

APG NEWS



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CECOM changes hands



Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody (middle), commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, passes the color of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command to Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, incoming commander, during his change of command ceremony Feb. 9 at the C4ISR Center of Excellence campus. Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong (right) retired after 34 years of Army service. Ferrell held a town hall with the CECOM workforce Feb. 13 to introduce himself, his command philosophy and expectations. "As we begin on, what I am confident will be a memorable journey, I ask the following six things of you: live by the Army standards and values; commit to excellence every day; demonstrate strong leadership and teamwork; be innovative, agile and responsive; be transparent and communicate openly; and finally, care for our team members and their Families.

CECOM photo

Army rolls out 2013 budget request

By **C. TODD LOPEZ**
Army News Service

Despite cutbacks, the Army's fiscal year 2013 budget request includes a pay increase of 1.7 percent for Soldiers, as well as allowance increases of 3.9 percent for housing and a 3.4 for subsistence.

"The fiscal year 2013 [budget] reflects some hard and difficult choices," said Maj. Gen. Phillip E. McGhee, director, Army budget. Nevertheless, he said, "the Army will remain the best-led, best-trained, best-equipped ground force in the world."

The fiscal year 2013 budget

request, McGhee said, supports the all-volunteer force, and has "wise investments" in modernization programs. There are about eight program cancellations, however. Also, the budget supports operations in Afghanistan, and funds reset of equipment that came out of Iraq, and also that which is planned to come out of Afghanistan.

The Army requested \$184.6 billion in this year's budget -- about \$18 billion less than what the Army received in fiscal year 2012. Of that, about \$134.6 billion is part of the

See **1.7 PERCENT**, page 6

Chief of Chaplains delivers message of trust at luncheon

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News



Rutherford

Guests of the installation's annual National Prayer Luncheon heard a message of hope, encouraging them to trust in God and pray for their leaders, at the Top of the Bay Feb. 15.

Maj. Gen. Donald L. Rutherford, Army Chief of Chaplains, said he was grateful to be the guest speaker and

"share words of faith and hope that will touch people."

He said everyone has had leaders who inspire them, and the most important thing for them is to "have their trust."

"We've been through 10 years of war, we've been through 10 years of deployments," he said. "Soldiers have to ask what happens next."

See **FOUR**, page 6

APG News recognized in news competition

Staff report

The APG News placed third in the metro category in this year's IMCOM-level Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware public affairs communications competition.

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command announced the results Feb. 21. Winners were chosen from among more than 400 submissions in 39 categories from IMCOM garrisons around the world.

"This is an impressive win for the APG News, considering we were competing against larg-

er newspapers and larger staffs" said Terri Kaltenbacher, APG Acting Public Affairs Officer.

The annual awards program recognizes military and civilian employee practitioners for journalistic excellence and furthering the objectives of the Department of the Army public affairs program.

APG News took third against first place's Joint Base Lewis-McChord's Northwest Guardian newspaper and the Fort Campbell Courier, which placed second.

See **CECOM**, page 6



Courtesy photo

(From left) Spenser Puffenbarger, Marc Evans and Christopher Flake test the robot's firing apparatus. CERDEC engineers mentored the students as they designed and built the robot.

Students unveil robot for CERDEC mentors

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Thirty-six local high school students from Team 1980, "The Brigade," unveiled a robot they created under the guidance of mentors from Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center during a Feb. 15 pre-

sentation in Bldg. 3200.

The robot, named Barreta, will compete in the Chesapeake Regional FIRST Robotics Competition at the Baltimore Convention Center March 8-10.

The Brigade is the only high school FIRST Robotics Team in Harford County, headquartered at Aberdeen High School. FIRST,

which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is a national organization that encourages students to take part in the ever-changing environment of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM.

Every January, FIRST

See **FIRST**, page 8

WEATHER

Thurs.



63° | 49°

INDEX

Pg 2 Weather
Pgs 2 Opinion
Pg 7 FMWR
Pg 7 Post Shorts
Pg 7 ... Community Notes



Ready for a pet?

Think long and hard before becoming an owner

page 2



CECOM outreach

Chief of staff encourages local honor students

page 11

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CONGRATULATIONS

Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz named runner-up for Corridor Inc. Person of the Year.

PAGE 2

CONGRATULATIONS

Garrison Commander runner-up for Corridor Inc. Person of the Year

Staff report

APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz was honored Feb. 16 at a reception hosted by Corridor Inc. for 2011 Person of the Year.

Aris Melissaratos, senior advisor to the President for Enterprise Development of Johns Hopkins University was this year's award recipient. Ortiz was first runner-up with the second largest number of votes in the statewide competition.

In the sixth annual Person of the Year Awards competition, Corridor Inc.'s readers nominated the people who made the greatest impact on the Baltimore-Washington D.C., corridor over the previous year.

Dozens of nominations poured in from all walks of civic and business life, and 21 were chosen for their work acumen and their dedication to the community.

According to publisher Gregory Poehlman, readers responded this year by casting the highest number of votes ever received for Person of the Year.



Photo by Terri Kaltenbacher

A key player in the BRAC and in making the necessary adjustments to APG as it welcomed thousands of new employees and Families, Col. Orlando Ortiz was nominated for the 2011 Person of the Year.

OPINION

Are you ready for a pet?

Pet overpopulation is a sad reality in the United States. Up to 7 million animals enter U.S. shelters every year, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Of this number, about 60 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats are euthanized, and less than 2 percent of cats and 15 to 20 percent of dogs are returned to their owners, according to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy.

Military families on the move should think carefully before taking in an animal to avoid contributing to this problem.

First, you should take into account your lifestyle and potential commitment to a pet. Are you an active family, with weekend hikes and daily runs, or do you prefer lazy weekends on the couch? Are you home enough to ensure your furry friend will get the exercise, training and attention they need?

An impending overseas move is another consideration. You may not be able to take your pet with you. Many duty stations will only allow shipments of cats and dogs, so a pet rabbit may not be the wisest choice. And if you plan to live in housing, it's important to study military housing breed bans and pet limit requirements so you don't end up having to give up an animal because your community doesn't allow it.

As important as evaluating your family circumstances is choosing an ethical location to obtain your pet. Sadly, many pet stores in the United States aren't regulated and deny you the opportunity of personally inspecting the home of a responsible breeder.

"The biggest health consequence because of poor breeding is shortened life span and premature death," said Amanda Morgan, an Air Force spouse and veterinarian technician. "No one wants to spend thousands



Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Connie Terrell

Coast Guard Station Merrimack River's dog, Abby, "stands the watch" with a station crewmember, Jan. 26. Coast Guard mascots have served just as their human counterparts have, with courage, honor and are "Always Ready" to go to those in need of assistance.

of dollars on a pet that will only live a few years. This is why potential buyers should do their research and select the best breeder of their future pet."

A great place to start looking for a forever pet is your local animal shelter. Some of these animals are perfectly well-behaved and healthy; they were just given up due to an irresponsible owner or one who may have had a family emergency.

However, if you do decide to seek a responsible breeder, ask detailed questions, such as what breed-specific health testing has been performed and what drove the decision to breed. You also should visit the home of the breed-

er to see firsthand how the puppies are raised. The Humane Society of the United States has a checklist of questions to ask when looking for the right animal.

As you consider your options, make sure you're aware of the types of animals that can accompany you on an airplane. Many airlines are prohibiting brachycephalic breeds, also known as snub-nosed dogs, due to their compromised respiratory issues that have caused deaths in flight. Just as important as deciding if you can take on a pet and seeking the right location is making sure that animal can go where you go.

While pets can be a wonderful addition

to a military family, the decision to have one should be carefully thought out.

Pets depend on us to be their voice and look out for their best interests. By following some of the tips above, we can be sure we are doing right by these family members.

Theresa Donnelly

Family Matters Blog

Guest blogger Navy Lt. Theresa Donnelly of U.S. Pacific Command, is the owner of Hawaii Military Pets, which provides pet resources for military families. She's offered to share her pet-related knowledge in a series of blogs for Family Matters.

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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Local youth participate in presidential exercise challenge

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled. Currently nearly one in three children in America is overweight or obese.

To combat this problem, youth centers at installations Army-wide are participating in the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award Challenge, encouraging participants to add physical activity to their daily lives.

The youth centers at APG North and South are currently participating in the six-week challenge, which kicked off Feb. 6 and will last through March 18.

Students at both youth centers have been divided into teams and encouraged to exercise 60 minutes a day, five days a week throughout the six weeks. The children record their physical activity on a daily log. As an added incentive, the team that earns the most Presidential Active Lifestyle Awards, or PALAs, will receive a special party.

The children were also given pedometers that will allow them to track their daily steps; 11,000 steps for girls ages

6 to 18 and 13,000 steps for boys in the same age group is equal to one hour of exercise.

“There are many kids who attend the youth center who are already active,” said Bill Kegley, director of Child, Youth and School Services. “They already participate in the sports and play in the gym. We are trying to reach the kids who normally don’t exercise, the children who normally prefer to spend their time at the computer or watching television.”

Kegley said the PALA challenge should help students discover physical activities they enjoy doing as a group and by themselves.

“I hope that they realize that exercise can be fun; it doesn’t have to feel like a chore,” he said.

The PALA challenge is supported by First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” Initiative, which has the goal of “solving the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation so that children born today will reach adulthood at a healthy weight.”

For more information about APG Youth Sports programs, call Kegley at 410-306-2297.



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

H-Town rocks APG

Fans rock with Solomon “Shazam” Conner, foreground, and Darryl “G.I.” Jackson of H-Town during the FMWR-sponsored Evening of R&B concert at the APG North recreation center Feb. 18. See the story and more photos at <http://bit.ly/aWmPzS>.



USAPHC's Sy Smith, center, goes up for a basket, trailed by AMSAA's Brett Herbert, 15, as USAPHC's John Castillo, left, AMSAA's Richard Heine, right, and USAPHC's Kelby Mowery look on during intramural basketball action at the APG North (Aberdeen) athletic center Feb. 13. AMSAA won 53-37.

USAPHC stops AMSAA 51-37

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity got the best of the U.S. Army Public Health Command, winning 51-37 during a hard-fought game at the APG North (Aberdeen) athletic center Feb. 13.

AAMSA led most of the first half, maintaining at least a 7-point lead into the final two minutes. Trailing 23-17, USAPHC looked to get even closer, but were shut down by AAMSA's Andy Loncarich who responded with a quick layup and by Brett Herbert, who tapped one in seconds later to put them at 27-17. USAPHC closed out the half with a 3-pointer as time expired.

Coaches Marc Rattigan, USAPHC, and James Arters, AMSAA, said their teams were coming together and ready for the run to the playoffs.

"The team's doing great, it's all coming

together but we've been playing together a while," said Arters during halftime.

In the second half, USAPHC's Rasheed Walker, John Castillo and Sy Smith kept the team in the game but they had no answer for Herbert, who was the game's high scorer. The supporting cast of Arters, Clarence Weston, and Nate Herbert helped the team pull away to a 51-37 lead, with Weston scoring the final two points as time ran out.

"It got close but we came together at the end and played as a team," Arters said.

"We're gelling," Rattigan said disappointedly after the game, "but we have a ways to go."

Intramural basketball games for APG South and North teams take place at the APG North athletic center 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday. Schedules are subject to change due to training and mission requirements. Call 410-278-7934 to confirm dates and times.



Courtesy photo

SSCF deadline nears

Dr. Jim Helis, chairman of the Department of National Security and Strategy, U.S. Army War College, explains the TORCH landings in North Africa, critical events leading up to the Allied Invasion on D-Day. Helis taught the national security module to Defense Acquisition University's Senior Service College Fellows to increase their understanding of variables that influence national security policy. Instruction concluded with an overview of the combatant command organizations in Europe and a campaign outline of the WWII European Theater of Operations in preparation for a trip to these locations in April. The SSCF will accept applications for the 2012-2013 class through March 15. Visit www.dau.mil/sscf for more information or contact Jim Oman at james.oman@dau.mil or 410-272-9470.



Photo by Terri Kaltenbacher

Spreading knowledge, spreading hope

(From right) Tom Dereamer, sovereign geologist for the Electrical Resistance Heating Environmental Cleanup project, explains the pilot test to Restoration Advisory Board members during a Feb. 4 tour of the Lauderick Creek and Bush River study areas, as Karen Jobes holds a diagram of the process. The next RAB meeting will be held Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Ramada Conference Center. The topic will be Long Term Monitoring Update.

AROUND THE FORCE

Survey seeks PT uniform feedback

Army News Service

The Army wants Soldier input about a potential upgrade to the Army's physical fitness uniform.

Soldiers are being asked to complete an online survey, developed by the Training and Doctrine Command, to answer questions about how they use their current physical fitness uniform, how they would prioritize changes to the uniform, and what capabilities they are looking for in a new physical fitness uniform.

The survey site officially launched Feb. 6, and will remain active for 30 days. The survey is for all Soldiers, including active duty, Army National Guard and Army Reserve. Access to AKO is required for Soldiers to voice their opinion.

The uniform Soldiers currently wear during physical fitness training is called the "Improved Physical Fitness Uniform," or IPFU. The IPFU provides Soldiers with a multifunctional uniform for physical training and other Soldier-related activities. Results from the online sur-

vey will help the Army decide if a new uniform is needed, and if so, what changes are being asked for by Soldiers.

The potential uniform upgrade will focus on comfort, fit, appearance, durability, reflectivity and ease of maintenance. A new uniform might also feature quick-drying capability and antimicrobial properties. The potential new uniform must also provide a full range of motion and accommodate the full range of seasonal environments without compromising Soldier performance.

The survey was created in response to the chief of staff of the Army and sergeant major of the Army's approval of the Army Uniform Board's recommendation and tasking to do a complete review of the IPFU requirements.

The survey can be found through the CAC-enabled site <https://ipfusurvey.natick.army.mil>, or through the non-CAC site at <https://surveys.natick.army.mil/Surveys/ipfu.nsf>.



Photo by Rob McIlvaine

Soldiers at the Army's Physical Fitness School perform the third event in the new Army Physical Readiness Test, the one-minute rower, during a demonstration last August at Fort Jackson, S.C. The Army is now asking Soldiers to complete a survey to consider changes to the PT uniform.

Bye bye BCGs: New glasses issued to trainees

Story and photo by
MELISSA K. BUCKLEY
Leonard Wood

Military recruits who wear glasses won't be issued S9s or "birth control glasses" anymore -- the nickname given to the iconic BCGs because many service members believe that while wearing the frames, it is impossible to appear attractive.

Beginning this month, Fort Leonard Wood's basic trainees will be fitted with a new frame, the 5A.

"Currently, the trainees at Fort Leonard Wood are given S9s for Boot Camp and Advanced Individual Training," said Sgt. Brant Fechter, 43rd Adjutant General (Reception) Battalion Optometry Clinic noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "The projection is that the 5As will start to be issued this February to promote usage and comfort."

Fechter expects the new frames to be a welcome change for troops.

"The style of the new basic issue will resemble a slimmer and lighter glasses that many of the trainees arrive to Fort Leonard Wood already wearing, which is an indicator that the new issue will be a hit," Fechter said.

One of the last basic trainees to receive the S9s, Pvt. Michael Beebe, was issued his glasses during a visit to the 43rd Reception Battalion Optometry Clinic on Jan. 31.

"They are really big and fall down my face," Beebe said.

Beebe wished he was processed just a few days later, as he could've been issued the new 5As.



Pvt. Michael Lopez tries on a pair of the new 5As for Sgt. Brant Fechter at the 43rd Adjutant General (Reception) Battalion Optometry Clinic on Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Jan. 31.

While inspecting the contemporary frames, he said, "They look a lot smaller, lighter and more comfortable. I would rather have those."

Also in the clinic that day, Pvt. Michael Lopez, wearing his S9s, agreed.

"I have my pair already, because I have been through basic training. They are really sturdy," Lopez said. "But I like the new ones better. They look better."

Despite the S9s' thick frame being part of pop-culture's current fashion trend -- complete with Facebook page, "Birth Control Glasses (BCGs) are making a comeback!" Lopez said he only wears them because he has to.

"I'm required to wear them. I per-

sonally wouldn't wear them out and about," Lopez said.

Soldiers and retirees will still have the ability to order the brown S9 glasses after the 5A change-over is implemented.

"The durability of the S9s might be better than the new 5As because the frames are thicker; however, Soldiers will wear the new issue more often, which will improve training and performance," Fechter said.

Beebe said if he was fortunate enough to don the new 5As, he would be more careful with the thinner frames.

"They might break a lot easier, but I would take better care of them," he said.

New bioelectric bandage interests Army

By **DAN KENNEDY**
PMO Medical Devices

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command has initiated steps to evaluate a new bioelectric bandage.

Small silver and zinc dots embedded into cloth create micro-currents in the presence of moisture. This may create an anti-microbial environment and provide pain reduction.

The use of silver on burns has a long history of preventing infections. The combination of silver, zinc, and moisture is purported to create pain-reducing antimicrobial micro-currents. According to literature from the manufacturer, the results of this bandage dressing include faster healing, greater pain control, reduced incidence of infection, and decreased scarring.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has cleared the device for antimicrobial wound care, which is the primary reason for the Army's genuine interest in the product. The bandage is currently being used on hard-to-heal wounds, with multiple research studies underway. Anecdotal results are promising, especially with regard to pain

control. In some cases, wound pain is reported to be reduced dramatically.

The nature of the cloth conforms well to multiple surfaces of the body. Bacterial, viral, and fungal infections are anticipated to be impacted by the antimicrobial properties of the bandage dressing, which has tremendous potential for Soldier use.

Studies are underway with Ranger units. Recently, at a Ranger road march, a considerable number of Soldiers obtained blisters and were treated with the bandage. The results were notable, as many Soldiers reported dramatic pain relief and the ability to quickly return to the march.

The novel technology of this bandage is that it purportedly creates a

healing bioelectrical pathway over the entire wound surface, enhancing the body's natural healing environment. As a broad-spectrum antimicrobial flexible dressing with electrically active currents providing pain control, the device could have huge potential for the Army if testing scientific testing bears out anecdotal claims.

The public may hear more about this bandage as indications for use are expanded. Currently, indications for use are directed toward all full- and partial-thickness skin wounds, from simple abrasions and skin tears to traumatic wounds and surgical sites.

Given this, the battlefield may serve as the best proving ground in which to test this emerging medical device.

DoD testing program to screen for more prescription drugs

By **KAREN PARRISH**
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department's drug-testing program is expanding to add screening for two additional prescription medications to the range of legal and illegal drugs it currently detects.

Joe Angello, the department's director of operational readiness and safety, told Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service reporters the two drugs added to the screening program -- hydrocodone and benzodiazepines -- are nationally among the most abused prescription drugs now on the market. The program already tests for codeine and morphine, he noted.

As patterns of drug misuse change, the drug testing program responds by adding more testing procedures, he noted.

Hydrocodone is a component of a number of prescription painkillers, including Vicodin, while benzodiazepines are a class of antidepressant medication present in a range of drugs that includes Xanax and Valium.

Angello said DOD announced the new screenings 90 days before they would take effect, which is unprecedented in the more than 40 years since military drug testing began. The memorandum went out yesterday.

"The memorandum is giving you a 90-day warning order," Angello said. A service member addicted to prescription drugs, he added, should seek medical help.

"Don't get caught in a drug test," Angello urged. "There [are] no penalties, there's no stigma, attached to [self-referral for medical] help here."

Service members with prescriptions for the two drugs will not be subject to disciplinary action for using them within the dosage and time prescribed, Angello said.

To anyone who has medication remaining from an expired prescription, he added, "Don't use those."

Such drugs should be turned in for disposal, but should not be flushed, he noted, as they can contaminate the water supply.

"If nothing else, you can always turn them in through your local military police," Angello said.

Drug abuse among service members is significantly lower than in the civilian population, he said, but has a potentially much greater effect in the military.

"You're not at your peak mental acuity when you're using drugs," he said. "The military has some of the finest men and women this nation has to offer; we cannot have people in the business of arms with drug impairments."

1.7 percent pay increase requested for troops

Continued from Page 1

“base” request, for the generating force. An additional \$50 billion is to support overseas contingency operations, such as the war in Afghanistan.

In the base budget, the largest portion is aimed at military personnel, about 42 percent, or \$56.4 billion dollars. An additional \$47.2 billion is aimed at operations and maintenance, known as O&M, and \$25.7 billion for procurement. Within the overseas contingency operations, or OCO budget, about 58 percent is targeted at operations and maintenance.

Within the O&M budget request, there is a \$7 billion decrease from what the Army received last year. Also in the O&M is \$15.4 billion to provide trained and ready forces to win the current fight and sustain readiness. That includes \$8 billion to support air and ground operations.

“It also funds additional training seats and professional military education, because we have so many Soldiers that are at home station now and are available to train,” McGhee said.

The O&M funding also includes \$1.7 billion for Soldier and family programs, including Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, sexual harassment prevention and education programs, and the Army substance abuse and suicide prevention programs. About \$1.6 billion is also included for recruiting and initial military training for officers and enlisted personnel, and about \$4.1 billion for training of officers,

“The fiscal year 2013 budget request does begin to take into account the discretionary spending caps, but it does so without any risk to continuing to support our essential roles.”

Barbara L. Bonessa

Army budget deputy director

noncommissioned officers and civilians.

Regarding the O&M funding for OCO, the Army planned for a reduction of 25,400 Soldiers by September 2012, and for steady state of 41,000 Soldiers in fiscal year 2013.

There are “no changes in the nine brigade combat teams we are planning for in the program,” McGhee said.

Eight programs were terminated in this year’s budget. That should help the Army recognize a savings of \$5 billion in total over five years. Included among the cancelled programs are the Enhanced Medium Altitude Reconnaissance System aircraft and the base-funded Humvee recap program -- though Humvee recapitalization within the OCO will continue. Also, the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles program will be cancelled as well as the Mounted Soldier system program and the Joint Precision Approach and Landing System. Many Army programs have also been downsized.

The Army asked for about \$19.6 bil-

lion in procurement for fiscal year 2013. Within aircraft procurement, for instance, the service requested about \$6.3 billion, which “reflects the tremendous demand on aviation assets. We remain committed to aircraft modernization,” said Barbara L. Bonessa, deputy director, Army budget

Included in aircraft modernization, is \$1.4 billion for the Chinook, \$1.2 billion for the Black Hawk, and \$1.2 billion for Apache procurement, Bonessa said. And additional \$518 million is requested for 19 additional unmanned Gray Eagle systems to support two more companies, for a total of 17 companies. Within the OCO budget is a \$486 million request for two Apache, six Chinooks and 16 Kiowa Warriors helicopters -- all to replace aircraft lost or damaged in current operations.

Within missile and ammunition procurement, the Army asked for about \$2 billion to support ongoing missile programs, including the Patriot Advanced Missile Capability-3 program, which

includes a funding requests for 84 missiles and 38 launchers. For tracked vehicles, the Army asked for \$1.5 billion -- included in that is \$379 million for the Stryker vehicle, \$204 million for the Abrams tank, and \$184 million for the Bradley Program modifications.

The Army also asks for \$8.3 billion to support the Army network, the tactical wheeled vehicle modernization, and night vision and thermal vision weapons sights.

The Army is also asking for \$8.9 billion for research, development testing and evaluation -- an increase over last year’s appropriation. Included in that, \$640 million for the ground combat vehicle.

“The fiscal year 2013 budget request does begin to take into account the discretionary spending caps, but it does so without any risk to continuing to support our essential roles,” said Bonessa. “We are continuing to meet our commitments in Afghanistan and around the world. We are developing the Army of the future. We are continuing to care for Soldiers and families -- that is one of the most important commitments we could possibly have, commensurate with their sacrifice and service. We are continuing to reduce our active component end strength, hopefully in a measured way, and with solid attention with how to restructure our force to be an even more capable force than it was before.”

Four denominations offer prayers at luncheon

Continued from Page 1

Quoting from the Bible’s book of Proverbs, he urged listeners—“lean not on your own understanding,” and said in order to trust in one’s leadership, you must first trust in God.

Referring to the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France that led to an American victory over the British during the Revolutionary War, Rutherford noted that “the Army’s trust in leadership led to their survival.

“As leaders, how do we instill hope in other people and how do we instill trust in other people? By asking “God for help,” he said. “Our nation and our Army depend on trust. Even our coins have ‘In God We Trust’ on them. We must always when times are difficult, put our trust in God.”

Rutherford was welcomed by Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, commander of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, who called him “a man of the cloth who has gone downrange” in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“He went where he was needed. In the

heat of battle, he was there for our Soldiers,” said Dellarocco.

Guests included Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, commander of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command; Brig. Gen. Leslie Smith, commander of the 20th Support Command; and APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz.

Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan, commander of the U.S. Army Public Health Command, thanked Rutherford for his “phenomenal remarks.”

“Spiritual peace is something we can’t do without and something our Families can’t do without when our nation is at war,” she said. “We must focus on physical, spiritual and emotional fitness. As leaders, that’s what we are tasked to do.”

On behalf of Ferrell, Ortiz thanked everyone for “taking the time out to seek spiritual fitness.” Noting that, “as leaders, we have to inspire action.” He also commended the APG chaplaincy, led by Installation Chaplain (Col.) Wayne Boyd, for hosting “two impressive events,” with

this year’s being the largest.

The event included prayers for the nation from four denominations delivered by Chaplains (Col.) Harry Rauch, (Lt. Col.) Abdul Muhammad, (Maj.) Jonathan Morse and Rabbi Kushi Schusterman.

Chaplains (Maj.) Steven Simpson and (Maj.) Fred Townsend offered the invocation and benediction.

Mike Cashman from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate sang the national anthem and the jazz band Hot Club Philly of Philadelphia provided the program’s music.

Special guests included H. Everett Smith, president of Sundi’s Gift, Inc. from Forest Hill, a nonprofit organization serving the children of Kenya, Africa, and George Ndhawa, a Kenyan pastor of Heart ‘N’ Soul Ministry.

Sundi’s Gift is a nonprofit organization that works with other Kenyan organizations to provide resources for Kenyan children. Later this year, APG chapel members will visit Kenya to help con-

struct an aquaculture system. Ndhawa said he was impressed with the program.

“You know the Army is at war so it’s amazing to me to hear them preaching about spiritual health and encouraging Families to do the same,” he said. “It’s good to see that they are taking time to pray for your country.”

Origin of the National Prayer Breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast is an annual event held in Washington, D.C., on the first Thursday of February. The breakfast was founded by Congressional members of the House and Senate prayer groups. In 1953, President Dwight Eisenhower attended the first combined Prayer Breakfast for both houses of Congress; setting the precedent for the annual event. Military commands conduct breakfasts or luncheons each February in an effort to improve spiritual fitness and invoke “divine favor” on the mission to maintain national security.

CECOM, RDECOM take top honors in public affairs contest

Continued from Page 1

“These are historically two of the Army’s best newspapers,” explained APG News Editor Adriane Foss. “And due to its dimensions, the APG News is required to compete against the larger (metro) format newspapers, as opposed to the smaller tabloids.”

Foss said the relative size of the papers is not as much of an issue as the quality. She called the Northwest Guardian and the Courier giants in the Army newspaper business and credited APG News reporters Yvonne Johnson and Rachel Ponder and graphic designer Nick Pentz with bringing home the win.

“The APG News staff is a small, but very dedicated group,” she said. “It’s nice to see them recognized at this level. This is a huge honor for all of us.”

HQAMC competition

The Army Materiel Command recently announced the winners of the 2012 AMC-level Keith L. Ware Affairs Awards Communication Competition. AMC judged 130 entries for technical excellence in accordance with the objectives of the Department of the Army’s internal information program. Several APG-based organizations and individuals took top honors in the U.S. Army

Materiel Command-level competition.

Among them were:

■ CECOM’s Kelly Luster, Andricka Thomas, David Landmann; Jacqueline Boucher and Christine Reilly taking first place in the Magazine Category for CECOM Today.

■ CECOM’s Chrissie Reilly, Floyd Hertweck, Susan Thompson placed first for the ‘U.S. Army CECOM Historical Office Blog’ in the Command Blog Category.

■ ACWA’s Miguel Monteverde, Kristen Szydloski, Thomas Schultz, Stephanie Parrett, Katherine DeWeese

winning second place in the Outstanding Initiatives in New Media category for Connect with ACWA Initiative.

■ CECOM’s homepage placed second in the Website category for **cecom.army.mil**.

■ And a third place win in the News Feature category to Andricka Thomas for her article entitled, CECOM Deputy Retires after 37 Years.

Those who placed first will go on to compete at the Department of Army level.

For a full listing of HQAMC winners, visit <http://1.usa.gov/xbDizF>.

Post Shorts

Your Voice Matters!

Aberdeen Proving Ground is seeking input to improve its quarterly Community Action Council meetings. The garrison-sponsored meetings give community members a chance to hear about installation events, voice their concerns, offer suggestions and get answers from each directorate. "This really is an excellent opportunity to get the answers you're seeking directly from the person in charge of that particular issue," said Garrison APG Public Affairs Specialist Terri Kaltenbacher. "This is where issues can be addressed on the spot, and we've seen several improvements to our services as a result of this forum." In preparation for the April 19 meeting, the Garrison APG command group is seeking the following feedback:

1. What time is most convenient for you to attend CAC meetings?
2. What topics would you like to see addressed?
3. How can leadership modify the meetings to boost participation?

Email your answers to claudette.e.murray.civ@mail.mil. The subject line should read COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL FEEDBACK.

Federal Women's Program training conference set

Everyone is invited to attend the 22nd Annual Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Women's Program Training Conference March 8 in APG South's Conference Center Auditorium, Bldg. E4810, at 8 a.m.

Morning workshops include Women's Empowerment—What Does It Really Mean and Women's Education—Life-long Learning. Afternoon presentations, a brown bag lunch session and video presentations will also take place. Call 410-278-0799/5964 or 410-436-4429 for more information.

Resiliency Training

Resilience Training Module Two is set for Feb. 29 at APG North's Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 2485, Classroom 3, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

During the Feb. 22 session, participants will learn the "ATC" model identifying the Activating (A) event, in-the-moment thoughts (T), and the consequences (C) those thoughts generate.

The Feb. 29 session will cover Thinking Traps (TTs), common patterns in thinking that prevent a person from seeing a situation accurately.

Learn skills to identify and correct counterproductive thinking. For more information and to reserve your seat, call 410-278-2180/278-7572

Worksite Slim Down Challenge

Learn how to conduct a Worksite Slim Down Challenge. Hear from representatives from Public Health Command, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and Chemical Material Agency on how they started a worksite challenge. Find out about incentives, best practices, keeping up the momentum and more during the one-hour session at the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center, Bldg. E4140 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Reservations are preferred, not required. Call Wendy LaRoche at 410-417-2312 for information.

Shabbat Across America

Jewish Soldiers and Family members are invited to join Temple Adas Shalom in their Jewish Shabbat Across America. Friday, March 2, starting at 6:15 p.m. Contact Naomi Walton at 443-910-5248 or nwalton76@hotmail.com to make a reservation. Or call Jonas Vogelhut at 443-395-2318. The temple is located at 8 N. Earleton Road in Havre de Grace, Md., 21078.

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.

West Point Society celebrates Founders Day

Join the Northern Chesapeake West Point Society celebration of the 210th birthday of the U.S. Military Academy March 16 during the Founder's Day 2012 Celebration at the Maryland Golf & Country Club, 1335 MacPhail Road, in Bel Air.

Festivities start with a Benny Havens Hour at 6 p.m. followed by a 7:15 p.m. buffet dinner.

The guest speaker is West Point Brig. Gen. Timothy E. Trainor, dean of the academic board. For more information and reservations, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NorthChesWPS>.

UFood Grill to open in PX

Anthony's Pizza is closed. Next week, food and maintenance personnel will remove equipment and supplies in preparation for the build-out of the UFood Grill operation. Demolition work will begin the week of Feb. 27 and the interior construction work will last through the end of April.

aration for the build-out of the UFood Grill operation. Demolition work will begin the week of Feb. 27 and the interior construction work will last through the end of April.

Theater auditions

The APG Theater Group is auditioning and casting for its upcoming season, which will include, the dinner theater show "I'm Getting Murdered in the Morning," "Dracula," "Miracle on 34th Street" and "A Christmas Carol."

Stop by the APG North recreation center, Bldg. 3326 Monday evenings at 6 p.m. or Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. to register. Call 410-278-4011/4907 for information.

IEPP program continued

Internal Enterprise Placement Program, the IMCOM program designed to place over-hires from one installation in vacancies at another installation, has been continued. APG garrison employees can apply for positions that they qualify for at the same or lower grades. Vacancies are posted at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/662838>.

Permanent change of station costs are paid by the losing garrison. Employees who are interested in relocating to another IMCOM location should contact their supervisors for a detailed package about the program or call CPAC's Carolyn Russell at 306-0173. Or call 410-278-9669 for Marilyn Howard (ACS) for assistance with resumes.



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

COMMUNITY NOTES

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24 THE FINTON FORMULA FUN VISITING SCIENTIST SERIES

Come for exciting hands-on chemistry and environmental science fun, guided by guest scientists from the local community. Space is limited. This program will be held 4:30 to 6 p.m. for ages 10 to 13 or 5th to 8th grade. The cost is \$4 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.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25 BUSY BEAVERS

Where did the saying "busy as a beaver" come from? Learn about the amazing adaptations of the beaver and search for evidence of his activity to discover the answer to that question. This program will be held 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. for all ages, under 12

with adult. The cost is \$3 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.

NATURE GIRL'S DAY OUT

Spend an afternoon enjoying the natural world. Take a hike, craft natural beauty products, and sample delicious refreshments. This program will be held 2 to 4 p.m. for ages 8 to 14.

The cost is \$5 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.



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

FAMILY AND MWR

Piano & Guitar Lessons

Private piano and guitar lessons for ages 4-18 are beginning soon. Tuesday classes are \$136 and meet weekly Feb. 21 to April 10. Thursday classes are \$102 and meet weekly March 1 to April 12. Friday classes are \$102 and meet weekly March 2 to April 13. Classes are conducted on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays during the hours 3-9 p.m. in the Aberdeen Youth Center. Each 30-minute session is one-on-one. Students are responsible for purchasing required books. Open to all DoD ID cardholders. Call 410-278-7571/7479 for an appointment to register. For information, e-mail stacie.e.umbarger.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-4589.

Friday Dance Party

Back by popular demand, CYSS invites youth to its '70s Dance Party Feb. 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the youth center, Bldg. 2522, APG North. Break out your best retro attire and get the Family ready to disco. For information, call 410-278-9061.

Hearts Apart March Mask Madness

ACS HEARTS APART is just another great way to stay connected in the community and learn what ACS has to offer you and your Family. As part of the ongoing commitment to support the Army Family Covenant, ACS will host a get-together designed for Hearts Apart Families to network while creating Mardi-Gras masks. This event will be held at Bldg. 2503 on High Point Road March 7 from 6-7 p.m.

Light refreshments provided. Hearts Apart empowers Families (military and DoD civilians) with information to help prepare for deployment separation and TDYs. Call Wilhelmina Cromartie at 410-278-2464 for information.

Recharge Your Marriage

This four-part series is designed to help married couples rekindle the spark in their marriages. Whether married for 20 or 20 days, this seminar will help married couples rediscover each other in a forum-style setting. Give each other a gift that will last for years to come and plan to attend this seminar, held in ACS Bldg 2503. Seminar dates are March 8, April 5 and May 3 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Child care will be provided. Refreshments will be served. For info or to schedule child care, call 410-278-2435.

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.

Resilience Training Module

Resilience Training Module 2 is scheduled Feb. 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Aberdeen Main Post Chapel, bldg. 2485. Attendees will continue to learn about building resilience in their daily lives. Resilience is the ability to meet life's challenges and bounce back or recover during or after difficult experiences.

These Module Two classes highlight the link between your thoughts and emotions or reactions.

Also, learn to master the ATC model on identifying the Activating Event (A), your

in-the-moment Thoughts (T), and the Consequences (C) your thoughts generate.

We will also cover Thinking Traps (TTs). TTs are common patterns in thinking that prevents a person from seeing a situation accurately. Learn the skill to identify and correct counterproductive patterns of thinking.

For additional information and to reserve your seat, call ACS at 410-278-2180/7572.

Hired Orientation Day

Hired's Orientation Day is March 3 from 9-10:30 a.m. in the CYSS Admin. Bldg. 2503, Room 214. Youth ages 15-18 will learn about the Hired apprenticeship program and cover topics, including eligibility, required forms, training, placement sites and upcoming college tours. Sign up now for the Summer Hired Apprenticeship Program.

Register at the CYSS Administration Bldg 2503, Central Registration Offices Rooms 210 or 211. Walk-in registration is 7:30-10:30 a.m.; or call for an appointment at 410-278-7479/7571.

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

tact jay.a.mckinney.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-3250.

Resume Writing 101 for Teens

Class is March 7 from 6-7 p.m. in the CYSS Admin. Bldg. 2522. Students ages 15-18 will identify and script their skills, knowledge and character traits to develop a personal resume.

Register at the CYSS Administration Bldg 2503, Central Registration Offices Rooms 210 or 211. Walk-in registration is 7:30-10:30 a.m.; or call for an appointment at 410-278-7479/7571.

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



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 February 20

Special #1: Pepperoni pizza sub with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.50.

Special #2: Chicken salad sandwich or wrap with chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.95.

Week of February 27

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

Special #2: Tuna salad sandwich or wrap with chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.75.

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

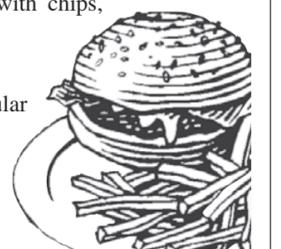




Photo by Rachel Ponder

Register for spring sports

Coach Melissa Peterson (far left) instructs APG junior varsity cheerleaders before practice. CYSS registration is open for the spring season. Programs include basketball, girls' softball, t-ball, baseball, flag football, cheerleading and soccer. Call 410-306-2297. View or download more photos at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg>.

First robotics contest

Continued from Page 1

reveals the competition at an annual kick-off event that is simulcast to locations around the world. Teams receive a kit of common parts that will be used to build the core systems of the robot. These parts come without an instruction manual and include everything from programmable radio controllers and motors to circuitry and mechanical parts. Students have six weeks to conceptualize, design, build, program, test, modify and enter the robots in the competition.

This year the students were tasked with creating a robot that would participate in the Rebound Rumble, a robotics game between two alliances of three teams each. Each alliance will try to score as many basketballs as possible in the hoops during two-minute and 15-second matches. The higher the hoop, the more points the shot is worth.

Alliances can earn bonus points by balancing the robots on bridges at the end of the matches. The winning team will compete in the FIRST Championship at Saint Louis, Mo.

Though they have competed as a team since 2006 and worked with members of the APG community previously, this is the first year the students have partnered with CERDEC mentors and constructed their robot at a CERDEC lab space. For six weeks, students visited the lab two to three times a week to construct the robot under the direction of sheet metal mechanics, engineers, machinists and electrical technicians.

Erica Bertolli, a CERDEC Educational Outreach employee, said the students were focused and motivated throughout the process.

"The Department of Defense and the Army has to be building the next generation of students, the next generation of scientists and engineers, because you are going to keep this nation safe for generations to come," Bertolli said to the students during the presentation. "The fact that you are already so motivated tells us that we are in good hands for our future."

Joseph Ryan, a division chief with CERDEC's Command and Control

Directorate who secured the lab space for the students, said having a dedicated space gave the students more time to focus on their project. In previous years, the students used a hallway at their school to build the robot. The public space created several logistical problems as they had to spend extra time setting up and putting away the project each day.

During the presentation, he told the students that this project gave the students a chance to experience what "real life" engineers do every day.

"This is as close as you can get to engineering while you are at this stage," he said.

Ryan later said engineering students need mentors and guidance due to the rigorous coursework required of them in college and graduate school.

"Working on exciting projects is one way to encourage the students," he said. "We want to show them that being an engineer is fun. The effort that they put in school will afford them with a promising career."

Michael Reis, a CERDEC electronics engineer and mentor on the projects, said the students were eager to tackle difficult problems.

"They are doing college level work," Reis said. "I was amazed at their dedication. The mentors just provided them with guidance, all the hard work came from them."

Junior Naveed Rahman, who has been on the FIRST Robotics team since his freshman year, said this is the first time his team could win the competition.

"I am excited to go to competition. Working here made a big difference," he said. "We were more focused in this professional environment."

Rahman added that being on the FIRST Robotics team helped him decide to pursue a career in engineering.

"Being on this team gave me real world engineering experience," he said. "It taught me how to persevere and solve problems."

For more information about FIRST Robotics, visit www.usfirst.org.

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
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Cassandra Morrison
Margaret Nahrgang
Theresa Padron
Linda Patrick
Donna Pierce
Edward Rath

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Jaime Reed
Jose Rivera-Alvarez
Pedro Rodriguez
Paul Shelley
Lena Shelton
Bridgette Smith
Danielle Smith
Robynn Squires
Nicole Stallings
Heather Steinhilber
Sonya Taylor
Lorena Thompson
Heather Tomaseski
Kimberly Trubia
Joya Tucker
Juan Vitali
Matthew Warne
Monica Webb
Ann West
Emily Whaley
Aaron Wilson
Heather Williamson
Fatisha Wright
Melvin Wright

CECOM chief of staff speaks at middle school honors breakfast

Story and photo by
ANDRICKA THOMAS
CECOM Public Affairs

Maryland native, Col. William 'Bill' Montgomery, chief of staff for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, spoke at Havre de Grace Middle School during an honor's breakfast Feb. 14 congratulating students on superior grades earned on their last report card.

"You are an elite group," said Montgomery. "Congratulations, you are already on the path to excellence."

Montgomery personally congratulated 59 sixth graders, 43 seventh graders and 52 eighth grade students who earned a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the most recent report card rating period.

Havre de Grace Middle School principal and retired Air Force service member, Anthony Bess, said he recognizes students quarterly for academic achievement and sees the program as another way to bring Families together.

"We always look for opportunities to celebrate success," said Bess. "Events like these help us foster an environment that enables parents to show their support for their child's achievements."

He said he appreciates the military and the support they give to local schools. As a retired service member he knows the impact military service can have on students.

"The military has a way of taking good people and making them great," said Bess. "Col. Montgomery's willingness to share his journey to excellence with our students is further testament to



CECOM Chief of Staff Col. William 'Bill' Montgomery encourages students to strive for excellence during a Havre de Grace Middle School a honors breakfast Feb. 14 recognizing students who achieved a 3.5 grade point average or better in the last report card rating cycle.

the caliber of our military service members. His remarks demonstrated the journey to success isn't about your origins, but rather how hard work, determination and focus can change your path in life to one of success."

CECOM leadership looks forward to participating in more events that encourage excellence in the nation's youth, according to Montgomery. He sees opportunities to speak to students as a way to inspire, communicate to the future work-

force, and promote the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields of study. With two children attending Harford County public schools, he knows first-hand the impact community leaders can make simply by taking an interest.

During his presentation, Montgomery challenged students to continue to strive for excellence; encourage others to do the same and use the resources available to them, namely parents and teachers.

Montgomery said all students have a gift and as they continue to attain excellence, "it's important to help those around you."

He is an advocate for good community membership, urging students to tutor and help their classmates when they are able.

"Life is a team," said Montgomery. "So share your academic gifts with others and challenge yourself everyday by asking 'how can I make myself better today?'"

ECBC empowers Cecil County schools, Maryland with digital math learning tool

ECBC news release

Cecil County Public Schools is the first school district in Maryland to receive Tabula Digita's math learning tool 'DimensionM' through the educational outreach efforts of the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, sponsored by the National Defense Education Program.

Looking to help local teachers enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) components in their middle school curriculum, ECBC recently provided Cecil County Public Schools a package that included DimensionM licenses and a three-day professional development training for 23 of their middle school math teachers.

DimensionM is a digital learning program that engages students in applying mathematics with the latest 3-D video gaming technology. It enables students to strengthen their knowledge and skills in pre-algebra and algebra I by traversing a series of different missions that require solving math problems to proceed.

This teacher professional development, led by National Center for the Advancement



Middle School teachers at Cecil County Public Schools form a working group with ECBC Research Biologist Brady Redmond, Ph.D. (middle) aiming to develop a math lesson using the new digital learning tool 'DimensionM'.

of STEM Education (NCASE) instructors, is designed to facilitate the adoption of this math intervention tool into teachers' lesson plans and to familiarize educators with innovative teaching techniques.

"This training provides our teachers the opportunity to meet students' learning needs," said Cecil County Public Schools Executive Director for Elementary and High School Education Jeffrey Lawson, Ed.D., "in a way that is consistent with

contemporary interest and best practice."

Covering standards-based, high-impact educational objectives, this tool serves teachers as a resource to introduce new concepts, support instruction, reinforce learning objectives and monitor students' progress through reports.

After a discussion on the student-centric pedagogical approach of this program and an immersion into 'DimensionM', teachers were encouraged to

present concepts that suggested how to implement the new math learning program in the classroom.

In a concerted effort to connect government and education professionals, two ECBC employees joined the training. Research Biologist Brady Redmond, Ph.D. and Physical Scientist Stephen Harper participated in the three-day training to share their real-world experience in applying mathematical principles. Inserting their

subject matter expertise when applicable, they gave teachers additional ideas on ways to frame the relevance of STEM around its application in future career pathways.

Participating teachers from Bohemia Manor, Elkton, North East, Rising Sun and Perryville demonstrated the type of creative and innovative thinking that will help ignite students' interest in math.

"I can speak on behalf of the majority of my colleagues when saying that these three days were not just an opportunity to learn about DimensionM, but also about NDEP and the educational partnerships that have been established [between Cecil County Public Schools and ECBC]," said April Alcorn, eighth-grade teacher at Elkton Middle School. "We are looking for any type of intervention or motivation to encourage our students to achieve high results in core subjects like math."

"And, we are very hopeful that this type of learning tool and instructional strategy will help excite students about STEM disciplines."

Visit <http://youtu.be/XLm13GRDkck> for the video report.

ECBC engages Joppatowne students with EiE

ECBC news release

In an effort to foster early engineering and technological literacy among children, engineers from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center recently challenged nearly 50 fourth- and fifth grade students at Joppatowne Elementary School to design, build and test their own walls.

Based on the Engineering is Elementary (EiE) scenario in the storybook 'Yi Min's Great Wall,' ECBC subject matter experts developed two hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities that focused on addressing the problem with which the main character in the story is confronted.

First, the Center's engineers Cindy Learn, David Love, Mary McNally and Bruce Steltzer revisited the storyline to extract the challenge leading up to the interactive STEM experiences. Then, the group of elementary school students was collectively charged with finding a solution to protect the classroom garden from a hungry rabbit munching on the plants.

Reinforcing the engineering design

We want to help children discover STEM education in their earliest learning stages, because this is when they start developing their interests and abilities.

Mary Doak

ECBC Community and Educational Outreach Program Manager

process, the four Army engineers offered students the opportunity to design and build a protection wall or fence to stop the hungry rabbit from invading. This exercise allowed fourth- and fifth-graders to tackle a real-world challenge by using their imagination and an array of different materials, such as wood, straw and modeling clay.

After completing their designs according to specific requirements and running tests for wind and impact resistance, students were encouraged to improve their structures as the final step of the engineering process.

"It was amazing to see our students

work together to solve problems," said Joppatowne Elementary School teacher Erin Moring. "Their excitement over creating a successful design was a testament to the Engineering is Elementary program. This initiative brought out leaders in our students, and provided them all the chance to apply their skills and knowledge in math, science and reading."

Due to EiE's multi-disciplinary and student-centric approach, ECBC's Community and Educational Outreach Program has adapted it as a main thrust into its STEM educational outreach efforts through the National Defense Education Program.

"We want to help children discover STEM education in their earliest learning stages, because this is when they start developing their interests and abilities," said ECBC Community and Educational Outreach Program Manager Mary Doak. "The Engineering is Elementary curriculum perfectly lends itself to teaching the engineering design process and solving real-world problems in different contexts."

About Engineering is Elementary

The Engineering is Elementary® (EiE) project fosters engineering and technological literacy among children. EiE has created a research-based, standards-driven, and classroom-tested curriculum that integrates engineering and technology concepts and skills with elementary science topics. EiE lessons not only promote K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning, but also connect with literacy and social studies.

To view or download more photos, visit <http://bit.ly/zcZzDz>