



Community to honor Armed Forces

By **LYNN WITKOWSKI**
APG News

Monday marks the beginning of a weeklong celebration to demonstrate appreciation for America's armed forces, and recognition throughout the week of the area's own "Heroes on the Home Front."

The celebration begins with a golf tournament Monday and veterans luncheon Tuesday, then highlights the diverse missions performed at Aberdeen Proving Ground with the Armed Forces Day open house Wednesday, May 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., on the grounds of the APG Museum.

The opening ceremony at 10 a.m. will feature performances by the Chapel Hill Elementary School choir and the Southhampton Middle School band.

Raymund "Dimo" Dimatulac, plans and operations specialist for Garrison APG, said the event is "a fun day to celebrate with our armed services."

"This is our opportunity to honor our service members, their Families and our retirees," he said. "Our leadership asked us to show the entire community the work that goes on at APG every day. APG is a vital link to the success of our nation's military."

He said a total of 36 displays from more than two dozen installation organizations are slated for the event. Also planned are demonstrations

See **SHUTTLE**, page 8

Local widows set to start Gold Star Wives chapter

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Thanks to four local women, APG may soon be home to a Gold Star Wives chapter.

Annette Sanders, Survivor Outreach Services support coordinator, is working with local widows of service members to help get the chapter off the ground. Gold Star Wives of

America, Inc., is a nonprofit national service organization made up of widows/widowers whose spouses died while serving in the armed forces, as a result of service-connected disabilities or in armed conflicts involving U.S. forces.

The organization was incorporated in 1945 and granted a federal charter by Congress in 1980. Members of

Gold Star Wives appear before House and Senate committees on issues concerning compensation, educational benefits, medical care and other programs pertaining to the welfare of military survivors.

Sanders, while not directly involved with the chapter, will help set up the group. As the installation's SOS support coordinator, Sanders said this is just an extension of what she does every day on the job—

See **GOLD WIVES**, page 11

GOLD STAR WIVES OF AMERICA, INC.



Photo by Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst

A journey for our vets

David McClung (third from left) and other cyclists rode 350 miles in six days in honor of wounded veterans during the Ride 2 Recovery Texas Challenge. "I truly believe that a lot of Americans want to help wounded warriors," said McClung, who raised more than \$10,000 to benefit vets. "If you give them the opportunity, they will rise to the occasion. That's what Ride 2 Recovery does." While training for the event, he clocked more than 100 hours—totaling 1,785 miles in preparation for the Texas Challenge. **READ THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 10.**

Motorcyclists urged to join Iron Horse Rally

May is National Motorcycle Safety Month

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

The APG community is invited to attend the 2012 APG Iron Horse Motorcycle Safety Rally Thursday, May 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the MWR Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. B2184 (behind U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command Headquarters Bldg. 2202).

Non-riders and outdoor enthusiasts are encouraged to join in the festivities. Training bikes will be on hand for new or potential riders who want to get the feel of riding. Competition, door prizes, displays and food vendors will be available, an MWR Summer Programs and Services Expo with a rental equipment display will have details on

upcoming trips and events. For rally participants, motorcycle safety information will include free safety inspections prior to the Group Ride — a 50-mile scenic route that includes a stop at the Darlington Harley Davidson, and ends at the American

See **SAFETY**, page 10

Soldier Show returns to APG June 1

By **ROBERT DOZIER**
U.S. Army IMCOM

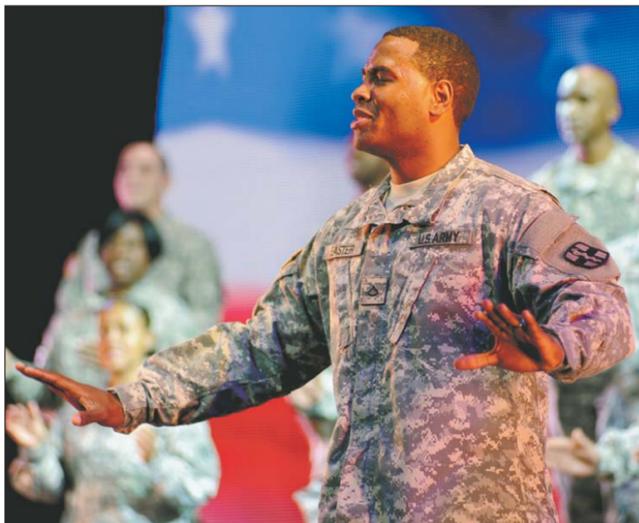
This year's U.S. Army Soldier Show, "Army Strong," returns to Aberdeen Proving Ground. Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III and wife attended the 2012 opening at Fort Sam Houston and gave the performance a thumbs-up.

"I've seen a whole bunch of Army Soldier Shows in my career, and this is without a doubt the best Soldier Show I've seen," said Chandler in an interview after the performance. "Just a positive, uplifting performance by a bunch of kids doing an absolutely amazing job."

See **SOLDIERS**, page 11

Pfc. Justin Easter of Fort Bliss, Texas, rehearses for the 2012 U.S. Army Soldier Show at Fort Sam Houston Theatre in San Antonio on March 30. APG will host the show for two performances June 1.

Photo by Tim Hipps



FCC offers child care in a home setting

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Finding a trusted child care provider is one of the most important decisions parents make.

APG's Family Child Care program offer parents another option—child care in the family environment of a provider's home.

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WEATHER

Thurs.



68° | 47°

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Kansas, Boston and Grand Funk concert tickets go on pre-sale May 14. Concert slated Aug. 11. Find out more info on this and other area happenings.

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STREET TALK

“Heroes on the Home Front” is the theme for the 2012 Armed Forces Week. How do YOU define a hero?

Heroes put others before themselves. My mom, who was a teacher, is my hero. I think teachers are the most underrated heroes. I think they deserve to get paid as much as professional athletes. They spend all day with our children and get little appreciation in return. They are teaching the future of this country.



Denise Hughes
Retired military
MRICD contractor

Heroic people are naturally drawn to professions where they can help others. They will put their lives on the line to help a stranger and will do anything for a comrade. They don't do it for the compensation they receive. They receive satisfaction from helping others.



Beth Carney
Retired Family
member

You find many heroes in the military community. I think a hero is someone who puts the needs of others above their own personal needs. People usually recognize Soldiers for being heroes. I think military spouses are heroes too because they are given the task of maintaining the home and taking care of the children while their husband or wife is deployed. Military children are also heroes and make daily sacrifices for their country.



Staff Sgt. Carlos Vasquez
CECOM

A hero is someone willing to sacrifice their own well-being for their country. Heroes go above and beyond what is required.



Sgt. 1st Class Charles Zack
Army National
Guard Recruiting
and Retention
Battalion

OPINION

A father's pride in son's service

While flying on United Airlines last week, I overheard a telephone conversation from a gentleman seated directly behind me. His words went something like this: “Although today was an extremely sad day for me - it was absolutely the happiest day of my life, and I am proud to be an American.”

This gentleman went on to talk about a funeral he attended in South Carolina, and specifically gave great kudos to the U.S. Army for the professionalism displayed at this service. He went into great detail about the funeral service itself and how it was conducted. He went on to say that Jeremiah really enjoyed serving in the Army, and now, he clearly understood why.

My ears immediately perked up when I overheard him talk about the Army in such a positive way. He boasted about the general who presented the flags to him and his Family, the sharp-looking Soldiers of the salute battery, the sounds of taps, how the Soldiers stood at attention for such a long period of time, how the military paid for his Family to fly to South Carolina, the number of letters and calls he received from Jeremiah's command, how the Red Cross assisted, and so on. He could not say enough great things about our Army.

I quickly pulled a two-star card from my briefcase and wrote him a thank-you note for his kind words about our Army. He had no clue I was in the Army since I was in civilian clothes. Within seconds, he tapped me on the shoulder and with tears in his eyes proceeded to tell me the rest of the story.

The gentleman's name is Robert Wittman. He was flying with his entire Family: wife, son, daughter, Mom, Dad, grandparents and friends. They were carrying home the cremat-

Bottom line: Although the Family was saddened by the loss of their son, they were all proud to be associated with the U.S. Army.

ed remains of his son, Sgt. Jeremiah T. Wittman of the 4th Infantry Division, who was killed in Afghanistan on Feb. 13.

Dad told me that Jeremiah already had two tours in Iraq and ultimately gave his life in Afghanistan. While in Iraq the first time, Jeremiah's vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device, and several of his buddies were severely injured. He went on to say that his son truly loved the Army and did what he did from the heart.

His dad was a proud man. He did say that he often wondered why his son stayed in the Army after his initial attack in Iraq. Now that he saw the U.S. Army in action at the funeral, he said - as he had on the phone earlier - that he now understands why.

Dad proudly held up the urn and boasted about how beautiful it was, and he continued to brag about the Army for all to hear. The folks around him listened with big ears and inspiration.

I must admit, although it really was a beautiful urn and a wonderful Army story - it brought a slight tear to my eye, as I, too, have a son - a captain in the 82nd Airborne Division - serving in Afghanistan, and this moment hit home.

Bottom line: Although the Family was saddened by the loss of their son, they were all proud to be associated with the U.S. Army. I could see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices.

Why? Simply because of the way they were treated by our Army Family at the funeral. The 4th ID leadership and others involved did it up right and made a positive, lifetime-lasting impact with this Family. Great job!

To top off a memorable flight, when the aircraft came to a halt the pilot announced, “Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. Among us today is a great American Soldier named Sgt. Jeremiah Wittman, killed in action on 13 February. Our deepest sympathy, respect and sorrow go out to the Wittman Family. We ask that you honor Sergeant Wittman - our fallen hero - the entire Wittman Family and our armed forces by remaining seated and allowing the Family to depart the aircraft first.”

At that moment, you could have heard a pin drop in the aircraft, but within seconds, everyone on the aircraft was clapping as the Family departed on their way.

The Family departed feeling special and honored. I sat there proud to be an American Soldier.

Maj. Gen. Kurt J. Stein
Special to American Forces Press Service

(Maj. Gen. Kurt J. Stein is the commanding general of U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. This article was originally published by American Forces Press Service in March 2010.)

Stress and depression: Is there a connection?

Stress is good for you. It keeps you alert, motivates you helps you “get the job done.”

Yet, too much stress can lead to depression in susceptible people. Positive events like getting married or moving to a new duty assignment can be stressful and may lead to depression. Yet, about 10 percent of people suffer from depression without the trigger of a stressful event.

Sustained chronic stress leads to elevated hormones such as cortisol, the “stress hormone” and reduced serotonin and other neurotransmitters in the brain, including dopamine, which has been linked to depression.

When these chemical systems are working properly, they regulate biological processes like sleep, appetite, energy and sex drive, and permit the expression of normal moods and emotions.

When the stress response fails to shut off and reset after a stressful situation has passed, it can lead to depression in susceptible people.

The connection between stress and depression is complex and circular. People who are stressed often neglect healthy lifestyle practices. They may smoke, drink more than normal and

neglect regular exercise.

“Being stressed out leads to behaviors and patterns that in turn can lead to a chronic stress burden and increase the risk of major depression”, said Bruce McEwen, PhD, author of “The End of Stress as We Know It.”

Stress and depression don't need to take over our lives. We can combat these symptoms with some healthy lifestyle changes, increase our immunity, metabolism and build resiliency.

1. Exercise: Experts recommend 30 minutes of moderate exercise 5 times a week. Exercise produces chemicals in the body that boost your mood and stimulate hormones and neurotransmitters, including endorphins, that can help reduce stress.

2. Strong, supportive relationships: Isolation is a risk factor for depression. Having someone to talk to and to listen can make the difference.

3. Yoga, prayer, meditation, psychotherapy: Finding inner peace, the ability to be still and focus you energy inward gives you a greater sense of self and purpose.

4. Eating well and not drinking too much alcohol:

Your body is an amazing machine. If you give it the correct fuel, it will continue to keep you moving. The energy you need or desire comes from the food you eat. “Junk food” is called that for a reason. Alcohol, although it may give you a good feeling in the beginning, is actually a depressant.

5. Making time for yourself: Schedule time off, vacations.

Enjoy a hobby or explore your surroundings. Breaks of at least 10 days have been shown to be more beneficial in reducing stress, but any time away from a stressful event is helpful.

6. Sleep: Get ready for sleep just like you get ready for work. Take a warm bath or shower to help you relax. Drink a warm beverage (no alcohol or caffeine as this will defeat the purpose). Turn off all lights and devices like computers, TV, put the smart phone away. It is recommended that adults get from six to eight hours of sleep a night.

Wendy L. Witmer, LCSW
Chief, Behavioral Health Care Service

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



68°|47°

Fri



71°|53°

Sat



76°|58°

Sun



77°|62°

Mon



72°|60°

Tue



73°|61°

Wed



75°|61°

APG NEWS

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Lopez becomes ATEC's first master gunner

ATEC Public Affairs

Sgt. 1st Class Jessie Lopez earned the unique distinction of being the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command's first noncommissioned officer to complete the Bradley Master Gunner Course April 13 at Fort Benning, Ga.

The Bradley Master Gunner Course, first taught in 1983, is a rigorous 14-week course that teaches subjects such as turret operations, weapons system training, preliminary gunnery, and target engagement. NCOs who complete the course assist unit leaders in planning and implementing gunnery training and serve as the commander's subject matter expert on all issues related to the Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

Course completion benefits both the Soldier and the command, but course preparation and completion didn't come easy for the 15-year Army veteran.

"This was the most challenging school in my 15 years in the military," said Lopez. "It required a lot of studying on my part that would take me into the early hours of the next day."

Lopez prepared for the course by attending the Warrior Training Center's Pre-Master Gunner Course, an intense three-week course focusing on maintenance training procedures, gunnery training on advanced gunnery methodology, and gunnery training management, which assesses a unit's gunnery proficiency level.

"The hardest part of the course was the Short Range Training Plan. We had to develop a plan for a battalion to execute a Bradley Gunnery," he said,

noting the project was so intense his team worked

hours on end with little sleep to complete it.

All that studying and planning will pay off not only for Lopez, but his command.

"Sergeant First Class Lopez's completion of the course provides us with a unique subject matter expert within our ranks," said Col. Jeffrey Holt, commander of the Aberdeen Test Center, ATEC. "He will advise test officers on test planning and also assist in development of our training plans for our combat vehicle testers."

As the lead Department of Defense test center for land combat systems, it is no longer sufficient for ATEC to simply execute world class technical testing, said Holt. As ATEC moves to an integrated testing model, it requires the most current understanding of individual and crew training programs, and a strong understanding of how the Bradley and M1 Abrams are employed in combat.

According to Holt, Lopez will help fill those gaps and provide an even greater senior NCO perspective to the command's technical skills.

"Sergeant First Class Lopez is an extraordinary Soldier. With only two NCOs on our team, we routinely ask [him] and Sergeant First Class Corey Brandon to tackle a broad range of projects, from testing to infrastructure to personnel; they do it all," said Holt.

"They also keep our workforce in touch with their ultimate customer – the American Soldier."



U.S. Army photo

With the help of a translator, Sgt. 1st Class Jessie Lopez (center) explains to his Iraqi counterpart what areas his unit will search for weapons caches and what areas will be avoided because of increased booby traps set by insurgents.

Edgewood Contracting Division establishes early cutoff dates for 2012 procurement requests

Edgewood Contracting Division news release

The Edgewood Contracting Division (ECD) – part of the Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground – provides contract support for APG South (Edgewood).

The following guidance is published to highlight the established Fiscal Year 2012 cutoff dates for submission of purchase requests for those customers receiving contract support through the ECD.

Advance planning in identifying and submitting PRs on or before the published cutoff dates greatly enhances the ability of the ECD to meet customer needs.

The peak processing time for most contracting offices is between July 1 and Sept. 30 of each fiscal year and it is no different for ECD.

“Last year ECD processed 528 procurement actions during the July through September time period,” said Ruby

Mixon, chief of ECD Policy Office. “Although funding constraints will impact the number of actions anticipated to be processed during the same period this year, it is still extremely important that customers identify their needs as early in the cycle as possible to avoid the year end rush.”

Equally as important is the submission of complete procurement packages.

“Incomplete packages delay the process,” said Mixon. “It is essential that upfront coordination with the appropriate contracting officer takes place. This will ensure that all purchase request packages contain the necessary documents and approvals in order to avoid delays in processing awards.”

Until customers transition to GFEBs, purchase requests must continue to be submitted electronically to the ECD using the shared email [usarmy.APG.acc.mbx.edgewood-contracting-division@](mailto:usarmy.APG.acc.mbx.edgewood-contracting-division@mail.mil)

mail.mil, said Mixon.

Notwithstanding prior approved milestones, the cutoff dates for new procurement requests are as follows*:

- Noncommercial items over \$150,000 – July 1**
 - Services over \$150,000 – July 1**
 - Commercial items between \$150,000 and \$6.5 million – July 30
 - Delivery orders and task orders under existing contracts – Aug. 2
 - GSA schedule procurements – Aug. 8
 - Commercial items under \$150,000 – Aug. 15
 - Short-of-Award actions – June 15***
- * All actions that require a justification and approval document prior to processing must be submitted by July 1.
- ** There may be instances where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. These actions must be coordinated

with the Branch Chief prior to this date.

***Customers submitting “short-of-award” Requirements must consider whether funding will materialize. Time spent processing these actions can be better utilized on funded actions.

“ECD will make every effort to accommodate those customers whose procurement packages are submitted after the established cutoff dates,” said Mixon. “However, there is no guarantee that the award will be processed prior to Sept. 30.”

For more information, contact:

Jerry Taulbee, Branch A (ECBC, ACWA & CMA Customers) at gerald.h.aulbee.civ@mail.mil, 410-436-2449;

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Richard Simmons offers tips for APG Spring Challenge participants

By **WENDY LAROCHE**

Health Promotion Officer

APG Community Health Promotion Council

Garrison APG's Spring Into Wellness Challenge participants received an unexpected call from renowned fitness personality Richard Simmons during their weekly Lunch and Learn session May 8.

Simmons shared weight stories and personal experience with attendees.

"I made peace with food," Simmons said.

He added he was a compulsive eater who had a daily battle with overeating, bingeing and starving himself to lose the extra pounds. At age 8, he weighed 200 pounds, attributing his excessive weight to his upbringing. Today at age 64, he weighs 134 pounds.

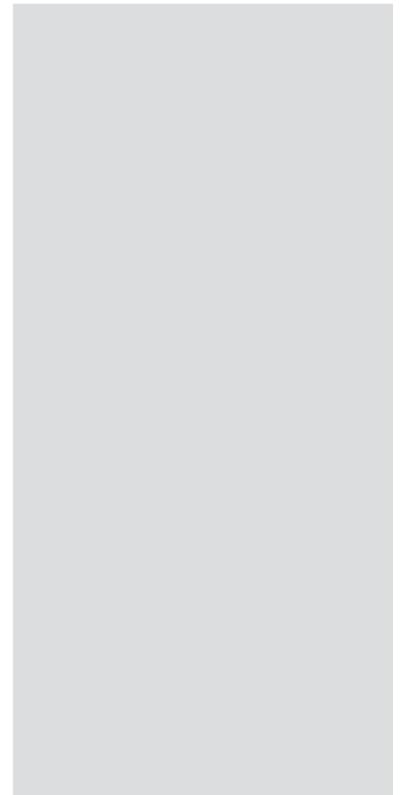
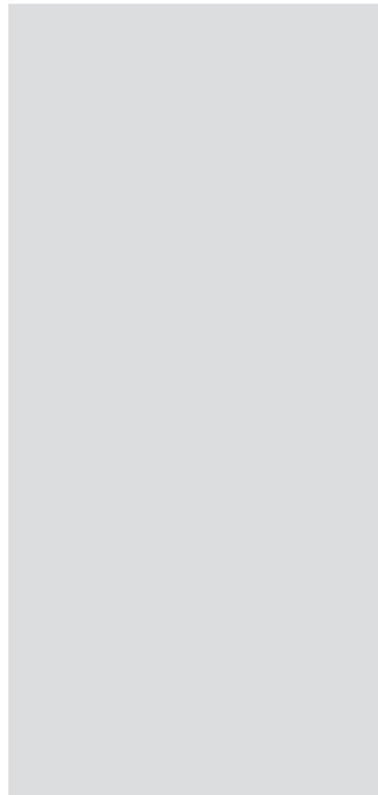
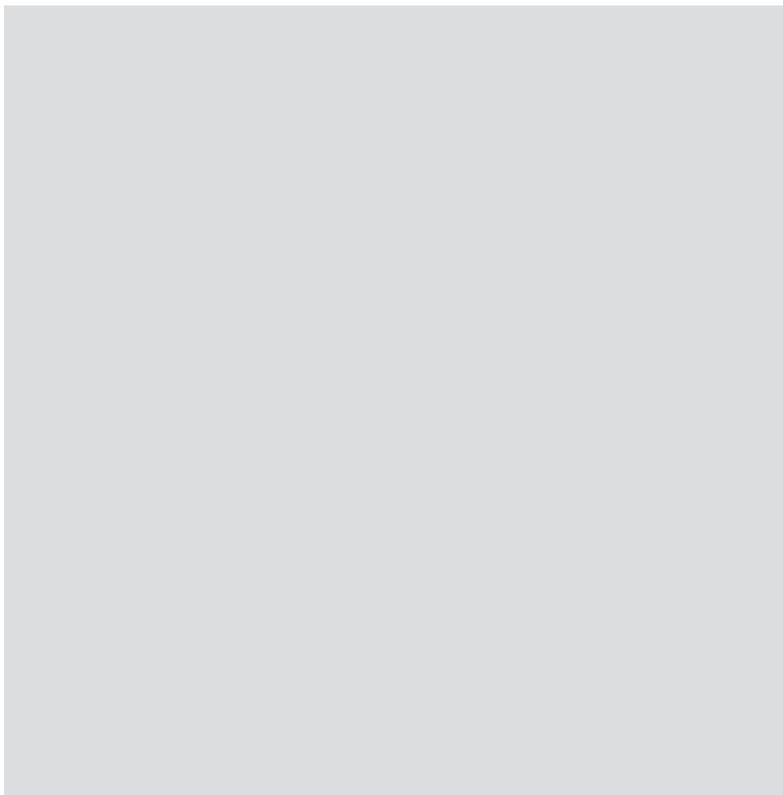
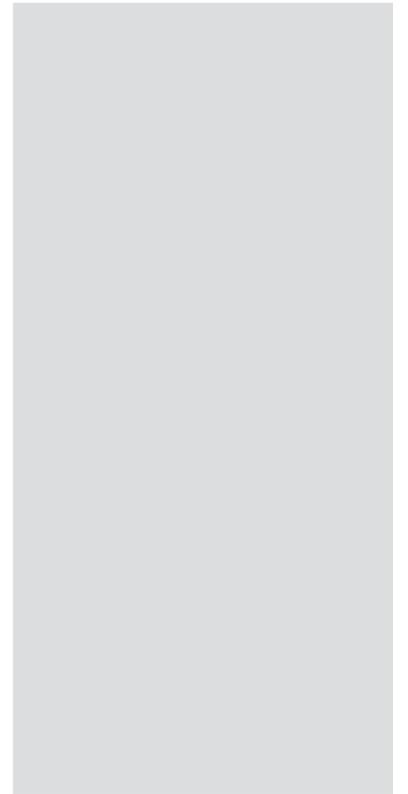
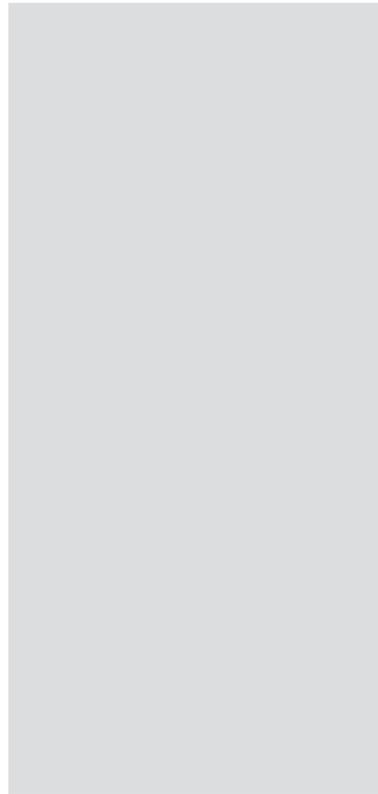
"I lost weight the unsafe way, through eating disorders," he admitted.

He said healthy eating and regular exercise are the safest methods to

weight loss, and self-worth gives people the freedom to make time to accomplish their goals.

Simmons also suggested the following tips:

1. Make a list of the foods that are good for you.
2. When grocery shopping, only bring home foods that are on your list.
3. Have no love affair with food, especially when you are depressed.
4. Be consistent with food choices.
5. Dance! Movement is essential.
6. Understand your self-worth. If you are gone, think of the people who will miss you.
7. Give yourself an hour! Dedicate one hour to reenergize, build yourself up and improve your heart and lungs.
8. Avoid eating late at night.
9. Say goodbye to sodas.
10. Eat breakfast.
11. Do your morning stretches.
12. Try not to eat out more than four times a month.



ECBC, with FBI and Homeland Security, make STEM lessons real

ECBC Public Affairs

Subject matter experts (SME) from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Laboratory collaborated for a teacher professional training. They immersed 17 Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS) middle school teachers in Math Forensics April 12-14.

This first-ever educational outreach collaboration between the three organizations was part of the Center's Adopt-an-SME initiative that is sponsored by the National Defense Education Program and aims to connect local science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) educators with ECBC scientists and engineers.

SMEs that supported this trail-blazing training work in federal research and development laboratories, where they apply basic and advanced math to tackle real-world challenges every day. Therefore, they are optimal resources for teachers in terms of conveying and reinforcing mathematical concepts for students in a relevant context, such as forensics.

"I was very surprised that there are so many applications for the math I am teaching," said CCPS middle school teacher Alli Graham. "It was revealing to see how an equation can help identify [the quantity and quality of] an unknown sample."

In an effort to help educators prepare their students for college and future careers, scientists and engineers gave interactive presentations and engaged teachers in laboratory activities. The content and methods they offered during the training were designed to assist teachers with the development and implementation of compelling math lessons that will soon be based on Common Core State Standards.

"What a great experience to meet real [Army] scientists and engineers that helped us make the connection between math and real-life missions," said CCPS Middle School Teacher Paula Pleasanton.



Photo by Jennifer Carroll

Middle School teachers from Cecil County Public Schools become students during three-day "Math Forensics" professional training and apply math during the "Quantitative Analysis of Evidence" activity led by ECBC Chemist Brandon Bruey (right).

"I look forward to using today's presenters as future guest speakers in my classroom."

On the first day, math-focused presentations and laboratory activities were held at ECBC facilities for teachers to experience state-of-the-art technologies and equipment. Teachers had the opportunity to conduct Quantitative Analysis of Evidence at the Center's Sample Receipt Facility, which is currently non-operational. Then they visited the Protection Factor Test Facility to learn about the using math when testing military respiratory protection.

"I can already think of numerous ways to tie this experience into my lesson on chemical formulas," Pleasanton added. "For example, I would like to use Nerve Agent Analysis as an exercise to apply chemistry."

The FBI provided an experience that showed how to use math to identify of an unknown substance, while DHS focused on the application of math when assessing the impact of cross contamination.

During the following two days, ECBC scientists brought mathematical applications to life, using emerging disciplines such as Raman Spectroscopy, Air Forensics and White Powder Analysis.

According to CCPS STEM Coordinator Frank Cardo, "this training was the best they've received thus far," adding that he believes teachers and their students will greatly benefit from this experience.

Phillip Wilcox, an electrical engineer at ECBC that supported this event, commended the enthusiasm of participating teachers and said he feels reassured by their talents and skills.

"My son will be entering the Cecil County public school system in a few years, and it's great to know that he'll be in the hands of a caring and enthusiastic group of teachers," Wilcox said.

Other presenters included ECBC Research Biologist Calvin Chue, Ph.D.; ECBC Chemist Brandon Bruey; ECBC Engineering Technician Christopher Druyor; ECBC Chemist Jennifer Exelby; ECBC Program Management Team Chief and Business Manager for the Operations Division Tom Rosso; ECBC Chemist Julius Owens; ECBC Chemical Engineer Steven Yurechko; DHS Researcher Dennis Howell; as well as FBI Chemist and Forensic Examiner James Peterson.

Visit <http://bit.ly/149bWX> for more photos. For more information about ECBC, visit <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/>.

Lean Six project savings estimated at \$37 M, aids in fight against insurgents

By **BRANDON POLLACHEK**
PEO IEW&S PAO

The daunting task of stopping insurgents from using their No. 1 killing option—radio-controlled IEDs—was a major focus for the Army as it quickly developed numerous Counter Radio Controlled IED (CREW) jammers to smother the threat.

After meeting the challenge of delivering systems into Iraq and Afghanistan, it was apparent that a number of efficiencies could be implemented to create greater continuity and save money.

That is where Clarissa Lane, Project Manager Electronic Warfare chief, Readiness Management Division; and her Lean Six Sigma (LSS) project, estimated to save approximately \$37.7 million, came into play.

Two years ago in theater there were multiple versions of jammers, complete with their own sets of field support representatives (FSR) to handle installation and systems maintenance.

"Several Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) support the CREW Program as there are mounted, dismounted and fixed-site variants of the CREW system," said Lane. "Each OEM provides a contractor logistics support package. This support typically includes FSR support and usually that FSR comes at a higher rate because he or she is considered a subject matter expert."

At the time there were more than 180 FSRs being used for the multiple variations of jammers, with requests pouring in for more systems as the surge in Afghanistan moved into full swing.

To efficiently meet the increased demand, Lane was directed to develop an LSS project for CREW support.

LSS combines the principles of Lean (reducing and eliminating non-value activities) with Six Sigma (reducing variation and increasing quality) to improve process effectiveness and efficiency. The process by which LSS is applied in Army projects is known as Define-Measure-Analyze-Improve-Control. DMAIC is a structured problem-solving process through which a team logically defines a problem; develops and implements solutions linked to



Photo by Jill Kanuchok

Field Support Representatives at CREW University train on installation techniques of CREW systems on a vehicle. Utilizing a Lean Six Sigma approach, the Army is saving more than \$37 million by training FSRs to cover the CREW family of systems and Gunshot Detection.

underlying causes; and establishes control measures to make sure the solutions stay in place.

"This project was twofold. Our first goal involved transitioning CREW FSRs from stove-piped, product-focused OEM support to a mix of organic and contractor capability-focused support," said Lane. "Our second goal involved collaborating across PEO IEW&S and cross-sharing with PdM Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR)."

FSRs for IED jammers are now trained on all variants of the CREW system which greatly reduced the number of personnel needed to ensure protection against radio controlled IEDs. As an added bonus the product manager for Forward Looking Infrared reached out to the CREW office to ask that CREW FSRs also be trained to maintain gunshot detection systems.

Gunshot Detection is a passive acoustic gunshot detection system that uses a bullet's shockwave and muzzle blast to determine the relative position of the shooter. The Counter-Sniper can be used as a stand-alone system and is integrated into the Vanguard counter-sniper system.

The Gunshot Detection FSRs were previously only located in major hubs in Afghanistan and as such had to be set up as fly-away teams that visited smaller forward operating bases (FOBs) and contingency operating bases (COBs) throughout the area of operation in order to perform maintenance on systems.

"Prior to teaming with CREW, PdM FLIR used a fly-away team support concept for Gunshot Detection. As we all know, travel throughout Afghanistan is a challenge. If you had a Gunshot Detection issue at a FOB, FSRs were required to travel to the system location, repair the system, and return to their point of origin," said Lane. "CREW is supported out of five Regional Support Centers (RSCs) and 26 FOBs," said Lane. "Instead of the fly-away team wasting four to six days in non-value added time traveling to repair the system, a reduced number of FSRs are now co-located at the CREW RSCs and FOBs. Additionally, FLIR has increased support, because the CREW FSRs can also support Gunshot Detection."

Prior to leaving FOBs on missions

FSRs are able to ensure CREW and Gunshot Detection systems are loaded and operating properly. The FSRs rely on training that they receive on CREW systems at the CREW University at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and on Gunshot Detection Systems at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Teaming with CREW was the absolute right thing to do as our FSR missions are platform centric and very similar," said Lt. Col. William (Matt) Russell, product manager, Forward Looking Infrared. "This teaming was a no-brainer due to the efficiencies that would be gained, funding saved and support increased across my portfolio if I teamed with CREW. FLIR and CREW are continuing this effort and branching it out to other program efforts, as this is a win-win for Soldiers, both programs and our taxpayers."

The LSS project is estimated to save approximately \$37.7 million.

"By working within my product office alone, she has saved millions while maintaining the same level of support our Soldiers in harm's way need. Clarissa has been able to cross train organic field service representatives supporting five separate products to all work together," noted Lt. Col. Bruce Ryba, product manager, CREW. "Then you look across the other product offices and other Program Executive Offices, and there are millions more in savings she has provided. The efficiencies gained through this project are exactly what our Soldiers and our taxpayers need!"

Lane suggested this model can be used throughout the PEO and within other organizations starting first with in-house solutions. "We are optimizing FSR support across PM Electronic Warfare by cross-leveraging FSRs to support Quick Reaction Capability programs for PdM CREW, PD Raven Fire and PdM Prophet," said Lane. "We are multi-functional within our O-6 level Electronic Warfare office as well as supporting PdM FLIR. We are fully optimizing our FSRs and theater infrastructure and there is potential for other O-6 PMs to take a similar approach to reduce field support costs."

How are we doing? E-mail comments and suggestions for the APG News to the editor at adriane.c.foss.civ@mail.mil

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TODAY 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.

SATURDAY MAY 12 SPRING BIRD COUNT

The object of the day is to count all birds on the land, water and in the sky. This includes a bird count with Phil Powers (easy hike); Bring your own lunch to the Pontoon Pier; the bird count continues on the pontoon boat. This program 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. Cost 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.

MEDIEVAL 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. The event continues May 13.

SUNDAY MAY 13 KIDS-N-KAYAKS

Enjoy an afternoon kayaking with the kids while taking a leisurely paddle around Otter Point Creek and learning about the marsh. This program is 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 5 to adult. The cost is \$10 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.

MONDAY MAY 14 ANTIETAM 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.

KANSAS, BOSTON, GRAND FUNK TICKETS TO GO ON SALE

APG MWR and Army Entertainment present Boston with special guests Kansas and Grand Funk Railroad Aug. 11. Presale tickets will be sold to the APG community May 14-26 for \$25 at the APG recreation centers. Walk-in only. For information, call 410-278-4011 or 410-436-2713.

WEDNESDAY MAY 16 FREE CULTURAL MOVIES

For Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, bring your lunch and broaden your awareness during cultural movie presentations. Feature films are Discovering Hawaii at the APG North recreation center, Classroom 104, and South Pacific at APG South's 22nd Chemical Battalion (TE) Classroom, Bldg. E-1942, May 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 1300

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 hqcmmapao@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. Visit http://www.same-chesapeake.org/Reservations/Reservations_09.htm for reservations.

FRIDAY MAY 18 THE FINTON FORMULA FUN VISITING SCIENTIST SERIES

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

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

SATURDAY MAY 19 ZUMBATHON

The League of United Latin American Citizens Maryland Councils invites the community to attend LULAC's ZUMBATHON and State Convention 2012 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Havre de Grace Activity Center, 351 Lewis Lane, Havre de Grace. Donation is \$15 (in advance) or \$20 at the door. Door prizes, food sampling, silent auction and more.

WEDNESDAY MAY 23 ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER'S HERITAGE OBSERVANCE SET

Join Team APG for an educational and cultural experience at 10:30 a.m. at the APG recreation center. This event is free to military and civilian employees of APG. Guest speaker is Terry Shima, executive director of the Japanese American Veterans Association. There will be entertainment, displays, exhibits, and food sampling.

If an individual or organization would like to set up a display table or exhibits in support of the observance, call Master Sgt. William Craine (410-436-9786) or Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Cole (410-436-0320).

THURSDAY MAY 24 TECHNOLOGY NEEDS TEENS

Harford Community College will host 180 students from nine Harford County middle schools for the 5th Annual "TNT - Technology Needs Teens," a day filled with science and technology fun. TNT is a one-day program for a select group of eighth grade students to learn from hands-on presentations by professionals in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Hands-on learning workshops will be held in Aberdeen and Bel Air Halls from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Committee members and presenters include representatives from Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), SAIC, Smith Detection, American Chemical Society, Harford Community College, Senior Science Society, CERDEC, TIC Gums, and Towson University. Call 443-412-2447 or email dcasey@harford.edu for info.

MONDAY - TUESDAY MAY 28-29 VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR SESAME ST. PRODUCTION

USO Metro is looking for volunteers for its Sesame Street Tour, stopping at APG in May at the APG North post theater (Bldg 3245).

To volunteer, contact Dawn Fincham at Dawn@usometro.org or 703-806-6225.

■ May 28, from 3:30-6 p.m. (show starts at 4:30 p.m.) - three volunteers needed

■ May 29 from 9-11 a.m. - 3:30 pm (show starts at 10:00 a.m.) six volunteers still needed

Volunteers must be at least 18 and cannot bring unaccompanied children while they volunteer. Volunteer responsibilities include crowd control, escorting people into venue, staffing USO table of information and possibly handing out giveaways (twirly lights & USO bandannas) to children.

THURSDAY MAY 31 RAB MEETING

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Ramada Conference Center in Edgewood. The topics will be Canal Creek, SediMite Update and New O-Field.

FRIDAY JUNE 1 ARMY SOLDIER SHOW

The 2012 U.S. Army Soldier Show comes to APG at the APG post theater. Show times are 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. The show is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. For information, call 410-278-4011/4907 or visit www.apgmwr.com.

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.

ONGOING FY12 ANNUAL HYDRANT FLUSHING

The annual hydrant flushing at APG is set through May 25. Flushing will take place Monday through Friday weekly between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., and will follow the schedule below. For more information, contact government representative Dennis Overbay at 443-206-8910 or City of Aberdeen representative Curtis Ball at 410-278-2335.

■ May 7 through 11, Plumb Point and restricted areas

■ May 14 through 18, ARL and restricted areas

■ May 21 through 25, ARL and restricted areas

AUDITION FOR DRACULA

The APG Theater Group will perform Dracula in October. To audition or to join the theater group, visit the recreation center Mondays at 6 p.m., or call 410-278-4011/4907.

CHAPEL POSITION

The APG main post chapel is seeking someone who can serve as choir director, organist and soloist. It is a paid position, part-time, required for two services on Sunday, special services and rehearsal. If interested, contact Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan Morse at 410-278-4333.

MANDATORY MOTORCYCLE TRAINING

Motorcycle safety courses for active duty, Guard and Reserve Soldiers begin this month at APG. To find out the schedule for the basic rider course, experienced rider course and motorcycle refresher training, call Mike Allen at 410-306-1081. Attendees must register online at <https://apps.imcom.army.mil/airs/>.

MSU OFFERS MASTERS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Morgan State University announces its master's degree in electrical engineering program, designed for those interested in pursuing an advanced degree with concentrations in communications, signals intelligence and RADAR. The program will be offered at APG and Baltimore City, and includes a thesis or course-only option. An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 and B.S. in electrical engineering from an ABET accredited program are required. Other STEM degrees may be considered. Submit applications by July 1 (June 1 for international students) for the fall semester at: http://www.morgan.edu/School_of_Graduate_Studies.html. Call 443-885-1456 or email Jumoke.Ladeji-Osias@Morgan.Edu for info.

DIY WHEEL BALANCE

The APG Auto Craft Center has a new top-of-the-line wheel balancing machine for 10" to 24" wheels, to include low profile tires. Reduce expensive car repair costs and do it yourself with the assistance of Auto Craft staff members. Stop by the center and see how you can save money. For information, call 410-278-5178 or visit www.apgmwr.com/recreation/auto.html.

SATURDAY CRITTER FEEDING

Eden Mill Nature Center offers these feedings on Saturdays through June, at 1 p.m. for Families. Join the staff in the nature center as they feed the critters. Take a turn feeding one of the turtles or a snake. Space is limited to 10 participants, so pre-register early by calling 410-836-3050 or email edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com. Visit www.edenmill.org for information.

NOW REGISTER FOR 10K

Register for the Armed Forces Day 10K Race at the APG North (Aberdeen) athletic center to be held May 19 at 8 a.m. Registration \$30 through May 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 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.

UPCOMING APPLY NOW FOR EDUCATION GRANTS

Applications for the 2012 Educational Grant for spouses of active-duty service members are available at www.ourfamilyfoundation.org.

Applications must be submitted by May 17.

Each year, 20 educational grants up to \$5,000 go to spouses of active-duty service members at Forts Meade, Bragg, Polk, Rucker, Riley, Sill, and APG.

Applicants may be in any stage of the educational process and awards are to be used for the 2012-13 academic year. Recipients of a grant will be notified by July 2.

Visit the website for more information about the application process, or call 401-228-2836.



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



SSCF fellows graduate

U.S. Army War College Professor Len Fullenkamp (left) discusses D-Day's historic happenings at Pegasus Bridge in Normandy, France, during a 2011-2012 Senior Service College Fellowship class April 30. The community is invited to the graduation ceremony for the 2011-2012 SSCF, Defense Acquisition University class May 16 at 11 a.m. the Mission Training Facility, Bldg. 6008. Graduates include Debbie Abbruzzese, Jim Hines, Pat Layden, Bob Lyons, Tom Mikolinis, Stan Niemiec, Tom Stadterman, and Undra Robinson. The ceremony marks the culmination of 10 months of rigorous, fulltime study focused on developing acquisition and leadership aptitudes. Hines will also receive a master's degree in Management and Leadership from Webster University which he completed in concert with SSCF requirements. A short reception will follow. RSVP to Parker Bennett at parker.bennett@dau.mil or 410-272-9471.

Photo by Parker Bennett

APG drinking water safe to consume

Staff report

Officials with APG's Directorate of Public Works gave residents and personnel a definite thumbs-up on the installation's drinking water.

"I know there have been some concerns about the safety of the water at APG South, the Edgewood area, but I can assure everyone that it meets federal and state drinking water standards and is safe to consume," said DPW Director Tom Kuchar.

"The garrison, City of Aberdeen, and Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) monitor the water quality," said DPW environmental engineer Ruth Golding.

She said concerns surfaced in March

after total coliform bacteria was detected in the Van Bibber Water Treatment Plant distribution system in amounts that exceed the public drinking water standards. MDE then issued a violation and DPW was required to post notices to make consumers aware of the situation.

Drinking water for APG North (Aberdeen) is obtained through contract with the City of Aberdeen; APG South (Edgewood) water is provided by the Van Bibber Water Treatment Plant, which is owned and operated by the garrison.

Golding explained that total coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are not generally harmful.

"The presence of total coliform bac-

teria is an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present in the water, but in our case no harmful bacteria were detected," said Golding. "DPW corrected the issue immediately by flushing the affected portion of the water distribution system.

She said tests later performed in April did not detect the presence of total coliform bacteria, confirming that the water is in compliance with standards.

"The health and safety of our Soldiers, Families, civilians and contractors will always be our top priority," said Kuchar, "so we will continue to test our waters, as is our policy, to ensure compliance."

He also said the color of the drinking water at APG South is not related to the

recent total coliform bacteria notices.

"Drinking water sometimes appears to have a tint due to iron and manganese that accumulate in the water as it sits in pipes during periods of low use," explained DPW's APG South site manager Tony Hale.

He said while the water may be discolored, it is not an indication that it is unsafe.

"Still, DPW is working to improve the appearance of the water by aggressively flushing water lines in affected areas," said Hale.

For information on water testing, call Ruth Golding at 410-278-2495. For information on discolored water, call Tony Hale at 410-436-3102.

Shuttle schedule set for Armed Forces Day

Continued from Page 1

from the National Guard's Freestate ChalleNGe cadets, Chemical Response Team, Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel, and canine units from the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Featured throughout the day will be music by "The Volunteers," the U.S. Army's premier touring show band, and "Leftstronger," a Baltimore-area band. Food will be available for purchase, and activities for children include a live wildlife exhibit, Kiddie Corner, McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog, D.A.R.E. activities and fire-fighting displays.

The events are open to the public. Visitors without a government ID must use the Maryland Boulevard (Route 715) gate off Route 40 to enter the installation. Visitors age 16 and older must have a photo ID and drivers must present a valid driver's license and vehicle registration at the visitor center.

Parking will be available in the vicinity of the APG Museum along Aberdeen Boulevard, between Maryland Boulevard and Rodman Road. See the shuttle schedule (on Page XXXXX) available for employees who would like to attend. For more information about the day's activities, call 410-278-4500.

The focus on healthy living will be reflected that day, as the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command; the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; and the Community Health Promotion Council host National Employee Health and Fitness Day, which includes a 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 demonstration will be held in Bldg. 3300, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Body fat analysis tests will be performed from noon-1 p.m. in Bldg. 3300. For more information about National Employee Health and Fitness Day, call 410-417-2312.

Ending the week's activities will be the live fire demonstration, hosted by ATEC's Aberdeen Test Center Saturday, May 19. Free tickets made available to the public on May 2 were distributed in less than an hour, said Michael Lupacchino, director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"The line started to form at noon," he said. "When the doors opened at about 1 p.m., there were more than 125 people in line."

SHUTTLE STOP	BLDG#	BUS #1		BUS #2	
		ARRIVAL TIME	DEPARTURE TIME	ARRIVAL TIME	DEPARTURE TIME
ATEC	2202	9:30 a.m.	9:35 a.m.	9:45 a.m.	9:50 a.m.
RDECOM	3071	9:40	9:45	9:55	10:00
CECOM	6002	9:50	9:55	10:05	10:10
MUSEUM	2601	10:00	10:15	10:20	10:35
ATEC	2202	10:20	10:25	10:40	10:45
RDECOM	3071	10:30	10:35	10:50	10:55
CECOM	6002	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:05
MUSEUM	2601	10:55	11:10	11:15	11:30
ATEC	2202	11:15	11:20	11:35	11:40
RDECOM	3071	11:25	11:30	11:45	11:50
CECOM	6002	11:35	11:40	11:55	noon
MUSEUM	2601	11:50	12:05 p.m.	12:05 p.m.	12:20
ATEC	2202	12:10 p.m.	12:15	12:20	12:25
RDECOM	3071	12:20	12:25	12:30	12:35
CECOM	6002	12:30	12:35	12:40	12:45
MUSEUM	2601	12:45	1:00	12:55	1:10
ATEC	2202	1:05	1:10	1:15	1:20
RDECOM	3071	1:15	1:20	1:25	1:30
CECOM	6002	1:25	1:35	1:35	1:40
MUSEUM	2601	1:45	1:50	1:50	2:05
ATEC	2202	1:55	2:00	2:10	2:15
RDECOM	3071	2:00	2:05	2:20	2:25
CECOM	6002	2:10	2:15	2:30	2:35

Lupacchino said 1,500 tickets were available, which were given to more than 300 people.

"Each person was able to get up to 5 tickets, but some took only two or three," he said.

Those who did not receive tickets were put on a waiting list, which was filled by the end of the day.

Lupacchino said organizers will determine whether additional tickets will become available for people on the waiting list. Tickets are required to attend the event due to space and safety requirements.

The day's activities will take place at the main front firing range. Gates open at 1 p.m. for equipment and vehicle displays. A 2:45 p.m. parade of vehicles includes a demonstration of how helicopters are used to put out range fires. The live fire demonstration begins at 3:15 p.m. Hearing protection will be provided. Children under age 4 years are not permitted due to safety concerns.

Closed toed shoes are required, no

outside seating is allowed and all bags are subject to search.

To attend the live fire, enter APG through the Maryland Boulevard (Route 715) gate off Route 40 to enter the installation. Visitors age 16 and older must have a photo ID and drivers must present a valid driver's license and vehicle registration. Tickets to the demonstration must be presented at the gate.

Follow the signs to parking between Firehouse and Colleran Roads near Bldg. 305. Parking also is available on Long's Corner Road in the vicinity of Bldg. 310, and Johnson Street between Bldgs. 320 and 321. VIP and handicap parking is available on Colleran Road.

The Harford County Chamber of Commerce's Military Appreciation Week Luncheon will be held May 17 at 11:30 a.m. at the Richlin Ballroom, where APG's Soldier of the Year, Non-Commissioned Officer of the year and Family of the Year will be recognized. Tickets for the luncheon have been sold out, but those wanting to attend can have

Other events planned

The May 14 Armed Forces Day Golf Tournament at Ruggles Golf Course starts with a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m., and a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Call the golf course at 410-278-4794 to see if slots are still available.

Also on this year's agenda is a Veterans Luncheon at Top of the Bay on May 15 at 11:30 a.m. Sponsors include TASC, Inc., Freedom Federal Credit Union, and the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). Guest speaker this year will be Wood Parker, a 20-year Navy veteran and member of the TASC Board of Advisors. Call 410-278-3000 for tickets, which are available for \$18.

The morning of May 19, brings a 10K run at 8 a.m. and a 2-mile fun run at 8:30 a.m., each starting at the APG Athletic Center. To register, call 410-278-7933.

For more information about Armed Forces Day, call the APG Public Affairs Office at 410-278-1151 or 410-278-1147 or visit our website at www.apg.army.mil.

their names added to a waiting list. For information about the luncheon, call 410-838-2020.

Honorees this year are NCO of the Year Sgt. Olayiwola Kugblenu, a radiology technician at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic (KUSAHC), and Soldier of the Year Spc. Matthew J. Gansel, a medical laboratory specialist with KUSAHC.

The Calhoun Family has been recognized as this year's Family of the Year. Master Sgt. Joseph Calhoun of ATEC, wife Darlene, daughter Kaseolra, and son Keyon will be honored.

Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, installation commander and commander of U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.

RDECOM engineer raises \$10,000, cycles 350 miles for wounded vets

By **AMANDA ROMINIECKI**
RDECOM CERDEC Public Affairs

A U.S. Army veteran turned engineer raised more than \$10,000 cycling across Texas for wounded veterans.

David A. McClung rode 350 miles alongside wounded warriors and their supporters in the Ride 2 Recovery, or R2R, Don't Mess with Texas Challenge, April 16-22.

McClung works for the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's communications-electronics center, or CERDEC, as an engineer in the Command, Power & Integration Directorate. He serves as the U.S. Army Electronic Proving Ground director for the Operational Test Command at Fort Hood, Texas.

"I grew up in the country and rode my bike a lot as a kid, but I started seriously riding again about three years ago," said 60-year-old McClung. "I rode the Austin to Ft. Hood leg of it [the Texas Challenge] for the past two years. Last year, I said to myself that I was going to commit and do the full ride."

R2R partners with the Military and Veteran Affairs Volunteer Service Office to raise money for cycling programs that benefit the country's wounded veterans through the Mental and Physical Rehabilitation program, said Maria Alvarado, an R2R spokesperson. Cycling can play a critical role in the rehabilitation process because it keeps individuals active and helps speed up recovery time, she said.

"I truly believe that a lot of Americans want to help wounded warriors," said McClung. "If you give them the opportunity, they will rise to the occasion. That's what Ride 2 Recovery does."

McClung started training for the ride Jan 1. He clocked more than 100 hours of riding—totaling 1,785 miles in preparation for the Texas Challenge. Those miles were spread over several rides, five more than 65 miles, with the longest at 88 miles. While training, McClung also started collecting donations. To take part in the ride, each civilian rider is expected to raise \$3,000 as part of the fundraising goal of the challenge as a whole.

"That fundraising goal goes toward the cost of the bikes, hotel arrangements and food for the veterans because they don't pay anything to participate," said Alvarado.

McClung raised more than triple his initial fundraising goal for the challenge, with a final total of \$10,788. He attributes that total to the support he had throughout his journey in the Texas Challenge. Even his two young grandsons donated money from their allowances.

"When you call on friends and family to help you with something and more than 100 answer that call, including some friends at CERDEC—it's an amaz-



Photo by Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst

David McClung waves at onlookers during the Ride 2 Recovery Texas Challenge, April 17. McClung raised more than \$10,000 to benefit wounded veterans.

ing thing," said McClung.

"He's very humble. He doesn't take any credit for anything, and he's so selfless and so quick to give back to others," said Rex Howe, chief of operations division of CP&I, who hired McClung for his position at Fort Hood and actively followed McClung's journey during the Texas Challenge. "Dave has done more and given more of himself in this one event than most people do in their lifetime. He is a tremendous example for others."

In addition to gathering donations, participants ride in honor of a wounded warrior. McClung rode in honor of Capt. Larkin O'Hern. O'Hern was injured in Afghanistan on Dec. 31, 2010 when the IED his platoon was trying to disarm exploded. O'Hern sustained extensive injuries, losing both legs and his right hand.

McClung knew of O'Hern's story prior to the Texas Challenge and reached out to his father, expressing his desire to ride in O'Hern's honor. After months of rehabilitation and training for the Texas Challenge, O'Hern rode during the first day of the challenge on a handbike using

prosthetics. His longest ride in training was just 15 miles, but O'Hern not only finished the 57-mile course on day one, he finished with the fastest group of riders.

"It was a great milestone for him," said McClung. "For him to get to ride with other wounded Soldiers from the Center for the Intrepid was very special."

"Riding in honor of someone and being able to ride alongside them—it makes it very personal. It makes it that much more important, that much more emotional," said McClung. "The significance of it, the meaning—it skyrockets."

Starting in San Antonio on April 16, the Texas Challenge moved north across Texas over six days, ending in Arlington. The cyclists rode for several hours completing between 50 and 60 miles per day and resting at night. Two hundred participants completed the entire journey, while those in the early stages of rehabilitation participated in a one-day stretch of the ride.

"The Texas challenge is one of the favorites [of all the challenges sponsored by R2R]," said Alvarado. "It's one of

the largest and one of the first we started. There's so much excitement and support—people love that ride."

Along the route were schools, hospitals and various military installations. Children donned in red, white and blue lined the fences of school yards with signs and American flags, cheering on the cyclists. Older students held out their hands to give high-fives to the riders as they passed by, said McClung.

"It is so fantastic to see them recognize the service and the sacrifice of our veterans," said McClung. "That level of support is pretty special too. When I joined the Army right after Vietnam, we didn't have that support. We couldn't wear our uniforms outside."

The fifth day of the ride was a challenge of the elements for the cyclists—they had to ride through wind and rain. The riders also suffered from chafing resulting from riding on a bicycle for extended periods of time. McClung cited the accidents and discomforts as simply the nature of the sport.

At the end of the ride, with 374 miles on his odometer including the Clay Hunt Memorial Ride on April 22, McClung reflected on the entire experience, commenting on the mix of emotions and what he learned. He mentioned what he described as a miracle of a group working together toward a common goal. He also spoke of the camaraderie between riders as the veterans cycled toward recovery and a new phase in their life.

"When I was in the Army, a lot of Soldiers went through traumatic experiences, but we called it shell-shocked. We didn't know about PTSD," said McClung. "I'm an engineer, not a soft scientist by any means, and I think I discounted the effect it can have on people—the emptiness and loneliness."

McClung has been asked by R2R to participate in the Minuteman Challenge in September cycling from Boston to West Point. O'Hern and his father plan to ride the entire Minuteman Challenge and begin training soon.

"Of course it [riding with O'Hern] would be incredibly special," said McClung. "I was hesitant to ask my family and friends to support another ride this year, but they have already called pledging their support."

McClung has a month to decide whether to participate in the Minuteman Challenge but what is decided is that McClung will "absolutely" participate in the Texas Challenge in 2013.

"It's a life changing experience to have the opportunity to ride any distance with a wounded warrior. If you have the chance to do it, you absolutely should. It's so worthwhile to experience part of their journey," he said.



CWC gives back

(From left) Honorary APG Community Women's Club (CWC) President Laurie Borgna-Strong talks to scholarship recipient Morgan Rosser, a senior at Mercerburg Academy, during a reception at Ruggles Golf Course May 8. On behalf of the CWC, CECOM Chief of Staff Col. William Montgomery and APG Community Women's Club Scholarship Committee Chair Amy Lueders presented \$1,000 college scholarships to high school seniors Rosser (attending George Washington University) and Tiffany Strong (attending Dickinson College); \$500 scholarships were presented to Samantha Carrick (school undetermined), Christopher Hoppe (Towson University), Elizabeth Muller (Salisbury University) and Ashley Hoppe, who will use the funds to continue their education. Scholarships were awarded based on merit, academic and other achievements, community involvement, leadership, and original essay. The CWC raises money for local charities and hosts activities, including Bunco, luncheons, book clubs, dinners and local trips. Membership is open to anyone with an affiliation with APG—military, civilian, contractor or spouse. Learn more by visiting www.apgcwc.org.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

Safety focus of May 24 motorcycle rally

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Legion Post 47 in Havre de Grace.

May is National Motorcycle Safety Month and with it comes the need to reinforce safe driving habits and skills, said H. Mike Allen, Garrison Safety and Occupational Health Specialist.

"Motorcycle drivers and their passengers as well as automobile drivers should be extra safety conscious, particularly during the summer months when accidents increase," said Allen. "The Iron Horse Rally is a great way to get the safety message out to think safety and share the road so we can all have a safe summer."

He said the group ride will kick off with a safety message from Maryland National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Sann. Participants are expected to wear the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with AR 385-10.

The wearing of PPE is optional, though highly encouraged, for civilians when riding off post but mandatory for active duty service members at all times, Allen said.

To view the group ride route, visit www.apgmwr.com. For more information about the rally, call 410-278-4124.

Military rider

The American Forces Press Service has launched its new motorcycle safety special report, "Military Rider." The report highlights DoD and service-related efforts to enhance the safety and overall riding experience for service members and vet through training, mentorship and education.

It includes efforts, policies, training and mentorship programs used by all branches to educate service members about safe driving habits. Personal stories from crash survivors drive the safety point home. View the full report at <http://www.defense.gov/militaryrider/>.



A shot at making a difference

(From left) Darren Hart, Greg McLaughlin and Dave Owen watch as Keith Watson focuses on his shot during the first annual Wounded Warrior Charity Golf Tournament at Ruggles Golf Course May 4. Proceeds go to the Wounded Warrior Project, a program that helps rehabilitate wounded Soldiers as they recover and transition back to civilian life. More than 70 members of the local business community participated in this event, managed by the Better Business Bureau Educational Foundation.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

Gold Wives participants share comfort

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finding programs and resources to assist survivors.

“What I’ve found is that while some survivors are working or spending time with their children or grandchildren, a lot of them are lonely; a lot of them miss the military lifestyle” she said. “Having Family and friends is not the same as being around people with shared experiences and common bonds.”

An important advantage to membership is the Gold Star influence on Capitol Hill, Sanders added.

“Any legislation affecting surviving widows, they will know about it. New widows and widowers are urged to come and be a part of this. The older ones have pushed a lot of legislation through to help the newer ones. Now they can get on board to help those coming after them.”

Along with official functions, Gold Star Wives chapters plan events for patri-

“With new wives coming in all the time, it’s very much needed. Being a young military widow, sometimes I feel forgotten. We want to reach out to other widows to let them know they’re not forgotten.”

Spc. Margaretta Beckerman

One of the chapter’s founders

otic holidays, participate in public events and plan Family outings, she said.

“Most importantly, it allows the surviving spouse to stay connected to the Army so they know they are not forgotten,” she said. “I tell survivors that when their Soldier was alive, he or she took care of you. Now that they’re gone; it’s the Army’s turn to take care of you.”

The group is open to any widow/widower of a service member, regardless of where, when or in which branch they served.

One of the group founders is Spc. Margaretta Beckerman, a Soldier assigned to the 22d Chemical Battalion. Beckerman came to APG on a compassionate reassignment after her husband was killed in 2010 in Afghanistan, where they both were serving while assigned to Fort Campbell, Ky.

She said she met other potential group members through Sanders and the SOS program.

“The group brings a lot of relief when

you find someone sharing the same feelings you have,” she said. “It makes you realize you’re not as alone as you thought you were.”

“We all have children and other responsibilities but we’ve come together and now we keep in touch on a regular basis. It’s more of a relationship now because we understand each other’s sensitivities.”

She said they plan to get the group off the ground as soon as they can manage some time issues.

“With new wives coming in all the time, it’s very much needed,” she said. “Being a young military widow, sometimes I feel forgotten. We want to reach out to other widows to let them know they’re not forgotten.”

To connect with organizers of the new Gold Star Wives chapter, contact Sanders at 410-278-2861 or e-mail casandra.a.sanders-nash.civ@mail.mil.

FCC offers Family-friendly alternative

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Most APG FCC providers have openings for children, ages 6 weeks to 12 years, at on- and off-post locations throughout Harford County.

Army-wide FCC provides child care in a safe, learning, home-based environment with the same requirements of other Child Youth and School Services programs. FCC providers undergo background checks and are trained based on Child Development Association standards and meet Department of the Army health, safety, and fire and FCC standards. Certified training includes CPR and first aid certification, child abuse awareness, sanitation, health, safety, nutrition and business practices.

FCC Director Aphrodite Corsi called the program just one of the Army’s several alternatives to high-quality care.

“Child care needs vary from Family to Family,” Corsi said. “Some children

thrive in a small, home environment.”

Having one provider in home, as opposed to several in a center, can give children that added sense of stability, which she said is especially for military children whose parents may move or deploy frequently.

Another benefit of FCC is its flexibility. Corsi said several FCC providers offer overnight, hourly and long-term care to accommodate the needs of mission-related exercises.

“The children become part of the Family,” said Nubia Jimenez, an FCC provider since 2007 who has since earned her Child Development Association credentials.

Jimenez said she and other FCC providers organize play dates and educational outings at least once a month. In April she organized a Month of the Military Child activity, featuring a parade,

patriotic crafts and food for children, parents and providers.

Providers also frequently organize visits to the park, local libraries and on-post pools and youth center gyms.

“Children love getting out, socializing and making new friends,” Jimenez said. “Also, these outings give providers a chance to share experiences with each other. We get ideas by networking together. We have a wonderful group of providers (at APG).”

Jenny Amos, who has a background in education, said she decided to become a FCC provider in 2007 so she devote one-on-one attention to children in her care. Amos said a typical day at her house includes lessons in math, reading, science, social studies and manners.

“I want to help instill positive values,” Amos said. “It makes me feel good knowing that I can make a difference in

their lives. I consider these children part of my Family.”

About the Family Child Care program

Child care is offered to Families that live on or off post and work on APG. Subsidy is available for income-eligible patrons.

FCC welcomes people who are interested in becoming FCC providers. The program pays for certified training.

“For anyone who loves children and wants to be home with their own, this is a great opportunity,” Corsi said. “Become part of a worldwide network of mobile child care professionals who can work at home and contribute to the Family income.”

For more information, call 410-278-7140/7477.

Soldiers featured in annual song, dance production

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The 90-minute song-and-dance production was designed to demonstrate “Army Strong” where each moment in the show will reflect the strength of our nation as embodied in the Soldier.

“This show says that the strength of the nation is the Army, and strength of the Soldier is our Families,” said Chandler. “That’s what makes us Army Strong. We are the best of the best and we will continue to be in the future.”

“Oh my gosh, it was absolutely amazing,” said San Antonio resident Lynn Tower. “These people are serving our country to the best of their ability, and then they’re sharing their talents with us. It was inspiring.”

“This show far exceeded my expectations, each time I’ve seen it, the performers are better and better. The singing and dancing, the sparkle in their eye and the way they relate to the crowd is just fantastic,” said Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter,

Commander, Installation Management Command. “We had a great audience, young Soldiers here in their advanced training, members of Fort Sam Houston and Joint Base San Antonio, and all of them seem to connect with the Soldier Show. When it comes to a town near you, you’ve got to see it.”

“I thought the show was wonderful,” said Rene Rodriguez, Jr., IMCOM civilian and native San Antonian. “I think the performers were excellent and they performed outstanding as they have every single year. I’ve seen every single show that the Army has put on and this is right up above.”

“It’s a great show. It’s got great energy and it’s delivering the Army message,” said Tim Higdon, production manager and producer for the show. “It’s a great way to highlight our Soldiers and show their strengths not only as Soldiers but with the talents they have as people and individuals.”

The troops now hit the road on a five-month tour to perform at least 60 shows in at least 31 venues, including Hawaii and Japan. May will be busy with performances at Forts Rucker, Stewart, Bragg, Eustis, Story, Myer, Hamilton and Drum. A full schedule is listed on <http://www.armyEntertainment.net>, along with other Army Entertainment events this season.

“This is the most polished and prepared cast that we’ve had ever since we’ve been doing this,” said Higdon. “We’re really proud of their efforts that they’ve put in and their dedication to it. They are absolutely ready and excited to get out there on the road and start spreading the word.”

“It was my first time to see the Soldier Show. It was an amazing show. It was very touching, it showed a deeper side of the military and showed that the Soldiers are really talented,” said Michelle Spencer, Miss San Antonio 2012. “My favorite

song was Etta James ‘At Last.’ It was so romantic and showed the sweet side of the military. I didn’t know how tough it was to be away from their family, this shows the emotional side. It was really touching.”

The openings were staged at the newly renovated historic Fort Sam Houston Theatre, new home of Army Entertainment Division, part of the Installation Management Command. When IMCOM’s Army Entertainment Division relocated in 2011 from Fort Belvoir, Va., to Fort Sam Houston as part of the Army’s Base Realignment and Closure process, the Army renovated its second-oldest movie theater, built in the 1930s.

It takes a lot of hard work by the Soldiers who perform or work back stage to make this show a success.

“Thanks for all that you do. We are really proud of each and every one of you in what you do inside the Installation Management Command, and throughout the Army, said Chandler. “Just an amaz-