

APG NEWS



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

January 20, 2011 Vol. 55, No. 3

2.26 % raise set for those still in NSPS

By **STEPHEN LOSEY**
Federal Times

As many as 54,000 employees still covered by the Defense Department's National Security Personnel System will receive 2.26 percent pay raises this month, according to a Dec. 27 memo obtained by Federal Times.

The memo, signed by Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Clifford Stanley, also said the employees could receive performance-based bonuses determined by their component agencies.

The 2.26 percent raise will come from funds that would otherwise have paid for General Schedule within-grade increases, quality step increases and promotions between grades that now do not exist in NSPS. Step increases for General Schedule employees range from 2.6 percent to 3.3 percent.

Defense has in the past pulled further money for NSPS raises from the government-wide pay increase. But President Obama and Congress canceled that increase in 2011 and 2012 as part of a pay-scale freeze, and as a result NSPS raises will be limited in the

Defense transferred about 172,000 employees out of NSPS and back to GS in fiscal 2010. The remaining employees will be transferred to alternative personnel systems.

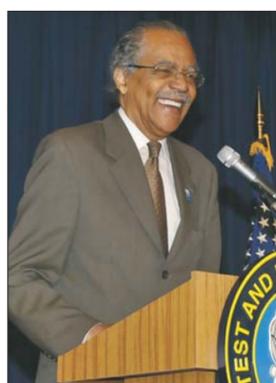
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Photos by Eric Rugg

People who came to hear the Rev. Samuel Kyles included leaders from the Army Test and Evaluation Command headquarters. Among them (from left) Col. Roderick Burke, Brian Simmons, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Flood and Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco.

Witness to assassination recalls days with King



Kyles

By **MIKE CAST**
Army Developmental Test Command

The Rev. Samuel "Billy" Kyles, who was with Dr. Martin Luther King when an assassin's bullet felled him on the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, spoke to an audience of Soldiers and military employees during a commemorative ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground Jan. 6.

The U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command sponsored the event at APG's Recreation Center.

Rev. Kyles, who was a key figure in America's civil rights movement and pastor of the Monumental Baptist Church in Memphis since 1959, recalled how King came to that city in

late March 1968 to support a strike by that city's sanitation workers. Kyles and other ministers and civic leaders had been organizing nightly rallies and raising money for the strike, and they thought King's presence in Memphis would help them get their message out nationally and to the wider world.

The sanitation workers were striking for a living wage, Kyles said, adding that King came to Memphis because he shared their dream of a nation in which their children would not have their hopes crushed by racial prejudice and injustice.

"Could you imagine Martin Luther King

See MLK, page 15



Photo by Conrad Johnson

RDECOM Chief of Staff Col. John Kilgallon discusses the workforce migration from the Edgewood area to the command headquarters area on APG-North at a town hall meeting Jan. 10.

RDECOM talks move to APG-North

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**
RDECOM Public Affairs

U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command leaders announced the next phase of employee moves Jan. 10.

RDECOM Chief of Staff Col. John Kilgallon hosted a town hall meeting at the Edgewood Area Conference Center to discuss the workforce migration from the Edgewood area to the command headquarters area on APG-North.

The move impacts command employees from human resources; information management; resource management; and facilities, logistics and environ-

See RDECOM, page 14

APG among renamed ACC centers

ACC news release

The U.S. Army Contracting Command announced Jan. 19 the renaming of its major contracting centers to reflect their geographical locations.

The centers provide comprehensive acquisition, contracting, business advisory, production support, and depot-level maintenance services in acquiring, fielding, and sustaining Army weapon systems, services and Soldier support.

ACC Soldiers and civilians work with commercial firms to acquire equipment, supplies and services for America's Army. If a Soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, communicates with it, wears it, or eats it -- ACC contracts for it.

"Over the past two years, we've come to realize the importance of establishing a consistent and practical identity across the organization," said ACC Executive Director Jeff Parsons, about the reason for the change.

"After much study and consideration, the one area we believe can achieve some major returns

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WEATHER

Thu



33° | 31°

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MCSC LUNCH AND LEARN JAN. 27

Don't miss The Military, Civilian and Spouses' Club Lunch and Learn Jan. 27 at 11:30 a.m. see Post Shorts for details.

APG called to serve during MLK celebration

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground community honored the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. during a ceremony at the Edgewood Area Recreation Center Jan. 12.

Keeping with the theme of MLK Day, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!" attendees were asked to remember the civil rights activist by making a difference in their own community.

The annual celebration kicked off with Angel Strong-Archer, a Morgan State University student, sang America's national anthem, the Star-Spangled Banner, followed by a rendition of Lift Every Voice and Sing, known as the Black national anthem in the African American community.

Elise Galloway, an Aberdeen High School student, read "A Dream is Forever," a poem written by her grandmother who was an acquaintance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The event, sponsored by Army Public Health, featured special music, a poetry reading, displays and remarks by guest speaker Judge Angela Eaves, who serves on the Circuit Court for Harford County, Md.

Eaves is the first African-American and second woman appointed to a judgeship in Harford County, and the first to serve in either capacity on the circuit court. She is also actively involved in her community, volunteering on several civic, nonprofit and community organizations throughout Harford County.

Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, APG commander, introduced and welcomed Eaves.

"Not only has she learned the law, and upheld the law, she is a lady who has volunteered her time to help those less fortunate and to guide the youth of this nation to learn to achieve greatness," Justice said.

Justice said that MLK Day is a time to celebrate a man that dedicated his life striving to improve our nation.

"Though our nation has never been perfect, the promise of our constitution, that foundation, is that we would strive for a better more perfect union," he said.

During her speech, Eaves said she is inspired by civil rights leaders of the past and feels honored to carry on their legacy by giving back to the community.

"It is important to commemorate how grateful we are for all we have and pay homage to those who through blood sweat and tears paved the way for all of us," she said. "Like many of you, I stand here as an example of the selfless work of many not only Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but also Corretta Scott King, Rosa Parks and Dorothy Height just a name a few. These were Soldiers



Guest speaker Judge Angela Eaves, who serves on the Circuit Court for Harford County, Md., receives a token of appreciation from Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, APG commander during the MLK event Jan. 12.

in a fight for civil and human rights. As the first African American judge in Harford County, I am truly blessed to represent their legacy in such a meaningful capacity."

Eaves emphasized that everyone, no matter their position, race or gender, has the ability to give back to their community.

"We cannot allow Dr. King's words to be in vain," she said. "Though equality is difficult we are winning it. Let's all rededicate ourselves not just to commemorate and celebrate the dream but on acting on it every day. It is a day on, not a day off."

After the program, Eaves said she feels it is important for the country to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day "because it gives us a renewed sense of optimism."

Burena Smith, a Research, Development, Engineering Command employee, said she attended the program to hear the guest speaker. Smith, who said she experienced racism as an African American child growing up in South Carolina during the days of segregation. She said she's ever grateful for Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights activists who campaigned for equal rights.

"I have a consistent awareness of the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. because I lived through that era, it directly impacted my life," Smith said. "and I found this program very enjoyable and inspiring."

For pictures of the event, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>. To learn more about Martin Luther King Jr. Day, visit www.mlk.gov.

Pay freeze won't halt many performance raises

By **STEPHEN LOSEY**
Federal Times

The federal pay scale freeze won't quash all raises. Some performance-based raises under alternative pay systems are approved, according to a Dec. 30 memo from the Office of Personnel Management.

But the pay freeze will shrink the pool of money available for such raises. Most federal pay-for-performance systems dispense raises and bonuses from a pool of money that would otherwise have gone to General Schedule pay scale increases, step increases, promotions and bonuses.

President Obama's pay freeze — which halts increases to General Schedule, wage grade, and other pay scales — will also dramatically reduce the money available for performance raises that typically come from the annu-

Recruitment, relocation and retention incentives, overtime pay and performance bonuses are not affected by the freeze.

al GS pay scale increase. Performance raises over the next two years will have to come from funds that would have gone to step increases, promotions and bonuses.

This will affect IRS managers, Transportation Security Administration screeners, some non-Defense intelligence employees, and others who also are under pay-for-performance systems.

Members of the Senior Executive

Service and other senior-level employees will not receive any performance-based increases over the next two years, the memo said. They can still receive increases if they are promoted or take on significant additional responsibilities.

OPM Director John Berry's memo to agency heads also said federal employees whose pay raises are set by existing collective bargaining agreements

— such as air traffic controllers — will not be affected by the freeze. But Berry said agencies should keep the pay freeze in mind during negotiations over future pay raises.

The National Air Traffic Controllers Association declined to comment.

The pay freeze does not cover military service members or U.S. Postal Service employees. The Postal Service said last month it will try to hold salaries down in future collective bargaining negotiations.

Recruitment, relocation and retention incentives, overtime pay and performance bonuses are not affected by the freeze. Promotions and regularly-scheduled step increases will also continue, although OPM said agencies should make sure they are truly based on employees' performance and are not automatic increases.

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Homestead Publishing Company of the products or services advertised.

For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 305, IMNE-APG-PA, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-

278-2570; send e-mail to editor-apg@conus.army.mil or adriane.foss2@us.army.mil or contact reporters Yvonne Johnson, yvonne.johnson5@us.army.mil or 410-278-1148, or Rachel Ponder, rachel.ponder@us.army.mil or 410-278-1149.

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

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Army minimizes stress suffered by victims of domestic and child abuse

By **ROB MCILVAINE**
FMWRC Public Affairs

The Army Family Action Plan has once again proved invaluable for Soldiers and Families.

As of 21 January 2011, eligible enlisted Family members will receive 36 months of Transitional Compensation (TC), the same as officer Family members, rather than the average of 22 months of payments they formerly received. This change ensures payments are standardized for all approved applications.

Transitional Compensation is a congressionally authorized program. The TC benefits help ease the transition from military to civilian life by providing temporary payments and benefits for Families in which a Soldier has been court-martialed or is being administratively separated from the Army because of a dependent-

abuse offense such as domestic or child abuse.

The difference in duration of compensation between Family members of enlisted and officers was an anomaly of the program, and was based solely on the Soldier's rank.

The current change is a direct result of Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Issue #540, Duration of Transitional Compensation for Abused Dependents, which surfaced in 2003.

After Army senior leaders reviewed numerous recommendations, queries and cost analyses, a revision to the Army Regulation (AR) 608-1, Army Community Service Center, became a reality.

The Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (FMWRC) manages the Army's TC Program and began authorizing TC payments in August 1995. The Army recognizes domestic and child abuse may be an unfortunate symptom of stress on

the force that needs to be positively addressed and minimized. The Installation Management Community focuses on providing standardized, effective Family readiness programs and services to ensure Soldiers and Families can enjoy a quality of life commensurate with their level of service and sacrifice to the nation.

"Quality programs can greatly improve the well being of Soldiers and Families and reduce incidents of abuse," said Chief Lt. Col. Nancy Ruffin, FMWRC Army Family Advocacy Program Chief. "Our challenge is to provide awareness and access to the available programs and services."

"The Army and its leadership are working hard to ensure Soldiers and Families are prepared and supported before, during and after deployments, and throughout their military careers," Ruffin said. "Nothing is more important than ensuring the well being of our Sol-

diers and Families – our most precious resource."

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP), administered by the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, is a year-round program that begins at the installation or unit level. It is the Army's grassroots process to identify and elevate the most significant quality of life issues impacting Soldiers (all components), Retirees, DA Civilians, and Families to senior leaders for action.

The Department of the Army-level AFAP conference takes place 31 Jan 2011 - 4 Feb 2011 in Northern Virginia to review over 90 issues elevated from mid-level AFAP conferences.

For more information about the Army's Transitional Compensation program please contact the Family Advocacy Program Manager (FAPM), Victim Witness Liaison (VWL), or Victim Advocate (VA) at your installation.

Fact vs. Fiction

Myths and misconceptions about alcohol and its effects on safe driving are widespread. According to Cindy Scott, APG's ASAP prevention coordinator, "knowing the truth could mean the difference between life and death."

Myth: Alcohol is a stimulant.

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

Myth: "Drinking coffee sobers me up."

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

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

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

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

Fact: Size is only one factor in how much you can drink. Metabolism, amount of rest and food intake all play a part in how you handle liquor. Impair-

ment in motor reflexes and judgment can begin with the first drink.

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

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

Myth: "I just drive slower after drinking."

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

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

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

For more information, contact Cindy Scott, 410-278-4013, Cynthia.Scott1@us.army.mil.

From the Garrison

Outreach sure to pay off

Our garrison team carries out a lot of activities that become almost invisible on a day-to-day basis.

The number of programs and activities it takes to keep such a large and diverse installation successful is pretty impressive, however, and even more so if you look at the long term. This week I'd like to highlight one of the programs we do that pays important immediate dividends, but which really pays off in the long run.

We have a very active school liaison program at APG. Our school liaison works with the APG community and local schools on behalf of the whole Army team. The aim of this office is to help parents make local schools them work for their children, and assist schools working with the Army. I can find an example of our school liaison office helping our community with any aspect of schooling you can name, from enrolling students into Kindergarten to getting transcripts after they graduate.

Apart from those efforts, you should be aware that there is an incredible amount of educational outreach executed by Soldiers, civilians and Families here on APG, especially in science, technology, engineering and math outreach. These programs will pay dividends for not only for our local communities, but Aberdeen Proving Ground and the entire country.

Every week members of the APG community – scientists, engineers, technicians and other professionals – visit several local schools to share their knowledge and, perhaps more importantly, their love of science, math and learning in general.

They visit everything from elementary schools to graduate schools. They teach classes, conduct experiments, share research, mentor students and even put on shows, if that's what it takes. Who makes these visits, and which schools they visit, changes every week.

Sometimes they're part of an on-going program, sometimes they're one-time visits. But every visit contributes to the school, the community and the country.

These volunteers don't only execute these initiatives because they love children or learning. That's where the pay-back to APG, the Army and the country comes in.

The organizations that make up Team APG need scientists, engineers, technicians and other professionals to accomplish their missions.

Exposing young children to STEM education will open up a world of opportunity for them, allowing them to become

part of a crucial and successful workforce at locations across the globe. Whether they find employment at a U.S. military installation, research lab, government agency or school, they will undoubtedly contribute to national security and to their own personal success. So APG organizations stand ready to do things today that will pay off tomorrow, things that will pay off in a few years and things that will pay off a decade or two from now.

“ So APG organizations stand ready to do things today that will pay off tomorrow, things that will pay off in a few years and things that will pay off a decade or two from now. ”

Defense is not the only place we need to keep a lead in science and technology, of course. Presidents and other national leaders have emphasized that the U.S. can't afford to lose its technological edge since 1957 when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth. Our budgets and programs reflect the agreement that we need world-class science and technology education. The students our scientists and engineers visit may end up working for the military, industry, education or elsewhere. The important thing is that we help grow the next generation, and that generation keeps us at the forefront.

It takes more than scientists and engineers to keep us on top, however, and scientist and engineers need more than technical knowledge. So APG personnel are also deeply involved in programs that take place outside the classroom. A few examples include Futures 11, Technology for Teens, Operation Military Kids, Harford County Boys and Girls Club (which includes Edgewood, Aberdeen, Bel Air and Havre De Grace), Math and Science Academy, Harford High School Agricultural/Environmental Science and the Joppatowne High School Homeland Security program. They are active in mentoring programs to help students stay out of trouble and mature, summer programs to keep the learning going, and pure recreation programs to show them how to enjoy life.

That's important because we need professionals to do all the other things that go on, such as those seemingly invisible jobs that I mentioned earlier. You can't keep top people if you can't get them paid, take care of their records or keep the lights in their laboratories on. And we have to live, shop and play in our communities, so anything we do to make them healthier will also pay off in the future.

I will be highlighting other programs like this one in the future, but I don't know if any will be more important. I urge everyone to look for opportunities to contribute.

Col. Orlando W. Ortiz

Commander, U.S. Army Garrison APG

AFTB training, celebration a success

The Army Family Team Building program just completed its Level III Training course in Advanced "Lead" certification. AFTB Level III is designed to offer training geared at enhancing the professional growth and leadership development opportunities of those who might assume advisory and leadership roles within the community and military units.

During the two-day certification Dec. 7-8, five members of the community attended and completed the course. The next AFTB course that will be held in ACS Bldg. 2503 and will be the instructor trainer certification to certify military and civilian personnel as instructors of the Levels I, II, III AFTB courses.

Also, Aberdeen Proving Ground's AFTB and ACS celebrated the 17th birthday of the AFTB program. Since its inception, the program has provided variety of classes and training to the military and civilian community. The AFTB has remained steadfast and true to its mission statement, "to educate and empower members of the military community to develop skills and encourage behaviors that strengthen self-reliance, promote retention, and enhance readiness."

Finally, I would like to take a moment to recognize and extend my heartfelt gratitude for the hard work and dedication that has been provided by the AFTB instructors, the Army Volunteer Corps Program and APG volunteers, all of whom donated their valuable time to make the AFTB classes and birthday recognition a success.

I encourage anyone interested in attending any AFTB training to call 410-278-2453.

Tina Helmick

Preventive medicine residents study tropical diseases in Honduras



USAPHC (Prov) photos

Residents learn where disease-carrying insects live and how to collect them for laboratory analysis in the tropical medicine course available through the USAPHC (Prov) Professional Medical Education Program for preventive medicine doctors.

By
LYN KUKRAL

U.S. Army Public Health Command (Prov)

Malaria. Dengue fever. Leishmaniasis. These and other nasty tropical diseases rarely occur in the United States, but they do occur in many of the places Soldiers deploy, from Central and South America, to Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Philippines.

In the tropical areas of these locations, vectors thrive in warm, moist environments and spread disease more easily in places where medical and public health capabilities are not robust.

“We have to train our doctors to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases that we don’t see too often in the U.S., but that put our forces at risk when we deploy,” according to Lt. Col. Steven Cersovsky, a preventive medicine physician at U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional). “Most U.S. providers aren’t going to know about these diseases.”

One way preventive medicine doctors learn these skills is through the Army’s tropical medicine course.

Offered through USAPHC (Prov)’s Professional Medical Education Program, the once-a-year course includes four weeks of classroom training followed by two weeks in the field identifying where vectors breed and live, treating patients, tracking the occurrence of disease in population groups, and working in laboratories to identify vectors and disease-causing agents.

“This was the first year in the history of the course that we were able to blend both clinical care and public health work to build a unique field experience,” said Cersovsky, who also serves as a course instructor.

In addition to diagnosis and treatment of tropical diseases, students get an overview of the public health system in a country where diseases are more prevalent and treatment less available than in the U.S.

This year, the program partnered with the Honduran ministry of health to provide the new field mission.

“The local people [in Honduras] are more susceptible to severe diseases because of poverty, lack of nutrition, austere living conditions and limited access to health care,” Cersovsky said.

Army Capt. Ben Palmer was one of nine residents who completed the tropi-

“We have to train our doctors to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases that we don’t see too often in the U.S., but that put our forces at risk when we deploy.”

Lt. Col. Steven Cersovsky

Preventive medicine physician, USAPHC(Prov)

cal medicine course.

He said the group spent its first week in the capital city, Tegucigalpa, making hospital rounds at a national hospital center and conducting laboratory analyses.

“We visited patients with host-nation doctors, making rounds and discussing cases,” Palmer said. “We saw everything from how diseases were contracted, to how the patients presented, to diagnosis and treatment.”

Care in Tegucigalpa is the top-level care in the nation; however the residents and their instructors also traveled to Olancho, a rural region in the mountains, which gave them the opportunity to train in an area with less medical and public health resources.

In Olancho, residents visited patients in a regional hospital as well as door-to-door in local villages.

“We worked with Honduran ministry of health officials on an epidemiological study to find out how many malaria-carrying mosquitoes and how many affected humans there were in the area,” Cersovsky said.

“You go house to house, interview the people and obtain a medical history, do a brief physical exam looking for obvious infection, do a finger stick [to obtain a blood sample], and make a slide for lab analysis. We also evaluated different diagnostic techniques in the lab,” he added.

Course students were surprised that at every house, the people invited them in. Local high school students got school credit for helping with translation.

During their time in the villages, the course attendees also assessed public health conditions as well as the physical environment in which tropical diseases develop.

“We looked at factors in the environment that contribute to disease,” Cersovsky explained. “Food and water sources, general sanitation, how people live—all of those things that we’re concerned with in public health.”

Vector surveillance was also conduct-



In rural Honduras, preventive medicine residents went house-to-house to examine patients for infection and take blood samples.

reinforce the students’ knowledge of species, habitat, where you find larvae, collection and identification,” Cersovsky added.

The tropical medicine course is mutually beneficial to U.S. military healthcare providers and their medical partners in host nations. According to Cersovsky, it supports host-nation efforts to detect and prevent emerging infectious diseases. As well, it offers a knowledge-sharing opportunity to host-nation public health personnel who want to learn more about U.S. military public health practices.

For Palmer, the course emphasized the importance of his chosen medical discipline.

“Of everything I’ve learned in my residency, I realize the importance of preventive medicine and the avoidance of disease,” he said.

“The value of preventive medicine gets overlooked ... diseases that we successfully prevent never happen, so we never can really show what we avoided. We’re working to educate both the medical community and the lay person about the importance of prevention.”

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY JANUARY 22 INVASINATORS

Become a part of the volunteer team of invasive plant removers and native plant restorers. Learn why non-native invasive plants are a threat to the ecosystem, how to identify problem plants, and removal and restoration strategies. Wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and work gloves for field work in the Reserve each meeting date. Participants receive an Invasinators t-shirt after attending two work days.

This program will be held 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. Registration is required.

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

TWIG FRAMES

Have fun making easy but uniquely individual photo frames created from nature's winter staple, twigs. Bring a picture to frame. This program will be held 2:30 to 4 p.m. for ages 10 to adult, 10 to 14 with adult. The cost is \$2 and registration is required.

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

WINTER SKY CAMPFIRE

Enjoy a blazing campfire dinner of roasted hot dogs with all the fixings while surrounded by winter's beauty. Bundle up. This program will be held 4:30 to 6 p.m. for all ages. The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family and registration is required.

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

SUNDAY JANUARY 23 WINTER WOVEN BASKET

Cold weather is a perfect time to get crafty. Cozy up to the stove and make a basket to hold winter decorations, gifts, or warm baked goods.

This program will be held 1 to 5 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. The cost is \$20 per person. Registration is required.

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

IF A WOODCHUCK COULD CHUCK...

Through story, play and craft, learn about groundhogs and why they have a special day honoring them. This program will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. for Families. The cost is \$2 per person or \$7 per family and registration is required.

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

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26 THRU FEBRUARY 23 NATURE'S PLAYGROUP - SESSION I

Little ones and their parents play and learn in the natural world. Stories, songs, simple crafts and discovery outings will highlight each day's theme. This program will be held 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 0 to 4. The cost is \$30 per child. Registration is required.

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

NATURE'S PLAYGROUP - SESSION II

Little ones and their parents play and learn in the natural world. Stories, songs, simple crafts and discovery outings will highlight each day's theme. This program will be held 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for ages 0 to 4. The cost is \$30 per child. Registration is required.

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

FRIDAY JANUARY 28 THE FINTON FORMULA FUN VISITING SCIENTIST SERIES

Come out for exciting hands-on chemistry and environmental science fun, guided by guest scientists from the local community. This program will be held 4:30 to 6 p.m. for ages 10 to 13 or 5th to 8th grade. The cost is \$3 per program and registration is required.

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

MATH FOR PARENTS

Everyday Math for Parents Session 2 will be held 9:30 a.m. at the Center for Educational Opportunities, 253 Paradise Road (next to Aberdeen High School) in Aberdeen.

For more information, call Steve Clapper at 41-278-5014.

MOAA DINNER

Active, retired officers invited to MOAA dinner

The Susquehanna Chapter, Military Officer Association of America will hold a dinner and presentation 7 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel, 980 Hospitality Way, Aberdeen.

Cocktails will be served 6 p.m. All active, retired and former officers of the seven uniformed services of the United States (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service) and their National Guard or Reserve components are invited to attend.

The guest speaker will be Col. Daniel B. Marino, Vice Commander, 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard. Cost is \$27 per person and includes dinner (rib eye steak or grilled salmon filet), salad, dessert, coffee or tea, gratuity and sales tax.

For more information or to RSVP by Jan. 18, call Jeff Brock at 443-686-1454 or email brockja88@gmail.com.

SATURDAY JANUARY 29 TRAILTREK

Enjoy a splendid day hike along the banks of the Little Gunpowder. Bring a snack and water. Call for directions. This free program will be held 9 a.m. to noon for ages 10 to adult. Registration is required.

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

DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE

Join Harford County birder Phil Powers on the pontoon boat pier for an afternoon of watching for winter waterfowl. This program will be held 1 to 2:30 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. The program is free but registration is required.

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

WINTER WALK AND WARM-UP

Come out for a brisk winter walk to warm up the muscles, and then wrap up inside with a fire and hot chocolate to warm up. This program will be held 3 to 4:30 p.m. for all ages. The cost is \$2 per person or \$5 per Family. Registration is required.

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

SUNDAY JANUARY 30 GREEN HOME PROJECTS

Hoping to go green? Come for an afternoon of crafting green projects for the home to help reduce, reuse, and recycle. This program will be held 12 to 2 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per Family. Registration is required.

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

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

Post Shorts

MCSC Lunch and Learn Jan. 27

The Military, Civilian and Spouses' Club invites members of the APG community to attend a Lunch and Learn Jan. 27 at 11:30 a.m. at the APG Dining Facility, Bldg. 4503, on Springfield Street, APG. Lenora Hammett, a financial expert, will speak on the topic "Becoming Financially Literate". Please RSVP to Annie Brock at president@apgmcs.org or call 443-686-1484.

Aberdeen Road Gate hours extended

The Aberdeen Road Gate in the Aberdeen Area is open from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on duty days, for outbound traffic only.

Phone prefix changed Jan. 18

As of Jan. 18, dialing off post has changed. Back in May, the commercial prefix was changed from 9 to 99.

This led to some issues when on several occasions people misdialed, accidentally calling 911 when attempting to reach nonemergency numbers.

To correct this issue, beginning Jan. 18 the new commercial prefix is as follows:

- Commercial Numbers 9-7
- Long Distance Numbers 9-7-1

The DSN dialing prefix, 94, will not change. Additionally, the emergency call number, 911, will stay the same.

APG employees should ensure their organizational publications reflect the new numbers. For information, call Carrie Silbernagel at 410-306-1310.

SAME meets Jan. 20

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post will meet

11:30 a.m. Jan. 20 at the Wetlands Golf Club, 740 Gilbert Road, Aberdeen.

Guest speaker will be Col. David E. Anderson, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. Anderson will provide a presentation on emerging post-BRAC challenges. The meeting is open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required.

For more information or to register, call 410-688-0318 or register online at <http://www.same-chesapeake.org>.

Starting Small Business

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program will sponsor four sessions of How to Start Your Small Business, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 2, May 4, Aug. 3 and Nov. 2 at Child, Youth and School Services, Bldg. 2503.

The free 90-minute program provides an overview of starting a business, successful entrepreneurship and how to write a strategic business plan.

The sessions are open to DoD cardholders, including contractors and retirees, and Family members and guests. Space is limited.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Marilyn Howard at 410/278-9669/7572.

Army Family Team Building Level II

The installation's Army Family Team Building will host an AFTB Level II volunteer supported class to teach individuals and Families how to be more independent within the military environment. The class will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Feb. 15 and 16 in Army Community Service Bldg. 2503, second floor, in the CYS conference room #214. Pre-registration is required.

AFTB also supports the total Army effort in helping those achieve their highest level of personal development.

For more information, call 410 278-2453.

Volunteers needed for research study

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory is seeking male volunteers between ages 18 and 35 to participate in a study assessing how well individuals can detect vibrations produced by vibrators held next to the head by a head band.

Hair must be short and conform to military regulations. The vibrators in the study are similar to those used in cell phones. The task will be to detect the vibrations while sitting, walking and jogging.

The aim of the study is to develop ways of presenting information to Soldiers. By volunteering, participants will influence the development of a new communication method.

Time commitment is one hour. Non-government civilians will be paid \$20 per hour for their time. For males in the military, no compensation will be provided, other than helping further research that benefits troops.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Kimberly Myles at 410-278-5998 or kim.myles@us.army.mil.

NAF Open Season begins

All enrollment options will be available during Open Season to regular full-time and part-time employees with the

exception of Long Term Care which will be available only with Evidence of Insurability.

Health plan participants must enroll their dependent children, age 19-26 who were previously enrolled but aged out of coverage at 19, dependents who were never enrolled because they were over 18, and dependents age 19-26 who were covered as a full-time student.

If you have dependents ages 19-26, failure to update your records during Open Season will result in their not being eligible for coverage until the next Open Season.

FSA's also require yearly election. Since employees will need a variety of information and/or documents, they should contact NAF Human Resources Office, 410-278-5127/8992/8994 to arrange an appointment as soon as possible if they wish to add dependents and/or update their records.

Changes requiring Open Season eligibility became effective Jan. 1, 2011 provided the employee was actively at work.

2011-2012 Acquisition University SSCF program accepting applications

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center is currently accepting applications for the 2011-2012 SSCF Program through March 15.

Over the course of 10 months, the program provides leadership and acquisition training to prepare senior level government civilians at the GS-14/15 level or equivalent for senior leadership roles such as product and project managers, program executive officers and other key acquisition leadership positions.

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

Contact Jim Oman at 703-254-3255 or james.oman@dau.mil for more information.

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

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

CORRECTION

The first in a yearlong series on environmental topics was incorrectly identified as Green Talk. The name of the environmental series is Clean Talk. E-mail editor-apg@conus.army.mil if you have any environmental topics you'd like to see covered in the *APG News*.

FAMILY AND MWR

Activities/Events

Hearts Apart Valentine's Day Card Making Event

Army Community Services Hearts Apart Support Group will host a Valentine's Day Card Making Event, 6 to 7 p.m., Feb. 2 at ACS, Bldg. 2503 High Point Road. There will be light refreshments and gifts for all who participate. All participants will be given the opportunity to decorate a card for their deployed spouse. 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.

Driver's education

Aberdeen

Driver's education classes are scheduled Jan. 31 to Feb. 14; Feb. 28 to March 14; and March 28 to April 11. There are

no classes on federal holidays.

Classes will be held Monday to Friday, 5 to 8:15 p.m. at the Ultimate Driving School, LLC, 13 North Parke St. in Aberdeen. Classes include 30 hours classroom instruction and six hours behind the wheel instruction.

The last day to register for the class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between the ages of 15.9 and 18. Open to all DoD ID cardholders.

Cost is \$335 per student. Prices are subject to change without notice. Parents must attend on the first and last day of classes with the students.

Edgewood and Abingdon

Driver's education classes are set Jan. 17 to 28; and Feb. 14 to 25 at 423 Edgewood Road in Edgewood.

Driver's education classes are Jan. 17 to 28; and Jan. 31 to Feb. 12 at 49 Kingston Parkway in Abingdon.

Classes will be held Monday to Friday, 6 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Classes include 30 hours classroom instruction and six hours behind the wheel instruction.

Last day to register for the class is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between the ages of 15.9 and 18. Open to all DoD ID cardholders. Cost is \$299 per student. Prices are subject to change without notice.

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.

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., Jan. 21 to 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.

Pip Hop

Children ages 4 to 5 can participate in Pip Hop from 7:15 to 7:45 p.m. Jan. 21 to 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.

Tots and Tutus

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

Held 5:30 to 6 p.m. Fridays from Jan. 21 to 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.

Martial Arts at APG 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 Jan. 24 to Feb. 16; 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.

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.



Spoken Word

How often have our youth and teens searched for ways to communicate with their parents, other adults and even their friends? Some kids find it easy to bring their thoughts out and communicate with people while some crawl into a shell frightened of what others may think. In January, the EDGE program brings the "Spoken Word", a program which teaches and allows youth and teens to show self-expression through poetry, prose, the oral word, body language and much, much more. Locally renowned teacher Larry O'Neal brings his abilities and teachings to the APG community to assist our youth and teens in reaching their true value and self-worth. There are many ways to communicate with others, but through the "Spoken Word", they can learn to express themselves effectively and completely.

This innovative participatory program is offered on Tuesdays, through Jan. 25, 4 to 6 p.m., at the Edgewood Youth Center and on Thurs-

days, January 6-27, 4:00-6:00pm at the Child, Youth and School Services Building conference room, Bldg 2503 (next to Kirk Clinic). Registrations are now being taken at the Parent Central Registration Office in the CYSS Bldg. Call 410-278-7571/7479 for more details. Parents are also invited to attend the last session of the program with their youth or teen to hear what they have to say.

Reach for the stars with astronomy

The EDGE program offers an Astronomy program for ages 11 to 18, 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays, from Feb. 3 through Feb. 24. Youths will learn more about the stars and galaxies, moon rocks and meteorites and the universe. The program will be held at the Harford Community College Observatory.

Transportation will be provided from the Aberdeen and Edgewood Area Youth Services. The bus will leave the EA at 3:20 p.m. and the AA at 3:45 p.m.

The astronomy program is free to active duty military, DoD civilian and contractor Family members. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Central Registration. Teens will depart the youth center, Bldg. 2522, at 8:30 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. Registration deadline is Jan. 14. Bring money for lunch. Space is limited to 10 teens.

Teen Interview Skills

This class will be held for teens ages 15 to 18, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Jan. 27 at the CYSS Administrative Bldg. 2503. Teens will learn to successfully conduct job interviews.

To register for these programs, register at Bldg. 2503 Central Registration. For more information about APG HIRED! Program Coordinator, call Jay McKinney at 410-278-3250.



Dress for Success

Dress for Success for Teens will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Jan 20 at the CYSS Administrative Bldg. 2503. Teens will learn how to dress appropriately for an interview and a job.

Stevenson University Campus Tour

Tour Stevenson University in Stevenson, Md., Jan. 22. For high school teens only. Sign up at CYSS

January bowling specials

Children bowl for free every Monday.

- Early Bird Special: Bowl one game and get the second game free from 7 to 10 a.m. Shoe rental costs \$2.

- Students' special: Children bowl for free with each paying adult on Jan. 3, 4, 7 and 8.

- Monday to Friday, 2 to 3 p.m., from Jan. 10 to 31, bowl for \$.75 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.

- Cosmic Saturdays: Each Saturday, receive one hour of bowling, one whole cheese pizza (toppings extra) and one pitcher of soda for \$32. Shoe

rental costs \$1.

- Each Friday, 9:30 to 11 p.m., up to six people can bowl for \$12. Includes shoe rental.

- Birthday party special: Book a birthday party anytime in January and receive 10 percent off the total cost.

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 all orders \$25 or more. Call for delivery before 11 a.m.

Week of Jan. 17

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

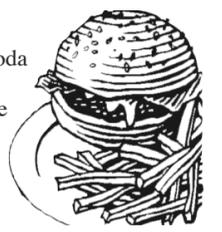
Special #2: Pork BBQ with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25.

Week of Jan. 24

Special #1: Gyro, potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.50.

Special #2: Italian sausage with French fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.95.

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.



Commission to recommend allowing women in combat units

By **LEO SHANE III**
Stars and Stripes

A military advisory panel appears poised to recommend allowing female troops to serve in combat units without any restrictions, calling the current prohibition an out-of-date idea that unnecessarily discriminates against women.

If approved by military officials, the move could open front-line posts to military women for the first time. Until now, either U.S. law or Pentagon policy has prohibited female troops from serving in any unit whose primary mission is direct ground combat, although they may serve in combat support roles.

The Military Leadership Diversity Commission, established by Congress two years ago, issued the recommendation as part of a draft report on diversity in the services. The final report is due to lawmakers this spring, and commission members are meeting this week in Virginia to debate final changes.

In the draft, commission members call for a phased approach to open additional career fields with ground combat units to qualified women, saying the current policy limits the ability of commanders to pick the most capable person for their missions.

“To date, there has been little evidence that the integration of women into previously closed units or occupations has had a negative impact on important mission-related performance factors, like unit cohesion,” the draft states.

“Furthermore, a study by the Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services actually found that a majority of focus group participants felt that women serving in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan have had a positive impact on mission accomplishment.”

The draft report notes that the restriction on combat posts prohibits women from serving in about 10 percent of Army and Marine Corps occupations, a “structural barrier” which could hurt their chances of promotion or advancement.

Proponents of women in combat roles have argued that the distinction is obsolete in the new combat environments of Iraq and Afghanistan, where support units have routinely found themselves involved in roadside bomb attacks and insurgent ambushes.

Since 2001, 114 female U.S. servicemembers have been killed in fighting in Iraq and 23 have been killed in fighting in Afghanistan.

But Elaine Donnelly, president of the conservative Center for Military Readiness, said the commission’s recommendation confuses troops in harm’s way with those assigned to front-line, offensive combat missions. Performing heroically in an ambush is not the same as



Courtesy photo

In the draft report, commission members call for a phased approach to open additional career fields with ground combat units to qualified women, saying the current policy limits the ability of commanders to pick the most capable person for their missions.

“Physical differences between men and women do matter. The purpose of this change is to help with career advancement and diversity. But if they’re saying the purpose is to help better defend the country, then it’s divorced from reality.”

Elaine Donnelly
Center for Military Readiness

grueling front-line combat.

“Physical differences between men and women do matter,” she said. “The purpose of this change is to help with career advancement and diversity. But if they’re saying the purpose is to help better defend the country, then it’s divorced from reality.”

Donnelly said barring women from some military jobs does not diminish their contributions, but instead recognizes that only a small percentage of female troops can meet the strength and endurance requirements mandated in “brutal and uncivilized” front-line fighting.

But Genevieve Chase, founder of American Women Veterans, said the restrictions are largely an issue of semantics now. Commanders have gotten around the rules by “attaching” female troops to combat units when needed, allowing

them to work in combat roles without having them assigned to combat units.

“But that becomes a records issue, what counts for promotion and experience,” she said. “We’re asking for women to be recognized and acknowledged for that work.”

Chase, an Army reservist who served in Afghanistan, said standards for female combat troops need to be the same as those for men, but also noted that brute strength is not the only qualification. Language skills, leadership experience, and other combat-related specialties can be just as vital to mission success.

The commission, which includes 24 senior retired and active-duty servicemembers, recommended that women already in combat-related roles should be open for assignment to combat units immediately, and the services should

look for ways in coming months to open additional combat posts to women.

The report also notes that the recommendation was not unanimous, with several members opposed to opening the front-line posts to women.

Earlier this month, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey said he expected the commission’s report, along with other ongoing military reviews, would reopen the debate into women’s roles in the military.

Removing the combat restrictions would not require approval from Congress, but defense officials are required to notify lawmakers of any such change at least 30 days before it is put in place.

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Pick up the Jan. 27 issue of the APG News to find out what APG’s women in uniform have to say. If you—male or female—would like to give your input, we want to hear what you have to say about female troops serving in combat units. E-mail your comments, letter to the editor or commentary to editor-apg@conus.army.mil.



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.”

Tell them you saw it in the APG News



Get it popping!

Local Army spouse Ripleigh Degenhardt (center) holds daughter Rori Jane, 2, as she inspects a box of popcorn during a giveaway at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Army Community Service. As part of their annual Operation Popcorn, Support Our Troops donated the popcorn to Soldiers, civilians and Families at APG and installations across the globe. The program allows peoples to donate Trail's End popcorn products to military personnel every year during the Boy Scouts fall popcorn sale. The Scouts and Trail's-End have partnered with SupportOurTroops.Org to facilitate the program and deliver tons of popcorn to military bases, ships and aircraft carriers throughout the entire world. APG ACS staff members participating in the giveaway are pictured (from left): Diana Hayes, Annette Sanders, Marilyn Howard, Wilhelmina Cronartie and Nancy Goucher.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson

AAFES NEWS

PX program offers APG students freebies, chance to win savings bond for high grades

AAFES news release

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, military children, especially those with deployed parents, face unique stresses that often result in higher rates of school absenteeism and failure.

Keeping these unique challenges in mind, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service established an exclusive educational rewards program that continues to receive high marks from students and parents alike.

Now in its tenth year, the "You Made the Grade" program recognizes students who achieve a "B" average or better with a benefits-filled booklet. Offers include a free Burger King kids meal, Subway 6-inch combo, video rental and \$2 off any new release DVD at the Power Zone, to name a few.

Students who make the grade can also register for a drawing to win a savings bond worth up to \$5,000 by filling out and mailing an included entry form.

"It's simple; learning pays," said the Exchange's Deputy Commanding General Brig Gen. Francis Hendricks. "Promoting the benefits of a good education is what makes this program so important to us and the community we serve. This effort represents an investment in our nation's future."

To receive the "You Made the Grade" booklet, students simply present a valid military ID card and proof of an overall "B" or better average to their local Exchange. Students may receive one coupon package for every qualifying report card, but may enter the savings bond drawing only once per calendar year.

Military families can contact their local exchange for more information about "You Made the Grade."

Contact information is available through the "your exchange" link at www.shopmyexchange.com.

APG Exchange opens mobile phone kiosk in Power Zone

AAFES news release

Aberdeen Proving Ground - In today's wireless world, Soldiers are faced with a dizzying array of choices when it comes to mobile technology. Fortunately, the APG Exchange is simplifying the process through its Exchange Mobile Center.

The kiosk, which will open Jan. 21 provides shoppers with immediate access to three major carrier offerings, 28 different mobile phone options, competitive pricing, military discounts and a variety of plans, with trained associates to assist in the buying decision.

"Exchange Mobile Cen-

ter brings the wireless world into the Exchange through top brands and great services, all at competitive prices," said Store Manager, Debbie Armendariz. "Our highly knowledgeable wireless professionals are familiar with all the offerings and can help pick the plan or handset to best suit their or their family's needs."

Aberdeen Proving Ground's Exchange Mobile Center is located in the Power Zone area of the Main Store, Bldg. 2401. Hours of operation are Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

APG News reporter pushes past the pain

Yvonne Johnson, APG News reporter, sticks to her get-fit New Year's resolution by participating in the Wednesday afternoon Cardio/Core Fusion class at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center. The class dedicates 30 minutes on cardio drills and 30 minutes on core exercises. Johnson, who is blogging and Twittering her progress, called the class very intense, "much more than I expected." Johnson, an Army veteran, said she was used to doing PT in the early morning hours of her active duty career and thought the exercise classes would be relatively easy for her to adjust to. Johnson said it wasn't easy at all, more like "painfully difficult," but noted it would not stop her from coming back for next week's session. "I'm really serious about getting in shape and have made it an important part of my life. As long as my body holds up, I'm in there." Community members can follow Johnson and Rachel Ponder, fellow APG News reporter, as they discuss their highs and lows in the fitness center and wherever they manage to workout via Twitter, MilBlog, and Flickr. "Hopefully other people, like us, who are working out, will start sharing their stories," said Johnson.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



NSPS nears end RDECOM elements moving to Stones

Continued from Page 1

performance pay system's last year of existence.

The Pentagon has to move all remaining NSPS employees back to their old pay systems by the end of 2011.

Congress in 2009 canceled the large and controversial pay-for-performance system, which had been criticized as complex and unfair, and said all employees should receive at least the full GS raise until they are transferred out of NSPS.

The memo also establishes a so-called choke point at \$155,500, or level

IV of the Executive Schedule, and said NSPS employees may not receive further performance-based increases if they are making more than that amount or would make more than that with a performance raise.

The choke point does not address the 2.26 percent base salary increase.

Defense transferred about 172,000 employees out of NSPS and back to GS in fiscal 2010.

The remaining employees will be transferred to alternative personnel systems.

Continued from Page 1

mental. These elements will relocate to Bldg. 3072 on Aberdeen Boulevard starting Feb. 15.

Carl Boquist, RDECOM facilities and logistics director, said renovations to the building included painting, new carpeting, bathrooms renovations, asbestos removal, mold remediation and upgrades to the electrical and information technology systems.

RDECOM historian Jeff Smart

said Bldgs. 3071, 3072 and 3073, also known as the "Stones," formerly housed the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools for 41 years. The Army completed construction Jan. 15, 1941, and the buildings were used to train 75,000 Soldiers during World War II.

RDECOM employees already occupy Building 3071 and will begin moving into Bldg. 3073 in May.

Submit letters to the editor to editor-APG@conus.army.mil

TRICARE extends coverage to age 26 with new program

By **DONNA MILES**
American Forces Press Service

To ensure military Families don't get left out as the new national health care reform law extends parent's health insurance to their children up to age 26, TRICARE plans to roll out its new Young Adult Program by spring, and to provide an option to make coverage retroactive to Jan. 1.

The new program will allow qualified, unmarried military children up to age 26 to buy health care coverage under their parents' TRICARE plans through age 26, defense officials announced yesterday. That's up from the current maximum age of 21, or 23 for full-time college students whose parents provide more than half their financial support.

The Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act President Barack Obama signed Jan. 7, gave the Defense Department the authority it needed to extend TRICARE coverage to young adults, TRICARE spokesman Austin Camacho explained. This ensures benefits extended under TRICARE are in line with those all American families receive under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that took effect in March.

"We've been working hard to make sure we could put TRICARE Young Adult on a fast track," said Navy Rear

Fortunately for our beneficiaries concerned about health care coverage for their adult children, the law signed by the president includes opportunities for military families to elect this new premium-based plan retroactive to Jan. 1.

Navy Rear Adm. (Dr.) Christine Hunter
TRICARE Management Activity

Adm. (Dr.) Christine Hunter, who heads the TRICARE Management Activity. "Fortunately for our beneficiaries concerned about health care coverage for their adult children, the law signed by the president includes opportunities for military families to elect this new premium-based plan retroactive to Jan. 1."

Qualified young adults who don't have access to employer-sponsored health care coverage will be eligible to purchase it through TRICARE on a month-to-month basis, Camacho said.

Details about how much those premiums will cost under the new program still are being finalized. But because the 2011 defense authorization specifies that the rates must cover all program costs, Camacho said, premiums will be based on commercial insurance data about the costs of providing care.

Once the new program is in place, Hunter estimated that it could extend TRICARE coverage to several hundred thousand additional beneficiaries.

"The premium allows us to provide the excellent benefit to our military families while responsibly addressing the impact of health care costs on the DoD budget," she said.

Meanwhile, the TRICARE staff has moved into overdrive to iron out the program details: determining eligibility and coverage criteria and costs; designing, testing and implementing the required software and systems changes; updating eligibility databases; and crafting education efforts, Camacho said.

Officials plan to roll out the new program in two phases, first offering a premium-based TRICARE Standard/Extra benefit, Camacho said. Then,

later this year, they plan to introduce the TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Prime Remote plan, including overseas options, and the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan.

Once the program is in place, eligible young adults may submit an application and premium payment to the appropriate regional or overseas contractor for processing, Camacho said. Cost shares, deductibles and catastrophic caps will vary, based on the plan selected and the sponsor's status.

Young adult beneficiaries will receive an enrollment card after they buy coverage, and their payment is reflected in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, Camacho said.

The new beneficiaries may choose to pay premiums back to Jan. 1, which will entitle them to file claims for any health care costs they have accrued since that date. To do so, officials advise that they save all receipts to ease claims processing.

For adults who need health insurance coverage but no longer qualify for TRICARE coverage, officials advise exploring the Continued Health Care Benefit Program. This premium-based program offers temporary, transitional health coverage for 18 to 36 months. Coverage must be purchased within 60 days of losing TRICARE eligibility. Information about the program is posted on the TRICARE website.

CECOM, RDECOM contracting centers get new names

Continued from Page 1

on investment is branding and standardizing the naming convention of the ACC contracting centers," he said. "We decided to incorporate the geographical locations of the centers in their new names."

Following are the former and new names of the seven ACC contracting centers – effective Jan. 19.

Former Name	New Name	Location
National Capital Region Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - National Capital Region (ACC-NCR)	Alexandria, VA
TACOM Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Warren (ACC-WRN)	Warren, MI
CECOM Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground (C4ISR) [Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance] (ACC-APG) (C4ISR)	Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
RDECOM Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground (SCIRT) [Soldier, Chemical, Research and Test] (ACC-APG) (SCRT)	Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
JM&L Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Picatinny (ACC-PICA)	Picatinny Arsenal, NJ
AMCOM Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Redstone (ACC-RSA)	Redstone Arsenal, AL
Rock Island Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Rock Island (ACC-RI)	Rock Island Arsenal, IL

MLK Day speaker talks of first-hand account

Continued from Page 1

dreaming, even when he couldn't take his children to downtown Atlanta to an amusement park, and he still had the audacity to dream?" Kyles asked his audience. "How do you tell three-, four-, five- or six-year-olds they can't go to the park? They see other children in the park using the facilities. How do you explain to the children that they cannot go into that park in downtown Atlanta?"

While in Memphis, King took part in a major march that ended in violence, something that rarely happened when he visited various cities to promote nonviolent actions in support of civil rights, Kyles recalled. He said Dr. King was upset and disappointed that the march sparked violence, but he was also determined to continue his support for sanitation workers as they struggled for justice.

To support another march, the event organizers planned a rally April 3 at the Mason Temple, headquarters of the Church of God in Christ, and King was determined to speak during that rally at the Mason Temple, but some of the event sponsors were concerned that stormy weather that evening might keep many people from coming to hear what Dr. King had to say. They need not have worried because the Mason Temple was packed with people. There Dr. King delivered his famous "Mountain-top" speech.

Kyles recalled how King's words struck many listening that evening as prophetic, not only because King spoke of a future without oppression and racial discord tearing the fabric of American life, but also because they realized he was foretelling his own death.

"In that speech, I heard him talk about death more than he had talked about it in a while," Kyles said. "He talked about the woman who stabbed him when he was in New York, and the blade was just inches away from his heart. He looked at that audience and said, 'I may not get there with you, but you will get to the Promised Land.' He had no doubt that his time was short. 'I may not get there' really meant 'I won't get there.' Then he said, 'But in spite of that, God has allowed me to go up onto the mountain,

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Rev. Samuel "Billy" Kyles

and I have looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land, so I'm not worried tonight. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.' By that time we were all in tears. We knew what he was saying."

Dr. King's mood had grown lighter when Kyles saw him again the following day.

"By the next day, he was all right," Kyles recalled. "It was as if he had preached himself through the fear of death. He got it out of him. So many death threats came to him. Finally he said to us, 'Don't tell me about any more. I don't want to hear it. Leave it go.'"

Few could have imagined, however, that death would come on that day, April 4, at 6:01 p.m.

Kyles had invited King to his home for dinner that day, which was supposed to occur at 6 p.m., but King wasn't quite ready to leave the motel. As a result, Kyles and fellow civil-rights champion Dr. Ralph Abernathy spent the final hour of King's life in light-hearted conversation with him in his motel room.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to spend the last hour of his life on Earth with him – three preachers in a room," Kyles said. "Of the three, I am the only one left. The press has said, 'What did three preachers do in a room for an hour?' I said, 'preacher talk.' They said, 'what is preacher talk?' And I said, 'whatever

preachers talk about is preacher talk.' It was just three guys hanging out."

By that time, a crowd of people had gathered in the courtyard of the motel, and Dr. King stood on the balcony greeting them and waving to them.

"Abernathy was still in the room, but Martin and I had gotten ready, and we stepped out onto the balcony," Kyles said. "There were people in the courtyard, and he was waving at them. He saw Jesse Jackson, and he said, 'Jesse, you're not dressed for dinner,' and Jesse said, 'I don't need a suit and tie. I've got an appetite, and that's all I need.' It was light-hearted stuff. Jesse said, 'I want you to meet my band leader. He's from Chicago. Martin said, 'Bring him over here.' So they started walking toward the balcony. Martin was leaning over the balcony railing meeting Ben Branch. I said, 'guys, we have got to go!' and I turned and walked away. I got about four or five steps, and the shot rang out."

When Kyles turned back to look at the balcony, King was lying on his back, bleeding profusely from a gaping wound in his neck. He also had an exit wound in his chest, Kyles said. Kyles frantically tried to summon help by calling the motel operator, but she had been in the motel courtyard among the crowd, so he couldn't get connected immediately. The woman later died of a heart attack brought on by the shock of what she wit-

nessed, Kyles added.

Immediately following King's assassination, there was little evidence that pointed to the identity of anyone responsible. But on April 19, 1967, fingerprints on the rifle found by law-enforcement authorities, as well as other items, were matched with those of James Earl Ray, who at the time was a fugitive from Missouri State Penitentiary.

A search for Ray began at that point, but it took weeks to locate him, at which point he was getting ready to board a plane at Heathrow Airport in London. He was arrested and extradited to the United States to stand trial. One of his attorneys eventually persuaded him to plead guilty to first-degree murder in March 1969, which was a deal that spared him the death penalty. He was sentenced to 99 years in prison, where he died April 23, 1998.

Over the years since Ray was arrested, whether or not he actually pulled the trigger has remained controversial and the basis for various conspiracy theories.

During his remarks at the APG Recreation Center, Kyles fervently urged his audience to keep their dreams alive, particularly the young people who will be tomorrow's lawyers, judges, doctors and professionals.

Young people will someday wield influence and ensure that America is a country that lives up to its founding ideals of equality of opportunity for everyone, Kyles said. Quoting the African-American writer and poet Langston Hughes, he said, "Hold fast to your dreams, for without them life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly."

Kyles said he has often asked himself why he was present when Dr. King was assassinated. He has since decided it was so he could be a witness to a dark moment in America's history.

"Over the years, God revealed to me why I was there," Kyles said. "Crucifixions have to have witnesses. So I was there to be a witness – to tell you what happened on that April 4, 1968. I must admit, we can kill the dreamer, but I hurriedly tell you that you cannot kill the dream. The dream is still alive."