

APG NEWS



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SUPPORTING *the* TROOPS



Photo by Marni Allison

(From left) U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Gavin Eier fires off a shot as range volunteer Dave Andrews looks on at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Skeet and Trap Range July 20. Eier was one of 14 Wounded Warriors visiting from the Walter Reed National Military Medical centers at Bethesda, Md., and Fort Belvoir, Va. The Wounded Warriors attended the daylong skeet and trap shoot as part of their rehabilitation process and to enjoy fellowship and camaraderie. "Getting our Wounded Warriors out of a hospital setting and providing some rest and relaxation, or the opportunity to enjoy a hobby, really does them good," said Command Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Larry Alejo, lead volunteer at the range. "It's a little bit of normalcy that you just can't get in a treatment facility."

SOS supports grieving Families, friends

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS), a division of Army Community Service, is a program that provides short and long-term emotional and financial counseling to support survivors of Fallen U.S. service members.

Since its inception in 2011, SOS has helped countless thousands around the world deal with the emotional and financial issues associated with their loss. Unlike other programs, SOS services are open to non-ID cardholders as well as government ID cardholders.

Annette Sanders, the SOS program coordinator at APG, said the services are for anyone going through the grieving process – a Family member, relative or friend of a service member. Sanders explained that services on post are limited for non-ID cardholders, but noted

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Sports



(From left) Command Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Ron Stallings, Lt. Col. (ret.) Derrick Bryant, CW4 (ret.) Aaron Culver and Mike Perez share a laugh during the Maryland Birdies 2013 Invitational Golf Outing at Ruggles Golf Course July 27.

Maryland Birdies return to Ruggles

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

For the second time since 2009, groups of Birdies from Georgia, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Canada, and Maryland flocked to the Maryland Birdies 2013 Invitational Golf Outing, a three-day event at Ruggles Golf Course on APG North (Aberdeen) July 27.

"Birdies" communities are co-ed golf clubs committed to having fun and supporting local charities. The international golf clubs' annual charity event is hosted at a different location each year.

About half of the Maryland Birdies members are retired military, government civilians or contractors, and primarily Harford County residents, according to President Derrick Bryant, a retired lieutenant colonel and current defense contractor with Booz Allen Hamilton at Fort Meade. Bryant said the club's charter and bylaws call for it to "support the community," adding that the group is supporting

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Safety

APG bicyclists, pedestrians must know road rules

Story and photo by **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Staying alert and avoiding unnecessary distractions is critical for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.

"I see too many people walking through parking lots focused on their telephones, talking, reading or sending texts," said Ronald Kravitz of the Installation Safety Office. "It is the responsibility of bicyclists and pedestrians to stay alert."

Kravitz said cyclists and pedestrians need to be able to hear everything on the road at all times, and noted that it is illegal to wear headphones on DoD installations, while walking, cycling and driving.

He said accidents can happen when bicyclists and motorists both think they have the right of way. Maryland law states that the driver of a vehicle must pass and yield to a cyclist at a distance of three feet.

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Cyclist Mark Downes, an Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity employee, shares the road with a pedestrian.



The hiring process: tips for veterans

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Separating from the military and entering the civilian job market can be an intimidating task for even the best prepared Soldiers. Add to that the limitations imposed on Wounded Warriors, and it can be even more daunting.

Due to numerous Department of Defense and state initiatives, however, obtaining employment with the U.S. government is leveled for veterans who understand the process. In addition, Aberdeen Proving Ground organizations like Army Community Service (ACS), the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) and the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) within the Military Personnel Office (MILPO), provide information and assistance to veterans learning the hiring process.

Government hiring information is presented to separating Soldiers during the transition period and is easily accessible

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WEATHER

Thurs.



86° | 75°

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ICE system
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STREET TALK

If you could go back in time, where would you go?

I would like to revisit the 1960's when I was in high school living in Hawaii. This was a fun, carefree time for me. There are also a few things I would like to change in my life from that time period, if I had the opportunity.



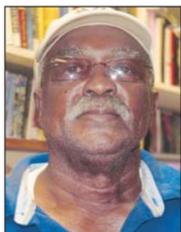
Edward Dela Cruz
MWR

I would go to ancient Egypt when they were building the pyramids and palaces. They had a very rich, very advanced culture. I would like to see how they did things back then.



Becca Nappi
MilTech Solutions

I would like to go back to around the mid-1940s to my hometown, Sneads Ferry, N. C., and get to relive some parts of my life that I have trouble remembering. I would like to have more time with members of that community that have passed on.



Jerry Hurst
Retired military

I'd go back in time to India and take one of the world's first yoga classes to see how the practice of yoga has evolved over time. For a yoga teacher, that would be fascinating, and I'm sure I'd learn something interesting. There is a lot of discussion about when yoga first started. It could go back a couple thousand years, or it might be just a couple hundred years.



Becca Motil
Yoga teacher

OPINION

Strength begins with fitness

What is the new Army Physical Readiness Training (PRT) program? Does it work? Why did the Army stop using the old Physical Fitness Training program, which was used for more nearly 20 years? How does it contribute to a Soldier's success on the Army-required semi-annual Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT)?

Questions such as these are being voiced among Soldiers, both enlisted and officers, throughout the Army.

As a graduate of the Commander's Total Fitness Course and, most recently, the first Master Fitness Trainer Course, I am a strong advocate for the Physical Readiness Training program, and its effectiveness as it pertains to training the way we fight.

Throughout the history of the military, physical fitness has been an interwoven factor in deciding the outcome of battles.

The previously used 1992 version of Field Manual 21-20, Physical Fitness Training, begins with details of how Task Force Smith, U.S. Army, was defeated by members of the North Korean People's Army during the early days of the Korean War in 1950.

As the American troops withdrew from battle, they left behind wounded troops and valuable equipment. Although the NKPA's troops were poorly equipped, their high level of physical training for the demands of war in the region versus that of Task Force Smith was a considerable factor to their success in battle.

Perfect practice makes perfect
Sgt. 1st. Class

David Rispress, MFTC instructor, Fitness School, Physical Readiness Division, Fort Jackson, S.C., said one of the ongoing issues during the course was, "Soldiers came with bad habits that they bring over from their units."

He said those habits, motivational chants and performing exercises using the wrong posture, contributes to various standards being accepted in different units across the Army.

One benefit and potential downfall of the PRT system is that anyone can pick up a copy of the field manual, read it, get a basic understanding of the material and do a physical training session.

While the read-and-execute process works well in theory, the effectiveness of the program is compromised when untrained PRT leaders teach Soldiers bad habits because of a lack of knowledge.

As with any exercise program, simple adjustments in a person's posture affects what muscles and joints they are using.

For example, when Soldiers perform movements that originate from the straddle stance, they should keep their feet pointed straight ahead instead of outward. However, many Soldiers and PRT instructors turn their feet outward as they would when standing at the position of attention.

One such movement is the lateral, which is done as a part of Military Movement 1. When the exercise is performed correctly, the hip flexor muscles are properly engaged and the Soldier develops the ability to safely move laterally. When performed incorrectly, more strain is put on the quadriceps and hamstring muscles, which assist in lateral movements but are not the primary muscle groups that are being target for development when performing the movement.

Combat Readiness vs. Army Physical Fitness Test readiness
There have been various versions of FM 21-20 from 1941 through present day. Although physical training programs

have been in existence for years, it is notable that in the 1941 version, commanders were given various events by which they could measure degrees of their Soldiers abilities and adjust the intensity of their physical training programs to get them to an acceptable standard. Additionally, when a formal, standardized physical training test was added to FM 21-20, 1946, it was also used as a moral and unit cohesion booster as well as an indicator of the physical fitness level of an individual or unit.

The common theme then and now is: the Army's physical training program has never been designed to help a Soldier pass a physical training test. Moreover, the function of the physical training test has been, and is, to measure a portion of an individual's level of physical fitness.

However, the new program does include the pushup and situp drill, which is designed to help Soldiers improve on pushup and situp requirements for the APFT. Speed running and distance running are also included.

I believe that Soldiers who pass basic training and advanced

individual training are capable of running at least two miles, barring an injury. Therefore, as a Soldier transitions from the toughening phase of PRT, the question should shift to: How can I train to run faster over a long distance?

Train as You Fight: Evolution of PT

The armies of the world are no longer fighting with stones and swords. Boulders have been replaced by artillery projectiles. The bow-and-arrow has been replaced by small-arms weapons such as the M16 and AK47 rifles, and on a larger scale, ballistic missiles.

Camels, donkeys and horses are no longer the preferred method of transportation for the modern warrior. Instead, we use horseless chariots of various sorts. Even as the war in Iraq came to a close and the war in Afghanistan is scheduled to end, our military made changes in its primary vehicle, the high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle.

The HMMWV was first converted to an unarmored version as our wartime operations demanded. Eventually, vehicles such as the mine resistant ambush protected were integrated onto the field of battle.

Technological changes and advancements such as these are not uncommon during the war because war has her own version of one-up-man ship: one side develops a technology and its enemy attempts to overcome it with something better, hence today's M1 Abrams tank versus the World War II Tiger Tank.

As technology and the tactics we use in on the ground in war has evolved over the years, the physical training that we conduct has also changed. Platforms such as the MRAP are higher off the ground than the HMMWV and last-century-fielded jeeps. In a combat situation, Soldiers may have to rapidly disembark one such platform. If their bodies are not conditioned to properly land, they will likely be more susceptible to various leg, knee, foot and ankle, back and femoral neck injuries.

Master Fitness Trainer, PRT
While the MFT has several roles, at a basic level, an MFT serves as the linkage for the command between physical and medical readiness of the unit. They advise the commander on the proper planning, implementation and execution of PRT.

Implementing master fitness trainers provides an opportunity for Soldiers to educate Soldiers on the correct way to execute PRT within their units.

STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY HUGHES



Drill Sergeant (Staff Sgt.) Reginald Smith, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, runs a leg of the 300-yard shuttle run during the Master Fitness Trainer Course April 30, at Fort Sill.

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



86° | 75°

Fri



86° | 74°

Sat



85° | 71°

Sun



85° | 71°

Mon



84° | 68°

Tue



83° | 68°

Wed



80° | 67°

APG NEWS

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FOR YOUR HEALTH

Scientific team tests for human health risk

By **JANE GERVASONI**

U.S. Army Public Health Command

The hunters glide silently through the warm Pacific waters of Kwajalein Atoll and spear fish that can provide a key to the health of the local environment.

The hunters are Dr. Lisa Ruth, aquatic biologist, and Ellyce Bushong and Jennifer Cearfoss, environmental engineers, all from the U.S. Army Public Health Command Water Resources Program at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Their goal is to determine if consumption of Kwajalein Atoll fish poses an unacceptable health risk to local fishermen.

The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, or USAKA, is a coral reef formation located in the Republic of the Marshall Islands more than 2,000 miles southwest of Hawaii. USAKA consists of more than 100 islets, 11 of which currently serve as a test and evaluation range for ballistic missiles. The USAPHC has conducted surveys and provided environmental consultative services to USAKA for more than 25 years.

In this most recent study, several hundred fish were collected during a multi-week field investigation to assess the accumulation of potential contaminants that might affect the local population.

"A type of spear called a Hawaiian sling was used to collect the target fish species, which ranged from extremely small angelfish to much larger grouper and parrotfish," explained Ruth, lead project officer.

"We worked in collaboration with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service diver not only to collect the fish, but to conduct biological surveys of the coral reef communities at each islet. This enabled us to deploy two separate teams of divers each time we entered the water," said Cearfoss, dive safety officer.

"We all agree having the opportunity to conduct field work on a project like this is a pleasant change from our more traditional engineering projects that often take place in less scenic locations," said Bushong.

But there were still rules to be fol-



(At left) A U.S. Army Public Health Command scientific diver spears fish in support of a human health risk assessment. (Below) Divers Ellyce Bushong, Jennifer Cearfoss and Lisa Ruth, of the USAPHC Water Resources Program, prepare to enter the water for a day of sample collection.

U.S. Army Public Health Command photo

lowed in this underwater office.

"Guidelines from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee directed the way we treat the fish. We worked with Lt. Col. Dawn Fitzhugh, USAPHC veterinarian, to develop humane methods," said Ruth.

"Our divers collected tissue samples from 60 different fish species to determine if the fish could be safely consumed by local Marshallese people," explained William Fifty, USAPHC water resources program manager.

"Contamination in the harbor area from industrial processes, such as sandblasting ships and the use of pesticides, have raised concerns about the consumption of fish from the local area," Ruth added.

"Previous studies indicated that the excellent marine water quality is impaired only in the immediate vicinity of industrial activities near the harbor and local landfill," said Fifty.

"This project is a prime example of how the three pillars of public health—humans, animals and environment—interact and are dependent upon each

other," explained Lt. Col. William Bettin, director of the Environmental Health Engineering Portfolio at the USAPHC. "Decades of industrial activities have affected the marine environment, including the fish and mollusks consumed by human and animal populations. This project demonstrates the importance of public health."

This study also brought together many of the important players in the federal environmental community.

"We work with the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to ensure the best possible science is used to protect people and the marine environment," explained Cearfoss.

"Ultimately, as members of the scientific dive team, we play an important role in public health," said Ruth. "Of course



we enjoy diving and our project locations, but the most rewarding part is knowing that our work ensures the safety and health of the local population."

Once fish and other samples have been collected, they are sent to the USAPHC laboratory and additional contract laboratories for analysis.

"Although the final evaluation will take some time to complete, it will include laboratory data, biological surveys of the study area, and a human health risk assessment," said Ruth. "The final report will also make recommendations for future actions, if they are needed, to ensure safety of the Marshallese people and others who live and work in this paradise."

Preventing mosquito bites protects against West Nile virus



Story by **CAPT. HEATHER FERGUSON**
U.S. Army Public Health Command

West Nile virus is commonly found throughout the United States as well as Africa, West Asia and the Middle East. WNV took a serious health toll nationally last year, causing more than 5,000 illnesses and 243 deaths. In the Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia region, there were 75 illnesses and 9 deaths; the second highest number of cases since WNV appeared in the States back in 1999. WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito and can infect people, horses, many types of birds and some other animals.

Preventing mosquito bites is the best way to avoid becoming infected with the West Nile virus.

To reduce exposure to West Nile virus:

- Use an approved insect repellent every time you go outside and follow the instructions on the label. Among the EPA-approved repellents are those that contain DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Regularly drain standing water—including water collecting in empty cans, tires, buckets, clogged rain gutters and saucers under potted plants. Mosquitoes that spread WNV breed in stagnant water.
- Wear long sleeves and pants at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use air conditioning or make sure there are screens on all doors and

windows to keep mosquitoes from entering the home.

There is no evidence that West Nile virus can be spread from person to person or from animal to person.

Symptoms of the milder form of illness, West Nile fever, can include headache, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea and fatigue. People with West Nile fever typically recover on their own, although symptoms may last for several weeks. Symptoms of the more serious form, West Nile neuroinvasive disease, can include those of West Nile fever plus neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis. Up to 80 percent of people infected with the virus will have no symptoms.

There are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent West Nile virus infection for people. Those individuals over 50 years old and those with other health issues are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill or dying when they become infected with the virus. If people have symptoms and suspect West Nile virus infection, they should contact their healthcare provider.

For more information on preventing West Nile virus, visit:

U.S. Army Public Health Command,
<http://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/discond/aid/Pages/WestNileVirus.aspx>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/west-nile/index.html>



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APG unveils STEM outreach center

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**
RDECOM PAO

Aspiring scientists and engineers are now exploring their future careers at a unified APG facility dedicated to education outreach.

APG ushered in a new era of partnerships in science, technology, engineering and mathematics for northeast Maryland with a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 30.

The APG STEM and Education Outreach Center brings tenant organizations together to pool resources that will enhance students' experiences in scientific and engineering disciplines. The facility accommodates up to 200 students.

Maj. Gen. Robert Ferrell, commanding general of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command and APG senior commander, emphasized teamwork was necessary among organizations to make the STEM center possible.

"The new STEM facility has been a team effort across APG," Ferrell said. "Today represents our energy that we put behind that. Thank you for hard work and making this a reality."

Ferrell also stressed APG's commitment to STEM success for the region's students and teachers. Installation leaders signed an educational partnership agreement in December 2012 with Harford County Public Schools to formalize STEM outreach efforts.

"At APG, we have a saying: 'There may be a gate but it's only a gate, and it's not a barrier to our great relationship that we've built over time and will continue to build.' Those words are especially true when it comes to providing STEM education opportunities," Ferrell said.

Based on the Army Educational Outreach Program initiatives that APG organizations currently support, just the first floor of the three-story Building 4508 was renovated. The building was previously used for Soldier barracks.

About 100 Soldiers, Army employees, educators and local government officials joined senior APG leaders to mark the ceremony.

The facility opened to classes June 24 as part of AEOP's Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science, a STEM summer program for middle- and high-school students. Four-hundred students and 29 teachers will use the SEOC this summer.

Dale Ormond, director of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, said he has been impressed by the number of students participating in GEMS. He said the program sparked an interest in STEM for two of his children.

"What this facility brings to the education experience changes the way children think and use science and engineering. It is a critical thing to begin stimulating the way people think," Ormond said.

Jeffrey Singleton, director of basic research, laboratory management and educational outreach for the assistant



Photo by Rachel Ponder
Andrei Shulgach, from the robotics club Absolute Zero Electricity, shows the Associate Director of CERDEC Robert Zanzalari and Executive Deputy to the APG and CECOM Commanding General Gary Martin a robot he helped construct for a FIRST Robotics Competition during a tour of the STEM and Education Outreach Center July 30. The new center includes a robotics staging area.

secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, introduced three students who started in Army STEM programs in high school and continued during college.

"I can assure you that the Army is very heavily invested in our youth and specifically in promoting student interest and increasing their technical proficiency in STEM," Singleton said. "The STEM and Education Outreach Center is a visual symbol of that commitment."

"I can think of no better representative to speak of the importance and impact of the Army STEM programs than the students who have been through the AEOP pipeline."

Nicole Racine said her academic success would not have been possible without STEM programs. She is a University of Maryland-Baltimore County sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering and an intern at RDECOM's Army Research Laboratory this summer through the College Qualified Leaders program, which matches Department of Defense scientists with college students to create a mentor-student relationship.

Racine has participated in AEOP since her freshman year of high school and attributed her passion for engineering to GEMS, CQL and the Science and

Engineering Apprenticeship Program.

"I have always loved math and science, but I really didn't know how science could be applied. GEMS helped me realize what I can do with science and engineering," Racine said. "I officially developed a passion that will last me for the rest of my education."

"I love working in this lab because I know the research is directly applicable to real-life situations. I know that I have a role in ensuring the safety of our Soldiers. The Army Educational Outreach Programs that I participated in, from GEMS to SEAP to CQL, have given me valuable, hands-on lab experience that I would not have attained otherwise."

Two other students shared their STEM experiences and discussed the impact on their academic and career paths during tours of the building after the ceremony. Shelby Bartram is a Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation scholarship recipient and an intern at RDECOM's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. Amanda Weerasooriya is a CQL intern at ARL.

The STEM facility houses classroom space; laboratories for computers, electronics, and chemistry and biology experiments; metal and wood shops; and a robotics staging area. The Army sup-

plied equipment that is similar in functionally for students to use but is less expensive than that used in real-world research laboratories. APG organizations can also use the classrooms for meetings and training.

Louie Lopez, chief of STEM education outreach at RDECOM, said the center benefits the Army's national and local programs that bring students into the laboratory for interaction with scientists and engineers. RDECOM provides technical oversight of AEOP and leads Team APG STEM efforts.

"The renovation of Building 4508 to a dedicated STEM facility enhances Team APG's role in STEM education regionally, state-wide and nationally," Lopez said. "The joint commitment of major tenant organizations on APG to SEOC establishes a foundation of a coordinated and cohesive approach to installation-wide STEM initiatives, aligning with Army, Department of Defense and the federal STEM strategic plan."

Organizations that contributed funding or equipment to the facility are APG Garrison; ARL; ASA(ALT); CECOM; Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center; ECBC; RDECOM headquarters; and Army Test and Evaluation Command.

Local teen gains IT experience in HIRED! program

Story and photo by **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

A local high school senior is gaining real-world experience at the APG South (Edgewood) Dial Central Office (DCO), part of the U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center.

Ronald Burris is one of 51 teens participating in Family and MWR's HIRED! Program, which offers apprenticeships to students, ages 15 to 18.

During the summer, apprentices work eight-hour shifts, two days a week, assisting with basic, age-appropriate duties.

Burris has been shadowing telephone technicians as they troubleshoot phone

connection issues. There are two DCOs on APG, one on APG North and one on APG South. The DCOs house the equipment needed to provide the landline phone services for the post.

"We are trying to give [Burris] a good vision of what all it takes for a phone to get dial tone," said Sharon Popp, Burris' mentor.

"From the wiring to the switch programming, to the cross connects on the main distribution frame, these are the things that are not seen by the end user. It is nice that someone gets to see what we do behind the scenes. He can see that this job takes teamwork and persever-

ance," said Popp, who called Burris an eager learner.

In addition to shadowing technicians, Burris has organized circuit packs and other supplies for the DCO.

Burris moved to Harford County in the spring and said he hoped to participate in HIRED! to learn a new skill and stay busy during the summer. He said he is interested in a career in criminal justice or information technology.

"Working in this area is a possibility," he said. "Since I have been here my interests have grown."

APG's HIRED! Coordinator Jay McKinney said the program gives teens an advantage because it exposes them to different careers before going to college or trade school.

"They are able to see what they like and what they don't like," he said, "all while gaining work experience that they can put on a resume and college application."

McKinney said his goal is to match apprentices with organizations that reflect their career interests.

"APG offers a wide range of science, technology, and medical careers," McKinney said. "Offering apprenticeships in these fields would provide invaluable experience for our teenagers."

About HIRED!

The HIRED! program offers a variety of job placements for teens of military and government civilians assigned to APG. To secure apprenticeships, candidates must achieve and maintain a 2.0 grade point average or higher before

completing a pre-assessment and interviews with facility managers. Depending on the skills and interest teens show in these interviews, they are placed under the direct supervision of a designated on-site mentor who is responsible for tutoring his or her individual apprentices.

Career options in HIRED! include: education, child and/or youth development, marketing or graphic design, library and information science, food and beverage management, pet care education, information technology, sports studies and sports management. Students may participate in the program twice a year between the ages of 15 and 18.

Additional requirements for students include participating in career-prep enrichment activities like workshops on how to complete financial aid forms and scholarship applications. Students will also be expected to keep a journal of their experience.

"Teens will receive experience that will make them competitive in future job opportunities and college applications," McKinney said. "They will develop work and life skills, like customer service, and resume writing, that will be applicable to any job they might pursue in the future."

HIRED! is accepting teens for the fall term. During the fall, teens will work three hours a day, five days a week. To register for the fall term or to find out how to become a mentor, contact McKinney at jay.a.mckinney.naf@mail.mil, or call 410-278-3250.



(From left) Cordev Employee Chris Gillispie shows HIRED! apprentice Roland Burris how to perform wiring and maintenance on the main distribution frame in the APG South (Edgewood) Dial Central Office. The DCOs house the equipment needed to provide the landline phone services for the post.

Local resources aid veteran job hunt

Continued from Page 1

online for everyone.

For separating Soldiers on Aberdeen Proving Ground, the job hunt starts with the TAP which includes counseling by Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) professionals.

Transition timeline

Thomas Shumate, chief of the APG Garrison's Military Personnel Office which includes the Military Transition Assistance Program, said retiring Soldiers start transitioning 24 months prior to separation while those who are being separated or discharged transition no later than 12 months prior.

He said the ACAP provides basic information on VA benefits, educational overviews, small business and financial workshops and more and that additional education certification opportunities through ACAP will be offered this September and October. Though the opportunities in this area have yet to be named, Shumate said similar VA programs up and running at other installations include welding, steelworker and Information Technology (IT) certifications.

Full advantage

"Soldiers can help themselves by taking advantage of all the resources available to them, even if they think they don't need them," Shumate said, adding that the office has processed 123 Soldiers since January; including retirees and voluntary and involuntary separations.

The ACAP mobile team offers a monthly Tuesday-Thursday workshop the second week of each month. Additionally, the Maryland Department of Labor, which focuses on state and private industry jobs, briefs Tuesday-Thursday the last week of each month. These sessions are held within the Garrison Training Transition Assistance Center, Bldg. 3147, or in classrooms in Bldg. 4305.

"Retirees are not required to go through the DOL course but we highly recommend it based on its resources," Shumate said.

The Transition Assistance Center, located on the first floor of Bldg. 4305, includes a computer center where job seekers can research local, state and federal jobs, resumes, networking, and the interview process. It also supports job fairs and other hiring events, many of which are held in upstairs classrooms.



Lisa McKinney, CPAC Human Resources Supervisor

Hiring events

"There are companies in need of employees. We've had two direct hiring events this year and several have walked out with jobs," Shumate said.

"Soldiers really need to understand the transition periods," he added. "ACS partnered within the CPAC is available to brief transitioning Soldiers on the federal hiring process and opportunities available within the federal government. ACS and its Employee Assistance Program headed by Marilyn Howard is a part of our briefings as well as the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center briefing on the federal process and opportunities given by Joe Weiss.

"The information and resources are in place. We want to see you hired. That's our goal."



Marilyn Howard, Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program Manager

Employment Readiness Program

Marilyn Howard of Army Community Service is the Employment Readiness Program manager. She encourages Soldiers, spouses and Family members to let the ERP help with their job search.

"The ACS Employment Readiness Program can also assist Family members who are relocating due to a military or civilian sponsor's permanent change of station by providing information and other services to minimize employment problems associated with such moves," Howard said.

Howard works closely with the Susquehanna Workforce and other local and state hiring services and employers to present biannual job fairs and other hiring events throughout the year. ERP services, which include classes and use of the ERP computer lab, also are open to separating service members, veterans and military retirees.

For more information about ERP services and resources, contact Howard at 410-278-9669/7572; e-mail marilyn.e.howard.civ@mail.mil or visit ACS in Bldg. 2503, Highpoint Road.

Veteran's Preference

The Veterans' Preference Act is a United States federal law passed in 1944. It required the federal government to favor returning war veterans when hiring new employees in an attempt to recognize their service, sacrifice, and skills. Veterans' Preference means that when agencies use a numerical rating and ranking system to determine the best qualified applicants for a position, an additional 5 or 10 points are added to the numerical score of qualified preference eligible veterans. Veterans' preference does not guarantee veterans a job.

Only veterans discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions are eligi-

ble for veterans' preference. A military retiree is not included in the definition of preference eligible unless they are a disabled veteran or retired below the rank of major or its equivalent.

There are basically two types of preference eligibles, disabled (10 point preference eligible) and non-disabled (5 point preference eligibles).

To receive preference, a veteran must have been discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions. A military retiree is not included in the definition of preference eligible unless they are a disabled veteran or retired below the rank of major or its equivalent.

CPAC Human Resources Supervisor Lisa McKinney and Lead Human Resources Specialist Salonge Gee said that understanding Veterans Preference is the key to realizing its impact on veteran hiring.

"One of the misconceptions regarding the hiring process is that Veterans' Preference guarantees the veteran a job," said Gee. "The veteran applicant, just like non-veteran applicants must meet the basic requirements for the position they are applying for as outlined by the Office of Personnel management (OPM)."

"And then, they have to compete with other highly-qualified candidates," said McKinney, adding that veteran applicant who are evaluated to be among the best qualified, then go to the top of the veterans category.

"That's where the preference comes in to play," she said.

Delegated Examining Authority

When considering, evaluating and referring candidates under the Delegated Examining authority, candidates are evaluated/rated against minimum qualification requirements as defined by OPM and placed into one of three predefined quality categories (Best-Highly-Qualified).

Selecting officials make selections from within the highest quality category regardless of the number of candidates in the category. However, veterans' preference eligibles are placed at the top of their category ahead of non-veterans. If a preference eligible is in the category, the selecting official may not select a non-preference eligible unless the selecting official requests to pass over



Salonge Gee, CPAC Lead Human Resources Specialist

the preference eligible and the request is approved. Veterans' preference eligibles with a compensable service-connected disability of at least 10 percent are placed at the top of the Best Qualified category ("float") with the exception of professional and scientific positions at the GS-9 level or higher, where veterans are placed in their respective category based on their ranking/rating.

Veteran Recruitment Support Plan

The Civilian Human Resources Agency (CHRA) has implemented a Veteran Recruitment Support plan that prioritizes the delivery of HR transition assistance and outreach depending on the category of veteran. Veterans are prioritized by their disability rating and veterans' preference eligibility. The categories include Wounded Warriors, Veterans with 10 Point Preference and Transitioning and Retired Military.

Wounded Warrior Program

Wounded Warriors are Soldiers or veterans who have a disability that either resulted from injury or disease received in the line of duty as a direct result of armed conflict, or was caused by an instrumentality of war and was incurred in the line of duty during a period of war as defined in section 101(11) of title 38, U.S.C.

For more information, contact Gee at 410-306-0190, salonge.l.gee.civ@mail.mil; or McKinney at 410-278-1414, lisa.a.mckinney.civ@mail.mil.

Leave Donations

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency).

For info, contact Cathy Davis at 410-306-0152 or cathy.a.davis4.civ@mail.mil.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Lamar-Reevey, Kellie
Clelland, Patricia
Pintilie, Jamie
Solomon, Je'Neane
Carter, Joyce
Cwiernie, Victoria
Lewis, Rachel
Smith, Amanda
Evans, Doretha
Sorrells, Paul
Winne, Janeen
Jefferson, Edward
Smith, Deborah A.
McClintick, Jill
Dull, Francis
Barrett, Patrick

Blethens, Matthew
Decker, Kathy
Beall, Dawn
Calloway, Robert
Merritt, Robert
Killops, Kathryn
Rodriguez, Alex
Hampton, Devita
Alba, Audrey
Carns, Melanie
Chiola, Hallie
Crawford, Iris
Jones, Deborah
Dunn, Paul
Eberhardt, Joanne
Johnson, Mark

Lamacchia, Rosemarie
Payne, Laurie
Rogers, Theodore
France-Haff, Cheryl
Bailey, Sharon
Hoffman, William
Young, Michele
Park, Jessica
Smith, Deborah R.
Blethen, Lena
Crawford, Curtis
Paris, Scott
Conigliaro, Kenneth
Garabo, Ryan
Mayes, Katherine
Sumic, Angie

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

AROUND THE FORCE

Science, technology cuts would be ‘devastating’

By **J.D. LEIPOLD**
Army News Service

The Army cannot afford to mortgage its future by allowing for reductions in science and technology funding, said the director of the Army Acquisition Corps before an Association of the United States Army breakfast meeting, July 18, in Arlington, Va.

Citing \$37 billion in cuts throughout the Defense Department, and another \$52 billion in cuts potentially facing DOD in fiscal year 2014, Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips told the Army and business leaders in the audience that, in his opinion, it will take a generation to recover from the effects of the budget control act and sequestration.

“In a word, it’s ‘devastating,’ a word I’ve used in testimony twice before Congress in this year alone,” said the general who has also served as military deputy for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, known as ASA(ALT), since 2010.

“As we look out in the future and maybe have reductions in procurement and RD&A (research, development and acquisition) accounts, and I believe we will, we can’t leverage S&T (science and technology) because when we come out of this we have to have programs in place in the technologies to push the Army forward,” Phillips said, “because the last thing we ever want to do is have a Soldier go into combat and it be an even fight.”

To ensure the advantage always lies with the American G.I., Phillips stressed the importance of the “network,” which



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, integrate Nett Warrior into their training during the Network Integration Evaluation 13.1, at Dona Ana Range, N.M., in October 2012.

Photo by Lt. Col. Deanna Bague

continues to evolve to let Soldiers know where they are, where their battle buddies are and where their enemies are.

“Industry has a play in everything we’re going to do in building this network, but it starts with the CIO (Chief Information Officer G-6 Lt. Gen. Susan Lawrence) doing the technical architecture for everything we’ll implement in the network,” he said. “It’s (Lt. Gen.) Keith Walker and [U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command] working the operational architectures and designing the systems we’ll build to field the network and then we have 12 PEOs (program executive officers) and each of

them have a play in this.

“Then we take the technical architecture, the operational architecture and the sustainment piece from Army Materiel Command and we at ASA(ALT) put that together to build a systems architecture,” Phillips said. “All these systems, maybe 40, 50, 60 of these systems that we’re putting together, that could be inside an MRAP (mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle) an M-ATV, Bradley, Abrams or maybe a helicopter.”

Capabilities Set 13 has been fielded to four brigade combat teams, Phillips said. The latest iteration of capabilities was gleaned through three Net-

work Integration Evaluations, known as NIEs, conducted in an operationally relevant and punishing environment, he said. More than 115 systems from government and industry were evaluated in the first three NIEs by 3,800 Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

“The NIE is so important to the Army’s ability to get this right and to test it and put it in the hands of Soldiers, and make sure they use it and give feedback,” he said. “It’s incredibly complex, and incredibly important for us going forward.”

CID warns of social networking, dating site scams

CID Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID, continues to warn the greater Army community and the American public, to be vigilant of internet scams and impersonation fraud, especially within popular social networking and dating websites.

CID special agents frequently receive reports from around the world of various scams involving criminals pretending to be U.S. Soldiers. These scam artists often portray themselves as male U.S. Soldiers; then prey on the unsuspecting

victim’s emotions, leading to nothing more than broken promises and an empty bank account for their victims.

Cyber criminals also continue to create profiles of senior Army officers and non-commissioned officers, to include the use of official photographs, in an attempt to lure unsuspecting persons into revealing personal, banking or financial information.

Scammers will often make contact with potential victims through various social networking sites. After contact, often during instant messaging or email correspondence, the scammers attempt to manipulate and exploit their victims. Tactics used by cyber criminals include preying on their target’s emotions, appealing to the recipient’s sense of empathy or a desire for financial gain.

Complying with these requests often places the victim at risk financially and opens them up to the possibility of becoming a victim of identity theft.

Those who actively facilitate internet scams can face criminal charges. Soldiers and civilians who knowingly participate in the negotiation of fraudulent money orders or travel checks in furtherance of fraud schemes are subject to Title 18 of the U.S. Code, Section 1343, Fraud by Wire, Radio or Television.

The title states that individuals, who devise schemes to defraud, obtain money or property under false pretenses, representations and/or promises will be fined or imprisoned for not more than 20 years, or both. Violators that affect

financial institutions can be imprisoned for not more than 30 years, fined up to \$1 million, or both.

CID strongly recommends that Soldiers, civilians and family members who come across any known suspicious social networking or dating site profile or are solicited in this fashion from a person posing as a U.S. Soldier, immediately email CID at Army.CID.Crime.Tips@mail.mil.

U.S. citizens and residents who have suffered a financial loss should contact their nearest field office of the United States Secret Service. Also, victims are advised to continue reporting these scam e-mails to law enforcement agencies.

What to look for:

Be extremely suspicious if you are asked for money for transportation costs, communication fees or marriage processing and medical fees.

Many of the negative claims made about the military and the supposed lack of support and services provided to troops overseas are far from reality, check the facts.

If you do start an internet-based relationship with someone, check them out, research what they are telling you with someone who would know, such as a current or former service member.

Be very suspicious if you never get to actually speak with the person on the phone or are told you cannot write or receive letters in the mail. Servicemen and women serving overseas will often have an APO or FPO mailing address.

Internet or not, service members always appreciate a letter in the mail.

Be very suspicious if you are asked to send money or ship property to a third party or company. Oftentimes the company exists, but has no idea or is not a part of the scam.

Be aware of common spelling, grammatical or language errors in the emails.

Be very cautious when placing your personal photographs on social media sites.

Where to go for help:

Report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission. Your report helps law enforcement officials across the United States in their investigations. Online: <http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft>

By phone: 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338) or TTY, 1-866-653-4261

By mail: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580

Report the theft to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) (FBI-NW3C Partnership). Online: <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>

In cases where your identity has been utilized during the commission of these scams (i.e. photograph) with no further Personally Identifiable Information disclosed, the following actions should be completed as soon as possible to assist law enforcement:

Report the fraud to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) (FBI-NW3C Partnership). Online: <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>



CID is an independent criminal investigative organization that investigates serious, felony-level crime such as murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, arson, fraud, and even cyber crime or intrusions into the Army networks

Aberdeen Area Gate Hours and Visitor Center Operations During Furlough

Gate	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Federal Holiday
RT 715	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs
RT 22	Closed	6 -10 a.m.	6 a.m.- 6 p.m.	6 a.m - 6 p.m.	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	6 - 10 a.m.	Closed	Closed
RT 22 OUTBOUND ONLY	Closed	3-5:45 p.m.	6 a.m.- 6 p.m.	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	3-5:45 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Aberdeen	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Visitor Control Center	7 a.m. - 4 p.m.	6 a.m. - 4 p.m.	6 a.m. -4 p.m.	7 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7 a.m. - 4 p.m.			
Badge Office	Closed	8 a.m.- 4 p.m.	8 a.m.- 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed			

Edgewood Area Gate Hours and Visitor Center Operations During Furlough

Gate	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Federal Holiday
RT 24	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs	24 Hrs
Wise Road	Closed	Closed	6 a.m.- 6 p.m.	6 a.m.- 6 p.m.	6 a.m.- 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed
Magnolia	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Visitor Control Center	Closed	5 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed				
Badge Office	Closed	8 a.m.- 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed			

Team APG supports local construction project

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Several Team APG members volunteered to hammer out a construction project with Harford Habitat for Humanity Aug. 3.

Linda Patrick of the U.S. Army Public Health Command organized the all-female group of volunteers. She said the goal for the Team APG community outreach project, was to recruit participants from local women's groups like the Federal Women's Program (FWP), Federally Employed Women (FEW) and Women In Defense (WID). She began coordinating the Team APG Women's Home Build event in April. It was postponed from June to Aug. 3 and then pushed to Aug. 31 due to recent heavy rains. Saturday's event came up at the last minute.

"When I spoke to my contact at Habitat to finalize our date and time [and learned] we were going to be postponed again, I was told that Habitat was in need of volunteers on a housing project in another area if we really wanted to work on Saturday," Patrick said.

She contacted the women listed for the original event and those who were available came out to help. They included Monique Ferrell, the wife of APG Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Ferrell; Jackie McClinton, wife of Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton; and Brenda Dent, the wife of Installation Command Sgt. Maj. Kennis Dent.

Team members worked from 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on a Schofield Road house in Aberdeen.

The Aug. 31 Team APG Women's Home Build event starts 7:30 a.m., also in Aberdeen. Safety Training for the event is mandatory and can be conducted online at <http://www.habitatsusq.org/>. Safety training must be completed prior to the event.

For more information, contact Patrick at 410-436-1023, linda.d.patrick.civ@mail.mil or Sheryl L. Coleman, at 410-278-5964, sheryl.l.coleman.civ@mail.mil



Photos by Linda Patrick
(Above from left) Melissa Schutz of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command and Gloria Dent, the spouse of Installation and CECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Kennis Dent, break up packed dirt and rocks during a women's Home Build project with the Harford Habitat for Humanity Aug. 3.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THURSDAY AUGUST 8

HOW TO START YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

Presented by Army Community Service, this orientation program provides an overview of the ways to start a small business, the skills and duties of a successful entrepreneur, and how to write a business plan. Other services offered by the SBDC are also discussed. To reserve your seat for this FREE session, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 2503, contact: ACS Employment Program manager Marilyn Howard at 410-278-9669/7572.

SATURDAY AUGUST 10

CAL RIPKEN WORLD SERIES PARADE

The Cal Ripken World Series parade kicks off in Aberdeen 10 a.m. Along with APG leaders and League of Dreams players, parade participants will include Little League players from Maryland, Canada, the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Australia and Japan. The parade will move from S. Law Street, turn east on West Bel Air Avenue, then north on Howard Street and conclude at Festival Park with free refreshments for all. West Bel Air Avenue will be blocked off to traffic 9:30 a.m. Parking is available at the AMTRAK train station on Route 40.

For more information, visit the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce website at www.aberdeence.com

TUESDAY AUGUST 13

4H ROBOTICS FAMILY OPEN HOUSE

The 4H Club, Heroes with Heart Robotics, is hosting a family open house

at the APG North (Aberdeen) youth center, Bldg. 2422, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The focus will be the exploration of robotics systems, scientific inquiry, and engineering design process. Activities will allow parents and children to explore four Lego platforms and inquire about the club. The goal is to have 4H Club activities available for two hours on Sundays and one hour during the week. This open house is to determine the level of interest of parents, children (ages 5 and up) and volunteers. E-mail wendy.e.kosikchaney.civ@mail.mil for information.

WEDNESDAY AUG. 14, 21, 28

ADULT ARCHERY CLASS

Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow during the adult archery class at the APG archery range located adjacent to the Hunting Management Bldg. 5501, from 5 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person. For more information or to register, call 410-278-4124/5789

FRIDAY AUGUST 16

FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL

SUPPLIES

APG MWR will partner with Back-To-School Brigade™ to provide free backpacks and back-to-school supplies for children, youth and young adults in grades kindergarten through college, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Shore Park Pavilion in APG North (Aberdeen).

Eligible recipients include Family members of active duty enlisted grades E1-E6; National Guard enlisted grades E1-E6 on Title 10 or 32 orders; activated Reservists, E1-E6; or Wounded, active duty or retired of any rank. Registration is required. For more information, call 410-278-2857 or visit www.OperationHomefront.net/DCMetro.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21 VENTURING IS COMING TO APG!

If you're 14 to 21 years old and ready to test your limits, meet new friends, and make a difference - VENTURING IS FOR YOU. The Venturing Crew meets twice monthly, starting in August. Learn more during an open house barbecue, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at 3801A Veteran Court in Patriot Village, APG North (Aberdeen). For more information, contact Alex Hutton at 410-278-5798, e-mail ahutton@baltimorebsa.org - Begin your adventure at www.scouting.org/venturing.

APG RIDESHARE DAY

APG Rideshare Day is set from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the Exchange. Vanpool companies will be available for people to learn about vanpool opportunities as well as local mass transit options. The companies will have several vans on site. Federal employees are eligible for up to \$245 to use vanpools, trains and buses. There will also be information concerning the local Guaranteed Ride Home programs which provides between 4-5 free rides home for commuters who use vanpools, carpools, trains, buses, or even walk or bike to work when they have an emergency or have to work late.

THURSDAY AUGUST 22 WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

The APG Federal Women's Program (FWP) will host its annual Women's Equality Day observance 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Ball Conference Center. This annual event tributes the APG Woman of the Year, Supervisor/Manager of the Year and Organization Most Supportive. Civilians, military and contractor personnel are invited to support this event. For more information, contact Teresa Rudd, 410-436-5501, teresa.d.rudd.civ@mail.mil or Elizabeth Young, 410-278-1392, elizabeth.h.young.civ@mail.mil.

MONDAY AUGUST 26 WOMEN IN DEFENSE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of Women in Defense annual APG Golf Tournament starts 8 a.m. Male and female golfers may register for the

event which includes breakfast, a four-person best ball golf tournament, awards ceremony, happy hour and dinner. Proceeds benefit local science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and scholarships.

For more information, visit the WID Mid-Atlantic website at www.apg-golf.com.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 9TH ANNUAL "SUPPORT OUR HEROES" GALA

Tickets are now available for the 9th Annual Support Our Heroes Gala to be held 6 to 10 p.m. at Waters Edge Events Center, 4687 Millennium Drive, in Belcamp. Featured will be live and silent auctions; music and dancing, heavy hors d'oeuvres and carving station, cash bar. Proceeds benefit the Fisher House Foundation, supporting wounded warriors and their families.

Tickets on sale now. Sponsorship opportunities available. For more information, visit www.chesapeakeheroes.com

FRI - SUN OCTOBER 11 - 13 OKTOBERFEST

Save the date for the 2nd annual APG Oktoberfest celebration to be held at Shine Field, Friday afternoon through Sunday. More details will be announced as they become available.

ONGOING OPENINGS AT YOUTH CENTERS

The Aberdeen and Edgewood programs currently have immediate openings for the 2013-2014 school year at their School Age & Youth Services facilities. Openings are available in both locations for eligible users. For more information, call 410-278-7571/7479.

CYSS PARTNERS WITH HOMESCHOOLERS

The Child, Youth and School Services at APG is trying to establish a partnership with authorized users who home-school their children in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas. CYSS is willing to open their facilities during the week so homeschooled children can have access to classrooms, the computer lab and gym on a scheduled basis. For more information, call 410-278-7571/7479.

SUMMER NIGHTS UNDER THE LIGHTS

Aberdeen and Edgewood Youth Centers. Hop a ride on the CYSS bus and catch the Friday Night O's home games, all summer long! Orioles vs. Mariners. DEPARTURE / RETURN TIME: Bus departs AA Youth Center at 5 p.m.; bus departs EA Youth Center at 5:30 p.m. Return times will vary. AGES: 9-18. COST/FEE: \$28/game. ADDITIONAL INFO: Must be registered by COB Tuesday preceding each game date (3 DAYS PRIOR TO EACH GAME). For more information, contact Conor Joyce, conor.j.joyce.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-1399.

FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN RECREATION FOR TEENS

The APG North (Aberdeen) Youth Center, Bldg 2522, invites all high school students out to its free Friday Night Open Recreation for Teens, every Friday from 6 p.m. to midnight. Teens are invited out to meet new friends, shoot some hoops or just play some pool. Bring up to two non-DoD friends to join in the fun. For more information, call 410-278-4995.

KEYSTONE CLUB

This free class for high school students meets every other Friday, 7 to 9 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) Youth Center, Bldg 2522. This unique leadership development experience provides opportunities for young people ages 14 - 18. Youth participate in activities, both in and out of the club, in three focus areas: academic success, career preparation and community service. With the guidance of an adult advisor, Keystone Club aims to have a positive impact on members, the club and community. Participants may bring up to two non-DoD friends. For more information, call 410-278-4995.

ACS CHANGES HOURS OF OPERATION

Starting Aug. 5, hours of operation for Army Community Service offices in Bldg. 2503 are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

Monday through Thursday. Army Emergency Relief (AER) afterhours and closures are handled through the American Red Cross at 1-877-272-7337. The Family Advocacy Victim Advocate Hotline is 410-652-6048. For more information, visit the ACS website at <http://www.apgmwr.com/community/acs.html>.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE RESEARCH STUDY

Geisel College of Medicine at Dartmouth is sponsoring a research study for post-deployment veterans. If you are a recent veteran experiencing difficulty adjusting to life post-deployment and need help accessing or deciding whether to seek mental health treatment, please call Melissa at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth at 603-448-0263 ext. 135. You will be asked questions as a way to screen potential subjects for a DOD-funded research study. Everything is done by phone and is completely confidential. Eligible Veterans will receive compensation for their time.

INSIDE APG

APG commanders and subject matter experts will discuss topics of interest to the local community every Saturday and Wednesday at 7:50 a.m. during "Inside APG: Creating One Community Without a Gate," a monthly radio series on 970 WAMD. For more information about the series, to schedule or request an interview, call the Garrison Public Affairs Office at 410-278-1150.

For previous interviews, follow these links: <http://youtu.be/a8vuM-dxmG50>; <http://youtu.be/se7hTkwn-b08>

HGD FURLOUGH FRIENDLY DISCOUNTS

Several Havre de Grace businesses are offering discounts to APG's furloughed employees from now until the end of September. Participating businesses will offer a 20 percent discount, Monday to Friday, to APG employees affected by the furloughs. Customers must show their common access or military ID cards to take advantage of the offer. A "Furlough Friendly Community" logo and decal will be posted on windows and doors of participating businesses. To view the list, visit www.hdgtourism.com.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND SURVEYS

Retiring from the Army within two years? Take a brief survey to help the U.S. Army Public Health Command develop resources for Pre-Retirees. Your opinions will help us make an impact to promote good physical health and brain power. Visit <https://www.keysurvey.com/f/517684/30d6/> to participate.

Retired from the Army? Take a brief survey to help the U.S. Army Public Health Command develop resources for Retirees. Your opinions will help us make an impact promoting good physical health and brain power. Visit <https://www.keysurvey.com/f/517684/30d6/> to participate.

Are you married to a Soldier? Living with a Soldier? Take a brief survey to help the U.S. Army Public Health Command develop resources for Army Families. Your opinions will help us make an impact to promote good health and brain power. Visit <https://www.keysurvey.com/f/517684/30d6/> to participate.

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 2idahq@comcast.net or 224-225-1202.

PIANO & GUITAR LESSONS

Each class is a one-on-one, 30-minute session for seven or eight weeks, once a week. Parents choose a time between 3 and 9 p.m. when they register their children. Open to all DOD ID cardholders. To register, visit Central Registration or call 410-278-7479/7571. For information, email lauren.e.kateley.naf@mail.mil or call 410-278-4589.



At your service

Thomas Shumate Chief, Military Personnel Office

As the chief military personnel officer within the garrison's Directorate of Human Resources, Thomas Shumate oversees the management of records and processing of personnel actions for all military personnel assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The MILPO, or Military Personnel Office, controls records management during in-and-out processing, ID card management, promotion, transition management and other personnel actions.

Shumate is responsible for the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and office that assists Soldiers returning to civilian status through retirement, voluntary or involuntary separation. The TAP includes Retirement Services; Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) counseling supported by the ACAP Regional Mobile Team, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, the installation Education center, the ACS

Employment Assistance Program; and the state of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; which with ACS and Harford County supporting organizations coordinates job fairs and hiring events targeting veterans.

A retired first sergeant, Shumate said the best part of his job is seeing fellow veterans become gainfully employed.

"Our goal is that they depart the Army with job in hand," he said. "Or that they have good job offers or are heading back to school. And when it happens, it's wonderful."

For more information about Transition Assistance or employment assistance programs for separating Soldiers, visit the Transition Center in Bldg. 4305, first floor, room 134, or call 410-410-306-2322 for an appointment, or e-mail betty.a.willard.ctr@mail.mil.



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

SOS demonstrates Army commitment

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Annette Sanders, SOS Program Coordinator

that she does locate and refer participants to outside resources for support when the need arises.

She said the whole idea behind SOS is not about surviving a loss, but “overcoming a grief and finding a new beginning.”

“It does not matter how the service

member died,” she said. “SOS identifies the needs of others touched by the loss of a service member and demonstrates the Army’s commitment to Families of the Fallen.”

SOS mission

The SOS mission can be found on the garrison website at <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/local/>. It states that along with extending support to Families by maximizing cooperation between government and non-government agencies, SOS ensures survivors receive all benefits they are entitled to and encourages survivors to remain a part of the Army Family.

The site also contains a virtual wall honoring Fallen service members as well as links to related sites such as Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., Army One Source, and more.

Earlier this year, SOS parking signs for survivors were installed in parking lots on the installation at the commissary, Post Exchange, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic,

post recreation centers and ACS.

Garrison APG routinely invites survivors to APG events such as Armed Forces Day, Veterans Day and U.S. Army Soldier Show. The annual Gold Star Families Breakfast has become a tradition along with several other events. In addition, Families of Fallen Soldiers who were killed in action (KIA) can contact the SOS office for information about how to receive a civilian ID card for easier access to installation facilities.

After the death of a Soldier, the surviving Family is assigned a casualty assistance officer (CAO), who assists with the burial process and any other obligations the Family may encounter. After the CAO mission is fulfilled, the Family then comes under the care of Sanders and the SOS program.

Sanders’ region includes APG’s neighboring counties, Northern Maryland, parts of the Eastern Shore and Southern Delaware. She often coordinates or combines events with the Fort George G. Meade

SOS office.

Janice Chance, president of the Maryland Chapter, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., has nothing but praise for Sanders-Nash, SOS and the APG Garrison.

“They [the garrison] told us she would be there to assist us and she has really gone out of her way,” Chance said. “Any concerns we have, she makes sure those issues are addressed. She listens to us, keeps us apprised of post events and finds ways to keep us connected to APG.”

Chance said she was overwhelmed when she first saw the SOS parking signs on post.

“APG goes a step further than [other installations]. Those signs let us know that we are part of the APG Family and that they will take good care of us. They always treat us like royalty. I was overjoyed.”

For more information about Survivor Outreach Services, call Sanders at 410-278-2861 or e-mail casandra.a.sanders-nash.civ@mail.mil

Maryland Birdies enjoy APG fellowship

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the Havre de Grace Boys and Girls Clubs of America this year.

“This is old friends getting together for a good purpose,” Bryant said.

Preparations to bring the outing back to APG began a year ago and group members held several planning meetings at Ruggles, he added.

“It’s a complicated process, logistical-ly. Everything has to be voted on, from

food selection to tours for non-golfers,” he said. “Thankfully this area offers a lot of choices.”

While golfers were on the links, their spouses and guests others toured Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania before joining the golfers for the prize presentation. Other group excursions during the gathering, which ran from July 24- 27, included an Aberdeen IronBirds baseball game at Ripken Stadium; a visit to

the Capitol and other sites in Washington, D.C., and an Arundel Mills Casino and shopping tour.

Vice President Ron Stallings said the 2013 event was a success.

“Everything has just gone great,” Stallings said. “We absolutely enjoy APG; it’s like coming home.”

Ninety-four golfers and guests registered for the tournament. After the prize presentations, a bench honoring Mary-

land’s “Fallen Birdies” was placed at the 7th Hole.

Stallings said the Maryland Birdies won the first day of the tournament which was held at the Mountain Branch Golf Course in Fallston.

“We’ve had a great fellowship here at APG while doing a good deed for a worthy cause,” Stallings said.

For more information, visit www.marylandbirdies.com

Helmets required on DoD installations

Continued from Page 1

“Basically bicyclists have to obey the same laws as motor vehicles,” he said. “This means that bicyclists should obey all traffic signs, use hand signals when turning and yield to traffic when the cars have the right of way.”

Parking lots

He said pedestrians should also be extremely cautious when walking through parking lots, and bicyclists should avoid parking lots, if possible.

“You should assume that no one is looking,” said Kravitz. “People are pre-occupied with finding a space or getting home, so situational awareness is low. Remember that most parking lots are intrinsically unsafe and the design of the parking lot never takes the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists into account.”

Kravitz said if a cyclist must ride through a parking lot, they should do so slowly and defensively.

“A parking lot is one of the few places that a person riding a bicycle could travel faster than automobiles,” he said. “Resist the temptation and don’t do it. Assume that cars may not stop and may cut you off if there’s an open space.”

Kravitz said bicycling on sidewalks should be avoided at all times.

“Sidewalks are for pedestrians,” he said. “A bicyclist might be traveling too fast for the pedestrian to react in time to avoid a collision. Only kids on tricycles and children too young to be riding in the street should be on sidewalks and then under their parent’s close supervision.”

Reflective gear

In addition, APG policy requires bicyclists to wear a brightly reflective belt worn diagonally over the right shoulder and down under the left arm or an orange, green or yellow vest during the day and at night.

It is also DoD and APG policy for all bicyclists riding on DoD installations

to wear approved and properly secured helmets.

Mary Arthur of the Army Research Laboratory uses a fold-up bicycle to commute from the Aberdeen train station to work. She said she would like to see APG become more bike friendly, including expanding the road for wider shoulders or bike lanes.

Arthur said cyclists are allowed to use the full lane, when the roads are too narrow for bicyclists and motor vehicles to operate side-by-side in the same lane.

“When I bike, I always know the laws of the road,” she said. “I would tell motorists to be patient. We have a right to use the road.”

Bike traffic up

Arthur said that over the past year she has observed an increase of APG employees taking the MARC train to Aberdeen and then biking or running to work.

“We have become more visible,” she said. “People want to save money by tak-

ing advantage of the mass transit subsidy for government workers. I think you will see more people biking to work in the future.”

Mark Downes, an Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity employee who bikes to work at least once a week, recommends that pedestrians treat bicyclists like they would a car.

Pedestrians will see bicycles and not get out of the way,” he said. “But a collision between a pedestrian and a bicycle can be very serious. Pedestrians need to watch out for cars and bicycles.”

Downes also recommended that cyclists wear bright colors, no matter where they are riding.

“The more chances a car can see you, the better,” he said.

For more information about bicycle safety, visit the APG Installation Safety Office website, <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/installation/iso/>.

Third quarter accident data show Army on right track

Story by
JULIE SHELLEY

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

With less than three months to go in fiscal 2013, accidental deaths throughout the Army continue on a downward trajectory, according to data recently released by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

Fatalities in nearly all accident categories have either stayed stable or declined — most by double digits — from the first three quarters of fiscal 2012, including a 19-percent drop in private motor vehicle deaths. Fatal all-terrain vehicle mishaps are on the rise, however, with three versus zero fatalities this time last year.

“The Army is in flux with our combat drawdown and Soldiers returning to readiness posture at home,” said Brig.

Gen. Timothy J. Edens, director of Army Safety and commanding general, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. “Safety successes in the midst of this change are a reflection of the commitment our leaders and Soldiers have to one another.”

Both on- and off-duty accidental fatalities were down 20 percent or more at the end of the third quarter. Off duty, both sedan and motorcycle deaths fell for the year, with PMV-2 declining 35 percent from 2012 numbers. Equally dramatic declines were seen on duty, with Army combat vehicle deaths falling 75 percent, and aviation, which experienced difficult first and second quarters, stabilized to finish on par with the previous year.

Those gains are holding steady in the early weeks of the fourth quarter, with overall fatalities holding steady at a 20

percent decrease from fiscal 2012.

Edens urged leaders and Soldiers to keep the momentum going by continuing to do what works for safety: staying engaged, holding themselves accountable for their personal well-being and always looking out for one another.

“These efforts are extremely important during the fourth quarter,” he said. “The third quarter has historically been a bad time of year for accidents, but we came through this one without any major missteps. The fourth quarter is a little different, though, because summer is coming to an end and Soldiers will be in a rush to enjoy the rest of the season.”

“If we stay on top of risk, we can close both the quarter and the year with record-setting declines in accidental deaths and the personal grief that comes with them.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard D. Stid-

ley, USACR/Safety Center, asked leaders to pay special attention to ATV riders in their ranks.

“These vehicles are essentially specialty items, and many leaders don’t know or inquire if their Soldiers own or ride them,” he said. “Riders must know the regulatory requirements before they climb on their machines. Like motorcycle riding, helmets and eye protection are required for ATV operation.”

“At the end of the day, Soldiers who abide by the rules and regulations and know how to operate and ride responsibly may live to ride another day.”

A range of safety products and tools are available at <https://safety.army.mil>, including the Army Safe Summer Campaign, designed to help leaders address risks common to the season’s activities.

Passport/visa application procedures, timelines change



Due to heavy volume of Passport Applications being received, processing time is now taking six to eight weeks from the time a record is created at the Special Issuance Agency to a passport being issued.

Expedite requests are taking up to four weeks to be processed from the time a record is created at the Special Issuance Agency for a passport to be issued. In addition, Visa Applications processing time is 45 days or longer from the time the embassy receives the application. Travelers requiring official Passports or Visas should plan accordingly.

All previous waivers the Special Issuance Agency issued granting military units blanket authority to apply for sec-

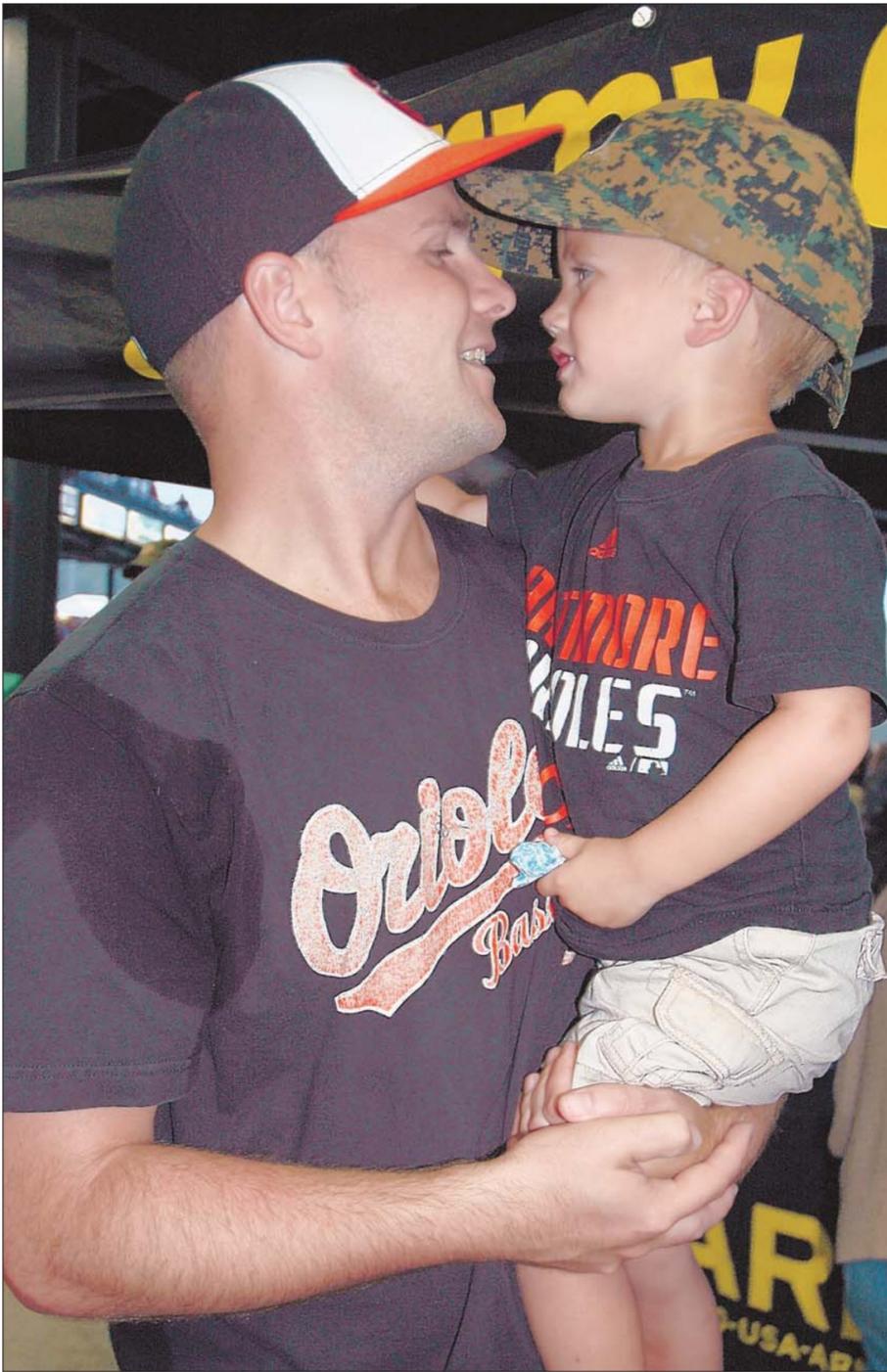
ond passports and/or blanket exceptions to the requirement to list a projected travel destination on the DD Form 1056 (Authorization to Apply for a “No-Fee” Passport and/or Request for Visa) became invalid as of Jan. 31, 2013.

Commanders who believe their unit/organization should be exempt from the normal requirements (Foreign Clearance Guide requirement) may submit a request for a waiver through their chain of command to the DOD Executive Agent (Headquarters, Department of the Army) for review.

For more information, contact Dorris Tisdale, Aberdeen Proving Ground Passport Agent, at dorris.a.tisdale.civ@mail.mil.

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/>.



SHOWING APPRECIATION

Staff Sgt. Caleb Cobb of the 22d Chemical Battalion spends time with son Brandon Cobb during the annual Military Appreciation Night at Ripken Stadium Aug. 1. Festivities were postponed due to heavy rains and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



Photo by Rachel Ponder

LOCAL STUDENTS LEARN COMPUTER PROGRAMMING BASICS

(From left) Valeriia Laryoshyna, Kelly Szaniawski, Andrew Ukadike and Marisa Aldeman work on a robots project with PicoCrickets, tiny computers that make sculptures spin light up and play music during a Gain in the Education of Mathematics and Science session held at the APG STEM and Education Outreach Center July 30. PicoCrickets teach students the basics of computer programming and coding. GEMS is an extracurricular education program, featuring hands-on activities in science, engineering, mathematics, computational sciences, computational biology, biomedical sciences, chemistry and biology funded by the Army Educational Outreach Program. For more information visit <http://www.usaeop.com/programs/gems/>.



GIFT OF LIFE

Phlebotomist Robin Bee draws blood from Gary Appel, an Army Test and Evaluation Command employee, during an Armed Services blood drive hosted by Team APG at the APG North recreation center Aug. 5. During the drive, 69 useable units were collected and will go to saving lives and supporting troops during war and peacetime, according to Victoria Fernetto of the National Naval Medical Center, Armed Services Blood Bank Center. The next blood drive at the APG North recreation center will be the Army Navy Blood Donor Challenge Dec. 11

Photo by Rachel Ponder

HELPING HANDS

(From left) Melissa Schutz of ATEC; Sheryl Coleman of ARL; Monique Ferrell, the spouse of APG Senior Leader, Maj. Gen. Robert Ferrell; Capt. Ijeoma Okoye, USAPHC; and Fepahi Gyesus, a local volunteer, enjoy a light moment while working on the Team APG Women's Home Build project with the Harford Habitat for Humanity in Aberdeen Aug. 3.

Photo by Linda Patrick

