



Photo by Rachel Ponder

Picerne's Communication Manager Angela French Marcum called Bayside's 210 new townhomes, slated for completion this year, comparable in design, features, finishes, living space and amenities to local homes for sale outside of APG gates.

New housing nears completion

By **ADRIANE FOSS**
APG News

The first Family slated to move into APG's new Bayside townhomes will sign their lease during a Feb. 7 ceremony at Picerne Military Housing's Neighborhood Office.

The early morning event, attended by APG Installation Commander Maj. Gen. Nick Justice and Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz, will commemorate the opening and dedication of the new housing area.

"The project is moving quickly and the most exciting part is that we will be delivering all 210 new homes to military families this year," said Picerne's Communication Manager, Angela French Marcum.

The 210 new homes will be comprised of 76 junior enlisted homes (36 percent of the 210), 100 senior enlisted homes (48 percent) and 34 company grade officer (16 percent).

The keys

Despite the early lease signing, the keys won't be handed over until late February, at which time Marcum said the first four homes will be handed

See **FIRST**, page 6

(At right) A historic home interior renovation. Ninety-seven historic renovations will be completed as the homes become available through attrition.

Picerne photo



Post officials ready for winter weather conditions

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

This winter's above average temperatures can take a sudden dip at anytime. And Garrison Emergency Management officials want APG personnel and residents to know that the installation is geared up for inclement weather episodes.

Rick DeOliveira, chief of Plans and Emergency Management, said when

forecasts call for a heavy or sustained snowfall, the Emergency Operations Center is activated once two or more inches of snow are on the ground.

DPTMS chief John Kearney and the EOC staff then receive status reports from the Directorate of Public Works, Aberdeen Test Center meteorologists, directorates of Emergency Services and Logistics, and Picerne

See **GET**, page 6

People who are unsure if they are Mission Essential should find out from supervisors immediately to avoid coming in unnecessarily.

Essie Bennett
Garrison Emergency Management Officer

Super Bowl blood drive set today

By **JENNIFER CARROLL**
ECBC Communications Team

The next Armed Services Blood Program Blood Drive will take place at the Chemical Training Demilitarization Facility, Bldg. E4516, Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In celebration of National Blood Donor Month, ECBC together with the Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense and Public Health Command invites community members to donate blood during the upcoming Super Bowl Warm-up Blood Drive and make a difference in the lives of Warfighters and their Families.

"In addition to enjoying some half-time entertainment, you will be recognized for your contributions with some Super Bowl themed trophies that show our appreciation of your valuable donations," said

See **BLOOD DRIVE**, page 6

Schaffer named Officer of the Year

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

Jason Schaffer, who was recently selected as APG's Police Officer of the Year, said he thrives on being a member of the military equivalent of a SWAT team.

Schaffer is a team leader on the

See **SRT COP**, page 6



(From left) APG Officers Jason Schaffer and Eric Owimette conduct Special Reaction Team training. The SRT is the military equivalent of SWAT and responds to high risk situations. Schaffer, a SRT team leader, was named Officer of the Year for implementing improvements in SRT training.

WEATHER

Thurs.



45° | 44°

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APG Snapshot

Get a glimpse of what's going on around post.
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FIRST LEGO League

Local youth turn out for robotics event despite winter weather
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MORE MONEY

Earned income tax credit may put more money in people's pockets. Find out how.

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OPINION

Women honored this Black History Month

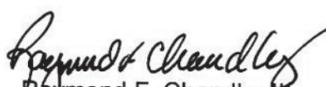
African American women have played a vital role in the history of our nation and our Army since the American Revolution. Their Patriotism, loyalty and leadership, coupled with their hard work, intellect and artistic expression have enriched the African American community and the nation as a whole. In slavery and freedom, their struggles have been at the heart of the human experience, and their fight against racism and sexism serve as a testament to their perseverance to overcome adversity.

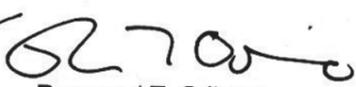
From Harriet Tubman, a leader and

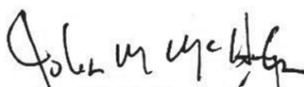
conductor of the Underground Railroad, to Rosa Parks, the mother of the modern Civil Rights Movement, to First Lady Michelle Obama, these courageous women serve as role models for all to emulate. The Army has also benefitted from the leadership, intelligence and contributions of the African American women in our ranks, and today we celebrate the recent promotion of Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson, the Army's first African American female two star general and recognize Tracey Pinson, the Army's highest ranking female African American senior executive service

member. These women, and so many others, are expressions of a vibrant culture in which African American women play a critical role in the strength of this nation and our Army.

We are grateful for the sacrifices and contributions African American women, Soldiers, civilians and Families have played in our success. We encourage the entire Army Family to honor publicly their contributions by encouraging all leaders from across the Army to plan and execute appropriate commemorative activities to celebrate African American/Black History Month.


Raymond F. Chandler III
Sergeant Major of the Army


Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army

Real lessons of history get lost in clutter

February is Black History Month followed by Women's History Month in March. Both observances seem to suffer from a common failing - trying to re-write history in light of what we wish had happened, rather than what did.

That's a shame, because some of the real lessons of history get lost in the clutter. A couple of examples from the American Revolution illustrate what I mean.

Several years ago a poll was taken of high school students in Indianapolis. They were asked to name a great figure from the American Revolution. The number one response was Crispus Attucks.

For those who have forgotten, Crispus Attucks was a former slave who was shot and killed, alongside two other protesters, by British troops in Boston in 1770. This "Boston Massacre" was one of the events that eventually escalated into the Revolutionary War five years later.

Attucks' actions in protesting the presence of British soldiers were representative of the rising discontent in the colonies at the time. That he was black is important for us to remember. But to attach a "great" label on this early casualty of the conflict is to ignore reality.

Worse, the deification of Attucks by some in our country ignores the greater contributions of blacks to the cause of freedom at our nation's birth. While many know of this early casualty, few are aware that as many as 25 percent of the Soldiers who fought in the war for independence were black. Indeed, the Continental Army was probably the most integrated combat force to fight for our nation prior to Vietnam.

Women have their equivalents of Attucks, too. Molly "Pitcher," the wife

“But, as we see women and members of ethnic minorities climb to positions of influence in our world today, we can only wonder what contributions could have been made if these populations had had the same opportunities in the past.”

of a Soldier in Washington's Army, carried water to her husband and others during the Battle of Monmouth in July 1778. When her husband was wounded, Molly took his place loading and firing a cannon. As heroic as her actions might have been, they certainly had no effect on the outcome of the battle, much less of the greater conflict. Yet, Molly is remembered today alongside the authors of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

There is a similar thread to many of those highlighted during commemorative months. It is important to note that women and blacks were part of our nation's development. But it is harmful to endow their actions with greater importance than they deserve.

The fact is that when decisions were made that shaped great events in our history - indeed, in most of the history around the world - many types of people were not involved. No women served in the halls of Congress when our nation's political system was evolving in the early 19th century. No blacks commanded Army or Navy units as our nation expanded across a continent, then grew to become a world power.

Neither women nor black Americans were allowed to play central roles in

these great events. We are left with only hints of the contributions that could have been made if society had been different.

It is really only in the lifetimes of many current Americans that things have changed.

In recent decades blacks have risen to the highest levels of command in our military, women have taken their rightful place in the Armed Forces and in the halls of power in our nation's capital. Finally, a black has risen to the highest post in our nation. Doors have clearly been opened.

But, as we see women and members of ethnic minorities climb to positions of influence in our world today, we can only wonder what contributions could have been made if these populations had had the same opportunities in the past.

So go ahead and take the time to remember those few women and minority members who made some small impressions in our early history. But rather than endow them with more importance than they had in their own times, look at how far we have come - and marvel at what might have been.

David W. Kuhns Sr.

David W. Kuhns Sr. is editor of Fort Lewis' Northwest Guardian. This article was originally published Feb. 13, 2009.

Tips for drinking in moderation

APG ASAP

A glass of white or red wine, a bottle of beer, and a shot of whiskey or other distilled spirits all contain equivalent amounts of alcohol and are they same to a Breathalyzer. a standard drink is:

- A 12-ounce bottle or can of regular beer
- A 5-ounce glass of wine
- A one and 1/2 ounce of 80 proof distilled spirits (either straight or in a mixed drink)
- Know your limit. Most people find that they can consume one drink per hour without any ill effects.
- Eat food while you drink. Food, especially high protein food such as meat, cheese and peanuts, will help slow the absorption of alcohol into your body.
- Sip your drink. If you gulp a drink, you lose the pleasure of savoring its flavors and aromas.
- Don't participate in "chugging" contests or other drinking games.
- Accept a drink only when you really want one. If someone tries to force a drink on you, ask for a non-alcohol beverage instead. If that doesn't work, "lose" your drink by setting it down somewhere and leaving it.
- Skip a drink now and then. Having a non-alcoholic drink between alcoholic ones will help keep your blood alcohol content level down, as does spacing out your alcoholic drinks.
- Keep active; don't just sit around and drink. If you stay active you tend to drink less and to be more aware of any effects alcohol may be having on you.
- Beware of unfamiliar drinks. Some drinks, such as zombies and other fruit drinks can be deceiving as the alcohol content is not detectable. Therefore, it is difficult to space them properly.
- Use alcohol carefully in connection with pharmaceuticals. Ask your physician or pharmacist about any precautions or prohibitions and follow any advice received.

Moderation information provided by the Alcohol-Problems & Solutions website at <http://www2.potsdam.edu>

Tell us how we are doing. Visit <http://ice.disa.mil>.

Click on "ARMY" then "Aberdeen Proving Ground."

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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CMA completes mission to destroy chemical weapons

By **GREG MAHALL**
CMA Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency completed the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile at Desert Chemical Depot in Utah Jan. 21.

With the elimination of the Utah chemical weapons stockpile, the Aberdeen Proving Ground-based CMA, has safely destroyed nearly 90 percent of the nation's stockpile of chemical agent and has successfully completed its mission to destroy all chemical agent munitions and items declared at entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, known as CWC, and assigned to CMA for destruction.

The CWC, an international treaty ratified by the United States in April 1997, required the complete destruction of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile by April 2007. The United States was granted a five-year extension to April 2012 as allowed by the treaty.

"Completing destruction of this stockpile mission is a worthy and important accomplishment," said Secretary of the Army John McHugh. "This demonstrates our commitment to the elimination of chemical weapons, enhancing safety and security for our workforce, our communities and the nation."

The safe destruction of 27,473.65 U.S. tons (24,923.68 metric tons) of nerve and blister agents represents 89.75 percent of the nation's chemical agent stockpile and is the culmination of more than 20 years of work by thousands of men and women at seven chemical demilitarization facilities located around the nation.

"CMA's workforce, government and contractor, has shown



Courtesy photo

Workers (from left) Jay Nelson, Lonny Anderson, Jay Van Noy, Nick Alverson, Dustin Shields and Shawn Sorenson stand by Desert Chemical Depot's last ton container filled with mustard blister agent to be destroyed at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The safe destruction of more than 2.2 million chemical nerve and blister agent munitions and bulk containers at seven demilitarization facilities is a remarkable accomplishment for the CMA workforce at each site and systems contractors who operated each facility.

Heidi Shyu

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology

the utmost dedication to our mission," said CMA Director Conrad Whyne. "Many of them have committed their professional lives to chemical weapons disposal. It was only through their dedication and expertise that CMA and the Army were able to complete this mission."

The completion of CMA's chemical stockpile elimination mission was accomplished

at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, or TOCDF, located at Desert Chemical Depot, known as DCD. The TOCDF was CMA's last operating chemical demilitarization facility. CMA previously completed chemical agent destruction operations at:

■ 2000: Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System, South Pacific (Closed).

■ 2005: Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Md. (Closed).

■ 2008: Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Ind. (Closed).

■ 2010: Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Ark. (Closure in progress).

■ 2011: Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Ala.

(Closure in progress).

■ 2011: Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Ore. (Closure in progress).

"The safe destruction of more than 2.2 million chemical nerve and blister agent munitions and bulk containers at seven demilitarization facilities is a remarkable accomplishment for the CMA workforce at each site and systems contractors who operated each facility," said Heidi Shyu, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology. "It also is a tribute to the cooperative spirit of the local officials, regulators and communities. Reaching this milestone has been a team effort -- a team I'm proud to be part of."

CMA continues to support the nation's chemical demilitarization program by providing ongoing assessment and destruction of recovered chemical warfare materiel through its Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project.

CMA also retains the mission to safely and securely store the chemical agent stockpiles at Richmond, Ky., and Pueblo, Colo. Those stockpiles will be destroyed by the U.S. Army Element Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, or ACWA, a separate Department of Defense program. CMA will continue its partnership with ACWA to share the lessons learned from its successful chemical stockpile elimination program.

CMA will also continue to manage the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, a joint Army/Federal Emergency Management Agency program that provides emergency preparedness assistance to the communities surrounding chemical weapon stockpiles.

Earned income tax credit may put money in people's pockets

By **TOD W. CLAYTON**
Fort Rucker OSJA

Some people could be eligible to get more money back from the Internal Revenue Service -- as much as \$5,751.

People who earned less than \$49,078 from wages, self-employment or farming last year may qualify for a refundable tax credit called the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC. But people must file a federal income tax return claiming the credit to get it.

EITC can be a big financial boost for working people in a recovering economy. Millions of workers who saw their earnings drop in 2011 may qualify for the first time.

The credit has been making the lives of workers a little easier for more than 37 years. Yet it remains little known, possibly because people move into and out of eligibility as their financial, marital and parental statuses change. The IRS estimates four of five eligible workers claim and get their EITC.

Unlike other tax credits, both EITC eligibility and the amount of tax credit people are eligible for is based on several factors. These include, the amount of their income, or combined incomes if married, whether they have qualifying children and how many. Workers without children also may qualify.

Filing status and income limits

determine the amount of the credit. People may qualify for EITC even if they had no federal tax withheld or are not otherwise required to file.

The credit is complex, but worth exploring. It's even more valuable if the taxpayer's state has a corresponding EITC tax credit.

The online EITC Assistant at www.irs.gov/eitc can help determine eligibility and estimate the amount of credit.

Also, the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate Client Services' Tax Assistance Center offers APG people free help preparing their returns.

The APG tax center will open next month at APG North in Bldg. 4305, Client Services Division. Hours of operation will be announced in the APG News and at apg.army.mil (navigate to the Services Directory, Tax Center Preparation page). For more information, call 410-278-1583.

People who are eligible need to remember they must file a federal income tax return, even if they are not otherwise required to file, and they must specifically claim the credit to get it. Find more information about EITC at www.irs.gov.

According to the IRS, rural and non-traditional families, such as grandparents raising grandchildren, childless workers and non-English speaking taxpayers are among those who most frequently overlook the credit.

The APG tax center will open next month at APG North in Bldg. 4305, Client Services Division. Hours of operation will be announced in the APG News and at apg.army.mil (navigate to the Services Directory, Tax Center Preparation page). For more information, call 410-278-1583.

Auto show presents Troops tribute

Special to the APG News

In honor of the dedicated service of U.S. troops, The Washington Auto Show will present a special military tribute Jan. 31.

The Washington Auto Show will offer free admission for all active-duty military and veterans, with military ID Jan. 31. This program will feature special celebrity guests, musical entertainment and information from automakers about vehicle discounts and career tracks and training for military personnel.

The tribute will include evening appearances by former U.S. Marine and WWE Legend Sgt. Slaughter™ and J.R. Martinez, the latest winner of "Dancing with the Stars." Martinez, a former U.S. Army infantryman who was wounded in Iraq, has visited the troops overseas on a consistent basis. Also that evening, The Washington Auto Show will host a performance by the world-class Down-

range pop ensemble from the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own."

Automakers will provide information about the specific opportunities they are making available to military at their show booths.

The 2012 Washington Auto Show opens to the public from Jan. 27-Feb. 5 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center and is advanced by two Public Policy Preview Days.

This 70th edition of The Washington Auto Show offers a showcase of more than 700 vehicles from over 42 domestic and import manufacturers and a special 65,000 square foot exhibit, "The Advanced Technology Super-Highway," of the latest innovations in safety and sustainability.

For more information about the show and a detailed schedule of the "Welcome Home Troops!" tribute, visit www.washingtonautoshow.com.

Deadline looms for scholarship applications

DeCA news release

The Scholarships for Military Children Program was created to recognize the contributions of military Families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military community.

A minimum of one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location where qualified applications are received. Complete application packages must be submitted by Feb. 24.

APG Commissary Manager Anne Morrison urged community members to complete the application process as early as possible during the Jan. 19 Community Action Council at the APG South main post chapel. She said there have been instances in the past in which applications were not received in time due to inclement weather events.

Where to apply

Applications can be picked up at your local commissary and are also available as a PDF file at <http://www.militaryschol->

[ar.org/index.html](http://www.militaryscholar.org/index.html). Applications may be filled out using Adobe Acrobat, but then must be printed, hand-carried or mailed to a local commissary. Applications may not be e-mailed or faxed.

Who Can Apply

Only dependent unmarried children under age 23 of active-duty personnel, Reserve/Guard and retired military members, or survivors of service members who died while on active duty or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military, may apply for a scholarship.

Applicants should ensure they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database (1-800-538-9552) and that they have a current military ID card. DEERS is the primary method of verifying eligibility. Visit <http://www.militaryscholar.org/index.html> for full eligibility and requirement details.

A complete list of commissaries, along with phone numbers, can be found at www.commissaries.com.

First new Bayside lease to be signed Feb. 2

Continued from Page 1

to the occupants, “and we will continue to deliver homes through the summer at an average of 20 homes per month.”

Marcum said the homes are very competitive in design, features, finishes, living space and amenities with local homes for sale outside of APG gates.

Housing priority

All of the newly constructed homes are designated for military Families only, with the order in which Families are offered a new home prioritized as follows:

1. Families that are under-housed based on the number of bedrooms per child guideline (sequenced by their time in family housing on post).

2. Families inadequately housed based on rank band (sequenced by their time in family housing on post).

3. Families living in on-post family housing with Picerne that desire to move and have a minimum of six months left on their orders, based on time they have lived in family housing on post.

Five percent of homes delivered each month will be reserved for incoming military families.

Marcum said to determine how many homes were needed for military Family housing on post, the Community Development Management Plan was jointly developed between the Army and Picerne based on a market analysis.

“On-post military housing is designed to meet the need for 30 percent of the Families assigned to that post,” she explained.

Currently, 65 percent of the population living on post are military members. Thirty percent of the population are DoD civilians and 5 percent are retirees.

Marcum said, thanks to Picerne’s ability to rent surplus homes in Patriot Village to DoD civilians over the last two years, about \$8 million has been reinvested into the program.

“This has been a real win for the project and a solution for many people who relocated with BRAC,” she said.

Income generated from civilian resi-

Currently, 65 percent of the population living on post are military members. 30 percent of the population are DoD civilians and 5 percent are retirees.

dents is reinvested to build and renovate homes for military Families.

She said renting homes to civilians has given newly relocated personnel a chance to live on post, near their jobs, while deciding where in the area they want to settle.

In addition to the construction of 210 new homes, Picerne is also in the process of providing 65 major renovations and 97 historic renovations.

Bayside renovations

The 65 major renovations, scheduled for 2013, will combine existing sixplexes into three single family attached homes with two-car garages in the currently occupied Bayside housing area.

“Also, duplexes will be combined into single family homes with two-car garages and exterior and interior renovations,” said Marcum.

“These homes will be three-, four- and five-bedroom homes for field grade and senior grade officer Families and offer larger living spaces and accommodate larger Families,” she said. “We have had a lot of positive feedback and success with combined home renovations at other projects.”

Historic home renovations

The 97 historic renovations are being completed in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas as the homes become available through attrition.

“These renovations honor the integrity of the historic exteriors, while upgrading the kitchens, baths and finishes to be marketable and meet the needs of modern military Families,” she said.

Picerne has completed 20 percent of the historic renovations, 19 of the 97.

Demolitions

The demolition of older on-post housing, to include Skippers Point at APG North and New Chesapeake at APG South, is slated to take place through 2018. Thirty-four demolitions have been completed to date in order to accommodate new home development.

That is approximately five percent of the 773 homes slated for demolition.

Land surrounding future demolitions will be graded, leveled out and converted to green space.

Refurbishment

Marcum said more than 70 percent of occupied homes on post, including Patriot Village and Bayside, have received minor renovations—new carpet, paint, fixtures, and upgraded amenities.

As construction, renovations and demolitions continue, Marcum said Picerne seeks and encourages feedback from residents in the form of surveys and other venues to make sure they are meeting residents’ needs and expectations.

“This has proven to be a very successful partnership,” she said, “and we consistently strive to provide excellent customer service to residents in all areas.”

For more information on Picerne, visit <http://appicerne.com/>.

Families First scholarships, grants available

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

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

Scholarship and grant applications for 2012 are available online at www.ourfamilyfoundation.org.

Scholarship applications are due Feb. 16; grant applications are due May 17. Please review the information located on the website for eligibility requirements and to learn more about the foundation.

About the Foundation

The Foundation is committed to supporting military Families in the pursuit of higher education, instituting a tradition of community service and encouraging professional career paths through education, internships, and mentoring programs and has awarded more than \$3 million since 2006. It also serves to further the primary mission of Picerne Military Housing - putting military Families First.

Get weather updates online

Continued from Page 1

Military Housing.

“The EOC gives the commander its recommendations after gathering input from the directorates, surrounding counties and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency,” said Essie Bennett, a Garrison Emergency Management Officer. “When we give a recommendation, it’s just that—a recommendation. APG commanders determine the installation’s status.”

Where to find info

To find out the status of the installation, APG workers and residents should visit <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/> as early as 4 a.m., visit APG’s Facebook and Twitter sites or call the APG Snow Line at 410-278-7669 (SNOW). Local TV news broadcasts and websites will carry the information as well, though they will only display a status of “Delayed” or “Closed.”

With more than 80 organizations on post, the installation status can mean different things for different employees. To clarify, DeOliveira explained that the installation status includes both APG North (Aberdeen) and South (Edgewood). He also said that when the status reads:

“Post closed. Essential personnel report,” that means that only personnel who have been identified by their command as Mission Essential must report to work.

“People who are unsure if they are Mission Essential should find out from supervisors immediately to avoid coming in unnecessarily,” added Bennett. “No one at the gate is going to tell you that you’re not essential.”

Furthermore, individual commanders can direct their personnel to report to work at a time that is different from the installation status. For example, if the installation is on a two-hour delay and the post is open beginning at 9 a.m., a tenant organization may allow their workforce to report at 10 a.m.

DeOliveira explained that although it is not common for an on-post agency to announce a different start-time for their employees, it could happen occasionally. He said it is the tenant’s responsibility to get their agency’s message out to their workforce, and to ensure their personnel know where to go to find their command’s updated announcements. He also urged agency communicators to clearly specify that their messages are agency messages,

not the installation message.

Snow removal

When it comes to snow removal, designated areas have been assigned priority levels and each will be cleared accordingly. DPW workers will not start clearing Priority II areas until Priority I areas are cleared. This means that if only a portion of a parking lot falls in the Priority I zone, the remainder of the parking lots (Priority II) will not be cleared until all Priority I areas are on the installation are completed.

Work areas

This winter season, DPW will provide designated locations where workers can pick up salt and containers to be placed near entrances for use on sidewalks, stairs and other areas not cleared by DPW.

“Senior building occupants should ensure these materials are provided,” Bennett said. “Now is the time to plan and prepare for the safety of your workforce.”

Have more questions about weather notification? The APG News wants to know. Email adriane.c.foss.civ@mail.mil today and let us help you find the answer.

Blood drive

Continued from Page 1

ECBC Community and Educational Outreach Program Manager Mary Doak.

Walk-ins are welcome and accepted after donors with appointments.

What to remember?

■ Drink plenty of fluids the day before and the morning of your appointment.

■ If in the past you have had low iron issues, eat iron-rich foods prior to donating blood. Such food include red meat, egg yolks, dark, leafy greens, dried fruit; cereals and grains; mollusks, turkey, chicken giblets; beans, lentils, chick peas and soybeans, liver, and artichokes.

■ If you eat iron-rich foods along with foods that provide plenty of vitamin C, your body can better absorb the iron.

For more information, call 410-436-7231.

SRT cop named APG officer of the year

Continued from Page 1

installation’s Special Reaction Team, a specialized element within law enforcement on APG. SRT members respond to high-risk situations on a military installation. Duties may include hostage rescues, counter-terrorism operations, high-risk arrests and search warrants, and engaging heavily armed criminals.

“Officer Schaffer is definitely worthy of being selected as APG’s Officer of the Year,” said Schaffer’s supervisor, Lt. Joel Holdford. “He is a good, tactical leader. He doesn’t just stick to the status quo and he is always thinking about ways he can improve the team.”

To be selected as a SRT member, you have to be on top of your game, qualifying expert on all weapons and maintaining a PT score of 270 or higher. No problem, for Schaffer, who is an expert marksman, “exceeding the standard in all weapons handling and employment skills” said Holdford. “He is considered one of the best shots in the police department.”

In addition to being a top marks-

Officer Schaffer is definitely worthy of being selected as APG’s Officer of the Year. He is a good, tactical leader. He doesn’t just stick to the status quo and he is always thinking about ways he can improve the team.



Lt. Joel Holdford

Schaffer’s supervisor

man and in exceptional physical condition, Schaffer has implemented several improvements to the team’s monthly training. Some of these improvements include the development of a less lethal 12-gauge qualification course that is aligned with Maryland State standards, the creation of a water survival course to improve the unit’s tactical water operations, and the establishment of an active shooter training course.

Holdford called Schaffer someone who leads by example and selflessly offers his time to help officers in need of extra training or direction. He said he is routinely the guy you can depend upon

when things get rough.

About Schaffer

Schaffer, who grew up in Texas, said he knew he wanted to be a police officer since he was a child.

After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Army as a military police officer, and served in Bosnia and Kosovo before coming to Aberdeen Proving Ground. He was serving as an active duty MP at APG during the 9-11 attacks.

“That was an intense, surreal time,” he said. “It made me realize that a terrorist attack could happen anytime, anywhere.”

After being honorably discharged in 2002, he attended the Department of Army Regional Civilian Police Academy on APG, graduating as the honor graduate. Schaffer has worked at APG for most of his career as a civilian police officer. He credits his career success to the support he receives from other team members.

“I love the SRT side of being a police officer,” he said “Our team is like a big family, and I love that camaraderie. Yes, it is nice to receive recognition, but we all work together and all my success comes from them. They make me look good.”

FAMILY AND MWR

CWF Scrapbooking Crop

The Civilian Welfare Fund will host a scrapbooking crop at the APG North Recreation Center, Bldg 3326, on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gather your photos and enjoy a day of scrapbooking with friends. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a full day of cropping, lunch, snacks and door prizes. Call 410-436-4467 today to reserve a spot or table.

Resilience Training

APG's Army Community Service is inviting the community to a Resilience Training class Jan. 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the APG main post chapel. Attendees will be taught to meet life's challenges head on and how to bounce back from difficult experiences. Learn all about what makes a person resilient. For information, call 410-278-2180/7572 or e-mail dotslyn.e.ford.civ@mail.mil.

Hearts Apart Valentine's Day Card Making Celebration

ACS HEARTS APART is another 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 decorate a card for their deployed spouse. This event will be held at ACS, Bldg. 2503 High Point Road, Feb. 1, 6 to 7 p.m. There will be light refreshments for

all who participate. Hearts Apart seeks to empower Families (military and DoD civilians) with information to help prepare the Families for separation during deployments and TDYs. ACS offers a comprehensive array of programs and services dedicated to maintaining the readiness of the Total Army Family by fostering self-reliance, stability and resilience. Call 410-278-2464.

Recharging Your Marriage

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

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

How to Smart Start Your Small Business

Army Community Service is hosting seminars where future entrepreneurs will learn How to Smart Start Your Small Business and realize their dreams

of owning a small business. These free seminars will provide an overview of ways to start a small business, teach the skills and duties of a successful entrepreneur and prepare future small business owners to write a business plan. Services offered by small business development centers will also be discussed.

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

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

2012 APG MWR Travel Fair

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

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

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

Ways to Handle the Stress of Parenting

Who said parenting was easy? While it is the most rewarding job, parenting also comes with its struggles. Army Community Service will hold a seminar to equip individuals with tools to overcome struggles faced by every parent. The seminar is April 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in ACS Bldg. 2503. The program is designed to help parents develop new coping skills when feeling stressed. For information, call 410-278-2435.

Armed Forces Vacation Club

Planning a vacation? The Armed Forces Vacation Club has tons of incredible discounts on spacious accommodations all over the world. Seven-night stays at select locations start as low as \$349. All active military service mem-

bers and their direct dependants, retired military and their direct dependants, DoD civilian employees and their direct dependants and 100 percent disabled American veterans are authorized to take advantage of these deals. Discounts are valid for space-available inventory only. Remember to enter base code 105 at the time of the booking. If you have questions, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

Luray 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.

Tiny Taekwondo

Tiny Tigers Taekwondo runs through March 24 at the Aberdeen Youth Center, Bldg. 2522, for ages 3-5. Parent participation is required. 9-9:45 a.m. on Saturdays.

Cost is \$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.



Holy Season worship schedule

Lenten renewal program

Conducted by Rev. John Campoli, March 18-22

Lenten lunch and bible study

Noon, every Wednesday, Feb. 22 thru April 4, AA Chapel Fellowship Hall

Main Post Chapel (Aberdeen Area)

Catholic services

- Feb. 21, 5 p.m., Shrove Tues Supper
- Feb. 22, 11:45 a.m./5:30 p.m., Ash

Wed Mass

- Feb. 26, 8:45 a.m., 1st Sun of Lent
- Feb. 29, 6:30 p.m. Adult Education Lenten
- Mar. 2, 6 p.m., Stations, Soup/Bread
- Mar. 4, 8:45 a.m., 2nd Sun of Lent
- Mar. 7, 6:30 p.m., Adult Education Lenten
- Mar. 11, 8:45 a.m., 3rd Sun of Lent
- Mar. 14, 6:30 p.m., Adult Education Lenten
- Mar. 16, 6 p.m., Stations, Soup/Bread
- Mar. 18, 8:45 a.m., 4th Sun of Lent
- Mar. 21, 6:30 p.m., Adult Education Lenten
- Mar. 25, 8:45 a.m., 5th Sun of Lent
- Mar. 26, 11:45 a.m., Annunciation
- Mar. 28, 6:30 p.m., Adult Education Lenten

- Mar. 30, 6 p.m., Stations, Soup/Bread
- Apr. 1, 8:30 a.m., Palm Sunday
- Apr. 4, 5:30 p.m., Anointing Mass
- Apr. 6, 3 p.m., Veneration of Cross
- Apr. 7, 8 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass
- Apr. 8, 8:45 a.m., Easter Sunday

Protestant

- Feb. 26, 10:15 a.m., 1st Sun of Lent
- Mar. 4, 10:15 a.m., 2nd Sun of Lent
- Mar. 11, 10:15 a.m., 3rd Sun of Lent
- Mar. 18, 10:15 a.m., 4th Sun of Lent
- Mar. 25, 10:15 a.m., 5th Sun of Lent
- Apr. 1, 10:15 a.m., Palm Sunday
- Apr. 8, 10:15 a.m., Easter Sunday

"The Drama of Easter"

April 8, 6:30 a.m., Location: Behind Top of the Bay, Breakfast served at Top of the Bay following service

Gospel

- Feb. 26, noon, 1st Sun of Lent
- Mar. 4, noon, 2nd Sun of Lent
- Mar. 11, noon, 3rd Sun of Lent
- Mar. 18, noon, 4th Sun of Lent
- Mar. 25, noon, 5th Sun of Lent
- Apr. 1, noon, Palm Sunday
- Apr. 8, noon, Easter Sunday

Edgewood Area

Catholic services

- Feb. 22, noon, Ash Wed Mass
- Feb. 24, 6 p.m. Stations, Soup/Bread
- Feb. 26, 10:45 a.m., 1st Sun of Lent
- Mar. 4, 10:45 a.m., 2nd Sun of Lent
- Mar. 9, 6 p.m., Stations, Soup/Bread
- Mar. 11, 10:45 a.m., 3rd Sun of Lent
- Mar. 18, 10:45 a.m., 4th Sun of Lent
- Mar. 23, 6 p.m., Stations, Soup/Bread
- Mar. 25, 10:45 a.m., 5th Sun of Lent
- Apr. 1, 10:45 a.m., Palm Sunday
- Apr. 5, 7 p.m., Holy Thursday
- Apr. 6, 3 p.m., Veneration of Cross
- Apr. 8, 10:45 a.m., Easter Sunday

Protestant

- Feb. 26, 9:15 a.m., 1st Sun of Lent
- Mar. 4, 9:15 a.m., 2nd Sun of Lent
- Mar. 11, 9:15 a.m., 3rd Sun of Lent
- Mar. 18, 9:15 a.m., 4th Sun of Lent
- Mar. 25, 9:15 a.m., 5th Sun of Lent
- Apr. 1, 9:15 a.m., Palm Sunday
- Apr. 8, 9:15 a.m., Easter Sunday



MORE ONLINE

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

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

■ Every Friday night after 9:30 p.m. one hour of bowling for \$12. 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 23

Special #1: Gyro with chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25.
Special #2: Pork BBQ with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.25.

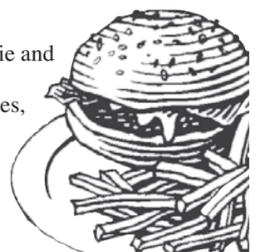
Week of January 30

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

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

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

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



Post Shorts

IEPP program halted

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

Black History observance set Feb. 29 at post theater

Team APG presents its annual Black History Month Observance, themed "Black Women in American Culture and History" Feb. 29 at 10 a.m. at the APG recreation center. The guest speaker is Nevil Shed, from the blockbuster film *Glory Road*.

Susquehanna MOAA

Susquehanna Chapter, Military Officer Association of America invites all military officers of the APG community, all services and status, and their spouses to dinner, 6:15 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 26, at The Clarion Hotel in Aberdeen. Col. Jeff Holt, commander of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, will be the guest speaker. Contact retired USAF Lt. Col. Jeff Brock, at brockja01@gmail.com or (410) 836-9373 for more information and reservations.

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 oppor-

tunities, 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>. ASMC is a non-profit educational and professional organization for military and civilian personnel involved in the overall field of military comptrollership.

Better Buying Power briefing

In response to Secretary Gates' June 4, 2010, guidance that the DoD must significantly improve effectiveness and efficiency in acquisition and the Better Buying Power guidance issued from USD (AT&L) on Sep 14, 2010, DAU working with USD (AT&L), the SAEs and CAEs has developed a briefing to help inform the workforce of the background and intent of the Better Buying Power initiative.

DAU faculty will deliver the BBP presentation Thursday, Jan. 26 to interested members of the APG community. There will be two standalone sessions— from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 2:30 p.m.. The presentations will be delivered in the DAU facility at 6175 Guardian Gateway. RSVP to Vanessa Crump at vanessa.crump@dau.mil, 410-272-9475 or Parker Bennett at parker.bennett@dau.mil, 410-272-9471.

Change of command

Lt. Col. Irene M. Zoppi will relinquish command of the 203d Military Intelligence Battalion to Lt. Col. Jeffery P. Risner during a change of responsibility and promotion ceremony hosted by Brig. Gen. William Duffy, commander of the MI Readiness Command and Col. Stephen C. Gomillion, commander of the National Ground Intelligence Cen-

ter 1 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Dickson Hall, Ball Conference Center, Bldg. 3074. Reception to follow. R.S.V.P. with the number of guests to 410-278-5566 or email rita.hewitt@usar.army.mil. Civilian dress is business casual. Military uniform is duty.

Toastmasters meeting

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

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

Blood Drive Feb. 3

The 9th Area Medical Laboratory is holding a blood drive with the Armed Services

Blood Drive Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 5116, Slaughter Hall. Appointments can be made at www.militarydonor.com using the sponsor code: APGMD. Walk-ins will be accepted after appointments.

Manager/Supervisor EEO Training

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

The purpose of the training is to increase awareness of specific equal opportunity-related responsibilities unique to supervisory and managerial positions within the federal government.

Awareness of program requirements and command Affirmative program/Equal Employment Opportunity goals are critical for those who are in leadership positions that impact the civilian workforce.

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

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

Resiliency Training slated

Resilience is the ability to meet challenges and bounce back or recover during or after difficult experiences. Learn about resilience and the competencies that contribute to it: self-awareness, self-regulation, optimism, mental agility, strengths of character, and connection. Resilience Training is set Jan. 31 at the Aberdeen main post chapel, Bldg. 2485, Classroom 3, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Build positive emotions that counter the negative bias and leads to better health, better sleep, and greater life satisfaction.



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

COMMUNITY NOTES

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.

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

FAMILY CANOE TRIPS

Reservations are now being taken for Eden Mill Nature Center's Sunrise Paddle & Twilight Family Canoe Trips. These trips help acquaint the paddlers with the natural surroundings on Deer Creek. Exploration of the environment, both the land and the water, is enhanced by the use of canoes to travel along Deer Creek. During these excursions, environ-

mental education and interpretation are provided by the naturalist accompanying the group. Basic paddling instruction is provided before the trip. Canoes, paddles, and personal floatation devices (lifejackets) are provided. All trips originate and end at Eden Mill. Saturday morning trips begin at 8:15 a.m. and end at about 11 a.m. Thursday evening paddles begin at 5:45 p.m. and end at about 8:30 p.m. Our season begins May 3 and runs through Sept. 29, 2012. The cost is \$5 per person for members and \$8 per person for non-members. Pre-registration required by calling 410-836-3050 or e-mail edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com, or visit edenmill.org.

THURSDAY JANUARY 26 NATURE STORYTIME

Eden Mill Nature Center is proud to offer "Nature Story Time" at 11 a.m. 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 FEBRUARY 4 EAGLE EYES

Meet former ACLEC naturalist and eagle researcher Jess Baylor at the Conowingo Dam parking lot off Shures Landing Road for a brisk hour of observing the national bird at a

local hotspot for eagle activity. This program will be held 9 to 10 a.m. for ages 8 to adult, 8 to 12 with adult. The program is free, but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

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

CREATIVE QUILLING

What is quilling? It is the art of coiling paper into shapes that look complicated but are really simple. Try making a snowflake and make it simple or ornate. This program will be held 11 a.m. to noon, for ages 8 to adult. The program is free, but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

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

INVASINATORS

Become a part of the volunteer team of invasive plant removers and native plant restorers. Learn why non-native invasive plants are a threat to the ecosystem, how to identify problem plants, and removal and restoration strategies. Wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and work gloves for field work in the Reserve each meeting date. Participants receive an Invasinators t-shirt after attending two work days. This program will be held 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. The program is free, but online registration is

required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

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

CRITTER DINNER TIME

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

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

WINTER WOVEN BASKET

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

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



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

LEAVE DONATIONS

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

630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Joan Campbell, 410-278-5668, e-mail joan.campbell@us.army.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Patricia Adams
Audrey Alba
Debra Bonsall
Cheryl Black
Diane Bratton
Robertta
Brown-Thurman
(Ft Huachuca)
Mikale Gerdes Brutus
Holly Cacciapaglia
(Vets Administration)
Sara Campbell

Cheryl Cerqueira
Sang Cha
Ann Clapham
Sharon Colclough
Kelly Correia
Kathy Crouse
Edward Delnero
Celeste Disciullo
Teresa Doonan
Meg Downey
Wanda Dudek
Anhtung Duong

Joanne Eberhardt
Melanie Espich
Megan Farley
Tiana Ford
Melanie France
(PSI-COE)
Christine Federisko
Arya Golriz
Marilyn Grebe
Shawn Heinlein
LaTasha Hines
Walter Holland

Sarah Ingram
Kari Johnson
LaKia Johnson
Bernard King
Subria Kelly
Jessica Leach
Cindy Learn
Robert Luce
Christopher Lyles
Shantiea Mack
Cassandra Morrison
Margaret Nahrgang

Theresa Padron
Linda Patrick
Mary Pettway
Donna Pierce
Edward Rath
Sheba Ratliff-Coble
Jaime Reed
Jose Rivera-Alvarez
Pedro Rodriguez
Lee Anne Sellare
Paul Shelley
Lena Shelton

Bridgette Smith
Deborah Smith
Danielle Smith
Robynn Squires
Nicole Stallings
Melissa Steffen
Sonya Taylor
Lorena Thompson
Heather Tomaseski
Kimberly Trubia
Joya Tucker
Veronica Turner

Juan Vitali
Matthew Warne
Ann West
Emily Whaley
Aaron Wilson
Heather Williamson
Fatisha Wright
Melvin Wright

Youth turn out for FIRST LEGO League Challenge despite snowy weather

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Despite an early-morning snow storm that spread snow and frozen rain across the region, 125 middle school students from around Maryland showed up to compete in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge at the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command headquarters Jan. 21.

It was the organization's first time hosting the event's qualifying rounds. Thirteen teams competed for the top four positions which advance to the championship at UMBC next weekend.

FLL is a LEGO robotics program for 6 to 14-year-olds designed to get children excited about science and technology while teaching them employment and life skills. FIRST means: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. The FIRST mission is to design accessible and innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering.

Every September FLL releases a challenge based on a real-world scientific topic. Each challenge had three parts: the Robot Match, the Project, and the FLL Core Values. Teams of up to 10 children with one adult coach participate by programming an autonomous robot to score points on a themed playing field (Robot Match), developing a solution to a problem (Project), all guided by the FLL Core Values.

Then the students meet for regional tournaments to share their knowledge, compare ideas and display their robots. This year's challenge, Food Factor, was focused on keeping foods safe.

Christina Bryant, ATEC recruitment and outreach program coordinator, said the day-long event consisted of research and presentation challenges in the morning during which teams were judged on Project and Core Values and on Technical Know-How in the afternoon, as teams pitted their robots against the clock. They were tasked to perform 15 "missions" in 2.5 minutes on a themed playing field.



Spectators watch the action on the robot match tables from all levels of the atrium in the ATEC headquarters building as teams compete in the First Lego League (FLL) Challenge qualifying rounds at APG Jan. 21.

"They were challenged to find an innovative solution to a problem that was presented to them by researching and solving it in teams," Bryant said, noting that FLL Core Values stresses working as teams, with friendly competition and mutual gain as its goals.

"Trying to tackle a problem as one works in concert with STEM principles," she explained.

Several participants said they enjoyed the challenge.

Harford Day School "Dragon Bots" teammates, 13-year-old eighth-graders

Sonal and Carter, said they learned a lot.

"It's really been interesting and fun," Sonal said, adding that she's interested in science and technology.

"This was my first time and I really like it," said Carter. "I love technology and I plan to go into mathematics or engineering."

Two other 13-year olds, Rosano and Adrian from Walker Mill Middle School in Prince Georges County, said they were glad they made it.

"This morning was difficult getting here but I found the Project and research part pretty challenging," said Adrian, adding that he'd like to "go into medical technology."

Rosano said that she was enjoying her second FLL.

"I've done it once before and I enjoyed it both times, though this time I would have liked more time to practice.

"I'm not sure what I want to be" she said. "I just like the challenge."

"An event such as this sends the right signals to the community and families to show how important they are to the test and evaluation community," said Brig. Gen. Leslie Smith, commander of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE). "Through teamwork, and motivation these kids are having fun while they're learning. It's good to see that. In ten years or less, they'll get to replace us. For now, we've got to keep motivating and pushing one team, one city, one Family."

Supporting organizations included the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command(RDECOM); U.S. Army Evaluation Center(AEC); U.S. Army Research Laboratory(ARL); Aberdeen Test Center(ATC); U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command(CECOM); U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC); U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA); and the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC).

For more information about FLL, visit the website firstlegoleague.org.

APG SNAPSHOT

A peek at the events making news in and around U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground. For complete photo coverage, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/> or <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rdecom>.

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES

Kayla Williams, 11, plays the piano as instructor Kathi Workman, listens. Williams takes lessons through the Child, Youth and School Services SKIES Unlimited program. "She has taken piano lessons for a year. I am very impressed with the program," said Williams' mother Donna Perkins. Other SKIES classes include guitar, tae kwon do, driver's education, ballet, foreign languages and more. For information visit, www.apgmwr.com/family/youth_skies.html, or contact Stacie Umbarger, instructional program specialist at 410-278-4589.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



Photo by Rachel Ponder

TAXES, ROADWORK HOT TOPICS AT YEAR'S FIRST CAC MEETING

Col. Orlando Ortiz, garrison commander, speaks to attendees during the first Community Action Council meeting of the year, held at the APG South (Edgewood) chapel Jan. 19. During the meeting Karen Holt, base realignment and closure manager from the Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor, talked to the audience about upcoming road work on Route 715. "Being patient and planning for extra travel time will really help during this process," Holt said of the major construction that will take place by early spring. Construction details will continue to be released in the APG News. Other hot topics during the meeting included the completion of several new townhomes in the Bayside Housing Area (see Page 1 article) and upcoming FMWR events. To view slides presented during the meeting, visit www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/commander/wellbeing.cfm. The next Community Action Council meeting will be held at the APG North (Aberdeen) main post chapel April 19 at 5 p.m.



Courtesy photo

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE SET

APG Directorate of Emergency Services personnel participate in the annual MSP Polar Bear Plunge in 2010. Community members can once again take part in the frosty fun Jan. 28 by taking a quick dip in the Chesapeake Bay and collecting pledges for a state fundraiser. Anyone can participate. (Under 18 requires parent or guardian signature.) In addition to the main event participants and spectators enjoy the heated festival tent with live music, kids activities, vendors, crafters, games, souvenirs, and more. The event also includes the Polar Bear Plunge Pageant, live remotes by 98 Rock and WBAL-AM, a costume contest, food and drink. For information, visit www.plungemd.com.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

ALL ABOUT ASTRONOMY

(From left) Anthony Chase, 11, APG Youth Center technology lab instructor Charles Novak, and Destiny Gardner, 12, discuss about solar system during their monthly astronomy club meeting at the APG North (Aberdeen) youth center. Novak said the group talks astronomy and views the sky through the center's telescope. The club meets the first Friday of every month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. during Friday Night Rec, a free program for eligible CYSS middle and high school teens. For information, call 410-278-9061.