories and ranges, he said.

Breidenbaugh manages the database, but also monitors air emissions from

Keeping APG environment-friendly



Ken Warren
Environmental Protection specialist



Patrick Eures
Environmental Protection specialist



Mike Breidenbaugh
Environmental Protection specialist



Tim Hall
Environmental Protection specialist

emergency generators, boilers and steam plants. Emissions are calculated on a monthly basis as well. A certain amount of emissions are allowed annually, he said.

"We track the number of hours boilers and generators run, the type and how much of fuel they use. From that, we're able to determine how many pounds of emissions were released."

"This also requires visible inspections quarterly and maintenance inspections throughout the year," Warren said.

State and federal inspectors conduct follow-up inspections to ensure APG's local, state and federal compliance.

Landfill inspections are Hall's area of expertise. He said the primary interest is to ensure liners separating the landfill from the soil are not compromised. "Tree roots, for example can penetrate the liners," he said. "We make sure nothing leaks and gets back into the environment."

Kateley specializes in petroleum storage tanks and with the help of other team members must conduct 20-30 inspec-

tions daily to maintain compliance with the garrison's oil operations permit. The garrison currently has 53 underground storage tanks and more than 600 above-ground storage tanks, and it maintains an inventory in excess of two million gallons of petroleum products.

Other responsibilities include preparing buildings and sites for demolition.

Deconstruction debris such as refrigerators, fluorescent light tubes and air conditioners, for example, are taken to the APG recycling facility on the 3600 block," Warren said.

Arnold O'Sullivan, a program manager within the EIOB is responsible for the garrison oil operations permit.

"The inspection team is the environmental eyes and ears of the commander," explained Arnold.

"We brief the command staff quarterly. Like every other division, we are challenged by limited resources, but the goal remains to intervene with preventive maintenance."

Team members are on-call regularly and respond to the emergency oper-

ations center in the event of accidental releases from accidents or other emergencies. The team also works closely with Directorate of Emergency Services firefighters.

"They're very well trained and out there as much as we are," Arnold said.

Responsible for both the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas, the inspection team also works closely with the Environmental Division's Hazardous Waste Branch.

Arnold said the team has been in operation for two years. Prior to that 90 percent of what they now do was contracted out.

"It's significant cost avoidance for the government because this is an important requirement and growing with the new missions and more family housing going up," he said.

"There's a lot of expertise here within the EIOB. All of us have preventive backgrounds and carry various skills," said Arnold. "Organizations want to be in compliance and we're here to find solutions when they're not. Everybody understands that and they work with the inspectors. It's no easy job and most importantly we're not here to get in their way."

The inspection team averages 1,200 inspections a month and totaled 9,967 inspections over the past year.

Team members are on-call regularly and respond to the installation's emergency operations center.

How are we doing? E-mail comments and suggestions for the APG News to the editor at editor-APG@conus.army.mil

COMMUNITY NOTES

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 17

YOUTH'S BENEFIT STEM NIGHT

Youth's Benefit Elementary School, located on 1901 Fallston Road, Fallston, Md. and the Youth's Benefit Education Foundations will host its first STEM night, 6 to 8 p.m. This event will expose students and parents to how "cool" STEM projects, concepts, activities and information can be. Volunteers are encouraged to provide experiences for students to participate in a variety of science, technology, engineering, and math activities.

For more information or to volunteer, e-mail Jason Parks at Jason.Parks@hcps.org.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 17 AND 18

PMP CERTIFICATION PREP

CONTRACTOR COURSE

The majority of government contracts require DoD contractors to

employ certified Project Management Professionals. Harford Community College will offer an intense Project Management Professional (PMP) certification preparation course #25279, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 17 and 18 at the Career Advancement Center, 6245 Guardian Gateway, Suite 108B at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Tuition cost is \$499 per person; course fee is \$300 per person.

For more information, call 443-360-9108.

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 18

PROJECT RUN-A-WAY LIVING HISTORY PRODUCTION

Stories of real people who ran away from slavery and servitude from the 1720s to the 1860s will be presented 7 p.m. at the Frederick Community College Jack B. Kussmaul Theater, located on 7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, Md. Admission is free. Project Run-A-Way is a dynamic, interactive, multimedia theatrical production that

will bring 10 of those runaways "to life." As the characters, dressed just as the advertisements describe, enter the stage, the audience will be swept up in dramatic and compelling. Tickets will be distributed at the theater on the evening of the performance. For information, call 301-846-2513.

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 19

PROJECT RUN-A-WAY LIVING HISTORY PRODUCTION

Stories of real people who ran away from slavery and servitude from the 1720s to the 1860s will be presented 7 p.m. at the Avalon Theatre, located on 40 East Dover St., Easton, Md. Admission is free. See event description in Feb. 18 listing

For more information, call 301-846-2513.

TEXAS HOLD'EM

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street, Perryville,

will hold Texas Hold'em. A cash game will be held 1 p.m. Registration at 3 p.m., game begins 4 p.m. There is a \$50 buy in. Side tables will be available. First come, first served. There will be sandwiches and a cash bar. For more information, call 410-642-2771.

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 24

PRIVATE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Join us for the St. Joan of Arc School open house Feb. 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. See all of the wonderful things happening in our classrooms. Learn about special programs and after-school clubs the school offers. Hear about our participation in community service projects. SJA is located within 10 minutes from APG and is the closest non-public school to the post. Call 410-272-1387 for information.

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

Post Shorts

Holiday gate hours

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground in observance of the President's Day holiday. The Harford Gate (Route 22) in Aberdeen and the Wise Road Gate in Edgewood will close at their normal times Friday, Feb. 18. Both gates will reopen at 5 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22. The Maryland Gate in Aberdeen and the Route 24 Gate in Edgewood will be open throughout the holiday period.

Warm up with a purchase of green energy at APG

APG has firewood available at a cost of \$10 per pick-up truckload, standard one-half ton truck. Permits to buy wood are good for 10 days, or until an order is filled, whichever comes first. Permits will be issued on a first-come-first served basis in APG South (Edgewood), Bldg. E4630 and Bldg. E5774, Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. At APG North (Aberdeen), call Kathy Thisse or

Scott English for an appointment.

For more information, call 410-436-9804/7379/8789.

Lunch and Learn with MCSC

The Military, Civilian and Spouses' Club invites members of the APG community to attend a Lunch and Learn, 11:30 a.m., Feb. 24 at the APG Dining Facility, Bldg. 4503, on Springfield Street. Lenora Hammett, a financial expert, will speak on the topic "Becoming Financially Literate." For more information or to RSVP, call Terie Carrick at 732-977-4318 or e-mail terie@carricks.net.

Driver beware: Construction causes traffic changes

Starting on or about Feb. 19 and continuing for the next several weeks, there will be intermittent shoulder and single lane closures on Boothby Hill Avenue and Havre De Grace Street in the vicinity of the new BRAC Integration Facility.

The work area on Boothby Hill Avenue

is located between the intersections of Bel Air Street and Havre De Grace Street.

The work area along Havre De Grace Street will be between Boothby Hill Avenue and School Road.

All work will be performed between 9 am and 3:30 pm to minimize impact to traffic. Traffic control in the form of signs and flaggers will be used as necessary.

Drivers are requested to use Susquehanna Avenue as an alternate route during this period to avoid the construction.

Motorists who must travel through the construction areas are advised to use caution.

Feb. 18 deadline looms for scholarship applications

The Our Family for Families First Foundation will offer scholarships and grants to eligible students. Scholarship applications are due Feb. 18 and grant applications are due May 20 for classes beginning in the fall of 2011. Eligible participants include:

- Graduating high school students with a parent who is an active-duty Soldier stationed at APG
- Spouses of active-duty Soldiers stationed at APG

High school students can apply for a \$40,000 scholarship and spouses are eligible for a \$5,000 grant to help out with educational costs.

For information or applications, call 401-932-3873 or visit www.ourfamily-foundation.org.

Tax centers now open at APG North, South

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate Tax Center located in Bldg. E4227 at Aberdeen Proving Ground South (Edgewood) is now open. The center will be open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays and will offer free preparation of simple and intermediate federal and state tax returns for active duty military members, their Families and retirees.

The APG North (Aberdeen) tax center, Bldg. 4313, will be open and will provide service from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. This location will offer free basic and more advanced tax preparation assistance to active duty service members, Family members and retirees.

For information and updates, visit www.apg.army.mil and select the Services directory, Installation Support Offices – Legal (ILO).

New hours for APG Thrift Shop

Due to inclement weather, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Thrift Shop will open at 10 a.m. instead of 11 on Wednesdays and at 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m. on Thursdays throughout February. For information, call 410-272-8572.

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

Travel abroad briefing

Special to the APG News

Travel abroad brings with it many challenges to include those posed by foreign intelligence services, terrorists and criminals.

The Intelligence and Security Division provides foreign travel briefings to individuals traveling outside of the U.S. to prepare them for these challenges. Whether you travel for official or personnel reasons if you are employed by the Army you must receive a country specific briefing before any foreign travel. All DoD personnel must also on an annual basis take online Level 1 training. This training can be accessed at <https://atlev-el1.dtic.mil/at/>.

In addition to the Level 1 online training and country-specific briefing, if you hold a security clearance you must report your foreign travel

in advance to your security manager.

If you have a clearance at the TS SCI level you must notify your FSO. Each separate trip needs to be reported. The division also offers briefings to spouses and dependents 14 years old or older. Country specific briefings are required for each trip.

If your organization elects to utilize this service please contact the Security and Intelligence Division at 410-278-3187 at least two weeks in advance of planned travel.

Although we can accommodate last minute requests, these should be due to short-notice suspenses and not a failure on the individual's part to properly plan ahead. To achieve economy of scale we try to schedule groups and not individuals and we can only do this with adequate advanced notice.



LEAVE DONATIONS

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

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Sarah Blevins	Lynae Green	Ella Patrick	Danielle Terrin
Debra Bonsall	Walter Holland	Richard Pecoraro	Joya Tucker
Diane Bratton	Michele Hornberger	Christi Peterson	Luis Villafane
Georgia Braun	Debra Ingram	Michele Reamey	Christina Weber
Jeanie Calles	Kari Jackson	Pedro Rodriguez	Emily Whaley
Clark Capers	Maia Kaiser	Maria Santiago	Fletcher "Chip" Williams
Jennifer Devorak	Jessica Knight	Gloria Scott	Taryn Wilson
Meg Downey	Shantia Mack	Paul Shelley	Tammy Woodard
Chris Edwards	Margaret Nahrgang	Lena Shelton	Bruce Woodmansee
Sabrina Faulkner	Randy Newton	Diane Simmons	Victoria Yates-Sparks
Thomas Garrett	Ulrike Neyens	Philip Sibley	
Holly Geppi	Marie D. Nowak	Danielle Smith	
Charles Giles	Stephanie Parrett	Rachel Swearingen	

FAMILY AND MWR

Activities/Events

Open Mic Night set Feb. 24

Open Mic Night will be held at the APG North Side Grill/AA Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326 Feb. 24.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and Open Mic takes place 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. Performance categories are spoken word, vocals, instrumentals, and comedy.

Complimentary bar foods, limited snack bar operation and cash bar for beer and wine will be available. Sign-up online at www.apgmwr.com to participate.

Sign-up will close Feb 23. Late-comers are welcome! Must be 18 years and older to participate. Call 410-278-4011/3854 for information

A murderous dinner and show you won't want to miss

It's an academic whodunit that you won't want to fail. Murder 101 is an interactive comedy murder mystery set at the class reunion of a closing high school. As various alumni gather to say goodbye to their beloved alma mater, old rivalries and new alliances add up to an evening of murder and mayhem.

Community members are invited to participate and should sign up by March 1. Casting is still open; rehearsals dates are set March 7-10 and the murder mystery dinner takes place March 11. Visit WWW.APGMWR.COM. The event,

open to DoD ID cardholders and their guests, is appropriate for ages 12 and older. Buffet dinner and show begins at 7 p.m. at the AA Recreation Center Ballroom, Bldg. 3326. Tickets cost \$20 and can be purchased at the Leisure Travel Office, Bldg. 3326 on Erie Street, or call 410-278-4011. Limited to 250 tickets.

Circus tickets on sale

Ladies and gentlemen, come see the greatest show on earth. Tickets are available for shows March 30 to April 10 at the 1st Mariner Arena in Baltimore for \$19.25 per person. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey is roaring into town with Barnum's FUNdrum, a celebration of P.T. Barnum so big it is an event 200 years in the making. All seats are located in the lower sections. All dates and show times are available. The last day to purchase tickets is March 23.

For information or to purchase tickets, visit MWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326, at 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

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.

Walt Disney World salutes the Armed Forces

Now through Sept. 28, active duty military and retirees may purchase four-day Walt Disney World Armed Forces Salute tickets for themselves and up to five Family members and/or friends for \$138.

There are three different ticket options available for those wanting to visit Walt Disney World:

- Walt Disney World 4 Day Military Salute Tickets with Park Hopper Option, \$138 each
- Walt Disney World 4 Day Military Salute Tickets with Water Park Fun and More Option, \$138 each
- Walt Disney World 4 Day Military Salute Tickets with Park Hopper and Water Park Fun and More Options, \$165 each

Tickets can be upgraded to add either

option, or both for an additional \$27 per option.

All tickets must be purchased at least three weeks prior to departure dates.

Black-out dates include April 17 to 23 at all Disney World theme parks and July 4, 2011 at Magic Kingdom only.

The active duty/retiree must be present at Disney to activate the tickets.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call MWR Leisure Travel Services, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

Country music impersonators

There will be a Tribute Show to celebrate the roots of rock and roll at 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Edgewood Area Stark Recreation Center, Bldg. E4140. Doors open at 6 p.m. Members of the Memphis Mafia will be featured. Guests include Sean Jameson as Garth Brooks; Ted Tharp as Elvis; Jim Rapposelli as Johnny Cash; Trevor Biggers and Jim Rapposelli as The Blues Brothers; Rachel Bauer as Carrie Underwood; and Gary Baker as Bopper G. Admission costs \$5 per person for all active duty and \$10 per person for all others.

For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, visit MWR Leisure Travel Office in Bldg. 3326 or the EA Recreation Center in Bldg. E4041 or call 410-278-4011.

SKIES Unlimited

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

Private piano lessons

Private guitar lessons for ages 4 to 18 will be held 3 to 9:30 p.m. Fridays from March 4 to April 8; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays from March 5 to April 9; and 3 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays from March 8 to April 12 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522. Cost of the lessons is \$102 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for six weeks. Parents choose which time frame session they want when registering. Students are responsible for buying instructor-recommended books for the course. Open to all DoD ID cardholders.

Tots and Tutus/ toddler dance

This toddler dance class is full of stimulation in sight, touch and sound.

Held 5:30 to 6 p.m. Fridays through Feb. 25, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522, for ages 18 months to 2 and a half years.

This class is a wildly interactive introduction to dance for little ones. Adult participation is required. Open to DoD ID cardholders.

Pip Hop offered at Youth Center

Children ages 4 to 5 can participate in Pip Hop from 7:15 to 7:45 p.m. through

Feb. 25 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522. Parents, do your pip-squeaks want to dance like the big kids? Well now is their chance Pip Hop is full of rhythm, body awareness, simple choreography and high energy craziness all set to cool funky music. Parents, let your pip-squeaks get their groove on in this class. Cost is \$45 per child. Open to DoD ID cardholders.

Princess Series

Girls ages 3 to 4 will stretch their imaginations as well as their toes as they dance their way through a storybook collage of fairy tales. The Little Princess Workshop will be held 6:15 to 7 p.m., through Feb. 25, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522. Each of the six-week sessions features one of two fairytales that have been turned into a ballet. Cost is \$45 per child. Open to DoD ID cardholders.

Private guitar lessons

Private guitar lessons for ages 7 to 18 will be held 3 to 9:30 p.m. Fridays from March 4 to April 8; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat-

urdays from March 5 to April 9; and 3 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays from March 8 to April 12 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522. Cost of the lessons is \$102 per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for six weeks.

Parents choose which time frame session they want when registering. Students are responsible for buying instructor-recommended books for the course. Books are a one-time purchase. Students must also provide their own guitar.

February bowling specials

- Early Bird Special: Bowl from 7 to 9 a.m. for \$1 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Wednesday to Friday, 2 to 4 p.m., bowl for \$.75 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Each Friday, 9:30 to 11 p.m., bowl one game for \$3.50 and bowl one game free. Shoe rental costs \$2.
- Cosmic Saturdays: Each Satur-

day, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra) and one pitcher of soda for \$32. Shoe rental costs \$1.

New bowling rates

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

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday and Tuesday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday; 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday; 1 to 11 p.m., Saturday; and 1 to 6 p.m., Sunday. Lunch delivery is available for orders of \$25 or more. Call for delivery before 11 a.m.

Week of Feb. 14

Special #1: Crab cake with French fries, coleslaw, cookie and regular soda for \$10.50.

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

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



Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at www.apgmwr.com.

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

Morgan State president highlights black achievements during APG program

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Dr. David Wilson said he was not a historian, but he delivered a historic speech on black achievements during the Civil War.

Wilson, the president of Morgan State University, was the guest speaker for the Team APG Black History Month observance at the Aberdeen Proving Ground North (Aberdeen) recreation center Feb. 9.



Wilson

The year marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The sesquicentennial observance will last through 2014.

Col. Casmere Taylor, USAPHC chief of staff, welcomed attendees who numbered nearly 400 and Col. Orlando Ortiz, APG garrison and deputy installation commander, introduced Wilson.

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Equal Opportunity Office and U.S. Army Public Health Command hosted the event.

Ortiz noted Wilson's humble beginnings, his rise to lead one of the nation's top historically black colleges and the school's engineering partnership with RDECOM.

"You can see this gentleman moves aggressively in pursuit of opportunity and that is what we should all strive to do," Ortiz said.

Wilson talked about the prominent role former slaves and freed men played in "molding the America we know today."

He said 75 percent of black



From right, Barbara Green, a supply technician with the C4ISR Logistics Readiness Center, and Melinda Ann Gresham of CERDEC, wear Nigerian and Kenyan-styled attire while viewing a display in the Aberdeen Proving Ground North Recreation Center during the Team APG Black History Month Observance.

men of fighting age joined the Union Army fight against the Confederacy. They formed 166 units, nearly all of them on the frontline.

Twenty-five blacks earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, including seven Sailors of the Union Navy, 15 Soldiers of the United States Colored Troops, and three Soldiers of other Army units.

"Those who fought 150 years ago did so because they wanted to participate in something called the American Dream," Wilson said. "Because of their fight, the U.S. military today is a model of diversity for the entire world."

"All over America people are working to achieve their dreams and that's what we are all about at Morgan State University."

Entertainment for the pro-

“Those who fought 150 years ago did so because they wanted to participate in something called the American Dream. Because of their fight, the U.S. military today is a model of diversity for the entire world.”

Dr. David Wilson

President of Morgan State University

gram included music by the Morgan State University Jazz Ensemble and a poem reading by Naveed Rahman, a military Family member from Aberdeen High School.

Courtney White sang the national anthem and sang the unofficial Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and

Sing." Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jimmy Davis, 20th Support Command, gave the opening prayer and Geraldine Miles, USAPHC program manager, served as mistress of ceremony.

At the program's conclusion, guests talked about the program while taking in the ethnic displays and food tasting.

"I attend every year and it progressively gets better and better," said Alvin D. Thornton, engineering director with the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and Morgan State University alumnus. "I'm sure the new people coming in with BRAC have added to the experience."

Retired 1st Sgt. Larry Tyson, formerly of the APG garrison, displayed his personal collection of black history books, artwork and collectibles.

"I worked with several of the committee members before, and feedback was so positive when they asked me that I was happy to do it," Tyson said, adding that he considers displays "one way of teaching."

"If someone can walk away having learned something about the famous 54th Massachusetts [one of the first official black military units established during the Civil War] then I'm happy," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Laquita Wimbley, RDECOM equal opportunity advisor, and Linda Patrick of USAPHC led the committee organizers. This was Wimbley's fifth event and she said they just keep getting better.

"It was an excellent program with a fantastic turnout," said Wimbley. "These are community events. We try to involve as many organizations as possible to make it a Team APG [event]. "When everyone comes together as a team, we can pool our resources and make something fantastic; and all contributors will feel like they count."

She said the purpose of ethnic programs is to "educate."

"That's my job. It's not all about food and entertainment," said Wimbley. "It's about hearing from other perspectives. This is how cultures and generations learn from each other."

Survivor Services offers grief support

Continued from Page 1

service men and women in a compassionate, thorough and timely manner.

Unlike casualty assistance, Survivor Outreach Services is open to non-ID cardholders as well government ID cardholders, services are available for life and it provides a single, local point of contact—the support coordinator—who works with other agencies.

“It’s for anyone going through the grieving process,” said Annette Sanders SOS support coordinator. “Some people don’t grieve for years. But when they do, we offer long-term case management for surviving family members to call and get their questions answered.

“As a support coordinator, I can help them pick up, change and start their lives over again,” she said. “Survivor Outreach can help whole families get their

lives back on track.”

Under Survivor Outreach Services, it is not required that the fallen Soldier dies in theater. Death can have occurred at anytime, anywhere, on duty or off. This applies to active duty, retired, National Guard or Army Reserve members.

“There are limits to what we can do for non-ID cardholders but we can find for them resources that will support the individual or family,” Sanders said.

Sanders said that the program began with Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr., who developed the idea for a better support system for survivors of fallen service members in 2006. Working with Gold Star spouse Donna Engeman and other survivors, as well as with Installation Manage-

ment commander Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, Casey developed what became Survivor Outreach Services. Today there are more than 108 support coordinators and financial counselors giving support to Families worldwide.

“This program exists to help those grieving a Soldier, whether it’s a sibling, cousin, grandparent or battle buddy, Sanders explained. “And it extends back to World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It is in keeping with the Army Covenant that says the Army will be there to support those families.”

Sanders said her goal is to get the word about SOS to Families off post and on, to church groups or anyone who even thinks they someone who is a survivor.

“This is not about surviving a loss; it’s about overcoming a grief and that

could take years,” Sanders said. “It’s my job to make contact with all the people out there who don’t know they are eligible to use these services.”

She said that groups like Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., offers similar services and when applicable clients may be referred to these or similar groups.

SOS is a holistic and multi-agency approach to delivering services by providing access at garrisons and communities closest to where Families live.

Sanders is located at 2503 Highpoint Road, Room 109. For more information, call 410-278-2861, e-mail Annette.sandersnash@us.army.mil, or visit www.MyARMYOneSource.com and click on “Family Programs and Services” for the Surviving Families link.

Deploying troops support Operation New Dawn

Continued from Page 1

“Never hesitate to reach out and ask for help,” he told them.

The deployment is expected to last about a year in support of Operation New Dawn, formerly Operation Iraqi Freedom. The name was changed to reflect the reduced role U.S. troops will play in securing the country as troop levels fall.

The 1729th FSCM provides area support to units in the sustainment brigade area of operations, including the capability to operate a fixed base maintenance shop and conduct recovery operations. The unit will report to Iraq after further training at Fort Hood, Texas.

Spc. Tamartha Bellinger has been with the 1729th a year and 10 months.

Bellinger is a 91B wheeled vehicle mechanic who trained at APG. She is the only sibling of five younger brothers and one older sister to join the military and said she looks forward to the deployment.

“I feel good about it,” she said. “I’m in a good unit with good people. My whole family is here and they’re all proud of me.”

Sgt. Jacqueline Cibrian won’t be separated from her spouse during the yearlong deployment. He, Sgt. Nathan Cibrian, is a Soldier in the unit and will deploy with her. Jacqueline, however, was teary-eyed at the thought of both her and her husband leaving their 7-year-old daughter behind.

“We’ll do great because we are one big family,” she said of both her unit and her family.

Spc. James Mitchell, also a 91B wheel vehicle mechanic, said he was feeling the love while surrounded by his Family members—wife Gwendolyn; daughter Allie, 6; son Keir, 12; parents Gary and Teresa Mitchell and grandparents James and Jeanette Taylor.

“When he decided to go, it surprised the whole family but we’re all very proud of him,” Gary Mitchell said of his son.

“We are his built-in support system,” added Gwendolyn Mitchell who runs the unit’s Family Support Group. “Things should go very smoothly.”

A former supply technician with the former 61st Ordnance Brigade at APG now assigned to the 59th Ordnance Brigade at Fort Lee, Va., Sgt. Georgina Onomake has been with the 1729th for two years. This will be her third deployment to Iraq since 2003.

Onomake said her husband and three children have returned home to Monrovia, Africa, where they will remain while she is away.

“It’s hard but this is what being a Soldier means,” she said. “We have a lot of knowledge in this unit. It’s a wonderful unit. They’ve trained hard and are ready to go,” she said. “I told them that every one of us will come back because we are blessed.”

Taekwondo students win big

Continued from Page 1

Secrist, who is aspiring to earn the purple belt while taking classes at APG, said that she was very surprised and excited to earn first place.

“Taekwondo is my favorite sport; I want to do it as much as possible,” she said. “I have met a lot of friends here and I really enjoy helping the kids in the Tiny Tigers Taekwondo program; they love me.”

At the Gaithersburg Champion Karate Invitational Feb. 6, Leah Jones, 9, a yellow belt with green stripe, took place first place in sparring and weapons and third in regular forms.

Secrist took first in weapons, second in forms and third in sparring in her category.

“When they called my name, I felt like I was going to cry, I was really excited,” said Jones, who has been practicing taekwondo for a year and a half. “During competition I was nervous but it felt so good to see my parents and coaches cheering me on.”

Both students take taekwondo twice a week at the Aberdeen Proving Ground North (Aberdeen) Youth Center through Child Youth and School Services’ SKIES Unlimited Program, taught by Sean Williams, head instructor for Unity Taekwondo School of Martial Arts.

Williams said he is proud of his student’s dedication.



APG taekwondo student and green belt Hannah Secrist, 9, received first place in weapons at the Mass America Sport Martial Arts League World Games in Boston, Mass., Jan. 29.

“They represented the military community, Team APG, very well. They really held their own,” he said. “I care about my students and I want them to put forth their best effort, not just in taekwondo,

but also at school and at home.”

Williams said he thinks that taekwondo is a positive outlet for military children who might be dealing with the stress of a deployed parent or recent move.

“Studying taekwondo helped me deal with stress when I was going through a difficult time as a teenager,” he said. “I want to encourage my students to deal with stress in a positive way.”

Secrist’s mother, Johna Minnich, said she encouraged her daughter to participate in taekwondo to meet new friends after they moved to the area.

“She was very upset about moving so we wanted her to find an activity that would take her mind off of it,” Minnich said. “Not too long after I noticed a change in her behavior. She developed confidence and met new friends. She also has developed leadership skills from instructing the other children and it keeps her active,” she said. “I think the program is great, it teaches children respect and keeps them out of trouble.”

For more information about the SKIES taekwondo program, contact Stacie Umbarger, SKIES director. E-mail stacie.umbarger1@us.army.mil or call 410-278-4589. Visit http://www.apgmwr.com/family/youth_skies.html for information on SKIES Unlimited.

Smart planning key to APG LID success

Continued from Page 6

areas and are at 30 percent design phase, according to Chesapeake Bay Team Leader Steve Wampler.

The first test site is the ARL design and construction of a 475’ x 75’ unmanned aerial vehicle airfield on Spesutie Island. The second pilot project is retrofitting the entryway for ATC Building 400 by removing curbs and asphalt and replacing them with bioretention cells and permeable parking pavers.

“APG is getting rid of large stormwater management ponds and looking more at localized techniques such as grassed swales and rain gardens [in construction projects],” said Wampler. The driving force behind LID is to show new natural ways to manage stormwater at costs comparable to traditional engineering, while saving space and utilizing water more efficiently. Another added benefit of LID is that these changes are pleasing to the senses; they look attractive and often provide shade, breaking up vast expanses of pavement.

APG is home to two of the three healthiest and cleanest tributaries in the entire Bay region. In order to maintain this high water quality and keep moving forward, Wampler stressed that early, smart master planning is critical to LID success at APG and military installations nationwide.

“In the past, planning has not always considered the cumulative ecological impacts resulting from impervious surfaces in urban development that is an inevitable component of a changing and expanding military mission,” Wampler emphasized.

Another member of the team, Rosemary Queen, thinks that it is time for a paradigm shift in our way of thinking— that “LID should be an everyday practice in our construction projects in order to sustain our lands and help restore the Bay”.

“If Army installations are truly to be sustainable, a systemic change must occur in stormwater management—a commitment to LID principles in the installation-wide visioning and planning processes integrated into the design of specific site planning actions”, said Queen.

For more detailed information on these projects, LID techniques, and regulations governing the LID requirement, visit the APG Blog at <http://apg.armylive.dodlive.mil/>.

Next STEM summit set April 28

Continued from Page 1

challenges with their respective STEM programs.

The government panel, consisting of representatives from several organizations at Aberdeen Proving Ground, relayed the numerous outreach efforts available for STEM education.

“Our job is to provide long-range learning opportunities for kids so they are ready to pursue the challenging math and science courses,” Dr. Katie Blanding, STEM outreach coordinator for RDECOM, said.

“First off, we have a willing body of people on post with programs that engage both on and off the installation. Second, we have facilities. Third, we have opportunities for teachers and students to spend time with us both in the schools and on the installation,” Martin said.

The industry panelists conveyed how STEM is seen by them through the prism of workforce development.

“We see STEM as our life blood,” Glen Bassett, Site Executive and Director of Advanced Communications and Countermeasures, Raytheon, said.

“With corporate involvement, we look for short-term goals. But when you are talking about education, it is really a long-term pursuit,” Nicole Funk, Senior Vice

President, Booz Allen Hamilton, said.

Funk also commented on how STEM has begun to become ingrained in the culture of students, educators and industry.

“STEM is growing fast. I think every place I go, I hear about it. A lot of programs are adding STEM to the conversation,” she said.

The education panelists reiterated the change they are witnessing in the perception of STEM education and its participants.

“APG has provided a destination for the kid who aspires in STEM subjects. We’re creating a culture with long-term goals ahead,” Dr. Jeffrey Lawson, executive director for high school education in Cecil County said.

Dr. Stephen Pannill, president of Cecil College, led the higher education panel and continued on that theme by expressing the need to celebrate students and professionals who excel in STEM, rather than pop culture icons.

“We need to highlight the heroes in the STEM fields and make them as important and significant to folks as our sports heroes,” he said.

Pannill’s comments echo remarks made by President Barack Obama during last month’s State of the Union

address. During his speech, Obama said, “We need to teach our kids that it’s not just the winner of the Super Bowl who deserves to be celebrated, but the winner of the science fair.”

As the summit drew to a close, Martin stressed the need to continue similar summits in the future to build on previous achievements.

“The intent here isn’t simply to just have one meeting and then walk away and call that success. We’ll have some follow-up activities and we will continue the dialogue,” he said.

Martin then laid out his plan for the next summit. He requested volunteer team leaders for four workgroups: lighting the spark, teacher enrichment, curriculum enhancement and strategic communications. After team leaders were assigned, attendees were invited to sign up and join one of the workgroups with an eye toward the next summit.

“We’d like the groups to get together and have some discussion on how to normalize the data we’ve heard here. Then, perhaps, come to the next summit with recommendations on what we should collectively do,” Martin said.

The next STEM summit has been tentatively scheduled for April 28.