

APG NEWS



www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

Published in the interest of the people of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

January 17, 2013 Vol. 57, No. 3

Protect against seasonal flu Vaccinations available at APG clinic, local pharmacies

U.S. Army Public Health Command & the Harford County Health Department

Incidence of flu cases in the U.S. is widespread. As of Jan. 5, there were 36 cases of flu that resulted in hospitalization in Army medical treatment facilities (MTFs), up from six at the same time last year, according to the U.S. Army Public Health Command.

According to officials, vaccination is the best way to prevent flu.

APG's Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is among the many MTFs throughout the globe offering the seasonal flu vaccine to eligible patients.

In response to growing public demand for flu vaccine, the Harford County Health Department will hold a no-cost flu vaccination clinic Friday, Jan. 18 from 1 - 5 p.m. in the Harford County Council Chambers, 212 South Bond Street, in Bel Air. Both Flumist and injectable forms of the vaccine will be administered.

At KUSAHC, all Tricare beneficiaries and DoD civilians are eligible to receive the vaccine.

"It is definitely not too late to get vaccinated," said Robert Townsend,

KUSAHC patient advocate. "Obviously, we want patients to get vaccinated as soon as possible, but getting vaccinated as late as March will still offer protection."

Townsend said making sure KUSAHC beneficiaries are covered is the number one priority, and not-

See **COMMUNITY**, page 7



Hone public speaking, leadership skills with Toastmasters

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

If you'd like to overcome the fear of public speaking, communicate more effectively and improve leadership skills, consider joining a Toastmasters club at APG.

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization devoted to helping members advance their communication, public speaking and leadership skills.

GP Strategies employee Vincent Minichiello, who serves as the Gunpowder

See **PICK**, page 10

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

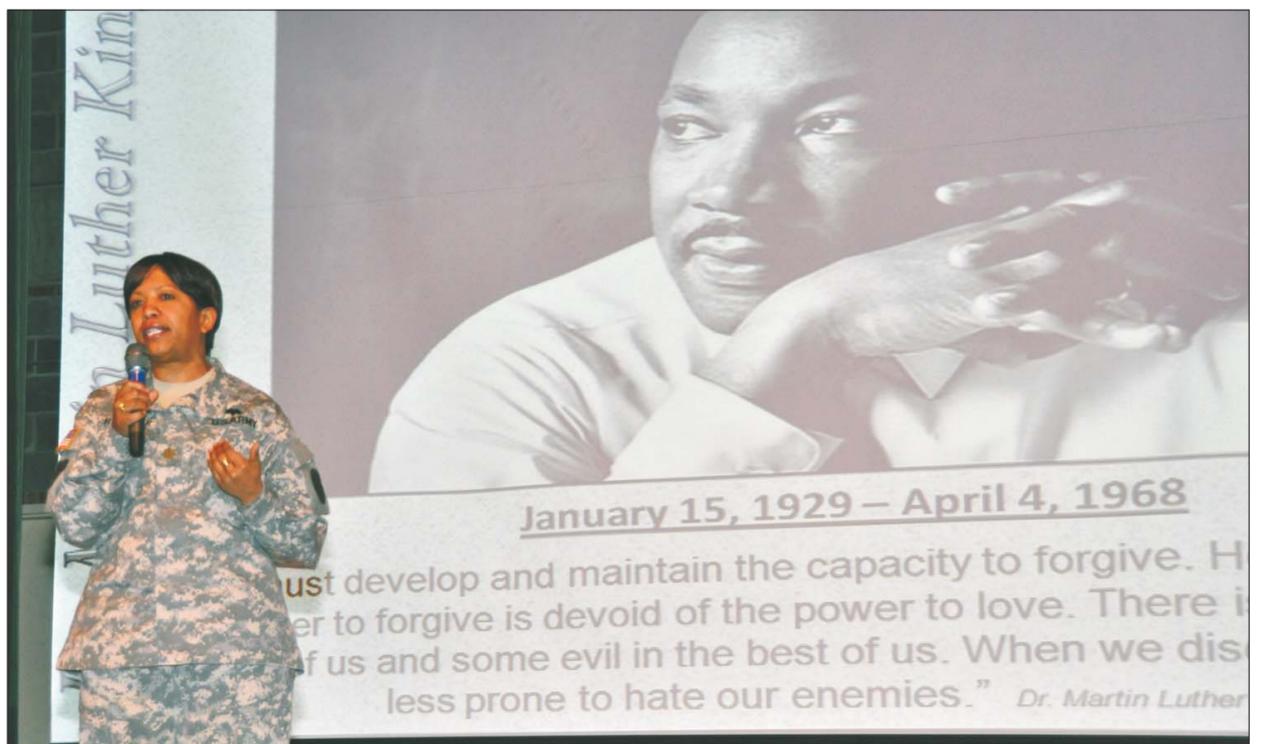
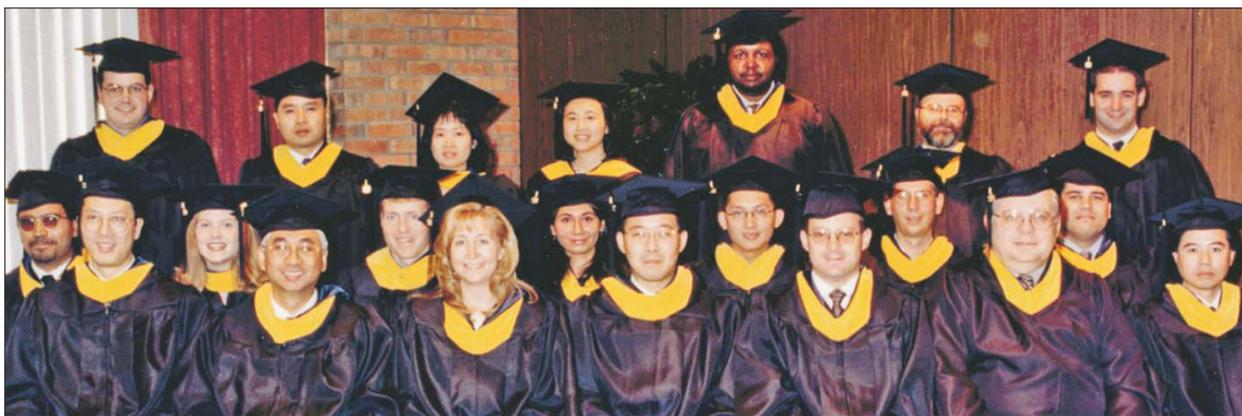


Photo by Yvonne Johnson

A man and a dream not forgotten

Maj. Bernita Hightower of the U.S. Army Public Health Command delivers an energized welcome on behalf of Team APG during the 2013 annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at the post theater Jan. 15. Events marking the 84th birthday of the slain civil rights leader included morning presentations and an afternoon professional development forum. Read the full story in the Jan. 24 issue of the APG News. View more photos on the APG Flickr site at www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg.



In June 1997, the Software Engineering Center hired 23 interns. Fifteen years later, the 16 who remained at APG gathered for a reunion. See the Page 10 jump for the interns' names.

Software Engineering interns reunite after 15 years

By **CHAD PADGETT**
PEO C3T Public Communications

While social-media platforms like Facebook and Twitter make catching up with old college friends easier, for some personnel at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md., it can be as simple as walking down the hall.

In June 1997, the Software Engineering Center hired 23 interns for a formal program, which included candidates who had qualifications such as a four year degree in science.

Fifteen years later, the group held a class reunion with the 16 members who have remained in the APG community. The program featured a combination of on-the-job training and formal education and ultimately led to a Master's Degree in Software Engineering from Monmouth University, West Long Branch, N.J.

Nancy Kreidler, intern president, attributes the class' success to the program structure.

"I think the success of this program

See **FORMER**, page 10

Reps sought for community committee

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Garrison APG is seeking additional representatives for its newly formed Community Voice Committee (CVC).

The bi-monthly meeting is dedicated to improving the quality of life for APG residents and employees.

"Our first meeting was held in November and went really well, but we'd like to supplement the current committee members by recruiting more residents, senior enlisted Soldiers and DoD civilians from both APG North and South," said APG Garrison Staff Action Officer Karen Dern.

"This gathering is an opportunity for meaningful group discussion between community members and garrison leadership," said Dern.

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WEATHER

Thurs.



41° | 27°

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Community members shake it up at Urban Line Dance class.
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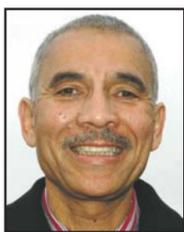
Get the most out of your new home at the newcomer orientation. Free online tax assistance offered. Gospel concert lineup changes.

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STREET TALK

Who are you rooting for during the NFL playoffs?

I think it's the Ravens' destiny to go to the Super Bowl this year. I admire the team's dedication to the sport. With Ray Lewis retiring this year, it is impossible to not be wrapped up in the excitement. Everything is taken up a notch. I am looking forward to seeing the rematch between the Ravens and the Patriots this Sunday.



Gary Hardy
Army Substance Abuse Program

I am rooting for the San Francisco 49ers, because I lived in California for many years. The head coach of the Ravens and the head coach of the 49ers are brothers, so I think it would be interesting to see that matchup at the Super Bowl.



Dr. Carol Bossone
APG Veterinary Clinic

I am from Atlanta, Ga., so I am rooting for the Falcons. I am proud they came so far this year, and I'm wearing red and black all week to show my support.



Vivian Jackson
ASAP

I have been a Ravens fan since Day 1. I knew they could beat the Broncos, and I definitely think they can win the Super Bowl this year. This week I am wearing my Ravens gear every day to show my support. I am very superstitious, so on game day I have to wear my Ravens jersey.



Laura Druyor
U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center

OPINION

King vision alive at APG

This week Aberdeen Proving Ground, our Armed Forces and our entire nation will take time to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King was born Jan. 15, 1929, which means he would be 84 years old, had his life not been tragically cut short.

Notably, the year 2013 is also the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech, which he delivered before a rally of more than 200,000 people on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Many consider it to be among the greatest speeches in American history. What some may not know however, is that Dr. King and his team were so busy planning the logistics for a rally of that size, they didn't finish writing the speech until the night before.

Moreover, the most famous portion of Martin Luther King's remarks, the part where he uses the phrase 'I have a Dream,' was not in the original script.

In what has to be one of the most important ad-libs in history, Dr. King set aside his prepared text and spoke directly from the heart about the dream he had for the future of our nation.

It was a dream that he did not live to see, but a dream that changed the course of our nation.

In part of that historic address, Dr. King spoke about his vision that one day, '...we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.'

A symphony cannot be made from just one kind of instrument. The beauty of a symphony only emerges when you bring together diverse instruments, each contributing its own unique sound, to create the right harmony.

In part, because of Dr. King's ad-libbed words 50 years ago, we can be proud that today we live in a nation



If Dr. King were alive today and visited APG, he would witness dedicated service members and civilians of every race, ethnic background and faith, both men and women, serving alongside one another and trusting each other with their lives.

that better understands that much of our strength comes from welcoming and embracing the unique talents, skills and abilities that are present in those from each and every part of our great and very diverse society.

We can also be proud to be part of an institution like the Armed Forces of the United States, which firmly believes diversity across our uniformed and civilian workforces is a foundation of our strength. The Army provides a wide range of resources that both educate and support the diversity of our force at www.armydiversity.army.mil.

If Dr. King were alive today and came to Aberdeen Proving Ground, or visited any U.S. military unit serving around the globe, he would witness dedicated service members and civilians of every race, ethnic background and religious faith, both men and women, serving alongside one another and trusting each other with their lives.

I hope that he would be proud that our Armed Forces have been leaders in expanding opportunities for all. In so many ways, our nation's 'discord' has transformed into a more 'beautiful symphony,' and we have come a very long way since Dr. King delivered those 'ad-libbed' words back in 1963.

One of the most unique aspects of Martin Luther King Day, is that

it is not only a federal holiday, it has also been formally designated as a 'national day of service.' This is in recognition of the fact that, as great a speaker as Martin Luther King was, his most important legacy lies in his commitment to serving others.

Dr. King once said, 'Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?'

Accordingly, although many of our APG commands will be closed on the Martin Luther King Holiday, as a nation, we have to come to refer to it as a 'day on, not a day off.' A day where we take time to do something for others and for our communities.

I know that at Team APG, many are dedicated both to public service and to volunteering with organizations that support our Families and communities all throughout the year.

As we prepare to commemorate Martin Luther King's legacy this week, I want to express my admiration and thanks for all you do to make APG such a great community and our Armed Forces a place where Martin Luther King's dream remains alive and well.

Army Strong.

Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell
Commander, U.S. Army
Communications-Electronics Command
& Aberdeen Proving Ground

2013 BAH rates released

Department of Defense

The Department of Defense recently released the 2013 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates, which went into effect Jan. 1, 2013. Overall rates will increase an average of 3.8 percent.

For members with dependents, average increases in BAH are approximately \$60 per month. A typical E-6 with dependents, for example, will find his/her BAH about \$60 per month higher than last year, while an O-3 with dependents will receive about \$55 more than last year.

In areas where rates will decrease, the decrease will only apply to members newly reporting to those locations. Members are protected by individual rate protection which ensures that those already assigned to a given location will not see their BAH rate decrease, however, they will receive the increase if the rate goes up. This assures that members who

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have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

Three components are included in the BAH computation: median current market rent; average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer) and average renter's insurance.

Total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles (based on

dwelling type and number of bedrooms) in each military housing area. Basic Allowance for Housing rates are then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without dependents. An estimated \$20 billion will be paid to more than 1 million service members in 2013.

For more information on BAH, visit <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm>

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



41° | 27°

Fri



36° | 30°

Sat



48° | 38°

Sun



44° | 28°

Mon



36° | 24°

Tue



28° | 15°

Wed



28° | 24°

APG NEWS

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMAP-PA, Building 305, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1153. Printed circulation is 8,900.

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

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Military Family gives big thanks to local martial arts academy

By **CHAD PADGETT**

PEO C3T Public Communications

Preparing to deploy in December 2011, Maj. Edgar O. Santana knew what to expect, but he never imagined that a local family would play such an important part in his family members' lives.

Santana, the assistant product manager (APdM) Network Systems for Project Manager Tactical Radios, departed for Afghanistan in March 2012, leaving his wife, Martha, to oversee the home and family, including their children, Anabella and Alex.

"We don't have family here in Maryland," Martha said. "My children are in their teens and when you're a single mom because your husband deploys, it's hard to imagine where to get help to pick up your kids from school. We've only been here for two years, so everything still feels new and during a family member's deployment, it's easy to feel alone at times."

When Julia and CJ Chang, the owners of the U.S. Taekwondo Academy where Santanas' children study, heard of his deployment, they stepped up to offer assistance.

While the Changs kept the children active, Martha was also thankful the children had a supportive family environment where they could share, talk and have fun while their father was deployed.

"They helped pick up my son, Alex, for the after-school program and gave him a lot of one-on-one time and encouragement," Martha said. "It was great for my son to have a caring and supportive male role model to talk to. They also provided one-on-one time with my daughter and kept her active in after-school programs."

"During my time deployed, the Changs really reached out to my fam-



Photo by Anabella Santana

Maj. Edgar Santana (center) holds an International Security Assistance Force Joint Command flag that was flown over Kabul, Afghanistan, Sept. 11, 2012. Santana presented the flag to the staff and owners at the U.S. Taekwondo Academy, where Santana's children attend and were mentored during his yearlong deployment. To Santana's left are his wife Martha, son Alex and daughter Annabella.

ily," Santana added. "Keeping them active kept their mind off me being deployed. It also allowed me to focus on my mission in Afghanistan."

While deployed, Santana came up with an idea on how to thank the Changs for all the support they were providing for his family.

"I had the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Joint Command fly an American flag over Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sept. 11, 2012, and presented it to the academy when I returned as a token of my appreciation for all they did for my family."

Santana had no idea how much this would move not only CJ and Julia Chang, but also the academy's founder Se Yong Chang.

"Se Yong Chang not only served in

the Korean army, but when he moved to the United States, he served in the U.S. Army before starting the academy," Julia said. "Mr. Santana came in and explained to our class the symbolism and importance of the flag being flown over Afghanistan. I know I was moved, but my father-in-law, Se Yong Chang, was especially moved."

Se Yong Chang served in the Korean Army from 1972-1975 as a combat police instructor. He moved to the U.S. and served in the U.S. Army from 1983-1987 as an Infantry Soldier. He received Army Achievement, Good Conduct and Army Commendations medals and even performed a Taekwondo demonstration for then Vice President, George W. Bush, Sr.

"This was a wonderful surprise for

me, my family and the staff here," Se Yong Chang said. "We all work hard and do our jobs to the best of our ability. We also do it with heart. It's rewarding to know we've touched the lives of our students and families so deeply. This flag and plaque symbolizes so much. It means a great deal to me, personally, because I served in the U.S. Army. I will always remember this."

While having her husband home has lightened the load on the family, Martha will never forget how the Changs and James Kim supported them in their time of need.

"I really appreciate all the love, encouragement and support they gave my family," she said. "I will always be grateful to them."

Send us your newspaper submissions

Due to ongoing issues with the recent DISA migration, community members are asked to send all submissions for the APG News to adriane.foss@us.army.mil. Type APG NEWS SUBMISSION in the Subject Line. You should receive a response within three business days letting you know that the submission has been received. If you do not receive a response, please call 410-278-1150 to inquire.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THURSDAY

JAN. 17 SAME MEETING

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post January 2013 meeting will be at the Wetland Golf Club in Aberdeen at 11:30 a.m. The featured speaker is Dr. James Hartman, Director Regional Environmental & Energy - Northern Office Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy & Environment. Hartman's presentation is titled, "Overview of the U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Offices." Register at www.same-chesapeake.org. Call 410-638-9699 for information.

MOAA DINNER

Military officers, retired and active, of every branch and their spouses are invited to attend the Susquehanna Chapter, Military Officer Association of America dinner 6:15 p.m. at The Bayou Restaurant, 927 Pulaski Highway (Route 40) in Havre de Grace, Thursday, Jan. 17.

The guest speaker, Lt. Col. Joseph McClain a cardiothoracic, trauma and general surgeon who served with the 10th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq, will present "Life in the Green Zone - A Surgeon's Experience in Baghdad, Iraq" and offer unique insights into the current state of military medicine and surgery in the combat theater.

For more information and reservations, contact retired Maj. Brian Lantz at 410-939-0648 or e-mail brianlantz6@comcast.net.

FRIDAY

JAN. 18 FREE THROW CONTEST

Community members are invited to attend the Elks National Free Throw Contest, hosted by FMWR/CYSS in conjunction with APG Youth Sports.

Boys and girls ages 8-13 may participate. Registration starts 5:30 p.m. The contest begins 6 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) Youth Center, Bldg. 2522, Bayside Drive. Age determination date is April 1, 2013.

Local winners advance to district, state, regional and national competition and national champs are enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame. For information, call Jamie Corcoran at 443-824-4382 before 8 p.m. All participants must show proof of age (birth certificate or military ID).

SATURDAY

JAN. 19 ALL ABOUT BEARS

Eden Mill Nature Center will offer hands-All About Bears activity as part of its Saturday Nature Series from 1-2 p.m. for all ages. The fee is \$5 for non-members and \$3 for members. Participants will get to examine a black bear hide and skull and play a game to learn all about this Maryland mammal. To pre-register or for more info, call 410-836-3050 or email edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY

JAN. 23 TOBACCO CESSATION CLASS

Diet & Nutrition While Quitting class set noon to 1 p.m. at the APG-North Recreation Center, Room 105. Free to all APG employees: DoD, contractors, active duty, dependents, and retirees. Contact Ann Laughton at ann.laughton@us.army.mil or 410-278-1774 for info.

TOWN HALL SET

All members of the APG installation are invited to attend the upcoming installation town hall from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the post theater on APG North (Aberdeen).

Attendees on APG South (Edgewood) may join in via a VTC connection in Bldg. 2880 (JPEO CBD - Rooms 101/102).

Come and hear the "Installation Command Message." Learn about upcoming community engagements and get the latest updates from your installation service providers.

A question-and-answer session will be held. Questions may be submitted in advance to patricia.a.beauchamp.civ@mail.mil or by calling 410-278-8759.

The town hall POC is Lisa McClure at lisa.a.mcclure9.civ@mail.mil, 410-278-0003.

FRIDAY

JAN. 25 BASKETS AND BINGO

Participate in the Baskets (Longaberger) and Bingo event at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 201 Mt Royal Ave., in Aberdeen.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Early bird starts at 6:45 and bingo starts at 7.

Tickets are \$12, and \$5 for extras. Tickets are available by calling 410-273-7332 or 410-272-3111. Food and drinks will be available. Bring a canned good and/or non-perishable for bonus prize ticket.

SUNDAY

JAN. 27 GOSPEL TOUR COMING SOON

APG MWR and Army Entertainment presents the 2013 United as ONE Gospel Tour featuring James Fortune, Va Shawn Mitchell, Kierra Sheard and Zacardi Cortez, hosted by Shuckey Duckey. Open to the public. Tickets on sale now at APG North and South recreation centers. For more information visit www.apgmwr.com.

TUESDAY

JAN. 29 MEDAL OF HONOR SPEAKER

The U.S. Army Evaluation Center is hosting a Medal of Honor Recipient Program during which former Marine Corporal Hershel Woodrow Williams will be speaking at the post theater on APG North from 10-11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

JAN 30 TOBACCO CESSATION CLASS

Stress Management Strategies and Staying Quit class set noon to 1 p.m. at the APG-North Recreation Center, Room 105. Free to all APG employees: DoD, contractors, active duty, dependents, and retirees. Contact Ann Laughton at ann.laughton@us.army.mil or 410-278-1774 for info.

THURSDAY

JAN. 31 NATURE STORY TIME

Eden Mill Nature Center is proud to offer Nature Story Time at 11 a.m. All are welcome who enjoy children's literature. Join us for a children's story and craft related to a theme about nature. To pre-register or for more info, call 410-836-3050 or email edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com.

SATURDAY

FEB. 2 GROUNDHOG DAY

Listen to the tale of how groundhogs got their own holiday, courtesy of the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. Make a craft showing off the groundhog's fur and go outside for a shadow activity. This program will be held at 10:30 a.m. to noon for ages 4 to 8 with adult. The cost is \$3 per child; online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY

FEB. 3 ALL PINES ARE NOT ALIKE

Hike around the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center park to discover different varieties of pine trees. Learn how to make pine tea and about its medicinal value while warming up by the pellet stove. This program will be held at 2 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 6 to adult, 6 to 12 with adult. The cost is \$2; online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

TUESDAY

FEB. 5 SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS

American Sign Language lunch-time basic and advanced classes run from Feb. 5 through April 30 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. E3330-31, Room 270 at APG South (Edgewood). Class is free and uses textbook "A B C, A Basic Course in American Sign Language."

For more information or to register, call BethAnn Cameron, 410-436-7175.

TUESDAY

FEB. 12 HARFORD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Experience the joy of starting your favorite vegetable plants from seed using an indoor lighting system in your own home. Gain the essential knowledge needed to properly harden off seedlings for transferring them into your garden. The class is 6:30

- 8:30 p.m. Registration is required. Cost is \$5 per participant.

WEDNESDAYS

THRU FEB. 6 TOBACCO CESSATION:

Start the New Year with a healthy resolution. Lean how to quit tobacco and stay quit during sessions from noon to 1 p.m. at the APG-North Recreation Center, Room 102. Each week a different topic will be discussed, including: tobacco cessation strategies and medication support options, life-style change management, diet and nutrition, stress management and staying quit. Free to APG employees: DoD, contractors, active duty, Family members, and retirees. Contact Ann Laughton at ann.laughton@us.army.mil or 410-278-1774 for info.

SATURDAYS

CRITTER FEEDINGS

Eden Mill Nature Center will be offering feedings on Saturdays through March at 3 p.m. Open to all ages. Join us in the nature center as we feed our critters. Take a turn feeding one of the turtles or a snake. Space is limited to 10 participants so pre-register early by calling 410-836-3050 or emailing edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com. Visit www.edenmill.org for information.

WEEKDAYS

THRU - MARCH 31 WINTER HOURS SET FOR

EQUIPMENT RESOURCE CENTER

Open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Bldg. 2184, 410-278-4124.

THROUGH JANUARY SKI/SNOWBOARD TRIPS

Don't stay inside bored during winter break. Equipment rentals are available through ODR. Participants must be fitted at least one week prior to trip date.

TRIP DATES

■ Jan. 19: Ski Whitetail, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; ages 13-18

■ Jan. 20: Ski Liberty, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; ages 7-12 (older siblings are allowed to accompany)

■ Jan. 21: Blue Mtn, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; ages 7-12 (older siblings are allowed to accompany)

■ Jan. 22: Blue Mtn, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; ages 13-18

■ Jan. 26: Blue Mtn, 7 a.m.-midnight, ages 13-18

LOCATION:

Blue Mountain Ski Resort, Pa. Bus departs Aberdeen Youth Center at 7 a.m., return times vary.

COST/FEE

Lift only: \$35. Lesson and Lift: \$63. 1st Time Ski or Board: \$43 (restricted to Beginner Trail/Lift access only).

ADDITIONAL INFO

Register at the Central Registration Office, Bldg. 2503 Highpoint Road, Rooms 210/211; walk-in registration is from 7:30-10:30 a.m.; or call 410-278-7479/7571 to schedule an appointment.

For information, contact Conor Joyce at conor.j.joyce.naf@mail.mil or 410-278-1399.

MONDAYS

APG THEATER GROUP

The APG Theater Group meets Mondays from 6-7:30 p.m. in the APG North recreation center. If you're an actor, singer, dancer, comedian, musician, or interested in becoming part of the stage crew, come out and join in the fun. To sign up, call 410-278-4011/4907 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

THURSDAYS SOCIAL HOUR

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

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

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

OPEN MIC AND KARAOKE

Open Mic & Karaoke Night is slated monthly on Thursdays at Ruggles Golf Course from 6 - 9 p.m. as follows: Jan. 10, Feb. 21, and March 21.

Kick off the New Year doing what you love. Sing a cover song or bring your guitar and play an original. Admission is free. Enjoy complimen-

tary bar food and a cash bar with beer and wine. For information, visit www.APGMWR.com or call 410-278-4011.

SATURDAYS

JAN. 26, FEB. 23, MARCH 9 SKI TRIPS

Sign up at the Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 2184 for the ski trip to Roundtop Mountain Resort. Full payments are due at sign-up. Cash or check only. Waiver required. Call 410-278-4124 for information.

SATURDAY

APRIL 13 D.C. CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is an annual two-week event that celebrates springtime in Washington, D.C. as well as the 1912 gift of the cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Japan.

Attend one of Washington's most exciting traditions. Cost is \$32 per person and the bus departs Aberdeen at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 7:30 p.m.

The parade runs 10 a.m. - noon, rain or shine. Enjoy this longstanding Washington tradition featuring floats, balloons, marching bands and other family entertainment. Tickets not included.

Space is limited. Reserve your seats today.

ONGOING SHOW YOUR TALENT

Local youth can participate in the 5th Annual Talent Hunt, hosted by the Iota Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

High school performers in classical and contemporary instrumental, classical and contemporary vocal, dramatic interpretation, dance and visual arts compete for first, second and third prizes. The winner will compete in the district competition in Buffalo, N.Y., in May.

For information, visit www.question.org or call Mark Thomas at 443-752-4205 or Anthony Dorsey at 443-528-5122.

COMMUNITY VOICE COMMITTEE

The newly-formed Community Voice Committee needs volunteer members! The CVC meets bi-monthly on the last Monday of the month and is chaired by Col. Gregory McClinton, APG garrison commander. The committee is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all APG residents and employees. If you are a Picerne housing resident or a civilian employee working at APG (both Edgewood and Aberdeen area representatives are needed), and would like to be part of this committee, please contact Karen Dern at karen.a.dern4.civ@mail.mil. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 28.

REPRESENTATION RIGHTS

It is required to annually notify civilian employees who are represented by a union, of their right to union representation at any examination, by a representative of the agency in connection with an investigation, if the employee reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action.

This is called the Weingarten Notice—the Civilian Employee's Rights to Union Representation. In accordance with the requirements of 5 USC 7114(a)(2), this notice constitutes the required notification for 2011. The text of the law is as follows:

An exclusive representative of an appropriate unit in an agency shall be given the opportunity to be represented at:

(B) any examination of an employee in the unit by a representative of the agency in connection with an investigation if –

(i) the employee reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee; and

(ii) the employee requests representation.



**MORE
ONLINE**

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

Driving course mandatory for APG motorists

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

New personnel at Aberdeen Proving Ground are required to take the Local Hazards Course (LHC) within 90 days of arrival.

The 30-minute course is designed to familiarize new motorists with local driving hazards and, according to APG Safety & Occupational Health Specialist H. Mike Allen, help save lives.

He said the area's unique driving hazards include a high deer population, fog and ongoing road construction and detours.

"Knowing this information can only help drivers who are still learning their way around," said Allen, noting a decrease in incidents since the courses began.

The LHC course is mandatory for all APG Soldiers, DoD civilians, Family members and contractors, and any personnel on Temporary Duty (TDY) at APG for 30 days or more. Classes will be held 9 to 10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 4305, room 243A. Course dates are Jan. 16, Feb. 13, March 28, April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug. 29, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17.

IDC for troops

Another safe driving course set for 2013 and administered by the Installation Safety Office is the Intermediate Driver's Course (IDC).

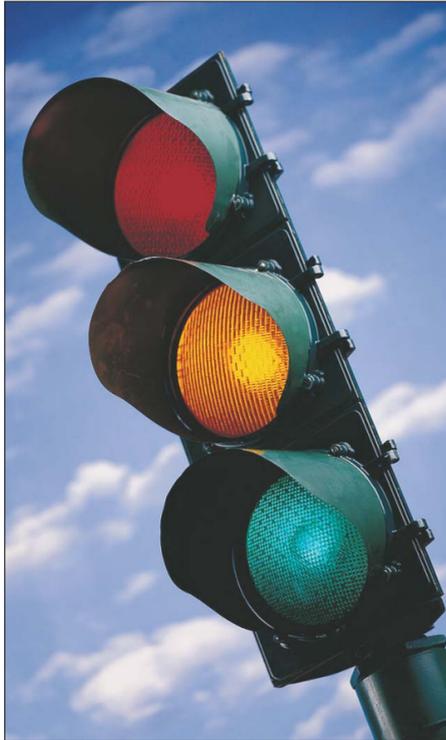
The IDC is a 2.5 hour course that builds on the themes introduced during the "Introductory Course 1" taken during Basic Training or AIT and provides expanded opportunity for class interaction and discussion. This course may be used to satisfy the remedial defensive driving course. The IDC is mandatory for active duty military ages 26-years-old or younger.

Classes will be held 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Bldg. 4305, room 243A. Course dates are Feb. 13, March 28, April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug. 29, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17.

Attendees must register online for both the LHC and IDC courses at AIRS through the APG website <http://www.apg.army.mil/>. Click on the "Safety" icon in the "@APG" box, then click on the AIRS logo in the "Promotion and Safety Bulletins" box or visit <https://apps.imcom.army.mil/airs/>.

"Having this knowledge helps people avoid incidents and potentially save lives," said Allen.

For more information, contact Allen at 410-306-1081 or horace.m.allen.civ@mail.mil.



Courtesy photo

Military OneSource providing free online tax assistance

By **ARMY SGT. 1ST CLASS TYRONE C. MARSHALL JR.**

American Forces Press Service

As tax season nears, Military OneSource and H&R Block have joined forces again to provide a free online tax preparation service for service members.

During an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel, Tony Jackson, a program analyst for the Military OneSource program office, detailed the services available for troops and their families.

“Military OneSource is a gateway to a free tax preparation service, partnered with H&R Block,” he said. “We also have tax consultants who can provide assistance, whether it’s seeking and filling out tax forms or any other tax-related information.”

Jackson emphasized it is a safe and secure way for service members to prepare their taxes online.

“Military OneSource and H&R Block definitely meet industry standards for security for websites,” he said. “Also, encryption software [is used], and there’s also no selling of information, so service members and family members can be assured that their information is secure, and it stays within Military OneSource and H&R Block.”

Jackson noted that two services -- basic and premium -- are provided through H&R Block, with one notable difference. The basic service is free, he said, and the premium service would apply to taxpayers who must file Schedule C returns, generally to



Courtesy photo

report gains or losses from business ownership.

“When you [start] getting into premium, ... you’re going to incur some additional costs, where basic is free,” Jackson said. “But if you have Schedule C tax issues, that’s when you’d go to the premium. Again, the key point there is you do incur additional costs if you have to use the premium.”

For those not sure which service they should use, Jackson encouraged them to use the Military OneSource website as a guide. The site lists answers to frequently asked questions, he added.

“You can always contact Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647,” Jackson said. “We’re open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so any questions you have, you can use the website or the call center at the [toll-free] number.”

Jackson said both methods are

effective in contacting Military OneSource tax consultants offering useful services for troops and their families.

“Not only do they provide forms and basic information relative to military-specific tax issues and questions, they are a gateway to get you to H&R Block,” he said. “If your tax situation warrants, they’ll get you to a volunteer income tax assistance clinic on your local military installation or larger command. It’s one-stop shopping.”

These tax consultants cannot prepare tax forms or direct people to do anything, Jackson said. Everything is on a recommended basis.

All members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps are eligible to use the service, he said, including members of the National Guard and Reserve components, regardless of activation status.

Coast Guard reservists activated under Title 10 authority to serve with

the Navy also are eligible, he added, and so are spouses and other family members enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

“Family members that have been designated to provide support to deployed service members, medically discharged retirees and discharged service members [within] 180 days of their discharge date are eligible for Military OneSource services,” Jackson added.

The key to these services is financial readiness, which is a Defense Department priority, Jackson said.

“We understand that financial readiness is a readiness issue,” he said. “If you have a service [member] who’s concerned about their financial situation then that detracts from the mission.”

Jackson also provided his personal testament to using the free tax preparation program, having served on active duty in the Marine Corps as a personnel officer for more than 20 years. He said his family still uses the service.

“In fact, I have a daughter right now who is currently a military spouse, and she continues to use it as well,” he said.

This program’s ultimate goal, Jackson said, is to ensure service members and their families know that Military OneSource is an option.

“We hope it’s the first option ... for getting your taxes prepared or answering any questions or issues you have with taxes,” he said. “Just know that Military OneSource is there to help you.”

Gospel tour lineup changes

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**

APG News

Grammy nominee and Stellar and Dove Award-winning recording artist Kierra “Kiki” Sheard will join the lineup of artists on the 2013 United As One Gospel Tour coming to APG Jan. 27. Sheard replaces Le’Andria Johnson who is unable to accompany the tour due to other commitments.



Sheard

She joins the must-see ensemble of talent featuring James Fortune & FIYA, VaShawn Mitchell, Zacardi Cortez and host Shuckey Duckey at the APG post theater Jan. 27.

Doors open at 4 p.m.; show begins at 5. This event is open to the public.

Tickets are on sale now and available for purchase at the APG MWR ticket offices in the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326, 410-278-4011; or the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center, Bldg. E4140, 410-436-2713.

All seating is reserved. Advanced tickets with military ID (active duty/retiree/government civilian/government contractor/Family members) is \$20; advanced tickets for non-ID card holders is \$25; day-of-show price is \$25 for all.

There are a limited number of free tickets for active duty military; two tickets per ID. For more information, visit www.apgmwr.com.

Kierra Sheard

Kierra Sheard released her latest CD “Free” on her family label, Karew Records. The daughter of Karen Clark Sheard (of the legendary Clark Sisters) and Bishop J. Drew Sheard of Detroit, Mich., Sheard began her solo career in 2004 with EMI Gospel. Her previous hits include “You Don’t Know,” “Love Like Crazy,” “Praise Him Now,” and “Invisible.”

Standout songs on her latest CD include the first single “Mighty” and “You Are” as well as “Free,” which Sheard says “talks about the mind being a battlefield.”

“My hope for this CD is that it rebrings me as an artist,” she said. “I want people to see from this record that I am a servant of the kingdom and I want it to bless and change lives.”

Read more about Sheard at <http://kierrasheard.emigospel.com>.

Newcomers’ orientation set Jan. 23

Staff report

The relocation process can be filled with challenges, but careful planning and enhanced delivery of information can make the difference between a difficult and a smooth move.

The next APG Newcomers’ Orientation will be held 1 to 3 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326, Wednesday, Jan. 23. The orientation is designed for all inbound military personnel, their Family members, and civilian and contract employees new to APG.

Nancy Goucher of Army Community Service said the quarterly event is a valuable opportunity for newly personnel and Family members to meet the garrison commander and receive information about installation and community services.

“Newcomer orientations provides everyone with the opportunity to acclimate themselves with the recreational, business, educational, religious, housing and other services on and around APG,” said Goucher, “and it is a great way to find the

“The goal of the orientation is to provide useful information about living in this region of the United States while having fun and staying safe.”

Nancy Goucher

Army Community Service

resources to make the APG community a place to call home.”

About 65 representatives from post and community organizations will be on hand to welcome attendees with displays featuring their services and activities, she said. Newcomers are invited to visit the displays and then take in the formal presentation, which includes the Welcome to APG video and remarks from the garrison commander or a designated representative.

Goucher said the video explains the various missions of APG’s 90-plus tenant organizations.

“The main goal of the orienta-

tion is to provide useful information about living in this region of the United States while having fun and staying safe,” Goucher added. Attendees can also register for door prizes and win gifts from vendors.

“Whether you’re returning to Aberdeen Proving Ground or arriving for the first time, you should attend the orientation to learn more about your new home.”

Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel. Civilian supervisors are strongly encouraged to allow their personnel time to attend.

For more information, visit apgmwr.com.

Folic acid—essential for a healthy baby

By **LT. COL. SANDRA KEELIN**

U. S. Army Public Health Command

One of the most important things you can do to help prevent serious birth defects in your baby is to get enough folic acid every day.

The U.S. Public Health Service and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that all women of childbearing age consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily to prevent birth defects.

Folate (folic acid) is a B-vitamin needed for cell division and blood cells. It is also known to help prevent neural tube birth defects that affect 3,000 pregnancies a year in the United States. Folic acid is essential for the development of the neural tube that encloses the spinal cord. When the neural tube fails to close properly, infants suffer disabilities such as paralysis of the lower body and learning disabilities or are still-born.

The baby’s neural tube is formed in the first month of pregnancy – before a woman knows she is pregnant! Taking folic acid before and during pregnancy reduces the risk of common and serious NTDs by 50-70 percent. In fact, since 50 percent of pregnancies are unplanned, all women of child-bearing age, even if not planning to become pregnant, should consume folic acid every day, even between pregnancies.

Unfortunately, only one-third of U.S. women between the ages of 15 and 45 consume the recommended amount from their diet. There

Healthy Living

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

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



are three ways that women can get enough folic acid:

- Take a vitamin supplement. The easiest way a woman can get the recommended daily amount of folic acid is to take a multivitamin daily. Most multivitamins sold in the United States have the recommended 400 mcg of folic acid.

- Eat a fortified breakfast cereal daily. Read the nutrition facts panel on the cereal box to ensure it is fortified with 100 percent of the daily value of folic acid. In addition, consume grains, pastas and breads that are enriched with folic acid. Since the introduction of fortification of breads, cereals and flour in 1998, the CDC reported a 36 percent reduction

in neural tube defects.

- Eat foods super-rich in folate every day. Plant foods such as beans, legumes, dark leafy vegetables (spinach, romaine lettuce, asparagus, kale, broccoli, mustard greens) and citrus fruits are naturally rich in folate. Keep in mind that folic acid is water soluble and can be destroyed in cooking. Cook vegetables in as little water and as quickly as possible. In addition, read the labels on citrus juices to ensure they are fortified with extra folic acid.

For more information on folic acid, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women’s Health, www.women-health.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/folic-acid.cfm

Community urged to take flu seriously

Continued from Page 1

ed that the vaccine is being offered at several area locations, including Target, Walgreens, and CVS and Rite Aid pharmacies. Townsend recommended that patients call to confirm the vaccine is in stock before visiting the pharmacies.

According to a Harford County Health Department news release, early indications are that this season has been worse than the past two seasons. HCHD officials urge community members to take the flu seriously and attempt to get vaccinated in a timely manner.

"It's critical to our community's best public health interests that everyone understands the unpredictable nature of influenza," said Harford County Health Officer Susan Kelly. "There's no way of anticipating with any certainty how serious an impact seasonal flu will have in the coming months. However, we do know that the more people who receive the vaccine, the less likely it is that influenza illness will spread in the coming months."

She said the vaccine is proven, effective, and is a good match with current influenza strains. Flu vaccinations also are available through the Health Department, primary care providers and pharmacies.

For people who do not get vaccinated, the risks are twofold, according to the news release. First, they put themselves at risk for the flu, including a potentially long and serious illness. Second, if they do get sick, they also put their close contacts at immediate risk for influenza.

Flu can be especially serious for babies, young children, pregnant women, persons with certain chronic medical conditions, and seniors, who are at high risk of flu-related complications or death.

Prevention

Kelly also urges community members to continue practicing basic flu protection and prevention measures, including:

- frequent hand-washing, especially after coughing or sneezing
- covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- discarding tissues immediately after use
- avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- staying home and limiting contact with others if you are sick with flu-like symptoms
- avoiding close contact with sick people

Symptoms

Influenza illness is generally characterized by the abrupt onset of signs and symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle pain, nonproductive cough, sore throat, nasal inflammation and congestion and a general sense of feeling sick.

Among children, ear inflammation, nausea, and vomiting also are



The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccination each year.

Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough then put used tissue in the waste basket. If a tissue is not available, sneeze or cough into elbow, not your hand.

Courtesy photo

commonly reported with influenza illness. Uncomplicated influenza illness typically goes away after three to seven days for the majority of persons, although cough and general weakness can persist for two weeks or longer.

Complications

Complications are common in individuals with health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and lung problems, but may occur with anyone who has the flu. If the ill person develops any of the following symptoms, call your healthcare provider.

- Difficulty breathing, fast breathing, or bluish color to the skin or lips
- Coughing up blood
- Signs of dehydration and cannot take enough liquids
- Difficulty responding or communicating appropriately or appears confused
- Convulsions (seizures)
- Gets worse after appearing to improve
- Is an infant younger than 2 months old with fever, poor feeding, urinating less than 3 times per day or other signs of illness

Health information products (brochures, posters, etc.) on influenza are available online in the USAPHC Health Information Products eCatalog.

More information on seasonal influenza is available on the Harford County Health Department website, at www.harfordcountyhealth.com, or by calling 410-612-1781. Comprehensive flu information also is available by visiting or the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene website at <http://ideha.dhmh.maryland.gov/influenza/SitePages/Home.aspx> and the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>.

Seasonal flu facts

■ The flu is an illness caused by influenza viruses. Because the flu is a viral infection, antibiotics are not an effective form of treatment. Antibiotics are, however, useful in treating secondary bacterial infections that can result from or occur with the flu.

■ Every year in the U.S., 5 percent to 20 percent of the population gets the flu and about 36,000 people die as a result of flu-related causes.

■ The flu season in the U.S. usually occurs during the winter months; however, cases can occur throughout the year.

What to expect

Most people who get the flu will recover in a few days to less than two weeks. Common flu symptoms include:

- Fever (usually high)
- Headache
- Extreme tiredness
- Dry cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle aches
- Stomach symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea also can occur but are more common in children than adults

Spreading seasonal flu

■ The flu is primarily spread from person to person through sneezing and coughing.

■ It is possible for people to catch the flu by touching objects (telephones, eating utensils, doorknobs, etc.) contaminated with flu viruses and then touching their nose or mouth.

■ It is possible to spread the flu to others up to one day before developing symptoms and up to five days after becoming sick.

**Visit APG News online at
www.apgnews.apg.army.mil**

Fatal accidents down in first quarter, sustaining trend from previous years

By **JULIE SHELLEY**

Strategic Communication Directorate

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center recently released accident statistics for the first quarter of fiscal 2013, and the data show a continued overall decline in both on- and off-duty accidental deaths.

Fiscal 2012 was the Army's safest year since Sept. 11, 2001, and the third-safest year on record. Fatal accidents have remained steady or declined every year since fiscal 2007.

"Our leaders and Soldiers are continuing to do a remarkable job regarding safety," said Brig. Gen. Timothy

J. Edens, director of Army Safety and commanding general, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. "This downward trend in accidental fatalities is one of the longest that's ever been sustained in our Army, and it's never been done during ongoing combat operations.

"As our non-deployed population increases with the drawdown in combat deployments, engaged peers and leaders at all levels will be more vitally important than ever."

Off duty, accidental deaths remained stable with last year's first quarter figures. Fatal PMV-4 acci-

dents were down slightly, as were on-duty fatalities resulting from accidents. Aviation saw the largest decrease, with no accidental fatalities recorded during the quarter. Five Soldiers died in aviation accidents during the first quarter of fiscal 2012.

Combined, fatal accidents were down 17 percent at quarter's end from the same time frame in fiscal 2012.

Although the Army is poised to repeat this success during the second quarter, USACR/Safety Center Command Sgt. Maj. Richard D. Stidley urged all leaders, especially junior NCOs, to stay on top of what their

Soldiers are doing.

"We're coming into that time of year where Soldiers will be eager to get on the road, whether in their cars or on their motorcycles," Stidley said. "First-line leaders will have the most influence in making sure their troops are ready, which is especially important for Soldiers who might need a reintroduction to safe riding after the lull of winter."

(The Army Safe Spring Campaign, an annual effort designed to raise awareness of driving hazards and other seasonal safety issues, will be released Feb. 28 at <https://safety.army.mil>.)

Submit issues to CVC before Jan. 28

Continued from Page 1

She also said Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton or Command Sgt. Maj. James Ervin will chair each meeting, currently being held on APG North.

The meetings will feature round table discussions, and each representative will have a chance to contribute to the conversation.

"Reps will be encouraged to share information from meetings with their peers, and solicit feedback," Dern said.

Representatives are also encouraged to submit discussion topics and issues in advance.

"Submitting a question in advance gives us time to research the answer, or bring in a representative who can answer the question," Community Relations Officer Terri Kaltenbacher said.

Questions raised during the CVC will be followed up by e-mail, and addressed at the next CVC meeting.

Dern described the CVC as

less-briefing centered, and more people-centered.

"This is that one-on-one conversation, where people sit around the table with the commander and hash out issues, offer suggestions for change, and make real-time differences," explained Dern. "There is no audience. It's a more intimate setting."

Dern said APG community members can always provide feedback—negative and positive—by using the

Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system on the APG website, www.apg.army.mil.

The next CVC meeting will take place Jan. 28 at the garrison headquarters building. Anyone who would like to serve as a rep or submit issues should contact Dern at 410-278-0001 or karen.a.dern4.civ@mail.mil. Senior enlisted Soldiers should contact Ervin at 410-278-1509 or james.e.ervin@mail.mil.

Pick a Toastmaster time that's right for you

Continued from Page 1

Toastmasters Club's Vice President of Education, said that members hone their public speaking skills by working from the Competent Communication manual, a series of 10 self-paced speaking assignments designed to teach public speaking survival skills.

In addition to prepared speeches, members participate in Table Topics, in which they respond to an impromptu question or topic.

Members also work on leadership skills from the Competent Leadership manual, featuring 10 projects, which are completed by serving in various club meeting roles.

I2WD employee Nicholas Deplitch said before joining last year, he was terrified to speak in public, stuttering over every other word and uttering "um" and "ah" at every pause, and freezing up when he had to think on his feet.

"The environment is always positive, welcoming, and supportive," Deplitch said. "Everyone is struggling with similar obstacles. We are there to help each other succeed. (Being involved with Toastmasters) is easily one of the best decisions I've made in my life and wish I had found it much earlier."

I2WD employee Oscar Zalamia credits his career advancement to Toastmasters. Zalamia, a former self-described wallflower, decided to join Toastmasters in 1997 after a poorly received work presentation.

"Most engineers are not trained in public speaking. That tends to slow them down and limit their career possibilities," he said. "Having good communication and leadership skills increases your worth and your market value. You may be brilliant and knowledgeable but if you don't speak

well, people will not discover you."

Zalamia said he found the confidence to take on leadership roles at work and enjoys public speaking so much that he regularly delivers keynote speeches at Toastmasters meetings throughout the region.

U.S. Army Public Health Command employee Rose Overturf agreed that participating in Toastmasters has improved her career.

"I have more confidence when I am teaching and briefing our commander," Overturf said. "I am able to deliver speeches in a manner that is clear and concise."

Overturf added that her listening skills have also improved, because members are encouraged to give constructive feedback after every presentation.

Meetings

The Fort Monmouth Toastmasters

Club meets every first, and third Tuesdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the APG North recreation center. For more information, call 443-395-1970 or 410-306-0827.

The *Susquehanna Toastmasters* Club meets every second and fourth Tuesday from 11:45 to 12:45 at the APG North recreation center. For more information, call 443-861-0092.

The *Gunpowder Toastmasters* Club meets in the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility (CDTF), Bldg. E4516, in the seminar room on the first and third Mondays of each month from 11:40 AM to 12:40 p.m. For more information call 410-436-5453.

The Gunpowder Toastmasters Club will conduct a membership drive Feb. 4 and March 4. During these meetings, members will talk about how Toastmasters has improved their professional and personal lives.

Former interns play key roles, impact DoD

Continued from Page 1

was the ability to go through the program as group and tie what we were learning at Monmouth University to real Army projects," Kreidler said. "Almost everyone in the class stays in contact. Even though a year or two may pass, we always get together."

"It's great being able to see old college friends in the halls," said Greg Tipperreiter, an intern. "A few of us still have lunch together on a regular basis."

All 23 interns attended classes as a group, often tying class work to Army initiatives. The final Software Engineering Practicum was a two semester course with a major emphasis on hands-on, team-oriented large software development projects tied to current Software Engineer-

ing Center (SEC) initiatives. The intern class graduated in August 1999.

With over 15 years of experience, the group members had a firsthand glimpse at some of C4ISR's largest projects. Many have seen fresh technologies emerge in the Department of Defense (DoD) and industry.

"The work we are doing today is similar to what we did as interns," said Tipperreiter, Communications-Electronics Research and Engineering Center/Software Engineering Directorate Battle Command Solutions division chief. "The types of projects and development concepts are the same but the technologies we use to implement them are so much better. They allow us

to develop much better systems than we could have 15 years ago."

Many of the interns, like Charlie Pham, play key roles in initiatives they would never have dreamed of supporting 15 years ago.

"As a project lead of a program that provides software upgrade/support worldwide, I am able to manage, monitor and control a \$10 million-plus budget program with more than 65 supporting contractor personnel, and a project schedule that consists of more than 700 task items," Pham said. "That is what I would never have even dreamed of being able to do while I was in the intern program."

While 15 years have passed, many members of the group

will surely impact the Department of Defense's future.

"I believe the C4ISR community certainly reaped the benefit of this program, given there was an 80 percent retention rate," Kreidler said. "Many of my fellow interns are in supervisory/leadership positions. Many continue to mentor the younger folks coming into the government passing on the software engineering practices we learned as a group. It was a model that worked."

The SEC Intern class comprised of the following personnel:

Front Row:

Albert Chan,
Michael Dang
Nancy Kreidler
Alan Lee

Ken Lorentzen
David Mason
Charlie Pham

Second Row:

Carmelo Sanchez III
Allyson Schlenger
Paul Shroder
Farhat Shah
Zhi Shen
Dan Stroka
Gregory Tipperreiter

Third Row:

Michael Breslin
Leo Tran
Susan Tran
Linh Trieu-Pham
Tony Walker
Jim Whyte
Stephen Pinizzotto

Not Pictured:

John Eccles
Saeed Sofla

Meet **Zach Van Cleave**, MWR's hunting facility and program manager and recreation assistant with the Community Recreation Division's Outdoor Recreation (ODR) program.

Van Cleave is responsible for the APG hunting program and hunting management facility. The hunting program works together with several organizations on post to assist in the control of the deer population while providing recreational opportunities for APG customers and their guests. The hunting staff provides and manages the necessary documentation needed for hunters to safely and legally participate in the program.

Van Cleave also assists in organizing ODR classes and trips. He noted



Zach Van Cleave MWR hunting facility and program manager; recreation assistant, Community Recreation Division's Outdoor Recreation (ODR)

the spring wild turkey season beginning in April, and ODR ski and rock climbing trips in February. Other ODR facilities and services include the Spesutie Island and Gunpow-

der Neck marinas; the Swan Creek and Gunpowder River boat launches; Shore Park, Skipper's Point and Woodpecker Point picnic areas; RV/ Boat Storage Lots; fishing; Archery

range; Skeet & Trap Range; Horse Stables and Vehicle Resale Lot.

Van Cleave said the best part of his job is watching parents and grandparents introduce their children and grandchildren to the outdoors.

"It's rewarding seeing a child going hunting, participating in an archery class or learning how to ski for the first time," he said.

Van Cleave is located in the MWR Outdoor Recreation Division, Bldg. 2184 on APG North (Aberdeen), Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For hunting information, contact Van Cleave at 410-278-4843; or Zachary.r.vanleave2.naf@mail.mil. For information on ODR programs and facilities, call 410-278-4124 or visit www.apgmwr.com.

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/>.



TINY TIGERS

(From left) Decklan Burbey, 5, and Jack Munley, 5, practice sparring as instructor Sean Williams of Unity TaeKwonDo School of Martial Arts watches during a Tiny Tigers class at the Bowling Center Jan. 14. Tiny Tigers, offered through CYSS' SKIES Unlimited Program, is an age-appropriate version of taekwondo that helps direct energy into confidence and character building. Students, ages 3-6, learn traditional techniques such as blocking, punching and kicking. For more information, contact Lauren Kateley at lauren.e.kateley.naf@mail.mil or 410-278-4589.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

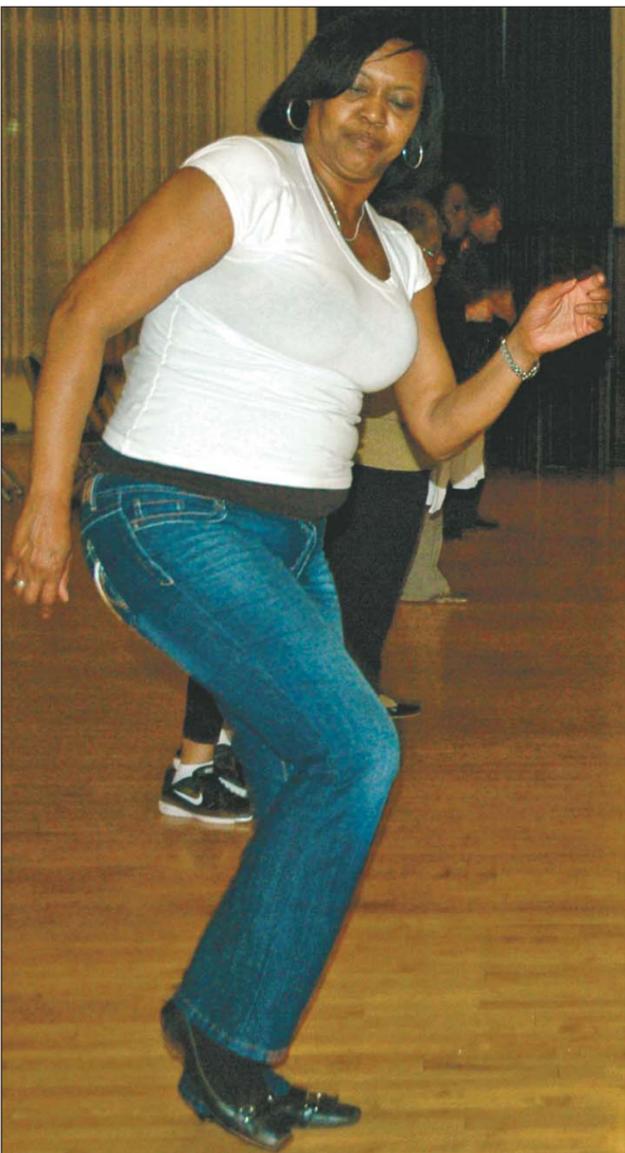


Photo by Rachel Ponder

PUT ON YOUR LINE DANCING SHOES

Tyce Bell of ACC-APG learns to urban line dance at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Jan. 9. The class, taught by Shirley Duncan of Charm City Dancers, is held on Wednesdays from 6 – 7 p.m. The cost is \$10 per class; walk-ins are welcome. For information, call 410-278-4011/4907.



COMMITMENT TO FITNESS

(From left) Despite the rainy weather, Aberdeen Test Center employees Ho Park and Katie Wilson walk around the Plum Point Loop fitness path during their lunch break Jan. 14. Park, Wilson and other ATC employees started walking together last fall. "It's easier to get out here if you have a walking buddy," Park said.

Photo by Rachel Ponder

A COURTSIDE MOMENT

(From left) Andre Osborne, Josiah LeGree, and Keshawn Sloan, also known as "the future Dwayne Wade, Ray Allen, and LeBron James" ham it up during a break in action at their basketball game at the APG North (Aberdeen) youth center. Youth basketball season got underway Jan. 5 and runs through Feb. 23. According to Bill Kegley, CYSS youth sports director, spring sports registration is Feb. 4-28 for flag football, softball, baseball, t-ball, cheerleading and Start Smart basketball. For more information, visit the Central Registration Office in Bldg. 2503 Highpoint Road, or call 410-278-7479/7571.

Courtesy photo

