

APG NEWS



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RDECOM Soldier of the Year receives first promotion

Story and photo by
AMANDA ROMINIECKI
CERDEC Public Affairs

One week after winning Soldier of the Year in the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition, Pfc. Joshua Inserra was promoted to specialist at the RDECOM communications-electronics center, or CERDEC, headquarters, April 5.

Inserra, a signal support maintainer in the CERDEC Space and Terrestrial Communications Directorate, is a junior Soldier with 22 months of service and less than 12 months at CERDEC. The promotion was his first since enlisting.

"This means a lot to me because it was my first promotion," said Inserra. "In the Army, ranks are the most important thing and to have all my peers here was an amazing thing. I really enjoyed it."

Jill Smith, CERDEC director, had the honor of promoting Inserra during the ceremony. Smith, a civilian with the equivalent ranking of a two star general, noted it was the first time she had the opportunity to promote a private first class to specialist. During the ceremony Smith acknowledged Inserra's achievement.

"First, I'd just like to say congratulations," said Smith. "We expect great things from you. We'd really like to know where you end up one day."

Several Soldiers from S&TCD attended the ceremony including Lt. Col. Wil-



Jill Smith, CERDEC director, pins Spc. Joshua Inserra during his promotion ceremony April 5. Inserra was promoted to specialist after 22 months of service.

liam Utroska, CERDEC S&TCD military deputy director, and Sgt. 1st Class Jim Fuller, CERDEC senior enlisted officer.

"It's an honor to have your first promotion and he's getting it before his time—before he normally would," said Fuller. "It's a result of the competition, but also the job he's done overall as a Soldier."

As winner of the RDECOM competition, Inserra will advance to the U.S. Army Materiel Command Soldier of the Year Competition. He will go through intensive training before the competition and he said he is confident about his ability to win.

"I feel great about it [the AMC competition]. I'm going in with the head that I'm going to win it. I hate losing. I'm going to go in with my head held high and kick some butt," said Inserra.

Beyond the competition, Inserra is looking ahead to his future in the Army. He plans to study for the boards for further promotions.

"I'm looking forward to bigger and better things—possibly sergeant in six months. I'll be working my tail off to get that."

Armed Forces Day Plans continue for celebration

By **LYNN WITKOWSKI**
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground will host an Armed Forces Day Celebration on the grounds of the APG Museum, May 16 as part of Armed Forces Week, May 14-19.

APG's Armed Forces Week theme, "Heroes on the Home Front," recognizes local heroes, both military and civilian. In keeping with the theme, members of the on- and off-post community will be honored as "Hometown Heroes."

"This gives us a chance to honor our local heroes and recognize them in a public forum," said Capt. Malukah McCormick, commander, APG Garrison HHC and coordinator for the Armed Forces Week events. She said a hero will be honored during each Armed Forces Week event.

Armed Forces Day activities begin at 9 a.m. May 16 when visitors and guests can look at military exhibits, equipment and vehicles used by today's Soldiers. Opening ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. with remarks by Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, installation commander and commander, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.

Students from Harford and Cecil

See **WEEK**, page 7

Appreciation Days set for MARC riders

Harford County news release

Aberdeen Proving Ground's MARC train commuters will receive a show of appreciation next month as they disembark from area stations.

Harford Commuter Assistance staff, elected officials and special guests will be on hand from 5:30 - 9 a.m. at the Edgewood MARC Train Station Wednesday, May 2, and Aberdeen MARC Train

APG commuters will be among the nearly 600 Harford County commuters who, day after day, board the MARC train heading south to Baltimore and other destinations to get to work.

Station Tuesday, May 8, with giveaways and light refreshments as well as commuting information as part of next month's designated Clean Commute Month.

APG commuters will be among the nearly 600 Harford County commuters who, day after day, board the MARC train heading south to Baltimore and other destinations,

including Washington, D.C. to get to work.

The Penn Line is the most traveled of all three MARC

See **HARFORD**, page 7

APG participating in prescription drug disposal campaign

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

The APG Army Substance Abuse Program, in coordination with the Directorate of Emergency Services, will participate in the National Prescription Take-Back Campaign – a five-day collection of expired, unused or unwanted prescription drugs – April 23–27 at various sites on the installation.

During the week, members of the APG community can drop off expired, unused or unwanted prescription drugs at the following locations:

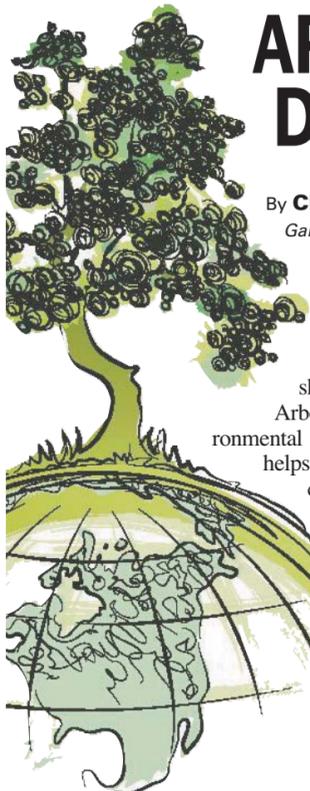
- Police departments at APG North (Bldg. 2200) and APG South (Bldg. 4420) (daily during duty hours)

- Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic pharmacy (every day, during duty hours)

- Bldg. 6001 (C4ISR campus) (Monday, April 23, noon to 1 p.m.)

- Bldg. 6006 (C4ISR campus) (Thursday, April 26, noon to 1 p.m.)

See **TAKE**, page 10



APG Arbor/Earth Day set April 27

By **CLAUDETTE MURRAY**
Garrison Public Affairs

Community members are invited to attend Aberdeen Proving Ground's annual Arbor/Earth Day celebration April 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the APG Museum.

"This event highlights the installation's stewardship to the environment in support of the principles of Arbor Day and Earth Day," said Kathy Thisse, APG environmental protection specialist. "Nationwide, this observance helps bring awareness to environmental issues like recycling and green solutions. It also shows appreciation for our Earth, and educates participants on how to conserve and protect our natural resources."

The day's activities will include law enforcement K9 demonstrations, a poster contest, hands-on science activities, recycling crafts and games, and a Scales & Tales event.

"Scales & Tales is one of our fan-favorite events," Thisse said. "Maryland Park Service employees bring birds of prey and reptiles, and while

See **ENVIRONMENT**, page 7

Archery open house April 28

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

The APG community is invited to an open house at the post archery range April 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The event will be hosted by Outdoor Recreation and the Aberdeen Archery Club and will include a picnic lunch.

Equipment will be provided at no charge and experienced instructors will be available for safety orientations and to offer assistance on the range.

The archery range is located next to APG North's hunting management facility, Bldg. 550B1. Targets on the range vary from 10 to 35 yards.

Archery, originally enjoyed as a hunting or combat activity, is a popular sport worldwide and even has its own Olympic category. Many enthusiasts promote it as a great hand-eye coordination and focus activity for children.

"It is easy to learn and not very physically demanding," said Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Hunting

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WEATHER

Thurs.



71° | 52°

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ICE system
<http://ice.disa.mil/>
Facebook, <http://on.fb.me/HzQJlow>



APG Snapshot

A peek at the events making news in and around APG.

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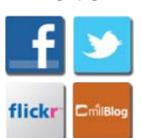
ECBC

ECBC supports science, tech development in Afghanistan

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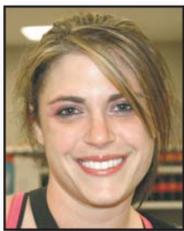
PICERNE FAMILY FIRST

Picerne's Families First honored by First Lady at White House. **PAGE 5**

STREET TALK

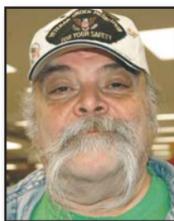
How has the rise in gas prices changed your driving habits and lifestyle?

The cost of gas is killing me. I live in Perryville but work in AnneArundel County, over an hour away from here. Because the cost of gas is so high, I can only afford to work one day a week. Half of my paycheck goes to gas. To save money, our Family started following Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* program. We have eliminated credit card use and have cut down on shopping trips, spending more time at home.



Tara Orsini
Retired spouse

I had to cut down on trips to visit my family in Brooklyn, N.Y. With the rising cost of gas and tolls, a trip there and back costs about one hundred and fifty dollars. Because I have to spend more money on gas, I have to limit the amount of money I spend on food and entertainment while I am there, which really puts a damper on the whole trip. Now I have to plan ahead and save money for trips.



John Asem
Former military

I combine trips and try to shop closer to home. I also cut coupons more and just try to buy less in general. I do less shopping for fun, now I window shop.



Carisa Bishop
Military spouse

I decided to repair my Volkswagen GTI because it is a smaller vehicle and gets better gas mileage than my Dodge Ram 1500 (a pickup truck). I also make an effort to carpool more, which is something I didn't think about doing in the past.



CW3 Carlos Lambert
22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort)

INSTALLATION COMMANDER'S CORNER

Community urged to pursue environment free of sexual harassment, assault

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).

SAAM was created to improve public awareness and provide tools to help us prevent sexual violence from happening in our community. In the simplest of terms, sexual violence is inconsistent with our Army values and all of us need to take the prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment very seriously.

I am dedicated to establishing an increased awareness within Team APG that stresses the idea that our APG community will work together to protect one another, no matter where or when.

The Army has a comprehensive policy that centers on awareness and prevention, training and education, victim advocacy, response, reporting, and accountability. Every year, Soldiers and civilians alike are required to take Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, called SHARP, training. This is not a "check the box" training.

SHARP training provides us all with the tools to eliminate incidents of sexual assault and sexual harassment, reinforcing our commitment to our Army values. Bystander intervention is one of the SHARP program cornerstones. We are not only charged with

Leaders at all levels are required to take responsibility, be motivated to act, overcome their fears to intervene, and establish an environment free from sexual harassment and sexual assault.



being able to recognize signs of sexual violence, but also to draw upon our sense of responsibility to act and motivate others to stop the situation.

This year's SAAM proclamation and theme, Achieving Cultural Change through Dignity and Respect is designed to strengthen our understanding of the importance of respecting our teammates and treating everyone with dignity. Leaders at all levels are required to take responsibility, be motivated to act, overcome their fears to intervene, and establish an environment free from sexual harassment and sexual assault. Of course, all of us, no matter what job we hold, must make that same commitment to each other.

Working together, we will put an end to sexually offensive and abusive behavior and thereby protect our APG teammates. In some circumstances, that will take personal courage to

report the incident or intervene. In all cases it will require decisive action. Remember, when a sexual assault occurs, it is a direct violation of our Army values. It is an assault on the Army way of life and our community. It is our duty to take care of each member of our Army Family.

The Army will continue to raise awareness about sexual harassment and sexual assault through required training such as SHARP, as well as aggressively pursuing areas of prevention, investigation, prosecution of the aggressors, and protection of the victims.

The bottom line is...Protect Team APG.

Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell

Commander, U.S. Army
Communications-Electronics Command
& Aberdeen Proving Ground

Get SHARP: Soldiers encouraged to report

Army News Service

"It's important to report," said a Third Infantry Division female NCO Soldier at Fort Stewart, Ga. She will be referred to as Sgt. Doe, who wished to remain anonymous for the purpose of this interview. "If you would have asked me that question a year a half ago, my answer probably wouldn't be the same, but it is important."

The reporting Sgt. Doe spoke of is in reference to the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program. Designed to give Soldiers an opportunity to learn how to prevent sexual harassment, SHARP helps train Soldiers on how to respond to acts of sexual harassment and sexual assault.

Sergeant Doe, a victim of sexual harassment, said her incident occurred with her first sergeant and she was afraid to report the incident at first, due to possible reprisal. Although Sgt. Doe did experience a period of retaliation through gossip, she said her reporting may have helped someone else come forward.

Consequently, this is exactly what the SHARP program was created for, to generate a climate where victims can report this crime without trepidation.

"The SHARP program is for Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Dana Thomas, 3rd ID Equal Opportunity Program manager. "They have reporting options."

One option to report an incident is restricted reporting. According to the SHARP website, when a Soldier chooses

this option, he/she can confidentially disclose the crime to specifically identified individuals such as a Unit Victim Advocate, an Installation Victim Advocate or by calling the SHARP hotline. Individuals are also eligible to receive medical treatment and counseling without triggering an official investigation, which allows personal space to consider viable options.

"[If] they don't want to get police involved or they don't want the command involved," said Thomas, "They can still receive services like medical care, social work, etcetera, but it will not be investigated."

However, among many things, restricted reporting allows the assailant to remain unpunished, evidence may be lost and the incident may not be discussed with anyone else to include friends.

Another option is unrestricted reporting. When unrestricted reporting is elected, the victim should use the proper reporting channels such as their chain of command, law enforcement, UVA, IVA or health professional.

At the request of the victim, a health care professional shall conduct a sexual assault forensic examination to collect possible evidence. At the Division level,

SHARP advocates will take on the role as the IVA. Third ID senior leaders strongly support the SHARP program and address this crime seriously.

"Once a month, we have a sexual assault review board that he chairs, or his designated representative would chair on his behalf," Thomas said.

Sergeant 1st Class Travis May, SHARP Victim Advocate, said the program, which developed over the years helps to educate, act, intervene and motivate Soldiers to get victims to come forward. "The Army is ultimately trying to achieve elimination of sexual harassment and sexual assault itself," he said.

Although Sgt. Doe had regrets at first, she lamented on the solemn topic of reporting.

"I'm setting that foundation," she said, "I'm setting a trend to these Soldiers so that they know that it's okay, you can come forward. Justice will be served eventually, but they have to come forward or nothing is going to happen. It will continue to be an endless cycle of violated female Soldiers in the military."

"If there are victims of sexual assault in the ranks, we need to support him or her," said Lt. Col. Thomas. "We are our brothers and sisters keeper."

FOR YOUR INFO

APG Sexual Assault Hotline: 410-322-7154 24/7 For all who live or work on APG; military, civilian, contractor, retiree, visitor, guest, ect.

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



71°|52°

Fri



75°|57°

Sat



75°|56°

Sun



59°|48°

Mon



61°|45°

Tue



63°|49°

Wed



70°|57°

APG NEWS

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

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APG organizations celebrate Earth Day with youth

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Renew, reuse and recycle were the topics of discussion at the Earth Day event sponsored by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory at the APG North youth center April 13. Children from local schools and children who attend the child development and youth centers participated in hands-on activities and discussion, from renewable energy to composting.

ARL scientists used LEAP science kits provided by the Harford County Library to demonstrate renewable energy by showing the contrast between a circuit kit that is powered by a battery and an incandescent light bulb and a “green” circuit kit that is powered by a hand crank and an environmentally friendly LED light.

“At ARL we research renewable resources,” said Lisa Marvel, an ARL electronics engineer, who assisted with the activity. “Earth Day is a great opportunity to show the link between math and science and the research we do at ARL.”

Students from North Harford High School, who are mentored by ARL sci-



From left, Joyce Browning a horticulturalist and Harford County Maryland Master Gardener from the University of Maryland Extension, talks about composting with Jeremiah Jackson, 9, Owen Marvel, 9, Quren Santiago, 9, and Hunter Collins, 9, during an Earth Day event sponsored by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory at the APG North youth center April 13.

entists, also assisted in several activities, including one activity where children were asked to collect a representative samples of bugs outside by using a butterfly net.

“At ARL we are dedicated to helping to educate and inspire future engineers and scientists,” said Sandra Young, materials engineer. “You need to cre-

ate interest in the STEM (science, technology, and engineering mathematics) subjects at a young age. We wanted to involve high school students too so they can pass on their knowledge to the younger generation.”

Live creatures drew interest from many of the young participants. Tom

Harkins and Kevin Harkins, from the U.S. Army Public Health Command Entomological Sciences Program had an impressive bug display and live exhibits including four scorpions, two spiders, beetles and a corn snake. Representatives from Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources brought four birds, an American Kestrel, Red-Tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture, and a Great Horned Owl, a wood turtle, and a gray rat snake.

Joyce Browning, a horticulturalist from the University of Maryland Extension program showed children how to “feed” a garden using leftover food debris like egg shells and orange and banana peels.

“The same nutrients that provide nutrients for the body can provide nutrients for plants to grow,” Browning said.

The next APG Earth Day event will be held April 27 at the APG Museum from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will feature hands-on Earth Day science activities, recycling crafts, games and more. For more information contact Kathy Thisse at 410-436-8789. Please RSVP by April 23.

For more photos see www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/.

ECBC supports science, tech development in Afghanistan

ECBC Engineering Directorate

Despite having to hike three-eighths of a mile over gravel-filled pathways each day for meals, sleeping in an eight-person dorm style room and having only outdoor bathrooms, U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's Kevin Washok is thankful for what he calls the opportunity of a lifetime.

Washok of Advanced Design and Manufacturings (ADM) recently returned to the United States after spending three months in Afghanistan in the summer of 2011, assisting in the establishment of a new U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Field Assistant Science and Technology (RFAST) Program location at Bagram Airfield. A desire to start a large-scale operation from scratch and a yearning to work closely with the Warfighter prompted Washok to volunteer for the program.

"I wanted an opportunity to go out and set up a barebones shop. This experience proved to be all that I wanted, and then some," Washok said. "And I was fortunate to have the support at home to allow me to take this opportunity and be out of the country for three months."

The RFAST program deploys civilian engineers and technicians to Afghanistan for three-to-six months to assist the Warfighter with all technical equipment needs. The program's mission is to streamline communication between the Warfighter and the technical professionals to troubleshoot issues with the Warfighter's equipment.

With technicians and engineers like Washok stationed abroad, they are able to examine equipment, identify capability gaps and work directly with the end users, the service members, to develop working solutions in a more efficient manner.

Washok was a member of the first team to set up the RFAST program at Afghanistan's Bagram Airfield. The program, which is open to employees of RDECOM and its subordinate organizations, is coordinated through ADM.

In the planning stages, ADM helped create the concept for a technical village that provided the base for a larger RFAST operation. ADM also helped determine what services the site would offer and how the mission would work there,



Photo by Pfc Zachary Root

Colin Graham continues day-to-day operations at the RFAST Program Production Facility in Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Despite extreme weather and limited resources, Graham said the face-to-face time with the Warfighter is invaluable.

“We had machinist welders assigned to a helicopter section in Bagram. As we got to know them, we were able to show them our capabilities and what we do; and they in turn showed us their methods.”

Kevin Washok

U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

including coordination with CONUS resources like the RDECOM Prototype Integration Facilities (PIFs), program managers and safety community.

Helping the new RFAST location take a step in the right direction, Washok worked to establish a safety program at Bagram modeled after ECBC's safety program. Andy Cote from the ECBC Risk Office helped Washok and his colleagues develop a safety plan appropriate to the site's needs.

"We took the safety measures provided to us by Mr. Cote and adapted them to unique situations we had. We were able to mirror what is done at ECBC with the addition of a few standard operating procedures particular to Afghanistan," Washok said. "The help Mr. Cote pro-

vided us was significant and allowed us to get things in place over there."

Washok noted that the information sharing in Afghanistan was two-way.

"My relationship with the Warfighter was basically one of shared information. The technicians and Warfighters developed a knowledge bank," Washok said. "We had machinist welders assigned to a helicopter section in Bagram. As we got to know them, we were able to show them our capabilities and what we do; and they in turn showed us their methods."

Washok's average day started at 7 a.m. and ended at 8 p.m. The day was spent solving problems with equipment and working with contractors to coordinate solutions for problems. As Washok explained, the heart

of his work lay within the relationships he made and the knowledge he gained while overseas – both things he is now applying to his work in Edgewood.

"The deployed employees get a unique experience and understand the customer better," said Mark Schlein, ADM division chief. "What we gain back home is a sense of satisfaction. It's about how can we contribute to the Soldier better."

Currently, Bagram's RFAST Program is looking to ECBC to potentially manage the business aspects of the program, which would include contracting, purchasing and coordinating maintenance contracts.

"We're working up a plan on how we can support them with the business of the program. Anytime you take on these tasks that serve a greater purpose you feel a sense of accomplishment. You also get the satisfaction of knowing you're making a difference right where it counts," Schlein said.

Schlein would like to maintain ECBC's presence in Afghanistan through the RFAST program, ideally stationing an engineer or technician from the center in each RFAST rotation. Currently Colin Graham, an engineer from ADM, is serving a six-month term with RFAST.

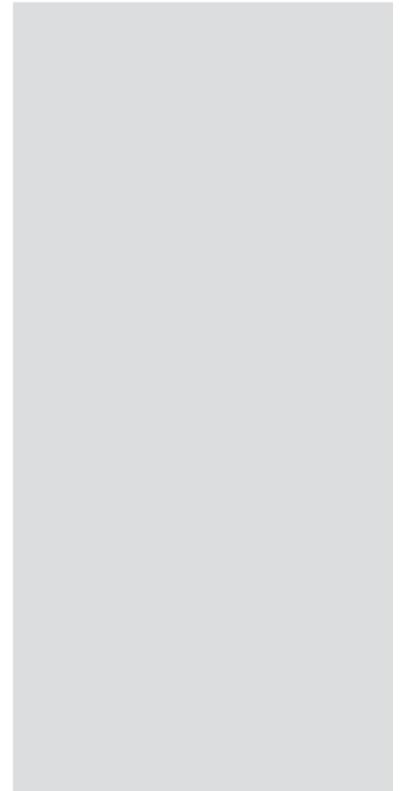
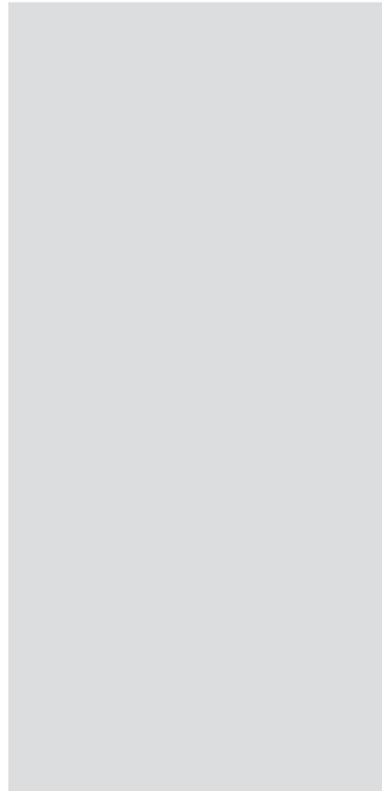
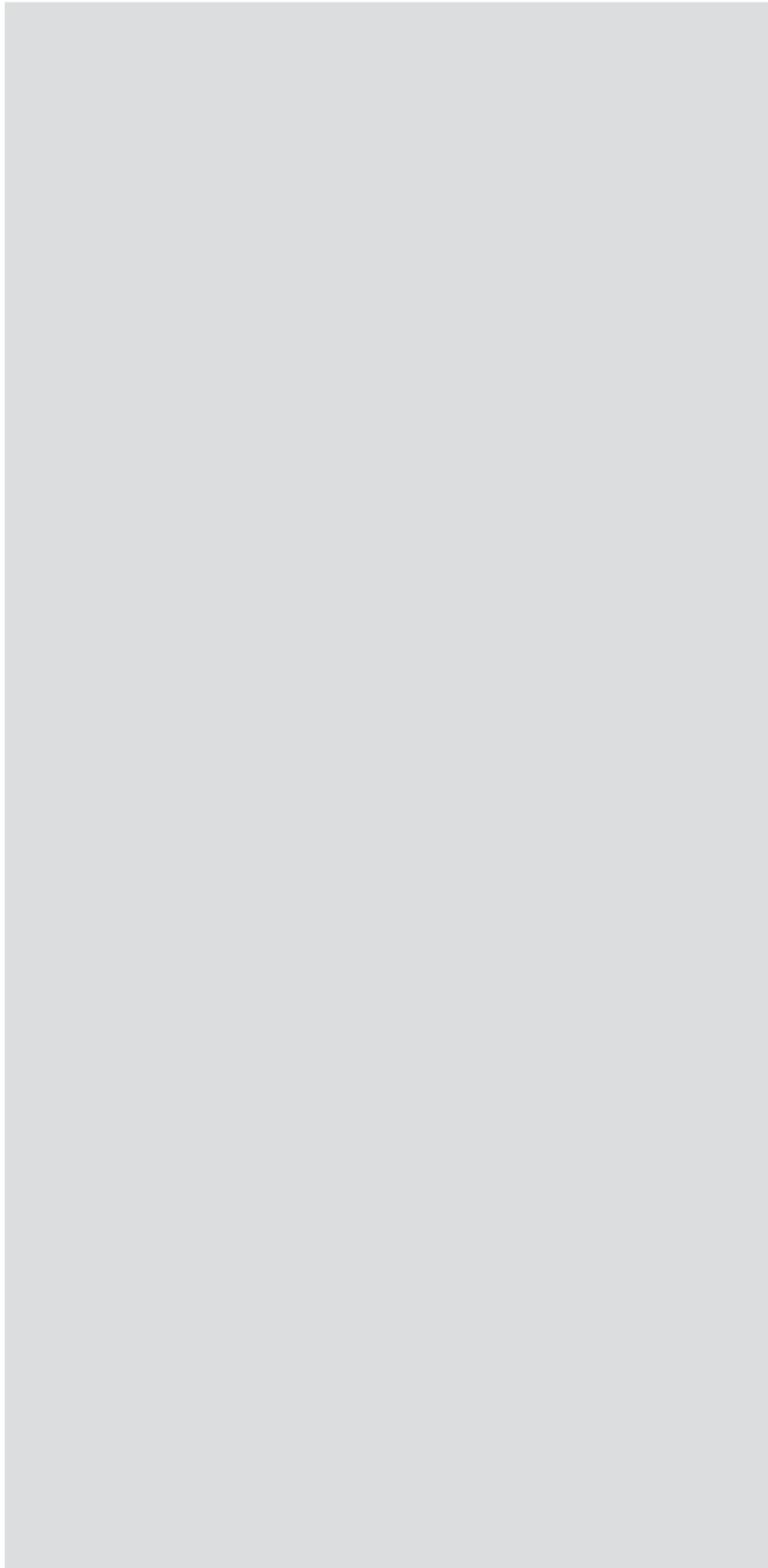
"There are always three technicians in Bagram at one time," Schlein said. "The plan, as employees are available, is to have a technician from ECBC in Bagram at all times along with representatives from the other RDECOM subordinate organizations."

Both Schlein and Washok emphasize the personal commitment required by RFAST participants, noting that the program requires more of an employee than just interest.

"This is a totally volunteer-based program. You have to be willing to give up three to six months of your life," Schlein said.

With regard to the personnel sent to the programs in Afghanistan and in other locations like Iraq, Schlein says ECBC has been complimented on the fact that it has a robust number of volunteers to go overseas.

"We feel confident that here at ECBC we have several very good technicians and engineers who can replace Colin following his rotation," Schlein said. "We intend to continue to support this for as long as needed and as long as we have people willing to apply."



Picerne's Families First honored by First Lady

Picerne news release

The Our Family for Families First Foundation, the charitable arm of Rhode Island-based company Picerne Military Housing, was honored at the White House April 11 for its work on behalf of military Families by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden.

The Foundation was recognized as People's Choice Winner of the Joining Forces Community Challenge (<http://joiningforces.challenge.gov/>) during a ceremony held on the South Lawn of the White House to spotlight citizens and organizations with a demonstrated, genuine and deep desire to be of service to military Families.

"Our company is built on the pillars of success, heart and dedication. The Our Family for Families First Foundation is another way for us to show our respect for the service members and Families that we serve every day," said John Picerne, president and CEO of Picerne Military Housing, who established the Our Family for Families First Foundation in 2006.

As part of its charitable mission, the foundation provides educational scholarships and grants to the spouses and children of active-duty service members stationed at the seven military installations served by Picerne Military Housing.

A 2009 scholarship recipient, Jada Salahuddin, and her father, Army Master Sgt. Majid Salahuddin, of Fort Bragg, N.C., attended the White House event with John Picerne and Maria Montalvo, executive director of the Foundation. Jada is currently studying journalism at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia.

"Jill and I are so proud of all of these finalists and the work that they have done for our military community," First Lady Michelle Obama said in announcing the finalists. "Our military Families demonstrate such strength, service, and sacrifice every single day, and we're so grateful for everyone who is stepping up

to give back to these Families. The challenge winners are leading by example, and showing that all of us can find a way to serve those who serve us."

The foundation qualified as a finalist for the award after being evaluated by a national selection panel composed of representatives from the service branches, Department of Defense, experts on Family well-being, and community organizations. It earned the "People's Choice" distinction after receiving nearly 17,000 votes during a seven-week public voting period.

"The Joining Forces Challenge is a great way to let military Families know that Americans are always thinking about them and to recognize the great sacrifices their Families have made in service to our country," Montalvo said. "We're honored to be welcomed at the White House and proud to be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with so many quality organizations that are doing great work to improve the quality of life for military Families."

The Foundation (<http://ourFamiliesfirst.org/>) is committed to supporting military Families in the pursuit of higher education, establishing a tradition of community service, and encouraging professional career paths. Each year, it awards 10 four-year scholarships of up to \$50,000 to graduating high school students, and up to 20 \$5,000 grants to spouses in any phase of education. More than \$3 million in scholarships and grants have been awarded since 2006.

The Foundation also runs an Adopt-a-Charity Program and works with each Picerne Military Housing installation team to identify local charities for "adoption" by the organization. Picerne Military Housing is an active member of the Maryland philanthropic community and has recently supported The League of Dreams program at Aberdeen Proving Ground and the St. Vincent De Paul Cottage Avenue Community.

“Our company is built on the pillars of success, heart and dedication. The Our Family for Families First Foundation is another way for us to show our respect for service members.”

John Picerne
CEO of Picerne Military Housing

Newcomer's event provides information about local community

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Newcomers can become better acquainted with Aberdeen Proving Ground and the surrounding community by attending the Newcomer's Orientation held quarterly at the APG North recreation center. The next orientation takes place April 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. The event is mandatory for newly assigned DOD civilians and military. Contractors, Family members and retirees are also welcome to attend.

More than sixty organizations from the APG community, like Picerne Military Housing; the Directorate of Emergency Services; Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; and Nonappropriated Funds attend the event to provide relocation information to attendees. Off-post organizations like the Maryland Vehicle Administration, Harford Commuter Assistance and representatives from apartment complexes, colleges and private schools attend the event as well.

"This event is designed to take some stress out of moving," said Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Program Manager, Wilhelmina Cromartie. "We provide newcomers with a wide variety of organizations at one location, so they don't have to go to different locations to receive information. This is information that I can't give on a one-on-one setting."

Cromartie added that the event is valuable because it gives newcomers a venue to network and meet people in the community.

"Every Family has a different need when they move," Cromartie said. "This event can save attendees time and provides money-saving tips."

The event also features welcoming remarks by Col. Orlando Ortiz, APG garrison commander, and presentations from other on-post representatives.

For more information, contact Army Community Service, Bldg. 2503, at 410-278-2464.

Upcoming Newcomer's Orientations are advertised on the MWR website, www.apgmwr.com.

FOR YOUR

The next orientation takes place April 25 from 1 to 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Army Community Service, Bldg. 2503, at 410-278-2464.

ACC announces 2012 cutoff dates

Special to the APG News

The Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground, Installation Division (ACC-APG-ID), formerly known as the Aberdeen Installation Contracting Division, has established the division's Fiscal Year 2012 cutoff dates for submission of purchase requests (PRs).

Early customer support in identifying and submitting PRs by or before the dates listed below greatly enhances the ability of the ACC-APG-ID to meet customer needs. In the fourth quarter of FY 11, the ACC-APG-ID processed more than 1,600 actions at a total value exceeding \$155 million. This was approximately 40 percent of total actions and 50 percent of dollars being obligated for the year in the fourth quarter alone. Early planning continues to remain the key to a successful year-end.

The following schedule has been established for the submission of PRs for FY 12. These cutoff dates are not only for the PR, but includes all supporting documentation and approvals.

- Noncommercial items over \$150,000 – July 2*
- Noncommercial items between \$2,500 for services; \$3,000 for supplies; \$2,000

for construction and \$150,000 – Aug. 1

- Commercial items under \$150,000 – Aug. 15
- Commercial items over \$150,000 – Aug. 1**
- Services under \$150,000 – Aug. 1
- Services over \$150,000 – July 2
- Delivery orders and task orders under existing contracts – Aug. 1
- GSA schedule procurements – Aug. 1
- Short-of-award over \$2,500 – June 15***
- Maintenance for FY 2012 – July 2 (FY 12 Contract Modifications and Options for Existing Maintenance Contracts)

* There may be instances where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. It is therefore required that these actions be coordinated with the branch chief or appropriate team leader prior to this date.

** The authority to issue solicitations under the FAR subpart 13.5, Test Program for Certain Commercial Items, expired Jan. 1, 2012. Simplified acquisition procedures can only be used for commercial items under \$150,000.

***Customers submitting short-of-award PRs, especially for services requirements, must consider whether funding will materialize. A substantial amount of effort is expended to prepare these pending actions and they must be prioritized after PRs that are funded and PRs that are subject to the availability of funds. Short-of-award actions,

if not funded in FY12, should be funded immediately in FY13 as a bona fide need.

Incomplete procurement packages will not be accepted by the ACC-APG-ID during September and any SAF, or subject-to-availability-of-funds, actions will be accepted only by an ACC-APG-ID branch chief.

All purchase requests must be submitted to the ACC-APG-ID electronically. APG activities should consider maximizing use of their government purchase cards to execute small dollar transactions for authorized items rather than submitting a purchase request to the ACC-APG-ID.

At a minimum each acquisition package must include the following: funded purchase request, statement of work/description of requirement, independent government cost estimate, service acquisition strategy (>\$150,000 inclusive of options), service contract approval, COR nomination form and certificate of training through the online COR tool, quality assurance surveillance plan, NEC approval (IT hardware, software and services), evaluation factors, sole source justification (<\$150K and J&A for >\$150K, if appropriate), and market survey information (may be included in sole source justification). A signed

Antiterrorism/Operations Security (AT/OPSEC) cover sheet is a new requirement that must be included in all acquisition packages over \$150,000.

The ACC-APG-ID encourages customer activities to coordinate their projected FY-end requirements with their contracting officers during the third quarter in order to discuss acquisition methods and identify those documents, reviews, and approvals required to accompany the procurement package.

Who to contact:

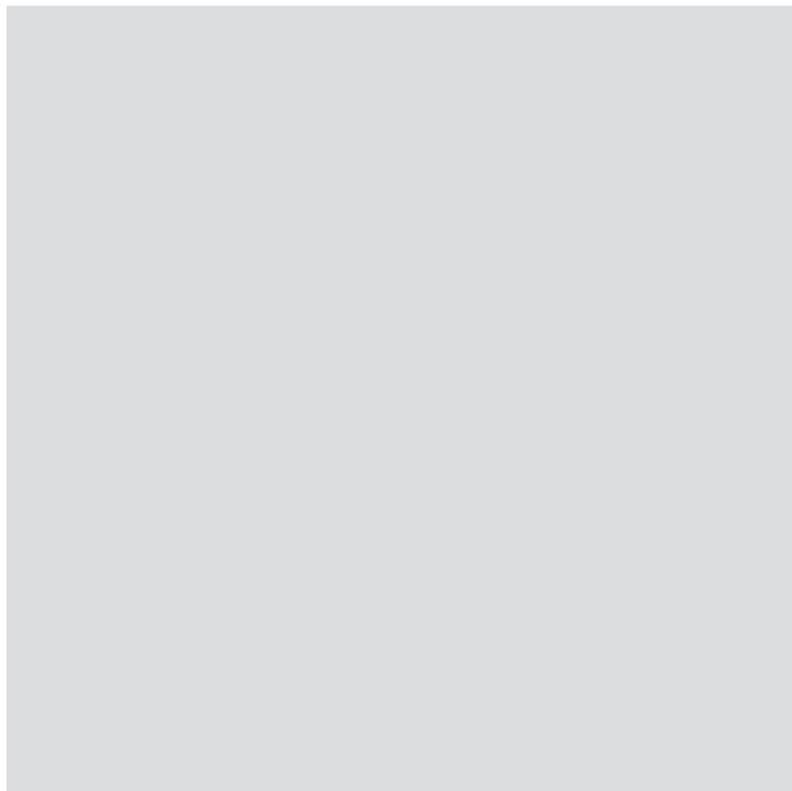
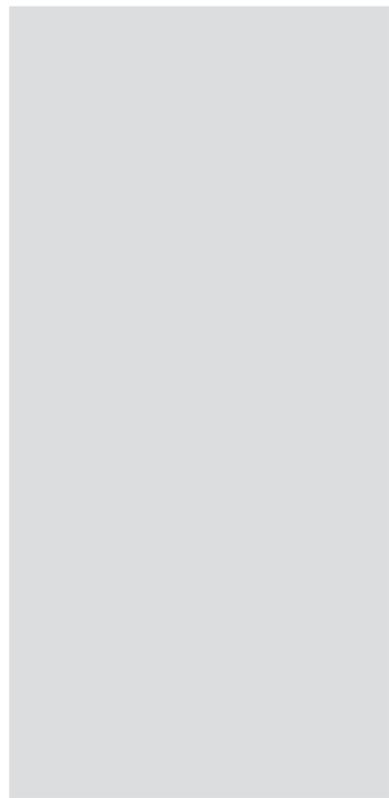
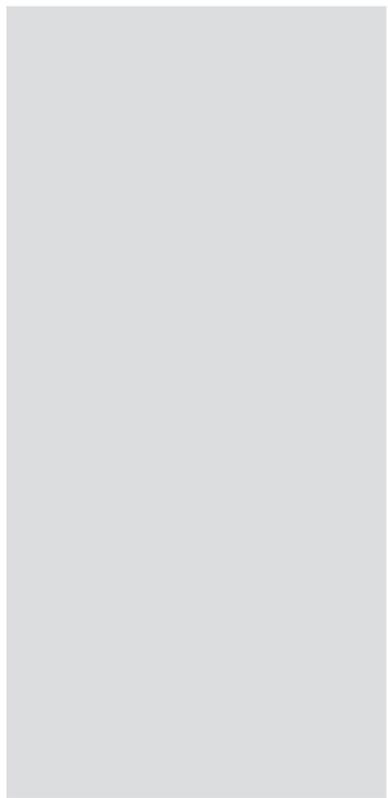
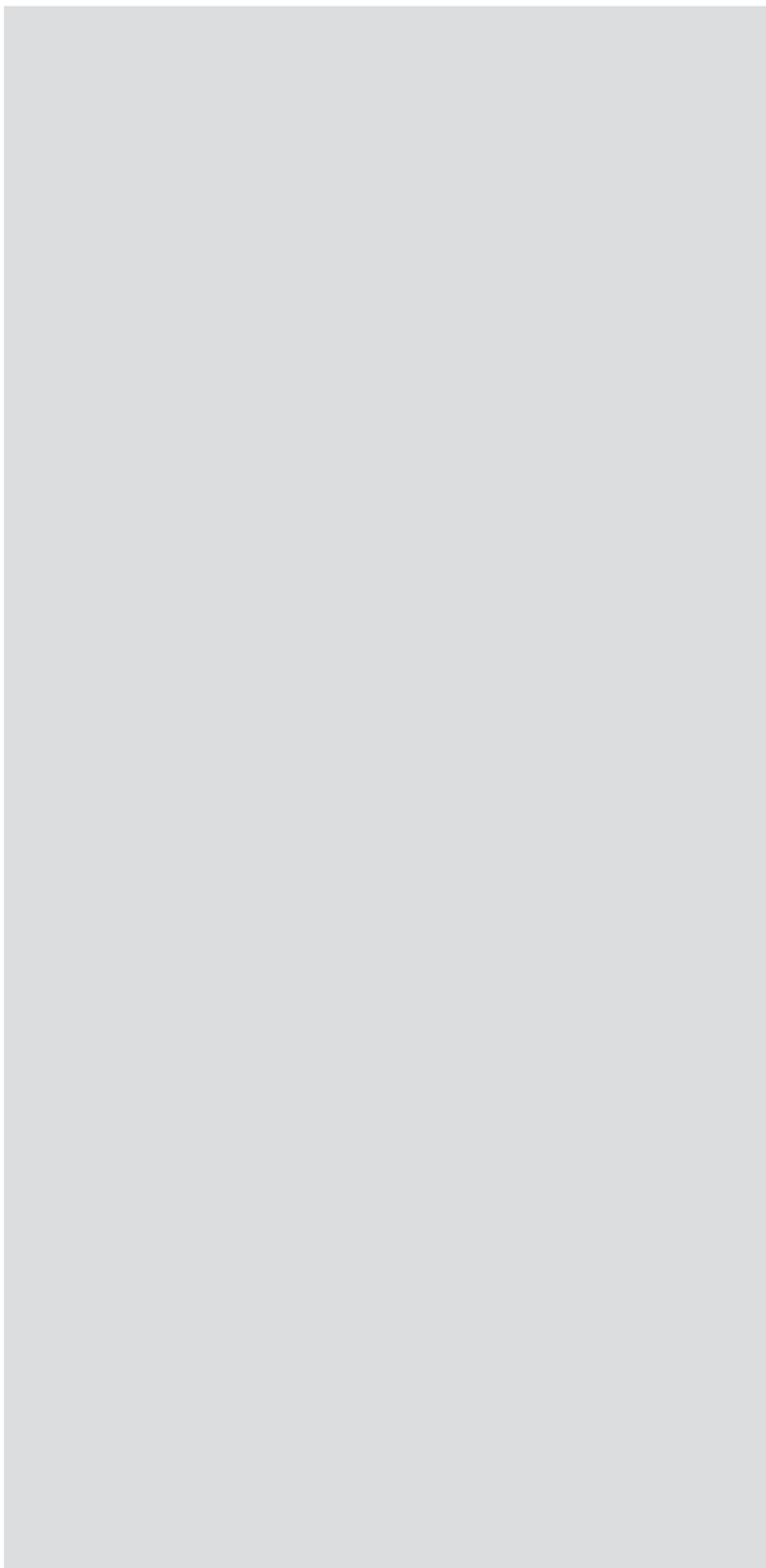
- Installation Services Branch: Alison Gannon, alison.w.gannon.civ@mail.mil, 410-278-0828
- Mission Branch: Renee Hodge, jacqueline.r.hodge2.civ@mail.mil, 410-278-0881
- Technology Branch: Jason VanLuven, jason.e.vanluven.civ@mail.mil, 410-278-0883
- Facilities Branch: Kimmie Edwards, kimmie.i.edwards.civ@mail.mil, 410-278-2372
- Division Chief: Renee Hodge (acting), jacqueline.r.hodge2.civ@mail.mil, 410-278-0881.



MAKING A CHANGE

Fitness trainer and guest speaker Catherine Brown leads guests through stretching exercises after her speech, "Losing weight is more than losing pounds" during the first meeting of "Spring Into Wellness – the APG Garrison Slim Down Challenge" at Garrison headquarters Bldg. 305 April 10. The challenge, which runs through May 15, is a group incentive to encourage members to live smarter through healthy food choices and exercise and includes weekly lunch-and-learn sessions, activity runs and boot camp with the Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson



Week of activities planned May 14-19

Continued from Page 1

counties will attend as part of APG's School Partnership Program. Many of the students attended last year and are looking forward to the event again this year.

"From the feedback I've received, the students really enjoyed themselves last year, and asked to come back," said Stacy Umbarger, APG acting school liaison officer. She said Chapel Hill Elementary School's fifth-grade choir will sing "America the Beautiful," and Southampton Middle School's eighth-grade band will perform an Armed Forces Medley.

Guests can enjoy the sounds of "The Volunteers," the U.S. Army's premier touring show band, who will play a blend of popular and patriotic music.

"Leftstronger," a Baltimore-area band, is scheduled to entertain the crowd with original music in the style of

Alice in Chains, Shinedown, Creed and Soundgarden.

Freestate ChalleNGe cadets will entertain the audience with a drill competition where randomly picked members of the audience can serve as judges and grade the cadets on their performance.

"The cadets will be organized into three platoons," said Col. (Ret.) Richard E. "Thunder" Young, academy director. "There will be two competitions - a standard drill and an exhibition where they will be doing more theatrics." Young said each platoon will compete against each other and, if time allows, the competition will go into a "knock out" where individual cadets will compete.

Other demonstrations will include Explosive Ordnance Disposal, decontamination examples, a helicopter demonstration and a canine demonstration.

A variety of foods will be offered by

1SG BBQ, Tim's Treats and Big Boy's, as well as plenty of activities for children, including a live wildlife exhibit, a Kiddy Corner, McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog, D.A.R.E. activities and fire fighting displays.

Armed Forces Week officially begins May 14 with an Armed Forces Day Golf Tournament at Ruggles Golf Course. A continental breakfast starts at 7:30 a.m. and the games begin with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. For more information, call 410-278-4794.

Local veterans will be honored during a luncheon at Top of the Bay on May 15. Any veteran from past or current military service is welcome to attend. To register, call 410-278-3000.

On May 17, the Harford County Chamber of Commerce will host the Military Appreciation Luncheon at the Richlin Ballroom. For more information

on the luncheon, call 410-838-2020.

The celebration concludes on May 19 with a morning 10K Run at 8 a.m. and a 2 Mile Fun Run at 8:30 a.m. starting at the APG Athletic Center. To register, call 410-278-7933.

At 1 p.m., a Live Fire and Military Equipment Display begins at APG's Main Front firing range. For more information call 410-278-4715.

To attend Armed Forces Day, visitors without a government ID must use the Maryland Boulevard (Route 715) gate off Route 40 to enter the installation. Visitors age 16 and older must have a photo ID and drivers must present a valid driver's license and vehicle registration.

For more information call the APG Public Affairs Office at 410-278-1151 or 410-278-1147.

Environment awareness and stewardship on display

Continued from Page 1

giving children an up-close-and-personal view of the animals, also teaches them the importance of stewardship of our wildlife and other natural resources.

"But it's not just for kids," she added. "The adults and kids—through the stories or tales of how these animals come into the care of the program—seem to really enjoy this event. They learn a lot about environmental issues such as loss of habitat, environmental pollution, resource management and biodiversity."

Other events include appearances by Smokey the Bear and McGruff the Crime Dog; recycled T-shirt crafts; bald Eagle videos of a live eagle nest; artifacts unearthed during construction at APG;

“The adults and kids—through the stories or tales of how these animals come into the care of the program—seem to really enjoy this event.”

Kathy Thisse

APG environmental protection specialist

and displays from past organizations

The event will kick off with the national anthem performed by the Havre de Grace Middle School Jazz Band. Chaplain (Col.) Harry Rauch of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC)

will present the invocation, followed by opening remarks by ATEC Commander Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco.

Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz will present a tree slice known as a "biscuit," taken from a black oak tree that

stood on APG since the early 1800s to the APG Museum. The oak tree biscuits will be used for educational purposes.

"Colonel Ortiz wanted to make sure that a slice of the tree was given to the APG Museum, to be preserved as part of APG's history," said Museum Director Gail Fuller. "We envision it being displayed in the early APG history area of the museum. The rings on the biscuit will correspond with historical events on the land that eventually became APG."

Awards will be presented to contest winners. The day's activities will conclude with a performance by the Havre de Grace Middle School Jazz Band.

This year's theme is "Trees are Terrific...from Acorn to Oak."

Harford commuter staff to thank 'clean' commuters

Continued from Page 1

Lines boasting an average daily ridership of approximately 20,000 commuters. The train operates primarily between Baltimore's Penn Station and Union Station in Washington, D. C. with local stops in Aberdeen and Edgewood, as well as nearby Perryville and Middle River. Scheduled stops on the route include the Baltimore/Penn Station, BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, Odenton, Bowie State University and New Carrollton.

Those who commute to work by train will be "thanked" with complimentary coffee, snack, and free gift, courtesy of Clarence's Taste of New Orleans Restaurant and Harford Commuter Assistance Rideshare. Information will also be available regarding

ridesharing programs, including the Guaranteed Ride Home Program.

During the morning commute time, county representatives and others will express their appreciation to commuters for using mass transit to mitigate traffic congestion, improve air quality, and save money on gas.

The month of May is nationally designated Clean Commute Month because it is the beginning of the ground level ozone season. On days with poor air quality indexes motorists are encouraged not to drive to work because pollution produced by cars causes ground level ozone, or smog. Smog can cause burning eyes, difficulty breathing or even trigger asthma attacks.

Single occupancy vehicles produce 20

percent of the dangerous ozone-emission pollution in the Baltimore area. Using mass transit such as the MARC train and buses helps improve air quality.

For more information about Harf-

ord Commuter Assistance Rideshare and alternative forms of commuting, contact Alan Doran, Rideshare Coordinator, at 800-924-8646 (TOGO) or visit www.harfordcountymd.gov/commuter.

**Visit APG News online at
www.apgnews.apg.army.mil**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TODAY AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP CLASS

Army Community Service's Relocation Readiness Program is offering a free class at 5 p.m. in ACS Bldg. 2503 for military personnel and Family members preparing to take the test for American citizenship given by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Baltimore District Office. The class will cover eligibility, procedures, and how to fill out the application for citizenship. A community relations officer will be present to answer questions. Call 410-278-2464 for info.

ARMED SERVICES BLOOD DRIVE

Give the gift of life during the Spring Blood Drive hosted by ECBC, MRICD and USAPHC, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility (CDTF), Bldg. E4516. Register in advance on the Armed Services Blood Program website at <http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/>. Walk-ins are welcome.

SPEED DATING

Invite your single friends to the first speed dating event at the Sutherland Grille at Ruggles Golf Course, 5:30 – 7 p.m. Cover charge is \$5. This event is recommended for ages 21 and older. For information or to RSVP, call 410-278-9452 or email richard.j.bond10.naf@mail.mil.

CHESAPEAKE SAME

The Chesapeake Post Society of American Military Engineers meeting will be held at the Wetlands Golf Club. Sign-in and networking begins at 11:30 a.m. The lunch program starts at noon. Topics include a discussion on the Regional Disaster Resilience Guide and the strategy of developing a level of preparation for managing disasters. Register at http://www.same-chesapeake.org/Reservations/Reservations_09.htm

FRIDAY

APRIL 20 AUSA LUNCHEON

Former Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston will be the guest speaker during the Membership Luncheon of the Aberdeen Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, 11:30 a.m. at Top of the Bay. Preston, who was a good friend of former APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby, visited APG twice during his seven years in office. He is now president and director of Homes for our Troops, a nonprofit organization that solicits donations for no-cost homes for veterans and their Family members.

This event is open to everyone in the APG community. Cost is \$21 in advance, \$25 at the door. Register online at <http://www.ausa-aberdeen.org/NewsEvents/events.html#event1>.

For more information, contact Aberdeen AUSA president Scott Cheseldine at 909-489-2958 or e-mail scheldine@rsc2inc.com.

SATURDAY

APRIL 21 12TH ANNUAL RIVER SWEEP

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway's 12th Annual River Sweep, a volunteer shoreline and roadside clean-up in honor of Earth Day, will take place in Havre de Grace, Perryville, Port Deposit and on Garrett Island. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the clean-up 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. Volunteers, including those interested in being a team captain for an area, can sign up in advance by visiting www.hitourtrails.com or calling 410-457-2482. Participants are urged to wear old clothes and bring

work gloves. Volunteers who sign up in advance will receive a T-shirt and lunch.

NATURE SERIES – WHO LIVES WHERE?

Eden Mill Nature Center will offer Saturday Nature Series. Learn about the habitats and animals around Eden Mill from 11 a.m. to noon. You may even find an animal living in one of the nearby habitats. Pre-register by calling 410-836-3050 or emailing edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com.

MONDAY

APRIL 23 TOWSON UNIVERSITY HOSTS FIRST MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

The Towson University Student Government Association and TU's Veterans Services have joined forces to host the first Military Appreciation Day starting 1:30 p.m. at Burdick Field.

An official dedication ceremony honoring all Towson University military students – past and present – begins 3:30 p.m. on Pedestrian Plaza, adjacent to Burdick Hall.

For more information, contact Gay Pinder, TU media relations specialist, at 410-704-4471.

TUESDAY

APRIL 24 BEE HIVE MAINTENANCE

Eden Mill Nature Center presents Honeybee Hive Maintenance at 4 p.m. Join our head beekeeper, Cybil Preston, as she demonstrates hive maintenance and answers questions you may have concerning honeybees, crop management, pests and disease, as well as the importance of honeybees. No registration or fee required. Meet on the paved pathway next to the honeybee hives by the red barn.

THURSDAY

APRIL 26 DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

Community members are invited to attend this year's Holocaust Days of Remembrance at the post theater at 10 a.m. Guest speaker will be Holocaust survivor Edith M. Cord. For more information, call Linda Patrick at 410-436-1023 or Sheryl Coleman at 410-278-5964.

OPEN MIC & KARAOKE

Invite your friends and coworkers and display your talent during Open Mic Thursday at Ruggles Golf Course. Event hosted by Lou Melo of Melo Time Karaoke from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the golf course clubhouse. Free admission. Complimentary bar foods, limited snack bar operations and beer and wine cash bar. Participants must be 18 or older. For information, call 410-278-3854.

IN BLOOM-STUDENT ART & DESIGN EXHIBITION

Harford Community College will host its In Bloom-Student Art & Design Exhibition and Reception 5:30-7 p.m. in the Student Center, Chesapeake Gallery. The exhibition runs through May 18. In Bloom features painting, drawing, graphic design, photography, sculpture, ceramics and other selections. The curator of the exhibit is Jeffrey Cudlin, professor of Curatorial Studies & Practice, Maryland Institute of Art.

For more information, e-mail Susan Fletcher, HCC marketing and public relations, at SFletche@Harford.edu.

SATURDAY

APRIL 28 CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

International Championship Wrestling competitors will take it to the mat at the APG North athletic center. Doors open 5 p.m.; show starts 6 p.m. There will be five matches consisting of a tag team and women's match and the main event. Bring the Family out for a night of fun and excitement. Refreshments will be sold. Wrestlers will meet guests for autographs and pictures. Admission is \$15 in advance, \$10 at the door and free for active duty military with ID card. Adult ticket holders can bring two children ages 14 and under. For information, call 410-278-4011.

NYC DAY TRIP

Don't miss out on this eight-hour do-it-yourself trip to experience one of the most famous cities in the world, New York City. Tickets available April 21. Transportation leaves from Mountain Road's Park and Ride in Joppatowne at 7:55 a.m., drops passengers off at Times Square, and returns to Joppatowne at approximately 11 p.m., respectively. Tickets are \$48. Visit Bldg. 3326 or call 410-278-4011/4907 for information or to reserve a seat, or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil. For information on NYC, visit www.nyc-tour.com.

WEDNESDAY

MAY 2 UMUC SUMMER STARTUP

Get a jumpstart on your education by starting classes this summer. University of Maryland University College is sponsoring a startup event from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at UMUC'S APG office, Room 210 in the Janet M. Barr Soldier Support Center on Susquehanna Avenue. Advisors will be available to help you put together a degree. As an added incentive, students who make application at this event will have their \$50 application fee waived (not available for doctor of management applicants). Call 410-272-8269 for info.

THURSDAY

MAY 3 FAMILY CANOE TRIPS

Reservations are now being taken for Eden Mill Nature Center's family canoe trips. These trips help acquaint paddlers with the natural surroundings on Deer Creek. During these excursions, environmental education and interpretation are provided by the naturalist accompanying the group. Basic paddling instruction is provided before the trip. Canoes, paddles, and personal floatation devices are provided. Season begins May 3 and runs through Sept. 29. Cost is \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members. Pre-registration required by calling 410-836-3050 or emailing edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com. Visit www.edenmill.org.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

MAY 3 & 4 PICERNE OPEN HOUSE

Picerne Military Housing will host an open house May 3-4 for military families, retirees and DoD civilians. Join us for food, fun and prizes. Picerne has immediate availability in various home types. Check the APG News and PicerneAberdeen.com website for additional details and reserve your home today.

FRIDAY

MAY 4 TYLER PERRY'S MADEA

Tickets are on sale to Tyler Perry's newest theatrical comedy "Madea Gets a Job" showing at Baltimore's 1st Mariner Arena May 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$83 for seats located in section 113. Tickets are limited. Visit Bldg. 3326 or call 410-278-4011/4907 for information. Or email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

27TH FALLEN HEROES DAY SET

The annual Maryland state ceremony honoring police officers and firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty during the past year, takes place 1 p.m. at the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, 200 East Padonia Road in Timonium, Md.

For more information, contact Mary Auld at 410-666-0490 or e-mail mpadvmg@hotmail.org.

THURSDAY

MAY 10-24 TEEN AUTO MAINTENANCE

Teens will learn basic automotive repairs, maintenance and necessary skills for new drivers in this free class for ages 14-18 every Thursday, May 10-24 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Auto Craft Center. Classes will focus on roadside repairs, engine maintenance, and performing a basic self-inspection of vehicle. Transportation will depart Aberdeen Youth Center at 3:30 p.m. and return at 6:30. Register at Bldg. 2503, or call 410-278-7479/7571 to make an appointment. Walk-in registration is 7:30-10:30 a.m.

FRIDAY

MAY 11 SOFTBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The APG MWR Co-Ed Softball League registration deadline for the softball season, May 14-Aug.2, is May 11. All active-duty military are free. There is a \$250 league fee per team. There is a \$20 fee for every civilian playing on a military team. League fees are due before the season begins and can be paid at the Leisure Travel Office in the Aberdeen North Recreation Center and the Stark Recreation Center.

For more information, contact the Leisure Travel Office in the Aberdeen North Recreation Center at 410-278-4011/4907, the Aberdeen North Athletic Center at 410-278-7933/7934, the Aberdeen South Hoyle Gym at 410-436-3375/7134, or email usarmy.APG.imcom-fmwr.list.usag-mwr-sports@mail.mil.

MONDAY

MAY 14 ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD BUS TOUR

The Harford Historical Society will host a bus trip to Antietam Battlefield, the site of an epic Civil War struggle near the Maryland/West Virginia border. The cost is \$75 per person, which includes travel to and from the battlefield, coffee and snacks on the bus, entrance fee to the park, on-bus tour guide and lunch at the Tusing Warehouse, a restored historic site.

The bus will leave from the Exit 74 park-and-ride at Route 152 (Mountain Road) and I-95 promptly at 8:30 a.m.

To reserve seats send a check with your name to the Historical Society of Harford County, 143 Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

ONGOING AUDITION FOR DRACULA

The APG Theater Group will perform Dracula in October. To audition or to join the theater group, visit the recreation center Mondays at 6 p.m., or call 410-278-4011/4907.

FY12 ANNUAL HYDRANT FLUSHING

The annual hydrant flushing at APG is set through May 25. Flushing will take place Monday through Friday weekly between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., and will follow the schedule below. For more information, contact government representative Dennis Overbay at 443-206-8910 or City of Aberdeen representative Curtis Ball at 410-278-2335.

■ April 16 through 20, blocks 2000, 3000 and 4000

■ April 23 through 27, blocks 4000, 5000 and 6000

■ April 30 through May 4, blocks 4000, 5000 and 6000

■ May 7 through 11, Plumb Point and restricted areas

■ May 14 through 18, ARL and restricted areas

■ May 21 through 25, ARL and restricted areas

CHAPEL POSITION

The APG main post chapel is seeking someone who can serve as choir director, organist and soloist. It is a paid position, part-time, required for two services on Sunday, special services and rehearsal. If interested, contact Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan Morse at 410-278-4333.



Want to make a difference in how services are rendered at APG? Tell us how we can improve, or provide kudos for great service, via the Interactive Customer Evaluation system at <http://ice.disa.mil/>. Click "Army" then "Aberdeen Proving Ground."

Or check us out on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/HzQlow>. View the QR code to visit us immediately.



MORE ONLINE
More events can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil/calendar.

Soldiers battle to be the best

By **JANE GERVASONI**

U.S. Army Public Health Command

The air was filled with tension as 12 of the finest U.S. Army Public Health Command Soldiers tried to prove they were physically and mentally better than their competitors.

Energy, determination and enthusiasm dominated as Sgt. Dan Harvey, Public Health Command Region–North laboratory technician, and Spc. Edwin Garcia, PHCR–West veterinary food inspection specialist, earned top honors at the first annual USAPHC Best Warrior Competition April 9-13 at Aberdeen Proving Ground South (Edgewood).

Soldiers and noncommissioned officers representing the headquarters and all the five regions of the USAPHC competed for the opportunity to be named USAPHC Best Warriors and to participate in the U.S. Army Medical Command competition scheduled June 3-8 at Joint Base San Antonio and Fort Bullis, Texas.

USAPHC's Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald C. Ecker supervised this annual competition assisted by a cadre of NCOs who devised challenges to test the Soldiers' abilities in the areas of combatives, day and night orienteering (land navigation), weapons qualification, physical fitness, warrior tasks and battle drills, and written and oral examinations.

"The intent of the competition is to promote and inspire excellence and a winning spirit among Soldiers and NCOs across the Army," explained Ecker. "When you get to the bottom line, the Best Warrior competition promotes a better prepared or best ready individual and fighting force to serve and defend the Constitution and the people of our nation. This endeavor truly honors readiness and mission accomplishment."

Warriors selected to compete in this event had already competed at local levels for top Soldier honors during a series of tests of their Soldier skills. Competitors for Soldier of the Year honors held ranks of private through specialist. All participants for NCO of the Year held the ranks of sergeant and staff sergeant.

"Our competition closely resembles the MEDCOM event," said Ecker. "We took great care in analyzing and preparing our event to meet the same conditions and standards.



Photos by Christina Graber

Spc. Edwin Garcia, Public Health Command Region–West, waits in the "front-leaning rest position" for the next event during the USAPHC Best Warrior competition held at APG South (Edgewood) April 9-13.

We intended to provide a training environment that replicated realistic combat conditions."

USAPHC senior NCOs worked with APG installation personnel, other NCOs, members of the headquarters company, and many of the other Soldiers and civilians in the command to ensure the competition brought out the best from all the participants.

"We put our best efforts into this competition," explained Sgt. Kacie Kremer, food inspection NCO stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and assigned to Public Health Command District–San Diego.

Spc. Brian Patrick, animal care specialist at the Sigonella Branch, PHCD–South Europe agreed. He also said, "Winning the U.S. Army Garrison Vincenzo, Italy, competition was a great challenge, but I really enjoyed the competition at Public Health Command Best Warrior competition."

"Individuals who volunteer to compete in tough competitions such as this one have a certain special yearning inside to push, challenge and test themselves," explained Ecker. "In the honorable way of excellence, the competitors become close, more alike than different, and often establish lasting friendships throughout this process of



Staff Sgt. Shem Umana, Public Health Command Region–Pacific, fires a round during weapons qualification.

competition and kinship." Winners of the competition distinguished themselves and showed their commitment to the profession of arms, said Ecker.

"Being in the Army means everything to me," said Garcia. "It is the greatest feeling in the world to know that you are part of the greatest team ever put together."

"The camaraderie among the

competitors was great. Our command is so wide-spread that it was good to meet others and put names to faces," said Harvey. "It was a tough competition, but we learned about ourselves and helped each other."

Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan, USAPHC commander, praised both the competitors and those who planned the event. She said that these Soldiers represent the

best, and events like this are ultimately about taking care of America's sons and daughters.

In addition to competing in the MEDCOM contest, Sgt. Sharia Leal, USAPHC–HQ preventive medicine specialist, and Spc. Bala Abarshi, medical laboratory specialist at USAPHC–HQ, will compete in the APG NCO and Soldier of the Year competition April 27.

Archery: A Family sport

Continued from Page 1

Program Manager Zach Van Cleave. "Archery is something the whole Family can do together."

Van Cleave called the open house a good opportunity for Families who would like to try the sport at no cost. He said the hunting management facility has equipment that archers can use throughout the year. All events at the range are open to military ID cardholders, CAC cardholders, retirees and their guests.

Other on-post archery

Van Cleave said individuals and Families can join the Aberdeen Archery Club for \$20 a year. This fee allows par-

ticipants to use the range 365 days a year, from sun up to sun down. The fee also pays for maintenance of the range.

The APG community can also participate in league nights. During league nights, archers shoot at life-like 3D targets. League starts Wednesday, April 25, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and runs the following 10 Wednesday's during the same hours. Cost is \$9 per participant.

FMWR EDGE! will offer free archery classes for children and teens later this summer. For more information on archery, call Van Cleave at 410-278-4843. For more information on Outdoor Recreation, visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/recreation/odr/>.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

Zach Van Cleave, hunting program manager for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, demonstrates aiming techniques at the archery range located next to the APG North hunting management facility, Bldg. 550B1.

Take-back campaign

Continued from Page 1

Participants should remove identifying information from the prescription labels and dump the medicine directly into the disposal box. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container.

The event is a great opportunity for those who missed previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated excess prescription medications, according to Robin Stokes, ASAP employee assistance program coordinator.

"ASAP continues to support Soldiers, civilians and Family members by teaming up with the local police department to provide the community a safe and proper way to dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medications," Stokes said.

"Studies show that prescription drug abuse among teenagers is on the rise. Take-Back campaigns help ensure that unused medications are not abused, mis-

used or flushed into the water system," she said.

"Remember to do your part April 23 – 27 to prevent the spread of prescription drug abuse. As Team APG members, if one is hurting, we're all hurting," said Stokes.

For more information, contact Stokes at 410-278-5319. robinstine.stokes.civ@mail.mil; Lamont Coger, ASAP program tech, at 410-278-7778, lamont.a.coger.civ@mail.mil; or Mike Farlow, DES investigator and Community Policing Officer, at 410-278-3609, michael.b.farlow.civ@mail.mil.

Note: The Drug Enforcement Administration scheduled National Drug Take-Back Day is Saturday, April 28. Harford County's Take-Back site is located at the County Office Building, 220 S. Main Street in Bel Air, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. To find alternate collection sites, visit <http://www.justice.gov/dea/>.

Leave Donations

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPF 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within

agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Cathy Davis, 410-306-0152, e-mail cathy.a.davis4.civ@mail.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Patricia Adams
Audrey Alba
Veronica Brown
Roberta
Brown-Thurman
(Fort Huachuca)
Adrienne Crelin
Charlene Drumheller
Melissa Edwards

John Eppinger
Melanie Espich
Melanie France
(PSI-COE)
Carol Gardner
Shawn Heinlein
Sarah Ingram
Mark Johnson
Subria Kelly

Theresa Padron
Linda Patrick
Edward Rath
Pedro Rodriguez
Robynn Squires
Samuel Tims
Monica Webb
Heather Williamson

APG SNAPSHOT

A peek at the events making news in and around U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground. For complete photo coverage, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>



RUGGLES CELEBRATES SPRING

Local golfers tried out clubs and other name-brand equipment during the Ruggles Golf Course Grand Reopening Weekend April 13-15. Festivities included Foot Joy custom shoe fittings, Nike Golf Ball giveaways, Rockstar Energy Drink giveaways, all-you-can-eat Fish & Chips dinner, live evening entertainment and other contests and prizes.

Photo by Jason Dominguez



Photo by Rachel Ponder

FREE MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

(From left) Jose Fernandez, a CERDEC employee, and Maria Fernandez, a CECOM SEC employee, talk about gender differences during a "Recharging your Marriage" session at Army Community Service, led by Donna Withrow, a licensed certified social worker. The next workshop takes place April 26 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in ACS Bldg. 2503. Childcare will be provided. For more information or to schedule childcare, call 410-278-7572/7474.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

READING FUN

Mike Lupacchino, director of APG Directorate, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, reads to children at the APG North child development center April 9. Special activities for children and youth are planned throughout April as APG CDCs and youth centers celebrate the Month of the Military Child.



PURPLE UP!

Sgt. Megan Husske and Spc. Myeshia Boston from the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) wear purple as a visible way to show their support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Soldiers and civilians from the 22d Chemical Battalion, 20th Support Command (CBRNE) and National Guard units located on APG South wore purple as part of the national "Purple Up! For Military Kids" Day April 13.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

KINDLE WINNER

Theresa Dillon, a contractor with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, relaxes in the post library with the new Kindle she won as a door prize during the MWR Travel Fair.



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

BUILDING DEMOLITION

Bulldozers scoop up the remnants of the former Post Library and classrooms – Bldg. 3320 – during a demolition and site restoration project in early April. The building was built in 1942, according to Ray McDermott, lead engineer, DPW Engineering Services Division.