

APG NEWS



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

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Health clinic continues care during \$2.15M renovations

No drop in services expected, 2012 completion date on target

KUSAHC news release

Patients will not see a decrease in services despite extensive renovations going on at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

According to Deborah Dodsworth, KUSAHC patient advocate, construction at the clinic is on schedule and should be completed by January 2012.

"The clinic will be open during renovations, so patients do not have to go off post for medical care," she said.

To accommodate patients during the \$2.15 million overhaul, Dodsworth said 10 modular units will be assembled to serve as one large transitional facility, covering an approximate 144 X 62 foot area.

The temporary structure will be located in the upper part of KUSAHC's parking lot next to the veterinary clinic. While the modular building is a

See **RENOVATIONS**, page 14



APG News file photo

Technician Molly Kilby working in the KUSAHC lab, which will not be affected by the renovations. Departments that will be affected include Troop Medical, General Medicine, Pediatrics and the Pharmacy.

Free tax services offered at APG

OSJA Staff

Eligible community members can once again receive free tax filing services at centers in Aberdeen South (Edgewood) and Aberdeen North (Aberdeen) Feb. 8.

The Aberdeen North tax center will be located in Bldg. 4313 and will provide basic and advanced tax preparation assistance beginning Feb. 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Aberdeen South center will open its doors to offer basic tax preparation assistance to active duty service members only beginning Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

"Eligible customers for tax prep-

Tax deductions available to Army contractors

By DENNIS BOHANNON

Special to the APG News

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment has signed a policy that will enable and help civilian Army contractors in validating and obtaining tax deductions.

The Honorable Katherine Hammack signed the Army's Building Energy Efficiency Tax Deduction Policy Dec. 17. The policy will assist Army contractors in validating and obtaining tax deductions for the costs

See **TAX**, page 2

ation include active duty service members, retirees, and Family members," said Capt. Justin Ulrich, tax attorney with the office of the Staff Judge Advocate. "Reserve component service members who are not

mobilized are not eligible for services and should contact their individual units for assistance."

Trained Staff

The military and civilian personnel who have been assigned to work full-time at the tax centers are trained in federal and Maryland state income tax return preparation and have been certified via an Internal Revenue Service exam as part of the Volunteer Return Preparation Program.

Tax Returns

The tax center staff will only prepare simple and intermediate level

See **CLIENTS**, page 2

ACS will hold free budgeting class

By RACHEL PONDER

APG News

Credit cards—a major contributor to the individual debt crisis in the United States—have been called yuppie food stamps.

The average American family is in the hole to the tune of about \$8,000, thanks to these handy plastic sidekicks, and there's little sign of credit cards giving up their financial foothold.

But there is hope.

The installation's Financial Readiness program, hosted by ACS, is offering an budgeting and savings class Feb. 24 from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. in Bldg. 2503.

The class is free and will be presented by Arcelio Alleyne, ACS financial readiness program manager, and Nancy Hill, an APG Federal Credit Union financial education counselor.

The class will emphasize the four steps to making a budget—verifying your income, verifying your expenses, comparing the two and making changes.

Hill said attendees will look at their whole financial profile.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to www.militarysaves.org, about 43% of American Families spend more than they earn each year.

Personal bankruptcies have doubled in the past decade.

See **CLASS**, page 14

Hunters give facility facelift thumbs up



Officials at the hunting facility grand opening use hunting knives during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Story and photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

APG News

What better way for a hunter to enjoy bragging rights than to relax in a comfortable atmosphere, hot cup of coffee in hand, and room enough to tell the tales?

Aberdeen Proving Ground area hunters now have that luxury, thanks to the facelift the old deer shack has undergone.

Local sportsmen and the APG garrison staff gathered Jan. 22 for the grand opening of the new Hunting Management Facility, Bldg. 550B1.

The new facility features a larger building with an administrative area, kitchen and spacious gathering area, new shed for storing equipment and supplies and a new range for zeroing weapons.

See **NEW**, page 14

WEATHER

Thurs.



33° | 31°

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Wondering who's who and what's what on the installation?

The APG News is providing answers with its biweekly SPOTLIGHT ON APG feature.

Highlighted in this week's issue is the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.

Spotlight on APG

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Missed the Jan. 20 community action council? Read the article on Page 5, or view the slides at www.apg.army.mil/apghome

Community Action

page 5

ONLINE

- www.apg.army.mil
- apgnews.apg.army.mil
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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.

Clients urged to have documents handy

Continued from Page 1

tax returns. Complex tax returns outside the scope of the Volunteer Return Preparation Program will be referred to professional providers.

Be prepared

Tax preparation officials urge customers to gather all required information needed to file an accurate return. "Documents needed depend on each individual situation, but the tax center cannot prepare a return unless the taxpayer brings all necessary documentation," said Ulrich. "Inaccurate tax returns caused by incomplete or faulty information may incur IRS penalty and interest assessments."

Prior to arriving at the tax center, customers should take the "Client Agreement and Questionnaire" at www.apg.army.mil. Ulrich said the questionnaire is extremely helpful in gathering the information needed to file an accurate return.

Information needed

- Copy of your last tax return (2010)
- Original W-2 statements
- Social security cards for yourself, spouse, and all dependents
- Social security income statements
- Form 1099 stating interest, dividends or capital gains, distributions from pensions and IRAs
- Alimony information
- Child care expenses and provider identification and address
- Settlement paperwork (for purchase or sale of home)
- Real estate tax statement
- Economic Recovery payment received from Social Security Administration, Railroad Retirement Board, or Veterans Administration
- State and local sales and excise taxes paid on qualified new vehicles purchased after February 16, 2009 and before January 1, 2010

Tax deductions available

Continued from Page 1

of installing certain energy efficient building systems in Army buildings.

The tax deductions were authorized in Section 179D, which was part of the 2005 Energy Policy Act. The tax deductions for contractors are up to \$1.80 per square foot. Building envelope, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and hot water systems, and lighting can qualify for one-third of the deduction (60¢ per square foot). Most buildings qualify for one of the three portions of the deduction.

"The Army is exploring ways to achieve its energy security and sustainability goals by pursuing energy efficiency and cost savings at our installations," said Hammack. "This is an incentive for Army contractors to focus their efforts on energy efficiency."

The Army is committed to assigning the deduction to qualified contractors who are supporting the Army's energy efficiency goals. The Army seeks to derive greatest value from building energy efficiencies

developed and implemented by its contractors.

The Army encourages its installation and industry partners to implement cutting-edge technologies and novel approaches.

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) is developing guidance and training to support the tax deduction initiative. Subject matter experts will be discussing specifics and answering questions during an Energy Forum at the Association of Defense Communities' Winter Conference in San Antonio Feb. 16. The forum is expected to begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on the River Walk.

Army contractors are encouraged to pursue the tax deduction and work with their respective Contract Officer Representatives. The ASA IE&E Policy can be viewed at www.asaie.army.mil. The Internal Revenue Bulletin: 2008-14 can be viewed at http://www.irs.gov/irb/2008-14_IRB/ar12.html.

- Power of attorney signed by the spouse if either party plans to sign the spouse's name on a joint tax return
 - Blank check with your routing and account number for a refund directly deposited into a bank account
- For those who itemize deductions or own a home that is rented to others, bring materials such as:**
- Mortgage interest statements (Form 1098)
 - Medical receipts
 - Rental reports
 - Investment statements

- Charitable contribution receipts (name and address of charitable organization, date of contribution and bank receipts for cash contributions)

For stock sold this year, the taxpayer must establish the sales price and the cost basis of the stock before coming to the tax center. Staff cannot calculate these figures.

Obtaining W-2s online

Defense Finance and Accounting Service myPay is a secure, DFAS-operated Web site that lets active duty, National

Guard and Reserve military members, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online. Soldiers and civilians can access their 2010 Tax Statements (W-2 and 1099-R) at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Tax Forms

Federal tax forms are available at the APG tax center, public libraries, post offices and at www.irs.gov. State tax forms are available online at the taxpayer's state department of revenue website.

Electronic Filing

Free electronic filing is also available through the APG tax center. However, staff members must prepare the tax return at the center in order to electronically file the tax return.

Electronic filing enables the taxpayer to receive their refund by check or direct deposit into their bank account rather than having it mailed. The average return time is approximately three weeks for a check mailed and about 10 days for deposits made directly into a taxpayer's checking or savings account.

Grand Openings

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will host a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house for its tax centers Feb. 7 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., at the Aberdeen South (Edgewood) center, Bldg. 4227. Commanders or their designees are invited to preview the facility and talk with tax center staff members.

The Installation Tax Assistance Program is directed by the OSJA, Client Services Division, and supervised by Installation Tax Attorney Captain Justin Ulrich.

For more information about tax preparation and electronic filing, call 410-278-1583.

Chaplain hoping to increase attendance

Much like Dave Letterman's famed Top 10, Aberdeen Proving Ground's Chaplain O. Wayne Boyd, the installation's senior command chaplain, offers up an at times tongue-in-check version of why local community members should attend the APG chapel:

Top 10 reasons why Protestants should attend the post chapel instead of off-post churches:

10. The chaplains and assistants at APG are the better looking than the ministers off post. Also, best place to have your daughter meet and marry already trained single Chaplain Assistants.

9. If you live on post, you will save gas. If you live off post, it gives you a great opportunity to shop at the Commissary and the PX after chapel, and therefore, save money also. And what off-post church has its own golf course?

8. You will be following the 1st Century Church model, which attendance was based on geography/community and not theology. The chapel's military

community of service members, family members, civilians, contractors, and our wonderful retirees is extremely unique, and I mean that in a very positive way.

7. VARIETY. You never know which of the nine APG Protestant Chaplains will be leading the Protestant services. (And I can personally vouch for each one of them – best gaggle of chaplains ever assembled in the Army)

6. Broader spectrum of the Christian pie (Our nine chaplains are endorsed by eight different denominations). Churches off-post usually only represent their individual slice. You never know which slice you will get at APG (and no one has ever proven one slice is better than another).

5. Better support of the military community. The APG Chapel community provides 24/7 support for the APG community and also provides financial support of all Soldiers and their family members who are experiencing tough times.

4. Opportunity to actualize your vision of ministry at APG. We will

resource your visions that provide ministry to the APG community and beyond.

3. Opportunities each month to donate to ministries that actually impact the military and the APG community.

2. Since we do not have the budget or staff to compete with churches off-post, the opportunity to volunteer is unlimited. And where else can you say "when I was in the Army ..." and people will actually listen!

1. WE WANT AND NEED YOU. Alternate ending: YOU WANT AND NEED US.P

But seriously for a moment, as the installation chaplain at APG, I would love for all of our Protestant families to help us make the APG chapel community become the best in the military.

The ministry impact would be greatly enhanced by local attendance and support.

We already have fantastic Families and individuals that attend every Sunday, and they are really good looking also.

He reminded community members that every offering donation goes directly to ministry and called for volunteers to assist with various aspects of the service.

The donation does not pay any salaries, any utilities, or mortgages. And as we try to contemporize our services, we particularly need musicians, technically savvy folks, and teachers.

We also love helping others. We assist Soldiers and Family members in need. We provide outreach to the local communities. And we also have adopted a community in Kenya.

The chapel community will assist them in building infrastructure to include fresh water wells, roads, orphanages, and medical facilities.

Services are held in the Aberdeen Area at 10:15 a.m. and noon, and in the Edgewood Area at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday.

For more information, call 410-278-4333

Chaplain O. Wayne Boyd

Installation senior command chaplain

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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APG hosting National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 10

Chaplain to explain gypsy jazz-spiritual tie

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground community will host the National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 10 at 7 a.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center.

“The real purpose of the National Prayer Breakfast is that we all come together and pray for our nation, Soldiers and leaders,” said Col. Orman Boyd, the installation chaplain.

The event will feature a gypsy jazz band, a style of music that is significant to Boyd.

“I am going to talk about how gypsy jazz impacted my life in a very spiritual way,” he said.

The event will feature four prayers

from members of four different faith groups, allowing everyone to pray in their own tradition.

“In today’s religious and political climate people do not collaborate as much as they should,” he said. “This is a special time where the APG family can come together and pray for our Soldiers and leaders, and people of all religious backgrounds are welcome.”

The event is free and donations will be accepted at the door to raise money for various ministries and Operation Helping Hand.

“Anything that people donate will go back into the hands of Soldiers, who for whatever reason have fallen on difficult times,” Boyd said.

Invitations to the prayer breakfast will be sent out via e-mail. Boyd said the event will accommodate 280 attendees. People will be served on a first-come, first-served basis.

To RSVP attendees can reply to the e-mail invitation or call the main post chapel at 410-278-4333.

Did you know?

- APG’s event will coincide with the National Prayer Breakfast held annually in Washington D.C. the first Thursday in February.

- Hosted by members of the U.S. Congress, the D.C. event is a series of meetings, luncheons and dinners and has taken place since 1953.

- It is a forum for political, social and business leaders of the world to assemble, and every U.S. president since President Dwight D. Eisenhower has attended.

- Guest speakers have included Mother Teresa, renowned Irish musician and activist Bono and former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair.

BRAC Update

Justice, Ortiz testify before Maryland General Assembly

By **MARQUES CHAVEZ**
RDECOM Public Affairs

The Base Realignment and Closure legislation of 2005 is on schedule, said Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, senior installation commander for Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., in remarks in Annapolis, Md., Jan. 18, to members of the Maryland General Assembly.

“It’s the second- and third-order of effects of the relocation of people and facilities that are very important for the committee to be aware of,” Justice said to the Joint Committee on Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC.

Justice focused on four main aspects: building, renovation, demolition and sustainability.

“The \$1 billion effort happening in Aberdeen is being complemented by military construction accounts that are not related directly to BRAC,” Justice said of the building projects at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

He cited the construction of a new headquarters for the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives); new facilities for the Maryland Army National Guard’s Combat Aviation Brigade; the relocation of the Army Test and Evaluation Command; and new facilities for the Public Health Command as examples of expansion at Aberdeen Proving Ground not related to BRAC.

“The Army has done a great job in aligning its own resources, in addition to the BRAC, to complement the efforts of the base relocation,” Justice said.

Justice stressed the importance of renovating older facilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Although funding for BRAC covers the 11 new organizations coming to Aberdeen Proving Ground, there are more than 70 organizations located there.

“We’re vacating a lot of the World War I- and World War II-era facilities. We’re upgrading some of our utility infrastructure, and we’re looking to upgrade many of the other administrative facilities,” he said.

Aberdeen Proving Ground is conducting 11 laboratory revitalization projects with 86 vacated facilities for BRAC under revitalization for reuse. The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command headquarters staff is in the process of relocating to the historic “Stones” buildings, which requires additional renovation.

The Army health and dental clinics are also among the numerous revitalization projects underway.

“Quality of life is important. That is one of the reasons why people stay in the military. I think that’s also true of our civilian workforce,” Justice said.

Justice said he is most concerned about demolishing old buildings that are

no longer of any use.

“The demolition area, frankly, is a priority. That’s the place where we haven’t done the best job in the past,” Justice said.

Aberdeen Proving Ground has an ongoing demolition project that will span five years and includes 188 facilities. In 2010, Aberdeen Proving Ground demolished 54 buildings. There are also 775 housing units that will be demolished as part of the relocation.

“When we take those buildings down, we’re able to clean up the property and set it into a state that makes us proud to have it there. Removing those facilities is something we’re really going to focus on in the near future,” Justice said.

Justice ended by talking about sustainability and workforce development.

“This is where, I think, the committee has so much focus, because the impact of BRAC will be a growing change over the next five to 10 years,” Justice said.

Justice highlighted the education partnerships RDECOM has with higher education, particularly among engineering schools.

“RDECOM provides most of the engineering support for the Army, outside of the Corps of Engineers. We’re looking at partnering with several universities,” Justice said.

With subordinate organizations across the country, RDECOM reaches across the nation. Justice reassured the committee that all of these organizations support engineering and are synchronized through RDECOM headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

In addition to the partnerships with universities, Justice also expressed plans to begin partnerships with community colleges in Cecil and Harford counties.

Following his testimony, Justice took questions and comments from committee members. Donna Stifler (Harford County) asked Justice to clarify his concerns regarding the demolition efforts.

“So, from what I understand, this is something internal and you are just voicing your feelings on this situation to us?” Stifler asked.

“I’m not looking for you to do anything. What I am saying is we need to do a better job of letting people know that we need to clean up. That is just as important as building,” Justice replied.

Throughout the hearing, it was clear Justice had a sense of anticipation of the changes under way at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

“I’ve probably got the best job in the United States Army, because I am privileged to be the installation commander at (Aberdeen Proving Ground) during this time,” Justice stated.

“The \$1 billion effort happening in Aberdeen is being complemented by military construction accounts that are not related directly to BRAC.”

“I’m not looking for you to do anything. What I am saying is we need to do a better job of letting people know that we need to clean up. That is just as important as building.”

Visit <http://apg2012.apg.army.mil> for information on APG Transformation.

CAC reflects on 2010, looks forward to year of growth

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The new year's first Community Action Council meeting boasted a diverse lineup of guest presenters.

Discussing topics of relevance to the Aberdeen Proving Ground community during the Jan. 20 meeting were Army and Air Force Exchange Services Regional Director Chris Holifield, Harford County Schools Superintendent Dr. Robert Tomback and Denise Carnaggio of the Harford County Office of Economic Development.

The meeting was held at Aberdeen North's main post chapel and kicked off with a look back at the year's success and challenges, and a look forward to the growth the installation is experiencing.

USAG Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz pointed out that 2011 was a busy year that included many BRAC and non-BRAC renovations, major projects by Picerne Military Housing and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation initiatives.

Topics presented during the meeting highlighted special events, military services, and ongoing construction and transformation. A recap of the two-hour meeting is as follows:

Garrison Transformation Office

Nicole Cawthern of the Garrison Transformation Office said construction projects really accelerated last year.

"This is our final year of execution for BRAC. Everything has to be complete by September 15, 2011," she said.

Cawthern said BRAC has been beneficial to the area, bringing many jobs to residents of Harford County and the surrounding areas.

She noted that Phase 1 occupancy of the Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance campus began Aug. 2, 2010. Phase 2 occupancy will take place this year from March to August. So far, more than 3,300 C4ISR positions have relocated to APG.

Other major construction projects that started last year include the building for



Harford County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Robert Tomback, briefs listeners during the Jan. 20 Community Action Council meeting at the APG North chapel.

the Army Research Laboratory-Vehicle Technology Directorate, the Army Test and Evaluation Command and Army Evaluation Center and a new campus for the Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense.

FMWR

Linda Edwards, FMWR business manager presented a slide show on FMWR projects completed in 2010, and announced the Lynard Skynard concert that will take place at APG Aug. 20 and is expected to sell out fast.

DPW

The Directorate of Public Work's Tom Kuchar announced that APG received \$44 million dollars in stimulus money for installation renovation (non-BRAC) projects.

Some of these projects include the operation and maintenance of 1,500 buildings and renovations to the gym, Top of the Bay, post office, permanent

party barracks, post theater and Army Community Services.

Kuchar said several old, unsightly and non-functional buildings on APG have been identified for demolition.

Picerne Military Housing

Greg Cannito, program director for Picerne Military Housing, said that 2010 was the first year of the residential community initiatives at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

He called 2011 critical in the building of 210 new homes for military families.

"The first military families will move into the new homes in January 2012," Cannito said. "We want to modernize these homes so that they will be more competitive of what is outside the gate," Cannito said.

He said Picerne is also involved in renovating the installation's historic homes, noting that 10 major renovations were completed in 2010.

"Each renovation is unique, each one

has its own personality and difference in sizes," Cannito said. "We take a thoughtful approach to make sure we preserve the historic nature of these homes."

Picerne also completed 227 minor renovations in the existing homes. Those renovations included new carpets, countertops and cabinetry.

"Over 50 percent of the current population is living in renovated homes," he said. "That is a big plus for this program."

Picerne also renovated or relocated 10 playgrounds located in the housing areas."

AAFES

Holifield, AAFES regional manager, said the Aberdeen Area PX received upgrades, a restaurant was opened in Kirk U.S. Army Health Command and a Subway restaurant was added to the Edgewood Area Shoppette last year.

Future AAFES projects include updating the Main PX Food Court, improving the appearance of the Main PX and Shoppette and a complete renovation of the Burger King.

"We will be receiving, here at Aberdeen, one of the first new prototypes of this Burger King," he said.

After Holifield's remarks, Ortiz said the changes at AAFES came about as a result of community feedback and senior leader visits.

Ortiz interjected that the regional manager visit was a direct result of feedback given during a recent community action council.

"We are moving forward with a plan to better accommodate those on the installation," Ortiz said. "AAFES is receptive to feedback from the community."

Harford County Office of Economic Development Carnaggio said the Harford County government is working closely with APG as it emerges as the premier Research and Development Center for the Army. She said the Office of Economic Development has concentrated on meeting the needs of the current and changing workforce by improving transportation, workforce development and business development in the county.

See SCHOOL, page 14



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Reactions mixed on 'combat women'

By **NANCY MONTGOMERY**
Stars and Stripes

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — The notion that women in the armed forces might be allowed to serve alongside men in combat provoked sharp reactions Jan. 14 among a sampling of Marines on the front lines of the war in Afghanistan, suggesting a heated debate yet to come.

"It's very tough, what we have to go through," said Lance Cpl. John Rolfes of 2nd Battalion, Third Marines, deployed with a Marine infantry unit at Patrol Base Jaker in Nawa. "I personally don't know any women that could fulfill that role."

A military advisory panel on diversity in the armed forces signaled this week that it may recommend that female troops should be able to serve in combat units without any restrictions, calling the current prohibition an out-of-date idea that necessarily discriminates against women.

The recommendation, if eventually approved by military officials, would open front-line posts to military women for the first time. Women are now restricted to serving in combat support roles.

At Patrol Base Jaker, 1st Sgt. Michael Cedeno of Company G, 2nd Battalion,

Third Marines, was himself conflicted about the proposal. He said he'd served in communication units with women, and he acknowledged that those with the Marine's Female Engagement Teams that interact with Afghan women are already on the front lines when attached to infantry units.

"A Marine is a Marine," Cedeno said. "The females — they're absolutely warriors."

Now in an infantry unit where no females have served, he said he also sees potential problems in integrating women.

"There'd be a drastic adjustment that would have to be done," Cedeno said. "There'd definitely have to be some type of trial period to see how it goes."

Yet Maj. Juarez Morgan, with the Third Civil Affairs Group at Jaker, had few reservations.

"I'm probably the flaming liberal around here, but as long as you can do the job required — female, gay, white, whatever — as long as it doesn't hamper the mission, I'm all for it," Morgan said. "I think women should be able to fight the same as anybody else. They're already out there exposed to the same things we are."

But the Marine infantry mission is to "locate, close with and destroy the enemy," and some Marines think that's an

inappropriate mission for women, even if they could manage the tough physical requirements for infantry troops.

"I don't think America is ready to send its daughters off to fight the wars for them," said Lance Cpl. Kyle Harpster, of 2nd Battalion, Third Marines.

Moreover, he said, deployed combat Marines have little space or privacy.

"Living close like this," Harpster said, "I just don't think it'd be a good idea."

Similarly, Cpl. Josh Bernethy was against the idea because, he said, "A man's going to react differently if a woman dies than if a man dies."

Spc. David Brown with the Wiesbaden, Germany-based 1st Armored Division's Special Troops Battalion said allowing women in combat roles would diminish camaraderie in some units.

"They don't belong there," said Brown. "It would be more distraction and it's a matter of being able to handle all situations. ... They are a liability in some situations."

But Spc. John McTyre from the 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion in Wiesbaden said he thinks allowing women in combat would be a step forward for the military.

"That's why we have EO (Equal Opportunity program)," McTyre said. "If we're going to have the EO program, we might as well live it to the fullest. That is

EO's full potential."

First Sgt. Matthew Shea, of Special Troops Battalion, 1st Armored Division, agreed.

"It's 2011," Shea said. "I fully believe there are women in the Army that can serve alongside folks in infantry and armor units. If they have the physical ability and strength to serve alongside those units, then why not?"

Sgt. Meredith Burns, a Marine reservist with a Female Engagement Team — who had arrived Friday at Jaker with another female Marine and their female interpreter to become one of about five women on the patrol base — also agreed.

She said members of the FET walk 15 kilometers a day.

"It sucks, but they do it," Burns said. "We're out here doing similar jobs. I'm doing the same things they do, I'm patrolling the same way they do."

Women's capabilities have historically been underestimated, Burns said. When they were first allowed into the Marines, women only had to run 1.5 miles to pass their physical training tests; now they run three miles, she said.

What makes sense to Burns?

"Let the females decide."

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What APG women think ...



Staff Sgt. Sekiah Bailey

Unit: Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic

Job Title: NCOIC, Warrior Readiness

MOS: 68 W

War Zone duty: Iraq, 2007 - 2008

"If that's what they want to do, why not allow them to do it? When I served in a combat zone there was a lot of anxiety and it helped to have a lot of more experienced Soldiers among us. I would not wish to, myself, but if women Soldiers are willing to serve on the front line, why should they be denied that chance?"



Staff Sgt. Melisa Gonzalez

Unit: Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic

Job Title: NCOIC, Patient Admin

MOS: 68G

War Zone duty: Iraq, 2007 - 2009

"I think they should go for it. I was a master gunner in my last unit. An NCO mentor trained and molded me and I became one of his best instructors on the M9 and M16 ranges. So, if [combat arms] was my passion, I would do it. We wear the same uniform, and when we road march we carry the same weight, as men."



Capt. Ginger Hammerquist

Unit: HHC USA Garrison APG

Job Title: Company Commander

MOS: 74A

War Zone duty: Iraq, 2008-2009; Kuwait, 2003-2004

"Are the key promotions and premiere career paths truly reserved exclusively for those in combat arms career fields—those who actually engage in direct ground combat—or are they reserved for men in general? If found qualified for combat arms, would a female recruit have a choice to decline serving in that specialty? Would males have such an option?"



Capt. Malukah McCormick

Unit: Army Evaluation Center (ATEC)

Job title: Operations Officer

MOS: 35D All-Source Intelligence Officer

War Zone duty: Mosul, Iraq 2006-2008

"Women already serve in combat units in a variety of positions. Every Soldier regardless of gender is trained as an infantry Soldier first. We train the way we fight. When in theater women are often asked to do jobs outside of their assigned MOS and because they are Soldiers they rise to the occasion. That is the military way and it has nothing to do with gender. Women have proven themselves as they sacrifice and serve next to their male counterparts."



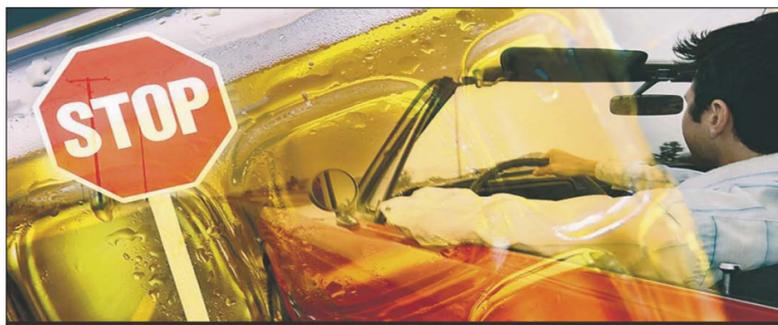
Emily Chen

Unit: Army Evaluation Center (ATEC)

Job title: DoD Civilian

War Zone duty: Afghanistan, June 2010 - Present

"The statement that women integrating into closed units would have a negative impact on important mission performance factors is untrue. The same could be said of segregation in schools. Why do we not worry about women in the NFL, or have separate baseball and softball leagues? I'm confused by those who say women's structural barriers inhibit chances of promotion. At the HQ level in Afghanistan, the women I see are high ranking officers."



DID YOU KNOW?

Motor Vehicle Accidents are the **NUMBER ONE** Cause of Death for Younger Veterans.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

**Don't Drink and Drive.
Don't Ride with a Drunk Driver.
Don't Tolerate Drunk Driving or Drunk Drivers.**

**ALWAYS Wear Your Seat Belt:
Driving or in the Passenger Seat
and Make Sure Everyone Else is too.**

**For More Information:
Contact Your Safe Driving Coordinator
www.SafeDriving.va.gov**



From the Garrison

Loyalty: much more than obedience

In my first column I wrote about how the seven Army values are a good structure for leadership at APG. This month I will start to look at them individually so we can bring it down from 30,000-foot view to something we can relate to for our everyday leadership needs.

Loyalty is the first of the Army values. The Army's definition is to "bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit and other Soldiers."

It is a small step to include Army civilians in that definition. Everyone knows becoming a Soldier is not the same as accepting a civilian job with the Army. Soldiers and civilians have different roles in the Army. The trick is to not focus on the word "different," but on "roles in the Army." It's like talking about different sides of the same coin. Sure, they're different, but if you don't have both sides, you don't have a coin.

If you want further proof, think about the last few decades of drawdowns, reorganizations and budget crunches.

Not that long ago Soldiers worked in places like dining facilities, personnel offices and even the gym. Those slots were moved to jobs that deal more directly with fighting wars. Those jobs that could be done away with were. The flip side is that after all that official scrutiny the jobs that still exist are really necessary.

Whether Soldiers or civilians are doing those jobs, they are essential to the team effort. So yes, Soldiers and civilians are different, but the Army can't function without both of them.

What does that have to do with a discussion of loyalty? Everything. The foundation of loyalty is the recognition that you are part of something. Loyalty grows naturally from that sense of belonging. Without it you feel no obligation to others and expect nothing in return. What is there to be loyal about? Who is there to be loyal to?

So a leader's first task is to make that connection clear. This would seem to

be simple, but there are many demands on our attentions and affections: families, careers, social obligations, hobbies, political interests – you name it.

In the last few years keeping up with it all seems to have gone from trying to swim upstream to trying to hold back a tidal wave. The result is that, while we may not forget what is important, we may have a hard time keeping the right things at the front of the line.

For example, a survey that came out just a few weeks ago reported that when pollsters asked Americans which issues facing the nation were very important, Afghanistan came in ninth and Iraq came in 10th – out of 10.

I know the public appreciates what the Army is doing there, but the people who responded were probably feeling the urgency of the other issues they listed – the economy, political controversies, etc. – more keenly when they were asked.

I believe the APG community has a good perspective on these issues. But that doesn't mean we can ignore what that survey tells us. Leaders need to talk about the connection between what their people do, the rest of the Army team and the war. They need to find out how their people are supporting the Army and the war and make that clear to them. There are some simple ways to do that.

First, don't let the wider team, the Army or the war slide down the list of

things you talk about.

Follow the news and pass it around. Then, the next time you feel like talking about the how the Ravens are doing or what you're going to have to miss by working late, talk about how our Soldiers are doing and what they're giving up by being there. It may seem like some things have no relation to your

team. Remind people that if we're all doing our part every sacrifice is a shared sacrifice, and every success is a shared success.

Find and share examples. They build that sense of belonging.

Don't forget Team APG while you're at it. Keep up with what others on post are doing. It's easy to get so deeply into what you're doing that you start feeling like nobody else works as hard as you do or does as important a job. It's easy, but it's wrong. Get out and meet people, attend events, follow their success-

es. You'll find that everyone is pitching in the same way you are. That difference – going from "those guys have it easy" to understanding they are working and sacrificing right alongside you – makes all the difference.

Once people have a sense of belonging and begin to feel an obligation to the rest of the team you can start to define what that means. A great place to start is the very same Army Values I'm writing about. But that's just a start. You are developing a team culture, so you have to be explicit. Too many leaders don't define what is and is not expected of their people. Then they feel their people have been disloy-

al because they didn't live up to a standard no one ever explained to them. Those leaders seem to assume that people will pick it up on their own, and they probably will. But it will take longer and be harder on everybody. Remember, loyalty goes both ways, and one of the ways leaders are loyal to their teams is to give them good direction so they can do well and not stumble unwittingly into trouble.

Once you have established a sense of belonging and a good understanding of what is and is not acceptable behavior, you have to follow through. You have to live up to those standards and make sure the team does.

For example, some people think protecting those who perform badly is showing loyalty. Exactly the opposite is true. It diminishes the difference between people who are doing what they are supposed to and those who aren't. It undermines the sense of fairness that is a necessary component of loyalty. It also erodes the sense of belonging you're trying to build if there are no consequences when one member of the team lets everyone else down. It also shows that leader is not being loyal to his leaders or the greater team we are all here to support.

These things might not be what you expected to read about in a column about loyalty. That's because loyalty is not a simple thing.

Building loyalty is a lot harder than getting obedience because the time you really need loyalty to work is when no one is checking. So it is a seed you plant and an environment you maintain. Once people feel that connection loyalty will follow naturally. Once they know what is expected of them—and what is not—they will feel obliged to match the loyalty they receive. That sense of belonging will make them want to fulfill those obligations. That is the essence of the next Army value and my next column: duty.

Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades

Cmd. Sgt. Maj., U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground

Follow the news and pass it around. Then, the next time you feel like talking about the how the Ravens are doing or what you're going to have to miss by working late, talk about how our Soldiers are doing and what they're giving up by being there.

Fans don't let fans drive drunk

APG ASAP

Super Bowl Sunday is one of the year's most dangerous days on the nation's roadways due to impaired driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 130 people, representing 39 percent of all traffic fatalities, died during the 2006 Super Bowl weekend in crashes involving impaired drivers with blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels of .08 or higher.

NHTSA reports that males, ages 21 to 34, are most likely to be involved in automobile crashes, to drive while impaired and to be among those least likely to wear their safety belts.

Research also shows that this same demographic is the core audience for major sporting events such as the Super Bowl.

But alcohol-related crashes--and fatalities--can be prevented. Designating a sober driver before the Super Bowl party begins is just one of several easy steps to remember to help save lives.

If you are hosting a Super Bowl party:

Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served ends up in an impaired driving crash.

Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers.

Serve lots of food--and include lots of non-alcoholic beverages at the party.

Stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game and begin serving coffee and dessert. Keep the numbers for local cab companies handy, and take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving while impaired.

If you are attending a Super Bowl party or watching at a sports bar or restaurant:

Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself--eat enough food, take breaks and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks. Designate your sober driv-

er before the party begins and give that person your car keys.

If you don't have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend or family member to come get you; or stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober.

Remember Wingmanship!

Never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired.

Remember, Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk. Always buckle up--it's still your best defense against other impaired drivers.

Impaired Driving is Deadly Dangerous:

Too many people still don't understand that alcohol, drugs and driving don't mix. Impaired driving is no accident--nor is it a victimless crime.

In 2009, 13,470 people died in highway crashes involving

an impaired driver or motorcycle rider with an illegal BAC level of .08% or higher. Driving a car or riding a motorcycle while impaired is not worth the risk.

The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be significant.

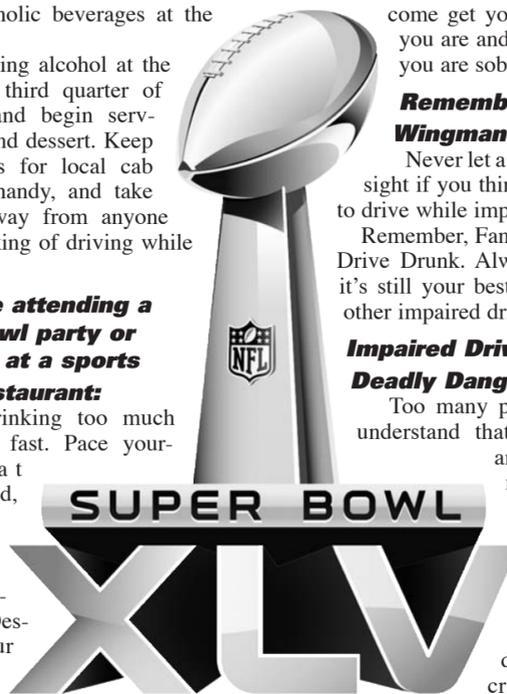
The tragedies and costs from drinking and driving impaired do not just end at potential death, disfigurement, disability or injury.

Violators who are caught will be spending their money on bail, court fees, lawyers and towing fees.

Plus there is the added embarrassment, humiliation and potential loss and consequence after informing family, friends and employers.

Please remember that Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk. Act responsibly--and pass your keys to a sober driver before the big game begins. The life you save might just be your own.

For more information contact Cindy Scott, (410) 278-4013/DRUG, Cynthia.Scott1@us.army.mil or visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org or www.TeamCoalition.org.



PX Power Zone joins cellular revolution

Nelly Espinosa examines some of the mobile smart phones offered at the newly opened Mobile Center in the Power Zone of the APG North PX Jan. 21. The center offers phones from the country's top three cell phone carriers--Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile--and will feature phone plans and accessories. The iPhone is currently not available, but the Droid will be offered. To view and download pictures of the Jan. 21 Mobile Center grand opening, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagap/>.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

COMMUNITY NOTES

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 TRAIL TREK

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.

MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the Center's live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This free program will be held at 3 p.m. for all ages. No registration is required.

For more information 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.

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.

Black History Month Observance

Team APG will present the annual Black History Month Observance at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 9 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326. Guest speaker will be David Wilson, President, Morgan State University. This year's theme is African Americans and the Civil War. There will be food, displays, entertainment and artifacts.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Laquita Wimbley at 410-652-2464; Nise Dudley at 410-436-7012; Linda Patrick at 410-436-1023 or Master Sgt. Michelle Davis at 410-436-9786.

EA site diesel dispenser is operational

The Edgewood Area site diesel dispenser located at Bldg. E4019 (next to the Shoppette) is now operational. This facility is available for government vehicles and authorized contractors only. A VILKEY (fuel key) is required to operate the pump. The diesel dispenser facility is open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The diesel dispenser is closed on weekends and federal holidays. Vehicle operators should fill up before the weekend, especially during the winter season. For more information, including emergencies or VILKEY issues, call the DOL Fuel team POCs, Carlos Diaz at 410-306-1632, DSN: 458-1632, or e-mail

carlos.diazjr@us.army.mil and Victor Duarte at 410-278-2160, DSN 298-2160 or email vic.duarte@us.army.mil.

CBRNAC Forum set Feb. 15

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Information Analysis Center will hold a technical forum on Food Protection from Rad Threats 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 15 at Battelle Eastern Science & Technology Center, 1204 Technology Drive in Aberdeen, Md.

Presentations and discussions will revolve around key issues regarding food protection and defense, specific problems that emerge as a result of radiological contamination and how the technical and response communities can achieve mission interoperability and interagency cooperation. Issues to be discussed include

- Requirements
 - Capabilities
 - Where do we go from here?
- For more information or to register, visit <https://www.cbrniac.apgea.army.mil/iacforum/>.

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, 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.

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 hand.

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.

TSA Secure Flight Program

The Army G-4 has announced that effective Nov. 1, TSA will require all passengers to have Secure Flight Passenger Data (SFPD) in their reservation at least 72 hours prior to departure. SFPD includes the traveler's full name (without rank, titles, and/or suffixes), date of birth, and gender. The traveler's full name must match the government issued ID card used at the airport. Currently, the Defense Travel System requires verification of this information each time a traveler creates an authorization.

For more information, visit <https://forums.bcks.army.mil/Community-Browser.aspx?id=1192183>

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.

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.

Health Clinic restaurant open for business

Ruben's Rotisserie and Grill, located on the first floor of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, is now open for business. Ruben's Rotisserie and Grill serves a variety of breakfast and lunch items including sandwiches, salad, soup, pizza, snacks deserts, coffee, tea, and assorted beverages. The restaurant is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information call 540-446-2474, or email rubensrotisserie.com. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

Overseas travel briefings

The CECOM G2 reminds all government personnel to attend required briefings prior to official and non-official overseas travel. Briefing requirements vary based on destination, security concerns, and nature of travel. Contact your organization's local security office for more information. For more information call Bob DiMichele, 410-417-0358.

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.

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

FAMILY AND MWR

Activities/Events

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-eisureTravel@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.

Luray Caverns discount

Take a spin through time, 400 million years worth to be exact, to discover the amazing history of these unearthly caverns. Tickets cost \$18.25 for adults 13 years and older; tickets for children ages 3 to 12 cost \$9.25. Luray Caverns is located on 970 Highway 211 West, Luray, Va., in the Shenandoah Valley. Prices are subject to change without notice. Visit <http://www.luraycaverns.com/PlayyourVisit/AboutLurayCaverns/tabid/507/Default.aspx>. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the MWR Leisure Travel Office at 410-278-4011/4907, visit the AA Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

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.

Discount Aquarium tickets

The Leisure Travel Office offers discount tickets to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Adult tickets cost \$23.25 per person; tickets for children ages 3 to 11 cost \$17.50; active duty tickets cost \$19 each and are issued one per active duty ID card only.

Tickets do not include the dolphin show or the 4D Theater, but are upgradeable at the aquarium.

Take an unforgettable journey into the mysteries of water and the beauty of the natural world. Watch brilliantly colored

triggerfish explore a coral reef. Marvel as sharks glide through the shadowy depths just an arm's length away.

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

Monster Jam tickets available

Take the Family to the Monster Jam at the 1st Mariner Arena, 201 West Baltimore St., Baltimore. Performances will be held Feb. 25 to 27. Times vary. This show includes high flying fun, car crushing craziness and hardcore horsepower that the whole Family will love.

Seating is located in the 200's middle level. Tickets cost \$27.75 each for adults ages 13 and older; tickets for children ages 2 to 12 cost \$10 each. All tickets must be pre-purchase before Feb. 18. For show times and seating, visit <http://www.baltimorearena.com/>.

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.

Taekwondo classes to begin

Join the Unity TaeKwonDo School of Martial Arts at APG.

Taekwondo promotes discipline, muscle toning and conditioning.

Classes will be held for ages 6 to 14 Mondays and Wednesdays from Feb. 23 to March 21; and March 28 to April 18 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522.

Instructor Sabunim Sean A. Williams will teach this program. Classes will be held 6 to 6:45 p.m. for white belts through yellow belts and 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. for yellow with green stripe belts and above.

Cost is \$65 per students for a four-week session or \$150 per student for a 12-week session.

Students must wear a white T-shirt and sweat pants. Class size is limited so register early.

Open Mike Thursday

APG community members can express themselves at the APG North Side Grill during Open Mike Thursday, 5 to 8 p.m., Jan. 27. Doors open at 4 p.m. Featured performers will lead the "Wide Open Mike" in categories including spoken word, vocals or instrumental. The grill will offer light fare. A full service snack menu, beer and wine will also be available. Partic-

ipants must be 18 years of age or older. Walk-ups are welcome.

For more information or to sign up, call 410-278-3854 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.



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.



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.

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

Towson University Campus Tour

There will be a Towson University Campus Tour, 9 a.m., Feb. 12 for high school teens only. Bring money for lunch. Spaces are limited to 10 teens. Sign up at the Child, Youth and School Services central registration, Bldg. 2503. The bus will depart the Aberdeen Area Youth Center Bldg. 2522.

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., through Feb. 25, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522. Each of the six-week sessions features one of two fairytales that have been turned into a ballet. Cost is \$45 per child. Open to DoD ID cardholders.

Pip Hop

Children ages 4 to 5 can participate in Pip Hop from 7:15 to 7:45 p.m. through Feb. 25 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Bldg. 2522. Parents, do your pip-squeaks want to dance like the big kids? Well now is their chance Pip Hop is full of rhythm, body awareness, simple choreography and high energy craziness all set to cool funky music. Parents, let your pip-squeaks get their groove on in this class. Cost is \$45 per child. Open to DoD ID cardholders.

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.

Ice skating lessons offered 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 pro-

fessional 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.

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. 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.



School super talks cooperation

Continued from Page 5

Harford County Schools

Tomback drew attention to the close relationship between the Harford County Public Schools and APG. He said he serves on the Maryland State Council on Educational Opportunities for Military Children.

“We understand the pressures that Families face, particularly those that relocate,” he said. “Several of our schools have a history of supporting military Families.”

Tomback said that HCPS understands that this area will be different as a result of BRAC. He added that the programs offered at HCPS reflect those changes.

“Many of our students will want to stay in this area when they are adults,” he said. “Knowing that, we want our students to be the first in line for the careers (at APG).”

Tomback said APG organizations have built partnerships with local schools. Those partnerships include mentors who provide the students with science and technology learning opportunities.

Tomback said the school districts are being rezoned to reflect the swelling Harford County population.

Survivor Outreach Services Mission

Annette Sanders, support coordinator for the Survivor Outreach Services, presented an overview of the Soldier-centered program.

She said the SOS program provides long-term enhanced emotional and financial planning support to the Families of fallen service members, whether or not the death occurred in theater. She said survivors can receive support at any Army installation.

For more information, call 410-278-2861 or e-mail annette.saundersnash@us.army.mil.

KUSAHC

Lt. Col. Mark Ireland, commander of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, discussed the \$2.15 million renovations that will provide community members with “21st century” medical care. Primary care ser-

vices will move to a temporary building in February. Ireland stressed that medical services will not be hindered during renovations.

Tax Center

Lt. Col. Joseph Masterson, staff judge advocate from the Installation Legal Office, announced that the tax office will open Feb. 7 and will remain open through April 18. Soldiers, retirees and dependents are eligible to use this free service.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Aberdeen Area, Bldg. 4313, and Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Edgewood Area, Bldg. E4227. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call 410-278-1107.

Armed Forces Day

Capt. Malikah McCormick, garrison executive officer, announced a series of tentative events to celebrate Armed Forces Day. The week-long celebration is set to take place at APG May 16-21.

The theme for this year’s May 19 Armed Forces Day is Power for Peace. McCormick said some of the events that are planned, but not yet confirmed, include live demonstrations, historic military and technology displays and live entertainment. A golf tournament, veteran’s lunch, dinner cruise, carnival and installation fun run are also in the works, said McCormick. If all goes according to plan, a relighting of the Poole’s Island Light House will kick off the planning of APG’s centennial.

The next Community Action Council Meeting is set for Feb. 17 at the Aberdeen South (Edgewood) Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

It will again 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>.

Visit www.apg.army.mil/apghome to view the slides from the Jan. meeting. 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.

Class examines ‘why’ of overspending

Continued from Page 1

“It is really going to open their eyes,” she said. “Many people nickel and dime their paycheck by frequently going out to eat and buying \$4 cups of coffee.”

“We are not a nation of savers,” she added. “More people are using their credit cards for routine purchases, even to buy a pack of gum. A lot of people don’t think they have a problem but they do, and it doesn’t come to the surface before it is too late.”

Into the psyche

Alleyne said that the class will also discuss some of the psychological reasons for wanting to spend.

“It’s an uphill battle,” Alleyne said. “Some people will find a way to spend money and not save. And it is partly due to the education they received and what they grew up with.”

“They say, ‘Well when I grew up, we didn’t have a dollar bill in our pocket so why should I start saving now.’”

Alleyne said growing up with little money in a developing country taught him to appreciate the value of a dollar.

“I save like there is no tomorrow because I saw how we grew up, and I never want that to happen to my family,”

he said. “Some people can learn from these experiences and make changes; some people say this is how it always has been, so it depends on the person. My biggest fear is going broke.”

Military Saves Week

The ACS class will be held in conjunction with Military Saves Week Jan. 20-27.

Military Saves is a DoD-wide financial readiness campaign to persuade U.S. troops and Family members, as well as the wider military community, to reduce debt and save money, ensuring personal financial readiness and positively impacting the nation’s personal/household savings rates.

Military Saves is part of the national America Saves campaign, which includes “The Saver Pledge,” a commitment to exercise good financial habits and encourage other Americans to do the same.

Alleyne said he recently learned at the Association for Financial Counseling Planning Education, or AFCPE, Conference that whatever financial issues plague the civilian community are the

Warning signs of credit card problems

Information from APGFCU

- *Going over your credit card limit*
- Spending more than 20% of your monthly net income to pay back credit cards and other loans
- Inability to pay bills on time and paying late fees
- Forced to use credit cards for routine purchases for which you would normally pay cash
- Difficulty deciding what bills to pay each month
- Paying bills late-putting off necessary things like visits to the doctor - jeopardizing your health.
- Borrowing money to make payments on existing loan obligations
- Confusion to separate wants from needs.
- Paying only minimum payment due on credit cards
- Spending more than 20% of your monthly net income to pay back credit cards and other loans

same issues that plague the military community. And for some military personnel, their unique job security creates even less of an incentive to save, he explained

“If you look at what is going on in the economy with the jobs, the military

thinks they have job security and that’s fine, but you also want to make sure you put some money away for a rainy day.”

For more information visit on Military Saves Week, visit www.americasavesweek.org/organizations/military.asp.

New, larger facility replaces deer shack

Continued from Page 1

Tom Ward, the facility administrator, summed up the improvements in two words: “top notch.”

“Before, we only had enough room for the staff, we never had an open facility for customers,” Ward said. “Now hunters have a place to gather in the morning and come rest at lunchtime.”

About 40 volunteers operate the hunting facilities at Aberdeen South (in Aberdeen) and Aberdeen North (Edgewood), serving more than 500 hunters who regularly use the facilities, Ward said.

“You can tell they take pride in [the facility] and are happy with what you have provided them,” said APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz, who attended the opening. “Creating something that can be enjoyed by community members and Families is what it’s all about.”

“Quality of life is also what it’s all

about. And we’re not done,” said APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, referring to plans for family-focused activities.

Robert Ragsdale, an APG game warden with the Directorate of Emergency Services, said the upgrade were “a long time coming.”

“The new range is a great improvement,” he said. “It’s a lot better and a lot safer than before. We’re really happy that MWR and the APG Garrison put a focus on improving the appearance out here.”

The event drew regular and new customers as well as former administrators like Andrew Sullivan, who started out as a customer in 1953 and Kenneth Guinther who came along in 1962. Though neither men hunt any longer, they said they were thrilled by the improvements.

“It used to be so primitive,” said

Sullivan, a retired master sergeant and Department of Defense civilian. “This is a dream land now.”

“I never thought I’d see the day they’d have something like this,” Guinther added.

A retired sergeant first class, Guinther served with APG’s 543rd Military Police Company and retired a second time from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Perryville, Md.

There were several customers in attendance who agreed with the positive reviews.

Steve Schmidt and hunting partner Joe Mason go hunting twice a week, year-round.

“It’s just nice to have a warm place to go instead of standing around in the cold,” Schmidt said. “They’ve made improvements over the years but this

takes it to another level.”

“I think it’s outstanding,” Mason added. “They’ve always had a great crew and staff out here and this makes things even better.”

“You can expect to see me out here a lot,” said Annette Sanders of Army Community Service. Sanders, who is new to the area, said she was delighted to hear about the Hunting Management Facility.

“I’m from Arkansas and when I was growing up we all went to deer camp,” she said. “I feel right at home here. This place looks wonderful and I’m ready to get out there.”

The opening was also an opportunity to award Glenn Smit, an APG civilian whose Bowie knife won third place in the FMWR arts and crafts contest.

For more information on the hunting facility, call 410-278-4843.

Renovations to improve patient care

Continued from Page 1

temporary facility, it should not be dismissed.

“Transitional modular units are not your TV version of ‘MASH’ units,”

said Dodsworth.

“The units will have all the modern conveniences and will enable staff to provide state-of-the-art medical care

without interruption during the construction process,” she said

All primary care and pediatric appointments and services will be relocated in the modular facility.

When patients call to schedule appointments, a call center agent will direct the patient to the modular building for their appointment.

“When entering the reception area, patients will be greeted by familiar staff and directed to the appropriate area to be seen,” Dodsworth said.

“As much as possible KUSAHC staff members are striving to accommodate the patient,” she said.

Patients will continue to park in the front parking lot. Dodsworth said KUSAHC employees will park in the back of the building to ensure patients have ample parking.

The pharmacy will continue to operate out of the main building, and all ancillary services such as radiology, lab, immunizations and physical therapy will still be available.

“KUSAHC staff members will help keep patients informed as changes occur,” Dodsworth said. “We really are committed to providing the best medical care possible to patients during this time.”

KUSAHC Commander Lt. Col. Mark Ireland, during the installation’s Jan. 20 Community Action Council, said some portions of the old clinic had not been updated since the 1960’s and that the new modernized facility will give community members the 21st century care they deserve.

For more information, call Dodsworth at 410-278-1724.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

10 modular units will be assembled to serve as one large transitional facility, covering an approximate 144 X 62 foot area during the clinic’s renovation.

CECOM a beacon of transformation

Unit: U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, (CECOM)

Leadership:

- Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong
- CECOM Deputy to the Commander: Mr. Edward C. Thomas
- CECOM Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Tyrone Johnson

Mission: To develop, acquire, provide and sustain world-class Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems and Battle Command capabilities for the joint warfighter.

Top Priorities:

- Supporting the Warfighter
- Human Capital
- Optimizing the C4ISR Center of Excellence

About CECOM: Established Aug. 21, 1963, CECOM is home to about 8,500 military, civilian and contractor personnel. CECOM conducts training missions; provides field support for communications electronics equipment and systems modifications and upgrades; and provides logistical expertise to ensure the on-time delivery of equipment, services and capabilities to the joint warfighter. CECOM saves the Army money by providing units 'extended warranty' services for the Army's communications

SPOTLIGHT ON APG



and electronics equipment and systems.

Organizational Elements:

- Whitfill Central Technical Support Facility (CTSF), Fort Hood, Texas
- Logistics and Readiness Center (LRC), APG, Md.
- Software and Engineering Center (SEC), APG, Md.
- Tobyhanna Army Depot (TYAD), Tobyhanna, Penn.
- U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command (USAISEC), Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Notable History: In January 1946, the U.S. Army Signal Corps bounced a signal off the moon with Project Diana. This event marked the first time humankind contacted our 'natural' satellite, and it happened at Fort Monmouth.

A beam of high-frequency energy, traveling at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second), was directed at the moon and 2.5 seconds later was recorded on the radar screen. This proved the feasibility of global satellite communications and laid the groundwork for

future innovations and telecommunications capabilities that CECOM, our joint warfighters and coalition partners enjoy today.

Setting the record straight:

The C4ISR team is not one organizational entity, but an enterprise comprised of six organizations, one of which is CECOM.

The C4ISR Materiel Enterprise is co-chaired by the Army Materiel Command and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, commonly referred to as ASA/ALT, each contributing three organizations to comprise the C4ISR Materiel Enterprise, which populates the new C4ISR Center of Excellence.

Why we're here:

One of the command's top three priorities is CECOM's role in supporting the warfighter, which encompasses the drawdown mission in Iraq, the build-up in Afghanistan, and CECOM's role in foreign military sales.

CECOM executes the Reset mission for units deployed more than a year.

CECOM provides systems engineering, testing, evaluation, and integration capabilities as well as contribute to the Army's IT infrastructure and communications security and resolving battlefield data flow issues in Afghanistan.

APG and Transformation:

CECOM officially joined the APG community last October to establish the Army's C4ISR Center of Excellence, which brings us to another CECOM top priority—Human Capital. CECOM has implemented an aggressive recruitment and hiring program.

As of January 2011, we have hired approximately 3,400 of 7,226 positions expected to be filled at APG. In fiscal year, 2010, CECOM met its hiring plan, bringing 851 personnel on board during that year. It is projected that the C4ISR Materiel Enterprise will bring approximately 700 more positions to APG in fiscal year 2011.

Command quotes: "APG and our C4ISR Center of Excellence are becoming a beacon of transformation for the Army, our industry, and this geographical region. APG is a new gateway for C4ISR life-cycle management. Through it, only the best warfighter support must pass. We must work together to support our warfighters with determination, dedication and unmatched expertise." -- Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong, CECOM Commander.

Visit <http://cecom.army.mil>.

C4ISR Center of Excellence has emerged at APG

By **ANDRICKA THOMAS**
CECOM HQ

Just five years ago Congress announced its 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Law plans to relocate the Army's command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance Materiel Enterprise.

Now, five of the six members of the C4ISR Materiel Enterprise have relocated from various places, mainly Fort Monmouth, N.J., to make up the C4ISR Center of Excellence. Joining the Aberdeen Proving Ground family, the Enterprise will help further establish the installation as the home to Army Technology. The C4ISR Center of Excellence will be one of many technological organizations that call APG home.

The C4ISR Materiel Enterprise is a subset of the Army's Materiel Enterprise; one of four Army Enterprises, which also include: Human Capital; Readiness; and Services and Infrastructure.

The Materiel Enterprise is co-chaired by the Army Materiel Command and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, commonly referred to as ASA/ALT.

Comprised of six primary organizations, the C4ISR Materiel Enterprise, includes three organizations from AMC and three from ASA/ALT. AMC organizations include: U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command; the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center; and the Army Contracting Command-APG (C4ISR).

ASA/ALT provides three Program Executive Offices to the team including: PEO for Command, Control, Communications-Tactical; PEO for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors; and PEO for Enterprise Information Systems.

"The C4ISR Materiel Enterprise will optimize support for warfighters and other customers by synchronizing materiel life-cycle functions in support of ARFOR-GEN [Army Force Generation]," Strong explained.

Together, these organizations develop, acquire, provide, field and sustain C4ISR systems and battle command capabilities for the joint warfighter. While providing C4ISR support for the nation's defense, each of these organizations have navigated themselves through this historic migration south to implement the 2005 BRAC law. This move, according to Strong, is and will continue to be accomplished while simultaneously providing uninterrupted services to the warfighter.

"There will be no degradation to our mission as we continue to move and reconstitute the team to APG," said Strong. With more than 3,400 Army C4ISR enterprise members already on



Courtesy photo

The C4ISR Center of Excellence has space for more than 7,200 personnel in the \$800M complex. The campus was designed around the domain concept, where personnel in different organizations will be co-located according to functional areas.

the ground at APG as of January, the BRAC move is in its final implementation phases. CECOM's Logistics and Readiness Center personnel were the first to move into the new C4ISR Center of Excellence campus Aug. 2. Strong officially cased the CECOM flag at Fort Monmouth, N.J., Sept. 10, 2010, and then uncased the flag at APG this past October, marking CECOM Headquarters' official arrival to APG.

Domains

The C4ISR Center of Excellence has space for more than 7,200 personnel in the \$800M complex. The campus was designed around the domain concept, where personnel belonging to different organizations will be co-located according to the functional areas to which they belong. This organization is meant to encourage collaborative innovations and streamline services, according to Michael Vetter, CECOM director for Logistics and Engineering.

"The idea is to create synergy among the organizations by centrally locating them with other organizations with similar functions," said Vetter, CECOM G4 director. "The leadership saw the move to APG as not only an opportunity to configure new buildings for maximum efficiency, but to maximize organization synergy as well.

The intent is to position functional areas, or 'domains,' together to better track products through their entire life-

cycles, from concept to combat, Vetter said. There are 13 domains total, covering the full-spectrum of C4ISR support.

"For example, we positioned all personnel who work with sensors together so the 'sustainers' can have dialogue with the 'R&D experts,'" Vetter continued. "That will provide better communication avenues between the organizations and ultimately deliver a better product to the warfighter faster."

Workforce quality of life and energy efficiency were considered in the planning of this campus. Comprised of more than 2.5 million square feet on campus, the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, agent responsible for overseeing all of the C4ISR Campus construction, planned space for break rooms, courtyard area and food services for personnel, all while staying on schedule for delivery of the massive project.

"The objective was to meet all organizational requirements for facilities while incorporating a good quality of life aspect in the workplace," explained Vetter.

With the Philadelphia Corps of Engineers as the managers of this project, the new campus facilities were made with energy efficient 'green' features to help reduce energy consumption on the campus by an estimated 50 percent, according to Stan Wojciechowski, design manager for the Philadelphia District of the Army Corps of Engineers.

C4ISR Center of Excellence Goes 'Green'

Campus Auditorium Living Roof-top: Covered with vegetation specifically chosen to prevent erosion, absorb rainwater, provide insulation, lower surrounding outside air temperatures and create a habitat for area wildlife.

Building Placements: The buildings in Phase 1 of the campus were posi-

tioned to maximize the use of sunlight during each season, maximizing heat absorption in the winter while reducing heat absorption in the summer.

Exterior Window Fins and Internal Light Shelves: The exterior window fins restrict incoming sunlight in the summer to reduce heat gain.

The interior light shelves distribute sunlight throughout the interior spaces to reduce interior lighting requirements. Interior lighting in the administration areas along the windows are provided with automatic dimmers which dim or brighten the light fixtures as a result of the amount of sunlight entering the building. The interior lighting controls are programmed to turn interior lights off and on at the end of the day and the following morning to reduce energy consumption over night.

The Mission Training Facility uses a geothermal heating and cooling system, which the Philadelphia District Corps of Engineers expects to save an estimated \$1 million a year at current utility rates and uses water-based thermal transfer mediums, rather than the typical area-based systems we are used to.

Green Screen: The green screens are located on the outside windows of select campus buildings. These screens are populated with leafy vine foliage and are expected to provide shading during the summer months as well as promote plant growth around the facilities.

Restriction hardware: Toilets are designed to reduce wasteful water consumption by providing a flush choice for liquids and solids. Sink faucets include automatic faucets to control water consumption.

Runoff water from the building is recycled back into the subterranean watershed.

(Source: Philadelphia District of the Army Corps of Engineers)

Spotlight on APG

The APG News will run biweekly features on organizations at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The feature will include a brief profile and feature article and is intended to give readers a better understanding of the organization.

If you'd like to see your unit featured, e-mail editor-apg@conus.army.mil.