



APG NEWS

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

www.teamapg.com

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Free Income Tax preparation available at APG

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division

2014 Aberdeen Proving Ground Installation Tax Program

The 2014 Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Installation Tax Program is a joint effort of the Client Services Division (CSD), Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Directed by the CSD, the program provides free tax assistance each year to qualifying active duty service members, retirees, and Family members. Active duty service members are those military members currently holding an active duty ID card. Reserve component service members who are not mobilized more than 30 days are not eligible for services and should contact their individual units for assistance.

What you should know about this season's tax services

Tax services will be provided by two CSD staff members on a part-time basis. Tax preparation will be offered on an appointment basis only for simple tax returns and will require a two-visit process: first visit – document review; second visit – tax preparation. During the first visit, CSD staff will perform a review of the taxpayer's individual tax documents to determine eligibility for service. If eligible, the taxpayer will be provided with a scheduled appointment to return for tax preparation at a later date.

Be prepared prior to your arrival

Tax personnel cannot prepare an accurate return unless the taxpayer brings all necessary documentation. Inaccurate tax returns caused by incomplete/faulty information may incur IRS penalty and interest assessments. Documents needed depend on each individual situation. Prior to receiving tax services, individuals must first complete three required documents which are extremely helpful in gathering the information necessary to file an accurate federal and state tax return: 1) Determination for Eligibility of APG Tax Services Sheet, (complete this form first, as it lists in detail forms NOT acceptable for service; if eligible, 2) IRS Form 13614-C Intake/Interview & Quality Review Sheet, a requirement of the IRS, and 3) Client Agreement and Supplemental Questionnaire. The required documents can be accessed online at www.apg.army.mil, Services, APG Tax Services, or picked up at the CSD office.

See TAX, page 14



(From left) BlockBusters team members Alexandra Alatzas and Brayden Hill, from Fallston, watch with anticipation as their robot performs a mission during the third annual FIRST LEGO League Challenge at the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command headquarters Jan. 18.

Challenge inspires LEGO fun

Story and photo by RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Friendly competition, learning, teamwork and fun were emphasized during the third annual FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Challenge at the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command headquarters Jan. 18.

More than 300 students from 18 teams from across the state

competed for the top six positions to advance to the Feb. 1 state championship that will be held at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. ATEC, UMBC and Team APG partnered to organize the event. More than 60 volunteers from the APG workforce volunteered to make the event a success.

FLL is a LEGO robotics program for 6 - 14-year-olds designed

See FLL, page 12

School receives national kudos

Aberdeen High selected 'School of the Year' for increased AP scores



By ALAN FEILER
APG News

For Elasha Colby, it was an extraordinary day to be a student at Aberdeen High School (AHS). "The name 'Aberdeen' doesn't always seem to mean as much as other schools in this county," said Elasha, 16, a senior. "So this really means a lot to our school. It's a great opportunity for us."

Elasha was referring to a special ceremony last Friday morning, Jan. 17, at which AHS was named "School of the Year" by the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) for outstanding results on Advanced Placement (AP) math, science and English exams.

See ABERDEEN, page 12

Aberdeen High's award-winning dance troupe performs for the audience celebrating the school's recent NMSI honors.

Photo by Deborah Ince

Speaker brings King's words to life

By RACHEL PONDER
APG News

For an enrapt audience of more than 500 Soldiers, civilians, retirees, Family members and students, The Rev. Dr. John G. Moore Sr. brought new life and meaning to the powerful, timeless words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the annual ceremony in memory of the slain civil rights leader hosted by Team APG at the Myer Auditorium Jan. 16.

"Today, we celebrate not just a man that truly exemplifies the Army's value of selfless service," Acting APG Senior Commander Col. Charles "Chuck" Gibson said during welcoming remarks. "Today, we celebrate not just a man but a movement that can be credited for reshaping the way Ameri-

See KING, page 14

The Rev. Dr. John G. Moore Sr. recites portions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s inspirational speeches during a ceremony honoring King's life at the Myer Auditorium Jan. 16.

Photo by Molly Blossie



ONLINE

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flickr.com/photos/usagapg/



INDEX

Pg 2 Street Talk
Pg 8 Mark Your Calendar
Pg 8 At your service
Pg 9 Crossword



ICE system
http://ice.disa.mil/

Facebook, http://on.fb.me/HzQJow

IN THIS ISSUE



APG bids farewell to departing commander

Page 4



Military seeks solutions for operational needs

Page 5

WEATHER

Thursday

Mostly Sunny
chance of rain 10%



25° | 8°

More inside

Winter driving tips **PAGE 3**
CECOM LRC mentoring program **PAGE 6**
Leave donations **PAGE 7**
Old Guard trains at ATC **PAGE 9**

STREET TALK

Do you prefer reading printed books or e-books?

I like both. I like reading e-books because they are very convenient. Having a Tablet cuts down on the amount of books you need to carry. For studying, I like to use printed books. I think it's easier to flip through the pages to find what you need.



Chief Petty Officer Robert Wilder
Navy Recruiting District, Philadelphia

I prefer printed books. I look at a computer screen all day. I feel like print is easier on the eyes. Plus, I do not want to worry about charging a Tablet to read. I am a traditionalist.



Karen Jobes
DPW

I like to read e-books. I like the convenience of being able to store many books on one device. The colors on my Tablet are so vivid. I think that enhances my reading experience. I also like that you can easily change the font size.



Michael Bryant
CECOM

I prefer to read printed hardback books, because I think they are easier to share. In my Family, we take turns reading books out loud to each other and then have a discussion about what we read.



Anna Nusca
Civilian Family member

I like printed books, I am old school. I like holding a book in my hands and turning the pages. I don't think I will ever switch to e-books.



Elvia Pomerat
Chapel childcare

OPINION

Is being in the Military stressful?

Usually, the career and job-listing website CareerCast.com posts enlisted military among the worst jobs in the country. But they also have a list of the most “stressful” jobs in the country.

The military general (like there are a zillion of those) rolled in at number two. Firefighters, airline pilots and events coordinators round out the top five.

CareerCast determined their rankings based on job demands that seemed likely to provoke stress, including travel, growth potential, competitiveness, physical demands, hazards, environmental conditions and risk to one's own life or to others'.

While I can see where they are coming from — long deployments, absence from family, physical danger, and responsibility for other people's lives are all pretty darn stressful — I think these guys have it wrong.

I think the whole “risk to one's life” thing, combined with low income and a lack of exposure to the 1 percent who actually serve in the military, clouds the issue.

Because there are worse things than stress at work.

Work-related stress can be created by many factors — from poor pay to tyrannical supervisors to monotonous, uninteresting, repetitive work that bores the life out of you.

Sociologists have found that work that brings on feelings of powerlessness, meaninglessness and isolation are the worst kinds of stressors.

When it comes to the military, I'm sure that in the first enlistment, there are plenty of opportunities to contemplate powerlessness, meaninglessness and isolation.

If that is your work life in the military, then your work life is just a job, just a paycheck. The military doesn't pay well enough to keep you grinding away like that. So you get out.

I think what is a lot more interesting is what happens in that second or third enlistment period. Sometime in their service, members start connecting to other things at work.

The work starts meaning something. People start looking at their work and thinking of it as a career—a source of challenge, reward and status.

They might even start thinking of it as a calling — a meaningful, socially valuable part of the service member's identity that also provides financial gain and career advancement.

In my research on long married active duty military couples, the majority identified their work as a calling. Some thought of it as a career. Very, very few thought of it as a job.

For most of these service members, their work in the military meant something to them. For many, it was an inseparable part of who they are.

Sure, there was stress. But for couples in which the service member identified his work as a calling, there was also increased job satisfaction and increased marital satisfaction.

That counts for something. If you haven't been in the military yourself (I haven't) or you haven't lived with a military member for long (I have) you probably can't see why anyone would want a job like that—and you would be quick to put military jobs right at the top of the list of “worst” or “most stressful” jobs in the country.

But when you have witnessed someone's work going from bill paying job to life-filling calling, you have to look at work in the military a little bit differently.

JACEY ECKHART

Military Life

Living with allergies is nothing to sneeze at

Increasingly, people today are being diagnosed with food allergies and sensitivities, and that includes military families. It might be you, your spouse or children, but either way it can be a challenge.

For the scores of military families who will be diagnosed and face these challenges this near year, here are 11 basic things that may help with the transition (regardless of where you PCS to):

1. It's not just foods alone, allergens can be found in man-made products and environmental irritants. Be aware of lotions, laundry detergents and perfumes. I make my own body lotion with Jojoba oil and organic essence oils such as rosemary, peppermint, tea-tree, etc. The skin is the biggest organ (and porous), so I go natural here too. Ordering oils online is also an alternative.

2. Choose your food sources wisely. Foods sprayed with pesticides and highly refined foods with additives (or genetically modified foods—GMOs) may also affect allergy sufferers. Buy organic (if, and when you can) and wash with a fruit and vegetable wash. Always.

3. Watch out for seasonings. For example MSG (a processed-free glutamic acid) also goes by Aji-no-moto, Vetsin, calcium caseinate, and soy protein isolate. It's found in nuts, soy sauce, beef bouillon, chips, canned soups and sausages. Read labels. If a product has too many lines of additives, preservatives and coloring etc., I skip it.

4. If your child suffers with food allergies, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released guidelines (in October) on how to handle student food allergies in schools. Check with your local school district to see if they've adopted (or plan on adopting) these measures.

5. Eat raw even if it's only 10-percent daily. You probably do this already: add salads and a rainbow of fresh veggies such as carrots, apples and green leafy produce to meals. Lightly steamed vegetables work great too. Sometimes I eat bad stuff (even though it makes me ill). But my whole focus is on finding balance in every way and not totally depriving myself of some treats. Where's the joy in that, right? You too have to find what works for you.

6. Don't eat the same thing every day. Eating the same food over and over again over a period of time means you are more likely to develop food sensitivities. Wait a few days for foods to cycle through your system. I know if I've been bad one day, that I need to eat “clean” for a few days to compensate.

7. Choose carefully where you dine out. Some restaurants heat up pre-packaged foods (assembled in a factory) and have a little control over meals' ingredients. Find places that will accommodate your restrictions, and that offer fresh menu items. If your allergies are really severe, ask if they clean the grill and utensils before cooking your food (separately). Red

Lobster and P.F. Chang's certainly do. Military towns tend to be home to a lot of chain restaurants. You may think you can count on them to be consistent from place to place, but don't take anything for granted.

8. Become intimate with your type of allergies so you can choose the right diet. For example if you're lactose-intolerant you know dairy products such milk and milk-based products don't settle well; vegan don't eat meat, dairy, eggs, or any processed foods containing animal-derived products. Lacto-ovo-vegetarian don't eat beef, pork, poultry, fish, shellfish, or animal flesh, but eat eggs and dairy products. Macrobiotic diets consist of only unprocessed vegan foods such as whole grains, fruits and vegetables. And, raw vegans only eat unprocessed vegan foods that have not been heated above 105 degrees Fahrenheit; some go to 115 degrees (46 degrees Celsius). Gluten-free diets exclude (the protein gluten) which is found in grains such as wheat, barley and rye.

9. Check other symptoms, they might be related. That nagging post-nasal drip, insomnia, migraine or persistent cough, irritable bowel syndrome, acid reflux, chronic mucus or bronchitis, and other undiagnosed and generic tell-tale signs can also be linked to the foods you eat. Get additional testing, if necessary. I worked with a naturopathic doctor off-base, but he worked with my military treatment facility based physician to run tests and follow-ups. It saved me time and money. I was able to get a 4-page diagnosis of what I was allergic to. Tricare doesn't cover many alternatives sources but you can find other ways in which they can work for you.

10. Get friendly with your local produce manager both on and off base. Then you'll know when the fresh produce comes in, and can order special raw organic items such as nuts, seed and grains (especially if you opt for a raw vegan diet). Also, don't forget your local farmer's market and farmers — they're a great place for fresh, far-raised, organic choices that are usually hormone-free and grass-fed (no GMO grains). Some store brands are pumped with saline solutions, and animals are raised on antibiotics and fed animal-by product (among others). Google where your farmer's market is and think outside the box. Are you in a rural community? Consider looking for a near-by Amish community for affordable, organic produce.

11. Do your best and bless the rest. If you're doing the best you can (with your budget, resources, and place you live in), then you can't worry about (or control) everything. Simply do your best to take care of your allergies. Many kids are raised just fine with what's available and adults cope with what they have. Worry less and live more.

CORINNE LINCOLN-PINHEIRO

SpouseBuzz.com

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs



25° | 8°

Fri



23° | 17°

Sat



36° | 16°

Sun



23° | 22°

Mon



30° | 10°

Tue



20° | 10°

Wed



23° | 22°

APG NEWS

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Drive safely during winter weather

APG Safety Office

The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it.

Don't go out until the snow plows and sand trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.

If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions.

Driving safely on icy roads

1. Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.

2. Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.

3. Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.

4. Keep your lights and windshield clean.

5. Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.

6. Don't use cruise control or over-drive on icy roads.

7. Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.

8. Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.

9. Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

If your rear wheels skid...

1. Take your foot off the accelerator.

2. Steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.

3. If your rear wheels start sliding the other way as you recover, ease the steering wheel toward that side. You might have to steer left and right a few times to get your vehicle completely under control.

4. If you have standard brakes, pump them gently.

5. If you have an anti-lock braking system (ABS), do not pump them. Apply steady pressure to the brakes. You will feel the brakes pulse — this is normal.

If your front wheels skid...

1. Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, but don't try to steer immediately.

2. As the wheels skid sideways, they will slow the vehicle and traction will return. As it does, steer in the direction you want to go. Then put the transmission in "drive" or release the clutch, and accelerate gently.

If you get stuck...

1. Do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper.

2. Turn your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way.

3. Use a light touch on the gas to ease your car out.

4. Use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car.

5. Pour sand, kitty litter, gravel or salt in the path of the wheels, to help get traction.

6. Try rocking the vehicle. (Check your owner's manual first — it can damage the transmission on some vehicles.) Shift from

forward to reverse, and back again. Each time you're in gear, give a light touch on the gas until the vehicle gets going.

If you become stranded...

1. Do not leave your car unless you know exactly where you are, how far it is to possible help, and are certain you will improve your situation.

2. To attract attention, light two flares and place one at each end of the car a safe distance away. Hang a brightly colored cloth from your antenna.

3. If you are sure the car's exhaust pipe is not blocked, run the engine and heater for about 10 minutes every hour or so depending upon the amount of gas in the tank.

4. To protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia use woolen items and blankets to keep warm.

5. Keep at least one window open slightly. Heavy snow and ice can seal a car shut.

Sources: National Safety Council, New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, Washington State Government Information & Services

Stick with positive changes in the new year

By MOLLY HAYDEN

U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria Public Affairs

Making New Year's resolutions is an easy task. Keeping them, on the other hand, can be pretty tough.

But the new year isn't meant for reinvention, but rather reflection. Glancing into the rear-view mirror of the past year can serve as a catalyst to make positive changes in health and lifestyle for the future.

And according to the American Psychological Association, or APA, not keeping those resolutions is all in our head.

The APA offered five easy steps for making changes, and sticking with them. Follow these steps and your 2014 resolutions can become more reality than fantasy.

Start small

Make resolutions that you think you can keep. If, for example, your aim is to exercise more frequently, schedule three or four days a week at the gym instead of seven. If you would like to eat healthier,



try replacing dessert with something else you enjoy, like fruit or yogurt, instead of seeing your diet as a form of punishment.

Change one behavior at a time

Unhealthy behaviors develop over the course of time. Thus, replacing unhealthy behaviors with healthy ones requires time. Don't get overwhelmed and think that you have to reassess everything in your life. Instead, work toward changing one thing at a time.

Talk about it

Share your experiences with family, friends, or your family readiness group. Consider joining or starting support group to reach your goals, such as a class at the fitness center or a group of co-workers who aim to quit smoking.

Having someone to share your struggles and successes with makes your journey to a healthier lifestyle that much easier and less intimidating.

Don't beat yourself up

Perfection is unattainable. Remember that minor missteps when reaching your goals are completely normal.

Don't give up completely because you ate a brownie and broke your diet, or skipped the gym for a week because you were busy. Everyone has ups and downs; resolve to recover from your mistakes and get back on track.

Ask for support

Everyone needs a cheerleader from time to time. Accepting help from those who care about you and will listen strengthens your resilience and ability to manage stress caused by your resolution.

If you feel overwhelmed or unable to meet your goals on your own, consider seeking professional help.

Psychologists are uniquely trained to understand the connection between the mind and body. They can offer strategies as to how to adjust your goals so that they are attainable, as well as help you change unhealthy behaviors and address emotional issues.

APG bids farewell to departing commander

By **ROBERT DIMICHELE**

CECOM Public Affairs



Ferrell

The Aberdeen Proving Ground community said goodbye to Maj. Gen. (P) Robert S. Ferrell, former commander of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM), Tuesday night at a dinner event on the installation.

Ferrell received Senate confirmation of his third star and new assignment to the position of Chief Information Officer/G-6, Office of the Secretary of the Army December 20. He relinquished command Dec. 23.

As the Chief Information Officer for the Army, Ferrell is now responsible for delivering world-class enterprise services, for enabling network capabilities, and developing information technology policy and architecture to direct information technology activities across the Army. As the G-6, Ferrell represents the operational commanders' interests in ensuring the network enables a smaller, more capable Army. His promotion ceremony to lieutenant general will be Jan. 24 in the Pentagon.

About 120 command, installation and community leaders turned out to honor the general's accomplishments as the CECOM commander and the senior commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground. "Tonight we honor and say farewell to a great leader, teacher and mentor," said Col. Charles Gibson, CECOM's Chief of Staff, who provided the opening remarks.

The mayors of Aberdeen and Havre de Grace expressed their gratitude for Ferrell's emphasis on local community relations and his theme of transparency and engagement. Representatives from the state and federal governments provided proclamations recognizing Ferrell's leadership at CECOM and APG. Ferrell was presented a resolution from the President of the Maryland State Senate, Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., "... in recognition of leading a number of initiatives to foster and build the relationships between the installation and the local communities." During Ferrell's command tenure, he received recognition as the Military Leader of the Year by the Association of Defense Communities for his community outreach initiatives.

Representatives of Aberdeen's Sig-



Photo by Jim Foard

(Right) U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Acting Director Commander Gary P. Martin presents Monique Ferrell (center), wife of Maj. Gen. (P) Robert S. Ferrell (left), with a Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service Jan. 7, during a farewell dinner for Ferrell at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Mrs. Ferrell received the award for her "selfless contributions to the Soldiers, civilians, and Families of CECOM and Team APG." Ferrell received Senate confirmation of his third star at the rank of lieutenant general and new assignment to the position of Chief Information Officer/G-6, Office of the Secretary of the Army Dec. 20, 2013. He relinquished command of CECOM Dec. 23, 2013.

nal Corps Regimental Association chapter also presented Ferrell with the Silver Order of Mercury Award. The award is the Signal Corps Association's highest and is only presented to those who stand above their peers and have made conspicuous, long-term significant contributions to the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Col. Patrick Kerr, commander of CECOM's Information Systems Engineering Command at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., reflected on Ferrell's unwavering commitment to others. "... I have probably known Gen. Ferrell the longest in this room, since he was Capt. Ferrell and I was Lt. Kerr. He has always been known to look out and take care of people and that has never wavered. His focus, drive, and follow through have always been the same."

Monique Ferrell, the general's wife, was

also recognized for her support of the APG community. Gary P. Martin, Deputy to the Commanding General of CECOM and now the command's acting director, presented Mrs. Ferrell with the Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service. Mrs. Ferrell received the award for her "selfless contributions to the Soldiers, civilians, and Families of CECOM and Team APG."

During the farewell event, Ferrell said that "the saddest words I heard were former CECOM commander and former commander of APG." He thanked everyone for their support and attributed his success to that support. "This promotion to lieutenant general is our promotion. Our unconditional relationship allowed us to achieve great things no matter what the obstacle. This would not have been

achieved without you."

Ferrell concluded by saying "You have a good thing going at APG. You have the magic here. Continue that magic. Take care of one another. This will remain a model for the Army--a national treasure."

During his closing remarks Martin said to Ferrell, "In our first conversation, you talked about focusing on a few priorities: providing support to the Warfighter; taking care of people; partnership with the community; and positioning CECOM for an era of declining resources. All of these were achieved."

As acting director, Martin now assumes the senior leadership role for CECOM until a new commander is named. Gibson has assumed the role of acting installation commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Military seeks solutions for operational needs

Army program secures critical component for artillery, mortar ammunition

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**
RDECOM

The Army is nearing completion on a project to eliminate its dependency on foreign countries for a critical energetic component in artillery and mortar ammunition, officials said.

Because of changes in the global cotton industry, the United States no longer has a domestic source of quality raw material for manufacturing nitrocellulose for combustible cartridge cases that are used extensively by the military. A domestic source is necessary to ensure a sufficient supply of quality cartridge cases, which is vital to maintaining readiness of the armed forces, according to Army experts.

Kristy Klein, project officer, Office of the Project Manager for Combat Ammunition Systems, and her colleagues immediately began to investigate possible technology solutions to meet the military's operational needs.

"The American cotton industry has changed from producing raw material that is a loose fiber to a pressed stock material," Klein said. "The processes downstream in our manufacturing facilities are not capable of handling the physical change. The pressed stock material could not meet the Army's needs for combustible case materials."

Since foreign companies are the only source of nitrocellulose from baled cotton linters, the Army needed a solution that will allow the use of domestically produced nitrocellulose from pressed stock, which is readily available from domestic sources, Klein said.

"The problem in the manufacturing of the combustible cases using pressed stock nitrocellulose is that cutting or shredding the material using the exist-



Soldiers assigned to Bulldog Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment load a M777A2 Howitzer during 2CR's Maneuver Rehearsal Exercise at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, Feb. 13, 2013. The U.S. Army is nearing completion on a project to eliminate its dependency on foreign countries for a critical energetic component in artillery and mortar ammunition.
U.S. Army Photo

ing process results in tight clumps of cotton fibers," she said. "Several attempts at breaking up these clumps were unsuccessful. In fact, a study by a leading pressed stock producer showed that cutting actually welded the fibers together."

Klein explained that these clumps inhibit achieving a homogeneous composition of the slurry used to manufacture combustible cases, thus causing variations in energetic composition throughout the product. This non-homogeneity caused by the clumps of pressed stock within the combustible case results in burning residue in the gun chamber after firing.

"It's a safety issue as the burning debris could ignite the next round during insertion into the chamber," Klein said.

Another major concern is the poor performance in terms of muzzle velocity variation, she said. Production data have shown the muzzle velocity variance to be four times greater when using nitrocellulose with clumps.

To establish a manufacturing process using domestic pressed sheet and alleviate these performance and safety issues, the Army turned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense Com-

parative Technology Office's Foreign Comparative Technology program in 2010. FCT's mission is to find and evaluate "here and now" solutions to meet operational needs regardless of the origin of that technology.

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command manages the FCT for the Army.

"FCT provides foreign companies with the 'on ramp' to Army acquisition," said William "Randy" Everett, FCT project officer at RDECOM headquarters. "When a foreign company has a mature technology or product the U.S. Army has a requirement for, FCT allows program managers to leverage OSD funds for test and evaluation."

The Army leveraged FCT funds to review foreign nitrocellulose manufacturers' processes that utilize pressed stock. Klein's team evaluated technologies from companies in France and the Czech Republic.

"How are they breaking down the pressed stock? That is, taking something like pressed cardboard and fluff it again into loose fibers? What processes are they using, and what can we do to bring it to the U.S.? We tested their processed material through

the FCT program, and we specifically used a domestic source for the pressed stock," Klein said. "Their nitrocellulose worked in our combustible cases, eliminating the safety and performance issues."

The key to the process was a Hammer Mill machine, which fluffed the pressed stock without major damage to the fibers. The tests of these technologies were successful, and the Army has subsequently purchased a Hammer Mill machine that will enable this manufacturing process for nitrocellulose to be transitioned to the United States.

Two Program Executive Office Ammunition offices, PM-CAS and Project Manager for Maneuver Ammunition Systems, are working closely with BAE Systems, the operating contractor of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, to install, prove-out and commission the Hammer Mill.

"The true success is that we're going to implement the process in the U.S. and will again be able to use a domestic source for quality raw nitrocellulose material. This would not have happened without the support from the FCT office," Klein said.

CECOM's Logistics and Readiness Center offers Mentoring Program

By **TRACEY SUEBSINGH**
CECOM LRC

One of the big initiatives within CECOM's Logistics and Readiness Center (LRC) is to train and develop members of the workforce. Lane Collicie, LRC's director, has been committed to developing the LRC since taking over leadership of the center. The LRC senior leaders have also taken an interest and are very involved in the implementation of this program.

The Mentoring Program quickly became a main concern to ensure the success of the organization for the future. Mentorship is a powerful tool for personal and professional development. The relationship can improve technical competence, leadership skills, self-awareness and morale for the employee.

Both parties in the mentoring relationship have significant responsibilities to make sure the process is effective. The mentors dedicate their time and energy to build a relationship with their mentees. They come prepared to listen actively and intently and making themselves available when needed by the mentee either by email or phone.

They also provide open and honest feedback to the mentees. The mentee has the benefit of working with a senior leader to improve upon any skill gaps or challenges they have in their career. At times, the mentee may just want to bounce ideas off the mentor. The mentee should be prepared for the mentor to

provide candid feedback in the sessions to assist with development.

A mentee should also be open and honest with the mentor and have a willingness to try new things. The mentee must be receptive to the mentors feedback and suggestions in order to make some changes. If either individual is not committed to the relationship, it will never work out effectively.

The LRC has rolled out a Mentoring Program for supervisors. The overall goal of the program is to guide and coach the leaders of the future. Mentoring promotes a working relationship in which a more experienced professional guides and coaches a less experienced employee. The act of mentoring is a flexible and fluid face-to-face process that requires commitment and dedication from both the mentor and mentee. The relationship is based on trusting one another. Mentoring builds confidence and encourages the individual to grow beyond the usual expectations.

A team of senior leaders were brought together to define the Mentoring Pro-

gram, scope and set the expectations for the program. The roles and responsibilities of both the mentor and the mentee were clearly defined by the team to avoid any confusion that may exist with the chain of command. Each senior leader made a commitment to mentor a supervisor outside of the chain of command. The group continues to meet on a bimonthly basis to discuss the status of the program and make enhancements for the program going forward.

LRC senior leaders attended vendor training sessions to gain insight on how to be a successful mentor. Following the training, the mentors began reaching out to their mentees to begin the process. Mentoring training and coaching was required for all the mentors in the program. In addition to the vendor training, a select team of supervisors conducted roundtable sessions to provide tools to assist with training new mentors due to the expansion of the program to the junior workforce.

The sessions were beneficial to everyone in attendance as each person has dif-

Mentorship is a powerful tool for personal and professional development. The relationship can improve technical competence, leadership skills, self-awareness and morale for the employee.

ferent experiences and ideas to bring to the table. All of the mentors were trained to assist with the process being standardized across the center. The mentors and mentees set their expectations for the relationship during their initial meeting. The initial meeting will allow both individuals time to get to know one another and break the ice. The mentor will ask questions to develop an Individual Development Action Plan and Mentorship Agreements.

After these documents have been created and the initial dialogue has occurred, monthly meetings will occur going forward. The mentor will also be available by phone or email anytime the mentee feels the need to reach out. The mentor will continue to monitor the progress and make adjustments of both the Individual Development Action plan and the Mentorship Agreement going forward. The LRC currently has approximately 45 mentors in the program and 105 mentees. A survey will be going out to the workforce soon to seek out additional candidates with interest in the program.



LOGISTICS AND
READINESS CENTER

Dempsey makes case for slowing manpower costs

Chairman calls training of Army personnel a 'sacred obligation.'

By **JIM GARAMONE**
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department must slow the growth of its manpower costs to avoid a crisis in the future, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said in an interview last week.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told National Public Radio's Tom Bowman that if military manpower and personnel costs continue growing at current levels, there won't be money for training or modernization.

Dempsey predicted that if nothing is done now, manpower costs "will become a crisis" in the early part of the next decade.

At the current rate of growth, the amount of money that the department has to spend to sustain the all-volunteer force will place the force out of balance, the chairman said. There will not be enough money for compensation, training, equipping and readiness.

I have one sacred obligation to the young men and women who serve, and only one. And that is, that if I ask them, on behalf of the president, to go to places like Afghanistan or some other conflict, they must be the best-trained, best-equipped and best-led force on the planet. And I don't want to win, you know, 5-4. I want to win 50 to nothing.

Gen. Martin E. Dempsey

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

If the department's manpower costs stay at the current rate, "we will be over-invested in manpower costs," Dempsey said.

The Joint Chiefs are recommending the department slow the growth in such costs. "We think we should do it now, not just defer the problem to our successors," Dempsey said.

The manpower package that the chiefs have proposed has not yet been presented to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, but in general Dempsey said service members should expect smaller pay raises, increases in medical co-

pays and slowing increases in housing allowances.

"That's where the money is," he said.

The chairman emphasized this is not a cut, simply a slowing in the growth. None of these changes can happen until fiscal 2015 at the earliest.

Critics have said the Joint Chiefs of Staff are breaking faith with service members by even contemplating these changes.

"I have one sacred obligation to the young men and women who serve, and only one," Dempsey said. "And that is, that if I ask them, on behalf of the pres-

ident, to go to places like Afghanistan or some other conflict, they must be the best-trained, best-equipped and best-led force on the planet. And I don't want to win, you know, 5-4. I want to win 50 to nothing.

"To do that, we've got to make the appropriate investments in training, readiness, leader development and modernization and manpower," he said. "But I can't have the manpower account so out of proportion that it precludes me from making sure that if they go into harm's way, they're ready to go. That's the sacred obligation."

Where to go for weather updates 2014

Station	Frequency	Location
WAMD	AM 970	Harford
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WCAO	AM 600	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WGLD/ESPN	AM 1440	Red Lion, Pa.
WINK	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WJZ-FM	FM 105.7	Baltimore
WJZ-AM	AM 1300	Baltimore
WLIF	FM 101.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WQSR	FM 102.7	Baltimore
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WSOX	FM 96.1	Red Lion, Pa.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WXCX	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WZFT	FM 104.3	Baltimore
WBAL-TV	Channel 11 www.wbaltv.com	Baltimore
WMAR-TV	Channel 2 www.abc2news.com	Baltimore
WBFF-TV	Channel 45 www.foxbaltimore.com	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13 http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/	Baltimore
Harford Cable Network	21-Comcast/31-Verizon www.harfordcountymd.gov/hcn/	Harford County
Fox 43	http://fox43.com/	York, Pa.
Facebook	http://www.facebook.com/APGMd	
Twitter	http://twitter.com/#!/USAGAPG	
Telephone	410-278-SNOW (7669)	

Other helpful websites include:

Maryland Emergency Management Agency <http://mema.maryland.gov>
 Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency <http://www.pema.state.pa.us>
 Delaware Emergency Management Agency <http://dema.delaware.gov/>
 Harford County Emergency Management <http://harfordpublicsafety.org>
 Cecil County Department of Emergency Services <http://www.ccdes/>

Reward offered

The Aberdeen Proving Ground office of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the theft of multiple computers and camera equipment, including Apple MacBooks and an iPad from the basement of Bldg. 3071, APG North (Aberdeen), belonging to RDECOM.

Anyone with information concerning this theft should contact the APG CID Office at 410-278-5261/4042, DSN 298 or the APG Police Department at 410-306-0565, DSN 458.

The payout of cash rewards to military and federal employees for information leading to a conviction is contingent upon exceptional actions regarding the information provided.

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www.teamapg.com

Safety is top priority on Chem-Demil ship

Story and Photo By
C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

Joe Wienand pulled his agency's military challenge coin from his coat pocket and held it in the air to display its artwork. He pointed to a small dot of green paint on its surface, less than 1/8 inch in diameter.

"A spot like that of mustard [chemical agent] would raise a blister that would be very, very big, and painful," he said. "And nerve agent -- a dot like that would be enough to kill somebody."

Wienand, who is director of the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, said the coin was designed with that bit of artwork so he could use it to illustrate the toxicity of the chemicals the center works with.

His team, in cooperation with the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense, is responsible for designing, constructing, deploying and operating the Field Deployable Hydrolysis System (FDHS), which will be used aboard the cargo ship MV Cape Ray this month as part of a U.N. mission to destroy bulk chemical weapons from Syria.

Those weapons include 700 metric tons of bis(2-chloroethyl) sulfide, or mustard agent; methylphosphonyl difluoride, or "DF," which is one component in the manufacture of the nerve agent sarin; and O-ethyl methylphosphonothioic acid, or "EMPTA," a component in the manufacture of the nerve agent VX.

Aboard the ship, a team of 46 Army civilians from both ECBC and JPEO-CBD will use the two FDHS systems to destroy those chemical agents over the course of about 90 days.

The Cape Ray will sail to a yet-unnamed port in Italy to rendezvous with a Danish ship that will have previously picked up the chemical weapons at the Syrian port of Latakia. The trans-loading of the chemical weapons will take place at the Italian port.

Following the transfer, the Cape Ray will head out to international waters still to be determined, and the process of destroying those chemical weapons will commence.

Using the FDHS, Edgewood specialists will mix the chemical weapons with neutralizing agents such as bleach, water, or sodium hypochlorite, to render them unusable as weapons. In some cases, it's expected the mix ratio will be nine gallons of neutralizing agent for each gallon of chemical weapon. The resulting mixture is waste material, called effluent.

The effluent from the neutralization process, hazardous waste, will be stored in approved containers aboard the ship. The U.N. has solicited bids to determine what commercial facilities will receive the effluent for disposal. Some 42 bids have been received.

Wienand said the ECBC operators aboard the Cape Ray are experienced with the handling of chemical weapons. He also said the systems aboard the ship have been engineered to ensure crew safety.

"All the material will be monitored with chemical monitors so if any vapor gets out we can close the operations, and we can decontaminate," Wienand said. "These very experienced operators know how to handle these materials, and I think they are going to do a fantastic job of making this a safe operation."

In December of 2012, defense officials at the Pentagon gathered to address the concern of dealing with chemical weapons from Syria. The U.S. Strategic Command subsequently published a Joint Emergent Operational Needs Statement that directed JPEO-CBD to put together such a capability, no later



Butch Leilich (left), Anna Kirby, and Jeffrey Gonce, supervisor of the field maintenance branch at Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's Chemical Applications Risk Reduction Unit, build the fourth of seven Field Deployable Hydrolysis Systems.

than July 1, 2013.

The FDHS was finished June 27. The FDHS is air-transportable and fits inside two 20-foot containers. "It's a very small chemical plant that you can move wherever you need it to be operated," Wienand said.

In building the FDHS, ECBC and JPEO-CBD looked at technology and processes used at APG for destruction of mustard gas; Newport, Ind., for destruction of the nerve agent VX, and Pine Bluff, Ark., for the destruction of precursors and binary components of chemical weapons.

While these chemical weapons destruction processes, facilities and technologies existed already in the United States, what did not exist -- and what was created with the development of the FDHS -- was a way to make that capability portable.

The system was designed and built at APG by Army civilians within ECBC. So far, the team there has built three completed units -- two are currently on the Cape Ray. The team is in the process now of building a fourth FDHS, and will build an additional three -- for a total of seven systems.

"It's been a very busy year," Wienand said. "It is not our job normally to produce things, but in this case it was the only way to do it quickly enough so we wouldn't have to put a contract out and wait for people to bid on it and produce it."

Wienand said the decision to go to sea produced some challenges. "It took a little bit of engineering to figure out how to ruggedize the system to make sure it is survivable," he said. "On the shipboard application, we had to run some special engineering studies to make sure it was effectively braced and bracketed so it wouldn't have any problems when it is transported on ship or operated on a ship."

At ECBC's Chemical Biological Applications Risk Reduction unit, construction of the fourth FDHS is now underway. In a maintenance building, a pre-built frame for an FDHS stands nearly empty, save for two electric motors and pumps on one end, and a bit of brightly-colored plumbing. Two workers together bolted another part onto the system, which when complete will contain nearly 2,000 such parts.

Jeffrey Gonce, supervisor of the field maintenance branch at ECBC's Chemical Biological Applications Risk Reduction unit, is responsible for a team of 20 Army civilians, eight of whom constructed the existing three FDHS units already in existence, and who are now building the fourth. It takes about two weeks to assemble a system from off-the-shelf parts.

Gonce has 26 years of experience working in Army facilities that are responsible for destroying America's own chemical weapons stockpile. Design of the system, he said, drew on existing chemical weapons destruction facilities he was already familiar with.

"We took the plant designs, and we figured out the common denominators between them and shrunk them down to make one system, a portable system," he said. "We took the three plants and three processes and combined them together to make one process -- we

came up with the FDHS."

Gonce said his team has embraced the mission so far. "They stood up to the challenge that was put before them," he said, adding that when his team ran into difficulties constructing the FDHS, because in some cases the blueprints for the system didn't match the realities of actual construction, his team was able to contribute by improvising and making the system work.

"I'm very proud of my team," Gonce said. "I'm very proud knowing that something that my team here worked on, I can stand back some day and say we had something to do with that."

The operational part of the Cape Ray mission is expected to take 90 days, though with perfectly calm seas, it could take as little as 45. "It will be one less nation on this planet that will then possess chemical weapons," Spencer said.

Leave Donations

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

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

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Kennedy, Sandra	Walker, Cally	Williams, Jonathan
Lamar-Reeve, Kellie	Winne, Janeen	Wright, Sameisha
Freidman, Mariann	McClintick, Jill	Young, Trier
Nunley, Dana	Smith, Deborah	Caron, Lois
Solomon, Je'Neane	Rodriguez, Pedro	Corun, Charlene
Samler, Jennifer	Blethen, Matthew	Hoffman, William
Brown, Rita	Wilding, Jasmine	Sweeney, Joseph
Hill, Christian	Robinson, Lisa	Park, Jessica
Williams, Demetria	Chang, Jennifer	Blethen, Lena
Urban, Brenda	Alexander, Patricia	Cobb, Joyce
Cwiernie, Victoria L	Eberhardt, Joanne	King, Beverley
Jones, Michelle	Fike, Curtis	Shelton, Lena
Calahan, Jane	Gunter, Angeline	Robinson, Jennifer
Martino, Rose	Humes, Lashonda	Sumic, Angie
Birch, Garfield	Lee, Aileen	Small, Errol
Crawford, Curtis	Lowry, Teresa	Whittingham-Fields,
Green-Farley, Jessica	Poole, Rodney	Takeyce
Scott, Chandria	Torrise, Carmen	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TODAY

JANUARY 23 LUNCH WITH TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

All are invited to attend the Susquehanna Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America for lunch at the Richlin Ballroom, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., when four original and documented Tuskegee Airmen will discuss their experiences. The nation's first African-American fighter pilots, aircraft mechanics and maintenance techs, Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II. The cost is \$25. RSVP to TJ Staffieri at tjs3tjs@gmail.com by Jan. 18 or mail checks, payable to Susquehanna MOAA, to Susquehanna MOAA, ATTN: Luncheon, PO Box 243, APG MD 21005.

For more information, contact Jeff Brock, chapter president, at 443-686-1454.

WOA MONTHLY MEETING

The U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association's Aberdeen-Edgewood "Silver" Chapter will hold its monthly meeting 11:30 a.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326 room 105. Lunch will be provided 11:30 a.m. and the meeting will be held noon to 12:45 p.m.

For more information contact retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Owen McNiff at 571-243-6561/443-861-1936 or email: omcniff@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY

JANUARY 30 RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

The next RAB meeting will be held on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. at the Ramada Conference Center in Edgewood. The topic of discussion will be an update on The Bush River Study Area.

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 4 GARRISON TOWN HALL

Garrison staff is invited to attend the Garrison Town Hall at the APG North (Aberdeen) post theater at 10 a.m. APG South (Edgewood) staff may join via VTC at the EA Conference Center, Bldg. E4810.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Results of the recent climate survey
- Retirement Planning Class Overview
- Employee Assistance Program
- DFMWR Spring Trips and Programs
- Summer Camp Offerings

A Q&A session will be held during this event. To submit questions in advance, email usarmy.apg.imcom.mbx.apg-pao@mail.mil. For more information about the Garrison Town Hall, contact Lisa McClure at lisa.a.mcclure9.civ@mail.mil, (410) 278-0003.

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 8 ST. BARBARA'S DAY CELEBRATION

The APG Chapter of the Field Artillery Association will host a St. Barbara's Day Celebration starting 6 p.m. at Top of the Bay. Tickets cost \$60 per person or \$600 for table of 10. The celebration includes prime rib and crab cake dinner, awards ceremony and dancing. All friends of artillery are welcome. Register or receive more information online at https://events.brtrc.info/ausa-aberdeen/2014_St_Barbaras_Day_Ball/.

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 26 TEAM APG CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Join the Team APG celebration of Black History Month at 10:30 a.m. in the Myer Auditorium, Bldg. 6000. The theme for the event is "Civil Rights in America."

For more information contact: SFC Yvette James, EOA, RDECOM, 410-306-2425, Tracy Marshall, EOA, CECOM, 443-861-436 or Linda Patrick, EEO PHC, 410-436-1023

SATURDAY

MARCH 1 TALENT HUNT

The Iota Nu chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity present their annual talent hunt from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Ball Conference Center, Bldg. 3074, APG North (Aberdeen). The competition is open to high school students, grades 9 through 12. Students will be able to compete in the areas of Dance, Dramatic Interpretation, Instrumental Solo, Vocal Solo and Visual Art. Cash prizes will be awarded and the first place winner will advance to the district competition. Admission to the event is free.

To enter the talent hunt, or for more information, contact Anthony Dorsey at 443-528-5122, Anthony.dorsey@gmail.com or Mark Thomas at 443-752-4205, crunch-22@comcast.net.

MAY 2-4 SECOND INDIANHEAD DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION

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

ONGOING THROUGH JANUARY 20 ESGR ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR FREEDOM AWARD

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, is accepting nominations for the 2014 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is DoD's highest honor to civilian employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees.

ESGR Guardsmen, Reservists or Family members are encouraged to submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil by Jan. 20, 2014. Up to 15 awardees will be recognized during a Washington, D.C. ceremony on a date to be announced.

For more information, contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 571-372-0705 or email OSD.ESGR-PA@mail.mil.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 28 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY CHILDREN PROGRAM

Applications for the 2014 Scholarships for Military Children Program became available Dec. 3 at commissaries worldwide or on the Internet at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 28, 2014. Packages must be hand-delivered or shipped via U.S. Postal Service or other delivery methods; not

emailed or faxed.

This year's award amount has risen to \$2,000, and the program awards at least one scholarship at each commissary with qualified applicants.

An applicant must be a Family member, unmarried child, younger than 21 – or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university – of a service member on active duty, Reserve or National Guard, retiree or survivor of a service member who died while on active duty, or survivor of a retiree.

Applicants should ensure that they and their sponsor are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database and have a military ID card. The applicant must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2014 or be enrolled in studies designed to transfer to a four-year program.

Fisher House Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps service members and their families, administers the program. Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship management services organization, manages and awards the scholarships. Commissary partners and the general public donate money to the program; every dollar donated goes directly to funding the scholarships.

Since inception of the program in 2001, more than \$11.3 million in scholarships have been awarded to 7,412 military Family members from more than 71,000 applicants.

For more information, students or sponsors should call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311 or email them at militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com.

CORVIAS 2014 GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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

Applications for Our Future Scholarships must be submitted by Feb. 13, 2014, and will be awarded to high school seniors with plans of attending a four-year university or college in the amount of up to \$50,000 each. Applications for the 2014 Our Family Educational Grants must be submitted by May 8, 2014. Grants are given in the amount of up to \$5,000 to spouses of active-duty service members at the installations listed above. Applicants may be in any stage of the educational process. Recipients will be notified by July 10.

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

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

CPR, AED CLASSES SCHEDULED

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

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

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

CYSS PARTNERS WITH HOMESCHOOLERS

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

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.

YOUTH CENTER OPENINGS

The Aberdeen and Edgewood pro-

APG SATO TRAVEL RESERVATION NUMBER CHANGES

Effective immediately, the local reservation line 410-273-1100 for CWTSato Travel has been disconnected. The new reservation line is 800-296-3074.

"It is especially important that anyone who handles orders for any individual or organization has the correct number, and it is updated in the Defense Travel System" said APG Transportation Officer Nick D. Curcio. The Fax numbers will remain 410-273-1181 and 866-209-2035.

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

KEYSTONE CLUB

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

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>

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.

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

APG THRIFT SHOP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

With just two hours a week to spare, you can serve your community as a volunteer at the APG Thrift Store. Located in Bldg. 2458 behind the Main Post Chapel, the Thrift Shop offers quality, gently-used items featuring clothing for babies to adults including military uniforms, appliances, electronics, furniture, luggage, kitchenware, toys, knick knacks, books, jewelry and collectibles. And its dollars go right back into the community. So come spend an hour or a day, making new friends while helping your community.

For more information, or to volunteer, call the Thrift Shop during business hours at 410-272-8572.



Sheena Haynie

Assistant Manager, APG Bowling Center Snack Bar

Sheena Haynie knows what it's like to work in fast-paced environments. As assistant manager of the APG Bowling Center Snack Bar, Haynie does a lot to make sure the center runs smoothly, including cooking, busing tables, overseeing co-workers and ensuring the center is stocked with food and other materials.

"I do it all," Haynie said, "but I like how everyone [who works at the center] works together and gets along. There's a lot of teamwork."

Haynie previously worked at Top of the Bay and North Side Grill, and has been at APG

Bowling Center for a year. She is a graduate of Havre de Grace High School. Her father is a recently retired Air National Guard officer who was based at Martin State Airport and Air National Guard Base.

Haynie said her favorite part of her job is interacting with her co-workers. "We make each other laugh," she said. "Everybody here is really close. This is a family-oriented place, and we're a family here."

For more information on APG Bowling Center, visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/recreation/bowling.html>.



MORE ONLINE

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

“The Old Guard” trains at ATC

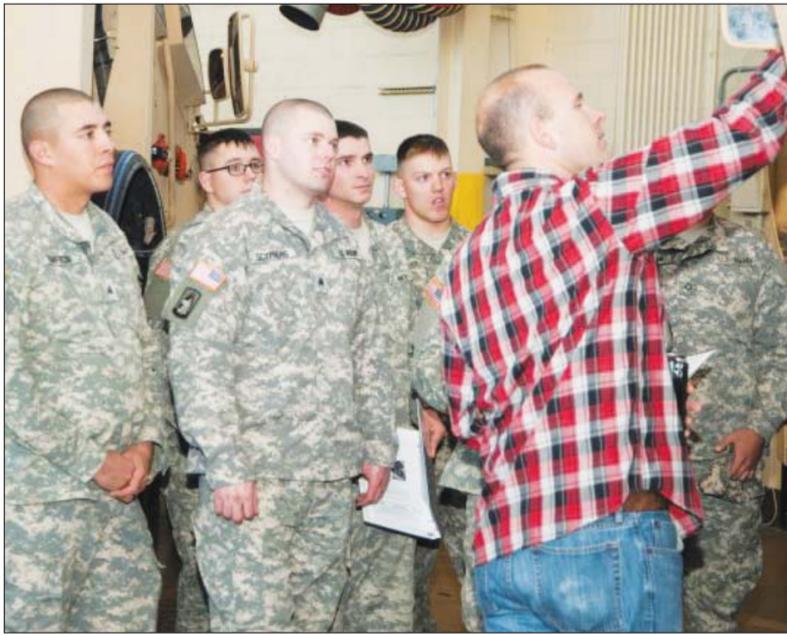


Photo by Erika Jordan
Soldiers from the 3rd US Infantry Regiment look on as Zachary Trigger instructs on the MRAP PMCS process.

By **GEROME Q. BANKS**

The oldest active-duty infantry unit in the Army, traditionally known as “The Old Guard,” conducted Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle training at U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center in November.

The Old Guard not only serves as the official U.S. Army Honor Guard and escort to the president but also vigorously trains year-round for security and infantry missions. All 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, Old Guard, Soldiers are just as familiar with time-honored infantry tactics as they are with ceremonial duties.

In preparation for extensive instruction at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Ca., Soldiers assigned to the Old Guard trained on several MRAP platforms including MaxxPro DASH, RG33 and All Terrain Vehicle, the lightest and most agile of the MRAP family.

Performing preventive maintenance checks and services of the vehicles and learning to operate and effectively maneuver the MRAP was integral in the learning process for the Old Guard. “Equipment

operations overview and preventive maintenance training provides knowledge and understanding of system operation,” said ATC test officer, Kimber Hill. “Providing hand-on experiences prepares the operators to use and maintain the equipment in the manner that it is intended.”

ATC’s knowledgeable MRAP test team consists of a diverse group of test officers, data collectors, mechanics, drivers, and one combat vehicle tester. The team’s MRAP familiarity is invaluable and many members have been with the program since the vehicle’s inception. While the Old Guard members did have an MRAP test team member to guide them through the maintenance and vehicle operation process, the goal was to have each Soldier execute various PMCS tasks identified in the technical manual.

“Properly and efficiently operating a vehicle makes a huge difference [to the mission]. No one wants to be in a combat zone in the middle of a mission with a broken down vehicle,” explained Sgt 1st Class Jessie Lopez, ATC’s noncommissioned officer in charge. “That is how initiative gets lost.”

TRICARE centers to close walk-in service

By **THOMAS JOHNSON**

Starting April 1, 189 TRICARE Service Centers (TSCs) in the United States will no longer provide walk-in services. Few, if any, commercial health plans provide any type of walk-in services and providing this service has been too expensive for the government.

The TSC walk-in service cost approximately \$51 million dollars a year; the elimination of this service will save \$254 million in the next five years.

All TRICARE Service Centers will shift to online and phone service. This shift in mode of service corresponds with the Department of Defense effort to continue to provide quality healthcare without changing benefits, fees, or cost-shares to its 9.6 million beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries will still have TRI-

CARE services available to them, via the internet and by phone. The toll-free number is: 1-(877)-TRICARE. Enrollment, billing, PCM change, and general information can now be handled online.

For more information about TSC closings and benefits questions visit www.tricare.mil

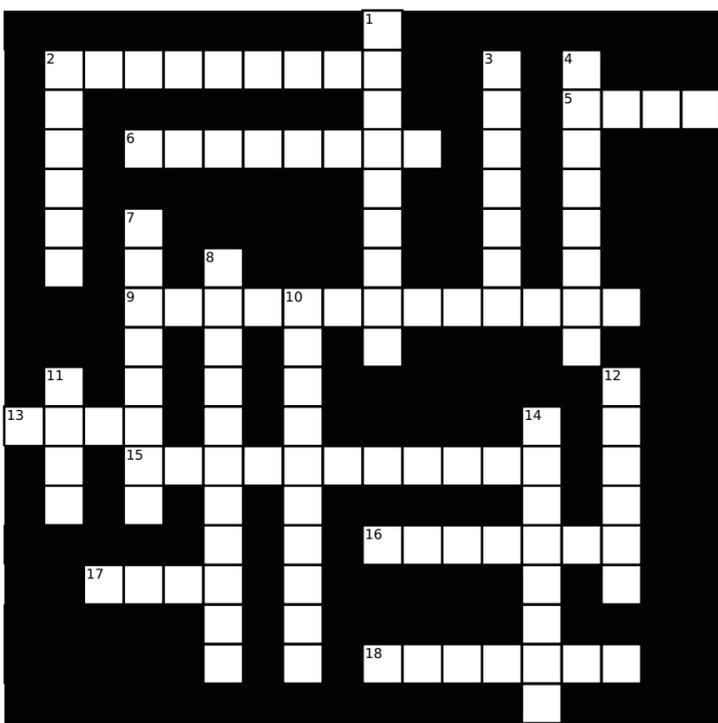
For access to Electronic Health Records and Military Treatment Facility (MTF) including making and cancelling clinic appointments go to: www.tricareonline.com

Ohio Air National Guard Senior Airman Bruce Moman, an Aerospace medical service journeyman from the 180th fighter wing medical group, takes the blood pressure of a patient as part of an annual physical health assessment

U.S. Air Force photo



The APG Crossword



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

Across

- One of the opinion articles asks, “Is being in the Military _____?”
- Researchers from this organization recently won an award for food inspection efforts.
- The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has made a case for slowing _____ costs.
- Tax personnel cannot prepare an accurate return unless the taxpayer brings all necessary _____.
- _____ industry growth are in a stage of continuous growth.
- A _____ advisory board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 30.
- These centers will close for walk-in service.
- Aberdeen High School was selected as ‘School of the Year’ by this organization.
- APG recently bid farewell to this commander, Maj. Gen. Robert _____

Down

- _____ can be found in foods, man-made products and environmental irritants.
- What is the top priority on the Chem-Demil ship?
- Dr. Martin Luther King’s life was celebrated in a presentation entitled “Echoes of a _____”
- Change one _____ at a time to

make your New Year’s resolutions stick.

- The _____ (two words) trained with ATC.
- An interview with Frank Kendall, U.S. Defense _____ Chief, appears in this week’s APG News.
- _____ is a powerful tool for personal and professional development.
- An APG military child recently donated this personal item for other children in need.
- The best advice for driving in bad _____ weather is to not drive at all, if possible.
- _____ ground, aerial and underwater vehicles provide Warfighters with incredible capabilities.

Solution to the Jan. 16 puzzle



Accessing Higher Education Track

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

The 2014 training dates are Feb. 19-20, April 16 – 17 and Sept. 17 – 18.

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

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

Interview with Frank Kendall, U.S. Defense Acquisition Chief

Defense News



As the U.S. undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, Frank Kendall oversees hundreds of billions of dollars in procurement programs.

He recently rewrote the Pentagon's acquisition bible, known as "Defense Department Instruction 5000.02." The guidance implements Better Buying Power initiatives developed by Kendall and his predecessor, Ashton Carter.

Can you talk about the update to DoD 5000.02?

I found a couple of gaps that I thought we needed to close that were fairly significant. Also, there were a number of laws that had been passed that needed to be implemented into the [DoD instruction] somehow. And we had done some things under Better Buying Power that I thought needed to be reinforced through 5000.02.

The gaps have to do largely with the need for a requirements decision point during what is the risk-reduction phase, the technology demonstration phase. Essentially what we were doing is writing a draft requirements document when we first came through before Milestone A. That Milestone A kicks off a number of risk-reduction activities with industry, usually competitively. Then we were setting up Milestone B, the entry into full-scale development, after the preliminary design review. But nowhere in between was there a place to finalize the requirements. So we added a new decision point, which I'll participate in for major programs, but it's largely a Joint Requirements Oversight Council, Joint Staff, service, requirements community decision.

Affordability?

We're implementing the affordability analysis and affordability caps now

I'm trying to make a very big point that there's not just one size or one way to set up a program. There are some basic things that you have to do in almost every program, but beyond that you have to look at the nature of the product and factors like the operational urgency ... then lay out a program that makes sense for that product.

Frank Kendall

U.S. Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

in 5000.02. Affordability was discussed, but this really is much more specific guidance. Basically it tells the services, and ... the operational communities and the programming communities that they need to do long-term capital planning before they start down a program; that cost is a requirement. We can't afford to pay whatever people want in terms of capabilities. We have to limit our reach to stay within our grasp. The affordability analysis piece of this gets the programming community and the requirements community to sit down and figure out what kind of cost constraint they're going to have to live in.

So they have to justify their budget?

We do a 30-year shipbuilding, we do a 30-year [tactical aviation] plan. This makes all the communities look out [to] that kind of a time frame, the life-cycle of a product. If I'm going to have roughly this amount of money in my service to spend and I have to replace everything in my current equipment inventory over 30 years, how much can I afford to spend on a given item?

What else?

I tried to implement cost control, cost management as a higher priority. "Should cost" is an important part of that. Program managers have a fundamental responsibility to understand their cost and to act to try to control their costs to drive them down. That's a cultural change that's going to take a little time.

Another thing that's important in the

new 5000.02 is the emphasis on tailoring and alternative models for how to structure programs. I'm trying to make a very big point that there's not just one size or one way to set up a program. There are some basic things that you have to do in almost every program, but beyond that you have to look at the nature of the product and factors like the operational urgency ... then lay out a program that makes sense for that product.

What are some of your biggest concerns in 2014?

My biggest concern, obviously, is execution of a budget and preserving the long-term health of the department as we go through what is inevitably going to be an incredibly difficult period. The [budget] act [passed by] Congress right now resolves '14. It does not resolve the out-years. We are still going to be in an environment with an enormous amount of uncertainty about what [DoD] is going to look like long term. Without that, it's very hard for us to get on the path to a future posture for the department that we understand and we're sure we can get to and execute.

We still like that strategy [that DoD developed two years ago], but it looks like the resources are going away. In that environment, there's a tendency to hang on to force structure, but at the same time ... you're taking big cuts. The money has to come from somewhere. It tends to come partly from readiness and partly investment accounts, modernization and R&D [research and development] and procurement. Even with the num-

bers that are currently in the law, we're still going to have a big problem in the next few years.

What worries you?

I'm particularly worried about [R&D]. I'm particularly worried about sustaining technological superiority over time, and what deep cuts to R&D are going to do to that. I'm particularly worried about the industrial base and what deep cuts in production and R&D are going to do.

As I look around the world and I see what other countries are doing who may or may not be future adversaries, but who certainly would be willing to sell to people who might be future adversaries, I'm disturbed by it. I'm very concerned about eroding technological superiority and where we're headed. We're cutting our budget substantially while some of the people we worry about are going in the opposite direction. We've had 20 years since the end of the Cold War of a presumption in the United States that we are technologically superior, militarily. I don't think that's a safe assumption. In fact, we've gotten complacent about that and we've been distracted for the last 10 years fighting counterinsurgencies. I think we're cutting budgets in the face of growing threats, and that's something we need to recognize.

Visit APG News online at www.teamapg.com

Database technology to optimize identification

By **JENNA BRADY**

Army News

Data volumes are in a stage of continuous growth, particularly in the areas of science, industry and the military. Thus, the issue of authenticated federated sharing and the breadth and depth of information available, as well as the capacity to process it in a timely manner, are ongoing challenges as pertaining to information management.

To satisfy the demand for enhanced information management and fulfill the desires of the NATO Intelligence Fusion Centre for improved information sharing, the current trend is to move away from large database architectures to more distributed database technologies.

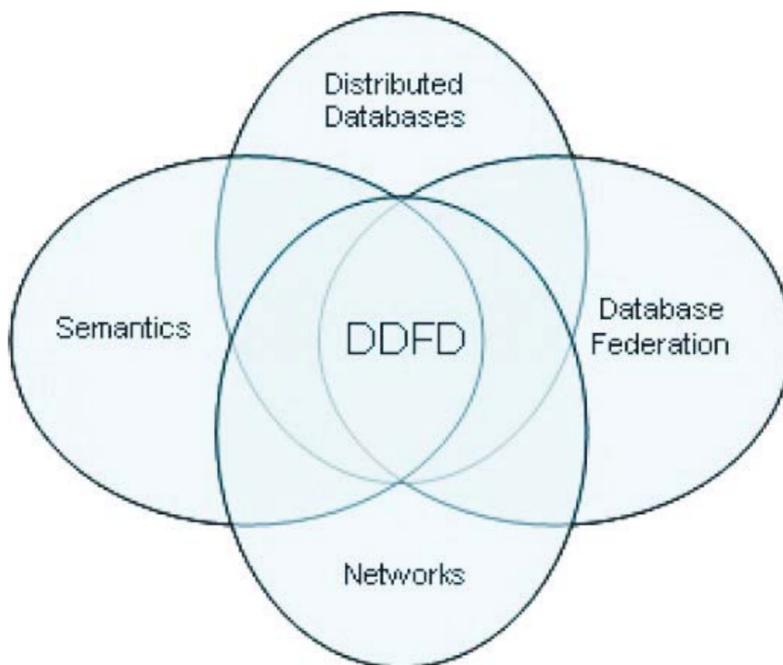
The type of database desired is one that empowers discovery, makes better use of network resources, and promotes security.

Scientists and analysts at APG's U.S. Army Research Laboratory in the Computational and Information Sciences Directorate and Sensors and Electron Devices Directorate, in collaboration with NIFC and IBM researchers in the United Kingdom, recently completed a Coalition Warfare Program project to field Gaian Federated Database technology, which leveraged Gaian Database capability, a research product of the ARL and U.K. Ministry of Defence International Technology Alliance.

The goal of the CWP, sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, was to develop and transition an extensible capability of performing distributed federated query and information dissemination across a coalition network of distributed disparate data and information sources.

Integrated within this capability is the development of the associated access-controlled policies with security measures that govern the sharing/dissemination of data/information to support coalition related intel missions.

Much of the continued research conducted on the Gaian Database occurs in the Network Science Research Laboratory at ARL's Adelphi Laboratory Center. The Network Science Research



The Gaian Database is a Dynamic Distributed Federated Database, meaning that its structure combines the capabilities of distributed databases, database federation, automated discovery and the semantics of data, allowing for controlled access to data and the flow of data through the network of distributed nodes within the database.

Laboratory was developed to provide a controlled, repeatable environment for network science experimentation.

"The NSRL is an ideal facility for understanding the real-world limits of this capability. Using our virtualized experimentation environment, we can subject the Gaian Database, or any other application, to the limitations of tactical networks in a repeatable way," said Andrew Toth, computer scientist and lead for the Secure Mobile Networking Team in ARL's Tactical Network Assurance Branch within CISD.

The project was led by ARL researchers Tien Pham and Andrew Toth, with software development and integration by IBM U.K. and support from the U.K. Defense Science and Technology Laboratory and is primarily concerned with data discovery, the federation of various data sources and the safeguarding

of data access and dissemination.

The Gaian Database is a Dynamic Distributed Federated Database, meaning that its structure combines the capabilities of distributed databases, database federation, automated discovery and the semantics of data, allowing for controlled access to data and the flow of data through the network of distributed nodes within the database.

The nodes discussed have the ability to logically connect through a fully autonomous process that is biologically inspired and have the capability to access multiple federated data sources. "The basic concept of Gaian was to answer the question, "What would be required to connect every data source in the world?" To accomplish this, database nodes would need automated discovery of other nodes, Toth said.

For the Gaian Database and the orga-

nizations, that it has the potential to support, much of the data to be queried is in the form of textual reports, email, and analyst notes.

In order for relevant, mission critical information to be federated and retrieved from these reports, Natural Language Processing rules were developed using the IBM LanguageWare tool.

The combination of NLP rules for parsing raw data, a triplestore and content analysis create the capability to target people, places, organizations, dates, times, and measurements as well as improvised explosive devices, weapons, and vehicles when information is queried and are able to be linked together by event.

When it comes to security, Toth said that the Gaian Database uses a combination of Policy Based Access and Kerberos user authentication.

IBM developed an extension to the standard Kerberos protocol for use with the Gaian Database, and in order to use the database, a user authenticates when they first login, which then negotiates with the ticket granting service (domain controller) to obtain the ticket for the web application server.

Once the user has authenticated, the application server creates the query key for that user, which is then passed encrypted down a connection of nodes.

This key is generated by applying a one-way function to the user's Kerberos session key, which is then used to create message integrity codes for the queries performed by that user.

In terms of benefits to the Army, the Gaian Database assists Soldiers in performing missions by providing timely information collected from disparate data sources. "By treating everything as a data source and enabling access to that data, the Soldier can have the latest intel to support the mission," Toth said.

"In addition, the policy enforcement mechanism that is an integral part of the Gaian Database means the analyst can easily share data sources with coalition partners based on mission needs," added Toth.



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DOD looks 25 years into the future

By **JIM GARAMONE**

American Forces Press Service

Strategy and budget realities are two aspects of the Defense Department's new Unmanned Systems Integrated Roadmap, released Dec. 23, 2013.

The report to Congress is an attempt to chart how unmanned systems fit into the defense of the nation.

"The 2013 Unmanned Systems Integrated Roadmap articulates a vision and strategy for the continued development, production, test, training, operation and sustainment of unmanned systems technology across DOD," said Dyke Weatherington, the director of the unmanned warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance office at the Pentagon.

"This road map establishes a technological vision for the next 25 years and outlines the actions and technologies for DOD and industry to pursue intelligently, and affordably align with this vision," he continued.

Unmanned aerial vehicles have received the most press, but unmanned underwater vehicles and ground vehicles are also providing Warfighters with incredible capabilities.

Although unmanned vehicles have proved their worth in combat operations throughout the Middle East and Central Asia, current technologies must be expanded and integrated into the sinews of the defense establishment, the report says.

It also calls for unmanned systems to be programs of record in order to achieve "the levels of effectiveness, efficiency, affordability, commonality, interoperability, integration and other key parameters needed to meet future



Spc. Rocco Scinto inspects the wing of a MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft during a routine maintenance check at the Gray Eagle hangar at Fort Stewart, Ga., Dec. 11, 2013. U.S. Army courtesy photo

operational requirements."

Of course, all DoD programs have to face the reality of the budget crunch.

"Achieving affordable and cost-effective technical solutions is imperative in this fiscally constrained environment," the report notes.

Strategy really drives the technology. Unmanned systems will be crucial as

the U.S. military shifts its focus to the Asia-Pacific region and puts the air-sea doctrine into effect. In the future, unmanned vehicles will be required to operate in more complex environments involving difficult weather, terrain, distance and airspace. All this will require extensive coordination with allies and host nations, the report says.

"The road map describes the challenges of logistics and sustainment, training and international cooperation while providing insight on the strategic planning and policy, capability needs, technology development and operational environments relevant to the spectrum of unmanned systems," Weatherington said.

Army researchers earn top honors for mission-critical food inspection efforts

ECBC Communications

A team of researchers from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center received the United States Department of Agriculture Secretary's Honor Award at the 65th Annual Secretary Honor Awards Ceremony. The team was recognized for partnering with the USDA to conduct critical chemical threat agent research to ensure that the nation's food supply is safe and reliable.

Led by principal investigators Drs. Sue Bae and Mark Winemiller, from the Agent Chemistry Branch, the ECBC team made significant contributions to meeting a USDA goal to protect public health by ensuring food is safe.

In order to protect public health and ensure food safety, the USDA must be able identify and ensure it can respond to new and emerging sources of food contamination. The USDA lacked the capabilities and facilities to conduct the critically needed research that would ensure its mission was accomplished.

As a result, the USDA contacted ECBC, which committed to forging a partnership with the USDA. ECBC's expertise and infrastructure to work with traditional and non-traditional chemical threat agents helped USDA meet their mission-critical needs.

ECBC has also played a significant role in ensuring the USDA met its ini-



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden present the Secretary's Honor Award to Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Agent Chemistry Team U.S. Army, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, in Maryland Group leader Frederic Berg for partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct critical chemical threat agent research to ensure that the Nation's food supply is safe and reliable at the 2013 Secretary's Honor Awards in the Jefferson Auditorium at USDA in Washington, D.C. last month. Photo by Lance Cheung.

tiative to enhance USDA homeland security and emergency preparedness. In the event of an attack against the food supply, ECBC's efforts have enabled USDA to understand the concentrations of these chemical threat agents that will result in adverse health effects. This will ensure that USDA has the ability to determine what food in commerce is safe, and to make sure that safe food will continue to be supplied and available to feed Americans and the world.

Through its Memorandum of Agreement with USDA, ECBC will continue to provide support to USDA in the event of an intentional food contamination event involving chemical threat agents.

Thomas J. Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Krysta Harden, presented the award to the team at the December ceremony, which was held in Washington, D.C. The Secretary's Honor Award is a prestigious honor awarded by the Secretary of Agriculture each year. The

award is open to all 26 agencies of the USDA. Undersecretary for Food Safety, Dr. Elisabeth Hagen, nominated ECBC for the award.

The ECBC team supporting this effort consists of: Dr. Frederic Berg, Dr. Mark Winemiller, Dr. Sue Bae, Dr. David Tevault, Dr. Joseph Corriveau, Dr. James Manthei, Jeffry Forster, Ruth Moretz, Carl Phillips, Bernadita Gaviola, Brian MacIver, Juan Cajigas, Michael Sheely, Fu-Lian Hsu, Leslie McMahon, and Dr. Bruce King.

Military child donates hair for a noble cause

By **RACHEL PONDER**

APG News

An APG military child recently donated 15 inches of her own hair to benefit her peers suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Karisia Torrales, 10, donated her hair Jan. 11 to a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under the age of 21 living in the United States and Canada who suffer from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. The mission of this organization is to help these children build their self-esteem and return to a sense of normalcy.

This was the first time in her life that Karisia had her hair cut, except for small trims at home. Her parents, Sgt. Julio Torrales from the 22nd Chemical Battalion, and her mother, Brenda Torrales, said they were extremely proud and happy to see their daughter participate in this selfless act of compassion.

"She was known for her hair because it was so long," said Sgt. Julio Torrales. "She said, 'If I ever get my hair cut, I want to donate it. I am very proud that she decided to do this on her own.'"

Karisia said she had been thinking about donating her hair for the past two years. She said she wants to help children who have cancer or who have lost their hair due to radiation therapy.

"I didn't think it is fair that they do not have hair when I do," said Karisia.

Karisia is a fourth grade student at Roye-Williams Elementary School in Havre de Grace. She attends the APG North youth center and participates in the center's Skills Mastery and Resistance Training (SMART) Girls program, which teaches important life skills to girls between the ages of 8 to 17. She is also involved in Child, Youth and School Services Sports programs.

Karisia said her eventual goal is to pursue a career in the medical field.



Left: Karisia Torrales, 10, before her haircut Jan. 11.

Right: Torrales shows off her donation. She donated 15 inches of her own hair to benefit children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

FLL participants learn professionalism, values

Continued from Page 1

to inspire students about science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, while teaching employment and life skills. FIRST is an acronym – For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. Children in FLL are challenged to use their creativity to design a solution or modify an existing solution, to solve a real-world problem.

During the opening ceremony, ATEC Commander Maj. Gen. Peter D. Utley commended the participating students for their enthusiasm and teamwork. Utley said hosting the event at ATEC was a natural fit because it exposes the students to APG and the Army.

“Employees of this command very much enjoy the opportunity to volunteer and share their experience with America’s youth,” he said. “We want to continue to support events like this in the future.”

In the morning, teams presented their research project to judges. Every September, FLL releases a real-life scientific challenge. This year’s challenge was called “Nature’s Fury.”

Teams were tasked to choose a natural disaster and come up with a solution to help a community prepare, stay safe or rebuild after a natural disaster occurs.

During the Core Values component of the competition, teams were judged on how well they work together and their professionalism. During this challenge, teams were asked to choose a card that contained a word and perform an impromptu skit based on that word.

“Gracious professionalism is probably the most important value that we are trying to instill upon these kids,” said the U.S. Army Research Laboratory’s Drew Wilkerson, who served as the event’s head judge. “The problems that we face in today’s society require multi-tasking and people from different backgrounds working together.”

Wilkerson added that it is important that the Army supports activities like FLL and similar activities to inspire America’s next generation of STEM professionals.

“It is a matter of national security,” he said. “We have to be on the cutting edge of science and technology to protect our way of life.”

In the afternoon, teams were tasked to perform 15 missions in 2.5 min-



(Left to Right) Kate Walsh, Jonathan Dinh and Jeff Martini look on as Hickory Robo Squirrels teammate Dylan Hauff makes adjustments to their LEGO robot in preparation for competition.

Photo by Deborah Ince

utes on a themed playing field using an autonomous robot built by computer-aided design.

“Children do sports to keep their bodies active, and they do FIRST LEGO League to keep their minds active,” said the Director of Program Integration at the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) Suzanne Milchling at the competition.

Robot Brothers’ coach Julie Henn from Perry Hall said the experience provided by FIRST LEGO League is invaluable. She said teams are encouraged to talk to professionals in the STEM fields to conduct research for their projects. This year, their team visited the Maryland Emergency Management Agency to learn about their organization’s emergency operation center.

“FIRST LEGO League gives stu-

dents the extra attention they don’t get in class,” she said. “These are kids that are highly motivated and highly curious. FIRST LEGO League gives them the chance to really go beyond the classroom learning, get real world experience. Nothing you can learn in the classroom to replace talking to professionals about the challenges they face.”

Joshua Dobbyn from the Lare Flare B’Dinglebots team said he enjoyed the fun of competing with his peers.

“I like FIRST LEGO League, it teaches you how to work as a team while having fun,” he said.

Overall Champions

Robo Chickens

Robot Performance Award:

Robot Brothers

Project Award:

Block Busters

Robot Design Award:

Robot Brothers

Core Values:

Lego Tornadoes

Judges:

Lare Flaire B’Dinglebots

The four teams that were the top well rounded teams in all 4 areas (Robot, Project, Core Values, and Performance) also advanced to the state finals. The teams that advanced to the states are:

- Robo Chickens
- Robo Squirrels
- Disaster Masters
- Robot Brothers

Aberdeen HS named ‘School of the Year’ by NMSI

Continued from Page 1

AHS, which was selected out of 465 schools around the country vying for the honor, was presented the award by NMSI and The Boeing Co., the local program sponsor, at a celebration in the school’s gymnasium attended by more than 500 students, faculty, administrators and family members.

Havre de Grace High School was also recognized that day by NMSI for producing exceptional AP results. A non-profit organization launched in 2007, NMSI has received national praise for improving student performances and training teachers from grades 3-12.

AHS is home to the Science and Mathematics Academy magnet program coordinated by Harford County Public Schools.

Because AHS is a military-impacted school and a large percentage of its students come from Team APG families, also in attendance at the ceremony were APG Garrison Commander Col. Gregory R. McClinton; Gary Martin, acting director of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM); Jeffrey Singleton from the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology; Jyujji Hewett, APG STEM champion and deputy director of the U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM); Command Sergeant Major Lebert Beharie of RDECOM; and Col. Rich Morales, executive director of Joining Forces.

“As you know, APG is a leader in STEM, not only in our initiatives to partner with our communities and educational institutions, but also within our various organizations and their daily activities,” said Col. Gregory R. McClinton. “It’s

a great honor for both Aberdeen High School, as the National School of the Year, and Havre de Grace to receive such great recognition, especially since dependants of Service Members, Civilians and our contract workforce played a role in the schools earning the recognition.”

AHS received the award after students and teachers achieved unprecedented gains in AP scores in 2012-2013. The previous academic year marked the first time that AHS participated in NMSI’s Comprehensive AP program, which provides teacher training and support, additional time on task for students, incentives and other tools for improving teacher effectiveness and student readiness in AP and pre-AP coursework. Last year, the 52 schools in the NMSI program for military families experienced a 67 percent increase in passing math, science and English AP scores.

At AHS, the average first year increase in the number of passing scores was 137 percent, 19 times the national average. More than 160 AHS students excelled in the NMSI exams.

“We’re pretty hard on our students,” said AHS Principal Michael O’Brien. “But I’ve never worked with a more dedicated group of educators.” He added, “This celebration would not be possible without Boeing and the National Math and Science Initiative, which helped provide that spark.”

Among the speakers at the ceremony was Dr. Patricia Falcone, associate director for National Security and International Affairs in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. While speaking of the importance of STEM studies in today’s global economy, she encouraged students to seek well-rounded educations.



Photo by Deborah Ince

AHS senior Elasha Colby (behind lectern) receives congratulations from Principal Michael O’Brien (with back to camera). At far right is APG Garrison Commander Col. Gregory R. McClinton.

“It’s really impressive to start to transform the culture of a school, and that’s what we have here today,” she told APG News. “What’s so great about this NMSI program and the implementation by teachers is that it encourages all kinds of kids to try hard. That’s how you get those numbers, that increase. A lot more students tried these hard classes and stuck with it, passed the tests – all in one year. ... Hard work pays off, and kids need that encouragement.”

“In a democracy in a complex world, all of our citizens really have to have some technology literacy to be able to listen to arguments and come to decisions and be employees in the global community,” Dr.

Falzone said. If President Obama had been in attendance, she said he would have told AHS students that “he’s proud of them for working hard and we’re counting on them to continue this great country.”

Students who pass NMSI exams are three times more likely to graduate college than those who do not, according to Gregg Fleisher, NMSI’s chief academic officer. He said the number of passing exams in math, science and English at AHS increased from 186 to 441 in 2013.

“This program has been around for over 20 years,” he said. “But in the history of this program, there has never been a one-year increase for a school like the Aberdeen Eagles did last year. Never. ... We’re thrilled to support this school, this district and this community’s efforts. It’s really fantastic.”

APG contractor David Patrick, who works in the PEO-C3T office, attended the ceremony with his wife, Diana. Their son, Matthew, 15, is an AHS sophomore.

“He told us about this celebration, and we’re really glad we came. It’s really exciting for us,” David Patrick said. “We’re very impressed.”

Diana Patrick said she’s proud to be an AHS parent. “We knew Aberdeen would be the right place for our son,” she said. “It’s just a great program.”

As you know, APG is a leader in STEM, not only in our initiatives to partner with our communities and educational institutions, but also within our various organizations and their daily activities. It’s a great honor for both Aberdeen High School, as the National School of the Year, and Havre de Grace to receive such great recognition, especially since dependants of Service Members, Civilians and our contract workforce played a role in the schools earning the recognition.

Col. Gregory R. McClinton

Deputy Commander, Aberdeen Proving Ground and Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground

National Drug Facts Week

By **DEVITA HAMPTON**
ASAP

As a part of our on-going effort to prevent drug abuse, APG's Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) is taking a part in National Drug Facts Week, Jan. 27 through Feb. 2.

National Drug Facts Week was launched in 2010 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health. National Drug Facts Week allows teens the opportunity to ask questions about drugs and in turn receive actual facts from Substance Abuse Counselors or Substance Abuse Prevention Counselors. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, about one third of high school seniors across the country report using an illicit drug sometime in the past year, and more than ten per-

cent report non-medical use of a narcotic pain killer.

While drugs can put teen's health and lives in jeopardy, many teens are unaware of the risks of drug use. Not all teens use drugs, however many of them may have family members or friends who may be in need of assistance with drug abuse. This year APG's Army Substance Abuse Program is focusing on youth who receive overwhelming amounts of misinformation about the facts of drug use, risk to their health, to their success in school, and the dangers of driving under the influence. This program gives youth the opportunity to engage in open dialogue about substance use as well as display their talents through original artwork, poetry, rap, and role playing. During National Drug Facts Week, middle school aged teens will have the oppor-

tunity to present their findings on Facts about Drugs.

National Drug Fact Week is supported by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Join ASAP in an open dialogue informing our youth of knowledge to make better informed decisions, shattering the myths about drug use.

For more information, contact Devita D. Hampton at (410) 278-1716 or (410) 278-DRUG

For more information on National Drug Facts Week visit <http://drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov> or call 301-443-1124.

Civilian Employee's Rights to Union Representation (Weingarten Notice)

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

In accordance with the requirements of 5 USC 7114(a)(2), this notice constitutes the required notification for 2014.

The text of the law is as follows:

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

(B) any examination of an employee in the unit by a representative of the agency in connection with an investigation if – (i) the employee reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee; and (ii) the employee requests representation.

Tax prep guidelines outlined for eligible users

Continued from Page 1

Document review

Document review is now available and will continue until appointments are no longer available. Individuals eligible for simple tax preparation will be required to visit the CSD office located in building 4305, third floor, room 317, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. only, for a complete review of the individual's tax documents. Individuals will be processed by number sequence upon completion of the required documents. Those individuals determined to be eligible for service by CSD Staff will be provided with a scheduled appointment for tax preparation at a later date; ineligible clients will be referred to other professional tax agencies. Tax preparation will NOT be provided at the time of the document review or without a scheduled appointment. Document review will not be provided January 23 and February 11.

Appointments

Appointments for tax preparation will be scheduled between February 18 and April 10, 2014 which will conclude tax preparation for the season. Appointments will be made on a first come - first-scheduled basis until no appointments are available. Appointments will not be scheduled over the phone.

Simple tax preparation

Most individuals who have simple returns with only the following sources of income will be eligible for service: wages, pension, interest and dividend, unemployment compensation, student loan interest, and social security payments. In limited circumstances, child

and dependent care expenses, and some itemized deductions on Schedule A may also be eligible. Excessive deductions or schedules and forms will not be eligible due to length in preparation and limited appointment times. Services will include free electronic filing on eligible tax returns; however, CSD staff must prepare the tax return in order to electronically file the tax return. Electronic filing enables taxpayers to receive their tax refunds much faster by using e-file with direct deposit into their bank account rather than having it mailed.

Limited assistance with state income tax preparation

Staff members will provide federal and Maryland tax assistance but will only provide limited assistance with local and state tax returns from other state jurisdictions. Individuals residing in one state while working in another or individuals requiring the preparation of multi-state returns may receive assistance with preparation of the federal return; however, due to the complexity, assistance will not be available for preparation of the multi-state returns. Free Maryland state tax assistance is available in person at any of the agency's 12 taxpayer service offices or by calling 1-800-638-2937. A list of office locations can be found at www.marylandtaxes.com.

Obtaining W2s online

Defense Finance and Accounting Service myPay is a secure, DFAS-operated Web site that lets active duty, National Guard and Reserve military members, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay



accounts online. Soldiers and civilians can access their 2013 tax statements by going to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Other free resources available

Individuals ineligible to receive services provided by the CSD, or those whose schedules do not permit a two-visit process or those in need of a speedy refund, should consider contacting our local AARP Tax Aide Office, also sponsored by IRS VITA, at 410-638-3425. During the tax season, AARP operates seven sites throughout Harford County and its services are provided (beginning in January) by appointment only on a first come - first scheduled basis until no appointments are available. Tax savvy individuals can access www.militaryonesource.mil and www.irs.gov/freefile to take advantage of various free online self-preparation programs. For active duty, Reserve, National Guard, and DOD personnel, www.taxslayer.com Military Tax Edi-

tion <http://www.taxslayer.com/Products/free-military-tax-filing> offers free self-preparation.

Those individuals in need of tax preparation assistance by appointment may contact other nearby military installations, such as Fort Meade at 301-677-9762 and Dover Air Force Base at 302-677-3300. An extensive Income Tax Provider List is also available on the APG Tax Services website for referral to other tax resources.

General information

Inquiries regarding income tax services may be directed to the CSD staff attendant at 410-278-1583. Calls after normal operating hours, Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., or received when the attendant is assisting other clients will be directed to the automated information line. On touch-tone phones press number 3 for the Client Services Division then number 6 for income tax preparation information.

King remembered during "Echoes of a Prophet"



Continued from Page 1

ca lives, conducts business, fights wars, teaches, learns, loves and praises."

Gibson challenged audience members to rededicate themselves to King's dream of racial, social and economic justice and equality.

"Dr. King's example and his enduring legacy offer proof that the contributions of a single person can help improve, inspire and transform an entire nation," Gibson said.

During Moore's presentation, titled "The Echoes of a Prophet" he recited portions of some of King's most inspirational speeches, including "Why Jesus Called a Man a Fool," "I Have a Dream," "The Drum Major Instinct," and "I've Been to the Mountaintop." Screens above the podium, meanwhile, flashed iconic images of King during the civil rights movement, including at the 1963 March on Washington.

Moore, a military retiree and vice president of Resource, Development and Strategic Partnerships for the United Way of Delaware, said he created "The Echoes of a Prophet" to help keep king's dream alive. For more than two decades, he has delivered "The Echoes of a Prophet" to schools, colleges, youth correctional facilities and organizational gatherings throughout the country, as well as in Germany, Japan and South Korea. Moore said between January and February, he averages between 30 and 40 speaking engagements.

"The message of King is so pow-

Tiffany Evans, from the U.S. Research, Development and Engineering Command, sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance held at the Myer Auditorium Jan. 16.

Photo by Molly Blossie

erful and still relevant today. He can inspire all races and all faiths," Moore said. "With students especially, you have to do something different to get their attention."

After his reenactment, Moore asked the students in the audience to remember the acronym DREAM, which he said stands for "Dedicated, Resilience, Enthusiasm and Attitude and Motivated." More than 300 students from South Hampton Middle School, Saint Joan of Arc School and Joppatowne High School attended the gathering.

"I am doing a paper on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. [Moore's] presentation helped me connect to what I am learning in school," Devin Smallman, a seventh grade student from South Hampton Middle School, said after the presentation. "It was interesting to hear what he said come to life today."

Cynthia Phillips from Army Contracting Command-APG said the presentation was enlightening and thought-provoking.

"[King] challenged others to think about what they can do to serve mankind," said Phillips. "He talked about doing things for the right reasons, not for selfish gain."

The program also included a recitation of King's famous quotes by Team APG committee members, Family and friends; a performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Tiffany Evans from the U.S. Research, Development and Engineering Command; the invocation from Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Bowerman from U.S. Army Public Health Command; and closing remarks from the Deputy to the Commanding General Gary Martin. Renee Sims from the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command served as the mistress of ceremonies.

APG SNAPSHOT

A peek at the events making news in and around U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground. For complete photo coverage, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>.



Photo by Molly Blossie

CPR CLASSES OFFERED AT APG

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes are offered free by the Directorate of Emergency Services. The classes provide students with a clear understanding of the step-by-step procedures for CPR. For more information call 410-306-0566 or michael.p.slayman.civ@mail.mil.

Clockwise starting top left:
Pfc. Michael Murphy and Spc. Brandon Versteegh, both from U.S. Army Public Health Command, practice chest compressions during the CPR class at the APG North chapel Jan. 15.

Sgt. Rickey Hines from U.S. Army Public Health Command practices mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a dummy.

Spc. Lee Roberts from the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense learns CPR techniques from an emergency medical technician.

Assistant Chief of Emergency Medical Services Mike Slayman leads the CPR class.



Photo by Rachel Ponder



Photo by Rachel Ponder



Photo by Deborah Ince



Photo by Rachel Ponder



Photo by Deborah Ince

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE PROMOTES CREATIVE, HANDS-ON LEARNING



Photo by Deborah Ince



Photo by Deborah Ince

Clockwise starting top left
(From left) Lego Masters team members Daniel White, Malik Guerrier, Richard Acevedo, Mikey Stevens, Luis Vargas, from the Aberdeen Boys and Girls Club, watch as their autonomous robot performs a task during the FIRST LEGO League competition at the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command headquarters Jan.18.

Lare Flare B'Dinglebots team member Josh Dobbyn camps out in his team's B'Dingle Pack, a combination of an inflatable tent, foam mat, blanket and neck pillow, that can be used in case of natural disasters.

"Members of team Masters of Disaster pose for a photo

(From left) Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Chamale, from Aberdeen Test Center, and 1st Sgt. Paul Cottrell from Headquarters and Headquarters Company U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command fit Hickory Elementary School third grader Luke McGovern with a pack of U.S. Army gear.