



Fire chief retires after 36 years

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

Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire Chief Edward C. (Ed) Budnick retires this month with nearly 37 years of service; 31 of them with APG. While reflecting on his career, Budnick looked back with some melancholy, but no regrets.



Budnick

Budnick hails from a line of firefighters that goes back generations. He estimated that at one time he had one dozen family members, including cousins, "out there." His father and brother were firefighters, and he has a 16-year-old niece who "just started" in the profession.

"For us, it's just a natural progression," he said. "My whole family is in public service." That includes another brother, Lt. Fred Budnick with the City of Aberdeen Police Department.

A native of Aberdeen, Budnick at age 16 started out as an auxiliary member with the Aberdeen Volunteer Fire Company in late 1975, receiving what he termed "months of internal training."

"You're not making a lot of decisions, you're just doing

See **BUDNICK**, page 11

AMC commanding general visits CECOM, Garrison

By **KELLY LUSTER**
CECOM public affairs

Gen. Dennis L. Via, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, visited several major supporting commands here, Friday, Nov. 30.

Aberdeen Proving Ground is home to 11 major commands and supports more than 90 tenants, 20 satellite and 17 private activities. The installation provides facilities to perform research, development, testing and evaluation of Army materiel. Facilities include laboratories for research investigations, state-of-the-art ranges, engineering test courses for wheeled and tracked vehicles and a wide variety of research. The installation also supports a wide variety of training, including mechanical maintenance, health promotion and preventive medicine, chemical and biological defense, and chemical casualty care, chemical demilitarization. APG also is host to National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve operations

See **AMC**, page 11



Photo by Sean Kief

Gen. Dennis L. Via, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, and Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, Commanding General, U. S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, receive a brief at the Joint On-demand Interoperability Network (JOIN). The JOIN provides a distributed test environment for combatant commands, military services, inter-agency, multi-national and coalition partners. It allows these groups to collaborate and forge new avenues for joint interoperability communications to meet the demands of the future operational environment.

Linda Via gets personal APG tour

By **ADRIANE FOSS**
Editor, APG News

Team APG enjoyed a special visit by Linda Via, the wife of Gen. Dennis Via, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), Nov. 30.

While her husband visited several of AMC's supporting commands based at APG, Via toured the installation herself, getting an up-close-and-personal view of garrison and tenant operations.

Her morning kicked off with a working breakfast at the Top of the Bay, where she was joined by senior spouses, a Gold Star Family member, and APG employees. During the breakfast, Via was briefed on the amenities that the 72,000-acre APG has to offer.

Via was then escorted by Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Chief Mike Lupacchino and accompanied by Vickie McClinton, wife of



See **AFAP**, page 10 Via

Prepare now for weather emergencies

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Garrison APG is prepping for winter weather emergencies, and the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security highly encourages residents, personnel and community members to do the same.

Knowing where to go for

the information is the first step, said Rick DeOliveira, chief of the Emergency Operations Center and Office of Emergency Management, DPTMS.

"APG personnel should not assume that school or government closings and delays apply to the installation," he said. "APG will be

specifically stated in media outlets on television, radio and social media sites."

Information about closings, openings and delays can be found on the official APG website at www.apg.army.mil; on the APG Garrison website at www.garrison.army.mil

See **WEATHER**, page 5

Nanticoke history revisited for Native American event

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

Team APG hosted the annual Native American Heritage Month celebration, this year's final ethnic observance, Nov. 27 at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lebert Beharie of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command welcomed the audience and introduced guest speaker

Sterling V. Street, a member of the Nanticoke Indian Tribe of Delaware and coordinator of the Nanticoke Indian Museum in Millsboro, the only Native American Museum in the state.

Beharie said Street would tell

See **COMMUNITY**, page 10

Adrienne Harmon of the Nanticoke Indian Association performs a jingle dress dance during the Native American Heritage Month observance at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Nov. 27.



Happy Holidays from APG

APG Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton waves to the crowd at the Cecil County Christmas parade in North East, Md., Saturday, Dec. 1. APG personnel and equipment also participated in the Aberdeen parade Dec. 1 and the Bel Air parade Dec. 2. See more photos at www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



WEATHER

Thurs.



44° | 36°

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Looking for a holiday outing?
Visit **Symphony of Lights**

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Make sure their holiday toys are safe

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CFC donations are still being sought **PAGE 7**

STREET TALK

What is your favorite Holiday tradition?

Mailing my son, who lives in Kansas, his Christmas gifts. All year I collect Ravens gear to send him. Also, 12 years ago my Family "adopted" a Family to give gifts and food to during the Christmas season. I enjoy delivering those gifts to them.



Linda Howell
Tim Horton's employee

My husband's Family is from Italy, so every Christmas Eve we have a traditional Italian dinner. We always have shrimp, squid, and spinach pies.



Elly Buonaugurio
APG Thrift Store cashier

Christmas is my favorite time of year. I enjoy drinking hot chocolate while decorating the house and baking cakes. Also, every year I make a gingerbread house with my uncle.



Alex Santana
Military Family member

I like the slower pace, all the Family getting together to eat dinner. You don't get to do that very often. I also like the excitement of opening presents.



Capt. Chih Huang
Walter Reed Hospital

OPINION

Healthy food costs less in long run

Obesity is linked to many serious health conditions, such as diabetes and cancer. Like other Americans, military Warriors, past and present, and their Families feel the effects of obesity through negative health impacts and out-of-pocket costs. For example, the inability to meet service weight and physical fitness standards is a common reason for early discharge. According to a recent Army study, "Too Fat to Fight," 27 percent of all Americans 17 to 24 years of age are too heavy to join the military. Another major concern is the negative effect of obesity on force readiness.

We have an opportunity to improve the health and well-being of service members, past and present, military Families and military communities as a whole. To achieve this outcome, health promotion and wellness initiatives should be focused on influencing behavior throughout the "life space" – the 525,500 minutes in a year that Soldiers and retirees, their Family members and Army civilians are not seeing a health care provider.

One critical component of this complex issue is ensuring the affordability of and access to healthier food options. This initiative is aligned with the National Prevention Strategy's Healthy Eating strategic priority. The question of whether healthy foods are really more expensive is explored in the May 2012 U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service report titled, "Are Healthy Foods



According to a recent Army study, "Too Fat to Fight," 27 percent of all Americans 17 to 24 years of age are too heavy to join the military.

Really More Expensive? It Depends On How You Measure the Price."

In the report, authors Andrea Carlson and Elizabeth Frazão compare prices of healthy and less-healthy foods using three different measures: the price per calorie, the price per unit of edible weight, and the price of an average portion. They also calculate the daily cost of meeting the food group recommendations on the ChooseMyPlate.gov website. For all metrics except the price of food per calorie, the authors find that healthy foods cost less than less healthy foods (defined for this study as foods that are high in saturated fat, add-

ed sugar, and/or sodium, or that contribute little to meeting dietary recommendations).

The fight against obesity can only be won by promoting environmental changes, wellness activities, policies that support healthy behaviors and staying engaged in current best practices that can help prevent and reduce obesity.

For more information on the USDA Economic Research Service report, visit: U.S. Department of Agriculture, www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib96.

Col. Heidi Warrington
U.S. Army Public Health Command

Holiday worship schedule

AA CHAPEL (Aberdeen Area)
CATHOLIC MASS
Sat, Dec 8.....Holy Day/Obligation 1145/1730
Sun, Dec 9.....2nd Sunday of Advent 0845
Sat, Dec 15.....Hispanic Mass/Social 1730
Sun, Dec 16.....3rd Sunday of Advent 0845
Wed, Dec 19.....Penance Service 1730
Sun, Dec 23.....4th Sunday of Advent 0845
Mon, Dec 24.....Christmas Caroling 2330
Mon, Dec 24.....Midnight Mass 2400
Tues, Dec 25.....Christmas Mass 0845
Sun, Dec 30.....5th Sunday of Advent 0845
Mon, Dec 31.....Holy Day/Obligation 1730
Tues, Jan 1.....Holy Day/Obligation 1145

PROTESTANT WORSHIP
Sun, Dec 9.....2nd Advent/Cantata 1015
Sun, Dec 16.....3rd Sunday of Advent 1015
Sun, Dec 23.....4th Sunday of Advent 1015
Sun, Dec 30.....5th Sunday of Advent 1015
GOSPEL WORSHIP
Sun, Dec 9.....2nd Sunday of Advent 1200
Sun, Dec 16.....3rd Sunday of Advent 1200
Sun, Dec 23.....Dance/Drama Play 1200
Sun, Dec 30.....5th Sunday of Advent 1200
Mon, Dec 31.....Watch Night Service 2200

EA CHAPEL (Edgewood Area)
CATHOLIC MASS
Sat, Dec 8.....Holy Day/Obligation 1200
Sun, Dec 9.....2nd Sunday of Advent 1045
Sun, Dec 16.....3rd Sunday of Advent 1045
Sat, Dec 22.....Stable Liturgy 1700
Sun, Dec 23.....4th Sunday of Advent 1045
Tues, Dec 25.....Christmas Day Mass 1045
Sun, Dec 30.....5th Sunday of Advent 1045
Tues, Jan 1.....Holy Day/Obligation 1200
PROTESTANT WORSHIP
Sun, Dec 9.....2nd Sunday of Advent 0915
Sun, Dec 16.....3rd Sunday of Advent 0915
Sun, Dec 23.....4th Sunday of Advent 0915
Sun, Dec 30.....5th Sunday of Advent 0915

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



44°|36°

Fri



49°|46°

Sat



60°|47°

Sun



56°|49°

Mon



61°|46°

Tue



54°|36°

Wed



46°|34°

APG NEWS

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

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Photo by Pat Beauchamp

Educating the force

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, AMC, speaks to hundreds of noncommissioned officers and Team APG members at the Post Theater during his Nov. 30 visit to Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., AMC impacts or has a presence in all 50 states and 150 countries. Many of AMC's 70,000 Soldiers and employees work at APG in weapons development, manufacturing and logistics.

During his presentation, Riling discussed what makes a unit great and the need to conduct realistic maneuver training at night without interfering source light pollution, which is especially important "because the Army uses night capabilities to its advantage." He also talked about Army drawdown and restructuring plans, noting that the Army is reducing the active forces from a post-9/11 peak of about 570,000 troops in 2010 to 490,000 Soldiers by the end of 2017.



**MORE
ONLINE**



To view more photos of events going on at and around the U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground, visit the garrison Flickr site <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/> or scan the QR code.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FRIDAY

DEC. 7 HOLIDAY BY THE BAY

All Picerne Military Housing residents are invited to celebrate the holiday season with neighbors and the Picerne team at the third annual Holiday by the Bay. The event is free for residents and will be held at 2727 Chesapeake Blvd. from 6 to 9 p.m.

Attendees can enjoy holiday music and treats, sip a warm cup of hot chocolate, work on crafts at Santa's Workshop, take a picture with Santa, or simply celebrate the season with Family and friends.

Call 410-305-1076 for more information.

HOLIDAY VARIETY SHOW

Don't miss the ultimate holiday office party—an anything-goes variety show at the APG North recreation center. The party starts 6 p.m. and the show starts 7 p.m. Call 410-278-4011 for information.

OPEN REC

The APG North Youth Center invites all high school students to its free Open Rec for Teens every Friday night from 6 p.m. to midnight. Meet new friends, shoot hoops or play pool. Bring up to two non-DoD friends to join in the fun. Call 410-278-4995.

SATURDAY

DEC. 8 FREE SKATING AT ICE WORLD

Enjoy free admission courtesy of CWF from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. Bring your own skates or rent them. Advance reservations required. For more information or to make reservations, contact Patti Harkins, Civilian Welfare Fund Office, at 410-436-4467 or e-mail patricia.e.harkins.naf@mail.mil.

NYC DAY TRIP

Take part in an eight-hour, do-it-yourself trip to the Big Apple, from 7:55 a.m. until return. The bus departs Mountain Road Park and Ride at 7:55 a.m. To reserve seats, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil. For NYC info, visit www.nyc-tour.com.

ARMY – NAVY GAME

Don't miss the military game of the year in Philadelphia, Pa., from 8 a.m. until return. For information, call 410-278-4011/4907, or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Students are introduced to classroom etiquette, basic rhythm and movement skills, and developing gross motor skills at the APG North youth center from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays through Dec. 15.

For more information, e-mail lauren.e.kateley.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-4589.

SUNDAY

DEC. 9 SIMPLY SPECIAL BOWLING

Bowling for patrons with disabilities is set from 10:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. For more information, call 410-278-4041.

TUESDAY

DEC. 11 APG WINTERFEST

Bring the Family and come celebrate winter and the holiday season during the APG Winterfest, 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center. Enjoy the Hoppin Hawks puppet show and other live entertainment, photos with Santa, tree lighting, caroling, kid's activities, holiday craft vendors, holiday refreshments, a Ginger Bread House contest, an Ugly Sweater Contest and more. View contest rules online at www.apgmwr.com. The North Side Grille will open late for additional food choices. Admission is free. For more information, call the MWR Leisure Travel Office at 410-278-4011/3854.

FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

Attend from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the ACS Bldg. 2503. Bring your own lunch. To enroll, call ACS at 410-278-9669.

Cancellations

In order to support an industry day conference, the APG North athletic center, Bldg. 3300, and APG North recreation center, Bldg. 3326, will be closed through Dec. 7. As a result, fitness classes normally scheduled at both facilities will be cancelled during this time.

Patrons can use the APG North fitness center, Bldg. 320, from 5 a.m. - 8 p.m. or APG South's Hoyle Gym, Bldg. E4210, from 5 a.m. - 8 p.m. Both facilities are open to eligible patrons on a first-come, first-serve basis. Spin classes at the APG North fitness center will be held throughout the week as scheduled.

Additionally, in order to support the Winterfest operations, the APG North recreation center will cancel the Dec. 11 yoga class from 4:45-5:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

DEC. 12 STRESS MANAGEMENT CLASS

APG is offering a Stress Management class from noon to 1 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel, Classroom 3. Come learn how to manage work-related stress associated with the holidays. Registration is required. To register, or for more information, contact Gale Sauer at 443-861-9260 or e-mail gale.m.sauer.ctr@mail.mil.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

DEC. 11-12 BJ'S MEMBERSHIP

The CWF will sponsor discounted BJ's Membership Sign-up days as follows: Dec. 11 at the APG South Stark Recreation Center from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Dec. 12 at the APG Bowling Center from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. \$40 for the Inner Circle Membership and \$80 for the Rewards Membership plus three bonus months and second card free. Cash, check and all forms of charge accepted. Call 410-436-4467 or e-mail patricia.e.harkins.naf@mail.mil

COLLEGE PAGES FOR TEENS

Participants will learn how to successfully navigate through information on college homepages, such as financial aid, course selection and admission requirements. For ages 14-18 from 6 to 7 p.m. Cost is free.

For more information, contact jay.a.mckinney.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-3250.

THURSDAY

DEC. 13 REUNION & REINTEGRATION

The community is invited to Reunion and Reintegration training at the Aberdeen main post chapel. In partnership with military chaplains, Behavioral Health Care Services, and Military Family Life Consultants, active duty Soldiers, DA civilians and Family members can share info, learn from one another, and gather the skills and resources that will assist them with reuniting and transitioning as a Family.

THROUGH

DEC. 13 HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

Donations can be dropped off at ACS Bldg. 2503 through Dec. 13. Cash and check donations accepted. Call 410-278-2861 for information, or 410-306-4515 for monetary donations.

WEEKEND

DEC. 14-15 VA OPEN HOUSE

The public is invited to a holiday open house, hosted by Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System, and tours of the Perry Point VA Medical Center's historic Mansion House, 501 Fifth Street, located in the village housing area of the Perry Point VA Medical Center from 1 to 7 p.m.

In addition to touring the historic Perry Point Mansion House, participants can learn about the unique historical significance of the Perry Point campus. Special music will be provided by pianist Kara Iwanowski, who has performed with the Harford County Orchestra, Dec. 14 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Dec. 15 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served. Call Margaret Hornberger at 410-642-2411, ext. 5407 for information.

SATURDAY

DEC. 15 HOLIDAY PARTY

The community is invited to the APG holiday party at the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center 5 - 9 p.m. Bring a covered dish and a 2-liter beverage or juice. Wear your ugliest holiday sweater for the ugliest sweater contest. Or compete in

the holiday cake decorating contest. This event is family friendly. RSVP by Dec. 13 at APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil. Call 410-436-2713 for information.

WEEK OF

DEC. 17 DECORATING CONTEST

Picerne Military Housing invites its on-post residents to participate in the annual holiday decorating contest.

Judges will tour the family housing areas and choose the best decorated yards in each of the neighborhoods beginning the week of Dec. 17. Each winner will be chosen based on creativity and overall impression, and will be given a gift card.

THURSDAY

DEC. 20 SAME MEETING SET

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post December meeting will be at the Wetland Golf Club in Aberdeen at 11:30 a.m. This month's featured speaker is Tim Whittie, Harford County DPW, who will present "Harford County Watershed Implementation Plan and the Impacts to the County." Register at <http://www.same-chesapeake.org>. Call 410-638-9699 for information.

MONDAY

DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

All are invited to the Christmas Eve candlelight service and cantata at the APG North main post chapel. Call 410-278-4333 for information.

ONGOING NOT TOO LATE!

CFC donations are still being sought, and there is still time to make a difference by donating to the Combined Federal Campaign, which runs through Dec. 14. You can help APG reach its goal of raising \$650,000 by making a contribution today! One-time donations can be made by credit or debit card on the CFC NEXUS website, www.cfcnexus.org/_chesapeake/. Federal employees can donate via payroll deductions online or by paper pledge. For more information, call Tom Johnson at 410-278-6456. Visit www.cbafc.org to view the 2012 Contributor's Guide.

UFOOD GRILL OFFERS CALL-IN, ONLINE ORDERS AND CATERING

Want healthy fast food? Avoid the wait by calling in orders at the UFood Grill Main Exchange location, 443-345-1542, or the C4ISR, Bldg. 6010 location, 443-345-4663. Orders will be ready for pick-up in 10 minutes or less.

The 6010 UFood Grill also offers online ordering. Place an order by visiting www.ufoodgrill.com, select APG, and designate a time for pick-up.

Planning an event? UFood Grill offers lunch box meals, sandwich, cookie, and muffin platters, and will deliver. For more information, call General Manager Abdel Warrad at 617-962-7114.

PIANO & GUITAR LESSONS

Each class is a one-on-one, 30-minute session for seven or eight weeks, once a week. Parents choose a time between 3 and 9 p.m. when they register their children. Open to all DoD ID cardholders. To register, visit Central Registration or call 410-278-7479/7571. For information, email lauren.e.kateley.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-4589.

YOUTH CENTER FINE ARTS EXHIBIT

Creative APG youth can participate in the annual Fine Arts Exhibit, an art competition open to eligible APG North (Aberdeen) youth center members in conjunction with the Boys and

Girls Clubs of America.

Artwork must be entered in age groups 6 - 9, 10 - 12, 13 - 15, and 16 - 18 in the following categories:

Monochromatic Drawing; Multicolored Drawing; Pastel; Watercolor; Oil or Acrylic; Printmaking; Mixed Media; Collage; Sculpture; and Group Project. There is no theme or age designation for the Group Project.

All artwork must be submitted to Evette Griffen not later than Thursday, Dec. 20. For contest rules and guidelines, contact Griffen at 410-278-9061.

For more information, contact Norma Warwick, facility director, APG North (Aberdeen) youth center, at 410-278-9059, e-mail norma.a.warwick.naf@mail.mil.

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Don't miss it at Sutherland Grille on Sundays, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cost of \$ 9.95 includes all your favorite breakfast items. Menu includes a "create your own" omelet and waffle station. Lunch items and salad bar also included.

Sunday Brunch will not be offered Dec. 23 and 30. Call 410-278-4794 for reservation; email Richard bond for information: richard.j.bond10.naf@mail.mil

EXCHANGE, COMMISSARY HOLIDAY HOURS

The Main Exchange (PX) hours will expand on Fridays and Saturdays through Christmas. Friday hours will be 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The commissary will be open Monday, Dec. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Monday, Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MWR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Check the APG News or the APG MWR website at www.apgmwr.com to view the business hours of your favorite MWR facilities during the holidays. The list includes the APG gyms and fitness center; ACS; CYSS; APG recreation centers; bowling center; Auto Skills Shop; Outdoor Recreation and equipment rental center; library; Leisure Travel; North Side Grill (1st Sgt. Barbecue); South Side Grill; Top of the Bay; Sutherland Grill; Donnas' Pit Beef; Exton Café; and Ruggles Golf Course.

Information also will be posted at:

- apg.army.mil
- apgnews.apg.army.mil
- apg.armylive.dodlive.mil/
- [Facebook.com/APGmd](https://www.facebook.com/APGmd)
- [Twitter.com/USAGAPG](https://twitter.com/USAGAPG)
- Channel 97

UNIQUE ORNAMENT SALE

The APG Military and Civilian Community Club has commissioned a unique 3D gold Christmas ornament featuring the Pooles Island Lighthouse and a soaring American eagle. Proceeds from the sale of the \$15 ornament will go directly to the club's scholarship fund. Contact Sue Nappi at suenappi@yahoo.com to get your ornament! In addition to holiday gift-giving, the ornament can be presented throughout the year to retiring civilians or to service members in commemoration of time served at APG.

MONDAYS

APG THEATER GROUP

The APG Theater Group meets Mondays from 6-7:30 p.m. in the APG North recreation center. If you're an actor, singer, dancer, comedian, musician, or interested in becoming part of the stage crew, come out and join in the fun. To sign up, call 410-278-4011/4907 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

THURSDAYS SOCIAL HOUR

Socialize, network or just unwind with fellow Soldiers, coworkers, friends and Family while enjoying good food, music and camaraderie during Thursday Socials, 4 to 7 p.m., in the Top of the Bay Gunpowder Lounge.

Thursday Socials include complimentary light refreshments and a cash bar with additional fare for sale.

For more information, contact Teri Hall at 410-278-3062.



MORE ONLINE

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

Keep kids safe with tips, common sense

By **AMY COWELL**,
U.S. Army Public Health Command

The holiday season is upon us and for some it means the stress and anxiety of battling last minute crowds at the mall, frantically cleaning for visiting in-laws and agonizing over preparations for the perfect holiday meal.

But not you, you are a holiday planning superstar, and your perfectly planned holiday checklist has been finished for weeks. Your halls are decked, your stockings are hung by the chimney with care and all of your gifts follow the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's recommendations for safe toys and gifts.

Wait, you haven't done the last one? Maybe you're not the holiday planning superstar you think you are, or maybe you aren't aware of the serious risks involved in giving unsafe holiday toys and gifts. In 2007, the CPSC reported 18 toy-related deaths and an estimated 170,100 hospital emergency-room treated injuries to children under 15. Although these consequences are real, prevention is as simple as following a few safety guidelines when shopping for the perfect holiday gift.

The CPSC recommends the following toy safety shopping tips:

Healthy Living

www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/ click on Well Being

Under 3 Years Old

- Children under 3 tend to put everything in their mouths. Avoid buying toys intended for older children that may have small parts that pose a choking danger.

- Never let children of any age play with deflated or broken balloons because of the choking danger.

- Avoid marbles, balls and games with balls that have a diameter of 1.75 inches or less. These products also pose a choking hazard to young children.

- Children at this age pull, prod and twist toys. Look for toys that are well-made with tightly secured eyes, noses and other parts.

- Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

Ages 3 to 5

- Avoid toys that are constructed

with thin, brittle plastic that might easily break into small pieces or leave jagged edges.

- Look for household art materials, including crayons and paint sets, marked with the designation "ASTM D-4236." This means the product has been reviewed for chronic health hazards and, if necessary, the product has been labeled with cautionary information.

- Teach older children to keep their toys away from their younger brothers and sisters.

Ages 6-12

- For all children, adults should check toys periodically for breakage and potential hazards. Damaged or dangerous toys should be repaired or thrown away.

- If buying a toy gun, be sure the barrel, or the entire gun, is brightly colored so that it's not mistaken for a

real gun.

- If you buy a bicycle for any age child, buy a helmet too, and make sure the child wears it.

- Teach all children to put toys away when they're finished playing so they don't trip over them or fall on them.

... And always READ THE LABEL

The CPSC requires toy manufacturers to meet stringent safety standards and to label certain toys that could be a hazard for younger children. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide. Labels on toys that state "not recommended for children under 3 ... contains small parts," are labeled that way because they may pose a choking hazard to children under 3. Toys should be developmentally appropriate to suit the skills, abilities and interests of the child.

The CPSC oversees the safety of toys and many other consumer products. For more information about purchasing safe toys and gifts, go to:

- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Toll-Free Hotline, 1-800-638-2772

- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, www.cpsc.gov

Weather preparation

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apg.army.mil/apghome/; WAPG Comcast Channel 97 and on installation social media sites – www.facebook.com/APGmd and www.twitter.com/USAGAPG.

Employees can also call the APG weather hotline at 410-278-SNOW (7669) and check local radio and TV stations for status updates. (See the radio and TV list below.)

"Personnel who are unsure about reporting to work, should contact their supervisor for specific information and guidance," DeOliveira said.

He also recommended that the workforce and residents start assembling emergency supply kits to be ready for weather emergencies.

"After what happened in the Northeast after Hurricane Sandy,

it just doesn't make sense not to be ready," he said.

- Learn more about emergency preparedness at:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency - www.ready.gov

- Harford County Emergency Management Agency - <http://harfordpublicsafety.org>

- Maryland Emergency Management Agency - <http://mema.maryland.gov>

- Cecil County Department of Emergency Services - <http://www.ccdes.org/emergencymanagement.cfm>

- Delaware Emergency Management Agency - <http://dema.delaware.gov/>

- Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency - <http://www.pema.state.pa.us/>

Know where to go for latest updates

Station	Frequency	Location
WARM	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WCAO	AM 600	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WJZ-FM	FM 105.7	Baltimore
WJZ-AM	AM 1300	Baltimore
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WLIF	FM 101.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WQSR	FM 102.7	Baltimore
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WXCX	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WZFT	FM 104.3	Baltimore
WBAL-TV	Channel 11 www.wbalte.com	Baltimore
WMAR-TV	Channel 2 www.abc2news.com	Baltimore
WBFF-TV	Channel 45 www.foxbaltimore.com	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13 http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/	Baltimore
Harford Cable Network	21-Comcast/31-Verizon www.harfordcountymd.gov/hcr/	Harford County



At your service

Buck Pugh MWR Recreation Aide

Meet MWR Recreation Aide **Buck Pugh** of the APG North (Aberdeen) Fitness Center, Bldg. 320.

Pugh assists with the opening and closing of the center and along with Recreation Aide Michael Bennett, advises customers on the use of exercise equipment. The center contains aerobic, cardiovascular and Nautilus equipment as well as free weights. It also offers spinning classes twice daily, 6 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

“Spinning is meant to create an Olympic-style cardiovascular workout,” Pugh said. He said the best part of his job is working with people

and helping them achieve their goals. “Just seeing their smiles every day makes me strive harder.”

The fitness center contains men’s and women’s locker rooms with showers and towels and flat-screen TVs that allow patrons to watch their favorite news or sportscasts while working out. The center is open to active-duty military, retirees, government civilians and contractors, and their Family members. Hours are 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Thursday; closed Friday and weekends. For information, call 410-278-9725 or visit www.apgmwr.com.

Leave Donations

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For info, contact Cathy Davis at 410-306-0152 or cathy.a.davis4.civ@mail.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Audrey Alba
Charlone Antoine
Daniel Arnold
Sarah Blevins
John Brady
Allyn Camp
Elizabeth Clein
Sarah Collier
Victoria Cwiertnie
Karen Donahue
Meg Downey
Charlene Drumheller
Francis Dull
Joanne Eberhardt
John Eppinger
Brooke Freeman-Badiane
Cheryl France-Haff
Natalie Grenoble
Rachel Grundei

Batra Indra
Sarah Ingram
Mark Johnson
Gale Keshishian
Betty May
Robert Merritt
Elizabeth Olo
Lina Osoria
Suzette Owens
Jamie Pintilie
Pedro Rodriguez
Alicia Scales
Kathy Sereni
Lena Shelton
Debra Smith
Deborah R. Smith
Dang Tam
Kimber Todd
Tammy Woodard
Trier Young



Want to make a difference in how services are rendered at APG? Tell us how we are doing. Visit <http://ice.disa.mil>.

Click on “ARMY” then “Aberdeen Proving Ground.”

AMC commander eyes challenges

Continued from Page 1

and training.

Via said he plans to visit all of his major commands' posts, depots and activities. In doing so, he has spent a great deal of time traveling during the first 100 days of his command. Via said he is impressed with what he has seen so far and credits the people of AMC.

"AMC is not the same organization it was 10 years ago," said Via. "We have organizations today that didn't exist in 2006. I would dare to say we won't be the same organization in 2015 or 2020. That includes CMA, CECOM, RDECOM, even the Garrison here. Things are changing here."

During the visit Gen. Via toured several unique facilities including laboratories like the Joint On-demand Interoperability Network (JOIN). The JOIN provides a distributed test environment for combatant commands, military services, inter-agency, multinational and coalition partners. It

allows these groups to collaborate and forge new avenues for joint interoperability communications to meet the demands of the future operational environment, according to John Kahler, JOIN Chief.

Via said he remembered the JOIN from its former location at Fort Monmouth, N.J. and was impressed with the improvements that occurred with the move to Aberdeen Proving Ground and the construction of the new facility.

Via capped the day with a Town Hall Meeting at the Post Theater where he discussed the way ahead for AMC discussing the organization's priorities, challenges, and opportunities. Via said AMC's top priority must be support to the Joint Warfighter. Among his other priorities were setting conditions successful transition to sustainment.

Via said, "We can't wait until it happens. We must set the conditions now,

even while we continue to support combat operations. It's no different than setting the conditions for successful BRAC relocations while we're still supporting the wars." CECOM had what has been lauded as one of the most successful BRAC moves in the entire Department of Defense with nearly 70 percent of the personnel relocating from Fort Monmouth, N.J., to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Among what Via thought were challenges on the horizon for AMC and her major subordinate commands were the next contingency operation and resetting the Army after 11 years of sustained combat operations.

"We have to make sure we are resetting the right equipment for the next contingency, for the next mission..." said Via. "...that we are getting it [equipment] to the arsenals and depots and back to the units so they can regenerate combat readiness to

be prepared to deploy for whatever comes next."

But along with the challenges Via said he always sees the silver lining and tremendous opportunities. One of the key opportunities he said AMC has is the trust the command has built with the Warfighter over the years.

"The Warfighter knows what we'll deliver," said Via. He said the AMC patch is well recognized on the battlefield. People know they can count on AMC to deliver. "AMC is an operationalized command now. We're down at the installation level—down in brigade combat teams and at the company level. We have a capability we didn't have before."

Ending as he began his presentation, Gen. Via said, "Thank you. You are part of a winning team. There is nowhere at which that is more demonstrated than right here at Aberdeen Proving Ground."

AFAP program still 'alive and well'

Continued from Page 1

Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton, and Gloria Dent, wife of CECOM CSM and the honorary president of the APG Community Women's Club, on a post tour.

During the tour, she spent time at the newly constructed Bayside Child Development Center, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and the dental clinic. At Kirk, Via toured the clinics' reconstruction and was briefed on the installation's Health and Wellness Program before being treated to a high-tech massage in the facility's wellness center.

During a stop at the Army Community Service building, the installation's recently arrived ACS Chief Janice Downing held a roundtable with Via, giving Gold Star Families and spouses of deployed service members an opportunity to address the AMC commander's wife.

Roundtable topics included resiliency training, Survivor Outreach Services, the installation's Exceptional Family Member Program and Employment Readiness.

Via expressed her appreciation to attendees for sharing their stories with her, and encouraged them to take full advantage of the services and referral resources ACS offers.

At the Sutherland Grille at Ruggles Golf Course, Via participated in a senior spouses luncheon. During the luncheon, Harford County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Robert Tomback praised the partnership between county schools and Team APG. He spoke of the ongoing collaboration between the schools and APG professionals, who provide local students practical experience in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects.

APG provides mentors at all school levels, hosts STEM nights and math and science camps, and sends speakers throughout the county. APG reaches about 25,000 students annually in the region, and another 15,000 nationally through the Army-run, RDECOM-hosted, middle school science program called E-Cyber Mission.

"That happens because the APG leadership understands," said Tomback. "The folks here are willing to set aside what they're doing—keeping us safe and secure—no small task, but they're willing because not only do they have interest, but they understand that it's a part of their mission."

Expressing his appreciation, Tomback said the APG leadership and schools both understand how crucial STEM education is to the future of the Army and our nation.

During her speech, Via talked to the spouses about building resilience and heard from a Gold Star wife seeking assistance for a Family member. She also encouraged members to put to good use grassroots programs like the Army Family Action Plan. Via said of a recent AFAP meeting at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., "the process is still alive and well, here and in other places."

She noted the many policy and legislative changes that have come about as a result of feedback during the AFAP process.

"Senior leaders do listen," said Via, "so if there are opportunities for you to tap into the process, I encourage you to do so."

Via also received a bus tour of the newly constructed military housing before attending the installation's town hall meeting.

Community gathers for cultural exchange

Continued from Page 1

listeners how tribes along the Chesapeake survived by adapting to change and befriending other tribes.

"This speaks to the very heart of what it is to be a Soldier," he said. "We are proud of those who came before us, we appreciate tradition and we know how to adapt."

He introduced Street as a proud member of the Delaware Tribe noting that the Nanticoke Museum has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

Street talked about the Nanticoke tribes along the Chesapeake prior to Capt. John Smith's exploration of the area; the impact of European settlers; and the eventual assimilation of the Nanticoke tribes into their culture.

Street said his ancestors lived in wigwams and long houses along the Nanticoke River, not far from the Susquehanna which was controlled by the Iroquois. They grew their own food, fished and hunted. He said that every part of the deer was used by the tribes; what wasn't eaten was used to make clothing and tools. Their dugout canoes were made from trees and their heavier tools were made from stone.

"We took full use of all of the nat-

ural resources that we had," he said. "We were happy and had plenty of food like fish, wild turkey and geese."

Street said all of that changed with the Smith exploration in 1608. Later, European settlers came and disrupted their way of life.

"They brought chickens, pigs and cows and we had never seen any before," he said. "As they animals over ran the hunting areas, the Nanticoke complained. Eventually, reservations sprang up and those tribes that migrated inland from the Eastern Shore in the 1700s either took to the reservations or moved north where the Iroquois welcomed them."

"After that we started assimilating because we had no other choice," Street said.

Eventually the Nanticoke built schools that went up to the 8th grade. A dictionary of the Nanticoke language survives because President Thomas Jefferson sent an emissary to live among the Nanticoke to make note of their dialect.

"We were the first to lose our language," Street said.

He invited listeners to visit the area Dec. 7-8 for their 36th annual Pow Wow.

"This event draws 15 to 20,000 visitors," he said. "It's a testament to the fact that we are still here and we are still contributing."

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Street is retired from the Delmarva Power & Light Company.

ATEC Commander Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco thanked Street on behalf of APG commanders. While presenting Street with an ATEC Coin of Excellence, Dellarocco revealed that he too grew up in the area and that he has "as sliver of Mohawk" in his ancestry.

Entertainment included dancing by members of the Nanticoke Indian Association led by Linda Wright, a traditional dancer.

Wright thanked Dellarocco and Beharie and said the group was "honored."

"We offer our thanks for the service men and women out there protecting us today," she said.

The program ended with a group dance led by Wright featuring Nanticoke Indian Association dancers and members of the audience including Dellarocco; Beharie; Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, 20th Support Command (CBRNE); Installation and CECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Kennis Dent; and

Sgt. Maj. David Puig, 20th Spt. Cmd.

Renesha Robinson of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command sang the national anthem and Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan Morse closed with a prayer: "Let us be a blessing to every path we may cross and bring us back together when the time is right. Go forth in peace."

After the program, guests were served a sampling of buffalo burgers, Indian black bean soup, Indian fry bread with honey, Cherokee chicken and Indian pudding.

"It was outstanding," said Joan Beckett-Armstrong of CECOM, when asked about the event. "I really enjoyed the dancing. It made me think about the commonalities we have in many different ways with so many other cultures."

Bernard Guidos of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, said he also "liked it a lot."

"The whole mood was relaxing. I'm not able to make a lot of the programs due to the mission but I liked the whole idea of bringing everybody together; the universal perspective."

View more photos on the APG Flickr site at www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg.

Local light display dazzles young and old

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Every year during the holidays, Meriwether Post Pavilion in Columbia, Md., glows with more than 70 larger-than-life animated and stationary holiday light creations made up of a quarter-million bulbs.

The must-see-it-to-believe-it Symphony of Lights is a 20-minute, drive-through display that attracts more than 100,000 attendees each year.

“Visitors of all ages will be dazzled by the fantasy of color, design and animation as they take a 1.4-mile scenic drive in the comfort of their vehicles through a series of grand illuminated displays set against a natural wooded backdrop,” said Victoria Khomutetsky, an events and fundraising associate with Howard Hospital Foundation, which hosts the activity.

Motorists can tune into a designated FM radio frequency and enjoy holiday tunes during their drive.

Special events include the Dec. 6 Blinking Binkies, a Family friendly walk through the lights; the Dec. 11 Tail Lights, a pet-friendly evening for dogs and their owners; Dec. 13 Military Appreciation Night, during which vehicles receive \$10 off the cost of admission with military IDs; and Midnight at 7, a New Years Eve family celebration that culminates in fireworks at 7 p.m.

“This event is early enough so that little ones can enjoy the festivities,” Khomutetsky said.

Midnight at 7 starts at 5 p.m. Dec. 31, and includes a walk through the Symphony of Lights, a bonfire, food vendors, music, party favors and more.



Visitors to the Symphony of Lights in Columbia, Md., are treated to more than 70 animated and stationary light creations, like this toy factory light display.

Admission to Symphony of Lights is \$20 per car or van up to eight passengers; \$45 for commercial vans and buses seating nine to 24 people; and \$125 for buses exceeding 24 passengers. No pre-registration necessary. Cash admission collected at entrance.

Symphony of Lights runs through Jan. 6, seven days a week, from 6 to 10 p.m., including holidays except Dec. 31, during the Midnight at 7 event.

For more information, call 410-740-7840 or visit www.hcgh.org/symphonyoflights. Coupons are

available on the event website and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/symphonyoflightsfestivities.

Symphony of Lights is a fundraising event for Howard County General Hospital, and has raised more than \$1 million since it began 18 years ago.

APG hosts variety of fun holiday happenings

Compiled by Rachel Ponder

Looking for something festive to do this holiday season? Reconnect with Family and friends by celebrating traditions or experiencing something new. Below is a list of holiday events at APG. This listing may not be all inclusive, but it is a good starting point and most of the events are free. Happy Holidays from the APG News staff!

APG Decorating Contest

Picerne Military Housing invites its residents to participate in a holiday decorating contest. Judging will take place beginning the week of Dec. 17. Judges will tour the family housing areas and choose the best decorated yards in each of the neighborhoods. The winner for each neighborhood will receive a gift card and will be chosen based on the creativity and overall impression of their yard.

For info: 410-305-1076

The Ultimate Anything Goes Holiday Office Party

APG Theater Group invites you to The Ultimate Anything Goes Holiday Office Party, a variety show guaranteed to tickle you right down to your mistletoes. Cash bar and light fare.

Date: Dec. 7. Doors open 6 p.m., show time is 7 p.m.

Location: APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center

Price: Free

For info: 410-278-4011/3854

Holiday by the Bay

Picerne Military Housing residents can celebrate the holiday season with neighbors and the Picerne team at the third annual Holiday by the Bay at the Neighborhood Office, 2727 Chesapeake Blvd. Enjoy holiday music, sip a cup of

hot chocolate, enjoy holiday treats and make crafts, and take a picture with Santa.

Date: Dec. 7, 6 to 9 p.m.

For more information: 410-305-1076

APG Winterfest (formerly the installation tree lighting ceremony)

Enjoy live entertainment, photos with Santa, tree lighting, caroling, gingerbread house contest, holiday crafts vendors, children's activities, ugly sweater contest, food and more.

Date: Dec. 11, 4 to 7 p.m.

Location: APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center

Price: Free

APG South Community Christmas Party

Fun Family activities, including a cake decorating contest, ugly sweat-

er contest and more! Bring a covered dish and soda or juice.

Date: Dec. 15, 5 to 9 p.m.

Location: APG South (Edgewood) recreation center, Bldg. E4140

Price: Free

Phone: 410-278-2621

Email: RVSP to APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil by Dec. 13.

New Year's Eve on the Bay

Enjoy dinner, music, dancing, champagne toast, and breakfast buffet.

Date: Dec. 31, 7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Location: Top of the Bay

Price: \$55

Phone: 410-278-2552

Website: Visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/events.html> to register by Dec. 17

Budnick farewells his lifelong dream

Continued from Page 1

what you're told," he said of the process. Even after training with the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, he said it took four-to-six months "before you went out on the fire trucks."

Budnick had four or five years experience under his belt when he came to APG. He started in the former post fire station at Bldg. 300 at the intersection of Collieran Road and Aberdeen Boulevard. He said the department was actually larger then and, like today, self-improvement through training was strongly encouraged.

"I was learning and doing the right things for a lot of years and at the same time I was offered some tremendous opportunities," he said, adding that his rise through the ranks was propelled through acquiring the right skill sets, being in the right place at the right time and having good leaders who pointed him in the right direction.

"I was living an early lifelong dream," he said. "The volunteer system fed my interest even more plus I was working close to home. I couldn't have waltzed into a better job."

He said many of the policies, rules and philosophies in force today were brought into play by his mentors and predecessors.

"We stay in full support of the community," he said. "My predecessor preached that for a long time and I uphold that, and because of that, this organization has a pretty strong foundation."

He said his mentors include Chief Charles Jones and Chief D.B. Smith whose grandson David is an assistant chief in the department.

"I learned a lot from those guys. They wouldn't just tell you what was

You find the firefighting tradition in a lot of Families. I don't think there was a moment I wanted to do anything else. It's an amazing calling.

Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire Chief Edward C. (Ed) Budnick

important, they would always explain why it was important. They were icons. I can't say we agreed on everything but I learned and developed a lot under their guidance."

With more than 90 tenant missions on the installation, APG firefighters and emergency medical responders – as well as police officers – in the Directorate of Emergency Services have to be trained to cover the gamut of emergency response, Budnick said.

"There is never a boring day. We've done everything from cutting people out of cars to rescuing baby ducklings out of storm drains."

Support from the APG Garrison and its tenants has always been tremendous, he said, adding, "They really understand what safety is all about and we definitely have the support we need to do our jobs."

"There are so many moving parts to this job. From Carol Miller [his administrative assistant] to the garrison commander, I would be miserable without the support of subordinates and superiors. Regardless of the changes around DES, we focus on and are committed to serving the community. We've been doing that a long time, and that won't change."

Community outreach is a big part of the DES firefighter mission, he added.

"We push every opportunity to be with the public and to get the safety message out in the media. From fire prevention to CPR (cardiopulmonary

resuscitation), we go to the youth centers, the chapels and to mission sites to reinforce the message, so we have an informed public. Why? Because it has proven to save lives. It's a system that works from the minute you dial 911 until responders arrive on the scene. But if one part of the system is under trained, it won't work."

Advancements in technology have hands-down delivered the biggest changes in firefighting over the years, Budnick said

"Firefighting today is a lot more technical. There are different hazards and tons more training and compliance requirements. It's become a highly technical occupation. There are a lot more rules and regulations and they're constantly changing," he said.

The most positive change has been in the way protective equipment has evolved into much safer equipment for firefighters, he added.

Advancements in high-level breathing apparatus; fire engines with air bags and rollover protection and other advanced safety features are just some of the innovations created for firefighter safety.

"Every day there's some new technology. Even the trucks are more advanced. But it's all for the best because overall these technological advancements afford us the ability to be safer."

He said that even more emphasis is being placed on physical fitness.

"Firefighter fitness is a high priority. It's a rigorous job that definitely takes its toll on the body."

The older guys are struggling but the younger guys are loving it," he chuckled.

Budnick said he can't say enough about his staff and crew. Several have won hero awards while others performing heroic acts have gone largely unrecognized. But firefighters aren't in it for the recognition, he said.

Drawing a parallel between his cadre and the firefighters lost on Sept. 11, 2001, Budnick said they shared the same philosophy.

"I've seen guys risk their lives for total strangers," he said. "And every one of my guys would have done the same thing if it had been a building on APG. There are so many people I just consider exceptional," he added. "They are so committed, they just don't give up. Our mindset is, if we don't do it, who will. And we feel like it won't be as good an outcome if we're not involved. It's about making a difference. Many are out there doing it without compensation. They're a special breed."

Budnick said while he plans to do more fishing, he will also continue teaching classes at the MFRI in APG South (Edgewood) and volunteer with the Aberdeen Fire Department. He also plans to spend more time with wife Kim, sons Scott and Terry, and grandchildren Braden, 5, and Jayce, 3.

Budnick said he well realizes that they could grow up to become firefighters. The probability is in his favor.

"You find the firefighting tradition in a lot of families. I don't think there was a moment I wanted to do anything else. It's an amazing calling."