



CECOM changes command

Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong will relinquish command of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command during a Feb. 9 ceremony at 10 a.m. in the Myer Auditorium at APG's C4ISR Center of Excellence campus.

Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell will accept command during the ceremony.

Strong successfully led the base closure and realignment move from Fort Monmouth, N.J., and led the creation of the new C4ISR Center of Excellence. He will retire after more than 34 years of Army service.

'Glory Road' athlete speaks at Feb. 29 event

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Nevil Shed, former college basketball forward who made history during the Civil Rights era, will speak at the annual National Black History Month observance, hosted by Team APG at the APG North recreation Center Feb. 29.

Shed played for the Texas Western Miners, the first team to start an all-African-American lineup in an NCAA Division championship game in 1966. Shed, who went to the NBA as a starter for the Boston Celtics, will talk about defeating Kentucky in the championship game, despite the harsh opposition his team faced for defying the racial norms at that time.

The Bronx-born Shed is now a motivational speaker and a San Antonio Spurs summer camp coach, but was dubbed "The

See **BLACK**, page 11



File photo by Tom Faulkner

APG Installation and RDECOM Commander Maj. Gen. Nick Justice signs a ball for a young attendee at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen during the Ironbirds' Military Appreciation Night July 30, 2010. Justice and Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz were among those who threw out the game's honorary first pitches.

CG discusses tour at RDECOM, APG

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**
RDECOM PAO

Maj. Gen. Nick Justice will retire Feb. 13 after 42 years of U.S. Army service. He assumed command of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Dec. 4, 2009, from Maj. Gen. Paul Izzo. Dale Ormond will become RDECOM's acting director Feb. 10.

The following excerpts are from Justice's exit interview with RDECOM historian Jeff Smart.

What were your first impressions of APG and its facilities and the RDECOM mission and past accomplishments?

Going through that old Edgewood Area gate, I knew it was a place time had for-

gotten. No combat division would live like that on an Army installation.

When I got out to meet the people, and you see where the people are working and the mission going on here, it was amazing. But to see this place, you had to wonder how this could be a center of excellence. It was a dichotomy in your mind, struggling with the image you see and the mission the people are doing.

We needed to demolish some of these old facilities that are no longer used. Make this place more attractive for our workforce. The evolution at this place is amazing. There has not been a month go by that I've had the privilege to command this organization that we haven't cut a ribbon and opened something new.

What changes did you make to RDECOM to make it better?

I wanted to get people to understand how each of the missions in the headquarters interacts with each other and how it applies to our engineering centers. We are creating the integration and synchronization in the products that we produce. We are building the engineering staff because that's our core mission.

Reach out to our field support elements -- Science and Technology Assistance Teams and Science and Technology Acquisition Corps Advisers -- are linked back into headquarters. They know what we have available to support them in the field. Bring our presence to a combatant

See **JUSTICE**, page 7

H-Town highlights 'An Evening of R&B'

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Fans of the '90s R&B/hip-hop sounds can take a musical trip down memory lane when MWR and LMG Entertainment presents "An Evening of R&B" at the APG North recreation center Feb. 18.

The show's headliner is the duo H-Town with guests Slim of 112 and local artist Melody. Doors open at 7 p.m.; the show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at www.apgmwr.com or at the APG North recreation center, Bldg. 3326, or the APG South recreation center, Bldg. E4140.

Earlene Allen, MWR special events coordinator, said she has received several requests to host an R&B concert, in addition to the

See **R&B CONCERT**, page 11



National Prayer Luncheon set Feb. 15

All faiths encouraged to attend, pray for troops, leaders

Luncheon is for all faiths to come together and pray for the nation, Soldiers and leaders.

"As we have Soldiers in harm's way, it is good to take time to pray for their safety," Morse said.

The event will also include four prayers from members of the Jewish, Catholic, Muslim and Protestant faith groups.

"In today's religious and political climate people do not collaborate as much as they should," said the installation Chaplain (Col.) Orman Boyd. "This is a special time where the APG family can come together and pray for our Soldiers and leaders, and people of all religious backgrounds are welcome."

See **PRAYER**, page 11

Special to the APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground will host a National Prayer Luncheon Feb. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Top of the Bay.

The event will feature remarks from Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Donald L. Rutherford, the Army's chief of chaplains. Music will be provided by Hot Club Philly, a gypsy jazz band.

Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan Morse, garrison support chaplain, said traditionally the purpose of the National Prayer

WEATHER

Thurs.



50° | 35°

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APG News Online

Redesign gives readers more of what they're looking for.

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A world away

Contractors cross paths in Iraq, reunite at APG on the job and in the band.

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GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

Blood drive set tomorrow, make appointments online

PAGE 6

Museum council takes first look at restoration facility

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

APG Museum Council members got a first look Jan. 26 inside the building where relics of the past will be restored and preserved for display in the new museum.

Museum Director Gail Fuller and Museum Specialist Ed Heasley directed the monthly meeting which concluded with a walkthrough of the facility led by museum specialist Nate Grogan.

Located in Bldg. 3070, the restoration facility is funded and supported by the U.S. Army Center of Military History and Garrison APG, and operated by contractor EDSI – short for Engineering/Documentation Systems, Inc., whose personnel specialize in macro artifact restoration.

Fuller and her staff brief council members regularly on the museum's status as it moves closer to compliance as a museum within the CMH system. Subjects discussed include the museum's proposed name and mission statement, milestones fulfilled and yet to be faced, exhibit planning and design, new acquisitions and a call for continued artifact donations from organizations and individuals.

Fuller said the museum is coming into its own at a time when the Army is expanding STEM (science technology, engineering and math) outreach to local schools and through partnerships with organizations like CSSC and the Army Alliance.



Museum specialist Nate Grogan (left) leads members of the APG Museum Council on a tour of the restoration facility where artifacts are rebuilt and preserved for future display. The group is standing alongside a fully-restored French FT-17 World War I-era light tank.

"I think our museum will draw youth groups," Fuller said, adding that, "we are getting interesting things from different sources, in the form of private collections and memorabilia."

A mini-exhibit, which was prepared for the Top of the Bay reopening in December, remains on display in the Gunpowder Room.

To donate artifacts to the museum that

help tell the APG history, contact Fuller at 410-306-2669 or susan.g.fuller2.civ@mail.mil.

Read more about the EDSI Restoration Facility in future issues of the *APG News*.

Local weekend warriors rock on and off duty

Airmen find harmony at APG, after Iraq

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Two Aberdeen Proving Ground contractors spend their days testing firepower on the small arms ranges of the Aberdeen Test Center - and pounding out another brand of noise on the weekends.

Clive "Rio" Hiatt and Hector Irizzary are the founding members of the Forest Hill-based band 10Blade, which while lighting up the night life in Charm City, recently cut its first CD on the Tate Music Group label.

In the Baltimore area, none of this is unusual. What makes these guys unique is that once a month their weekends are also spoken for by Uncle Sam.

Both are ammunition specialists with the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Flight Wing out of Martin State Airport in Middle River. They met while deployed to Iraq in 2007. Hiatt, a vocalist, songwriter and the band's lead singer had long thought of forming a band to showcase his music. Irizzary was an accomplished bass guitarist in a metal band. When the conversation turned to music, the two hit it off right away.

Sensing potential, Hiatt said he immediately started talking about forming a band once they returned home. Irizzary was looking to slow down at the time, however, and resisted the offer.



Courtesy photo

When not working on ATC ranges, Jacobs Technology contractors Clive "Rio" Hiatt (center) and Hector Irizzary (left) serve with the Maryland Air National Guard and lead the "modern rock" band 10Blade along with Doug Carpenter, April Joynes and Lloyd Woolridge.

But the two seemed destined to stay together. Both began working for Jacobs Technology around the same time and after being referred by a mutual friend. They ended up on the same mission site with Hiatt as the range support branch manager and Irizzary as an ammunition accountability technician. The two are married with children and both share an easy friendship that stands out in their musical collaborations.

"I just write the lyrics and leave the music to them," Hiatt said of Irizzary and the other band members who include April Joynes on drums, and guitarists Lloyd Woolridge and Doug Carpenter.

"They are the ones that make it happen," Hiatt said.

With just over four years on the Baltimore circuit, they agreed the work is starting to pay off.

"When you first start, it's hard to get that opening," he said. "But we're playing with better known bands, more people are coming out to see us and the venues are more open to booking us. Now with our own record out, people who used to shut the door on us are calling us."

They describe their music as "not hard rock; modern rock," and their goal – according to their website at www.reverbnation.com/10Blade – is to "provide an in-your-face unique approach and atmosphere that is a little different from all other bands."

On their debut album, "Torn Between," Hiatt wrote the songs and the band members took care of the rest.

Hesitant about revealing the motivation behind his songs, Hiatt said he prefers for listeners gather their own meaning. He did say, however that the anthem "Take This (The Anthem)" is a tribute to the military, police and firefighters. Fans can listen to two other songs, "Dreamstealer" and "Together" on the Reverbnation website.

The group has played at venues like the Recher Theater in Towson and they have an upcoming Cancer Benefit at the 1840s Ballroom in Baltimore's Inner Harbor Feb. 4.

They also tested the waters on APG when they performed during an MWR concert last year which was well received by the Soldiers of the former 143rd Ordnance Battalion. Hiatt said the Soldiers "went completely nuts" for two hours.

"Those young men and women pushed us to play as hard as we could," he recalled.

Irizzary added that the band looks for any opportunity to play for service members.

"One of our goals is to one day do a show in our dress blues," he said.

"It's easy doing what we do when the group of people and support is so great. We're just regular kind of guys. Hopefully, one day we'll be regular kind of guys with a little more popularity."

For more about 10Blade visit their official website at www.10blademusic.com, at www.reverbnation.com.10blade, or on Twitter at theband10blade.

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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

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First two-star takes reins of U.S. Army Public Health Command

U.S. Army Public Health Command

Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan assumed command of the U.S. Army Public Health Command during a traditional military ceremony Jan. 27 at the Top of the Bay.

She is the first two-star general to head the USAPHC or its predecessor organizations, the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and the Army Veterinary Command.

Before hundreds of USAPHC Soldiers and civilians, guests, Family and friends, Command Sgt. Major Gerald C. Ecker passed the unit colors to Keenan, signifying her assumption of command. Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, the 43rd Army surgeon general and commander, U.S. Army Medical Command, served as the reviewing official.

Horoho commended Col. Dennis C. Brown for his extraordinary leadership while serving as the acting commander of the USAPHC, and expressed her continued confidence in him as he returns to the command's chief of staff position.

Horoho also praised Keenan's leadership, and said the command's future is bright with leaders like her.

"Maj. Gen. Keenan's skills and experience as a leader and administrator make her most qualified to take the reins as commander and to ensure that the Public Health Command remains a key enabler for Army Medicine and for the entire military health system," said Horoho. "We look forward to her bold leadership, enabling us to prevent disease and promote good health at every level from the individual deployed Soldier to the entire Army Family."

Keenan is the 12th commander and fourth nurse to lead the USAPHC. She said she looks forward to broadening the organization legacy of outstanding service to Soldiers and retirees, their families and Army civilians. She said she was humbled to serve in her new position, and called the command the "bedrock of prevention-based, wellness-focused health care."

She emphasized that the mission of prevention is key to the future of Army medicine, as well as to the well-being of each individual the USAPHC supports.

"Our responsibility is great," she

Healthy Living



Photo by Ben Bungler

Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan (left) receives the USAPHC colors from Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, Army surgeon general and commander, U.S. Army Medical Command. Keenan is the 12th commander and fourth Army nurse, and the first two-star general, to lead the organization.

pointed out, explaining that Army Medicine looks to the USAPHC for identification of diseases, epidemics and spikes in medical conditions that signal the need for medical intervention; for injury prevention; and for analysis of the factors that contribute to suicide.

"We monitor, mitigate and archive environmental health risks (and evalu-

ate) occupational exposures in our workplaces, helping to protect both Soldiers and civilian employees, empowering us make the healthy changes that will help ensure our quality of life," said Keenan.

Despite the potential for budget constraints, Keenan expects the demand for USAPHC's public health services to increase.

"We will continue to champion the cause of those we serve," she said. "We will remain pioneers, creating initiatives that promote both mental and physical wellness. Together, we will continue to improve, to pursue promising initiatives and to base our decisions on good values, good science and good practice."

In her new duties as commanding general of the USAPHC, Keenan will lead a worldwide organization with more than 3,000 Soldiers and civilians assigned. The USAPHC promotes health and prevents disease, injury and disability in Soldiers and military retirees, their Family members, and Army civilians, and assures effective execution of full-spectrum veterinary services for the Army and Department of Defense.

Keenan was commissioned into the Army as a Nurse Corps officer after receiving her Baccalaureate of Nursing degree from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark. She also holds a Master of Science in Nursing Administration from the Medical College of Georgia and a Master's in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. She has enjoyed a variety of medical and command assignments of increasing responsibility, both in the U.S. and overseas. She was selected as an Army Congressional Fellow assigned to the staff of then-Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX). Her most recent assignments were as the first chief of staff, U.S. Army Warrior Transition Command, and as commander of Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colo.

Keenan's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and the Army Achievement Medal. She has earned the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. Keenan was the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award winner for the Health Services Command in 1988, and a regional finalist in the White House Fellowship Program in 1992. She is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit and a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

APG News Online gets facelift, offers friendlier feel, contemporary design

By **ADRIANE FOSS**
APG News

As people increasingly read their news online, the *APG News* is making the experience more enjoyable for its readers.

Last month's redesign of *APG News Online* satisfies visitors' needs by meeting their technological needs—an electronic version of the newspaper, accessible at all times—while maintaining the old-fashioned feel of reading a publication, thanks to Flash technology.

“The Flash animation gives readers the sense of turning an actual page,” said Nick Pentz, *APG News* graphic designer. “It’s not necessary, but it’s something that readers enjoy as we continue to transition from a real-paper to a digital world. You see this technology used frequently on E-readers and tablets, which suggests to me that people aren’t ready to let go of turning a real page.”

Pentz said in addition to the new technology, he freshened up the design.

“The website’s design was about six years old, which is ancient for a constantly changing internet,” he said. “We wanted to create something cleaner, more reader-friendly and with less pop-up windows.

Readers can zoom in and scroll through the newspaper pages, or download the issue to read later. And because it’s a pdf, the issue can be downloaded on a personal computer or smart phone.

Add the site’s social media widgets, and *APG News Online* becomes a one-stop shop for installation news and information.

Automatic updates from the installation’s Twitter and Flickr feeds make the site more timely than ever, said Pentz.

“The Facebook link is not a live feed,” said Pentz, “but it will take you directly to the installation’s Facebook page, which has become a pretty lively forum for community members. There’s also a link to the APG Live blog site.”

Readers are encouraged to visit *APG News Online* for archived issues, which currently date back to 1999.

“We haven’t been able to post issues prior to that year, but we do have a hard-copy archive that community members are welcome to view at office in Bldg. 305,” said Pentz.

Another highlight of the new site is its showcase of the current issue’s top story.

“There is no need to surf through the paper,” said Pentz. “We’ve pulled it out and posted it, front and center. We’ve also compiled the Post Shorts, FMWR and Community Notes under a tab at the top of the page. Really, anything we could do to make it a little easier for readers.”

Pentz said the redesign is a work in progress and encouraged readers to email him comments and suggestions at npentz@apgnews.com.

“I’ll continue to add new features and refine things,” he added, “and I’d really like to hear from community members, find out what they’d like to see.”



What's In It For You

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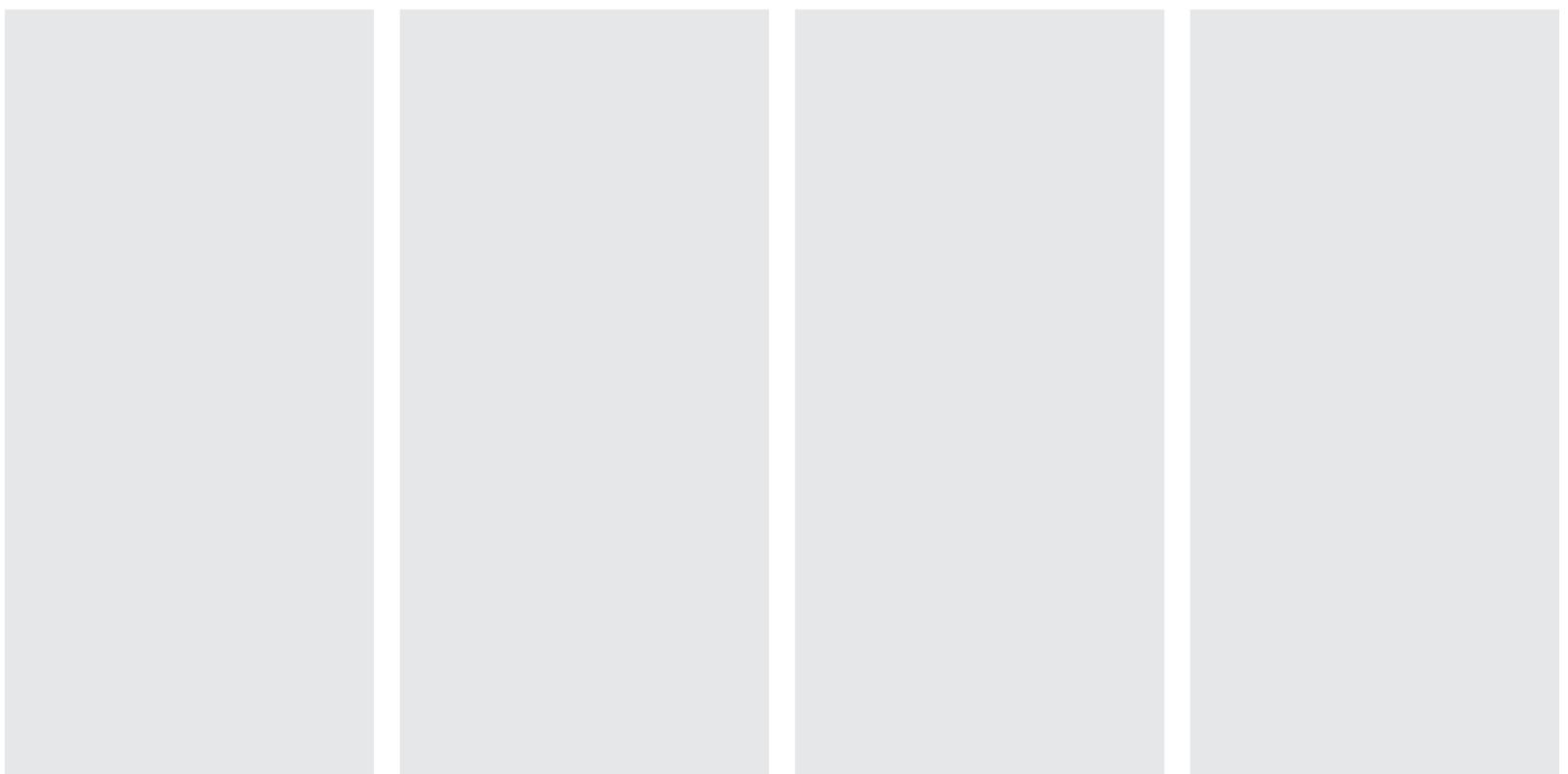
Newspaper Sections, Staff Bios and Contact Information easy to access with new tabs.
- 2

Social media widgets give readers automatic updates. Facebook link keeps you connected.
- 3

New animation technology gives readers the sense of turning a page.
- 4

Download any issue of the paper to a PC or smartphone to read now or later.
- 5

The issue's top story is front and center. No need to navigate the site.



FAMILY AND MWR

Fun Time Ceramics

Learn to paint and create your own ceramic projects. The class will be held at the Stark recreation center at APG South (Edgewood) Feb. 20, 1 to 5 p.m. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. There is a \$5 fee per project. Pieces must dry for 30 minutes before being taken home.

To register, visit the recreation center before Feb 17. Call 410-278-4011/4907 or email APGR-USAG-MWR Leisure-travel@conus.army.mil for info.

CYSS Parent Participation Points

Are you a parent who has a child enrolled in a full or part-time Child, Youth & School Services Program? If so, you may be eligible to receive a reduction in your child care fee by earning Parent Participation Points. One way of doing this is by attending classes or meetings that offer Parent Participation Points. Once a parent earns 10 points, they are eligible to receive a 10 percent reduction off one month's fee for one child. Participation Points may be accumulated from month to month until the parent reaches 10 points. For more information, call 410-278-7571/7479.

2012 APG Spring Bazaar

The 2012 APG Spring Bazaar is right around the corner. Get ready for two days of door prizes, arts and crafts and tons of fresh-baked goods, March 20 and 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center. Items for sale include arts and crafts; home décor; hand bags and purses; jewelry; gift items; fresh-baked goods and more. With the North Side Grill housed in the same building, stop in and enjoy lunch and live entertainment. Don't forget to enter the giveaway for your chance to win an Amazon Kindle Fire. Call 410-278-4011.

How to Smart Start Your Small Business

Army Community Service is hosting seminars where future entrepreneurs will learn How to Smart Start Your Small Business and realize their dreams of owning a small business. These free seminars will provide an overview of ways to start a small business, teach

the skills and duties of a successful entrepreneur and prepare future small business owners to write a business plan. Services offered by small business development centers will also be discussed.

All seminars will be held in ACS Bldg. 2503. The seminar times and dates are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 8, April 11, June 20, Aug. 8, Sept. 12 and Nov. 7.

Space is limited, so please reserve your slot early. For information or to reserve a seat, call 410-278-6996/7572.

Recharging Your Marriage

Just in time for Valentine's Day, this four-part series is designed to help married couples rekindle the spark in their marriages. Whether married for 20 years or 20 days, this seminar will help married couples rediscover each other in a forum-style setting. Rather than spend a whole lot of money taking your spouse out for Valentine's Day, give each other a gift that will last for years to come and plan to attend this seminar. Each seminar will be in ACS Bldg 2503. The seminar times and dates are 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9, March 8, April 5 and May 3.

Child care will be provided. Refreshments will also be served. For information or to schedule child care, call 410-278-2435.

2012 APG MWR Travel Fair

Are you planning a vacation? Let MWR help with this year's travel plans during the 2012 APG MWR Travel Fair, set for March 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the APG North Recreation Center ballroom. The Fair is open to all DoD cardholders and their Families. Representatives from local attractions will be present to answer questions.

Don't forget to enter to win some of the fabulous door prizes including hotel stays, bus trips, theme park tickets, gift certificates and more.

Complimentary light refreshments will be provided. For more information, call 410-278-4011/4907.

Ways to Handle the Stress of Parenting

Who said parenting was easy? While it is the most rewarding job, parenting also comes with its struggles. Army

Community Service will hold a seminar to equip individuals with tools to overcome struggles faced by every parent. The seminar is April 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in ACS Bldg. 2503. The program is designed to help parents develop new coping skills when feeling stressed.

For information, call 410-278-2435.

Armed Forces Vacation Club

Planning a vacation? The Armed Forces Vacation Club has tons of incredible discounts on spacious accommodations all over the world. Seven-night stays at select locations start as low as \$349. All active military service members and their direct dependants, retired military and their direct dependants, DoD civilian employees and their direct dependants and 100 percent disabled American veterans are authorized to take advantage of these deals. Discounts are valid for space-available inventory only. Remember to enter base code 105 at the time of the booking. If you have questions, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

Luray Cavems discount

Take a spin through time, 400 million years worth to be exact, to discover the amazing history of these unearthly caverns. Tickets cost \$18.25 for those 13 years and older; tickets for children ages 3 to 12 cost \$9.25. Luray Caverns is located on 970 Highway 211 West, Luray, Va., in the Shenandoah Valley. Prices are subject to change with-

out notice. Visit www.luraycaverns.com/PlanyourVisit/AboutLurayCaverns/tabid/507/Default.aspx. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the MWR Leisure Travel Office at 410-278-4011/4907, visit the AA Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

Driving School

The Ultimate Driving School, LLC, offers classes through June 20 at 13 N. Parke Street in Aberdeen. Classes are conducted Mon.-Thurs. 5 to 8:15 p.m.

Sessions are: Feb. 6-23, March 05-21, April 09-25, May 07-23 and June 04-20. Cost is \$335 per student. Prices subject to change without notice. Class includes 30 hours classroom instruction and six hours behind the wheel instruction.

Last day to register is one week prior to the first class. Students must be between the ages of 15.9 and 18 years old. Parents must attend first and last day of classes with students. Open to all DoD cardholders. To register, call 410-278-7571/7479 for an appointment. Email stacie.e.umbarger.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-4589.



MORE ONLINE

For a listing of FMWR activities and events, or to read the weekly MWR newsletter, scan the code.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

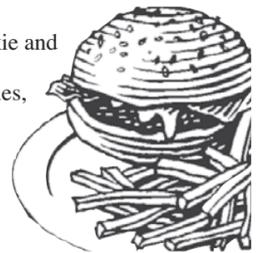
Week of January 30

Special #1: Chicken salad wrap with chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25.

Special #2: Pepperoni pizza sub with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.50.

The Bowling Center also serves breakfast. For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041.

Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.



Post Shorts

Placement program halted

The IMCOM program designed to place over-hires from one installation in vacancies at another installation has been temporarily halted. Check the *APG News* and APG Facebook page for updates on the Internal Enterprise Placement Program, or call CPAC's Carolyn Russell at 410-306-0173.

Nichols named new ACC commander

The U.S. Army Chief of Staff announced Jan. 24 that Brig. Gen. (P) Camille M. Nichols will assume command of the U.S. Army Contracting Command. Previously selected for promotion to major general, Nichols currently serves as the Program Executive Officer, Soldier, at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The date for the ACC change of command has not been determined.

Construction meeting Feb. 15

The State Highway Administration will present a briefing on the impact of the upcoming Route 715/MD 40 interchange construction at the Aberdeen Middle School Feb. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is open to the public.

Public encouraged to attend RAB meetings

APG Installation Restoration Program RAB meetings take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in Edgewood 1700 Van Bibber Road. The public is encouraged to attend. Topics scheduled are:

- Feb. 23 - Long Term Monitoring Sites
 - May 31 - Canal Creek, SediMite Update, New O-Field
 - June 28 - Other Edgewood Areas
 - Sept. 27 - ROA Update, Lauderick Creek Cluster 13 (Electrical Resistance Heating)
 - Oct. 25 - MMRP (Military Munitions Response Program) Update for AA and EA
- No meetings are scheduled for March, April, July, August, November and December.

Rights to Union representation (Weingarten Notice)

It is required to annually notify employees (who are represented by a union) of their right to union representation at any examination by an agency rep in connection with an investigation, if the employee

reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action.

In accordance with the requirements of 5 USC 7114(a)(2), this notice constitutes the required notification. The text of the law is as follows:

An exclusive representative of an appropriate unit in an agency shall be given the opportunity to be represented at: (B) any examination of an employee in the unit by a representative of the agency in connection with an investigation if – (i) the employee reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee; and (ii) the employee requests representation.

Top of the Bay Valentine

Celebrate Valentine's Day at Top of the Bay Feb. 14 with the APG Community Women's Club. Bring your sweetheart and enjoy dinner followed by bingo. Non-members are welcome.

There will be an optional wedding vow renewal ceremony at 5:45 p.m. conducted by Chaplain Simpson. Dinner is at 6:15 p.m. Adult choices are chicken Kiev \$27, beef roulade \$32 or vegetarian 5-cheese ravioli w/portabella mushrooms & seasonal vegetables \$27. Price includes iced tea, water, coffee, gratuity, dessert and bingo. A children's menu is also available offering chicken fingers and fries \$11 or spaghetti and meatballs \$11. RSVP to Doris Pickerd at reservations@apgcwc.org or 908-601-8609 by Feb. 9 with menu selection and if attending renewal. Cancellations after Feb. 9 will incur a cost.

Manager/Supervisor EEO Training set Feb. 9

The APG Equal Employment Opportunity Office will host Equal Opportunity Training for Supervisors and Managers, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Bldg. 3147, Room 208, Feb. 9.

The purpose of the training is to increase awareness of specific equal opportunity-related responsibilities unique to supervisory and managerial positions within the federal government. Awareness of program requirements and command Affirmative program/Equal Employment Opportunity goals are critical for those who are in leadership positions that impact the civilian workforce.

Attending Equal Employment Opportunity training will enable managers and supervisors to clearly: a) articulate commitment to fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory workplace free of harassment; b) state expectation for employee conduct; and c) understand personal accountability for a successful Equal Employment

Blood drive set tomorrow, make appointments online

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

The 9th Area Medical Laboratory is sponsoring an Armed Services Blood Drive Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 5516 on Bel Air Street.

The ASBP ships donated blood products to Family members and Soldiers deployed and at home, in peace and war, anywhere in the world.

Donors are encouraged to make an appointment to donate at www.militarydonor.com. The sponsor code is APGMD. Walk-ins will be accepted after appointments.

"We hope that by allowing people to schedule an appointment, APG employees will be able to fit donating blood into their day without it interfering with their work," said Col. Rachel Armstrong, 9th AML commander.

This is the first time that the unit has hosted an Armed Forces Blood Drive. Armstrong said many Soldiers in her unit requested to host a blood drive so they could give back to their fellow service members. She said the unit's lab technicians know firsthand how vital it is for medical units to have an adequate supply.

"This is a way that you can give back to the Armed Forces," Armstrong said. "It can help save an injured service member's life."

Donors will be screened and tested for anemia before giving blood. Snacks, water and fruit juice will be provided.

For more information, contact Cpt. Bjorn Listerud at 410-278-2766 or bjorn.listerud@us.army.mil.

Opportunity Program.

Equal Employment Opportunity training for supervisors and managers is recommended within 45 days of assuming responsibility as a manager or supervisor. Sign-up through ATTARS course code: RB8AEEO or contact Charles Thomas at 410-278-1131 or charles.e.thomas47.civ@mail.mil.

Deadline approaching for Picerne grants, scholarships

Our Family for Families First, John G. Picerne's private charitable foundation, was established to support the educational goals of children and spouses of active-duty service members.

College scholarships in the amount of up to \$50,000 for the children of active-duty service members and educational grants in the amount of \$5,000 are available each year for spouses of active-duty service members stationed at APG, Fort Polk, Fort Bragg, Fort Meade, Fort Rucker, Fort Riley and Fort Sill. Applications are available at www.ourfamilyfoundation.org.

Scholarship applications are due Feb. 16; grant applications are due May 17. Review the info on the website for eligibility requirements.

Toastmasters meeting

Going on a job interview? Giving a presentation? Toastmasters can assist. Toastmasters will help you develop better speaking and presentation skills, learn to think quickly and clearly on your feet, build strong leadership abilities and hone your listening skills.

Visit <http://2562.toastmastersclubs.org/> for directions or contact Heather McDowell at 443-207-0275 or Dave Garcia at dave.garcia@us.army.mil or call 410-436-5013 for information.



MORE ONLINE

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

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4 EAGLE EYES

Meet former ACLEC naturalist and eagle researcher Jess Baylor at the Conowingo Dam parking lot off Shures Landing Road for a brisk hour of observing the national bird at a local hotspot for eagle activity. This program will be held 9 to 10 a.m. for ages 8 to adult, (ages 8 to 12) with adult. The program is free, but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

INVASINATORS

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

days. This program will be held 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. The program is free, but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

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

WINTER WOVEN BASKET

The winter season is a perfect time for crafting. Weave a unique basket to hold decorations, gifts, or to serve warm baked goods. This program will be held 1 to 5 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. The cost is \$20 and online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

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

CREATIVE QUILLING

Quilling is the art of coiling paper into shapes that look complicated but are really simple. Try making a snow-

flake and make it simple or ornate. This program will be held 11 a.m. to noon. for ages 8 to adult. The program is free, but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

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

CRITTER DINNER TIME

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat while learning more about these fascinating creatures. This program will be held at 1:30 p.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

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

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 WHITE-TAILED DEER SURVEY

Harford County seems to be

experiencing explosive population growth and not just with humans. Come help determine if the deer population of Leight Park is a healthy size. Come get the scoop on poop and conduct pellet (deer scat) counts out on the trails to determine how many deer call the Park home. This program will be held 9 a.m. to noon for ages 16 to adult. The program is free but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

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



MORE ONLINE

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

LEAVE DONATIONS

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

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

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Patricia Adams	Cheryl Cerqueira	Anhtung Duong	LaTasha Hines	Shantiea Mack	Paul Shelley	Kimberly Trubia
Audrey Alba	Sang Cha	Joanne Eberhardt	Walter Holland	Cassandra Morrison	Lena Shelton	Joya Tucker
Debra Bonsall	Ann Clapham	Melanie Espich	Sarah Ingram	Margaret Nahrang	Bridgette Smith	Juan Vitali
Cheryl Black	Sharon Colclough	Megan Farley	Kari Jackson	Theresa Padron	Danielle Smith	Matthew Warne
Diane Bratton	Terry Cole	Tiana Ford	LaKia Johnson	Linda Patrick	Robynn Squires	Monica Webb
Roberta	Kelly Correia	Melanie France	Bernard King	Donna Pierce	Nicole Stallings	Ann West
Brown-Thurman	Adrienne Crelin	(PSI-COE)	Subria Kelly	Edward Rath	Melissa Steffen	Emily Whaley
(Ft Huachuca)	Kathy Crouse	Christine Federisko	Pennie Kemp	Sheba Reedliff-Coble	Heather Steinhilber	Aaron Wilson
Mikale Gerdes Brutus	Celeste Disciullo	Arya Golriz	Cindy Learn	Jaime Rattl	Sonya Taylor	Heather Williamson
Holly Cacciapaglia	Teresa Doonan	Marilyn Grebe	Robert Luce	Jose Rivera-Alvarez	Lorena Thompson	Fatisha Wright
(Vets Administration)	Meg Downey	Shawn Heinlein	Christopher Lyles	Pedro Rodriguez	Heather Tomaseski	Melvin Wright
Sara Campbell						



Hoops Honors

(From right) Eight-year-old Jake Kegley won the Boys 8-9 Division and Celeste Castma won the Girls 8-9 Division in the Elks District Hoop Shoot free throw contest at Dover High School in Dover, Del. Jan. 28. They were two of five students representing the Abingdon Elk's Lodge and APG's youth center and earned the chance to compete after finishing first place in the subordinate lodge "Hoop Shoot" contest at the youth center Jan. 14. In the Boys 10-11 age group, Nathaniel Martinelli finished in 2nd place; Asha Thomas finished in 2nd place in the Girls 10-11 Division. Aaliyah Tisdale finished in 2nd place in the Girls 12-13 division. Jake Kegley and Celeste Castma will advance to the Maryland, Delaware and D.C. Hoop Shoot Feb. 18 at Whittier Recreation Center in Frederick, Md. The Elks Hoop Shoot is the largest, most visible of the many youth activities sponsored by Elks lodges. Over 3 million boys and girls ages 8-13 will participate this year. The winners each receive a trophy and their names are inscribed on a plaque at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Courtesy photo

Justice highlights tour in exit interview

Continued from Page 1

commander and his mission so he can leverage our capabilities.

How has base realignment and closure affected RDECOM?

It has been a tremendous boost to the installation with a lot of high-tech people coming in. BRAC overall has been a positive for the Army and certainly for APG.

Aberdeen Proving Ground benefited because of the people here in Maryland. The leadership in Maryland at all levels – city, county, state, national delegation in Congress – all very supportive of the BRAC move and the mission at APG. The new arrivals to APG found open arms.

How would you describe the relationship between RDECOM and its primary customer? Are we more technology driven and Warfighter focused since you got here?

Absolutely. Especially Warfighter focused. You have to put the customer first. Getting that operational mission really focused on delivering products to a combatant commander and helping him understand what he needed is critical to our success.

One of the things that we added is RDECOM Field Assistance in Science and Technology Center, our science and technology field team. They took a prototype facility forward with them in Afghanistan. They have an incredible capability to engineer and prototype things in the field, which cuts the time down that it takes to solve the problem.

We have engineers forward in theater face-to-face with the Soldier with the problem. Have him show you why it's not meeting his needs, then you don't over-engineer a solution that doesn't help him. You understand the conditions, the operating environment. You understand thresholds of criticality – time, danger, exposure, speed limitations, driving requirements. Provide him something more focused on his need, deliver a better-quality product in a shorter time.

What role did you play in coordinating between RDECOM's laboratories?

The labs have historically been set up in a domain. That worked well in the 1980s when we didn't have things integrated together. Today, integration has become the defining capability of this generation and this time.

We set up processes to force that integration. We've still got a long way to go, but we've brokered all the integrations up front in our funding stream.

What was your role in RDECOM's STEM education mission?

That's been one of the fun missions. Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley asked us to be part of the recruiting mission, partner with them. "Can you help me sell the nation that the Army is a high-tech organization?" Well, that's pretty easy to do in this command.

Lt. Gen. Freakley and I talked about a dream of recruiters recruiting Army civilians through the same methodology that we recruit Soldiers. It's important for us to raise the importance of our Army civilian workforce, especially as we draw down some of our combat units. We should take government civilians and make them a more integral part of what we're doing each and every day.

I was with the national finalist eCYBERMISSION team in San Antonio. You should see the maturity in that group of young people. To see how much those kids have fallen in love with science and technology was great, and we became a tool for some phenomenal teachers that want to make their kids enthusiastic about this stuff.

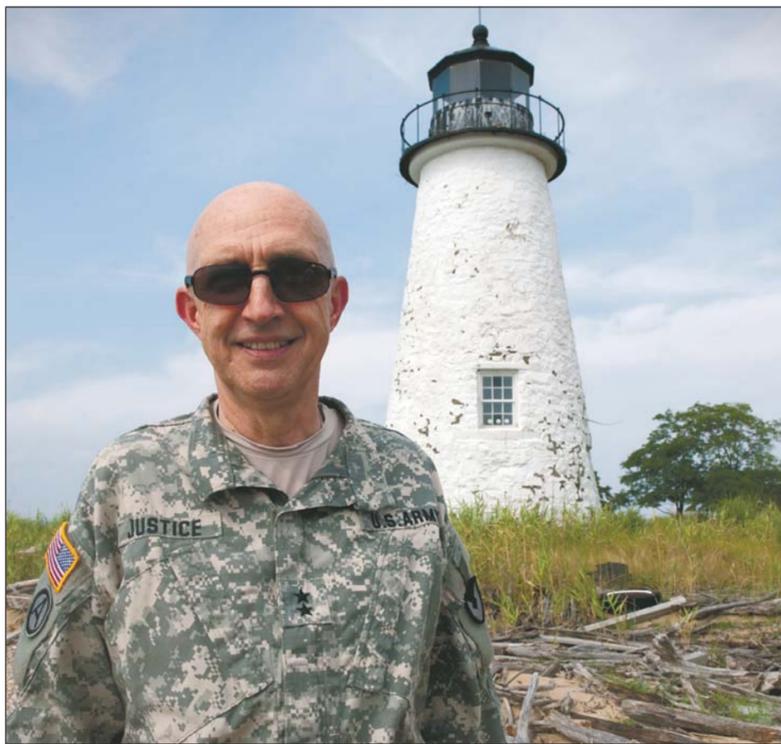


Photo by Tom Faulkner

APG and RDECOM Commander Maj. Gen. Nick Justice spearheaded the relighting of Maryland's oldest lighthouse, "a beacon of a different age in our nation."

What are your major accomplishments during your tour of duty?

As the installation commander, I got to relight a historic lighthouse – oldest lighthouse in the state of Maryland, a beacon of a different age in our nation. It allowed interstate commerce to take hold, not much different than GPS is for us, or the interstate highway system. It created a great deal of good will for this installation with the state and the people who truly do treasure their state and history.

Seeing the improvement we made to something as simple as a bullet – the A3-green ammunition. It's a tremendous advance in capability. Apply the rigors of scientific research and engineering to improve its quality, detrimental impact to the environment, the effectiveness to the Soldier is tremendous.

Robotics and sensors – assist the Army in leveraging industry to bring those robotics to the battlefield and change the way EOD elements disable improvised explosive devices. What we have done for our EOD teams is incredible.

Maybe the most important is to get back to engineering. Getting to know the customer creates a demand for engineering and we have the teams that are so good that people come to demand

services – and they bring money. The engineering discipline throughout the command that's not going to allow one technology to be successful, but literally hundreds of them that are more effective and quickly fielded and simple, easy to use for the Soldier and not burden him to solve a problem, but enable him and empower him to do so.

Did you accomplish all of your personal objectives at RDECOM?

There are so many opportunities here – there's a lot of stored capacity here that could still be tapped to rapidly change our Army.

I truly think the modernization path we're going on, and the Army's constantly marching on the road to modernization will have to come internal to the Army because we're not going to have the procurement tail out there for the next few years. So the internal engineering staff can build the technologies and prototypes that we need so we can build them, integrate them into our infrastructure and combat formations, and set the conditions for modernization.

What is the future of RDECOM?

The Army needs to modernize. Technology continues to evolve and we need to

prepare for the modernization of the Army. Plan to modernize at the last moment because I want the latest and greatest technology in the hands of the Soldier.

We've brought some of the social sciences into this command. I want to learn how a Soldier learns. We can't afford a dedicated amount of time to train. We have to get involved in continuous learning. The country recognizes it and we haven't found the solution for it yet, but that's the one place where our future really has to hit. We have to get into continuous learning and what are the technologies that will deliver that continuous learning to those formations, whether it's collective or individual training.

What do you see as the most urgent objectives for your successor?

Stay on your marketing plan. You got to make sure that people constantly know the value of your organization with credible, real-life examples where you made orders of magnitude differences in cost and effectiveness of completely new capabilities.

And you've got to do that in the context of the resources that you have. You've got to make your priorities based on the best bang for your dollar. If you don't, you have to put the highest priority technologies the most valuable on the battlefield and you have to align your resources to support it.

Education is critical. We really haven't figured out that man-machine interface in collective or individual training yet. We can do much better. The more I take off his cognitive load, the more the Soldier focuses on his primary mission.

Were there any stories or events at APG that were particularly memorable?

The capacity of the young people in our organization – five years or less of government service – how much folks that young contribute to the mission.

It's just thrilling to see that next generation come along and already be making an impact. It makes you feel really secure that there's going to be somebody out there tomorrow to do this because they will be as great as the greatest generations.

What are your personal plans once you leave?

Not sure what I'm going to do, but I know what I want to do. I've learned to love being involved in the educational aspects of the next generation, and make sure the country is handed over to a generation that is well prepared to receive it.

RDECOM change of responsibility slated

RDECOM news release

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command will conduct a change of responsibility ceremony Feb. 10 that will transfer the organization's leadership from a two-star general to an Army civilian executive.

Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, the RDECOM and APG installation commander since December 2009, will relinquish command to Dale Ormond, the organization's executive deputy, in a 10 a.m. ceremony at the Post Theater.

Justice will retire after 42 years of service to his country in a separate ceremony at a later date.

Ormond returns to APG from the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he served as deputy to the commanding general since 2008. He previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Elimination of Chemical Weapons) and as acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the

Army for Policy and Procurement.

A former Navy submarine officer and a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Ormond holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Systems Engineering from Clemson University and has Level III certification in Department of Defense Acquisition Program Management.

With a background in nuclear safety, industrial facility operations, and nuclear/chemical waste disposal, Ormond's resume spans more than 25 years with the Department of Energy and Department of Defense. He was selected for Senior Executive Service in July 2004.

Under Justice's watch, RDECOM has flourished as the Army's technical research and development command. He led the organization and the installation through the final stages of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process, serving as an indispensable intermediary between the Army installation and corporate and government

leadership at local, state and national levels.

"The Aberdeen area has been blessed by the BRAC move," Justice said of the BRAC process that brought nearly 8,000 government positions to APG.

Once in command, Justice directed a marketing campaign so RDECOM would showcase the unit's value.

"We really looked at our tagline – 'Technology Driven. Warfighter Focused,'" Justice said as he reflected on his leadership objectives. "That's very appropriate because we really wanted to improve our relationship with the field Army."

"One of the things I wanted was to get us an operational mission so that people in the line Army would truly understand our value," he added. That objective became a reality in 2011 when the RDECOM Forward Area Science and Technology Center in Bagram, Afghanistan, became operationally capable.



Super Bowl fun set at Sutherland

The APG community enjoys a lunch-time meal at Sutherland Grille, the Ruggles Golf Course restaurant. Manager Richard Bond has added food items to the menu, bartending services for the Happy Hour crowd, karaoke and nine widescreens that broadcast multiple games simultaneously. Sutherland Grille will host a Super Bowl party with free appetizers and football trivia contest and prizes. There is no cover charge for this event, and doors open at 5 p.m. The restaurant will also host monthly date night specials where couples eat for \$25. The first date night is Feb. 10. Reservations required. Visit www.apgmwr.com/recreation/golf/ for information. To sign up for e-mail notifications, coupons and more info, call 410-278-5486.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

Commentary: Complete the pass on Super Bowl Sunday, give keys to a DD before kickoff

By **CINDY SCOTT**
ASAP Prevention Coordinator

We want all fans to play it safe this Sunday. Remember this Super Bowl season that if you plan to consume alcohol, pass your keys to a sober, designated driver before the game begins. Don't get penalized for impaired driving.



Scott

Super Bowl Sunday has become one

of America's biggest and most entertaining national sporting events as friends and Families gather to watch the big game each year and to enjoy the festivities surrounding it. But it also is one of the year's most dangerous days on the nation's roadways due to impaired driving-related traffic crashes.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly impaired drivers caused 50 percent of all traffic fatalities during the Super Bowl weekend last year with blood alcohol levels of 0.08 percent and above. But serious crashes – and deaths – can be prevented.

Designating a sober driver before the Super Bowl party begins and making sure friends don't drive drunk are just two of several, simple steps to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving.

As a Super Bowl host, you're like the head coach for the day. Make sure every player on your roster has a smart game plan before the party even begins. Nationally, more than 17,000 people die in impaired driving-related highway crashes annually.

Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone in America dies in an impaired driving-related crash. Hun-

dreds of thousands more are injured each year.

Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is simply not worth the risk because the consequences are serious and real.

Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant. It is not the way you want to spend your Super Bowl Sunday.

For more information, contact me at 410-278-4013 or Cynthia.M.Scott4.civ@mail.mil.

Parents urged to attend first PAC, save money

By **JASON DOMINGUEZ**
APG FMWR

APG's Child, Youth and School Services is holding its first Parent Advisory Committee meeting Feb. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the CYSS Administration Bldg. 2503, room 214.

PAC meetings provide a forum in which program managers and parents can provide feedback on current and future services and operations, and enhance the effectiveness of existing CYSS programs.

Kathleen Guiliano, CYSS outreach services director, said the meeting is the first of its kind and was created in

response to the needs of the community. She urges parents with children registered in CYSS programs, including the Child Development Center, Family Child Care, School-Age Services, Middle-School Teens, Youth Sports, EDGE, HIRED and SKIES, to attend.

CYSS program managers currently meet monthly with the parents of children in their programs to discuss issues. The new PAC meetings, explained Guiliano, will bring all of the program managers and parents together in a single forum to discuss issues and share ideas. An elected chairperson and secretary will attend the quarterly meetings, where records will be kept and distributed to parents.

Guiliano said although recent surveys revealed that APG parents were happy with CYSS services, she's hoping the PAC meetings will uncover new ideas for future programs and classes, and improve communication.

"I hope we can establish a better rapport with the parents," she said. "The purpose is to discover new ways - perhaps ways we haven't even thought of - so we can better serve our children and parents. Our APG Families depend on us to provide quality services, and they deserve that. PAC meetings will give parents a greater voice in their children's future."

Parents with children in any CYSS

program will receive two parent participation points per child as an incentive to attend the meetings. These points add up to discounts on tuition. CYSS also offers monthly dues discounts for attendees at designated CYSS and Army Community Service meetings and events.

"Once parents accrue a total of 10 parent participation points, they can turn those in and receive a 10 percent discount per child off tuition fees," Guiliano said. "This is an easy way for parents to save a little bit of money."

For information about the PAC meeting or how to earn points, call 410-278-7571/7479.

Black History event

Continued from Page 1

Shadow" for being the tallest member of the team, measuring in at an imposing 6-foot-8. The team's coach, Don Haskins, wrote about their story in his bestselling autobiography, *Glory Road*, which was later made into a blockbuster movie by Walt Disney Pictures.

CECOM EO Program Manager Tracy Marshall helps plan the installation's annual cultural observances and is hoping for a good turnout at the event.

"These observances are opportunities to recognize contributions made by members of specific racial, ethnic, or gender groups in our society," Marshall said. "They should promote understanding, teamwork, harmony, pride and esprit among all groups, not just within the specific group being honored."

For more information, call 443-861-4366 or 410-436-1023.

Prayer Luncheon

Continued from Page 1

Donations welcome

The suggested donation for the event is \$5. The money donated will go to support various ministries including the Soldier Fund and the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food voucher programs.

"Last year, through the Soldier Fund we were able to provide financial assistance to several Soldiers who had house fires," Morse said.

Morse added that money raised will

also help Soldiers participate in this year's mission trip to Kenya, which will be sponsored by the APG chapel.

Those who attend the two-week trip will help construct an aquaculture system that will provide food and vegetables for the children of the Provision Education Center in Soweto, Kenya.

Invitations to the prayer breakfast have been sent out by e-mail. For information or to RSVP, call 410-278-4333.

R&B concert to have Valentine's theme

Continued from Page 1

rock and country concert held annually at APG.

"The APG population is diverse, and people enjoy different styles of music," Allen said.

The event will have a Valentine's theme, with vendors selling flowers, candy and photos. Included are concession sales, a cash bar, and an after-party with the entertainers featuring music by DJ Hazmat.

"In addition to enjoying good music, this is a great opportunity to treat that special person to a romantic evening out," Allen said.

For more information, contact the Leisure Travel Office, Bldg. 3326, at 410-278-4011/4907.

H-Town

H-Town is an American R&B/hip-hop vocal group originally founded by twin

brothers Keven "Dino" Conner, Solomon "Shazam" Conner and their longtime friend Darryl "G.I." Jackson in 1992. Keven and Solomon grew up in a family of singers and were performing in talent shows and plays when a local producer sent their demo tape to one-time 2 Live Crew rapper and record label executive Luther "Luke" Campbell. Campbell signed the group to his label, Luke Records and they took the name "H-Town," for their home city of Houston, Texas.

Albums

"Fever for Da Flavor," H-Town's debut album, was released April 15, 1993. The group achieved hit status in the United States with "Knockin' Da Boots," which became H-Town's biggest hit and also their signature song. "Boots" was a #1 hit on the R&B charts, and peaked at #3 on the Billboard Hot

100. H-Town won the 1993 Soul Train Music Award for Best New Artist. That same year, they signed on as a part of the Coca-Cola Summerfest tour, which also included Shai, SWV, Jade, Naughty by Nature, LL Cool J and Silk.

The groups' top-selling albums include the soundtracks from the movies "Above the Rim" (1994) and "A Thin Line Between Love and Hate" (1996).

Dino Connor was killed in an automobile accident in 2003. Since then, Shazam and "G.I." released the single "Knocking Your Heels," in mid-2009, followed by a remix featuring Jodeci and Pretty Ricky.

Slim of 112

Marvin Eugene Scandrick III, an R&B singer, is better known for his stage name Slim, and for being part of the band 112.

After 112 released their fifth album, *Pleasure & Pain* in 2005, Slim began a solo career via the Internet. In 2008, he released the single "So Fly", featuring Yung Joc. It reached #49 on the Billboard Hot 100. His debut album, *Love's Crazy*, was released Nov. 18, 2008.

He is currently the CEO of his own label, M3 Productions.

Slim confirmed that his next project is called "Cruise Control". Just as of late Slim has been seen in New York City near CEG talent and their recording facilities Phase One Studios. It appears that Slim and his dream team has something up their sleeves as references to the late Notorious B.I.G have been found on their twitter after their studio session. Quotes such as "Baby Baby (in a biggie voice)" have been found everywhere. Fans should stay tuned.