

APG NEWS



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Published in the interest of the people of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

January 5, 2012 Vol. 56, No. 1

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW



WEATHER

Thurs.



45° | 32°

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BACK IN SESSION

The next regular issue of the APG News will be published Jan. 12. Submissions are due Jan. 6.

OPINION

Top 10 Military Family Moments of 2011 Blogger highlights events that inspired us, brought us closure

It's that time of year when top 10 lists seem to proliferate across nearly every web and news page in the nation, proclaiming everything from the best movies and TV shows to the most memorable photos and celebrities of the year.

Since I find it tough to encapsulate a year's worth of information into a tidy list, I typically steer away from the concept. However, this was such a momentous year for military Families that I decided it was time to hop on the list-making bandwagon.

So, here's my top 10 most memorable military Family moments of 2011. It's certainly not all-inclusive, but I'm hoping it at least hits the highlights.

10. JR Martinez – Warrior Inspiration.

This Army veteran and wounded warrior danced his way to the top spot on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" — and inspired a nation with his strength and resilience along the way. In 2003, Martinez was injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq, suffering severe burns to more than 40 percent of his body. He went on to share his story with audiences nationwide. In 2008, he landed a role as an Iraq war veteran on the ABC soap opera, "All My Children," which led to his "Dancing with the Stars" appearances this year.

"I have been able to be a role model and a voice for a lot of [troops] who don't feel that they have a voice for themselves," Martinez said during a Pentagon Channel interview. "I've been able to be a source of inspiration to the families as well, to say good things do happen and you've just got to be patient and have a great attitude."

Martinez recently scored another big win: he and his girlfriend, Diana Gonzalez-Jones, are expecting their first child, a girl, in the spring.

9. The Office of Service-member Affairs opened for business.

As the military arm of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, this office is intended to strengthen military Families financially and to serve as an advocate on their behalf. The office has a threefold mission: to ensure Families are given a quality financial education, to monitor consumer complaints and the response to those complaints, and to work with other federal and state agencies to help resolve issues.

In an interview this summer, Holly Petraeus, the office's assistant director, told me she's thrilled to be in a position to help service members and their Families.

"My ultimate dream is that no service member signs a contract that they end up regretting for years or signing one that isn't fair," she said. "We can write rules and enforce at CFPB, and I'd love to see the real bad actors that go after service members — break the law to harm them financially — I'd like to see them enforced against."

8. Sesame unveiled "Military Families Near and Far."

These products, which include a bilingual website and mobile application, encourage elementary school-aged children to express their emotions and to communicate as they undergo challenging military transitions. The resources are a team effort by Sesame Street and The Electric Company, and are provided in cooperation with the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Sesame's previous efforts to help military children have been aimed at preschoolers. These new products will enable them to reach older children in an entertaining way. H. Melvin Ming, Sesame Workshop president and CEO, told me during the launch event in November. "One size does not fit all," he noted. "Children learn best when the message is age-appropriate."

7. Technology boosts support.

This year, we've seen the Defense Department and other organizations launch a host of technology-based tools aimed at helping troops, veterans and their Families. For example, DcOE's National Center for Telehealth and Technology developed mobile apps that help users cope with psychological concerns, and aid providers in diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder and TBI. One example is Life Armor, a mobile app that serves as a resource for Families experiencing common post-deployment issues. Find out more about these helpful apps here.

Additionally, TRICARE and Express Scripts Inc. launched a TRICARE Express RX mobile app and mobile-optimized website in July. These tools allow TRICARE beneficiaries to manage their prescriptions and access important health information safely and securely from anywhere using their smart phone.

These are just a few examples of the leaps in technology-based military support this year. From smart phone apps to virtual counseling and support, I'll be excited to see what sprouts up this year and in the years ahead.

6. Veteran employment initiatives.

In November, President Barack Obama announced executive orders to give tax credits to employers who hire post-9/11 veterans and wounded warriors, as well as enhanced career counseling and related services for veterans.

As reported by my colleague Donna Miles, the president announced a new Returning Heroes Tax Credit that will provide companies up to \$5,600 in credits for each unemployed veteran they hire. Similarly, a new Wounded Warriors Tax Credit offers employers up to \$9,600 for each veteran with service-connected disabilities they hire.

The president also unveiled two new Internet-based job search tools for unemployed veterans: My Next Move for Veterans, where veterans can browse career options and translate their mili-

tary experience to a civilian application, and the Veterans Job Bank, where veterans can seek jobs posted by companies committed to hiring them.

5. The Job Fair Movement.

Also aimed at employment, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce sponsored about 75 veteran and spouse hiring fairs around the country, with a goal of hosting 100 hiring fairs within a year. And the chamber has committed to hosting 300-400 additional hiring fairs for veterans and military spouses around the country in 2012, Navy Capt. Bradley Cooper, executive director of the Joining Forces campaign, told me in an interview last month.

In mid-January, the chamber will host its first military-spouse-only hiring fair and career forum, looking to bring together more than 100 employers and more than 1,000 spouses.

There's also been an emergence of virtual hiring fairs, which is an asset to people unable to attend a hiring fair due to distance or who want to see what's available in other locations. Milicruit hosted a virtual fair recently that included more than 24,000 jobs from nearly 70 employers with more than 30,000 veterans and spouses engaged in the process.

4. Military Spouse Employment Partnership.

This DOD program is aimed at expanding career opportunities for military spouses worldwide, and to recognize the skills and talents they bring to the employment table. The program's website lists more than 70,000 jobs for military spouses.

Since its launch in June, the partnership has grown from 72 companies to 96, and has led to the hiring of more than 8,000 military spouses.

3. Strengthening Our Military Families.

In January, President Barack Obama unveiled a governmentwide plan to strengthen military Family support. The plan was based on a yearlong review summarized in the report "Strengthening our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment."

The report outlines four key areas which the whole-of-government effort plans to address: enhancing military Families' well-being and psychological health; developing military spouse career and education opportunities; increasing child care availability and quality; and ensuring excellence in military children's education and development.

In total, Obama said, his administration is making nearly 50 specific commitments to military Families. But the government can't accomplish this mission alone.

"Government has its responsibilities," he said. "One percent of Americans may be fighting our wars, but a hundred percent of Americans need to be supporting our troops and their Families — a hundred percent."

2. The Joining Forces campaign.

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, announced this landmark military-support initiative in April. Joining Forces aims to raise awareness of military Families and spark all Americans — from citizens and communities, to businesses and nonprofit groups — to take action to ensure troops and their Families have the support they need and deserve. The initiative focuses on three areas: employment, education and wellness.

"This campaign is about all of us, all of us joining together as Americans to give back to the extraordinary military Families who serve and sacrifice so much every day so we can live in freedom and security," the first lady said at the White House's campaign launch.

The campaign has made tremendous inroads in tackling veteran and spouse employment in recent months, Cooper said. In about three months, the campaign went from teaming with 100 companies to more than 1,500, and from 1,500 people hired to nearly 20,000. These companies aim to hire upward of 135,000 veterans and spouses over the next couple of years, he added.

1. Iraq War Ends.

After nearly nine years, the war in Iraq ended, and the final group of U.S. troops returned home Dec. 20 — just in time for the holidays.

The nation owes a debt to all service members and their Families, President Barack Obama said Dec. 15.

"This moment of success is because of their sacrifice," he said. "More than 1.5 million Americans have served in Iraq. More than 30,000 of these brave men and women were wounded. Nearly 4,500 gave their lives. America's military Families have borne a heavy burden.

"As we mark the end of this war, we need to show our veterans and their Families that they have the thanks of a grateful nation," he added. "Part of ending a war responsibly is standing by those who have fought it. It's not enough to honor our heroes with words; we must do so with deeds."

That's my top 10, but I'd be remiss if I didn't add a shout out to military Families worldwide. In this past year, some Families endured the terrible pain of losing a military loved one to combat or illness. Others sat by a bedside day and night, praying for the speedy recovery of their child or spouse who returned home with the visible or invisible wounds of war. And still others held down home fronts, bolstering their children through deployments and long separations.

As in every year of this past decade of war, these Families have weathered 2011 with amazing resilience and strength.

I'd like to join the rest of the nation in saying thank you for your service and your sacrifice.

Elaine Sanchez

Family Matters Blog

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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

Staff

APG Commander Maj. Gen. Nick G. Justice
 APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando W. Ortiz
 Editor Adriane Foss
 Year in Review Editor Yvonne Johnson
 Contract Photojournalists Yvonne Johnson
 Rachel Ponder
 Graphic Designer/Web Designer Nick Pentz
 Web site www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

Reporter reflects on what a difference a year makes at APG

As we begin a fresh new year, the APG News takes a look back on the stories that defined 2011.

Though it was a year that brought a historic earthquake and a record-breaking hurricane to the region, the most compelling story, by far, was the completion of the base realignment and closure requirements mandated in 2005, which have changed the face of Aberdeen Proving Ground forever.



Six years of preparation and execution resulted in the construction of new buildings, roads, parking lots and ways of life.

Gone from APG are the Ordnance Soldiers who marched these proving ground roads for nearly a century. In their place are more than 8,000 civilians and contractors from 11 new organizations that relocated to APG under BRAC. The Army added 2.8 million square feet of facilities. To put it in perspective, that space is comparable to 14 Aberdeen Walmart Supercenters, 12 Aberdeen High Schools, or eight Harford Community Colleges.

The \$1 billion in construction included 18 new buildings, the demolition of 40 buildings, improvement to nine miles of roads and upgrades to electric, water and information technology infrastructure to accommodate new and current command needs. Along with that, numerous defense contractors have taken up residence in the new GATE office complex near the Route 715 gate – a result of the Enhance Used Lease initiative – to better serve APG organizations.

The increased population also brought enhancements to current facilities such as the health and dental clinics, the post theater, Top of the Bay, a

new child care center and upgraded fitness and health facilities. In addition, the assumption of post housing responsibilities by Picerne Military Housing will give APG 210 new and modern homes as well as 97 historic renovations and 65 major renovations to multi-family units.

Instead of training the Warfighter, the APG focus now is on Supporting the Warfighter. Today's APG Soldiers wear civilian attire. They don't run PT. Instead they run the missions that place the best equipment to ensure survivability in Soldiers' hands as quickly as possible.

And with the ascendance of the civilian workforce at APG, the community has adjusted to the loss of Soldier trainees and embraced the unsung heroes that support them.

As a retired Soldier myself, I miss the sweet sounds of reveille and retreat, the energy and promise of young Soldiers just beginning their Army careers, and countless other things that go along with a large Soldier population, but I also have to take pride in working alongside the civilian workers who support those troops. As the APG News senior writer, a history buff and former Soldier, I look forward to covering events that impact our lives—Soldiers or civilians. Furthermore, I am grateful for the presence of the remaining Soldiers at APG in the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) and other permanent party units.

While it is difficult for a staff of two reporters to cover everything that's goes on on the installation, with the help of tenant public affairs staffs and a supportive community, we feel confident that we're making a difference. On behalf of the APG News staff, thank you, TEAM APG for supporting our efforts in 2011 and beyond.

Happy New Year!

Yvonne Johnson

Army veteran and APG News reporter

LOOKING BACK



A young, double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) relaxes on the Edgewood Area's Gunpowder Dock Sept. 13. The species was discovered to be nesting on Gull Island in May 2010. It was the first confirmed breeding record for this species in Harford County. The photo was taken by APG News photojournalist Yvonne Johnson who just happened to be driving around in search of subjects for the APG News Snapshot page.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson

FAMILY AND MWR

Fun Time Ceramics

Children ages 6-12 will learn how to paint and create ceramic projects. The class will be held at the APG South (Edgewood) Recreation Center Jan. 16 from 1 to 5 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register at the APG North or South recreation centers. For information, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-Leisuretravel@conus.army.mil.

Shen Yun 2012

Tickets are available for the Shen Yun 2012 show Sunday, Jan. 8 at 2 p.m. at the Merriam Theatre in Philadelphia, Pa. Shen Yun's classical dances, music, and song draw upon stories and legends that span China's history from the Yellow Emperor through the Tang and Song dynasties to modern day. For information, visit www.shenyun2012.com.

Our Price: \$90

Gate Price: \$96

All prices include taxes and fees. All seats are located in Rows C, D, and E in the left and right balcony sections.

Beginner Tae Kwon Do

The Unity Tae Kwon Do School of Martial Arts at APG will begin entry-level classes for ages 6 to 14 Jan. 7 in the Aberdeen Youth Center at 9:45 a.m. The 12-week course will be taught every Saturday by instructor Sabunim Sean A. Williams. This entry-level course is designed for students who have never participated in taekwondo. Class size is limited. Cost is \$100, and does not include equipment. Open to all DoD ID cardholders and Family members. Call 410-278-7571/7479 to register. E-mail stacie.e.umbarger.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-4589.

Driving School

The Ultimate Driving School, LLC, offers classes Jan. 9 to June 20 at 13 N. Parke Street in Aberdeen. Classes are conducted Mon.-Thurs. 5 - 8:15 p.m.

Sessions are: Jan. 9-26, Feb. 6-23, March 05-21, April 09-25, May 07-23 and June 04-20. \$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.

Hired Orientation

Hired Orientation Day set Jan. 7 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the CYSS Admin Bldg. 2503, Room 214. Learn about the Hired Apprenticeship program for teens ages 15-18. Find out about eligibility, required forms, trainings, placement sites, college tours. Sign up now for the spring or summer sessions. Call 410-278-3250 or email jay.a.mckinney@us.army.mil.

Tiny Taekwondo

Tiny Tigers Taekwondo runs Jan. 7 to March 24 at the Aberdeen Youth Center, Bldg. 2522, for ages 3-5. Parent par-

ticipation is required. 9-9:45 a.m. on Saturdays.

\$85 per student for a 12-week session. Class size is limited. Open to all DoD ID card holder family members. To register, call 410-278-7571/7479. Email stacie.e.umbarger.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-4589.

Teen Dress for Success

Dress for Success for Teens Event is set Jan. 9 from 5-6 p.m. at the CYSS Admin Bldg. 2503, Room 214. Teens will learn how to dress appropriately for an interview and a job. Register at the CYSS Admin Building 2503, Room 210 or 211. Walk-in registration is 7:30-10:30 a.m.; or call 410-278-7479/7571 for an appointment. Email jay.a.mckinney.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-3250.

Tickets for Sale

All tickets can be purchased at the Family and MWR Leisure Travel Services. For more info, call 410-278-4011/4907

Discounted tickets from Family and MWR Leisure Travel Services will make great stocking stuffers for Family, friends and co-workers. Save money this holiday season when you purchase these tickets at the Family and MWR Leisure Travel Office.

AMC Movie Tickets

Their price: \$10.50

Our price: \$8.75

Regal Movie Premiere Tickets (no expiration and good for any movie)

Their price: \$10.50

Our price: \$8.25

Ski Lift Tickets to Rountop, Liberty, and Whitetail, Pa.

Their price: \$66-\$68/person

Our price: \$55/person

Cirque du Soleil Tribute to Michael Jackson on May 6, 2012 at 4 p.m.

Their price: \$200

Our price: \$175

Luray Caverns 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 adults 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 without 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.



MORE ONLINE

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

January bowling specials

■ Early Bird Special from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Bowl for \$1.50 each game. Shoe rental \$1.00 a pair.

■ Every Saturday one hour of bowling for \$18.00

■ Martin Luther King Jr. Special. \$1.00 games Monday Jan. 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ Every Friday night after 9:30 p.m. one hour of bowling for \$12.00.

Rental includes up to six people and shoe rental.

Bowling rates

Bowling costs \$3 per game, Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; games cost \$3.50 each on Friday, 9:30 to 11 p.m.; Cosmic Saturday costs \$3.75 per game; and \$3 per game on Sunday.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Week of January 3

Special #1: Cheese steak wrap with chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.25.

Special #2: Chicken cheese steak wrap with chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.75

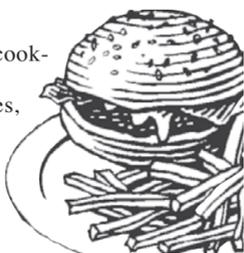
Week of January 9

Special #1: Tuna salad sandwich with chips, cookie and regular soda for \$5.50.

Special #2: Two hot dogs with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$5.75.

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

New Year, New You

The APG Community Women's Club New Year's Resolution Luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 10, at Top of the Bay. The guest speaker is Gwyn Dolzine, who will help members get motivated to make healthy, fit choices in 2012. RSVP to Doris Pickerd at 908-601-8609 or reservations@apgcwc.org

Science Café set Jan. 10

The next Science Café is scheduled Jan. 10 at the Bel Air Barnes and Noble Book Store from 7-8 p.m. Dr. Mark Griep from the Army Research Lab will discuss "Solar Power and Alternative Energy Sources." Contact Carol Bertram at carol.bertram@nmtc.org or 443-360-9134 for information.

BCBC rep visit

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) to visit APG Tuesday, Jan. 10. The representative will be available from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 314, Room 151E to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. The representative will be available from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Bldg. E4516 (CDTF). No appointment is necessary. For information, contact Teri Wright, 410-278-4331, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

OGE 450 Training

CECOM's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate Ethics Counselor Mike Hoyle will provide OGE 450 Training for Supervisor on Jan. 13 from 1 - 3 p.m. and Jan 20 from 9 - 11:30 a.m. at the Myers Auditorium.

Reduced gate operations for MLK holiday

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Martin Luther King Holiday Jan. 16. The Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area will close at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13 and the Wise Road Gate (Route 755) in the Edgewood Area will close at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13. Both gates will reopen at 5 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17. The Route 715 Gate in the Aberdeen Area and the Route 24 Gate in the Edgewood Area will be open throughout the holiday period.

FRG Forum set Jan. 19

A Family Readiness Group Forum is set Jan. 19 in Bldg. 2503 on the second floor, CYSS Room, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The FRG Forum presents an opportunity for a team of Family support personnel to network and share information, experiences, and knowledge on the unique challenges faced in helping Family members maintain readiness throughout the Deployment Cycle Support process.

The forum is open to all FRG leaders, support assistants, unit leadership and

senior spouse advisors. Child care will be provided for children registered with Child, Youth & School Services. RSVP by Jan. 5 if child care is needed. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 410-278-2180/7572 by Jan. 16.

Military engineers meeting

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post January 2012 meeting will be at the Wetland Golf Club in Aberdeen at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 19. This month's featured speaker is Tom Kuchar, P.E., Director of Public Works, Aberdeen Proving Ground. Kuchar's presentation is titled, "Aberdeen Proving Ground - NET ZERO Water Program." Register online <http://www.same-chesapeake.org> or call 410-638-9699.

ASMC PDI set Jan. 26

The American Society of Military Comptrollers Chesapeake Chapter is hosting a Mini-Professional Development Institute Jan. 26 at Bulle Rock in Havre de Grace. Themed "The Future Is Now," the Chapter's first full-day training event will feature current Resource Management and Acquisition topics, the latest in professional development opportunities, and motivational speakers.

The cost of the event is \$130 for ASMC Members (\$160 non-members) and will include lunch and CPE credit. Those interested in becoming an ASMC Chesapeake Chapter member should visit <http://www.orgsites.com/md/asmc->

[chesapeake/index.html](http://www.same-chesapeake.org/index.html). ASMC is a non-profit educational and professional organization for military and civilian personnel involved in the overall field of military comptrollership.

Trial program in place to assist garrison over-hires

IMCOM has established the Internal Enterprise Placement Program. This trial program is designed to place over-hires from one installation to vacancies at another installation.

APG garrison employees can apply for positions that they qualify for at the same or lower grades. New vacancies will open each Tuesday with the closing date set for the following Monday at midnight. 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 Marilyn Howard of ACS at 410-278-9669 for assistance with updating or writing resumes.



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

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY JANUARY 7 NIGHT HIKE

Join us on a guided hike with our naturalist to learn about night vision and experience hiking on the trails at night without using a flashlight. You never know what we may see, or hear. The Night Hike is from 6 to 8 p.m. and costs \$3 for members; \$10 for member family of four. Non-member fee is \$5 per person. To pre-register, call 410-836-3050 or email edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com.

SUNDAY JANUARY 15 AMERICAN LEGION HOLDS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Breakfast is 8 to 11:30 a.m. and costs \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 10 and under. It features all-you-can-eat pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee and is open to the public. Susquehanna Post 135 300 Cherry St. Perryville. For more information call 410-642-2771.

MONTH OF JANUARY EDEN MILL EVENTS HISTORIC GRIST MILL MUSEUM

For those who like to take a step back in time, Eden Mill is the sight that can't be missed. For more than 200 years, the mill was one of the most significant grist mills in Harford County. Filled with milling equipment and displays along with a vintage turn of the century power plant, the Historic Grist Mill Museum is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (through February) and most Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Call 410-836-3050 or visit edenmill.org.

NATURE STORYTIME

Eden Mill Nature Center is proud to offer "Nature Story Time" at 11 a.m. Jan. 5 and Jan 26. Enjoy a children's story and craft related to a theme about nature. Pre-registration is required. Call 410-836-3050; e-mail edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com or visit edenmill.org.

SATURDAY CRITTER FEEDING

Eden Mill Nature Center will offer feedings on Saturdays, through March 10 at 1 p.m. for families. Take a turn feeding one of the turtles or snakes. Space is limited to 10 participants. Pre-register at 410-836-3050 or e-mail edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com or visit edenmill.org



MORE ONLINE
More calendar events can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil under Community Notes.

RECORD BREAKERS



Photo by Terri Kaltenbacher

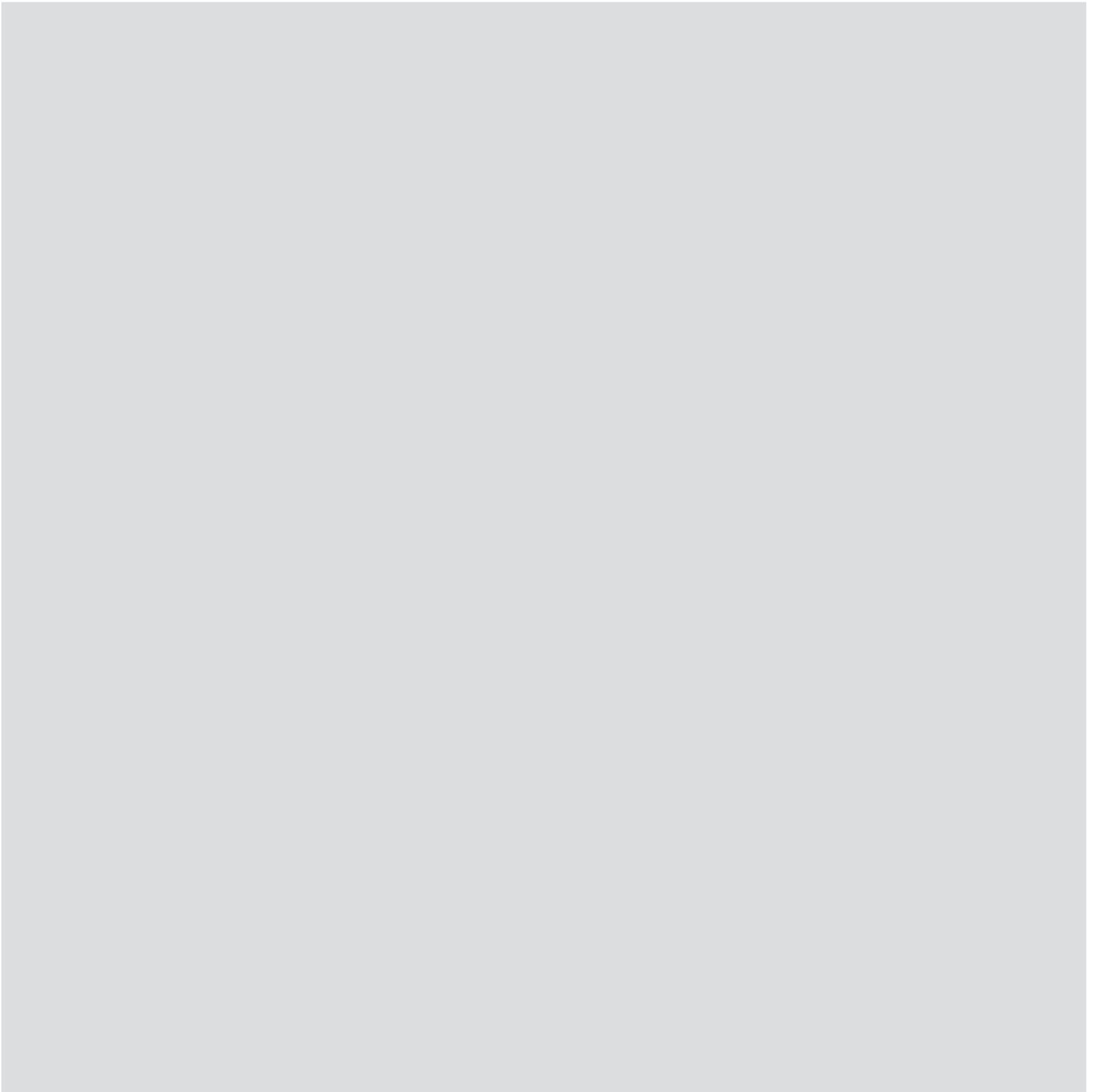
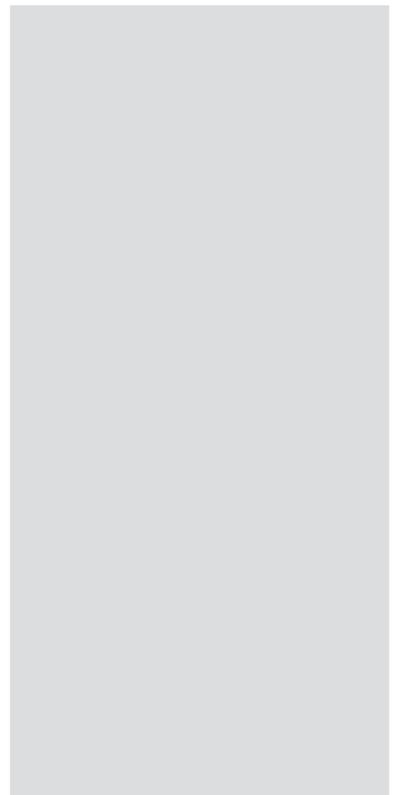
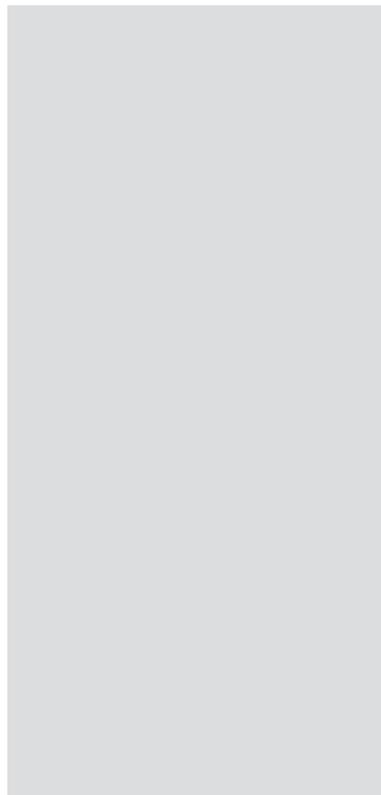
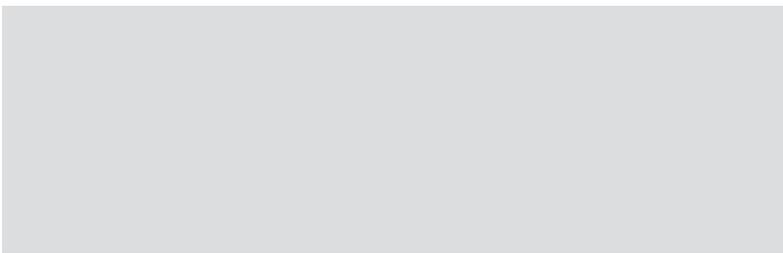
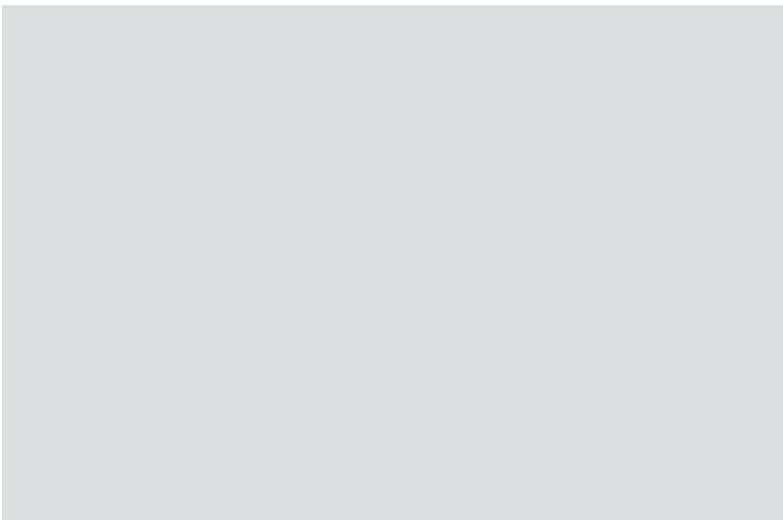


Photo by Yvonne Johnson

EARTHQUAKE RATTLES, HURRICANE ROLLS OVER APG

During an Aug. 26 trip to Pooles Island, Baltimore Sun reporter Mary Gail Hare listens as RDECOM and APG Installation Commander Maj. Gen. Nick Justice explains how the lighthouse was constructed. During the trip, APG Garrison community relations specialist Terri Kaltenbacher examined the structure for damage due to the 5.8 magnitude East Coast earthquake that rattled Maryland Aug. 23. "There seemed to be no apparent damage sustained from the recent quake," said Kaltenbacher. To read the full story on the visit, "Pooles Island Lighthouse Shines Again and Symbolizes Growth at APG," visit <http://bsun.md/rge8ZF>.

Alberto Rojas, a Directorate of Public Works contractor with KCS Landscaping, cuts a fallen tree in the Plumb Point Loop housing area Aug. 29 during post-Hurricane Irene cleanup. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley declared a state of emergency in preparation for Irene, which struck Maryland over the Aug. 27 weekend. The storm left approximately 7.7 million people without power and caused historic flooding along the East Coast and interior. Despite power outages in homes and businesses in surrounding communities, Aberdeen Proving Ground was fully operational the following Monday morning.



CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADES



Photo by Rachel Ponder

ROUTE 715 WORK CONTINUES

Construction workers relocate a gas pipe as part of a project to widen Route 715 to three inbound and outbound lanes in November 2011. Other extensive road construction includes the US 40 at MD 715 interchange which begins in the spring. The \$18 million construction project is designed to reduce congestion due to continued growth, and will see the widening of the MD 715 bridge over US 40 to two lanes in each direction, and widening the roadway to provide four lanes in each direction from the US 40 interchange to Old Philadelphia Road. The ramp from eastbound US 40 to southbound MD 715 will be temporarily closed and widened to provide three lanes on the ramp and a new spur ramp to northbound MD 715.



MRICD'S FINAL STEEL BEAM IN PLACE

Col. Peter Schultheiss, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, signs the ceremonial piece of steel next to his dedicated commander's coin during the Steel Topping Ceremony for the new USAMRICD complex in APG South (Edgewood). The final piece of structural steel was placed on top of the facility completing the frame of the building in May 2011.

MRICD photo

ATEC RIBBON CUTTING ONE MORE BRAC GOAL

Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, commander of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, addresses the crowd during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the organization's new headquarters building Sept. 22.

Photo by Sean Kief



Photo by Rachel Ponder

UP AND COMING

Over the next five years, the community will see new and remodeled homes take the place of those currently available. A total of 210 new homes in Bayside Village are being constructed and will include junior enlisted, NCO, senior NCO and company grade officer homes built for military Families. In August 2011, Picerne Military Housing completed site work on homes in Bayside Village and started vertical construction in September. The first new townhome is scheduled for delivery in early 2012. "We have gone to great lengths during the planning phase to ensure that neighborhoods are designed to create homes that appeal to today's modern, military Families," said Greg Cannito, Program Director for Picerne Military Housing. Read the APG News for updates.



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

TIM HORTONS COMES TO APG

(From right) CECOM engineer Robert Weingart picks up three dozen doughnuts for coworkers from Tim Hortons assistant manager Judy Taylor. The restaurant opened in Bldg. 6002, C4ISR campus, July 12. Known for its coffee and pastries, Tim Hortons also offers breakfast and light lunch selections. This year, Ufood Grill will open a franchise on APG. Ufood Grill is known for its "healthy" fast food which is baked and grilled or steamed. See APG News for restaurants updates, including coverage on the early 2012 openings of several Ufood Grill locations throughout post.

BK GETS FUTURISTIC FACELIFT

Contractors install red tile around the doorway of the APG Burger King, during renovations. The redesign replaced the traditional earth-tone décor with a contemporary red-and-black color scheme giving the restaurant a more futuristic look with a modern industrial pallet of metallic finishes, red and black accents and other artistic interpretations of the company's "grill-centric" brand. The fully renovated restaurant reopened Nov. 12.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



THEATER UPGRADES USHER IN CHANGE

Buzz Soltis Directorate of Public Works chief of construction (left) and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades examine the environmentally friendly roof of the newly renovated post theater, Bldg. 3245, during a March 7 inspection of the facility. According to Gil Lookingland, DPW contracting officer representative, renovations were extensive. The facility was gutted and reworked from floor to ceiling. Upgrades include everything from new lighting and a state-of-the-art sound system to new seating and kitchen. The building was turned over to the garrison in mid-April. Continue to check the APG News for construction updates on post facilities.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson



Photo by Rachel Ponder

HUNDREDS ATTEND TOP OF THE BAY GRAND REOPENING

The APG Community was treated to free food and live entertainment during the Top of the Bay grand re-opening celebration, Dec. 8. The installation's premier restaurant, catering and conference center underwent extensive renovations during the past year. Improvements include video teleconferencing, infrastructure upgrades, commercial elevator, new carpets, furnishings, fixtures, and custom moldings, along with many other special touches. Historic artifacts from the local area also are on display. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 410-278-3062.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

POST OFFICE RELOCATED

(From right) Cindy Alban, a postal clerk, helps Jeff Tharp, a Communications Electronics Command employee, mail a package during his lunch break. The APG (Aberdeen) post office moved to Bldg. 4310, located at the intersection of Boothby Hill Road and Darlington Street, in May. "The post office provides the same services that it did in its previous location- delivery, collection, retail services and P.O mailbox rentals," said Postmaster Al Van Kleeck. The facility is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. for lunch, Monday to Friday and open 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. For information, call 410-278-7967 or visit www.usps.com.

STEM

SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS SHARE EXPERTISE DURING SCHOOL STEM NIGHT

During "The Magic of Science" break-out session, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center scientist Ken Collins (standing) conducts a demonstration using Water Willie, a water-thickening agent used in the ECBC lab, for 5-year-old Liam Rosesener, and audience members during breakout sessions at Youth Benefit Elementary School's first STEM Night Feb. 17. Aberdeen Proving Ground leadership and personnel showed their continuous commitment to enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education initiatives in 2011 by hosting and participating in STEM summits, school presentations, training sessions and various educational outreach events throughout the state.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

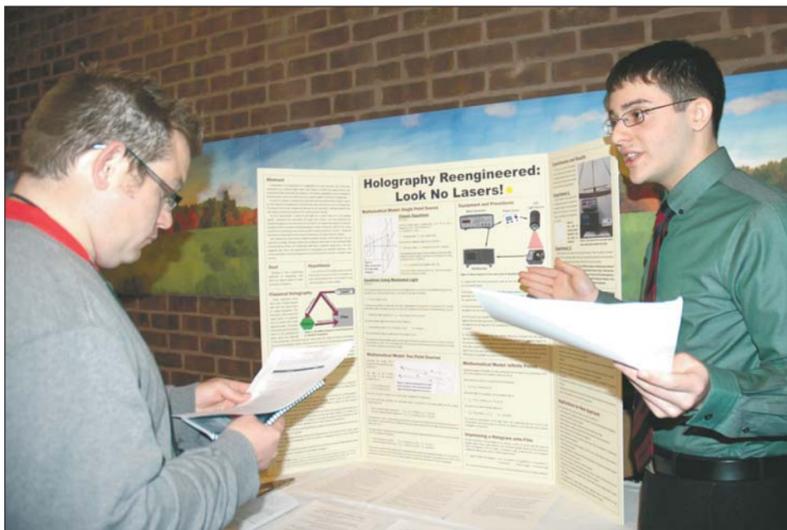


Photo by Rachel Ponder

BRIGHT IDEAS

Daniel Liss (right), a Charles E. Smith Day School junior, explains his project to Greg Neate, a judge from APG's Directorate of Public Works, during the Maryland Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Baltimore March 18. High school students from 20 schools in six Maryland counties gave oral and poster presentations, and 10 Aberdeen Proving Ground scientists and engineers served as judges during the symposium.



Photo by Jennifer Carroll

STEM SUMMER CAMP INVESTIGATES ECBC 'CRIME SCENE'

Sophomores participating in Cecil County's STEM summer camp learn about critical components of a crime scene investigation and how to extract DNA from strawberries with Research Microbiologist Lauren McNew. Workforce members from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center supported Cecil County's science, technology, engineering and mathematics summer camp with the hands-on forensics experience 'CSI: Edgewood' June 21.



RDECOM photo

FIRST STEM SUMMIT ORGANIZES LOCAL EFFORTS

John Casner, executive director, Northeastern Maryland Technical Council, opens the APG STEM summit Feb. 11. Area education, government and industry leaders gathered at APG for the first in a series of summits on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM education.

BRAC



Photo by Sean Kief

APG MARKS END OF BRAC

Master Sgt. Sheila Sango stands at attention after posting the colors of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command during the BRAC Completion Ceremony at the post theater Sept. 15. A second ceremony followed at the CECOM C4ISR complex.



COMMUTER OPTIONS

Team C4ISR employees file onto the APG shuttle bus headed for the Aberdeen train station at the end of the business day. The bus makes seven stops on APG North, transporting Soldiers, civilians and contractors to and from the train station in the mornings and evenings. For information, call the Garrison Transformation Office at 410-278-0915 or e-mail APGTransformationOfc@conus.army.mil. (Photo by Yvonne Johnson)



JOINT SATCOM CENTER RELOCATES

Richard Shamblin (left), of CERDEC's Space and Terrestrial Communications Directorate, and Carl Morris, project leader for the Joint Satellite Communications Engineering Center Risk Mitigation Facility, examine a circuit card of the MIDAS at the JSEC RMF.

Photo by Stephen Larsen



Photo by Sean Kief

DTC NOW INTEGRATED WITH ATEC

(From right) AEC Technical Director David Jimenez and Command Sgt. Maj. Carlton Handy roll up the DTC colors, completing the organization's deactivation, during a Nov. 1 color casing at Bldg. 314.



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

AN ERA COMES TO AN END

A Soldier carries away the cased colors of the 143d Ordnance Battalion during the unit's Discontinuation Ceremony at McBride Parade Field July 29.