



APG NEWS

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Garrison town hall provides updates

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Garrison Soldiers and civilians received the latest updates on the state of the garrison and changes slated for the coming year during the Garrison Town Hall meeting at the post theater Dec. 9.

Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Adams led the event. Glenn Wait, deputy to the garrison commander, hosted the forum in the APG South (Edgewood) area.

With 2014 winding to a close, news and updates were still coming in during the year's final meeting of garrison workers. The big news of the day was that a budget agreement preventing a government shutdown was to be met before the end of the day on Capital Hill.

The President signed an executive order granting federal employees an extra day of holiday leave Friday, Dec. 26. Team APG should note that the Route 22 gate will be closed that day as a result.

Early guidance is that employees whose RDO falls on Dec. 26 will have their RDO moved to Dec. 24. Personnel should confirm this information with their supervisors.

McClinton reviewed the priorities of the Army and Installation Management Command and noted that APG was one of 30 installations targeted to inform the Army about the impacts a force reduction would have on the community. An

See **GARRISON**, page 6

Lighting up the night

APG gathers to celebrate start of the holiday season

By **STACY SMITH**
APG News

Team APG held its annual Holiday Tree Lighting program outside the Bayside Community Center on APG North (Aberdeen) Dec. 3.

Soldiers, civilians and family members gathered for holiday festivities, including the tree lighting, carolers, refreshments and a special visit from Santa Claus.

Gwyn Dolzine, MWR event coordinator, said that the program brings the community's families together and is a great way to mark the beginning of APG's holiday season.

"That's what makes this event so special," she said.

Joyous Voices carolers performed an a cappella medley of Christmas songs as attendees waited for opening remarks.

APG Senior Commander Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford, and his wife Dianne thanked attendees for coming and wished everyone a happy holiday season. Crawford encouraged listeners to remember military personnel and their families who are not able to celebrate the holidays together.

"Keep in mind those who have family members who are not with them, who are either deployed in harm's way or deployed in support of humanitarian assistance," he said. "Let's make sure we keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers as we gather as a community once again to celebrate."

After a brief invocation led by Chaplain Lt. Col. Jerry Owens, Maj. Jay Coats and his family assisted Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton, CECOM Command Sgt. Maj. William

See **COMMUNITY**, page 14

From left, Clay Welch, tenor, Mickey Rullany, alto, Nancy Asendorf, soprano and Randy Goldberg, base with the "Joyous Voices" sing carols in front of the newly lit holiday tree.
Photo by Molly Blossie



CONSTRUCTION ALERT

Roadway improvements through the MD 755 Phase 2 Willoughby Beach Road to MARC Edgewood Station Community Safety and Enhancement Project are ongoing and slated to be complete in January 2016.

Water main installation is ongoing along Edgewood Road. The first phase of major construction will begin with the installation of a storm drain, followed by curb, sidewalk and road widening starting at the Wise Road Gate.

During this construction, temporary lane closures and flagging operations may occur any time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and overnight between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, according to Nathan Osborne, Directorate of Public Works chief of master planning.

This phase of construction is expected to be complete by Dec. 30, weather permitting.

Team APG is reminded to factor in additional travel time and drive cautiously through the construction zone.

Walk honors injured service members

By **MAJ. AARON MCCULLOUGH**
JPM-NBC CA

'Tis the season for cheer and giving! What better way to celebrate the holiday season than enjoying fellowship with family and co-workers while supporting a great cause.

The Joint Project Management Office for Nuclear Biological Chemical Contamination Avoidance (JPM-NBC CA) recently did just that during the organization's annual Snowflake Shindig and Warrior Walk held Dec. 3 at the APG South (Edgewood) Stark Recreation Center.

"This event brought members of the organization together for an afternoon of camaraderie and fun," said Col. Alfred Abramson, the Joint Project Manager. "The professionals within JPM-NBC CA consistently work hard to deliver critical capabilities to our service members. Today, we were able to take time to celebrate the holidays with an office luncheon and fun competition while also honoring our warfighters."

Personnel from JPM-NBC CA enjoyed holiday

See **WARRIOR**, page 14



Photo by Steven Lusher

Col. Alfred Abramson, Joint Project Manager for Nuclear Biological Chemical Contamination Avoidance, receives a safety band from Angie Little in preparation for the JPM-NBC CA annual Warrior Walk Dec. 3.

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WEATHER

Thursday

Mostly Sunny
chance of rain 0%



44° | 33°

More inside

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STREET TALK

What is your favorite childhood memory from the holidays?

"In Germany Santa Claus comes Dec. 6 and fills our boots. On Christmas Eve, the Christmas Angel brings the tree and all the presents. So the children don't actually get to see the tree until Christmas Eve...it's a big surprise."



Sandra Roberts
Military spouse

"I'm from Jackson, Tennessee and it's 13 of us. I remember all of us getting up on Christmas morning together and seeing all the toys and dolls, and my brothers loved to play cowboys."



Emma Fezell
Retired military

"My brother and I were sitting inside the kitchen and all of a sudden we heard footsteps on the roof and we heard bells jingling outside. My mom was like 'who is it?!' And we yelled, 'It's Santa!'" It turns out my dad was on the roof stomping around and he had some bells that he was jingling. Now I'm old enough to be a dad and I think-wow, my dad was awesome! ...We really thought Santa Claus was there."



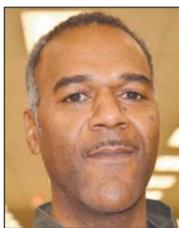
Tom Sullivan
CECOM

"Watching the movie 'A Christmas Story' with my family every year."



Mirella Makumbu
CDC caregiver

"Every Christmas Eve the family would get together and decorate and put up the tree. That would be the most memorable experience."



Rayne Fletcher
ATEC

Safety in holiday decorating

By **AMANDA ROMINIECKI**
APG News

The holidays are meant to be a joyous time, celebrating the past year and the new year to come with family and friends, but that joy can quickly sour if festive decorations become a fire hazard.

According to APG Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Inspector T.C. Glassman, keeping your family safe during the holiday season should be a top priority.

"The holiday season can be a busy time for many people, but it is critical to slow down and make sure you aren't unknowingly putting you and your family at risk," he said.

Buying a tree

For families who purchase a live tree during the holiday season, it is important to select a healthy tree and keep it that way all month long, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC.)

Look for:

- A tree that is a deep, vibrant shade of green
- Pliable needles that don't snap when bent
- A tree stump that is still sticky with resin
- Branches that don't shed too many needles when given a firm shake.

A tree with brown, dead branches, brittle needles and surrounded by a pile of fallen needles indicates an unhealthy, dried out tree that should be passed over in search of a healthier – and safer – one, Glassman said.

"You don't want to bring a dried out tree into your house and then add live electricity to it as it becomes even drier over the course of the holiday season," Glassman said. "It creates an unsafe situation, and really the perfect fire-starter."

If your family opts for an artificial tree, be sure to purchase one labeled fire resistant.

"A fire resistant artificial tree doesn't mean it won't catch on fire," Glassman said. "But it will resist burning and more importantly it will extinguish quicker, if it were to catch on fire."

Keep it hydrated

Before you start decorating, it is important to prepare the tree to remain healthy and vibrant for several weeks indoors.

- Do not place a tree near a fireplace, radiator or heating ducts
- Cut two to three inches off the stump to allow the tree to absorb more water
- Use a sturdy, wide-legged, water-bearing tree stand and guy-wires to secure the tree to the wall or ceiling.

"While you should never put a tree near the fireplace, you also want to avoid putting it near a radiator or heating duct, which will dry out the tree," Glassman said. "Water the tree every day to keep it well hydrated. Set a daily reminder on your smartphone if you have to, or make it into a fun chore for a younger child."



Courtesy photo

Trimming the tree

When pulling out the holiday lights from storage, check each string for cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections.

"If your lights are in poor condition, they need to be repaired immediately or replaced entirely. When purchasing new lights, look for ones that have been tested by a recognized organization like UL (Underwriters Laboratories)," Glassman said.

- Use no more than three standard-size light sets per single extension cord.
- NEVER use candles on a live or artificial tree. Keep other candles at least three feet from a live or artificial tree.
- The CPSC recommends using only non-combustible or flame-resistant decorative materials.
- Avoid decorating with tinsel all together if you have pets, as it can be incredibly dangerous if ingested.

- Avoid using lights not marked specifically for outdoor use if you plan to decorate the outside of your home.
- Secure outdoor lights to trees, walls, etc. to protect from wind damage.

"Remember to turn off holiday lights when you go to bed or leave your house," Glassman said. "Not only does it save energy, but lights could short and start a fire while your family is asleep or away from home."

Using the fireplace

A warm, crackling fire is the finishing touch to many holiday evenings, but using the fireplace improperly can be dangerous.

- Remove all greens, boughs, papers, stockings and other decorations from the fireplace area before starting a fire.
- Make sure the flue is open.
- Keep a screen in front of the fireplace at all times while the fire is burning.

"Don't use your tree for firewood after you take it down," Glassman said. "When dry evergreens burn, they burn just like tinder. Flames can flare out of control and send sparks flying into your living room or up the chimney where they can ignite creosote deposits."

According to Glassman, the best way to dispose of a tree after the holiday season is to donate it to a recycling center. "Harford County and Baltimore County both offer tree drop-off programs that recycle the trees into mulch, rather than them ending up in a landfill," he said.

For more information about holiday decorating safety, visit www.nfpa.org for tips from the National Fire Prevention Association.

"A dry tree will go up in flames quickly – in just about 10 seconds," Glassman said. "Your family wouldn't have much time to react, especially if you were asleep or away from home, so it's really important you take the necessary safety precautions beforehand."

Holiday season religious services

APG North (Aberdeen)

CATHOLIC MASS

- Thurs, Dec. 11....Guadalupe/Social 5:30 p.m.
- Sun, Dec. 14....3rd Advent 8:45 a.m.
- Sun, Dec 21....4th Advent 8:45 a.m.
- Wed, Dec. 24....Christmas Pageant 5 p.m.
- Wed, Dec. 24Christmas Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m.
- Sun, Dec. 28...Feast of the Holy Family 8:45 p.m.
- Wed, Dec. 31....Mary, Mother of God 5:30 p.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP

- Sun, Dec. 14....3rd Advent 10:15 a.m.
- Sun, Dec 28....4th Advent 10:15 a.m.

GOSPEL WORSHIP

- Sun, Dec. 14....3rd Advent noon
- Sat. Dec. 20....Youth Extravaganza 4 p.m.



- Sun, Dec 28....4th Advent noon.
- Sun. Dec. 28....Worship noon
- Wed, Dec. 31...Watch Night Service 10 p.m.

APG SOUTH (Edgewood)

COMBINED EVENTS

- Wed, Dec. 24....Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Contata 7 p.m.

CATHOLIC MASS

- Sun, Dec. 14....3rd Advent 10:45 a.m.

- Sun, Dec 21....4th Advent 10:45 a.m.
- Wed, Dec. 24....Christmas Pageant 5 p.m.
- Thurs, Dec. 25...Christmas Day Mass 10:45 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 28...Feast of the Holy Family 10:45 p.m.
- Thurs, Jan. 1...Mary, Mother of God 10:45 a.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP

- Sun, Dec. 14....3rd Advent 9:15 a.m.
- Sun, Dec 21....4th Advent 9:15 a.m.
- Sun, Dec. 28....Worship 9:15 a.m.

For more information, contact the Main Post Chapel at 410-278-4333

OTHER HOLY DAYS

- Islamic Contact:
 - Mohamed Meshal, 443-861-8073
- Jewish Contact:
 - Harford Jewish Center, 410-939-3170

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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

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Ceremony bids farewell to Soldier retirees

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Family members, coworkers and friends gathered to bid farewell to two Soldiers at the end of their careers during the Installation Retirement Ceremony at the post theater Dec. 4.

Installation retirement ceremonies salute the service of Department of the Army civilians and Soldiers. Retiring personnel on APG are eligible to participate regardless of organization.

A senior instructor with the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth O'Brien concluded his career with more than 24 years of service. His fellow CECOM senior instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Cesar E. Velez-Roman ended his career after 21 years of service.

The program host, Mary Woods, Deputy Program Executive Officer for Command, Control and Communications – Tactical, presided over the ceremony and presented awards assisted by Maj. Naim R. Lee. Garrison Chaplain Lt. Col. Jerry Owens delivered the invocation.

Woods recognized the retirees' family members and friends and praised each retiree for their sacrifices during their "long and faithful service."

"Their expertise and dedication

made Soldiers better," she said. "We sincerely thank them and their families for their contributions to our Army."

**Sgt. 1st Class
Kenneth W. O'Brien**

O'Brien was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal signed by APG senior leader and CECOM Commander Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford; the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation signed by President Barack Obama; the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement signed by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno; and a U.S. flag and pin. His wife Georgina received a DA Certificate of Appreciation.

O'Brien started his military career in the U.S. Navy in 1987. He entered the Army in 1994.

His previous assignments include Korea, Germany, MacDill Air Force

Base, Florida; and Fort Gordon, Georgia. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation, Achievement and Good Conduct medals; the Joint Service Achievement Medal; Navy Achievement and Good Conduct medals; Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraqi Campaign medals; and the Global War on Terrorism Medal as well as Air Assault and Airborne badges.

O'Brien thanked his wife, family and fellow Soldiers he's worked with



O'Brien



Velez-Roman

at APG and throughout his career.

"We've been through a lot," he said as Georgina O'Brien nodded knowingly.

"Last night I couldn't sleep thinking about the great times over the years. We'll miss them and we thank you all for your support."

A native of New York City, O'Brien is married with four children.

**Sgt. 1st Class
Cesar E. Velez-Roman**

Velez Roman was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal signed by APG senior leader and CECOM Commander Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford; the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation signed by President Barack Obama; the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement signed by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno; and a U.S. flag and pin. His wife, Moraima Segui-Balmaceda received a DA Certificate of Appreciation.

Velez-Roman enlisted in the Army into the Signal Corps 1993. His previous assignments include Korea, Republic of Panama, Puerto Rico, Fort Ritchie, Pennsylvania; Fort Gordon, Georgia and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Velez-Roman's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious and Meritorious medals; the Army Commendation, Achievement and Good Conduct medals; the Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Recruiter Badge.

Velez-Roman thanked everyone for coming, especially his parents who were present in the audience.

"I had fun and we made a lot of great friends," he said.

A native of Isabela, Puerto Rico, Velez-Roman is married with two children.

For more information about upcoming retirement ceremonies or to participate in a ceremony, contact Lisa Waldon at lisa.m.waldon.civ@mail.mil or (410) 278-4353.

“Their [O'Brien and Velez-Roman] expertise and dedication made Soldiers better. We sincerely thank them and their families for their contributions to our Army.”

Mary Woods

PEO C3T Deputy Program Executive Officer

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Chaplain assistant appreciates ‘adventure’

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Some might say that during her military career Sgt. 1st Class Buffie F. Hall took the road less traveled.



Hall

Hall is the chaplain assistant for the 20th CBRNE Command. The single mother of three – one with cerebral palsy – said faith and her commitment to her Soldiers and the Army has sustained her through 22 years of service.

Hall came to APG eight months ago after serving three years with the Fort Meade Garrison. A native of Richmond, Virginia, Hall went to college right after high school and then entered the Army two years later. She said her recruiter suggested the military chaplain assistant occupational specialty (MOS) after they learned the field she wanted to enter was closed.

“He said it sounded like a good fit for me,” she said.

Since then, she’s served various assignments stateside and overseas including two deployments to Iraq with the 89th Military Police Brigade out of Fort Hood, Texas. She processed through the same Soldier Readiness Processing Center that came under attack during the 2009 Fort Hood shooting when then Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan opened fire on fellow Soldiers, killing 12 Soldiers and one civilian and injuring 33 others.

Stationed elsewhere by that time, Hall recalled the sinking feeling she felt after hearing about the attack. She spent the

next several hours on the phone trying to locate friends.

“I was so nervous and worried,” she said. “But they were all on lockdown and everyone was safe.”

Except for two years on recruiting duty, Hall has spent her entire career as a chaplain assistant. Within her command, she leads chaplain assistants from three brigades.

“We come together for training and we have a lot of command inspections and staff visits,” she said.

She added that the MOS has changed over the years with the role of the chaplain assistant becoming more visible to Soldiers and parishioners as well as to religious services.

“It used to be we just did a lot of paperwork but now we’re leading prayer breakfasts and other events. We’re involved in more morale and resiliency-building programs. I guess you could say we’ve become more interactive,” she said.

In this 21st century age of information, one challenge facing today’s chap-

lain assistants is “holding up the persona of morality,” Hall said.

“You’re not required to be religious and some of them aren’t religious but they still have respect for and confidence in their position and their responsibilities,” she said. “Our standards of conduct are

higher and I think this gives them the confidence that is already in them to do the right thing.”

She said serving in the war zone easily was her most challenging assignment.

“In the war zone, we are combatants and chaplains are non-combatants – they don’t carry weapons – so part of our duty is to protect them,” she said. “Along with that we assist in religious services, listen to our fellow Soldiers, offer counsel and advice when needed, and visit the sick and maimed.

“Keeping it together when everything else is falling apart is a big part of it,” she said.

Hall said she was most challenged when vehicles in her convoy were disabled during an improvised explosive

device attack. With vehicles are burning, Soldiers injured and smoke everywhere, the responsibility of responding to the wounded or dying takes precedence over personal emotions or anxieties, she said.

“You have to be physically and mentally intact to respond to something like that.”

Hall also responded to the 2001 terrorist attack at the Pentagon. The aftermath stays with me today, she said.

She said instead of being a hindrance, being a single parent made her a better Soldier.

“A lot of eyes are on you, some of them expecting you to fail, so you have to work harder to do everything correctly, the first time,” she said.

Overall, through the ups and downs, tough times and good times, Hall said she has enjoyed her career, adding that the latest addition to her family, a terrier-Chihuahua mix named Megatron, provides all the excitement she needs.

A Baptist by faith, Hall attends the Gospel Service at the main chapel in APG North (Aberdeen) and she has respect for all religions.

“I provide religious support for all faiths and we do our best to support all services,” she said. “We work closely with the garrison and have a great sense of teamwork with all tenants.

“To me, the unity at APG makes it like a family and I really do like it here.”

Hall sums up her career as a great adventure.

“It’s been an adventure because of the people I’ve met and worked with and the places I’ve been but especially because of the Soldiers and family members who supported me. They’re remarkable and it’s an honor to serve them.”

“It used to be we just did a lot of paperwork but now we’re leading prayer breakfasts and other events. We’re involved in more morale and resiliency-building programs. ... we’ve become more interactive.”

Sgt. 1st Class Buffie F. Hall
20th CBRNE Command
chaplain assistant

See Something

Cut along dotted lines and fold in middle for use as wallet reference Card.

Provided by the INTEL DIV/DPTMS

Say Something

Installation Watch Card

Awareness is key! Everyone is a sensor.

Do: Observe and Report

- Unusual or suspicious activity or suspected surveillance.
- Unusual questions or requests for information relating to capabilities, limitations, or operational information.
- Unusual vehicles operating in or around the Installation.
- Unusual phone calls, messages, or e-mails.
- Unusual contacts on or off post.
- Unusual aerial activity near or around the Installation.
- Any possible compromise of sensitive information.

Do Not

- Discuss any aspect of military operations or planning.
- Discuss military capabilities or limitations.
- Discuss FP measures, capabilities, or posture.
- Disclose any information related to unit deployments.

Report any suspicious activity immediately to the APG Police.

APG North 410-306-2222
APG South 410-436-2222

Off post in Md. call 1-800-492-TIPS or 911
Your call may save lives!

RDECOM chaplain assistant provides support

By **STACY SMITH**
APG News

Christopher Collins is a mild-mannered Army specialist and the chaplain assistant to the command chaplain of the U.S. Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM). Collins provides religious support to more than 16,000 Soldiers and civilians.



Collins

“As a unit ministry team within RDECOM, myself and [Command Chaplain] Lt. Col. Juan Crockett serve as a liaison between RDECOM and the Chaplain Corps,” Collins said. This includes the advanced technology capabilities RDECOM provides to the Army, he said.

“This is a unique assignment,” Collins said. “It’s called a ‘broadening’ assignment. The functions are the same but the technology aspect is different than anything I’ve heard of for our MOS. It has been a great experience.”

Collins said that with its large civilian population, APG is unlike

other Army installations that he has experienced.

Collins spends a lot of his day fulfilling administrative and logistical duties supporting the resiliency of the workforce. “Our number one mission is to support the Soldiers and civilians within RDECOM.”

Twice a year the RDECOM Unit Ministry team helps execute the ‘Strong Bonds’ program, similar to a marriage-building retreat that, according to the Strong Bonds website, seeks to “increase individual Soldier and family member readiness through relationship education and skills training.”

“It’s a great program for Soldiers and their families,” Collins said. “It works on communication which is

very important in relationships.

“It provides some tools for families, couples and even single Soldiers to become more resilient in their marriage or relationships, which is really the cornerstone of resiliency. If you’re not happy in your relationships, typically people don’t do so well in the other dimensions of resiliency.”

Collins said he learned about the personal sacrifice and resiliency that are an integral part of a life serving others from his own family.

His father served in the Air Force for 28 years so he grew

accustomed to frequent moves. His grandfather served in the Marine Corps.

Collins followed suit when he joined the Army six years ago. He

said he was attracted by the education, travel, and professional development opportunities that only the military can offer.

“I come from a military background. It’s always been part of my life,” he said.

“I also have strong faith so religious support is important to me. When the MOS was offered I thought it would be interesting to go in as a chaplain assistant to support the chaplains and Soldiers, and get to do something that I enjoy,” Collins said.

He said he plans to retire from the Army and that he appreciates the mentorship he’s received from the officers and non-commissioned officers during his career so far, as well as the unique perspective afforded to a chaplain assistant.

“Not only do we [chaplain assistants] get to serve the [Soldiers] we get to work with some of the higher ranking leadership within the Army,” he said. “It kind of opens the door for professional development, mentorship and a deeper understanding of operations within the Army.”

Collins arrived at APG in May 2013. Before his assignment at APG he first served as a Chaplain Assistant at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

“I also have strong faith so religious support is important to me. When the MOS was offered I thought it would be interesting to go in as a chaplain assistant to support the chaplains and Soldiers, and get to do something that I enjoy.”

Christopher Collins
RDECOM chaplain assistant



Have a great idea for a story?

Know about an interesting upcoming event?

Wish you saw more of your organization in the paper?

The APG News accepts story ideas and content you think the APG community should know about.

- Story ideas or content must be geared toward the greater APG community and cannot appear to endorse any private company.
- The deadline for content to appear in an upcoming issue of the APG News is the **Thursday PRIOR** to publication. The APG News cannot guarantee submissions received after the Thursday prior to publication will appear in the next issue of the paper.
- Send story ideas or pre-written content to amanda.r.rominiecki.civ@mail.mil or call 410-278-7274 for more information.

Please note, the APG News editor reserves the right to (1) reject any content deemed inappropriate, irrelevant or against regulation, (2) delay the publication of submitted material if it is not timely and (3) edit or shorten content for space and style reasons without altering the meaning of the submission.

Garrison town hall addresses winter weather

Continued from Page 1

Army committee will come to listen to responses during a Jan. 29 session at Harford Community College.

“They won’t provide any feedback but they will listen to you about what you think the impact of force reduction will do to the community,” he said.

In addition, the garrison will conduct a command climate survey in the second half of January, McClinton said. Specific questions will include the SHARP program.

Briefings from garrison directors and division chiefs followed.

Strategic outlook

Peter K. Slusar, director of the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, delivered a strategic outlook, stating that the garrison’s direction is to deliver responsive, professional and reliable installation support services.

Slusar called attention to the posters in garrison buildings touting the garrison mission and vision and noted that “every strategic organization has a mission and vision.”

“It tells what we do and why we do it,” he said, adding that the recent ‘Why We Serve’ event was an example of a strategic outlook.

More information about the Strategic Outlook can be found at <https://home.army.mil/sites/atl/apg/PAIO/Shared%20Documents>.

USAG APG funding

Brenda Saddler, from the Resource Management Office briefed on the garrison’s non-pay funding, noting that the current Continuing Resolution Authority (CRA) expires Thursday, Dec. 11.

“On Friday, Dec. 12, we will either be under a new CRA, have an approved budget, or a government shutdown,” Saddler warned, adding, “listen to the news for updates.”

Before the meeting ended McClinton noted that the latest news reports indicated that a budget agreement was expected by the end of the day. While a deal has been reached, a vote by Congress is not expected until today.

KUSAHC

Lt. Col. David Zinnante, commander of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, said that flu shot compliance is greater than 90 percent and encouraged anyone who has yet to get their flu shot to come to the clinic.

“If you are eligible, please don’t hesitate to come by,” he said.

Scheduled clinic closures include Friday, Dec. 19 for a training holiday and Thursday and Friday, Dec. 25 and 26 for the Christmas Day federal holiday and a training holiday. Lastly, the APG South (Edgewood) clinic ribbon cutting has been rescheduled to January on a date to be announced.

Community health

Discussing the importance of a healthy workforce, Health Promotion Officer Wendy LaRoche briefed for the APG Community Health Promotion Council (CPHC). LaRoche said the garrison is implementing the Civilian Physical Fitness Program which allows commanders and supervisors to approve up to three hours of administrative leave per week to allow employees to participate in physical exercise.

LaRoche said the program is limited to six months in duration which starts when the enrollment package is signed. The program is different from the 2012 program in that the individual and the supervisor must agree on a time frame, LaRoche said.

Along with the enrollment package a Fitbit – a wireless device worn on the wrist that tracks sleep, distance and calories burned – must be worn for the duration of the six-month program, LaRoche said.

In addition, a new Slim Down Challenge begins in January. For more information, contact LaRoche at 410-278-1153 or email wendy.c.laroche.civ@mail.mil.

LaRoche added that Harford County has requested that APG Soldiers, civilians and contractors who live in the county take time to complete a Community Health Survey being mailed to county residents.

Labor management forums

Human Resources Director Janet Dettwiler said the President Obama has signed Executive Order 13522, directing the establishment of Labor Management Forums. This provides a non-adversarial forum for managers and union representatives to discuss operations, workplace challenges and problems.

Winter safety

Safety specialist Chris Sollers from the Installation Safety Office (ISO) pro-



From left, Rhonda Simons and Shirelle Womack, Child, Youth and School Services coworkers, show off their ugly holiday sweaters during the APG North (Aberdeen) Garrison Town Hall. At the end of the competition, Simons and Womack won first and second place prize respectively.

Photo by Stacy Smith

vided a winter weather update, noting that slips and falls increase during the winter season. He urged workers to use extra caution during the winter months and said that accidents must be reported to the ISO which in turn reports the information to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

For more information, contact the ISO at 410-306-1095.

DPTMS

Doug Atwater, director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security explained Weather Event Planned Response Actions and the implementation of the At Hoc Mass Warning Notification System.

Atwater said that Destructive Weather Working groups assemble as early as 24 hours prior to an anticipated weather event to assess forecasts and impacts and to plan action. Meteorologists, emergency responders, safety personnel, public works managers and others gather in the Emergency Operations Center to share information and ultimately provide a recommendation to the garrison commander who then shares it with the APG commander and other APG leaders.

Atwater said he can usually provide a recommendation to the commander by about 4:20 a.m. and PAO will have the decision posted to the internet around 4:45 to 5 a.m.

“This is how we assess, how we come to decisions and how decisions are made,” Atwater said “We try to give DPW enough time as possible to clear roads and parking lots.

“Closing installations costs the Army millions in lost activities and every effort is made to open the post,” he said.

He noted 274 people continue to ignore the pop-ups requesting them to

register for the At Hoc Mass Warning Notification System. The At Hoc system works in hand with the Big Voice alert warning system and is able to reach registered personnel on computers, through emails or on phones at home or at work.

“We want the capability to get emergency messages and warnings that could save a life out to everyone,” Atwater said.

McClinton added that personnel also can register their spouse for emergency notification.

FMWR upcoming events

Mike Lupacchino, director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation briefed on upcoming winter events and programs.

Two planned community family events include a Family Game Night set for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 16 at APG South (Edgewood) youth services Bldg. E1902 and a Valentines Dance in the same location, set for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13. For more information, call 410-436-2862.

Winter sessions are set to begin for SKIES Unlimited dance classes and piano and guitar lessons. Unlimited programs with various starting dates include Drivers Education, SAT Prep and Tae Kwon Do. For more information, contact Shirelle Womack shirelle.j.womack.nat@mail.mil.

“This is just a look at the individual events we provide weekly, monthly and quarterly,” Lupacchino said. “We’d also like you to remember the Top of the Bay, Ruggles and Exton golf courses and the Bowling Center party rooms for your activities throughout the year. “We’ll be more than happy to plan your event for you.”

For more information, go to www.apgmwr.com.

Military spouse gives roller derby a whirl

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Every Friday night an APG military spouse dons protective gear and roller skates to transform into her roller derby alter ego, "Baconator."

Sarah Bacon is part of Harford County's only roller derby team, the Hazard County Hellions. Formed in 2013, the co-ed team is part of MADE (Modern Athletic Derby Endeavor), an organization formed to promote roller derby as an athletic experience.

Roller derby involves players moving in circles around a rink and trying to pass, change positions or push others out of the way to get ahead. The "jammers," score points by lapping other players.

"It's fast paced and very physical. You could get knocked down, you knock people over," she said. "It's fun."

Bacon, who joined the group in March, said she's always been curious about roller derby and that her husband, Spc. Matt Bacon of the U.S. Army Public Health Command, and her two children, supported her decision to play.

"I would regret it more if I didn't go after it," she said. "So I went after it."

Although she played ice hockey in college, it took her some time to get used to "old school" roller skates, she said. New members are taught proper techniques before they can participate in an event, including how to fall without getting hurt. HCH members wear plenty of padding, mouth guards and helmets to minimize the risk of injury.

"Before you can skate in an event you have to pass an assessment. They want to make sure you are proficient in the basics and that you know the rules."

Bacon said that the sport is a great stress reliever.

"It is a great way for military spouses to get out in the community and have that sense of teamwork, that camaraderie," she said. "I always feel better after a practice or event."

She added that the group is "very family and community oriented."



(Above) Military spouse Sarah Bacon, also known as "Baconator" contemplates her next move during a roller derby bout, or game, with the Hazard County Hellions at North Dean Park in Aberdeen.

(Below) Military spouse Sarah Bacon, middle, skates in a roller derby bout, a hobby she calls stress relieving and "community oriented."

Courtesy photo

Courtesy photo

HCH members volunteered to clean up North Dean Park in Aberdeen near the Route 22 gate, where the groups practices and hosts fundraisers. Over the past summer they hosted a skate-a-thon to aid a military veteran.

"My kids love it," Bacon said. "They come to scrimmages and events with us."

During the winter HCH practices at the Bel Air Athletic Club. HCH is open to men and women ages 18 and older. Previous experience is not required. For more information, email Bacon at tcjf@outlook.com.



Community Spouses Club fosters connections

By **STACY SMITH**
APG News

When she first arrived at APG two years ago, Community Spouses Club president, Ayesha Varnadore said she struggled to find and connect with other community members. She wished to meet other spouses like herself but wasn't sure how to go about it.

"I was a little skeptical at first," Varnadore said.

That all changed when she heard Senior Commander Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford's wife, Dianne, ask a group of APG community members why there was no spouses club at APG.

"That question got us to be the group that we are today," Varnadore said. "Whenever you have anybody in leadership that's excited about something, it gets everybody else excited too."

The club began this year and currently has 41 members, a number that Varnadore hopes will increase over time. Once a month the club plans an event to get members together to socialize and help the community in some way. The group welcomes not only military spouses, but also civilians, active duty members and retired military. Members don't even have to be a military spouse.

"You just have to be a part of APG. Even if you just come on post to volunteer for something, you can become



Courtesy Photo

Ayesha Varnadore, APG Community Spouses Club president, Robin Bruns, club member, Garrison Chaplain Maj. Mark Rendon and his wife, Tanya, and Dianne Crawford pose for a photo at a recent food drive event.

a member," Varnadore said.

"Our main goal is to foster friendships and to support and help the community," she added. "We're pretty much all-inclusive."

Varnadore said when people heard about the club, community members contacted her with questions about membership.

"As a military wife, active duty, or even retired military, you miss being with other spouses...just to be around people who think like you, live in your community and deal with the same issues...you get a very 'big Army' feel when you can be a part of the spouses club," Varnadore said.

In addition to forming social events,

the club hosts fundraisers to provide two \$1,500 scholarships to club members who are either planning to continue their educations, or to the children of club members who are heading off to college. A committee selects the winning applicants.

"Because we just started this year, or goal is small, but our hearts are big," Varnadore added.

She said the club's heart extends not just to each other, but also to the larger APG community. Last month the club partnered with the chaplain's office to complete a commissary gift card and food drive. Club members plan to hold more community-based events in the future. They encourage non-group members to reach out and volunteer their time.

"We just want the community to know that we're here and we want to help Soldiers and families any way we can," Varnadore said.

Varnadore is the spouse of Lt. Col. Marcus Varnadore of PEO C3T.

The Community Spouses Club has scheduled a holiday 'meet and greet' for Dec. 18 at Ruggles Golf Course.

For more information, contact Varnadore at 443-812-4304 or email apgcommunityspousesclub@gmail.com. For more information about the club or its scholarships, visit <http://apgcommunityspouse.wix.com/apgsc>.

CID warns holiday shoppers of new carjacking scam

CID Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is warning the greater Army community about a new carjacking scam targeting unsuspecting holiday shoppers.

Criminal Investigation Command, commonly referred to as CID, special agents were recently alerted through law enforcement channels about a new ploy, where criminals use the lure of free cash as a distraction. The crime provides crooks a window of opportunity to swoop in and rob an unsuspecting victim of their belongings, including their vehicle.

"What we've heard is criminals will place a \$100 bill, usually on an individual's windshield under the wiper blade, and while the victim is distracted and gets out to retrieve the cash, the criminals use the element of surprise to approach the vehicle and rob the victim of their belongings and car," said Special Agent Mark Kerr, a CID agent with Headquarters, Army CID. "It's the

perfect distraction during the holiday season, because everyone could use a little extra cash, especially if it's free."

According to the state of Maryland's Attorney General's Office, the scam, which was initially reported to Prince George's County law enforcement, has the potential to spread throughout the country. However, steps can be taken by the public to ensure their safety to combat this scam.

Kerr said that should anyone discover money on their vehicle, to quickly move to a safe, public location and to notify law enforcement or security personnel immediately. Lock your doors and do not get out of the vehicle to retrieve it.

The following CID recommended safety tips are provided to help ensure the greater Army community has a safe and secure holiday season:



- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.

- Park in well-lit areas and as close to the store as possible.

- Avoid becoming an easy target for thieves by not purchasing more than you can safely carry.

- Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car. If leaving a store late at night, and by yourself, ask security to walk you to your car if you feel threatened.

- Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook. An enterprising thief would love to "shoulder surf" to get your account information.

- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if

possible, take them directly home.

- Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.

- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies if you are using mass transit.

- If you are shopping with children, make a plan in case you get separated. Select a central meeting place and make sure they know they can ask mall personnel or store security employees if they need help.

- Always be alert and aware of your surroundings and do not blindly walk in public areas focused on your phone.

"It's crucial that Soldiers, civilians and family members protect themselves throughout the holiday shopping season," Kerr said. "Having a plan in the event of an emergency and being aware of your surroundings is the best way to keep from becoming a victim."

Bentley: An Ebola tale with a tail

By **ELLEN CROWN**
USAMRMC Public Affairs

At the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, the case number is known as SPL14.068. To Nina Pham, the subject has a different name: Bentley.

Bentley is Pham's two-year-old male Cavalier King Charles Spaniel dog. After Pham, a nurse in Dallas, contracted the Ebola virus from a patient, she was unsure of Bentley's fate. A nursing assistant's dog in Spain was euthanized after the woman contracted Ebola. Bentley's destiny, however, is a happier tale, thanks to the coordination of Dallas hospital administrators, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a group of Army researchers and veterinarians.

It just so happens that Lt. Col. Tony Alves, an Army veterinary pathologist assigned to the Defense Health Agency's Veterinary Services at the Defense Health Headquarters in Falls Church, Virginia, and a team of U.S. Army veterinarians across different specialties were already highly concerned about the limited scientific knowledge available concerning certain animals' roles, specifically dogs, in the transmission of Ebola to humans.

Current scientific literature indicates that dogs may be asymptotically infected with the Ebola virus. However, it remains unknown if dogs can shed the virus and, if so, for how long.

Experts also wondered if asymptomatic dogs could be potential carriers. Alves knew military working dogs might deploy with military troops to support Operation United Assistance, and knew there was a need for an Ebola diagnostic test in canines to screen military working dogs for Ebola upon redeployment.

"We really don't know how Ebola affects dogs, but we needed some sort of test to determine if a dog had been exposed to Ebola," Alves said. "Military working dogs are valuable and proven force protection assets. Though we

do not recommend military working dog deployment to Ebola outbreak areas at this time, we fully recognize that benefits to deploy may outweigh those risks."

Alves and others recognized that there was no diagnostic test proven to work on canines. A main reason is that diagnostic evaluation for Ebola must be conducted under special laboratory conditions, particularly Biosafety Level-4.

In humans, the DOD is currently using a test called the Ebola Zaire rRT-PCR Assay (i.e. test), developed by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, known as USAMRIID, and authorized for use in U.S. citizens by the DOD under DHHS-FDA's Emergency Use Authorization protocol. The Ebola Zaire virus is the strain of Ebola responsible for the 2014 West Africa outbreak. No one knew if the test would work on dogs.

To test the assay's ability to detect the Ebola virus in dogs, Alves coordinated the transport of blood samples to USAMRIID from three different military working dogs collected during scheduled semi-annual physical examinations, in late September 2014. All three military working dogs were healthy and none were exposed to the Ebola virus.

Researchers at USAMRIID, led by Dr. Mark Wolcott, who is the director of the Special Pathogens Laboratory, used the blood samples, spiked with an irradiat-



Courtesy photo

Pictured is Bentley, a two-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and his owner Nina Pham.

ed strain of the Ebola virus, to determine if the assay test could detect the Ebola virus in canine samples. The test was equivalent to the level of Ebola virus detected in human blood samples.

Since September, USAMRIID's Special Pathogens Laboratory has conducted screening for the Ebola virus in canine urine and feces samples with similar results. In fact, the veterinary communi-

ties are continuing to dialogue with the rest of the medical community to ensure adequate planning and response efforts are in place for veterinary-related issues, with respect to the Ebola outbreak.

But what about Bentley, who was not a service dog but rather a pet and owned by a civilian? While USAMRIID is not the referral laboratory for routine animal diagnostic testing for Ebola, Bentley's case proved to be an interesting opportunity to test an actual dog potentially exposed to the virus, explained Alves.

Pets owned by service members are recognized and loved family members, said Alves. With the increased military presence in West Africa, there remains the possibility, albeit highly unlikely, that the family pet may come in contact with a redeployed Service member who has been laboratory confirmed positive for the Ebola virus.

Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were peripheral-

ly aware of the Ebola diagnostic screening conducted at USAMRIID in support of the military working dogs and contacted Alves directly to determine if there was a remote possibility for testing samples collected from Bentley. In turn, Alves contacted USAMRIID's Special Pathogens Laboratory. Following USAMRIID's approval, coordination between Alves, USAMRIID, the CDC and the Texas local, state, and federal health authorities began.

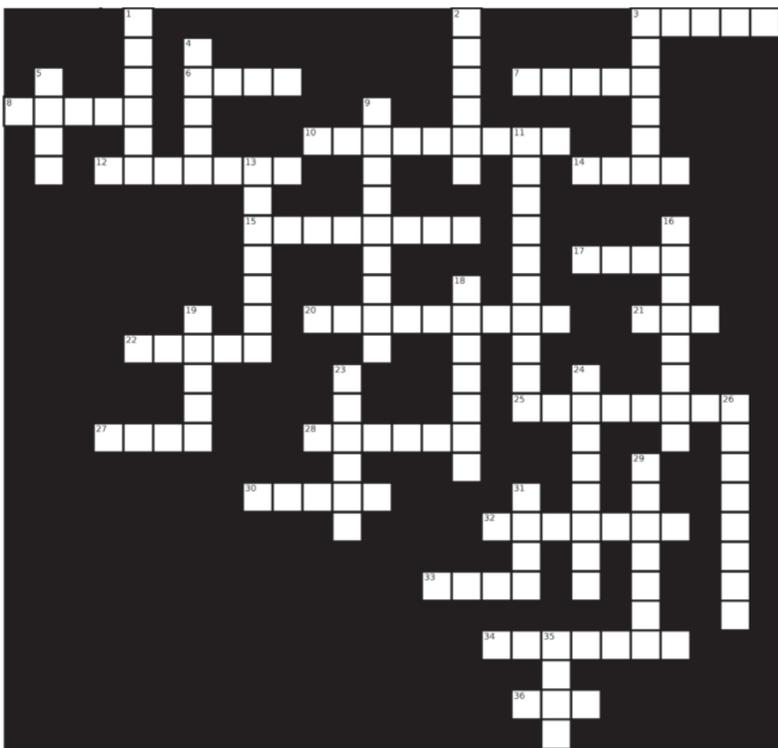
While Pham was in quarantined care at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, Texas Animal Health Commission experts retrieved blood, urine and feces samples from Bentley, who was quarantined in Texas. The samples -- collected at day seven and then again at day 18 of the 21-day quarantine -- were sent to USAMRIID's Special Pathogen Laboratory for diagnostic screening for the Ebola Zaire virus, using the standardized Ebola rRT-PCR protocol. While Bentley tested negative both times, he remained in quarantine for the full 21 days.

On Nov. 1, Pham and Bentley each got what they had been waiting for -- a clean bill of health and a very emotional reunion.

"This was a very heartfelt story for all of us involved and would not have been possible without the coordinated efforts from our interagency colleagues, specifically at the CDC, and the dedicated local and state health and veterinary health authorities in Texas who obtained and submitted the samples under austere conditions," Alves said.

"But more so, this success speaks volumes to Army medicine and the quiet, occasionally forgotten professionals who advance military medical research at places like USAMRIID, while rapidly responding to the changing needs of the mission. As we deploy Service members overseas, we must do everything we can to protect our troops -- to include our four-legged canine warriors."

The APG Crossword



By **STACY SMITH**, APG News

Winter holidays are right around the corner. Can you recognize the missing lyrics from some of our most beloved carols? Whether contemporary or classic, these ditties will undoubtedly make you want to, in the words of Nat King Cole, roast you-know-what on an open fire. Hint, hint. Good luck!

Across

3. "Hang a shining star upon the highest _____"
6. "Should _____ acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?"
7. "Good King Wenceslas looked out on the _____ of Stephen."
8. "You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and _____, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen."

10. "Oh the weather outside is _____, but the fire is so delightful."
12. "Run, run Rudolph, Santa's gotta make it to town. Santa make him hurry, tell him he can take the _____ down."
14. "Four calling birds, three French _____."
15. "There'll be parties for hosting, marshmallows for toasting and

_____ out in the snow."

17. "I'll have a _____ Christmas without you. I'll be so blue just thinking about you."
20. "Hang your _____ and say a prayer 'cause Santa Claus is coming tonight."
21. "Feliz Navidad. Prospero _____ y felicidad."
22. "Last Christmas I gave you my _____, but the very next day you gave it away."
25. "He knows if you've been bad or good so be good for _____ sake!"
27. "I just want you for my own. More than you could ever know. Make my _____ come true. All I want for Christmas is you."
28. "In the meadow we can build a snowman. Then pretend that he is _____ Brown."
30. "I've got to get home. (Oh baby you'll freeze out there). Say, lend me your coat. (It's up to your _____ out there.)"
32. "bells on _____ ring, making spirits bright. What fun it is to laugh and sing a sleighing song tonight."
33. "Lo, how a _____ e'er blooming."
34. "_____ around the Christmas tree. Let the Christmas spirit ring."
36. "Well way up north where the air gets cold, there's a tale about Christmas that you've all been told. And a real famous _____ all dressed up in red."

Down

1. "And on every street _____ you'll hear silver bells, silver bells."
2. "Jingle bells chime in jingle bell time. Dancing and prancing in jingle bell square. In the _____ air."
3. "with a corn cob pipe, and a _____ nose, and two eyes made out of coal."
4. "Santa baby, slip a _____ under the tree for me."
5. "I have no _____ to bring, pa

rum pum pum pum. That's fit to give the King, pa rum pum pum pum."

9. "Oh ho, the _____, hung where you can see."
11. "Oh, Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree. Thy leaves are so _____"
13. "Troll the _____ yuletide carol. Fa la la la la la la la."
16. "Grandma got runover by a _____"
18. "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire. Jack Frost _____ at your nose."
19. "Oh what a _____ it would have been, if daddy had only seen mommy kissing Santa Claus last night."
23. "The cattle are lowing, the baby _____."
24. "Up on the _____, click click click. Down through the chimney came old St. Nick."
26. "Said the _____ boy to the mighty king, do you know what I know?"
29. "where the tree tops _____, and children listen to hear sleigh bells in the snow."
31. "So this is Christmas, and what have you _____? Another year over, a new one just begun."
35. "Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel. I made you out of _____."

Solution to the December 4 puzzle



Leave Donations

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

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); or OPM 630- B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). Please contact Sue Campbell at 410-306-0266 or sue.a.campbell.civ@mail.mil.

Alba, Audrey
Ashby, Patricia
Barnes, Jennifer
Benysek, Lee
Budzinski, David
Cannon, Marcy
Clark, Lyra
Cropp, Elizabeth
Dill, Dennis James
Donlon, Jacqueline

Dunston, Samuel
Eberhardt, Joanne
Fedorisko, Christine
Gaddis, Lonnie
Gilley, Christopher M.
Henderson, James
Kennedy, Sandra
King, Martha
Lloyd-Simpson, Tygar
McCauley, Adrienne

McDonald, Scheree
Morrison, Cassandra D.
Palm, Natalie
Parker, Alonzo D
Robinson, Jennifer
Rodgers, Christopher
Rodriguez, Pedro
Silva, Christopher
Smith, Sonia
Snodgrass, Deanne

Vincelli, Louis
Weimer, Carl R.
Wyatt, Darlene O.

ALL THINGS MARYLAND

Miracle on 34th Street

Lights continue to delight Baltimore for 25th year



Story and photos by
AMANDA ROMINIECKI
APG News

It's hard to believe that in a city as infamously gritty as Baltimore, residents of a city block have continued a festive tradition of turning their stretch of homes into the city's most famous residential holiday light display for 25 years, for nothing more than spreading holiday cheer.

In a nod to "Miracle on 34th Street," residents of Hampden's 34th Street, between Chestnut Avenue and Keswick Road on Baltimore's northwest side, have committed to decorating their homes each holiday season with countless lights and decorations, in a fashion surely only paralleled by Clark Griswold in "Christmas Vacation."

From a hubcap Christmas tree to bicycle wheel snowmen, outlandish sculptures add an artistic and true Baltimorean feel to the block's light display. Baltimore's favorite power couple, the Utz potato chip girl and Natty Boh, even make an appearance.

Several homes choose to go with a theme, from a hippie-esque "Peace on Earth" to a home all about music, with a tree made of records and a nativity scene including three wise men brining offerings of CDs and cassette tapes to a 45-record baby Jesus.

Where house stops and decorations begin can hardly be distinguished on the two most outlandish homes on the end of the block. Small electric trains circle the porch ceilings, as a nativity scene and candy-cane walkway takes up most of the yard and the roof is covered entirely in reindeer, snowmen, nutcrackers and gingerbread men.

While the block's residents began decorating their homes more than 60 years ago, the tradition came alive in the late 80s as resident Bob Hosier began



(Clockwise from top left) The residents of Baltimore's 34th Street, between Chestnut Avenue and Keswick Road, transform their block into a bright, festive sea of lights each holiday season. A Christmas tree made of hubcaps adorns one lawn, along with bicycle wheel snowmen. A Maryland crab and Baltimore's favorite power couple, the Utz potato chip girl and Natty Boh, all make appearances on 34th Street.

decking the halls of his home in elaborate themed décor.

According to Hosier, in an interview with "Baltimore Magazine," the event is organized entirely by the residents on a voluntary basis.

"People always want to know who organizes it and pays for it all. It's 22 individuals who design their own homes and pay their own electric bills," he said.

While there are vendors nearby sell-

ing hot cocoa, if approached by someone claiming to be a resident taking donations to pay their electric bill do not believe them. The residents of 34th Street do not solicit donations.

The lights on Baltimore's 34th Street came on Nov. 29 and will remain up until the first of the year. On weeknights, the decorations are lit each night until 11 p.m. and lit until midnight on weekends. On Christmas Eve and New

Year's Eve, the lights will remain on all night.

There is no designated parking area, so visitors should dust off their parallel parking skills and be prepared to look for city street parking within a few blocks of the light display. If possible, avoid driving down the street as traffic moves slowly due to heavy pedestrian traffic.

For more information, visit www.christmasstreet.com.

BY THE NUMB#RS

New York City's Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree

500,000+

People are estimated to pass by the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree every day.

30,000

LED lights powered by solar panels twinkle on the tree each year.

3,150+

Liters of mulch were created from the first recycled Rockefeller Center tree in 1971. The mulch was dispersed throughout Upper Manhattan's nature trails.

550

Pounds of the Swarovski crystals made up the star that sat atop the tree in 2013. It was the largest star to ever top the tree.

83

Years have passed since the first tree, standing 20 feet tall, was unofficially erected in Rockefeller Plaza in 1931 by a group of construction workers. The first official tree lighting was held two years later.

5

Miles of electrical wire decorate the tree each year.

By **STACY SMITH**, APG News

Source: www.rockefellercenter.com, www.content.time.com



Photo by Allison Barrow

CERDEC hosts cybersecurity master's degree info session

John Piorkowski, a branch supervisor for applied information sciences at Johns Hopkins University, left, speaks with a potential student at an information session for a master's degree cohort in cybersecurity open to APG scientists and engineers Dec. 2.

Approximately 50 professionals from various APG science and technology organizations attended the information session at the University Center in Aberdeen to learn more about pursuing an advanced degree in cybersecurity through JHU, as well as meet with and ask questions of JHU professors and admission representatives.

The cohort program, launched by the Communication-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering (CERDEC) Human Capital Cell, aims to address the APG engineering and science workforce gap in cyber technologies. Open to civilians and contractors in the APG cyber community, the cohort is a direct result of an extensive needs assessment CERDEC sent to APG organizations.

Members of the installation's cyber community who were unable to attend the information session should contact Victor Carrozzo at victor.a.carrozzo.civ@mail.mil and Natalie Grenoble at natalie.m.grenoble.civ@mail.mil as soon as possible for more information.



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www.facebook.com/APGMd

Follow us on twitter 
<https://twitter.com/USAGAPG>



Check us out on flickr
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 11

EATING HEALTHY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The CECOM Wellness Program will host a Healthy Eating for the Holidays Informational Session from noon to 1 p.m. at the Mallette Mission Training Facility, Bldg. 6008, Classroom 5.

The session will provide helpful tips on how to eat healthier over the holidays and how to deal with holiday stress without overeating. The session will also highlight holiday meal planning, recipe modification, alternate food choices, strategies for healthy eating away from home, and how to stay active during this holiday season.

The class is open to installation employees, contractors and military members, and seating is limited to the first 30 in attendance.

For more information, contact Tiffany Grimes at 443-861-7901 or tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil.

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 12

ARMY FIELD BAND CONCERT

The Jazz Ambassadors of The U.S. Army Field Band will perform a free concert of holiday music, jazz, and patriotic favorites 7 to 9 p.m. at Harford Technical High School - Amoss Center, 200 Thomas Run Road in Bel Air.

Other U.S. Army Field Band free holiday concerts will take place at locations around Maryland and the Baltimore region, including two performances at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, 1212 Cathedral Street in Baltimore, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

To pre-register or for more information go to <http://armyfieldband.ticketleap.com/>.

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 14

CHRISTMAS CANTATA "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"

The APG North (Aberdeen) Main Post Chapel will perform the Cantata "Silent Night, Holy Night" during the 10:15 am Protestant Service on Sunday, Dec. 14.

For more information, contact Joyce Wood at 410-278-4333.

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 20

GOSPEL YOUTH CHOIR EXTRAVAGANZA

The APG Gospel Service Youth Choir will host a Youth Choir Dance Extravaganza at the APG main post chapel from 4 to 6 p.m.

The children of the Gospel Youth Choir, ages 6 to 14, will perform songs, dances and a Christmas play. The event, a celebration of the choir's first year at APG, is free and open to the entire APG community.

For more information, contact Trudy Tisdale at gertrude.s.tisdale.ctr@mail.mil.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The APG main post chapel Protestant Choir will host a Christmas Concert at the Perry Point VA Medical Center Chapel at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20.

The APG Protestant Choir will present the Cantata "Silent Night, Holy Night." Refreshments and a gift giveaway at the chapel's recreation center will follow the concert.

The Perry Point Medical Center Chapel is located in Bldg. 314 at 515 Broad St., Perry Point, MD 21902.

For more information, contact Chaplain Percy Williams at 1-800-1003 Ext. 5606.

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 24

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The annual combined Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at the APG South (Edgewood) Chapel at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 24. Refreshments will follow the service.

For more information, contact Joyce Wood at 410-278-4333.

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 26

RT. 22 GATE CLOSED

The Route 22 gate will be closed Friday, Dec. 26 as a result of the designated federal holiday. President Obama signed an executive order granting federal employees a day of paid holiday leave on Dec. 26, and all federal agencies and departments will be closed, following normal federal holiday procedures. All traffic should plan to use the Route 715 gate which will remain open.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY

JANUARY 6-8

DAU TO HOST 'LEADING PROJECT TEAMS' WORKSHOP

The Defense Acquisition University will host a three-day "Leading Project Teams" workshop which will be conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 to Thursday, Jan. 8. The workshop will be held in the DAU facility located at 6175 Guardian Gateway, Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The Leading Project Teams workshop emphasizes best practices of building and maintaining high-performing teams using practical examples and exercises. It is geared toward those civil servants performing in leadership roles such as IPT lead, team leads, etc. The course objectives include: to identify the competencies needed to successfully perform as a project team leader; to understand the unique requirements for leading project teams in the current acquisition environment; to identify the advantages and barriers to successful team performance; to develop action steps to apply the lessons learned from this course back on the job.

Seating is limited and will be handled on a first come, first served basis. Those interested must RSVP no later than Dec. 23, by contacting Ben Metcalfe at benjamin.metcalfe@dau.mil or 410-272-9471.

ONGOING

DECEMBER

TRICARE INFORMATION SESSIONS

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic has arranged for a TRICARE representative to provide information and answer questions at APG on the following dates:

Friday, Dec. 12: TRICARE Information Table – APG ID Card Office – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 15: TRICARE Information Table – APG ID Card Office – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16: TRICARE Information Table – APG Commissary – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Kisha York, TRICARE education specialist, at kisha.a.york@healthnet.com

CPR, AED CLASSES SCHEDULE FOR 2014

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.

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.

CPR, AED CLASSES SCHEDULE FOR 2015

The APG Directorate of Emergency Services has announced the CPR/AED class schedule for 2015. Classes are open to the entire APG community.

Jan. 21 – APG North (Aberdeen) Chapel, Bldg. 2485 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Feb. 18 – APG South (Edgewood) Conference Center, Bldg. E4810 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

March 18 – APG North (Aberdeen) Chapel, Bldg. 2485 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

April 22 – APG South (Edgewood) Conference Center, Bldg. E4810 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

May 20 – APG North (Aberdeen) Chapel, Bldg. 2485 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

June 17 – APG South (Edgewood) Conference Center, Bldg. E4810 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

July 15 – APG North (Aberdeen) Chapel, Bldg. 2485 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Aug. 19 – APG South (Edgewood) Conference Center, Bldg. E4810 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Sep. 16 – APG North (Aberdeen) Chapel, Bldg. 2485 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Oct. 21 – APG South (Edgewood) Conference Center, Bldg. E4810 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Nov. 18 – APG North (Aberdeen) Chapel, Bldg. 2485 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Dec 16 – APG South (Edgewood) Conference Center, Bldg. E4810 – 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Mike Slayman at 410-306-0566.

FIREWOOD AVAILABLE

Firewood is available to authorized patrons at a cost of \$20 per level standard 8-foot pickup truck bed; \$15 per level standard 6-foot pickup truck bed, and \$5 per car trunk. Checks or money orders only will be accepted for payment. Permits to buy wood are good

for ten days, or until an order is filled, whichever comes first. Permits will be issued on a first come, first-served basis 8 to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday at Bldg. E4630 in APG South (Edgewood). For more information, contact Kathy Thisse at 410-436-8789 or Scott English at 410-436-9804.

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/se7hTkwnbO8>

REPORT POWER OUTAGES TO CORVIAS MILITARY LIVING

During severe weather, all residential power outages should be reported to the Neighborhood Office at 410-305-1076. This will allow staff to determine if the outage is widespread or specific to the home and coordinate the responsible provider to restore power.

In the event a neighborhood office loses power, the phone system may also be affected. If the office cannot be reached, residents should call the following toll-free numbers to report outages and maintenance emergencies. Calls to the toll-free number will directly connect residents to the emergency on-call service.

APG: 1-866-958-5412

Patriot Village: 1-866-871-6257

NH Office: 410-305-1076

HOT WORK PERMIT

The APG Fire and Emergency Services has a new phone number to request a Hot Work Permit. A permit can be obtained by calling 410-306-0001. When is a Hot Work Permit required?

A Hot Work Permit is required before performing electric and gas welding, cutting or soldering operations requiring an open flame device, and for outdoor cooking with a grill, or similar device.

Please try to give 24 hours notice prior to the work or event. Leave a message if there is no answer. The inbox is checked throughout the day.

For more information, call 410-306-0001.

AIRBORNE HAZARDS & OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY

The Department of Veteran Affairs encourages all Gulf War Veterans – anyone who served in the Persian Gulf area from August 1990 to present – to sign up for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry which is established by Public Law 112-260.

The registry provides an opportunity for veterans to receive information updates and to help VA improve its understanding of deployment-related health effects. During deployment, Gulf War veterans may have been exposed to smoke from burn pits, oil-well fires, and air pollution. Veterans must complete an online health

questionnaire to participate in the registry. For more information, visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/.

KEYSTONE CLUB

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

FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN RECREATION FOR TEENS

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

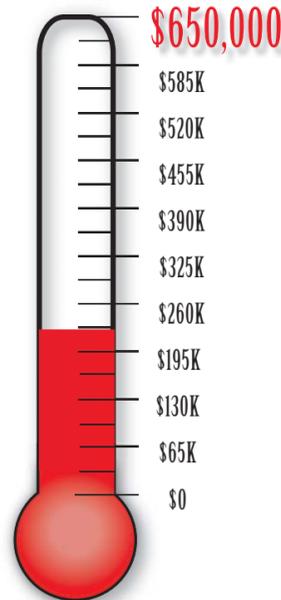
PIANO & GUITAR LESSONS

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

MORE ONLINE

More events can be seen at www.TeamAPG.com

Combined Federal Campaign Team APG Goal



Visit www.cbacfc.org to make a contribution to the organization of your choice today.

For more information, contact Mary J. Hubbard at 410-436-6277 or mary.j.hubbard.civ@mail.mil



Staff Sgt. Frank Cermak

KUSAHC Patient Advocate/Public Affairs Officer

By RACHEL PONDER

APG News

Staff Sgt. Frank Cermak, the patient advocate and public affairs officer for Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, has served in this role since August.

As the patient advocate, Cermak is the liaison between the patient and the clinic. He is available to help patients who have questions or concerns while receiving care at KUSAHC.

"If patients have any issues with service, providers, the pharmacy, call center or any other issue, I work to resolve those issues in an expedited fashion," he said. "I represent the patient."

Cermak said he receives job satisfaction knowing he can help Soldiers, retirees and their families.

"It's a good feeling when you can turn a negative experience into a positive experience," he said. "I want to help beneficiaries to get the best care they deserve."

As the public affairs officer, Cer-

mak maintains the KUSAHC Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/KUSAHC/>. He also writes and edits articles for the "APG News."

Cermak's military career includes deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, where he served as a line and flight medic.

"I wanted to serve my country in a time of war," he said.

Cermak was assigned to KUSAHC in 2013. Previously he served as the non-commissioned officer in charge of the APG South (Edgewood) clinic. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in economics from American Military University.

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is located at 2501 Oakington Street, on APG North (Aberdeen). Cermak's office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. For more information call 410-278-1724 or email frank.j.cermak.mil@mail.mil.



THIS WEEK IN APG HISTORY



Take a look back in time as the APG News explores what made the headlines around APG during this week 10, 25 and 50 years ago. This week's APG News masthead is from 1991.

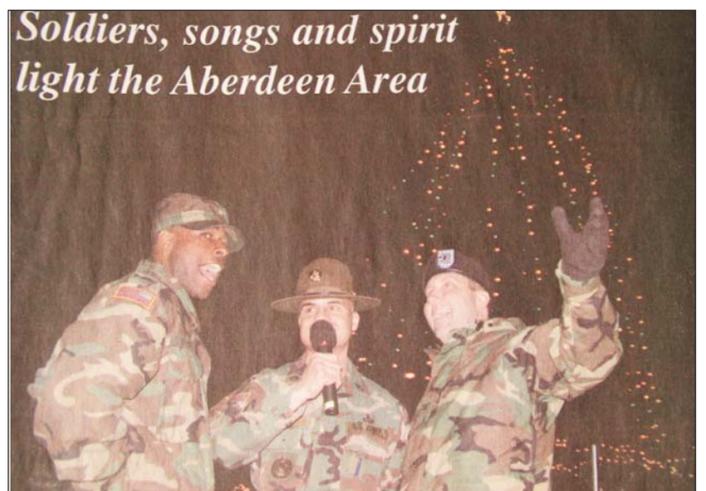
By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News

2015
2010
2000
1990
1980
1970
1960
1950

10 Years Ago: Dec. 9, 2004



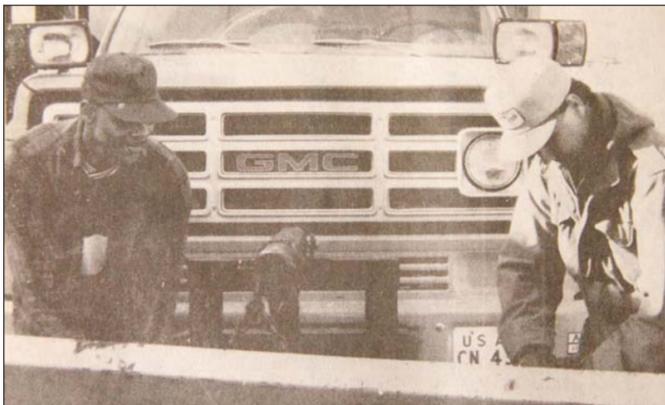
(Left) Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, fires the MX/8 Designated Marksmanship Automatic Rifle under the guidance of Staff Sgt. Reginald Freeman during a visit to the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center.



Soldiers, songs and spirit light the Aberdeen Area

(Right) APG Garrison Commander Col. John T. Wright, right, sings "Deck the Halls" with Drill Sgt. William Bravo, center, and Pvt. Kenneth Champion of the 16th Ordnance Battalion during the APG Tree Lighting Ceremony.

25 Years Ago: Dec. 13, 1989



(Left) William Copeland, left, and Ross Dinsmore of the Conservation Branch, Directorate of Engineering and Logistics Operations, mount a snow scraper on a truck in preparation for road clearing after winter storms.



(Right) Staff Sgt. Everett Hall, right, leads Webelos Pack 924 members in wrapping gifts for a holiday basket program.

50 Years Ago: Dec. 10, 1964



(Left) From left, Sholto L. Salmon, shelter manager, Alvin G. Lucas, assistant shelter manager, and Oscar Thomas, chief of the Heating and Power Plant at the Engineer Service Support Division check stock rations in a new emergency fallout shelter designed to sustain up to 750 people for two weeks.



(Right) Rabbi Paul Kushner, left, lights the candles on the menorah, as Chaplain Assistant Pvt. William Pollack, far right, and a group of children look on during a ceremony at the East Chapel.



MEMORIES OF 'NAM



Vet used 'flags and wings' in Vietnam

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Vietnam veteran Dave Yensan is fond of letting people know that the town where he grew up, Cheektowaga, New York – is Iroquois for ‘land of the flowering crab apple tree.’

Yensan was born and raised in a “heavily Polish” section of Buffalo, New York.

He said his father’s family to the U.S. in the early 1800s and that his is the first generation that didn’t sharecrop.

Yensan’s thoroughly American upbringing compelled him to enlist in the Army before he was out of high school in 1961. He said that although he enlisted for the Army Language School he was told after testing at Fort Knox, Kentucky that he was “incapable” of learning a second language.

“That’s funny because years later I taught conversational German and also served as a court martial interpreter,” Yensan chuckled.

At Knox, where he took basic and advanced individual training, Yensan trained to be a radio mechanic. From there he went straight to Germany where the famed 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment patrolled the Czechoslovakian border. Yensan served in Germany from 1962 until 1966 and was E-5 promotable when he returned to the states to attend Officers Candidate School.

“There was a huge push for signal officers then,” he said. “I went to school at Fort Gordon, Georgia and I was commissioned the day before my twenty-third birthday.”

As 2nd Lt. Yensan, his first assignment was as the company commander of an AIT unit for Morse code operators at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

“We basically had to un-mothball a unit that had been closed. They were ramping things up because those skills were needed for Vietnam.”

Yensan then attended flight school and aviator training school at Fort Wolters, Texas and Fort Rucker, Alabama before reporting to Vietnam himself.

“I never planned anything; everything in my life has just happened,” Yensan said. “I enlisted because I didn’t want to go to college but ended up becoming an officer and going to flight school no less.”

Yensan served from 1967 to 1968



Maj. Dave Yensan, right, poses with his friend Jack Waugh after the two passed their flight worthiness test for a developmental control system.

Courtesy photo

with the 1st Air Cavalry Division and 11th Group as a Huey pilot and operations officer. He also flew frequently, mostly on “textbook combat assault missions.”

The year 1968 brought on the long and bloody Tet Offensive that consisted of multiple surprise attacks in a coordinated push by the North Vietnamese against South Vietnamese and allied forces.

He described the year as “hours of boredom interspersed with moments of sheer terror.”

“I read that somewhere,” he said. “I wish I’d made that up but I didn’t.”

“I spent quite a bit of time flying then. I never had any problems but I saw a lot of things I wish I hadn’t seen and I lost several friends.”

The Tet Offensive reached his unit in the middle of the night. Woken by the charge-of-quarters and told that they were being overrun, he charged into the bathroom for his clothes just as a rock-

et soared through his bedroom. If he had been in the bed he would have been killed.

“That was my ‘come to Jesus moment,’” he said.

Scared and running on adrenaline, Yensan his fellow Soldiers defended their position the rest of the night eventually succeeding.

Yensan returned to the states as a captain and was sent to teach the Signal Officer Basic Course in 1968. He redeployed to ‘Nam in June 1970, this time to the Saigon region with the 1st Signal Brigade.

“It was the first time my flags and wings ever came together,” he said, in reference to the signal corps and aviation emblems. He also served with the 52nd Signal Battalion.

In 1971, Yensan was diagnosed with a liver ailment and was medevaced back to the states.

He eventually obtained a degree in political science and went on to serve in Germany’s V Corps before returning to the states.

In 1977, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Human Engineering Laboratory at APG.

“At the time I had no idea what or where Aberdeen Proving Ground was,” he said, adding that he was just happy to be on the East Coast.

At APG he served as the deputy director and then commander, responsible for 23 enlisted and 175 civilian personnel. He retired as a major in 1981.

Settled in Aberdeen, he became politically active and eventually served on the Chamber of Commerce and the

City Council.

He looks back on his Vietnam experience as his “development time.”

“I went in as a young kid, a cowboy, and came out a lot more mature, a man,” he said.

Actively engaged in his church and church activities, Yensan said his Vietnam years left him a pacifist.

“I have no regrets. I just did a Soldier’s job and it made me who I am today,” he said. “In its own way it brought me closer to my church and God.”

“I went into the Army because I didn’t know what I wanted to be when I grew up and I was about 50 when I decided: Just don’t grow up, so I’ve kind of left it in the hands of the Almighty.”

Proud of his service, Yensan attends local Memorial and Veterans Day services, “more to honor those who went before us,” he said.

A member of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Yensan recalls a fellow member who wears a hat that reads: “I was a Vietnam Veteran before it was popular.”

“It was not very popular when we came back,” he said. “San Francisco airport was a very unpleasant place.”

He said service members arriving back in the country at Travis Air Force Base were told to change into civilian attire before leaving the installation.

“It’s a different world today and I hope it stays that way,” he said.

Yensan lives quietly in Aberdeen with his wife Rosi. He has two grown children.

“Today, I’m not just satisfied, I’m happy,” he said.

Former Human Engineering Laboratory Director Dr. John Weisz, left, awards the Meritorious Service Medal to Maj. Dave Yensan upon his retirement from the Army at the former Human Engineering Laboratory in 1981.

Courtesy photo



WORD OF THE WEEK

Esoteric

Pronounced: es-uh-TER-ik

Part of speech: Adjective

Definition:

1. Only taught to or understood by members of a special group; hard to understand; limited to a small number of people.
2. Designed for or understood by the specially initiated alone; requiring or exhibiting knowledge that is restricted to a small group.
3. Of special, rare, or unusual interest.

Other forms:

Esoterically, Adverb

Uses:

- Despite the financial advantages of large museums, some small, esoteric museums have held on tenaciously.
- Metaphysics is such an esoteric subject that most people are content to leave it to the philosophers.
- Some of their anthems can be a bit too intricate and esoteric for newcomers.
- He must have had some esoteric motive for leaving his art collection to a museum halfway around the globe.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News
Source: <http://www.merriam-webster.com>

ACRONYM OF THE WEEK

TVA

Tennessee Valley Authority



The Tennessee Valley Authority, a corporation owned by the U.S. government, provides electricity for people in parts of seven southeastern states at prices below the national average. TVA, which receives no taxpayer money and makes no profits, also provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists utilities and state and local governments with economic development. The nation’s largest public power provider, TVA was established by Congress in 1933 to address a range of environmental, economic and technological issues resulting from the Great Depression.

TVA’s power service territory includes most of Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia, covering 80,000 square miles and serving more than 9 million people. TVA sells electricity to 155 power distributor customers and 56 directly served industries and federal facilities.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News
Source: <http://www.tva.gov/>



APG NEWS

Visit us online at www.TeamAPG.com/APGNews



Bringing in the season

APG Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton, center, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Adams, right, lead the APG color guard down W. Bel Air Avenue in Aberdeen Dec. 6, during the city's 38th Annual Christmas Street Parade.

Residents donned with raincoats and umbrellas braved the cold, damp weather to watch the parade and celebrate the upcoming holiday season as a community.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson

Community welcomes the holiday season

Continued from Page 1

Bruns and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Adams with lighting the holiday tree as the crowd counted down.

A reception inside the Bayside Community Center followed. Children had their pictures taken with Santa and received candy presents as others enjoyed buffet-style refreshments.

"I think today is a very important day for families to come together as they prepare for the holiday season," said Dianne Crawford. "It's good to connect with friends and neighbors and wish each other well. We share a common goal as military families."

Cindy Scott, Army Substance Abuse Program prevention coordinator, passed out paper chain links that people could sign to raise awareness about National Impaired Driving Prevention Month.

She reminded community members not to partake in the "three D's"- drunk, drugged or distracted - driving during the holidays.

The paper chain symbolizes our connection to each other on the roads "because we're all part of keeping each other safe," Scott said.

Many military and civilian families were in attendance. Johnny Schultz, with the Army Contracting Command, and his wife, Brandy, brought their one year old son, Jase, to the event.

"This is his first time [on Santa's lap]," Brandy Schultz said. "He didn't cry; he did really well."

Dressed as an elf, Corvias employee Nishan Oakes helps children pick out holiday props to dress up for photos by their parents.

Photo by Molly Blossie



Did You Know?

The U.S. Army Chaplains Assistant corps is approaching its 105th anniversary. The only Medal of Honor bestowed on a chaplain assistant was for actions performed during the Boxer Rebellion.



Calvin Pearl Titus was born in Iowa in 1879. He grew up in Oklahoma with evangelist relatives who introduced him to the Salvation Army and the Pilgrim Holiness movement. Titus credited his time in his Uncle's evangelical band with giving him the bugle skills to join the armed forces.

He first joined the Army Reserves in 1898 during the Spanish American War and then enlisted in the Army and served in the 14th Infantry in the Philippines. As the company bugler, Titus formed a lasting friendship with the unit chaplain and became his unofficial assistant, often providing music for church services on the violin as well as the bugle.

Titus' unit was sent to Peking, China at the onset of the Boxer Rebellion. On Aug. 14, 1900, the regiment arrived at the Tung-Pien Gate along Peking's eastern outer wall and immediately encountered heavy fire from atop the wall and adjacent Fox Tower.

Needing troops to scale the 30-foot fortification and lay down suppressive fire, the unit's commander, Col. Aaron S. Daggett, called for volunteers. Titus immediately stepped forward, saying, "I'll try, sir!" This response eventually became the rallying cry for the 14th Infantry and the official motto for the 5th Infantry Regiment.

Carrying a rope, Titus began climbing the jagged wall – a series of cavities and projecting bricks – while his comrades watched breathlessly below. When he reached the top, amazingly, no enemy Soldiers were present.

The rest of the company followed, hauling up their rifles and ammunition belts by a rope made of rifle slings. Soon after, the American colors were hoisted atop the wall, inspiring the allied Soldiers to complete their assault, overtake the gate and enter the city.

Titus' actions earned him the Medal of Honor as well as an appointment to West Point.

Early MOH citations were brief. his citation reads: "Gallant and daring conduct in the presence of his colonel and other officers and enlisted men of his regiment; was first to scale the wall of the city."

Upon graduating from West Point in 1905, Titus returned to the Philippines as a second lieutenant and later became an ordained minister in 1909. Because of his desire to continue to minister to Soldiers, he changed his career field to chaplain assistant and the occupational specialty was officially introduced the year he was ordained.

Titus spent 32 years in the Army and retired in 1930 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He died May 27, 1966, at the age of 86 and is buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills section of Los Angeles, California.

The Military Sealift Command container ship MV LTC Calvin P. Titus was named in his honor.

Yvonne Johnson, APG News

Source: <http://ncojournal.dodlive.mil/>; <https://armyhistory.org>

Warrior walk honors wounded service members

Continued from Page 1

excitement during their Snowflake Shindig which included a luncheon, games and bake-off competition in which contestants submitted their best desserts.

While the Snowflake Shindig was in full swing, 38 participants braved the winter weather to complete the organization's annual Warrior Walk. The two-mile loop began at the intersection of Austin and Wise Roads, continued down Wise Road to Magnolia Road, and concluded at the check-in point.

"The Warrior Walk allowed us to exercise and have fun with our colleagues. More importantly, we were able to honor the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who have suffered injuries in the line of duty," said Elaine Neary, one of the event organizers and an analyst within JPM-NBC CA.

According to the Department of Defense, more than 50,000 service members suffered physical injuries while in the line of duty from Sep. 11, 2001 to Dec. 1, 2014. Neary said many more

experience invisible wounds such as traumatic brain injuries and post traumatic stress disorder. Participants in the Warrior Walk completed the course in honor and support of injured service members and their families.

The winners of the Snowflake Shindig baking contest, in the categories of cake or pie, cheesecake and cookies, were Trevor Suznick for an apple pie; Paula Ryan for an apple cheesecake; and Maya Gavin-Ellison for red velvet cookies. The Snowflake Shindig also included a series of games and activities designed to foster teamwork and critical thinking.

The JPM-NBC CA is one of seven joint project management offices within the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense. The JPM-NBC CA is responsible for the development, production, integration, testing and fielding of NBC detection, obscuration and reconnaissance systems.

For more information about JPM-NBC CA, please visit www.jpeocbd.osd.mil.



Photo by Steven Lusher

Joe Neisser, Karen Vado and Antoinette Barnett participate in the JPM-NBC CA Warrior Walk in honor of wounded service members Dec. 3.



Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/APGMd



APG SNAPSHOT

Take 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/>.



Photos by Molly Blossie

TREE LIGHTING, CAROLERS AND HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

The APG community gathered together for the installation's annual tree lighting ceremony Dec. 3, followed by festivities at the Bayside Community Center. There were several stations where children could get their pictures taken with Santa, dress up with fun holiday props and play games.

(Clockwise from top left) Chloe Nordel, 8, has fun using props from the dress up station; Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford, APG Senior Commander, right, and his wife Dianne are joined by Maj. Jay Coats and his family to help light the holiday tree located near the Bayside Community Center; Randy Goldberg with the group Joyous Voices entertains a child; Blaize Reed, 4 mos., melted hearts in his pint-sized Santa outfit; Kendell Barnett, 3, gets his picture taken on Santa's lap.



Photos by Molly Blossie

SOCIAL GETS TEAM APG INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Members of the entire APG community were invited to attend the APG Holiday Social at Top of the Bay Dec. 3. As APG personnel enjoyed food and holiday music, Garrison Commander Gregory R. McClinton and APG Senior Commander Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford thanked Team APG for their hard work and dedication over the past year. Crawford also asked that attendees remember the service members and their families who are separated this holiday season and challenged personnel to reach out and meet someone new during the event.

(From Left) Chaplain Young Kim, left, shares a laugh with Garrison Commander Col. Gregory R. McClinton, center, and CECOM Chief of Staff Col. Charles Gibson; Bassist Jesse Powers with the "Spice Band" entertains at the APG Holiday Social.

SANTA VISITS CDC WITH HIS FIREFIGHTER ELVES

Natalie Yost, 2, smiles on Santa's lap at the APG North (Aberdeen) Child Development Center Dec. 9.

Santa, played by Deputy Chief George Hollenbaugh, and his "elves" from DES Fire and Emergency Services traded in the traditional sleigh and reindeer for a trusty fire truck to visit the children at the CDC and pass out candy canes.

Photo by Stacy Smith

