

APG NEWS



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Overnight snowstorm blankets APG

Photo by Rachel Ponder

Aberdeen Proving Ground provides large areas of natural habitat for many species, including a large goose population. Located within the Atlantic Flyway, APG also is a major migratory route for a number of waterfowl species. The number of wintering Canada geese may number 10,000. Despite an appearance of spring-like weather last week, Monday evening's snowstorm proved that winter is still with us. The 10-day forecast predicts winter weather well into next week.

One dead, two injured in APG boating accident

Staff report

One man died and two others were injured in a boating accident at Aberdeen Proving Ground Sunday morning.

A boater on the Gunpowder River discovered the boat with the three men aboard and towed it to Baltimore County, where each of the men was transported to different hospitals for medical attention; one was pronounced dead at Franklin Square Hospital.

Testing and training takes place on some portions of the river, but "when safety and security do not require us to restrict waters, we allow passage and that area is popular with commercial watermen, recreational fishers and boaters," said George Mercer, U.S. Army Garrison APG Public Affairs Officer.

Mercer said the river was open Sunday morning for recreational use.

"As is standard with any such incident, it is under investigation by Army Criminal Investigation Command agents at APG," said Mercer.

'Don't Ask' repeal training set to begin

By **JIM GARAMONE**

American Forces Press Service

Training will begin shortly for experts in certain specialties and leaders as part of the plan for finalizing repeal of the law that bars gay men,

See DoD, page 12

Spring events highlight of February CAC

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

As winter weather, ever so slowly, gives way to warmer temperatures, upcoming spring events were a hot topic during

last week's Community Action Council meeting.

Guest speakers discussing topics relevant to the Aberdeen Proving Ground community during the Feb. 17

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Ingrid Riseley (center) a military spouse, questions gate during the February Community Action Council meeting at the Aberdeen Proving Ground South (Edgewood) Chapel Feb. 17.

APG scientists, engineers share STEM expertise



During "The Magic of Science" break-out session, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center scientist Ken Collins (standing) conducts a demonstration using Water Willie, a water-thickening agent used in the ECBC lab, for 5-year-old Liam Rosesener, 5, and audience members.

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

Explosive Chemistry. Shocking Science. Leaf-Blower Levitation. BristleBots.

These were just a few of the breakout sessions at Youth Benefit Elementary School's first STEM Night Feb. 17.

During the event more than 600 students and parents experienced educationally entertaining science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, projects, concepts, activities and information. More than a dozen scientists and engineers from Aberdeen Proving Ground presented hands-on activities related to their fields.

"These students are tomorrow's scientists and engineers," said Carmen Kifer, a parent and YBES-volunteer who works at APG's Army Chemical Materials Agency. "They will be solving real world problems. We want to give these students the inspiration and the tools they need to succeed."

During the event, Gayla Turner McMichael, from the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, which funds educational outreach events for the Edgewood Biological Chemical Center, said that getting students and parents enthusiastic about STEM is the goal behind this and similar events.

"Nationwide we have a deficiency in students perusing STEM careers. Students just don't have an excitement for it," McMichael said. "These events introduce STEM in a fun way to students at an early age."

McMichael's hoping parents will continue to take an interest in STEM subjects, calling their role critical as the United States attempts to bounce back from a lagging STEM workforce. Worldwide, a country's

STEM workforce is arguably the top indicator of that nation's ability to sustain itself.

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WEATHER

Thurs.



50° | 43°

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CAC SLIDES AVAILABLE ONLINE

To view slides from the Feb. meeting go to www.slideshare.net/USAGAPG/feb-apg-community-action-council-slides.

OPINION

Reporter, avid reader recommends favorite books in honor of Black History Month

If it is true that a good book has the power to transport a reader to a different time and place, then count me as a well-travelled lady.

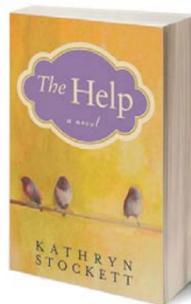
I have always been an enthusiastic reader, always in search of the next great book. I've always been extremely curious—about other cultures, other perspectives, life experiences other than my own.

In honor of Black History Month, I've compiled a list of just a few my favorite books that highlight black characters.

The Help

I found *The Help*, published in 2009 and written by Kathryn Stockett, thought provoking. The story takes place in a segregated Jackson, Miss., in the early 1960s. It tells its story from the perspectives of its three main characters—Minny Jackson and Aibileen Clark, two black maids, and Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan, a white woman fresh out of college.

With no real plan for the future, Skeeter feels out of place when she



returns to her hometown. When she attempts to become a writer, a New York City editor advises her to gain needed experience by writing about issues that disturb her.

While visiting the homes of childhood friends, Skeeter takes an interest in the lives of her friend's maids—many of whom had the important task of caring for and raising the family's children, but were not allowed to use the family's toilet or eat in the kitchen.

Skeeter decides to interview the maids in secret, so they can tell their story, explain what it's like to work for white families. Aibileen and Minny agree to help with the project, putting their careers and their own safety at risk. Skeeter develops an unlikely friendship with the two maids, who come to depend on each other throughout the process of writing the book.

These women share their own experiences, some are funny, some are heartbreaking.

Aibileen, who has spent most of her life loving and caring for white children, thinks of those children as her own. Aibileen tries to teach the little girl she cares for not judge people based on the color of their skin. This is a difficult task in a racist home.

Outspoken Minny is famous for offending her white employers with her honest answers and is distrustful of Skeeter at first. Over time she learns to trust Skeeter and becomes invested in the book project despite the growing risk to her life for doing so.

Skeeter risks her whole way of life, everything she's ever known, including the comfort and familiarity of friends

and family, her social standing in the community, to lead this project.

Reading this book gave me a new view of the segregated South and a better appreciation for how far race relations have come in America. Most people are at least vaguely familiar with the struggles of the Civil Rights era, but it's a treat when a good fiction book can bring it to life. It's a strange combination of gut-wrenching truth and humor.

I highly recommend the audio book version of this book. As if the dialogue wasn't excellent enough, the narrators' performances are the best I've ever listened to. And I've listened to many.

Their Eyes Were Watching God

I studied "Their Eyes Were Watching God," by Zora Neale Hurston for an African American Literature class I took during my senior year of high school.

The novel, which was written in 1937, focuses on the life of Janie Crawford, who lives in the black town of Eaton, Florida, and the trials she faced during her three marriages.

I remember loving this book because of the way the characters come to life. Hurston received some criticism for her use of dialect, but also praise in the literary community for her use of language and depictions of black life,

especially the lives of black women.

As a woman, I could relate to her relationship struggles, her pain, and her desire to find true love.

And Hurston's lively use of language, her dead-on descriptions of the heady joys and excruciating pain of love made this an instant favorite for me.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

"I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," written in 1969, is an autobiography of the first 17 years of renowned writer and poet Maya Angelou. It is the first volume in the author's series of six autobiographical narratives.

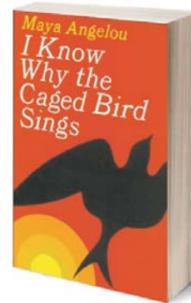
Angelou writes about her journey as an insecure girl affected by racism while living in the South during the Great Depression and in California during the 1940s.

Angelou, who was abandoned by her parents at an early age, struggles throughout the book to find love and acceptance.

Reading about Angelou's many injustices was at times difficult, but ultimately inspiring. Despite her many hardships in life, ranging from sexual abuse to poverty and abandonment, Angelou thrives against the odds.

Rachel Ponder

APG News reporter



Healthy relationships worth effort

Anyone in a romantic relationship (yes, that includes those of you who are married) knows that creating and maintaining a healthy relationship takes hard work.

In the military, such factors as long hours at work and deployments and separations can take their toll on a relationship. Often, when service members return home after an absence, they discover that some roles have changed.

Feelings of anger, isolation, betrayal and fear may be experienced by many people in these circumstances. A variety of stressors can challenge even the best relationships.

So, what can you do to improve and keep your relationship healthy?

Good habits like physical exercise and healthy nutrition keep our bodies and minds strong. So it is with healthy relationships! To improve and maintain a healthy relationship start practicing these three good habits:

First, work on improving your communication. You can begin now, and reap the benefits immediately by using these techniques:

Arguments often cause blood pressure increases, hasty, impulsive decisions and a bad mood for the rest of the day.

■ **Active listening**—Really listen to what your partner is saying when he or she is talking. Eliminate distractions such as television, an iPod or video games. Tune in to your partner's words and hear what is being said behind the words. Benefit: Your partner will feel valued and important.

■ **Reflection**—When your partner finishes speaking, repeat what your partner said, so he or she knows you are listening. This practice ensures you really understand what is being communicated. Your partner then has a chance to clarify if you didn't quite understand. Benefit: Your partner will know you really want to know what he or she is trying to say.

■ **Effective expression of emotions**—If you are upset and feeling angry, slamming doors and shouting

will not address the issue. If you are really out of control, take a timeout—go for a walk, or leave the situation—but not before telling your partner you want to talk about your feelings after you've had time to cool off. Benefit: You and your partner will exercise control over the situation rather than allowing the situation to control you.

Second, be thankful and appreciative. Take time to think about why your relationship is important to you, and the many benefits reaped from sharing life with your partner. Telling your partner that he or she is important can shift the emotional energy from conflict to contentment. Rather than being fixated on what is wrong, focus on the positive aspects of your relationship. Many times this reflection helps to put the issue in perspective.

Third, have FUN! Remember when

you were a teenager and dating? You might not be teenagers anymore, but re-dating your partner can jump-start a stalled relationship and steer you from a rocky, difficult time. Consider going to a movie together, trying a new activity such as bicycling or a pottery class or just taking a walk together.

Building and maintaining healthy relationships is hard work, but putting forth the effort can improve your mental and physical health. Arguments often cause blood pressure increases, hasty, impulsive decisions and a bad mood for the rest of the day. Healthy relationships don't happen overnight, but making little changes in your behavior and thoughts can result in improved happiness and better overall health.

Visit After Deployment, a military site for help with a variety of life issues including program and information sheets for improving relationships at www.afterdeployment.org.

Lt. Col. Scott Weichl, Chaplain
U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional)

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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OPINION

Trailblazer sets tone for future freedom



By
DIANA KARAKOS
ORISE, Cultural Resources Program

The year 2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the bloodiest war fought on American soil: the Civil War. The contemporary issues regarding states' rights versus federal control and the resulting secession of the Confederate states to maintain individual sovereignty and the right to keep slaves originally sparked the war in 1861.

One year later, President Abraham Lincoln announced that one of the goals of the war would be to end slavery in all Confederate-controlled regions. Unintentionally, Lincoln had set the stage for the eventual passage of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in the United States, the most significant and well-known result of the war.

The signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln enabled black

men to officially become Soldiers in the war effort. According to "Legacy: Treasures of Black History," more than 186,000 black Soldiers fought for the Union Army, with 93,000 from Confederate states, 40,000 from border states, and 53,000 from free states.

In the end, 38,000 black soldiers had died for the promise of freedom. Additionally, free blacks also served the Confederates as blacksmiths, cooks, chaplains and laborers. They were not allowed to serve as Soldiers until March 1865, two months before the fighting ceased.

However, black men were not the only ones to participate in the fight for the freedom of their race. Many Black women risked and lost their lives in the effort as well. One remarkable woman, Susie King Taylor, escaped from the South to travel with the 33d United States Colored Troops, Late 1st S.C.

Volunteers where she both served as a nurse and taught the soldiers to read and write. In fact, after the war, she was the first African American woman to openly teach former slaves at a school she started in Georgia. Additionally, she was the only African American woman who, in 1902, published an account of the war from her perspective entitled, "Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33d United States Colored Troops, Late 1st S.C. Volunteers."

Taylor was born on August 6, 1848 on the Grest Farm in Liberty County, Georgia. When she reached about seven years of age, her and her brother and sister were given an extraordinary opportunity: Mr. Grest allowed them to go live with their grandmother in Savannah, effectively granting them freedom. Taylor and her brother were allowed to

See SUSIE, page 12

Traffic Safety: Pedestrian right of way in crosswalk

Maryland Law and Aberdeen Proving Ground Regulations clearly define the responsibilities of both the motorist and pedestrian, either while approaching the crosswalk as a motorist or as a pedestrian entering the crosswalk.

Maryland law it clearly states, "The driver of a vehicle shall come to a stop when a pedestrian crossing the roadway in a crosswalk is on the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or approaching from an adjacent lane on the other half of the roadway."

The duty of the pedestrian at a marked crosswalk is defined under Maryland law as follows: "A pedestrian may not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or

run into the path of a vehicle of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield."

In addition, if at a marked crosswalk or an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, when a vehicle is stopped to let a pedestrian cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear may not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

The traffic pedestrian laws are easy to understand. However, common sense and courtesy are factors that must be used within the APG community to avoid traffic fatalities and to ensure everyone comes to work and goes home safely.

Lt. Joseph Davis

APG Police Traffic Section

Kicking it into high gear

APG News reporter Rachel Ponder stays motivated by trying a variety of challenging post fitness classes, including the high intensity lunchtime kickboxing class led by certified fitness instructor Andrea Brooks. Kickboxing combines elements of boxing, martial arts, and aerobics resulting in overall physical conditioning and toning. "This is a high-intensity interval workout. It is great for cardiovascular and strength building," Brooks said. She explained that kickboxing uses plyometrics, a type of exercise training designed to recruit more muscles than walking alone. "When done properly this exercise yields fast results," Brooks said. Follow Ponder and fellow APG News reporter Yvonne Johnson's fitness experiments on APG Live www.apg.armylive.dodlive.mil/, [Milblog](#), [Twitter](#) and [Flickr](#). Kickboxing is held at the Aberdeen Athletic Center on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson



PEO C3T launches new public site

Improved content, streaming media, high-power search among upgrades

By
KELLY HEYN
PEO C3T

The Program Executive Office Command, Control Communications-Tactical's (PEO C3T's) new Web site embodies the organization's commitment to enhance Warfighter effectiveness as it develops the networked battle command solutions of the present and future.

The newly launched site's homepage welcomes visitors with bold new colors and content centered on PEO C3T's mission: to develop, field and support networked battle command solutions for the Soldiers of today and tomorrow.

"The goal was to make the site cleaner and more user friendly," said Joseph Magrino, PEO C3T's Web production manager and graphics team lead. "Our audience wants information as quickly as possible and we satisfy that with simple navigation, an easy search tool and a consistent layout across each of our



organization's programs."

Based on extensive research with Knowledge Management representatives from all PEO C3T Project Management Offices, the new site offers:

- improved content provided by staff from each PEO C3T Project Management Office
- interactive displays using RSS news feeds and other social media sources like Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr

- high-powered search engine and more intuitive navigation

Among the features on the Web site's homepage, "Publications" provides direct access to recent material such as the Annual Report to Stakeholders and the yearly Portfolio. This moves the Army even closer to a paperless work environment, as it will cut back on the printing of these publications.

"Who We Are" illustrates the role

of each PEO C3T sub organization in the Army. The "History of Excellence" tab displays the numerous PEO C3T awards, including the 2010 David Packard Award, while the "Lines of Effort" reflects how PEO C3T intends to complete its mission.

"Organizations" provides basic knowledge of PEO C3T Project Management Offices. This includes each organization's mission and description, leadership biographies, recently published material, their latest news, a brief portfolio of each Project Offices' programs and systems and a list of their capabilities.

"Press and Media" displays PEO C3T's Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr feeds which provide direct access to the organizations' latest news, announcements, accomplishments and photos. With an increasing number of individuals retrieving their news via social networking, this site provides the ability to check all of PEO C3T's social media outlets at one time, without logging into separate pages. It also includes articles and press releases related to PEO C3T.

With over 50,000 visitors to its current site each year, the new site aims to extend the knowledge of PEO C3T's programs to the Department of Defense community. New features will be added in the coming months. The site can be found at: <http://peoc3t.army.mil>.

ECBC supports munitions destruction

ECBC news release

Staff members from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's Chemical Biological Application and Risk Reduction Business Unit assisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in its efforts to destroy conventional munitions initially discovered in a neighborhood near Northwest Washington, D.C.

Operations, which began Jan. 11, lasted about two weeks.

ECBC's T-30 Controlled Detonation Chamber were used to safely destroy the munitions, discovered during excavation and clean-up activities in a residential area near American University. The CDC, a commercial off-the-shelf technology from CH2M Hill, is designed to totally contain detonations in industrial

processes and also for demilitarization of munitions.

"This is just one of many projects that helps further CBARR's mission to perform chemical and biological operations in a safe, secure and environmentally sound manner," said Tim Blades, deputy director of ECBC's Directorate of Program Integration and CBARR team leader. "We are able to offer our partners, such as Army Corps of Engineers, both the knowledge of our staff and the access to state-of-art equipment to get the job done safely and effectively."

To minimize impact to area residents and to nearby Sibley Hospital, the Army transported the munitions to the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site at a safe, secure location on federal property,

where they were destroyed.

"We can destroy one item every 20 or 30 minutes, and we anticipate 10-12 shots per day," said Adam Baker, an ECBC chemical engineer, prior to the project. "Because there are adjacent neighborhoods, we are only authorized to operate between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m."

The transportable CDC is designed to contain explosive detonations and the fragments from those detonations. Considered a "box within a box," the CDC's components are fabricated from high quality steel, with 25 tons of sand filling the one-foot space between the two boxes. While the thick sand fill absorbs the shock from the detonation, the armored interior walls prevent shrapnel damage to the chamber.

Recognized as industry leaders in the safe munition destruction, ECBC regularly provides support to partners all over the world, including previous work for USACE to destroy 25 suspected chemical items at Spring Valley in 2003.

"ECBC has provided a variety of support to this project. Not only are they working on destroying the items found at Spring Valley, but they are doing air monitoring for us during the ongoing investigations going on here," said Todd Beckwith, USACE project manager for the Spring Valley site. "ECBC has been a valuable resource for us because they provide very specialized services that are not easy to find in other organizations."

For more information about CBARR and ECBC, visit www.ecbc.army.mil/.

SEC congratulates its first intern graduating class at APG

By **CASITOMARCHIO**
Software Engineering Center

"These are exciting times," said Nelson Keeler, Director of the CECOM Software Engineering Center, as he addressed 16 of SEC's newest Student Career Experience Program Masters Program graduates Feb. 2 during a ceremony recognizing their academic achievements.

During the ceremony, Keeler presented graduates with a newly minted SEC coin and certificate of achievement. Major General Randolph P. Strong, CECOM commander, presented each student a CECOM commander's coin and a personalized two-star note commending them for their recent educational milestones. Six graduates earned the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for attaining a 4.0 grade

point average while supporting mission requirements.

"Your accomplishments are further proof that our employees are the best that the Army has to offer," said Keeler.

The ceremony was the first of its kind to be held at APG, according to Kim Hoyle, SEC intern coordinator. SEC was one of two U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command elements to relocate to APG last year. The graduates honored were the first to complete the program in Maryland, from start to finish, said Hoyle.

Previously, SEC had partnered with Monmouth University in New Jersey to offer the Master's Program.

This year's graduates matriculated at Towson University, the University of Delaware and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Representatives from each school were in attendance to

witness the recognition ceremony held at the command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or C4ISR, Mission Training Facility.

"For the past two years, one of CECOM's top priorities is human capital and investing in the training and development of the CECOM workforce," said CECOM Commander, Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong.

With retirement around the corner for many CECOM personnel, and the turnover experienced since the command's recent relocation to Maryland, "CECOM is faced with rebuilding the incredible talent, experience and expertise that established and sustained CECOM's tradition of excellence for many years," said Strong.

"This program is a recruitment and retention tool designed to continually refresh the information technology talent pool," said John Oltarzewski, SEC chief of business operations.

Strong congratulated the graduates for reaching this education milestone and reminded graduates that the Army has a great demand for their special talents.

"Today's battle is being fought and

won largely with the weapons of information warfare," Strong said. "Each of you represents our future and, based upon your accomplishments, I believe CECOM and our customers are in very good hands." He urged graduates to use their "energy, creativity and brilliance to do their part in helping to build the Army of the future."

SCEP graduate Benjamin Tillman spoke on behalf of the 2011 SCEP class saying, "This program was a good beginning that brought us in at a ground level to government work and familiarized us with government specific concepts, structure, processes and acronyms, lots of acronyms."

The members of the SEC 2011 SCEP Master Program graduate class are: Chantell Anderson, Sanae Benchaaboun*, Foteini Cheirdari*, Melissa Cohen, Theresita DiMatteo, Jason Dirla, Megan Farley*, Kevin Geier, Christopher Myers*, Evelyn Okoro, Comfort Quarshie, Taiwo Salau, Charles "Jacob" Thomas*, Benjamin Tillman*, Chirag Vani, Mayra Wiggins.

*Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service recipients



Photo by Conrad Johnson, RDECOM Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. William Tager, Task Force Warrior noncommissioned officer in-charge (left), and Lt. Col. Yolanda Frazier, task force officer-in-charge, case the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command colors Jan. 11, to take with them on their deployment to Afghanistan.

RDECOM deploys science, tech center to Afghanistan

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**
RDECOM

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command is deploying engineers and scientists to Afghanistan to more expeditiously and efficiently solve War fighters' technical problems.

Task Force Warrior will become the Army's command center for science and technology activity for Operation Enduring Freedom. The task force will establish the RDECOM Field Assistance in Science and Technology-Center, or RFAST-C, by April 1.

Lt. Col. Yolanda Frazier, the Task Force Warrior officer-in-charge, will lead 32 military and civilian personnel as part of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade on Bagram Airfield.

"We will be that driving force to harvest collaboration and integration with other agencies that will foster the strategic edge," Frazier said Jan. 11, during the Task Force Warrior color-casing ceremony at APG's Ball Conference Center.

The task force mission is to provide more timely solutions and answers to technical problems coming from Soldiers in theater, said Lt. Col. Duane Amsler, RDECOM's FAST deputy director.

Deploying scientists to work side-by-side with Soldiers in Operation Enduring Freedom will alleviate the obstacles created by being 7,000 miles and 10 time zones from the United States.

Amsler said the deployment of RFAST-C will help focus Soldiers' requirements so the technical staff can better understand their specific needs. A dialogue between the groups will expedite solutions.

"The intent is to bring capabilities to the field quicker by getting it to the

right place and time quicker. [It will provide] a more detailed question," he said. "Rather than just saying, 'That doesn't work.' We can ask the questions, 'Why doesn't it work? How are you using it? What are your observations?'"

Sgt. Maj. William Tager, the task force senior noncommissioned officer, and a civilian executive officer will join Frazier in leading the effort.

RDECOM will complete the task force with engineers, shop foremen, machinists, computer-aided designers and administrative and supply staff from its eight subordinate research centers across the United States. Personnel will be deployed for six months.

Amsler said Task Force Warrior's experiences in theater will help the Army increase its readiness and mobility for future science and technology combat deployments.

"All the lessons learned from this will help shape what an RFAST-C is going to be for that next battle," he said. "Successes or failures, it's what we've learned out of this endeavor that's going to get us ready to provide a much better capability, much earlier in the next conflict."

Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, RDECOM commanding general, emphasized the importance of empowering, unburdening and protecting American Soldiers during the Task Force Warrior flag-casing ceremony.

"We are not here today to witness [the task force's] departure, but us assuming the responsibility for a mission in theater. This is significant. This represents this command's six years of figuring out how to integrate a combat package on the battlefield that will collapse time and collapse distance to near zero," Justice said.

Local leadership cohort sets sights on community cohesion

By
DEBORAH ELLIOTT
RDECOM Public Affairs

The state-of-the-art Communications-Electronics Command Mission Training Facility auditorium was an appropriate backdrop for the APG Senior Leadership Cohort graduation Feb. 9.

Both represent the future of APG.

Along with the construction and renovations at APG, the civilian workforce is also changing. Nearly 60 percent of current employees will be eligible for retirement within the next five years.

Two years ago, executive leaders at APG acknowledge the challenge and moved to support professional development.

Twenty-nine managers representing 14 APG organizations committed a year ago to participate in a unique professional development program. The Office of Personnel Management, with the help of leadership development experts and APG senior executive service members, designed the program.

The program is designed around OPM's Executive Core Qualifications with an emphasis on those that would create and sustain high-quality GS-15 or equivalent level managers at APG.

"The cohort is not a steppingstone to SES," said Cynthia Dewey, OPM strategic account manager of the cohort program. "There are plenty of existing, excellent courses for that. The vision for the APG Senior Leadership Cohort was to create a sustainable leadership learning community that would help all APG organizations work more effectively and successfully together in the future."

Participants experience a program of hands-on instruction and preparation that focuses their efforts on real challenges they are facing - challenges that are meaningful to them - where they will see results in three areas: personal, organizational, and community.

On the personal level, participants work on a personal energy management project that reinforces the idea that effective, satisfied leaders bring their whole selves to their work - mind, body, heart and soul - and need to take time for themselves.

On the organization level, participants tackle an on-the-desk project that addresses a challenge they are facing in accomplishing their daily work. For these projects participants garner the support of their leadership, receive one-on-one coaching from the cohort faculty.

On the community level, participants work in groups of five on a project that meets a need of APG. For Cohort 2, these included:

- enhancing Morale Welfare & Recreation services to meet the needs of an expanding civilian workforce;
- facilitating the incorporation of Wounded Warriors into the civilian workforce;
- breaking down the barriers perceived by young people seeking to enter civilian service;
- defining the role of APG as the Army's science and technology hub; and
- informing the APG workforce about the cohort program.

"By participating in the cohort program, I got a sense I didn't have before about the need to raise up exceptional managers and leaders," said Ricky Grote, chief, system engineering and experimentation branch, Army Research



Photo by Conrad Johnson

APG Leadership Cohort participants share thoughts with one another about the individual projects they have worked on throughout the year. The second APG Leadership Cohort graduation took place Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. at the Mission Training Facility Auditorium.

Laboratory.

"Due to the experimentation role my branch has, I came to the cohort with an awareness of and a concern for the fact that to get our work done at APG we are going to need to add hundreds of entry-level people to the workforce as technicians, analysts and administrative support. Working on the community project enabled me to do something about that," Grote said.

Cohort participants had support for all their projects. This came in the form of sessions with SES cohort champions who shared their leadership expertise and vision for the future, and expert coaching from their instructors, Beverly Obenchain, Robert Melvin, Bob Devlin and Claire Meany.

Obenchain and Melvin helped develop the cohort program and supported completion of the first two cohorts. Devlin and Meany are local experts who will also be supporting Cohort 3.

"The most exciting thing for me in being part of this program is seeing the change in the participants over the course of the year," Meany said.

"When people shared reflections that they made on the first day of the cohort and compared them to what they're feeling about it now and what they've learned since, it's amazing to hear that going through the program has changed them as people and as leaders and as members of the APG community," she said.

"One of the most revealing aspects for me was the different assessments we took at the beginning of the program," said Patricia O'Connor, cohort graduate and CECOM chief information officer.

"One was an OPM 360-degree assessment where people from every aspect of my professional life were asked to share what they perceived to be my areas of strength and weakness. Finding out what my weaknesses are was a very humbling experience. But now that I know what they are I don't have to stumble around in them anymore; I can make real progress in turning them into strengths," she said.

When O'Connor told her supervisor she would be willing to participate, she had little idea what she was getting into. She hoped, though, that after investing two years as chief information offi-

cer to help facilitate CECOM's move to APG, it would help her make Aberdeen her new home.

"I'm from Fort Monmouth," she said. "I loved everything about my life there - my home, my installation, my work. Through the cohort, with the help of my colleagues who made me feel welcome, who showed me around and helped me with problems I encountered, and the SES community who educated cohort on the importance of the APG mission, I've learned to love everything about my life here," she said.

The benefit of having a network behind you is one of the key things leadership hopes participants will come away with from the cohort program. They are counting on these future leaders to be an integrating force for APG. During the cohort graduation ceremony, Maj. Gen. Randolph Strong, commanding general, Communication-Electronics Command, reiterated this hope.

"When you look at the post as a community, we are still quite fragment-

ed," Strong said. "So, the challenge for the graduates of this cross-organizational leadership program is to help bridge boundaries and leverage the expertise, innovation, and imagination that each organization offers."

Cohort 3 begins this spring. Gary Martin, executive deputy to the commanding general, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, looks forward to continuing the program.

"We have an exciting future before us at APG and need the very best leaders we can get and develop. If you have what it takes to guide APG in the future, get your resume together and talk to the first SES in your chain who can recommend you for the program."

Martin promises that APG senior executive leadership will continue to make the cohort program available as long as civilians here seek the opportunity to achieve excellence for the Army, for their organization, for themselves, and for the next generation of leaders at APG.

Army seeking smaller budget

By
C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

The Army's fiscal year 2012 budget request includes funding for a 1.5 percent pay raise for Soldiers, a 3.1 percent increase in housing allowance, and a 3.4 percent increase in subsistence.

The Army base budget request for FY 2012 amounts to \$144.9 billion, an increase of just \$1.5 billion over the FY 2011 request. The Army also requested an additional \$71.1 billion for the overseas contingency operations budget -- to fund operations in Afghanistan and to wrap up operations in Iraq.

The OCO budget request was \$31 billion less than the FY2011 request, said Maj. Gen. Phillip McGhee, director, Army Budget, because Operation New Dawn in Iraq will end in December 2011.

Overall, the Army is asking in FY 2012 for about \$29.5 billion less than it did in FY 2011. One place the Army is not asking for less money is the military personnel budget, or MILPERS.

"The Army leadership's highest priority is caring for our people," said Maj. Gen. Phillip McGhee, director, Army Budget. "That is our Soldiers, our Families, and our civilian workforce -- all with the goal of restoring balance across the Army, (and) continuing to build resiliency to sustain an all-volunteer force."

The military personnel portion of the base budget comes to \$60.6 billion, by far the largest portion of the Army's budget. That portion of the budget provides the funding for Soldiers' pay increase.

"Caring for our Soldiers and sustaining the quality of our all-volunteer force are the top priorities of the Army leadership," McGhee said. "So in addition to caring for our Soldiers, the military personnel budget of \$60.6 billion also achieves our manning objectives."

In FY 2012, the Army continues maintaining the total force end strength of 1,110,600 it was authorized in FY 2011. That includes 547,400 for the active force; 358,200 for the Army National Guard; and 205,000 for the Army Reserve.

The OCO budget also includes \$8 bil-

lion to support the active Army temporary troop increase of 22,000 Soldiers. That number will decrease to about 14,600 by the end of the year, and will zero out by the end of FY 2013.

The general also said the FY 2012 budget would focus on mainlining the Army's "combat edge," on training and equipping Soldiers and units for the current fight, and for reconstituting and modernizing the force.

The \$45 billion operation and maintenance budget request is about a billion higher than last year's request due primarily to more Soldiers in home station and available for training, McGhee said.

The O&M budget, he said, includes "a revised combined arms training strategy, that focuses and shifts training from major combat operations to full-spectrum

operations, so funding will support 24 rotations to the Combined Arms Training Centers for all the BCTs and 33 war-fighting exercises for our multi-functional and our functional support brigades."

The O&M budget also includes \$900 million for recruiting and advertising and initial training for Soldiers; and provides for funding for 73 brigade combat teams, 98 multi-functional support brigades, and 133 functional and support brigades, McGhee said.

The Army's procurement request for FY 2010 comes to \$22.1 billion, about \$800 million more than last year. The funding will support modernization of the UH-60M/HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter fleet, including \$1.5 billion for some 71 new aircraft. An additional \$1.4 billion is marked for modernization of the

CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the "D" to the "F" model. The Army will purchase 32 new Chinooks in FY 2012.

Also part of the procurement budget: 88 Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missiles for \$662 million, 710 Javelin missiles for \$161 million, 2,784 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System missiles for \$314 million, and modifications to the Patriot missile system for \$67 million. The Army expects to spend about \$1.4 billion on missile procurement in FY 2012.

The Army also expects in FY 2012 to upgrade 21 Abrams tanks to M1-A2 vehicles, and to convert 100 Strykers into nuclear, biological, chemical reconnaissance vehicles.

As part of its \$5.2 billion facilities budget, the Army will continue with investment in barracks in FY 2012 and will construct 128 new Family housing units.

The four military services were directed by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to achieve \$100 billion in efficiencies over the fiscal year 2012 to 2016 Future Years Defense Plan, or FYDP. The services would be allowed to retain and reinvest these efficiency savings in enhancements of their own high-priority war-fighting programs.

The Army found efficiencies through the consolidation of six Installation Management Command regions into four, for instance. Also, through portfolio reviews, the service determined it could terminate both the costly SLAMRAAM surface-to-air missile program and the Non-Line-of-Sight Launch System.

"Our DOD efficiency initiatives are enabling the Army to maintain our forces and our force structure in FY 2012," said McGhee. "It will sustain an Army at war, it does build Soldier and family resiliency and it does help build our full-spectrum readiness and strategic flexibility."

McGhee said of the \$100 billion the DOD asked the services to find, the Army's portion comes to \$26 billion. In FY 2012, the Army found \$2.6 billion in savings.

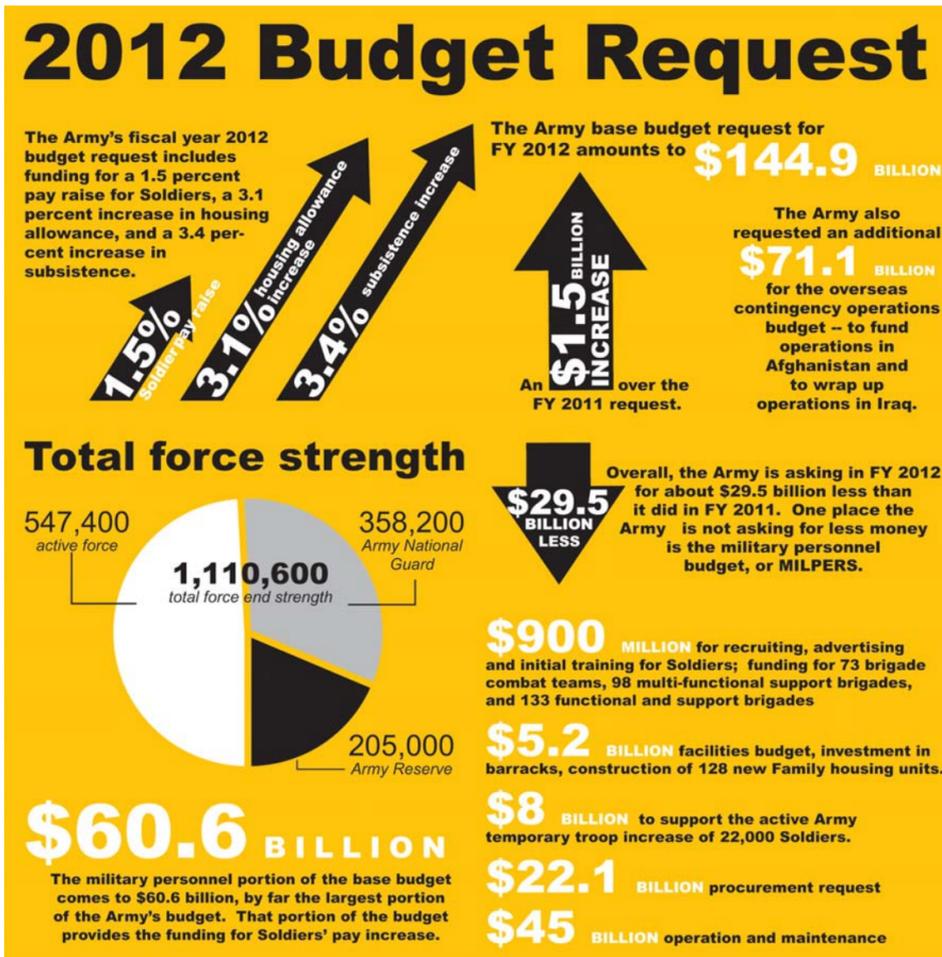


Illustration by Nick Pentz

AAFES: No plans to close Post Exchange

Continued from Page 1

meeting, held at the APG South (Edgewood) Chapel, included Commander Richard A. Graham, the Armed Services Blood Drive regional coordinator, and Army and Air Force Exchange Services Regional Director Chris Holifield.

A recap of the one-hour meeting is as follows:

DPTMS

John Kearny, head of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security kicked off the meeting with installation highlights and accomplishments, recapping the recent deployment of the 1729th Field Support Maintenance Company to Iraq.

FMWR

Marni Allison, FMWR community and recreation division chief, promoted several spring and summer events including summer camp registration and support group and teen activities. Other FMWR highlights included the Feb. 26 Nashville Connection, March 5-6 racquetball tournament, March 7 Mystery Dinner Theatre, March 17 St. Patty's Day Fun Run and March 23-24 Spring Bazaar.

She noted that community members can sign up through March 30 for an intramural volleyball league and addressed the capacity problem at the Hoyle Gym and Aberdeen Athletic Center.

"Our facilities our great, our equipment is great, but we do have some capacity challenges," said Allison. "We are perusing different options to try to overcome some of these challenges we have."

She urged users to always visit the gym at their convenience but noted that the busiest time was from 4 to 6 p.m.

"If you could adjust your schedule and avoid using the gym at this time you will certainly have a better chance of getting to use the equipment that you need," she said.

DPW

The Directorate of Public Work's Tom Kuchar said as a result of this year's unpredictable weather and frequent ice storms, DPW personnel will

be busy over the next few months fixing potholes, curbing, and walkway lighting repairs damaged by winter weather.

He said the construction of a new Child Development Center will soon start at APG North (Aberdeen) and should be complete by the fall.

He also discussed the construction that will begin on Route 715.

"Four lanes will be widened to six lanes," said Kuchar. "The major work will be done during off-peak hours. We will keep you updated."

Kuchar asked attendees to call 410-306-1400 or submit comment online at <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/> if they see something that needs to be brought to DPW's attention. Residents should call Picerne Military Housing at 410-305-1076 for housing issues.

He said the Earth Day/ Arbor Day celebration will be held on April 29 at the APG museum with the theme "Light of the Bay." There will be a poster and essay contest for children and interactive and static displays by post organizations, and a time capsule containing items that highlight the historic changes happening at APG will be buried during the day.

Logistics

Gene Schneck, the installation's director of Logistics, said the Aberdeen Dining Facility, Bldg. 4503, is now open to military retirees, DoD civilians, & DA contractors. For hours of operation or more information, call 410-278-3142.

Transformation Office

Nicole Cawthern, of the Garrison Transformation Office, said that Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Reconnaissance Campus will go into the next phase of construction.

Cawthern added that all the Base Realignment and Closure projects are expected to meet the deadline. According to BRAC law, all projects are to be completed by Sept. 15, 2011.

Armed Services Blood Drive

Graham briefed attendees on the ASB

mission—to provide quality blood products, blood substitutes and services for service members and their Families worldwide during peacetime and in war.

ASBD holds blood drives on DoD installations, leased facilities and some federal installations. Last year ASBD received 500 units of blood donations from APG.

Upcoming blood drives will be held at APG North (Aberdeen) Recreation Center from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., March 14, April 4, May 17, June 21, July 25, August 23, Sept. 27.

For information on ASBD, visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil, or call 301-295-2688.

HHC

Capt. Malukah McCormick said briefed attendees on plans for the 2011 Armed Forces Day celebrations May 16-21. Events include a golf tournament, dinner cruise, veteran's lunch and official relighting of the Poole Island lighthouse. Armed Forces Day will be observed May 18 and will include demonstrations, aircraft flyovers, historical reenactments, live entertainment and more.

AFFES

Holifield addressed the rumor that the APG PX is going out of business. "There are no plans to close the PX," he said. "We recently made some improvements to the PX, and we did an image upgrade to improve the appearance of it as well."

He added that there are plans to bring some name brand restaurants to the PX food court, and that improvements will be made to Subway, located in the APG North (Aberdeen) Shoppette to cut down on wait time.

Holifield said Burger King will go through a major renovation scheduled in April. "By the time we are finished we will have the first concept of its kind, right here in Aberdeen."

Open Forum

An attendee asked if civilian spouses could get an "easy pass" to allow fast

access to the post gym, skipping the sign-in at the Visitor's Center every time.

The Directorate of Emergency Services' Robert Krauer said that at this is not allowed due to security restrictions.

"Civilian spouses are not entitled to government issued identification cards," he said. "It is not an ideal situation, but once they are in that system (at the visitor's center), it only takes a few moments for them to get another pass," he said.

Garrison Command Sgt. Major Rodney Rhoades closed the meeting by encouraging attendees to make ICE comments, citing the increase of exercise classes available at APG North (Aberdeen) and APG South (Edgewood), as an example of a program improved with feedback from the interactive customer evaluation, or ICE, program.

"We truly appreciate that feedback, that it is how we improve team APG, our home," he said. Visit www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/.

Rhoades invited attendees to participate in post events and observances that are open to the community.

"Team APG is changing, we are growing, and we got to grow together as a team," he said.

The next Community Action Council meeting is set for March 17 at the APG North (Aberdeen) Chapel at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

The meeting will be broadcast live on Channel 97 and open for community members who would like to submit questions or comments via Twitter: <http://twitter.com/USAGAPG>.

To view slides from the Feb. meeting go to <http://www.slideshare.net/USAGAPG/feb-apg-community-action-council-slides>.

To listen to a recording, Comcast subscribers can tune into Channel 97 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. this week.

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.apg.mwr.com, www.facebook.com/APGMd, <http://twitter.com/USAGAPG>, view Channel 97 and 21, read the APG News and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's In-Demand newsletter.

Want to make a difference in how services are rendered at APG? Tell us how we are doing. Visit <http://ice.disa.mil>. Click on "ARMY" then "Aberdeen Proving Ground."

FAMILY AND MWR

Activities/Events

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.

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; rehearsal 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.

New to volunteering?

ACS Army Volunteer Corps Program will host a Volunteer Management Information System Class. This class is to help new volunteers register at Myarmyone-source.com, apply for volunteer position and answer questions about the volunteer program. VMIS classes will be held once a month in ACS Bldg. 2503 in the Employment Readiness Room 122.

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

AFTB Level III training class

ACS Army Family Team Building will host an AFTB Level III training class. This is a volunteer-supported Department of the Army training program designed to teach individuals and families how to be more independent within the military environment. The class will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 15 and 16 in ACS Bldg. 2503, upstairs on the second floor in the CYSS conference room 214.

Pre-registration is required. Call 410-

278-2453 for information.

Indoor walking during lunch

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

American citizenship class

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

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

Hearts Apart in March

Army Community Services Hearts Apart Support Group will host a Valentine's Day Card Making Event, 6 to 7 p.m.,

March 2 at ACS, Bldg. 2503 High Point Road. There will be light refreshments and gifts for all who participate. Hearts Apart seeks to empower Families (military and DOD civilians) with information to help prepare Families for separation during deployments and temporary duties. ACS offers a comprehensive array of programs and services dedicated to maintaining the readiness of the Total Army Family by fostering self-reliance, stability and resilience. Hearts Apart Support Group is just another great way to stay connected in the community and learn what ACS has to offer spouses and their Families.

For more information, call 410-278-2464.

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 FUNdram, 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.

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.

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. 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. Books are a one-time purchase. Students must also provide their own guitar.

Martial Arts present Tiny Tigers

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

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

Instructor Sabunim Sean A. Williams will teach the program. Classes will be held 5:30 to 6 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays Feb. 23 to March 21; and March 28 to April 18.

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

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

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

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

Ice skating lessons at Ice World

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

Lessons will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Feb. 22 to March 29 and April 5 to May 17; and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays, Feb. 19 to March 26 and April 9 to May 21.

Lessons are open to all DoD ID cardholding Family members.

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

The six weekly sessions offer professional instruction with a half-hour of instruction time and half-hour of practice each week. Limited free skate rentals.

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

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

Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at www.apgmwr.com.

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

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. 21

Special #1: Chicken Tender sub with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.25.

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

Week of Feb. 28

Special #1: Kielbasa and sauerkraut on roll with French Fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.50.

Special #2: Turkey club sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$7.45.

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



Post Shorts

Military receives free admission to crime museum

To acknowledge the hard work and sacrifices that our U.S. service members regularly endure, the National Museum of Crime & Punishment, located at 575 7th Street Northwest, Washington, D.C., will offer free admission for military members, including retirees, and a guest Feb. 25 and 26 during regular business hours.

The Museum provides America's most thorough and comprehensive study of the development and evolution of crime and punishment throughout history dating as far back as Europe's Middle Ages.

Service member must have a military ID or other form of identification that shows their military status. Each service member may bring one guest who will also receive complimentary admission. Any additional guests will be charged \$14.95. No need to RSVP.

For more information, visit www.crimemuseum.org.

Lunch and Learn with MCSC

The Military, Civilian and Spouses' Club invites members of the APG com-

munity 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.

Traffic Update: 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 Susque-

hanna 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.

MCSC scholarship

The Military, Civilian and Spouses' Club at Aberdeen Proving Ground will award merit-based academic scholarships in the spring. Please visit www.apgmcsc.org for additional information and the application form. The deadline for submission is March 15.

Citizenship classes set

The ACS Relocation Readiness Program is offering free classes for Soldiers, civilian employees and their Families in preparing to take the test for American Citizenship given by Immigration and Naturalization. The classes will cover citizenship procedures, how to fill out the application for American citizenship, basic Amer-

ican history, and the Constitution. Attendees must attend all sessions to receive a Harford Community College certificate for attending a Citizenship class. Seating is limited. Classes will be held in six sessions on Thursdays March 3 to April 7, 6-8 p.m., at the ACS Bldg. 2503 on High Point Road at APG North (Aberdeen). To register, call 410-278-2464/7572.

Arbor Day event set April 29

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

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

APG Newswatch

The February 2011 edition of the APG Newswatch video news program is available for viewing online through the Army's media player: <http://go.usa.gov/gW0>

The lineup for this month's program includes:

- Installation Commander briefs Maryland General Assembly on APG BRAC status
- Raytheon opens new building at the GATE on APG
- The US Army Public Health Command (Provisional) renovates building on APG South
- RDECOM consolidates HQ at APG, closing Ft. Belvoir office
- Aberdeen chapter of AUSA gets



briefed on new Army acquisition strategy

- APG honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and
- APG supports Harvest for the Hungry & the Maryland Food Bank

The proponent for APG Newswatch is the RDECOM Public Affairs Office.

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

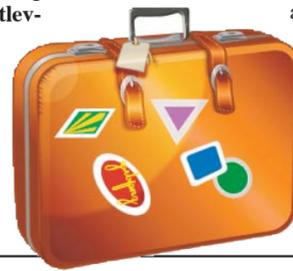
in advance to your security manager.

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-fuse 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.



COMMUNITY NOTES

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.

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 26

BIG PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Susquehanna Chapter of Blacks in Government, a non-profit organization, will host a Black History Month prayer breakfast with the theme "African Americans & the Civil War" 9 a.m. to noon in the Holiday Inn ballroom at I-95 and Beards Hill Road in Aberdeen.

Eugene L. Vickers, Engineering Directorate test division chief from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, is the guest speaker. The event includes a breakfast buffet. Donation is \$20. For more information, contact Jean Flores, 443-799-3101; Jackie Pitts, 410-273-7915; or any BIG member.

BASKET AND PURSE BINGO

Basket and Purse Bingo will be held 6:45 p.m. at VFW Post 8185, 520 Susquehanna River Road, Port Deposit. Doors open 5:45 p.m. Proceeds will benefit VFW District 10. Door prizes, refreshments, raffles, food, beverages and baked goods will be available. Tickets cost \$12 per person for all paper cards; extra packs cost \$5 each. Bring a nonperishable food item and receive a free ticket for a special prize.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-378-3338 or 410-642-9297.

TEXAS HOLD'EM

VFW Post 8185, 520 Susquehanna River Road, Port Deposit, Md., will hold Texas Hold'em. A cash game will

be held at 5 p.m. Registration for the main event will be held at 6:30, and the game begins at 7. There is a \$50 buy-in; 80 percent pay-out. First come, first served. There will be a cash bar and food available. For information, call 410-642-9297.

TUESDAY

MARCH 8

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 201 Mt. Royal Avenue, Aberdeen will hold a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6 to 8 p.m. Cost of the supper is a freewill offering. Proceeds will benefit the St. Paul's youth trip to the New Orleans Youth Gathering.

SATURDAY

MARCH 12

BASKET AND PURSE BINGO

The Harford Technical School located at 200 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air will sponsor Basket and Purse Bingo, 7 p.m. Doors open 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 per person; extra packets cost \$5 each. Food and drinks will be available. Bring a canned good or nonperishable food item for a bonus prize ticket.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Michelle Hash, 410-688-3442 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

MARCH 15 AND 16

ANNUAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

Registration is open for the Sea Service Leadership Association's 24th Annual Women's Leadership Symposium.

This year's theme is "Connect. Empower. Succeed." The symposium will offer women from all military branches an opportunity to focus on leadership development. The sym-

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

Susie King Taylor defies stereotypes

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secretly learn to read and write from Mrs. Woodhouse, a free woman who lived near them.

According to Taylor, "We went every day about nine o'clock, with our books wrapped in paper to prevent the police or white persons from seeing them. We went in, one at a time, through the gate, into the yard to the L kitchen, which was the schoolroom. The neighbors would see us going in sometimes, but they supposed we were there learning trades, as it was the custom to give children a trade of some kind."

She stayed with Mrs. Woodhouse for two years and then went to continue her studies with Mrs. Mary Beasley. By 1860 she had learned all she could from these women and was forced to stop her studies until she reached an agreement with a young white friend, Katie O'Connor. O'Connor taught Taylor for about four months every evening until O'Connor went to go live in a convent. A month later she found another teacher in her landlord's son, James Blouis, until he was called to arms in 1861.

In April 1862, Taylor escaped from Georgia with her Uncle and his family to St. Catherine Island where they came under the protection of the Union army and were transferred to St. Simon's Island. While there it came to the attention of Captain Whitmore that she was able to read and write. Taylor explains, "He asked if I could read; I said, 'Yes!' 'Can you write?' he next asked. 'Yes, I can do that also,' I replied, and as if he had some doubts of my answers he handed me a book and a pencil and told me to write my name and where I was from. I did this; when he wanted to know if I could sew. On hearing I could, he asked me to hem some napkins for him. He was surprised at my accomplishments (for they were such in those days), for he said he did not know there were any negroes in the South able to read or write. He said, 'You seem to be so different from the other colored people who came from the same place you did.'"

When her abilities were realized, she was commissioned to organize a school. She readily accepted the offer and taught about forty children, in addition to a number of adults who came to learn at night, until October 1862 when the island was evacuated. She also met and married her first husband, Edward King, while teaching on the island. Taylor followed her husband's regiment for

three years serving the fighting men as a laundress, nurse, and teacher.

Taylor recounts the misfortunes of the Black soldiers, "The first colored troops did not receive any pay for eighteen months, and the men had to depend wholly on what they received from the commissary. A great many of these men had large families, and as they had no money to give them, their wives were obliged to support themselves and children by washing for the officers of the gunboats and the soldiers, and making cakes and pies which they sold to the boys in camp. Finally, in 1863, the government decided to give them half pay, but the men would not accept this. They wanted 'full pay' or nothing. They preferred rather to give their services to the state, which they did until 1864, when the government granted them full pay, with all the back pay due."

Taylor did all she could to support and care for the soldiers when they were wounded or fell ill, regardless of the risks to herself. She looked after the soldiers and taught them their letters for four years and three months without receiving a dollar, and she was happy to devote her time and energy to such a great cause. "My services were given at all times for the comfort of these men. I was on hand to assist whenever needed. I was enrolled as company laundress, but I did very little of it, because I was always busy doing other things through camp, and was employed all the time doing something for the officers and comrades."

However, she did receive something in return: the knowledge of how to handle a musket. She was able to hit a target and helped the soldiers clean the guns and fire them in order to make sure the cartridges were dry every day. She also knew how to take the gun apart and put it together again.

Unfortunately, she also grew accustomed to the gruesome realities of war. "It seems strange how our aversion to seeing suffering is overcome in war,--how we are able to see the most sickening sights, such as men with their limbs blown off and mangled by the deadly shells, without a shudder; and instead of turning away, how we hurry to assist in alleviating their pain, bind up their wounds, and press the cool water to their parched lips, with feelings only of sympathy and pity."

When the war ended, Taylor and her husband returned to Savannah where

she opened a school for Black children. Twenty students attended and she was paid one dollar each month for each child. After about a year, a free school opened and many of her students left to attend class there. Sadly, in 1866 her husband died and left her to raise their son alone. In 1877 she opened a second school in Liberty County and taught there, leaving to return to the city after only one year. Once back in Savannah, she opened a night school for adults. However, another free school opened and she once again lost her students and subsequently her income. She was forced to leave her son with her mother and become a domestic servant where she traveled with one of her employers to Boston.

While in Boston she met her second husband, Russell L. Taylor, and they were wed in 1879. However, she was still not satisfied with her situation. Remembering her war years, she determined to organize Corps 67, Women's Relief Corps. She was Guard, Secretary, Treasurer for three years, and finally in 1893 was made its President.

Susie King Taylor lived out the rest of her years in Boston until 1912 when she passed away, only returning to the south one final time to tend to her dying son. At the end of her memoirs, she left some final words regarding her opinion of the present state of the nation.

"Living here in Boston where the black man is given equal justice, I must say a word on the general treatment of my race, both in the North and South, in this twentieth century. I wonder if our white fellow men realize the true sense or meaning of brotherhood? For two hundred years we had toiled for them; the war of 1861 came and was ended, and we thought our race was forever freed from bondage, and that the two races could live in unity with each other, but when we read almost every day of what is being done to my race by some whites in the South, I sometimes ask, 'Was the war in vain? Has it brought freedom, in the full sense of the word, or has it not made our condition more hopeless?'"

In this 'land of the free' we are burned, tortured, and denied a fair trial, murdered for any imaginary wrong conceived in the brain of the negro-hating white man. There is no redress for us from a government which promised to protect all under its flag. It seems a mystery to me. They say, 'One flag, one

nation, one country indivisible.' Is this true? Can we say this truthfully, when one race is allowed to burn, hang, and inflict the most horrible torture weekly, monthly, on another? No, we cannot sing 'My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of Liberty'! It is hollow mockery. The Southland laws are all on the side of the white, and they do just as they like to the negro, whether in the right or not."

In the end, the Civil War was just the beginning of the African American struggle for equality in the United States. As Taylor relates, Black and White people were not automatically equal with the end of the fighting. Yet, it marked a milestone in American history regarding civil rights and initiated the quest for equality for all within the United States.

Through personal stories, such as the one recounted here of Susie King Taylor, we can appreciate the struggles undergone by African Americans on their road to equality. Taylor was an extraordinary woman who took advantage of every opportunity afforded her and made the best of it. She found ways to educate herself and used that knowledge to help the soldiers during the war and also used that knowledge to educate freedmen and women before and after the war, challenging the customary norms of the time. She was an outstanding nurse and teacher who defied the stereotypes of her time, becoming the first African American to openly teach in Georgia and the only one to write and publish the memoirs of her experience during the Civil War, an accomplishment that should be remembered and applauded.

Sources:

- <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-1097>
- <http://www.kingtisdell.org/sktaylor.htm>
- <http://www.civilwarhome.com/susietaylor.htm>
- <http://www.blackpast.org/?q=aah/taylor-susan-susie-baker-king-1848-1912>
- <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/taylor/menue.html> then this link -> <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/taylor/taylor.htm> - text of "Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33d United States Colored Troops, Late 1st S.C. Volunteers."
- "Legacy: Treasures of Black History" edited by Thomas C. Battle and Donna M. Wells

Getting students, parents involved is key

Continued from Page 1

"(These events and the parent-interest and student-participation) sets a tone at home and in the community," she said.

Jason Parks, YBES science teacher and STEM Night coordinator, said the evening's event served as a pilot for other Harford County public schools.

Jacob Little, YBES assistant vice principal, said the event exposes students to what will be expected of them if they decide to go into a STEM field.

"STEM will be the forefront of education," said Parks.

Gwen Tran attended the event with her daughters and niece. Spending time at the BristleBots activity, where parents and students make small robots with the help of two Army Research Laboratory scientists, Tran was please to attend the event, with an all-female crew in tow.

"This is great exposure, especially for girls, who typically do not go into engineering fields," she said. "I want to teach my children about different engineering and science fields as they grow up and encourage them to study these subjects, because there are many good jobs available in these fields."

Mary-Beth Patterson, whose son is in the fourth grade at YBES said that she



Army Research Laboratory scientist Lee Butler (right) helps Laura Tran, 5, make a miniature robot, or "BristleBot," during the YBES STEM Night Feb. 17.

appreciates government organizations like ECBC reaching out to the community. "This is exactly what our nation needs, to grow stronger and smarter, not

only militarily but also educationally. There is a future value in these types of activities, as they encourage our children to be future innovators."

Scientists from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and Army Research Laboratory provided hands-on science activities and an exhibit during the event.

"ECBC has consistently proven its commitment to STEM education," said Joan Michel, STEM coordinator for Harford County Public Schools. "The scientists did an amazing job at capturing students' attention with an array of exciting, but relevant hands-on STEM experiences. It'll pay dividends, because these are the types of activities it takes to entice students to pursue STEM career pathways at an early age." and Army Research Laboratory provided hands-on science activities during the event.

"ECBC is the best represented organization tonight and has consistently proven its commitment to STEM education," said Joan Michel, STEM coordinator for Harford County Public Schools. "The scientists did an amazing job at capturing students' attention with an array of exciting, but relevant hands-on STEM experiences. It'll pay dividends, because these are the types of activities it takes to entice students to pursue STEM career pathways at an early age."

DoD setting up 'Don't Ask' repeal training

Continued from Page 1

lesbians and bisexuals from serving openly in the military, the chief of staff for the Defense Department's repeal implementation team said here Feb. 18.

Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Steven A. Hummer outlined the process in an interview.

President Barack Obama signed the repeal of the law commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Dec. 22, beginning a process that will culminate in full repeal.

The current policy remains in effect until 60 days after the secretary of defense, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the president certify the military's readiness to implement the repeal.

Gates has said he wants repeal done expeditiously and effectively, and that it can happen this year.

Clifford L. Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, issued a memo Feb. 10, to the military secretaries on the implementation plan.

"The memo continues the pre-implementation process," Hummer said. Now, the general added, the team is ensuring all the policies are prepared so that when repeal day actually occurs they will go into effect.

The implementation team also is ensuring that training is in place for all 2.2 million members of the military. The Defense Department, along with representatives from all five services, developed and synchronized the training.

"The services will each put their colors and their appropriate culture into those [plans]," he said. "The Navy will talk about petty officers, and the Marines will talk about sergeants."

Training is broken into three tiers. "Tier 1 and Tier 2 training will start in earnest soon," the general said. Tier 1 training is for people who have unique skill sets, such as chaplains, lawyers, personnel specialists, military investigators and recruiters, he explained. Tier 2 training is for leaders, and Tier 3 training is for the force at large.

"This is leader-led training," Hummer said. "Our over-arching theme is leadership, professionalism, discipline and respect."

Leaders at every level will be responsible for training their people, he said. "Professionalism is the expectation across all the services," Hummer said. "This is a disciplined force, and we expect to see that as the training and repeal go into place. Lastly, respect is what everybody expects to receive and what everybody should give."

The training will include some PowerPoint presentations with vignettes to encourage discussions, as well as presentations by the service chiefs that will introduce the topic and provide their intents for the forces.

The services will deliver the first of many progress reports to Stanley on March 1.



Baltimore songstress Jasmine Pope (aka J.Pope) belts out one of several songs she delivered in her sultry-smooth style during the first Open Mic show at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center's North Side Grill Feb. 10.

Open Mic Thursday highlights local creativity, talent

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Creativity flowed in abundance during the first Open Mic Thursday at the Aberdeen Proving Ground North (Aberdeen) Recreation Center's North Side Grill Feb. 10.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation invites APG employees and Family members to participate in the event which seeks to highlight spoken word, comedy, vocal and instrumental talents in the community.

The next Open Mic event is Feb. 24 starting at 5:30 p.m. Register in advance at APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil or call 410-278-3854. Walk-ups are welcome. Performers must be 18 or older. Complementary snacks, a limited snack bar and cash bar for beer and wine will be available.

Jazzy Open Mic opening night

The Baltimore-based jazz band Buddy Jordan's Beyond Blue backed up performers and provided musical entertainment for the first Open Mic Thursday. Led by Buddy Jordan

on bass, accompanied by Sam Marshall on drums, Trendle Thomas on keyboard and Isaac Parham on saxophone, the band's smooth, flowing rhythm set the tone for the evening.

Spoken word artist Rebecca Dupas, an English literature teacher from Fort Washington, Md., hosted the event and delivered several of her original poems between acts.

APG participants included Annette Sanders of Army Community Service and Matt Jacobs from the Marine Corps Detachment. Sanders shared two spoken word poems, one that she wrote for her daughter for her upcoming marriage, and Jacobs sang two songs on guitar.

During breaks patrons took in displays set up by local vendors in the lobby.

Earlene Allen, MWR events programmer, said the program should become "even bigger and better."

"Open Mic Thursday is a great way for APG folks to come out and share their talents in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere," she said. "There's a lot of hidden talent on APG. Now is your chance to show your friends and coworkers what you've got."



Annette Sanders of the Army Community Service Survivor Outreach Services reads the poem "Dating Myself," a humorous yet profound story about the mental journey to self-acceptance by Poetri.



Guitarist Matt Jacobs, a Marine with the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, sings and strums the ballad "Cinderella" by Steven Curtis Chapman.



(Above) Open Mic Thursday host and spoken word artist Rebecca Dupas shares her poem, "Long Enough" with the audience between acts. Dupas frequently hosts the spoken word venues Busboys and Poets in Washington, D.C. and Verbatim Mondays at Peace & A Cup of Joe in Baltimore.



Buddy Jordan performs a solo on bass while leading his jazz band, Buddy Jordan's Beyond Blue, for the Open Mic audience.



During a break between performances, jewelry consultant Maria DiSebastiano (right) shows her display of Premier Designs Jewelry to an Open Mic Thursday patron.