



APG NEWS

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Tax benefits for education explained

Office of the SJA, Client Services Division

Tax credits and deductions can help taxpayers with their expenses for higher education.

A tax credit can reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay and a deduction can reduce the amount of income that is subject to tax, thus generally reducing the amount of tax owed. Education credits and deductions are claimed on Form 8863, Education Credits and Form 8917, Tuition and Fees Deduction.

American Opportunity Credit

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, more parents and students qualify for a tax credit, the American Opportunity credit, to pay for college expenses. The American Opportunity credit originally modified the existing Hope credit for tax years 2009 and 2010 and was later extended through 2017, making the benefit available to a broader range of taxpayers, including many with higher incomes and those who owe no

See EDUCATION, page 14



Photo by Sean Kief

(From left) Outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. David M. Puig, Brig. Gen. JB Burton and incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Harold E. Dunn IV salute during the 20th CBRNE Command Change of Responsibility ceremony at APG South (Edgewood) March 19.

20th CBRNE welcomes new senior enlisted advisor

By DEBORAH INCE
APG News

The responsibilities of the senior enlisted advisor for the 20th CBRNE Command transitioned from Command Sgt. Maj. David M. Puig to Command Sgt. Maj. Harold E. Dunn IV during a Change of Responsibility Ceremony at

the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center March 19.

Puig, who served the command for two years, leaves APG to assume the position of command sergeant major of Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala.

Brigadier Gen. JB Burton, commander of the 20th CBRNE Command, presid-

ed over the ceremony and led the passing of the sword signifying the transition of enlisted leadership.

Burton had nothing but praise for his outgoing command sergeant major.

He said that Puig's exceptional leadership and counsel, unmatched technical

See DUNN, page 14

Chief of Chaplains promotes power of prayer

By ALAN FEILER
APG News

More than 300 attendees to the APG National Prayer Luncheon at Top of the Bay March 19 listened to a message encouraging prayer and spiritual guidance during times of anxiety over personal and worldly matters. Army Chief of Chaplains Maj. Gen. Donald L. Rutherford assured APG Soldiers, civilians and contractors that they are making a difference regarding the strength of Army and its missions.

The program included remarks by Gary Martin, acting director of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command. Prayers for the Nation, Families and Workforce were offered by Chaplain (Col.) William Sean Lee, Maryland National Guard State Chaplain; Col. Jonas Vogelhut of PEO C3T; and Chaplain (Maj.) James Collins, APG installation deputy chaplain.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Bowerman of the U.S.

Army Public Health Command offered a scripture reading and Col. Warline Richardson of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command introduced Rutherford.

The APG Praise Band provided musical selections and Renesha Robinson of CECOM, LRC sang the national anthem.

Rutherford talked about the "anxious times" we live in and how faith can provide the "survival skills" needed to overcome adversity. He alluded to Gen. George Washington who recognized the need for a faith-based Army as the nation's first commander in chief in 1775.

See PRAYER, page 12

Senior Command CSM Kennis Dent and Michelle Gibson, wife of Acting Senior Commander Col. Charles Gibson, bow their heads in prayer during the APG National Prayer Luncheon at Top of the Bay March 19.

Photo by Rachel Ponder



ARL thanks Maryland National Guard for support



By JOYCE M. CONANT
ARL

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory recently recognized the Maryland National Guard for its support of ARL's greening course during a ceremony at APG South (Edgewood).

"The greening course is not only a special event for the participants,

but also for the military. This is where we [the military] get to feel like we are contributing and making a difference," said ARL Sgt. Maj. Christopher Harris.

"Our Soldiers are so used to being a part of something that's bigger than them. We learn as much from each participant as they do from us."

"I wanted to make sure this event left the participants talking about it for a long time and encouraging others to participate and get to know the Warfighters that they help provide the technological edge for." That's exactly what many of the participants felt.

Twenty-five civilians from ARL recently completed what turned out to be "one of the best" greening courses the organization has planned and executed. The event took place at APG in January and included an aviation orientation by the MDNG and a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter ride.

Vishal Bhagwandin from ARL's Weapons and Materials Research Directorate, said, "My favorite experiences were the Blackhawk helicopter ride and driving the M1 Abrams tank - opportunities I thought I would never have!"

Harris wanted to ensure the crew at the Maryland Army National Guard knew how much they were appreciated.

"I wanted to personally thank the Maryland Army National Guard for their professionalism and dedication in making this event so memorable. We couldn't have been successful without their support," said Harris. "One team - one mission!"

Several MDNG crew members said they were happy to support the event.

"I and the aircrew were honored to receive the group plaque and the individual certificates from Sgt. Maj. Harris on behalf of the ARL staff," Pilot and Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Eppler, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade. "We are happy the course participants enjoyed their Black Hawk experience."

ARL Staff Sgt. Kirt Wheatley who is an avid woodworker created the plaque that Harris presented to the group.

"It's a great feeling to be able to put your side talents to work by designing and creating the plaque for those at the Maryland Army National Guard who were so supportive to ARL's greening course," said Wheatley. "The course participants were so excited about the time they spent in the Blackhawk helicopter, as was I."

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flickr.com/photos/usagapg/



INDEX

Pg 2 Street Talk
Pg 15 At your service
Pg 8 Mark Your Calendar
Pg 9 Crossword
Pg 11.....APG News history
Pg 14.....Did you know?

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

IN THIS ISSUE



Health fair features free screenings

Page 3



SHARP briefing educates APG leaders

Page 5

WEATHER

Thursday

Partly cloudy
chance of rain 0%



45° | 37°

More inside

ATEC remembers Kelly Keck PAGE 2

ID Theft Prevention PAGE 6

24 Receive Medal of Honor PAGE 7

Contracting cutoff dates for Fiscal Year 2014 PAGE 15

STREET TALK

Were you named after anyone?

I was named after the song "Joanna" by [the band] Kool & the Gang. My middle name, Terrelle, is from Tammi Terrell, the Motown singer. Needless to say, my mom really likes music.



1st Lt. Joanna Moore
KUSAHC

I was named after my father, and my father was named after his father. I am not a big fan of sharing names. It is too confusing.



Clark Justus III
JPME

I was named after Elizabeth in the Bible [the mother of John the Baptist].



Elizabeth Portillo
Freestate ChalleNGe Academy

I was named after one of the most holy cities in India.



Dwarka Singh
Retired military

I was named after Raisa Gorbachev, the wife of the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. My mom said she thought Raisa, who was a former model, was very beautiful. Raisa means rose.



1st Lt. Raisa Velez
HHC Garrison

ATEC hosts memorial for Wounded Warrior Kelly Keck

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

Aberdeen Proving Ground leaders, Soldiers, civilians and guests of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command gathered in the headquarters atrium March 24 to remember Wounded Warrior Kelly Keck, who died suddenly March 13.

Keck's funeral was held March 18 in Havre de Grace. His interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Maj. Gen. Peter D. Utey, ATEC commander, gave remarks during the Service of Remembrance which featured personal reflections by friends and coworkers, a gun salute, the playing of Taps and a flag detail by members of American Legion Post 128 Patriot Guard.

Utey said that Keck was a devoted husband to his wife, Oxana Keck, and a loving father to his young daughter, Zoya Kelly Keck. He leaves behind his mother, Sandra Spencer Sharp, three siblings, Elliott "Spencer" Keck, Peter Matthew Kellogg, and Wendy Kellogg. His wife, mother, father Jack Keck, and 8-year-old niece Robin Mitchell were in attendance.

Keck was the first Wounded Warrior intern to serve as an Equal Employment Opportunity specialist for ATEC. Originally hired under a provisional appointment in June 2010, he was later converted to career conditional in July 2010.

From the very beginning, Kelly played a major role in the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Utey said.

"Kelly served as the victim advocate for Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) incidents throughout ATEC. He independently developed and published a flow chart of the sequence of events for the EEO complaint process, and he had a major role in the mandatory SHARP training for the ATEC workforce.

"Kelly has always been there for others, either as a social worker, a combat medic, or a disability program manager. And on quite a number of occasions, including today, his senior leadership and his co-workers at ATEC have gathered together to honor and pay tribute to him," Utey said.

We are equally grateful for being given the rare opportunity to know a true American Soldier and citizen like Staff Sgt. Kelly Keck. Each of us will remain eternally grateful for the time we had with him."

Honors bestowed on Keck during his time with ATEC included the awarding of the Combat Action Badge by former ATEC Commander retired Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, who also was in attendance, and the Purple Heart Medal. Additionally he received a quilt from Quilts for Heroes, a local nonprofit organization founded by Carol Hanson in 2005 to honor and comfort America's Wounded Warriors.

In March 2013 Keck received the keys to a new wheelchair accessible home featuring 3,500 square feet of maneuverable space. He was often sought as a guest speaker for Wounded Warrior causes and was a member of American Legion Post 47, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8126 and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Co-workers and friends like ATEC's Carl Weimer and Jody Jackson, as well as Dr. Victoria Dixon, director of the ATEC EEO Office, remembered Keck as a people person who loved the military and embraced diversity.

"Working with Kelly was amazing and fun," Jackson said. "He was a visionary who always had a way of looking at things from a fresh perspective."

"He didn't have to come here but he wanted to be with us," said Dixon, who noted that Keck was inspired to work with the office after attending an ATEC-sponsored EO event featur-



(From left) Army Test and Evaluation Command Col. Dennis Smith and Orlando Ortiz salute the memorial to the late ATEC civilian and Wounded Warrior Kelly Keck during a Service of Remembrance in his honor March 24. Keck died suddenly March 13 and will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on a later date.

ing guest speaker Tammy Duckworth, the U.S. Congresswoman from Illinois who is an Iraq War veteran and double amputee.

"He was not only an example for Wounded Warriors, Kelly knew how others who thought they couldn't make it felt and worked to be an example of achievement to others like him. That's why we called him 'Special K.'"

Fred Posadas who along with Steve Johnson of American Legion Post 128 arranged the Patriot Guard flag detail, said Keck served as junior vice commander of the post.

"Kelly was pure military," Posadas said. "He never called me by my first name; he always called me 'sergeant major.' That was the respect he had for the military and for Wounded Warriors."

The group also served as flag bearers during Keck's funeral.

Kelly Freeman Keck

Keck joined the Marine Corps in 1994 and served as an aircraft mechanic until his discharge in 1998. In 2001, he graduated from Morehead State University in Morehead, Ky., with a degree in social work. He joined the Army in 2005 and trained to be a medic at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Keck served as an Army combat medic for the 1st Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade, Special Troops Battalion from 2007 until he was medically retired in 2010.

In September 2008, while in an up-armored vehicle convoy in Afghanistan, the lead vehicle was damaged by a roadside bomb. As he rushed to aid fellow Soldiers, Keck stepped on an anti-personnel landmine and subsequently lost part of his right leg and left hand.

Keck met Dr. Victoria Dixon, the ATEC EEO director in 2009, while recuperating from his injuries at the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Months later, he began working in the ATEC EEO office as an intern.

Keck's awards include the Bronze Star, Army Commendation, Joint Service Achievement, Army Achievement and Purple Heart medals as well as Afghanistan campaign and Global War on Terrorism medals.

In May, Keck would have received a Silver Excellence in Federal Service Award from the Baltimore Federal Executive Board. Keck's father will accept the award on his behalf.



(From left) Fred Posadas and Steve Johnson and other Patriot Guard members serve as flag bearers during the Service of Remembrance for Kelly Keck at the ATEC headquarters building March 24.

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMAP-PA, Building 305, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1153. Printed circulation is 5,200. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the

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Health fair features free screenings, information

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

More than 200 people attended the Resiliency Health Fair hosted by Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and the Community Health Promotion Council March 19 at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center.

The free event featured demonstrations from 45 on- and off-post vendors. Attendees discussed and learned about such health topics as asthma, hearing protection, diabetes, Lyme disease, car seat safety, tobacco cessation, stress management, and took advantage of free vision, blood pressure and spinal screenings and mini massages.

Robin Stokes-Smith from HealthLink, a division of the Community Outreach Department of the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health, talked to attendees about car seat safety. HealthLink gives free monthly infant, child and booster car seat safety checks. For more information about free health screenings, visit www.uchs.org.

Cindy Scott from the Army Substance Abuse Program gave away free “Mr. Yuk” stickers in honor of “National Poison Prevention Week,” which was the third week in March. Scott said the stickers are designed to warn children that an item can be dangerous if ingested, and should not be handled by children.

“This is a fun way to teach children about safety,” she said. “It empowers them.”

She recommends keeping the Mary-



Photo by Molly Blossie
Jennifer Kordonski, from Optimal Spine Chiropractic, shows Becky Doanco, from Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, a healthy spine during the Resiliency Health Fair at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center March 19.

land Poison Center number, 1-800-222-1222, by the phone.

Debbie Ostrowski, registered nurse and director of Upper Chesapeake Medical Center’s Diabetes and Endocrine Center, with the assistance of Bethany Chase, a Stevenson University nursing student, gave attendees a Type 2 Diabetes risk assessment. Chase said her goal is to determine the main risk factors for the APG population for a school project. Ostrowski plans to share their findings with KUSAHC

Public Health Nurse Sue Singh.

“Some risk factors like activity level and weight can be controlled, and some risk factors, like gender and age cannot be controlled,” Chase said.

Dottie Ruff from the Harford County Health Department showed attendees the difference between a healthy lung and smoker’s lung. The Harford County Health Department offers free tobacco cessation classes. Nicotine patches, lozenges or gum may be available at no cost to those who qualify. For more information

call 410-612-1781.

APG Health Promotion Officer Wendy LaRoche from the U.S. Army Public Health Command, said having a variety of services and providers under one roof allows for participants to get the most out of their time.

“The vendors continue to amaze me, they are committed to improving the well-being of the population,” she said. “I truly believe that the Health Fair is a stress reliever. Many attendees come into the health fair in groups of two or more. It’s a place to walk around, look at the resources available, and feel at ease, as you seek information in a friendly atmosphere.”

Senior Command CSM Kennis Dent agreed that the event provided valuable information.

“This is a good opportunity for attendees to think about their health and see what services are available to them in the community,” Dent said. “The APG Command Group thanks the vendors and attendees for taking time out to be here.”

Singh, who organized the health fair, thanked the vendors and the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy for helping the event run smoothly.

“The Freestate ChalleNGe Academy cadets were instrumental in assisting at the fair,” Singh said. “They assisted the vendors by transporting their material and helping with setting up and tearing down when the fair was completed.”

For more information about upcoming CHPC events, visit <http://www.apg.army.mil/APGHome/sites/commander/CHPC/healthpromotion.cfm>.

DPW Environmental Division

Notice of Reporting Violation to Consumers of Edgewood Area Drinking Water Supply APG E. coli Reporting Violation – January 2014

Aberdeen Proving Ground is committed to the health and safety of our Soldiers, their Families, and our civilian and contractor workforce. Routine testing of the drinking water supplies at both APG North (Aberdeen) and South (Edgewood) indicate that the water is absolutely safe to consume. The purpose of this article is to provide notification to consumers of the APG South drinking water supply about a reporting violation under State of Maryland Drinking Water Regulations.

At least ten buildings at APG South are tested monthly for the total coliform bacteria group to verify the safety of the drinking water supply. The presence of coliform can be an indicator that the water is contaminated and the presence of E. coli, a specific type of coliform bacteria, indicates that there is a possibility of fecal contamination.

In January 2014 a water sample collected from Bldg. E832 tested positive for total coliform bacteria and E. coli bacteria presence. As required by regulation, three repeat samples were collected and tested after the initial positive test result was received. All three repeat samples were negative for the presence of either total coliform or E. coli bacteria. The results of the repeat samples verified that the APG South water supply was safe to use in January. Further, the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) has concurred that our water system is in compliance with both the MDE and the Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards.

Although all three follow-up test results were negative, APG is required to notify the MDE of any E. Coli-positive test results by the end of the business day in which those test results are received. In this case, APG failed to comply with that requirement.

APG has taken corrective action to ensure that all reporting requirements are met in the future. In addition, APG increased the amount of chlorine added to the drinking water supply in the affected area near Bldg. E832 in an effort to more thoroughly disinfect the water. Monthly sampling will continue to ensure the drinking water supply is safe. For questions or concerns, contact Richard Wiggins, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, 410-436-3808 richard.j.wiggins6.civ@mail.mil.

KUSAHC no-shows cost clinic dollars

By **GERRY LANE**
Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic

Meeting the health-care demands of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community is already a challenging job, but officials at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, KUSAHC, said patients who miss appointments are adding to that challenge.

One of the primary concerns with missed appointments is that they limit access to care for multiple patients.

The phrase used to emphasize this dilemma in the military health system is “an appointment missed by you is an appointment missed by two.

This means that patients who miss an appointment, also prevent another patient from seeing the provider at that time, and that both patients will still need an appointment.

During the past 12 months, KUSAHC had a no show rate of 4.3 percent. While that doesn't seem high, the average rev-

enue lost is \$75.32 per visit, costing the clinic almost \$242,000 annually.

“For a facility of this size, we are talking about a substantial amount of money” said Lt. Col. David R. Zinnante, KUSAHC commander.

Unlike the public sector, military treatment facilities do not charge patients for no-shows.

“Our mission is to inform our beneficiaries of the cost impact to the facility and the lower access for other patients when they don't cancel appointments” said Robert

Townsend, KUSAHC public affairs officer. “We all know things come up. I have five boys, things always come up, and

we want our patients to be informed of the many resources they have to cancel appointments to reduce no-show rates.”

\$242,000
revenue lost annually due to missed appointments

And that's a rate of only **4.3%**

rebook the appointment”
All beneficiaries of KUSAHC can book or cancel their appointments via TRI-

CARE Online at www.tricareonline.com. Another way to cancel an appointment is to call 410-278-KIRK(5475). Community support for keeping medical costs down is a key to the program's efforts to reduce unnecessary revenue loss attributed to missed appointments.

“The clinic also faces a challenge not only from this lost revenue but revenue left on the table when patients don't complete APLSS (Army Provider Level Satisfaction Survey) surveys,” Townsend said. “I don't think our patients know how important their feedback is to the clinic. We value all feedback; we want to know what we do well and what we need to improve on. When we do well we are rewarded with funds to improve the clinic.”

APLSS surveys are a way patients can rate their experience with their PCM Team. While 650 patients receive an APLSS survey every month, only about 20 percent actually complete them.

CHPC meeting highlights health initiatives for APG, community

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

APG leaders and community members met March 18 for the quarterly Community Health Promotion Council meeting in Bldg. 6002.

The meeting was chaired by Acting Senior Commander Col. Charles Gibson. In his opening remarks, Gibson said Team APG continues to receive recognition and praise for the programming and services offered on the installation.

“You do a lot of great work here when it comes to integrating and synchronizing our capabilities amongst Team APG, and our communities and I are grateful for that,” he said.

After Gibson's remarks, leaders and subject matter experts briefed the audience.

APG Health Promotions Officer Wendy LaRoche said CHPC's goal is to continue recruiting APG and community leaders into the CHPC process.

“It's great to hear what our surrounding communities are doing to make our communities healthier. We get to share best practices,” LaRoche said. “The goal

is to make sure that we include the surrounding counties. The plan is to have all counties represented. We want to work together to meet a common goal -- healthier community.”

Daniel Coulter from the Cecil County Health Department said a working group has highlighted several health improvement priorities for Cecil County. These include better access to behavioral health and substance abuse treatment and reducing child abuse and childhood obesity.

Bari Klien, who represents the Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, the Harford County Health Department and the non-profit agency Healthy Harford, also attended the gathering.

Klien said the Maryland State Police Barrack D in Bel Air, off of Route 1, has a permanent collection box for unused, unwanted and expired medications. This box allows residents to drop off medications at any time. For more information, call 410-879-2101.

APG Garrison SHARP representative 1st Lt. Raisa Velez shared that several activities are planned during April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The events will kick off with an Installation

Sexual Assault Awareness 5K Run, 6:30 to 8:30 a.m., at Capa Field in APG South (Edgewood) April 3. SAAM activities are listed on the APG website, <http://www.apg.army.mil/> and will be announced in the *APG News*.

Capt. Richard Mozeleski, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, briefed attendees on the Ready and Resiliency Campaign (R2C), the Army's holistic approach to total health care. Mozeleski talked about the standardized metrics that were recently established to measure the effectiveness of R2C.

He said several upcoming resiliency events are scheduled. For more information, see the APG website and APG News.

The CHPC has added a new team that is critical to Resiliency, the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness 2/Master of Resiliency Team. Program Lead and 1st Sgt. Thomas Cruz, from the 308th Military Intelligence Battalion, mentioned that APG has 28 Master of Resiliency trained professionals, Soldiers and civilians.

Deputy Commander for Nursing/Health Services Lt. Col. Leonetta Oliphant, from Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, shared that the Army Wellness Center,

located on the third floor of KUSAHC, is launching a new healthy habits sleep class. Oliphant said ‘Eat, Move and Sleep’ make up the Performance Triad, a pilot program by the Office of the Surgeon General and Army Medicine. For more information about AWC programs, call 410-306-1024.

Cindy Scott, from the Army Substance Abuse Program, said May 14 will be Employee Health and Fitness Day. This event will be part of the Installation's Armed Forces Week activities. The day will include a “Bike to Work” event in the morning and distracted/drunken driving simulation activity.

Ending the CHPC meeting were briefings from various working groups representing physical wellbeing, spiritual health, suicide prevention and risk reduction. Each discussed how the working groups were helping to build resiliency through events and programming.

The next CHPC meeting is tentatively set for June 25. For more information on upcoming CHPC events, visit <http://www.apg.army.mil/APGHome/sites/commander/CHPC/healthpromotion.cfm> or call LaRoche at 410-278-1153, or e-mail wendy.c.laroche.civ@mail.mil.

SHARP mobile training team briefs APG Army, organization leaders

Story and photo by **DEBORAH INCE**
APG News

A mobile training team from the Department of the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program briefed senior Aberdeen Proving Ground leaders about sexual assault awareness, response and prevention during a March 12 briefing at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory conference center. The briefing was part of a SHARP mobile training team visit that lasted from March 3 to 14.

"You have a duty to act when a sexual assault is reported," said Robin Linton, SRI contractor and a member of the SHARP mobile training team who led the training session.

The SHARP program promotes victim advocate training and teaches leaders and volunteers how to respond to victims of sexual assault.

As stated on the organization's website, the program's goal "is to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual assaults by creating a climate that respects the dignity of every member of the Army Family ... [and] exists so the Army can prevent sexual harassment and sexual assaults before they occur."

Each military unit and civilian organization on the installation is required to have victim advocates who serve as subject matter experts on how to respond to sexual assault claims.

"Sexual assault and harassment in the workplace is a serious problem that affects many employees and organizations," Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Theresa Owolabi said. "Training and development helps in optimizing the sexual assault



U.S. Army Sexual Harassment/Response & Prevention mobile training team member Robin Linton briefs APG Army and organization leaders during a March 12 SHARP training session at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory conference center.

program. Increasing public awareness around issues related to sexual violence and harassment will assist in recognizing correct and incorrect behavior."

The March 12 training session covered an array of topics regarding sexual harassment and assault in the military, including the sexual harassment formal complaint process, reporting options for victims and victim advocates, the impact that sexual assault and harassment has on the Army, and SHARP program implementation.

"SHARP training helps the employees and leadership of APG to quickly learn and apply the important elements of carefully and correctly handling sexual assault/harassment issues and complaints," Owolabi said. "This interactive training covers a detailed overview of what sexual assault and harassment is, explains legal definitions, discusses prevention, and shows

how to handle complaints and maintain a positive work environment."

SHARP's training program has four main functions. The program involves supporting Army commanders in creating and conducting sexual harassment and assault reduction campaigns; developing and implementing such campaigns at a unit, command, installation or brigade level; responding to a sexual harassment or assault claim; and training Soldiers, civilians, commanders and other personnel on how to prevent and respond to incidents and counsel victims.

Emphasizing the need for SHARP training, Linton said, "A victim of sexual assault is not going to remember everything you teach them, but you can try."

Army and organization leaders from across APG attended the session. Senior leaders from major post organizations such as the APG Garrison, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, U.S. Army Crim-

inal Investigation Command, 20th CBRNE Command, the post chapel, and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command made up a leader panel and attendees were encouraged to ask questions during the two-hour SHARP PowerPoint presentation.

"The best way for organizations to reduce the risks of sexual assault and harassment in the workplace is to start with a solid training and prevention policy and to follow it up by taking steps to ensure that their leadership has a working knowledge of how to deal with inappropriate behaviors and allegations," Owolabi said. "SHARP awareness is a highly participatory training and focuses directly on improving skills to handle any sexual assault/harassment issue or complaint with greater confidence."

To learn more about SHARP, visit the website at <http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil/>.

Leave Donations Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For info, contact Cathy Davis at 410-306-0152 or cathy.a.davis4.civ@mail.mil.

Gregory, Lisa
Kennedy, Sandra
Lamar-Reevey, Kellie
Nunley, Dana
Solomon, Je'Neane
Rogers, Christopher
Williams, Demetria
Clark, Lyra
Urban, Brenda

Cwiernie, Victoria L
Armstead, Richard
Martino, Rose
Birch, Garfield
Crawford, Curtis
Gaddis, Lonnie
Winne, Janeen
McClintick, Jill
Smith, Deborah

Rodriguez, Pedro
Blethen, Matthew
Malczewski, Stephen
Robinson, Lisa
Stewart, Kathleen
Chang, Jennifer
Little, Angela
Bruner, Stephen
Eberhardt, Joanne

Fike, Curtis
Doran, Kemi
Lowry, Teresa
Rushworth, Robert
Torrise, Carmen
Young, Trier
Sherrod, Irving
Bailey, Sharon
Hoffman, William

Sweeney, Joseph
Blethen, Lena
Cobb, Joyce
Arty, Jennifer
Robinson, Jennifer
Sumic, Angie
Evans, Doretha
Small, Errol
Trulli, Wayne

Seminar promotes ID theft prevention

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

Aberdeen Proving Ground civilians received tips on protecting their identifications and repairing credit during an Identity Theft financial seminar at the Mallette Conference Center March 20.

Keosha Pointer, a human resources specialist with the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command and Army Wellness Center coordinator hosted the event.

Michael Ches, a financial education advisor with the APG Federal Credit Union reviewed ways to reduce the threat of identity theft, monitor credit ratings, recognize when a theft has taken place, and understand the plan of response.

Ches demonstrated the need to reduce the amount of personally identifiable information people normally carry in their wallets and handbags by leading a Theft ID Bingo game in which players received points for each item in their wallets containing their name, address, phone number, spouses' name, social security number, birth date, credit cards, insurance information and other personal information.

"The goal is to get you thinking how much personal information you carry around with you all the time," Ches said, "so you'll understand the need to limit what you carry on your person."

"There's not a lot identity thieves can do with just your name, but you add all that other information and they've got you."

He said that obtaining a credit report every year is crucial to monitoring credit ratings and recommended using www.annualcreditreport.com to gain credit ratings from the "Big 3": EQUIFAX, Experian and TransUnion.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dan Singh checks his wallet for personally identifiable information while playing ID Theft Bingo during the ID Theft Financial Seminar hosted by the Army Wellness Center at the Mallette Conference Center March 20.



Financial Education Advisor Michael Ches shares facts about the high cost of Identity Theft during a lunch hour Financial Seminar at the Mallette Conference Center March 20. Similar seminars and outreach programs are frequently hosted by the Army Wellness Center.

"A lot of things other credit services advertise as free really are not," he said.

Ches focused on the perils of social media, cautioning listeners that sharing too much information on Facebook, for example, like revealing their address through photos of their house and sharing vacation plans, can increase their risk. He said

that statistics show that those closest to them are the ones most likely to misuse their identity. In the event of suspected ID theft, victims should immediately close their accounts, file a police report and report the incident to the Fair Trade Commission he said.

Ches distributed a pamphlet containing information about credit reports, dealing with debt, avoiding scams, and more identity theft prevention and response tips. He encouraged listeners to challenge any negative or unfamiliar entries on their credit reports.

He said the class is one of several in an outreach program coordinated through AWC and offered free of charge to APG organizations. Feedback from the seminars is always positive, he said.

"This is one of the ways we give back to the community."

Attendees said they appreciated the lunch hour event.

"I came here to learn about the social media aspect and I learned a lot," said

Robert Blackwell, a CECOM inventory management specialist.

A CERDEC computer engineer and team lead, Matthew Cannon, said he was one of thousands notified about the TARGET department store data breach. Though he wasn't targeted he did sign up for free credit monitoring.

"I came because I was curious to learn more," he said. "I did learn something new. I don't use social media a lot but it's important to be cognizant [of the risks]."

Dan Singh, a retired chief warrant officer, said he learned about the seminar through his wife, Sue Singh, a Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic nurse.

"I learned a lot of new stuff that I can apply and share," he said. "I'm retired now and spending time with my grandkids but I've got my life savings and you can never be too careful."

Check the APG News "Mark Your Calendar" page and APG social media sites for future financial seminars.

Tech superiority key to military success, says Pentagon leader

By **ALAN FEILER**
APG News

Speaking at the Army Alliance's annual luncheon March 21 was more than just an opportunity to explore national security matters, said Dr. C. David Brown, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Development Test & Evaluation (DT&E) and director of the Test Resource Management Center (TRMC).

"Actually, it was also an opportunity for me to come up here to fix some plumbing in our house in Havre de Grace," joked Brown, a retired Army officer who worked at APG for more than three decades. "I now know why plumbers get paid more than I do."

In his talk to approximately 200 members of Team APG and Army supporters at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace, Brown spoke about the responsibilities and challenges of both of his areas of responsibility.

At TRMC, the center and its subordinate organizations focus on the health, development and funding of DoD's Major Range and Test Facility Base, the nation's infrastructure for conducting effective tests and evaluations, of which APG is a component.

On the DT&E side, Brown said he engages major defense acquisition programs and helps them develop strong DT&E elements.

"Congress, a little while back, realized that DoD had kind of lost its focus on DT&E," he said. "There was a lot of emphasis on operational tests and evaluations, but they noticed when programs were getting to the operational tests, somehow they weren't ready for it and failing. And that's a really bad time to find out something doesn't work. You want to find out something doesn't work early on so you can fix things right then."

As a result, Brown said, Congress passed the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, which created his office as deputy assistant secretary of defense for DT&E.

In 2002, Congress wanted a collective oversight outfit for the nation's test ranges as an entity to support DoD's DT&E endeavors. That led to the creation of the TRMC, which monitors and funds the



Dr. C. David Brown, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Development Test & Evaluation (DT&E) and director of the Test Resource Management Center (TRMC), discusses funding for research, development, engineering, manufacturing, and test and evaluation during the Army Alliance annual luncheon in Havre de Grace March 21.

test ranges and brings them under centralized management.

Since assuming his position last September, Brown, an engineer, said he has pushed for early involvement in testing systems and programs. "Many times, I've said, 'If I could only have been there sooner, it would've been easier or cheaper to fix,'" he said. "I'm determined to help [program managers] know what they can do early on so they can make improvements to systems, find problems and lay out a good plan."

Brown said there are now key early "milestones" in the DoD acquisition process, including a new T&E master plan that is more comprehensive than the previous T&E strategy. "You have to make sure the technology you've chosen for the program now is mature and that you understand the program risks and you have a plan to address those risks. That's all part of having the right information," he said.

Under the DoD 5000 process, DoD is now working more closely with industry partners on testing plans, Brown said. When programs receive funding and schedules and start engineering, manufacturing and developing, "we can't do that without a good test and evaluation master plan as well. So this is our focus," Brown said.

Cyber remains a high priority throughout DoD, but the certification process now requires a six-step process to help program managers understand the threat of cyber attacks, he said. In addition, they need to engineer their systems for cyber survivability, Brown said.

Also in DoD 5000, he said program shops have certified chief T&E professionals in key leadership positions. "That ensures the engineering does what it needs to do to bring the requirements to the warfighter but also the test and evaluation program to make sure the engineering system does what it needs to

do," Brown said. "This assures the program has leadership and the expertise and capability to conduct a thorough and good DT&E program."

The TRMC, he said, oversees 26 major test capabilities across the country, including APG where ATEC oversees the Army's portion of the major range and test facilities. "We've got a lot of cool initiatives that reach across all of the test capabilities," Brown said.

He said the Pentagon is currently heavily involved with APG regarding DT&E programs and the TRMC, as well as development of test vehicles and tactical command communications.

As far as looming budget concerns, Brown joked that almost everyone he knows at DoD these days sounds like Eeyore, the gloomy donkey character in the Winnie the Pooh stories. But he cautioned there is some good news for the Army and APG.

Research and development, as well as engineering and manufacturing, and testing and evaluation, appear to be areas in which funding will continue at a level pace, Brown said. "We can't forget the next force and the force after next," he said. "If we need to, we can always ramp up the warfighters; we can't recover from a loss of technological edge. And when we look at our potential adversaries in the future, we're talking about a war of technologies."

"Our military has always depended on technological superiority," he said. "So we have to make sure that while we may not have the technology in the hands of the warfighter, it has to be on the shelf and ready when the warfighter needs it."

Brown thanked Team APG for conducting its mission in an exemplary fashion. "It's you folks and your workforce that not only sustain Aberdeen Proving Ground but all of the major range and testing facility bases," he said. "Please go back and tell all of your workforce that inside 'the building,' there are people there that know what's going on out at the ranges and that what will ensure our technological edge for our force and the next force is these great people out on our ranges like at Aberdeen Proving Ground."

Soldiers receive long overdue medals

By **J.D. LEIPOLD AND LISA FERDINANDO**

Army News Service

Twenty-four U.S. Army veterans from three wars -- World War II, Korea and Vietnam -- received upgrades to the highest military decoration for uncommon bravery and gallantry at a White House ceremony March 18.

President Barack Obama presented posthumous Medals of Honor to family members and representatives of 21 of those Soldiers, and draped the sky-blue ribbon and five-pointed star-bearing medals around the necks of the three living veterans from the Vietnam War: Master Sgt. Jose Rodela, Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris and Sgt. Santiago J. Erevia.

Each of the 24 had received a Distinguished Service Cross for the same fearless actions for which they were now receiving long overdue upgrades to the Medal of Honor.

"This ceremony is 70 years in the making and today, we have the chance to set the record straight," Obama said.

More than a decade ago Congress mandated a review to ensure heroism of veterans wasn't overlooked due to prejudice or discrimination. During that review, the 24 Soldiers -- Hispanic, Jewish and African American -- were identified as deserving of the Medal of Honor.

"This is the length to which America will go to make sure everyone who serves under our proud flag receives the thanks that they deserve," he said. "So with each generation, we keep on striving to live up to our ideals of freedom and equality, and to recognize the dignity and patriotism of every person, no matter who they are, what they look like, or how they pray."

Obama invited each living Soldier to the stage, one at a time. Dressed in uniforms they could have worn in their 20s, they now were filling them out in their 70s with a full complement of ribbons and badges that testified to their skills as young Soldiers. Their citations were read, their Medals of Honor were draped and handshakes exchanged.

"These are extraordinary Americans. They are exemplary Soldiers," the president said.

Sons, daughters, nephews, brothers, wives, friends and representatives of the 21 Soldiers who were not present to receive the long overdue recognition each were called to the stage to hear their Soldier's citation read aloud for a final time. Each was presented with a framed citation



Photo by J.D. Leipold

(From left) Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris, Master Sgt. Jose Rodela, and Sgt. Santiago J. Erevia, along with 21 other veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, had their Distinguished Service Cross medals upgraded to Medals of Honor that were awarded during a presentation ceremony at the White House March 18. Of the 24, only Morris, Rodela and Erevia are living. The three served in the Vietnam War.

and Medal of Honor.

One Family member present was rock star and actor Lenny Kravitz, who reflected on the life and legacy of his uncle and namesake, Pfc. Leonard Kravitz, one of the posthumous Medal of Honor recipients.

"He's a hero," said Kravitz. "It's a wonderful thing to be here today to be a part of this and to see him get his honor. It's part of who I am. I am Leonard Kravitz."

Private First Class Leonard Kravitz, who was Jewish, was 20-years-old when he was killed in Yangpyong, Korea, in 1951. He is recognized for his actions March 6-7, 1951 when he voluntarily remained at a machine gun position to provide suppressive fire for retreating troops after his unit was overrun by enemy combatants.

He did not survive, but his actions are credited with saving the entire platoon.

"Just to know that he died that way, he made the choice to stay and to deal

with the situation. As sad as it is, it was a beautiful action, and the fact that he is now going to get this honor just makes it end properly," said Kravitz. "He's getting his due. He's a hero and that's what he wanted to do."

Though Leonard Kravitz was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second-highest award for valor, a childhood friend, Mitchel Libman, spent his life campaigning for the private first class to receive the nation's highest military honor for valor, said Kravitz.

Congress considered a bill nicknamed the "Leonard Kravitz Jewish War Veterans Act" in 2001, and finally directed a review of Distinguished Service Cross awards as part of the Defense Authorization Act.



Kravitz

After so many years, Kravitz said he let go of the hope for the Medal of Honor for his uncle. He said he was surprised when he received the news.

"I would have loved for it to have happened when my father was alive," he said, about Sy Kravitz, who died in 2005. Sy, who was an NBC news producer and Pfc. Kravitz were brothers.

"But things happen when they're supposed to happen, and you know, it's a beautiful day," said Kravitz, whose late mother was the actress Roxie Roker.

"He was so young when he died. My grandmother didn't talk about him much, but that was her baby son. It was quite devastating for the whole family," he said, adding that everything told to him about his uncle was positive.

"All the stories were always so wonderful. I even got to know one of his childhood friends who would tell me stories about him," he said.

Lenny Kravitz's sister, Laurie Wenger, received the award on behalf of Pfc. Kravitz.

Unmanned vehicle demo showcases technology

Story and photo by **BRUCE J. HUFFMAN**
 TARDEC Public Affairs

Working closely with Lockheed Martin and a conglomeration of Army technology, acquisition and user community stakeholders, the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center successfully demonstrated an unmanned military convoy at Fort Hood, Texas in January.

From a rooftop in the Fort Hood training area, military and industry VIPs saw firsthand how the Autonomous Mobility Applique System, or AMAS, enabled two driverless Palletized Loading System prime movers and an M915 tractor trailer truck to seamlessly interact with a manned Humvee gun truck escort. The convoy negotiated oncoming traffic, followed rules of the road, recognized and avoided pedestrians and various obstacles, and then used intelligence and decision-making abilities to re-route their direction through a maze of test areas to complete both complex urban and rural line haul missions.

As the ground systems expert within the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, TARDEC develops, integrates and sustains the right technology solutions to address ever-changing threats and shifts in strategic, technological and fiscal environments. Flexibility and adaptability are vital to future systems, and AMAS is designed to provide a wide range of military vehicle platforms with optionally-manned capabilities that will increase safety and provide the warfighter with additional flexibility.

"We're not looking to replace Soldiers with robots. It's about augmenting and increasing capability," said Col. Chris Cross, chief of Science and Technology at the Army Capabilities Integration Center.

Equipped with GPS, Light Detecting and Ranging systems, known as LIDAR, Automotive radar, a host of sensors and other high-tech hardware and soft-



VIPs watch the Autonomous Mobility Applique' System demonstration from the top of a building in the BOAZ Military Operations in Urban Terrain training site at Fort Hood, Texas.

ware components, the common appliqué kit's intelligence and autonomous decision-making abilities can be installed in practically any military vehicle, transforming an ordinary vehicle into an optionally manned version.

AMAS can also keep personnel out of harm's way and provide Soldiers on manned missions with increased situational awareness and other safety benefits. For instance, AMAS also features collision mitigation braking, lane-keeping assist and a roll-over warning system, electronic stability control and adaptive cruise control. During manned mis-

sions, these additional safety features could theoretically increase Soldier performance. The robotic mode frees up the vehicle crew to more closely watch for enemy threats, while still leaving them the option of manually taking control of the vehicle when necessary.

"The AMAS hardware and software performed exactly as designed and dealt successfully with all of the real-world obstacles that a real-world convoy would encounter," said AMAS Program Manager David Simon, with Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control.

“The vehicles and systems are replaceable, but nothing can replace the life of a Soldier. These systems keep Soldiers safe and make them more efficient.”

Bernard Theisen
 TARDEC AMAS Lead Engineer

AMAS development aligns with Army goals for the Future Force. At an Association of the United States Army breakfast in Arlington, Va., Jan. 23, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno talked about the Army Modernization Strategy and the difficult decisions ahead.

"What is that leap-ahead technology that we need that could make a real difference for our Soldiers on the ground?" Odierno asked. "What is the technology that allows us to decrease the weight so we can be more expeditionary? I need tactical mobility for the future. We need to move towards mobility and try to determine how we sustain survivability while increasing mobility."

In his just-released CSA Strategic Priorities, Odierno added that we must prioritize Soldier-centered modernization and procurement of proven technologies so that Soldiers have the best weapons, equipment and protection to accomplish the mission.

Another AMAS demonstration with more vehicles and more complex notional scenarios is scheduled for later this year.

"We are very happy with the results, but the AMAS must undergo more testing before it becomes deployable," said TARDEC AMAS Lead Engineer Bernard Theisen.

"The vehicles and systems are replaceable, but nothing can replace the life of a Soldier. These systems keep Soldiers safe and make them more efficient," he said.

TARDEC is the ground systems expert within RDECOM. It provides engineering and scientific expertise for Department of Defense manned and autonomy-enabled ground systems and ground support systems; serves as the nation's laboratory for advanced military laboratory technology; and provides leadership for the Army's advanced Science and Technology research, demonstration, development and full life cycle engineering efforts.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THURSDAY

MARCH 27 SUICIDE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TRAINING

APG ASAP will present "Skip" Johnson, HQ AMC, G-1 Wellness, Substance Abuse/Suicide Prevention program manager at the Redstone Arsenal, who will give 2-hour combined training classes (one hour on substance abuse and one hour on suicide prevention).

The training sessions will be held at APG South (Edgewood) Conference Center, Bldg. E4810. from, 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

For more information, call Cindy Scott at 410-278-4013, Ken Gesch at 410-278-7779, or the ASAP Main Number at 410-278-DRUG/3784.

MONDAY

MARCH 31 POWERFUL WOMEN SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Join Army Community Service and other partners for this conference in Top of the Bay's Chesapeake Room, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Topics will include five drivers formula to starting a small business, contracting with the federal government, exporting your business, and networking with other agencies.

This event is open to all veterans, retirees, active duty, Reserve/National Guard, civilians and spouses.

For more information, contact Employment Readiness Program at 410-278-9669/7572.

FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM WORKSHOP

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Women's Program will host its 24th Annual Training Workshop at Bldg. 6008, Mallette Auditorium, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Topics to be discussed include "Time Management and Organization Skills," "Effective Presentation Techniques," and "Understanding Sharepoint: Making It Work for You." For a complete list of classes, and to register, go to www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/100. Several educational and food vendors will also be available. For more information, contact Teresa Rudd, FWP chairperson, 410-436-5501, and Elizabeth Young, FWP vice chairperson, 410-278-1392.

HERB CONTAINER GARDEN CLASS

Herb Container Garden Class (course number 25773) will be offered at Harford Community College, Havre de Grace Hall, room 206, 6 to 9 p.m.

Want fresh herbs? Grow them yourself! Learn how to grow a variety of different herbs in containers as well as in garden beds, and when and how to harvest your crop. The class will cover multiple uses of different herbs. Gain hands-on experience planting herb seeds, and leave the class with a planting. This Harford Community College class will be taught by Master Gardener volunteers from the University of Maryland Extension, Harford County.

Registration is required. Cost is \$19 per person. Register online at www.harford.edu. For more information call 443-412-2376. Walk-in registration is available at Harford Community College, Edgewood Hall, Entrance 3.

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 1 FIRE MARSHALL TRAINING

Training for building Fire Marshalls will be held 1 to 3 p.m. at the APG South (Edgewood) Conference Center, Bldg. E4810.

Training will be conducted by the APG Fire Department Fire Prevention Branch and will review what the post requires of tenants to assure fire safety in the buildings they occupy and for which they are responsible, including what is required to conduct monthly inspections and detailed fire extinguisher inspections.

For additional information, contact William J. Bond, fire protection inspector, Fire Protection Division, Bldg. 4314, 410-306-0093 or william.j.bond1.civ@mail.mil.

THURSDAY

APRIL 3 SAAM KICKOFF – A 5K RUN/ WALK

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

TUESDAY

APRIL 8 DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

APRIL 11 SOCIETY OF ITALIAN AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN FIRST ANNUAL SPRING GALA

Don't miss this opportunity to make history and be a part of something very special and unique here in Harford County. This event will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight in the Richlin Ballroom, 1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood, Md. For tickets or more information, contact Elio Scaccio at 410-206-8818.

FRIDAY

APRIL 25 STUDENT EARTH & ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY – SUNDAY

MAY 2-4 SECOND INDIANHEAD DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION

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

ONGOING

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

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

THROUGH APRIL 2 COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center is currently accepting applications for the 2014-15 SSCF program through April 2, 2014. The SSCF Program is a 10-month educational opportunity conducted under the auspices of the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) at Huntsville, Ala, Warren, Mich, and APG.

The SSCF program prepares government civilians at the GS-14/15 levels or equivalent for senior leadership roles by provides training in leadership and acquisition. Program components include completion of DAU's Program Management Course (PMT 401), courses in leadership, applications of acquisition to national defense issues, research in acquisition topics, mentoring, and a distinguished speaker program.

For complete program information and application requirements, visit: <http://asc.army.mil/web/career-development/programs/defense-acquisition-university-senior-service-college/announcement/>.

For APG specific program information, please visit: <http://www.dau.mil/sscf/Pages/apg.aspx>

For more information about the program, please contact Jim Oman at james.oman@dau.mil or 410-272-9470.

THROUGH APRIL 23 TOILETRIES DRIVE

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

TUESDAYS THROUGH MAY 20 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS

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

CORVIAS 2014 GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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

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

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

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

CPR, AED CLASSES SCHEDULED

The APG Fire and Emergency Services Division of the Directorate of Emergency Services has released its schedule for CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) classes for 2014. Two classes will be held the third Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the same location. April 16, Edgewood Conference Center May 21, APG North (Aberdeen) chapel June 18, Edgewood Conference Center July 16, APG North (Aberdeen) chapel Aug. 20, Edgewood Conference Center Sept. 17, APG North (Aberdeen) chapel Oct. 15, Edgewood Conference Center Nov. 19, APG North (Aberdeen) chapel Dec. 17, Edgewood Conference Center

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

INSIDE APG

APG commanders and subject matter experts will discuss topics of inter-

est 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>

ARMY WELLNESS CENTER OFFERING SERVICES AT APG SOUTH CLINIC

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

CYSS PARTNERS WITH HOMESCHOOLERS

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

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND SURVEY

Your input on the health status of the APG Community to include health concerns, adequacy of services offered, and access & utilization of services are all important to help shape the plans for 2014. What matters most to you? What are your health goals and how can our community help you achieve these goals? Please take 10-15 minutes out of your time to provide useful feedback. All feedback is welcome and appreciated.

<https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/Survey/se.ashx?s=251137456E6E1E53>

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

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

MORE ONLINE

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

Army plans baseline assessment for NIE 15.1

Army News Service Staff

The Army will evaluate its tactical network baseline during the Network Integration Evaluation 15.1 in fall 2014 in order to set conditions for future network development and refine focus areas for industry innovation.

The Network Baseline Assessment will evaluate the performance of current integrated network capabilities in a variety of operational scenarios, while pinpointing remaining capability gaps that need to be filled to meet the Army's future mission command needs.

In a change from previous Network Integration Evaluations, known as NIEs, the Army will then begin to fix in place identified capability gaps for two subsequent NIE cycles, lengthening the time period for vendors to propose solutions. While the original NIE process was built to quickly meet needs from theater, with the transition out of Afghanistan the refined process will allow the Army to be more deliberate in determining and filling network capability gaps for future capability set fielding.

By periodically examining the network baseline and identifying gaps which will then be addressed in two consecutive NIEs, the Army will increase industry's lead time in developing and proposing mature capability solutions, and better leverage that innovation to deliver enhanced communications to Soldiers.

NIE 15.1, the eighth in the series of semi-annual field evaluations designed to accelerate and improve the way communications technologies are delivered to Soldiers, will take place in October-November 2014 at Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

In addition to the Network Baseline Assessment, the Army will also evaluate a limited number of new solutions proposed by government and industry. The Army released a Government Call for Mature Solutions notice, Jan. 16, and a Sources Sought notice to industry, Jan. 17, seeking emerging capabilities to be

evaluated for potential participation in NIE 15.1.

The Army's goal in limiting the capability gaps released for 15.1 is to seek specific solutions while not interfering with the Network Baseline Assessment.

"The reduction in new candidate systems for NIE 15.1 will allow the Army to get a clear picture of the brigade's networked systems and begin to establish the baseline we will build upon," said Kim Bowen, Integration Planning Division Chief for the Army's System of Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate. "This information will support the early release of a detailed Sources Sought notice for future NIEs as well as provide industry additional time to prepare candidate solutions for those events."

While setting the conditions for NIE 15.1, the Army is simultaneously preparing to execute NIE 14.2 in spring 2014, which will feature increased Joint and multinational participation in conjunction with the Joint Staff-led BoldQuest exercise.

The Network Baseline Assessment will be informed by results from NIE 14.2 as well as from the recently concluded NIE 14.1, which indicated that after delivering groundbreaking communications technologies to Soldiers in Afghanistan, the Army should now focus tactical network development efforts on simplifying tools and applications, right-sizing command posts and increasing operational flexibility for future missions.

Since their launch in 2011, the NIEs have evaluated more than 170 systems and helped integrate, refine and validate Capability Set 13, or CS 13, the Army's first integrated network package providing mobile communications down to the dismounted Soldier. CS 13 has been fielded to four brigade combat teams, including two now deployed to Afghanistan, and fielding and training is now underway for the follow-on CS 14.



Photo by Amy Walker, U.S. Army PEO C3T

NIE 15.1, part of a series of semi-annual field evaluations designed to accelerate and improve the way communications technologies are delivered to Soldiers, will take place in October-November 2014 at Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

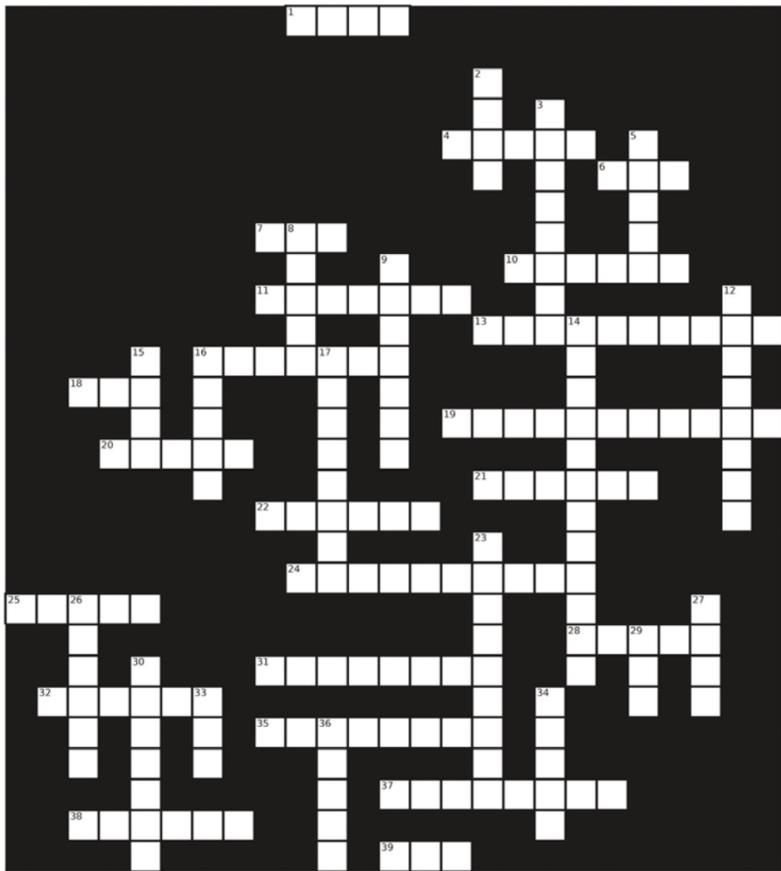
ACRONYM OF THE WEEK

SoSE&I

System of Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate

Under the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, the SoSE&I Directorate provides coordinated SoS analysis, engineering, and architectural and integration products to facilitate how the Army efficiently shapes, manages and synchronizes the fielding of integrated materiel capabilities. For information, visit <http://integration.army.mil/>.

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

- 1. Portrayed Batman in the old '60s TV series
- 4. Introduced MacIntosh computer 30 years ago
- 6. "____, Move and Sleep" is a pilot program

- 7. Prayer Luncheon was held at ____ of the Bay
- 10. April is _____ Assault Awareness Month
- 11. Half of APG's civilian population lives in this county
- 13. Founding Father who helped

create Army chaplain program

- 16. In '64, he spoke at APG about visiting the Soviet Union
- 18. Lenny redid "American Woman" by the Guess ____
- 19. The American _____ credit is a tax credit for parents and students
- 20. Famously wrote that "April is the cruelest month"
- 21. RDECOM's ground systems expert
- 22. The APG _____ Band performed at the National Prayer Luncheon
- 24. ARL Staff Sgt. Kirk Wheatley is an avid _____
- 25. APG Health Promotions Officer _____ LaRoche
- 28. Nickname of acting APG Senior Commander
- 31. In '64, APG was a big winner at the _____ Championships in Miami
- 32. Holy city in India
- 35. Famed car show in Sacramento, Cal.
- 37. Course at APG South (Edge-wood)
- 38. City vigorously protected by Batman
- 39. Mr. "____" stickers were distributed at the Resiliency Health Fair

bile at APG

- 12. Always maximize the _____, advises Chaplain Rutherford
- 14. Nearby historic town where Dr. C. David Brown has a residence
- 15. "Joanna" was a 1983 hit by _____ & the Gang
- 16. Site of last week's Army Alliance annual meeting
- 17. APG rifle champ back in '64
- 23. Academy cadets who helped out at Resiliency Health Fair
- 26. Dutch theologian referenced by Army chief of chaplains at prayer luncheon
- 27. Roderick "____" Johnson speaks at APG this week about suicide prevention
- 29. Acronym for unmanned aerial/aircraft system
- 30. Rock star whose uncle received posthumous Medal of Honor
- 33. Thanked Maryland National Army Guard for its support
- 34. Eleven percent of APG's civilian workforce lives in this county
- 36. Motown great _____ best known for singing with Marvin Gaye

Solution to the March 20 puzzle



Down

- 2. Acronym for the group that held its quarterly meeting March 18th
- 3. Earn more money than Dr. C. David Brown (or so he joked)
- 5. Gorbachev's name means rose
- 8. Presenter of recent Medals of Honor
- 9. _____ Robinson made a Batmo-



Accessing Higher Education Track

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

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

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

Army, industry focus on next-gen network

By **CLAIRE HEININGER**
PEO C3T

Thirty years ago, Apple introduced the Macintosh computer with a splashy Super Bowl commercial and the bold promise that information technology could change the world -- if it was easy to use and accessible by all.

Now, the Army wants to unlock the same potential for its next-generation tactical communications network.

From touchscreens and mission apps for Soldiers to wireless networking for command posts, Army senior leaders have outlined their vision for a powerful, yet simple to operate tactical network designed to support a more expeditionary force and a generation of Soldiers who are digital natives.

"We absolutely must change," said Brig. Gen. Daniel P. Hughes, program executive officer for Command, Control, Communications-Tactical, or PEO C3T, the organization that provides the Army's tactical network. "How many people have been to an iPhone training course? We've got to get to the point where the Army network is intuitive and omnipresent for our Soldiers."

2025 and beyond

Speaking to more than 250 representatives of large and small businesses during a recent Tactical Network Industry Seminar at APG, the leaders stressed the need to partner with industry and continuously inject next-generation technologies into the Army network to meet evolving operational needs from today through 2025 and beyond. To retain information dominance against adaptive adversaries and emerging threats, a smaller Army will not only need a robust, versatile and rapidly deployable tactical network -- it will need a network that is intuitive for all Soldiers to use.

After fielding the advanced, integrated tactical communications suite known as Capability Set 13, or CS 13, to select brigade combat teams, known as BCTs, supporting the advise-and-assist mission in Afghanistan, the Army's focus is to extend similar networking capabilities to additional BCTs by fielding the follow-on CS 14 and subsequent capability sets, while applying Soldier feedback to drive further technology improvements.

The Roadmap

To meet these objectives, the Army requirements, acquisition and research and development communities have developed a Network Modernization Roadmap with three interconnected phases: Network 2.0 (fiscal years 2014-15), Simplified Tactical Army Reliable Network (STARNet, fiscal year 2016-20) and the Network After Next (NaN, 2020 and beyond). The roadmap is a blueprint for industry and government to focus development efforts and bring forward innovations to fill capability gaps. It will also help direct the Army's limited modernization resources to investments that will have the greatest short-, mid- and



Staff Sgt. Shelby Johnson, squad leader, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), observes the area around Forward Operating Base Torkham, Afghanistan, while wearing the new Capability Set 13 communications suite. The Army is building on lessons-learned from CS 13 to continue to improve and simplify the tactical network to meet evolving operational needs from today through 2025 and beyond.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Saslav

long-term impact for the end user.

During the day-long seminar, Army officials described technology goals for each phase of the roadmap, covering detailed focus areas from radios and smartphones to satellites and cyber security -- all with the theme of providing intuitive systems that offer the same seamless communication and collaboration as the devices Soldiers use in their daily lives.

More touchscreens

For example, in the area of mission command applications, the Army is seeking to standardize maps, messaging and icons across the tactical formation so Soldiers experience a familiar interface from handheld devices to vehicle platforms to command posts. The Army will also incorporate more touchscreens and voice and gesture recognition capabilities, enabling commanders and Soldiers to request, receive and act on information more quickly during operations when time is of the essence.

And because tomorrow's Soldiers are today's middle school and high school students, that is exactly what they expect, said Jennifer Zbozny, chief engineer for PEO C3T.

"Everything they do is electronic, and it's very intuitive to them -- they just know," she said. "That's really the audience we are building for."

Officials also discussed other key goals to increase network capacity and versatility in support of future missions, including advancing alternatives to satellites for beyond line of sight communications, improving radio and antenna designs, streamlining network management and configuration tools, and reducing the footprint of Tactical Operations Centers, or TOCs. Simplifying TOCs by

consolidating hardware such as computers, wires and servers, reducing power requirements, leveraging wireless networking solutions and converting many hardware systems into software applications will enable units to set up and tear down their command posts more quickly and operate them more effectively.

Along with industry innovation, the roadmap will leverage the expertise of the Army Science and Technology, known as S&T, community. The vision for the future network has been shaped not only by trends in commercial communications technologies, officials said, but also by ongoing Army S&T efforts in the areas of cyber security and anti-jamming, next-generation communications waveforms, dismounted and mounted navigation, and integrated, commander-centric mission command.

"As budgets get moderated, science and technology within the Army is being upheld," said Robert Zanzalari, associate director of the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center. "There is a need to continue to invest in the basic technologies we need."

Key venues for industry

By outlining needs and synchronizing capability gaps now, the roadmap will help make the most of those investments and facilitate smoother technology transitions from research and development centers to programs of record, officials said.

Army laboratories will also serve as key venues for industry to bring their proposed solutions for evaluation and integration with other network systems. Industry partners will receive detailed, timely feedback from the laboratories about their capabilities' performance and areas for improvement, just as they do

today as part of the Network Integration Evaluation, or NIE, process.

The NIE, a series of semi-annual field exercises that began in 2011, to rapidly integrate and improve network systems for fielding, will also play an important role in supporting the future network by providing a realistic operational environment to gather test data and Soldier feedback on emerging technologies. The next event, NIE 14.2 in May, will focus on validating the CS 15 network baseline and feature increased participation by joint and coalition forces.

Operational relevance

"That's what makes the NIEs so critical and so important for modernization," said Col. Greg Baine, chief of brigade modernization integration for the Brigade Modernization Command. "It adds in that operational relevance to what it is we're looking for."

After completing six NIEs and successfully fielding CS 13, the Army has listened to feedback from industry partners and is implementing a new construct for NIE. The approach gives industry additional time to propose solutions to more focused capability gaps, which will be determined by periodic network baseline assessments.

"We will take every third NIE and put the entirety of the network in the field and assess it holistically," said Col. Mark Elliott, director of the Army's G-3/5/7 LandWarNet-Mission Command Directorate. "Whereas in the past we gave industry about six to eight months between when we would ask you to bring us a capability to the time we put it in the field, we're now trying to give about an 18-month timeframe to help industry get after some things that take a little more lead time."

ARL research fellow explores virtual humans research

Story and photo by **ORLI BELMAN**
Institute for Creative Technologies

At the University of Southern California Institute for Creative Technologies, researchers specializing in the art and science of creating an immersive experience work with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory to advance interactive simulation-based solutions for training Soldiers, teaching students, treating patients and more.

In 1999, the Army and USC joined together to establish the Institute for Creative Technologies, or ICT, as a University Affiliated Research Center, or UARC, that would combine the creative talents of the film and game industries with world-class university research in engineering, education and cinematic arts. The goal: to make simulations more effective through the study and development of emerging digital technologies and engaging narrative-driven experiences.

Today, transitioned prototypes from this forward-looking lab can be seen throughout the Army, including video games designed to prepare Soldiers in negotiations and stability operations, virtual role players programmed to provide practice in conducting sensitive interviews and virtual reality systems developed to enhance therapies for post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries.

"The missions we ask our Warriors to perform put them in extreme circumstances. It is vital that we bring the best capabilities, based on the best science to them in training, on the battlefield, and as they reset for the next mission -- or for the return to family," said Dr. Laurel Allender, director of ARL Human Research and Engineering Directorate. "The research conducted at the ICT in collaboration with the Army is critical for building the strong scientific basis for simulation and training

technologies and for the strategic application of those technologies to address the needs of Soldiers today and tomorrow."

ICT scientists are leaders in the fields of artificial intelligence, graphics, virtual reality and computer and story-based learning. Los Angeles, a hub of high-tech and creative industries, inspires problem-solving research that draws from and contributes to the region's innovation and provides powerful techniques and technologies to enhance Army training and education.

Current ICT and ARL collaborations expand how scientific breakthroughs can bolster Army efforts to empower, unburden and strengthen Soldiers. They include studying new uses for ICT-developed virtual humans, head-mounted displays and photo-real digital characters.

"We want to make sure that our innovations help save time, resources and lives," said Dr. Randall W. Hill Jr., ICT executive director. "Our partnership with ARL provides an essential sounding board and test bed for making sure our investigations are relevant to current and future Army needs. Also, our status as a UARC allows us to serve as a strategic resource that can be easily tasked by DoD organizations seeking to solve problems with immersive experiences."

ICT's projects span basic and applied research and advanced prototype development. Discoveries made in the lab can be

quickly leveraged for training. For example, ICT developed the Virtual Human Project, widely regarded as the most comprehensive effort devoted to creating computer-generated characters that look, behave and communicate like real people. Basic research leads to insights into how people relate to one another and to their virtual counterparts. Applied research leads to capabilities that improve software functionality, including sensing systems that

can infer a user's emotional state. Advanced prototype development requires experimenting and assessing training system value and impact. ICT virtual humans have been deployed across the country, getting young people excited about science, providing information on Army careers and supporting veterans reintegrating to civilian life. Additional

characters will be soon used in efforts to address depression, suicide and sexual harassment and assault prevention.

A new effort is also exploring how ICT's natural language, nonverbal behavior recognition, cognition and emotion modeling research can help further ARL's human-robot interaction research programs and enhance future connections between virtual human and HRI research.

"Human-robot teams are beginning to emerge across a range of potentially high-stakes situations including military operations, first-responders and caring for

vulnerable populations," said Dr. Jonathan Gratch, ICT associate director for virtual humans research. "We are excited to explore whether imbuing machines with some of the virtual human capabilities developed in our lab can help support the vision of improving performance in Soldier-robot teams."

ICT's Mixed Reality Lab, known as MxR, works with ARL HRED's Simulation and Training Technology Center to investigate how ICT's head-mounted displays can be incorporated to reduce the costs and increase realism in the Dismounted Soldier Training System.

Army-funded research from MxR contributed to the development of the Oculus Rift, a new virtual reality headset poised to transform the landscape of virtual reality entertainment and training with low-cost, high fidelity virtual reality displays. The MxR group's work in this area is ongoing with the continued development of a suite of open-source immersive viewers.

ICT's graphics lab works closely with the entertainment industry. Paul Debevec, the lab's director, received a Scientific and Engineering Academy Award in 2010 for the development of the Light Stage systems, which can relight and recreate a digital face down to level of individual pores and fine wrinkles. The Light Stage technologies have contributed to films like "Gravity" and "Avatar" and are also used to create realistic characters for ICT's Army training prototypes, like the Emergent Leader Immersive Training Experience, which was installed at the Maneuver Center of Excellence in Fort Benning, Ga. A laptop version will soon be available at the Army's MilGaming web portal.

"We are in an exciting time and place to develop and deliver engaging training," Hill said. "I look forward to continued work with the Army and seeing what the next 15 years will bring."

“Our partnership with ARL provides an essential sounding board and test bed for making sure our investigations are relevant to current and future Army needs.”

Dr. Randall W. Hill Jr.
ICT executive director.

APG NEWS

This Week in APG News history

By **ALAN FEILER**, APG News



50 Years Ago: March 26, 1964

Clockwise from top left:
APG chaplains representing three religious denominations announced the upcoming Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Passover observances and religious ceremonies to be held on post.

Lt. Frederick B. Bywater, a graduate of the Basic Officer Course at the Ordnance Center and School, recently spoke about his visit to the Soviet Union during the summer of 1960.

The APG rifle team returned from Florida after winning 123 awards during three winter rifle championships at the Sawgrass Championships in Miami. Sgt. 1st Class Larry D. Tobalado won 18 awards and the APG team walked away with 54 individual awards.



25 Years Ago: March 29, 1989

Clockwise from top left:
Members of the 139th Infantry recently modeled uniforms and outfits worn by Soldiers and civilians during the Civil War and other historical periods. The group also performed drills at the Noncommissioned Officer Dining Out at APG.

Spec. Larry McKenzie and Sgt. Joseph Gilbert were among the APG Soldiers who unloaded food at Grove Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen and at other locations around the county to benefit needy Harford families.

Approximately 70 faculty and staff members of Edgewood High School received an inside look at the Army Chemical, Research, Development and Engineering Center and other tenant activities at APG during a teachers' in-service day event.



10 Years Ago: March 25, 2004

Clockwise from left:
Anastasia Phillips from the Aberdeen Youth Center and Wyndell Williams of the Edgewood Youth Center competed in the Maryland Boys and Girls Clubs of America competition and awards ceremony in Annapolis March 10.

Kirk U. S. Army Health Clinic recently implemented a new call center system to simplify the appointment-setting model for patrons. The goal is to increase access to KUSAHC's primary care appointments, said Dave Bish, access claim agent.

(Seated, from right) APG Garrison and Deputy Installation Commander Col. Mardi U. Mark and DoD police officer George Martin, president of the Fraternal Order of Police, signed an agreement laying out procedures and regulations for the APG civilian police officers in the former Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security.



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Click on "ARMY" then "Aberdeen Proving Ground."

Turning base camp waste into energy

By **BOB REINERT**

USAG-Natick Public affairs

One 150-person base camp in Afghanistan can produce as much as 1,000 pounds of solid waste a day.

That waste can become one big headache, according to Amy Klopotoski, the Contingency Basing Science and Technology lead in the Expeditionary Basing and Collective Protection Directorate of the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, or NSRDEC.

"The waste generated on base camps, it's a big challenge and a problem, because Soldiers are either burning it -- which is hazardous to your health, the environment, the host nation -- or you have to backhaul it," Klopotoski said. "Soldiers have to leave the protected camp to backhaul this waste to some other location for it to be processed.

"So it's a logistics burden, it's a safety hazard, it's a health hazard, and quite a bit of waste is generated on these camps. So it is a continuous problem."

Klopotoski would like to turn a negative into a positive, and solve another problem simultaneously, by converting that waste into energy that could help power U.S. base camps overseas.

"You can thermo-chemically process [the waste] so that you reduce the volume of it," Klopotoski said. "It can be reduced up to 90 percent of the volume of the waste, so it basically turns it into an ash. Then you can actually use it as an energy source so that you can provide energy to the camp.

"That cuts down on the fuel dependence of the camp itself. Fuel, it's a logistics burden for the Soldiers, as well."

NSRDEC serves as technical manager of the Joint Deployable Waste to Energy group, or JDW2E, which is looking at how to take technology now available on a municipal scale and shrink it to a



Photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

Converting solid waste to energy would eliminate the need for burn pits, which are hazardous to health and the environment.

size that would be deployable and would work at base camps.

"It's sort of been growing as an effort because people see the benefit," said Klopotoski. "You look at the technology that exists today, and you feel pretty confident that we can get this capability into a deployable package."

Klopotoski said that JDW2E, which includes Natick's Product Manager Force Sustainment Systems, is looking for systems that require no specialized training and are durable and transportable.

"It's a new capability that doesn't exist, so there aren't really test procedures," Klopotoski said, adding that another part of the effort is establishing the test proce-

dures to assess these systems.

In addition to establishing test procedures and assessing technology, JDW2E will conduct a workshop to solicit Soldier input, she said.

"To find the right technology, you need to know what is acceptable or not acceptable in the field. How would Soldiers prefer it to be used and operated, or how might they use it?"

"There's such a wide mix of things that come up in a waste stream on a base camp. You want a system that can accept anything. You don't want to have Soldiers sifting through stuff."

Klopotoski said that JDW2E is striving to get a prototype for testing to the

U.S. Pacific Command area of operations. "A lot of their island nations have a lot of the same challenges that some of our contingency bases do," she added.

Given waste-to-energy conversion, solar technology and smart power management, Klopotoski said she can envision a day when base camps could be energy self-sufficient, taking vulnerable convoys off dangerous roads.

"You're attacking two problems," Klopotoski said. "It's the waste problem, and it's also the fuel-consumption problem. If we can get this to work, which we feel pretty confident that we can, that could tackle two of those pretty big problems that currently exist at camps."

Environmental engineers test water filters

By **JANE GERVASONI**

U.S. Army Public Health Command

In the United States, people take safe drinking water for granted. Warfighters on the battlefield do not have this luxury.

The U.S. Army Public Health Command has been working across services to address the need for water production and quality surveillance at remote, austere locations, according to Art Lundquist, an environmental engineer in the Drinking Water and Sanitation Program.

"We have been supporting the acquisition communities since 2005 through the research, development, testing and evaluation phases to ensure the end products are protective of warfighter health," he said.

At large bases, bulk water production is managed by military occupational specialty-trained personnel operating complex water treatment systems. Smaller, remote bases often do not have the personnel to staff these production facilities, nor do they need potable water in the large quantities supplied by this equipment.

"The current solution to ensure military personnel have clean, safe drinking water often involves transporting bulk and bottled water to remote bases in deployed locations," explained Lundquist.

This option has disadvantages with regard to packaging, transport, time, personnel and force protection. However, there are other options for providing safe drinking water in austere,



Photo by Graham Snodgrass

Art Lundquist, Drinking Water and Sanitation Program environmental engineer, tests individual water purifiers to determine whether they meet Army requirements.

remote environments.

"The U.S. military lacks a materiel solution for producing water at the unit level; however the commercial market offers numerous options that purport to fill this gap," Lundquist said. "The services are evaluating commercial products and developing requirements to feed into a future program for fielding new equipment."

In the meantime, individual water puri-

fiers are an option that helps ensure Soldiers on missions have safe water to drink.

"For individual warfighter use during emergencies, or while on short-term planned missions, the Army has an established program and is evaluating individual water purifiers that are designed to work with personal hydration systems," said Lundquist.

Drinking Water and Sanitation Program personnel have been working

with Jeffrey Dunn, a project engineer from the Natick (Mass.) Soldier Research Development and Engineering and the Aberdeen Test Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground to test the performance of individual water purifiers, according to Lundquist.

Lundquist said ATC tested the devices for their ability to withstand exposure to environmental conditions such as freezing and thawing, vibration, compression and shock. The ATC pass/fail standard for these tests was based on visual inspection of the devices--were they damaged or broken?

The DWSP then used an evaluation process developed in the program to determine if the devices were still able to provide safe drinking water after being subjected to the physical and environmental stressors.

"We pumped contaminated water through each candidate filter then analyzed the water to see if coliform and Escherichia coli bacteria from the contaminated water had been filtered out," explained Lundquist. "The data was then provided to ATC to document water purifier performance and to assist decision-makers in determining if the candidates meet Army requirements."

The DWSP evaluation provided a cost-effective means to document the integrity of the filter after the environmental testing. DWSP will continue to provide technical support to acquisition programs targeting safe water production in remote environments to help protect the health of warfighters.

Prayer luncheon speaker encourages resilience

Continued from Page 1

"What was going on in 1775 was that young patriot forces were going against the mighty British Empire," Rutherford said. "[And] Gen. Washington thought, 'For this to happen, we need chaplains onboard.'

"The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary, but especially so in times of public distress and danger,'" Rutherford quoted Washington.

"Today, we use words like anxiety; fear," he said. "The thing about the most capable leaders and Soldiers is they're able to go out and deal with this anxiety."

"Everyone sometimes feels overwhelmed by the complexities of life, he said. "You have anxiety at work -- promotion boards, retention boards, force reductions, personnel issues, being apart from your Family, financial anxieties, the economy, security,

education, it goes on and on. You have to look over your shoulder all the time. You never know what's next."

The answer, he said, is finding the faith to overcome negative inclinations and develop the strength and resiliency to Soldier on. Focusing on the positive and minimizing the negative is integral to inner strength and resolve, he said.

Rutherford said he learned from Henri Nouwen, a Dutch theologian, Jesuit priest, altruist and academic, that people need to create space around themselves to become more spiritually connected.

"How do you create space around you, so that God can speak in your own life?" he said. "You have to bring home that part of you that was left behind. That's not easy. Your grown-up self becomes very childlike sometimes. You want to feel safe. Sometimes, you feel loneliness."

"People are often afraid to confront their fearful, lonely side," he said. "Let it teach you something. Let it

teach you wisdom so that you can live instead of just surviving."

"Think about the noble, the reputable, the authentic, the compelling and the gracious -- the best in the world and not the worst," he said. "Things to praise, not things to curse. Instead of worrying, take time to pray, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, God's holiness will settle over you.

"We're not always free to determine what's going to happen to us," he added, "but we are free to respond to what's happening to us. We have a choice. The person who maximizes the positive is in a better position to cope with whatever comes their way."

Rutherford told audience members that as Soldiers and civilians, they are making a difference.

"This is as important now as in any time," he said. "Our nation and our world needs all of the leadership -- our collective leadership -- and every good

idea you have, and a thousand more. The challenges we face now are far reaching. So focus on the true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling and gracious, to make a difference to all of those we touch and teach every day."

Attendees warmly applauded Rutherford and Martin and CECOM Command Sgt. Maj. Kennis Dent thanked him for his message.

Col. Fred Hughes of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command called Rutherford's message "inspirational and timely."

"The Army is going through a period of change, but we've had hard times before" he said. "This was well-timed to the times we're living in."

Michelle Scott of ATEC said she was impressed with the luncheon's turnout and sense of fellowship.

"It was tremendous to be with a community of people with similar beliefs at APG," she said. "You see you are not alone."

Dunn proud to lead CBRNE Soldiers

Continued from Page 1

proficiency, motivation and sincere care for Soldiers, civilians and their Families ensured the command's success and ability to accomplish all assigned missions in an unparalleled manner.

"The 20th CBRNE Command and the Army will continue to benefit from Command Sgt. Maj. Puig's leadership for years to come," Burton said.

After relinquishing responsibility, Puig offered parting remarks.

"Leadership, at its very heart, is taking care of your Soldiers; if you take care of your Soldiers, the rest comes easy," he said. "So as I close this chapter of my career, I can look back over the last two years and know that I've done all I can to provide what I feel has always been in the best interest of this entire command. I am absolutely proud to have served with all of you. Liberty we defend."

Burton welcomed Dunn's character and military leadership experience to APG.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Dunn is a Soldier's Soldier, a leader's Soldier and a great leader," he said. "He comes to this command with a tremendous reputation across the EOD, CBRNE and the Army. He is a master trainer, prolific writer and a candid professional. He is grounded in the fundamentals of war fighting and leadership and has tremendous experience in dealing with interagency, multinational and special operations forces. He is exactly the right Soldier/Leader at this time in this command's history."

Dunn said his goals at APG include



(From left) Brig. Gen. JB Burton, commander of the 20th CBRNE Command, looks on as incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Harold E. Dunn IV holds the change of responsibility sword handed to him by Burton during the command's change of responsibility ceremony in APG South (Edgewood) March 19.

ensuring the care and development of Soldiers, civilians and Families and strengthening the command. He said he hopes to make a positive impact on the installation.

"I could not be more proud than to serve our nation's CBRNE command Soldiers, civilians, and families who enable the incredible effectiveness of this unit," Dunn said. "It gives me an opportunity to give back to the organization that helped me grow and be the Soldier that I am and just really an

opportunity to pay back, continue to develop the formation and increase its capabilities in support of the Army in this operation."

Command Sgt. Maj. Harold E. Dunn IV Dunn comes to APG with years of military experience, having served at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Fort Campbell, Ky., Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort McCoy Wis., Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and in Hawaii. He previously served as command sergeant major of the 52nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal

(EOD) Group at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Dunn holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Mount Scenario College and is working toward an MBA from the University of Incarnate Word.

Dunn is a native of Fredericksburg, Va. His military education includes the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course, Combat Engineer Course, Air Assault School, NBC Officer Course, Defense Packaging of Hazardous Materials Transportation Course, Joint Nuclear EOD Course, Global Anti-Terrorism Operational Readiness Course, Access and Disablement of Improvised Nukes Course, Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, First Sergeant Course, Pre-Command Sergeant Major Course, and Pre-Command Course. He is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.

Dunn's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Southwest Asia Service medal, Afghanistan Campaign medal, Iraq Campaign medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development ribbon (4) Combat Action Badge, Master EOD Badge, Senior EOD Badge, and Basic EOD Badge, and Air Assault Wings.

Dunn is a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and Order of Samuel Sharpe (Ordnance).

Education credits can lead to tax savings

Continued from Page 1

tax. It also adds required course materials to the list of qualifying expenses and allows the credit to be claimed for four post-secondary education years instead of two. Many of those eligible qualify for the maximum annual credit of \$2,500 per student.

The full credit is available to taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is \$80,000 or less, or \$160,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return. The credit is phased out for taxpayers with incomes exceeding these levels. These income limits are higher than under the prior Hope and existing

Lifetime Learning credit.

Lifetime Learning Credit

The Lifetime Learning credit helps parents and students pay for post-secondary education. For the tax year, individuals may be able to claim a lifetime learning credit of up to \$2,000 for qualified education expenses paid for all students enrolled in eligible educational institutions. There is no limit on the number of years the lifetime learning credit can be claimed for each student. However, a taxpayer cannot claim both the American Opportunity credit and Lifetime Learning credits for the same student in one year. Thus, the Life-

time Learning credit may be particularly helpful to graduate students, students who are only taking one course and those who are not pursuing a degree.

Generally, Lifetime Learning credit can be claimed if all three of the following requirements are met: 1) You pay qualified education expenses of higher education. 2) You pay the education expenses for an eligible student. 3) The eligible student is either yourself, your spouse or a dependent for whom you claim an exemption on your tax return.

If you're eligible to claim the lifetime learning credit and are also eligible to claim the American opportunity credit for the same student in the same year, you can choose to claim either credit, but you cannot claim both.

If you pay qualified education expenses for more than one student in the same year, you can choose to take credits on a per-student, per-year basis. (You can claim the American Opportunity credit for one student and the Lifetime Learning credit for another student in the same year.)

Tuition and Fees Deduction

You may be able to deduct qualified education expenses paid during the year for yourself, your spouse or your dependent. You cannot claim this deduction if your filing status is married filing separately or if another person can claim an exemption for you as a dependent on his or her tax return. The qualified expenses must be for higher education.

The tuition and fees deduction can reduce the amount of your income subject to tax by up to \$4,000 and is taken as an adjustment to income on line 34 of Form 1040. This deduction may be beneficial to you if, for example, you cannot take the Lifetime Learning credit because your income is too high.

You may be able to take one of the education credits for your education expenses instead of a Tuition and Fees deduction. You can choose the one that will give you the lower tax.

Generally, you can claim the Tuition and Fees deduction if all three of the following requirements are met: 1) You pay qualified education expenses of higher education. 2) You pay the education expenses for an eligible student. 3) The eligible student is yourself, your spouse, or your dependent for whom you claim an exemption on your tax return.

You cannot claim the tuition and fees deduction if any of the following apply:

- Your filing status is married filing separately.
- Another person can claim an exemption for you as a dependent on his or her tax return. You cannot take the deduction even if the other person does not actually claim that exemption.
- Your modified adjusted gross

income is more than \$80,000 (\$160,000 if filing a joint return).

- You were a nonresident alien for any part of the year and did not elect to be treated as a resident alien for tax purposes.

- You or anyone else claims an education credit for expenses of the student for whom the qualified education expenses were paid.

Student-activity fees and expenses for course-related books, supplies and equipment are included in qualified education expenses only if the fees and expenses must be paid to the institution as a condition of enrollment or attendance.

General Rule

When figuring an education credit or the tuition and fees deduction, use only the amounts you paid and are deemed to have paid during the tax year for the qualified education expenses. An institution may choose to report on Form 1098-T either payments received during calendar year 2013 (box 1), or amounts billed during the calendar year 2013 (box 2), for qualified education expenses. However, the amounts in boxes 1 and 2 might be different than the amount actually paid and are deemed to have been paid. Additionally, Form 1098-T should give you other information for that institution, such as adjustments made for prior years, the amount of scholarships or grants, reimbursements, or refunds, and whether the student was enrolled at least half-time or was a graduate student.

Figuring the Education Benefits

To determine the amount of qualified expenses, have a discussion with your tax preparer to determine the qualified education expenses paid. Remember to include amounts paid for books, supplies and equipment needed for a course of study if calculating the American Opportunity credit. For the Lifetime Learning credit or Tuition and Fees deduction, these expenses are only included if they must be paid to the institution as a condition of enrollment or attendance. Once you determine the qualified education expenses paid on the student's behalf in 2013, subtract any tax free educational assistance (box 5) received in the 2013 academic period. The difference is the amount used to compute the education credits or tuition and fees deduction. Tax TA) for

You can also use the IRS's Interactive Tax Assistant tool to help determine if you're eligible for educational credits or deductions. For more detailed information on Tax Benefits of Education, see IRS Publication 970. This information is a provision of the annual tax program provided by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Caped Crusader's classic car used to cruise around APG?

It was in the late '50s when Forrest Robinson first started fiddling around with fiberglass, as well as chicken wire, plywood, burlap bags and molding plaster. "I was fascinated with what you could do with fiberglass, you know?" Robinson, a 76-year-old Army veteran and machinist from Westmoreland, N.H., recently told The Keene (N.H.) Sentinel. "I wanted to make something and I figured, why not make a car?"

And that's just what Robinson did.

After joining the Army and being stationed at APG in the mid-'60s, he and his wife, Violette, used to commute back and forth a lot from their home to the post. He already had a car, created from a '56 Oldsmobile chassis, that he'd pretty much built from scratch. Like a lot of folks at that time, Robinson was wild about the "Batman" TV series. So while here, he decided on a whim to fashion his car after the iconic Batmobile driven by actor Adam West on the show and designed by George Barris.

Nearly five decades later, Robinson's Batmobile earned first-place honors in the 64th annual Sacramento Autorama in California Feb. 14-16, 2014, one of the most prestigious car shows in the U.S.

Bam! Pow!! You read that correctly, first-place honors!

Robinson's Batmobile, it turns out, has quite a story. In '66, to make a few extra bucks, he rented out the car to Green Acres Ice Cream, which had a line of Batman ice cream flavors and drinks. A year later, Robinson sold it to a buddy for less than \$200. The car was eventually abandoned and rusted away in a field for more than four decades.

"Oh, I forgot about it, that's for sure," Robinson told The Keene Sentinel.

But then, someone discovered the car in a wooded area about five years ago and – naturally – sold it on eBay. It went through a succession of owners until Mario Borbon of Borbon Restorations in Sacramento heard about the mystery vehicle. He and his investment partners, Alicia and Sid Belzberg, owners of a toy car exchange in New York, bought the car, restored it, and a couple of months ago connected with Forrest Robinson's daughter, Karen, through the magic of Facebook. (Guess there was no Bat-Signal to shine in Gotham City's night sky, eh?)

"I had only seen pictures of the car from pictures my parents had ... and watched the progress on Facebook," Karen Robinson, who attended the Sacramento car show, told The Keene Sentinel. "When I saw it, I was just in tears. I was so embarrassed, I didn't want to cry, but it was overwhelming."

She said famed car designer John D'Agostino is working with the Belzbergs to take the Batmobile on a world tour. "If it comes to New York," said Forrest Robinson, "maybe then I would go see it."

And yes, it all started at APG. (Holy restored relics, Batman!)

Alan Feiler, APG News





Pubescent pianists

Kathi Workman, piano teacher for the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation SKIES Unlimited program, recently held a recital for her students. The students are enrolled in the SKIES Unlimited program at APG and in other schools throughout Harford County. Front row (from left): Havish Budhi, Ava Barrett, Malina Ly, Emily Rosada-Torres, Jason DSilva. Second row (from left): Anna Barrett, Angeliz Rosada-Torres, Natalie Briceland. Third row (from left): Laura Hughes, Erica Orjih, Workman, James Hughes, Lanna Ly. For more information on SKIES Unlimited programs, contact the Parent Central Office at 410-278-7571.

Courtesy photo



Brian McKeon strategic communications analyst

As a contract strategic communications analyst Brian McKeon provides contract support to the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), analyzing data and communicating with stakeholders. His company applies technology that streamline processes, ensures data integrity, delivers visual analytics and

ultimately provides timely analysis and data trends so that government leaders and organizations can make informed decisions," McKeon said.

McKeon has two bachelor's degrees from the College of William & Mary in government and Hispanic studies and has been a government contractor for five years.

He said his desire to enter this line of work stemmed from wanting to enter the civil service arena.

"Having witnessed the events of 9/11 and the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq during my high school years, I wanted to be a govern-

ment major and enter civil service to support national defense," he said.

McKeon adds that he enjoys the critical thinking involved in his line of work.

"I enjoy being able to solve complex problems, helping to create efficiencies within the organization, interacting with current and former service members and knowing that, even in a small way, my efforts and those of my coworkers help unburden, protect and empower the Soldier."

For more information about RDECOM missions supporting the Warfighter, visit www.army.mil/rdecom

Edgewood Contracting Division establishes early cutoff dates for 2014 procurement requests

ECD news release

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

processing.

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

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

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

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

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

or to this date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contracting cutoff dates for Fiscal Year 2014

Tenant Contracting Division

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who to contact:

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