



## TEAM APG reaches out to industry

By **ROBERT DIMICHELE**  
CECOM Public Affairs

More than 1,100 business and economic development representatives from across the country gathered Dec. 4-6 for the first installation-wide Advanced Planning Briefing for Industry (APBI) at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

An APBI is an event that brought industry representatives from large and small businesses to a forum where representatives from Aberdeen Proving Ground organizations provided information about potential and future contracting opportunities with the Army.

APG commands presented more than 180 potential contracts worth an estimated \$19.5 billion over the next five years.

"The entire Aberdeen Proving Ground Team relies on healthy relationships with industry and small business to accomplish our mission and the APBI is absolutely essential to building and maintaining those relationships," said Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, commanding general of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.

"The APBI provides transparen-

**Across the command, we leverage industry for about 40 percent of applied research funding. RDECOM partners with industry for about 60 percent of RDECOM's advanced technology development budget because that process involves integration, and we want industry to be prepared if we proceed to production in quantity.**

**Jill Smith**  
Acting deputy director RDECOM



cy of potential business opportunities provided by the Army at APG," explained Kenyata Wesley, Chief Associate Director of Small Business Programs for CECOM. "The APBI provides an environment where companies providing service, products, and technologies are informed

of anticipated contracting opportunities. This event gives every business, large or small, access to the same information at the same time," he explained.

The Army is statutorily required to provide projections of all anticipated contract actions above \$100,000.

An event such as the Advance Planning Briefing for Industry meets this statutory requirement for sharing information.

While individual commands have held their own APBI events in pri-

See **SMALL**, page 10

## SKIES preps for Dec. 15 dance demo

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Young APG dancers will showcase skills they have acquired during SKIES Unlimited dance classes as their training culminates with a dance demonstration at the A P G North (Aberdeen) youth center Dec. 15.



Kateley

Since Oct. 12, girls ages 3-13 have been practicing in three different dance classes.

"We've ordered little costumes and hair bows and the girls are very excited," said Lauren Kateley, SKIES Unlimited program assistant.

Kateley said the SKIES Unlimited dance program is still growing, and she hopes the community will come out to support the young performers.

Participation in the previous dance session was higher than expected and plans are ramping up for the next session, Jan. 19 - March 23. Saturday classes will include Music and Movement for 3 to 4-year-olds; Pre-Ballet and Tap for ages 5-7; and Intro to Dance for ages 7-13. Youth Ballet, formerly known as

See **SIGN UP**, page 10

## Local business makes holiday brighter

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

A local business thanked one military Family this holiday season by installing more than 1,000 LED holiday lights at the Soldier's home Dec. 5.

Rob Schmidt, owner of Christmas Decor by Bob's Lawn Care, donated time and resources to hang the festive bulbs on Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lopus' home on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Schmidt, a retired Baltimore County police officer, said he just wanted to do something to show his appreciation for the sacrifices military Families make every day.

"Soldiers go away, and their Families have to deal without them for a year at a time. I never had to go through that," Schmidt said.

Schmidt met the Lopus Family through GreenCare for Troops, a nationwide outreach program that is coordinated by Project EverGreen and connects local green industry professionals with military Families.

See **VOLUNTEERISM**, page 10



Matt Carlin and Rob Schmidt of Christmas Decor by Bob's Lawn Care install holiday lights for Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Lopus and his Family Dec. 5. Schmidt volunteered to string the lights for the Lopus Family to show his appreciation to the military community.



## UFood Grill offers call-in, online orders, catering

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

Want healthy food fast? No problem, said UFood Grill General Manager Abdel Warrad.

Warrad said this holiday season is the perfect time to take advantage of some of UFood Grill's convenient offerings.

He said customers can avoid the inconvenience of short lunch periods and food lines by visiting [www.ufoodgrill.com](http://www.ufoodgrill.com) and calling in their orders: the Exchange location at 443-345-1542 or C4ISR Bldg. 6010 at 443-345-4663. Orders can be picked up at the register, in 10 minutes or less.

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UFood Grill General Manager Abdel Warrad displays a sandwich platter at the restaurant located in Bldg. 6010. UFood Grill offers catering, call-in and online orders.

## SOS/EFMP craft party set Dec. 19

By **RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

The Survivor Outreach Services and the Exceptional Family Member programs are collaborating to host their first annual SOS/EFMP holiday craft party Dec. 19, from 3 to 6 p.m.

The event will take place in the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Headquarters, Bldg. 2407, located behind the Exchange.

In addition to festive music and games, attendees will design T-shirts, holiday cards, wreaths and puppets, provided by BOSS Soldiers and APG Military and Civilian Community Club volunteers.

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### WEATHER

Thurs.



48° | 33°

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One of the most famous editorials ever written, "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," was published in The New York Sun in 1897. It was an immediate sensation and was reprinted annually until the paper went out of business in 1949. Today, newspapers the nation over continue to print this holiday treasure. Read the editorial and the story behind it.

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Groundbreaking engineer encourages local girls in STEM education

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Three NCOs and one civilian retire during December ceremony. APG employee saves Army \$10 over next five years.

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# OPINION

## STREET TALK

**Why do you think children should believe in Santa Claus?**

It adds magic to the season.



**Jennifer Bergmans**  
CDC employee

Kids grow up too fast these days. [Believing in Santa] makes their innocence last longer.



**Katie Budeshesky**  
CDC employee

You've got to have something to believe in!



**Mary Brousseau**  
MWR administrative assistant

How else would parents get kids to behave before Christmas?



**Charles Guthrie**  
MWR recreation aide

# Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

*This editorial was first published in The New York Sun in 1897. Sun reporter Francis P. Church's response to the young girl, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," was an immediate sensation, and went on to become one of the most famous editorials ever written. It was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business.*

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

*Dear Editor—  
I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?  
Virginia O'Hanlon*

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth



Church

### About the Exchange

Thirty-six years after her letter was printed, Virginia O'Hanlon recalled the events that prompted her letter:

"Quite naturally I believed in Santa Claus, for he had never disappointed me. But when less fortunate little boys and girls said there wasn't any Santa Claus, I was filled with doubts. I asked my father, and he was a little evasive on the subject.

"It was a habit in our family that whenever any doubts came up as to how to pronounce a word or some question of historical fact was in doubt, we wrote to the Question and Answer column in The Sun. Father would always say, 'If you see it in the The Sun, it's so,' and that settled the matter.

"Well, I'm just going to write The Sun and find out the real truth," I said to father.

"He said, 'Go ahead, Virginia. I'm sure The Sun will give you the right answer, as it always does.'"

And so Virginia sat down and wrote her parents' favorite newspaper.

Her letter found its way into the hands of a veteran editor, Francis P. Church. Son of a Baptist minister, Church had covered the Civil War for The New York Times and had worked on the The New York Sun for 20 years, more recently as an anonymous editorial writ-



and knowledge. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in

the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of

er. Church, a sardonic man, had for his personal motto, "Endeavour to clear your mind of cant." When controversial subjects had to be tackled on the editorial page, especially those dealing with theology, the assignments were usually given to Church.

Now, he had in his hands a little girl's letter on a most controversial matter, and he was burdened with the responsibility of answering it.

"Is there a Santa Claus?" the childish scrawl in the letter asked. At once, Church knew that there was no avoiding the question. He must answer, and he must answer truthfully. And so he turned to his desk, and he began his reply which was to become one of the most memorable editorials in newspaper history.

Church married shortly after the editorial appeared. He died in April, 1906, leaving no children.

Virginia O'Hanlon went on to graduate from Hunter College with a Bachelor of Arts degree at age 21. The following year she received her Master's from Columbia, and in 1912 she began teaching in the New York City school system, later becoming a principal. After 47 years, she retired as an educator. Throughout her life she received a steady stream of mail about her Santa Claus letter, and to each reply she attached an attractive printed copy of the Church editorial. Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas died on May 13, 1971, at the age of 81, in a nursing home in Valatie, N.Y.



O'Hanlon

## APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



48°|33°

Fri



50°|35°

Sat



49°|41°

Sun



48°|44°

Mon



48°|40°

Tue



46°|38°

Wed



43°|33°

## APG NEWS

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# EDITORIAL

## Team APG engages small business reps on available opportunities

Last week Aberdeen Proving Ground held its first-ever ‘Team’ Advanced Planning Briefing for Industry.

The APBI was a three-day forum where leaders and subject matter experts from each of APG’s Communities of Excellence briefed industry and small-business representatives about the range of vital missions APG performs and the many upcoming opportunities available here for our industry partners.

As many of you know, Team APG relies on industry and small business to accomplish our varied missions. As a result, we’re committed to ensuring industry and small business have the knowledge and understanding they need to compete for the many opportunities at APG – and our APBI is an incredibly valuable forum that helps us make that commitment a reality.

This year’s APBI was unique because for the first time, leaders from Public Health Command; Army Test and Evaluation Command; Research, Development and Engineering Command; Team CBRNE and Team C4ISR – all came together for a single event that truly showcased the collaboration and integration that make today’s APG a center of gravity for so many of our Army and DOD’s most critical missions.

In fact, ‘Teaming for Tomorrow’ was the theme for this year’s APBI, because ‘teaming’ all across our installation’s communities of excellence, and between government and industry, is the foundation of APG’s future success.

More than 1,100 industry and small business leaders, representing over 400 organizations, participated and had the opportunity not only to learn about specific programs, but to ask questions and engage with those APG professionals who are working to build the Army and Joint Force of 2020 and beyond.

In addition, APBI attendees were



More than 1,100 industry and small business leaders, representing over 400 organizations, participated and had the opportunity not only to learn about specific programs, but to ask questions and engage with those APG professionals who are working to build the Army...

able to hear from senior Army and DOD leaders, whose presentations brought a valuable, strategic perspective to the discussions. In turn, we were able to hear from the attendees about ways we can improve our efforts to engage with industry.

We will make all of the APBI presentations available on both the RDECOM and CECOM’s small business websites so everyone can learn and benefit from this year’s event. We’ll also post the questions submitted by those in attendance, along with the answers provided by our APG professionals.

This year’s APBI occurred at an especially critical time. As many of you know, we’re entering a period of rapid and historic change throughout our Army and across DOD – a period that presents complex challenges such as reduced resources and a smaller Army. But there are also many opportunities.

Although our Army will be smaller, it will become even more agile, flexible, deployable and more responsive than it is today. And each of those key traits—agility, flexibility, deployability and responsiveness—is connected to one of our missions at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

As a result, APG’s future holds many great opportunities across every Community of Excellence, and for our industry and small business partners. The key to taking advantage of these opportunities will be to further enhance the collaboration and integration that have become the

hallmark of Team APG and were so evident at last week’s APBI.

I want to give a sincere thanks and a big ‘HOOAH’ to all of our tremendous APG partners and everyone who attended, participated, and worked so hard to ensure this year’s

APBI was a success. It truly was a great team effort!

### Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell

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

# Four retire during December ceremony

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Three noncommissioned officers and one civilian formally retired before Family members, coworkers and friends during a retirement ceremony at Top of the Bay Dec. 6.

The honorees—Master Sgt. Forest E. Patterson, Jr; Sgt. 1st Class David E. Guerrero; Sgt. 1st Class Carroll T. Chambers Jr; and Anthony Tom—had combined federal service of nearly 110 years.

Barbara P. Panther, director of the Civilian Human Resources Agency and a member of the Senior Executive Service, presided over the ceremony and presented awards assisted by Garrison Headquarter and Headquarters Company 1st Sgt. Paula Adams.

## Master Sgt.

**Forest E. Patterson Jr.**  
U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command

A native of Monroe, N.C., Patterson enlisted in the Army in 1986. He retires as the Integrated Logistics Manager for the Sigr/Nipr Access Program (SNAP) with CECOM-LCMC. Patterson's



past assignments include Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colo.; Heilbronn, Germany; and three tours in the Republic of South Korea. His combat tours include Operations Desert Shield/Storm and supporting operations for Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Patterson retires March 1, 2013, with 26 years of service. He is married with three children.

## Sgt. 1st Class

**David E. Guerrero**  
U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command

Born in the Dominican Republic, Guerrero moved to the Bronx, N.Y., in 1985 and joined the U.S. Army Reserve in 1991. After going active in 1993, Guerrero changed his MOS from 62B, construction equipment repairer, to 92A, automated logistical specialist.

His past assignments include Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Bliss, Texas, and two tours in the Republic of South Korea.



Guerrero holds an associate degree in science from Jefferson Community College in Watertown, N.Y. Guerrero retires May 1, 2013, with 22 years of service. He is married with three children.

## Sgt. 1st Class

**Carroll T. Chambers Jr.**  
U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command

Chambers hails from Baltimore, Md. He graduated high school in 1991 and enlisted in the Army in 1992 as a 36L, transportable switching systems operator/maintainer. His past assignments include Fort Gordon, Ga., Fort Bragg, N.C., SHAPE, Belgium, the Republic of South Korea, the Pentagon, Afghanistan, during Operation Enduring Freedom and on special assignment with a military transition team in Mahmudiya, Iraq.

Since 2009, Chambers has served as a CECOM senior instructor in Global Broadcast Service, radio and fiber optics installation. Chambers retires March 1, 2013, with 21 years of service. He is married with four children.



**Anthony Tom**  
U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Command

A native of Canton, China, Tom immigrated to the U.S. in 1964 and graduated from Seward Park High School in New York City, N.Y., in 1967. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Pratt Institute and two masters in electrical engineering and computer science from Fairleigh Dickenson University. He also is a graduate of the Program Management Course at the Defense Systems Management College.

His past positions, held at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and at APG, include action director, deputy program manager, team leader, and project leader. He retires as the technical project officer and test site/operation manager for the Coalition/Allied Collaboration effort.

Tom's awards include the Milton Lipton Award, 1999; Dr. William Novick Award, 2002; and International Collaboration Award, 2006.

Tom retired Nov. 3 after 40 and one-half years of service. He is married with two grown children and three grandchildren.



# PEO C3T project leads to nearly \$10M in savings

By **NANCY JONES-BONBREST**  
PEO C3T

As U.S. Army leaders continue on a path towards a leaner, more efficient future, individuals within the Army are also making a significant difference in streamlining initiatives.

That's what led Kevin Joyce, a logistics specialist with Project Manager Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (PM WIN-T), to reexamine how computers were being reset within Army WIN-T units.

He found that if Soldiers could do the reset work themselves, it not only saved turnaround time but also money – almost \$10 million over the next five years. The expense of shipping out the laptops, having the contractor perform the reset work and then shipping them back was costly. Also, meeting units' training schedules became a concern as computers were not always returned within the 30-day work window.

"I knew the cost savings would be big, but I didn't know it would be that big," said Joyce, who came up with the idea as part of a Lean Six Sigma (LSS) project. "It was expensive to ship the computers out and have a contractor reset and clean the laptops, but it also brought equipment accountability back to the unit."

The new reset process was tested with two units at their home stations in the United States. Reset work included taking an inventory of equipment, checking cables and ports, inspecting the laptop for damaged or missing parts, cleaning the laptop, loading software to test that the laptop was operational and testing the battery.

Feedback surveys found that overwhelmingly the Soldiers reported improved results with turn-

**"I knew the cost savings would be big, but I didn't know it would be that big. It was expensive to ship the computers out and have a contractor reset and clean the laptops, but it also brought equipment accountability back to the unit."**

**Kevin Joyce**

Logistics specialist with PM WIN-T

around times reduced from 30 days to ship the computers out, have a contractor reset them and ship them back, to only a few hours of work. Shipping costs were eliminated and Soldiers reported an increase in accountability since the laptops remained in their possession, with no loss in quality of service.

The 4th ID Sustainment Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, and the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Campbell, Ky., participated in the initial test.

"Our brigade deployed in 2009 and was barely home for 12 months before we deployed again in 2011. But as the operational tempo slows down, we have more time to maintain and refurbish our equipment instead of relying so much on contracted support," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 William J. Douglass, a brigade network technician with the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade. "By having the Soldiers reset their equipment, they gain familiarity and confidence that the equipment will work when they need it."

Joyce pointed to the LSS process and the guidance he received through the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and

Communications-Tactical (PEO C3T), to which WIN-T is assigned, for setting up a successful project.

"Some of the laptops were not meeting the schedule for unit reset timelines. So the project initiated as more of an accountability type of problem, but later we realized there were significant cost savings to be had," Joyce said. "It was just a matter of developing a process that was tested and proven by LSS metrics. That's what the project is all about. You can't just arbitrarily come up with a solution without making sure it's proven."

LSS is a process improvement technique that uses a set of established tools and strategies to implement efficiencies. PEO C3T initiates 30-40 LSS projects each year, resulting in significant cost savings and avoidance. Other programs, such as Value Engineering and Better Buying Power, also contribute to cost reductions within PEO C3T.

"In fiscal year 2012, PEO C3T documented \$164 million in financial benefits as the result of LSS projects, and \$265 million overall," said Thom Hawkins, chief, Program Analysis Branch and Continuous Performance Improvement Program

Director for PEO C3T. "LSS training provides our employees with tools they can use to recognize and execute opportunities to save taxpayer money and get more equipment to the Soldier faster."

James Heffinger, lean initiatives project specialist for PEO C3T, guided Joyce in meeting LSS certification requirements. He said it was one of the best projects he's seen to date.

"There were tremendous cost savings, almost \$10 million," said Heffinger. "With LSS, the process is quantitative with a hypothesis test to prove there are substantial improvements. Kevin's project was definitely statistically significant."

In putting his team together to begin the LSS project, Joyce said he made sure it was diverse and included network operations engineers, maintenance engineers and field engineers. A support system was also implemented for units that might have questions during the reset process.

"As you weave through the LSS process you realize you can't just implement something without it being vetted," Joyce said. "You don't want to have any operational impacts after you've completed the project because it can cause a lot of headaches afterwards."

The LSS project took approximately one year to complete and the new reset process took effect in October.

"This was a great opportunity that will result in real savings to the Army," said Joyce. "The LSS is the tool that provided the methods to be able to improve a process and to prove it out. And there are definitely ways to implement this procedural change for other commercial off-the-shelf systems."

# ARL workshop addresses women in STEM

## ECBC engineer inspires local high school girls

By **T'JAE GIBSON**  
ARL Public Affairs

Silence fell over a conference room filled with nearly 50 high school students – all girls – as they listened intently to Gyleen Fitzgerald, the first African American female engineer at what's now the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC). Fitzgerald was the only speaker at the day's event that didn't rely on the obligatory PowerPoint slides that dominate most every professional conference.

"I couldn't read it anyway," she remarked to a noticeably moved audience.

Fitzgerald was one of five speakers at Battelle Memorial Institute in Aberdeen who addressed future women in science and engineering at a Dec. 4, all-day workshop created in 2011 by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory's (ARL's) Dr. Melanie Will-Cole.

She told juniors and seniors from Aberdeen High School – about half of them from its Science and Math Academy (SMA) – that being diagnosed with dyslexia right before entering college meant she had to quickly learn to optimize her strengths in order to excel in her education and career.

Her candid remarks were part of the Young Women in Science and Engineering College and Career Workshop, which was created to bring together women – diverse in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields as well as ethnicity – in a candid discussion with teenage girls to confront trends of women in STEM and help them navigate obstacles and opportunities in college and careers, said Will-Cole, an ARL Fellow and senior researcher.

"I don't know my multiplication tables beyond six unless I make the whole table. I transform both numbers and letters. Teachers bled all over my papers because I can't spell. But there was one woman who believed I could be a chemical engineer and I stand here today based on her faith (in me)," Fitzgerald reminisced.

Fitzgerald started sewing at age four, a skill she picked up in Taiwan and Japan from her overseas nanny. She set her career goals on becoming a fashion designer and later enrolled in Drexel University to study at the Nesbitt School of Design. A brief discussion with an advisor unveiled that, at the time, fashion designers weren't



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

**Gyleen Fitzgerald (left), senior quality engineer at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, joins Aberdeen High School girls during an all-day workshop focused on college and career choices in STEM fields.**

earning college degrees so to put her time and tuition to good use, she was encouraged to pursue engineering. Just above a whisper, she told the advisor that she did well in chemistry in a Philadelphia high school and therefore, Fitzgerald's undergraduate major was switched to chemical engineering.

"I always had a love for touching things, being tactile. I loved to deconstruct things and learn how things were constructed," she said.

She took advantage of a couple of cooperative education assignments through Drexel, one at BP Oil Company that required her to climb up tankers in the cold and rain to get various readings. She said at that point, she realized, "This is not my dream."

She moved to a research and development position, in a laboratory environment, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a position she loved because she could readily identify with how her role in the operation would make an impact. "I like the topic: food," humored the miniature dynamo, who credits the "incredible tenacity of a fearless mother" with much of her success.

Like all of the workshop speakers, Fitzgerald integrated personal backstories into her 'talk,' including falling in love with a man who lived and

worked nearly 70 miles north. She eyeballed a position at the ECBC – a halfway point for the couple.

That position placed her in what she called, at the time, a dominant male environment who often trivialized her contributions in senior meetings and in research.

Her passion for sewing upstaged machismo overtures.

"So here I am working in chembio, and warfighters have to wear chemsuits. What's that? It's fabric," she smiled cunningly. "I know fabric!"

Today, she is ECBC's senior quality engineer. Her first assignment was with Physical Protection Directorate in 1981, supporting the production and fielding of Modular Collective Protective Systems for Pershing and TACFIRE Communication Shelters (two (ACAT) I binary missile programs) as a production engineer.

From 1982 to 2005, she held a leadership role supporting 13 chemical biological acquisition programs. In 1991, she was selected as Edgewood Research, Development and Engineering Center (ERDEC) Engineer of the Year and was nominated for Supervisor/Manager of the year for 1999. ERDEC is the predecessor organization to ECBC.

Fitzgerald received her first patent in 2005 as the co-inventor of sor-

bent powder. This discovery was incorporated in 1999 as a product improvement to the M295 Individual Equipment Decon Kit saving the Government \$10 million each year in procurement cost; and a replacement of the M11 and the M13 Decon Apparatus Systems in 2003 with the M100 Sorbent Decontamination System, resulting in a \$2.7 billion life cycle cost savings.

In 11 months, she will retire after serving 32 years there. She plans to travel the world with her new husband, and continue promoting her expertise in quilting.

Her best advice for attendees: "Don't be afraid to tap into the softer, more artistic sides that interests you."

Other workshop speakers included Dr. Jeannie Y. Chun, a pediatric surgeon and Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery University of Maryland School of Medicine; Ms. Sila Cansever, director of research and development at Ken's Food, Inc.; Dr. Leslie Lamberson, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at The Johns Hopkins University and Assistant Professor at Drexel University and Monica Malhotra is a principal research scientist in the National Security Global Business Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense Division at Battelle Memorial Institute. CBC

# Battle-tested TGER improved since Iraq

## U.S. Army's green technology could benefit commercial market

ECBC Public Affairs

For 90 days in 2008, Camp Victory in Baghdad was home to the first TGER unit, a deployable machine tactically designed to convert military field waste into immediate usable energy for forward operating bases.

The bio refinery system is a trailer-mounted hybrid technology that can support a 550-person unit that generates about 2,500 pounds of trash per day, and converts roughly 2,000 pounds of that garbage—paper, plastic, packaging and food waste—into electricity via a standard 60-kilowatt diesel generator.

"We picked Iraq as a forward operating base because we wanted to really stress the system. All other energy systems had been tested in laboratories or under ideal conditions and temperature climates. What we really wanted to do was stress it with heat and sand in a low infrastructure environment," said Dr. James Valdes, a senior technologist for Biotechnology at the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) located at APG South (Edgewood).

"You know that old Chinese saying, 'Be careful what you wish for, you might get it'? Well, we got it. We learned an awful lot over there for 90 days about what works, what doesn't work and what'll break."

As ECBC project director for TGER, Valdes is responsible for leading a team that has successfully implemented the necessary adjustments in the new prototype, TGER 2.0. Among

**The bio refinery system is a trailer-mounted hybrid technology that can convert roughly—**

**2,000 pounds of garbage**

**paper, plastic, packaging and food waste—into electricity via a standard 60-kilowatt diesel generator.**

them is an automated interface that uses a touch-screen panel that makes it easier for workers to input information and monitor every part of the machine, from oxygen levels to the status of the gasifier.

What used to take three technicians to operate the machine now takes two people: one person to feed the garbage and another person to monitor the progress. But Valdes hopes that as the prototypes advance, TGER could eventually be used by one technician or Soldier.

One of ECBC's most valuable lessons learned while the TGER was deployed in Iraq was the realization that the downdraft gasifier had the tendency to get clogged and melt if there was too much plastic in the ground-up garbage pellets, which produced an inert, non-energetic synthetic gas that could not be used as viable fuel.

To fix the problem, Valdes and his

team developed a horizontal gasifier with an auger device that uses a cylindrical casing to rotate the trash, eliminating the need to turn the cardboard and plastic into fuel pellets and avoiding a problematic mechanical step.

The TGER 2.0 prototype also enables steam to be injected into the gasifier, which allows a larger conversion of output gas to become energetic. According to Valdes, only 24 percent of the output gas of the original prototype was usable energy, a number that has tripled to 75 percent in the new TGER 2.0 prototype. It is also environmentally friendly with a zero carbon footprint.

The advanced prototype was shipped back to the manufacturer for modifications after undergoing a final field trial Sept. 20 at APG South, where the green technology was tested to see how long it could run at the highest levels of garbage

input before breaking down.

Within two hours of powering on, TGER 2.0 can make synthetic gas that enables a generator to be run on about three-quarter power. Within 12 hours, alcohol is produced and blended to run on full power at a steady state if the machine is continually fed.

One of the innovations Valdes said he would like to capitalize on is recapturing the excess heat that the machine produces with a heat exchanger that can apply the energy to field sanitation and heating water. The new TGER prototype could also be transitioned into the commercial sector, said Valdes.

"Longer term, we will be talking to the PMs (project managers) about transitioning it but we'll also be talking to some companies that do things like support oil and gas operations in places like Mongolia and parts of the world that are difficult to have camps in," explained Valdes.

Oil and mining operations, camp sites, hospitals, dining facilities and even post-natural disaster events like Hurricane Katrina are just a few of the places the green technology could prove beneficial. ECBC and contracting firm SAIC recently entered into a cooperative research and development agreement—an agreement between a government agency and a private company—to speed the commercialization of the technology.

For more information about ECBC, visit <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/>.

## Send newspaper submissions to new email address

As a result of the DISA migration earlier this year, community members are asked to send all submissions for the APG News to [adrienne.c.foss.civ@mail.mil](mailto:adrienne.c.foss.civ@mail.mil). Type APG NEWS SUBMISSION in the Subject Line. You should receive a response within three business days letting you know that the submission has been received. If you do not receive a response, please call 410-278-1150 to inquire.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## 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.

## HEALTHY HOLIDAY EATING

The APG community is invited to participate in the CECOM Wellness Program's Healthy Eating for the Holidays info session, at which Sheryl Huehner, RD, will share ways to deal with holiday stress without overeating. She will also highlight low calorie substitutes and show attendees examples of appropriate portion sizes.

The session is set from noon to 1 p.m. at the Myer Auditorium, Bldg. 6000, and open to civilians, contractors, and the military.

Contractors who participate in CECOM activities must not invoice any government contracts for time spent at these activities.

VTC is available for employees not stationed at APG. To RSVP or if your organization will need a VTC dial-in number and code, contact Tiffany Grimes at 443-861-7910 or tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil, or Keosha Pointer at 443-861-7915 or keosha.l.pointer.civ@mail.mil.

## 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.

## FRIDAY

### DEC. 14 SUBMIT ARTICLES NOW

The last APG News of 2012 will be published Thursday, Dec. 20. Send submissions by noon Friday to patricia.g.beauchamp.civ@mail.mil, or send an email to request a late submission.

The first APG News of 2013 will be published Jan. 3, and will be a Year in Review. This issue will consist of stories and photos from the previous year.

## 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.

## INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

Register by Dec. 20 to participate in intramural basketball. Games are played Mondays and Thursdays at 6, 7, and 8 p.m. at Aberdeen Proving Ground North and South. Call 410-278-4011/4907 at APG North or 410-436-2713 at APG South for more information, or email usarmy.APG.imcom-fmwr.list.usag-mwrsports@mail.mil.

## 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.

### THROUGH DEC. 29 CFC DEADLINE EXTENDS

The 2012 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has been extended until Dec. 29. If you would like to give to a great cause, see your activity coordinator or key worker and obtain a paper pledge. Or donate online at CFCNEXUS.org. Contact Tom Johnson at 410-278-6456 or thomas.g.johnson5.civ@mail.mil for information.

## WEDNESDAY

### JAN. 9 URBAN LINE DANCE

Join in urban line dance lessons at the APG North recreation center 6-7 p.m. Class size is limited, so register early! Register by Jan. 9. For information or to register, visit the ticket counter at the recreation center or call 410-278-4011/4907 at APG North, or visit the APG South recreation center, Bldg. E-4041 or call 410-436-2713.

## SATURDAY

### JAN. 12 CYSS ORIENTATION DAY

Parents and teens will learn about the Hired Apprenticeship Program for teens ages 15-18, from 10 to 11 a.m. Parents must attend. Accepting applications for the fall term now. To register, visit Central Registration, Bldg. 2503, from :30-10:30 a.m. or call 410-278-7479/7571 to schedule an appointment.

## SUNDAY

### JAN. 27 GOSPEL TOUR COMING SOON

APG MWR and Army Entertainment presents the 2013 United as ONE Gospel Tour featuring James Fortune, Vashawn Mitchell, Leandria Johnson and Zacardi Cortez, hosted by Shucky Ducky. Open to the public. Tickets on sale soon. Check for updates at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

## ONGOING

### 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 Bldg. 6010 UFood Grill also offers online ordering. Place an order by visiting [www.ufoodgrill.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:norma.a.warwick.naf@mail.mil).

## SUNDAY BRUNCH

Don't miss it at Sutherland Grille on Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://apg.army.mil)
- [apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://apgnews.apg.army.mil)
- [apg.armylive.dodlive.mil/](http://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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## OPEN MIC AND KARAOKE

Open Mic & Karaoke Night is slated monthly on Thursdays at Ruggles Golf Course from 6 - 9 p.m. as follows: Jan. 10, Feb. 21, and March 21.

Kick off the New Year doing what you love. Sing a cover song or bring your guitar and play an original. Admission is free. Enjoy complimentary bar food and a cash bar with beer and wine. For information, visit [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com) or call 410-278-4011.

## 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.

## NOMINATE MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR BY DEC. 15

Operation Homefront has announced that nominations for the Military Child of the Year Awards are being accepted online at <http://militarychildoftheyear.org/> through Dec. 15. Winners will be recognized in April 2013.

The Military Child of the Year Award recognizes children who stand out among their peers. Ideal candidates for the award demonstrate resilience, strength of character, and thrive in the face of the challenges of military life. These young heroes embody leadership within their families and communities.

This award is presented to an outstanding child from each branch of service - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The winners each receive \$5,000 and a laptop, and will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for a special recognition ceremony at the Ritz-Carlton in Pentagon City on April 11.

For more information on how to nominate a child in your family or community, log on to <http://militarychildoftheyear.org/>

## Holiday worship schedule

### AA CHAPEL (Aberdeen Area)

#### CATHOLIC MASS

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 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 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

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 16.....3rd Sunday of Advent 0915  
Sun, Dec 23.....4th Sunday of Advent 0915  
Sun, Dec 30.....5th Sunday of Advent 0915



**MORE ONLINE**

More events can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil/calendar](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil/calendar).

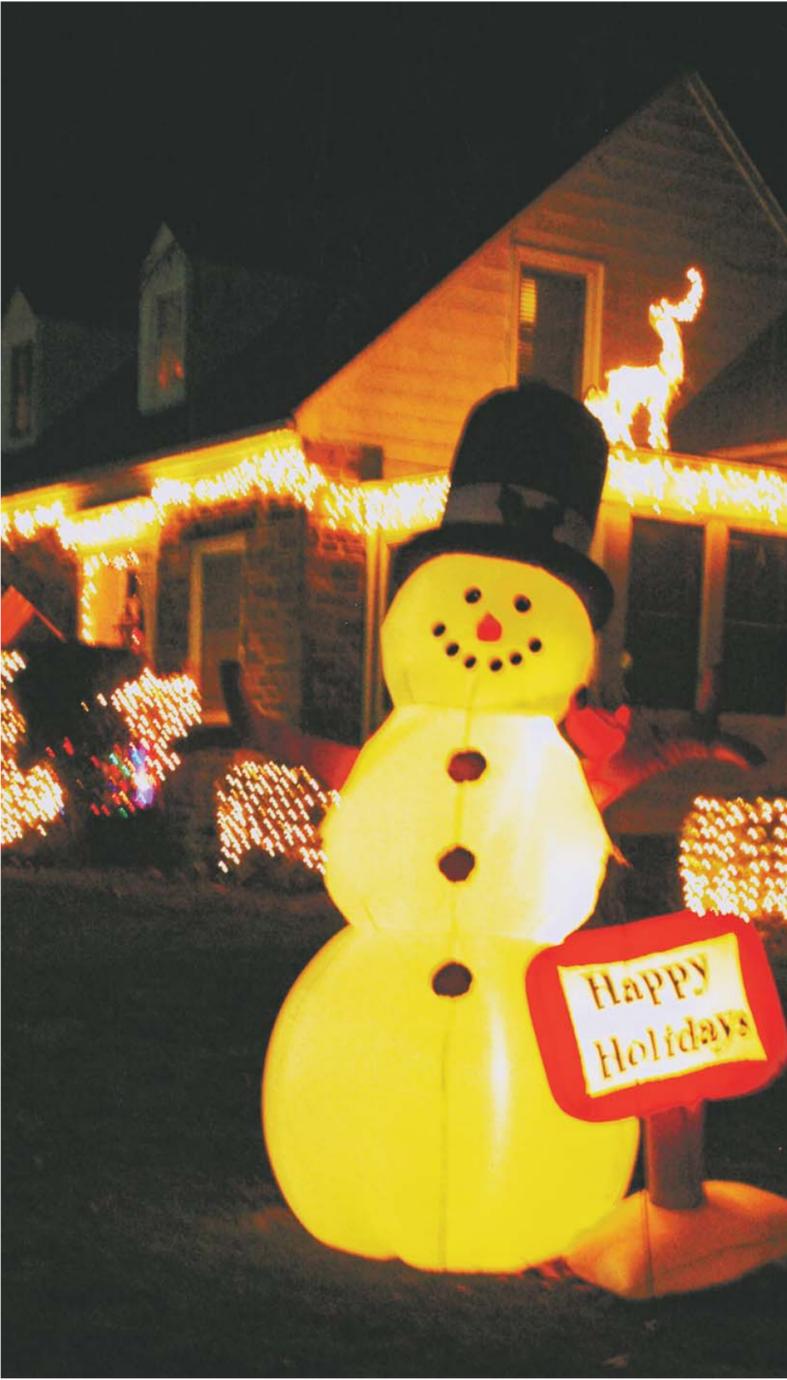
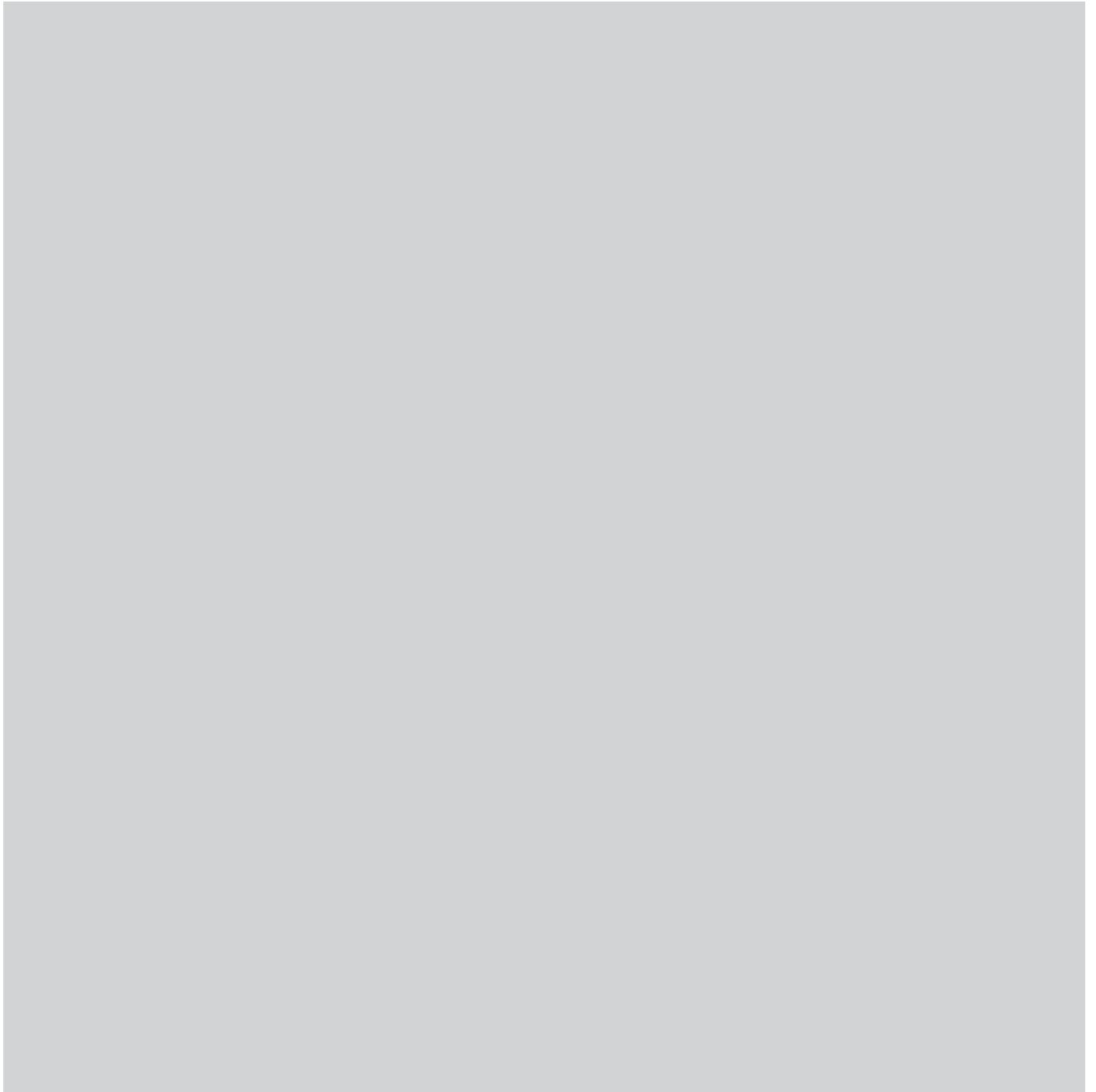
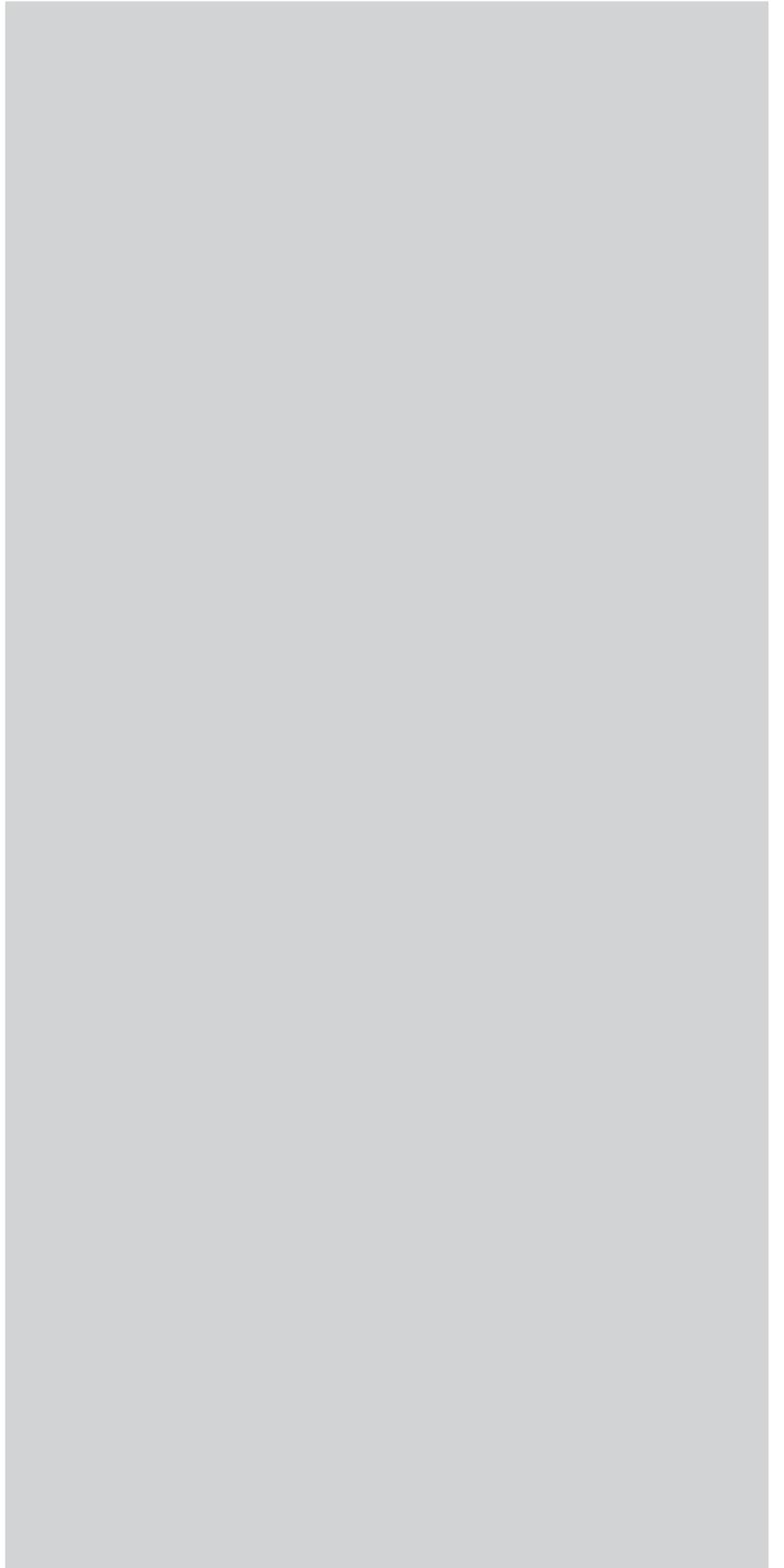


Photo by Rachel Ponder

### ***Decorating contest starts next week***

A home on Plumb Point Loop is one of many across the installation that shines bright this holiday season. It will also be one of several homes judges look at during Picerne Military Housing's annual holiday decorating contest, kicking off the week of Dec. 17. All Picerne residents are invited to participate. A best decorated home will be selected in each of the neighborhoods. Winners be chosen based on creativity and overall impression, and will receive a gift card. Call 410-305-1076 for information.



# Alternatives to workplace dispute

## APG Mediation Program

Sometimes, members of the workforce do not get along.

In many cases, someone who isn't involved in the situation or who does not have a relationship with either side can help "smooth over the waters" and get the feuding parties to compromise.

The Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program is available at Aberdeen Proving Ground and provides a forum where disputants can candidly discuss differences.

ADR, commonly called "mediation," is a relatively fast way to resolve concerns and create a more productive atmosphere in the workplace.

The mediator assists in clarifying issues, identifying underlying causes and helps the parties consider appropriate remedies to resolve a dispute; they are not in a position to impose a resolution on the parties.

## Confidentiality

The mediator will not reveal any-

thing from private discussions that any disputant wants kept confidential. As the neutral party, the mediator finds themselves in a unique position and is able to help parties discover possible options they can agree on which were not considered prior to mediation. If the mediation session results in a settlement, it is reached by the parties themselves.

Employees in a dispute with a coworker or a manager can resolve issues in this manner. A manager can use the dispute resolution process to promptly resolve any subordinate issues and in doing so, stand a good chance of resuming normal offices duties much more quickly. Conflict is normal and a part of daily life; however, it is often an uncomfort-

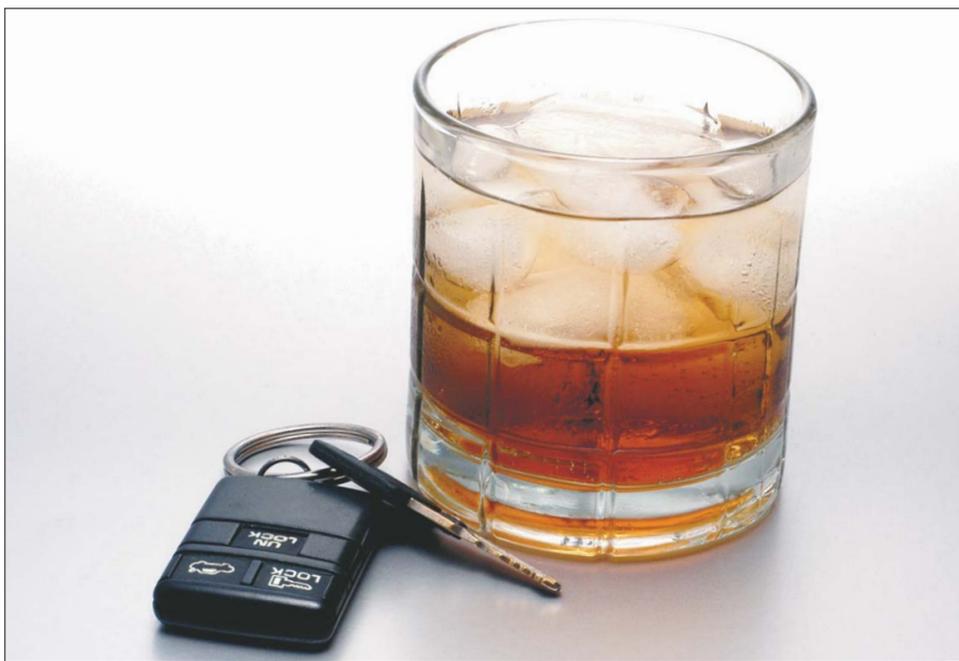
able and difficult experience. Mediation offers an advantage to both parties as issues may be resolved more quickly and with mutual satisfaction. Employees do not give up any rights using mediation. If mediation does not result in an agreement, the employee is free to pursue the matter under other appropriate procedures such as administrative or negotiated grievance processes or Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO).

Participation in the alternative dispute resolution process is voluntary and must be agreed upon by all parties to the dispute before the process is entered. Employees that are covered by a bargaining unit may also bring a union representative to the session.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**APG workplace dispute mediations are heard 14 days after the request is placed.**

**The average EEO case takes at least 12 months before an administrative judge makes a decision.**



# December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

## APG ASAP

The Army Substance Abuse Program again reminds everyone that December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention, or 3-D, Month," an effort to bring special attention to the problem of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

An estimated 258,000 persons were injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present—an average of one person injured approximately every two minutes.

"If you find hard to figure out if you've had too many drinks to drive, don't risk it. Chances are if you're feeling buzzed, you are too impaired to drive safely," said Timothy Knox, ASAP Alcohol and Drug Control Officer (ADCO). "Drinking and driving isn't just a personal safety issue, it's a public safety issue."

■ Nine out of 10 Americans who participate in social events where alcohol is served feel that people should use designated drivers. The ASAP suggests that party hosts include alcohol-free beverages and protein-rich foods, along with reminding guest to plan ahead and remember the following advice:

- Don't risk it: If you plan to drive, don't drink.
- Choose a sober designated driver before partying.
- Take a taxicab or ask a friend to drive you home.
- Spend the night where the activity is being held.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- Always wear your safety belt—the best defense against an impaired driver.

For more information, call ASAP at 410-278-DRUG (3784).

## If You Are Hosting the Party

- Encourage your guests ahead of time to designate a driver.
- Have a key basket and collect each guest's keys upon arrival.
- Know the condition of your guests before returning their keys at the end of the party.
- Plan activities so that the focus isn't just on drinking.
- Serve a variety of food and include non-alcoholic beverages alongside alcoholic beverages.
- If serving punch containing alcohol, mix with a non-carbonated base like a fruit juice; carbonated bases speed up the absorption of alcohol into the blood stream.
- Designate one person to serve as the bartender.

■ This will help control the number of drinks and the amount of alcohol in each drink.

■ Stop serving alcohol at least one hour (preferably 90 minutes) before the party is over.

■ Bring out dessert, coffee and other non-alcoholic drinks.

■ Be prepared to arrange for a ride home for your guests if necessary or to invite them to spend the night.

Your ASAP office reminds you to please make responsible choices.

For more information contact Cindy Scott at 410-278-3784 or visit our website at <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/services/asap/>.

## If You Are Going Out To Drink

- Designate a driver ahead of time — a designated driver is a non-drinking driver.
- Take a cab or public transportation.
- Make a reservation and spend the night.
- Consume food, sip your drinks, and alternate with non-alcoholic beverages.
- Ask your server about a ride home if you have been drinking to the point of impairment.

## Drunk Driving Facts

The correct phrase is alcohol-related crashes not alcohol-related accidents.

Since the mid-1990s, nearly 17,000 Americans have been killed and more than 700,000 have been injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes. On an average day, 46 people die in alcohol related traffic crashes, accounting for nearly 40 percent of traffic deaths. Three out of 10 Americans face the possibility of being directly involved in an alcohol related traffic crash during their lifetimes.

■ Traffic crashes are the greatest single cause of death for every age group between 6 and 33 years of age.

■ Nearly 80 percent of all occupants killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes were not wearing safety belts.

■ The total economic cost for alcohol-related traffic crashes exceeds \$50 billion dollars each year.

■ Each year, police arrest over 1.5 million drivers for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Your ASAP office reminds you to please make responsible choices.

For more information contact Cindy Scott at 410-278-4013 or Cynthia.Scott1@mail.mil.

# Avoid risks associated with holiday impaired driving

By **BETH ANN CAMERON**

*U.S. Army Public Health Command*

The holiday season is the time of the year when drunk and impaired driving accidents are most prevalent. Drug and alcohol use impair judgment, delay reaction times, and can result in deadly consequences when driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, drugs (for example, marijuana and cocaine) are involved in about 18 percent of motor vehicle driver deaths. Drunk driving accidents account for 31 percent of all motor vehicle accidents, and thousands of drivers and passengers lose their lives each year because of drunk and drugged driving.

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Most people would never imagine that their holiday celebration could result in a fatality or imprisonment, but the risks associated with driving while impaired are very real and can result in tragic consequences for everyone involved.

The following list includes a few simple tips for celebrating and driving safely this holiday season:

- Designate a non-drinking driver ahead of time.
- If drinking alcohol at a party or other celebration, allow at least one hour between drinks. It takes one hour to get rid of one drink from your body (one drink is equal to a 12-ounce beer, 5-ounce glass of wine, or 1½-ounce shot of liquor).
- Set limits beforehand of the number of drinks to have and stick with it.
- Alternate drinking alcoholic beverages with soda, juice or water and eat food.
- Don't mix alcohol with other drugs, including over-the-counter and prescription medications.
- Don't ride with someone who is impaired. Use other means of transportation such as a taxi, public transportation or driver who is sober.

If you are hosting a party, here are some steps to take to help your guests drive safely:

- Plan ahead and designate a sober driver.
- Collect each guest's keys upon arrival and store in a designated basket.
- Serve foods along with alcohol-free beverages such as soda, juice or water.
- If making an alcoholic punch, use fruit juice instead of a carbonated drink. Alcohol absorbs faster into the blood stream when mixed with carbonated drinks.
- Stop serving alcohol 1 to 1½ hours before the party actually ends.

If you take a medication that makes you drowsy, do not drive. Have someone drive you.

During Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, recommit yourself to preventing the loss of life by reminding others to be sober and drug free, and use safe driving practices on the road. Drink responsibly, drive responsibly and encourage family members, friends and co-workers to be safe and responsible drivers for the holidays and beyond.

For more information, visit the following Web sites:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/Impaired>
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Impaired\\_Driving/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Impaired_Driving/index.html)
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving, <http://www.madd.org/feature-stories/december/december-is-national-drunk.html>



# Small businesses can help troop needs

Continued from Page 1

or years, this is the first time the installation has hosted it as a multi-functional event with a dozen commands representing the post's main mission areas: Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR); Research Development, and Engineering; Testing and Evaluation; and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Explosive (CBRNE) as well as Army Contracting.

"It's clear we can't execute this mission without you," said Dave Jimenez, director of the Army Evaluation Center, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, to the audience. "You are integral to our being effective." Jimenez added it was the commands' jobs to make sure the requirements leading up to these procurements are clear, and contractors know what the Army is looking for. "Take advantage of the opportunity of being here and ask questions – join the team."

Bryon J. Young, executive director of the Army Contracting Command-APG, discussed changing business processes within the defense acquisition community by highlighting the

Better Buying Power initiative from the Department of Defense, the continuing effort to deliver better value to the taxpayer and Warfighter by improving the way the DoD does business. Young described it as a "sea change to the way we have done business."

He said, "For the last 10 years, we have focused on getting capability to the Warfighter at any cost. That cost is now unsustainable."

The three-day event was also aimed at raising awareness of the value and need for small business participation in meeting the needs of the Warfighter. In fiscal 2012, the Army provided \$3.2 billion in contracting opportunities to small businesses. The Small Business Program Directors from the Headquarters, Army Materiel Command; the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense all participated in the APBI to emphasize the Army's focus on contracting with small businesses as did Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, the Principal Military

Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition Logistics and Technology). Phillips said, "The innovation that comes from small businesses is simply tremendous."

The theme of the APBI was "Teaming for Tomorrow." So, Phillips summarized the overall need for the APBI to the hundreds of industry attendees, whether small or large business, in a simple way, "We are here to help our Soldiers and we can only do that by working with you."

Ferrell also built on the teaming theme during his remarks. He said commands on APG have a great relationship with the communities and industries outside the installation's gate. "In fact, I tell them that it's just a gate. It's never going to become a barrier to our great relationship."

A number of local small businesses made this "first of its kind" event a huge success, according to Linda Edwards, who led the support from the post's Family and Morale, Welfare,

and Recreation Program. She said the buses which transported the attendees from parking lots to the post theater, the fest tent in which food was served, the food caterer, the signs, the decorations, and the porta-potties all came from local small business vendors.

All of the presentations and briefings of potential contracting opportunities and other APBI content are available on the web at: <http://cecom.army.mil/smallbusiness/teamappabi.html>.

Jill Smith, acting deputy director, RDECOM, provided an overview of the command Dec. 5 as part of APG's first installation-wide APBI conference at the post theater. Smith also discussed how the Army's research and development community unites with industry.

"Across the command, we leverage industry for about 40 percent of applied research funding," said Smith. "RDECOM partners with industry for about 60 percent of RDECOM's advanced technology development budget because that process involves integration, and we want industry to be prepared if we proceed to production in quantity."

## DID YOU KNOW?

**In fiscal 2012, the Army provided \$3.2 billion in contracting opportunities to small businesses.**

# Relive holiday memories at SOS/EFMP party

Continued from Page 1

"It will be similar to the annual APG Holiday Party, but on a smaller scale," said Survivor Outreach Support Coordinator Annette Sanders. "These events allow people to connect with each other, communicate with others who are going through the same thing. Stay for the whole event, or come for a few hours."

Sanders said the Fort Meade Survivor Outreach financial counselor will be present to talk to about holiday budgeting.

The smaller, more intimate setting should be ideal, especially since children with special needs often feel overwhelmed in large crowds, said Exceptional Family Member Program Manager Nancy Goucher.

"The children can also experience some independence, participating in activities away from their parents," she said.

Goucher said the BOSS Soldiers, who assist with many EFMP events,

serve as "good role models" and will be present.

"The holiday event is being held for fun, friendship and community," Goucher said. "It is an opportunity for attendees to recapture childhood memories by decorating cookies, designing ornaments and singing songs."

The event is open to Family and friends who are enrolled in SOS and EFMP. For more information, call Goucher at 410-278-2420 or Sanders at 410-278-2861.

## About the SOS and EFMP

SOS is an Army Community Service program that provides short- and long-term support to the loved ones of Soldiers who die while on active duty. EFMP is an Army Community Service Program that works with other military and civilian agencies to provide housing, community support, and personnel services to Families with special needs.

# UFood offers platters for season, year-round

Continued from Page 1

"Large lunch orders should be placed before 10 a.m. to ensure that food is ready at time of pick-up," said Warrad.

Another advantage the health food chain offers is catering. Warrad said UFood offers platters for events ranging from small holiday gatherings to large conferences. The catering menu includes a variety of breakfast items, sandwiches, salads, cookies and soups. Delivery is available on all orders for parties of eight or more.

"We can customize these orders to your specific needs," Warrad said. "I am available to help customers select a menu and determine the right quantities."

Warrad said UFood's loyal customers choose the restaurant because it offers variety and guilt-free, comfort food.

"The idea is that the food should always be served fresh," Warrad said. "We offer natural and organic foods; everything we serve is healthy. The

chipotle chicken sandwich and bison burger are two of our most popular items. The falafel is popular with our vegetarian customers."

Gift cards can be purchased and used at both APG locations. Right now, customers will receive a \$5 off coupon with every \$20 gift card purchased.

Some of the chain's daily on-the-go favorites include breakfast burritos, sandwiches, salads, wraps, rice bowls, frozen yogurt, smoothies, veg-

etarian specialties and more. UFood also sells platters of sandwich, cookies, muffins, and baked French fries, called "unfries."

For more information, call 617-962-7114. The UFood Grill Main Exchange hours of operation are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bldg. 6010 UFood hours are Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

# Volunteerism alight at APG

Continued from Page 1

Lopus' wife, Mary, contacted GreenCare for Troops last summer because she needed help with lawn maintenance during her husband's deployment. Schmidt pitched in last year by providing lawn care and installing Christmas lights.

"With four children and a job, running a household on my own was overwhelming," she said. "I appreciated the help. I definitely would not have been able to install Christmas lights by myself."

This year, Schmidt installed Christmas lights so that Jeff Lopus can see them in person.

"[Schmidt] has done so much for our Family; it really says a lot about his character," Lopus said.

Due to multiple deployments, Lopus hasn't celebrated Christmas with his Family in three years. Last year, while stationed in Iraq, he shared Christmas greetings with his Family via webcam. This year, he is looking forward to a more tradi-



**The Lopus home in Bayside Village glows bright at night thanks to more than 1,000 LED Christmas lights. Bob Schmidt, owner of Christmas Decor by Bob's Lawn Care, installed the lights free of charge to say "thank you," to a military Family.**

tional holiday at home.

"My 3-year old son was excited that I was home to put up the tree with him," said Lopus, who is assigned to the National Ground

Intelligence Center. "My children don't know that we are having Christmas lights installed today. This will be a good surprise for them."

# Sign up now for next dance

Continued from Page 1

ballet basics, includes Jazz and Tap, for ages 7-12 on Fridays.

To register or for more information, visit Central Registration, Bldg. 2503, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Call or call 410-278-7479/7571 to schedule an appointment.

Kateley said CYSS is happy to offer the classes, which are in keeping with SKIES Unlimited schools of knowledge, inspiration, exploration and skills. In addition, dance instructor Amie Erline is a respected artist with a dance/theater schools background in Maryland and Pennsylvania colleges that goes back more than a decade. A professional dancer and choreographer, Erline has worked with the International Ballet Theater.

"She enjoys working with students of all ages," Kateley said.

For more information about upcoming dance classes, fees and age requirements, contact Kateley at 410-278-4589 or e-mail [lauren.e.kateley.naf@mail.mil](mailto:lauren.e.kateley.naf@mail.mil).

## AROUND THE FORCE

# 'Fiscal cliff' would challenge Army to maintain readiness

Story and photo by  
**C. TODD LOPEZ**  
Army News Service

Knowing there's a possibility the government will go over a "fiscal cliff" at midnight, Dec. 31, the Army recognizes some of the challenges it will face but a senior leader said, Dec. 6, its priority will be to maintain readiness of the force.

Like its sister services, the Army faces repercussions and adjustments that would follow a nearly \$500-billion cut to the Department of Defense over the next decade.

"It is all about readiness," said Lt. Gen. William Grisoli, director, Army Office of Business Transformation. "It is all about as we take a look at the new strategy, we feel comfortable that there are some things we have to work as far as the readiness of the force."

The general spoke as part of a panel of government executives titled "The Road Ahead: Senior Military Leaders Identify New Challenges." It was hosted by the Government Executive Media Group.

It is uncertain now if the terms of the Budget Control Act of 2011 will go into effect come the end of the year -- Congress may yet find a way to avoid the act's effects. But Grisoli said if the Army is impacted by the cuts, it will have to look at what further adjustments will be necessary.

"As we adjust, if we are further impacted and we have things that we are asked to do, you always have to take a look at what force structure do we have -- no matter what service -- and can you man, train and equip it properly -- the hollow force issue -- so that we can accomplish the mission," Grisoli said. "Those are the things



The Army has a role with those 10 largest other armies that are in the Pacific Rim, to engage them, to be on the ground, to understand [them].

**Lt. Gen. William Grisoli**  
Army Office of Business Transformation director

we take a look at when you say what are our challenges. Our challenges are we will take a look at meeting the new strategy with the resources we are provided and we turn that dial of manning, training and equipping to make sure we don't have a hollow force."

### Trimming the workforce

Budget cuts could also mean cuts to manning for the Army. Already, the Army is reducing the number of Soldiers in the ranks -- a draw-down of the end strength is underway that aims to take the Army from a high-point of 570,000 down to about 490,000 Soldiers.

"As we draw down responsibly and look at that over a period of time -- the key thing that we learned over 10 years of war -- as all services have -- [is that] the key part of what we have is our people," Grisoli said. That includes, he said, Soldiers, civilians and contractors.

The Army will have to balance numbers of people with skills that it needs, he said.

"Human capital to all services is extremely important and how you

balance and grow that human capital is so important so whether it is uniform, civilian or contractor, what is the right path to meet the strategy we have?" he said.

The Army will need to consider what size and type of the war-fighting force it needs and what is needed to support that force, Grisoli said.

"It's really a balancing act -- making sure you've got the right skills in the right place and if there are some reductions based on that overall strategy then they might come in any of those particular areas, whether it is military, civilian or contractor," he said.

Grisoli said the Army is "looking very hard" at its strategy for the civilian workforce and at its transformation efforts for that work force. "How do we manage that, a little more centrally than we have in the past, to make sure we grow the right folks for the right positions?"

### Staying relevant

After the drawdown in Afghanistan, Soldiers will still have work to do and will still have opportunities to maintain their sharpness and readi-

ness. The Department of Defense has spelled out a strategy that puts increased emphasis on the Pacific region so Soldiers there will be engaged in partnership activities with some of the largest land forces in the world.

"In the Pacific, where we hope

to keep peace and continue commerce and all those sorts of things, all the series have a role," Grisoli said. "The Army has a role with those 10 largest other armies that are in the Pacific Rim, to engage them, to be on the ground, to understand [them]."

But Army leaders are also committed to strengthening commitments to all U.S. combatant commanders around the globe, by meeting their needs across a spectrum of options, including training opportunities, logistics support, engineering support and when needed, combat support. The Army will do that through regional alignments, such as in Africa where the Army has now aligned a brigade with U.S. Africa Command.

Grisoli said in the past the Army may not have been able to provide to all combatant commanders the support it would have liked to provide due to commitments in the Middle East. But now, with the drawdown, it is the Army's intent to more effectively meet the needs of COCOMs.

"We want to be able to send those capabilities as required," he said.

## Soldiers getting enhanced transition assistance

By **DAVID VERGUN**  
Army News Service

One of the biggest challenges Soldiers face is transitioning to civilian life. That transition got a boost Nov. 21, when the Veterans Opportunity to Work, or VOW, to Hire Heroes Act went into effect.

The act requires every Soldier to attend transition assistance classes.

The Army already was working to make transitioning easier even before the act took effect, according to retired Army Col. Walter Herd, director of the Army Transition Program, headquartered at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

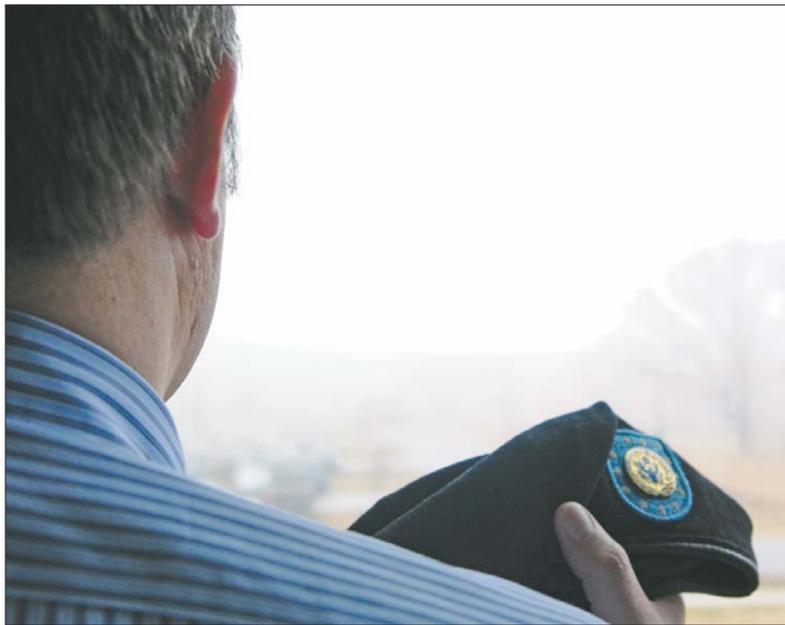
When the "re-engineered" Transition Assistance Program, or TAP, took effect Nov. 21, the Army already had 700 transition counselors and support staff in the field at 80 locations, including for the first time in U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility and in far-flung locations where Soldiers in the reserve component serve, according to Herd, who said that was double the capability the Army had just a year earlier.

And there's more. For decades, TAP involved attending classes. While classes are still offered, Herd said Soldiers now have options other than going to a brick-and-mortar structure at a fixed time and place.

"We now have 24/7 virtual capability where Soldiers can connect with a masters degree'd transition counselor via phone, webpage, email or via a virtual avatar-based ACAP center," he said. "These are the same services offered at brick-and-mortar centers here or overseas."

That call center number is 800-325-4715.

ACAP, the Army Career and Alumni Program, is a transition and job-assistance program that goes beyond TAP in offering detailed job-



This year alone, 132,000 Soldiers transitioned to civilian life. The Army is making that transition easier with a host of transition services for Soldiers, as well as their families.

assistance training. Their website is <https://www.acap.army.mil> and their Facebook page is <http://www.facebook.com/ArmyCareerandAlumniProgram>. ACAP is offered both virtually and in a classroom setting and is now part of the expanded TAP.

Feedback from the field on the Army's transitioning efforts has been positive, Herd said, noting that the flexibility of the new choice-based system is especially popular.

"A Soldier can now work on his or her resume at midnight on Saturday via virtual contact with a live counselor, if he or she so chooses," Herd said. "The Army is currently the only service offering this benefit."

Transition assistance includes completing a family budget, an individu-

alized transition plan, and a military occupational specialty crosswalk gap analysis. The latter, according to Herd, is a plan to match a Soldier's Military Occupational Specialty, or MOS, with one or more civilian occupations. Soldiers can then build a more effective resume and also determine if a license or certification is required for those jobs or if additional training is warranted.

Other transitioning help will be available soon. The Department of Veterans Affairs will deliver a virtual benefits brief at 9 a.m. (EST), Dec. 21.

The Department of Labor will deliver its virtual employment workshop Dec. 18-20 at 9 a.m. (EST).

Herd said the Army will offer this virtual training on a regular basis,

beginning in January. To register for these events, visit [www.acap.army.mil](http://www.acap.army.mil).

Herd said all of these transitioning services are offered to Army Family members as well as Soldiers. With 132,000 Soldiers alone transitioning this year, that's a pretty big audience if you include Family members, he said.

Transition help will get even better in the future.

Next spring, the Army is piloting three different two-day seminars in education, entrepreneurial planning and vocational-technical training.

Another pilot will be launched around the same time, known as the capstone event. "What this means," he said, "is that Soldiers will sit down with their commander and/or a counselor to ensure everything that needs to be done has actually been done: transition briefing, yes; budget, yes; resume, yes; training seminar, not yet."

The three two-day seminars and the capstone event are scheduled to go Army-wide in October 2013, he said.

"By October 2014, Army transition efforts will be scattered throughout the lifetime of a Soldier, so you don't begin to think about transitioning the last year or so," he said. "Rather, you start the transitioning process the first year or so so you can prepare yourself with plans, certification, networking and so on throughout your career, whether it's just a 12-month mobilization or a 30-year career."

Herd said that while the Army is offering a host of transitioning services, "the most important thing that Soldiers can do is to go to their transitioning events early and often. Leadership support is essential to making this happen. This is key to a successful transition."

Meet **Barbara Layton**, the APG Thrift Store manager.

Layton supervises two employees and 20 volunteers, and oversees the store's operations. Proceeds from the thrift store go to support the community. The thrift store makes donations to Army Community Service, Combined Federal Campaign, the Perry Point Veteran's Administration Medical Center, the Directorate of Emergency Services' Letters to Santa gift-giving program and more.

Layton said anyone can shop or donate items using the donation box outside the facility. Thrift store wares include jewelry, clothes, furniture, toys,



**Barbara Layton** APG Thrift Store Manager

electronics, collectibles and cookware.

"We have some unique items," she said. "Because we are located on a military base, we get frequent donations

from people moving. We get some nice, new or barely used clothes," she said. "Before you buy an item in the store, come see if we have it here."

Layton said she enjoys working with the "wonderful" people who work in the store. A few, she noted, have volunteered more than 30 years.

"I also enjoy interacting and getting to know the customers," she said. "We have loyal customers who shop here every week."

The Thrift Store is located on APG North in Bldg. 2458, next to the child development center. Hours are Wednesdays 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., consignments from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., consignments from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 410-272-8572 for information.

