



APG NEWS

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APG K-9 team is 'top dog'



Story and photos by **STACY SMITH**
APG News

The APG Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department has three officers who are little-known to most people living or working on post. They don't drive patrol cars, collect salaries, or even walk upright.

But to police officers Lt. Ron Colbeck, Nicholas Vertz, Jeremy Rondone and Anthony Basi these three Military Working Dogs (MWD) are an integral part of day-to-day life at APG.

Blecky, Poker and Viktor, the current MWDs working at APG, were bred and trained as MWDs at the Department of Defense Puppy Program at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Once individualized training is completed, a dog and handler must become a team and certify together. Both the dogs and their handlers are certified for either narcotics or explosives detection.

"The dogs are dual trained; they do patrol work as well. If you have a suspect who's attacking somebody or attacking an officer they're also trained to handle that," Basi said.

The K-9s will obey any officer, but they are most attentive towards their own handler.

"They might listen, but it's more like going through the motions as opposed to when the dog's handler is there. It'll be crisp and you can tell the dog knows who is who," said Rondone.

DES Police Officer Nicholas Vertz assists his Military Working Dog Blecky over a hurdle jump at the APG working dog kennels.

See **BOND**, page 12

2014 National Recovery Month

By **DEVITA HAMPTON**
Army Substance Abuse Program

Every September the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) observes National Recovery Month.

SAMHSA is one of the leading public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. Its mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

The initiatives led by SAMHSA help people with mental and substance use disorders, support the Families of people with mental and substance use disorders, build strong and supportive communities, prevent costly behavioral health problems, and promote better health for all Americans.

Now in its 25th year, National Recovery Month continues to

See **NATIONAL**, page 14

Keep roads safe for school buses

By **AMANDA ROMINIECKI**
APG News

The return of bright, yellow school buses to morning and afternoon rush-hour commutes means schools are back in session.

The back-to-school season is the perfect time for both adults and children to freshen up on school bus safety, to ensure everyone arrives at their destination safely.

Sharing the road with school buses

According to APG Directorate of Emergency Services Police Department Investigator Charles J. Rykiel, the traffic laws regarding school buses are the same on and off APG; both adhere to Maryland traffic laws.

Drivers should always use caution when approaching a school bus. Keep in mind that a slowing or stopped school bus often indicates that children may be walking near the roadway, so take extra care to look for pedestrians.

"When drivers are approaching a slowing or stopped school

See **SCHOOL**, page 14



Courtesy Photo

The back-to-school season means school buses are once again joining rush hour traffic on busy roadways. Drivers should use extra caution near school buses and come to a complete stop when a bus is operating red flashing lights.

APG to host Oktoberfest Oct. 24-25

German-inspired event Family friendly, open to public

Staff Report

Aberdeen Proving Ground will host an Oktoberfest from Oct. 24-25 at the installation's APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center and surrounding grounds.

The event is open to the public free of charge with the exception of food and beverages. The purpose of the event is to foster relationships and continue to strengthen existing bonds with the surrounding communities. The two-day event will show appreciation for the local communities, thanking them for their unwavering support over the past 96 years.

"We want our communities to come together and have a good time, build camaraderie and enjoy the family funfest," said Mike Lupacchino, APG's chief of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recre-



ation. "This is really an ideal time of year for an outdoor fest and we're offering a variety of activities to ensure there is something for everyone to enjoy."

APG Oktoberfest is fun for the entire family and will feature German inspired food, beverages and entertainment; inflatables and games; a Family Zone with clowns, caricatures and balloon animals; Volks-

march; a car and bike show; and a "Main Street Festival" with local crafts, vendors and community tables.

More information will be released as it becomes available. Information may also be obtained by visiting the Team APG Facebook at www.facebook.com/APGMd and by contacting the Garrison Public Affairs Office at 410-278-1150/1147 or via email at Kelly.c.luster.civ@mail.mil or Adriane.c.foss.civ@mail.mil.

ONLINE

www.TeamAPG.com/APGNews
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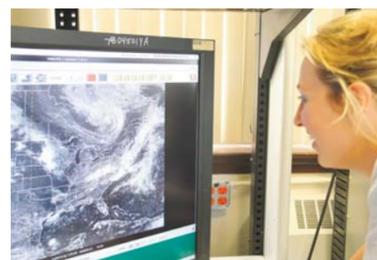
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WEATHER

Thursday

Partly Cloudy
chance of rain 10%



87° | 71°

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STREET TALK

September is National Preparedness Month - How do you prepare for emergencies and bad weather?

"We usually have water, flashlights, candles...just the basics you need for survival."



Geoffrey Hiltl
Commissary

"I get in bed and under the covers with my mom."



Emily Bast
Family member

"I've got a water generator, radio, batteries, and extra cash on hand... everything required in an emergency."



Ron Kravitz
Garrison
Occupational and Safety Specialist

"We make sure the generator works and that we have enough food and water."



Angela Collins
Exchange

"We have the usual items that you always hear about - a battery operated radio, water, and canned foods. It's actually all in a couple of boxes in the basement and it's always there."



Anthony Stampul
CECOM SEC

APG continues mosquito testing for West Nile Virus

By **AMANDA ROMINIECKI**
APG News

As part of APG's continued commitment to the health and safety of the community, the U.S. Army Kirk Medical Clinic Preventive Medicine unit at APG routinely identifies and samples mosquito breeding areas for the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV). These breeding areas include stagnant pools of water.

During a recent sampling event, a pool of standing water contained mosquitoes which tested positive for WNV. That pool was treated with larvicide to prevent mosquitoes from breeding further. Several other pools of standing water with mosquito activity that tested negative for WNV were also treated.

"Although there was a West Nile virus-positive result in only one pool of standing water, this does not constitute a health emergency," said Andrea Clark, Public Health Command spokesperson. "As members of the APG community you have a right to know what's going on and what is being done."

Earlier this year, the Preventive Medicine unit identified areas around post where standing water was common and set up mosquito traps, according to Chief of Preventive Medicine 1st Lt. Joanna Moore. Each week, samples are taken from each mosquito trap, which are then sent to Public Health Command - North at Fort Meade, Maryland for testing.

APG has sent samples totaling more than 1,000 mosquitoes to PHC-N for testing, according to Moore. Samples are groups of no more than 25 mosquitoes from one trap. Samples from each trap are sent weekly to PHC. Only one sample from APG has tested positive for WNV this year, she said.

After that sample came back positive for WNV, the Preventive Medicine unit initiated a program with the Directorate of Public Works to administer larvicide to standing pools of water on post.

"The best way to attack mosquitoes is to kill them while they are larva, before they become adults," Moore said.

The larvicide dissolves in the standing pool of water, where it is ingested by larvae, causing them to die. Future larvae and pupae will feed off of the larvae that died as a result of the larvicide, keeping the next two to three generations of mosquitoes from reaching adulthood, Moore said.

In addition to treating standing water with larvicide, the Preventive Medicine unit and the DPW have collaborated to drain identified areas of standing water on post, eliminating potential mosquito breeding areas, Moore said.

Preventive measures

APG is already conducting large-scale preventive measures but there are steps you and your family can take to further protect yourselves.

- Empty any pools or containers of standing water around your home where mosquitoes may breed.
- Keep doors and windows closed or used well-fitting screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET.



▪ Weather permitting; reduce the amount of exposed skin while outdoors by wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts, as well as socks.

▪ Avoid spending a significant amount of time outdoors during peak mosquito-biting hours, typically dawn and dusk.

"The best way for people to prevent themselves from getting West Nile is personal protection," Moore said. "When you're outside, you want to make sure you're applying DEET. When you're at the pool you think about applying sun block but places like pools are very susceptible to mosquitoes because they have a lot of standing water," she said.

Bug spray should contain at least 25 percent DEET, according to Moore, and should be re-applied every four to six hours.

West Nile Virus symptoms

WNV is most commonly transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito.

Most people infected with WNV will have no symptoms at all.

"About one in five people who are infected will develop a fever and possibly other symptoms such as headache or body aches," said Clark. "In a small number of cases, less than one percent, the symptoms are more serious and WNV can cause encephalitis, particularly among the elderly and those with weakened immune systems."

Although there are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent WNV infection, symptoms and complications of the virus can be treated with supportive care.

"To date there have been no cases of WNV reported at APG," said Clark. "However, if you are concerned that you or someone in your family might be experiencing negative health effects consistent with the symptoms of West Nile Virus, please see your primary care provider so that he or she can personally evaluate your symptoms and determine what, if any, medical treatment is necessary."

APG is committed to protecting the health and safety of our Soldiers, Family members, and the civilian and contractor workforce.

If you have identified an area of standing water that you believe has not been treated with larvicide, you can submit a work order to the DPW.

For more information about ongoing APG efforts to reduce the risk of contact with WNV-positive mosquitoes, please contact Sgt. Zi Liu, noncommissioned officer in charge for Kirk Preventive Medicine, at zi.x.liu.mil@mail.mil.

"I want the community to understand that there is absolutely no cause for concern about West Nile on APG," Moore said. "Almost every installation on the East Coast will have a WNV-positive mosquito sample during the mosquito season."

"The best thing you can do is to protect yourself utilizing common preventive measures," she said.

For more information about WNV symptoms, treatment and prevention, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) WNV site at www.cdc.gov/westnile or the the U.S. Army Public Health Command website: <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/discond/aid/Pages/WestNileVirus.aspx>

September is Army Suicide Awareness Month

"Enhancing Resiliency - Strengthening our Professionals"



If you're carrying more than you can handle, choose to let some of it go by letting someone else in. The APG Substance Abuse Program is here for you, providing confidential evaluations, counseling assistance and referral services for DA civilians, Soldiers, retirees and Family members.



For more information, call the ASAP office at 410-278-3784

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
87° 71°	89° 72°	88° 64°	79° 58°	78° 58°	79° 60°	76° 63°

APG NEWS

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Top of the Bay offers events with a view

By **ALAN FEILER**
Special contributor

Since reopening in November 2011 after a \$4.5 million renovation that closed the historic facility for 14 months, Top of the Bay has become a premier special events venue for military personnel, APG employees and individuals affiliated with the Department of Defense.

According to Teri S. Hall, business operations manager for the catering and conference facility at Top of the Bay, the venue was given a modern look but more period-appropriate for when the building was built.

Formerly the Officers Club, which was constructed in the early 1930s, renovations at Top of the Bay included infrastructure upgrades, new carpeting and color scheme, a commercial elevator, custom moldings and fixtures, and the installation of a video teleconferencing system.

"It changed everything about the interior here and made it more open, welcoming and inviting," Hall said. "It's been a huge success."

Nearly a decade into her job, Hall still finds herself getting tearful at some of the weddings that take place at the facility.

Not long ago, Hall helped coordinate the wedding ceremony and reception for a middle-aged couple who were both getting married for the second time. While accompanying the bride's adult son to the bridal suite to see his mother for the first time in her wedding gown, Hall said she couldn't help shedding a few tears.

"Some might consider me an emotional individual," she said. "However, I truly find joy in working with couples and families planning their special event."

She recalled another event when a couple released a swarm of butterflies to honor the groom's deceased mother who loved monarchs.

"What was particularly touching was that one of the butterflies stuck around during the entire ceremony," recalled Hall. "There wasn't a dry eye in the house, including mine."

"It's such an honor to be part of that day for people," she said. "When you're making someone's day or helping create their memories, it means a lot."

Last year, approximately 80 weddings took place at Top of the Bay, according to Hall. That's an increase from 50-60 weddings before the renovation. She predicts

the facility will be the site of about 75 nuptials this year, and weddings are booked well into 2016, though openings still are available this year.

"Over the last year, leadership has requested that we do some different things," Hall said. "We've wanted to expand our menu and have new options and bring more elegance with some freshness and new ideas."

That includes the hiring of a new Le Cordon Bleu-trained chef last November in addition to the 35 full-time, part-time and flex-time employees at Top of the Bay.

Top of the Bay is the area's premier location for luncheons, conferences, weddings, military and civilian balls and special private affairs.

The venue serves a buffet lunch, with sandwich and salad bars, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"Our staff is phenomenal," Hall said. "I can't do my job without the staff I have, from admin to custodial as well as the kitchen and waiting staff. Top of the Bay is successful because of them. I'm very blessed."

Top of the Bay's wedding business is primarily generated by word of mouth in the APG, military and local communities, Hall said. She said the facility receives about 80-90 wedding inquiries annually, with the overwhelming bulk of them booking either a ceremony and reception or just a reception.

"What makes us different, of course, is the water view," she said of Top of the Bay's picturesque vista of the Chesapeake Bay. "That's the biggest plus for us, and that we can have the ceremony and reception in one location. But also, we take a very strong interest in the bridal parties and what they want for their day. We go through it all with them so their vision is achieved. There's a lot of personalized service. It's the perfect venue."

When couples, or anyone seeking to plan an event, come to Top of the Bay for an initial appointment, they usually meet with catering director Richard Burdette to receive a tour of the facility and discuss the planned logistics of their upcoming day — projected number of guests, expectations for culinary items for the cocktail hour and main meal, plans for photography, music and centerpieces, etc.

Top of the Bay only provides catering, venue and waiting staff, but Hall said the facility works closely with couples, Family



Courtesy photo

Those who book special events at Top of the Bay often take advantage of the water-front view of the Chesapeake from the venue's second floor veranda. Since its renovation, Top of the Bay has become a premiere events venue for military personnel, APG employees and other individuals associated with the Department of Defense.

members and wedding planners to achieve the optimal event.

Top of the Bay also provides its Susquehanna Room as a bridal suite, the Old Baltimore Room for grooms and groomsmen, and a room in a building next door to the married couple for their wedding night. "It's included in the facility's fee as part of the service we provide," Hall said.

Hall said the average wedding reception at Top of the Bay features either buffet-style service or seated served meals with such main dishes as chicken, seafood, beef, steak or vegetarian fare.

"We try to be cost-effective and competitive with the outside," she said. "You get the elegance and class and view, but it's affordable."

No outside food is permitted at the facility, with the exception of wedding cakes. The charge for the bar is separate from the meal and based on consumption at any given event.

"Our main concern is to make sure guests have a good time and are able to leave the installation safely," Hall said.

Soaring eagles

Normally, wedding ceremonies at Top of the Bay are held on the second-floor veranda overlooking the bay, depending on the weather. Hall said bald eagles have

been known to fly by during ceremonies.

Cocktail hours are usually held in the adjacent Chesapeake/Mezzanine Room and dinners in the main ballroom on the first floor. Smaller receptions in the Chesapeake/Mezzanine Room can accommodate no more than 80 people, while a seated dinner in the ballroom has a capacity of approximately 300.

While weddings are held year-round at Top of the Bay, Hall said the busy season is May through October. She said the facility can hold a maximum of four weddings per weekend, including two on Saturdays, which is the most popular day for nuptials.

Besides weddings, conferences and special events for APG tenants and others, Top of the Bay has hosted bar and bat mitzvahs, rehearsal dinners, Family reunions, birthday parties, vow renewal gatherings, adoption parties and anniversary soirees.

"There's very little we haven't done," Hall said.

For information about Top of the Bay or reserving rooms for special events, contact the catering office at 410-278-2552; email Richard.G.Burdette2.naf@mail.mil; or call Hall at 410-278-3062, email teri.s.hall@us.army.mil or visit <http://apgmwr.com/community/totb.html#2>.

APG News begins observance of Vietnam War commemoration

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**

APG News

Few Americans had ever heard of the Gulf of Tonkin prior to Aug. 2, 1964 and those who did had no idea how a confrontation between three North Vietnamese torpedo boats and one U.S. destroyer in that gulf would change world history.

Congress awarded then President Lyndon B. Johnson the power to escalate American involvement and vastly increase the nation's military presence, making an official entry into a long and costly campaign – costly not only in dollars, but in American lives.

The U.S. armed forces' toll in the Vietnam War was 58,253 American lives and 153,363 wounded. In 1973, 2,646 U.S. military personnel were considered POW/MIA in South East Asia, with 1,971 in Vietnam, 575 in Laos, 90 in Cambodia and 10 in the Philippines.

With this issue, the *APG News* joins thousands of other organizations and programs around the country who are remembering the veterans of the Vietnam War during the official 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration. The *APG News* commemoration will include monthly profiles of local Vietnam War veterans sharing their stories about the roles they played in the conflict and focus on how the experience affected their later lives.

Highlights of the war's historic events and noteworthy engagements by America and its allies will be included along with the conflict's impact on APG, its Soldiers, mission and the surrounding community.

Objectives

In Accordance with Public Law 110-181 SEC. 598 and the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act which authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, the APG Vietnam War series marking the commemorative program includes the following objectives:

- To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as Prisoners of War (POW), or listed as Missing in Action (MIA), for



Courtesy Illustration

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Flag was created for the 50th anniversary of the war. Its colors honor all Americans – military and civilian – who served or contributed during the war as well as all POW/MIA and their Families; America's Allies; and the nations of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand where American forces served.

their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

- To highlight the service of the armed forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the armed forces.

- To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

- To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

- To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Flag

The traditional use of the color gold to signify a 50th anniversary was cho-

sen for the phrase "50th Anniversary" and symbolizes the specific mission of the Department of Defense program as outlined in the Congressional language "to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War."

A representation of the Vietnam Service Medal (ribbon) rests below the inner rings.

The red, white, and blue inner rings represent the flag of the United States of America and recognizes all Americans, military and civilian, who served or contributed to the Vietnam War effort.

The outer black ring serves as a reminder of those who were held as Prisoners of War or listed as Missing in Action during the Vietnam War. The black ring surrounds the red, white, and blue rings to call attention to their sacrifices, the sacrifices of their Families, and the defense of the nation's freedom.

Within the blue ring are the words "Service, Valor and Sacrifice:" virtues demonstrated by American forces during the Vietnam War. The gold-rimmed

white star located between the words "Service" and "Valor" represents hope for the Families POW/MIA veterans. The blue-rimmed gold star located between the words "Valor" and "Sacrifice" represents the surviving Families. The blue star at the bottom of the inner blue ring represents the Families of all veterans.

At the bottom of the inner blue ring are six white stars, three on each side of the blue star. These six white stars symbolize the contributions and sacrifices made by the United States and its allies: Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

The center circle contains a map of Vietnam in black outline relief, signifying Vietnam and its veterans. The subdued outlines of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and surrounding waters represent the areas where American forces served. The green laurel wreath signifies honor for all who served.

The phrase "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is a message to every veteran, civilian, Family member, and all who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War.

The seal's blue background is the same color as the canton in the United States Flag. The United States of America Vietnam War Commemorative flag is not for sale at this time. Organizations that become Commemorative Partners are eligible to receive the commemorative flag.

To become an official Commemorative Partner, organizations must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding. Applications are available at www.VietnamWar50th.com on the Commemorative Partner Program.

Questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process can be directed to: vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil.

Local contributions

Local veterans or APG civilians who served during the war and are willing to share their stories are encouraged to contact the APG News at 410-278-1148 or email yvonne.johnson5.ctr@mail.mil.

Lightning Risk Reduction

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors

NOAA.gov

There is little you can do to substantially reduce your risk if you are outside in a thunderstorm. The only completely safe action is to get inside a safe building or vehicle.

Seek shelter

You are not safe anywhere outside. Run to a safe building or vehicle when you first hear thunder, see lightning or observe dark threatening clouds developing overhead. Stay inside until 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder. Do not seek shelter under trees.

Plan ahead

Your best source of up-to-date weather information is a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). Portable weather radios are handy for outdoor activities. If you don't have NWR, stay up to date via a smart phone, radio or TV. If you're in a group, make sure the group has a lightning safety plan and are ready to use it. If you're in a large group, you'll need extra time to get everyone to a safe place. The NWS recommends having proven professional lightning detection equipment that will alert your group when lightning is nearing the event site.

Summer sports

Your little league team has an evening game at the local recreational park. The weather forecast calls for partly cloudy skies, with a chance of thunderstorms by early evening. When you arrive at the park, you notice the only safe buildings are the restrooms. Shortly after sunset, the sky gets cloudy and you see bright flashes in the sky. What should you do? Get everyone into vehicles or the restrooms. Do not stay in the dugouts; they are not safe during lightning activity. Once in a safe place, wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before resuming play.

While at beaches/lakes

Your family plans to go to the beach today. The weather forecast calls for a nice morning followed by a 30 percent chance of afternoon thunderstorms. When you get to the beach, you see that the only nearby structures are open-sided picnic shelters. The parking lot is a five minute walk from the beach. By early afternoon skies are darkening and you can hear dis-



Courtesy photo

Six Soldiers were injured in a lightning strike at Fort Drum, New York during a field exercise Aug. 22. An average of 51 people are killed each year by lightning in the U.S. and hundreds more are injured. Remember – during a storm, the safest place to be is indoors

tant thunder. What should you do? Go to your car. Do not seek shelter under the beach picnic shelters. Wait 30 minutes until after the last rumble of thunder before going back to the beach.

Camping and other wilderness activities

You're cooking dinner on the camp stove when you hear distant rumbles of thunder. Your tent and a large open-sided picnic shelter are nearby. Your vehicle is about a quarter of a mile away parked at the trail head. What should you do? Go to your vehicle. The tent and picnic shelter are not safe places. Wait 30 minutes until after the last rumble of thunder before going back to the campsite.

When a safe location is not nearby

Those who cannot get to a vehicle, here are tips from the National Outdoor Leadership School on what to do in the back country, in a canoe, etc., as a last resort.

Remember, there is no safe place outside in a thunderstorm. If you absolutely can't get to safety, you may be able to slightly lessen the threat of being struck by lightning while outside, but that does not make you safe. Don't kid yourself--you are not safe outside.

Know the weather patterns of the area you plan to visit. For example, in mountainous areas, thunderstorms typically develop in the early afternoon, so plan to hike early in the day and be down the mountain by noon. Listen to the weather forecast for the outdoor area you plan to visit. The forecast may be very different from the one near your home. If there is a high chance of thunderstorms, stay inside.

These actions may slightly reduce your risk of being struck by lightning:

- Avoid open fields, the top of a hill or a ridge top.
- Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees.

- If you are camping in an open area, set up camp in a valley, ravine or other low area. Remember, a tent offers NO protection from lightning.

- Stay away from water, wet items (such as ropes) and metal objects (such as fences and poles). Water and metal are excellent conductors of electricity. The current from a lightning flash and easily travel long distances.

Motorcycles and bikes

Protect yourself when on a bicycle, motorcycle or dirt bike. Carry a portable NOAA Weather Radio or listen to commercial radio. If you see threatening skies in the distance and you are near a safe building, pull over and wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before resuming your ride.

On the water

The vast majority of lightning injuries and deaths on boats occur on small boats with no cabin. It is crucial to listen to weather information when you are boating. If thunderstorms are forecast, do not go out. If you are out and cannot get back to land and safety, drop anchor and get as low as possible. Large boats with cabins, especially those with lightning protection systems properly installed, or metal marine vessels are relatively safe. Remember to stay inside the cabin and away from any metal surfaces. Stay off the radio unless it is an emergency.

Scuba diving

If the boat you are in does not have a cabin you can get into during lightning activity, then you are safer diving deep into the water for the duration of the storm or as long as possible.

Cavers

Cave entrances are dangerous during thunderstorms. Small overhangs can allow arcs to cross the gap. Even caves that go well into the ground can be struck, either via the entrance or through the ground. Going well into a cave increases your safety somewhat. Once as deep into the caver as possible, avoid touching metal, standing in water and touching both the cave ceiling and floor.

For more information, go to <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors.htm>.

'Resolve to be Ready' for any emergency

Ready.gov

Some disasters strike without any warning and Family members may not all be in the same place. How will you get in touch with each other? Where will you meet? How will you get out of your house in case of a fire? What if your neighborhood is being evacuated?

September is National Preparedness Month, reminding everyone that it's important to take time to make a plan now so that you will know what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in an emergency.

This year's "Resolve to be Ready" campaign focuses on family connection to reinforce the importance of parents including their children in preparedness conversations in advance of potential disasters. The campaign makes an emergency preparedness resolution easy to keep by recommending Families consider these three ideas when making a plan: who to call, where to meet and what to pack.

Sit down with your Family and develop your own emergency communication plan today.

Who to call

It's important for Family members to "check in" during an emergency. You and your Family may not be together when a natural disaster occurs. By knowing who to call, you can be reassured of your Family's safety, even if you aren't together.

BE DISASTER AWARE



TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE



AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!



Pick the same person for each Family member to call or email during an emergency. Keep in mind, it might be easier to reach someone who's out of town.

When "checking in," text whenever possible, unless your safety is in danger. It may be easier to send a text, if you have a phone, and you don't want to tie up phone lines for emergency workers.

Keep Family contact information in your cell phone, as well as written down on a piece of paper to keep in your wal-

let. Kids should keep contact information in a safe pocket of their backpack or taped into the front of their school notebook. If they have a cell phone, it should be put in there too.

Where to meet

Your Family can eliminate some of the fear and avoid a sense of chaos that may ensue during an emergency by knowing where to meet if you get separated.

Create a fire escape plan for your home that has two ways out of every room. Be sure to practice the escape plan twice a year. For older children, make sure they know how to get out of the house on their own.

Choose a meeting spot near your home where everyone should go during an emergency and practice getting there.

Your Family should also choose a spot outside of your neighborhood in case you can't get home in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency. Practice getting there from school, your friends' houses, and after school activities.

What to pack

Families should work together to build an emergency kit before an emergency strikes. There should be enough food, water, clothing, and supplies to last for at least three days.

Here are some important items an emergency kit should have:

- Water – at least a gallon per person, per day
- Non-perishable food (such as dried fruit or peanut butter)
- First aid kit
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap
- Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils, paper towels
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Whistle to signal for help
- Can opener (manual)
- Local maps
- Pet supplies
- Baby supplies (formula, diapers)

For more information about building an emergency kit for your Family, visit <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>.

While disaster can strike at any time, you can ensure your Family is prepared. Check your cell phone to make sure you have Wireless Emergency Alerts enabled to get emergency warnings on-the-go. You should sit down as a Family to develop an emergency communication plan that works best for you.

For more information about National Preparedness Month and making your Family ready for an emergency, visit <http://www.ready.gov>.

Leave Donations

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); or OPM 630- B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). Please contact Cathy Davis at 410-306-0152/ DSN 458-0152 or cathy.a.davis4.civ@mail.mil.

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| Adams, Dwayne | Martino, Rose |
| Barnes, Jennifer | McCauley, Adrienne |
| Birch, Garfield | McClintick, Jill |
| Blethen, Lena | McDonald, Scheree |
| Blethen, Matthew | McIntire, Melinda |
| Cannon, Marcy | Petterson, Gerhard |
| Clark, Lyra | Rapp, Debra |
| Clelland, Patricia | Robinson, Jennifer |
| Crum, Laura | Rodgers, Christopher |
| Dennison, Natalie | Rodriguez, Pedro |
| Doran, Kemi | Russell, James |
| Dunston, Samuel | Russell, Melissa |
| Eberhardt, Joanne | Schaible, William C. |
| Ferrell, Patricia | Sheckelford, Angela |
| Gaddis, Lonnie | Thurman, Terry |
| Grimsley, Sylvia | Walsh, Sharon |
| Hacker, Kelly | Williams, Demetria |
| Jacobs, John | |
| James-Stewart, Sonya | |
| Kennedy, Sandra | |
| Keshishian, Gale | |



ALL THINGS MARYLAND

A treasure trove of natural history

By **ALAN FEILER**
Special Contributor

Soldiers Delight; the name itself inspires curiosity and confusion. No one is exactly sure where the name comes from, but the Soldiers Delight Natural Environmental Area is an oasis of natural wonder and conservation glory in the midst of the suburban sprawl of northwest Baltimore County.

For generations, hikers, nature lovers, ecologists, geologists, rock collectors and other visitors have enjoyed the area's more than 1,900 acres of trails, hillsides, streams, barrens, chromium mines and wildlife.

The nature preserve - which borders Owings Mills, Reisterstown and Randallstown - is part of the Maryland Wildlands Preservation and Patapsco Valley State Park systems. It is home to more than 39 threatened or endangered plant species, as well as rare insects, minerals and rocks.

According to Colonial records, the Soldiers Delight area was originally a hunting ground for Native Americans. It is believed that the name was likely coined by British soldiers in the late 17th century who patrolled the area from a nearby garrison. Back then, it was known as Soldiers Delight Hundred.

During the Civil War, Soldiers Delight was the site of several minor skirmishes between Union troops and Maryland Volunteers of the Confederate Army.

In the 19th century, the mines at Soldiers Delight, along with those in Baltimore County's nearby Bare Hills area near Mount Washington, were the world's largest producers of chrome. The chromium ore mines at Soldiers Delight date back to the 1820s.

One of chromium mines, the Old Choate Mine, which operated from 1839 to 1886 and then briefly again during World

War I, is open to visitors. Its entrance is located just across the road from the Soldiers Delight Visitors Center.

Over the decades, mining industry profits rose and fell, depending on the nation's demands for chromium. In the early years, chromium was used in yellow paints, then for munitions and armaments. The last of the mines at Soldiers Delight closed after World War I.

Meanwhile, Soldiers Delight - which was once described by a writer as a "2,000-acre hunk of the American West dropped into Maryland" - has been long noted for its geological splendors. In particular, the preserve is considered the largest and most diverse of the remaining serpentine barrens on the East Coast.

Soldiers Delight's topography brims with an abundance of metamorphic rock called serpentine, the result of the epoch in which the continents collided and

pulled apart. The result is bedrock of deep origins that is filled with iron, chromium and nickel, located fairly close to the ground's surface.

Due to conservation efforts over the past four decades, the grasslands and oak tree savannah at Soldiers Delight offer a glimpse into what the region looked like prior to the European settlement. Tours of the preserve are available, as well as guided hikes of the area by seasoned tour guides.

Exhibitions on the area's history, geography and conservation efforts, as well as nature lectures and storytelling hours, are available at the Soldiers Delight Visitor Center.

The Soldiers Delight Natural Environmental Area is located at 5100 Deer Park Road in Owings Mills. For information, call 410-461-5005 or 410-922-3044, or visit <http://www.soldiersdelight.org/>.

39

Number of threatened or endangered plant species, as well as rare insects, minerals and rocks found at Soldiers Delight



Photo by Molly Blossie

The Soldiers Delight Visitor Center, where these two Barred Owls reside, has a reference library and exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the area. Located at 5100 Deer Park Road in Owings Mills, Maryland, the visitor center is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday, weather permitting.

RDECOM salutes STEM outreach hero

By **DENNIS NEAL**
RDECOM

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECO), recognizes employees who go above and beyond in support of science, technology, engineering and mathematics educational outreach.

At this time, RDECOM salutes Cassandra Reilly.

Reilly is a chemical engineer with RDECOM's Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC). She has a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Lehigh University and she began working for the Army right out of college.

"I applied through the career website that we had at Lehigh," Reilly said. "I got an email one day saying the Army was looking for engineers. I wasn't sure if they meant people to be in the Army or working for the Army. I thought about it for a day and I was like 'You know what? I'll just apply.'"

Reilly said she came to APG for an interview in May 2012 and was offered the job.

"I work for the power division [at CERDEC]," she said. "I started off testing batteries. I've since moved to solar. One thing we do is use a solar simulator to test solar panels for their efficiencies, the power they can provide. We'll do environmental testing with them, different temperatures, different situations just to make sure they're performing how they should."

Reilly didn't get involved with STEM outreach right away, wanting to establish herself on the job first.

"About eight months later an event came up," she said. "It was Arbor Day/Earth Day. My mentor at the time said he was involved with it and asked if I wanted to do it. I said, 'Sure, why not?'"

"We demonstrated our reduced trailer, a hybrid alternative energy system. We had it powering a TV. The kids loved that," Reilly said. "What they were seeing on the screen was coming



Photo by Conrad Johnson
Cassandra Reilly mentors sixth-grade students during the eCYBERMISSION National Judging and Educational Event at Leesburg, Va., June 16. RDECOM salutes Reilly, a chemical engineer with the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center. She is being recognized as a STEM Hero for her efforts in promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics educational outreach.

from the sun and that blew their mind. That was really great."

She also served on a STEM panel at a local high school. The event was for STEM students to questions working engineers and scientists.

"It was really informal," she said. "The students had questions they had written down ahead of time. When I was in high school and applying, I really didn't know too much about it, so actually being able to share my knowledge on it was, I think, by far my favorite event so far."

Since then, Reilly has judged for the Army's eCYBERMISSION science

competition for sixth- through ninth-grade students.

"It was online judging," she said. "I got mission folders that kids had done, different kinds of projects ranging from bacteria on hands to safety on bicycles. They had to do a regular hypothesis, work through a problem and write how it affected their community and their results. It was kind of like an online science fair."

"They submitted online, it was blind," she said. "I didn't meet anybody. I just went through folders and graded them based on certain criteria."

Students in the competition com-

peted online at local, state and regional levels. Regional winners traveled to Leesburg, Va., for the eCYBERMISSION National Judging and Educational Event. Reilly volunteered and served as a mentor during the NJ&EE, working with sixth-grade student finalists.

She said it was very rewarding and she would encourage other engineers and scientists to take time out of their schedules to get involved with STEM outreach.

"You never know what is going to be said or done to pique a child's interest in STEM," she said, "and you could be that difference."

Send newspaper submissions to the APG News

Community members are asked to send all submissions for the APG News to usarmy.apg.imcom.mbx.apg-pao@mail.mil, and CC amanda.r.rominiecki.civ@mail.mil. Type APG NEWS SUBMISSION in the Subject Line. You should receive a response within three business days letting you know that the submission has been received. If you do not receive a response, please call 410-278-7274 to inquire.



Kyle Lacey

CYSS Sports Program Assistant

As a Child and Youth Program Assistant (CYPA), Kyle Lacey helps the Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) sports program run smoothly.

Lacey has a variety of job responsibilities, from cutting grass and lining the field, to teaching children, ages 2 to 18, about physical fitness and nutrition. He has served in this position since 2010.

During the school year, he leads the Smart Start program at APG's three Child Development Centers. Start Smart is a six-week, parent-child activity designed to introduce children, ages 3-5, to sports, like basketball, soccer and baseball. The program focuses on teaching children the basic sports mechanics and is noncompetitive.

Lacey also teaches Triple Play to school-aged children enrolled in the CYSS summer camp program. Triple Play is a Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA) initiative that teaches children the importance of adopting healthy habits.

Throughout the year, Lacey facilitates clinics, camps and competitive sports, run by CYSS Sports. Prior to an event, he checks the equipment and the field thoroughly to make sure conditions are safe for children. During an event, he is available to provide assistance to the coach, if needed. He also serves

as a referee for youth soccer and flag football games.

Additionally, Lacey serves as Aberdeen High School's varsity lacrosse coach. He said it is satisfying to know he can make a difference in a child or teen's life. Lacey said his parents played a big role in his decision to work with children.

His mother, Tina, is a retired Harford County Public Schools teacher and his father, Jerry, helped start the Harford County Boys and Girls Club.

"What I like most about my job is that I get to work with children of all ages," Lacey said. "I like seeing children progress and grow."

He added that he likes that he has a very active job, as opposed to a "desk job."

"I like that I don't have to wear suits every day," he said. "I can wear tennis shoes and sports attire."

Before working at APG, Lacey worked at the Boys and Girls Clubs in Aberdeen and in Bel Air. As a child, Lacey participated in APG's junior golf program, and other sports. Currently, Lacey plays on several local lacrosse teams.

For more information about the CYSS Sports Program, visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/child-youth-school-services/child-and-youth-sports> or call 410-306-2297.



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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>

Meteorologist invaluable to ATC mission

Story and photos by **LINDSEY MONGER ATEC**

At the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command's Aberdeen Test Center, Kelly Fling, supervisory meteorologist and the first female to lead one of the ATEC meteorology teams, has been found to be an invaluable asset.

ATEC conducts the Army's test mission to find truth in data and provide the Army with the information needed to make decisions about the acquisition of new and improved capabilities.

"As we've just celebrated Women's Equality Day, we remember the significance of the contributions women in defense have made throughout the years in service to our Army and our nation," said Karen Taylor, ATEC chief of staff. "Kelly and her team make an impact every day to our Army as they support our Aberdeen Test Center's test mission."

Born and raised in Wisconsin, Fling earned her bachelor's degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. After graduating, she decided to head southwest to Tucson, Arizona where she completed her master's degree in Atmospheric Science at the University of Arizona.

Upon earning her master's degree, Fling was hired as an intern in 2004 with the Federal Career Intern Program, now

called Pathways. Ten and a half years later, Fling is leading the meteorology mission at the test center.

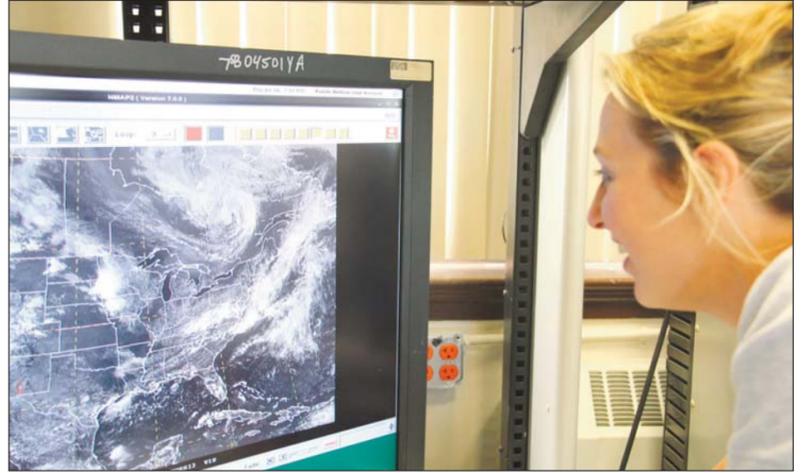
"When I graduated, I never thought I would be an employee of the Department of the Army," said Fling. "I was not exposed to the military throughout my childhood, like many other people [who work here] are," Fling said.

Fling supervises a four-person team that works with Army testers and evaluators to provide weather reports and other related data important to the successful testing of the Army's new and existing systems and capabilities.

"It's kind of great here. There's never a dull moment here and there's always something interesting going on. Either something I have never seen before, or something I have never done," Fling said. "It's not the monotonous weather surveillance of day-in and day-out, sunny, clear, it goes beyond that."

A designated Major Range Test Facility, the Army's Aberdeen Test Center is the Defense Department's lead agency for land-combat, direct-fire, and live-fire vulnerability testing.

The meteorology team at ATC is responsible for providing weather data to test range experts on Aberdeen Proving Ground. This data helps testers plan and schedule tests for days with the best weather conditions given



Kelly Fling, Aberdeen Test Center chief meteorologist, monitors the weather at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. Fling is the first woman to lead a meteorology team at ATEC.

the test requirements. "We are trying to minimize noise pollution and pollution from the open burn and detonation activities," Fling said. "We are doing what we can to accomplish the mission without adversely affecting the surrounding community."

"Additionally, if we see that severe weather may impact APG, we start the communication process with the emergency operations center along with issuing advisories from what we are observing," she said.

One of the daily responsibilities for the meteorology team is to release packages tied to balloons which are then sent into the atmosphere to collect the temperature, wind, dew point, humidity and density, according to Fling. The information collected is not only used for forecasting efforts but also helps establish the noise model for that day.

Fling, who was put into a position of leadership early in her career, was the first female to become a permanent meteorology branch chief not only at ATC but amongst all seven ATEC meteorology teams. To date, she remains the only female meteorology team lead within ATEC.

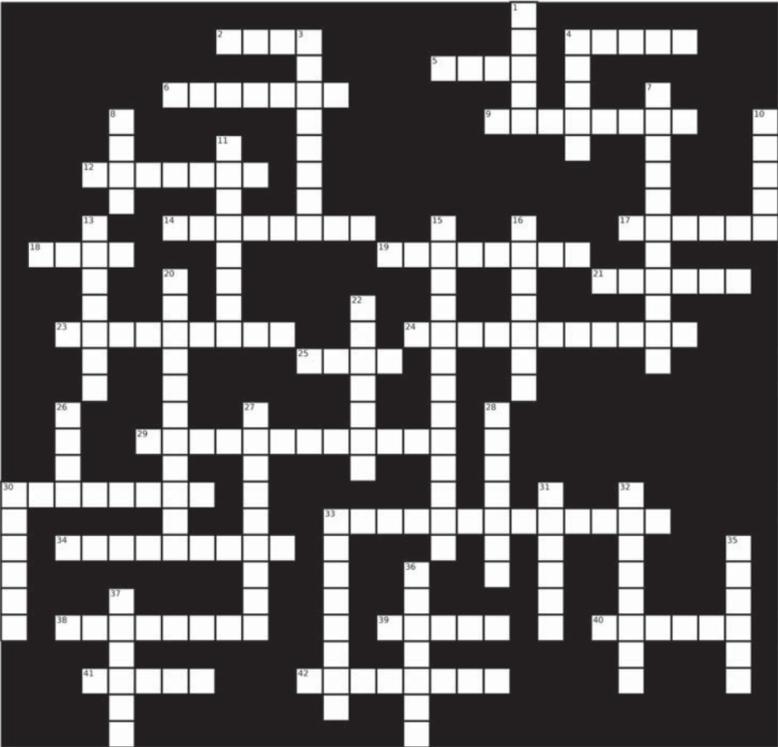
"Kelly has really furthered our team [progress] by opening up more opportunities for testing around APG, which has led to an increased workload. Instead of saying 'no we don't want to get involved,' Kelly says 'how can we get involved and what can we do to support you,'" said Mike Padovani, a meteorologist on Fling's team. "Personally, I can't think of anyone else better, to be as good as her, in her position."

Fling said her experience with the ATC Meteorology team would have never happened if she was not willing to relocate and she advises new college graduates to be mobile and ready for change as they look for career opportunities. "If you're not willing to relocate then you have limited yourself expedientially," she said. "I was willing to go from Wisconsin to Arizona and from Arizona to Aberdeen and it was a big sacrifice. It's not easy and it was scary but, thankfully, this worked out for me."

Aberdeen Test Center meteorologist, Mike Padovani, releases a weather balloon tool into the sky at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to take measurements on temperature, weather, humidity, and other weather conditions that may affect test range activities. This information is shared with test range experts every day and is considered vital to test mission activities at ATC.



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**
- Bug spray should contain at least 25 percent
 - KUSAHC chief of preventive medicine
 - American _____ Language
 - Maryland _____ Safety Office
 - Mount Washington mines were largest producers of this ore.
 - National _____ and Atmospheric Administration
 - Communications-Electronics, _____, Development and Engineering Center
 - STEM hero
 - National Council on Alcoholism and _____ Dependence
 - National _____ Month
 - Performance Triad System for _____
 - Go indoors when you see this
 - Child _____ Center
 - National Environmental _____
 - September is also National _____ Month
 - Registered dietician and nutrition lead
 - National Defense _____ Act
 - Army _____ Abuse Program
 - Top of the Bay catering director
 - ATC supervisory meteorologist
 - Substance Abuse and _____ Health Services
 - He racked up 1,128 receiving yards in 2013
 - A _____ Nation Thanks and Honors You

- Floating site of Japanese surrender during World War II
- September is Army _____ Awareness Month
- National Judging and Educational Event
- _____ to be Ready
- Set for October 24-25, 2014
- _____ Pianos perform
- Sept. 11, 2014
- Top of the Bay business operations manager
- This is used to kill mosquito larvae
- Military _____ Dogs
- Viktor, Poker and _____
- Warrior _____ Symposium
- It's everyone's Delight!
- Restoration _____ Board
- ATEC chief of staff
- K-9 Team Leader
- Decided use of atom bomb against Japan

Solution to the August 28 puzzle



WORD OF THE WEEK

Facile

Pronounced: FAS-il

Part of Speech: Adjective

Definition

- Moving, acting, working, proceeding, etc., with ease, sometimes with superficiality; not showing enough thought or effort
- Easily done, performed; used or comprehended with ease
- Easy or unconstrained, as manners or persons.
- Affable, agreeable, mild or complaisant; easily influenced: a facile temperament; facile people.

Use:

- This problem needs more than just a facile solution.
- While adults find the video game complicated, children find it facile and easily played.
- The young chess player found that defeating the learned master was not as facile as he had believed.
- The instructor scolded the dancer; calling her attempts to complete the complicated routine, facile and half-hearted.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News

ACRONYM OF THE WEEK

CFTC

U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission



The mission of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) is to protect market participants and the public from fraud, manipulation, abusive practices and systemic risk related to derivatives – both futures and swaps – and to foster transparent, open, competitive and financially sound markets.

The CFTC mission is to protect market participants and the public from fraud, manipulation, abusive practices and systemic risk related to derivatives – both futures and swaps – and to foster transparent, open, competitive and financially sound markets.

Congress created the CFTC in 1974 as an independent agency with the mandate to regulate commodity futures and option markets in the United States.

For more information, visit <http://www.cftc.gov/>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 7

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

Garrison Command Chaplain (Lt. Col) Jerry Owens invites the APG community to the Annual Back-To School Fair, 1 to 5 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) chapel.

Activities will include a moon bounce, dunk tank, Bingo, cake walk, children's games, hot dogs, hamburgers and more.

No RSVP is needed.

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

MONDAY - TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 8 & 9

POST GAS STATION CLOSURE

The post gas station located at the Express store on Harford Boulevard will close for repairs to the gas pumps Monday, Sept. 8 and Tuesday, Sept. 9. Gas purchases cannot be made during this time. Service is expected to resume Thursday, Sept. 11.

For more information, contact Debbie Armendariz, Exchange manager, at 410-278-6828 or email armendariz@aafes.com.

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 10

2014 WARRIOR-FAMILY SYMPOSIUM

The Military Officers Association of America will co-host the 2014 Warrior-Family Symposium at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. The event, "Transitioning Forward: Warrior, Military Families and Civilian Communities," will be held 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration starts 7:30 a.m.

The symposium will provide a forum through panels and workshops for government and non-government organizations to explore the issues and needs service members, veterans, Family members and caregivers face when tackling the transition to civilian life while managing combat-related stress, mental health or behavioral health care concerns.

Keynote speakers include Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, and Medal of Honor recipient retired Sgt. Kyle White.

To register or to view the complete event agenda, visit www.moaa.org/wfs.

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 11

DUELING PIANOS RETURNS

Enjoy an evening of musical hilarity as Dueling Pianos returns to APG. The slapstick, often spontaneous show features two talented pianists who interact with the audience while taking requests for classic rock, pop, R&B and Country tunes. The show starts 7 p.m.; doors open 5 p.m. at Top of the Bay. Space is limited to 200 guests. Call ahead for reservations of six or more. A cash bar and food will be available for purchase. This show features adult entertainment. Ages 21 and older only will be admitted.

For more information, call the Leisure Travel Office at 410-278-4011/4907; email usarmy.APG.imcom.list.apg-usag-mwr-leisuretravel@mail.mil, or visit www.apgmwr.com

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 14

BLUE CROSS/SHIELD CLAIMS

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has arranged for a claim representative from Care First Blue Cross/Blue Shield to be available to discuss claim problems and plan coverage 9:30 -11:30 a.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326, room 120.

The representative also will be available 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in APG South (Edgewood) at Bldg. E2800 (JPEOCBD), rooms 103/104. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, contact Teri Wright at 410-278-4331 or email teresa.l.wright28.civ@mail.mil.

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 16

ASL CLASS

An American Sign Language class at APG South (Edgewood) begins Sept. 16 and runs through Dec. 16. Class will be held 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bldg. E3330-31, room 270. This is a basic to advanced class. Participants can bring their lunch. The text book "ABC, A Basic Course in American Sign Language" is required. There is no charge for the class.

To register, or for more information, contact BethAnn Cameron at 410-

436-7175, bethann.cameron.civ@mail.mil; or Randy Weber at 410-436-8546, randy.k.weber.civ@mail.mil.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 16 & 17

CSSC TO HOST JLUS WORKSHOPS

The Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor (CSSC) will host public workshops about the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on the following dates: Tuesday, Sept. 16 at the HEAT Center, 1201 Technology Drive, room 130 in Aberdeen; Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the Cecil College Tech Conference Center, One Seahawk Drive, room 208 in North East, Maryland; and Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the Kent County High School auditorium, 25301 Lambs Meadow Road in Worton, Maryland.

The JLUS will explore impacts of community development on APG and will make recommendations to promote land use compatibility and collaboration.

For more information, visit www.apgjlus.com or contact Karen Hold, regional BRAC manager, at 410-273-4708, klholt@harfordcountmd.gov.

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 17

RESILIENCY HEALTH FAIR

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will host a Resiliency Health Fair 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center, Bldg. E4140.

The health fair will offer free screenings for vision, blood pressure, spinal scan, and body mass index. Subject matter experts and materials regarding nutrition, immunization, tobacco cessation, veterans medical benefits and more, including a Zumba session, also will be available.

This event is open to members of Team APG including Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, contractors and Family members.

For more information, contact Sue Singh at 410-278-1771, Sunaina.singh.civ@mail.mil, or Dominique Davis at 410-278-6666, dominique.davis1.ctr@mail.mil.

WOA MEETING

The U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association's Aberdeen-Edgewood "Silver" Chapter will hold its quarterly meeting at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326, room 102. Lunch will be provided 11:30 a.m., the meeting is noon to 12:45 p.m. For more information, contact retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Owen McNiff at 571-243-6561/443-861-1936 or email omcniff@yahoo.com.

FORT MEADE JOB FAIR

Fort George G. Meade will host a Community Job Fair 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Club Meade, 6600 Mapes Road. This event will feature local, state and national employers and a free Resume Doctor evaluation and preparation assistance service. Shuttle service to and from Fort Meade's Smallwood Hall parking lot to Club Meade will be provided. To request ASL service, contact Jerome Duncan at jerome.duncan@maryland.gov. This event is open to all job seekers. Those not in possession of a DOD ID card and sticker on their vehicle must enter the installation through the MD Route 175 at Reece Road gate. All individuals must present a photo ID. Drivers must present a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. For more information, go to www.ftmeademwr.com.

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 18

APG MOTORCYCLE MENTORSHIP RIDE 2014

Team APG will host the 2014 Motorcycle Mentorship Ride 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting from the Main Exchange parking lot. After a safety check and briefing, riders will head to the Harley Davidson Factory in York, Pennsylvania for an open house event featuring food vendors, dealer tents, live entertainment and more.

To enter APG riders must wear:

DOT approved helmet, ¾ or full-faced; brightly colored long-sleeve shirt, jacket or reflective vest; full-fingered gloves; over the ankle shoes/boots.

Military personnel must carry MSF card.

KSU (kickstands up) at 8 a.m.

For more information, contact HHC Garrison 1st Sgt. Daniel Nelson at 410-278-3000; or Mike Allen at 410-207-8442.

RESTORATION ADVISORY

BOARD

The next meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board will be held 7 p.m. at the Ramada Edgewood Hotel and Conference Center, 1700 Van Bibber Road in Edgewood. Topics will include an update on the Military Munitions Response Program, including sites in APG North (Aberdeen) and South (Edgewood).

For more information, contact Karen Jobs at 410-436-4429 or email karen.w.jobs.civ@mail.mil.

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 19

POW/MIA 5K

In recognition of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Team APG will host the 2nd Annual POW/MIA 5K Run/Walk 6:30 a.m. starting from Hoyle Gym in APG South (Edgewood). Running shirts and t-shirts are available for purchase. For more information, contact Capt. Serena Ness at 410-417-3250, Capt. Drew Miller at 410-417-3251, or Capt. Anthony Caltabiano at 410-417-3245.

MONDAY-FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 22-26

RX/OTC TAKE BACK CAMPAIGN

The Army Substance Abuse Program will host a Take Back Campaign for Prescription (RX) & Over-the-Counter (OTC) medicines starting 7 a.m., Monday, Sept. 22 through 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26 at locations throughout APG North (Aberdeen) and APG South (Edgewood). The campaign will provide designated locations where people can drop off expired or unneeded RX or OTC medicines.

Take Back Campaigns are held by law enforcement agencies and community action groups nationwide to keep dangerous drugs out of the hands of children or abusers.

Locations will be announced within the coming weeks.

For more information, contact Cindy Scott, ASAP prevention coordinator, at 410-278-4013 or email cynthia.m.scott4.civ@mail.mil.

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 30

EXCELLENCE IN ACQUISITION LECTURE SERIES

Retired Lt. Gen. William Campbell will offer new insights for today's Army as the first speaker in the new Excellence in Acquisition Lecture Series starting 1 p.m. in the Myer Auditorium. This event is free and open to the entire APG workforce.

MONDAY

OCTOBER 6

STRIKE OUT AGAINST

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Team APG will host a Strike Out Against Domestic Violence bowling tournament to raise awareness about domestic violence 5:30 p.m. at the APG Bowling Center, Bldg. 2342, every Monday night in October starting at 5:30 p.m. Cost of \$7 per person includes three games, shoes and a chance to win prizes. Food will be available for purchase at the Strike Force Cafe. Register by Oct. 1. For more information contact Lora Owens, bowling center manager, at 410-278-4041 or email lora.l.owens2.naf@mail.mil.

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 15

DRIVING AWAY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To raise awareness about Domestic Violence, Ruggles Golf Course will host a Driving Away Domestic Violence Purple Ball Challenge. Registration for the four-person scramble- Captain's Choice begins 3 p.m. with a 4 p.m. shotgun start. The tournament is open to men and women. Cost of \$30 includes golf, cart, food and prizes. For more information, or to register, call 410-278-4794.

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 18

MILITARY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

Save this date for APG's Annual Military Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) to be held at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center. Registration begins 8 a.m. with the opening ceremony at 9 a.m. This year's guest speaker is John Radke, Chief of Army Retirement Services, Headquarters, Department of the Army. More details to follow.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY

OCTOBER 24-25

APG OKTOBERFEST DATES SET

The APG Oktoberfest returns Friday, Oct. 24 from 4 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 25 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center and surrounding grounds.

Attractions will include a Festhalle; opening ceremony with keg tap; German inspired food, beverages and entertainment; inflatables and games; Family Zone with clowns, caricatures and balloon animals; Volksmarch, car and bike show, and a Main Street Festival with local crafts, vendors and community tables.

This event is open to the public.

More information will follow in the APG News and on the TeamAPG website www.TeamAPG.com, and Facebook page www.Facebook.com/APGMd.

MORE ONLINE

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

BY THE NUMBERS

Kicking off the Baltimore Ravens 2014 season

- 71,008**
The number of seats in M&T Bank Stadium
- 3,912**
Joe Flacco's total passing yards in the 2013 season
- 1,128**
Torrey Smith's total receiving yards in the 2013 season
- 320**
Total points scored in 2013
- 9**
The number of times the Ravens have made the playoffs since 2000
- 2**
The number of Super Bowls the Ravens have won since moving to Baltimore in 1996

By RACHEL PONDER AND YVONNE JOHNSON, APG News
(Sources: www.baltimore Ravens.com and www.nfl.com)

APG NEWS

This Week in APG News History

By YVONNE JOHNSON, APG News

50 Years Ago

Sept. 3, 1964

Clockwise from left:
(From left) Lt. James Montgomery and Chief Warrant Officer Robert Dunleavy, voting officers for the Ordnance Center and School, examine voting posters that will be distributed for the upcoming fall elections.

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Connolly, a U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School calibration instructor, uses an electronic comparator to measure the accuracy of a metal gage block.

Mrs. Raymond Alessio dabs a final coat of paint on a ceramic piece she completed for the upcoming APG Arts and Crafts Contest.



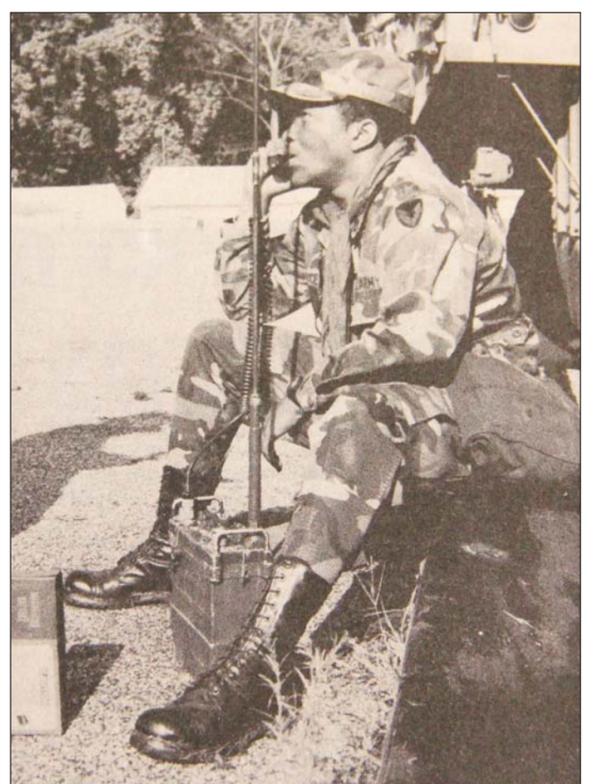
25 Years Ago

Sept. 6, 1989

Clockwise from top left:
(From left) Teresa Myers, Mickey Morales and Mary Eck rehearse a scene from the APG Players production of "Roman Conquest" in preparation for its debut set for Sept. 22, 1989.

Staff Sgt. David Pryce maintains radio communications with support elements at the tactical operation center during a U.S. Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center field training exercise at the Gunpowder Military Reservation.

Barbara Kahler, a caregiver with the Edgewood Area Child Development Services pauses for a photo with David Hayes. Kahler has 24 years with CDS and was born next door in Bldg. 1645 which was once a hospital.



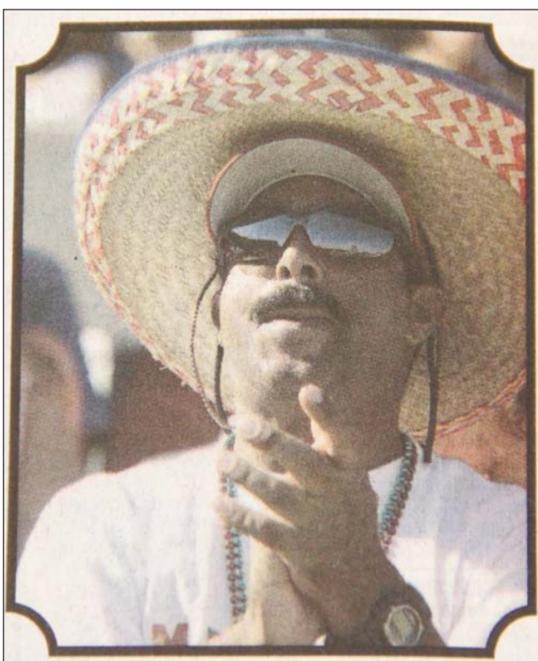
10 Years Ago

Sept. 2, 2004

Clockwise from left:
Sgt. 1st Class Saul Martinez, with the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit, wears a sombrero to cheer on Team Mexico during the Cal Ripken World Series. Martinez and his wife Cynthia of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine hosted players from the team.

Shelly Saunders, a captain with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory putts for a first-place win in the APG Ladies Tournament of the APG Club Championship. Patrick Hinch won his third consecutive championship.

(From left) Brig. Gen. William Lenaers and his wife Lorel congratulate retirees 1st. Sgt. Pamela Irle, Noncommissioned Officer Academy; Susan Krs of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and Marilyn Rood and her husband Duane of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine during a retirement ceremony at Top of the Bay Aug. 25, 1989.



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

Back to School Campaign focuses on improving student performance

By **DAVID VERGUN**
ARNews

"A ready and resilient Soldier needs a ready and resilient family," said Maj. Bethany A. Belanger, registered dietician, nutrition lead for Performance Triad System for Health.

A great way to make this happen, she said, is by getting parents and children engaged on the importance of sleep, activity and nutrition: the three pillars of Performance Triad.

The Back to School Campaign focuses on getting the entire Family involved in setting up their children for success, she added.

Belanger offered some useful tips that will increase children's health and performance in school.

Sleep

School-aged children need more sleep than adults: about eight-and-a-half to 11 hours per night, Belanger recommended. Roughly 30 to 40 percent of children are not getting enough.

Because kids can be high-strung, especially in the evening, it's important to create an environment conducive to sleep. An hour before bedtime, parents should initiate "winding down activities," she said.

Turn off the TV, end social media and computer game time and cease physical activity at least an hour before sleep. These activities are stimulating and make it difficult for children to fall asleep. Instead, she offered, have them read a book or take a warm shower, things that induce relaxation.

Activity

Throughout the day, children sit way too much, she said. Sedentary behavior can lead to weight problems and hinder



Photo illustration by Peggy Frierson

The Back to School Campaign focuses on improving student performance through better sleep, activity and nutrition, the pillars of the Performance Triad.

their school performance. Regular physical exercise activates children's brains, helping them to focus and pay attention in school.

Rather than recommending specific exercise regimens, Belanger said the basic idea is to get kids to move and burn off excess energy. They should accumulate at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily.

Besides formal exercise plans and school sports, Belanger said kids can go to the playground, walk the dog and have recreation time with their parents. These simple recreational activities are fun, easy to plan and increase time spent together as

a family.

Nutrition

It's been said many times that breakfast is the most important meal, and that's true, Belanger said, especially for children heading out to school.

Breakfast will boost students' energy levels, thereby improving their cognitive performance and help them focus better on their lessons, she said.

The best plan is for the entire family to eat breakfast together -- and other meals as well, she said. Having family time together at meals promotes good nutrition habits,

as well as social development.

To save time, prepare part or all of breakfast the night before and spend a few hours on the weekend preparing foods for weekly Family meals, she said.

For children, healthy meals and snacks should include about 50 percent fruits and vegetables, as well as whole grains, dairy, lean protein and healthy fats such as nuts. Food choices from each food group should be natural as opposed to processed, she said, adding that's the same advice for adults.

Parents also need to monitor their children's caffeine intake. "You can get caffeine from many sources besides coffee," she said. Soda, tea and energy drinks are other common sources and their effect is cumulative. Many sources can also be high in sugar and calories. Consuming caffeinated drinks regularly impacts children's health and their ability to pay attention and focus in school.

Caffeinated beverages also impact a child's sleep. Belanger recommends children not consume caffeine at all and especially not within six to eight hours of bedtime.

Instead, she offered, drink milk or water. For the sweet tooth, she said a good replacement for soda is fruits, which are naturally sweet and contain vitamins, minerals and fiber.

Parents also need to get into the habit of reading labels on food products, Belanger said. Fat, calories, salt, sugar, additives, and ingredients should all be monitored.

Finally, Belanger said that while it's a tall order for parents to monitor their children's sleep, activity and nutrition, they have the "biggest influence" on their kids. Also, it's not just enough "to tell your kids what to do. You have to be the role model."

Bond is critical for handlers and working dogs

Continued from Page 1

All four officers and their MWDs are up for their yearly recertification in two weeks.

"After that we'll start working the road more...checking cars, searching for any explosives. We'll do building searches and respond to calls when a vehicle needs to be searched," Vertz said.

Of course not every dog meets the stringent requirements to become a MWD. The officers note that some breeds, such as German shepherds and Belgian Malinois, are more adequately suited to the job due to their keen intelligence and capacity for obedience.

"Now they're trying to make a hybrid between the two breeds," Colbeck said.

Even with a strong pool of puppy candidates, MWD breeders whittle their search down to the cream of the crop.

"They have a certain form that they look at as far as prey drive and their search behaviors," Rondone said.

Aggression is a good trait, poor health problems in the bloodline are not. And although they are known as pack animals, their socialization with each other is kept to a minimum.

"We don't let them play together because they're all alphas, so they all want to be dominant," Basi said.

"Poker is the smallest one but he's the instigator," added Rondone with a smile.

Handlers develop a discerning eye for their dog's individual health and wellness, providing first-responder care if a dog requires medical attention in an effort to prevent problems before they develop.

"At [the] handler's course we start with the very basics - learning about the dogs, their health, how to take care of them...real basic stuff like looking in the eyes and nose, making sure there's no cuts or bruises on the pads. It's something you learn to do every single day," Rondone said.

The officer's first-responder skills extend beyond simple first aid. Rondone said that training includes performing a tracheotomy if a K-9 gets something lodged in its throat and how to put a needle in its stomach to release pressure when the stomach is twisted.

For handlers, training K-9s is a lifelong process.

"If you go a couple of days without training your dog, the dog starts to forget it. So you have to train your dog every day on the explosives or the narcotics. And each dog is trained for either one or the other. So you have to constantly train them on that one thing and keep them up to par," Vertz said.

The officers noted that spending



Photo by Stacy Smith

(From left) Officer Anthony Basi and Military Working Dog Poker, a Belgian Malinois, confront a 'suspicious person' played by Officer Jeremy Rondone during a controlled aggression demonstration at the APG working dog kennels.

time with their dogs goes a long way toward keeping them working at their maximum potential.

"We have to build a rapport and a bond with them," said Rondone. "We play with them, take them for runs...it gives them exercise which is good and it also builds that relationship."

For properly executing an exercise or command, the K-9s are rewarded with their favorite toy, such as a rope or a Kong. Kongs are snowman-shaped, rubber toys with hollow inside for treats. Poker in particular enjoys playing with his Kong after running the outdoor obstacle course but treats are off limits.

"The dogs don't usually work for treats," Basi said, "We don't want them gaining weight."

The MWDs follow a strict diet adapted by their off-site veterinarian, Capt. Amanda Jeffries, from Dover, Delaware. Jeffries checks on the K-9s twice a month. If an emergency occurs, they are either transported to her clinic or to a medical facility off post.

The officers said they take good care of their WMD's not only because they belong to the military, but because they are, in their desire for discipline, exercise and affection, like any average dog.

"We're not your typical working dog section because we're all civilians," said Vertz. "Most military kennels are strictly by the book; the dogs are considered equipment."

"They're not equipment; they're dogs, and we treat them like it. We play with them but they do their job," he said.

Even with proper training or enough experience, some of the dogs that make it past the APG gate aren't cut out for a working dog's life, such as 6-year-old German Shepherd Danzel.

"He doesn't have an aggressive bone in his body," Colbeck said.

The majority of dogs that come to APG are newly certified working dogs with no real-life experience in danger zones, but Danzel is the exception. Stationed in Iraq as a foreign service dog when an improvised explosive device hit him, Danzel lost his tail in the explosion and he arrived at APG diagnosed with a canine case of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

"He's been through a lot. You can tell because when we let him outside he will run in circles and circles," Rondone said.

"If you were to put Danzel in a sterile environment, he's the greatest dog

ever. But once the explosions or once the loud noises happen, he just shuts down. There's no room for him in this program. But he's going to make the perfect pet," Colbeck said.

Colbeck and his family recently adopted Danzel and, though little is known about the effects of PTSD in dogs, they say he's getting along just fine.

"We go on walks with him all the time. My wife rides a bike and she holds him on a leash and he runs right next to her bike," Colbeck said, adding that he's hopeful that new research will shed light on the condition.

"They have special behavioral analysis now down in Lackland and they're doing a huge study on dogs who have PTSD. They try to rehabilitate them to go out into the field again," he said.

The emphasis is on rehabilitation but Colbeck said that 80-90 percent of the dogs do not return to the field.

When a dog is ready for retirement, either by age or circumstance, they're usually put up for adoption to a good home.

"There's a program in [Washington] D.C. where anybody can adopt a retired military working dog. You fill out a resume and they'll try to fit you with a dog that works for your situation. So if you have a Family, they'll find a dog that's good with kids. If you are single and want a dog for security, they'll find a more aggressive dog. They try to adopt every single dog that's out there," Colbeck said.

Officially, the military does not consider working dogs as Soldiers, but Colbeck says that may be changing.

"There's a big push now to get them (dogs) looked at as Soldiers. If a dog's in combat, then some recognition should go towards that dog," he said.

The police officers are all former service members and have all known each other for about 10 years. Some of them attended the police academy together.

"Somehow we all just made it to the same place at the same time," Rondone said.

"This (job) was my goal when I was in the military," added Vertz.

When asked why they applied to become MWD handlers and what they think about the job now, the response is unanimous.

"It's definitely the best job I've ever had," Rondone said.

For more information about the DOD's Military Working Dog's program, visit <http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2006/working-dogs/>. Or for information about how you can adopt a Military Working Dog, visit <http://www.save-a-vet.org/d7/adopt>.

National Recovery Month marks 25th anniversary

Continued from Page 1

embrace treatment, recovery and support through outreach and support services.

The APG Army Substance Abuse Program seeks to promote a message celebrating recovery and resiliency, as part of its mission is to strengthen the overall fitness and effectiveness of the Army's total workforce and enhance the mission readiness of Soldiers.

This year's Recovery Month theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Speak Up, Reach Out," encourages people to openly discuss – or speak up about – mental and substance use disorders and the reality of recovery.

It aims to foster public understanding and acceptance of the benefits of prevention, treatment and recovery from behavioral health conditions. The annual observance also promotes ways individuals can recognize these issues and reach out to help others, as well as themselves.

Why Is Speaking Up and Reaching Out Important?

Speaking up and Reaching Out to assist those who suffer from substance abuse or mental illness is important because it affects the overall health and well-being of individuals, Families and society as a whole.

According to SAMHSA, in the United States it is estimated that nearly one out of every five adults or about 43.7 million people have been diagnosed with a mental illness and approximately 22 million people have been classified with substance dependence or abuse.

Individuals with mental illnesses have increased risk for a number of physical health problems, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and smoking. According to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, addiction is a family disease that impacts the stability of the home, the family as a unit, family finances, and overall family dynamics.

Because addiction impacts the entire family, it is imperative that the family is connected to resources, supportive networks, and other entities that can provide assistance.

A person with a mental and/or substance use disorder may find it difficult to take the first step toward finding help, but reaching out for support can make a positive impact.



Recognizing the signs and symptoms of a mental health or substance use problem is the first step toward obtaining help and getting better. Once individuals are aware of their health condition, they can take the necessary steps to seek assistance.

As we focus on the future we are challenged to continuously engage our Soldiers, veterans, civilian employees, and our community in taking active roles in their overall health. While good physical health is important, mental and emotional wellness is also important.

This year's Recovery Month observance focuses on ways the mental health and substance use recovery community can use to connect with four different audiences that play distinct and important roles in helping others, or themselves, find a path of recovery.

SAMHSA identifies faith leaders, young adults and youth, first responders and policymakers among the individuals who play distinct and important roles in helping others find a path of recovery.

While these identified groups play important roles in advocating for recovery, everyone's voice is needed to empower and

educate the community with a shared vision of recovery.

Reach Out for help

You are not alone in your efforts toward recovery and sobriety. It is more important now than ever to reach out to those in need. Reaching out benefits individuals, families, and communities.

According to SAMHSA promoting social, mental, physical, and emotional well-being leads to higher productivity, better educational outcomes, lower crime rates, lower health care costs, improved quality of life, and improved family life.

When someone is coping with an addiction or mental health problem one of the most difficult things to do is to admit that there is a problem. If you realize that you or someone that you know has a mental health or substance abuse problem, contact a mental health or substance abuse provider.

The APG Army Substance Abuse Program offers services for alcohol and substance abuse treatment, employee assistance program services, and substance abuse and suicide prevention services. These services are open to active duty service members

and their family members; civilian employees and their family members; and retirees and their family members.

The APG ASAP office is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday. For more information, call 410-278-DRUG (3784) or visit the office, Bldg. 2477 on Chesapeake Ave.

Individuals seeking care after hours should contact the Harford County Crisis Mobile Team at 410-638-5248. In an emergency, always dial 911.

To see a list of local Recovery Month events and available resources, visit www.samsha.gov.

Join the Health Promotion Council in celebrating resiliency, recovery and wellness on Wednesday, Sept. 17 for a Resiliency Run/Walk at CAPA Field at Aberdeen South (Edgewood). The run/walk will be followed by the Resiliency Health Fair at the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center, Bldg. E4140, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information about the Resiliency Health Fair, contact Sue Singh, 410-278-1771 or Dominique Davis, 410-278-6666.

DID YOU KNOW?

Japan signed formal surrender documents ending WWII 69 years ago on Sept. 2, 1945.

Sometimes referred to as VJ Day, the Japanese signing of formal surrender documents marked the Allied victory of the Japanese empire that started with the bombing of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

After Germany's defeat in May 1945, the United States embarked upon a huge logistical effort to redeploy more than a million troops from Europe, the United States and other inactive theaters to the Pacific region.

According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, the aim was to complete the redeployment in time to launch an invasion of Japan on Nov. 1.

By the time the war in Europe ended, some 150,000 men had moved from Europe directly to the Pacific, but a larger transfer from the United States had scarcely begun. In the Pacific, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur and Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz had been sparing no effort to expand ports and ready bases to receive the expected influx and to mount invasion forces.

By midsummer of 1945 most responsible leaders in Japan realized that the end was near. In June, those favoring a negotiated settlement had come out in the open, and Japan had already dispatched peace feelers through the Soviet Union, a country it feared might also be about to enter the war in spite of a nonaggression treaty between the two nations.

As early as the Tehran Conference in late 1943, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin had promised to enter the war against Japan, and all agreed at Yalta in February 1945 that the USSR would do so three months after the defeat of Germany. At the Potsdam Conference in July 1945, the Soviet Union reaffirmed its agreement to declare war on Japan. The United States, Britain, and China issued the Potsdam Declaration calling upon Japan to surrender promptly; at about the same time, President Harry S. Truman decided to employ the newly tested atomic bomb against Japan in the event of continued Japanese resistance.

Despite the changing climate of opinion in Japan, the still-powerful Japanese military blocked negotiations by insisting on fighting a decisive battle to defend the empire's home shores. Thus the Japanese government announced its intention to ignore the terms of the Potsdam Declaration. Accordingly, on Aug. 6, a lone American B-29 from the Marianas dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. On Aug. 9, the Soviet Union entered the war, and a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The next day Japan sued for peace and on Aug. 15 announced its surrender.

On the morning of Sept. 2, 1945, the Allied and Japanese delegations met aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay for the formal signing of the surrender documents. After finishing an eloquent introductory statement, Gen. MacArthur directed the representatives of Japan to sign the two instruments of surrender, one each for the Allied and Japanese governments. They were followed by representatives of the United States, China, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, and New Zealand.

World War II had formally ended, and President Truman declared Sept. 2 to be the official VJ (Victory over Japan) Day.



Courtesy photo
Japanese Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu signs the instrument of surrender, Sept. 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Yvonne Johnson, APG News
Source: <http://www.history.army.mil/>

School bus safety not only for students

Continued from Page 1

bus either from the front or rear, the driver should also slow, remain vigilant, look for pedestrians and exercise due care and caution," Rykiel said.

Yellow flashing lights indicate that a bus is preparing to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop.

Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate a bus has stopped and children will be getting on or off. According to the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO), all motorists approaching from either direction must come to a complete stop and wait until the red lights stop flashing before proceeding.

"If the bus is stopped the driver of the approaching vehicle should also stop not closer than 20 feet from the bus. The driver may not proceed until the red flashing lights are turned off on the bus or the bus begins to proceed," Rykiel said.

All school buses in the state of Maryland are required to come to a complete stop at a railroad crossing. Motorists behind a bus approaching a railroad crossing should slow down and wait for the bus to safely cross the tracks.

Tips for kids

According to the MHSO, a school bus is the safest way for a child to get to school – but it is still important for children to follow safety guidelines when riding the bus.

Sit down with your children and review these tips:

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. If rushing to catch the bus, children may run across the road and get hit by a passing vehicle.
- When the bus approaches, stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb, and line up away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- When getting on the bus, stay away from the danger zone, a 10 foot radius surrounding the bus on all sides, and wait for the driver's signal. Board the bus one at a time.
- When getting off the bus, look before

stepping off the bus to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder. Move away from the bus.

▪ Before crossing the street, take five "giant steps" out from the front of the bus, or until the driver's face can be seen. Wait for the driver to signal that it's safe to cross.

▪ Look left-right-left when coming to the edge of the bus to make sure traffic is stopped. Keep watching traffic when crossing.

▪ Use the handrails to avoid falls. When exiting the bus, ensure clothing with drawstrings and bookbags with straps don't get caught in the handrails or doors.

▪ Never walk behind the bus.

▪ Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus.

▪ If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.

Rykiel reinforces the importance of crossing the street in front of the bus. Children should always cross in front of the bus, never to the rear, and make sure the driver of the bus sees them, he said.

"As always, it is a good idea for the kids to look for oncoming traffic before crossing and not simply rely on the bus to stop traffic for them," Rykiel said.

According to Harford County Public Schools, nearly 500 school buses service 35,000 of the district's students daily, travelling more than 8 million miles a year.

Because the traffic laws are the same on and off post, so are the fines. Failing to stop for a stopped school bus operating red flashing lights is a \$570 fine, carrying with it three points added to motorist's driver's license.

Failing to remain stopped for a school bus operating red flashing lights is also a \$570 fine, with two points added to a driver's license. If that offense contributes to an accident, it's three points.

"This is a serious offense with substantial fines and points assessed on the licensee," Rykiel said. "Traffic safety is taken very seriously here on post and throughout the state. Traffic Safety Is Public Safety."

For more information about school bus safety, visit <http://mhsos.mva.maryland.gov> or www.nhtsa.gov.

20
Number of feet a driver should stay back from a bus when it is stopped

APG SNAPSHOT

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



PWOC OPENING SHOWCASE GETS MEMBERS IN THE SPIRIT

The APG Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) kicked off its fall semester with a showcase at the APG North (Aberdeen) chapel Aug. 28. The group meets 9:30 a.m. to noon each Thursday. The PWOC is open to all women of Christian denominations who reside at or near APG. For more information, contact Serenity Coats at serenitycoats@hotmail.com

Clockwise from top left:

(From left) Carol Bruce laughs as Amy Shipley and Melissa Harland greet each other with a hug; (From left) Tina Butler and Tomika Fort chat about the PWOC-Pulse Prayer Team.; Marian Frankenhauser leads a prayer prior to the meal; Crue Whittington, 23 mos. has his eye on a piece of cake; (From left) Elizabeth Cullen and her baby John Christopher, 7 mos., get into the spirit of the quiz show game with Stacy Gibson; Tyrra Cornelious wears a tiara while discussing a PWOC showcase display with Fran Hayward.

Photos by Molly Blossie



Photo by Stacy Smith

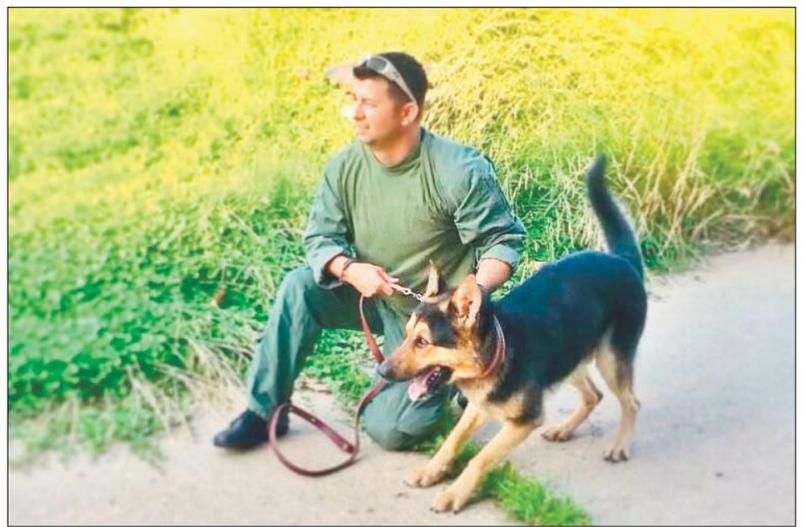


Photo by Officer Nicholas Vertz



Photo by Stacy Smith

ALL IN A DAYS WORK FOR THESE CANINES

Clockwise from Left:

Officer Jeremy Rondone role-plays a non-compliant person as he lifts Military Working Dog Blecky off the ground during a controlled aggression demonstration; Officer Jeremy Rondone poses with his MWD, Viktor; Military Working Dog Blecky pushes himself to the top of a climbing wall as his handler, Officer Nicholas Vertz, looks on.

Visit us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/APGMd>