



APG NEWS

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Civilians enhance leadership skills

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

In partnership with the Army Management Staff College, or AMSC, team APG hosted a four-week Civilian Education System, or CES, Advanced Course for 64 Army civilian leaders Feb. 26 to March 17 on APG North (Aberdeen).

AMSC Director Kim Summers said civilians with GS-13 to GS-15 or equivalent experience attend the course, which teaches strategic and critical thinking skills and improved planning, communication and decision-making. Course topics include national security, global events and Army strategic issues.

"Each one of the students will synthesize the information and then apply it to make their organizations better," Summers said.

Due to high demand, eight instructors from the AMSC in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas formed the mobile education team, or MET, that facilitated the Advanced Course at APG. METs regularly travel to Army installations with

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APG youth greet NASA astronaut



By **STACY SMITH**
APG News

Three APG teens recently received the experience of a lifetime when they accompanied Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President Joe Biden, to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas to greet returning astronaut Scott Kelly March 2.

Aberdeen High School, or AHS, students, senior Kelly Pysh, 18, sophomore Brandon Casquete, 16, and junior Sara Decker, 17, were accompanied by AHS science teacher Yvonne Gabriel. They said they barely slept during the 20-hour, whirlwind trip that included meeting the Vice President and the Second Lady at the White House, being

transported by motorcade to Andrews Air Force Base, near Washington, D.C., and flying Air Force Two, the Boeing C-32 used to transport the vice president, to Houston and then back to Maryland.

The three students were selected to accompany Biden because they are the chil-

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(Above) Vice President Joe Biden, center, meets with Aberdeen High School students and APG family members, from left, Sarah Decker, Brandon Casquete, science teacher Yvonne Gabriel and Kelly Pysh at the White House before the four embarked on a trip to Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas with Biden's wife, Dr. Jill Biden, to greet returning astronaut Scott Kelly March 2.

(Left) NASA astronaut Dr. Kjell Lindgren, left, describes life aboard the International Space Station to Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden, center, and three APG youth from Aberdeen High School who accompanied her to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas March 2.

Courtesy photos

Retreat focuses on Strong Bonds

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

Thirteen military couples interested in sustaining and improving their relationships attended a Strong Bonds training retreat at the Vandiver Inn in Havre de Grace, March 17.

During the retreat hosted by Deputy Garrison Chaplain Capt. Jonathan Ginder, Chaplain Assistant Spc. Joseph Freeman and the APG Religious Support Office, couples took a quiz examining how they express love and discussed the book "The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate" by Gary D. Chapman.

Programs like Strong Bonds, Ginder said, help create more resilient Army families.

"A Soldier's marriage directly impacts readiness," he said. "A healthy marriage, I believe, creates healthier people and better Soldiers."

Strong Bonds also provides a safe environment for couples to work on their communication skills.

"I have seen a lot of careers and marriages saved from these type of events," he said.

Ginder, who has eight years of experience coun-

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From left, Pfc. Cody Hinchee, of the Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, and his wife, Sierra Hinchee, and other couples, participate in a communication exercise during the Strong Bonds marriage retreat at the Vandiver Inn, in Havre de Grace, March 17.

DoE grant funds Edgewood energy plant



By **STACY SMITH**
APG News

The U.S. Department of Energy has released a \$682,770 grant to the Garrison Directorate of Public Works, or DPW, to fund the ongoing construction of the Combined Heat and Power, or CHP, energy plant at APG South (Edgewood).

The grant was awarded in 2015 through the Federal Energy Management Program's 'Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies' funding opportunity. APG Installation Energy Manager Devon Rock applied for

See **GRANT**, page 18

Construction continues on the new CHP, or Combined Heat and Power, plant at APG South (Edgewood). The project is partially funded through a Department of Energy grant, and production at the new facility is tentatively scheduled for June.

Courtesy photos

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STREET TALK

Which team are you rooting for during March Madness?

I am pulling for Maryland, the home team. I generally root for teams in the ACC [Atlantic Coast Conference].



Staff Sgt. Jamal Washington
A 3rd ADA

I am rooting for Kansas, because they have enough of my money and gave me a master's degree.



Maj. John Cullen
ATEC

I think Kansas has a good shot of winning. I find March Madness exciting, and there are a lot of upsets this year.



Pat Fillers
Family member

Since my bracket already got tore up, I am rooting for Maryland. They haven't made the Sweet Sixteen [the regional semi-finals] since 2003.



Pfc. Dylan McKee
A 3rd ADA

My husband is glued to the television during March Madness, and occasionally I will watch with him. I am rooting for the Indiana Hoosiers since my husband went to Indiana University.



Mona Kadow
Family member

Demo of new voting machines set for March 31

Installation Voting Assistance Office

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Installation Voting Assistance Office has coordinated with the Harford County Board of Elections, or HCBoE, to conduct a demonstration, March 31, of the new voting machines for the State of Maryland.

According to Voting Assistance Officer Larry Tyson, the demonstration, which will include the use of a paper ballot and scanner for casting votes, will be held at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center ballroom from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Members of the HCBoE will be available to answer questions and provide information about voter registration eligibility, absentee voting, election judge positions, and students enrolled in Maryland institutions of higher education.

New voting system

In 2007, the Maryland General Assembly passed Chapter 548 of the 2007 Acts (House Bill 18) requiring a new voter-verifiable paper record voting system to

replace the touchscreen voting system. Budget concerns delayed funding for the new system until 2014. The State Board of Elections' contract to lease new voting equipment was finalized in December 2014, and the system will be used in the 2016 presidential elections.

Maryland's new voting system is a voter-verifiable paper based solution leased from Election Systems and Software (ES&S). Voters will mark a paper ballot and then feed the ballot into a ballot scanner. The ballot scanner will read and count the voter's selections and the ballot will drop into a locked ballot box. When voting ends, the system produces a total report of each vote from the paper ballots.

If you make a mistake marking your ballot, let an election judge know right away. In most cases, the election judge will void or cancel the ballot and give you another ballot. If the ballot scanner finds an error, it will let you know. If you have an error, an election judge can give you another ballot. A voter is only allowed two replacement ballots.



Courtesy photo
The APG Voting Assistance Office and the Harford County Board of Elections will host a demonstration at APG March 31 of the new State of Maryland voting system to be used in the upcoming 2016 elections.

Veterans encouraged to join Burn Pit Registry

By **HANS PETERSEN**
Veterans Health Administration

Did you serve in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn, Djibouti, Africa, Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm or the Southeast Asia theater of operations after August, 1990?

Do you think you may have been exposed to burn pits and other airborne hazards?

Some veterans have reported respiratory symptoms and health conditions that may be related to exposure to burn pits. The long-term health effects of exposure to burn pits and other airborne hazards are not fully understood. In an effort to better understand these health effects, the Department of Veterans Affairs, known as the VA, has launched the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry for veterans and service members.

"While nearly 61,000 veterans and service members have joined the Burn Pit Registry since its launch nearly two years ago, this is only a small fraction of the estimated 3 million individuals who may be eligible to join this registry," said Dr. Stephen Hunt, National Director of VA's Post-Deployment Integrated Care Initiative. "I encourage as many eligible individuals as possible to sign up for the Burn Pit Registry."

Since the early 1980s, Hunt has conducted registry exams for the Agent Orange, Former POW, Gulf War, Ionizing Radiation, and the Airborne Hazards and the Open Burn Pit Registries. According to Dr. Hunt, the Burn Pit Registry will help Veterans in a number of ways.

The registry gives participants an opportunity to document any concerns they may have about deployment-related exposures and provides an opportunity to obtain a free health evaluation by a VA or DOD provider. The evaluation can identify and document any problems potentially related to the exposures and ensure ongoing follow up for any exist-



Photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter, illustration by Veterans Health Administration

ing health conditions or any additional conditions that could emerge down the road.

One challenge when addressing environmental exposures is that the long-term health effects of those exposures may be or when those health concerns might arise is unknown. Some exposures don't lead to any long-term problems. Others, however, may have long-term or downstream health effects that aren't identifiable early on. Through the registry, if health conditions related to exposures do emerge months or years later, we will be able to identify them more quickly and to make sure that veterans get the health care that they need in a timely manner.

A common misunderstanding about the registry is that participation is required to obtain disability compensation benefits. This is not true. The burn pit registry and all other VA registries are unrelated to the disability compensation rating process. While a Registry note in your medical record summarizing your exposure concerns and related medical treatment may serve as evidence to sup-

port a claim, it is not a necessary document or step in the claims process.

The registry is open to anyone who served in:

- Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn
- Djibouti, Africa on or after Sept. 11, 2001
- Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm
- Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after Aug. 2, 1990

"Ultimately, our goal in VA is to have 22 million healthy veterans using VA services and resources as needed to ensure that they enjoy the most meaningful, satisfying, and productive lives possible," Hunt said.

"The Burn Pit Registry is a nice way for veterans to get their foot in the door at the VA and to explore the services, benefits and resources available to them through VA health care."

For more information, and to join the registry, visit <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>.

See Something

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

Provided by the INTEL DIV/DPTMS

Say Something

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- Unusual contacts on or off post.
- Unusual aerial activity near or around installation.
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APG NEWS

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Taco Rico food truck offers new lunch option for APG South

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

Taco Rico, a food truck featuring Mexican cuisine, is now open for business on APG South (Edgewood).

Owner Rick Ashworth, a retired chief warrant officer, said he saw a need for more places to eat on APG South, so he decided to start his own business. Military spouse and Chef Don Amato manages the mobile operation.

Taco Rico menu items feature popular Mexican fare like tacos, burritos, quesadillas, salads and wraps. Customers can choose one of three types of meats – pollo picante (spicy chicken), barbacoa (slow roasted beef) and carne asada (marinated steak) – with their entrée and vegetarians have the option to order an entrée with the veggie “especial,” a meat substitute.

Ashworth called Taco Rico meals “healthy and filling,” and said the menu selections are based on his own recipes.

“I grew up in California and have a lot of Hispanic friends,” he said. “They taught me how to cook Mexican food, like tamales and tacos. Mexican food is my favorite, I could eat it every day.”

Ashworth said the business, which officially opened in December, is growing in popularity through word-of-mouth.

“Every week it gets better,” he said. “The business has taken off fast.”

According to Ashworth, another popular item is Jarritos, a Mexican soft drink brand.

“The big draw is that it [the drink] is made out of cane sugar, not processed sugar,” he said.

Manager Don Amato said he has worked on several mobile food trucks throughout his career, and he called managing Taco Rico “his passion.”

“My favorite [type of meat] is the barbacoa,” he said. “It is like a home cooked Mexican meal.”

Amato said all of the food is pre-



(Above) Taco Rico manager and Chef Doni Amato prepares an order.
(Right) The most popular menu item at the new food truck is the “taco special” featuring two tacos, black beans and rice.

pared on the food truck, except for the organic mango salsa and pico de gallo, which is purchased from a local company.

He added that the most popular menu item is the “taco special,” which comes with two tacos, rice and black beans.

Customer Sharon Lattimer-Harris, a contractor for the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense said she appreciates having a new lunch option on APG South.

“It is very convenient to not have to go off post for lunch; I can just walk

across the parking lot to get a delicious lunch,” she said.

David Dickson, a contractor for the JPEO-Guardian, said he appreciates the variety of food offered at the mobile food truck.

“It is something to look forward to,” he said.

Ashworth said he is currently looking for help with the lunchtime rush.

“This would be a good job for a college student, or a military spouse who wants to work while their children are in school,” he said.



Lunch is served 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Taco Rico food truck parks in several locations on APG South throughout the week. For more information about locations and specials, visit www.tacoricomd.com, call 443-637-2688, or search for “TacoRicoMD” on Facebook.

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

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mary Woods, Deputy PEO for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

With more than 30 years of service as a government civilian, Mary Woods said she likes knowing that through her job she can serve Soldiers and her country.

A member of the Senior Executive Service since 2013, Woods serves as the Deputy Program Executive Officer for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical, or the DPEO C3T. Her duties include assisting Program Executive Officer Gary Martin in managing the worldwide organization of about 2,000 people charged with developing, acquiring, fielding and supporting the Army's tactical communications network.

She said she originally thought she would work for local government, but her experience with the Presidential Management Fellows program, formerly known as the U.S. Presidential Management Internship, influenced her decision to work for the Army.

"When you start [working for the government], you don't think you are going to stay forever, but then you like what you are doing and feel like you are making a difference," she said.

As Woods advanced in her career, she said taking on leadership positions has been a "natural career progression."

"I joke with people that I was born into a leadership position, because I am the oldest girl in a family of 10." She also said

Over the past 30 years, Woods said she has observed improvements in opportunities for women in the workplace.

"When I first started working for the Army, I would go to meetings and be the only woman in the room," she said. "I



Photo by Yvonne Johnson, APG News
Deputy Program Executive Officer for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical Mary Woods, standing, reviews a file with executive assistant, Tia Harper. Woods, a member of the Senior Executive Service, has worked as a government civilian for more than 30 years.

think that it has gotten a lot better."

Woods said she doesn't regret making her children a priority earlier in her career.

"I am sure there were opportunities I did not take advantage of, because I wanted to be at home at night with my children when they were younger," she said. "You might have to pause, but not put your career on hold, while you raise your children."

One of the benefits of working for the federal government, she said, is that it allows for individuals to maintain a bal-

ance between their careers and their personal life.

"You work a set amount of hours, usually, and you get time off to do things, that you wouldn't necessarily get in a private organization," she said.

Woods describes her leadership style as collaborative, and values the importance of mentorship.

"I have always had an open door policy," she said. "And I try to mentor the people that work for me."

According to Woods, PEO C3T is in

the process of setting up a formal mentoring program that requires GS-14, 15 and supervisory employees, to take mentoring training. She said the program should positively impact employees.

"It will give the more junior people in the workforce someone to get advice from, and bounce ideas off of," she said.

Those who aspire to achieve leadership positions should take the time to learn their job and enjoy each step along the way, she added.

"Become proficient at your job, and then look for something else," she said. "Allow yourself the time to get to that point and set realistic goals. Ask yourself if you are really ready for that leadership position."

Woods formerly served as the director of Battle Command for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, also known as ASA (ALT), from October 2000 to September 2005. In this position, she directly supported the Army acquisition executive in the oversight of more than 80 programs under PEO C3T, PEO Enterprise Information Systems and Joint Program Executive Office Joint Tactical Radio Systems.

Prior to being selected as the DPEO C3T, she served at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, as the director of Operations and business management for the PEO from 2005 to 2010.

Woods holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of South Florida as well as a master's degree in business administration from Georgetown University.

PHC repeats as intramural basketball champions

Story and photos by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

The Army Public Health Center-HHC team, also known as PHC-HHC, completed a season-long quest and outlasted Team Grape Jam Jelly, 58 to 49 to repeat as APG intramural basketball post champions during the deciding game at the APG North (Aberdeen) athletic center March 21.

The game was much closer than the score indicates as PHC-HHC had to come from behind to overtake its feisty and talented opponent.

Referees Mel Barter, Andrew Smith and Mark Bedford called the game.

The first half was pretty much all Grape Jam Jelly. PHC struggled with ball control and turnovers and seemed unprepared for Jelly's aggressive defense. Jelly led 31-27 at the half.

During the break, PHC Coach James Mitchell, the unit's first sergeant, said the team, made up of Soldiers and civilians, would step things up in the second half.

"We had our ups and downs during the season but we didn't lose any games in the playoffs," he said. "In the second half we have to play better defense if we want to win this."

Jelly Coach Marvin Bryan said most of his players were CECOM civilians "with a couple of Soldiers mixed in." He said though PHC closed the scoring gap before the half, for the most part they were able to play their game and keep PHC in check.

"You can't ask for more than that," he said. "In the second half we plan to keep up the intensity, keep up the defense and stay within our game plan."

In the second half the teams were nearly complete opposites. PHC players found their legs and dominated offensively and defensively while Jelly, saddled with turnovers and fouls, struggled to keep up.

PHC tied the score two possessions into the second half with a layup by Wilbur Davis followed by a steal and another layup by Brandon Schmitz.

Jelly's Kenny Telsee responded quickly, taking possession of the ball at the PHC end of the court and charging through traffic to sink an untouched layup at the other end, putting his team up 33-31. It was Jelly's last lead of the game.



From right, PHC's Jeff Pettitway #20 slows down the dribble as Jelly's Tim McMillan #21 defends and Wilbur Davis #22 of PHC moves in to check Jelly's Phil Bingham #34, Kenny Telsee #23 and Hersey Taylor #41.

PHC shifted into full throttle and took off to a 5-point lead, scoring seven unanswered points, highlighted by a swooshing Pettitway 3-pointer from the perimeter.

Jelly stayed in it, but never regained the lead or control of the game.

Other key contributors included PHC's Wilbur Davis and Jelly's Lorenzo Burks.

"Outstanding teamwork. Great job," said PHC Senior Enlisted Advisor Sgt. Maj. Alicia Singer who accepted the championship trophy on behalf of the unit.

After the game, Telsee, an administrative assistant with the JPEO CBD, and one of the game's prolific shooters, said it was hard to take the loss.

"We just came up a little bit short but we had a lot of fun," Telsee said. "Collectively, as a team, we'll just have to regroup and try again next year."

PHC's Jeff Pettitway, who probably would have been the game's high scorer if those statistics were kept, said the win "felt good."

"We've got a great group of guys," he said. "Hopefully we'll get everybody back healthy and go for a three-peat."



PHC-HHC team members pose with PHC senior enlisted advisor Sgt. Maj. Alicia Singer, center, and their intramural basketball championship trophy and medals after repeating as post champions at the APG North (Aberdeen) athletic center March 21. From left, Wilbur Davis, Scott August, Lester DeRoche, J.P. Peterson, Antoine Wagner, Brandon Schmitz, Jeff Pettitway, Manu Cooper, James Mitchell and Larry Bailey. Not shown is Ashley Beale, the team's lone female player.



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

ACS hosts home buying seminar

By **STACY SMITH**
APG News

Army Community Services, or ACS, hosted a free home buying seminar that covered mortgages, the home search and purchase process, and home owner's insurance, March 16, at ACS Bldg. 2503 on APG North (Aberdeen).

According to the seminar's home-buying experts, whether a seasoned veteran of home buying, or a first time purchaser, the prospect of clinching 'home sweet home' can be financially daunting. They said most people require mortgage assistance.

Mortgages

"You have a lot of options out there in terms of the lender that you work with," said Chris Eliopoulos, a Freedom Federal Credit Union mortgage lender, adding that home buyers can choose from a bank, credit union, mortgage broker or mortgage company.

Regardless of type, Eliopoulos said, every mortgage lender considers the four "C's" when reviewing a mortgage loan application: collateral, capacity, credit and capital.

The property being purchased is collateral for the mortgage loan, which guarantees in the event of a default, the lender can foreclose and sell the home to repay the loan. Also, an appraisal of the property is used to determine not only the fair market value of the home but factors that may adversely affect the marketability of the home, such as environmental hazards or property conditions.

Eliopoulos said capacity is the borrower's ability to repay the mortgage, along with other debts. The lender determines how much money a person qualifies for by creating a debt to income ratio. He recommended that borrowers consider not just the mortgage's principal and interest, but also the cost of property taxes, home owner's insurance and environmental liabilities that also help determine affordability.

Mortgage lenders also examine the borrower's credit score to determine their willingness to repay the loan, Eliopoulos added. He recommended ordering a credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and Trans Union. Home buyers can request a free credit report annually from all three bureaus at www.annualcreditreport.com.



Courtesy photo

During a home buying seminar hosted by Army Community Service, home buyers were encouraged to become pre-approved for a mortgage to keep their home search within the budget they can afford.

He said credit scores can range from a low of 350 to an excellent 850, and most borrowers should shoot for a credit score in the 600s when attempting to purchase a home.

Lastly, Eliopoulos said a lender will consider a home buyer's capital, or the amount of money available for use on the down payment on the house and closing costs, as well as cash remaining after settlement.

"You'll need to plan on coming to the table with some amount of cash," he said. "Saving now toward that purchase is something you'll want to start thinking about."

House hunting and making an offer

Long & Foster Realtor Kim Basta said despite housing market fluctuations, most people still consider owning a home to be an integral part of the American Dream.

"The interest rates are still below four percent," Basta said. "It's still a buyer's market for some properties."

Basta recommended first becoming preapproved for a mortgage, choosing the type of financing and then determining a price range, before beginning a house search.

"You don't want to go out and start

looking at \$300,000 houses and then find out you only qualify for \$250,000," she said.

She added that it's important to remember when choosing a real estate agent that the home's seller pays his or her commission, not the buyer. Giving the real estate agent a home wish list can help narrow the search and give them a better idea of what a buyer prioritizes about a home. The real estate agent will narrow selections based on this criteria.

"If you can only spend \$180,000, that doesn't mean your realtor can't try to find you a house with a fireplace, or a basement with an exit," Basta said. "As a realtor we always try to find what you really want."

Things to consider when touring a home:

- Are the appliances working? Will they have to be replaced?
- Is there hardwood flooring under the carpet? That's a plus.
- Does the house have any strange smells, ceiling stains or potential water problems?
- Does the property include Home Owner's Association fees? What are the property taxes?

Basta said a real estate agent can do a market analysis of the community to dis-

cover how much houses are selling for in that area. She also recommended customers call the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company at 1-800-685-0123 to find out how much the annual, average gas and electric bill is for that address.

When a buyer finds his or her dream house, the real estate agent and lender will 'run the numbers' and help the buyer write an offer for purchase. Buyers should remember they can ask for help with a home's closing costs, Basta said.

"Once everybody agrees to a price, then you have a contract," she said.

Settlement and home owner's insurance

Basta said unless a buyer is paying cash, settlement usually occurs 45 to 60 days after the offer is accepted.

Once the offer is accepted, the buyer schedules a home inspection. Inspections range from \$250-\$450, take two to three hours to complete, depending on the home's size, and are based on structural, non-cosmetic, elements. Basta recommended always having a termite inspection, which she said are \$70 at most and can save the buyer a world of trouble.

She noted that sellers are not obligated to fix anything, but buyers can usually use the inspection report to renegotiate with the seller if need be.

Lastly, Basta said buyers should arrange for their home owner's insurance, choose a title company, schedule a settlement time and a final walk-through of the home to make sure everything is in good shape.

She said the home owner's insurance agent reviews the property and its appraisal and makes sure the buyer is insuring the home properly.

"I can pull a loss report for the home, so I can tell you if there's been an issue before and what type of issue," said Lee Tayson, Liberty Mutual Insurance agent.

Basta said the rollercoaster of emotions, from stress to expectation, ends on the day of settlement, when a home buyer signs all documents and receives the home keys.

"Then let the fun begin," she said.

For information about future home buying seminars contact ACS at 410-278-7572/4372 or visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/community-services/army-community-services>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MORE ONLINE

More events can be seen at www.TeamAPG.com

events&town halls

WEDNESDAY MARCH 30

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH TRAINING PROGRAM

The Federal Women's Program, FWP, will host a Women's History Month training program 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mallette Training Facility, Bldg. 6008. The opening ceremony begins 8 a.m. followed by the morning training sessions, 8:45 to 10 a.m.

The Women's History Month program starts 10:30 a.m. and features remarks by APG Garrison Commander Col. James E. Davis; AMSAA Director James Amato, AMSAA Technical Director Suzanne Milchling and guest speaker Lisha H. Adams, executive deputy to the commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command. Training courses offered include: Business Writing, Lead Change, Microsoft Word 2013 Tips & Tricks, Financial Management, Training on Training and VA Disability Compensation 101.

The afternoon session is 1:45 to 3 p.m. To register, go to <https://register.apgea.army.mil/FWP/>.

Registration deadline is March 23. For more information, contact Teresa Rudd, teresa.d.rudd.civ@mail.mil; Tiffany Cervantes, tiffany.n.cervantes.civ@mail.mil; Danielle Kelley, danielle.j.kelley.civ@mail.mil; or Paula Hoak, paula.j.hoak.civ@mail.mil.

TUESDAY APRIL 26

SHARP POETRY SLAM

The Army Test and Evaluation Command and Team APG SHARP will host A SHARP Poetry Slam at the Mallette Auditorium, Bldg. 6008 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

A Poetry Slam is a competition at which poets read or recite original work. These performances are then judged on a numeric scale by previously selected members of the audience. Participants will present Sexual Harassment and/or Sexual Assault themed poems focusing on such topics as prevention, culture change, intervention, awareness, and more. All poets are welcome, even those who have never even considered writing poetry before.

Personnel who attend will receive credit for the online SHARP Part II Annual Training. Certificates will be provided to attendees.

For more information, contact Jody Jackson at 443-861-9258 or Michell Shultz at 410-278-0137.

SATURDAY MAY 15

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Retiree Appreciation Day is set for Saturday, May 15 at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center.

The event will begin with registration at 8 a.m.

More details will follow.

For more information, contact Tom Shumate at thomas.s.shumate2.civ@mail.mil or 410-306-2303.

TUESDAY MAY 24

SENIOR SERVICE COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP GRADUATION

The Defense Acquisition University - Senior Service College Fellowship Program will host a graduation ceremony for its current 2015-2016 class at 11 a.m. at the Myer Auditorium, Bldg. 6000.

The graduation ceremony marks the culmination of ten months of full-time, rigorous study focused on developing acquisition and leadership attributes. A short reception will follow. Please RSVP by May 19 to Ben Metcalfe at benjamin.metcalfe@dau.mil or 410-272-9471.

meetings&conferences

WEDNESDAY APRIL 27

DAU TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

The Defense Acquisition University campus at APG will host a VTC for the one-day hot topic training forum 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 6175 Guardian Gateway on APG with no cost to remote viewers. The symposium will be fed live from Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

This year's theme is "Strengthening Cost Consciousness, Professionalism, and Technical Excellence." Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics is the keynote speaker.

The event offers plenary and classroom training sessions tied to the Better Buying Power 3.0 initiatives. In a period of fiscal challenges and technological opportunities, the training will focus on learning hard skills - training in the latest acquisition policy, practices and techniques that attendees can take back to the workplace and apply. The symposium provides six Continuous Learning Points for continued DOD acquisition certification.

Seating is limited. To sign up, contact Ben Metcalfe at 410-272-9471 or email benjamin.metcalfe@dau.mil or for more information about the symposium, visit <http://dauaa.org/Symposium2016/Index.htm>

THROUGH MAY

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS

An American Sign Language Class will be

held 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Tuesday, Feb. 9 through May 3, in the conference room at Bldg. E4301 in APG South (Edgewood). The class is free and consists of basic to advanced level sign language. The textbook, "ABC, A Basic Course in American Sign Language," is required and can be purchased on <http://www.amazon.com>.

To register, for directions, or more information, contact instructors Randy Weber at 410-436-8546, randy.k.weber.civ@mail.mil or Matt Rappaport at 410-436-4096, matthew.rappaport.ctr@mail.mil.

health&resiliency

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS UNAVAILABLE AT KUSAHC

Please be advised that Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is currently unable to administer smallpox vaccinations due to temporary non-availability. An announcement will be made when vaccinations are to be resumed.

For questions, call 410-278-5475.

THURSDAY APRIL 7

STRESS AWARENESS INFO SESSION & YOGA DEMO

The C4ISR Wellness Committee will host a Stress Awareness Informational Session and yoga demo at Bldg. 6001, 2nd floor, room 224 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Open to all Team APG members, the session will help individuals find the balance between mind, body, and spirit.

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

THURSDAY APRIL 14

YOGA CLASS

The C4ISR Wellness Committee will host a 50-minute Yoga class at the Myer Auditorium, Bldg. 6000, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Open to all of Team APG, the class will teach participants proper breathing techniques and poses to help balance out the stressors in life and the environment.

Participants must bring a mat and wear proper clothing.

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

TUESDAY APRIL 19

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INFO SESSION

The C4ISR Wellness Committee will host an Occupational Therapy Informational Session at Bldg. 6001, 2nd floor, room 224 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The session will explore the basics of occupational therapy and how it can help people across their lifespan participate in the things that they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities.

The session is open to civilians, contractors, and military. Non-C4ISR employees must bring their CAC to gain access to the building.

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

THURSDAY APRIL 28

LET'S MOVE IN THE COURTYARD CIRCUIT TRAINING & PRESCRIPTION TAKE-BACK EVENT

The C4ISR Wellness Committee will host a "Let's Move in the Courtyard Circuit Training" event sponsored by the APG Wellness Center at the C4ISR Complex Courtyard from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The weather is breaking and it is the perfect time to take advantage of our beautiful courtyard to get active. Activity is one of the major components of the Army Performance Triad-a healthy Base Initiative focusing on the importance of Sleep, Activity, and Nutrition as fundamental building blocks to maintain a Ready and Resilient military and civilian workforce.

Open to all members of Team APG, activities for the event may include, but are not limited to: jump roping, bosu ball burpees with an overhead press, medicine ball side throws, squats (jumps squats or standing squats), tire runs, step ups, walking/jogging/running drills around the courtyard, and walking lunges.

Information tables on sleep, activity, and nutrition will also be present.

Registration to participate in the circuit training is required to estimate equipment needed. Participants should arrive by 11:20 a.m. to walk through the activities and receive instructions on proper form.

Rain location will be the complex pavilion. Participants should bring a mat and wear proper clothing.

Contact Tiffany Grimes at 443-861-7901 or tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil by April 21 to register.

During the same event, the Army Substance Abuse Program will be on hand to collect expired, unused, and unwanted prescription (RX) drugs and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines as part of the APG Prescription/Over-the-Counter Take-Back Campaign. Collections will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information about the Prescription/Over-the-Counter Take-Back Campaign, contact Cindy Scott at 410-278-4013/3784 or

cynthia.M.Scott4.civ@mail.mil.

THROUGH MID-2016

ARMY WELLNESS CENTER RELOCATED

As a result of ongoing renovations to Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, the APG Army Wellness Center has relocated to the trailers directly across from the main KUSAHC building, near the Veterinary Treatment Facility.

For more information, contact the wellness center at 410-306-1024.

THROUGH MID-2016

KUSAHC OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH RELOCATED

As a result of ongoing renovations to Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, occupational health services have relocated to the trailers directly across from the main KUSAHC building, near the Veterinary Treatment Facility.

For more information, contact occupational services at 410-278-1912/1913.

ONGOING

WEAR BLUE: RUN TO REMEMBER HARFORD COUNTY/ APG

A Harford County/APG-based Wear Blue: Run to Remember community has been established, with ongoing meets the second Saturday of every month 8:30 a.m. at the Maryland and Pennsylvania Heritage Trail in Fallston.

Wear Blue: Run to Remember communities run, jog and walk in honor of the nation's fallen, fighting and families.

Those interested in participating in the run should meet at the Annie's Playground - Pavilion at 864 Smith Lane, Fallston, Maryland. Pets are allowed, but park rules do not allow retractable leashes.

All ability levels are welcome. Participants are strongly encouraged to wear blue.

Upcoming dates include:

- April 9

For more information, contact Robin Bruns at 910-987-6764 or brunsrd@yahoo.com.

family&children

FRIDAY MARCH 25

CORVIAS SPRING INTO FUN EGG HUNT

Corvias Military Living at APG will host a Spring into Fun Egg Hunt at the Bayside Community Center starting at noon. Enjoy egg hunts, photos with the bunny, prizes, crafts and refreshments. Bring a camera for photos and a basket to collect eggs.

Egg hunt times will be based on age:

- Ages 2-years-old and under: 12:30 p.m.
- Ages 3- to 5-years-old: 12:45 p.m.
- Ages 6- to 8-years-old: 1 p.m.
- Ages 9- to 12-years old: 1:15 p.m.
- Ages 13- to 18-years old: 1:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to all on-post family housing residents.

For more information, contact the Corvias Neighborhood Office at 410-305-1076.

FRIDAY APRIL 1

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS SUMMER CAMP APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Society of American Military Engineers will fund two one-week scholarships at an engineering and construction camp for two rising 10th to 12th grade high school students who are interested in STEM careers.

Students will work as part of a real engineering or construction project team and provide students an opportunity to broaden their engineering knowledge.

To apply, visit www.samecamps.org or email Stanley.e.childs.civ@mail.mil for more information.

miscellaneous

MARCH 31

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS STEM SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Chesapeake Post of the Society of American Military Engineers announces the availability of the 2016-17 college scholarship applications. The purpose of the SAME Chesapeake Post scholarships is to encourage and support talented students in their pursuit of STEM careers. Each scholarship recipient will also be provided with a SAME mentor.

Scholarships will be awarded in two categories, high school seniors and current college students. Amounts will range from \$300 to \$1,000 per student. The post anticipates awarding five to 10 scholarships. Students must meet the "Scholarship Selection Criteria" requirements and be pursuing a career in a STEM area as defined on the application. Students must reapply each year.

The SAME Chesapeake Post Scholarship Committee will meet in April to review applications. All applicants will be notified of their determination. Preference will be given to those applicants who: are already members of SAME, have attended a meeting or SAME event in the past year, have participated in an

engineering or science activity (i.e. robotics competition), or have participated in an internship at APG or other engineering or science related facility.

Scholarship information can be found at www.same.porg/chesapeake. The application deadline is March 31.

Questions should be directed to Stan Childs at 410-322-8575 or Stanley.e.childs.civ@mail.mil.

ONGOING

FREE INCOME TAX PREP

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division offers free income tax preparation for eligible patrons, including active-duty service members, retirees and their family members.

The OSJA, CSD is located in Bldg. 4305, Room 317. Its hours of operation are Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 410-278-1583.

THROUGH FRIDAY APRIL 29

GARRISON TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

IMCOM has identified the need to develop our personnel with the right skills and enable them to execute our mission in the most effective ways possible as a top priority.

USAGAPG Workforce Development is currently supporting that initiative by providing our workforce with Career Program specific training, leadership training and seminars, performance management tools and resources along with professional development opportunities and support.

By completing the below Training Needs Assessment Survey, our office will be able to direct resources to areas of greatest demand and to continue to expand the quality training opportunities that is required to aid in organizational mission success.

The survey can be accessed until April 29 at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBDYNCL>.

For more information, contact Jill Brodbeck at 410-278-9917 or jill.m.brodbeck.civ@mail.mil.

ONGOING

HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM

Harford Community College has announced a new cybersecurity program to prepare interested individuals - military and civilian - in an entry-level cybersecurity position.

The Cyber Defense Certificate program offers 39 credits, and prepares students for four industry-recognized certifications that include: Comp TIA's Net+, Security+, Linux+, and Cisco's CCENT. The program also awards credit for prior learning.

Classes are held at Harford Community College in the evening. Veterans and spouses are encouraged to apply. Enrollment for classes in the fall is currently underway.

For more information, contact Christine Brown at HCC at chbrown@harford.edu or 443-356-0363.

ONGOING

APG SOUTH 2016 WATER MAIN FLUSHING

The APG Garrison Directorate of Public Works has announced its APG South (Edgewood) 2016 water main flushing schedule.

The Edgewood DPW Waterworks Branch will perform water main flushing during the following times:

- **Jan. through March:** E1500-E1900 area, E6000 area.
- **April through June:** E2000 area.
- **May 12-14:** APG South housing area, Austin Road.
- **July through Sept.:** E3000-E4000 area.
- **Aug. 11-13:** APG South housing area, E1220-E1300 area, and child care center.
- **Oct. through Dec.:** E5000 area.
- **Nov. 10-12:** APG South housing area, Austin Road.

For more information, contact Robert Warlick at 410-436-2196 or robert.w.warlick2.civ@mail.mil.

ONGOING

2016 FIRE MARSHALL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The APG Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Protection & Prevention Division will host Fire Marshall classes the second Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. All classes will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and attendees will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the class.

Upcoming class dates include:

- **March 29** - APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **April 14** - APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **May 19** - APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **June 28** - APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **July 14** - APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Aug. 11** - APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Sept. 27** - APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **Oct. 13** - APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Nov. 17** - APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Dec. 15** - APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Dec. 20** - APG South, Bldg. 4403

Additional classes can be scheduled on a case-by-case basis. For more information, contact Inspector Loren Brown at 410-278-1128.

Building fire marshal leads by example

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

An Aberdeen Proving Ground civilian has been commended for going above and beyond in the performance of the duty of building fire marshal.

Devita Hampton of the Army Substance Abuse Program, in Bldg. 2477, has so impressed inspectors that she received congratulations from Dr. Janet H. Lenard, the clinical quality program manager at IMCOM headquarters, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Lenard went a step further and asked Hampton for permission to share her ideas with Alcohol and Drug Control Officers and Clinical Directors in the Pacific Region.

APG Fire Inspector Loren Brown Jr., from the Directorate of Emergency Services, said Hampton “does a superb job keeping extinguishers and inspection records,” for her building.

“She is probably one of the best on the post,” Brown said.

Hampton said ASAP director Timothy Knox appointed her to the position that she was at first hesitant to take it.

“When Mr. Knox saw my reluctance, he explained that the duties require someone who is organized, persistent and open to new things,” Hampton said, adding that Knox assured her he was confident that she was up to the task.

She said the first thing she did was contact the APG Fire Department for guidance, which led her to then-Fire Inspector Ernie Little.

“He eagerly assisted in the task of fire protection training and I went from there,” Hampton said.

Determined to learn all she could about her new responsibilities, Hamp-

ton gathered all the information she could and set out to ensure all requirements regarding her areas of responsibility were up to standards.

She combined the information in a single folder, which she keeps near the building’s main exit.

“This way, in the event of an evacuation, I can grab it on the way out the door,” she said.

The folder, titled “ASAP Fire Safety Manual” contains personnel rosters, evacuation plans, safety codes, memorandums and other guidance; inspection checklists; and employee training. Included is an additional safety manual she assembled for ASAP personnel that details safety-related responsibilities such as correcting or reporting safety hazards such as blocked exits and provides visual examples, references and points of contact for more information.

Hampton said in her endeavors to learn all she could about being a fire marshal she gained information that should be shared.

“I felt the need to create something as far as training for my coworkers,” she said adding that she made it as visually and user-friendly as possible, “so they could see what needed to be done.”

Hampton uses the manual to log monthly inspections by DES fire inspectors, corrective actions and work order statuses and she’s taken the time to include Active Shooter directives as prescribed by Army regulations.

“It’s all about safety,” she said. “I’m trying to be the best fire marshal I can be and this folder is a big part of that because it puts everything at my fingertips.”



Army Substance Abuse Program employee Devita Hampton serves as her building’s fire marshal. Her approach to fulfilling those duties has garnered recognition of the Directorate of Emergency Services and IMCOM headquarters.

DPW employee implements plumbing fix

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

Seeking to save the Army money and improve customer satisfaction, a maintenance mechanic with the Buildings and Structures Branch of the APG Directorate of Public Works recently implemented an innovative plumbing fix for kitchen sinks in the C4ISR complex on APG North (Aberdeen).

Brian Polk, whose main responsibility is responding to plumbing issues on post, said DPW personnel noticed that the break room water heaters in the C4ISR Center of Excellence had to be replaced more often than expected, at a cost of \$300 each.

The break rooms used an instant hot water dispenser called an “Insta Hot,” he said, that quickly heats up water once a switch has been activated.

Polk investigated the root cause of the frequent replacements and found that personnel were removing the faucet aerators because the Insta Hot device greatly restricted water flow.

According to Barbara Shao, a facility manager with the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, personnel expressed unhappiness with the instant hot water dispensers because the restricted water flow made it difficult to wash dishes.

However, Polk said, “when you [remove the aerator], the unit can’t heat properly, and it burns the unit out.”

During his investigation of the problem, Polk also learned that the design of the Insta Hot was not equipped for all-day use.

Shao said there are about more than 50 break rooms in the C4ISR campus, each used by at least 100 people every day.

Polk said he needed a solution that could handle heavy usage and complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act that states that an individual that is confined to a wheelchair should be able to use the sink. Polk said he frequently met with facility managers to come up with a solution for all of the C4ISR

break rooms.

After several meetings, Polk and the facility managers decided the best course of action was to replace the instant hot water heaters with conventional water heaters that can hold up to 2.5 gallons of water. It was determined that DPW would provide the labor and tenants would provide funding.

In the beginning, Polk conducted a trial run in three break rooms for six months to see if there were any issues with the installation or use of a conventional water heater. Because there were no issues, the facility managers decided to replace all instant hot water heaters. He estimates that this will result in significant savings for tenants in the long run, because the \$300 conventional water heaters are estimated to last 10 years.

“There were a lot of meetings and a lot of design changes,” he said. “Now people are happy with the water flow, and we haven’t received any complaints.”

Shao said she is happy that Polk came up a solution to the problem.

“I think the tenants will be happier, too,” she said. “We are used to having things a certain way. No one really appreciates having hot water, until you don’t have it.”

Polk, who has worked for DPW more than six years, said the best thing about his career is seeing a job through to completion. He takes pride in his work, he said.

“I get a lot of positive ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation) reports about how I did a good job, and how professional I was, and that means something to me,” he said.

He said he takes time to listen to customer feedback, both positive and negative.

“It is a little bit of work initially, but that is what I find the most helpful,” he said. “Not only do they feel better because you are listening to them and trying to address their concerns, but a lot of times you can find out what the root cause of a problem is and solve it, rather than just put a Band-Aid on it.”

Karl Mandl, a DPW general maintenance and repair supervisor, congratulated Polk on a job well done.

“I think it is a good thing, him taking the initiative,” he said. “I think the solution benefits everybody.”

Polk’s previous job experience includes positions with Havre de Grace DPW and the Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Brian Polk, a maintenance mechanic with the APG Department of Public Works, installs an elbow on a steel pipe in Bldg. 332. Polk is credited with implementing an innovative plumbing fix in the break rooms at the C4ISR complex on APG North that saves money and improves customer satisfaction.



MEMORIES OF 'NAM



Welcome Home 'Nam veterans

APG News remembers series' vets ahead of Maryland observance

By **YVONNE JOHNSON,**
APG News

The “Memories of ‘Nam” series saluting area Vietnam or Vietnam-era veterans began in the Sept. 11, 2014 edition of the APG News. Since then, 21 individuals have been profiled in the series that is slated to continue throughout the Aberdeen Proving Ground centennial celebration in 2017.

In 2015, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan signed the “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” bill into law and the day is observed in the state on March 30. In honor of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, here is a recap of each of the “Memories of ‘Nam” veterans thus far along with the dates their stories appeared.

Join us in welcoming home our Vietnam vets, and relive each of their stories at www.teamapg.com/apgnews.

Carolynn Baker
(Sept. 11, 2014 issue)

Vietnam-era veteran Carolynn Baker kicked off the “Memories of ‘Nam” series shortly after she was elected the Commander of the American Legion Department of Maryland – the first female to hold this office in its 96-year history. A past president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #588, and former president of American Legion Post #39 in Bel Air, Baker enlisted in the Army as a member of the Women’s Army Corps when Vietnam was in “full swing.”

John Gostomski
(Oct. 2, 2014 issue)

A retired APG civilian, John Gostomski served two tours in ‘Nam as a U.S. Air Force aircraft mechanic. He was assigned to the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (TRW) within the 377th Air Base Wing at Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon from 1969 to 1970 and 1971-1972. “Serving in the military taught me the meaning of patriotism and I’m proud of my service,” Gostomski said.

Charles Slimowicz
(Oct. 23, 2014 issue)

Ret. Lt. Col. Charles “Chas” Slimowicz served two tours in ‘Nam as a UH-1 (Huey) helicopter pilot. The first with Alpha Company and Bravo Company, 25th Aviation Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, from 1966 to 1967. “We had a special camaraderie and we developed deep friendships,” Slimowicz said of his tours. “It was a way of life and I embraced it.”

Wally Mueller
(Nov. 13, 2014 issue)

Retired Maryland National Guard Col. Walter “Wally” Mueller is a former “Dustoff” pilot who flew UH-1 (Huey) helicopters for the 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) based at Lane Army Heliport in An Son, Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. Mueller was the deputy director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency until he retired in 2006 after 42 years of service. “We survived,” he said of ‘Nam, “and we know we’ve got to go on for our country.”

Dave Yensan
(Dec. 11, 2014 issue)

A native of Upstate New York who made Maryland his home, retired Maj. Dave Yensan served two tours in ‘Nam; the first as UH-1 (Huey) pilot and operations officer with the 1st Air Cavalry Division and 11th Group from 1967 to 1968 during the famed Tet Offensive; the second, 1970 to 1971, in the Saigon region with 1st Signal Brigade. He described the year of the 1968 Tet Offensive as “hours of boredom interspersed with moment of sheer terror.”

Robert L. Richardson Sr.
(Feb. 26, 2015 issue)

Retired Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Richardson Sr. set foot in Vietnam at the age of 19 in March 1969. The Georgia native is a survivor of the famous Battle of Hamburger Hill. After retirement, he came to APG in 2013 and serves as the operations specialist for the APG Directorate of Emergency Services. “I’m really blessed because of my faith,” Richardson said. “That foundation can help you survive under any conditions.”

Joseph Davis
(March 12, 2015 issue)

Joseph Davis enlisted in the Army at age 17 in 1964. He arrived in ‘Nam



Courtesy photo

Then-Spc. Robert L. Richardson fords the swift currents of a stream after coming down from Hamburger Hill in 1969. Richardson said the current was so strong he had trouble raising his arms to grab the outstretched branch. An embedded photographer snapped this photo; the original is on display in the 187th Infantry Regiment (Rakkasans) section of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Museum at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

toward the end of his second enlistment in late 1968 during the series of coordinated attacks that followed the Tet Offensive. He served as a supply sergeant at Bien Hoa Air Base in South Vietnam where around-the-clock operations focused on “supporting the guys in front.” After leaving the Army he became a Maryland State Trooper. Two days after retiring from the state in 1996, he started work at APG. Davis retired from the APG Directorate of Emergency Services traffic division in 2015 with a combined 51 years of service.

Marcelino Burgos
(March 26, 2015 issue)

Circumstances in ‘Nam made retired Sgt. 1st Class Marcelino Burgos the most famous medic in the Army. During his first tour of duty in ‘Nam, he served as a combat medic with the 283rd Medical Detachment (Air Ambulance) from 1965 to 1966 when he was included in the ABC Network documentary, “To Save a Soldier,” which aired nationally in October 1966. Burgos retired from the Army in 1980 and settled in Harford County. He worked at the APG U.S. Post Office until he retired in 2007. He said ‘Nam was “an exercise in focus.”

Ron Taylor
(April 9, 2015 issue)

Retired Warrant Officer Ron Taylor credits Marine Corps training and two tours in ‘Nam for giving him all the tools he needed in life. The former Marine joined the Army in 1960 and served two tours in ‘Nam; the first from 1965 to 1966 as an equipment inspector assigned to Cam Ranh Bay. He retired in 1974 and eventually settled in Aberdeen. Taylor said most of his time in ‘Nam focused on the Soldiers he was responsible for. He said he learned leadership the hard way. “Vietnam taught me that anybody can be in a leadership position but not everybody can lead,” he said.

Jessie J. Shanks Sr.
(April 23, 2015 issue)

Retired Warrant Officer Jessie J. Shanks Sr. was drafted during the Korean War in 1952. He trained in the Ordnance Corps, made warrant officer and ultimately served three tours at APG. Shanks served two tours in ‘Nam from 1968 to 1969 and from 1971 to 1972, the first as maintenance officer with the 610th Engineer Company and the second was with the 62nd Engineer Battalion. After retirement, Shanks joined the U.S. Postal Service which he retired from in 2003. Nearly 84 years old, Shanks, a fixture on APG and a 35-year member of the post chapel, said he remembers ‘Nam as “the war we should have won.”

Frederick Ryan
(June 4, 2015 issue)

At age 19, Marylander Frederick Ryan was a demolitions expert assigned to the elite 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam. He said they stayed busy, especially at night, but when things got quiet, sometimes the fear would come. “But you dealt with it or you put it away,” Ryan said. “You didn’t have time for it.” Wounded three times, Ryan said, “they sewed

you up and sent you back.” He did back-to-back tours. He still deals with yesterday’s nightmares and is being treated for post-traumatic stress disorder. “I saw a lot of killing. I lost a lot of friends. There was no way to prepare for that,” he said.

John Michael Burke
(July 2, 2015 issue)

Before he retired as a Navy corpsman in 1987 after 26 years of service, John Michael Burke served as a Marine machine gunner in Cuba and an Army military police officer in ‘Nam. Burke joined the Marines after high school in 1961, got out in 1963 and then joined the Army the same year. He served with the 518th Military Police Battalion in Dan Nang from 1967 to 1968 and eventually served with the 523rd Military Police Company at APG. He said he loved the military. “You had the honor of serving your country,” he said. “Everybody doesn’t get that chance, and the sad part is some of us who do, still don’t get what that means.”

James O’Neill
(July 16, 2015 issue)

Aberdeen native James O’Neill joined the Air Force in 1966. He arrived at Nha Trung Air Base in January 1968 and was assigned to 14th Combat Support Group. O’Neill served as an Air Force Police officer through the Tet Offensive and completed his 11-month tour in December 1968. In 1981 he was hired to work at APG for the Ballistics Research Laboratory and then later worked for the Directorate of Public Works until his retirement in 2012 with 46 years of combined service. “People thank me for my service and I tell them I wish I could do more,” he said. “I don’t think there’s anything they can’t handle he said of today’s armed forces. They know the meaning of service.”

John Farmer
(July 23, 2015 issue)

Havre de Grace native John Farmer entered the Air Force in 1969. He trained as an aircraft radio technician and served in Thailand at the Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, a front-line facility of the USAF, from 1971 to 1972, assembling sensors used in the secret Operation Igloo, which was declassified in 2006. After years of fighting for recognition of his service and battling for treatment for Agent Orange exposure and post-traumatic stress disorder, Farmer said he remains proud of his service. “... I love my family and I love my country and that will never change,” he said.

Keith Burd
(Aug. 6, 2015 issue)

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Keith Burd hails from Wisconsin. He left college and joined the Marines in 1966, trained as an electrician was assigned to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at the Monkey Mountain Facility near Da Nang where they provided 24/7 power for missile and radar systems. He lost friends in the Tet Offensive and found religion after several close calls. Today he pastors the Pilgrim Presbyterian Church in Kingsville, Maryland. “I think the Lord prepared me for this service because I haven’t lost my tem-

per since I got saved,” he said.

George Mercer
(Aug. 27, 2015 issue)

A native of Wilmington, Delaware, George Mercer joined the Army in 1965 as a public information specialist. He served with the 44th Public Information Detachment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and as the 2nd Brigade public information officer from 1967 to 1968. He came to APG as a civilian in 1981 and eventually retired as the chief of the Garrison Public Affairs Office in 2012. He said when people thank him for his service he’s not sure what it means. “When I grew up, joining the Army was just what people did. It was no big deal. I just hoped for the best.”

Tom Oliver
(Sept. 3, 2015 issue)

Retired Staff Sgt. Tom Oliver served in Korea and Vietnam. Trained as an air traffic controller, Oliver had 21 years of service when he went to ‘Nam in 1969. A trained pilot, he sometimes flew mission himself and earned a Bronze Star doing so. He retired two months after leaving ‘Nam in 1970. He eventually came to APG where he gained work and retired as a Phillips Army Airfield air traffic controller. He and his wife, Julie, a Vietnam-era WAC, live in Cecil County and are active in local veteran organization. “It makes us feel like we’re still serving,” Oliver said.

Al Louthian
(Oct. 8, 2015 issue)

Cecil County resident Al Louthian joined the Marine Corps in 1966. In 1967, he was assigned as a truck driver in the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, driving supplies from Khe Sanh to An Hoa and back. He survived the Tet Offensive but lost a lot of friends. Louthian left the Marines and joined the Army in 1970. Louthian overcame battles with alcohol and tobacco and eventually retired as a sergeant first class in 1987. He said he has regrets about his service. “If I had to do it all over again, I’d probably do it,” he said.

Michael Bennett
(Nov. 12, 2015 issue)

Former Aberdeen Mayor Michael Bennett was drafted in 1968. By the end of the year he was serving in the Army with the 125th Air Traffic Control Company at Cam Ranh Air Base. After he left the service Bennett joined the Maryland State Police, retiring in 2001 after 31 years of service and then served as a civilian with the state, retiring after 40 years of service. He entered local politics and served two terms as mayor. “It [Vietnam] taught you how to take care of yourself and others,” he said. “I’m proud to have served.”

Curt “CW” Weaver
(Dec. 10, 2015 issue)

Baltimore native Curt “CW” Weaver enlisted in the Army in 1967 and arrived in ‘Nam when the Tet Offensive was in full swing in 1968. The cryptographic repair specialist served in a large Communications Center at Nha Trang Air Base before rotating out in 1969. He left the Army in 1970 and said he was “on a downward spiral” for years until “found the Lord and got saved” in 1981. “Vietnam was one of the best things that happened to me,” he said. “If everyone lived outside of this country for six months they wouldn’t be bad mouthing this country. What we have – as a people – is priceless.”

Gilbert E. Miller Jr.
(March 17, 2016 issue)

Harford County resident Gilbert E. Miller grew up in Baltimore and joined the Navy at 17. He served in Guam in 1964 as an aviation electronics technician, providing early warning and radar surveillance on aircraft guarding Navy assets in the Gulf of Tonkin. He left the military in 1967, a full-blown anti-war protestor and wandered from school to different careers for years before knuckling down to finish his education at age 52. Miller now works for the homeless veteran program at Perry Point VA Medical Center in Perryville. “My life had a lot of ups and downs but a lot of really tremendous experiences,” he said. “I don’t think I would appreciate that without that wartime experience.”



ALL THINGS MARYLAND

Clara Barton National Historic Site

Glen Echo home once American Red Cross headquarters

By **STACY SMITH**
APG News

In 1881, at the spritely age of 60, Civil War nurse Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross and led it for the next 23 years. Her Victorian-style home in Glen Echo, Maryland served as the organization headquarters and warehouse for disaster relief supplies until her death in 1912 at age 90.

In 1974, the house was designated the first National Historic Site dedicated to the accomplishments of an American woman. Modern visitors can appreciate the site in the same way visitors did in Clara Barton's lifetime. Rising three stories high, its 30 rooms were once crammed with thousands of items stockpiled to help victims of war and natural disasters, box upon box of official Red Cross papers, and Barton's personal belongings.

Barton's passion for serving others was ignited as a school teacher. Years later, she provided medical treatment, clothing, food and supplies to the sick and wounded during the Civil War. She discovered many of those she tended to were "her boys," men she had either grown up with or taught. She offered them comfort by reading to them, praying with them and writing letters home for them.

Not content to remain with medical units that were sometimes located days or weeks away from a fight, Barton prodded government and Army leaders to allow her to bring her services to the front lines of battle. In 1862, while fighting raged during the Battle of Antietam, near Sharpsburg, Maryland, Barton and other volunteers dashed around the battlefield with supplies to relieve overworked surgeons who were attempting to fashion bandages from corn husks. A monument dedicated to Barton sits at the north end of the battlefield as a testament to her devoted service to the nation.

In 1869 Barton traveled to Geneva, Switzerland where she became acquainted with the work of the International Red Cross. Barton was inspired by organization founder Henry Dunant who called for international agreements to protect the sick and wounded during wartime regardless of nationality, and for the formation of national societies to provide voluntary aid on a neutral basis.



(Clockwise from top left) Clara Barton's home, which served as the American Red Cross headquarters for its first 20 years, is a National Historic site located in Glen Echo, Maryland; This photo of Clara Barton was taken in 1902 while she attended the Seventh International Red Cross Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia. She is wearing the Red Cross pin given to her by the Grand Duchess of Baden, Germany; In this illustration on a Dec. 25, 1863 news souvenir card, Clara Barton administers to the wounded, demonstrating how she earned the moniker "Angel of Mercy" in an 1863 souvenir card. A Red Cross flag is in the background though Barton didn't found the American Red Cross until 16 years after the Civil War.

Photos courtesy of the National Park Service



The American Red Cross, with Barton at its head, devoted itself largely to disaster relief for the first 20 years of its existence. Today, the organization has more than 650 chapters that have expanded the mission to include providing communications services and comfort for military members and their families, collecting, processing and distributing blood and blood products, conducting educational programs on preparedness, health and safety, and providing international relief and development.

Every year, March is recognized as National Red Cross Month by presiden-

tial proclamation. During March, organizations honor volunteers who donate their time and energy to fulfill the Red Cross mission.

The Clara Barton National Historic Site is located at 5801 Oxford Road in Glen Echo, Maryland and is current-

ly closed to the public for construction. For more information, visit the National Park Service website at <http://www.nps.gov>. For more information about Clara Barton, visit www.redcross.org.

(Sources: www.redcross.org; www.nps.gov; www.civilwar.org; www.wikipedia.org.)

BY THE NUMB#RS

Happy Easter

Easter Sunday is March 27. This Christian-rooted celebration is observed by believers and non-believers around the world. Here are some interesting facts about Easter.

501,000

Number of eggs in the largest-ever recorded Easter egg hunt. More than 9,750 children and parents participated in the event at the Cypress Gardens Adventure Park in Winter Haven, Florida on April 1, 2007.

294

Years since Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen christened Easter Island. Roggeveen encountered the island on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1722, while searching for a different island.

\$140

Average amount Americans spend on Easter candy each year. Easter is the second biggest candy-consuming holiday, after Halloween.

80

Percentage of Americans who celebrate Easter, though not all celebrate it as a religious holiday.

12

Number of U.S. states that observe Good Friday as a state holiday. They are: Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.

6

Approximate number of weeks in the Lenten season, the period before Easter Sunday. The traditional Lenten season is a time of prayer, repentance, and self-denial through fasting.

By **RACHEL PONDER**, APG News

Source(s): <https://www.wikipedia.org/>; www.guinnessworldrecords.com; www.history.com; www.surveycrest.com/



MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

Learn more about APG MWR activities and services by going online at www.apgmwr.com.

Upcoming Activities

SAVE THE DATE

SAM'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UPS MARCH 30

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Exton Golf Course

MARCH 31

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; APG bowling center

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a SAM'S CLUB membership sign-up at the above location and times. The Sam's Savings membership is \$45 per year and the Sam's Plus membership is \$100 per year. There will be special promotional coupons for those who sign up. It applies to new and renewal memberships.

BJ'S MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UPS APRIL 12

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; APG South (Edgewood) recreation center

APRIL 13

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; APG bowling center

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a BJ's membership sign-up at the above location and times. Save \$10 off the \$50 in-store membership fee for Inner Circle and \$20 off the \$100 in-store membership fee for the Rewards Program. Memberships are for 15 months instead of 12. It applies to new and renewal memberships. All forms of payment accepted. Discount memberships are only available on-site, not in the store or online.

LEISURE & TRAVEL

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT MARCH 25

6 p.m.; APG South (Edgewood) recreation center

MWR will host a family movie night featuring "Horton Hears a Who" and youth craft at the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center starting at 6 p.m. The free event will include youth crafts, giveaways and light snacks. Families are allowed to bring their own meal.

For more information, call 410-278-4011 or 410-436-2862.

CLUE - A WHODUNIT MURDER MYSTERY & DINNER THEATER APRIL 28

6 p.m.; APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center ballroom.

Admission: \$10 Active Duty \$15 Civilians (Not for children - contains adult language)

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with a cash bar. Dinner buffet begins at 6 p.m. Show starts at 7 p.m. and will last approximately two hours. To register or for more information visit MWR Leisure Travel Services at APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326.

For questions call 410-278-4011/4907 or email usarmy.apg.imcom.list.apgr-usag-mwr-leisuretravel.

NEW YORK CITY BUS TRIP JUNE 4

Transportation to New York City, you are free to schedule your own activities- sight-seeing, shopping, or taking in a show, and safe return to APG. The reservation deadline is May 20; to reserve a seat, visit MWR Leisure Travel Services at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center.

- Departure: Recreation Center 7 a.m.
- Return: Recreation Center 9 p.m.
- Cost: \$48

For questions call 410-278-4011/4907 or email usarmy.APG.imcom.list.apgr-usag-mwr-leisuretravel@mail.mil.

BINGO

Coming soon to the APG Bowling Center. Call 410-278-4041 for more information.

CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

EASTER BRUNCH MARCH 27

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Top of the Bay

Seating is limited and reservations are required. Admission is \$37 for adults, \$19 for children ages 6-12; children under 5 are free.

- Breakfast Stations: Omelet Station w/ Assorted Fillings, Waffle Bar w/ Assorted Toppings
- Breakfast Buffet: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Home Fires, Chipped Beef, Sausage Gravy, Buttery Biscuits, Yogurt, Granola, Fresh Fruit, Scones, Pastries, and Muffins Lunch Buffet: Roasted Glazed Chicken, Shrimp Scampi with Wild Rice, Roasted Medley Potato, Steamed Vegetables, Carved Beef Sirloin and Holiday Ham
- Dessert Station: Array of Fresh Berries, Build-Your-Own Shortcake, and Chocolate Mousse

The Easter Bunny will be making his annual appearance!

Reservations can be made by calling: 410-278-5915/2552/3062 or online at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/aggrectrac.html>.

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE: "PETER AND WENDY" OPEN AUDITIONS MARCH 28

4:30-6:30 p.m.; APG North (Aberdeen) Youth Center

SKIESUnlimited will host a week-long tour residency with the Missoula Children's Theatre to present "Peter and Wendy." Give your children the opportunity to shine! The week-long camp culminates in a public performance, starring local children, complete with professionally designed scenery and costumes.

Auditions are open to youth ages kindergarten through 12th grade and no preparation is needed. Assistant directors will also be cast to assist with the technical aspects of the production.

The "Peter and Wendy" workshop/camp will run March 28 to April 1, and the children's performance will be April 2 at 1:30 & 3 p.m. For more information, contact SKIES at 410-278-4589.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD 2K COLOR FAMILY FUN RUN APRIL 23

APG MWR will host a free 2K Color Family Fun Run starting 10 a.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) youth center. Rain date will be Saturday, April 30. Active-duty, Reservist, wounded warrior and Gold Star family registration begins Feb. 22. All other registration begins Feb. 29. Registration is open to the first 750 participants. All ages are welcome.

Register online at <https://apgmomccolorrun2016.eventbrite.com>. All participants, regardless of age, must register. The first 300 youth ages 3 to 15 will receive a t-shirt.

Volunteers are needed for the fun run. Volunteers can register at <https://apgvollunteercolorrun2016.eventbrite.com>.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Participants must be registered with the CYSS Parent Central Office. Fees are based on total family income. Fees waived for all middle school students' afternoon care.

For more information, contact the Parent Central Office at 410-278-7571.

SPORTS & RECREATION

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 23

League begins March 28. \$250 per team. Active-duty teams, with no civilian members, play for free. Application, league fees, and rosters are due at registration.

Rules Clinic: Wednesday March 23, 5:30 p.m., APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center

Registration forms can be found at any APG sports facility.

Please email registration forms to usarmy.APG.imcom-fmwr.list.usag-mwr-sports@mail.mil or drop them off at any MWR sports facility.

GET GOLF READY! APRIL 19, 5:30 TO 7 P.M.

APRIL 21, 5:30 TO 7 P.M.

APRIL 23, 11 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

Ruggles Golf Course

PGA Professionals will show you that there are lots of ways to play by combining

fun, friends and fitness.

Each session will focus on the various golf skills you will use while playing. In addition to learning the basics, you will be guided onto the golf course to put your skills into action in a casual, friendly setting. No equipment needed!

Five 1.5 hour sessions meeting once per week.

Cost is \$99 per participant.

For more information, contact Dave Correll at 410-278-4794.

SPRING SCRAMBLE APRIL 23

9 a.m.; Exton Golf Course

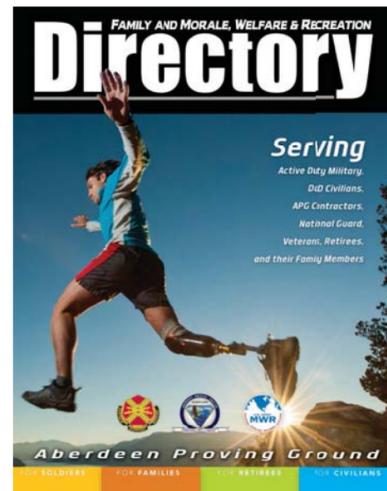
18 hole shotgun. Food and refreshments included. Fees: \$30 annual patron, \$35 authorized patron, \$40 as a guest. Pre-registration at Exton Clubhouse. Fees due on day of event. For more information call 410-436-2213 or 410-436-2233.

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

SAVING AND INVESTING APRIL 28

11:30 - 12:30 p.m., ACS Bldg. 2503

This class will identify reasons to save and how to set goals for a savings plan. Participants will explore the difference between short term savings and long term investments. For more information contact Leary Henry leary.g.henry.civ@mail.mil 410-278-2453.



Learn more about APG MWR activities and services by going online at www.apgmwr.com and downloading the FMWR Directory.

GET GOLF READY

Call the golf shop for dates and times at 410-278-4794. Spaces are limited so call today.

Get Golf Ready is designed to teach everything you'll need to play golf in just a few lessons. PGA Professionals will show you that there are lots of ways to play by combining fun, friends and fitness. Each session will focus on the various golf skills you will use while playing. In addition to learning the basics, you will be guided onto the golf course to put your skills into action in a casual, friendly setting. No equipment needed!

Five 1.5 hour sessions meeting once per week. Beginning Tuesday April 19, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Thursday April 21, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Saturday April 23 11 am until 12:30.

Cost \$99



83 42 15 20
APG Bowling Center
Coming Soon!
APG Bowling to host
BINGO
Session BINGO
Monday and Wednesday nights

Please contact Richard or Kimberly for more information. 410-278-4041

Military youth behavioral health services are available at several Maryland locations

By **LISA R. RHODES**
Fort Meade SoundOff!

What can military parents do if their child has difficulty relating to siblings after a spouse has deployed? Or if a child's behavior becomes defiant in school after the family has arrived at a new duty station?

The Kennedy Krieger Institute's Behavioral Health Services for Military Families program provides family-centered therapy for military children ages 18 months old to 18 at specialized clinics in Odenton, Columbia and Baltimore.

"We deal with a wide range of issues, from a 3-year-old who doesn't want to sleep in his or her own bed to a 16-year-old who is struggling with significant mood issues," said Jen Crockett, a licensed psychologist and director of the program.

The Kennedy Krieger Institute is an internationally recognized institution dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with disorders of the brain, spinal cord and musculoskeletal system, according to the organization's website.

Behavioral Health Services for Military Families is part of the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Behavioral Psychol-

Healthy Living

Healthy Living is a recurring feature in the APG News. It addresses health topics that matter most to our readers. To view more health topics and the Community Health Promotion Council calendar of events, visit the APG homepage www.TeamAPG.com To suggest health-related topics for the Health Living series, email amanda.r.rominiecki.civ@mail.mil

ogy Department and is staffed by eight licensed psychologists and nine post-doctoral fellows who are specifically trained to understand and serve the unique needs of military families and children.

The mental health professionals do not offer medication management, but specialize in evidence-based behavioral interventions, problem-solving strategies, cognitive behavioral therapy and parent training.

Crockett said that the therapies are family-centered and include parents, particularly for younger children.

The program offers two out-patient clinics. The Behavior Management Clinic focuses on common problems at home – such as noncompliance, tan-

trums, toileting and sleep problems — and provides treatment for children ranging from ages 18 months to 12 years old.

The Child and Family Therapy Clinic focuses on adjustment and family-related stressors such as divorce, moves, deployment, bullying and family conflict, and how children and adolescents respond to these stressors emotionally and behaviorally.

The clinic serves youths from ages 6 to 18.

Crockett said the most common conditions among children at the clinics include attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, oppositional defiant behavior, adjustment disorders, depression, anxi-

ety and any other behavior or emotional concerns parents may have.

Kennedy Krieger began serving military families at its main headquarters in Baltimore in 2009. Two years later, an office was opened in Columbia. In November 2013, the Odenton office was opened. Last year, 1,000 military families were served at the clinics.

Crockett is a military spouse. Her husband is retired Lt. Col. Ken Romaine, whose last duty station was Fort Meade's Asymmetric Warfare Group. The family lived on Fort Meade from 2008 to 2010, when Romaine retired. One of the couple's sons attended Manor View Elementary School.

"When we opened the clinic [in Odenton], we really wanted to make sure that our staff had an understanding of military culture and could offer culturally competent care," Crockett said.

Every month, Crockett leads a monthly course on military life for her staff.

Kennedy Krieger's services are offered through TRICARE.

For more information, visit <http://www.kennedykrieger.org/patient-care/patient-care-programs/outpatient-programs/military-behavioral-health-services>.

Researcher earns professional engineer credential

Army Research Laboratory

Earning the professional engineer credential, or PE, is a necessary step for career development, according to the National Society of Professional Engineers.

For Dr. Ed Habtour, Prognostics and Diagnostics Team lead in the Vehicle Technology Directorate at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, it is a goal he's pursued for a long time.

"People make my job important," Habtour said. "I cannot adequately express the satisfaction of developing cutting edge technologies that would maximize the availability of materiel for our Soldiers to execute their mission reliably in hostile environments."

At ARL, Habtour focuses on developing mathematical and experimental techniques to predict the dynamic response of healthy and unhealthy mechanical systems – with an emphasis on enhancing reliability.

"Earning the PE license was a humbling experience," he said. "For me, it is a sense of commitment to the highest standards of engineering practice and desire to offer engineering services directly to the public."

Only a licensed engineer, for example, may "prepare, sign, seal and submit engineering plans and drawings to a public authority for approval, or to seal engineering work for public and private clients," according to the NSPE website.

Before joining the laboratory, he held positions at the Space Dynamics Laboratory, ATK (formally Swales Aerospace), Northrop Grumman, and the Army Materiel System Analysis Activity.

In the past year-and-a-half, the laboratory has assembled teams consisting of researchers in aerospace, mechanical and material science, mathematics and theoretical physics.

"Multidisciplinary pretty accurately describes the team," he said. "Our research efforts focus on maximizing the availability of Army vehicles while outsmarting fatigue. We look at ways to combine multifunctional structures and advanced algorithms to create intelligent bio-inspired vehicles that adjust their maneuver based on their health to avoid fatigue or damage (injuries)."

Just like a biological system, the health signal and information is fed into the platform controls algorithms to adjust its maneuver, extending the service life of the system, he explained.

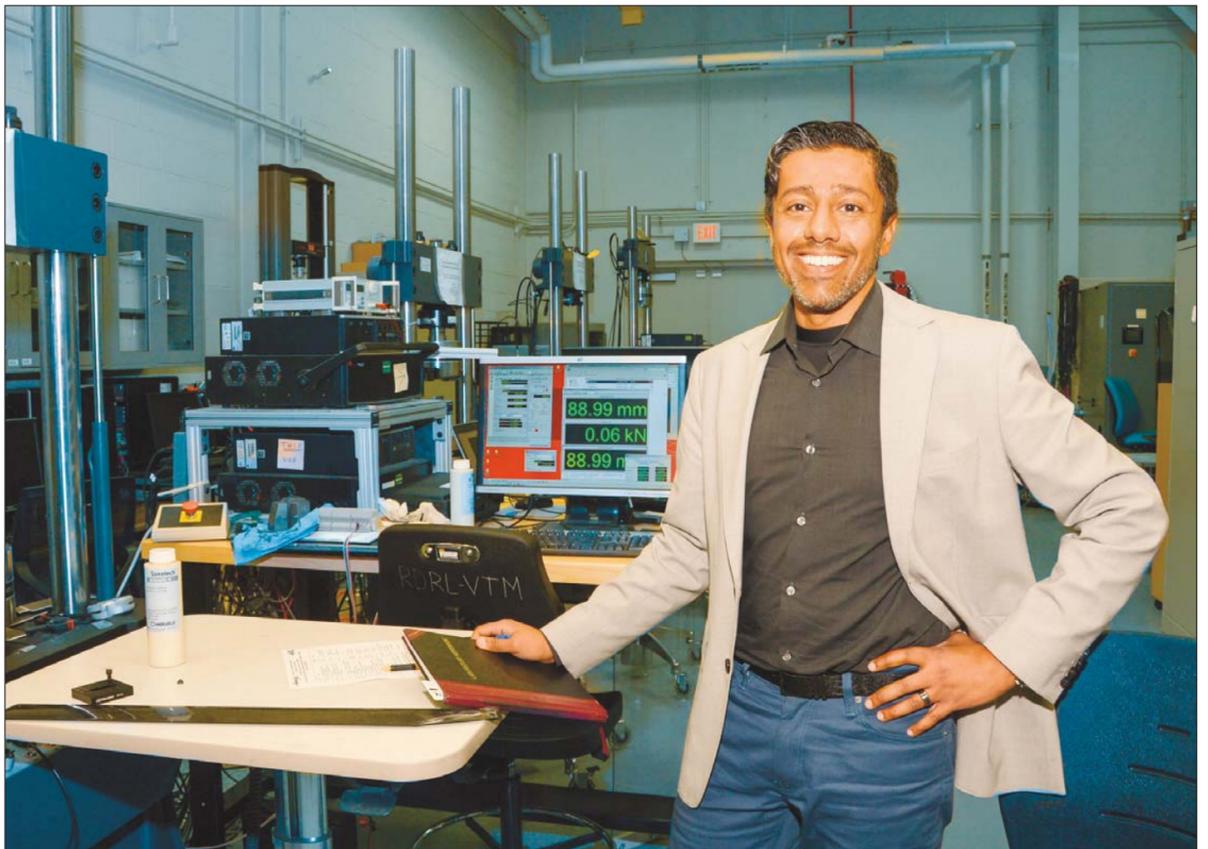


Photo by Conrad Johnson, RDECOM

Dr. Ed Habtour, Prognostics and Diagnostics Team lead in the Vehicle Technology Directorate at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, recently earned the professional engineering credential and said it is a "commitment to the highest standards of engineering practice and desire to offer engineering services directly to the public."

"If a particular damage precursor can be identified, quantified and correlated to a particular failure mode, a sensing strategy can be developed to capture a specific precursor before the onset of cracks, and then mitigate an adverse loading environment," he said. "The intent of our research is improving the reliability and sustainment of military vehicles."

Habtour earned his bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Utah State University. He also earned three masters of science degrees in engineering from Johns Hopkins University, Purdue University and University of Maryland. He completed his doctorate in mechanical engineering at University of Maryland.

He is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Reliability Society, and a member

of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Engineering Mechanics Institute and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. He has served in international technical committees and review panels. Habtour has published more than 30 technical papers and received several awards for his contributions in physics of failure and multiaxial vibrations.

"Since pursuing this credential, I have become more cognizant of my own limitations and the importance of collaborating in an era of multidisciplinary engineering," he said. "I would highly recommend it to my colleagues for two reasons. For one, the ability to obtain the PE license is indicative that we are a world-premier laboratory, and for two, it's a constant reminder of the high ethical standards that engineers have to adhere to."

Habtour said the new culture at ARL is what drives him.

"We have a culture that focuses on people first, and we're expanding opportunities through the Open Campus collaboration initiative," he said. "ARL has instigated a rich intellectual experience for its researchers that led to an abundance of collaborative multidisciplinary opportunities."

"I have been fortunate enough to work with highly talented and energetic researchers who allowed me to pursue crazy ideas outside of my primary area of expertise," he said. "In order to be a more successful researcher, I think it's important to continually submerge ourselves in a multidisciplinary, collaborative research eco-network, bringing people together from different backgrounds to make what seems impossible, possible."

Leave Donations

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); or OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). Please contact Sue Campbell at 410-306-0266 or sue.a.campbell8.civ@mail.mil

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Brogan, Tia L.
Chacon, Leanne A.
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MORE ONLINE

Come and follow us for news and events going on at and around the U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground, visit the garrison twitter site <http://twitter.com/USAGAPG>



Army develops more secure radar tech

By **ALLISON BARROW**
CERDEC

Radar detectors warning speeding motorists of police presence are about to get a run for their money, as the Army works to develop an innovative radar technology that could someday be common practice for users wanting to mask their radar emissions.

Over the past several years, the threat of being compromised has become an increasing issue for Soldiers in theater. The need to preserve radar system performance while operating in both a contested (adversarial attack) and congested (high traffic) radio frequency environment has presented a significant challenge to radar system designers.

These challenges led the U.S. Army Materiel Command's Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, or CERDEC, to research and develop a tunable, noise-encrypted radar waveform referred to as Advanced Pulse Compression Noise, or APCN.

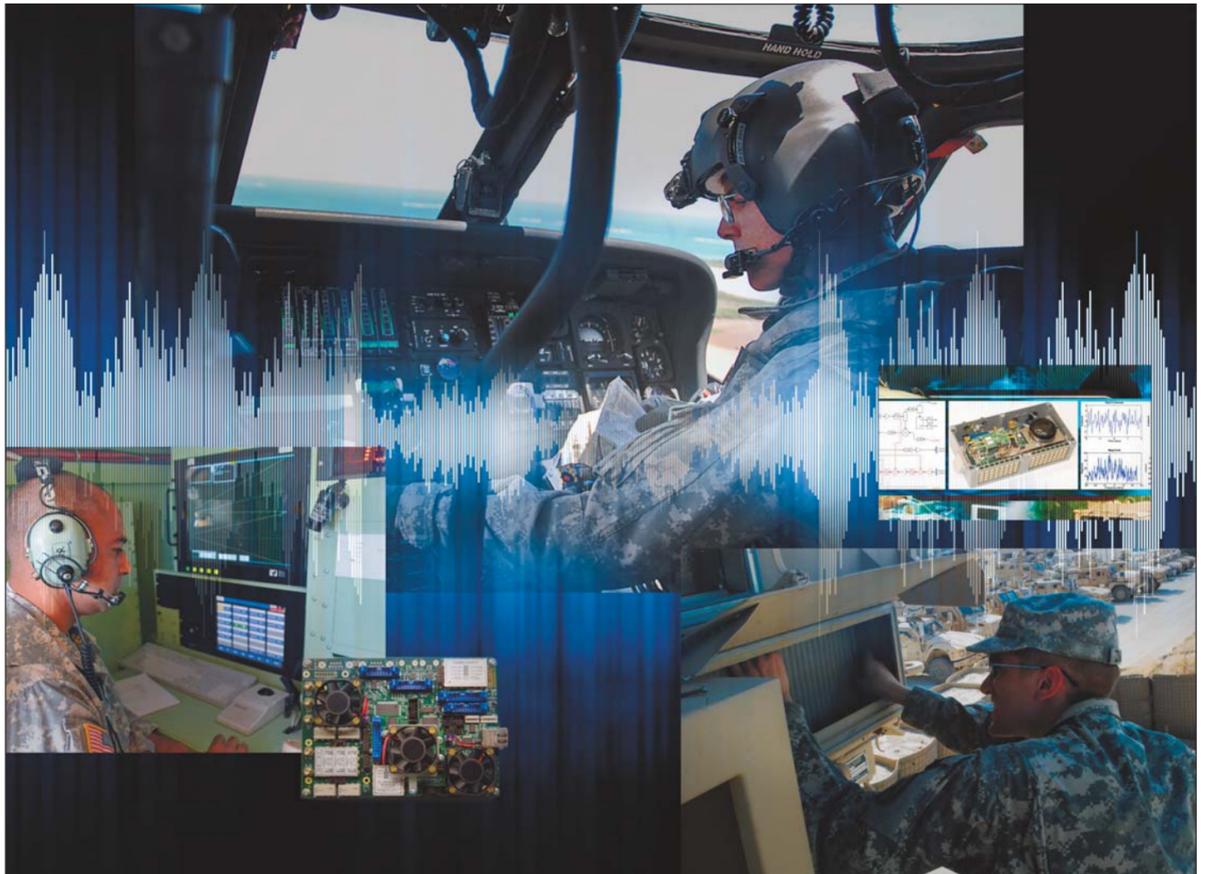
"The battlespace is continually evolving, and with that, comes the need to change the way we think about radar design. Techniques such as real-time re-programmable waveform synthesis and low probability of intercept/low probability of detection (LPI/LPD) provide added capability that will address the emerging electromagnetic spectrum challenges our Soldiers are likely to face in the future," said Dr. Paul Zablocky, director of CERDEC's Intelligence and Information Warfare Directorate.

The APCN waveform embodies select aspects from both traditional and non-traditional radar waveforms, and can be programmed in real-time to allow the system user (the Soldier) to optimize radar performance based on the particular scenario.

"Encrypting our radar waveforms limits the likelihood for adversaries to intercept and exploit our emissions. Programming the waveform in real-time takes this capability even further, and ensures operational effectiveness," said Dr. Mark Govoni, a research scientist in CERDEC I2WD's Radar Division who established the theory and patented the design for the APCN waveform.

This secure waveform could be used not just by Soldiers but civilian law enforcement agencies as well.

"Having the ability to transmit a



U.S. Army graphic

CERDEC is developing a more adaptable, secure radar technology that can be programmed in real-time to allow Soldiers to optimize radar performance in the field.

radar waveform that's continually changing, one that never repeats itself, and looks like noise, is extremely difficult to intercept and becomes advantageous for police because they can now remain anonymous to radar detectors," Govoni said.

"Given the prevalence of software-defined capabilities, it's totally conceivable to consider this type of technology as an alternative to what's currently used with some of the more critical communication networks like GPS and emergency broadcasting," he said.

Another benefit of the APCN waveform is its inherent robustness to frequency congestion. CERDEC researchers have investigated this aspect, and theorize that a follow-on approach called "cognitive radar waveform diversity" could further minimize

challenges with interference.

For example, Soldiers using a programmable waveform like APCN, could someday rely on the system's ability to dynamically adapt and diversify its radar emissions while operating in heavy congestion.

Currently, this process is done manually, but researchers are looking for it to one day be done autonomously, Govoni said.

"Autonomy can relieve the Soldier of unnecessary burden, which then affords more attention for his or her primary tasks," Govoni said. "Technologies like waveform diversity and cognition provide exactly that, and are where we're headed with future radar capability."

CERDEC worked with the Army Research Laboratory to build an experimental demonstrator that served as

the radar system for the APCN waveform. Researchers modified the existing waveform and interfaced with the system using custom-designed control software. The experimental system was successfully demonstrated at APG in 2012.

CERDEC researchers are currently working to conduct additional experiments with advanced radar waveforms.

"There's a growing desire to consolidate systems operating in the electromagnetic spectrum. As a (large) tenant of this spectrum, radar is an attractive candidate. The kind of technology we're researching here at CERDEC gets us one step closer to real-time coordinated and cooperative operation with other systems," Govoni said. "It's a great example of where Army technologists are pushing the state-of-the-art."

ECBC supports Yuma Proving Ground study

Risk reduction unit provides monitoring, laboratory services for suspected contamination areas

Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

A Chemical Biological Application and Risk Reduction team, known as CBARR, has been deployed to the Sonoran Desert for a project supporting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville Center and U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground YPG.

The team from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, or ECBC, is providing chemical agent air monitoring and chemical warfare materiel, or CWM, laboratory testing services for a remedial investigation/feasibility study on two test fields, the West Environmental Test Area and Former Waste Disposal Area, which the Huntsville Center and YPG have earmarked for investigation.

YPG is an Army facility in southwestern Arizona, just north of the city of Yuma, which was established in 1943. One of the largest military installations in the world, YPG is used extensively by the Army, other services and friendly foreign nations for the testing of munitions and a wide variety of ground and air weapon systems on the proving ground's 1,300 square-mile assortment of ranges.

"Historically, the sites were used to test the fate of chemical agents in high temperatures," said John Ditillo, CBARR project manager. "For example, they would sit a pallet of munitions in the hot sun for the summer, where it can get upwinds of 120 degrees; then,



Military equipment, old munitions and other debris left behind from decades of chemical weapons testing in a section of Yuma Proving Ground will be examined by a Chemical Biological Application Risk Reduction unit to help determine future cleanup efforts.

Courtesy photo

test to see if the chemical agent inside the munitions changed or if the containers degraded."

The two test fields, closed off by barbed-wire fencing, are suspected to be contaminated with a host of chemicals previously used in defense programs, including mustard agents, nerve agent and phosgene. Contaminated soil, containers, contaminated scrap metals, CWM munitions, protective personnel equipment, and equipment that may have been used decades ago reportedly remain on the premises. The area has older structures that may need to be demolished, and structures that have already collapsed, but neither can be removed until investigative work has been performed to assess contamination.

ECBC's team will be supporting the Huntsville Center, which is managing the project. Huntsville Center uses ECBC's CBARR unit for all of its cleanup projects at CWM sites where chemical weapons may have been used, Ditillo said.

ECBC's CBARR unit will conduct CWM analytical tests on soil borings samples collected by the Huntsville Center contractor, Parsons Engineering, using a push rig to access cores of soil and samples from trenches, in order to provide a cross section of contaminants in representative trenches. Parsons Engineering is doing the bulk of the work; such as trenching, intrusive excavations, borings, well installation, and collecting the samples for testing.

"The purpose of this project is not to remove the items but to investigate discreet areas and determine what's there and how much, and what the condition is," Ditillo said. "This is a first look at the problem and what we can expect." It will be up to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to decide how to handle what the team discovers, he said.

ECBC will also provide air monitoring performed by Miniature Continuous Air Monitoring Systems with confirmation by a Depot Area Air Monitoring System to ensure worker safety.

A crew of three chemical engineering technicians and two chemists, on one-month rotations, will be staffing the project. They're outfitted with custom air monitoring vehicles, a mobile laboratory, support vehicles and a generator.

The ECBC team completed a walk-through of the site in its first week at YPG, noting visible landmarks: trenches used to bury items, pits and ground scars.

True to ECBC's exacting safety measures, the team then embarked on three weeks of onsite safety training, starting with preoperational survey measures and ending with a week of training from the Huntsville Center. ECBC's CBARR unit also completed what's called the Huntsville Survey, a weeklong safety check administered by the Huntsville Center as a dry run prior to the preoperational survey, which catches and corrects potential safety concerns.

The team is trying to work with Mother Nature to complete the assignment by the end of May, before desert temps spike.

Submit letters to the editor to usarmy.apg.imcom.mbx.apg-pao@mail.mil

THIS WEEK IN APG HISTORY



Take a look back in time as the APG News explores what made the headlines around APG during this week 10, 25 and 50 years ago. This week's APG News masthead is from 1987.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News

2015
2010
2000
1990
1980
1970
1960
1950

10 Years Ago: March 23, 2006



(Left) Veterinary technician Dodie McMillan, right, administers a rabies shot to Dingo as his owner Mary Ann Roberts looks on during a Walk-In Clinic at the Veterinary Treatment Facility.



(Right) Michael Tarrey, 4, poses with his new friend, APG's Sparky the Fire Dog, in this 2005 photo advertising the planned 2006 Spring Fling at Capa Field. Sparky was portrayed by the late APG firefighter Doug Farrington.

25 Years Ago: March 27, 1991

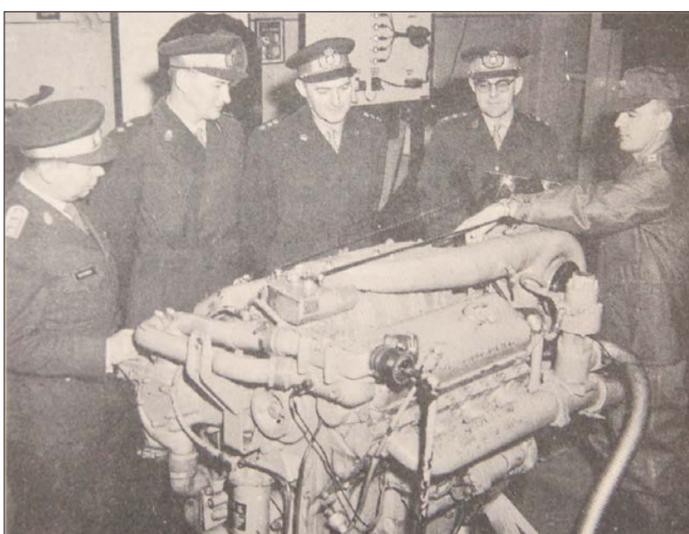


(Left) John Raneis, a Directorate of Engineering and Housing contractor touches up the overhang at the Ordnance Center and School's Fire Control Branch.

(Below) Exhibit specialists Tim Tidwell, left, and Alan Killenger, right, line up models of armored vehicles in a display they're designing about Operation Desert Storm for the Ordnance Museum.



50 Years Ago: March 24, 1966



(Left) Capt. Ernest E. Warman, right, of the Ordnance Center and School, explains the M-107 self-propelled vehicle engine to visiting Danish Army officers, from right, Lt. Col. Finn O. Hertel; Col. Kai Lindhardt; Col. Gunnar M.H. Langberg; and Lt. Col. Otto Petersen.

(Right) Maj. Royce M. Powell of the Ordnance Center and School shows a spike used by the Viet Cong to puncture boots to workers in the combat boot department at the Bata Shoe Company in Belcamp.



APG North cut-off dates for acquisition packages set

ACC-APG, Tenant Contracting Division

The Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, or ACC-APG, Tenant Contracting Division, has established its Fiscal Year 2016 cutoff date for submission of complete Acquisition Packages to include purchase requests, known as PRs, and required acquisition documentation.

With proper and early planning, the Tenant Contracting Division can successfully process customer requests that are identified and submitted by or before May 16. This greatly enhances the ability of the ACC-APG to meet customer needs. Packages accepted after the cutoff date will be handled on a best effort basis with no guarantee of award.

The following schedule has been established for the submission of acquisition packages for FY 16. This cutoff date is for the PR and all supporting documentation and signed approvals. Incomplete acquisition packages will not be accepted by the Tenant Division. Failure to include the necessary documentation could result in delay, untimely, or non-award of requests.

APG North cut-off date

The cut-off date of May 16 includes, but is not limited to, the actions listed below:

- Noncommercial items over \$150,000*
- Noncommercial items between \$2,500 for services; \$3,000 for supplies; \$2,000 for construction and \$150,000
- Commercial items under \$150,000
- Commercial items over \$150,000*
- Services under \$150,000
- Services over \$150,000*
- Delivery orders and task orders under existing contracts
- GSA schedule procurements
- Short-of-award over \$2,500**
- Maintenance for FY 2016 – (FY16 Contract Modifications and Options for Existing Maintenance Contracts)

*There may be instances where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. It is therefore required that these actions be coordinated with the Branch Chiefs prior to this date. ACC-APG encourages our customer activities to coordi-

nate their projected FY-end requirements with their respective branch chiefs during the third quarter in order to discuss acquisition methods and identify those documents, reviews, and approvals required to accompany the procurement package.

**Customers submitting short-of-award PRs, especially for services requirements, must consider whether funding will materialize. A substantial amount of effort is expended to prepare these pending actions and they must be prioritized after PRs that are funded and PRs that are subject to the availability of funds. Short-of-award actions, if not funded in FY15, should be funded immediately in FY16 as a bona fide need.

Subject-to-Availability-of-Funds, or SAF, will only be accepted by the Tenant Contracting Division Branch Chiefs. APG activities should consider maximizing use of their Government Purchase Cards to execute small dollar transactions for authorized items rather than submitting a purchase request to the contracting office.

ALL acquisition packages must be submitted electronically and at a minimum shall include the following: funded purchase request, statement of work/description of requirement/purchase description, signed Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE), Service Acquisition strategy (>\$150,000 inclusive of options), Service Contract Approval, COR nomination completed in VCE-COR tool, Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan (QASP), NEC approval and/or AK1 Goal Waiver (IT hardware, software and services), evaluation factors, complete Sole Source Justification (<\$150K and J&A for >\$150K, if appropriate), Antiterrorism/Operations Security (AT/OPSEC) cover sheet, and Market Research.

ACC-APG Points of Contact

For more information, contact Cynthia H. Phillips, Chief, Tenant Contracting Division, at 443-861-4812; cynthia.h.phillips.civ@mail.mil, or

Supply & Services Branch Chiefs:

Chanel De Silva, Mission Branch Chief; 443-861-4832; chanel.d.desilva.civ@mail.mil,

Donna J. Bader, Technology Branch Chief; 443- 861-5355; donna.j.bader.civ@mail.mil,

Lane Gary, Facilities Branch Chief; 443-861-5339; lane.m.gary.civ@mail.mil, Thomas J. Boyle, Contract Support Branch Chief; 443-861-5351; thomas.j.boyle.civ@mail.mil,

APG South cut-off dates set for 2016 procurement requests

ACC-APG, Edgewood Contract Division

The Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Edgewood Contracting Division, known as ECD, has issued the following guidance for the Fiscal Year 2016 cutoff dates for submission of purchase requests for those customers receiving contract support through ECD.

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

The peak processing time for most contracting offices is between July 1 and September 30 of each fiscal year. “Last year ECD processed 339 procurement actions valued at approximately \$70.1M during the July through September time period,” said Jason VanLuven, Chief of the ECD Policy Office. “We experienced a slow start in receiving the distribution of customer funding this fiscal year. As a result, we anticipate that the number of actions will significantly increase during this year’s 4th Quarter to compensate for the slow start. Thus, it is extremely important that customers be as diligent as possible in clearly identifying their needs as early in the cycle as possible,” said Mr. VanLuven.

Maintaining adequate resources continues to be a challenge for the contracts team and customers therefore it is equally as important to submit complete procurement packages. Mr. VanLuven said, “Incomplete and inaccurate acquisition packages delay the process and create inefficiency and significant delay in achieving the end result. It is essential that early and upfront coordination with the appropriate Contracting Officer takes place. This will allow ECD to ensure that each purchase request package contains the necessary documentation and approvals so as to avoid untimely delays in the processing of awards while maximizing the use of available customer dollars.”

Mr. VanLuven stressed that customers should ensure that all procurement requests processed through GFEBs contains the necessary information in the description. Identifying the Branch Chief as well as the Contracting Officer on the GFEBs document (if known) will aid in routing the actions to the correct contract team as quickly as possible for processing. “Purchase requests for actions that are not GFEBs enabled must continue to be submitted electronically to ECD using the SHARED MAILBOX: [usarmy.APG.acc.mbx.edgewood-con-](mailto:usarmy.APG.acc.mbx.edgewood-contracting-division@mail.mil)

tracting-division@mail.mil,” said Mr. VanLuven.

APG South cut-off dates

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

- All actions that require a justification and approval (J&A) document - May 2
- Noncommercial items over \$150,000 – May 27*
- Services over \$150,000 – May 27*
- Commercial items less than \$6.5 million – May 27
- Delivery orders and task orders under existing contracts – June 2
- GSA schedule procurements – June 2
- Short-of-Award actions – May 27**

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

** Customers submitting “short-of-award” Requirements must consider the probability of funds materializing in a timely manner. If it is not likely and the action not urgent, consider that time spent processing these actions may be better utilized on funded actions.

“ECD will make every effort to accommodate customers whose procurement packages must be submitted after the established cut-off dates,” said VanLuven. “However, in that event the contracting office cannot guarantee that the award will be processed prior to September 30.”

Edgewood Contracting Division points of contact

For more information, contact:

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

Ted Kunzog, Branch A (ECBC, ACWA & CMA Customers) at theodore.m.kunzog.civ@mail.mil 410-436-2449;

Eric Braerman, Branch B (JPEO-CBD Customers) at eric.w.braerman.civ@mail.mil 410-436-4469; or

Michael Velez, Branch C (JPEO-CBD Customers) at michael.a.velez32.civ@mail.mil 410-436-8446

2016 APG Chapel Easter Services

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, March 27 at 7 a.m.

APG North (Aberdeen) Chapel

Hot breakfast to follow the service, served by Protestant Men of the Chapel

APG North (Aberdeen) Chapel

Catholic Services

Friday, March 25	Good Friday	4 p.m.
Saturday, March 26	Easter Vigil	7 p.m.
Sunday, March 27	Easter Sunday	8:45 a.m.

Protestant Services

All Sunday services at 10:15 a.m.

Protestant Lenten Bible Study & Lunch

Wednesdays through March 23	Fellowship hall	Noon
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Gospel Services

All Sunday services at noon

APG South (Edgewood) Chapel

Catholic Services

Thursday, March 24	Holy Thursday	7 p.m.
Friday, March 25	Good Friday	4 p.m.
Sunday, March 27	Easter Sunday	10: 45 a.m.

Protestant Services

All Sunday services at 9:15 a.m.

Jewish Holy Days

Point of contact: Retired Col. Jonas Vogelhut
443-619-2304

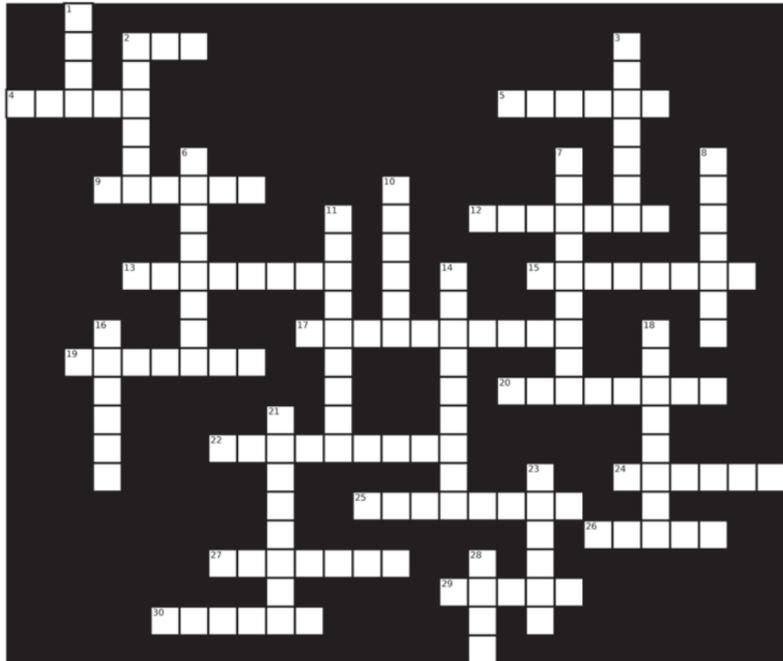
Passover begins Friday, April 22
Passover ends Saturday, April 30

Stations of the Cross, Soup and Bread

Followed by a study on “The Seven Deadly Sins”
Every Friday during Lent.

See APG North and APG South chapel schedules for alternating dates and locations.

For more information about upcoming services and special events, contact the APG Main Post Chapel administrative office at 410-278-4333.



The APG Crossword

Spring has sprung!

By **STACY SMITH**, APG News

The spring season officially began March 20. Celebrate the end of cold weather with this spring-themed brain-twister.

Across

2. Oval-shaped animal product associated with spring and fertility.
4. Arbor Day is a holiday observed in spring that encourages the planting and care of these.
5. Pagan spring festival honoring fertility and rebirth.
9. Director of the 1967 comedy film "The Producers" which features the fictional musical number, "Springtime for Hitler."
12. In the northern hemisphere, the first day of spring, known as the vernal _____, has 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness.
13. Ancient civilization that

- built the Great Sphinx so that it points directly toward the rising sun on the spring equinox.
15. Spring training games for this sport begin Mar. 1.
17. According to Greek myth, the return of spring coincides with the return of this goddess of plants and fertility.
19. A common expression in English-speaking countries: "April _____ bring May flowers."
20. U.S. founding father who proposed Daylight Saving Time in 1784.
22. According to tradition, spring will come early if this animal does not see his shadow when emerging from his burrow on Feb. 2.

24. Popular good-weather excursion during which a meal is eaten outdoors.
25. Some researchers trace the origin of spring cleaning to the ancient Jewish practice of thoroughly cleansing the home in anticipation of this springtime memorial feast.
26. One of the five senses that becomes more acute in spring due to increased moisture in the air.
27. Spring is often associated with the start of the pollen season, but some pollen types can release as early as this month.
29. The opening of the cherry blossom, this country's national flower, signifies spring.
30. In the Southern Hemisphere, spring begins in this month and lasts until November.

Down

1. May Day is a spring festival based on Celtic tradition in which celebrants wind ribbons and dance around this object.
2. Christian religious festival and holiday celebrated in spring between March 22 and April 25.
3. Weather event that commonly occurs in spring in the U.S. due to the convergence of warm air and cool air brought on by the changing season.
6. Insect more likely to swarm during the spring.
7. Spanish word for spring.
8. Classical composer whose most famous work, "The Four Seasons," gives a musical expression to each season of the year, starting with spring.
10. Flowering plant in the iris family that is one of the first flowers to bloom in spring.
11. Often referred to as a weed, this yellow flower has medicinal benefits and is a good source of vitamins A, C and K.
14. Only the young shoots of

- this common spring vegetable are eaten.
16. This annual festival in Washington, D.C. revolves around the blossoming of this fruit tree.
18. The U.S. Humane Society considers spring an excellent time to watch _____.
21. 'Spring fever,' the term that refers to the psychological and physiological symptoms associated with the arrival of spring, is believed to be caused by fluctuations in these.
23. Latin word for spring.
28. The meat from this spring-time animal is very tender but doesn't have as much flavor as those produced in later months, because the animal hasn't had as much time to graze.



Think you solved last week's puzzle? Check out the solution below

Solution to the March 17 puzzle



WORD OF THE WEEK

Harangue

Pronounced: huh-RANGUE

Part of Speech: Noun

Definition:

1. A scolding or a long or intense verbal attack; diatribe.
2. A long, passionate, and vehement speech, especially one delivered before a public gathering.
3. Any long, pompous speech or writing of a tediously hortatory or didactic nature; sermonizing lecture or discourse.

Use:

- He delivered a long harangue about the evils of popular culture
- To everyone's surprise he delivered a lengthy harangue fully supporting the project he had wholly rejected up to this point.
- No one hung around the council chambers for the minister's scathing harangue condemning the evils of gambling that was sure to follow.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News
 Source(s): <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com>
<http://dictionary.reference.com>

ACRONYM OF THE WEEK

MEDCOM

U.S. Army Medical Command

The U.S. Army Medical Command, known as MEDCOM, is a direct reporting unit of the U.S. Army that provides medical, dental and veterinary capabilities to the Army and designated DOD activities; operates fixed facilities; conducts medical research, materiel development and acquisition; educates and trains personnel; and develops medical concepts, doctrine, and systems to support Army healthcare delivery.

MEDCOM is commanded by the Army Surgeon General, currently Lt. Gen. Nadja West. The Surgeon General is also head of the U.S. Army Medical Department, or AMEDD.



By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News
 Source(s): <http://www.army.mil>
www.wikipedia.org



APG CATCH-A-POACHER PROGRAM

A wide variety of wildlife call Aberdeen Proving Ground home. The APG Conservation Law Enforcement Branch is asking you to be a partner in protecting and preserving the natural resources here on post. If you see or have knowledge of poaching or illegal activity involving wildlife or natural resources, you can use the SUBMIT-A-TIP hotline to anonymously provide information to catch a poacher.

Call the SUBMIT-A-TIP "HOTLINE" at 410-306-4673.

Emergencies or violations in progress should always be reported via 911.

When reporting poaching or illegal activity involving wildlife or natural resources on APG, please take note of the information listed in the form below.

Name/Description/Address of the Poacher
Location/Days/Times & Type of Poaching
Vehicle/Vessel Description or Registration #

You can also cut out this completed SUBMIT-A-TIP form and mail it to: 2200 Aberdeen Blvd. APG, MD 21005



Photo by Joel Kowsky, NASA

From right, Norm Knight, NASA's Flight Director Office chief, explains the Apollo Mission Control Center to Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden, NASA students and APG youth, Brandon Casquete, teacher Yvonne Gabriel, Sarah Decker and Kelly Pysh during a tour of the Mission Control Center at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas March 2. The teens were selected to join Biden in welcoming home record-breaking NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly.

Youth join Second Lady to welcome home astronaut

Continued from Page 1

dren of active-duty parents or guardians and because they excel in school.

"Both the Bidens were very genuine," Gabriel said. "Dr. Jill Biden is a very big supporter of military families."

The day culminated at Johnson Space Center, home of NASA's Mission Control Center, where the group watched Kelly's plane touch down and witnessed his emotional reunion with family members, friends and fellow astronauts in the early morning hours of March 3. It was his first step on U.S. soil in more than 11 months.

Decker said seeing Kelly embrace his daughter after so much time apart reminded her of her own father, Lt. Col. Curtis Decker, of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, and his surprise return from deployment a few years ago. She said she and her sister were playing in their backyard when they saw their father emerge from a taxi cab.

"We just went crazy and jumped over the fence and hugged him," Decker said, adding that the Kelly reunion, "brought back memories."

Kelly was the mission commander of a 340-day stay on the International Space Station, setting a record for continuous time in space by an American. He and two Russian cosmonauts returned to Earth in a space capsule that landed in Kazakhstan March 1. Kelly retires from NASA April 1.

Prior to Kelly's return, Biden led the group through a tour of the Mission Control Center where they met several other NASA astronauts and officials, includ-

ing NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and the President's Science Advisor, John Holdren. The group toured the scale-sized International Space Station training room and observed how scientists operate it from Earth.

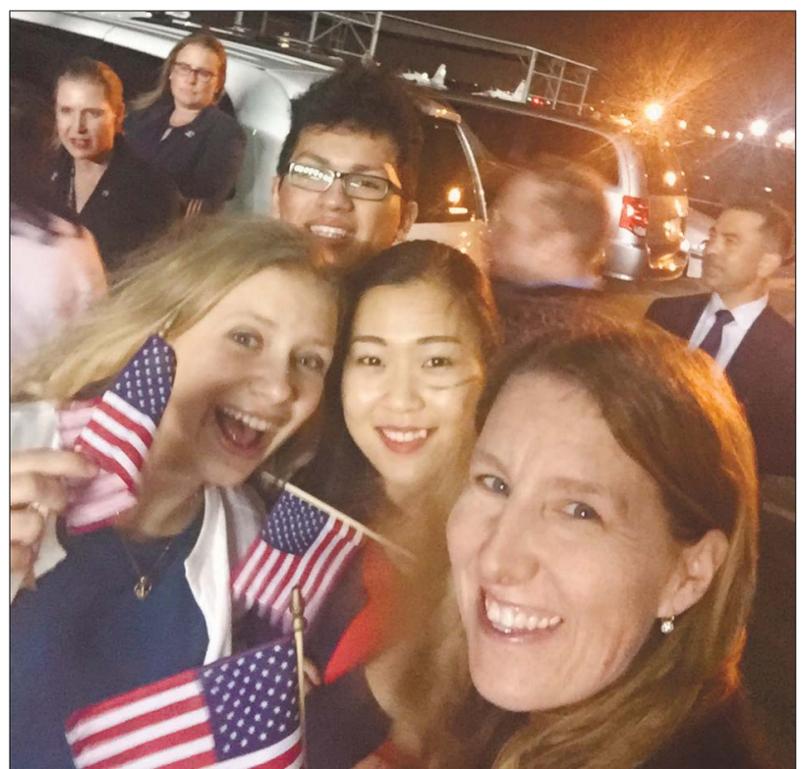
They also learned how a long-term stay in space, in zero gravity, affects the human body. Gabriel said because Kelly grew about two inches in height, NASA scientists are comparing his body composition to that of his twin and former astronaut, Mark Kelly, whom the group also met.

Gabriel said NASA officials are conducting the twin study in part because they are planning a two-and one-half-year round-trip mission to Mars in 2030.

"So they need to be prepared and they need to know what's going to happen to these brave people who take this trip," she said.

Gabriel said Biden extended the VIP invitation weeks ago through the AHS partnership with the National Math and Science Initiative. Pysh, who is the niece of Maj. Preston Pysh of the Program Executive Office of Intelligence Electronic Warfare and Sensors, or PEO-IIEWS, and Casquete, the son of Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Casquete of the Army Test and Evaluation Command, or ATEC, said the tour piqued their interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, career fields.

"I've always been interested in science, but now I think it's really something I could enjoy and get into," Casquete said.



Courtesy photo

From left, Aberdeen High School students and APG family members Sara Decker, Brandon Casquete, Kelly Pysh and science teacher Yvonne Gabriel snap a selfie at Johnson Space Center March 2 as they excitedly await the arrival of NASA astronaut Scott Kelly after his 340-day stay aboard the International Space Station.

Decker said that while she is fascinated by STEM, and she's undecided about her future, she was inspired by the efforts of NASA personnel to improve

the world through space exploration. "Whatever career I choose," she said, "I want it to be something that I know helps the world become a better place."

Course challenges senior civilians to think critically

Continued from Page 1

large civilian populations.

"I know we've had basic and intermediate courses here, but I think this is the first advanced course APG has ever hosted," said Gordon Malone, a U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, or ATEC, human resources specialist.

Malone said graduates of the college-level course have higher level Army leadership opportunities available to them, because the course curriculum exposes them to the strategic enterprise leadership necessary to operate at high levels of Army commands.

"If folks want to go to the Senior Service College, or if they want to go to the DOD (Department of Defense) Senior Leader Development Program, having completed this course is a prerequisite," Malone said.

CES Advanced Course instructor Dr. Barry Leslie said the course is not just about enhancing personal leadership skills, but also covers a wide range of topics, including the influence of the United States in various parts of the world, specifically Southeast Asia, and the Army role within the continental United States and its relationship with other commands. Coursework includes peer-to-peer discussions, formal papers and presentations.

"We challenge them every day on the assumptions they're making and the logic of their thinking," Leslie said.

He added for the past year-and-a-half, the AMSC has invited an Army Senior Executive Service, or SES, member into each classroom to mentor students and



Dr. Berry Leslie, Army Staff Management College instructor, conducts a final Civilian Education System, or CES, Advanced Course class one day before graduation at APG North (Aberdeen) March 17. Officials said the course teaches leadership skills and opens doors to higher career opportunities.

provide a strategic enterprise leadership perspective.

"That helps students understand that the problems are not simple; the problems are complex and there's no easy solution," he said, adding, students "have to do a lot of digging to get information and to make sense of it."

Advanced Course graduate Noel Osborne, the director of operations for the Program Executive Office Intelligence, Electronics, Warfare & Sensors,

or PEO-IIEWS, said the course was a "phenomenal training opportunity" that he recommends to others.

"The facilitators are great individuals," Osborne said. "They possess a wealth of institutional knowledge from the Army as a whole and provide valuable input and tools that you can take back to your respective organization. I encourage a lot of organizations to send their senior leaders to the course."

Civilians who are interested in reg-

istering for a CES course are encouraged to contact their supervisors. Course applications are submitted through the Civilian Human Resources Training Application System, or CHRTAS.

Team APG will host a CES intermediate course for civilians in May at the Mallette Training Facility, Bldg. 6008.

For additional information about the AMSC, or to view the application process for online courses, visit <http://usacac.army.mil/organizations/cace/amsc>.

Couples work to improve communication skills

Continued from Page 1

selling married couples, said he chose Chapman's book for the APG Strong Bonds program because it is easy to understand.

"It is pretty popular; most people have at least seen the cover of the book, and might have read a chapter or two," he said. "But most people haven't really dived into the book and studied what it means."

According to Ginder, Chapman's book states that there are five love languages: gifts, quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service and physical touch, and he played several video clips featuring Chapman, who explained love language characteristics. After each video segment the couples discussed and identified ways they could improve their relationships.

Cathy Shea attended the conference with her husband Spc. Derek Shea, with the Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery. They have been married four years.

"I think this retreat is good, especially for military couples," she said. "When a husband or wife has to leave [for deploy-



From left, Alexander Diaz and his wife, Capt. Joli Miracle, with Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, discuss "love languages" during the Strong Bonds marriage retreat at the Vandiver Inn, in Havre de Grace, March 17.

ments or training] it can be a big strain on the relationship. The communication and the relationship needs to be really strong." Spc. Gabriela Sola, also with Alpha

Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, attended with her husband Mario Sola, a veteran. They said they enjoyed talking to other couples who share similar

experiences.

"It always good to get as much information as you can, and try something new," she said.

Upcoming retreats

Freeman said is the Religious Support Office planning a marriage retreat for June 9-10, for Soldiers, civilians and contractors assigned to APG. The retreat is made possible through an Office of the Chief of Chaplains grant. Space is limited.

The next Strong Bonds event will be for single Soldiers, in August. More information on both events will be published in the APG News.

"We want people to know that the [main post chapel], is here for the community," Freeman said. "We are a resource for them."

The mission of Strong Bonds is to increase individual Soldier and family member readiness through relationship education and skills training. For more information about the Army Strong Bonds Program, go to www.strongbonds.org. For information about future Strong Bonds conferences contact the APG main post chapel at 410-278-4333.

Grant funds more efficient power plant on APG South

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the grant two years ago, and said the installation had to meet construction milestones before grant funds could be released.

Rock said these included generation of an electrical interconnect agreement connecting the CHP plant with Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, obtainment of an air emission permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment and final DoE approval of project design documents.

A groundbreaking ceremony for construction on the CHP plant was held May 2015. The new plant is located next to the Army boiler plant and will have a turbine similar to a jet engine that generates electricity and burns natural gas for steam instead of burning solid waste.

Rock said CHP technology is "the concept of co-generating steam and electric," and will replace the Harford County Waste to Energy Plant's municipal solid waste burning facility, which ended production March 17. The old facility burned waste to create steam that generated APG's heat, hot water and humidity controls.

With the new CHP technology installed, Rock said the installation

will "have as much steam capacity as its losing from the waste to energy plant. But it will also generate half of Edgewood's electric load, so it's more efficient."

She added the technology is cost-effective, and that eventually, the energy the CHP plant produces will save the Army enough money that the plant will essentially pay for its own construction.

Funding for the CHP construction project was also provided by an Energy Savings Performance Contract, or ESPC. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the new CHP plant is tentatively planned for June.

For more information about the project, contact Rock at 410-306-1125, or email devon.a.rock.civ@mail.mil.

A crane lifts construction materials at the site of the new CHP, or Combined Heat and Power, plant on APG South (Edgewood). The project is partially funded through a Department of Energy, or DoE, grant awarded to the Directorate of Public Works in 2015.

Courtesy photo



DID YOU KNOW?

Bessie Coleman was the first person of African American and Native American descent to hold a pilot license in 1920; more than 20 years before the formation of the famed Tuskegee Airmen in 1941.

Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman, was born in Atlanta, Texas in 1892. Her sharecropper parents, George Coleman was of African and Native American descent and her mother Susan Coleman was African American. Her family moved to Waxahachie, Texas when Bessie was 2 years old. In 1901 George Coleman left his family to return to Indian Territory and the children began chipping in to help their mother as they grew older.

Bessie Coleman enrolled in the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal University – now Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma - at age 18 but left when her money ran out. At age 23, she moved to Chicago, Illinois and worked as a manicurist where she first heard about World War I pilots which sparked her interest in aviation. Because aviation schools were closed to blacks in the United States, she received financial backing and traveled to France to earn her pilot's license. On June 15, 1921, Coleman became the first woman of African and Native American descent to earn an aviation pilot license and an international aviation license from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. She took additional ace pilot training and became a media sensation upon her return to the United States.

To finance her dream of opening an aviation school for blacks, Coleman turned to exhibition flying.

After additional training in France and Germany, she became known as "Queen Bess" and was billed as "the world's greatest woman flier." Her daredevil maneuvers increased her popularity and she was kept busy performing for large crowds and participating in speaking engagements.

Coleman was often criticized for the flamboyant style she brought to exhibition flying, but she was also seen as a skilled and daring pilot who loved the challenge of a difficult stunt.

Her illustrious career was cut short while rehearsing for the Jacksonville, Florida Negro Welfare League air show. On April 30, 1926, at age 34, Coleman, who was not strapped in, tumbled from her a Curtiss JN-4 (Jenny) airplane when her pilot lost control of the aircraft as Coleman was leaning out to plan her parachute

jump. She fell from the plane at more than 2,000 feet high and died on impact with the ground. The plane also crashed and the pilot was killed. It was learned later that a wrench used to service the engine had slid into the gearbox and jammed it.

Coleman was mourned across the nation and several accolades and memorials were raised in her honor. They include:

- The Bessie Coleman library in Chicago
- Bessie Coleman Boulevard in Waxahachie, Texas
- The Bessie Coleman Middle School in Cedar Hill in Texas
- B. Coleman Aviation, a Fixed Base Operator based at Gary/Chicago International Airport
- A memorial plaque at her former home at 41st and King Drive in Chicago placed by the Chicago Cultural Center
- Bessie Coleman Scholarship Awards for high school seniors planning on careers in aviation.
- The 1995 32-cent U.S. Postal Service stamp, The Bessie Coleman Commemorative
- Roads at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Illinois; Oakland International Airport in Oakland, California; Tampa International Airport in Florida, and at Frankfurt International Airport are named in her honor

Additionally, in 2006, Coleman was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame. In 2012, a bronze plaque with Coleman's likeness was installed on the front doors of Paxon School for Advanced Studies located on the site of the Jacksonville airfield where Coleman died. Coleman has been placed at No. 14 on Flying Magazine's 2013 list of the "51 Heroes of Aviation." Customarily, black aviators drop flowers during flyovers of her grave at Lincoln Cemetery in Chicago.



By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News
Source(s): www.bessiecoleman.com
www.womenshistory.about.com
<https://en.wikipedia.org>

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APG SNAPSHOT



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ST. PAT'S FUN RUN BRINGS OUT TEAM APG



Photo by Molly Blossie

APG MWR hosted a St. Patrick's Day Fun Run, March 17, outside the APG North (Aberdeen) athletic center. Open to the entire community, the race was not timed and instead dubbed an opportunity to come out and get in some steps. Water and fruit were provided after the race and the first 50 participants received a free t-shirt.

(Above) Participants start off the St. Patrick's Day Fun Run outside the APG North (Aberdeen) athletic center. The run started and ended at the athletic center.



(Clockwise from above)

- Military spouse Sandra Roberts and her four-legged running companion Dozer approach the finish line, in their festive St. Patty's attire.
- Kayla Roberts, 6, climbs a nearby stone bench while waiting for the race to begin.
- Alan Carey, 9, munches on a banana after the race.
- Lt. Col. Kari McRae of the Public Health Center and her husband Scott, center, walk during the open start time of the fun run as their daughters, from left, Emily, 9, and Alyson, 7, ride bicycles and son Sean, 11, runs ahead.

Photos by Molly Blossie

