

APG NEWS



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Photo by Rachel Ponder

Operation Helping Hand gives back to Soldiers

From left, 1st Sgt. Carlos Corbin and 1st Sgt. Ronrico Hayes from the 20th Support Command (CBRNE), and Installation and CECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Kennis Dent bag groceries during the Holiday Food Sharing Program at the APG Commissary Nov. 19. The Religious Support Office gave 100 Soldiers food vouchers during this event and APG senior leaders helped bag the groceries. Throughout the year, APG Catholic, Protestant and Gospel congregations collect offerings for Operation Helping Hand to help Soldiers and their Families during the holidays. For more information, call the Main Post Chapel at 410-278-4333.

Vet business owners network, share lessons

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Military veteran exhibitors had a chance to showcase their businesses or resumes to hiring companies and agencies during the first Veteran Entrepreneur Day held at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Nov. 15. The program was hosted by Team APG and coordinated by Start-up Partners, Inc.

The event included workshops and information on available loans, business plans, presentations and other topics designed to assist veterans in

As veterans it is pretty daunting to step out from what we have known in the Army and go into the business world.

Justen Garrity
CEO Veteran Compost Inc.

their business endeavors. In addition, other veteran entrepreneurs spoke on their experiences and lessons learned.

The keynote speaker was the CEO of Veteran Compost, Inc. Justen Garrity, an Iraq War veteran from Aberdeen, who recently received the

Harford County Entrepreneur Award.

Garrity said that he had a difficult time finding a job, despite the valuable job skills he obtained while serving in the Army five years. He decided to take matters into his own hands by starting his own business, in

compost production. Today, Veteran Compost is the only permitted food waste composting site in Maryland, turning food scraps into high quality compost. Veteran Compost also provides job opportunities to veterans and their Families.

"As veterans it is pretty daunting to step out from what we have known in the Army and go into the business world, but there are a lot of things we learn in the military that make us great entrepreneurs," he said. "We are adaptive leaders."

See **VETERANS**, page 10

Thanksgiving service honors veterans and Gold Star Families

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Veterans and surviving Family members of fallen warriors were the special guests of the Thanksgiving and Veteran's Appreciation Service held at the APG North (Aberdeen) chapel Nov. 16.

Held in conjunction with APG Veterans Month activities, the program was meant to honor those who have served (veterans), to stand by those who have persevered through loss (Gold Star Families), and to offer thanksgiving and prayer for the APG community.

Glenn Wait, deputy to the Garrison Commander, welcomed guests on behalf of

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Installation and CECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Kennis Dent thanks members of the Aberdeen High School band and choir for their participation in the Thanksgiving and Veteran's Appreciation Service at the APG North (Aberdeen) chapel Nov. 16.

IMCOM looks to expedite hiring at garrisons

IMCOM Public Affairs

Garrison commanders are recruiting for about 2,000 job openings, and while the competitive process can be time-consuming, exceptions to the process allow for noncompetitive selection of current IMCOM employees, transitioning soldiers, disabled veterans, and certain others.

At the same time, the Army still faces a new fiscal environment that could require more civilian workforce reductions in the future, so the headquarters will continue to closely oversee the filling of critical vacancies to ensure the command stays within sustainable end strength numbers.

IMCOM started FY12 facing a mandatory reduc-

tion of more than 4,000 civilian positions including the headquarters, the regions and the garrisons. In the interest of retaining a highly experienced and specialized workforce, the command approached the necessary reduction with a commitment to meet the end strength target through attrition and judicious filling of critical vacancies.

This proactive approach to human resources management has succeeded to the extent that IMCOM has exceeded its reduction target through voluntary separations, retirement, and cross-leveling through reassignment. The new personnel outlook is good news for protecting the workforce,

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WEATHER

Thurs.



54° | 37°

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STREET TALK

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

I am thankful for so much, especially for my Family. They were my support system this year during my time of need.



Jennifer Testerman
FMWR

I am thankful that I have a job that helps me take care of my Family. My job helps my daughter get through college and helps me take care of my grandchildren. I am thankful that in my job I can reach out and be a blessing to others. I know God loves me and has a plan for me.



Robin Stokes
ASAP

I am thankful for everything, especially that at least one of my parents is still alive. I am thankful that my mom will spend another Thanksgiving with me.



Sgt. Marta Harrington
20th Support Command

I am thankful that my whole Family can get together for the holidays. I am thankful every day that I wake up, for my life.



Mark Moore
Military Family member

OPINION

IMCOM leaders share Thanksgiving message

Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the holiday season, a time of year when our thoughts naturally turn to home and Family, reflecting on the past year and our good fortune. We also honor and appreciate military families this month, and it seems only fitting to focus on what Family means and the quality of time and attention we give them.

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command is the Army's home. Each day proves it is the people we serve and care for who are most important. Now, more than ever, it's important that we take care of each other. People are the heart and soul of the IMCOM mission. They are both our purpose and our greatest asset, creating a larger family that includes co-workers, battle buddies, the Soldiers to our left and our right, along with all who are near and dear to our hearts.

For many, quality time will be spent gathered around the time honored American tradition of Thanksgiving turkey. As you do so, remember that somewhere there is a young Family new to the Army flying to their first overseas assignment right now. They'll be in lodging for the holiday and the DFAC for dinner. Welcome them into



“As you enjoy this Thanksgiving holiday, we hope that it will be a time for thanks, relaxation and renewal.”

this Family. Make sure the service they receive is world class. Take the time to greet them, to direct them and make them feel valued and wanted in their new garrison community. Other members of our Family, civilians and Soldiers alike, are deployed. Even far from home, a word of encouragement can make a difference. Some of our Family members may be giving thanks as their Soldiers return from deployment while experiencing stresses related to reintegration at the same time. The Army is a life of service!

To all who provide services on our installations -- IMCOM, MEDCOM, NEC, DENCOM and AMC -- we're proud to serve with each and every member of this team. You, and the work you do each and every day, is important to us. It's critical to the lives of the Soldiers, civilians and Family members we serve

in garrisons around the globe. While preparing for travel and attending celebrations, let's all be vigilant -- keep safety and responsibility at the forefront of all that you do.

As you enjoy this Thanksgiving holiday, we hope that it will be a time for thanks, relaxation and renewal. Remember your Family and extended Army Family as well - battle buddies, co-workers and the person next to you now. Be thankful, as we sincerely are, for their (and your) service, and commitment to both the Army and this great Nation. Army Strong!

Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter

Commanding general of U.S. Army Installation Management Command

Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice

IMCOM

Rules set for schools receiving tuition assistance

By **KAREN PARRISH**
American Forces Press Service

All schools participating in Title 10 tuition assistance will have to have a signed memorandum of understanding with the Defense Department under a new policy that will take effect Jan. 1.

Carolyn Baker, chief of voluntary education for DOD's military community family and policy office, explained to American Forces Press Service what the agreement covers.

"The MOU articulates the commitments and agreements between an educational institution and DOD prior to an institution accepting funds via the tuition assistance program," she said, adding that some schools already have begun the process of signing the memorandum.

DOD's tuition assistance program helps active-duty service members pay for college courses. The program covers undergraduate and most graduate courses delivered through on-line distance learning or traditional classroom instruction.

A voluntary education joint service review committee developed one standard document to replace the separate services' tuition assistance agreements, Baker said.

Under the new agreement, "The institution ... must agree to one single tuition rate per Office of Post-Secondary Education identification number," she said. "What this means is that institutions cannot charge service members different tuition rates to attend the same class."

The agreement requires that

schools be accredited by an agency recognized by the Department of Education, abide by DOD and military service regulatory guidance on voluntary education, and adhere to the principles and criteria established by the Service members' Opportunity Colleges, Baker said.

Key issues addressed in those principles include reasonable transfer of credit to avoid course work duplication and excessive loss of previously earned credit; required academic residency limited to no more than 25 percent of degree requirements, or 30 percent for undergraduate degrees

offered 100 percent online; credit for military training and experience; and credit for at least one nationally recognized testing program, such as the College-Level Examination Program.

Schools also must agree to provide timely course enrollment, withdrawal and cancellation information and grades, as well as an evaluated education plan outlining the courses needed for a degree, Baker said.

The agreement includes addendums outlining how tuition assistance is administered in each of the services, she said.

The new policy also requires all schools accepting tuition assistance dollars to participate in a periodic third-party review. DOD is committed to providing programs and services that support, sustain and improve quality of life for service members, Baker said, and the review process will address accountability and quality of education they receive using tuition assistance.

The agreement does not obligate funds or guarantee enrollment or access to military installations, she said. Schools offering courses on military posts or bases must have an additional, separate agreement with installation commanders permitting access and on-base instruction.

The policy states that any school without a signed memorandum after Jan. 1 will not be able to enroll students using tuition assistance funds, she said. Schools can review and sign the memorandum at <http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/voled>.

A list of schools that have signed the agreement will be posted to the site, so military students receiving tuition assistance can see if prospective schools have signed the memorandum, Baker said.

Service members who have concerns about an institution that has signed the agreement can submit their question or complaint to DOD through the site. A centralized process will record the issue, work on a resolution, track the status and provide a response, Baker said.

She said the department has been working with schools that receive the greatest share of tuition assistance funds, and those institutions are aware of what the memorandum will require of them.

"We might find some institutions out there that have not been timely, or they don't agree to all of the terms of the memorandum. So we're going to have to work with service members enrolled in those schools," she said.

Baker said DOD is committed to offering comprehensive, lifelong learning opportunities for service members, and the new policy will ensure a viable program is in place to assist them in realizing those opportunities.

DID YOU KNOW?

Any school without a signed memorandum after Jan. 1 will not be able to enroll students using tuition assistance funds

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



54°|37°

Fri



55°|41°

Sat



45°|33°

Sun



43°|32°

Mon



48°|39°

Tue



46°|41°

Wed



48°|38°

APG NEWS

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Staff

APG Commander Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell
APG Garrison Commander .. Col. Gregory R. McClinton
Acting Public Affairs Officer Pat Beauchamp
Acting Editor Adriane Foss
Contract Photojournalists Yvonne Johnson
..... Rachel Ponder
Graphic Designer/Web Designer Nick Pentz
Website www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

Army-Navy Blood Drive Challenge set for Nov. 29

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

For the first time, APG is participating with ten other military installations in the Army-Navy Blood Drive Challenge.

Team APG will host the Armed Services Blood Drive at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Nov. 29, from 9 a.m. to 2p.m.

When they register to give blood, donors may vote for either the Army or the Navy. The results and a trophy will be presented to either an Army or Navy representative during the Army - Navy football game held at the Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pa. Dec. 8.

“The purpose of the Challenge Drive series is to spur an increase in donations during a time of year that is typically met with a significant seasonal decrease in donations,” said Blood Donor Recruiter Victoria Fernette.

Fernette added that the Armed Services Blood Program ships donated blood products to Soldiers, retirees and Family members deployed and at home, in peace and war, anywhere in the world. Donated blood can be transported from a blood drive site to within theater in three days.

“The greatest expression of grati-

tude to your service men and women, is the gift of your blood donation to the Armed Services Blood program this holiday season,” she said.

Fernette said on the day of the blood drive, donors are encouraged to maintain a list of any medications they may be taking and present it during the donor interview process. They should try to remain in good health, eat a meal and hydrate well in advance of donating blood.

“Proper nutrition and adequate hydration are critical to ensuring acceptability of donated units,” she said. “It is also important to refrain from vigorous physical activity the day an individual chooses to donate blood and to take special care afterward for proper recovery.”

Donors will also be required to show a valid ID at registration. All donors will receive a commemorative Army-Navy Blood Drive Challenge t-shirt.

To learn more about the Armed Services Blood Program, or to schedule an appointment, visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil. Interaction with staff members and ASBP updates are also available at www.facebook.com/militaryblood. For more information and further information and donor eligibility questions, e-mail Fernette at Victoria.L.Fernette.civ@health.mil.



Phlebotomist Claudia Gonzalez draws blood from Sarah Bacon, a military spouse, during an Armed Services Blood Drive held at APG South (Edgewood) in the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, building E4516 Nov. 5. The blood drive was hosted by Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, U.S. Army Public Health Command, and U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense. Of the 81 community members who volunteered to give blood, a total of 57 useable units were collected. Team APG will host the Armed Services Blood Drive at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Nov. 29, from 9 a.m.-2p.m.

Donations still being sought for CFC campaign

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

As of Nov. 19, Aberdeen Proving Ground has raised more than \$285,000 for the Combined Federal Campaign which runs through Dec. 14.

The CFC, which is the largest workplace charitable fundraising campaign in the world, supports eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits.

Currently Chesapeake Bay Area donors can choose from over 4,000 local, national and international CFC charities.

“The donations are on track and we expect to reach our goal of \$650,000 with five weeks remaining,” said CFC Chairperson Tom Johnson.

The APG CFC Thermometer, which keeps track of the amount of money donated, is updated weekly at www.apg.army.mil.

Johnson said that employees can feel confident donating because each year charities are screened annually by the CFC management team to ensure donated money is going towards people or agencies in need.

“We, as federal employees are quite fortunate as compared to the general civilian population, who may not have a job or under the threat that they may be unemployed at any time during these trying times,” he said. “For the folks that have become unemployed or are underemployed, it’s a great feeling to know there are agencies out there that can support them with basic living needs until

they can get on their feet.”

Johnson added that CFC is an easy way to give, because federal employees can donate using payroll deductions via www.cfcnexus.org or by paper pledge. With CFC, federal employees can make a big difference, even by donating a small amount each pay period.

“Even as little as one dollar a pay period goes a long way towards helping Families get by,” Johnson said. “Using online giving via CFCnexus.org or by paper pledge and payroll deduction is painless and barely noticed by the person giving.”

Additionally, everyone who contributes \$50 or more will receive a \$25 gift certificate redeemable at www.restaurant.com.

Although donating to CFC by payroll deduction is limited to federal employees and military personnel, anyone can make a one-time donation using credit or debit cards on www.cfcnexus.org. Cash or check donations can also be made by paper pledge.

Johnson added that a 2012 CFC Vice Chairman is still needed to assist in day to day operations.

“Having a vice chair is especially important, because they will be the chairman for the 2013 campaign,” he said. “If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible.”

For more information about the CFC program, contact your organization’s key worker or Johnson at 410-278-6456. Visit www.cbacfc.org for the 2012 Contributor’s Guide.

ECBC adds fun factor and earthworms to science lessons

By **JENNIFER CARROLL**
ECBC

As one of its major science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) educational outreach initiatives; the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center continues to help implement the 'Engineering is Elementary' (EiE) curriculum in Harford County Public Schools' elementary school classrooms.

After providing its neighboring school system with four different EiE storybook modules, ECBC subject matter experts have teamed up with local teachers to reinforce STEM concepts taught in the 'Yi Min's Great Wall,' 'A Reminder for Emily,' 'Leif Catches the Wind' and 'Saving Salila's Turtle' storybooks. EiE storybooks integrate engineering and technology concepts and skills with elementary science topics, challenging students to solve real-world problems.

"The Department of Defense National Defense Education Program (NDEP) enables us to offer teachers and students fun and meaningful experiences that enhance STEM lessons in the classroom," said Mary Doak ECBC program manager for community and educational outreach. "With NDEP's support, the scientists and engineers that work at ECBC today can help foster the STEM talent we need to solve tomorrow's problems."

ECBC Environmental Toxicologist Dr. Michael Simini, who uses earthworms to assess the impact of chemicals on the environment for DOD customers, recently translated his area of expertise into four real-world science lessons for 120 fifth-graders at Red Pump Elementary School in Bel Air.

"In my everyday job at ECBC, I analyze the way harmful pollutants affect the survival and reproduction of living organisms like earthworms and develop models that monitor environmental toxicity levels to support the sustainability of military testing and training ranges," Simini explained. "I truly enjoy sharing my passion for science with elementary school students I think this is the perfect time to start sparking students' interest in STEM career fields."



Photo by Jennifer Carroll
Fifth-grade students from Red Pump Elementary School examine earthworm behaviors in different environments during a science lesson led by ECBC Environmental Toxicologist Michael Simini, Ph.D.

Instead of using earthworms for chemical and biological defense projects, Simini used the organisms to engage students in a hands-on STEM activity that directly related to the EiE story 'Saving Salila's Turtle.' After reviewing topics like the eco-system, living and non-living organisms and the food chain with each group of students, Simini asked questions that allowed them to apply their knowledge of science.

Students then took a closer look at earthworms and their behavior in different environments. During two separate experiments, students examined whether worms preferred a 'wet' or 'dry' environment and whether they were attracted to a 'polluted' or 'clean' area. While using creative thinking and the scientific method, they developed a hypothesis, performed a scientific experiment and drew conclusions

based on the scientific data collected.

Heather Hammond, who teaches fifth-grade science at Red Pump Elementary School, invited Simini into the school to help reinforce STEM concepts outlined in the environmental science curriculum.

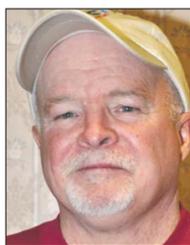
"Dr. Simini's visit to our classroom was a great way to enhance our 'Environmental Issues' and 'Environmental Engineering' science units," she said. "The students were intrigued by using earthworms for scientific experiments and really enjoyed the STEM experience ECBC provided."

Looking through the eyes of science, students applied inquiry and problem-solving skills to the discovery of a phenomenon unfamiliar to them before Simini came into their classroom.

"I was very surprised to see how earthworms reacted to different envi-

ronments," said fifth-grade student Nick Hildebrandt. "I had a lot of fun conducting this activity, because it allowed us to see and examine earthworm behaviors up close."

ECBC is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and field operations. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for the warfighter and for our national defense, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is a U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command laboratory located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. For more information, visit the ECBC website at <http://www.ecbc.army.mil> or call (410) 436-7118.



Ken Singleton
Supervisory Recreation Assistant

Meet **Ken Singleton**, a supervisory recreation assistant at MWR's Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center. Singleton's job includes overseeing the maintenance, distribution and inventory of ERC rental equipment. Located in Bldg. 2184, behind the ATEC headquarters building, the ERC offers rental equipment for year-round outdoor activities; from boats and camping equipment to tables, chairs and canopies.

"In winter, our mainstay is ski rentals," Singleton said, adding that ski season for most of the Mid-Atlantic resorts starts Thanksgiving Day.

The ERC rents downhill skis (including poles and boots), and snowboards. It also provides ski tuning services such as waxing, edging and P-Tex repairs. Singleton said first-time renters can save time by calling in for a fitting prior to picking

up their rentals.

"We have sizes from kids to adults but it's best to come in to be sized prior to your trip," he said.

The ERC hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, now through March 31. Weekend rentals are picked up Friday and returned Monday.

Also, MWR has discount lift tickets to three popular area resorts: Roundtop, Whitetail and Liberty. Tickets can be purchased at the ERC or at the Leisure Travel Office in the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326, 410-278-4011/4907.

For more information, contact Singleton or Outdoor Recreation Program Director Ralph Cuomo at 410-278-4124/5789; e-mail kenneth.e.singleton.naf@mail.mil, or visit the MWR website at www.apgmwr.com.

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Chaplains encourage couples to attend Strong Bonds

Couples should contact the chapel to register

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground's Chaplain Services is planning an all-expenses paid, three-day, two-night training conference for fifteen married couples at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Md. Dec. 6-8.

Strong Bonds is an Army-wide conference for active duty military, their spouses and single Soldiers. The Strong Bonds conference was designed to help Soldiers deal with communication issues and the stress of a modern-day military at war.

APG Installation Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jerry Owens, who has over 25 years experience working with couples, said that making a marriage work is difficult, even in the best of circumstances. Military Families face difficult obstacles like deployments, long work hours and frequent moves; all can take a toll on a marriage.

Owens said that even though the Department of the Army has recently cut funds for certain programs, Strong Bonds training is still offered to build resilient Army Families.

"This is one of the programs [DA has] identified as being one of the most effective ways of strengthening marriages and building resilient Families," he said.

Participants in the conference will learn valuable lessons from the best-selling "Fighting for Your Marriage" workbook by Howard Markman, Scott Stanley and Susan Blumberg, which uses the widely acclaimed Pre-

vention and Relationship Enhancement Program, or PREP approach.

Owens said that while studying the PREP approach, couples will explore different communication techniques, like active listening and finding "win-win" solutions to problems.

"Strong Bonds takes a proactive approach," he said. "We try to get in front of the problems and improve what is already working."

He added that every marriage, even good marriages, require maintenance.

"Every so often, couples should take time to discuss what they are doing right in their marriage and areas they need to fix," he said. "No one has the perfect marriage."

Owens and Chaplain (Col.) David Smith from Fort George G. Meade, will lead presentations and discussions assisted by Sgt. 1st Class Elijah Mack, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Main Post Chapel.

Couples can register for Strong Bonds by visiting www.strongbonds.org, and selecting "Strong Bonds Families" and "APG Strong Bonds Couples Retreat." In addition to registering online, couples also must call the chapel at 410-278-4333 to confirm their reservation. Soldiers who decide to attend the conference must request "Permissive TDY" by completing a DA Form 31, submitted through their chain-of-command. A confirmed registration packet will not be handed out until a signed copy of DA Form 31 is provided and an "Agreement to Attend" is signed in person at the Main Post Chapel, building 2485.

Childcare will be provided on-site, at no cost to the couples.

Owens said that while space is limited, two Strong Bonds retreats are being planned for summer 2013, on dates to be determined.

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

Thanksgiving prep underway from Kandahar to Korea

By **DAVID VERGUN**
Army News Service

Soldiers at remote outposts in Afghanistan, and those around the globe from Korea to Germany to installations across the United States are preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving in traditional ways.

Service members at more than 200 locations in Afghanistan will receive turkey and trimmings from the Defense Logistics Agency's Troop Support personnel. DLA has shipped more than 60,000 pounds of beef, 20,000 pounds of ham, 45,000 pounds of turkey, 28,000 sweet potatoes and 4,800 pies to service members there.

Meanwhile, food inspectors from the U.S. Army Public Health Command are busy ensuring that turkey and all the other fixings at commissaries worldwide meet the highest food safety standards. Installations throughout the Army are planning their own Thanksgiving events, some of which have already taken place.

At Fort Bragg, N.C., all 15 dining facilities are preparing for a lot of hungry Soldiers and their families this Thanksgiving. "This year will be a major difference because we will have almost all of the six brigades of the 82nd Airborne Division and the XVIII Airborne Corps home," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jasper Lee, XVIII Airborne Corps food service advisor. "This will be the first time we've had this many Soldiers back home in about six years."

Not only will Fort Bragg cooks be able to provide home-cooked meals to fellow Soldiers and their families, but they will also compete against each other to see which dining facility is the finest during the Thanksgiving holiday meal "Best Dining Facility Competition." Judging will be based on preparation, sanitation, decorations and displays.

"Each dining facility will pick a theme and create decorations and displays based off of that theme," said Sgt. 1st Class Grant Beyers, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade's dining facility manager. "It's a lot of preparing and work to do, not only on decorations, but



U.S. Army photo

A Soldier from the U.S. Army Public Health Command inspects food at the commissary at Fort Meade, Md. Inspectors are busy this time of year inspecting turkey and other holiday foods.

most importantly the food."

"It's a great opportunity to provide this kind of meal for Soldiers that do stay home for the holidays and give them a kind of place to confide so they do not feel alone," said Spc. Matthew Tisch, a food service specialist for Headquarters Support Company, 122nd Aviation Support Battalion, 82nd CAB.

At Fort Rucker, Ala., the dining facility is providing "a special meal to those Soldiers who are unable to go home for the Thanksgiving holiday. Many of the Soldiers on Fort Rucker are in a training status and this is our way of giving our Soldiers a feeling of home away from home," said

Sgt. Maj. Marvin A. Pinckney, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence G-3 sergeant major.

Pinckney said the regular price of \$7 for a meal will be reduced to \$5.95 for Family members of E-4 Soldiers and below.

Also at Fort Rucker, the Holiday Food Program, along with the Fort Rucker Food Locker and the Angel Tree Program are helping families on the installation during the Thanksgiving and holiday season. Thus far, 198 needy Soldiers and their families and Army civilians have been chosen to receive food baskets, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Buford E. Noland, garrison command sergeant major.

"We often hear about the needs around the world, and those needs are critical, but this is our opportunity during the holidays to help our own right here on the installation," Noland said.

At Yongsan Garrison, South Korea the Eighth Army commanding general released a first-ever video message to the Korean people in honor of Chuseok, Korea's annual harvest festival.

Surrounded by South Korean and American troops in uniform and Koreans in traditional dress, Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. John D. Johnson and his wife Cheryl talked about the importance of the holiday in South Korea.

"Chuseok is a time when our Korean friends and partners connect with their roots," said Johnson adding that Chuseok marks the end of the fall harvest season.

"Traditionally a celebration of the harvest, like Thanksgiving in the U.S., Korean people travel back to their hometowns to celebrate with their

families and to honor their ancestors," Cheryl Johnson added to her husband's remarks.

Also at Yongsan Garrison, Gen. James D. Thurman, commander of United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea, and his wife Dee read children's books to Soldiers' kids as part of a pre-Thanksgiving event Nov. 10, which included a turkey meal with all the trimmings.

"We have some foremost duties, and one of them is to serve our families and serve them well," Thurman said. "I think today's Thanksgiving story time demonstrated the caring nature that we have for the service members and their families. Our families and their children are so important and to bring everyone in gives a chance for a fellowship. I just hope you have a happy Thanksgiving with your Family and take the deserved time to spend with your children."

Thanksgiving and the holiday season can be a particularly difficult time for some Soldiers and their families. Suicides in the Army are still high and many Soldiers returning from deployment or transitioning out of the Army are having difficulties adjusting.

"Be mindful that this is a particularly stressful time of the year," said Maj. Gen. James C. McConville, commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). "Be aware of the stress points and know when to take a break or to ask for help if you need it before letting situations get out of control. We have access to chaplains, counselors, and a whole host of community services that are here to support you when needed. Asking for help is a sign of strength."

ASAP offers tips for safe holiday travel

By **CINDY SCOTT**

Army Substance Abuse Program

As APG community members prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday with Family and friends, the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) reminds everyone that Thanksgiving weekend is the most traveled holiday period of the year with almost 90 percent of those traveling doing so by car.

If previous statistics hold true, this Thanksgiving weekend will also be the deadliest holiday period of the year.

Police everywhere are implementing plans for enhancing enforcement and visibility on all highways and roads across the nation. They will focus specifically on drunk driving, aggressive driving and unsafe vehicle operation.

Motorists should remember:

- Don't follow too closely.
- Slow down and stay a safe distance behind the car in front of you.

- Stay off your cell phone while driving (including texting). Taking your eyes off the road for just a second or two can have tragic consequences. Unless you have hands-free equipment, pull off the road.

- Report any suspected drunk drivers to police.

- Sleepy drivers may nod off at the wheel and are just as dangerous as drunk drivers.

- Don't consume alcohol or drugs. Buzzed driving is the same as drunk driving.

- Don't depend on caffeine or "energy drinks" to take the place of sleep. When they wear off, you will fall asleep.

- Watch out for other drivers and think safety.

Arrive Alive! Don't Drink and Drive!

For more information contact Cindy Scott, at ASAP, 410-278-4013/DRUG, Cynthia.M.Scott4.civ@mail.mil.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TODAY

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Join the APG Catholic community in celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving at the APG North (Aberdeen) Chapel center on Wednesday, Nov. 21 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Joyce Wood at 410-278-4333.

FRIDAY

NOV. 23

DES BADGING OFFICE CLOSED

The DES Badge Offices (Aberdeen and Edgewood) will be closed on 23 Nov 2012.

Both offices will re-open on 26 Nov. For questions or more information, contact Sam Seay at 410-278-3127

SATURDAY

NOV. 24

NEW YORK CITY BUS TRIP

Spend the day in the Big Apple, at your leisure. There will be plenty of time for shopping, taking in the sights or catching a Broadway Show. The cost is \$46 per person for round trip coach fare. Bus departs APG at 6 a.m. and returns approximately 10 p.m. For more information or to make reservations, contact Patti Harkins, Civilian Welfare Fund Office, at 410-436-4467 or e-mail patricia.e.harkins.naf@mail.mil

SUNDAY

NOV. 25

SIMPLY SPECIAL BOWLING

Bowling for patrons with disabilities begins 10:30 a.m. and lasts until 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 410-278-4041.

TUESDAY

NOV. 27

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Serving Our People, Serving Our Nation: Native Visions for Future Generations. Join the annual celebration of Native American Heritage Month at the APG North (Aberdeen) rec center, Bldg. 3326, Nov. 27, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For more information contact:

- Sgt. 1st Class David Hall, RDE-COM, EO, 410-306-2425
- Tracy Marshall, CECOM/Installation EO, 443-861-4366
- Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Cole, 20th SPT CBRNE EO, 410-436-0320
- Linda Patrick, USAPHC, 410-436-1023
- Sgt. 1st Class Howard Norcross, USAATEC EO, 443-861-9251

WEDNESDAY

NOV. 28

HCC MILITARY APPRECIATION BASKETBALL

Harford Community College invites all active duty military, veterans and their Family members to attend double-header Men's and Women's basketball games free-of-charge.

The HCC Fighting Owls will take on Baltimore City Community College. Women's tipoff is at 5 p.m. and the men's game follows at 7 p.m. in the school's new arena.

Service members and veterans are asked to show their ID at the ticket window. Each will receive up to four tickets to the games.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/harfordcc or call 410-836-4000, Ext. 2408.

FRIDAY

NOV. 30

BASKET BINGO

BINGO, sponsored by Giving Back Hope, will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 201 Mt. Royal Avenue, Aberdeen. Doors open at 6 p.m., early bird game begins at 6:45 p.m., BINGO begins at 7 p.m. Pack of cards for 20 games costs \$12, extra packets are \$5. Food and drinks are available. Bring a canned good and/or non-perishable for bonus prize ticket. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Brenda Conjour at 410-278-7332 or Gloria Williams at 410-273-1806.

SATURDAY

DEC. 1

THE ABERDEEN ROOM

The Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum, 18 N. Howard Street in Aberdeen, will host its 25th Anniversary Open House from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Enjoy punch and cookies while taking in a guided

CPR, AED classes slated

The APG Fire and Emergency Services Division of the Directorate of Emergency Services is offering CPR and automated external defibrillator classes in the coming weeks. Two classes will be held the third Wednesday of each month from September through December.

Dates, times and locations are:

- Nov. 21, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the APG North Chapel
- Dec. 19, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Edgewood Conference Center, Bldg. E4810

Class size is limited to 30 participants.

For more information or to register, contact Mike Slayman, assistant chief of EMS, at 410-306-0566 or e-mail michael.p.slayman.civ@mail.mil.

tour of the museum's artifacts and learning about the rich histories of the city of Aberdeen and Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Open House is free and open to the public. For more information, call 410-273-6325; e-mail sayhello@aberdeenroom.org or visit the Aberdeen Room website at www.aberdeenroom.org.

THROUGH DEC. 3

APG SOUTH FOOD, TOY AND GIFT DRIVE

This event benefits civilian and military Families in the community. Donation boxes are located in the lobbies of JPEO-CBD, Bldgs. E2800, E3551, E5101; PEO ACWA, Bldg. E3331; CMA, Bldgs. E4405, E4517, E4585, E4586, E4588; ECBC, Bldgs. E3150, E3330, E3400, E3510, E3516, E3549, E3831, E3942, E4301, E5100, E5232, E5234, E5560, E5951; and USAMRICE, Bldgs. E3100, E3081.

For more information, contact Mary Doak at mary.l.doak.civ@mail.mil or phone 410-436-7231

SATURDAY

DEC. 8

FREE SKATING AT ICE WORLD

Enjoy free admission courtesy of CWF from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. Bring your own skates or rent them. Advance reservations required. For more information or to make reservations, contact Patti Harkins, Civilian Welfare Fund Office, at 410-436-4467 or e-mail patricia.e.harkins.naf@mail.mil.

TUESDAY

DEC. 11

APG WINTERFEST

Bring the Family and come celebrate winter and the holiday season during the APG Winterfest, 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center. Enjoy the Hoppin Hawks puppet show and other live entertainment, photos with Santa, tree lighting, caroling, kid's activities, holiday craft vendors, holiday refreshments, a Ginger Bread House contest, an Ugly Sweater Contest and more. View contest rules online at www.apgmwr.com. The North Side Grille will open late for additional food choices. Admission is free. For more information, call the MWR Leisure Travel Office at 410-278-4011/3854.

WEDNESDAY

DEC. 12

STRESS MANAGEMENT CLASS

APG is offering a Stress Management class from noon to 1 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel, Classroom 3. Come learn how to manage work-related stress associated with the holidays. Registration is required. To register, or for more information, contact Gale Sauer at 443-861-9260 or e-mail gale.m.sauer.ctr@mail.mil.

ONGOING

DONATE TO CFC

The annual Combined Federal Campaign is underway. For a list of charities or to make a contribution, visit https://www.cfcnexus.org/_chesapeake/ For more information, contact Tom Johnson at 410-278-6456 or e-mail thomas.g.johnson5.civ@mail.mil.

THURSDAYS

SOCIAL HOUR

Socialize, network or just unwind with fellow Soldiers, coworkers, friends and Family while enjoying good food, music and camaraderie during Thursday Socials, 4 to 7 p.m., in the Top of the Bay Gunpowder Lounge.

Thursday Socials include complimentary light refreshments and a cash bar with additional fare for sale.

For more information, contact Teri Hall at 410-278-3062.

THANK THE TROOPS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Shutterfly, Inc. has launched its Thank the Troops campaign and invites everyone to send a thank you card to military service members and veterans in VA hospitals this holiday season.

Sending a free card is easy. Simply access the Facebook app, select a card, add a personal message or photo, and click send.

Shutterfly will take care of the printing and delivery. Completed cards will be distributed to troops and veterans nationwide and overseas. Pick up MyArmyphotos post cards at APG recreation centers to login for a free Photo Book. To learn more and to create a card visit <https://apps.facebook.com/thankthetroops/>.

USMC HERITAGE AWARDS

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation is accepting submissions for its annual awards program. Each year the foundation presents awards honoring outstanding, creative work of individuals in preserving Marine Corps history, traditions and culture.

Marines, civilians and retirees can submit their own entries or the work of others. All winners receive a \$1,000 cash prize, a medallion and a commemorative brick along the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park pathway at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

Awards will be presented during the foundation's annual ceremony April 20, 2013. Submission deadline is Jan. 9, 2013. E-mail submissions to Susan Hodges, vice-president of administration, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, at hodges@marineheritage.org.

Mailed submissions should be sent to Susan Hodges, c/o Awards Program, 3800 Fetter Park Drive #104, Dumfries, VA 22025. The 2013 Awards Program Submission Form must accompany all submissions.

For information, contact Hodges at 703-640-7961, e-mail hodges@marineheritage.org, or visit <http://www.marineheritage.org/Awards.asp>; click on "Programs" then "Awards."

RENT CAPA FIELD

Rent CAPA Field picnic area in Edgewood for \$250 for the entire day for Family reunions, graduation parties, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The site includes a covered pavilion with picnic tables, grills, an ice machine and sports equipment. Reservations are accepted starting March 1. For more information or to make reservations, contact Patti Harkins, Civilian Welfare Fund Office, at 410-436-4467 or e-mail patricia.e.harkins.naf@mail.mil

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

Firewood is now available at a cost of \$20 per level standard 8-foot pick-up truck; \$15 per level standard 6-foot pick-up truck; and \$5 per car trunk load. Permits to buy wood are good for ten days, or until an order is filled, whichever comes first. Loads must be checked at either DES police stations in Bldg. 2200 in APG North (Aberdeen) or Bldg. E4420 in APG South (Edgewood) before exiting post.

Permits will be issued on a first-come-first served basis 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. APG South Bldg. E4630 Monday through Thursday. For more information, call Kathy Thisse, 410-436-8789 or Scott English, 410-436-9804.

NOMINATE MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR BY DEC. 15

Operation Homefront has announced that nominations for the Military Child of the Year Awards are being accepted online at <http://militarychildoftheyear.org/> through Dec. 15. Winners will be recognized in April 2013.

The Military Child of the Year Award recognizes children who stand out among their peers. Ideal candidates for the award demonstrate resilience, strength of character, and thrive in the face of the challenges of military life. These young heroes embody leadership within their families and communities.

This award is presented to an outstanding child from each branch of service – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The winners each receive \$5,000 and a laptop, and will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for a special recognition ceremony at the Ritz-Carlton in Pentagon City on April 11.

For more information on how to nominate a child in your family or community, log on to <http://militarychildoftheyear.org/>

CHAPELS NEED EDUCATION COORDINATOR

An Ecumenical religious education coordinator is needed at the APG post chapels.

This is a part-time position, lasting for 12 months. The flexible work schedule consists of 50 hours a month including Sundays. If interested or for more information, contact Gerri Merkel at 410-278-2516 or e-mail caroline.j.merkel.civ@mail.mil.

REPORT POWER OUTAGES TO PICERNE MILITARY HOUSING

During the fall and winter, the weather brings a lot of rain and snow. Often times this can lead to power outages.

All residential power outages should be reported to the Neighborhood Office at 410-305-1076. This will allow staff to determine if the outage is widespread or specific to the home and coordinate the responsible provider to restore power.

In the event a neighborhood office loses power, the phone system may also be affected. If the office cannot be reached, residents should call the following toll-free numbers to report outages and maintenance emergencies. Calls to the toll-free number will directly connect residents to the emergency on-call service.

Aberdeen Proving Ground: 1-866-958-5412

Patriot Village: 1-866-871-6257

NH Office: 410-305-1076

ECUMENICAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR AT APG POST CHAPELS

This part-time position is available tentatively for 12 months. The flexible work schedule is 50 hours a month including Sundays. If interested or for more information contact Gerri Merkel, 410-278-2516 or e-mail caroline.j.merkel.civ@mail.mil.

APG THRIFT SHOP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Are you a retiree, empty-nester or stay-at-home-wife or hubby looking for something to do? With just two hours a week to spare, you can serve your community as a volunteer at the APG Thrift Store. Located in Bldg. 2458 behind the Main Post Chapel, the Thrift Shop offers quality, gently-used items featuring clothing for babies to adults including military uniforms, appliances, electronics, furniture, luggage, kitchenware, toys, knick knacks, books, jewelry and collectibles. And its dollars go right back into the community. So come spend an hour or a day, making new friends while helping your community.

For more information, or to volunteer, call the Thrift Shop during business hours at 410-272-8572.

APG DRIVERS MUST OBEY SPEED LIMITS

APG motorists are urged to obey the speed limit. Drivers should be especially cautious during physical fitness training hours as Soldiers exercise outdoors and conduct PT tests.



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

Loyalty defines our allegiance

By SANDRA GIBSON

U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command

Loyalty means different things to different people depending on whether they are active duty military, retired military or a civilian employee who has never served in a military capacity.

While all support the goals and missions of the Army and its Soldiers in the performance of their day-to-day duties, the term "loyalty" is interpreted differently.

The Army defines loyalty as "bearing true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other Soldiers."

This definition is very similar to the one shared by Cleon Raynor, ATEC operations division chief and a retired

Army lieutenant colonel. "Loyalty means commitment to a cause, a purpose or a person. It embodies the ability to stand behind one's promises and convictions," he said. "Loyalty does not waiver in the time of test but garners strength from within to stand committed to support the person, the belief or the cause despite whatever challenges may come."

While Raynor's definition links more closely with the Army one, other ATEC personnel focus their loyalties elsewhere. Master Sgt. Sheila Sango, ATEC senior career counselor, believes it means "a total commitment to taking care of Soldiers." She also believes that when you lose that feeling, you need to get out.

For Courtney Swartz, process

improvement coordinator and devoted Orioles fan, loyalty means an unwavering support for her favorite baseball team.

Kelly Keck, disability program manager in ATEC's Equal Employment Opportunity office, has a different view. "Many people in the military demonstrate loyalty by retiring in it. A husband and wife together for 50 years demonstrate their loyalty to one another," said Keck. He also said that the same way a man's "best friend" will stay with him its whole life, some people also behave similarly in regard to their family, friends, jobs, religion, or country. "You act, behave or believe about something or someone in a way that is not faltering."

For ATEC Command Sgt. Maj.

Allen Fritzsching loyalty to your fellow Soldiers is critical for generating confidence and trust, and that loyalty to one's leaders and fellow Soldiers is a unit's most vital resource. "It is this commitment that causes units and Soldiers to risk everything to succeed and to bring everyone back," he said.

Fritzsching hopes that by focusing on Army values that the loyalty and commitment of ATEC personnel to the nation, to the Army, to the Command, and to the Soldier, will be even stronger once Operation Solemn Promise concludes in April 2013. Up next: Duty.

Editor's Note: This is the first article in a seven-part series prepared by the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command on the Army Values.

Veterans gather to share business opportunities

Continued from Page 1

Garrity added that veterans have developed mental toughness or resiliency, and self discipline; traits that are needed in the business world.

"People in the military have an extra gear for dealing with issues, dealing with fatigue and working in a stressful environment," he said. "You have a different threshold than the average person."

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. James Ervin said that with the end of combat operations in Afghanistan, the Army will get smaller over the next five years, which means more veterans will be looking for jobs. Today, almost half of those serving are between 22 and 30 years old. Currently, America has the largest population of young veterans since the Vietnam War.

"More than 130,000 Soldiers will leave the Army this year, and more than 500,000 by 2017. This means that a lot of young Soldiers will be transitioning out of the military and, with our support,



Photo by Rachel Ponder

From left Military veteran Ira Kelly networks with small business owner and military veteran Gail Schnell, of Schnell-Tech Solutions LLC, during Veterans Entrepreneur Day at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Nov. 15.

into civilian communities and jobs," he said.

Ervin added that individuals can do their part

by encouraging businesses to hire veterans or military Family members. They can also tell organizations

that hire veterans about the National Resource Directory, www.nationalresource.gov/, so service

members and their Families can access information about their services. Individuals can also give back by volunteering with organizations that assist veterans and their Families.

"Soldiers bring exceptional training, values and experience to their civilian jobs. The talents we develop in the military make us valuable additions to any organization," he said.

Army veteran Gail Schnell, CEO of Schnell-Tech Solutions LLC, an Information Technology Consulting and Contracting Company, said that she enjoyed having the chance to network with other veteran business owners during the event. Schnell was recently selected as a Women Veterans Rock! Rising Star honoree.

"There are not many women veteran business owners," she said. "I am used to being a minority; I am not going to let that deter me. I want to continue to be a leader and hopefully a role model to other women."

Hiring at garrisons will be faster, easier

Continued from Page 1

but the garrisons are now anxious to fill these nearly 2,000 openings to sustain their operations.

"It's great to see that we could continue to meet our mission requirements while still taking care of our civilian workforce," said IMCOM commander Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter.

The federal hiring system is a competitive process, designed to evaluate applicants fairly, but not necessarily quickly, especially in recruiting from outside the government. But federal regulations allow for noncompetitive consideration of the very populations IMCOM seeks to help—including current employees, transitioning Soldiers and disabled veterans.

"As we look at ways to expedite the approval process, there are steps the garrisons can take to speed the process, including streamlining the recruiting process, working in advance with the CPAC on determining the level of competition, getting job assessments ready, considering noncompetitive selections of the current IMCOM workforce, and hiring veterans and Family members," said IMCOM Director of Human Resources (G1) Karen M. Perkins.

Most hiring actions still must go to the HQ IMCOM Human Resources Management Board (HRMB) for initial screening and a recommendation to the commanding general. When the commander approves a

“It's great to see that we could continue to meet our mission requirements while still taking care of our civilian workforce.”

Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter

IMCOM commander

hiring request, he specifies whether a vacancy must be filled by a current IMCOM employee or whether it can be recruited outside the command and even outside the federal workforce.

The first step remains the IMCOM Enterprise Placement Program (IEPP), which may provide a reassignment opportunity for a potentially vulnerable IMCOM employee who is willing to relocate. While the IEPP process is working, managers can begin their recruitment process to be ready to select if IEPP does not provide an eligible candidate.

If managers want to consider using one of the special hiring authorities laid out under Title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations, there are many ways to hire transitioning Soldiers, disabled veterans and persons with disabilities noncompetitively.

"These are excellent ways to select qualified people noncompetitively, and

they help disabled veterans and transitioning soldiers, which we want to do anyway," said Lois Keith, chief of Civilian Personnel in the IMCOM G1.

One such authority is the Veterans' Recruitment Authority (VRA), which allows for noncompetitive appointment to positions in grades up to GS-11 of disabled veterans or veterans who served on active duty during a war, a recognized campaign or expedition, or certain other military operations. The VRA also extends to recently separated veterans.

Another opportunity is to appoint a veteran retired from active duty with a disability rating of 30 percent or more. These appointments are 60-day temporary or term to start with, but may be converted to career or career-conditional at any time. There are no grade limits with a 30 percent disability appointment, as long as the applicant meets all qualification standards.

Another talent resource is Army spouses, who normally won't qualify for noncompetitive appointment, but often come with wide experience and varied skill sets that might not be readily available in the local talent pool. And former government employees eligible for reinstatement can be selected noncompetitively in any grade up to their former highest grade, as long as they meet qualifications.

The installation Civilian Personnel Action Center (CPAC) is the local resource for all civilian hiring, but especially when trying to expedite hiring through the use of noncompetitive appointments, so every action should be in consultation with them.

With the need for balance between expedited hiring and sustainable end strengths, garrison commanders need access to more than one option when filling a critical vacancy. The headquarters will likely stay very involved in the hiring process for the foreseeable future in the interest of sheltering the workforce from future adverse actions due to civilian reductions.

Options do exist, however, and using the hiring authorities provided can help garrisons fill their critical vacancies while also providing opportunity for some very deserving candidates.

Vets, Gold Star Families honored

Continued from Page 1

APG Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Ferrell and Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton.

The program included music from the Aberdeen High School choir and band, a scripture reading by Chaplain (Maj.) Fred Townsend, Prayers of Petition and Thanksgiving by retired Sgt. Jack Wood and the morning message by Installation Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jerry Owens.

After the service guests enjoyed a Thanksgiving lunch of ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, dressing, cranberry sauce, gravy and desserts, catered by Top of the Bay.

Wood is a medically retired veteran, ordained minister and the husband of chapel administrative assistant, Joyce Wood. He said he was honored that Owens asked him to speak.

"Thanksgiving is always special

but any time it's for veterans, that makes it even more special," he said.

Carol Roddy, president of Maryland Gold Star Mothers, said the group is always happy to return to APG.

"It was just beautiful," Roddy said of the program. "You typically expect services on patriotic holidays but to do it at Thanksgiving makes it more of a celebration."



Want to make a difference in how services are rendered

at APG? Tell us how we are doing.

Visit <http://ice.disa.mil>. Click on "ARMY" then "Aberdeen Proving Ground."

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/>.



HHC, USAG VISITS ROYE-WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fifth-grader Shane Sanchez recites the American's Creed as Spc. Dustin Noland and members of the color guard from APG's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, look on during a Patriot's Day program at Roye Williams Elementary School Nov. 8.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

PLAYING THROUGH

All bundled up, C4ISR civilian Kevin O'Brien, readies his swing during the Veterans Month Golf Tournament at Ruggles Golf Course Nov. 16. The event, which was postponed Nov. 13 due to rain, was well attended despite low temperatures and blustery winds.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

EMPLOYEES LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE

From left, Brenda Barney, CECOM LRC, practices sign language with Mike Graziano, USASNEC, and Linda Payne, ARL, during an American Sign Language class in the Garrison Conference Room Nov. 14. For more information contact Wendy LaRoche at wendy.laroche@us.army.mil.



YOUTH GIVE THANKS

This colorful Thanksgiving scene created by a Child, Youth and School Services youth is one of several hailing Veterans Month and Thanksgiving on display at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center through Nov. 30.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson