

APG NEWS



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October 11, 2012 Vol. 56, No. 41

Retiree Appreciation Day set for Oct. 20

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

APG's annual Retiree Appreciation Day is set for Oct. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon in the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg 3326. Military retirees, their spouses, and surviving spouses are encouraged to attend to receive updates on post services, health care choices, pending bills in the state legislature, and more.

"We have several thousand retirees that live and work in our local community,"

said APG Garrison Director of Human Resources and Adjutant General Janet Dettwiler. "It's important to honor these retirees, who served their country, and continue to serve."

Representatives from 40 post, local, state and federal organizations will be on hand to answer questions and share information about their services. They include the Defense Commissary Agency; Directorate of Emergency Services; Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Army

and Air Force Exchange Services; Staff Judge Advocate; Perry Point VA Medical Center; Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs; Harford County Veterans Commission; Social Security Administration; Uniform Services Family Health Plan and more.

Health care professionals from Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will give blood pressure checks and flu shots to retirees

See **RETIREES**, page 10

Drivers think safety

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

It's that time of year again. The advent of fall brings shorter daylight hours, which means reduced visibility for motor vehicle operators. On Aberdeen Proving Ground, this often means dropping down below the posted speed limits for hard-to-see road hazards like wet leaves or troop formations.



Honan

According to Maj. Charles Honan, chief of the Directorate of Emergency Services' Police Services Division, too many drivers seem unaware of regulations regarding driving near marching or running formations.

"With the fall weather comes potential road hazards. It gets dark earlier in the evenings and stays dark later in the mornings; cutting down on visibility," Honan said. "We all need to understand that as we lose daylight hours we need to be more cautious and aware of pedestrians, joggers or troops in formation during early morning or evening physical fitness training."

Honan said APG Regulation 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic, dated July 2009, applies to all motor vehicle operators on the installation – service members, employees, residents or visitors – and that violators are subject to a citation, which means a visit to the Magistrate Court, or a fine.

Specifically, Section 21 of APGR 190-5 ("Troop Formations"), states that "Whenever vehicles encounter troop formations, the speed limit from the FRONT is 10 miles per hour or less. Vehicles approaching a formation from the REAR will

See **SAFETY**, page 10



Photo by Rachel Ponder

APG celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

(From left) Rachel Montoya and Jessica Cabrera from D4C, perform a traditional dance during Aberdeen Proving Ground's annual Hispanic American Heritage Month Celebration held at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Oct. 3. **SEE PAGE 10 FOR FULL STORY**

Boy Scout's Eagle project benefits local vets

James Heuser, a Boy Scout with Troop 828 in Lutherville, Md., stands in front of a new gazebo located in front of a community living center at the Perry Point VA Medical Center, where he coordinated the construction and fundraising efforts as part of his Eagle Scout project. **SEE PAGE 5**

Courtesy photo

HCC hosts 3rd annual Military Appreciation Event

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

The Harford Community College Student Government Association hosted its third annual program honoring current and past military students during the Military Appreciation Event in the school's Edgewood Hall Oct. 2.

Guest speakers included Col. Gregory R. McClinton, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander; HCC student and APG NCO of the Year Sgt. Olayiwola Kugblenu of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic; and retired Marine Corps Master Sgt. Christopher Jacobs, also a HCC student.



Kugblenu

HCC President, Dr. Dennis Golladay thanked McClinton and the audience for

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WEATHER

Thurs.



62° | 46°

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OPINION

STREET TALK

How do you balance your Family life and work life?

It is hard to balance work and home life in the military. My Family will use dinner time to catch up on our daily activities. We also plan new activities we can do together. Recently we tried hand-fishing and off-roading. My extended Family likes to get together often for cookouts.



Staff Sgt. Edwin Toro
22d Chemical Battalion (TE)

My Family balances work and home life very carefully. My wife is a stay-at-home mom, so she takes care of most of the home responsibilities and I take care of the work responsibilities. My daughter is a cheerleader, so we go to middle school football games together and go out to eat to spend time together.



Bryn Lickenbill
ATEC

I am a stay-at-home mom. I worked in the past, but I had trouble balancing my work and home life. I always felt like I had to sacrifice something, and I was always tired. I admire women who can do both, they are super heroes in my eyes.



Heather Coley
Military spouse

I work part-time as a caregiver, which allows me to have more time with my Family. I try to carefully plan my day so that I have time for my Family, work and myself. Even though my children are older, they still need me. Family always comes first.



Beth Bauguess
Caregiver

Domestic violence hurts Families, Army

At APG and across the country, there is a battle that we should never forget to fight—the battle against domestic violence. The Army observes Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention Month in October. This year's theme, "Don't Turn Your Back on Domestic Violence," is self-explanatory. It is based on the concept of mobilizing everyone in the community, including leaders at all levels and bystanders, to help change the climate surrounding domestic abuse and prevent abuse from happening.



If you are a victim of domestic violence, you are not alone. Reach out for help! The longer you wait, the more fragile the situation may become. If you are an abuser, beware – and get help! If you become aware of a domestic violence situation, report it!

The first front of this battle is awareness and education. The more informed you are on the topic, the better your chances of identifying behaviors and knowing how to assist.

Domestic violence, also called intimate partner violence, is the blanket term for the four types of abuse: emotional, sexual, physical and neglect (E.S.P.N.). Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of coercive behaviors designed to exert power and control over a person in an intimate relationship. The abuser uses intimidation and threatening, harmful or harassing behavior to control his partner. The couple may be married, dating, cohabiting or living in separate quarters.

I encourage everyone—Soldiers, Family members, Army civilians and retirees—to take the opportunity this month to learn more about domestic violence, the risk factors and how to prevent it.

A good way to learn more about domestic violence is by calling or visiting the Family Advocacy Program at Army Community Service.

The Family Advocacy Program provides advocacy, training and prevention material on request. They also make referrals to other military and civilian agencies that can provide additional services.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, you are not alone. Reach out for help! The longer you wait, the more fragile the situation may become. If you are an abuser, beware – and get help! If you become aware of a domestic violence situation, report it!

There are no excuses for domestic violence. Getting help before a situation gets out of hand is the smart thing to do.

If you or someone you know needs help maintaining a healthy relationship, support services are available through ACS, Social Work Service, Behavioral Health, Division of Mental Health, chaplains, Family life consultants and Military One Source.

ACS, located in Bldg 2503, is a great first step. They can provide information and training for you or your organization.

It doesn't matter what time it is—morning, noon, or night—our victim advocate is on call 24/7 to provide

support to the abused individual. Visit the APG Army Community Service website at <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/services/ACS/> for more information or call Kimberly Williams, Family Advocacy Program Specialist/Installation Victim Advocate, at 410-278-2435 or the APG Domestic Violence Hotline at 410-652-6048.

Additional information may be found at:

Local Civilian Resources:

■ SARC, Inc. (Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center) Office : 410-836-8431/ or 410-836-8430 (SARC 24 Hour Helpline)

■ Harford Family Justice Center Office- 410-638-3113 (Hours: Monday- Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Regional/National Resources:

■ National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE

■ Military One Source : 1-800-342-9647 or www.militaryonesource.mil

James E. Ervin

Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Aberdeen Proving Ground

Civilian Wellness Program

The Civilian Wellness Program for Garrison employees was implemented on Oct. 1; enrollment packets are being accepted through Oct. 31.

The Civilian Wellness program affords you the ability to include an exercise regimen in your daily schedule. You are permitted to use three duty hours each week to engage in a physical activity, nutritional counseling or lunch and learn opportunities available across the installation, all ways to reach the end goal of a healthier you.

This month is Work and Family Awareness Month. Balancing work and a family can sometimes present challenges. Employees enrolled in the Civilian Wellness Program can use their hours toward attending an upcoming Resiliency Class offered by Army Community Service. Or maybe you could join others in bowling, golfing or use the APG gymnasiums

Healthy Living

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

Healthy Living is a recurring feature in the APG News. It addresses health topics that matter most to our readers. To view more health topics and the Community Health Promotion Council calendar of events, visit the APG homepage <http://www.apg.army.mil/> and click on the Community Health icon at the bottom right, or scan the QR code (at right) with your smart phone or enabled device. To suggest health-related topics for the Health Living series, email patricia.g.beauchamp.civ@mail.mil or call 410-278-7274.



during the off-peak hours to get the most out of your workout. Either way, it's time to start getting healthier.

If you have questions regarding the

Civilian Wellness Program, contact Celestine Beckett at celestine.beckett.civ@mail.mil or Wendy LaRoche at wendy.laroche@us.army.mil

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



62°|46°

Fri



64°|40°

Sat



58°|51°

Sun



71°|59°

Mon



69°|51°

Tue



64°|50°

Wed



67°|55°

APG NEWS

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IMAP-PA, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-7274, DSN 298-7274; send a fax to 410-278-2570; send e-mail to patricia.g.beauchamp.civ@mail.mil or contact reporters Yvonne Johnson, yvonne.johnson5.ctr@mail.mil or 410-278-1148, or Rachel Ponder, rachel.e.ponder2.ctr@mail.mil or 410-278-1149.

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

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Preventing scary things on Halloween

By **MICHAEL D. PATTISON**

U.S. Army Public Health Command

Every Halloween there is an assortment of ghosts, pirates, super heroes and ballerinas running about with one of two things in mind—getting candy or going to parties.

Roaming dimly lit neighborhoods is part of the fun for children, but it can also be dangerous. Studies show that the risk of a child getting injured as a result of being hit by a car doubles on that one night. And for adults, having the best costume and enjoying parties is just as fun. Halloween safety relies on seeing and being seen and both are important.

By following some simple rules when thinking about what to wear this Halloween, everyone can have a night of happy and safe trick-or-treating.

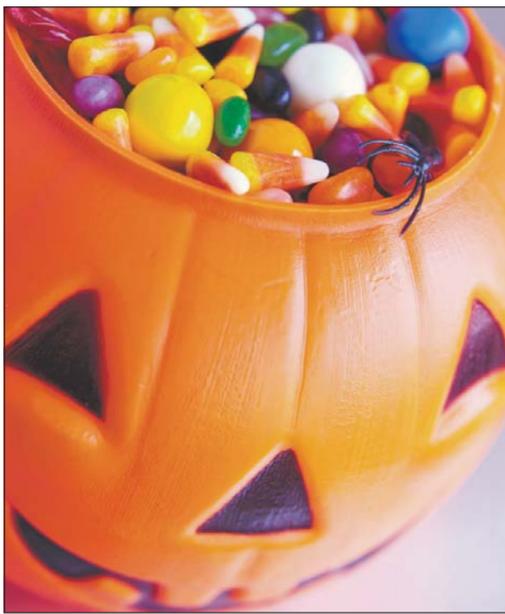
- Children and adults walking around should wear light-colored costumes or stick reflective tape to the costume so that they are visible to passing cars.

- If possible, do not use masks that get in the way of clear vision or block side vision and increase the risk of tripping or running into objects. If the mask is important, consider taking it off to move from house to house.

- Hypoallergenic make-up is safer, but be careful to keep all make-up away from the eyes. If you need to go close, use only products approved for use around the eyes.

- Avoid using sharp items such as swords, knives or wands as part of the costume. Use only items that are soft and flexible. If necessary, use a belt carrier or scabbard so that your child does not have to move from house to house with the object out.

- Use flashlights or light sticks while walking around in the dark.



- Remember that drivers may be in costume and may have trouble seeing you, so do not trust them to stop for you. Remember to look both ways before crossing the street and walk, not run, while crossing.

- No trick-or-treaters should go by themselves. They should only go to houses that have a porch light on. Similarly, remember to turn on your light if you are passing out treats.

- Avoid using cosmetic contact lenses since the majority of them affect your ability to see in the dark. If you feel you must use them, make certain that they are properly fit and that you know how to take care of them.

- Finally, if out late trick-or-treating or partying, always remember to drink in moderation and, if you have had a few too many, do not drive. If you are walking, the later you are out the greater the chance that drivers have been drinking, so be even more cautious. In short, do not trust anyone other than yourself to do the right thing.

Have fun with all of the costumes, the candy and the parties but do not forget to do so safely so that nothing scary happens to you or your children.

National Fire Prevention Week: ‘Have Two Ways Out!’ Oct. 7 – Oct. 13

By **CHRIS STARLING**
DES Fire Protection Inspector

Every year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), honors the anniversary of The Great Chicago Fire by designating the second week of October as “National Fire Prevention Week.”

The goal of National Fire Prevention Week is to emphasize the importance of being educated about how to prevent fires, what to do in case of fire, and the risks involved with unsafe behavior regarding cooking, electrical work, smoking, and other potential fire-related activities.

Last year, fire departments in the United States fought nearly 400,000 structural fires. The toll paid as a result of last year’s fires included 2,520 lives lost, 13,910 civilian injuries, and \$6.9 billion in damages (NFPA). As horrific as these numbers are, you may be surprised to learn that they reflect a continued trend in a reduction of fatalities and injuries which peaked in the 1970s with nearly 750,000 fires reported resulting in almost 6,000 deaths.

The strong improvement in fire injury statistics over the past forty years, while commendable, should not be an indication that we are doing all we can to progress fire safety. Too many people are still losing their lives as a result of fire. Most of the time, this is due to failure to exit the building safely. This is why the NFPA has based the 2012 fire safety campaign on the importance of understanding emergency fire evacuation – illustrated by this year’s slogan: “Have Two Ways Out!”

The best thing to do to maximize your safety potential should a fire occur is to get out of the structure that is on fire and stay out. Most fire deaths and injuries occur when people are overcome by noxious gases and smoke. This happens for two reasons: people are either unable or unwilling to remove themselves immediately from the premises even after recognizing fire/smoke conditions or hearing an active fire alarm.

Often, the delay to evacuate is because the home’s occupants are sleeping, but too often death and injuries occur because people fail to recognize that the most deadly elements of a fire



File photo by Yvonne Johnson

A DES firefighter watches children practice exiting a smoke-filled “room” during one of several fire prevention-focused community outreach events held on the installation throughout the year.

- its noxious gases and smoke - are created mere seconds after the fire ignites. For this reason, the NFPA’s Life Safety Code’s core is modeled and structured around removing personnel from a building as quickly and as safely as possible.

While APG is home to a very active and involved fire protection, prevention, and education division, the garrison also recognizes that it is not fire free. Numerous fires have occurred at APG over the garrison’s history and some have resulted in personnel injury, property damage, and even loss of life. This emphatically underscores the need for all personnel to maintain a fire safe workplace as well as a working knowledge regarding getting out and staying out of a building or home that is potentially on fire or otherwise unsafe.

Fire Evacuation at Work

Most businesses, office buildings, food establishments, mercantile facilities, and industrial/laboratory complexes are required to have at least two properly identified (marked) emergency exits. Large buildings with long passageways,

high occupancy loads, or unusual hazards within, are required to have several exits located throughout the building. These exit passages must be remotely located from one another, readily accessible at all times and sized according to the number of people authorized to occupy the space within the building.

Personnel working within a building should be familiar with all of the building’s exit options and should practice accessing them periodically. Remember that time is of utmost importance when evacuating a building. It only takes a few

seconds for even a small fire to make a familiar hallway or stairwell impassable. Corridors, hallways, and stairwells are particularly susceptible to being obstructed by noxious fire gases, smoke, and/or heat. This is why knowing all of the building’s paths of egress is important and why it is imperative that building occupants respond to the presence of smoke, fire or an active fire alarm immediately.

While, knowing the location of the building’s main exit is important it is equally important to learn its alternate exits. During an emergency or a fire evacuation drill one may not be able to rely on a building’s primary routes to conduct an emergency exit of a building.

In a worst case scenario, if unable to reach an exit door, retreat to a part of the building most distant to the area of danger; preferably a room with a window, fire extinguisher, and a phone. Once within this “safe” area, the door to the room should be closed and appropriately sealed to prevent smoke from seeping into the room. If there is a phone, call 9-1-1 and explain your situation to the dispatcher. Do not block the door with furniture or otherwise make it difficult for rescuers to reach you. Consider exiting from the room’s window. If this is not possible, the window should be opened and a signal device such as a coat, towel, or rug should be hung from the window in addition to vocally calling for help. APG firefighting personnel are on duty 24 hours a day – 365 days a year, so help is seldom more than a few minutes away.

Fire Evacuation at Home

Within our homes, things are a little different. One probably doesn’t have illuminated exit signs or encapsulated stairwells to help them safely evacuate. Here, people are more intimately familiar with their surroundings. Nearly all occupied spaces within residential structures are designed to possess windows. This is not by accident. While windows are not necessarily expected to be used as exits at the workplace, they are integral to the emergency evacuation of residents from a single-family style home. Obviously, an exit via a window is a last resort, but windows are designed to be

See SMOKE ALARMS, page 10

Last year, fire departments in the U.S. fought nearly **400,000** structural fires, which resulted in **2,520** lives lost, **13,910** civilian injuries, and **\$6.9** BILLION in damages.

Eagle Scout Project provides gazebo for hospitalized veterans

By **MARGARET HORNBERGER**
Veterans Affairs

The Perry Point Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center now has a beautiful, new gazebo on its grounds as the result of an Eagle Scout project.

"I knew I wanted to do something special to show veterans how much I appreciate all they have done to protect our country and I thought the gazebo would provide them with a place to relax and enjoy the outdoors," said James Heuser, a Boy Scout with Troop 828 in Lutherville, Md.

At 14-years-old, Heuser signed up to become a summer youth volunteer at the encouragement of his parents. Now at 16, Heuser's VA volunteer experience has included time spent playing checkers and cards, writing letters, and listening to veterans share their wartime experiences in a long term care unit at the Perry Point

I wanted to do something special to show veterans how much I appreciate all they have done to protect our country.

James Heuser
Eagle Scout, Troop 828

VAMC and at the Loch Raven VA Community Living & Rehabilitation Center.

It was during his first volunteering experience that Heuser developed the concept for his Eagle Scout Project, which has taken two years to come to fruition.

"I have learned so much during the past two years about how to plan a construction project, but most of all, how many people are willing to work together on a project that benefits hospitalized veterans," said Heuser.

With the guidance and support of staff

at Perry Point, with additional assistance from members of AmeriCorps, a Pennsylvania-based construction contractor, his fellow Boy Scout troop and family members, Heuser produced a gazebo design that included everything from computer-aided design (CAD) drawings to the final digging of the footers and assembly of the gazebo. Located in front of Building 25H, one of Perry Point's community living centers, the new gazebo is already providing a wonderful outdoor environment for the residents to enjoy.

Heuser raised nearly \$16,000 for his Eagle Scout project with the support of American Legion Post 22 in Towson, Md., along with several other veteran service organizations and individual contributors throughout the state.

"James has performed a stellar job in working with the VA staff to create a structure that is the most appropriate for patient use, including wheelchair access and benches for seating," said Betsy Bradford, business manager for the Geriatrics and Extended Care Clinical Center for the VA Maryland Health Care System.

"I am so grateful to all the people who have guided and encouraged me along the way to reach my goal," said Heuser. "I hope that the gazebo will continue to serve as a peaceful place where veterans can go to enjoy the company of their fellow comrades and family members."

Meet Tom Johnson, who works in the APG Garrison's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office as a management analyst.

Johnson's primary responsibility is the Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE program. The ICE program is a Department of Defense initiative used to gauge the customer's satisfaction with the services the Garrison provides to its population.

"I have made a special effort to increase the numbers of comments that we have received," Johnson said. "The more comments, the better the data we receive."

Johnson said that the APG community is encouraged to leave ICE comments when they had a negative or positive experience with a Garrison service.

"Nothing will change unless you tell us what you want!" Johnson said.

This year, Johnson also serves as the chairman for 2012 Combined Federal Campaign.

At your service



Tom Johnson

Plans, Analysis and Integration Office management analyst

"The CFC season is a perfect time for our employees to reflect on their own lives and realize how fortunate we are, and a perfect time to donate and make someone else's life a bit easier," Johnson said.

Customers may contact Johnson at thomas.g.johnson5.civ@mail.mil, or 410-278-6456. To make an ICE comment, visit www.ICE.disa.mil. For more information about CFC visit CBACFC.org - or to donate online: https://www.cfnexus.org/_chesapeake/.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TUESDAY

OCT. 17

NEWCOMERS' ORIENTATION

All newly assigned Soldiers and civilian employees must attend the APG Newcomers' Orientation at the APG-North (Aberdeen) Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326 from 1 to 3 p.m. More than 65 APG community activities and organization representatives will be on hand with literature and handouts and will answer questions about their programs and services.

All members of the APG community are welcome to attend; sponsors are encouraged to bring their Family members.

For more information, contact Annette Sanders-Nash at 410-278-9685 or at cassandra.a.sanders-nash.civ.army.mil.

WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY

OCT. 17 - 19

WINDOWS 7 OPERATING SYSTEM DEPLOYMENT

Garrison employees are urged to backup their data and .pst files prior to the Oct. 17-19 deployment of the Windows 7 operating system. The Network Enterprise Center (NEC) is working with the garrison's information management officers (IMOs) on beta testing applications and scheduling. Every employee should have received pre- and post-Windows 7 deployment instructions. Refer to your IMO for more information.

THURSDAY

OCT. 18

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS LUNCHEON

To promote the prevention, early detection and treatment of breast cancer during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the APG Community Women's Club and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of Women In Defense (WID) will host a "Fifty Shades of Pink" luncheon 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Silks Restaurant in the Bulle Rock Golf Club in Havre de Grace. Military personnel, civilian employees and contractors – male and female – are encouraged to attend. Tickets cost \$18 for members, \$20 for non-member. RSVP by Oct. 10. To register, or for more information, visit the WID Mid-Atlantic Chapter website at <http://www.widmidatlantic.org/Events.html> or contact Heather Couvillon at 443-372-6004.

SATURDAY

OCT. 20

PUMPKIN PATCH

Picerne Military Housing will host the third annual Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, Oct. 20 at 2727 Chesapeake Blvd. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join Picerne for exciting activities for the whole family to include pumpkin picking, face painting, complimentary food, giveaways and more. There will even be scarecrow building. Picerne will provide the hay and all families need to do is bring the clothes!

The event is completely free to all residents living on post. Please call the Neighborhood Office at 410-305-1076 for more information about this exciting event.

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

Team APG will host Annual Retiree Appreciation Day activities 8 a.m. to noon at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Oct. 20. Area military retirees of every branch, their spouses or surviving spouses are encouraged to attend.

Updates on benefits like health care, TRICARE, Commissary, AAFES and Post Exchange privileges, ID cards and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities and more will be presented. Also, meet and speak with representatives from the Veterans Administration; Social Security Administration; Retirement Services; Chaplain's Office; Staff Judge Advocate; Uniformed Services Family Health Plan; Perry Point VA Medical Center; Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic; and other activities.

The guest speaker for the event is former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston.

For more information, contact retired 1st Sgt. Tom Shumate, 410-306-2303, thomas.s.shumate2.civ@mail.mil; or Janet Dettwiler, 410-306-2301, janet.l.dettwiler.civ@mail.mil.

DRACULA ... HE LIVES!

Community members should expect the unexpected during the MWR Theater Group's Oct. 20, 7 p.m. performance of Dracula.

Admission is Free. Not recommended for young children because of adult

content. Donations at the door are welcome.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BOY SCOUT STEM MERIT BADGE DAY

Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) will host the STEM Merit Badge Day at Shore Park with the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The intent of the day is to explore and potentially earn merit badges in up to 16 STEM categories.

For more information on this event or to volunteer, contact Garrison Operations at 410-278-4500

SUNDAY

OCT. 21

ARMY TEN MILER RACE

Team APG has entered three active duty teams in the Army Ten Miler race which begins 8 a.m. at the Pentagon. The APG teams of 16 personnel consist of one Active Duty Men's Open; one Active Duty Men's Masters; and one Active Duty Mixed Open. Installation commander, Maj. Gen. Robert Ferrell will participate in the Men's Masters division.

In addition friends and supporters are welcome to stop by the APG HOOAH Tent in the Army Ten Miler Hooah Tent Village for a reception for the runners. Alternate slots for Team APG runners may become available. For more information and military alternate slot availability contact usarmy.APG.imcom-fmwrc.list.usag-mwr-sports@mail.mil or call Byron Reasin, APG MWR, at 410-278-7933.

WEDNESDAY

OCT. 24

FALL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXPO

APG will host the 2012 Fall Information Technology Expo 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326 Erie Street. More than 50 vendors will display the latest state of the art technologies. This event is free and open to all military, DOD civilians and contractors. Refreshments will be served. For more information or to register visit the Federal Direct Access website at <http://www.fdaexpo.com/register.php?id=108> or call Donna Flemister, FDA, at 410-531-8559.

THURSDAY

OCT. 25

DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH OBSERVANCE

Team APG and the Disability Employment Program Committee will host the National Disability Awareness Month observance 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326. The guest speaker is Harford County State's Attorney Joseph Casilly, speaking on the theme "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What can YOU do?"

The event includes morning and afternoon workshops:

- 9 to 10 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m., Classroom 102

"Schedule A Hiring Authority – How does it really work?"

Presented by Jill McClintick, CPAC (25 seats available)

- 9 to 10 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m., Classroom 104

"Preparing children with disabilities to move from school to work"

Presented by Nancy Goucher, ACS, (25 seats available)

To register for a workshop or for more information, contact Tracy Marshall, Installation EO, by Oct. 12 at 443-861-4366 or e-mail tracy.y.marshall@mail.mil.

Sign language interpreters will be available. For other disability-related accommodations call 443-861-4355.

SATURDAY

NOV. 10

LAUGH OUT LOUD 2012 COMEDY TOUR

Come enjoy an evening of pure hilarity as MWR presents the Laugh Out Loud 2012 Comedy Tour featuring active duty service members and veterans. The headliner is Josh Blue, winner of NBC's "Last Comic Standing." Entertainers include "The GIs of Comedy:" USAF Maj. Jake Sarduy, retired Army Staff Sgt. Thom Tran, former USMC Sgt. Will C, and former Army Pfc. Tom Irwin. Comedian/Soldier Jody Fully will emcee. Doors open 7 p.m.; show starts 8 p.m. There will be free food and a cash bar. General admission is \$25; active duty, \$15. This show contains adult content; guests must be 18 and older. For more information, visit the Leisure Travel Office in

the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326, 410-278-4011, or go to the APG MWR website at www.apgmwr.com.

ONGOING

715 GATE CLOSURE

The Route 715 Gate on Maryland Blvd. will be closed on weekends as the Directorate of Public Works continues an unexploded ordnance (UXO) survey at the Maryland Pond. The Route 22 (Harford) gate will be open to accommodate traffic on and off post. The gates will be affected from 6 p.m. on Fridays through 6 p.m. on Sundays until mid-November. For more information, call Rurik Loder; 410-278-6755.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

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.

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, beginning tentatively in October and 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.

CPR, AED CLASSES SCHEDULED

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:

- Oct. 17, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Edgewood Conference Center, Bldg. E4810

- 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.

HUNTING PERMITS ON SALE

APG 2012-2013 hunting permits are currently on sale at MWR Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 2184, and the APG North (Aberdeen) Hunting Management Facility, building 550B1. For information about hunting at APG, visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/recreation/odr/huntingfishing.html>.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Fall classes at APG & HEAT Center. Session 2 10/22/12-12/16/12

- IFSM 300 Information Systems in Organizations - Thursday 6 to 9 p.m.

- HMLS 302 Introduction to Homeland Security - Tuesday 6 to 9 p.m.

- WRTG 394 Advanced Business Writing - Wednesday 6 to 9 p.m.

- HRMN 362 Labor Relations - Monday 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

- CSIA 412 Security Policy Analysis - Wednesday 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

- Online Hybrid courses are offered with approximately every other session on-site and the remaining sessions online.

For further information or to register, visit UMUC's APG office in Bldg. 4305, Room 210, or UMUC's HEAT Center office at 1201 Technology Drive, Room 206, Aberdeen or call 410-272-8269/443-360-9136 or visit www.umuc.edu.

REGISTER FOR HCC CLASSES ON APG NORTH

Harford Community College operates a full service education office in Building 4305, the Janet Barr Soldier Support Center, on APG North. The office on APG is open Monday through Thursday and alternate Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Services are available to all members of the community. Information may be obtained by calling 410-272-2338.

Registration is ongoing for the following fall semester classes on APG North:

Term II class starting Oct. 23 include ECON 102, Microeconomics; BA 246, Legal Environment of Business; ENG 102, Composition and Literature, and BA 210, Business Computer Applications.

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.

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

Part-time position, available tentatively beginning October 2012 for 12 months. 50 hours a month including Sundays. Flexible work schedule. If interested or for more information please contact Ms. Gerri Merkel, 410-278-2516 or 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.



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

BSC, BISM provide job, training opportunities for blind employees

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a national campaign that raises awareness and celebrates the many and varied contributions of workers with disabilities. Two APG office supply stores provide employment opportunities for blind and disabled employees and help fund life and job skills training for blind individuals.

The AbilityOne Base Supply Center (originally known as Office Eagle) on APG North (Aberdeen) employs eight disabled employees and the APG South (Edgewood) store employs two. The AbilityOne Base Supply Center, or BSC, sells a wide range of SKILCRAFT office supplies, which are made by blind and disabled Americans.

“Without our loyal customers we wouldn’t be able to employ blind and disabled employees,” APG North BSC store manager Barry Councill said.

In addition, proceeds from BSC’s sales go to support Blind Industries and Services of Maryland. BISM offers job and life skills training to blind adults, senior citizens and youths. Instructors teach everything from Braille to cane travel, computer technology, and home cooking. The youth program provides vocational training and college preparation courses, and members go on social outings and trips.

“Just having a chance to socialize, be with other blind kids that are going through the same thing, that is a big deal for them,” said BISM Communications Specialist Rob Ennamorato. “This is usually their first time away from their families.”

“BISM’s motto is, we change people’s attitudes about blindness,” said BSC Marketing Manager Rene Alonso. “Individuals going through the program learn that it is okay to be blind. They gain confidence and learn important life skills from their mentors, their instructors. Most of



Blind Industries and Services of Maryland associate Albert Newman shrink wraps notebooks in the BISM warehouse. BISM blind and visually impaired associates earn competitive wages while producing high quality products for state, federal and private customers. BISM owns and operates seven AbilityOne Base Supply Centers on military installations; two stores are located on APG.

the instructors are blind themselves, this gives credibility to our program.”

The residential program, called CORE, is a free intensive eight-month program for blind adults. The program teaches them a broad range of skills and techniques and shows them how to live independently. While enrolled in the CORE program, students reside at the Life Skills Residential Center, located in downtown Baltimore, where they acquire the necessary skills to do their own shopping, prepare their own meals, clean their own apartments and more.

“It is a challenging program; about

five to ten blind individuals graduate a year,” Ennamorato said. “By the time they graduate they are basically independent and have the confidence to be successful in all aspects of their life.”

Ennamorato said the program builds as the student progresses. One requirement for graduation is that students must shop and prepare a large meal for 20 people. Another graduation requirement is that students must travel out of town by themselves, using a route they are not familiar with and use multiple modes of transportation.

“Some even travel by plane, to far-

away destinations like Florida or Texas,” Ennamorato said.

In addition to training, BISM employs more than 450 associates at 12 facilities located in Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Washington, D.C. BISM manufactures more than 150 high quality products for state, federal, and private customers. These products include military uniforms, cleaning supplies, custom bottled water and paper pads.

For more information call the APG North BSC at 410-297-4950 and APG South BSC at 410-676-0564.

Submit letters to the editor to patricia.g.beauchamp.civ@mail.mil

Happy 18th birthday MEDCOM

By **KIRK FRADY**
Army Medicine

The United States Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) celebrated its 18th anniversary Oct. 2.

It all began with a ceremony held on the parade field at Fort Sam Houston, Texas on Oct. 4, 1994. The establishment of the MEDCOM replaced the previously designated Health Services Command (HSC) which came into being in April 1973 under the command and control of Maj. Gen. Spurgeon H. Neel, Jr.

The intent behind creating MEDCOM was to establish a broader scope than HSC, clearer lines of authority, more manageable spans of control, and more efficient use of Army medical resources. It also provided then Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Alcide M. LaNoue, control of all Army medical resources and matched his responsibility as senior medical officer on the Army staff.

“This reorganization streamlined and flattened the command and control structure of Army Medicine,” LaNoue said. “These changes were not undertaken for the sake of change; nor were they designed simply to create a smaller organization.”

The initiative also met the requirements for reducing the Army Staff and limiting the number of personnel in the National Capital Region.

LaNoue’s goal for the reorganization was to produce an accessible, deployable, accountable and integrated Army Medical Department. The process began in 1993 when he assembled “Task Force Aesculapius,” a group of officers that outlined the new structure. The design principles focused on: establishing a clear authority and alignment with responsibility; it would be organized around work; ensuring people work in the right tasks at the right level; eliminating duplication and redundancy; and that it be “value-added.”

The task force recommendations were refined until they finally received approval from the Army Chief of Staff on Aug. 12, 1993.

Under this unprecedented reorganization, the Surgeon General’s staff in Washington, D.C. was streamlined from more than 500 to about 100 personnel with about 400 at MEDCOM Headquarters in San Antonio, TX. This allowed the medical department to avoid necessary cuts in healthcare providers.

Since its inception MEDCOM has successfully managed the policy, budgeting

and healthcare aspects for all of Army Medicine, said Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho. “MEDCOM continues to provide outstanding support for more than 3.9 million beneficiaries. It is the professional men and women of the Medical Command that make it such a great organization. Our command is proud of the accomplishments and service we provide to our Soldiers, Family Members and other beneficiaries.”

As part of the transformation, in November 1993, Dental Command and Veterinary Command were formed as provisional commands under the MEDCOM to provide real command chains for more efficient control of dental and veterinary units—the first time those specialties had been commanded by the same authorities who provided their technical guidance. In December 1993, seven Medical Center (MEDCEN) commanders assumed command and control over care in their regions. The new “Health Service Support Areas” (HSSAs), under the MEDCOM, had more responsibility and authority than the old HSC regions.

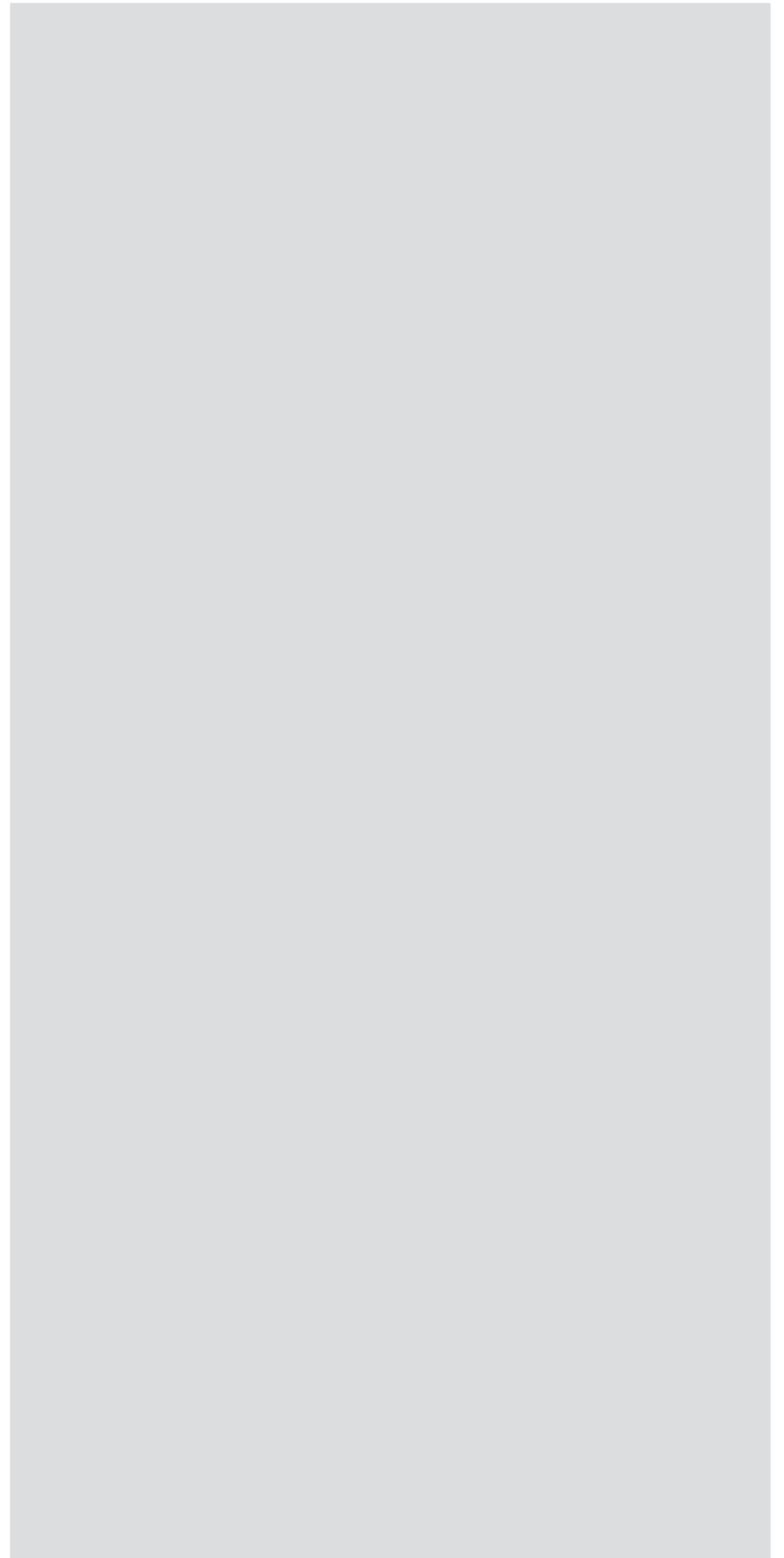
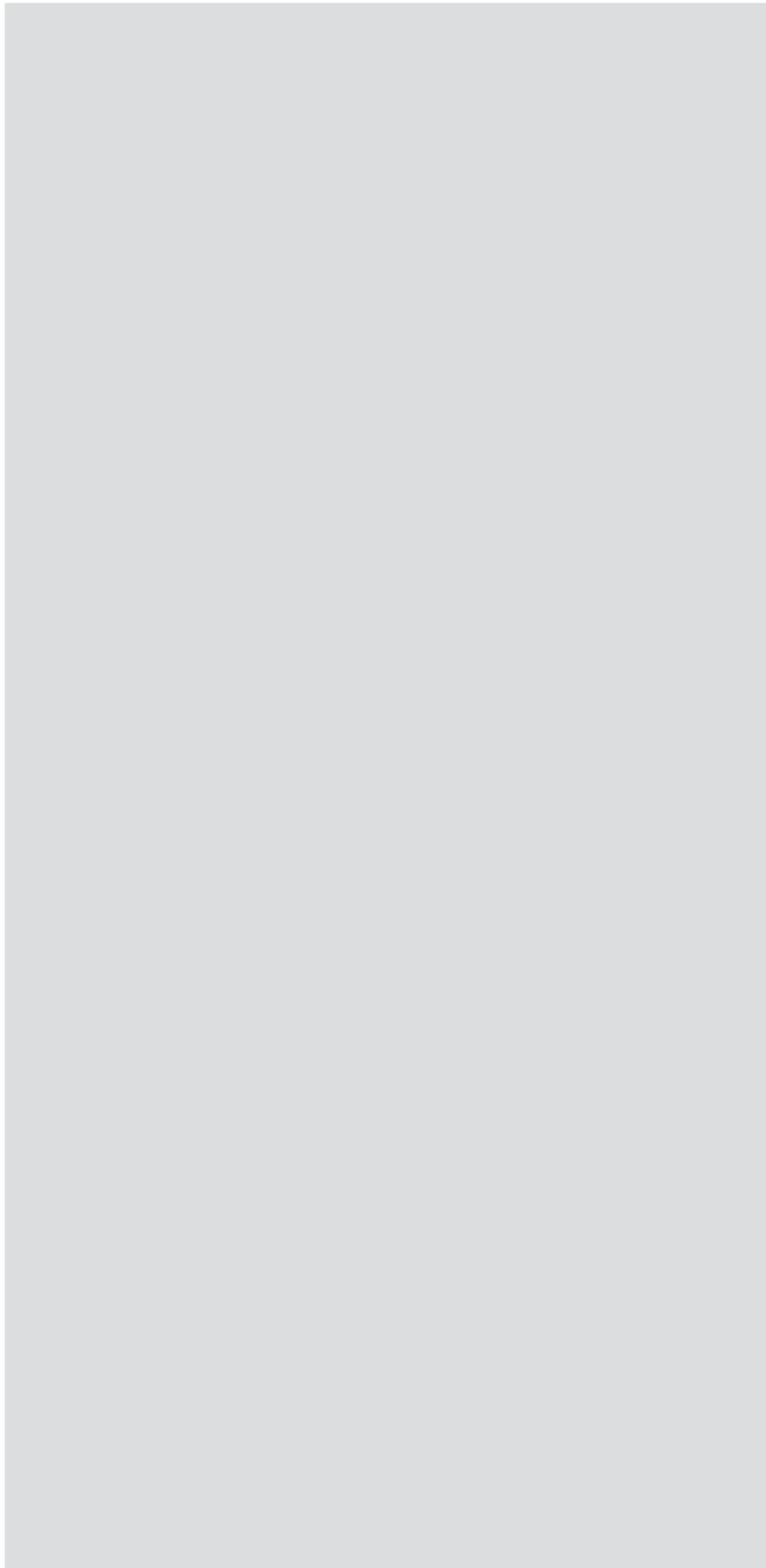
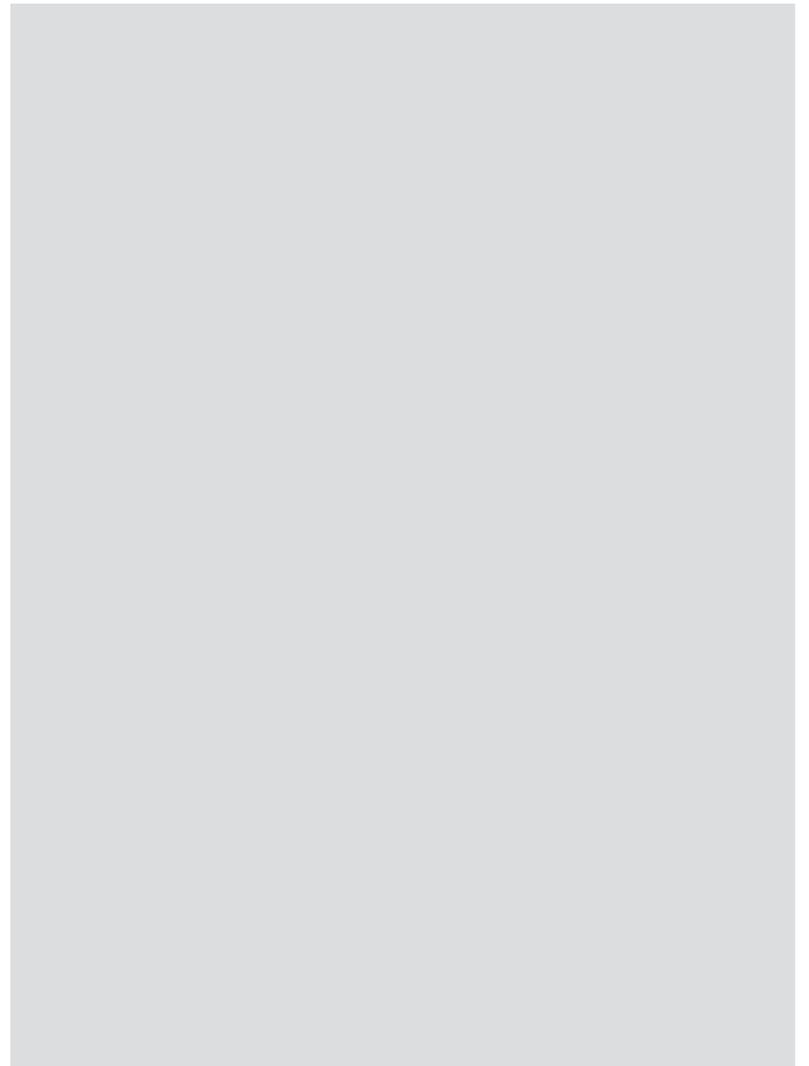
At the same, the Army Environmental Hygiene Agency, headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, was transformed into the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. The USACHPPM merged with VETCOM and became today’s U.S. Army Public Health Command; a major subordinate command of MEDCOM.

“Army public health has evolved over time as we learn more about the nature of human health,” said John J. Resta, USAPHC deputy to the commander for public health. “Starting in the time of George Washington, the goal of public health was to combat and defend against the debilitating diseases of the time (measles, mumps, malaria, yellow fever, small pox, etc). The next major initiative was aimed at guarding against workplace injuries, environmental pollution and illnesses with the dawn of the Industrial Revolution. The phase we are in now (while still guarding against communicable diseases and workplace injuries and environmental exposures) is aimed at a person’s social health and lifestyle. Now we are protecting against the health consequences of obesity, tobacco use, lack of exercise and stress-related issues.”

In March 1994, a merger of Medical Research and Development Command (MRDC), the Medical Materiel Agency (MMA) and the Health Facili-

ties Planning Agency (HFPA) resulted in creation of the Medical Research, Development, Acquisition and Logistics Command (MRDALC), subordinate to the provisional MEDCOM. The MRDALC was soon renamed the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC). Then, in June 1994, an additional HSSA was formed to supervise medical care in Europe, replacing the 7th Medical Command, which was inactivated. That summer, the Army Environmental Hygiene Agency formed the basis of the provisional Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM) which is now known as U.S. Army Public Health Command (USAPHC).

Under current MEDCOM structure, the Surgeon General is “dual-hatted” as the Commanding General (CG) of MEDCOM and is also the Army Surgeon General. The Surgeon General (TSG) serves as the medical expert on the Army staff, advising the Secretary of the Army, Army Chief of Staff and other Army leaders and providing guidance to field units. As Commanding General of the MEDCOM, the CG commands fixed hospitals and other AMEDD commands and agencies. This dual-hatted role unites in one leader’s hands the duty to develop policy and budgets as TSG and the power to execute them as the MEDCOM Commander.



APG celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Hispanic history and culture were celebrated during the Aberdeen Proving Ground annual observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Oct. 3.

The keynote speaker, Acting Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Rear Adm. Samuel Perez, encouraged the audience to seize opportunities.

“These (cultural) events serve to show us not how different we are, but how similar we are,” he said. “Opportunity inspired our ancestors to come here and take a chance on liberty and freedom.”

Perez said that all of our ancestors had the courage and the vision to succeed, to make America a great country.

He said that his ambitious, hardworking grandparents inspired him and gave him the motivation to succeed. His grandfather, who grew up during the Great Depression, told him to never say “I can’t” and to seize every opportunity.

“This generation said if you don’t have it, build it, if it is broken, fix it. If life gets

“This generation said if you don’t have it, build it, if it is broken, fix it. If life gets hard, get tough. If life gets harder, get tougher, and they did.”

Rear Adm. Samuel Perez

Acting Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations

hard, get tough,” Perez said. “If life gets harder, get tougher, and they did.”

Perez added that Medal of Honor Recipient Raul (Roy) Benavidez, of Hispanic descent, is another personal hero of his.

Benavidez, a former Green Beret sergeant rescued at least eight men during the Vietnam War, despite incurring numerous severe wounds during the process.

“There is someone who refused to say can’t,” Perez said. “It is that indomitable spirit.”

Perez said while some people believe that greatness is a matter of circum-

stances and luck, he believes that greatness is a matter of conscious choices and discipline.

“It is about taking those opportunities to better yourself, taking the opportunities to make our nation (...) our Armed Forces the best they can be.”

The program, hosted by U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, also included educational performances by D4C and a Latino dance team from Aberdeen High School. After the program, attendees were treated to samplings of traditional Hispanic food and displays that highlighted the clothing, art and history of Hispanic cultures.

“I feel privileged to serve in the American military, which takes time to celebrate the diversity that makes our country great,” said Sgt. Maj. Robert Wojtaszczyk, from the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, after the program.

“I think it’s important to celebrate different cultures. These events give you a better understanding of your community, your neighbors,” said Christopher Davis, a junior from Aberdeen High School. “They give you a broader understanding of where other people are coming from.”

The celebration also included the National Anthem sung in English by Judith Jones from the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command and in Spanish by Rachel Acevedo, from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. ATEC Chaplain Assistant Sgt. 1st Class William Benjamin gave the invocation in English and the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Chaplain Assistant Staff Sgt. Carlos Vasquez gave the invocation in Spanish. Commanding General of ATEC Maj. Gen. Genaro Delarocco gave closing remarks.

Smoke alarms save lives, install, check them

Continued from Page 4

used to escape danger. Ensure that all residents within the home understand this, especially children or occupants with special needs. Practice opening key windows that may be used for emergency evacuation.

Just as fire drills are conducted at work and school, we should have them at home as well. Ensure that all residents are familiar with the sound of the home’s smoke alarm and carbon monoxide (CO) detector; know “two ways out” of each room; where the Family meeting place is outside; and how to make an emergency 9-1-1 phone call. Most importantly, understand that no material item within the home is worth delaying your evacuation. And it is imperative that everyone understands that once they are out they should stay out. If someone is trapped, inform the responding fire service personnel.

Practicing home fire drills and other fire safety activities at home can be very educational for adults and children. Children absorb life-long safety lessons from a fire-safe and proactive family home.

Smoke Alarms

It wouldn’t be Fire Prevention Week without reminders about the importance of home smoke alarms. As cliché as it sounds, smoke alarms do save lives. Most residential fire-related deaths occur in homes without smoke alarms or with non-functioning alarms. In new homes, smoke alarms are required in every bedroom and at least one on each level of the house. For older homes, stand-alone detectors can often be obtained at local volunteer fire departments or for as low as \$5 from area retail stores.

Home smoke alarms should be tested by manually activating the devices’ test switch at least once a month. The batteries should be replaced at least twice a year – there is no way to know how long the batteries one “just put in there” have been sitting in storage before they were purchased. A good way to remember this is “every time we change the clocks, change the smoke alarms’ batteries.”

Smoke alarms do not last forever. Most manufacturers suggest that smoke alarms be replaced every ten years. If your home possesses a nuisance smoke alarm – one that activates every time you try to prepare dinner for instance, that alarm should be replaced more frequently. Ideally, a new location for such an alarm should be considered. If unsure of the age of a smoke alarm, it probably

should be replaced.

Again, smoke alarm devices are so affective that it bears repeating: Smoke Alarms Save Lives! Therefore, performing these simple and inexpensive maintenance tasks also saves lives.

Fire Safety Education

While only seven days in October are designated as the “official week for fire prevention education,” the Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Services Division treats every day as if it were solely designated for fire safety education. Accordingly, the garrison’s fire prevention division has many educational events scheduled over the coming weeks. These range from organizational fire extinguisher training classes, announced and unannounced

fire drills, youth-group fire safety training, fire station/fire apparatus tours, and community based fire prevention details. For a list of these events, contact Fire Protection Inspector Chris Starling at 410-436-2377 or e-mail christopher.starling@us.army.mil.

If you, your organization, or Family would like to attend one of our listed programs, schedule a new program, schedule a home-fire inspection (on-post only), or inquire about anything related to fire safety, fire prevention or fire protection please contact Fire Protection Inspector Chris Starling, APG South (Edgewood) Bldg. E5180, at 410-436-2377 or Fire Protection Inspector T.C. Glassman, APG North (Aberdeen) Building 2200, at 410-306-0600.

National Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7-13

NFPA.ORG

The National Fire Protection Association, NFPA, announced the 2012 Fire Prevention Week theme as “Have Two Ways Out!” to encourage families across the country to prioritize fire escape planning and practice. From Oct. 7-13, the campaign wants families to think about having a home fire escape plan that prepares them to think fast and get out quickly when the smoke alarm sounds. If one exit is blocked by smoke, it’s imperative to plan for another escape outlet.

“We are excited for this year’s theme because it is simple and to the point- always plan for two ways out of your home,” said Jim Shannon, NFPA president. “You never know which direction a fire will come from and being prepared can save the lives of you and your loved ones.”

To coincide with this year’s theme, NFPA offers practical fire safety tips:

- Make a map of your home; mark a door and window that can be used to get out of every room
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home
- Have a grownup sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape plan
- Practice your escape plan twice a year

About NFPA

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training and education. For more information, visit the NFPA website at www.nfpa.org.

Military Appreciation event hosted by HCC

Continued from Page 1

taking time out of their day to attend the observance.

“It’s extremely important to note that this event has always been put together by our students,” he said. “Thank you for helping us to honor our veterans and our personnel.”

McClinton commended HCC as an institution that has served the Soldiers of APG for more than 50 years, has helped strengthen APG as a new hub for research and engineering, and has served America by providing warfighters the

very best in education.”

“I salute you all for supporting our military, what you do is important,” he told the SGA members, adding that service to the nation does not require wearing a uniform.

“Volunteer for a worthy cause,” he said. “Live your lives so that their sacrifices were not in vain.”

Kugblenu, a native of Nigeria, shared his story of migrating to the U.S. with his pregnant wife and eventually joining the Army. Though he planned to eventually

pursue a career in architecture he said service in the military has changed his goals.

“My decision to join the Army was the single most important decision of my life,” he said. “It’s not just a job to me anymore, it’s a career. I’m fighting for my family and protecting my home.”

Though he has not served in combat, he said he is certain that he one day will and that he is just as sure that he will not shy from it.

“I will do my best to serve with distinction,” he said. “The strength of the

military is its people.”

SGA president Spencer Blackwell, thanked guests and attendees for attending the event which he said has become a HCC tradition.

“It was an honor for me to share the podium with those who have sacrificed so much for our nation,” he said.

The ceremony included the posting of the colors by Soldiers from the U.S. Army Public Health Command color guard and music by the Aberdeen High School choir and band.

Safety first when driving

Continued from Page 1

not pass the troop formation while it is in the roadway.”

The regulation further states, Honan said, that “If the potential exists where the vehicle operator is in doubt about safely passing a formation, the vehicle will stop and await directions from the person in charge of the formation.”

In other words, when approaching a troop formation that is marching or running in the opposite direction and on the opposite side of the road, drivers must slow down to 10 miles per hour and in some instances pull over and stop altogether. When approaching the rear of a formation, drivers can only follow the formation until it leaves the roadway. They cannot pass formations in their

travel lanes.

This applies not only to movements during early morning Physical Training (PT) but at any other time troops are moving as one in a formation, Honan said.

Additionally, APGR 190-5 defines a troop formation as “two or more troops (running or marching) with a leader.” On APG, this definition includes the cadets of the Maryland National Guards’ Freestate ChalleNGe Academy.

“Troop formations have the right of way over all vehicles except emergency vehicles,” Honan said. “Remember that when you observe a formation, running or walking, your vehicle speed must be 10 miles per hour or

Retirees can meet with orgs

Continued from Page 1

and their spouses. Attendees will also be able to obtain identification cards in Bldg 4305 during this time.

The speaker for event is former Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston, who retired last year. As SMA, Preston served as the Army Chief of Staff’s personal advisor on all enlisted-related matters. He now sits on a variety of councils and boards that make decisions affecting enlisted Soldiers and their Families and is routinely invited to testify before Congress. After Preston’s speech, the audience will be able to address questions with respective representatives of the installation and local community.

“This is a networking opportunity,” Dettwiler said. “It is a chance to gar-

ner good advice and assistance. Attendees might learn from a question someone else asked that they might not have thought to ask.”

Following the program, lunch will be catered in the APG Bowling Center, Bldg. 2342. Cost is \$3 per person.

The event is hosted every year by the APG Retiree Council, led by retired Lt. Col. Nelson Laughton, chairman and retired Sgt. Maj. Frank Yoakum, cochairman. For more information about the retiree council, visit www.apgretiree.com/.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Dettwiler at 410-306-2301, or janet.l.dettwiler.civ@mail.mil, or retired 1st Sgt. Tom Shumate at 410-306-2303, or thomas.s.shumate2.civ@mail.mil.

Army exchange program enhances engineer's career

By **ROGER TEEL**
RDECOM Public Affairs

The decision to apply to the Army's Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program seemed like an easy one for an engineer assigned to the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center.

"The [Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program] came as a right-time, right-place moment for me," explained Steve Carrig. "I'd been in my job with the Joint Project Manager for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Contamination Avoidance for roughly five years, and was feeling the itch for something different."

Carrig now serves as an engineer at the Defense Science and Technology Office in Melbourne, Australia. His tour runs through 2013.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Defense Exports and Cooperation manages the Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program, or ESEP, and selects top-performing, mid-career level engineers and scientists from across the Army every year for assignment to an allied military establishment. Assignments complement a participant's background and offer tangible benefits to both the Army and the overseas host

Jason Craley is a member of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's International Technology Integration team that coordinates the ESEP and prioritizes command applicants before submitting packages to Army Materiel Command and DASA DE&C.

"A call for applications, called the ESEP Group Announcement, is issued by DASA DE&C by the end of June each year," Craley said. "We are currently accepting applicants for Group 9, which will deploy overseas in August 2013. Applications are due to our team by October 12."

"When the call came out for ESEP applications in 2010, I was almost too late," Carrig recalled. "Thinking my wife wouldn't want to move, I didn't bring it up until nearly the last minute. I was on leave the week applications were due, and I ended up submitting mine really late in the evening on a Sunday night to meet the Monday morning deadline."

"During the application process, the International Point of Contact will assist you with putting the paperwork together," Carrig said. "You can also rely on ITI for help as well."

Craley stressed the application requires four elements: a resume, a list of career-broadening objectives, a position description outlining your intended overseas assignment, and a technical director endorsement signed at the senior executive service or general officer level. Staffing the endorsement memo may take time, so applicants should plan accordingly.

The most challenging part of the application process, however, is making contact with a potential host overseas and identifying an assignment that's the right fit. That was especially challenging for Carrig as his contacts were limited.

"Perhaps slightly atypical for the way ESEP applications were previously done, I had no established foreign contact," he said. "Instead, I interpreted the application package in such a way that I requested to be placed in several different countries. When the memo was released with selections and their corresponding countries, I was awaiting a response on my application to Japan, not Australia, the country for which I was chosen."

Craley said RDECOM offers assistance in this area.

"For the last two years our office has provided a list of open ESEP positions pre-coor-



Courtesy photo by Brian Crowley

Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program participant Steve Carrig and co-worker Julia Freeman operate Chemical Articulated Test Manikin in Australia's Defense Science and Technology Office's new Environmental Test Facility in Melbourne, Australia.

“The intent is to have someone come back from an assignment and be of benefit to the Army for many years to come with experience and insight gained abroad.”

Jason Craley

U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's International Technology Integration team

minated between RDECOM Forward Elements, International Technology Centers and their respective countries," Craley said. "This provides some options to people who are interested in the program, like Steve was, but who may not have foreign contacts to assist with coordinating an assignment."

"Applicants are always encouraged to build upon their current work experience if they do have contacts through multinational programs and exchange agreements," Craley added. "However, since Steve applied, a better defined position description has become more important to have up front as opposed to after selection. The reason is that DASA DE&C wants as much information as possible before selecting applicants. And it cuts down a lot of last-minute coordination before going overseas."

Applicants are encouraged to apply for up to three countries, one primary and two alternates, in case their first assignment is not available. Applicants can choose from 17 countries that have an active ESEP memorandum of understanding with the United States. Popular countries include: the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, and, of course, Australia. ITI can provide a full list on request.

Carrig said the key to the application process was finding the right people.

"Not having completed a master's degree or thesis of my own, I can only speculate, but from the conversations I had with my colleagues in the time between receiving the selection memo and when my wife and I got on the plane made me think the ESEP process is very much

like post-graduate work. It's all about knowing the right person or people to ask for help when you get stuck in filling out the paperwork," Carrig said.

Once application packages are received at RDECOM they are thoroughly reviewed and scored according to several criteria, including the applicant's educational and career background. A bachelor's degree in science or engineering is required to apply, and individuals with advanced degrees score higher, according to Craley.

"Language capability for the intended assignment must also be in place," he continued. "In the past, DASA DE&C has funded language training for selected applicants, but that has been cut. An applicant's organization can fund this if needed, but expect to go into an application with a working knowledge of the language for the country you are applying."

"Thorough position descriptions and demonstrating an alignment to Army S&T objectives is important," Craley added. "We also look at how long an individual has been with the government since this program is geared toward mid-career level engineers and scientists in the GS 12-to-14 range. The intent is to have someone come back from an assignment and be of benefit to the Army for many years to come with experience and insight gained abroad."

Once Carrig learned he had been selected to go to Australia, he began the process of transporting his entire life to the other side of the world.

"There were times when I didn't think we'd actually make it out of the country," he said.

"In fact, I had to request a two-week delay due to some missed milestones. But the movers came and packed up our stuff. We lived with my parents for a week, and then got on the plane with our nine bags of luggage. Yes, nine! Four suitcases and five boxes. We were definitely a sight to see moving through airports!"

"Once an applicant has been informed of their selection, the real work begins," Craley explained. "You'll need to complete draft Temporary Change of Station or TCS orders. For all RDECOM selectees, a designated point of contact -- Terry McGahan -- at the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center International Office, assists with order preparation and answers all questions regarding financial allowances."

"Finally you need to set your departure date and ensure all passport and visa requirements are met, as well as any medical requirements," Craley added.

For participants traveling with young family members there are schooling considerations to take into account. Housing must be found and may take some time. For this reason a temporary housing allowance is provided.

"Though daunting, participants aren't alone during this process," Craley stressed. "Their IPOCs, ITI, Forward Element and ITC personnel will support them and offer advice when needed."

Once Carrig arrived and settled into his assignment in Australia, he found he wanted to stay even longer.

"We made it to Australia, and 88 days later so did the rest

of our stuff," he said. "Now it's just barely a year since we landed, and with an extension applied for and granted, we've started our second of two years living in Melbourne through ESEP."

Assignments are initially for one year, and an extension request for an additional year can be submitted to DASA DE&C after getting a feel for the assignment, but no more than six months after you start, according to Craley.

"Once on the ground in your assignment, reporting requests vary depending on your home organization. And once you return home, you will submit an end of assignment report along with an evaluation from your host rating your performance and the benefit of the overall experience."

For Carrig, the assignment has been professionally, and personally, rewarding.

"My work here with DSTO has been both intimidating and challenging," he said. "My team consists of brilliant scientists, and my engineering background sticks out like a sore thumb. However, despite my rusty college-level laboratory skills, the folks down here have been patient in their approach of letting me tinker around in the lab again. Additionally, I arrived at DSTO with a level-three certification in test and evaluation, and so it's that experience I've relied on for my greatest contribution."

"I came here at a very opportune time in that DSTO was in the process of standing up a walk-in-sized chamber to do full individual protective ensemble testing via articulated manikin," said Carrig. "It's been my challenge to verify the operation of the chamber as well as provide test results on the vapor-generation system that's been developed for the chamber."

"Right now, my daily responsibilities involve supporting a cold-weather test that's using the chamber's environmental controls," he continued. "In addition to providing support to another DSTO team, I'm using the past seven week's worth of sub-freezing temperature data as a means to verify the chamber's operational conditions."

"I'm not entirely sure where my career will go after ESEP," Carrig continued. "I hope to use some of the things I've learned in the realm of individual protection to my advantage when I return to ECBC. I also like to think that by keeping up with some of my test and evaluation experience I'll be able to continue my work in that field."

"Most importantly, though, I've made a set of great contacts in Australia's chemical-biological knowledge base," he said. "While I may be a fairly low man on the totem pole, I feel confident that the bridge building done via my time here with DSTO can only help big-picture workings like The Technical Cooperation Program."

"If I'm honest, my wife, Erin, and I have had our moments of being homesick," Carrig said. "But we made the choice to stay in Melbourne another year, and so far it's been the right one. I'm definitely grateful for the opportunity that ESEP has provided. I would do it all again if I had the chance."

"But next time I would pack for two years (even if we only stayed one) and have the movers ship more than just a few sparse things. My wife misses her copper pots, and I miss my couch."

(NOTE: For more information on the ESEP program or for application assistance contact Jason Craley, 410-278-8591, email: jason.c.craley.civ@mail.mil)