



ARL 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Out on a limb

By **T'JAE GIBSON**

U. S. Army Research Laboratory Public Affairs Office

Breaking from its conventional basic research role, the U.S. Army Research Laboratory is credited with launching the U.S. military's up-armor revolution that today continues to save Soldiers' lives and limbs by harvesting design, fabrication and fielding solutions – in house - to thwart evolving threats.

Wet, scraping and tearing sounds of tissue and bones separating from Soldiers' lower extremities in nanoseconds after a roadside bomb or some other rogue attack shrilly echo in their comrades' minds. It's spring 2003: U.S. forces are getting blindsided, sideswiped by first generation improvised explosive devices, more commonly referred to as IEDs, and rocket propelled grenades that embarrassingly beat through America's wartime tactical vehicles – trucks and Humvees (HMMWVs).

"The threat was starting to change," reflected Michael J. Zoltoski, chief of the Army Research Laboratory's Lethality Division within the Weapons and Materials Research Directorate. Back then, he led the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.-based armor mechanics branch, which was celebrated for its advancement in passive and reactive materiel research. He had received word that Gen. Paul J. Kern, then-commander of the Army Materiel Command, was looking for the next-generation Army survivability technology to combat the direct attacks on U.S. personnel and equipment from guerilla warfare emerging from behind enemy lines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

ARL was among the half-dozen or so research, development and engineering centers and laboratories under Kern's command already charged to come up with ways to strengthen tactical vehicles and increase their survivability against the most common threats: rocket-propelled grenades that siphoned off the canvass and stock plastic doors of lightweight vehicles like the HMMWV, and

See ARL, page 8

Corporal Garrett S. Jones, an amputee who was injured in 2007 by an insurgent's bomb during his unit's deployment to Iraq, is proud to be back serving with the Marines of 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, which are currently serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Jones is the first Marine with an above-the-knee amputation to deploy to Afghanistan.

Marine photo



APG joins National Take-Back

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

APG Army Substance Abuse Program and Directorate of Emergency Services and are co-sponsoring this spring's Drug Take-Back Week April 22-26.

The twice-a-year campaign provides the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs. During the campaign, community members are able to turn in medications for free with no questions asked.

Cindy Scott, ASAP prevention coordinator, said this is a perfect time for members of the APG community to do some spring cleaning. Having expired, unused prescription and OTC drugs around the house or office can be dangerous. The rate of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. is alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

Scott explained that expired drugs may be less effective and cause some people to overdose by taking more than they should to get the same effect.

This is the sixth time that APG has participated in the national campaign. Last fall, DES and ASAP collected nearly 300 pounds of unwanted drugs during APG's Prescription/Over-the-Counter

Take-Back Campaign between Sept. 24 and Sept. 28.

"People are starting to **See MEDICATION, page 10**

APG Arbor/Earth Day set April 26

By **ADRIANE FOSS**

Garrison Public Affairs

Students and community members can enjoy a variety of hands-on science projects, presentations and events during Aberdeen Proving Ground's Arbor/Earth Day celebration Friday, April 26, at the APG North (Aberdeen) youth center.

The daylong celebration kicks off at 9 a.m. with the Aberdeen Middle School band performing the national anthem and welcome remarks by APG Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton. Indoor and outdoor activities will include law enforcement working dog demonstrations, recycling crafts and games and a Scales & Tales event, hosted by the Maryland Park Service. The installation will receive a Tree City Award and hand out awards in the Earth/Arbor Day poster contest.

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Cemetery verification project kicks off

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

In 2009, national media reports of burial record discrepancies at Arlington National Cemetery resulted in a 100 percent gravesite accountability initiative during which all interment records and headstone errors were corrected. Today, digitized images of ANC grave markers, records of interment and geospatial map coordinates are available to the public via an online database. As a result of the system overhaul at ANC, the Secretary of the Army has directed all Army cemeteries to also reach 100 percent accountability and sustainable operations by 2014.

Consequently, the Installation Management Command (IMCOM) stood up IMCOM Cemetery Operations (ICO) which recently embarked on an aggressive effort to obtain full accountability of 27 cemeteries at 17 installations – containing more than 42,000 gravesites- by June 2014.

The project kicked off the week of

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Spc. Dustin Noland, HHC Garrison, photographs the front of a headstone marker in the APG North (Aberdeen) cemetery during training for the IMCOM and Army-wide 100 percent accountability validation program.

WEATHER

Thurs.



71° | 61°

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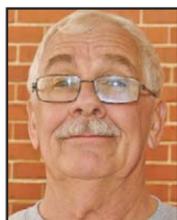
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STREET TALK

What were your first thoughts after hearing about the April 15 bombings at the Boston Marathon?

I thought about just how vulnerable we all are and how we need to be even more cautious. There are still hate-filled individuals out there but still, we don't need to be frightened, just embrace the sense of liberty we all have.



Charles Sherer
KUSAHC facility contractor

My first thoughts were of safety and protection and that's what I saw, responders running around making sure everyone else was safe. My heart went out to the injured and the families and I prayed for their safety and well being. A chaplain friend of mine serves up there and [last night] I was glad to hear from him.



Lt. Col. Juan Crockett
RDECOM Command Chaplain

I felt total sadness. It was just like 9-11 again. I felt so sorry for the victims. It was so cruel for such an amazing event to be ruined this way. Now the bombing and not the marathon will be forever in our minds.



Carol Evans
KUSAHC occupational health

I first felt grief for the victims and their families. The marathon has so much potential and this [bombing] is just a tragedy. My cousin's roommate was up there volunteering in a trauma unit all night. That and the stories news [channels] tell about people helping are the only positives.



Marissa Bartol
military spouse

OPINION

The top 10 reasons I appreciate military children:

In honor of April's Month of the Military Child, I created a Top 10 list of the qualities I most appreciate about children from military families. Their amazing service and sacrifice deserve a much longer list, but I figured this would at least be a start.

10. Their sense of humor. Military kids do all they can to keep their spirits up. Some carry life-sized cardboard posters of parents called "Flat Daddies" and "Flat Mommies" to keep deployed loved ones close at hand. They carry them to pizza parties and movies, sporting events and concerts. During a past deployment, military wife Vivian Greentree's sons took it a step further. They pasted pictures of their deployed dad on a stick, dubbed it a "dad on a stick" and took it everywhere with them. They even asked their "dad" to help them make macaroni and cheese.

9. They selflessly serve their community. Military children possess a strong sense of service — perhaps modeled after their military parents who serve and sacrifice daily. A shining example is last year's Army Military Child of the Year, Amelia McConnell. Soon after her father returned from Iraq in 2006, he was diagnosed with leukemia. After treatment, he redeployed to Iraq in 2007. In 2009, her only brother, Sgt. Andrew McConnell, was killed in Afghanistan. Still, Amelia excelled in school and in sports, and volunteered hundreds of hours a year for a number of organizations. When asked why she does so much, she said, "I always think there are a lot of people in worse situations than I am."

8. They stand by their military parent through thick and thin. I met a high school senior several years ago who told me his father would miss his graduation and his departure to college. But this teen wasn't upset in the least. "He loves to be a soldier, and if it makes him happy, it makes me happy," he said. "How can I possibly complain that he's not watching me graduate when he's out there sacrificing for our nation?"

7. Their sense of patriotism. Zachary Laychak was 9 years old when his father was killed Sept. 11, 2001, when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon. Laychak struggled over the years with anger and confusion over the incident. But as time passed, his initial anger evolved into a deep sense of patriotism. "As terrible as this whole situation was, I know he was a very patriotic person," he said of his father, and that he died serving his country. That's a way he would have been proud to go."

6. They support each other. Several years ago, I met an amazing group of military kids at a camp for children of fallen service members hosted by the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. Over the course of a long weekend in D.C., the children bond-



<http://www.asymca.org>

ed over their shared experiences, offering hope and support to each other. The camp and fellow survivors give "us a sense of we're not alone in this fight of grieving," said attendee, Ben Suplee, whose father, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel A. Suplee, died while serving in Afghanistan.

5. Their adaptability. Military children change school systems six to nine times on average. Felicity and Abigail Horan, twin daughters of Army Lt. Col. Dave Horan, described their experiences as military kids at a "Joining Forces" event last year. Now in the seventh grade, the girls are attending their fifth school after eight military moves. They spoke of "always saying goodbye" to friends and that their father missed five of their birthdays. But, Felicity said, "Don't feel sorry for us.... We are stronger because of our experiences."

4. Their compassion. A number of kids have military parents who return home wounded, some with visible wounds and others with less-evident injuries such as post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury. These kids immediately step up to help out at home — taking on additional chores, pitching in to babysit — during their parent's recovery. Army Spc. Kevin Wear, father of five, suffered a traumatic brain injury and leg injury in Afghanistan when a roadside bomb blew up the vehicle he was riding in. He often struggles to remember dates and words, but his kids don't see him any differently. "All five of my kids believe I'm Superman — the toughest, strongest guy in the world," he said.

3. Their global knowledge. Many military kids have traveled across the nation and around the world. They have an innate appreciation for cultural diversity and knowledge of world events that most kids who never crossed state lines would be hard-pressed to match. At a Join-

ing Forces event last year, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno said he understands the challenges faced by military families -- he moved his wife and children 24 times during his 36-year military career. Today, the general said, his children are successful adults in large part because of their military upbringing, the resilience it adds, and the teachers who took an interest in them.

2. Their strength. They've dealt with a decade of war and multiple deployments, with the associated worry and fear. But these challenges also have equipped them with a resilience that will prepare them for life's setbacks and hardships. Nicole Marie Daly, the Army's 2013 Child of the Year, has moved nine times and has attended three high schools so far. Growing up in a military family "created resiliency because every time we move, I have to constantly prove myself as an individual and my capabilities," Nicole said.

1. They serve too. Their military parent signed on the dotted line; their children did not. Yet, they must deal with deployments, frequent moves and school transitions, and they do so with courage and grace. As a nation, we owe them a debt of gratitude, First Lady Michelle Obama told a group of high school girls last April. "Ultimately, you understand that your parents are part of something far bigger than themselves," she said. "By working so hard ..., you give your parents the peace of mind they need to focus on their mission. With your service, you make their service possible. And for that, we can't thank you enough."

Elaine Sanchez

Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

(Note: This BAMC Beat blog post is an updated version of last year's Family Matters blog post.)

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



71°|61°

Fri



75°|51°

Sat



62°|42°

Sun



59°|43°

Mon



60°|47°

Tue



65°|53°

Wed



67°|51°

APG NEWS

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Youth center hosts 4-H cooking contest

Story and photo by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The APG North (Aberdeen) youth center hosted the annual 4-H Meal Appeal cooking contest April 13.

Eight teams from Harford County were challenged to plan a menu that meets the current nutritional guide published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, called MyPlate. MyPlate is divided into sections of approximately 30 percent grains, 30 percent vegetables, 20 percent fruits and 20 percent protein, accompanied by a smaller circle representing dairy, such as a glass of low-fat/nonfat milk or a yogurt cup.

Teams were asked to come up with a meal theme, a presentation, and demonstrate cooking one of the menu items for two judges.

The APG North team, the Army Meal Appeal Heroes with Heart made a pudding fruit salad for the judges. Their theme was "Spring in with Color and Fresh Food." Other menu items



(From left) Carlos Clavijo, 6, Shyann Stolo, 10, Iliana Clavijo, 8 and Samantha Devorak, 12 demonstrate how to make a Caesar salad with grilled chicken during the annual 4-H Meal Appeal cooking contest held at the APG North (Aberdeen) youth center April 13.

were corn on the cob, grilled vegetables and chicken.

Participants were Chyann Benjamin, 10, Tatyana Sanchez, 9, Marina Bennett, 11, and Taryn Giles, 10.

"We made a healthy, refreshing, colorful snack for the spring," Sanchez said about the pudding fruit salad.

The APG North team, led by center employees Monica Boyd and Glenda Weaver, meet every other Tuesday.

The APG South team theme was "Italian Sensation." They made a Caesar salad with grilled chicken for the judges. Other menu items included spaghetti and tomato sauce, bread

and milk.

Participants were Shyann Stolo, 10, Samantha Devorak, 12, Carlos Clavijo, 6 and Iliana Clavijo, 8. The club, led by Program Assistant Agnes Burke, meets every Thursday after school.

Karen Johnson, the APG North youth center's 4-H pro-

gram manager, said that there are many aspects to 4-H Clubs.

"A common misconception is that 4-H is all about farming," she said.

Johnson said that the club gives children, kindergarten through high school, a chance to explore interests and life skills like cooking, gardening, art, science and more.

For instance, the 4-H Meal Appeal contest teaches the children about teamwork, organization, food preparation, hygiene, nutrition, leadership and communication skills.

Johnson added that she wanted to have the competition at the center to strengthen the club's relationship with the community.

"I wanted to show others that they can participate in programs on post," Johnson said. "I would like to do more programs with Harford County 4-H in the future."

Johnson thanked the APG North youth center staff, Lauren Hyman, Kim Bryant and Boyd for their dedication in making sure the event ran smoothly.

Month of the Military Child: 'Proud, Ready and Resilient'

www.Army.mil

Since 1986, Army installations around the world recognize the sacrifices and applaud the courage of military children by celebrating the Month of the Military Child. As Soldiers are transitioning home from more than ten years of conflict around the world, many challenges continue for military families and their children. These children bravely endured the effects of war, and in the last three years alone, approximately two million children have witnessed the deployment of one or both parents.

The Month of the Military Child creates awareness of the service and sacrifices of the military's children. It is an opportunity to thank children for their support to the nation's warfighters and recognize the important role they play in the strength of the nation by contributing to the strength of the Army family.

During the Month of the Military Child installations across the Army will

sponsor various fun and educational events to celebrate children's contributions and recognize their sacrifices through teen lock-ins, youth bike rodeos, children book fairs, parades and other community events designed to highlight the resiliency of military children.

This year's theme, "Proud, Ready and Resilient," highlights military children's unique lifestyle and their ability to succeed despite frequent relocations, reintegration, deployments, loss and/or care for a wounded parent.

Because men and women in uniform cannot focus on the missions or challenges ahead if they are concerned about their children at home, this means that providing a safe, nurturing environment for military children creates a stronger more resilient fighting force. The Month of the Military Child reinforces this concept. It reminds the nation that service members' children also serve, and gives communi-

ties the opportunity to share their gratitude for the service of military children who are Proud, Ready and Resilient.

APG youth, child development and family child care centers will hold several events to recognize the military children of APG. Below is a list of MOMC events set for the installation's three Child Development Centers.

APG South (Edgewood) CDC

- April 18, Stuffed Animal Day
- April 19, Crazy Hair Day
- April 22, Green Day/Earth Day
- April 23, Obstacle Course
- April 24, Large Army Trucks
- April 25, Game Day
- April 26, Bubble Day
- April 29, Purple Day
- April 30, Mix & Match Day

APG North (Aberdeen) CDC

- Mad Science Week
- April 18, Grow Class Pet

- April 19, Baby Soda Bottle Experiment

Togetherness Week

- April 22, Parent Continental Breakfast
- April 23, Friendship Fruit Salad
- April 24, Favorite Stuffed Animal Day
- April 25, Parent & Child Activity Day
- April 26, Emergency Vehicle Display

Vehicles Week

- April 29, Military Vehicle Display
- April 30, Ice Cream Social

Bayside CDC

We Are Family Week

- April 18, Ice Cream Social

Community Beautification Week

- April 22, Earth Day
- April 23, Clean Up Your Community Day
- April 25, Green Day
- April 26, Make and Take Bird Houses
- April 30, Field Day

Integrity: doing what's right

By **SANDY GIBSON**
ATEC Staff Writer

Integrity is the principle foundation upon which our ethical and moral compass is built.

One of the mainstays of integrity is “doing what is right, both legally and morally.” These ethical principles are our inner compasses that guide us to do the right thing even when we’re being pressured to do otherwise. It requires us to do the right thing at all times, regardless of the situation or the consequences.

“Even if an organization is led by egomaniacs, drunk with power, who are unaware of their destructive practices, those who have integrity will be the ones who steadily guide it from the bottom up, allowing it to quietly weather the storm through trying times,” said Destin Sandlin, flight test engineer for the Missile Flight Test Division at Redstone Test Center in Huntsville, Ala. “These bottom-up leaders will no doubt experience pain in doing so, but by being true to what they know is right, they will

Integrity is the most sacred of all things in your relationships with others throughout your life. Without integrity, there is no real trust and without trust, no genuine relationships.

William Wilkinson Division chief, Propulsion Test Division, RTC

be a lighthouse of truth in a sea of the misguided.”

Integrity starts with a deliberate intent to continuously strive to be a better person while remaining consistent and true to one’s beliefs. The Army characterizes this as adhering to moral principles. But it’s not always easy, especially when doing so is not the most popular thing to do.

“Integrity is doing what is right, all the time, within the bounds of your personal beliefs and without compromising common laws,” said Capt. Ryan Stidum, joint test element officer at the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command Joint Test Element. “Integrity is having

the courage to stand up to someone or a situation that you know is wrong.”

According to the Army, “integrity requires that you do and say nothing that deceives others. As your integrity grows, so does the trust others place in you.” Honesty and trustworthiness are central to integrity. It requires being honest with yourself as well as to others.

“Integrity is the most sacred of all things in your relationships with others throughout your life,” said William Wilkinson, division chief for the Propulsion Test Division at RTC. “Without integrity, there is no real trust and without trust, no genuine relationships, per-

sonal, professional or otherwise.” For Wilkinson, integrity is your reputation for keeping your word and commitments.

Integrity is a fundamental value constantly being tested and developed over time. People with integrity have proven track records of honorable behavior; they can be counted on to behave honorably even when no one is watching. Their guiding principles are inherent in relationships built on the trust and dependability they establish with others.

“Employees with integrity work just as hard whether they are being watched or not,” said Monica Webb, facilities manager for the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command G-4 directorate. “They can always be counted on to do their best, and they will be honest enough to admit it if they have made mistakes.” Webb feels that people of this caliber are an inspiration to others because they create a more positive and motivating work environment.

“They won’t pass the blame, but they will share the credit,” she said.



Spec. Eric Jimenez

President, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, BOSS

Spec. Eric Jimenez is an active duty Soldier assigned to the U.S. Army Public Health Command. In addition to his military duties, Jimenez serves as president of the APG Garrison’s Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program.

Along with being a link between APG Soldiers and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. James Ervin, who leads the program, Jimenez said that BOSS offers support to commanders, APG organizations and approved activities outside the gate.

“It could be volunteering at an MWR event or escorting hospitalized veterans at Perry Point [VA Medical Center],” Jimenez said.

“This is a smaller community than other installations and unlike other installations we have a large mixture of

Soldiers with different [military occupational specialties] hanging out together,” he said. “Since our population is so small we open up to everybody.”

He said the group is looking to throw its support behind the Survivor Outreach Services program and is gearing up for an active spring with the approach of the Army birthday and Memorial Day.

The Northern Ohio native has been in the Army nearly four years and says he is proud to be trusted with this additional duty.

“I’m always thinking about the next event,” he said. “The best thing about BOSS is it promotes cohesiveness not only among Soldiers but with the community. My goal is to build a strong foundation for the garrison and for my fellow Soldiers.”

Military integration at ACC-APG

By **BETSY KOZAK-HOWARD**
ACC-APG

The Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground began integrating military members into its organizational structure to optimize contingency contracting and to enhance the training opportunities for Soldiers in the contracting career field.

An operations order issued by ACC detailed a four-phase plan to attach contingency contracting teams to its state-side elements including ACC-APG. As a result, ACC-APG will assume the management of approximately 40 military personnel, according to Col. Michael J. Rogers, ACC-APG military deputy to the executive director.

“The end state of the ACC-APG military integration will be the activation of the 926th CCBn commander at APG with four subordinate CCTs,” Rogers said. “Currently, the Expeditionary Contracting Command is responsible for the contingency mission in addition to the workload management and professional development of assigned military members.

“Although, the ECC will retain responsibility for contingency oper-



Photo by Betsy Kozak-Howard

(From left) Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground's Lt. Col. Derek Draper, chief, Garrison Contracting Division; Col. Michael J. Rogers, military deputy to the executive director; Maggie Combs, chief, Strategic Initiatives; and Frank Brigham, chief, Manpower/Management Branch, plan for the activation of the 926th Contingency Contracting Battalion with four subordinate contingency contracting teams.

ations, the day-to-day training and development of the teams will be ACC-APG's responsibility. In the event that our Soldiers are called to support contingency mission requirements, the members will be detached from ACC-APG for the duration of the deployment.”

Phase one of the integration began

in January and was mainly the planning and preparation for the attachment of the battalion and CCTs. The 712th CCT, 722nd CCT, and the 725th CCT, were attached to ACC-APG in March which marks the beginning of phase two. At this point, ACC-APG assumed the management of the teams to include per-

sonnel support, workload, training, and other logistical support.

The five-member CCTs consist of two officers and three noncommissioned officers in the 51C acquisition career field. The official activation of the 926th CCBn and the fourth CCT, the 865th CCT, will take place in April during phase three. The military integration will be finalized by October with the attachment of any follow-on forces during phase four.

“The ACC-APG integration of military will be a win-win situation for both the organization and the Soldiers,” said Lt. Col. Derek Draper, chief, Garrison Contracting Division and slated 936th CCBN commander.

“The 51Cs will gain diverse contracting experience working alongside the seasoned civilian workforce and ACC-APG will benefit from the contribution of the military to the center's workload. The military will also provide firsthand knowledge of contingency contracting operations to enhance ACC-APG's expertise and customer support. The current focus of the integration is implementing a support structure to accommodate the military and ensure the well-being of our Soldiers.”

FY13 contracting cut-off dates announced

By **THOMAS BOYLE**
ACC-APG

The Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Tenant and Garrison Contracting Divisions, formerly known as the Aberdeen Installation Contracting Division, has established the Divisions' Fiscal Year 2013 cut-off dates for submission of purchase requests (PRs).

Early customer support in identifying and submitting PRs by or before the dates listed below greatly enhances the ability of the Contracting Divisions to meet customer needs. In the fourth quarter of FY 12, the ACC-APG Tenant/Garrison Divisions processed more than 1,500 actions at a total value exceeding \$140 million. This was approximately 42 percent of total actions and 52 percent of dollars being obligated for the year in the fourth quarter alone.

The cutoff dates are for ALL Purchase Requests (PRs) and supporting documentation and approvals is 15 May 2013.

■ There may be instances where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. It is therefore required that these actions be coordinated with the Branch Chief or appropriate team leader prior to this date.

Incomplete procurement packages will not be accepted by the Tenant/Garrison Divisions during September. APG activities should consider maximizing use of their government purchase cards to execute small dollar transactions for authorized items rather than submitting a purchase request to the contracting office. ALL purchase requests (PRs) must be submitted electronically and at a minimum each acquisition package shall include the following:

Funded purchase request, statement

of work/description of requirement, independent government cost estimate (IGCE), service acquisition strategy (>\$150,000 inclusive of options), service contract approval, COR nomination completed in VCE-COR tool, quality assurance surveillance plan (QASP), NEC approval (IT hardware, software and services), evaluation factors, complete sole source justification (<\$150K and J&A for >\$150K, if appropriate), signed Antiterrorism/Operations Security (AT/OPSEC) cover sheet, and market survey. Failure to include the necessary documentation could result in delay or untimely award of requests.

The ACC-APG Tenant/Garrison Divisions encourage customer activities to coordinate their projected FY-end requirements with their contracting officers immediately to discuss acquisition methods and identify those documents, reviews, and approvals required

to accompany the procurement package.

Who to contact:

■ Chief, Tenant Division: Cynthia H. Phillips, Cynthia.h.phillips.civ@mail.mil, 443-861-4812

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■ Chief, Garrison Division: LTC Derek Draper, Derek.draper.mil@mail.mil, 443-861-5073

■ Facilities Branch: Kimmie Edwards, kimmie.i.edwards.civ@mail.mil, 443-861-5339

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THURSDAY

APRIL 18 SAME LUNCHEON MEETING

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post's April 2013 meeting will be at the Wetlands Golf Club, Aberdeen, Md., at 11:30 a.m. on April 18. This month's featured speaker is Jim Richardson, Director, Harford County Office of Economic Development, whose presentation is titled, "The Future of Science and Technology in Harford County."

For more information, call 410-638-9699 or register on-line at <http://www.same-chesapeake.org>.

FRIDAY

APRIL 19 WOMEN IN DEFENSE CONFERENCE AT BULLE ROCK

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of Women in Defense will host the inaugural Real World (RW)3 Conference 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bulle Rock Golf Club. The event features breakfast and lunch panel discussions and development workshops as well as a new speed-mentoring initiative called "Wheel of WID" that helps women of all career fields build mentor relationships. Lunch panelists include Jill Smith, technical director, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center and Suzanne Milchling, director of Program Integration, U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center.

Amie Hoerber, former Deputy under Secretary of the Army will present "What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Job Like This?"

To register, or for more information, contact Diane Siler at 443-243-7344, e-mail her at rsvpwid@gmail.com; or visit the WID Mid-Atlantic website at www.widmidatlantic.org/Events.html.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

APRIL 19 AND 20 PERRY POINT VA MEDICAL CENTER OPEN HOUSE

The Perry Point VA Medical Center is hosting an open house and tour of the historic Perry Point Mansion on Friday, April 19th and on Saturday, April 20th, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Perry Point Mansion, which was built around 1750, is located at 501 Fifth Street in the village area of the Perry Point VA Medical Center.

In addition to touring the historic Perry Point Mansion, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the unique historical significance of the Perry Point VA campus, including demonstrations and displays pertaining to the Colonial period. Tours are open to the general public and are free of charge. For more information, please contact Margaret Hornberger in the Office of Public & Community Relations at 1-800-949-1003, extension 5407.

TUESDAY

APRIL 23 HANDLING CONFLICT IN THE WORKPLACE AND PRESCRIPTION TAKE BACK

Workplaces are naturally stressful environments and personal conflicts between co-workers can be both a cause and product of this stress. Allowing stress to intensify will only further cripple the work environment. In this session, Anne Healy, Federal Employee Program Account Executive, BlueCross BlueShield, will discuss how recognizing the problem and taking positive action can help solve the problem and make the office a place where you want to go each day.

Location: Myer Auditorium, Bldg. 6000, from noon to 1 p.m.

The APG Prescription/Over-the-Counter Take-Back Campaign kicks off Monday, April 22 through Friday, April 26. Please bring any expired, unused, and unwanted prescription (RX) drugs and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines to the Myer Auditorium Lobby, Bldg. 6000, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 24 UMUC MILITARY INFORMATION SESSION

Learn all about University of Maryland University College (UMUC) programs at a convenient information session in Bldg. 4305, Room 10 on APG-North (Aberdeen) 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Advisors will be available to discuss transfer credit (bring transcripts) and help you put together a degree plan. You can apply, register for classes, and find out how to maximize your education benefits. The \$50 application fee will be waived if you apply at

the event. (The \$100 application fee for Doctor of Management cannot be waived)

Call 410-272-8269 for information.

NUTRITION & OBESITY PREVENTION: WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE U.S.? WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

Jennifer Mayer, Community Health Advocate from Johns Hopkins Priority Partners, will be the guest speaker. She will address portion sizes, FDA recommendations (My Plate) and exercise as well as provide dramatic visual aids and cooking tips. This event will be held in room A 105, ATEC HQ, Bldg. 2202 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information call 443-861-9260

NATIONAL DENIM DAY

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The APG Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Office has asked the military and civilian community to show support for rape victims by wearing jeans to work on April 24. National Denim Day is a rape prevention education campaign, where community members, elected officials, businesses and students make a social statement by wearing jeans as a visible means of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault. Denim became an international symbol against rape in 1992 after an Italian judge released a rapist from prison on the grounds that the victim's tight jeans could not have been removed by the accused. The women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans in protest, and the California Senate and Assembly did the same. Thus, Denim Day was born. For more information about Denim Day and other Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities contact 1st Lt. Raisa Velez at 410-306-2813.

THURSDAY

APRIL 25 ARMED SERVICES BLOOD DRIVE

Celebrate Month of the Military Child, Make a Blood Donation!

Our next Armed Services Blood Drive – sponsored by ECBC, USAMRICD and USAPHC – is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, in the Drill Hall of the MG Warren D. Hodges Armory, Bldg. E4305 on 5th Street, near the Edgewood Area Police Station, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Secure your appointment at <https://www.militarydonor.com/> and search for this blood drive using this sponsor code: EDGMD. As always, walk-ins are welcome.

Your blood donation can make the difference between life and death for our warfighters and their families. Keep in mind that a single donation can save up to three lives. Let's put smiles on the faces of military children through our blood donations!

We will have refreshments and thank-you gifts from the Armed Services Blood Program available.

For more information, call 410-436-5383.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY

MAY 3-5 HAVRE DE GRACE HOSTS WAR OF 1812 EVENTS

The City of Havre de Grace will commemorate the War of 1812 invasion by British forces during a series of events over three days. Highlights include:

May 3

- 3 p.m., Arrival of Tall Ships (Pride of Baltimore II, Sultana)
- 5 to 10 p.m., Main Street 1812 Tribute for First Fridays
- 7 p.m., War of 1812 Dinner, Van-Diver Inn

May 4

- 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Full event reenactment throughout town featuring Fort McHenry Fire & Drums; Star-Spangled Banner flag-raising; British reenactors landing at Concord Point Lighthouse grounds; skirmishes throughout town ending at Lock House Grounds.
- 1 p.m., Tall Ships open for tours
- 3 p.m., Military march through town to lighthouse
- 7 p.m., Ceremony with Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley at lighthouse grounds followed by The Columbia Orchestra performance and fireworks

May 5

- 7 a.m., Red Coat Run 5K race
- 10 a.m., Kayak Poker Run, register 9 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m., circa 1800 service at St. Johns Church
- Noon, Tall ships open for tours.

For more information visit the Havre de Grace Tourism website at www.hdgtourism.com or call 800-851-7756.

SUNDAY

MAY 26 MCVET 10K RACE

The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training will host the 18th Annual 5/10K races Memorial Day weekend, 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. starting from the War Memorial Building near City Hall in Baltimore. Award ceremony includes trophy and cash awards by age group. All registered runners receive a T-shirt; refreshments will be provided. Race entry fee is \$25; \$30 the day of the race. Register through Charm City Run event coordinator Kelly Dees at 410-308-1870 or www.charmcityrun.com or through MCVET at www.mcvet.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MCVET.Baltimore.

ONGOING

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION SEARCHING FOR MEMBERS

The Second (Indianhead) Division Association is searching for anyone who ever served in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division at any time. For information about the national association and the annual reunion in Columbus, Ga. Sept. 17 - 21, contact secretary-treasurer, Bob Haynes, at Zidahq@comcast.net or 224-225-1202.

10 MINUTES WITH CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

If you want to increase your earning power, enhance your job performance and take advantage of an exceptional educational opportunity at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Central Michigan University is here for you.

The Master of Science in Administration (MSA) degree offered by CMU gives you a solid core of management skills and a choice of four concentrations: Human Resources, General Administration, Public Administration or Information Resource Management. Also available as graduate certificates

Meet with CMU representatives on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Janet Barr Building, Bldg. 4305, Room 209.

Take advantage of our \$50 application fee waiver through May 30, 2013. Classes start Fall 2013.

Contact Barbara Jenkins at 410-272-1532 or by email at aberdeen.center@cmich.edu for more information

DROP OFF UNUSED, UNWANTED, AND EXPIRED MEDICINE DURING TAKE- BACK EVENTS

Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Emergency Services and Army Substance Abuse Program are cosponsoring this year's Over-the-Counter and Prescription Drug Take-Back Week April 22 to April 26. Last fall, more than 80 pounds of unwanted drugs were collected from APG sites.

Community members can drop off unwanted, unused or expired medication at the following APG locations:

Monday, April 22 at ATEC, Bldg. 2202 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23 at the Mallette Mission Training Facility, Bldg.6008 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24 at the APG North recreation center, Bldg. 3326 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 25 at the Post Theater from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, April 26 at the APG South Express Bldg. 4010 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Community members can also drop off medication Monday through Friday at the APG South Police Station, Bldg. E4420; APG North Police Station, Bldg. 2200 or Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, Bldg. 2501.

For more information call ASAP Prevention Coordinator Cindy Scott at 410-278-4013 or Community Policing Officer Mike Farlow at 410-278-3609.

PICNIC RESERVATIONS

Reserve your picnic dates now! The three APG Picnic Areas (Shore Park, Woodpecker Point in Aberdeen, and Skippers Point in Edgewood) may be reserved for outings by all ID cardholders. Prime dates are going fast, so make your reservations now. For more information call 278-5789/4124.

WOMEN'S HOME BUILD MOVED TO AUG. 3

The Federal Women's Program committee, along with the Maryland Tri-County Chapter of Federally Employed Women, and the Women

in Defense, Mid-Atlantic Chapter continue to seek team members for: A Women's Only Home Build. The project, which is led by Harford Habitat for Humanity, has been moved to Saturday, Aug. 3 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The May 11 date has been filled by another group.

All volunteers must attend a mandatory safety class which is online and a part of the registration process. Access online registration at www.habitatusq.org/volunteer/construction-volunteers. Registration consists of three parts:

- 1) Create a User Account
- 2) Sign a Waiver of Liability
- 3) Safety Training

Register by June 17. For more information, contact one of the following for more information:

Linda Patrick, 410-436-1023; Tracy Marshall, 443-861-4366; Sheryl Coleman, 410-278-5964; Teresa Rudd, 410-436-5501; SGT Shavonne Frank, 410-4417-2374; CPT Maritzabel Mustafaa, 410-278-3000, or Diane Siler, 443-243-7344.

APRIL IS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

Alcohol Screenings/Awareness Displays throughout the month of April.

The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) will be offering Alcohol Screenings at various locations throughout APG North and South including:

- April 26, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Edgewood Shoppette, Bldg. E4010

For more information, call 410-278-4013.

WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL QUIT AND/OR STAY-QUIT FROM USING TOBACCO SESSIONS

Do you want to learn about strategies to quit using tobacco? Are you a quitter who is feeling stressed and thinking about smoking again? Join a casual Lunch-n-Learn group to discuss strategies to make and sustain behavior change, understand stress triggers, identify new coping skills and relaxation techniques and how to eat a healthier diet. Each session will be geared to the needs of those present. Attendance at all classes is not required. Location: Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, 3rd Floor Conference Room. noon to 12:45 p.m. Call Ann Loughton, PHN, at 410-278-1774 for more information.

MONDAYS APG THEATER GROUP SEEKING MEMBERS

Need more drama in your life? More laughs? Want to improve your public speaking skills, or learn how to look 10 years younger instantly? Then the APG Theater workshops are for you. The classes are geared to assist anyone in bringing out their best while performing, interacting one-on-one, or speaking before a small group. Find out what your body language is saying, but what your words are revealing.

Classes run for approximately four weeks, and are held every other Monday at 5 p.m. in the APG North recreation center ballroom. A certificate of participation is presented at the end of the class.

The workshop is free, and dates and times are subject to change.

If interested, stop by the APG North or South recreation centers during regular business hours to fill out a registration form, email patricia.a.devine6.naf@mail.mil, or call 410-278-9451.

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.



**MORE
ONLINE**

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

Volunteers begin accountability process

Continued from Page 1

April 8 – 12 at three installations: Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Fort George G. Meade, Md., and here, at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Michael Bethel, ICO procurement analyst, led the team of ICO personnel who briefed Garrison leadership and personnel from the directorates of Public Works and Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, which oversees and maintains the installation cemeteries.

Bethel said that basically, the program is automating records that have always been kept manually and that Team APG volunteers were vital to the program's success.

"The work they do will enable automated research capabilities that will eventually be made available to the public," he said.

Bethel, ICO procurement analyst, Barry Lee, and contractor Audrey Hildreth, conducted the training and supervised the information-gathering procedures. During the week, Team APG volunteers, including a mix of Soldiers and civilians, learned the simple yet strict photographic and verification procedural requirements that must be met to confirm gravesite accountability.

They learned how to photograph the rear and then front of the headstone marker to provide data for research teams to verify accountability and research discrepancies.



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

IMCOM contractor Audrey Hildreth briefs a group of Team APG volunteers while training for information gathering procedures as part of the Army-wide gravesite accountability initiative to ensure all decedents interred in Army cemeteries have been identified and are all properly commemorated.

"Information at the gravesite is compared to documents maintained by the garrison activities such the DA Form 2122 Record of Interment," said Lee. Other documents, including marriage licenses, birth certificates and the sponsor's DD 214 also are needed to make

comparisons and confirm eligibility and accountability, he added.

"Once the photography is done, we match the records," said Hildreth, adding that "APG cemeteries are beautiful in comparison to others."

"The end goal is to create a pub-

lic website where people will be able to view the headstones and exact locations of the gravesites. This has already been done at Arlington. And thanks to volunteers who are willing and able to come out and help, it's an end goal we can achieve."

APG celebrates Earth/Arbor Day 2013

Continued from Page 1

Morning activities will be geared for students visiting from local schools and afternoon sessions will be for CYSS youth center members.

A fan favorite, Scales & Tales will give attendees a rare and up-close view of local wildlife. While participants enjoy the thrill of interacting with birds of prey and reptiles, the ultimate goal is environmental education.

"Students will learn about the loss of habitat, the effects of pollution on wildlife, and resource management," said environmental protection specialist Kathy Thisse, who helped planned the

event. "We are going to educate the community, but in a really fun way. It's not all poster boards and discussion."

She said several of the touch-and-go activities are so much fun, that students might not realize they're learning important principles.

"And that really is key — educating an entire community or nation on an important concept like environmental stewardship and making it effortless and enjoyable," she said.

Planned events include:

Eagle Station: interactive video on

field work conducted as part of the APG Bald Eagle Management Plan. APG has the largest eagle population in the Chesapeake Bay.

Turtle Telemetry: Participants learn to use radio telemetry gear to monitor local box turtles.

Wildlife display: featuring Eagle video and hunting and fishing information.

Fish Tank: An aquarium will display native fish and underwater grass that grows in the waters of APG. Children can learn how APG employees monitor water quality to maintain the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Science Experiments: Oil Slick/Pollution, Photosynthesis in a Cup, Environmental Snap Circuits, and Filtration.

Maryland Master Gardeners: A University of Maryland program that educates local gardeners on eco-friendly practices

Appearances by Smokey Bear: America's forest hero makes appearances throughout the day

Repurposed T-shirt Craft: Create a tote bag or dog pull-toy using old T-shirts

This year's Arbor and Earth Day themes are "Trees... The Anchors of Earth," and "Our Earth – Handle with Care," respectively.

ARL works to provide safer vehicles for Soldiers

Continued from Page 1

ripped through limbs and psyches of countless Soldiers in theater.

ARL began work on a bar-armor solution that would stop RPG attacks against combat vehicles like the Abrams and Strykers but just as ARL finished working up that promising survivability solution, coalition forces inside HMMWVs were starting to get attacked by RPGs and increasingly under attack with small arms, fragments and sniper fire. “We had to go back to the drawing board.”

No doubt, RPG threats changed warfare; these shoulder-fired, anti-tank weapon systems that fire rockets equipped with an explosive warhead were weapons-of-choice for insurgent forces fighting U.S. troops just after the 2003 invasion in Iraq. RPGs could wipe out any combat vehicle – no matter how thick its armor – by targeting the tracks, its weakest component, or by targeting its most vulnerable spot: soft skin.

ARL’s bar-armor solution stood up against this kind of warfare, initially, because the bars would turn the RPG into a dud on impact, and the improved door and rear shield, which came later, eliminated the effect on the crew from blast and fragments from a RPG impact. But, the gaps between the steel bars in the bar armor made an easy pathway for bullets and fragments to penetrate the doors like an arrow through gelatin.

Field commanders reluctantly OK’d “Do-It-Yourself” retrofits of scrap materials onto HMMWV doors, but a number of these improvised solutions provided soldiers a false sense of the fortified protection they actually needed.

So the U.S. Army invested in building en masse the up-armored M1114 HMMWV to increase protection and survivability. But while the Army was already almost seven years into that investment, ARL’s unconventional move from basic and applied scientific research toward proof of principle armor upgrade “proved that, when needed, the Army lab system has the technical expertise and core competencies to provide solutions made possible by funding to respond quickly to adaptive threats,” Zoltoski said.

His team set out to develop what became known as the Armor Survivability Kit, or ASK, an up-armored solution for the M998 HMMWV that would give Soldiers in combat immediate needed protection before the M1114 HMMWV could come off the production line.

The prototype ASK was to be a battlefield insertion specifically for the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater, and designed not to replace any program of record. This invention-to-fielding task integrated ballistic metals, ballistic glass, polymers and ballistic ceramics. More than a door, ASK replaced former fabric HMMWV doors with rolled homogeneous armor fitted with small ballistic-resistant windows.

“I recall bringing the first pre-prototype doors down to AMC to conduct a science class in the parking lot of the new AMC building,” said Daniel S. Rusin, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel who came to ARL in 2003 as a major on the heels of a six month deployment in Kuwait. He now works in Human Factors Engineering at the U.S. Army Public Health Command. “Gen. Kern then had one of his Colonels hand-cart the pre-prototype door to Iraq on his September 2003 trip to theater. This was not the final design but a sample of things to come.”

Once the prototype came in, Zoltoski took it to Kern, who two weeks later, took it to theater and showed it to unit commanders telling them that it was the solution to their RPG problem. Before he traveled to theater, Kern said sat in on top intelligence briefings weekly at the Army’s Intelligence and Security Command headquarters, which was about a mile or so from the Army Materiel Command headquarters where he served as commanding general.

“It became fairly clear to me we were in a series of attacks on our people that we were not prepared for,” Kern remembered. He said intelligence data from conflicts in the Balkans helped shape requirements for the kind of up-armoring needed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The next-generation HMMWV - the M1114



Courtesy photo

Armor Survivability Kits are being installed on Humvees at Camp Udari, Iraq.

- was to withstand small arms fire and had been deployed, in few instances, in the Balkans. But the U.S. was starting to see similar threats in the Middle East, he said, but those threats were coming more rapidly.

“I knew I had a trip to theater coming up. So I went to ARL because I knew they had the capacity to create a solution,” Kern said. So he enlisted help from a top aide – who happened to be a former wrestler – who hauled the doors to different commanders while in the field.

That started the 60-day development of the ASK kit.

This uncharted territory landed ARL a coveted innovation award from the Department of Defense in 2004, but it also brought with it major Army upsets: it exposed just how unnecessarily slow the PM process moved from requirements gathering to fielding solutions when ARL engaged directly with the end user – the soldiers in theater – and built and rapidly fielded a solution. This effort established a new norm – a new way of doing business – and opened

up the solution space to ‘vendors’ throughout government and industry. And as threats and requirements rapidly evolved, ARL and other research, development and engineering centers got into design cycles; another new norm which meant that, for example, the evolution of the next-generation platform might have typically taken 10 years to develop in the past but with RDEC involvement, those evolutions could be realized within months. Internally, ARL had to leave the efforts of some research scientists on the sidelines for this ‘revolutionary’

project.

“The team became very lean; not everyone was invited to work on it,” said Zoltoski. “I had been OCONUS. When I came back, the team was still in testing mode. Initially, they were treating this as a research project. But in two days, I was scheduled to see Gen. Kern.”

“I said, ‘Get it done!’” Zoltoski remembered with a smile. “They’re shooting bullets and fragments at us now. We can put bar armor on but what are we going to do to stop the bullets and fragments?”

“This project started the revolution of up-armored vehicles and the adaptability to address evolving threats.”

A Rapidly-Fielded ‘Stop-Gap’ Solution

The M1114 was being designed to place in theater a tactical vehicle that could hold up against rogue threats but it wasn’t expected to come off the production line for another few years and Army leadership – under pressure from commanders in theater and Congress – couldn’t wait that long.

And there was no reason they needed

to: ARL’s base knowledge in armor protection technology and legacy in ballistic materials performance substantiated that institutionally, it could address the evolving threat. It’s commonly accepted that the M1114 has benefitted from ARL’s work in developing ASK.

The M1114 had a larger, more powerful turbocharged engine and air conditioning system and a strengthened suspension system. The M1114’s predecessor version initially came off the production line in 1996 and saw limited action in the Balkans, but the M1114 model, which eventually fielded in 2004, added steel plating and ballistic-resistant windows around the cab of the vehicle to improve protection against small arms fire and shrapnel, and steel plating underneath to improve survivability against up to eight pounds of explosives beneath the engine and up to four pounds of explosives in the cargo area. It wore a standard protection kit adding about 2,000 pounds of weight to the standard HMMWV.

ASK added onto deployed HMMWVs roughly 1,000 pounds of armor-steel and transparent armor, but integrated it in a unique way to bring additional protection to drivers and passengers against small arms and explosive device fragment threats.

“This formed a compromise between the ‘equipment you went to war with’ and the immediate protection that could be provided rapidly,” Rusin said.

“We were constantly facing the need to strike a balance between survivability, mobility and sustainment,” said Michael Keele, reactive armor team leader, amplifying that increased ballistic protection also impeded how – speed and maneuverability - vehicles were driven.

In context, HMMWVs were delivered to the Army in 1985, and replaced the M151 Jeep, some types of pickup trucks and other utility vehicles but they were never intended to be combat vehicles. Their extra wide wheel base – nearly six feet, or about a third wider than a Jeep Cherokee – make them ideal personnel and light cargo transport behind front lines. Insurgents exposed how vulnerable mounted soldiers who mostly perform reconnaissance missions or conduct military police activities are on many dark, narrow, primitive roads.

“ARL was only a stop gap with this door kit assembly until the contractor could build and field the M1114,” said Rusin. He knew the eminence of a vehicle protection solution. He said he saw soldiers there cutting doors from scrap steel and making windows from plate glass.

“They needed immediate solutions to counter the IED and RPG problem,” he said, but the problem was, commanders were not mechanical engineers or ballistics experts yet “everybody was buying metal” and fabricating doors out of rudimentary practices like chalk-tracing door frames onto big pieces of cardboard and cutting out doors from scrap metal.

“Truck drivers there were now welders but the welders there were not doing the jobs they were meant to do; they were making doors for combat vehicles.”

“It was a very challenging period for the [generals] in theater,” Kern said.

“By the time these attacks started increasing, the size of the U.S. presence under Gen. (Ricardo) Sanchez became half the size it had been, on top of the fact that American troops had already begun returning home.

“Commanders were scrambling to

beat (the threats) with operations and intelligence. They were taking people out of armored units -- away from Abrams and Bradleys -- and putting them into HMMWVs,” Kern said. “There was a series of escalating factors commanders dealt with - within areas of unrest.”

To mete out the RPG problem, “ARL thought it was a simple solution because they had ballistic armor,” Rusin said.

“By the fall of 2003, the news from Iraq was weighing heavy on every American’s heart,” said Rusin. “Engineers across America asked themselves what can be done to help reduce soldier deaths in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Three groups were paramount in focusing on this though, particularly government engineers at National Ground Intelligence Center in Virginia, the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) in Michigan and ARL.”

Rusin said each of the AMC subordinate organizations had the experience in the threat, developing and understanding armor techniques and in vehicular integration. “I believe that we all have been solving the ‘armoring-of-the-army-trucks’ problem in the back of our minds for dozens of years, but this state of affairs presented a chance to right the wrong of manufacturing thousands of army trucks that weren’t armored tough enough.”

“Gen. Kern asked us what we could do to help,” remembered Zoltoski. “He knew that ARL was doing great research in the area of protection technology, and we realized our own successes too, but not many in the field knew about it.”

Zoltoski said up that point, “I believe that people knew the contributions of the Ballistic Research Laboratory towards the survivability and lethality of Army Ground Combat Vehicles like the Abrams and Bradleys. That identity was lost somewhat when we merged laboratories and formed ARL.”

He said the up-armoring of vehicles, resulting from the current war - from 2003 to now - allowed ARL to regain some of its ballistics notoriety, and subsequent to the seminal up-armoring work of the ASK team, the laboratory used its ballistics and materials research core competencies to amplify ARL’s significance in protection technology upgrades on other vehicles with the Abrams Reactive Armor Tile (ARAT), Interim Frag Kits 5 and 6, Frag Kit 5 and 6, and the armor appliques for the MRAP.

Rapid research, rapid integration

The prototype build team started with fewer than 10 people solely dedicated to solving the RPG problem in Iraq, Rusin said.

“No IPTs [Integrated Product Teams], formal working groups or task forces were formed for this effort. Rather, very small groups of people were allowed to put other tasks aside and work on the ‘Armor-for-Trucks’ project as it was initially called,” said Rusin.

“People on this project had to wake up in the morning with the motivation that ‘I’m going to bolt this item onto a truck for soldiers in the worst conditions!’”

Ten advanced armor designers and technicians set aside their electro-magnetic armor funded tasks for 60 days to work on the solution.

Robert Bruce, the metals fabrication shop team leader remembers that time like it was yesterday. He worked most

See SHOPS, page 10

Gen. Kern asked us what we could do to help. He knew that ARL was doing great research in the area of protection technology, and we realized our own successes too, but not many in the field knew about it.

Michael J. Zoltoski

Chief ARL’s Lethality Division, Weapons and Materials Research Directorate

Medication drop-off locations and dates listed

Continued from Page 1

remember that we host this program twice a year," she said. "I think the event is wonderful; it addresses an important public health issue."

Scott said that medications should be kept in areas that are not easily accessed by others, who might be tempted to abuse them.

"We have found that the majority of teenagers get drugs illegally from home, or grandma's house, or the neighbor's house, where people have them sitting around, not thinking about it," Scott said. "When you talk to young people about drugs, they don't think of prescription drugs as 'real' drugs. They don't really understand the impact."

Drop off locations:

Community members can drop off unwanted, unused or expired medication at the following APG locations:

■ Monday, April 22 at ATEC, Bldg. 2202 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Tuesday, April 23 at the Mallette Mission Training Facility, Bldg. 6008 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Wednesday, April 24 at the APG North recreation center, Bldg. 3326 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Thursday, April 25 at the Post Theater from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Friday, April 26 at the APG South

Express Bldg. 4010 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Community members can also drop off medication Monday through Friday at the APG South Police Station, Bldg. E4420; APG North Police Station, Bldg. 2200 or Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, Bldg. 2501.

County participation

Harford County will participate in the National Prescription Drug Take-back Day April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Harford County will have three drop-off locations: the County Office parking lot, 220 S. Main Street in Bel Air; the Havre de Grace Police Station, 715 Penning-

ton Avenue in Havre de Grace; and the Maryland State Police Barrack D, 1401 Bel Air Road.

For more information call 410-278-4013 or email Cynthia.m.scott.civ@mail.mil, or contact Crime Prevention and Community Policing Officer Mike Farlow at 410-278-3609 or Michael.b.farlow.civ@mail.mil.

The APG event corresponds with the April 27 National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration and Drug Abuse Resistance Education. The next APG Prescription/Over-the-Counter Take-Back Campaign will take place in the fall.

Shops on APG provide needed support to ARL

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closely with the technicians, the machinists who put fire to metal to take ASK beyond concept to reality.

"Everybody sensed the utmost urgency around this effort. It was probably the most important thing we had done to date. It was not long after 9/11," said Bruce, who at the time was a guardsman. "Everybody stepped up and got it done without questions."

The infrastructure on Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), located on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, in Maryland, played a more significant role in the project's success than ARL's armor technology expertise, said Keele.

Research Physicist Dr. Paul Berning added, "We had no trouble motivating anybody. We got together with every shop on post and asked them to cut metal. They never said 'where's the funding'; they would ask us, 'do you want us to paint it (the metal) too?'"

Keele said ARL sought input on maneuverability inside the vehicle cabin, and more specifically, on use of vehicle windows, from soldiers studying at the U.S. Ordnance School, which was based at APG until 2011 when it relocated to Fort Lee, Va.

"Another key to our success was in crating up the kits," Keele said. "Packing efficiently allowed our guys to drive down to Charlottesville, N.C. and deliver the kits, where they were loaded onto an Air Force C-17 and headed theater into the Forward Operating Base for installation."

The kits, Keele said, came with driving instructions because they were now 1,000 pounds heavier and with them, vehicles couldn't turn a corner at the same rate of speed and torque without incurring damage to the steering column or axels. The team wrote instructions like those that would be included in any pre-fabricated home décor that needs some degree of assembly. Keele and others watched for about two hours soldiers in North Carolina try to assemble one of the kits based on their instructions before the kit was loaded on the C-17. ARL engineers finally jumped in to help.

"The lesson learned in that is we realized engineers don't write instructions very well," piped up Peter Bartkowski, an

“We never imagined 12,000 kits produced. Having the AMCFoward Repair Activity in Balad and in Kuwait was key to success, and having motivated civilians who were willing to work with a certain amount of flexibility was very important.”

Lt. Colonel Daniel S. Rusin (Ret)

armor research engineer who in 2003, was the ARL armor liaison for the Abrams.

"Men don't read instructions well," joked Berning.

This made it necessary for ARL to send a team to theater to help with the kit installation. Mike Zoltoski and Dan Rusin were among the first to deploy with the kits.

"Just before Mike and I got on the plane, Jill Smith (former director of ARL's Weapons and Materials Research Directorate who is now the director of the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center) called us up and said there are hundreds of people who want to be called at night and on the weekends to help out on this project. That was culture here at APG then. People were eager to work long hours, together, to accomplish the mission."

Further protection was provided by an armored-reinforced floor and windshield made of bullet proof glass, a laminate composition developed by ARL that proved effective against a single shot.

The team grew to 30 more employees drawing, cutting, testing and transferring work to TARDEC for provisioning and integrating until there were five core cells working the solution led by ARL which focused on the invention. The Army's Developmental Test Center at Aberdeen conducted testing, and AMC focused on production and shipping.

ARL worked directly with Army depots — which was unheard of — Letterkenny in Chambersburg, Penn., and Anniston in Ala., to manufacture the first 40 prototypes.

"I don't know where we ever got mon-

ey, but I do recall driving a HMMWV with one armored door (only one side was armored) to Maj. Gen. Doesburg, and showing him the side of the vehicle with the armor," remembered Rusin.

Maj. Gen. John Doesburg was commander of the Research, Development and Engineering Command at Aberdeen. RDECOM is a subordinate command of AMC.

"This project was fast because it was first, and had a collective of people eager to 'drop everything' and had the resources of Aberdeen to pull upon," Rusin said. "ARL senior management like Mike did a fantastic job of insulating the designers and developers from the burden of explaining each detail."

Fielding a revolution

ARL senior executives point to the ASK program as a turning point in ARL's reputation amongst other research, development and engineering centers.

"This was the first upgrade kit done by ARL in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Others used ARL to develop upgrades to protection for their vehicles," Zoltoski said.

Getting to this point wasn't easy.

Every 30 days, Zoltoski made the 90-mile drive to AMC Headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Va., just outside of the nation's capitol, to discuss the progress on potential survivability upgrades. For an hour or so, Zoltoski said he would inform Kern and his leadership "on how we could improve the survivability of our vehicles since the insurgents started to attack both our tactical vehicles, ground combat vehicles and helicopters

with RPGs." There, he would lead high-level discussions about protection levels for each platform and technology options.

But program managers for those platforms weren't all happy.

Zoltoski said major challenges came from the program managers of some of the platforms. "The issue was that the PM is responsible for configuration control of their platform, and some did not like any modifications to platforms without first going through them."

Program managers, or PMs, for these platforms had already signed up to replace all in-theater HMMWVs with the up-armored M1114 version but the Army did not have the time to do this expeditiously, which paved the way for the ASK, he said.

Zoltoski then met with the RDECOM commander. Surrounded by a roomful of senior government executives, at least two and three pay grades and levels of influence above his branch chief role, Zoltoski dared, "so we plan to take the first 40 kits over and then what? Are we telling the commanders and their soldiers more are coming or not coming?" Zoltoski remembered asking.

He said Doesburg immediately made a phone call to Maj. Gen. N. Ross Thompson III, commander of the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), who quickly decided to make as many kits as possible in house using Army depots.

ARL sent its first 40 kits to Iraq by the third week in October 2003. Zoltoski, Rusin and Dick Koffinke joined lead element Col. Tom Economy as they traveled to Iraq to install the first kits and monitor the hand-off of the kits to the newly formed AMC-Forward Repair activity.

Soon thereafter, the first sets started showing up in theater. Installation of the first 40 ARL doors began that November and ended in December. Then, the depot-produced doors started arriving in theater.

"We never imagined 12,000 kits produced," Rusin added. "Having the AMC-Forward Repair Activity in Balad and in Kuwait was key to success, and having motivated civilians who were willing to work with a certain amount of flexibility was very important."

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/>.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

SPECIAL VISITORS

Kristin Marucci from the Baltimore Zoo's Zoo Mobile, shows children a Jersey Giant, a breed of chicken, at the Bayside Child Development Center April 10. The visit was part of the center's Month of the Military Child activities.



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

ASAP SURVEYS

(From right) Cindy Scott, prevention coordinator with the Army Substance Abuse Program looks on as Donna Lindenmuth of the Army Test and Evaluation Command's Aberdeen Test Center fills out an alcohol survey at the ASAP display during the Spring Bazaar at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center April 11. Along with Alcohol Awareness campaigns, held twice a year in April and September, ASAP will conduct a Prescription Take Back events April 22-26.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

NATIONAL DENIM DAY APRIL 24

APG Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Victim Advocates and Response Coordinators pose in their denim to promote National Denim Day April 24. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The APG SHARP Office has asked the military and civilian community to show support for rape victims by wearing jeans to work on April 24. National Denim Day is a rape prevention education campaign, where community members, elected officials, businesses and students make a social statement by wearing jeans as a visible means of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault. Denim became an international symbol against rape in 1992 after an Italian judge released a rapist from prison on the grounds that the victim's tight jeans could not have been removed by the accused. The women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans in protest, and the California Senate and Assembly did the same. Thus, Denim Day was born. For more information about Denim Day and other Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities contact 1st Lt. Raisa Velez at 410-436-74249.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

RESILIENCY AND RELAXATION

Graham Phillips, of Gramtastic Hypnosis, practices hand reflexology on Tamara Adair, from CECOM SEC, during the C4ISR Resiliency and Relaxation Fair in Building 6008 April 16. This information provided free information and screenings from health care professionals and businesses in the local community.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

FINANCES FOR SINGLES

(From left) Laura Williams, from CECOM, discusses financial matters with Michele Rackey, executive director of the Government Employees Benefit Association during an informational session called "Flying Solo for Singles" at the Myer Auditorium April 11. Upcoming financial presentations include savings and checking management on May 16 and women and investing on May 23. CECOM Wellness Program Informational Sessions are from noon to 1 p.m. and are open to all. For more information call 443-861-7910.