



Best Of The Best



NCO and Soldier candidates and their sponsors receive a briefing from members of the selection board April 27 prior to the proceeding, held in the main conference room at garrison headquarters.

Post, school leaders mark growth of education program

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground leaders joined Harford County Public Schools officials to celebrate the expansion of the National Math & Science Initiatives program for local high school students at HCPS headquarters in Bel Air April 30.

The Initiative for Military Families (IMF) provides college-level coursework in science, math and English for students of military Families. The grant funding, provided by Boeing for Aberdeen High School and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) for Havre de Grace High School, will provide NMSI's Advanced Placement Training and Incentive program (APTIP).

APTIP was launched in 2010 in four schools and in the first year, the AP math, science and English scores increased 45 percent; almost six times the national average.

While it is the goal of IMF to provide excellence and continuity for students whenever and wherever their military Families are transferred, all students in participating schools may benefit from the program.

APTIP research indicates that students passing advanced placement (AP) courses in high school are three times more likely to complete a college degree.

Dr. Robert Tomback, superintendent of schools, hosted the event. Special guests included Dr. Arun A. Seraphin, principal assistant director for National Security and International Affairs, representing the office of First Lady Michelle Obama; Gregg Fleisher, national APTIP director; Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, commander of APG and the U.S. Army

APTIP was launched in 2010 in four schools and in the first year, the Advanced Placement math, science and English scores increased 45 percent; almost six times the national average.

Kirk Clinic duo named NCO, Soldier of Year

Story and photo by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

A sergeant and a specialist from Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic outshined all other competitors during board proceedings to win the Aberdeen Proving Ground Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year honors at garrison headquarters April 27.

Selected were radiology technician Sgt. Olayiwola Kugblenu for NCO of the Year and Spc. Matthew J. Gansel, a medical laboratory specialist, for Soldier of the Year.

"I gave it my best shot," said Kugblenu who competed for Soldier of the Year last year. "I am competitive and I like challenging myself."

"It feels good," Gansel said after the winners were announced. "I am happy that my efforts paid off."

Sgt. Olayiwola Kugblenu

Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Kugblenu graduated from high school in 1994 and

attended the University of Lagos where he earned a bachelor's degree in architecture in 1999. He worked for the state housing authority before migrating to the United States in 2003.

He enlisted in the Army in 2007 and soon after earned his U.S. citizenship.

His military education includes the 68P Radiology Specialist Course and the Warrior Leader Course. He has also earned 68 credit hours with Harford Community College.

Kugblenu's awards and decorations include the Army Achievement, Good Conduct and National Defense Service medals; the Global War on Terrorism Service, the NCO Professional Development Ribbons; the Army Service Ribbon and six certificates of achievement. He is married with three children.



Kugblenu

Spc. Matthew J. Gansel

Gansel entered the Army as a 13B cannon crewmember, Field Artillery, and served two combat tours in Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom V and VII. He reenlisted and retrained for medical laboratory specialist. His military education includes a driver's training course, a field management of chemical and biological casualties course and the Warrior Leader Course.

A native of North Canton, Ohio, Gansel is married with one daughter and a second child due in August. He has been in the Army for six years.



Gansel

See **KUGBLENU**, page 8

See **BOARD**, page 8

Holocaust survivor talks of rising above the horror

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

U.S. Army Research Laboratory and Team APG hosted a Days of Remembrance ceremony in commemoration of the Holocaust at the post theater April 26.



Cord

Edith M. Cord, a Holocaust survivor, shared the story of how her father and brother were taken by Nazis during the night to eventually die in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

See **APG**, page 6

Area singles make connections during speed dating

Story and photo by **JASON DOMINGUEZ**
APG FMWR

More than 50 hopeful, eligible men and women turned out for Aberdeen Proving Ground's first speed dating event April 19 at the Ruggles Golf Course clubhouse.

The round-robin style of match-making has increased in popularity over the last decade, and is trending in larger cities like Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, according to Gina Dorsey, one of the event organizers and an APG contractor.

"After researching events in the area for single people, we discovered there weren't any events like speed dating," Dorsey said. "It's a popular thing and has been growing. With the large population at APG, we thought it would be a fun and different way



Doug Petrick (left) and Tena Hall introduce themselves during a mini-date at APG's first speed dating night at Ruggles Golf Course April 19.

See **SPEED**, page 8

WEATHER

Thurs.



78° | 62°

INDEX

Pg 2 **Opinion**
Pg 10 .. **Mark Your Calendar**
Pg 11 **APG Snapshot**



ICE system
http://ice.disa.mil/
Facebook, http://on.fb.me/HzQJlow



APG Snapshot

A peek at the events making news in and around APG

page 11

STREET TALK

Street Talk gives APG News readers a quick peek at what community members are thinking ... and saying.

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. Find out what respondents said about how other cultures have enriched their lives.

page 2

ONLINE

www.apg.army.mil
apgnews.apg.army.mil
apg.army.mil
dodlive.mil/
facebook.com/APGMd
twitter.com/USAGAPG
flickr.com/photos/usagapg/



MORE INSIDE

APG honors its retirees **PAGE 5**; CSM leadership changes hands at RDECOM **PAGE 6**; Community gathers for Earth Day celebration **PAGE 3**.

OPINION

STREET TALK

How have other cultures enriched your life?

My son-in-law is from Guam. He introduced me to his culture by inviting me to cultural events. During the events, Guamanian people celebrate their heritage by performing dances in traditional clothes and eating traditional food. I have made friends at these events and I find them very interesting; I always enjoy learning about other cultures.

I have introduced my son-in-law to my culture by inviting him to Native American pow-wows.



Nellie Torres
Child Development Center program lead

I like trying food from other cultures.

My wife, who is from Turkey, has introduced me to several Turkish dishes that I enjoy.



Melvin Bantum
Retired military

By showing me that people from all cultures want the same thing.

They want a good quality of life, a means for providing for their Families, and happiness.



Capt. Nicole Moore
HHC 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort)

The Army has provided me with the opportunity to travel overseas many times.

I have been exposed to many cultures and I feel like I have become more open-minded as a result.

There is great diversity in the world; each culture is special in its own way.



Maj. Matthew Camel
20th Support Command (CBRNE)

The Army: An American Profession of Arms

The Army is an American Profession of Arms. It is a vocation comprised of experts certified in the ethical application of land combat power, serving under civilian authority, entrusted to defend the Constitution and the rights and the interests of the American people.

At its most elemental and indispensable level, it is both Soldiers and civilians. It is the workforce of Aberdeen Proving Ground who exemplify the Army standard and are held accountable to a much higher standard—that of our Warfighters’ survivability.

The profession of the Army is not one entered into lightly. It is a challenging career that requires a commitment to a culture of service and ethical standards. Our profession often requires sacrifice, but it is a profession that offers unmatched value to the nation.

The brave men and women who volunteer to stand in harm’s way know the value of their profession’s worth. Those of you who support these professionals and their Families contribute to that value as well. Yet, there are challenges.

As with any great organization, we need to pause from time to time to reflect on our accomplishments and check our progress. This is one of those times.

The Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army have tasked the Training and Doctrine Command to conduct a review of the Army Profession—our profession. This mandate is not due to any specific or recognizable problem, but is rather a standard process for the best organizations.

This kind of assessment separates run-of-the-mill organizations from exceptional institutions whose metal holds up to the rigor of such scrutiny and endures the test of time. It is healthy



“The profession of the Army is not one entered into lightly. It is a challenging career that requires a commitment to a culture of service and ethical standards. Our profession often requires sacrifice, but it is a profession that offers unmatched value to the nation.”

and allows for continuous improvement and growth—something our Soldiers and civilians learn early in their careers.

The war in Iraq has ended. The fledgling democracy has taken root and continues to prosper while the war in Afghanistan continues to challenge our Soldiers and leaders. However, the Army will soon withdraw completely from the Middle East area of operations.

These wars have required us to adapt our processes and even turn a blind eye to core roles and responsibilities. We all know that living by a code, a set of standards, is not an easy undertaking. Constant deployments, organizational restructuring and unit re-designations have contributed to the strain at the individual, organizational and institutional level.

So, after more than a decade of fighting wars on two fronts, the Army will redefine itself along with our doctrine and ethos.

We will use this time of slowing operational tempo to reexamine and renew our commitment to our sustaining Army standards. We will reaffirm our identity, values and purpose inspiring others through a fresh understanding of the noble purpose and duty of our professional Army and everyone

who supports it.

Your leaders here at APG are fully committed to improving our Army by ensuring the necessary changes are implemented, ensuring decisions made during the transition to a leaner force guarantee the most professional force possible.

The Army profession—that of being a Soldier and supporting our Soldiers—is the finest career in the world. The APG workforce exemplifies this on a daily basis. We have the best and brightest, working within our gates, sharing in the steadfast commitment to our Warfighters.

By reaffirming our commitment to the noble profession of the Army and its culture of service, we will ensure a healthier, safer environment for our Soldiers, civilians and Family members.

Together we will ensure every day will be a great day to be a Soldier and every day will be a great day to support a Soldier at Team APG. Army Strong!

Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell
Commander, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command & Aberdeen Proving Ground

TAPS seeks military mentors for ‘Good Grief Camp’

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors is seeking active duty service members and recent veterans to serve as volunteer mentors to children of the military fallen over Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C.

TAPS, a nonprofit organization that provides support and care to families of the military fallen, will host nearly 500 children and teens from across the nation at its 18th Annual TAPS Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp.

Volunteer mentors work with these children one-on-one, serving as a camp guide and offering a sympathetic ear or shoulder to cry on. Mentors have ranged from privates to generals, and represent all military services.

I remember seeing a mentor’s

impact firsthand after stopping by a “Good Grief Camp” a few years ago in Crystal City, Va. I had arrived just in time for a balloon-release ceremony. Hundreds of children stood by a fountain gripping strings holding a rainbow assortment of balloons. Tied to each was a message to a loved one who had died while serving the nation.

With a “Let ‘em go!” the children released their balloons and watched intently as they became distant specks in the sky. The mentors stayed close by, some with an arm wrapped around a child’s shoulders.

Mentors have a powerful role at these camps, TAPS officials said. “We know it is no small favor as you will be giving up your personal time over the holiday, but bringing a smile to the

faces of our nation’s youngest heroes and reminding them they will always remain a part of the military family is worth every minute you selflessly donate,” they said.

Mentors must be available all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the holiday weekend. Monday is optional, but encouraged.

For more information about the TAPS Good Grief Camp or to register as a mentor, visit the TAPS website and click “Event Registration.” Registration will be open through May 7.

For more information or to request a time-off letter, email mentors@taps.org or call 1-800-959-TAPS (8277).

Elaine Sanchez
Family Matters Blog

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



78°|62°

Fri



83°|64°

Sat



79°|58°

Sun



69°|53°

Mon



69°|51°

Tue



68°|58°

Wed



67°|58°

APG NEWS

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMAP-PA, Building 305, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1153. Printed circulation is 8,900.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer

shall refuse to print advertising from that source. Editorial content is prepared, edited and approved by the APG Public Affairs Office. The APG News is printed by Homestead Publishing Company, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with APG. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising and mailing. To obtain a yearly subscription, which costs \$16, the price for weekly mailing, or for problems with incorrect mailing addresses, contact Customer Service at 139 N. Main Street, Suite 203, Bel Air, MD 21014, or call 410-838-0611.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Homestead Publishing Company of the products or services advertised.

For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 305,

IMAP-PA, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; send e-mail to adriane.c.foss.civ@mail.mil or contact reporters Yvonne Johnson, yvonne.johnson5.ctr@mail.mil or 410-278-1148, or Rachel Ponder, rachel.e.ponder2.ctr@mail.mil or 410-278-1149.

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

Staff

APG Commander Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell
APG Garrison Commander Col. Orlando W. Ortiz
Acting Public Affairs Officer Karen Jolley
Editor Adriane Foss
Contract Photojournalists Yvonne Johnson
..... Rachel Ponder
Graphic Designer/Web Designer Nick Pentz
Website www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

APG celebrates Arbor/Earth Day

Post organizations lead way with green practices

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Community members and local students attended Aberdeen Proving Ground's annual Arbor/Earth Day celebration at the APG Museum April 27.

The event highlighted the installation's stewardship to the environment in support of the principles of Arbor Day and Earth Day. During the event's opening ceremony U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command-U.S. Army Evaluation Center Deputy-Commanding General Brig. Gen. John Regan challenged the audience to think about creative ways to reduce, reuse, recycle and repurpose.

"Students, your generation will soon be in charge of this planet," he said.

Regan told the students the earlier they implement green habits, the better. Simple practices like recycling paper, turning off lights and turning off the tap when brushing teeth can make a big difference.

He said many Army organizations implement green practices. For instance, ATEC committed to reduce paper consumption by implementing a paperless office program and regularly holding Paperless Office Weeks, ATEC employees do not print, copy or produce work products using paper.

Regan presented awards to the student winners of the Arbor/Earth Day poetry and poster contest. This year's theme was "Trees are Terrific...from Acorn to Oak." He said he was impressed by the level of enthusiasm the students expressed in their projects.

"We have a bright future indeed," he said.

Garrison Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz presented to the installation museum a tree slice



(From left) Elijah Walker, 4, Haley Binebrink, 4, Keegan Passwater 3, and Stephanie Nguyen, 3, examine white-tailed deer antlers that were collected on post at the ATC booth during the installation's annual Arbor/Earth Day celebration April 27.

taken from a black oak that stood on APG since the early 1800s. The slice will be used to educate visitors about the environment and local history.

The event also featured hands-on science demonstrations and activities from APG and community organizations. A popular attraction was Scales

and Tales, an environmental program of the Maryland Park Service. Scales and Tales gave visitors an opportunity to see and learn about wildlife like a red-tailed hawk, turkey vulture, and an Eastern Screech Owl up close.

"I attended the event with my children because I want

them to appreciate nature and enjoy spending time outdoors," said Nadine Johnson, a Civilian Personnel Advisory Center employee.

The day's activities also included appearances by Smokey the Bear and McGruff the Crime Dog; recycled T-shirt crafts; environmental games;

live video of a bald eagle nest and artifacts unearthed during construction at APG.

"Events like this are important, because the way we are living is not sustainable," said Maia Kaiser, Directorate of Public Works Environmental Compliance Program, who led the recycling and composting demonstration. "The only way there will be enough resources for the future is by turning our waste into new products. We need to encourage the younger generation to adopt environmentally friendly habits."

To view and download photos, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>.

APG Arbor/Earth Day Poetry Contest Winner

■ 3rd -5th grade- *1st place*-Shelby Johnson, Prospect Mill Elementary School

APG Arbor/Earth Day Poster Contest Winners

■ 1st grade: *1st place*-Zoya Keck, Child and Youth Services; *2nd place*-Kaili Long, Child and Youth Services; *3rd place*-Madison Passwater, Child and Youth Services

■ 2nd grade: *1st place*-Lauren French, Child and Youth Services; *2nd place*-Meckenzie Freeman, Child and Youth Services; *3rd place*-Tahlia Ward, Child and Youth Services

■ 3rd Grade-5th Grade: *1st place*-Umar Khwaja, Prospect Mill Elementary School; *2nd place*-Kailee Heilman, Abby Cheng, Imani Williams, Andrew Fung, Child and Youth Services; *3rd place*-Julia Walsh, Prospect Mill Elementary School

■ 6th Grade-8th Grade: *1st Place*-Tierra Ward, Child and Youth Services; *2nd Place*-Dusharne Sparks Child and Youth Services

CECOM's equal opportunity advisor recognized as Army's best in 2011

CECOM news release

The Under Secretary of the Army honored an APG civilian for being named the Army's 2011 equal opportunity advisor of the year for her work while serving as an Army Reserve master sergeant mobilized in support of U.S. Army Central Command.

U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Equal Employment Program Manager Tracy Marshall was selected for the Secretary of the Army Diversity and Leadership Award (Equal Opportunity Advisor) for fiscal year 2011.

"This is a significant achievement and truly a testament to Tracy's hard work and dedication," said Neslie Etheridge, director of the CECOM Equal Employment Opportunity Office. "I congratulate Tracy for doing a great job in supporting our Soldiers. We are glad to have her here at CECOM."

Marshall now works for CECOM in their EO Office, after completing her third



Marshall

“Her multicultural sensitivity and awareness, meshed with solid integrity and character, makes her an absolute must for selection as an EOA of the year.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Dowd

Commander, 1st Theater Sustainment Command

combat tour, one of which was in Afghanistan. This is her first assignment as an Army civilian where she is responsible for serving 67 CECOM Soldiers scattered across the globe. Her first and foremost priority, she explains, is to ensure Soldiers are treated with dignity and respect.

"My role is to provide training and guidance to Soldiers and leaders on EO matters and assist commanders in solving issues," said Marshall.

She focuses on helping commanders resolve issues at the lowest level possible. A Bronze Star recipient, Marshall and Team APG plans ethnic observances and special emphasis training and awareness programs for CECOM and the installation when appropriate.

Marshall's experience as an EO advisor while on active duty serves her well as she navigates and resolves various

EEO issues and assists in enhancing the CECOM EO program.

During her time at 1st Sustainment (Theater) Command, she took the initiative to coach, mentor, and train 13 newly assigned Department of Defense EO Management Institute graduates who were arriving in Kuwait, Qatar, Task Force Sinai, Iraq and Afghanistan, according to her former commander.

"Marshall demonstrated rare qualities found in a senior noncommissioned officer," said Lt. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander, Third Army/United States Army Central. "She selflessly gave of her time to coach, mentor and train 13 EOAs, instilling confidence in them which resulted in improved performance in their programs."

She created and implemented a quality of life survey at the request of the two-

star general. The survey resulted in the improvement of more than 11,000 Soldiers' and Family members' lives.

"Her ability to adapt to harsh environments while staying mission-focused is indicative of the fiber that makes an outstanding NCO," said Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Dowd, commander, 1st Theater Sustainment Command, in October of 2011.

She is described as a "consummate professional who has demonstrated the ability to bring about change," said Brooks.

Having come highly recommended, Marshall was awarded the 2011 Equal Opportunity Advisor of the Year.

"Her multicultural sensitivity and awareness, meshed with solid integrity and character, makes her an absolute must for selection as an EOA of the year," said Dowd.

Picerne earns No. 1 ranking in resident satisfaction

National survey gives company top marks for the fourth time

Picerne Military Housing

Picerne Military Housing, a builder and manager of U.S. military housing, announced April 25 that it has been awarded the No. 1 resident satisfaction ranking for portfolios with at least 10,000 homes based on the 2011 SatisFacts Annual Resident Survey.

The SatisFacts survey is a resident

relationship management service for a range of residential multi-family property management companies, including those that manage military housing. Residents served by nearly 150 property management firms participated in the 2011 survey interviews, which are voluntary and conducted at random over the phone and online.

"Our military Families make tremendous sacrifices to protect and defend the American way of life. We feel it's our job to return that favor by providing the best possible customer service and improving the quality of life of our service members and their Families," said John Picerne, President and CEO of Picerne Military Housing.

Picerne Military Housing provides homes for more than 20,000 service members and Families at military installations across the United States. Since 2001, the company has renovated more than 6,000 homes and has built more than 5,000 new homes. It pursues a continuous program of improvement and modernization at seven installations.

In addition to earning the top customer service ranking, Picerne also was awarded the 2011 SatisFacts Superior Resident Satisfaction Company Award with a superior rating of 4.27 out of a possible 5.00 score. Other resident ratings included a 4.22 for speed and responsiveness to customer service

requests, and a 4.20 for office responsiveness and dependability.

"Picerne Military Housing has increased their overall satisfaction score every year since they began participating in our resident survey in 2004," said Doug Miller, founder and president of SatisFacts (<http://satisfacts.com/>). "In order to earn a superior overall satisfaction rating in the 4.00-4.49 range, companies really need to go well beyond simply talking about great service."

Picerne Military Housing has earned a superior rating from SatisFacts the past five years. The company has also earned the No. 1 resident satisfaction ranking for portfolios with at least 10,000 homes four times.

Five retire during April ceremony

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Three Soldiers and two civilians officially ended their government service careers during the installation retirement ceremony at the Ball Conference Center April 26.

Maj. Gen. N. Lee S. Price, program executive officer for Command, Control, Communications Tactical, hosted the event and presented awards and Chaplain (Maj.) Fred Townsend, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground, gave the invocation.

Price said she was pleased to recognize the great work done by the retirees, whose service totaled more than 136 years.

“Thank you for supporting the Soldiers every day with the critical services you provided for them,” she said.

The retirees included Col. Donald V. Gibson U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; and Larry Carter, Sgt. 1st Class Francis Cruz, Sgt. 1st Class Mario McCarty and William L. Taylor of U.S. Army Garrison APG.

Col. Donald V. Gibson

Gibson was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal, the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation and retirement letter, the Department of the Army certificate of retirement and a U.S. flag. His wife, Marcia Quezada, received a DA certificate of appreciation. Gibson will officially retire June 30, with 30 years of service.



Gibson

During his career, Gibson served five overseas tours to include Korea, Germany Chile, and Saudi Arabia. He culminates his career as commander of the International Technology Center Americas with RDECOM. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Parachutist's Badge.

Gibson graduated from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla., in 1982, and earned a bachelor's degree in computer science. As the distinguished military

graduate, he also earned a Regular Army Commission as a second lieutenant.

“It seems like yesterday that I joined the Army,” Gibson said. “I love the Army. It has been an honor to serve and I will always continue to serve.”

Larry Carter

Carter was awarded the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, certificate of appreciation and certificate of retirement signed by Col. Orlando Ortiz, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander. His wife, Leigh A. Carter, received the APG certificate of appreciation. Carter retired March 31 with 34 years and eight months of combined military and civilian service.



Carter

Carter enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at age 17 and went to boot camp at Parris Island, S.C. After his tour of duty with the Marine Corps, Carter used the G.I. Bill to obtain a college degree. He also received specialized education in the heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration trade. Carter became proficient in the skill trades and earned seven unrestricted master's licenses with the State of Maryland in A/C, heating, refrigeration, ventilation, heat pumps, gas fitting, and as a certified backflow prevention specialist.

Carter started working at APG in 1983 as an air conditioning equipment mechanic for the Department of Public Works. Carter was promoted in 2001 to a contract performance specialist and as contract officer's representative, monitoring various service contracts.

During his civilian career, Carter saved the Army money in many capacities. In 2008, he received the commander's award for saving \$608,000 in contract monitoring performance. In 2009 he received the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for saving the Army money in contracting monitoring and performance. In 2011 Carter received the commander's award for his performance as a project manager of the APG Base Realignment and Closure excess furniture turn-in project, which resulted in an overall savings of \$3,460,000 to the Army.

For his retirement, Carter said he

plans to spend more time with Family, work, and make home repairs.

“I have been working since I was 17 years old,” he said. “Retirement is a big adjustment.”

Sgt. 1st Class Francis Cruz

Cruz was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, presidential certificate of appreciation, Department of the Army certificate of retirement and a U.S. flag. Her husband, Wilfredo Jesus Cruz, received the DA certificate of appreciation. She officially retired March 31 with 20 years of service.



Cruz

Cruz enlisted in the Army March 11, 1992, and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and advanced individual training at APG. Her overseas tours included Germany, Korea, and Iraq in support of the Operation Iraqi Freedom after 9/11. Her career culminates as the support operations noncommissioned officer in charge assigned to the Headquarters Garrison, APG.

Cruz earned her associates degree in management from Cecilio Acosta Technical Institute, Venezuela. She is continuing her education to earn a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Excelsior College. Her military training includes: instructor qualification course, equal opportunity leader, contracting officer technical representative program, battle staff, and antiterrorism.

Cruz's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. She is a recipient of the Samuel Sharp Award.

Cruz said her top priority during retirement will be spending more time with Family. She also plans to volunteer at a local veteran's hospital and pursue a career in logistics.

“I am ending this chapter in my life with satisfaction,” she said.

Sgt. 1st Class Mario McCarty

McCarty was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, presidential certificate of appreciation, Department of the Army certificate of retirement and a U.S. flag. His wife, Bianca McCarty, received a DA certificate of appreciation. McCarty

retired April 1 with 23 years of service.

McCarty entered active duty Sept. 15, 1988. Throughout his career he held various technical and leadership positions of increased responsibility. McCarty's overseas assignments include Berlin and Katterbach, Germany. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom I and III. His career culminates as a wheel vehicle mechanic, assigned to the Directorate of Logistics, U.S. Army Garrison APG.

McCarty is currently pursuing a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice with a minor in homeland security from Excelsior College; he expects to graduate in December 2012.

McCarty's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Professional Development Ribbon NCO; Air Assault Badge; and Driver and Mechanic Badges.

McCarty said he is happy that he will be able to spend more time with his wife and his two children. He plans to travel more and pursue a career in logistics.

“I feel brand new,” he said. “I feel freedom and liberation.”

William L. Taylor

Taylor received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Department of the Army certificate of appreciation and certificate of retirement signed by the Garrison commander. Taylor retired Oct. 19, 2011, with 29 years of service.

Taylor began working for the government June 21, 1982, where he served with the Post Dispatch Office until 2006. He culminates his career as a budget clerk with the U.S. Army Garrison Directorate of Resource Management. Among his awards, he received the Presidential Volunteer Action Award from President Ronald Reagan.

“I enjoy giving back to my community,” he said. “During my retirement I plan to stay busy by volunteering as a fire or police officer.”



McCarty

McCarty's awards and decorations include Berlin and Katterbach, Germany. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom I and III. His career culminates as a wheel vehicle mechanic, assigned to the Directorate of Logistics, U.S. Army Garrison APG.

McCarty is currently pursuing a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice with a minor in homeland security from Excelsior College; he expects to graduate in December 2012.

McCarty's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Professional Development Ribbon NCO; Air Assault Badge; and Driver and Mechanic Badges.

McCarty said he is happy that he will be able to spend more time with his wife and his two children. He plans to travel more and pursue a career in logistics.

“I feel brand new,” he said. “I feel freedom and liberation.”

William L. Taylor

Taylor received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Department of the Army certificate of appreciation and certificate of retirement signed by the Garrison commander. Taylor retired Oct. 19, 2011, with 29 years of service.

Taylor began working for the government June 21, 1982, where he served with the Post Dispatch Office until 2006. He culminates his career as a budget clerk with the U.S. Army Garrison Directorate of Resource Management. Among his awards, he received the Presidential Volunteer Action Award from President Ronald Reagan.

“I enjoy giving back to my community,” he said. “During my retirement I plan to stay busy by volunteering as a fire or police officer.”

Taylor

Armed Forces celebrations, then and now

By **LYNN WITKOWSKI**
Garrison APG Public Affairs

According to a 1952 New York Times article, the first Armed Forces Day was celebrated with parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows, as Americans across the nation joined together to honor the Armed Forces.

In less than two weeks, Aberdeen Proving Ground will continue that long-standing American tradition with an Armed Forces Week celebration May 14–19.

This year's theme, "Heroes on the Home Front," recognizes local military and civilian personnel as heroes.

May 20, 1950, marked the first combined Armed Forces Day celebration, unifying the Army, Navy and Air Force Days under the Department of Defense, to increase public understanding of the military. It was a day for the military to show state-of-the-art equipment to the civilian population, and to honor and acknowledge members of the Armed Forces.

APG's Armed Forces Week historically drew more than 30,000 people annually with open houses, tours, exhibits, parachute jumps, and flyovers as well as the community's favorite display, a live fire demonstration. The Armed Forces Week live-fires were discontinued in 1991, but the installation continued to offer other spectacular events.

John Yaquiant, former APG chief of media relations, remembers the old days.

"I enjoyed watching the looks on the faces of the children during the main front activities," said Yaquiant, recalling that many members of the public had never been exposed to the sights, sounds and smells of tanks, artillery and small arms in action.

APG continued to host smaller events each year, continuing the traditional Military Appreciation luncheon spon-

It was a day for the military to show state-of-the-art equipment to the civilian population, and to honor and acknowledge members of the Armed Forces.

sored by the Harford County Chamber of Commerce. In 2002, the celebration was moved off post as APG and the City of Aberdeen joined forces to sponsor Armed Forces Day, complete with parade, fireworks, concerts and activities at Ripken Stadium.

In 2008, Armed Forces Day returned to APG with a variety of fun and educational displays on the museum grounds. That tradition, and many others, will continue this year.

Other events will include:

May 14

■ Golf Tournament at Ruggles Golf Course at 9 a.m. A continental breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m.

May 15

■ Veterans luncheon at Top of the Bay (All veterans welcome to attend.

The first 73 veterans will dine free, so reserve tickets. Call 410-278-3000.)

May 16

■ Invitation-only Gold Star Family Breakfast at 8 a.m.

■ Armed Forces Day activities, including demonstrations and displays hosted by APG organizations, start at 9 a.m. on museum grounds with the opening ceremony at 10 a.m.

■ Entertainment provided by the U.S. Army premier show band, The Volunteers, performing a mix of popular and patriotic music, and "Leftstronger," a

Baltimore-area band, performing original music in the style of Alice in Chains, Shinedown, Creed and Soundgarden.

■ Demonstrations will include a Freestate Chalenge drill competition, explosive ordnance disposal, helicopter and canine demonstrations.

■ Food choices include 1SG BBQ, Tim's Treats and Big Boy's.

■ Kids activities include a live wildlife exhibit, Kiddie Corner, McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog, D.A.R.E. activities and fire-fighting displays.

■ Call 410-278-4500 for event info.

■ National Employee Health and Fitness Day: 5K walk/run at Fanshaw Field at 8:30 a.m., a bike rally behind Bldg. 2202 at 8:30 a.m., and fitness classes in Bldg. 320. An Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program demo will be held in Bldg. 3300, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Body fat analysis tests will be performed, noon-1 p.m. in Bldg. 3300. Contact Wendy LaRoche at wendy.larouche@us.army.mil or 410-417-2312 for info.

May 17

■ Harford County Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Military Appreciation Luncheon at Richlin Ballroom, where APG's service members of the year will be honored.

■ Guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command. A

waiting list is available for the luncheon. Call 410-838-2020.

May 19

■ Equipment and vehicle displays start at 1 p.m., a parade of vehicles, featuring the M1, Stryker, MRAP, Bradley, and Humvee, kicks off at 2:45 p.m.

■ A live-fire demonstration starts at 3:15 p.m. at the installation's main front firing range. The live-fire returns to the celebrations after a 21-year absence. Tickets are free, but required due to space and safety requirements. Visit the APG North recreation center to receive up to five tickets per person. Seating will be limited, but additional standing room will be available. Hearing protection provided. Children under 4 are not permitted to attend due to safety concerns. No photography. Close-toed shoes required. All bags subject to search.

■ Also sure to please the crowd will be bambi bucket demonstrations, demonstrating how helicopters fill large buckets with water from the Chesapeake Bay to battle brush fires in remote areas of APG.

■ A 10K run at 8 a.m., and a 2-mile fun run at 8:30 a.m., will start at the APG Athletic Center. So far, 97 runners/walkers have registered. To register for the 10K or fun run, call 410-278-7933.

■ Food and drink available for purchase from Tony's Diner.

To attend Armed Forces Day, visitors without a government ID must use the Maryland Boulevard (Route 715) gate off Route 40 to enter the installation. Visitors 16 and older must have a photo ID and drivers must present a valid driver's license and vehicle registration. Present tickets at the gate.

For more information, call the APG Public Affairs Office at 410-278-1151/1147.

New CSM assumes role at RDECOM

By **DANIEL LAFONTAINE**
RDECOM Public Affairs

As a junior Soldier, he wanted to know that his leaders were not only going to give him a mission, but cared about him and his concerns.

As RDECOM's top enlisted Soldier, he'll spend his time getting to know his enlisted force.

"Being the new sergeant major, I want to get to know who they are, what they do for the organization, and talk to them about their concerns," said Command Sgt. Maj. Lebert O. Beharie. "I want to get to know them. We have great Warfighters at RDECOM. They are helping RDECOM become a better organization with better support to our Warfighters."

Beharie assumed duties as the leader of RDECOM's enlisted Soldiers during a change of responsibility ceremony at the post theater March 16. About 150 Soldiers and Army civilian employees welcomed him to RDECOM and APG.

Beharie takes over from Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin. The Army promoted Marin to the rank of command sergeant major in 1999, and he has served as RDECOM's senior NCO since Aug. 5, 2007.

Marin bids farewell

A native of Honduras who moved to New York City at age 10, Marin enlisted in September 1981. He described his journey from a child through his three decades as a Soldier stationed across the globe.

"My journey began a long time ago when I first got to this great country. I felt a sense of duty immediately," Marin said. "I wanted to give back to this nation for what was given to me—an opportunity to get an education, an opportunity to live free in a democratic country, a place where opportunities to excel are endless, an opportunity to serve and sacrifice for the good of all citizens of this nation. I joined the Army as part of this sense of duty. I wanted to ensure those



Photo by Conrad Johnson

Command Sgt. Maj. Lebert O. Beharie (left) was installed as RDECOM's senior noncommissioned officer March 16 during a change of responsibility ceremony at the post theater.

who came before me who may have lost their lives did not do so in vain.

"As a young boy living in Honduras, I used to chase helicopters down the street. I was very fascinated by that piece of machinery. I always wondered, 'How can something like that hang up in the sky and fly?' So when I entered the United States and began my studies in New York, I had my eyes on becoming an aviator. Through hard work, perseverance and encouragement from family, I managed to meet the qualifications to enter the Army as an aviator. Here I am today."

Marin thanked his fellow NCOs for their efforts to interact with RDECOM's scientists and engineers to ensure the success of the command's mission to empower, unburden and protect Soldiers.

"Since my arrival here, I quickly got engaged with our noncommissioned officers to ensure we understood our role in providing our engineers and scientists with relevant feedback to assist with the development of new technology and delivering it to the hands of Warfight-

ers," Marin said. "Our noncommissioned officers have a vital role in making sure that RDECOM is technology driven and always Warfighter focused."

Beharie is senior NCO

Beharie will lead the command's 80 enlisted Soldiers at its APG headquarters and seven research centers with offices around the world. The command sergeant major serves as the principal adviser to the director in enlisted matters. He is responsible for the training, professional development, retention, readiness and discipline of Soldiers under his charge.

Beharie said he has been impressed by the passion of RDECOM scientists and engineers to support those in uniform.

"I have had some great opportunities to serve over my military career. However, serving as RDECOM sergeant major is a dream job," Beharie said. "This organization and its professional workforce touch the lives of all the men and women in the Armed Forces, as well as our nation.

"Over the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit some of our labs and meet some of our men and women who work tirelessly to give our troops the fighting edge on the battlefield. I was blown away by the technology that they have developed and are currently working on."

Beharie will report to RDECOM Director Dale Ormond, who replaced Maj. Gen. Nick Justice as the organization's senior leader Feb. 10. Ormond thanked Marin for his dedication to the Army, RDECOM and Soldiers.

"What a terrific story of Command Sergeant Major Marin. [He is] a terrific Soldier and a leader of Soldiers," Ormond said. "He wanted to give back for the opportunities that America gave him. He has connected our scientists and engineers to the Soldiers, communicating with Soldiers and talking to them about what their real issues, challenges and needs are. [He made] sure that was funneled back into us so that we have that connection to what is going on in theater.

"[He made] tremendous personal efforts to stand up the RDECOM Field Assistance in Science and Technology-Center at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. He helped put in place how we as RDECOM solve materiel [problems] at the point of need."

In one of his first official duties, Beharie oversaw RDECOM's annual Noncommissioned Officer/Soldier of the Year Competition at APG March 26-31. Five enlisted Soldiers will compete in a physical fitness test, weapons range, land navigation, obstacle course, 12-mile ruck march, essay and written exam, media interviews, and board appearance.

Beharie has served as the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade's command sergeant major at Fort Campbell, Ky., since April 2009. He enlisted in 1986 and has four combat tours in the Persian Gulf.

Beharie and his wife, Sabrina, have three children.

APG leaders laud Holocaust survivor at Days of Remembrance

Continued from Page 1

The Holocaust was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of about 6 million Jews during World War II. The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in 1933, believed that Germans were racially superior and Jews, deemed inferior were a threat to the racial community. More than one million Jewish children were killed in the Holocaust.

Other groups targeted due to perceived racial inferiority included Roma (gypsies), the disabled, some Slavic peoples (Poles, Russians, and others). Also persecuted on political, ideological, and behavioral grounds, were communists, socialists, Jehovah's Witnesses

and homosexuals.

Though APG's guest speaker, Cord, and her mother survived the Holocaust, many years passed before she could overcome its horrors. She said during the dysfunctional years following the war, she was consumed only by an overwhelming need to gain an education. At the war's end, Cord was a 17-year-old with a 6th grade education.

Cord is the author of "*Becoming Edith: The Education of a Hidden Child*" which was published in 2008. A former language professor, she retired from her regular job in 2007 to devote herself to writing and speaking to share the life les-

sons she learned the hard way: how to rise from difficult circumstances, transcend hatred, protect freedom and stand up for values.

APG and CECOM Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Ferrell and Garrison and Deputy Installation Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz welcomed Cord along with Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, commander of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command; CECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Kennis Dent and ATEC Command Sgt. Maj. Allen G. Fritzsching.

Special guests included students from Joppatowne High School, Bel Air Middle School, the Saint Stephen School

in Kingsville, Md., and cadets from the Military Youth Corps Free State Chalenge Academy.

Rabbi Gila Ruskin of Temple Adas Shalom in Havre de Grace challenged students to share Cord's story. Ferrell thanked Cord for sharing her story and called her a "living witness and memorial."

"Sometimes we do not think about how costly freedom is," he told her. "We were truly blessed with your presence here today."

To view or download photos of the event, visit the APG Flickr site at www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg.

Kugblenu, Gansel win top honors

Continued from Page 1

The board

Command Sgt. Maj. Kennis Dent of CECOM presided over the board of senior NCOs tasked with selecting APG's finest. They included Command Sgt. Maj. Allen Fritzsching, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command; Sgt. Maj. Sean Burke, 20th Support Command (CBRNE); Sgt. Maj. William Griffith, U.S. Army Public Health Command; Sgt. Maj. William Tager, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; and Master Sgt. John Cavaliere, acting APG garrison command sergeant major. Sgt. 1st Class Tiffany Watt was the board recorder.

Prior to the board proceedings, the 10 candidates and their sponsors – in most cases their first-line supervisors – were briefed on how to report to the board and what to expect during the process.

Dent informed them that questions would be rapid-fire, in no particular order and cover a variety of subjects. Sponsors reported first, taking questions about their Soldiers, and remaining in the room for further critique once the Soldier was dismissed. He said selection boards are a learning experience for any Soldier.

While the president of the board has no voting power, he controls the flow of the question and answer process. Dent favors asking candidates to describe things in their own words, "not what the book says."

"What's your definition of leadership and what is your leadership style," he probed. "What are your strengths?"

NCO and Soldier of the Year nominees



Mahoney



Volodin



Kearney



Castro



Leal



Abarshi



Inserra



Gonzales

was always followed by "What are your weaknesses and what are you doing to overcome them?"

The subjects were wide and varied. They included APG history, first aid, drill and ceremony, land navigation, the Army physical fitness test, Army regulations, code of conduct, Warrior tasks and drills, leadership, uniform wear, NCO evaluation reports, field sanitation, Army values, substance abuse, the Army safety program, equal opportunity, the NCO support channel, the Warrior ethos, sexual harassment

and rape prevention, current events and more.

Each Soldier was required to recite the Soldier Creed and each NCO recited the NCO Creed.

Dent informed the candidates that the process had to be difficult because they would represent APG and the community for the next year through community events and volunteer work.

"Whatever you learned here today, take it back with you and share it with the next Soldier who wants to appear before this board."

The candidates had different reactions to the event.

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Mahoney, a senior instructor in global broadcast systems and fiber-optics from CECOM, said that while rapid fire questioning can be intimidating, it was, "like any other board."

"For the most part I thought I did pretty well," he said.

"I thought it was challenging but I love a challenge," said Spc. Abarshi Bala of the U.S. Army Public Health Command.

He said he felt confident after studying with Sgt. Sharia Leal, an NCO of the Year candidate and former APG Soldier of the Year.

"My whole unit helped with mock preparation boards and it felt like I was preparing for a promotion board instead. Thanks to them, I felt pretty good in there," he said.

NCO and Soldier of the Year nominees are:

■ Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Mahoney, CECOM

■ Sgt. 1st Class Sergei Volodin, ATEC

■ Staff Sgt. Maliek Kearney, 22d Chemical Battalion

■ Staff Sgt. Berta Castro, CECOM

■ Sgt. Sharia Leal, USAPHC

■ Spc. Bala Abarshi, USAPHC

■ Spc. Joshua Inserra, CERDEC

■ Spc. Angelo Gonzales, 22d Chemical Battalion

Board of Education efforts expand support to Families

Continued from Page 1

Communications-Electronics Command; Gary Martin, CECOM deputy to the commander; APG And Deputy Installation Commander Col. Orlando Ortiz; Dale Ormond, director of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; RDECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Lebert Beharie; Joseph Wienand, ECBC technical director; Waldo F. Carmona, director, Networked Tactical ISR, of Boeing Defense, Space & Security; and DoDEA Director Marilee Fitzgerald.

Aberdeen and Havre de Grace are the first two county schools to be awarded the initiative; hopefully, others will follow, Tombeck said.

He thanked Ferrell and APG for continued partnerships and support.

"We remain grateful for the strength and relationship between HCPS and APG," he said. "Thank you," he told Ferrell, "for all you do for this community and for your military sacrifices."

Dr. Leonard Wheeler, president of the Harford County Board of Education, on behalf of the board praised the leadership and support efforts that brought about the grant and said the board "embraced the goal to support military Families."

"By expanding their achievements in math and the sciences they will become leaders better equipped at problem solving," he said.

Seraphin extended his congratulations to the schools on behalf of the president and first lady.

"We feel this is an important part of realizing the president's goals in supporting our military Families and children," he said, adding that legislation is being moved to ensure everyone receives a science and math-focused education.

"The education push is very strong. Our focus will be to help kids get



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

After kicking off the start of the National Math and Science Initiative for Aberdeen and Havre de Grace high schools, APG Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Ferrell (left) chats with Channel 11 education reporter Tim Tooten.

through the stresses of military life. It's going to make a real difference here. We have already seen improvement in other schools around the country."

"These are opportunities students didn't have before," added Fleisher. This grant offers all kinds of extra support, coaching, assistance and incentives based on success. We know Harford County will lead the way for the state. The important part is having the support of the White House."

Monique Watson, a Havre de Grace High School junior, was one of two students asked to speak at the kickoff. Her father is retired Army, and Watson said she grew up a military brat who learned

how to adjust to long absences, constant moves and schools without today's support channels.

"I believe this (NMSI) will generate an excitement for coursework that will elevate our studies to the next level," she said. "Having this opportunity will give me the ability to accelerate my path to a college degree and give me a competitive edge moving forward that I may not have otherwise received."

School board officer Cassandra Beverley added that military issues are near and dear to her heart. Her father retired from the military after 24 years.

"He's the reason we moved to Aber-

deen, and he sacrificed what he wanted after he retired so I could stay in school and graduate with my friends," she said. "Being in the military, you learn to embrace change. The military was my home when I didn't know where my next home was so I'm glad to see this happen. This is a big deal for my kids."

NMSI & APTIP

The grant funding provided by Boeing for AHS and DoDEA for Havre de Grace High School will provide NMSI's highly successful APTIP. Both schools submitted a grant application and NMSI conducted formal site visits and assessments to gauge focus, commitment and potential success of APTIP.

The goal of APTIP is to increase the number of students enrolled in math, science and English AP courses.

In addition, the program is designed to increase the number of students receiving qualifying scores of three or greater on AP exams. The four-tiered program incorporates teacher support (high quality, content-focused teacher training in addition to teacher mentoring and vertical teaming), student support (encouraging open enrollment and academic tutoring and study sessions), incentive awards (awards for student and teacher performance), and program management (employing expert teams and strong partners) as the proven elements of success.

Specific goals for increased AP participation and qualifying scores have been set for both schools. Accountability will be tracked and assessed by NMSI at the conclusion of each of the next three school years.

For more information, visit www.nationalmathandscience.org.

Speed dating event at Ruggles links up singles

Continued from Page 1

for single people working on post to socialize with one another."

At last week's event, area singles rotated through a series of mini dates that lasted about three minutes each. Organizers rang a bell to let participants know when to move on to the next date,

until all attendees had met one another.

At the end of the night, participants submitted to organizers compatibility ratings, noting which attendees they were interested in. Organizers then notified the person of interest via email. If it was a match, based on the expressed

interest of both parties, contact information was forwarded to both participants. No contact information was exchanged during the event.

Several attendees said it was their first foray into speed dating.

Tena Hall said she had never participating in a dating event and was hesitant about this one. She invited several friends for moral support but was the only person from her group to attend. While a little disappointed at the male turnout, Hall said she had a good time and "would definitely do it again."

"I've seen speed dating in movies and commercials but never participated in something like this," she said, laughing. "When I first arrived, I was really nervous. With the large military and civilian population at APG, I expected more male Soldiers; there were definitely more girls than guys. However, I did have a good

time and met some interesting people. I would definitely do it again."

For anyone who has never given speed dating a try, Hall said "don't knock it. I would tell them to go for it."

Event coordinator Jeannie Sippel said she was pleased with the turnout and her team will continue to improve the events, based on participant feedback.

"We are really happy with the community's response and hope some people made a connection tonight," she said immediately after the event. "We're looking into planning future events based on information we receive from our daters."

After reviewing participant comment cards the following week, event coordinator Ligia Hitch said more than a few people felt they were compatible with some of the other daters.

"We made nine mutual connections," Hitch said. "We hope they work out."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TODAY

PICERNE OPEN HOUSE

Picerne Military Housing will host an open house from 3-7 p.m. for military Families, retirees and DoD civilians at the Leasing and Relocation Center, 2727 Chesapeake Boulevard. Join us for food, fun and prizes. Picerne has immediate availability in several home types and looks forward to showing you homes and neighborhoods. On-post family housing is open to retirees, federal employees and unaccompanied service members. APG is a conveniently located gated community that offers affordable homes, professional management, great amenities, walking trails, parks, play areas and more. For information, call 877-276-6659 or visit Aberdeenpicerne.com.

FAMILY CANOETRIPS

Reservations are now being taken for Eden Mill Nature Center's family canoe trips. These trips help acquaint paddlers with the natural surroundings on Deer Creek. During these excursions, environmental 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 are provided. Season runs through Sept. 29. Cost is \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members. Pre-registration required by calling 410-836-3050 or emailing edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com. Visit www.edenmill.org.

FRIDAY

MAY 4 PICERNE OPEN HOUSE

Picerne Military Housing will host an open house for military families, retirees and DoD civilians. Join us for food, fun and prizes. Picerne has immediate availability in various home types. Check the APG News and Aberdeenpicerne.com website for additional details and reserve your home today.

QUEEN FOR A DAY SUNSET CANOE

Paddle into the sunset with mom relaxing in the queen seat, sipping a dessert tea and celebrating Mother's Day a week early on the Queen for a Day sunset canoe, 6 to 8:30 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The cost is \$25 per parent and child; \$12 per additional child or adult. 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.

27TH FALLEN HEROES DAY SET

The annual Maryland state ceremony honoring police officers and firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty during the past year, takes place at 1 p.m. at the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, 200 East Padonia Road in Timonium, Md. For more information, contact Mary Auld at 410-666-0490 or e-mail mpadvmg@hotmail.org.

SATURDAY

MAY 5 UNIVERSITY CAMPUS TOUR

A Towson University campus tour for ages 15-18 is set from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Transportation departs from APG's Youth Services Bldg. 2522 at 9 a.m. and returns at 2 p.m. Space is limited to 10 seats on a first-come basis. Teens must bring money for lunch. For info, email jay.a.mckinney.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-3250.

TRAIL TREK

Enjoy a hike along the banks of the Susquehanna River. Bring snacks and water. Registrants will be notified of the meeting location. This program is 9 a.m. to noon for ages 10 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.

LITTLE SPROUT

Use stories, crafts, and games to learn just how important seeds are while sampling some tasty seeds. This program is 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for parents and children age 3 and older. The cost is \$3 per person 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.

CINCO DE MAYO DATE NIGHT

This is a celebration for parents and the kids. Parents will board the Water Strider near sunset to savor a full moon cruise, while the children enjoy Cinco de Mayo crafts and games at the center. This program is 7 - 9 p.m. but parents can drop kids off 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per family 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.

GOLF SCRAMBLE

The Aberdeen Alumni Chapter Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. & Millennium Corporation will host its annual charity golf scramble at Ruggles Golf Course. Registration starts at 11 a.m. Shotgun start begins at 12:45 p.m. (Scramble Format). Proceeds will benefit both college bound high school seniors and a Wounded Warrior Program. For information, call 410-278-9452

SUNDAY

MAY 6 STRONG, MARIN FAREWELL

The APG Community Women's Club is hosting a farewell for Lori Borgna-Strong and Uschi Marin from 2 - 4 p.m. at Top of the Bay. Join us in wishing these ladies well as they transition from the active-military community to civilian life. Strong is the wife of recently retired CECOM Commander Maj. Gen. Randolph Strong. Marin is married to retired Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin, who most recently was RDECOM's senior non-commissioned officer. Cost is \$15, payable at the door. RSVP by April 27 to Deanna Hoppe, dmhoppe87@gmail.com, or Maria Montgomery, maritsa.montgomery@us.army.mil.

MONDAY

MAY 7 BUDGETING TEENS

A Money Matters: Budgeting Teens class for students ages 14-18 is set from 5-6 p.m. at CYSS Bldg. 2503, Room 214. Teens will learn to develop a personal budget. Register at Bldg. 2503. Walk-in registration is 7:30-10:30 a.m., or call for an appointment at 410-278-7479/7571.

TUESDAY

MAY 8 SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

Everyone is invited to the APG Community Women's Club 2012 Scholarship Reception, 5 p.m. at Ruggles Golf Course Clubhouse. Applicants from the APG community will be awarded scholarships for secondary and continuing education. To attend, email doris.m.pickerd.ctr@mail.mil by May 1.

BLUE CROSS REP VISIT

A Care First Blue Cross Blue Shield claim representative will be available from 9 - 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 314, Room 151E to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. The rep will be available from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in Bldg E4516 (CDTF). No appointment necessary. Call Teri Wright at 410-278-4331 for info.

NOW

REGISTER FOR 10K

Registration is open for this year's Armed Forces Day 10K Race at the APG North (Aberdeen) athletic center to be held May 19 at 8 a.m. Registration fees are \$25 before April 30, \$30 if purchased May 1-15 and \$35 on race day. Troops receive a \$5 discount. Registration open 6:30 a.m. on race day. Event is open to the public. Race T-shirts are limited and will be available to the first 300 entrants. Visit www.charmcityrun.com for entry forms. Visit http://www.apgmwr.com/resources/useful_resources.html for directions to APG. Call 410-278-4011 / 7934 for info.

THURSDAY

MAY 10 TEEN AUTO MAINTENANCE

Teens will learn basic automotive repairs, maintenance and necessary skills for new drivers in this free class for ages 14-18 every Thursday, through May 24 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Auto Craft Center. Classes will focus on roadside repairs, engine maintenance, and performing a basic self-inspection of vehicle. Transportation will depart Aberdeen Youth Center at 3:30 p.m. and return at 6:30 p.m. Register at Bldg. 2503, or call 410-278-7479/7571 to make an appointment. Walk-in registration is 7:30-10:30 a.m.

FRIDAY

MAY 11 SOFTBALL DEADLINE

The APG MWR Co-Ed Softball League registration deadline for the softball season, May 14-Aug. 2, is May 11. All active-duty military are free. There is a \$250 league fee per team. There is a \$20 fee for every civilian playing on a military team. League fees are due before the season begins and can be paid at the Leisure Travel Office in the Aberdeen North Recreation Center and the Stark Recreation Center.

For more information, contact the Leisure Travel Office in the Aberdeen North Recreation Center at 410-278-4011/4907, the Aberdeen North Athletic Center at 410-278-7933/7934, the Aberdeen South Hoyle Gym at 410-436-3375/7134, or email usarmy.APG.imcom-fmwrc.list.usag-mwr-sports@mail.mil.

SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY

Picerne Military Housing residents are invited to stop by the Neighborhood Office to pick up a great gift, enjoy light refreshments and enter to win a date night package for two in celebration of Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Residents can stop by at their convenience during regular business hours for a chance to be the lucky winner of a \$100 gift card to Applebee's restaurant and a \$25 AMC gift card. Winners will be announced May 14 at 9 a.m. For information, call 410-305-1076.

WEEKEND

MAY 12 - 13 MIEVEAL DAYS

Steppingstone Museum will host Medieval Days from noon - 5 p.m. at the Steppingstone Farm Museum at 461 Quaker Bottom Road in Susquehanna State Park, near Havre de Grace. Events include medieval encampment, heavy weapons fighting, period craft demonstrations and music, equestrian activities, trebuchet arts and sciences, archery, crafts, games, food and more. Admission is \$5 for adults, children 12 and under and members are free. Come dressed in your favorite medieval costume. For information, call (410) 939-2299 / 888-419-1762/, email steppingstonemuseum@msn.com or visit www.steppingstonemuseum.org

MONDAY

MAY 14 ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD BUS TOUR

The Harford Historical Society will host a bus trip to Antietam Battlefield, the site of an epic Civil War battle near the Maryland/West Virginia border. The cost is \$75 per person, which includes travel to and from the battlefield, coffee and snacks on the bus, entrance fee to the park, on-bus tour guide and lunch at the Tusing Warehouse, a restored historic site. The bus will leave from the Exit 74 park-and-ride at Route 152 (Mountain Road) and I-95 promptly at 8:30 a.m. To reserve seats send a check with your name to the Historical Society of Harford County, 143 Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

THURSDAY

MAY 17 CMA END OF OPERATIONS

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency marked the end of its stockpile operations, destroying nearly 90 percent of the United States' declared chemical agent stockpile. A formal ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility (CDTF) at APG South (Edgewood). The event recognizes this achievement for CMA and the workforce. It is open to the APG workforce. For information, contact the CMA Public Affairs Office at 410-436-3629 or hqcmmapo@apgea.army.mil

CHESAPEAKE SAME MEETING

The Chesapeake Society of American Military Engineers will meet at the Wetlands Golf Club beginning with an 11:30 a.m. sign up/networking, followed by a noon luncheon. The featured speaker is John Resta, director of the U.S. Army Public Health Command. The topic is an update on the Army Public Health Command. Visit http://www.same-chesapeake.org/Reservations/Reservations_09.htm for reservations.

SATURDAY

JUNE 23 COCKTAIL GALA

The community is invited to the 2012 Support Our Heroes Gala from 6-10 p.m. at the Bulle Rock Residents Center, 1200 Bulle Rock Parkway, Havre De Grace, MD 21078. Tickets are \$100 per person. This cocktail gala is to honor and demonstrate our support for our military heroes. Enjoy food, entertainment, dancing and traditional silent and art auctions with proceeds donated to the Fisher House Foundation. For information on tickets, RSVPs or sponsorship, visit www.support-our-heroes.com. The corporate sponsorship reception is 4:30-6 p.m., by invitation only.

Healthy Living

www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/ click on Well Being

In honor of National Infant Immunization Week, April 21-28, Lt. Col. Ellen Daly, commander of the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic commander, urges parents to keep their children's vaccines up to date.

"Immunizations have helped children remain healthy for more than 60 years," said Daly. "They are still needed as many of these diseases occur widespread in other countries and are brought over to the United States."

Daly said chicken pox is still very prevalent in the United States.

"According to the statistics from the American Academy of Pediatrics, one out of every 500 children are hos-

pitalized from chicken pox, and four out of every 100,000 infants who get chickenpox die," Daly said.

She said vaccines are safe and severe reactions are extremely rare.

Questions about immunizations should be addressed with your primary care provider at Kirk health clinic.

For the latest health news, services and opportunities, visit the APG homepage and click the Health Promotion icon in the bottom right corner. <http://www.apg.army.mil/>



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

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 Trans-

fer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For info, contact Cathy Davis at 410-306-0152 or cathy.a.davis4.civ@mail.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Patricia Adams	Melissa Edwards	Carolyn Moore
Audrey Alba	John Eppinger	Uyen Ngo
Roberta	Melanie Espich	Theresa Padron
Brown-Thurman	Marian Friedman	Stephanie Parrett
(Fort Huachuca)	Paula Friedman	Linda Patrick
Olivia Burnette	Carol Gardner	Rhonda Riley
Adrienne Crelin	Shawn Heinlein	Pedro Rodriguez
Stephen Debellis	Sarah Ingram	Lena Shelton
Karen Dozier	Heather Jackson	Robynn Squires
Charlene Drumheller	Mark Johnson	Samuel Tims

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>.



RINGSIDE ACTION

More than 300 community members turned out to watch International Championship wrestlers battle it out April 28 at the APG North Athletic Center, courtesy of Army Entertainment and APG's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. The night's matches consisted of five bouts, including two men's and one women's singles matches, a tag-team round and the main event with (pictured) Shawn Daivari wrestling Doink the Clown.

Photo by Jason Dominguez

CONGRATS

Courtney Payne, a computer engineer with the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, poses backstage with her trophy after placing fourth in her first bodybuilding competition at the Burlington Performing Arts Center in Burlington, N.J., April 21. The 2012 OCB (Organization of Competitive Bodybuilders) Beyond Nutrition Natural Contest was Payne's first competition since taking up bodybuilding a few months ago. She competed in the Debut Figure category. Payne said she works out daily with free weights and other muscle-toning equipment at APG South's Hoyle Gym.

Courtesy photo



Photo by Rachel Ponder

HATS OFF TO MILITARY KIDS

(From left) Three-year-olds Marleigh Williams, Ogheneruno Okoro, and Melody Turner show off hats made by program lead Margaret Dougherty during "Crazy Hat & Hair Day" April 18 at the APG North (Aberdeen) child development center. During April, APG CDCs and youth centers celebrated Month of the Military Child with special activities.



Photo by Terri Kaltenbacher

GIVE IT A SHOT

(From right) A young community member, with the help of volunteer teacher Jerry Johnson, tries his hand at archery during the Aberdeen Archery Club open house April 28. APG's Family and MWR Outdoor Recreation program is planning introductory skills programs for adults and youth, as well as leagues and other archery events for the summer. For information, call 410-278-4124, email zachary.r.vanleave2.naf@mail.mil, or visit www.apgmwr.com.



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

TAKING OUT THE 'TAKE BACK'

Timothy Knox, ASAP manager and Mike (Big Mike) Farlow, DES community policing officer, load 100 pounds of expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs at DES Headquarters April 28 for turn-in as part of the National Prescription Take-Back Campaign April 23 - 27 at five sites on APG. Farlow said the total weight was a big increase over last year. "The difference was having convenient drop-off points on both sides of the installation," he said.