



APG NEWS

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Fair draws more than 600 job seekers

Story and photo by **ALAN FEILER**
APG News

More than 625 people from all over the region attended the APG Job Fair & Expo March 26 at the APG (North) recreation center. The event was open to all job seekers, active duty military personnel, retired service members and spouses.

The three-hour fair was presented by the Army Community Service Employment Readiness program, the APG Military Personnel Office/Directorate of Human Resources, the Maryland Department of Labor Licensing & Regulation, local veteran service organizations, and the Susquehanna Workforce Network.

More than 75 vendors represented at the gathering ranged from Lockheed Martin and SURVICE Engineering Co. to Herr's Snacks, Towson University and Plastipak Packaging Inc.

Deputy Garrison Commander Glenn A. Wait said he was quite pleased with the fair's turnout. "Team APG knows that job fairs are an investment in one's future," he said. "This job fair provided a 'one-stop shop' for our Veterans, Army Civilians, Family Members and even our community partners to meet employers looking to grow their teams.

"Face-to-face contact with prospective employers is crucial in today's competitive job market," Wait said. "A job seeker may send

See **JOB FAIR**, page 12



Photo by Deborah Ince

MOMC kicks off with parade, proclamation

Col. Gregory McClinton, APG Garrison commander, left, holds the Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation for James Sylvester to sign as classmates (from right) Justin Eng, Isabelle Jester and Keegan Passwater look on. Children in the Child, Youth and School Services' Strong Beginnings Pre-kindergarten Program presented the proclamation to McClinton after he joined them in a parade outside the APG North (Aberdeen) Child Development Center. The proclamation signing kicked off April's Month of the Military Child events.

Preventing child abuse

Army Family Advocacy Program making child abuse prevention top agenda in April

By **ROBERT DOZIER**
FMWRC

The Army's Family Advocacy Program is making child abuse prevention the top agenda item for its service providers at Garrisons and installations during April.

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command is taking this opportunity to remind leaders, Soldiers and the Army community of the great work being done

locally to preserve the health and well-being of our most valuable and vulnerable family members.

The theme of this year's campaign is "Children's safety comes first -- be ready to end child abuse." IMCOM encourages each garrison to take the time in April to tell people about their local Family Advocacy Program, the class schedule, materials available and how to access

counseling services.

"The president of the United States is calling on all of us -- military and civilian, parents and non-parents -- to unite in a common goal: to end the abuse of children," said Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter, IMCOM commander. "I stand with the president and call upon you to make a

See **FAMILY** page 12

Army tightens personal appearance, tattoo policy

By **DAVID VERGUN**
ARNEWS

The number, size and placement of tattoos have been dialed back under revised Army Regulation 670-1, which governs the Army's grooming standards and proper wear of the uniform.

The revised regulation was published March 31, along with Department of the Army Pamphlet 670-1, outlining the new standards. Effective dates for the various changes can also be found in All Army Activity message, or ALARACT 082-2014.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III addressed why the changes were made.

"The Army is a profession, and one of the ways our leaders and the American public measure our professionalism is by our appearance," he said.

"Wearing of the uniform, as well as our overall military appearance, should be a matter of personal pride for all Soldiers.

See **REVISED**, page 14

A Soldier displays his tattoos March 31, 2014, the day new regulations on tattoos and other appearance standards went into effect. This Soldier's tattoos no longer conform to the new regulations. However, he could be grandfathered in under the older uniform regulations. The number, size and placement of tattoos have been dialed back under revised Army Regulation 670-1, which governs the Army's grooming standards and proper wear of the uniform

Photo by Staff Sgt. Xaime Hernandez



FWP hosts Women's History Month observance, training



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

More than 200 members from the APG community attended the 24th annual Women's History Month observance and training program March 31 at the Mallette Training Facility.

The Federal Women's Program (FWP) The Deputy Chief of the U.S. Army Reserve, Maj. Gen. Marcia M. Anderson talks about gender equality during the 24th annual Women's History Month observance and training program hosted by the Federal Women's Program March 31 in the Mallette Training Facility.

hosts the annual event which promotes the advancement of federally employed women in the workplace. This year's National Women's History Month theme was "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment."

Maria Esparraguera, chief counsel and a Senior Executive with the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command opened the program remarking that she admired Lt. Gen. Flora Darpino, who became the first woman to serve as the Judge Advocate General on Sept. 4, 2013. Darpino leads nearly 2,000 judge advocates and civilian

attorneys who provide legal services to the Army. Esparraguera challenged attendees to never stop learning.

"Thank you for wanting to learn, grow and change," she said.

Maj. Gen. Marcia M. Anderson Deputy Chief of the U.S. Army Reserve was the program's guest speaker. On Oct. 1, 2011, Anderson made history by becoming the first African-American woman to achieve the rank of major general in the Army.

Anderson said she benefited from the

See **FWP** page 12

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flickr.com/photos/usagapp/



INDEX

Pg 2 Street Talk
Pg 5 At your service
Pg 8 Mark Your Calendar
Pg 9 Crossword
Pg 10.....APG News history
Pg 12.....Did you know?



ICE system
http://ice.disa.mil/
Facebook, http://on.fb.me/HzQlow

IN THIS ISSUE



"Army Brat" Shaquille O'Neal

Page 7



Army looks to increase food safety

Page 11

WEATHER

Thursday

PM Showers
chance of rain 40%



57° | 46°

More inside

Gold Star Wives Day **PAGE 3**

Futures 11 **PAGE 5**

Retiree calls NCAA games **PAGE 7**

Contracting cutoff dates for Fiscal Year 2014 **PAGE 14**

STREET TALK

Which team are you rooting for during March Madness?

I am supporting a local team, the Women Maryland Terps. It's exciting, the first time they have been in the Final Four since 2006.



Col. Cynthia Palinski
CECOM LRC

Because I used to live in Connecticut, I am rooting for UConn (University of Connecticut) for the men's and women's teams. Both teams are very good and always in the playoffs.



Gail Yourse
CECOM

I am originally from Ohio, so I was rooting for Ohio State. Now that they are out, I think the Florida Gators will win because they are the country's top-ranked team.



Master Sgt. Ryan Cole
20th CBRNE Command

I am glued to the TV during March Madness. I like all the teams. I think it will come down to who wants it the most. If I had to pick one, I would choose Florida because I am originally from the South.



Marietta Mathews
ATC

I want the Wisconsin Badgers to win. They are not your traditional team, because they utilize everyone. Plus they haven't been in the Final Four since 2000. They are considered a Cinderella team.



Sgt. 1st Class Mike Abucejo
U.S. Army Reserve

OPINION

Life's mysteries continue to confound

By **ALAN FEILER**
APG News

Every day when I drive up to APG from the Northwest Baltimore suburbs, I find myself mesmerized by all the activities going on around me, particularly around I-95 North. The further you get from the Baltimore metropolitan area, the landscapes becomes less densely populated and congested. You start to see trees and farmlands beyond exit ramp areas that are brimming with fast food chains and gas stations.



Then there's the commercial sprawl of shopping centers, housing developments and business complexes, as well as ongoing construction projects and pockets of road work.

Almost every day I drive by an overpass just past a bend in the road to notice what appears to be a little church in a clearing. It doesn't look big enough to be a real house of worship and it's too big to be a dollhouse, but there it is. Behind it, inexplicably, is a trailer with some kind of funky signage for a tattoo parlor.

After my first few visits to APG, I asked some of my co-workers about the mysterious church/tattoo parlor. They had no idea what I was blathering about. Being the curious type, I considered looking it up somehow, or maybe even trying to figure out how to get over there, just to see what it was.

But then, I decided to let it go. Some things in this life, I decided, are destined to simply remain a mystery.

For the past month, we've been engaged in a national obsession of sorts about Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which according to authorities appears to have crashed into the Indian Ocean, for reasons we still do not really know. At first, when I heard people discussing this topic a great deal, I thought it was because Americans are a particularly compassionate, caring people. I still believe that, but I think our interest in this story goes beyond that.

After all, people die every day under tragic circumstances, and most folks read the news and move on. That's the rapid-fire world we live in, especially now with our 24/7 news saturation culture.

But I now think our interest stems not from anything prurient or nefarious, but from our inability to accept that things go on in this world that are beyond our rationale or understanding. That's largely due to having everything at our fingertips in this Information Age. If we want to find out what Neil Young's middle name is (Percival) or when the Crimean War was fought (1853-

1856), the answer is just a keystroke or two away.

The idea that an airplane carrying 239 souls could simply vanish, despite all of the radar equipment, GPS's and other sophisticated technology and gizmos at our disposal is just beyond our scope. Perhaps what got in our way during this period was our own hubris. With all of our knowledge and modern-day advances, we still have to accept that things will happen in this life that we'll never completely comprehend. Even horrible, tragic events like this one, though I pray that we do eventually learn what happened.

More than four centuries ago, Shakespeare wrote, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

Those words remain true and unalterable. Life will always be somewhat of a mysterious, unfathomable journey, no matter how far we've come and gone. That doesn't mean we should throw up our hands and stop trying to probe the depths of our intellectual, spiritual, scientific and creative universes. But we should also accept that not everything, tragic or joyous, is knowable or within our grasp.

And maybe that's the way it's supposed to be.

On a vastly different note, I want to express what an honor and joy it's been for me to serve over the past three months as acting assistant editor of the APG News.

Shortly after meeting Yvonne Johnson, I immediately knew I was temporarily stepping into major-league shoes, while she was away on a medical leave of absence. Yvonne knows almost everyone on post, and they speak of her with great respect, affection and appreciation. And deservedly so.

It's also been an honor to work closely with my colleagues at the APG News and in the Garrison Public Affairs Office. I've never worked with a friendlier, more hospitable and caring group of professionals. I've been highly impressed with their commitment to APG and its mission, as well as to the craft and mission of community journalism.

I also want to thank the Baltimore Sun Media Group for presenting me with the opportunity of working at APG as well as the good folks at the Garrison for giving me the privilege of working in such a professional and gracious environment.

A few weeks ago, I was chatting with a friend who asked me how I liked working at APG. My response, unintentionally, was, "Oh, it's been a real blast." He smirked and responded, "Nice pun, funny guy."

But that's exactly what it's been. A real blast. And I thank you.

Weekly Activities for Month of the Military Child

APG North (Aberdeen) youth center

Friday, April 4: Purple Up (Wear purple every Friday!)
Monday, April 7: Poetry Monday
Tuesday, April 8: Draw a picture of a bird/Western Day
Wednesday, April 9: Rock Star Day

APG South (Edgewood) youth center

Thursday, April 3: 4H meeting, 7:30 a.m.
Friday, April 4: Complete Arbor Day posters
Monday, April 7: Cooking 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 8: Health Rocks, 7:30 a.m.
Wednesday, April 9: Rolling Reader, 4:30 p.m.

APG North (Aberdeen) CDC

Thursday, April 3: Crazy Dress Up Day
Friday, April 4: Pajama Day

Monday, April 7: Emergency vehicle display
Tuesday, April 8: Grandparents Day
Wednesday, April 9: Parent breakfast

APG South (Edgewood) Child Development Center

Thursday, April 3: Pajama Day
Friday, April 4: Stuffed animal parade
Monday, April 7: Army Truck Day
Tuesday, April 8: Crazy Hair Day
Wednesday, April 9: Red Day

Bayside CDC

Thursday, April 3: Decorate sugar cookies with parents
Monday, April 7: Crazy Hair Day
Tuesday, April 8: Sunglasses Day
Wednesday, April 9: Camouflage Day

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.

Gregory, Lisa
Kennedy, Sandra
Lamar-Reeve, Kellie
Nunley, Dana
Solomon, Je'Neane
Rogers, Christopher
Williams, Demetria
Clark, Lyra
Urban, Brenda
Cwiertnie, Victoria L
Armstead, Richard
Martino, Rose
Birch, Garfield
Crawford, Curtis
Gaddis, Lonnie

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Winne, Janeen
McClintick, Jill
Smith, Deborah
Rodriguez, Pedro
Blethen, Matthew
Malczewski, Stephen
Robinson, Lisa
Stewart, Kathleen
Chang, Jennifer
Little, Angela
Bruner, Stephen
Eberhardt, Joanne
Fike, Curtis
Doran, Kemi
Lowry, Teresa
Rushworth, Robert
Torrise, Carmen
Young, Trier
Sherrod, Irving
Bailey, Sharon
Hoffman, William
Sweeney, Joseph
Blethen, Lena
Cobb, Joyce
Arty, Jennifer
Robinson, Jennifer
Sumic, Angie
Evans, Doretha
Small, Errol
Trulli, Wayne

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



57° | 46°

Fri



55° | 49°

Sat



60° | 39°

Sun



58° | 42°

Mon



51° | 44°

Tue



58° | 41°

Wed



55° | 37°

APG NEWS

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

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Greater awareness for “Gold Star” wives

By **WILLIAM BRADNER**
IMCOM

“It’s heartbreaking to think of someone asking ‘what a beautiful pin, where can I get one?’” said Gold Star Wife Donna Engeman.

“We need to ensure the nation—the world—recognizes what that pin really signifies,” she continued.

April 5, 2014, has been designated by Congress as “Gold Star Wives Day.” The intent is to publically recognize the sacrifices made by our service members in support of our nation.

Though the official designation of the Gold Star Wives Day is relatively new, the gold star has officially been recognized as a symbol of loss since 1918.

Throughout World War I, families would hang blue service stars in their windows to indicate that their loved ones were serving in the war effort. By 1918, it became common practice to pin a gold star over the blue star to indicate that their service member had died. President Wilson also authorized mothers to wear a gold star on the traditional black mourning band to signify their loss was war-related in 1918.

During World War II, service flags and what they represented were standardized and codified by Congress. In April of 1945, a non-profit group calling themselves “Gold Star Wives of America” filed incorporation paperwork signed by Eleanor Roosevelt. Less than two years later Congress approved the design, manufacture and distribution of the Gold Star Label Pin to be presented to surviving family members of those who died in that conflict.

Though service flags and Gold Star pins



(Top) DoD graphic



(Left) Gold Star lapel pins are presented to and worn by surviving spouses, parents and immediate Family members of United States Armed Forces members who were killed in combat operations. The Gold Star pin is a gold star on a purple circular background. The Next-of-Kin lapel pins are presented to and worn by immediate Family members of United States Armed Forces members who die while serving outside of combat operations. The Next-of-Kin pin is a gold star on a gold background. (From www.armymwr.com/goldstar.aspx)

fell out of favor in the sixties, in 1973 the Army approved a lapel pin to be worn by those who lost their lives while serving on active duty but not in combat operations.

The rise of patriotism and pride in service after Sept. 11, 2001 brought about a resurgence of the use of both the blue and gold stars in flags, bumper and window stickers and lapel pins.

But it’s not enough, said Engeman, who manages the Survivor Outreach Services program for the Army.

During World War II, more than 16 million people served in the war effort overseas, and most of the country supported the war effort through rationing, victory gardens, war bonds, and other public displays of support.

Only 2.5 million service members have deployed during the war on terror; less than 1 percent of the American population. While service flags can be readily found in windows in the residential areas on military installations, it’s rare to see them in

mainstream America.

To help raise awareness, the Army has produced a series of public service announcements describing the significance of Gold Star pins. The PSAs will be released over the course of the year, to expand awareness efforts beyond a single day proclaimed by Congress.

The Army, recognizing that families who have paid the ultimate sacrifice deserve our respect, gratitude and the very best we can provide, created Survivor Outreach Services to provide long-term support services and family case management for surviving families. A program in the G9, Family and MWR Services Directorate of the Installation Management Command, SOS is integral to the Army’s support system and casualty notification office.

“Our support service coordinators and financial counselors are dedicated to helping survivors from all eras understand—and apply for—the benefits they’re entitled to” said Hal Snyder, chief of IMCOM’s Wounded and Fallen Support Services Office. “We also help them stay connected to the Army family for as long as they desire.”

SOS currently supports more than 55,900 surviving military family members, and is spearheading the effort to raise awareness through the PSAs.

“We’re committed to our survivors,” said Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter, IMCOM commander. “So educating the public on the meaning behind the gold star pins is simply another way to reaffirm that we honor and understand the sacrifices they’ve made for our country.”

To learn more, visit www.GoldStarPins.org.

Small business conference empowers women

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

Industry professionals shared advice and the special skills and knowledge associated with entrepreneurship during the Strategic Conference for Women Small Business Owners at Top of the Bay March 31.

The Employment Readiness Program of Army Community Service hosted the event, one of the final programs marking Women’s History Month, which drew more than 50 attendees.

Topics including the “5 Drivers Formula to Starting a Small Business,” “Contracting with the Federal Government,” “Exporting Your Business,” and “Networking with Other Agencies,” were presented by Michael Garrity from the Small Business Technology and Development Center; Andrew Kreinik, senior business consultant with the Maryland Small Business & Technology Development Center, SBTDC; Claude Cable, a procurement contract representative from the Small Business Administration, SBA; and Norman Gaither and Bonnie Maliszewski. In addition, John O’Brien, associate director of the Office of Small Business Programs, a division of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, displayed the advantages of working with his office.

O’Brien said those he spoke with wanted to learn how to become federal contractors.

“I explained the time and performance

factors, a series of other steps and how we help them meet the technical folks they want to do business with,” he said.

O’Brien’s office hosts several outreach events throughout the year including the second annual Advanced Planning Briefing for Industry, APBI, held in December 2013. The week-long gathering provides networking opportunities and informs industry of potential contracting opportunities within APG mission areas, he said. The next APBI is slated for November 2014.

Marilyn Howard, ACS employment readiness program manager, said the event was the first geared toward women only and that several attendees requested follow-on events focused on entrepreneurship.

“One thing I also stress is for employers to consider hiring our military spouses looking for work,” Howard said. “Business ownership is beyond most of them because they move around so much but they have to make a living too so I always ask for any opportunities to share with military spouses.”

Several attendees said they appreciated the networking event.

“I learned a lot,” said CECOM software engineer Parul Patel, who shared that she would one day like to start up her own software company. “I understand the issues now,” she said.

RDECOM Accountant Dionne Burchenson called the presentations “tremendous.” With plans to enter into a “diverse, technical media and wellness field,” she



(From left, top) Michael Garrity from the Small Business Technology and Development Center and Marilyn Howard, ACS Employment Readiness Program manager, conduct Garrity’s presentation, “Small Business Five Drivers Formula” with APG civilians, Soldiers and other women from surrounding communities during the Strategic Conference for Women Small Business Owners at Top of the Bay March 31.

said learned a lot of new information.

“Mainly I learned how important it is to be adaptable; to change with the times to keep the money coming in.”

Renata Weaver, an executive assistant with the Army Contracting Command, said she attended to learn more about resources and skills associated with women-owned businesses.

“I’m undecided right now but I might be looking at starting my own business down the road,” she said. “I learned a lot about helpful resources and that there are a

lot of women out there starting their own businesses that need our support.”

Vendors included the Maryland Professional Technical Assistance Program, the Maryland Small Business & Technology Development Program, the Small Business Administration, the Susquehanna Workforce Network, the APG Federal Credit Union, RDECOM, ACS and the Treasure Cookie Bakery of Aberdeen.

For more information about the ACS Employment Readiness Program call 410-278-9669/7572.

Send newspaper submissions to the APG News

Community members are asked to send all submissions for the APG News to usarmy.apg.imcom.mbx.apg-pao@mail.mil, and patricia.g.beauchamp.civ@mail.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 410-278-7274 to inquire.

SHARP NCO offers APG coping skills

Coping with adversity key to combating substance abuse, suicide

Story and photo by **ALAN FEILER**
APG News

The APG Army Substance Abuse Program presented an engaging series of two-hour training sessions about suicide prevention and substance abuse for APG audiences March 26 and 27.

Guest speaker Roderick "Skip" Johnson used humor and personal anecdotes and explored self-esteem and societal issues from a common-sense approach.

A U.S. Air Force noncommissioned officer and substance abuse/suicide prevention program manager from the U.S. Army Materiel Command Wellness Division at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., Johnson called on listeners to confront their inner demons and life's challenges without resorting to hallucinogens or negative behavior patterns and attitudes.

"Validate yourself," he said. "That's how you take care of yourself."

Johnson called suicide "a permanent solution to a temporary problem," and he suggested that listeners take care of themselves and their loved ones.

"Where does suicide prevention begin? It starts with self-care, to make yourself feel okay," Johnson said. "How do you engage yourself? How can you best deal with change? Communication and community can lead to a positive environment."

Too often, he said, people don't deal directly with their feelings about adversity or transition. Particularly in the military, Johnson said, individuals strive for perfection and ignore warning signs of self-doubt, anxiety and anger, often leading to disastrous results.

More than 100,000 veterans and active duty service members have been lost to suicide since 9/11, Johnson noted. It's a phenomenon, he said, that cuts across demographics and economics.

"Most people don't want to kill themselves. They just want the pain to stop,"

he said, citing a decrease in casual communication as one possible cause.

"We don't communicate like we used to. Some people email people right in the next cubicle. We're not engaging each other."

People struggle greatly with change, Johnson said, and this inability often leads to such adjustment disorders as depression, anxiety and disturbing conduct.

"We think we can handle our problems, but not everybody deals with things the same. Your perception of what's going on affects if you're positive or negative. It's how you deal with stressors that's very important."

Signs of distress include memory loss, poor judgment, irritability, depression, a sense of isolation and loneliness, and simply feeling constantly overwhelmed, he said. A manifestation of these emotions might be a loss of libido, chest pains, substance abuse, over or under-eating, or nervous habits. Take the warning signs seriously, he advised, and talk to a friend, clergy or Family member or mental health professional.

One of the most dangerous crutches for dealing with mental anguish and anxieties, he said, is alcohol consumption, a behavior largely sanctioned and even celebrated in American culture and media. Johnson said studies show the rate of excessive drinking among military personnel between the ages of 18 and 35 is well above the civilian rate, and that 84.5 percent of active military members are drinkers.

Meanwhile, about 70 percent of suicides are alcohol-related, he said.

"Alcohol brings you up and you get a buzz, but then it brings you down, [leaving you with] nausea, slurred speech, decreased motor skills and impaired judgment," he said.

Similarly, Johnson said, drug use also often leads to negative behavior and catastrophic events. Besides being more available than ever before, drugs now are being marketed to young people over the Internet and through social media. And, trends such as e-cigarettes, which are battery-operated devices marketed as safe alternatives to tobacco, as well as e-marijuana and e-crack pipes are gaining popularity among youth, he said.

In addition, Johnson said toxic,



Roderick "Skip" Johnson, an Air Force noncommissioned officer and substance abuse/suicide prevention program manager from the U.S. Army Materiel Command Wellness Division at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., uses humor and personal anecdotes to discuss suicide prevention and substance abuse with APG audience during a two-day visit to the installation in March.

handmade opioids are gaining ground among young people as cheaper, more potent alternatives to LSD and heroin, with deadly results. "People will try anything today," he said. "But some people are dying."

Johnson encouraged parents to monitor their children's activities on their cell phones and on social media.

"You want to stay abreast of what's going on with them because there are predators coming after our kids every day," he said. "We have to be very aware."

Johnson noted that prescription drug abuse is running rampant in American society, particularly in the 35-54 age groups. He said that often, the medication is for someone else, taken at a larger dosage than prescribed, or consumed in a manner different than that recommended by the prescribing physician.

"People want immediate gratification in our pill-popping culture," he said.

At the heart of the matters of substance abuse and suicide are people's inability to cope with adversity in life, Johnson contended.

"Challenges are a part of life," he said. "But if you have something bad or inappropriate going on in your life, take

the time to assess yourself. We're quick to point fingers, to not take the blame."

In making life decisions, he said it's important to maintain a circle of trusted advisors.

"A jockey never crosses a line before its horse," Johnson said. "Take care of your people and they will take care of you."

At the same time, he said, avoid "emotional muggers," people who will sap your strength and faith, leading you into a downward spiral.

Johnson said his life credo and acronym for PEACE is: Purpose, perseverance, patience and prayer; Examine yourself; Accept the good, the bad and the ugly; Change when you can and communicate with people you trust; and Encourage and empower yourself.

"At the end of the day, life is a do-it-yourself project," he said. "We spend more of our time telling people how to build their houses than taking care of our own. Make sure the foundation of your house is always sturdy enough to weather those storms. You matter, I matter and most of all, life matters."

"People need to take care of each other. So surround yourself with people who bless you and not who stress you, and you'll be okay."

Futures 11 helps prepare high school juniors

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

More than 500 11th-graders from Harford County Public Schools' magnet programs got a glimpse at life after high school during the fifth annual Futures 11 conference at Harford Community College March 26.

Harford County Government, the Harford Chamber of Commerce and the Susquehanna Workforce Network teamed with HCPS and HCC to host the conference. Students had a chance to attend workshops and network with professionals, including several government civilians from APG.

Workshop topics included entrepreneurship, internships and apprenticeships, security clearances, creative problem solving, STEM opportunities, college admissions, SAT/ACT preparation, financing college and 3D printing.

Robert Limpert, the HCPS supervisor of business technology and magnet programs, said the junior year is a critical time in student's lives as they are starting to make decisions about internships, majors and colleges.

"I challenged the students to make connections, by networking," he said. "Hopefully attending this conference will give them lots to think about."

Tim McNamara, the chief of Infrastructure, Security, Installation & Community Relations with the Joint Project Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense talked about applying for government jobs and career opportunities available at APG during a "Hot Jobs in Your Own Backyard" presentation.

"APG is the largest employer in Harford County," McNamara said. "Currently forty percent of the entire APG workforce is eligible to retire. Thirty percent of the federal government workforce will be eligible to retire in 2018. This means there will be many opportunities available for these students in the future."

Daniel Billings, a construction technology student from Harford Technical High School, said he was excited to hear about all the local job prospects. He said he plans to pursue a career in



(From left) Robert Carter, an exhibits coordinator from the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense, discusses government careers with Daniel Billings, a Harford Technical High School student during the Futures 11 conference at Harford Community College March 26.

architecture or engineering.

"These jobs are literally within five [to] 10 miles of my own house," Billings said.

Anthony Lambert, an engineer with the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, talked to students about creative problem solving and teamwork. They were told that the ability to look at a unique problem and derive a solution is a critical skill in a rapidly changing world. During this session, teams made up of two to four students were challenged to use a robotic arm to remove paper clips, cotton balls or marbles from a paper bag. Finally, CERDEC engineers discussed the work they do and

offered insight into the creative process. "They came up with solutions I haven't considered, they were very creative," Lambert said.

Nicole McKew, a strategic engagements in STEM educational outreach program manager from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and Rick Moore, the branch chief of rapid technologies at ECBC, talked to students about internships and other learning opportunities offered through the Army Education Outreach Program. At APG, high school students are able to learn science in a real laboratory setting through the Gains in Education of Mathematics and Science (GEMS) program, funded by AEOP.

Moore explained how his team works with cutting edge technology, like 3D printing, to support the Warfighter.

"Most students have no idea what goes on behind the gate," he said. "We have to reach out to them."

Alyssa Chalmin, a student from Aberdeen High School's Science and Mathematics Academy, remarked that the event helped her meet professionals that she might work with during her senior Capstone Project when SMA students work with mentors from STEM career fields to present research projects. Chalmin plans to study biology in college.

"I hope to get a mentor who works on APG," she said. "I could see myself in an APG laboratory in the future."

Local Toastmasters win top honors in contests

By **RICHARD FORCHHEIMER**
Gunpowder Toastmasters

Two Gunpowder Toastmasters talked their way to top honors during the Toastmasters Area 22 International Speech and Table Topics Contests at Franklin Square Hospital's Kotzen Auditorium March 27.

Vince Minichiello, the recent Gunpowder Club speech contest winner won the Area 22 Speech Contest and first-year Toastmaster Alex Mercer, who won the Gunpowder Table Topics Contest, placed second in the Area 22 Table Topics Contest. Gunpowder Toastmasters Gina Smith and Rich-

ard Forchheimer, both runners-up in the club contest attended the event to root for the Gunpowder contestants.

Area contest winners will compete in the Division B Contest set for 7 p.m. April 11 also at the Kotzen Auditorium.

Gunpowder Toastmasters meet at the APG Edgewood CDTF Bldg. E4516 seminar room 11:40 a.m., the first and third Monday of each month. Guests are always welcome.

To learn more about the Gunpowder Toastmasters, contact Richard Forchheimer at rlforchh@comcast.net or visit the Gunpowder website at <http://2562.toastmastersclubs.org>



Jody Jackson
EEO Deputy

Jody Jackson is the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) deputy and Sexual Harassment and Response Program (SHARP) manager for the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC).

Jackson manages daily operations within the EEO office, such as counseling, meditation, team building exercises, conducting surveys and focus groups, training and more.

"I am a people person and an educator; I love to get in front of people and teach," Jackson said.

Jackson has a bachelor's degree in human resources and has completed SHARP training. He previously worked as an employee relations analyst and unit victim advocate as well as Equal Opportunity Advisor. He retired from the Army after 22 years and has been at his cur-

rent position since 2007. The upcoming SHARP Summit on April 16, which will be led by Maj. Gen. Peter Utley, ATEC commander, will be a significant event within the SHARP program, Jackson said, as it supports the senior leaders' I.A.M.Strong SHARP Campaign. The summit will include a leaders' panel and subject matter experts who will talk about changing Army culture, victim care and treatment, responding to sexual assault and other SHARP-related topics.

"Our mission is to serve as a forum for leaders to raise their understanding, to exchange ideas and to share best practices on this critical issue," Jackson said.

To reach Jackson, email jody.b.jackson.civ@mail.mil or call 443-861-9258. For more information about ATEC, visit the organization website <http://www.atec.army.mil/>.



How are we doing? E-mail comments and suggestions for the APG News to usarmy.apg.imcom.mbx.apg-pao@mail.mil

Tax Assistance Program ends April 10

By **SANDI WILLIAMS**
OSJA

The 2014 Tax Assistance Program, directed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division (CSD), will conclude April 10. During the off-season, the CSD will continue to answer simple tax questions and provide the preparation of simple tax returns. This includes tax preparation assistance to service members returning from combat zones and contingency operations or amendments to returns previously prepared by the CSD tax assistance staff.

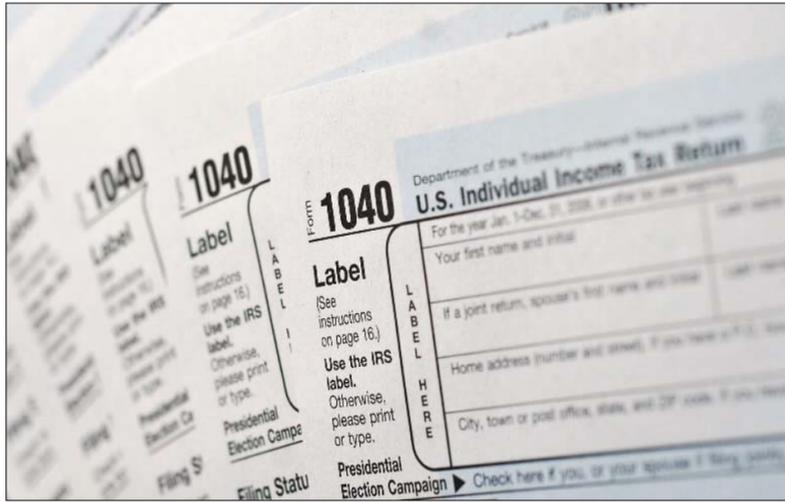
At the conclusion of each tax season, many taxpayers have questions about topics such as filing deadlines, extensions, amending previous tax returns, and withholdings from wages. The following information addresses these issues:

What happens if I don't file?

If the IRS discovers that you failed to file a tax return and you owe additional tax, they will assess a penalty and interest against you for any year you did not file and were required to. Unfortunately, if you failed to file an income tax return, and you were owed a refund, you can only file or amend an existing return for up to three previous tax years to claim your refund.

Already filed and forgot a W-2?

If you realize you made a mistake on your taxes after you file your taxes, and the CSD tax assistance staff prepared your tax return, we can assist you in amending your taxes on Form 1040X. Every W-2 is reported to the IRS. When you file your taxes, IRS computer programs work to ensure that all W-2s reported to them are included with your taxes. Taxpayers who fail to report all income receive notices and must



pay penalties and interest which can be quite severe-interest is compounded daily. Taxpayers can file an amended return within three years of the original filing date. This includes any filing extensions. IRS Form 1040X and instructions are available on the IRS website at www.irs.gov, or call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Did you receive a notice from the IRS?

Each letter and notice offers specific instructions on what you need to do to satisfy the inquiry. You should review the correspondence and compare it with the information on your return. If you agree with the correction to your account, no reply is necessary unless a payment is due. If you disagree with the correction the IRS made, it is important that you respond as requested. If you need assistance, bring the notice to the CSD tax assistance staff.

Need a copy of your federal income tax return?

Misplaced or lost tax returns can be obtained by calling 1-800-829-1040 or by completing and mailing Form 4506-T, Request for Transcript of Tax Return.

Filing deadline

The normal deadline for filing federal income tax returns is midnight, April 15. This deadline applies to 2013 federal individual income tax returns, requests for an automatic six-month tax-filing extension, tax year 2013 balance due payments, individual estimated tax payments for the first quarter of 2014, and individual refund claims for tax year 2010 where the regular three-year statute of limitations is expiring. Service members serving in a combat zone or in a contingency operation (or are hospitalized as a result of an injuries received while serving in such an area or operation), have at least 180 days after leaving the zone or operation to file and pay (refer to IRS Publication 3, Armed Forces Tax Guide).

Filing an extension

Taxpayers who cannot meet the April

15 filing deadline should file for an extension on IRS Form 4868. Returns are considered filed on time if the envelope is properly addressed and post-marked on the last day of the filing season. An extension of time to file is not an extension of time to pay. Taxpayers will owe interest on any past due tax and may be subject to a late payment penalty if payment is not made on time. Taxpayers who want an extension of time to file state income tax returns should consult the appropriate state representative to determine extension requirements.

Changing IRS Form W-4

Wage earning taxpayers who receive substantial refunds, or who pay an income tax penalty for failure to withhold the appropriate amount of income tax, should consider amending their IRS Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate. All employees must complete the W-4, so an employer will know how much income tax to withhold from an employee's wages. The IRS has developed an application that assists employees trying to complete IRS Form W-4. Using the on-line calculator located on the IRS website ensures that employees do not have too much or too little income tax withheld from their paychecks.

General information

The CSD is located in building 4305, third floor, room 317. Inquiries regarding income tax services may be directed to the CSD staff attendant at 410-278-1583. Normal operating hours are Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Calls received after normal operating hours, or when the attendant is assisting other clients, will be directed to the automated information line.

LRC director speaks at AUSA chapter meeting

By **BOB DIMICHELE**
CECOM

The director of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command's Logistics and Readiness Center (LRC) addressed the membership of the Aberdeen Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army during its monthly professional development forum and general meeting March 18.

Lane Collie discussed current logistics and sustainment issues, priorities and opportunities and described the LRC's role within the C4ISR Center of Excellence.

The LRC provides global logistics support for C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) systems and equipment through rapid acquisition, maintenance, production, fielding, new equipment training, operations and sustainment in support of the Army, the joint warfighter and coalition partners. To accomplish this mission, the LRC works closely with the acquisition community to include seven Program Executive Offices (PEOs): Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors (IEW&S); Command, Control and Communications-Tactical (C3T); Enterprise Information Systems (EIS); Aviation; Missiles & Space; Soldier; and Combat Support and Combat Service Support (CS&CSS).

PEO interaction

In describing the LRC's interaction with PEOs, Collie shared that, "PEO Aviation drives the LRC's working capital demand in terms of funding, while PEO Soldier generates the highest working capital demand in terms of quantities across the major capabilities." These major capabilities include aviation, battle space awareness, battle command transport networks and field logistics.

In addition to working with PEO partners, the LRC also has an industrial base responsibility. Collie said he wants to ensure and sustain the health of the commercial and organic industrial base markets and infrastructures in direct support of C4ISR programs. He said that the legislatively-required, fifty-fifty split of organic and commercial sustainment capabilities means a meshing of commercial and industrial base strategies. "It's a tough balancing act that will get harder and harder as money goes down," he explained. The LRC supports the Tobyhanna Army Depot, the organic industrial base for C4ISR, as well as five commercial industrial base sectors: sensors, tactical communications, electro-optics, power sources and information technology. He cited the example of the Firefinder radar system that, through modernization, will replace the Q36 and Q37 radars with the Q53 radar. This modernization will decrease Tobyhanna's workload by 55,000 direct labor hours annually starting in 2020.



Staff from the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command's Logistics and Readiness Center process equipment to leave the theater of operations through the retrograde yard in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Field support

Collie also described one of the LRC's most pressing priorities - C4ISR Field Support Rightsizing. In support of the initiative to "rightsize" field support, Collie and the LRC have collaborated with the partners of the C4ISR Center of Excellence in support of the Army's "Reinvesting in Soldiers" approach in which Soldiers are the primary operators and maintainers of C4ISR equipment at the unit level. Rather than relying on support personnel for all C4ISR equipment issues, the C4ISR Center of Excellence has designed a four-tiered support structure that will handle different levels of complexity for Soldiers at the unit level. Tier 0 is simply having Soldiers operate and maintain their own equipment. Tier 1 still includes multifunctional support personnel located with the units at installations. This tier is characterized by today's Logistics Assistance Representatives. Tier 2 support is system-specific and is designed to escalate issues or problems beyond the knowledge at the field level. Experts based at regional hubs cover a designated geographic area minimizing response time. Tier 3 provides the most involved level of service because issues must be addressed by the original equipment manufacturer in order to be resolved.

Field tested

The Field Support team tested this structure at the Joint Readiness Training

Center (JRTC) and the National Training Center (NTC), and the results have been dramatic he said. "In the pilot exercises with JRTC and NTC, analysis of trouble ticket resolution data showed that 79 percent of all issues were training-related and 95 percent of tickets were Soldier-level tasks (Tier 0-1). This data-driven approach will ensure that we are making sound decisions," said Collie.

As responsibilities are turned over to the individual Soldier, there is a corresponding effort to reduce the number of Field Support Personnel. In keeping with the collaborative nature of this initiative, the C4ISR Center of Excellence has coordinated closely with U.S. Forces Command for a phased approach through Fiscal Year (FY) 16. To date, there has been a reduction of 361 C4ISR field support personnel and units have not experienced any drops in unit readiness or weapon system availability due to this effort, according to Collie.

Contractor support

He also presented three strategic opportunities for contractor support that will be released during FY14. The first was a \$20 million award for quick reaction capability sustainment support for Joint Personnel Identification Systems. This contract will provide worldwide support for currently deployed biometric tactical collection equipment from the Program Manager for Joint Personnel Identification. Second, he described an \$8-12 million contract for life

cycle logistics strategic initiatives support, requiring improvements and optimization for a wide range of business processes, procedures and sustainment strategies, including risk assessments, cost analysis, supply chain and maintenance planning. The third contract, for Tactical Power Supplies, is a five-year, firm-fixed price, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract to procure PP-6224D/U and PP2953E/U tactical power supplies and an associated electronic technical/repair manual. The award is projected from a minimum of \$250,000 to a ceiling of \$66 million and would be a 100 percent small business set-a-side.

Hot topics

In closing, Collie shared three other "Hot Topics" that the LRC is focused on in addition to the Field Support Rightsizing initiative: Operation Enduring Freedom drawdown, workforce reshaping, and reinvesting in civilian personnel. In reference to the drawdown, Collie said "Team C4ISR will be among the last to leave Afghanistan because we support the sensors systems that provide force protection, systems like BETSS-C and RAID." As for the workforce, Collie is working both reshaping and professional development initiatives to increase efficiency and build a bench to face the challenges of the future. "We have a generation of a workforce who only knows supplemental funding. We are returning to an era where availability of resources will be a challenge all unto itself."

Retiree credits Army intramurals for his success

By **GANESA ROBINSON**
IMCOM

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for the Army Sports Program," said retired Soldier now turned NCAA Men's Division I College Basketball Official, retired Sgt. 1st Class Donnie Eppley.

Eppley began his officiating career in 1985, just four years after enlisting in the Army.

"I got my start officiating unit-level intramural games for Soldiers," Eppley said. "That's how I learned the ropes."

"I was playing flag football in Mannheim, Germany, with the 574th Supply and Service Company," he recalled. "A buddy and I were approached about officiating basketball and were invited to a clinic hosted by the Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation Sports Office. We went to the clinic and, I've been involved with officiating ever since."

Eppley's original decision to join the Army was influenced by his interests in sports.

"I went directly into the Army from high school and saw the intramural program as a way to continue playing sports," he said.

Aimed at boosting morale in Soldiers, MWR intramural sports programs are a major staple at many garrisons for both Soldiers and spectators.

The Army MWR Sports Program not only provides leadership opportunities, such as coaching and officiating, it also provides training. As part of the requirements to become a basketball official, Army Sports hosts clinics held by industry leaders to ensure that officials are trained and qualified to carry out their roles on the court.

Although the job of a referee may not seem hard, not everyone makes the cut. Basketball is regarded as one of the more difficult sports to officiate, Eppley said.

"It's a lot more than just putting on a uniform. It takes a lot of time, patience and practice to get it right. When you blow the whistle, you've got to make a decision."

While his dedication to the game was a factor, Eppley said that self-discipline, his work ethic and eagerness to hone his skills year-round keeps him in the game.

Bob Vogt, deputy director, Soldier and Community Recreation, IMCOM G9, said he remembers Eppley's skills on and off the court.

"Don worked for me in Europe as the Senior Officiating Coordinator, from 1993 to 1999. Besides being an incredible Soldier, he's an amazing referee. His leadership skills were obvious as he dealt with the Soldier-athletes on the court. He helped take the Heidelberg Basketball program to new levels. He worked with our sports staff to educate them on game administration and conducted clinics for new officials," Vogt said.

Eppley said he believes the communication skills and resilience training he gained from the Army helps him excel on the court.

"Officiating and calling games is similar to leading and guiding Soldiers," he said. "The leadership and management skills that I developed while in the military play an important part of how I am able to manage basketball games and 'block out' any mental challenges that may come from the crowd."

Throughout his career Eppley has always believed in mentorship. He is a firm believer that mentoring makes a difference.

"As a young college basketball official, I was mentored by some of the best and brightest minds in college basketball," he said. "I was able to take a little from each official and put it into my package."

More than for the love of the game, Eppley wants his officiating to impact the lives of young and up-and-coming players and officials. Officiating seems like an uncommon route to do that as opposed to coaching - but Eppley believes he's setting an example in the way he manages the game and resolves conflicts each time he takes the court.

Eppley started officiating NCAA Men's Division I college basketball after a 20-year military career. Starting with an average of eight games per season, he worked his way up to officiating 70 games per season, a status that is only given to 100 referees, according to the NCAA.

This year, Eppley is participating in his fifth March Madness tournament. When asked what advice he would give to aspiring referees, he responded, "Stay physically fit; love the game, not the money; know the rules and study daily; go after your goals and get a mentor."

Eppley also serves as a basketball official assignor, where he supervises and mentors approximately 500 basketball ref-



Courtesy photo

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Donnie Eppley calls a foul against Ohio State's Lenzelle Smith Jr., during a recent game.

erees and he works as an Executive Assistant for the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials.

Eppley credits the rise of his career to his experiences officiating unit-level intramural games through Army Sports.

"It was the best training I could've ever had," he said.

"The value of organized sports in

the military is that it builds leadership skills, supports team work and encourages friendly competition off the battlefield," according to Darrell Manuel, Army Sports director, Soldier and Community Recreation Division, IMCOM G9. "It's another tool to help commanders build esprit de corps and offer positive recreational activity choices among Soldiers."

Shaq sets bar high for Young Lives, BIG Stories campaign

By **TIM HIPPS**
ARNEWS

"Young Lives, BIG Stories" is the theme of the 2014 Month of the Military Child, which will be celebrated on U.S. Army installations throughout April.

One of the world's biggest self-professed Army brats, Shaquille O'Neal enjoyed a 19-year career as a "larger than life" character in the NBA.

It did not hurt that O'Neal entered the NBA standing 7-feet, 1-inches tall and weighing 301 pounds, yet he considers Army upbringing the key to his success.

"It all started here on this Army base," O'Neal said when Robert G. Cole High School retired his jersey, No. 33, on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 7.

"A lot of people ask me how do you do it, how do you stay sane with all the things that are going on? It's the military life. Military life and I wouldn't have had it no other way."

Since 1986, Army installations around the world have recognized the sacrifices and applauded the courage of military children with Month of the Military Child celebrations.

The Month of the Military Child typically creates awareness of the sacrifices military children make and the service they provide. This year's theme, "Young Lives, BIG Stories" also highlights the unique lifestyles and contributions military children make to the nation.

One would be hard pressed to find a bigger self-professed "Army brat" than O'Neal, who bounced from Newark, N.J., to Germany to Texas while growing up in an Army family.

O'Neal credited his military upbringing for keeping him grounded. The four-time NBA champion, three-time NBA Finals MVP and 15-time NBA All-Star who won Olympic and World championships, appeared in more than a dozen movies, recorded more than five rap albums and had his own reality television shows, never outgrew his military roots.

"The Shaq character was created here," he said. "There was a time when I thought I was a little bit arrogant and the school and the post let me know that, 'Hey, you didn't do it by yourself.' They



Photo by Dan Solis

NBA legend and Robert G. Cole High School graduate Shaquille O'Neal (center) is surrounded by former teammates on the 1989 Cougars state championship team that went 36-0 during the basketball season. A self-described "Army brat," O'Neal's No. 33 jersey was formally retired during a ceremony at the school's gym March 7.

taught me to be humble, taught me to remain humble."

It is difficult for men and women in uniform to focus on military missions if they are worried about their children at home. Providing a safe, nurturing environment for military children creates a stronger more resilient fighting force.

The Month of the Military Child reinforces this concept, reminds the nation that children of service members also serve, and gives communities an opportunity to share their gratitude for the service of military children during the "Young Lives, BIG Stories" campaign.

O'Neal said he learned the value of compassion for Houston as a teenager at Fort Sam Houston and exhibited it throughout his career.

"Things that I do in the community now as a professional player [turned

television analyst], I was doing it on post -- me and my father and my team were passing out food to other houses and collecting toys from people who didn't want their toys and taking them up to the children's hospital," he said. "Everything that I've learned, I've learned from growing up in the military."

Asked if he felt exceptionally fortunate to have become such a rich man from such a modest childhood, O'Neal replied: "It makes me appreciate it more because I was rich back then, too. I was mentally rich. The only thing money does for me is give me toys I don't need."

O'Neal shared his secret to success with the young listeners.

"It's just all about cultivating your dream, loving your dream, and just following your dream," O'Neal said. "This

was the place where I cultivated my dreams. It all started here on the little Army base at Fort Sam Houston."

Preschool children through high school seniors are invited to share their stories about what it means to be a military child with photos, words, drawings or videos in the Army MWR-sponsored "Young Lives, BIG Stories" contest. Prizes will be awarded to an overall winner and the top entries in each category. For more details, visit <http://www.armymwr.com/momc-big-stories.aspx>.

See more photos from events around APG <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THURSDAY

APRIL 3

SAAM KICKOFF – A 5K RUN/WALK

Sexual Assault/Awareness Month starts with the SAAM Kickoff – a 5K Run/Walk set for 6:30 to 8 a.m. at Capa Field in APG South (Edgewood). Afterward, sign the APG Sexual Assault Awareness Proclamation and form the APG Teal Human Ribbon. Be sure to wear Teal, the SAAM official color. Sign up at <http://apgsaam5k.eventbrite.com>.

SATURDAY

APRIL 5

VA WELCOME HOME INFORMATION & JOB FAIR

The VA Maryland Health Care System, VAMHCS, will host a Welcome Home Information & Job Fair for returning veterans 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Essex Campus of the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) in the Community Center Building, 7201 Rossville Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21237.

Local employers, community and four-year colleges accepting the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Benefits Administration, VAMHCS and several other organizations will provide information about job opportunities, health care services and benefits for all veterans including those from Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Bring copies of your DD-214 (discharge papers) to apply for VA health care services, and resumes for potential employers.

This event is free and open to all veterans. For more information about the VAMHCS Welcome Home Information & Job Fair call 410-605-7259.

TUESDAY

APRIL 8

DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

The Defense Acquisition University (DAU) will host an all-day Acquisition

Training Symposium at its Fort Belvoir campus (Scott Hall). The theme is "Achieving Better Acquisition Outcomes in Austere Times - Improved Processes, Reduced Overhead".

The event offers training sessions tied to the Better Buying Power 2.0 initiatives. In a period of fiscal challenges and technological opportunities, the training will focus on learning hard skills - training in the latest USD (AT&L) policy, practices and techniques that attendees can take back to the workplace and apply. The training symposium also will be available via VTC at many DAU regional campuses. The forum provides four Continuous Learning Points (CLP) for continued DoD acquisition certification.

For more information and to register, go to www.dauaa.org and click on "Training Events."

CARE FIRST BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD VISIT

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative of Care First Blue Cross Blue Shield to visit APG 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326, room 120, to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. The representative also will be available from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Bldg. E2800 (JPEOCBD), Rooms 103/104 in APG South (Edgewood). No appointment is necessary. Point of contact for this information is Teri Wright, 410-278-4331 or teresa.l.wright28.civ@mail.mil, at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

THURSDAY

APRIL 10

"WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES"

APG leaders and employees will don their jazziest shoes to recognize victims of sexual violence and promote prevention. A prize will be awarded for the most attention-grabbing shoes. The "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" is set for April 10. Two walks will be held 8 to 9 a.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326; and noon to 1 p.m. at the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center, Bldg. E4140. Sign up at <http://apgsaamwalkamile.eventbrite.com>.

FRIDAY

APRIL 11

SOCIETY OF ITALIAN AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN FIRST ANNUAL SPRING GALA

Don't miss this opportunity to make history and be a part of something very special and unique here in Harford County. This event will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight in the Richlin Ballroom, 1700 Van Bibber

Road, Edgewood, Md. For tickets or more information, contact Elio Scaccio at 410-206-8818.

TUESDAY

APRIL 15

SHARP VIGNETTES

SHARP Vignettes; real-life skits depicting actual sexual harassment/assault situations. Presentations will be held noon to 1 p.m. at the Edgewood Conference Center, April 15 and noon to 1 p.m. at the Ball Conference Center in APG North (Aberdeen) April 17.

THURSDAY

APRIL 17

WOA MEETING

The U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association's Aberdeen-Edgewood "Silver"

Chapter will hold its monthly meeting noon to 12:45 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326 room 102.

Lunch will be provided at 11:30 a.m. For more information contact retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Owen McNiff at omcniff@yahoo.com or call 571-243-6561/443-861-1936.

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 23

SPRING TECHNOLOGY EXPO

ECBC/CIO will host the 2014 Spring Technology Expo 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326, Erie Street. New events this year include technology briefings and hands-on demonstrations. More than 75 vendors with state-of-the-art technologies and innovations will be on hand.

The Spring Technology Expo is free and open to DoD civilians and contractors with access to APG. Refreshments will be available. Pre-register online at <http://www.fdaexpo.com/register.php?id=138>

For more information contact Mary McCully, ECBC/CIO Acquisition Team at 410-436-2625 or FDAE toll-free at 877-332-3976.

Vendors will include: Agilent Technologies, Allied Electronics, Anritsu, AVS Installations, Avocent, Blind Industries Services of Maryland, Bottom Line Technologies, Cambium Networks, Charon Technologies, Chatsworth Products, Control Cable Inc., Delmarva Engineering, Deployable Technologies, DowKey Microwave, Eagle Sales, Eaton Corp., EMC, Isilon, EOX Sales, EPS Corp., Ergogenesis, Fiber Instrument Sales, Gap Wireless, Getac, Government Scientific Source, Graybar Electric, GSA, HCGI, HP, IMI Integral Components, Interior Resource Group, Iron Bow Technologies, Leviton Network Services, Lexmark, Liebert Maryland Ward Boland Assoc., Motorola Solutions, National Instruments, National Solar Technologies, NCS Technologies, Nelson White Systems, NetAV, Newtec, Reps, PCMG, PacStar Communications, Panduit, Planar Systems, Plantronics, Plug-In, Storage Systems, RGB Spectrum, Radixon, Rugged Science, SMS, SMART Technologies, Spectra Logic, Spirent Federal Systems, SRC Inc., St. John Properties, STG Inc., SwishData, SynQor, Inc., System Source, Tactical Public Safety Harris Corp., Techni-Tool, Technology Specialists Inc., Tektronix, TELEGRID, Test Equity, Thinklogical, Thundercat, Vision Technologies, Wolfvision and Xerox.

APG SAAM CLOSING CEREMONY

The APG SAAM Closing Ceremony will be held 11 a.m. to noon at the Myer Auditorium April 23. Guest speaker will be Dr. Christine Altendorf, director of the Army SHARP Office.

THURSDAY

APRIL 24

DUELING PIANOS COMEDY SHOW

Bring your friends for a fun night out with the Dueling Pianos Comedy Show at Top of the Bay. Doors open 5 p.m., show starts 7 p.m.

The, \$5 through April then \$10 April 19 and at the door, includes one free beverage (draft beer, house wine, soda or bottled water), a cash bar and table service. This event is for ages 21 and older only.

Dueling Pianos is a high energy, all request, rock n roll, comedy piano show in which the audience is as much a part of the performance as the entertainers. It's like having a live band, DJ and two comedians all in one.

Come early, have dinner, enjoy the view, relax with friends and get ready to have some fun. Seating is limited. Register early at www.apgmwr.com. For more information, contact the Leisure Travel Office in the APG North

(Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326 or call 410-278-4011/4907.

FRIDAY

APRIL 25

STUDENT EARTH & ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

APG will host its 'Student Earth & Arbor Day Celebration' with the theme "The Wonders of Water" at the APG North (Aberdeen) youth center, Bldg. 2522 on Bayside Drive.

The event will feature interactive displays and hands-on Earth Day science activities provided by the event sponsors and the Maryland Master Gardeners (with worm composting), LEAP: Science is FUN! (Harford County Public Library), the American Rescue Dog Association, the Anita C. Leight Estuary, and Scales & Tails (afternoon only). This event is sponsored by Team APG STEM, APG Garrison, Corvias Military Housing, the Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society, the National Defense Education Program, and the Senior Science Society.

Arbor Day is officially celebrated the last Friday in April nationwide, but on the first Wednesday in April in Maryland. Earth Day is officially celebrated April 22 nationwide.

The event will be open to school groups, civilian and contractors working on post and the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The afternoon activities are restricted to Child, Youth and School Services and APG housing residents from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

FRIDAY – SUNDAY

MAY 2-4

SECOND INDIANHEAD DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION

Attention, 2nd Infantry Division Veterans. The Penn-Jersey Branch of the Second Indianhead Division Association will have its annual reunion in Lancaster, Pa. at the Continental Inn. All veterans of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division are invited, especially those in the nearby states of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. For more information, call Jack Woodall at 610-274-1409 or send an email to warrriorvet@verizon.net.

ONGOING

FINRA FOUNDATION MILITARY SPOUSE FELLOWSHIP FOR THE ACCREDITED FINANCIAL COUNSELOR® PROGRAM

The Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education® (AFCPE®), in partnership with the National Military Family Association and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, is pleased to announce the FINRA Foundation Military Spouse Fellowship for the Accredited Financial Counselor® Program application period. This program provides up to 50 military spouses with the education necessary to enter the financial counseling career field. Visit www.MilitaryFamily.org for more information. Looking for Job search information, contact the ACS Employment program 410-278-9669/7572.

THROUGH APRIL 11

CORVIAS RESIDENT VIDEO CONTEST

Corvias Military Living wants to hear from family housing residents.

In a one-minute or less video, tell why your Corvias community is the best place to live. One winning video entry will be selected from each Corvias location to receive an iPad mini and one overall winner will be chosen from the top 14 videos for the grand prize - a \$2,000 travel voucher.

Winners will be announced in mid-May.

Email your video to MyView@corvias.com by April 11.

For more information, go to <http://corviasmilitaryliving.com/photo-release>

THROUGH APRIL 23

TOILETRIES DRIVE

CECOM, RDECOM, PHC, ACC Garrison APG, JPEO-CBD, 29th CBRNE Command, ATEC, MRICD, Kirk and CMA are collecting toiletries to benefit Harford County's Sexual Assault and Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC), a non-profit agency that provides 24/7 shelter to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse and stalking. Items requested include toothpaste, toothbrushes, body/hand soap (bar or liquid), lotion, toilet paper, tissues, deodorant, antibacterial, shaving cream, shaving razors, towels and washcloths, loofas. For more information or donation locations, contact your unit's SHARP SARC or VA for information.

TUESDAYS THROUGH

MAY 20

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS

American Sign Language basic and advanced classes begin Feb. 25 and run through May 20, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. E3330-31, Room 270, APG South (Edgewood). Bring your lunch. Class is free. Text book (encouraged, but not required) is "A B C, A Basic Course in American Sign Language". To register or for more information, call Beth Ann Cameron, 436-7175, Pat Reeves at 436-2917 or Randy Weber at 436-8546.

CORVIAS 2014 GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Corvias Foundation has announced that applications for the 2014 Our Future Scholarships and the 2014 Our Family Educational Grants are now available.

Applications for the 2014 Our Family Educational Grants must be submitted by May 8, 2014. Grants are given in the amount of up to \$5,000 to spouses of active-duty service members at the installations listed above. Applicants may be in any stage of the educational process. Recipients will be notified by July 10.

Families do not have to reside in on-post housing to qualify. Eligible service members stationed at these installations can serve in any branch of the military.

To apply, go to <http://corviasfoundation.org>. For more information, call 401-228-2836 or email info@corviasfoundation.org

CPR, AED CLASSES SCHEDULED

The APG Fire and Emergency Services Division of the Directorate of Emergency Services has released its schedule for CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) classes for 2014. Two classes will be held the third Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the same location.

April 16, Edgewood Conference Center
May 21, APG North (Aberdeen) chapel
June 18, Edgewood Conference Center
July 16, APG North (Aberdeen) chapel
Aug. 20, Edgewood Conference Center
Sept. 17, APG North (Aberdeen) chapel
Oct. 15, Edgewood Conference Center
Nov. 19, APG North (Aberdeen) chapel
Dec. 17, Edgewood Conference Center

Class size is limited to 30 participants. For more information or to register, contact Mike Slayman, assistant chief of EMS, at 410-306-0566 or e-mail michael.p.slayman.civ@mail.mil.

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/a8vuMdxmG50>; <http://youtu.be/se7hTkwmb08>

ARMY WELLNESS CENTER OFFERING SERVICES AT APG SOUTH CLINIC

The Army Wellness Center (AWC) is now seeing clients at the APG South (Edgewood) Clinic, Bldg. E4110 twice a month. Clients will now have the opportunity to have their metabolism and body composition assessment done without having to drive to APG North (Aberdeen). Service members and their Family members, retirees and Army civilian employees can make an appointment at the AWC or can be referred by their unit or primary health care provider at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. Clients can reach their goals by making a positive, long-lasting change in their health and well-being. For more information or to schedule your appointment with the AWC please call 410-306-1024.

CYSS PARTNERS WITH HOMESCHOOLERS

APG Child, Youth and School Services is trying to establish a partnership with authorized users who homeschool their children in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas. CYSS is willing to open its 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.

MORE ONLINE

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

USAPHC water experts recommend well checks

By **JANE GERVASONI**
USAPHC

Groundwater is essential for human and animal health and well-being. The U.S. Army Public Health Command Water Resources Program helps preserve groundwater quality and protect Army communities from the adverse health effects of water pollution.

“The Army often asks about the health of supply wells and the condition of the aquifer or water-bearing rock below ground that holds the water,” said William Fifty, USAPHC WRP manager. “Our scientists and engineers regularly test these military water supplies to ensure that installations are in compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and local applicable codes.”

But safe drinking water is not just an Army concern.

“Forty-four percent of the U.S. population depends on groundwater for its drinking water,” said Mark Farro, WRP ground water engineering services chief. “Drinking water comes from wells on military installations and at people’s homes and few people know about the condition of their wells.”

People schedule annual physical exams, change the batteries in their smoke detectors and regularly maintain their cars—but “well” wellness checks rarely get completed on a regular basis as recommended by WRP experts.



Mark Farro, U.S. Army Public Health Command ground water engineering services chief, performs an inspection of a well’s sanitary seal and surrounding area.

Photo by Clint Logan

“Owners should physically inspect their wells every year. They should make sure that the well head is intact and that

the surrounding area is free of contamination and standing water,” according to Barrett Borry, groundwater section

chief. “Nearby storage tanks, such as home heating oil tanks, should be in good condition, and excessive use of lawn fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides near the well should be avoided.”

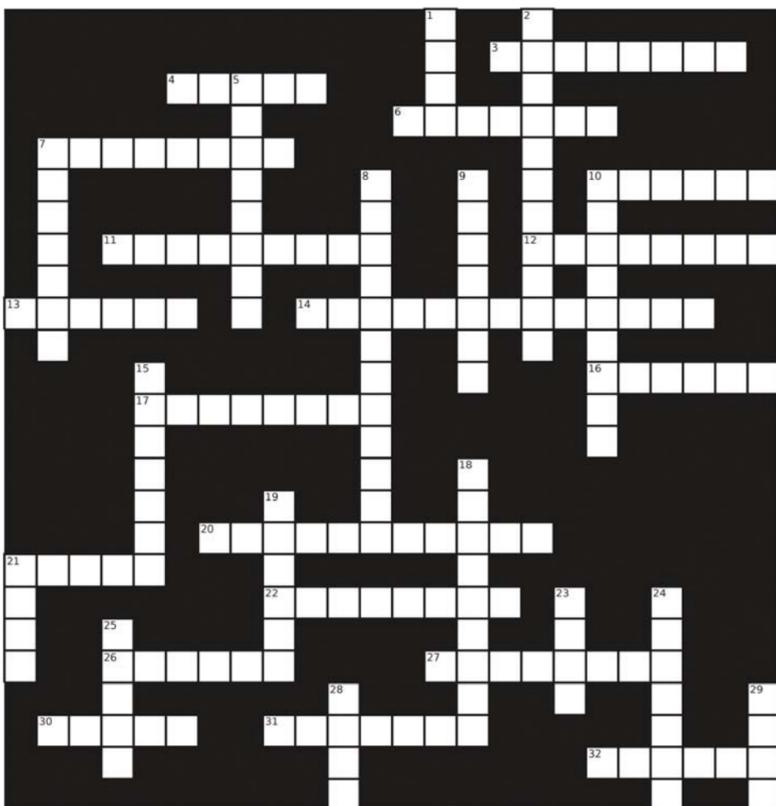
USAPHC experts also recommend periodic (every three-to-five years) well-water quality tests—more frequently if a change in the water is recognized. The quality tests, at a minimum, should include testing for coliform bacteria. Changes in water color, clarity, odor or taste; unexplained or chronic illnesses and chemical spills near the well are indications that the well water should be tested more often.

Interested Army organizations can contact the USAPHC for assistance. Help for homeowners with wells is available from other organizations.

“Individuals can contact their local government health agency or the Environmental Protection Agency for information about private wells,” said Farro. “We recommend regular well ‘wellness’ checks to help ensure the health of our population.”

The U.S. Army Public Health Command focuses on promoting health and preventing disease, injury and disability in Soldiers and military retirees, their families and Army civilian employees. As well, the USAPHC is responsible for effective execution of full-spectrum veterinary services throughout the DOD.

The APG Crossword



Answers to this puzzle may be found in this edition of the APG News, or may be common knowledge. The completed puzzle will be published in next week’s paper.

Across

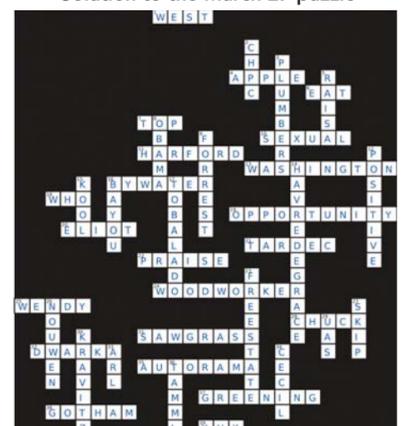
- Midnight, April 15 is the normal _____ for filing federal income tax returns.
- Last year, Soldiers participated in Exercise _____ Strike
- Shaq learned value of compassion at Fort Sam _____
- Eppley played football in _____ Germany.
- To search for Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, the Navy is sending a towed _____ locator
- APG garrison commander
- Sgt. Maj. of the Army
- Logistics and Readiness Center director
- Soldiers currently serving with existing tattoos can be _____
- Retired NCO and NCAA basketball official
- Deputy Chief of U.S. Army Reserve
- Forty-four percent of the U.S. population depends on _____ for its drinking water
- April 5, 2014 has been designated by Congress as Gold Star _____ Day
- Eppley also serves as a basketball official _____
- The first African-American woman to achieve the 3-star rank
- IMCOM commander
- For safe drinking water, owners should physically inspect their _____ every year
- Conference for 11th graders
- One of the world’s biggest self-professed Army brats

Down

- 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas, is part of a _____ response force.
- IRS Form W-4 is the Employee’s Withholding Allowance _____

- APBI is the acronym for Advanced Planning _____ for Industry
- FAP program manager
- The food inspection tool will reduce the danger Soldiers face from _____ food
- An autonomous underwater vehicle with side-scanning sonar
- Number, size and _____ of tattoos have been dialed back under revised AR 670-1
- New Army Reg. says no more than four below the elbow or knees
- Soldiers can lose a lot of time from work because the get sick from _____
- ACS employment readiness program manager
- APG deputy garrison commander
- Roderick Johnson’s nickname
- First woman judge advocate general
- April is the Month of the Military
- science technology engineering and math
- Shaq attended Robert G. _____ high school

Solution to the March 27 puzzle



ACRONYM OF THE WEEK

SLC

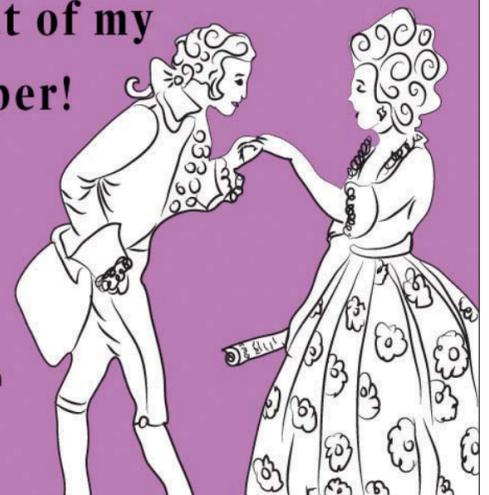
Senior Leader Course

The Senior Leader Course (SLC) is a branch-specific course that provides an opportunity for Soldiers selected for promotion to sergeant first class (E-7) to acquire the leader, technical, and tactical skills, knowledge, and experience needed to lead platoon/company size units.

Don’t even think about trying to charm me out of my APG newspaper!

Check out the latest edition online

www.teamapg.com



Accessing Higher Education Track

The Higher Education Track classes are two-day training events, eight hours per day. The purpose is to help active duty and reserve Soldiers determine career, personal and academic goals; help Soldiers contribute to the selection of a higher education institution; present information about funding factors for selection of higher education institutions; and provide facts about admissions. This class is only for Soldiers that are transitioning from the military and currently going through the Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) process.

The 2014 training dates are April 16 – 17 and Sept. 17 – 18.

Contact the ACAP/Transition office (410) 306-2303 or Army Education Center (410) 306-2042 for assistance with class registration

APG NEWS

This Week in APG News history

By **ALAN FEILER**, APG News



50 Years Ago: April 2, 1964

Clockwise from top:

The first military retirement ceremony of the year took place at APG. Marking their retirement after more than two decades of active service were 1st Sgt. Donald C. Finch of Fifth Enlisted Training Company, Master Sgt. Otto S. Hanel, Master Sgt. Alex Harrell, Master Sgt. Jessie Lockhart, and Staff Sgt. Henry White, all from Headquarters and Headquarters Company.



Brig. Gen. Raymond J. Harvey, assistant commandant of the U.S. Army Engineer School in Fort Belvoir, Va., made an official visit to the Army Ordnance Center and School to familiarize himself with current methods of training and facilities in the APG schools' technical units.

The Coffee Brewing Institute, a non-profit organization supported by coffee-growing countries under the International Coffee Agreement, conducted a coffee-brewing school for APG mess sergeants.

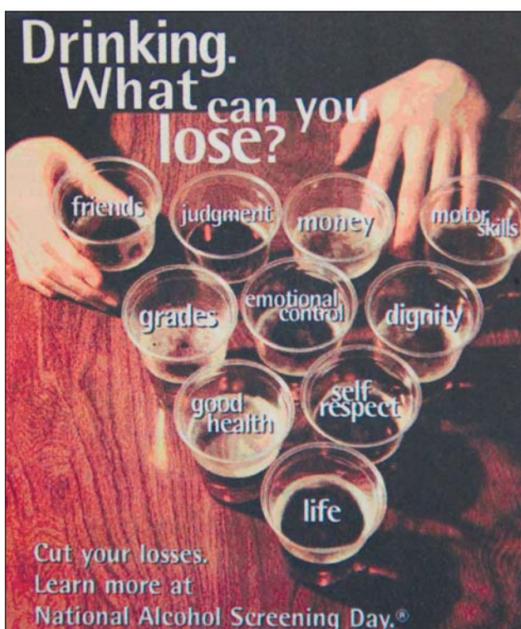
25 Years Ago: April 5, 1989

Clockwise from top left:

For Women's History Month, a five-member panel of military and civilian females discussed the role that women have played in American history. More than 100 people attended the luncheon event, which featured Capt. Patrice Manuel.

Sgt. 1st Class James Mozingo leads members of the Advanced Individual Training group on the fire-movement course at the 61st Ordnance Brigade field training exercise site.

Morgan Tilden caught a pair of catfish at Spesutie Island at APG. Tilden is a retired civil service employee who enjoys fishing on the island two or three times a week.



10 Years Ago: April 1, 2004

Clockwise from left:

APG's Army Substance Abuse Program staff will host events in support of National Alcohol Screening Day at the Aberdeen Area Main Post Exchange lobby and at the Edgewood Area Shoppette. The theme of the NASD is "Alcohol and Your Health: Where Do You Draw The Line?"

The partnership between the U.S. Army Environmental Center and Edgewood Elementary School snagged the Army's top honors for community relations this month at the Worldwide Public Affairs Conference in Vienna, Va. Shown here are fifth grade student Victor Roman-Nieves (left) and Dustin Hutton.



The Edgewood Black Belt Academy recently opened on Hanson Road near the Edgewood Area of APG. The academy is run by Sgt. 1st Class Danny McGhee and his wife, Lisa, both of whom hold black belts.



Want to make a difference in how services are rendered at APG? Tell us how we are doing. Visit <http://ice.disa.mil>. Click on "ARMY" then "Aberdeen Proving Ground."

Army looks to increase food safety

Handheld inspection tool will increase food safety for Soldiers

By **JANE BENSON**
NSRDEC

Military food inspectors may one day hold the key to avoiding foodborne illness in the palms of their hands. The U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center is working to develop a small, sensitive, hand-held device that will both capture and detect dangerous pathogens that can cause food-related illness.

The effort received a 2013 U. S. Food and Drug Administration leveraging and collaboration award. Under the award, scientists from Food Protection Team and Macromolecular Sciences and Engineering Team at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, or NSRDEC, are collaborating with the FDA, Winchester Engineering and Analytical Center, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The award is for "Designing Handheld Resistance Based Biosensors Utilizing Conducting Nonwoven Fibers for In-Field Microbial Pathogen Detection."

NSRDEC originally came up with the idea of conductive membrane sensors and performed the initial research under the Army's 6.1 basic research programs. This research is the basis for the collaboration with the FDA and MIT. The NSRDEC scientists involved in the project include Andre Senecal, Kris Senecal, Joshua Magnone, Patrick Marek, Shannon McGraw and Philip Pivarnik.

The food inspection tool will reduce the danger Soldiers face from contaminated food. Food safety is critical to combat readiness. Soldier performance,

quality of life, and health can be seriously affected by undetected pathogens in food.

"Military operations at some overseas locations where food is procured locally and food safety laws are lenient, are especially problematic. Soldiers can lose a lot of time from work because they get sick from pathogens present in water and food," Andre Senecal said. "We are starting our work with E. coli 0157:H7, but the goal is to look at all microbial pathogens and toxins that they produce."

"The leading cause of illness among troops has historically been gastroenteritis, with one of the primary culprits being E. coli," McGraw explained.

Biosensors consist of a biological component, such as an antibody or DNA that is capable of capturing, detecting and recording information about a measurable physical change in the biosensor system.

When bacteria are present on the device it impedes the flow of electricity from one side to the other side, McGraw said. This change in the electrical connection tells the user that the sensor has encountered a dangerous food pathogen.

The sensor will be a marked improvement over current detection methods because of its portability and simplicity in a field environment. Current methods use cumbersome, sometimes heavy equipment, including tubing and reagents.

Since the sensors would capture and detect on the same device, the need for some peripheral equipment is eliminated, Marek said.

"It will be portable," added Kris Senecal.

"And the device will be reusable and the detection membranes disposable, and (it) will hold up in a field environment," McGraw said.

The biosensor will concentrate pathogens that could help eliminate the need to grow the bacteria, which can take eight to 30 hours, Andre Senecal explained.

"We thought we could incorporate

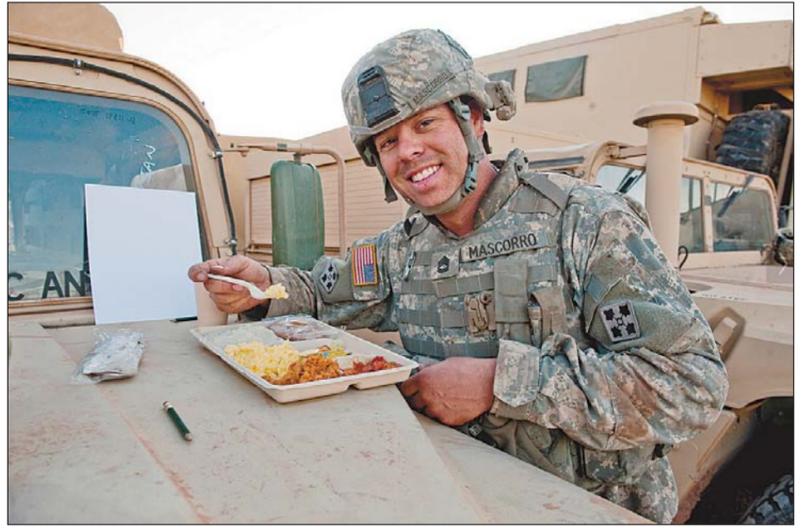


Photo by David Kamm

Food is important to Soldiers' mission performance and morale. Army scientists at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center are finding new ways to keep food safe.

Kris's work on electrospinning and use nanotechnology and fibers as a way of simplifying the process of extracting and concentrating the bacteria on one platform," he said.

Kris Senecal is working to put conductive polymers on nanofibers, which she said work better at detection than a flat surface.

"Nanofibers are one-billionth of a meter and nanomaterials are cheap, one-use, and super lightweight," Kris Senecal explained. "Nanofibers may be used for food safety. Antibodies can be added to the nanofibers, which have a lot of surface area to which you can add antibodies that can catch single-cell bacteria, and other pathogens. The sensor will provide protection from E.coli, Listeria, general food threats, and Salmonella."

"It will be very helpful in preventing illness. Everyone is looking for something better, cheaper, faster," McGraw said.

"If it can be used for the military, it

can be used elsewhere," Pivarnik said.

"This could also help farmers since not all farmers use safe, municipal, chlorinated water," Andre Senecal added.

"It definitely has commercial applications," Kris Senecal said.

ABOUT NATICK SOLDIER RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING CENTER

NSRDEC is part of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, which has the mission to develop technology and engineering solutions for America's Soldiers.

RDECOM is a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Materiel Command. AMC is the Army's premier provider of materiel readiness -- technology, acquisition support, materiel development, logistics power projection, and sustainment -- to the total force, across the spectrum of joint military operations. If a Soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, wears it, eats it or communicates with it, AMC provides it.



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Family Advocacy Program seeks year-round success

Continued from Page 1

commitment to this prevention effort in partnership with the Family Advocacy Program.”

Child abuse prevention does not work if leadership focus only occurs one month in the year. For success to be achieved, the Army must first bring awareness to everyone and then follow up with great classes and counselors which deliver what it takes to succeed year-round.

“A vocal and vibrant campaign to end the abuse and maltreatment of children is still necessary in all of society,” said Novella Magwood, FAP program manager. “The Army’s Family Advocacy Program focuses on the prevention effort to maximize our returns. The children deserve our best efforts.”

The FAP is congressionally-mandated and intended to prevent and reduce the occurrence of Family violence, while it

“A vocal and vibrant campaign to end the abuse and maltreatment of children is still necessary in all of society. The Army’s Family Advocacy Program focuses on the prevention effort to maximize our returns. The children deserve our best efforts.”

Novella Magwood
FAP program manager

strives to create an environment of intolerance for such behavior.

“In today’s fast paced environment full of challenges and stresses, often it seems there is not enough time to pause long enough to reset the Family,” said Col. Cox, HQDA Family

advocacy program manager. “Family advocacy helps to head problems off before they escalate.”

The program provides Soldiers and Family members early referral and intervention services for all types of domestic violence issues. The goal is

to establish sufficient safety and risk-reduction plans, such as counseling services and parenting classes, to help the Army Family get the most out of their own talents and resources.

Services are available for parents of children at all ages. First-time moms and dads at a distant duty location can get advice as if the grandparents were on-call. Older parents can receive advice to help with the transition from pre-teen to young adult.

Soldiers and Family members are invited to learn more about the Family Advocacy Program at their garrison’s Army Community Service facility. Participation in FAP services is stigma-free and is most effective when the family comes to the counselors early.

“Being a parent is one of the greatest experiences a young Soldier can have,” said Magwood. “Our job is to make it a little better and a little easier.”

FWP event spotlights trailblazers, future roles

Continued from Page 1

sacrifices of the many women who came before her. She said Women’s History Month is a reminder that freedom and justice have never come easily and she encouraged listeners to remember the 150,000 women who served in the Women’s Army Corps during World War II. The WAC was the first group of women other than nurses to serve within the ranks of the U.S. Army.

“Women’s history is near and dear to my heart. I had very strong women who influenced me as a young girl growing up,” she said.

Anderson said that women currently comprise 20 percent of the Army’s total force, and 42 percent of all federal employees are women. In the SES ranks, there are approximately 8,000 employees and 2,700 are women. Anderson said women continue to break barriers in the military and in the United States. She noted that Vice Adm. Michelle Howard is the first African-American woman to achieve the 3-star rank and that in December 2013 Howard was confirmed by the Senate to become the first female 4-star in the U.S. Navy.

Anderson added that she supports women in combat roles, and hopes

that one day, all jobs in the Army will be open to women. She said she is currently part of an advisory panel with other military leaders, sociologists, psychologists and medical doctors who are assessing and evaluating the integration of women into currently closed combat military occupational specialties. This team is responsible for reporting their findings to the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. TRADOC is also conducting surveys and asking infantry Soldiers to share their views on women in combat, to determine any challenges.

Anderson said opening combat positions to women will expand career opportunities for women and provide the Army with a greater pool of qualified members from whom combatant commanders may draw. The change will open up thousands of new jobs for women, she said.

“Without combat leadership experience, military advancement, regardless of gender, has been limited,” she said. “In the past this limitation disproportionately stifled women’s careers.”

She said she is also a proponent of women going into science, technology and mathematics, or STEM-related careers, noting that women and minorities are underrepresented in these fields.

“These fields directly contribute to our national security and prosperity,” she said. “The demand for skilled workers in STEM is very closely linked to global competitiveness. Job opportunities generally abound in these areas both here and abroad.”

Anderson asked the audience to continue to support the advancement of women.

“We have to carry on the work of the women that came before us, and ensure that our daughters, nieces and other young women have no limits on their dreams, no obstacles on their achievements and no remaining ceilings to shatter,” she said. “They are our future leaders.”

The program included remarks by Col. Heidi Warrington from the U.S. Army Public Health Command, Col. Cynthia Palinski, the acting director of CECOM’s Logistics Readiness Center and Mary Woods, the deputy program executive officer of the Program Executive Office Command, Control Communications Tactical.

Renesha Robinson, from CECOM’s LRC, sang the National Anthem and the song “Superwoman” by Alicia Keyes.

In addition to the Women’s History Month observance, attendees also took part in two free professional devel-

opment seminars. Topics included conflict management, SharePoint, presentation techniques, financial planning, time management and retirement. During lunch, attendees had a chance to visit educational vendors.

Several attendees agreed that they thought the event provided learning and networking opportunities.

“The guest speaker is a trailblazer,” said Janna Madren-Whalley from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. “I really admire her; she is a role model for everyone.”

Sandi Williams, from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, said she wanted to attend the event because it was convenient and the trainings fulfilled some of her continuing education requirements.

“I enjoyed the time management workshop,” Williams said. “I can use what I learned at work and at home.”

Karen Whittenberg, from the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, said she felt more informed after attending the “Personnel: Retirement, RIF & Rules” workshop.

“These kinds of workshops empower women to make better choices,” Whittenberg said.

The FWP committee is seeking members from APG organizations and units. For more information call 410-436-5501.

DID YOU KNOW?

A ‘Gunsmoke’ great has a local theater named after him?

Remember Milburn Stone? He was that wonderful veteran character actor best known for his portrayal of the wise and caring Dr. Galen “Doc” Adams on the old TV Western series, “Gunsmoke.”

Stone, who died in 1980 at age 75 after a long stage, film and television career, was a son of the prairie, born in central Kansas. But in these parts, he’s arguably best remembered as the namesake of the Milburn Stone Theatre at Cecil College’s North East campus. The Milburn Stone, as it’s called, is considered the leading performing arts theater serving Maryland’s northeast region.

Built in 1994, the 440-seat, state-of-the-art facility offers theater, music, dance and art throughout the year. The theater company produces at least eight plays each season. It also presents programming and activities there sponsored by the college and myriad community organizations.

So the question remains, what’s the connection between this theater group in Cecil County and ol’ Doc? Seems that the troupe’s late director, George Prettyman, and Milburn Stone had a pen-pal relationship for many years. Prettyman was a huge “Gunsmoke” fan and particularly loved the Doc character. Prettyman and Stone and their wives even hung out together sometime in the early ‘70s in Columbia, Md. (Musta been some wild times!)

At some point, Prettyman started a scholarship for aspiring actors and artists at Cecil College in Stone’s honor, and the actor contributed to it himself.

After the actor’s death, Prettyman kept in touch with Stone’s wife and daughter, Jane Garrison and Shirley Stone Gleason, and they made a bequest to the fledgling theater company. They also put up the cash for the theater’s big red curtain that graces the proscenium arch onstage. In fact, they came to Cecil to catch the opening night performance of “The Music Man.”

When it came time to building the new theater 20 years ago, Prettyman convinced Cecil College’s leadership to name it after Milburn Stone.

Marshall Garrett, the theater’s resident director, said some of Stone’s relatives drop by occasionally to see the place. “We have a lot of pictures of him and memorabilia about him in the lobby,” Garrett said. “A lot of people ask us a lot how he’s connected to us.”

BTW, you diehard “Gunsmoke” trivia buffs out there (and you know who you are) should know that Milburn Stone, who was close pals with President Reagan, took over the role of Doc after Howard McNear (best known as Floyd the Barber on “The Andy Griffith Show”) originated the role on the “Gunsmoke” radio series. Stone portrayed Doc in approximately 500 “Gunsmoke” episodes, from the TV show’s debut in 1955 until it went off the air in ‘75. He won an Emmy Award for the role in ‘68.

One of Doc’s best lines to Matt Dillon was, “You’re about as humble as a turpentine cat.” Or to the dimwitted bane of his existence, Festus: “Don’t think! That’s when you get dangerous.” And then there was this immortal line: “Kitty, I know this has been harder on you than anybody. He’s going to be alright. I promise.”

Why can’t doctors be more like that nowadays?

For information about the Milburn Stone Theatre, call 410-287-1023 or visit www.milburnstone.com.



Alan Feiler, APG News

Job Fair offers wide variety of educational, career choices

Continued from Page 1

out hundreds of ‘faceless’ resumes and fill out multiple online applications, but there is nothing better than direct interaction with employers. A job fair allows an individual to deliver a ‘one-minute elevator speech’ to the employer that is focused on marketing their skill set and personal qualities. It provides an outstanding forum to make a great impression. It is my belief that the APG job fair did just that.”

Prior to the fair’s opening, the line of attendees stretched down the hall nearly to the recreation center library.

“I just came here to figure out my next step,” said Aberdeen resident Jennifer Overmyer, an Army veteran, former civ-

il affairs employee and recent new mom. “I want to get back into the workforce and this was very helpful for me; just to hand

out resumes and get some business cards. It was pretty good.”

APG Contracting Officer Ercilia Delorbe, from Havre de Grace, said she attended the fair to learn about what’s going on in today’s vocational climate.

“It was helpful just to see what kinds of job opportunities are available,” she said. “It never hurts to look around and see what your options are. You can’t limit your resources. You always have to educate yourself and see what companies are looking for.”

For job information or resources, contact Marilyn Howard, ACS Employment Manager 410-278-9669

“Face-to-face contact with prospective employers is crucial in today’s competitive job market. A job seeker may send out hundreds of ‘faceless’ resumes and fill out multiple online applications, but there is nothing better than direct interaction with employers.”

Glenn A. Wait

Deputy Garrison Commander



APG NEWS

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Revised regs redefine appearance standards

Continued from Page 1

“Every Soldier has the responsibility to understand and follow these standards,” he continued. “Leaders at all levels also have a responsibility to interpret and enforce these standards, which begins by setting the example.”

Some of the changes include:

TATTOOS

Tattoos cannot be located anywhere on the neck or head above the lines of a T-shirt. They also cannot be located anywhere below the wrist bone.

Visible band tattoos cannot be longer than two inches wide. There can be no more than one visible band tattoo. Sleeve tattoos on arms or legs are not allowed.

Each visible tattoo below the elbow or knee must be smaller than the size of the wearer’s extended hand. There cannot be more than four total tattoos below the elbows or knees.

Soldiers who currently violate these revisions can be grandfathered in as long as commanders validate their current tattoos. Also, each year, commanders must check each Soldier for new tattoos that might be prohibited. The checks will be done when Soldiers are in their physical fitness uniform and do not include tattoos that might be hidden by the shorts or T-shirts.

Prohibited tattoos include those just mentioned, as well as ones that could be deemed extremist, indecent, sexist or racist.

UNIFORMS

Soldiers on official travel and traveling by commercial carrier are no longer allowed to wear the Army Combat Uniform, or ACU. Instead, they must either wear civilian attire or the service uniform.

The only ACU exceptions are when Soldiers are deploying, on rest and recuperation leave to and from theater and when authorized to do so by commanders for emergency leave or casualty assistance duties.

Identification tags must be worn at all



U.S. Army photo

These photos are samples of photos that should accompany self identification memos to the commander fully describing existing tattoos in accordance with the new personal appearance regulations regarding tattoos and branding in AR 670-1 as of March 31, 2014. The policy redefines indecent tattoos, has added restrictions for locations for unauthorized tattoos, and directs that “Soldier’s current tattoos will be documented in online records to protect Soldiers with grandfathered tattoos and aid with implementing this policy.”

times while on duty in uniform unless otherwise directed.

Soldiers can carry plain, black umbrellas only during inclement weather when in service, dress and mess uniforms. However, umbrellas are not allowed in formations or when wearing field or utility uniforms.

Revisions also cover the wearing of badges and tabs, the carrying of bags, sewing on of nametapes, U.S. Army tape and grade insignia; wearing of insignia representing regimental affiliation, windbreakers, all-weather coats and other garments.

MALE GROOMING

Fancy-style haircuts, including the “tear drop,” “landing strip” or “Mohawk,” and “horseshoe” are no longer authorized.

Sideburns cannot extend below the bottom of the ear opening and cannot be flared or tapered to a point, and the length

of the sideburn hair cannot exceed one-eighth of an inch.

A mustache cannot extend past the corners of the mouth and no portion can cover the upper lip line or go higher than the lowest portion of the nose.

Fingernails cannot extend past the tip of the finger and nail polish cannot be worn.

FEMALE GROOMING

Hair must be neatly and inconspicuously fastened or pinned. Bangs are now authorized, as long as they don’t fall below the eyebrows. “Bulk of hair,” measured from the scalp up, as opposed to the length of hair, will not exceed two inches, except for a bun, which can protrude three inches from the scalp. The bun cannot be wider than the width of the head.

Also hair needs to be properly secured, cannot be unbalanced or lopsided and parting of hair must be in a straight line.

Hair extensions and wigs are now authorized as long as they have the same general appearance as the natural hair and conform to all other hair regulations.

During physical training, women can now wear the full length of their hair in one pony tail that’s centered on the back of the head.

Fingernails cannot exceed 1/4 inch from the tip of the finger and only clear nail polish is authorized with all uniforms.

OTHER

Soldiers cannot mutilate their bodies in any manner, such as tongue bifurcation.

Tooth caps or veneers of any unnatural color, design, shape or texture cannot be worn.

Jewelry or objects cannot be attached to, through or under the skin or other body part. This applies to all Soldiers on or off duty. The only exception is that female Soldiers can wear authorized earrings.

Commanders can authorize the wearing of sunglasses in formations or field environments. Glasses of any type cannot be worn on top of the head.

Soldiers cannot walk in such a way as to interfere with saluting, giving salutations or in a manner that detracts from a professional image. Examples include walking while eating, using electronic devices and smoking. All restrictions that apply to cigarettes also apply to tobacco-free cigarettes.

Personnel in civilian clothing, whether on-duty or off-duty, on or off post, must dress in a way that does not detract from the profession.

The wearing of wireless and non-wireless devices such as earpieces while in uniform is prohibited. However, hands-free devices used in a vehicle or bicycle are allowed as long as they are not prohibited by policy or civilian law.

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Edgewood Contracting Division establishes early cutoff dates for 2014 procurement requests

ECD news release

The Edgewood Contracting Division (ECD) – a contracting division under the Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground – provides contract support for APG South (Edgewood).

The following guidance is published to highlight the established Fiscal Year 2014 cutoff dates for submission of purchase requests for those customers receiving contract support through ECD.

Advance planning in identifying and submitting PRs on or before the published cutoff dates greatly enhances the ability of the ECD to meet customer needs.

The peak processing time for most contracting offices is between July 1 and September 30 of each fiscal year. “Last year ECD processed 344 procurement actions valued at approximately \$132.2 million during the July through September time period,” said Ruby Mixon, Chief of ECD Policy Office. “Due to the slow start in the distribution of customer funding this fiscal year it is anticipated that the number of actions will significantly increase dur-

ing this year’s peak period to compensate for the lag in distribution of funds. Therefore it is extremely important that customers be as diligent as possible in identifying their needs early in the cycle,” said Mixon.

Resources are stretched thin for the contracts team and customers therefore it is equally as important to submit complete procurement packages.

Mixon said, “Incomplete packages delay the process and create inefficiency. It is essential this year that upfront coordination with the appropriate Contracting Officer takes place,” said Mixon. This will ensure that all purchase request packages contain the necessary documents and approvals to avoid delays in processing awards and make maximum use of available customer dollars.

Mixon stressed that customers should ensure that all procurement requests processed through GFEBS contains the necessary information in the description. Identifying the Branch Chief as well as the Contracting Officer if known will assist routing the actions to the correct contracts team as quickly as possible for processing.

“Purchase requests for actions that are not GFEBS enabled must continue to be submitted electronically to the ECD using the SHARED MAILBOX: usarmy.APG.acc.mbx.edgewood-contracting-division@mail.mil,” said Mixon.

Notwithstanding any prior approved milestones, the cutoff dates for all procurement requests are as follows*:

- Noncommercial items over \$150,000 – May 30**
- Services over \$150,000 – May 30**
- Commercial items less than \$6.5 million – May 30
- Delivery orders and task orders under existing contracts – June 3
- GSA schedule procurements – June 3
- Short-of-Award actions – May 30***

** All actions that require a justification and approval document prior to processing must be submitted by May 2.

*** There may be instances where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. These actions must be coordinated with the Branch Chief prior to this date.

***Customers submitting “short-of-award” requirements must consider whether funding will materialize. Time spent processing these actions can be better utilized on funded actions.

“ECD will make every effort to accommodate those customers whose procurement packages are submitted after the established cut-off dates,” said Mixon, “however, there is no guarantee that the award will be processed prior to Sept. 30.

For more information, contact: Chief, Edgewood Contracting Division: Debra R. Abbruzzese at debra.r.abbruzzese.civ@mail.mil 410-436-2554;

Steven Austin, Branch A (ECBC, ACWA & CMA Customers) at steven.o.austin.civ@mail.mil 410-436-2449;

Thomas Dickson, Branch B (JPEO-CBD Customers) at thomas.a.dickson4.civ@mail.mil 410-436-8621; or

Diane Street, Branch C (JPEO-CBD Customers) at diane.l.street.civ@mail.mil 410-436-3750

Contracting cutoff dates for Fiscal Year 2014

Tenant Contracting Division

The Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground (ACC-APG), tenant and garrison contracting divisions, have established their Fiscal Year 2014 (FY 14) cutoff dates for submission of Acquisition Packages to include purchase requests (PRs) and accompanying acquisition documentation.

Early planning and customer support continues to remain the key to a successful year-end by identifying and submitting these packages BY OR BEFORE the date listed below. This greatly enhances the ability of the ACC-APG tenant and garrison contracting divisions to meet customer needs. Any packages which might be accepted after the cutoff date shall be handled on a best effort with no guarantee of award.

The following schedule has been established for the submission of acquisition packages for FY 14. This cutoff date is for the PR and ALL supporting documentation and approvals. Incomplete acquisition packages will not be accepted by the tenant/garrison divisions. Failure to include the necessary documentation could result in delay, untimely, or non-award of requests.

Cutoff Date: (to include but not limited to the actions listed below) May 15.

- Noncommercial items over \$150,000*
- Noncommercial items between \$2,500 for services; \$3,000 for supplies; \$2,000 for construction and \$150,000
- Commercial items under \$150,000
- Commercial items over \$150,000
- Services under \$150,000
- Services over \$150,000
- Delivery orders and task orders under existing contracts
- GSA schedule procurements
- Short-of-award over \$2,500**
- Maintenance for FY 2014 – (FY14 Contract Modifications and Options for Existing Maintenance Contracts)

* There may be instances where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. It is therefore required that these actions be coordinated with the branch chiefs prior to this date. The ACC-APG tenant/garrison contracting divisions encourage customer activities to coordinate their projected FY-end require-

ments with their respective branch chiefs during the third quarter in order to discuss acquisition methods and identify those documents, reviews, and approvals required to accompany the procurement package.

**Customers submitting short-of-award PRs, especially for services requirements, must consider whether funding will materialize. A substantial amount of effort is expended to prepare these pending actions and they must be prioritized after PRs that are funded and PRs that are subject to the availability of funds. Short-of-award actions, if not funded in FY14, should be funded immediately in FY15 as a bona fide need.

Subject-to-availability-of-funds (SAF) will only be accepted by the Tenant/Garrison contracting division branch chiefs. APG activities should consider maximizing use of their government purchase cards to execute small dollar transactions for authorized items rather than submitting a purchase request to the contracting office.

ALL acquisition packages must be submitted electronically and at a minimum shall include the following:

Funded purchase request, statement of work/description of requirement/purchase description, independent government cost estimate (IGCE), service acquisition strategy (Greater than \$150,000 inclusive of options), service contract approval, COR nomination completed in VCE-COR tool, quality assurance surveillance plan (QASP), NEC approval (IT hardware, software and services), evaluation factors, complete sole source justification (Less than \$150,000 and J&A for greater than \$150,000, if appropriate), Antiterrorism/Operations Security (AT/OPSEC) cover sheet, and market research.

Who to contact:

- Chief, Tenant Contracting Division: Cynthia H. Phillips, cynthia.h.phillips.civ@mail.mil, 443-861-4812
- Mission Branch: Alison Gannon, alison.w.gannon.civ@mail.mil, 443-861-4832
- Technology Branch: Jason VanLuvan, jason.e.vanluven.civ@mail.mil, 443-861-5355
- Contract Support Branch: Thomas Boyle, thomas.j.boyle.civ@mail.mil, 443-861-5351
- Chief, Garrison Contracting Division: Lt. Col. Derek Draper, derek.j.draper@mail.mil, 443-861-5073
- Facilities Branch: Kimmie Edwards, kimmie.i.edwards.civ@mail.mil, 443-861-5339
- Supply & Services Branch: Debbie Dean, debbie.d.dean.civ@mail.mil, 443-861-4625

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/>.



MOMC KICKOFF FEATURES PARADE, PROCLAMATION

Children from the Child, Youth and School Services Strong Beginnings Pre-kindergarten program at the APG North (Aberdeen) Child Development Center walk in a parade, April 1, to advocate child abuse prevention. (Top) Col. Gregory R. McClinton, APG Garrison commander, signs the Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation to kick off of Month of the Military Child activities.

Clockwise from left:

Stephanie Nguyen and Justin Eng carry a poster while leading the parade outside the APG North (Aberdeen) CDC; Aiden Pahon holds his pinwheel up to the wind during the afternoon parade; James Sylvester looks over the Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation held by APG Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton, as Justin Eng looks on.

Photos by Deborah Ince



Photos by Alan Feiler

JOB FAIR PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOB SEEKERS

More than 75 vendors from Towson University to Lockheed Martin displayed their wares for job seekers at the APG Job Fair & Expo March 26 at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center. The event was open to all job seekers, including active duty military, retirees, Reserve, National Guard and Family members.

Clockwise from top left:

(From left) Alice Jones and Evelyn Childs talk about the Army Education Center services and resources; the APG Job Fair & Expo fills with more than 625 attendees; APG audio-visual technician La'Mont Harbison lends a casual ambiance to the Job Fair & Expo with some classic jazz selections.