



APG NEWS

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

www.TeamAPG.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016

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newsbrief

SNOW SAFETY AFTER THE STORM

Safety Office

While the installation has returned to normal operating status, the snow and ice hazards from Winter Storm Jonas remain. Keep these safety tips in mind on and off post.

- Dress for the weather (e.g., shoes with low heels and good tread, layer your clothing and wear gloves, etc.

- Remove all snow and ice from your vehicle before driving.

- Take your time on roadways. Watch for icy conditions, slow down and brake early at intersections.

- At some intersections, you will encounter high piles of snow and visibility may be limited. Stop, inch forward, be patient and go when it is safe to do so.

DPW has worked tirelessly to clear APG of snow, however some snow and ice may remain so follow these rules:

- Watch where you walk. Take small steps and keep your hands free and out of your pockets to keep your balance. If you slip, roll with the fall.

- Try to park where snow and ice have been cleared.

- Avoid inclines and icy or non-cleared walking surfaces.

- If an area appears hazardous or is posted as hazard, take an alternate route.

If you see a hazard, REPORT IT and keep Team APG safe! Report all hazards to your supervisor, building custodian or call the DPW help desk at 410-306-1400 to ensure the hazard is corrected.

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NEWCOMERS

Newst members of Team APG receive a run-down of available on and off post services.

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The DHR Voting Assistance Program seeks to increase voter registration and absentee voting awareness.

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MENTORING

Several on-post organizations and commands offer valuable mentorship programs as professional development for civilians.

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ARMY NEWS

Two major issues raised during first-ever Warrant Officer Solarium hosted by CSA.

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online

www.TeamAPG.com/APGNews

facebook.com/APGMd

twitter.com/USAGAPG

flickr.com/photos/usagapg/

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



Courtesy photo by Angela Collins

APG children and children-at-heart sled down the hill at the Myer Auditorium on APG North (Aberdeen), Jan. 25, taking advantage of a snow day after the season's first winter storm.

The snow storm dubbed "Winter Storm Jonas" dumped more than 29 inches of snow across the installation, and drifts twice as high, shutting down the installation Jan. 25 and causing a four-hour delayed opening Jan. 26. Directorate of Public Works snow removal teams worked tirelessly to clear installation roadways, parking lots and buildings.

See more snow photos on pages 19.

Youth center receives reaccreditation

Edgewood School Age Center accreditation to last five years

Story and photos by RACHEL PONDER
APG News

The APG South (Edgewood) School Age Center (SAC) program has recently earned expedited reaccreditation from the Council of Accreditation (COA).

The Department of Defense requires all SAC programs to be accredited by the COA, a non-profit organization. APG South (Edgewood) facility director Jay McKinney said the reaccreditation process took about 14 months, and the accreditation lasts five years.

McKinney said the reaccreditation was expedited through the review process as a result of not receiving any "ratings out of compliance

See YOUTH, page 17



From left, Gabriella Quinones, 8, Briannah Quinones, 10, Kaley McColligan, 10, and Sophia Fruchey, 7, learn sewing basics during an after school art project at the APG South (Edgewood) youth center. The center's School Age Center program recently received a five-year reaccreditation.

MDNG assists during recent snow storm



Maryland National Guard

Approximately 500 service members of the Maryland National Guard were activated to provide support to civil authorities during Maryland's state of emergency before, during an after Winter Storm Jonas.

"The Maryland National Guard is a member of the community and the ability for us to respond has never been better," said Maj. Gen. Linda Singh, the adjutant general of Maryland.

"No one agency or level of government can do it alone, we are a team effort. A fully equipped Guard is critical in providing the essential capabilities needed to respond to and mitigate emergencies."

Spc. Paul Pinder, of F Co., 128th Brigade Support Battalion, was activated and deployed with members of his unit to support the Maryland State Police Department. Their role was to assist the police during emergency calls by enabling them to reach the residents of Maryland.

Pinder and the state police

Maryland National Guard Soldiers from the 110th Information Operations Battalion, guard supporting the Annapolis area, work to free an ambulance stuck in the snow Jan. 24.

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STREET TALK

How do you prepare for a winter storm?

I make sure the heater is working and I have enough food at home. I make sure I have enough cat food too. You can't forget about your pets.



Charlotte Armour
Family member

I buy toilet paper, milk, eggs, batteries, gas for the generator and gas for the car. Then we are all set.



Gloria Williams
Military spouse

I check the generator, make sure it is running properly. I buy windshield deicer for my car, salt for the driveway and a lot of food in case we can't get out for a few days.



Lloyd Shires
Veteran

I stay at home. I am retired so I don't have anywhere I have to go. We prepare for storms in advance, so that we don't have to buy supplies at the last minute.



Darlene Ortt
Retired civilian

We buy enough food to last us a week, and eat the perishable food first. I make sure our propane tank is full so that we can grill if the power goes out.



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Phillips
Maryland Army National Guard

OPINION

National Hobby Month

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News



Ponder

Did you know that January is National Hobby Month? For most of us, at the start of the new year we think about ways to improve our eating habits, exercise more or save money. But what about improving our mental well-being? Developing a hobby is one way to improve your outlook on life. Hobbies can inspire and challenge you to keep learning new things, and can be much-needed stress relievers after work.

According to an article on www.everydayhealth.com, "a recent Mayo Clinic study found that people who engage in and stick with creative and social activities in midlife may maintain better brain function by the time they hit their mid-eighties than those who don't." The article concludes that participating in artistic and social endeavors can "help keep dementia at bay."

To me, this finding highlights how important it is to develop hobbies even when you have a hectic lifestyle. I've found that slowing down, even for short periods, helps improve my outlook on life.

When I graduated college in 2007, I only focused on work. I was happy, but I also felt like something was missing. I needed a creative outlet that was separate from my job. In 2010 I decided to join the Upper Chesapeake Chorus, a Sweet Adelines International chorus that meets in Aberdeen.

Even though I was a little intimidated by the commitment level (three hours of rehearsal every Monday night, plus occasional day-long coaching sessions on the weekends) I missed studying music, and I missed singing with others. I had participated in choirs throughout school, not because I had to,

because it was something I wanted to do.

For the past five years in UCC I've gained some great memories and even learned a few life lessons. The biggest lesson I learned is that "you win a contest in rehearsal." This means that you have to put in hard work to achieve your goals. When our chorus won the regional competition in Ocean City, Maryland in 2013, I was on cloud nine!

We competed in the annual Sweet Adelines International convention the in 2014, and I felt exhilarated as our chorus performed on stage at the Baltimore Convention Center in front of thousands of people from all over the world. While we placed 22 out of 33 groups at the competition, what I value more than an award is our journey to make it to that stage. It is something that I will never forget and I am grateful that my hobby gave me that opportunity.

During UCC rehearsals we are encouraged to "focus on the music." For three hours, we escape from stressors at work or problems at home. This break from "real life" is a great stress-reliever. Often I will leave rehearsal with my mood lifted and ready to tackle the rest of the workweek.

People sometimes give up their hobbies when life gets too busy. If you want to develop a new hobby I would suggest carefully thinking about your interests and considering your personal goals. Think about what you want to get out of your hobby. For me, I wanted to meet more people in my community and become a better singer. Joining a chorus was a perfect fit.

It should only take a little research to find a hobby that fits your needs. Talk to people in the community, read the newspaper and search the web to find out what is offered at your local library, community center or museum. Keep an open mind and take a friend or family member with you who will encourage you to follow through with your plans. Stick with it. And 2016 just might bring you new and fulfilling adventures. Good luck!

Where to go for winter weather updates

Aberdeen Proving Ground-Managed Sites

APG Facebook: www.facebook.com/APGMd

APG Twitter: www.twitter.com/usagapg

APG Website: www.teamapg.com

APG Weather Line: 410-278-7669

****Register for AtHoc to have notifications sent directly to your phone and/or email.****

Area TV Stations

Greater Baltimore Area

WMAR-TV Channel 2
WBAL-TV Channel 11
WJZ-TV Channel 13
WBFF-TV Channel 45

Other Areas

Fox 43 (York, Pennsylvania)
Harford Cable Network (Harford County)

Area Radio Stations

Greater Baltimore Area

WPOC – 93.1 FM
WJZ-FM – 105.7 FM
WZFT – 104.3 FM
WJZ-AM – 1300 AM
WQSR – 102.7 FM
WCAO – 600 AM
WLIF – 101.9 FM
WWMX – 106.5 FM
WIYY – 97.9 FM
WBAL – 1090 AM

Other Areas

WXCX – 103.7 FM (Havre de Grace, MD)
WROZ – 101.3 FM (Lancaster, PA)
WDEL – 1150 AM (Wilmington, DE)
WSTW – 93.7 (Wilmington, DE)



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



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

See Something

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

Provided by the INTEL DIV/DPTMS

Say Something

<p>INSTALLATION WATCH CARD</p> <h3>DO OBSERVE & REPORT</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspicious activity or suspected surveillance. Unusual questions or requests for information relating to capabilities, limitations, or operational information. Unusual vehicles operating in or around APG. Unusual phone calls, messages, or e-mails. Unusual contacts on or off post. Unusual aerial activity near or around installation. Any possible compromise of sensitive information. 		<p>INSTALLATION WATCH CARD</p> <h3>DON'T</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss any aspect of military operations or planning. Discuss military capabilities or limitations. Discuss FP measures, capabilities, or posture. Disclose information about R&D and testing. <p>Report suspicious activity immediately to APG Police!</p> <p>APG (North & South): 410.306.2222 Off Post in Maryland call 1-800-492-TIPS or 911</p> <p><small>Card created by APG Intel</small></p>	
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APG NEWS

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email yvonne.johnson5.ctr@mail.mil.

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

Staff

APG Senior Commander ..Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford
APG Garrison Commander Col. James E. Davis
Public Affairs Officer Kelly Luster
Editor Amanda Rominiacki
Assistant Editor..... Yvonne Johnson
Photojournalists.....Rachel Ponder
..... Stacy Smith
Graphic Designer/Photographer Molly Blossie
Website www.TeamAPG.com/APGNews



STEM summer camp application period opens online February 1

CERDEC

Registration for the 2016 Math and Science Summer Camp, hosted by the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, for rising fifth through 10th grade students, opens Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. eastern time.

The CERDEC Educational Outreach Program hosts one-week sessions at the Harford Glen Environmental Center in Bel Air, Maryland, leading students through hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, also known as STEM, in a fun-filled camp environment.

Program topics generally align with CERDEC mission areas, encouraging

campers to become excited about the fields in which the APG community works. Campers will learn about opportunities and careers as well as gain insight into STEM professions.

Camp topics include:
July 25 – 29: Flight, Rocketry and Space – The Sky’s the Limit
Students entering 5th and 6th grades

Campers will explore the science and history of flight and air craft design. From the first attempts to get off the ground to adventures in outer space, campers will experiment with the four forces of flight as they gain knowledge in aviation technology. Campers will engage in hands on

experiences in small groups, while understanding the importance of the engineering process.

Aug. 1 – 5: STEM is the FUTURE
Students entering 9th and 10th grades

Renewable Energy and the efforts to make our world “clean” are a buzzing topic. Campers will use critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and team building to solve our renewable energy challenge. Join us as we learn the methods and processes used by engineers and how you too can leverage these tactics in your own life.

Aug. 8 – 12: What’s Up?! Science and Engineering in Popular Culture
Students entering 7th and 8th grades

Science and popular culture can be defined simply as the union of science and issues in popular media, such as cinema, music, television, games and novels. Some of the most heart-pounding moments in movie and television involve technology or scientific principles. Campers will work in small groups using science and math to explore practical experiences.

Seats are limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to children of active-duty service members. To learn more, and to register on Feb. 1, visit http://www.cerdec.army.mil/student_programs/math_and_science_summer_camp/.

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

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

Acevedo, Rachel
 Acosta, Jeannie M.
 Adair, Jennifer
 Alba, Audrey
 Barela, Linda M.
 Branscome, Teresa A.
 Bruner, Stephen M.
 Ciborowski, Steven
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 Dimond, Crystal
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Frankel, Ronald A.
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 Winkles, Jeffrey

BY THE NUMB#RS

National Mentoring Month

Created in 2002, National Mentoring Month focuses attention on the advantages of mentorship, as well as ways that individuals and communities can work together to assure positive outcomes for America’s youth. For more information, visit www.nationalmentoringmonth.org.

4.5 million

Number of at-risk youth who will have a structured mentoring relationship while growing up.

59

Percentage of mentees who receive better grades than their non-mentored peers.

53

Percentage of mentored students who credit their mentors with improving their ability to avoid drugs.

40

Percentage of female students interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) - related careers who reported having mentors who encouraged them.

32

Percentage of adults with full-time jobs who reported participating in a mentorship program during a national survey in 2005.

9

Average number of months most mentoring relationships last. At least 38 percent of mentors spend 12 months or more with their mentees.

By **STACY SMITH**, APG News

Sources: www.mentoring.org; www.millionwomenmentors.org; www.childrenunitingnations.org; <http://youth.gov>

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

Orientation welcomes newcomers to APG

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

Approximately 40 Soldiers, civilians and family members received a run-down of APG organizations and off-post service providers during the Newcomer's Orientation at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Jan. 20. During the event, attendees chatted with vendors and heard presentations from installation service organizations.

Hosted by Army Community Service (ACS), the quarterly event, which is mandatory for active-duty service members, provides newcomers the chance to meet face-to-face with service providers from the installation and local community. Organizers said they welcome the opportunity to increase awareness of the services available at APG.

"We always like to make sure people realize that we cover a gamut of resources," said Cindy Scott, Army Substance Abuse Program prevention coordinator.

ACS Chief Jennifer Eichner said the event highlighted the importance of emergency management and disaster planning. Eichner thanked all participants and volunteers for coming out to welcome the newcomers.

"I don't know if it was fate that this big storm is looming as we had it [the event], but we want to help people be prepared through the winter months," Eichner said.

Pedro Rodriguez, of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, briefed the audience about emergency preparedness. He cautioned them to prepare for emergencies— natural, accident or acts of terror, and he explained the importance of making a plan and building an emergency "go kit" that contains essential supplies, documents and medications.

"During Hurricane Katrina, everything got completely wiped out," Rodriguez said. "A lot of people that had some really bad medical conditions were suffering and they had no medicine and nothing to help them."

Rodriguez also encouraged listeners to fully register on AtHoc, the installation advance warning and notification system, via computer so they can stay abreast of the latest emergency information via email, phone and text. For more information about emergency preparedness, visit <http://www.ready.gov>.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Adams presented an overview of the major commands and tenant organizations at APG and encouraged newcomers to support on-post food vendors, while keeping in mind that many places may close or modify their hours of operation in the future.

"The Army is downsizing, funding is downsizing," Adams said.

Michcell Shultz, a victim advocate with the Sexual Harassment/Assault



Pedro Rodriguez, of the Garrison's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, explains how listeners can prepare for emergencies and the unexpected during the quarterly installation Newcomer's Orientation at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Jan. 20.

Resource Program (SHARP) resource center, discussed ways the program connects victims to resources.

"If you do find yourself in a situation where you need assistance for sexual harassment or sexual assault, or you know someone, or one of your dependents needs assistance, don't hesitate to call us," Shultz said.

Shultz encouraged listeners to locate the SHARP representative within their organization, but stressed that victims can choose the representative they feel most comfortable with.

"If you are a woman, you'd prefer to have a woman, if you're a Soldier and you'd rather talk to a green-suiter, if you're a man and you feel much more comfortable coming to a man, we have lots of different victim advocates on post, and you can pick," she said.

For help or more information, visit the SHARP resource center in Bldg. 4305, second floor, room 225, or call the APG Sharp Hotline at 410-322-7154.

Other presentations included the Army Substance Abuse Program; Morale Welfare and Recreation; Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic; Main Post Chapel; the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate Client Services Division; Child, Youth and School Services; and Corvias Military Housing.

Attendees said the vendors and presenters taught them a lot about what to expect at APG.

"Everybody seems pretty happy to be here," said newly appointed Deputy Chaplain Capt. Jonathan Ginder. Recent-



Army Community Service Chief Jennifer Eichner describes the services offered to Soldiers, families and civilians during the quarterly installation Newcomer's Orientation at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Jan. 20.

ly arrived from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Ginder said he and his family already feel like a part of the installation.

"I liked the statement Sgt. Maj. [Adams] made, and it's accurate throughout the offices, that it's 'Team APG', all working together and supporting each other," Ginder said.

At the CYSS table, School Liaison Officer Stacie Umbarger engaged visitors in conversation along with Instructional Program Specialist Shirelle Womack of Morale Welfare and Recreation. They answered inquiries concerning childcare

services and summer camp, and spread the word about on-post children's activities. Womack said the Missoula Children's Theater is coming to APG.

"We're holding open auditions on March 28, then we'll do a performance on April 1," she said, adding that interested parents should call 410-278-4589 for more information.

Those who were unable to attend the orientation can stop by ACS in Bldg. 2503, first floor, for a welcome packet. For more information, call 410-278-7572.



Saying thanks to the 'unsung heroes'

As Maryland prepared for the first winter storm of the season, APG Senior Commander Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford, stopped by the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Jan. 22 to thank the unsung heroes of the Team APG community: the DPW professionals and snow removal crews.

"They deserve every accolade we can give them," Crawford said. "They serve this community every day with quiet dedication and will once again be working vigorously this weekend to clear roads and ensure APG's infrastructure services are operational. They are truly a part of what keeps APG Strong!"

Photo by Lauren Brennan, CECOM



Vanpoolers needed at APG!

APG Commuter Center

There are several existing vanpools looking for riders as well as individuals looking to start vanpools for the following locations:

Commuters only need to be willing to travel to the designated areas to ride the vanpool. For more information, contact the APG Commuter Center POC, Syreeta Gross, at 410-278-5491 or syreeta.a.gross.ctr@mail.mil.

APG North (Aberdeen) to:

- ◆ Baltimore, MD (Canton-area)
- ◆ Baltimore County, MD (near I-70 and 695)
- ◆ Elkton, MD
- ◆ Philadelphia, PA

APG South (Edgewood) to:

- ◆ Baltimore, MD
- ◆ Delaware
- ◆ Philadelphia, PA

Cyber certificate open to APG scientists

Story and photo by **KELLY WHITE**
CERDEC

In a continuing effort to better train U.S. Army engineers in all things cyber, the Army is offering a graduate-level certificate in the Fundamentals of Cybersecurity starting Feb. 10.

The certificate is open to all APG engineers and scientists in the cyber field, including contractors and military personnel. The University of Delaware at the University Center in Aberdeen, Maryland, will offer the classes.

This is the third initiative from the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC), in an effort to define the cyber professional at APG.

CERDEC implemented the program after identifying a workforce development gap through an installation-wide needs survey, said Victor Carozzo, CERDEC Human Capital Cell specialist.

Previous efforts include an undergraduate-level cyber certificate through the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and the promotion of a master's

degree in cyber through Johns Hopkins University.

Like the UMBC cohort, the University of Delaware program will be a live cohort at the University Center, formally the Northeastern Maryland Higher Education Applied Technology Center.

CERDEC used the Educational Partnership Agreement between the APG command group and the University Center in soliciting and acquiring an appropriate provider.

“Our goal is to promote cross-fertilization and networking within the APG cyber community as well as the technical aspect of learning.”

Victor Carozzo

CERDEC Human Capital Cell specialist

Carozzo hopes the live APG solicitation will provide the ability for students to learn together and share with others in the APG cyber community.

“Our goal is to promote cross-fertilization and networking within the APG cyber community as well as the technical aspect of learning,” he said.

The Fundamentals of Cybersecurity Certificate provides advanced training through a three-course sequence.

Introduction to Cybersecurity (CYBER I)

Introduction to computer and network security covers the foundation



University of Delaware Professor Chase Cotton discusses coursework during the Fundamentals of Cybersecurity Information session.

security policies and methods to provide confidentiality, integrity and availability as well as cryptography, auditing and user security. Topics are reinforced with hands-on exercises run in a virtual machine environment.

System Hardening and Protection

Practical treatment of the defensive techniques used to harden computer systems to make them less vulnerable to cyber-attacks. Defect management, configuration/hardening, account control, logs/auditing, and risk assessment are covered and reinforced with hands-on exercises run in a virtual machine

environment.

Advanced Cybersecurity (CYBER II)

This seminar course explores areas in advanced computer and network security not covered in introductory cybersecurity classes. The course provides insight into realistic complex defensive and offensive cybersecurity topics such as Denial-of-Service attacks, Domain Name System security, email spam, online authentication, phishing, cloud security, malware and web security.

Contact CERDEC for more information about CERDEC cyber education initiatives.



Winter is here

Do you know where to go for winter weather updates?

Like APG on Facebook: www.facebook.com/APGMd




MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MORE ONLINE

More events can be seen at www.TeamAPG.com

events&town halls

SATURDAY JANUARY 30

APG MWR JOB FAIR

The APG Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host a job fair at Ruggles Golf Course from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Through the job fair, MWR hopes to fill both summer seasonal and permanent positions.

These positions include, but are not limited to: child & youth program assistants, recreation assistants, lifeguards, cooks, food service workers, operations assistants, and others.

Interested applications may apply online by visiting usajobs.gov and using keyword: NAF, location: Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; at the APG NAF HR Office, or at the job fair.

For more information and to pre-register for the job fair, email usarmy.apg.chra-ne.mbx.naf@mail.mil or call 410-279-0133/5126/5127.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11

BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE

The 20th CBRNE Command invites Team APG to participate in the installation's Black History Month Observance at the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

This year's theme is "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memory."

THURSDAY MARCH 17

ARMED SERVICES BLOOD PROGRAM BLOOD DRIVE

Donors – jack into the blood grid and infuse life. The Armed Services Blood Program will host a blood drive at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but donors are encouraged to make appointments online at www.militarydonor.com. Use the sponsor code APGMD.

For more info, visit militaryblood.dod.mil.

meetings&conferences

THURSDAY JANUARY 28

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held at the Ramada Conference Center in Edgewood starting at 7 p.m.

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

ONGOING

BIBLE STUDY CLASS

The Religious Services Office hosts a new Soldier and Family Christian Fellowship Bible Study Class 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., every Tuesday at the APG North (Aberdeen) chapel. Free childcare is included. The class focuses on biblical fellowship and outreach and encouragement through prayer and is open to the entire APG community. For more information, call 410-278-4333.

health&resiliency

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18

HEALTHY HEART INFO SESSION

The C4ISR Wellness Committee will host a Healthy Heart Informational Session from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Myer Auditorium on APG North (Aberdeen). During the session, the speaker will discuss how choosing the right foods, activities, and lifestyles can keep your heart and the rest of your body healthy. There will also be a 10-15 minute Zumba class.

The session is open to civilians, contractors, and service members.

VTC will be available for employees who are not stationed at APG. If your organization will need a VTC dial in number and code, please contact the G1. For sign language interpreters and other disability-related accommodations, please contact the CECOM EEO Office at 443-861-4355 by Feb. 11.

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

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25

PREGNANCY INFO SESSION

The C4ISR Wellness Committee will host a Pregnancy Informational Session in Bldg. 6002, 3rd floor, room 114 (CERDEC Conference Room) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The session will be an overview of pregnancy, giving information and tips on different stages, actual child birth, breast feeding, and post-partum depression. Any mothers wishing to sign up for the CECOM Headquarters Nursing Mothers' Room should contact the G1 POC for more information.

The session is open to civilians, contractors and service members. All non-C4ISR employees must register by Feb. 18.

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

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.

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:

- Feb. 13

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

ONGOING

VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY NEW HOURS

Based on customer demand, the APG Veterinary Treatment facility will have new hours starting in January.

The VTF will be open and accept appointments Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Should demand increase, the clinic will reevaluate days and hours of operation.

The clinic is open to all service members, retirees, and their families.

To schedule an appointment, call 410-278-4604.

ONGOING

2016 CPR & AED TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE

The APG Directorate of Emergency Services has announced the CPR/AED class schedule for 2016. Classes are open to the entire APG community.

All APG North (Aberdeen) classes will be held at Bldg. 3147. All APG South (Edgewood) classes will be held at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute's North East Regional Training Center, located near the Edgewood (Wise Road) gate.

- **Feb. 18** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

- **March 17** – APG North – Bldg. 3147, Rm 205 – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

- **April 21** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

- **May 19** – APG North – Bldg. 3147, Rm 205 – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

- **June 16** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

- **July 21** – APG North – Bldg. 3147, Rm 205 – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

- **Aug. 18** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

- **Sept. 22** – APG North – Bldg. 3147, Rm 205 – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

- **Oct. 20** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

- **Nov. 17** – APG North – Bldg. 3147, Rm 205 – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

- **Dec. 15** – APG South – MFRI North East Regional Training Center – 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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

TUESDAY APRIL 19

DENTAL CLINICS CLOSED

The APG North (Aberdeen) and APG South (Edgewood) dental clinics will be closed, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sgt. Tracy Glover at 410-804-6805 or email tracy.s.glover4.mil@mail.mil.

THURSDAY APRIL 21

DENTAL CLINICS CLOSED

The APG North (Aberdeen) and APG South (Edgewood) dental clinics will be closed, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sgt. Tracy Glover at 410-804-6805 or email tracy.s.glover4.mil@mail.mil.

ONGOING

KUSAHC CLOSED FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic believes the key to being the premier health and readiness platform is a professionally-developed workforce, and reinvesting in employees is an investment to their service to APG.

As such, KUSAHC will close the first Wednesday of every month for training purposes until further notice.

For more information, visit <http://kusahc.narmc.amedd.army.mil/SitePages/Home.aspx> or www.facebook.com/KUSAHC.

family&children

SUNDAY JANUARY 31

CORVIAS/NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION SPOUSE SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATION DEADLINE

Corvias Foundation, a private, charitable foundation and the charitable arm of Corvias Group, and Corvias Military Living have partnered with the National Military Family Association to support scholarships in excess of \$20,000 for military spouses seeking professional funds including licensure and certification.

Due to frequent moves, the spouse scholarships are intended to support licensing or registration in a new state or the ability to progress in a career with an additional technical certification.

To confirm eligibility and apply for a scholarship, visit www.militaryfamily.org/spouses-scholarships/professional-funds-partners.html. Applications are due by Jan. 31.

miscellaneous

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.

ONGOING

ROAD CLOSURE ON APG NORTH FOR MORNING PT

Bel Air Street, at the intersections of Susquehanna Avenue and Raritan Avenue, will close 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., Monday through Friday, for physical fitness training. Barriers will be placed at these intersections approximately 5:50 a.m. and removed 8 a.m. by military personnel. This small road closure is to support military personnel who conduct physical training along the outside trail on Fanshaw Field.

For more information, contact APG Garrison HHC 1st Sgt. Jermaine A. Allen at 410-278-9819.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 2

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE SURVEY

Dear Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Community Member, You are a valued member of the Army Family, supporting an important mission at APG.

The Family and Morale, Welfare & Recreation Directorate's (FMWR) Army Community Service (ACS) is evaluating how well we support your quality of life through programs and services.

Contact 410-278-2500/7572 for assistance.

To take the survey, visit www.armymwr.com/ACS-survey.

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:

- **Feb. 18** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **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.

ONGOING

2016 FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

The APG Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Protection & Prevention Division will host fire extinguisher training classes on APG North (Aberdeen) and APG South (Edgewood) throughout 2016.

Two classes will be held each day from 10 a.m. to noon, and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

- **Feb. 25** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **March 17** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **April 14** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **May 19** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **June 23** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **July 14** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Aug. 17** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **Sept. 15** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Oct. 13** – APG South, Bldg. E4810
- **Nov. 17** – APG North, Bldg. 4403
- **Dec. 22** – APG South, Bldg. E4810

For more information, contact Ernie Little at 410-306-0583 or ernest.w.little.civ@mail.mil.

THROUGH MARCH 23

2016-2017 SENIOR SERVICE COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center is currently accepting applications for the 2016-17 SSCF program through March 23. The SSCF Program is a 10-month educational opportunity conducted under the auspices of the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) at Huntsville, Alabama, Warren, Michigan and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

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

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

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

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

ONGOING

FIREWOOD AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Firewood is available at a cost of \$20 per level standard 8-foot pick-up truck, \$15 per level standard 6-foot pick-up truck, and \$5 per car trunk load. Permits to buy wood are good for ten days, or until an order is filled, whichever comes first. Permits will be issued 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on a first-come-first-served basis at APG South (Edgewood) in Bldg. E4630, Monday through Thursday. For more information, contact Scott English at 410-436-9804 or Kathy Thisse at 410-436-8789.

If you see it, report it

Aggressive driving has no place at APG call 410-306-0550



Making your vote count in 2016

DHR Voting Assistance Program seeks to increase absentee voting awareness, voter registration

By **RACHEL PONDER**
APG News

Primary elections are fast approaching and the APG Voting Assistance Office is here to help.

Installation Voting Assistance Officer Larry Tyson, with the Directorate of Human Resources, said the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ensures that Soldiers, their eligible family members and government civilians working overseas have the resources to vote from anywhere in the world.

Tyson said the office will provide assistance to anyone who comes into the office.

“One of our phrases is, ‘send your vote home,’” he said. “We know that the average Soldier is not stationed where they live, so they can’t walk to the polls. So we are trying to make sure that the Soldier’s vote is not forgotten.”

Tyson said that those who visit the office will receive a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), postage paid form which allows eligible U.S. citizens to apply to register to vote, request an absentee ballot or update their contact information with their local election office. FPCA forms are also found online at www.fvap.gov.

According to the FVAP website, Soldiers are encouraged to submit a new FPCA to their local election office every year and each time they move.

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) serves as a back-up ballot if the voter doesn’t receive the requested absentee ballot in time. The FWAB can be requested at the APG Voting Assistance Office or at www.fvap.gov, which



provides PDF-fillable forms and online assistants that guide users through completing the form.

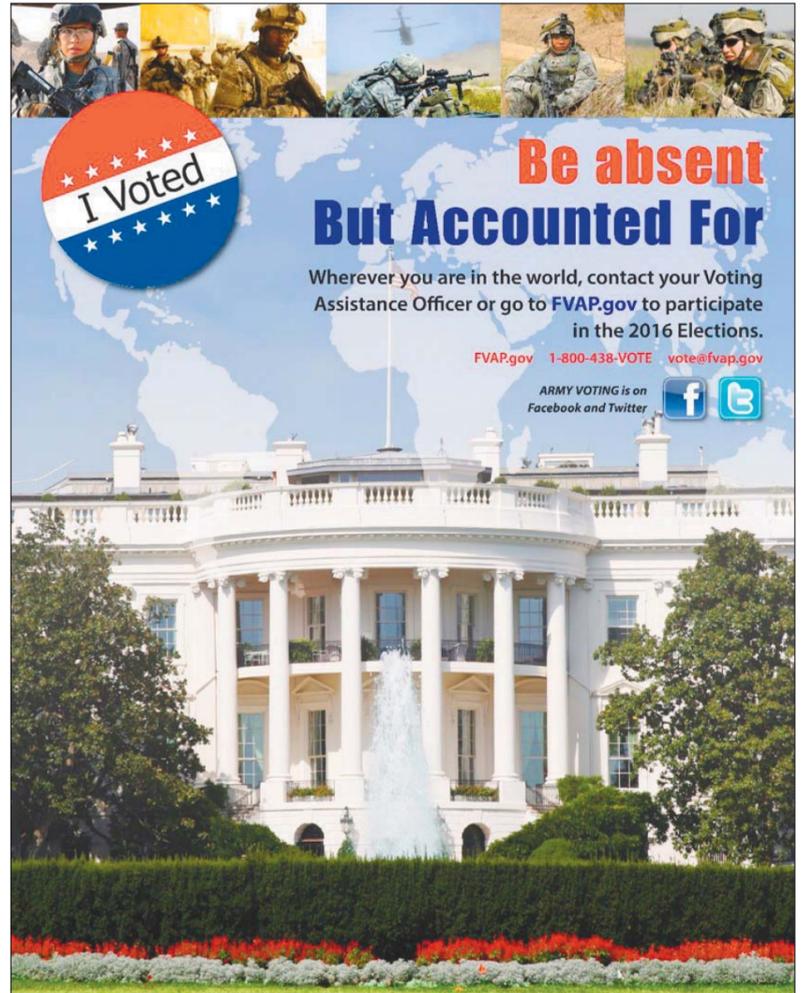
Tyson said by law, states are required to send an absentee ballot 45 days before an election to Soldiers, family members and government civilians working overseas who are registered and have requested a ballot. Primary elections dates vary by state. For more information, visit www.fvap.gov.

“The Soldier must request the ballot within enough time to get it processed,” he said. “Now would be the opportune time for them to put in their absentee ballot request or their Federal Post Card Application.”

Tyson said he hopes more eligible voters exercise their right to vote. This year the APG Voting Assistance Office aims to increase voting registration, awareness and improve communication with election officials at voting precincts.

“The Army is trying to dispel this rumor to Soldiers that ‘my vote don’t count,’” he said. “If they take the time to look and read the facts they will realize their vote does count.”

In addition to the Voting Assistance Office, each unit has Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs), who ensure that all absentee voting materials are ordered from their unit from the Army Publishing Directorate. The APG Voting Assistance Office provides training for all unit VAOs. Mandatory training for these individuals is Feb. 17.



Courtesy graphics.

The Hatch Act

Tyson said the APG community should remember the Hatch Act, which restricts the political activity of some government employees. Under this act, Tyson said, government workplaces should remain “politically neutral.”

“Individuals are not to have campaign signs in the office,” he said.

According to the Office of Special Council the purpose of the Hatch Act is to “ensure that federal programs are administered in a nonpartisan fashion, to protect federal employees from political coercion in the workplace, and to ensure that federal employees are

advanced based on merit and not political affiliation.”

Under the Hatch Act, Soldiers are not allowed to participate in campaign activities in uniform.

“They can participate as a private civilian,” he said. “But they can’t go out and participate in uniform because that gives the indication that the U.S. Army is supporting a particular candidate.”

The APG Voting Assistance Office is located in Bldg. 4305, room 151. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, visit the office; call 410-3062302, or email usarmy.apg.imcom.mbx.vote-apg@mail.mil.

New Year brings increase in commuter benefits

By **SYREETA GROSS**
APG Commuter Center

On Jan. 1, the maximum mass transportation commuter benefit increased from \$130 to \$255 per month. Commuters are eligible for the pre-tax benefit if they commute to work using a vanpool, train, or bus (at least 50 percent of the time) and are active-duty military or Department of Army civilians, including non-appropriated funds (NAF) employees.

Commuter benefits are processed through the Army Mass Transportation Benefit program (MTBP). To enroll in the program, interested participants must complete an application describing his or her commute (i.e.



anticipated method of travel and associated cost). If offered, federal contractors can receive the benefit through their employer, similar to a medical or dependent care flexible spending



account. If the benefit is not offered, then contractors can request it through their company’s human resources department.

In 2013, APG welcomed the APG Commuter Center to assist employees with finding alternative transportation to work. APG currently has approximately 30 vanpools commuting from as far north as New Jersey to as far south as northern Virginia.

The MARC commuter train is also

an option for commuters traveling to APG North (Aberdeen), when used in conjunction with an existing connecting vanpool.

The Commuter Center also has MTBP information as well as Guaranteed Ride Home information, a free program which helps people not using single-occupancy commuting get home if they have an emergency or have to work late.

The Commuter Center is located in building 3326, the APG North Recreation Center and is staffed Tuesday through Thursday, 11am to 1pm. For additional assistance outside of staffed hours, call 410-278-5491 or email at syreeta.a.gross.ctr@mail.mil.

Harford County uses snow plow tracker during storms

Residents can track location of county snow plows via computer, smartphone or tablet

Harford County

When snow and ice hit hard, Harford County plows hit back, clearing county roads to help our citizens get rolling. Now, the public can track plows in major storms with the snow plow tracking service developed by Harford County government.

“I am pleased to offer this service for folks to see where our county plows are hard at work,” said Barry Glassman, Harford County executive.

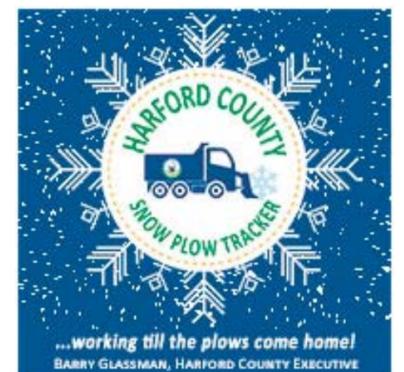
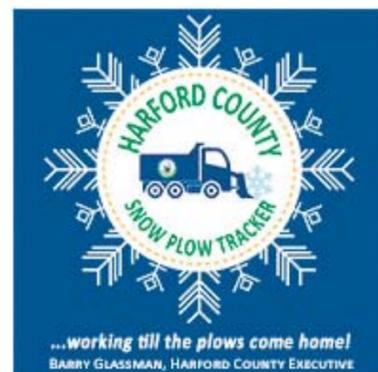
Activated only during major weather events, the Harford County Snow

Plow Tracker works on a computer, smartphone, or tablet device, showing where on the county map the plows have been, and more importantly, where they are now. The color-coded map updates information every 15 minutes.

To access the service, go to the Harford County government website www.harfordcountymd.gov. If the service is active, the blue and green snow plow icon with the motto “Working Till the Plows Come Home!” with falling snow will appear on the county’s website. It can also be found by clicking “Snow Plow Tracker” under the site’s “Useful Links” bar.

The Harford County Snow Plow Tracker was developed in-house based on GPS technology used to track county trucks. The service does not track plows on state or municipal roadways, which are not maintained by county plows.

Click the icon anytime to access



Courtesy graphics

The Harford County Snow Plow Tracker works on a computer, smartphone or tablet. Visit www.harfordcountymd.gov and look for the icon on the upper right corner. When the service is activated before, during or after a winter storm, the icon will feature falling snow, like the image on the right.

the service map and a tutorial video, or go directly to the Website <http://apps.harfordcountymd.gov/Snow-PlowTracker> and be prepared for the next big storm.

Stay safe in winter weather. Access more information about snow removal and snow events on the county website <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/alerts/SnowRemoval.cfm>.



APG NEWS

Visit us online at www.TeamAPG.com/APGNews

ALL THINGS MARYLAND

Baltimore Museum of Art

Exploring art from 5th-century to contemporary works



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

Explore the works of notable artists like Matisse, van Gogh, Picasso and Monet at the Baltimore Museum of Art, located in Baltimore's Charles Village neighborhood.

BMA's diverse collection of art ranges from 5th-century Antioch mosaics to contemporary artwork, including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world.

Originally founded in 1914 with a single painting, BMA is now home to 95,000 works of art.

Sarah Pedroni, a BMA communications coordinator, said that more than 200,000 people visited the museum last year.

"There is so much to see and new exhibitions open every few months," she said, noting that admission to the museum is free. "With no admission fee visitors may come back again and again. No need to rush through their experience."

According to the BMA website, the "crown jewel" of the museum is The Cone Collection of modern art. Collected by Baltimore sisters Claribel and Etta Cone from the early-to-mid 20th century, this exhibit features work from Matisse, Vincent van Gogh, Edgar Degas, Pablo Picasso, Paul Gauguin and Paul Cézanne.

Another popular exhibit, especially during warmer months, is the outdoor sculpture garden which includes 34 modern and contemporary sculptures.

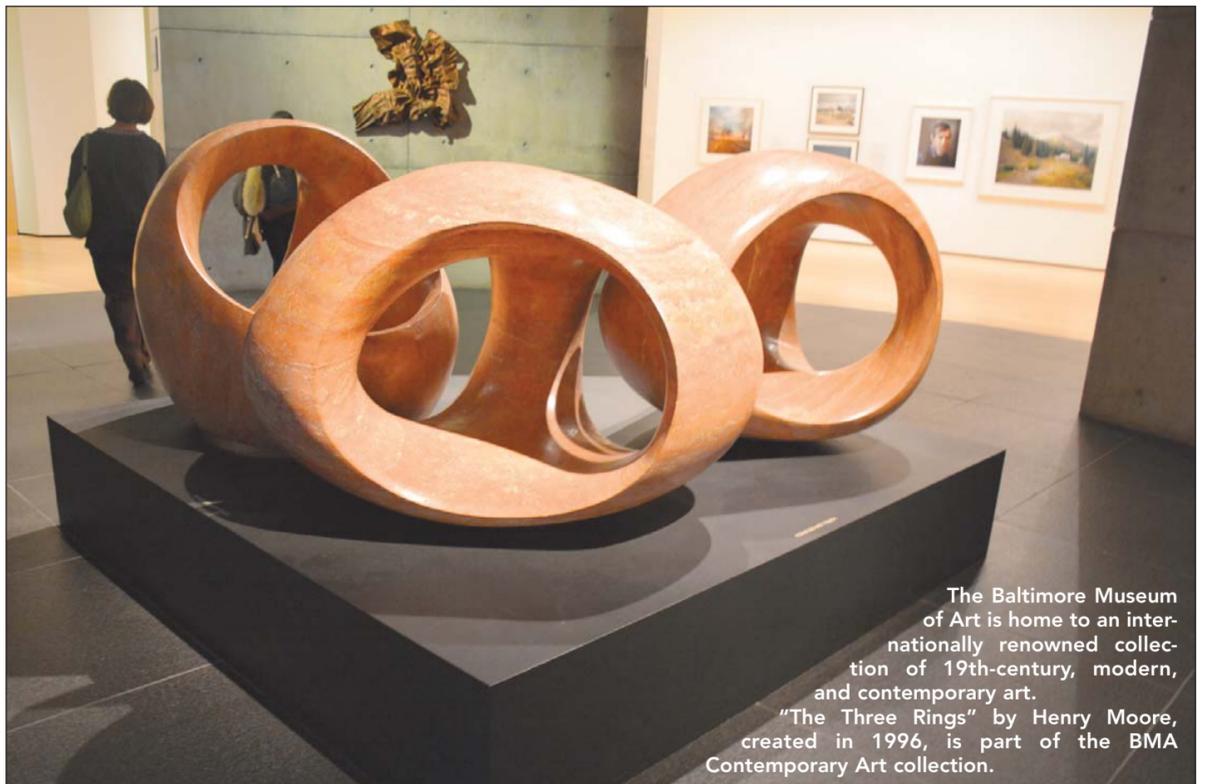
In 2015, the museum finished a \$28 million renovation project that expanded the African art gallery to more than three times its former size. According to the BMA website, the museum "has one of the earliest and most important collections of African art on the East Coast."

The African art gallery features more than 2,000 objects that span from ancient Egypt to contemporary Zimbabwe, and includes headdresses, jewelry, masks, figures, ceremonial weapons and pottery.

The Asian art gallery has also doubled in size, and features more than 1,000 works from China, Japan, India, Tibet, Southeast Asia, and the Near East. Ceramics, furniture, paintings and bronze and jade are some of the objects found in this collection.

Another highlight is the new "Patricia and Mark Joseph Education Center," a \$4.5 million, 5,500 square-foot center that "connects visitors with art, creativity and community." The center includes a studio for hands-on art projects, an orientation foyer, a docent room and a thematic exhibition gallery, where the inaugural exhibition, "Imagining Home," features more than 30 pieces of artwork from the BMA collection, displayed in a space that explores the universal theme of home. The exhibit will be on display through August 2018.

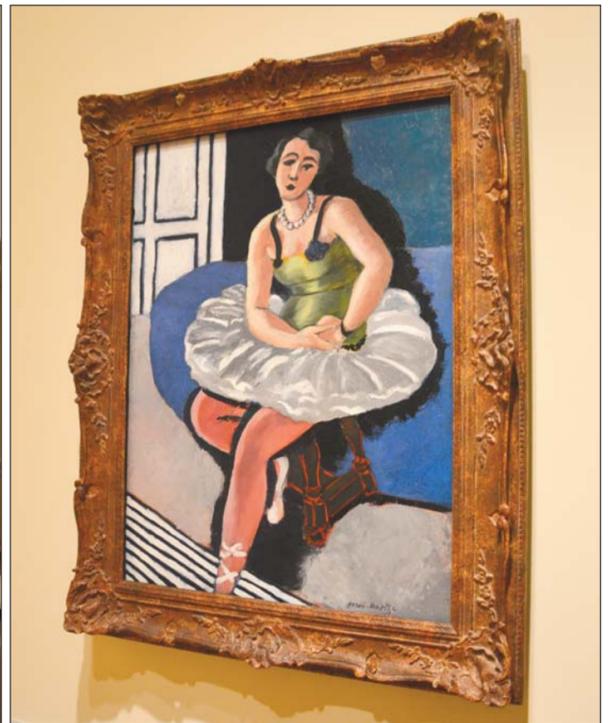
Throughout the year the museum



The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. "The Three Rings" by Henry Moore, created in 1996, is part of the BMA Contemporary Art collection.



(Above, left) A bust of Charles Carroll Harper, created by Thomas Crawford in 1838, is part of BMA's American Art collection. Harper was the grandson of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a Maryland signer of the Declaration of Independence.



(Above, right) "Ballet Dancer Seated on a Stool," by Henri Matisse in 1927, is part of BMA's Cone Collection. BMA has the largest holding of works by Matisse in the world

hosts special events and public tours. Its next event, "Art After Hours," featuring live music, food, drinks and activities inspired by its collections, will be held 7 to 10 p.m., Friday, June 15.

Every Sunday, the museum hosts "Free Family Sundays," free art activities for the whole family.

The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive. Hours of the operation are

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit <https://artbma.org/>, or call 443-573-1700.

Soldiers test robotics on 'battlefield'

Story and photo by
STAFF SGT. TRAMEL S GARRETT
25th Infantry Division

Picture a hot summer day in Afghanistan, and a company of 25th Infantry Division Soldiers preparing to move to a new area of operation. Instead of using their legs and backs, these Soldiers are fortunate enough to have a small robot to help them on the battlefield.

It could provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance without putting Soldiers in harm's way. Technology like this can be the future of the battlefield and 25th Infantry Division Soldiers are testing this theory.

"This training event has been an exercise to address the basis of issue for Soldier multi-use equipment transport robots in the Pacific region," said Joseph Alexander, Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineer Center, or TARDEC, representative.

Working with the Tropic Lightning Soldiers first hand is how Army research labs could extend the reach and capability of a platoon or company.

"Robotics has a very important place in the future of modern warfare. We want to keep the Soldiers out of harm's way, especially when it comes to mundane activities, and a machine with intelligence or operated with a man in the loop may keep them safe," Alexander said.



U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command personnel and 25th Infantry Division Soldiers test the buoyancy of a robot at the East Range Training Facility in Hawaii.

According to a U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), article, U.S. Army science and technology advisors initiated this project to field robots capa-

ble of assessing chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosives, or CBRNE, threats from a safe distance.

Additionally, the robots caught the eye of a group of combat medics with

their ability to evacuate a casualty out of harm's way during a simulation.

"When you're carrying a casualty with a Skedco [plastic sled], two guys are out of the fight. Having a robot we will have an effective fire team in the fight," said Sgt. Michael Murphy, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment.

"This would be extremely helpful on the battlefield. The number one thing would be fire superiority and not sustaining any additional casualties," Murphy added.

Freedom of maneuver is also a goal of this technology. This idea involves equipment taken out of a rucksack and mounted on a robot with the ability to move through a jungle environment.

"We have to give Soldier and Army leadership a level of comfort when using autonomous technology. This is the simple form of this technology. We are hoping to gradually increase that capability, as Soldiers become more comfortable when using robots," said Drew Downing, RDECOM science advisor to U.S. Army Pacific.

Working hand-in-hand with Soldiers and using tactics, techniques and procedures is the formula used to understand how Soldiers will use the technology in the future.

"Soldiers are very creative or innovative, and they will find ways to use it, but we help them find that out in a controlled environment," Downing said.

Mentorship benefits civilian workforce

By **STACY SMITH**
APG News

January is National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign that promotes youth mentoring in the United States. Although mentorship is crucial for children and young people, it can also benefit adults, especially those learning a skill, entering a new career, or simply seeking to connect with a like-minded leader in their chosen field.

The Army recognizes the benefits mentorship provides, seeing it as a key component to a ready and resilient workforce, so mentorship programs are cropping up in command organizations throughout the installation.

"We should be starting a garrison mentoring program within the next six months," said Jill Brodbeck, a management analyst in the Garrison Workforce Development Office.

Brodbeck said the program will be modeled after the large-scale IMCOM mentorship program, but will target a broader range of Department of Defense (DOD) civilian employees, those who have roughly seven to 13 years of government service at APG. She added that mentors and their mentees do not necessarily have to be in the same career program to become a mentorship pair.

"If a manpower specialist was interested in being mentored by somebody in operations, we'd say 'Who is currently in operations who's a high-grade employee in a leadership position that would be willing to match up with this person,'" she said.

Brodbeck added that the program is looking for mentors who can "provide a wealth of knowledge, not just within their leadership role but in how they've progressed personally and professionally throughout their careers."

Diversity Coordinator Rulesha McKinney of the U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity (AMSAA) echoed this desire for qualified mentors who can bring their experience and skills to the table.

"An effective mentor is someone who is supportive and helpful to the mentee without taking over his or her career," she said. "A mentor should be able to explain how the organization is structured [and] should be respected as an experienced and successful person in the organization."

McKinney is the coordinator of AMSAA's newly-organized civilian employee mentorship program which kicks off Feb. 2 with a lunch time meet and greet for interested employees. She said there was a grassroots demand for some kind of mentorship program within the organization.

"They had a climate survey, and the employees here at AMSAA decided that they wanted a mentorship program," she said. "I'm reaching out to employees, [and] talking to them about what I foresee the program being about."

McKinney said she sees the mentorship program including at least four formal mentor-mentee sessions per year, but stressed that pairs can meet as little or as much as they'd like outside of these



Photo by Courtney White, ATEC
Army Test and Evaluation Command Mentor Paul Treat, left, talks with mentee Tavon Hanna, right, during an ATEC speed mentoring event in 2015. ATEC is one of several organizations at APG that offers mentorship opportunities for its workforce.

allotted times.

"This is a start-up program, but I want to make it as fun and as exciting as possible," she said, adding that each pair sets the priorities for their relationship based on the mentee's professional needs.

"When a mentee comes in[to] the program, they have to set their goals, what they want out of the program," McKinney said.

Senior Research Scientist Rose Pesce-Rodriguez of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory agreed. Pesce-Rodriguez has been an informal mentor and mentee within the organization and she said she believes a mentee should take initiative when pursuing a mentor.

"It really falls on the protégé; that they should pursue the mentor and not waste their time and try to make it count, because usually the good ones (mentors) are kind of busy," she said.

Benefits of a mentorship program

The Office of Personnel Management defines mentoring as "a formal or informal relationship between two people: a senior mentor (usually outside the protégé's chain of supervision) and a junior protégé."

Mentoring can be an important influence in professional development in both the public and private sector. OPM highlights that mentoring can increase employee performance, retention, commitment to the organization, and knowledge sharing.

OPM states that organizations and agencies implement formal mentoring programs to:

- Help new employees settle into the agency
- Create a knowledge-sharing environment
- Develop mission-critical skills
- Accelerate one's career
- Improve retention

Mentor & mentee tips

In addition, World Bank ([www.world-](http://www.worldbank.org)

www.worldbank.org) the largest and most famous developmental bank in the world, recommends the following tips for mentees to keep in mind throughout a mentorship program:

1. Take the initiative. Ask your mentor a question, let him or her know your educational and professional interests and objectives, and ask about his/her own experiences.

2. Communicate your goals. Tell your mentor how he or she can be most helpful to you. Identify your needs and communicate them as clearly as possible.

3. Be receptive. Be willing to learn new things, obtain another perspective and be responsive to suggestions and constructive criticism.

4. Follow through on commitments. A mentor is usually volunteering to share their knowledge and experience. Make their time worth the effort.

The Oregon Health and Science University (www.ohsu.edu) offers additional tips:

▪ Evaluate feedback and advice. You don't need to do everything your mentor says. Act on advice that fits for you.

▪ Have realistic expectations. Realize that a single mentor relationship will probably not satisfy all your needs over the course of your career, and that you need to build your own personal "coaching staff."

▪ Take responsibility for the relationship. If you want to have a mentor, be a mentor to others. Cultivate awareness of what you have to give back in a mentoring relationship.

▪ Maintain confidentiality. Your mentoring relationship is a personal one. You need to establish with your mentor the degree to which this advice is kept confidential.

▪ Express appreciation. Let your mentor know when he or she has helped you, and express appreciation for this guidance.

Changing the course of a career

Pesce-Rodriguez credits her relationship with mentors for helping her plot the course of her career.

"I can name about five people who changed the course of my life, and one of them is [Dr. Brad Forch]," she said. "He's my mentor. I can't count how many times he's helped me."

Dr. Brad Forch, ARL senior research scientist, has informally mentored Pesce-Rodriguez and dozens of other colleagues over the span of his 30-year career. Forch said mentoring can be as simple as meeting a few times a year to discuss a person's five-year plan, or helping someone do their job just a little better.

"If you mentor somebody, what's the real definition? You don't want anything in return. You just do it because you want to," Forch said.

Pesce-Rodriguez said she is thankful for people like Forch who volunteer their time and effort as mentors.

"Sometimes you can get buried under the administration, but to know that there's someone out there who will advise you, advocate for you, and get you involved in things; that kind of thing helps a lot," she said.

For more information about the Garrison mentorship program, contact Jill Brodbeck at 410-278-9917. To inquire about a mentorship program within your own organization or command, contact your local human resources representative. For information about National Mentoring Month, visit <http://www.nationalmentoringmonth.org/>.

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

Upcoming Activities

SAVE THE DATE MWR JOB FAIR JAN. 30

The APG Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host a job fair at Ruggles Golf Course from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Through the job fair, MWR hopes to fill both summer seasonal and permanent positions.

These positions include, but are not limited to: child & youth program assistants, recreation assistants, lifeguards, cooks, food service workers, operations assistants, and others.

Interested applications may apply online by visiting usajobs.gov and using keyword: NAF, location: Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; at the APG NAF HR Office, or at the job fair.

For more information and to pre-register for the job fair, email usarmy.apg.chra-ne.mbx.naf@mail.mil or call 410-279-0133/5126/5127.

LEISURE & TRAVEL DISNEY ON ICE "TREASURE TROVE" DISCOUNT TICKETS FEB. 5-7

Get ready for a real ice skating spectacular with a huge cast of Disney stars! Join favorites like Snow White, Peter Pan, and Aladdin and welcome new additions like Giselle from Enchanted, Tiana from The Princess and the Frog, and Rapunzel from Tangled.

- Friday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 6 at 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 7 at 12 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Shows are at the Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore. Tickets cost \$20 per person.

To purchase tickets visit MWR Leisure Travel Services at the AA Recreation Center, BLDG 3326. For questions call 410-278-4011/4907 or email usarmy.apg.imcom.list.apgr-usag-mwr-leisuretravel@mail.mil.

MONSTER JAM DISCOUNT TICKETS FEB. 26-28

MWR Leisure Travel has discount tickets to Monster Jam at the Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore.

- Show dates are:
- Friday, Feb. 26 at 7:30p.m.
 - Saturday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.* and 7:30 p.m.
 - Sunday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.*

*Pit Party 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (event ticket along with Pit Pass required for entry.) Customer Fees: Ages 2+: \$18 Pit Pass: \$10.50

To purchase tickets visit MWR Leisure Travel Services at the AA Recreation Center, Bldg 3326. For questions call 410-278-4011/4907 or email usarmy.APG.imcom.list.apgr-usag-mwr-leisuretravel@mail.mil.

APG 2015 TRAVEL FAIR

AND SPRING BAZAAR MARCH 9

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center ballroom

The Annual Travel Fair is the perfect forum to find out new and interesting destinations to explore. There will be vendor displays and give-a-ways with lots of information to gather on many travel destinations and attractions in the northeast region. Take a stroll through the bazaar area and maybe find a special gift for yourself or an Easter present.

For more information visit MWR Leisure Travel Services at AA Recreation Center, BLDG 3326. For questions call 410-278-4011/4907 or email usarmy.apg.imcom.list.apgr-usag-mwr-leisuretravel@mail.mil

CLUE - A WHODUNIT MURDER MYSTERY & DINNER THEATER APRIL 28

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 AA Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326.

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

CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT FEATURES 'HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2' JAN. 29

APG MWR will host a family movie night and youth make-and-take night featuring the movie "Hotel Transylvania" at the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center starting at 6 p.m. Admission is free for movie and activity. Attendees are welcome to bring their own food.

For more information, call 410-278-4011/4907.

'LET'S COOK' YOUTH COOKING CLASSES FEB. 27 MARCH. 26

International cooking class will teach children different skills to prepare foods from different places around the world. The children will learn about sanitation and kitchen safety. They will also be taught different recipes that require little help from their parents. Children will learn to cook up to three dishes including a main dish and a dessert.

Classes are held one Saturday each month. Registration is required along with a \$17 supply fee. Children must be 7-years-old or older.

For more information, email Shirelle Womack at shirelle.j.womack.naf@mail.mil.

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

3 to 5 p.m.; APG North (Aberdeen) Youth Center

SKIESUnlimited will host a week-long tour residency with the Missoula Children's Theatre 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 at 10 a.m. Rain date will be Saturday, April 30. More details to follow.

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 SUTHERLAND GRILLE CLOSES FOR SEASON THROUGH APRIL 4, 2016

The Sutherland Grille at Ruggles Golf Course is closed for lunch service for the winter season and reopens April 4. During this time, the grille will be available for meetings and special events.

For more information and the special event menu, call 410-278-4794.

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE ACS SURVEY THROUGH FEB. 2

You are a valued member of the Army Family, supporting an important mission at

APG, MD. The Family and Morale, Welfare & Recreation Directorate's (FMWR) Army Community Service (ACS) is evaluating how well we support your quality of life through programs and services. All military community members on and around the APG installation are invited to participate in the upcoming ACS Needs Assessment Survey to gauge the needs of our community.

Visit www.armymwr.com/ACS-survey to complete the survey by Feb. 2. For more information, call 410-278-2500/7572.

APPLYING FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP FEB. 24

ACS will host an "Applying for Federal Employment Workshop" at Bldg. 2503 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees will learn the 10 steps to federal employment.

Online registration is required, and the class is limited to 25 attendees.

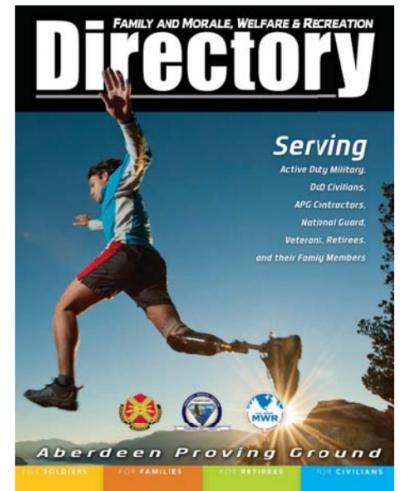
For more information about how to register, call 410-278-9669.

HOW TO START YOUR SMALL BUSINESS MARCH 23

Army Community Service will host a free "How to Start Your Small Business" seminar at Bldg. 2503 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The orientation program provides a brief overview of the ways to smart-start a business and the skills and duties of a successful entrepreneur. The session is open to Team APG personnel and the public.

To reserve a seat, contact Marilyn Howard at 410-278-9669/7572.



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

APGMWR
Leisure Travel has
Discount Lift Tickets
for Roundtop Mountain Resort, Liberty Mountain Resort, or Whitetail Resort

Weekend/Holiday Extended Lift - \$63.25
All Mountain Package Weekend/Holiday - \$101.75

Midweek/Non-Holiday Extended Lift - \$49.75
All Mountain Package Midweek/Non-Holiday - \$88.75

Any Night Lift (5pm-10pm) - \$41.25
Any Night All Mountain Package - \$81.00

First Class Learn to Ski or Snowboard - \$83.25
First Class Learn to Ski includes Ski/Snowboard rentals, beginner's lesson, and a beginner's 8hr lift pass.

All Mountain Packages includes a lift ticket valid on all lifts, optional class lesson and use of rentals.

To purchase visit MWR Leisure Travel Services at the AA Recreation Center, Building 3326 or EA Recreation Center, Building 4140.

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

We're Stronger Together

Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities

InDemand eNewsletter
The InDemand is a weekly eNewsletter highlighting special events, classes, programs, news, trips, ticket specials, discounts, and so much more. It is hosted on our website; the link is emailed to over 12,000 people each week...and the list is growing! Several options exist to accommodate your advertising needs. Choose from a skyscraper, business card, or full page ads.

Website
Our website www.apgmwr.com is one of the top three most used resources for information according to a recent survey. With an average of 21,000 visits per month, it's a sure fire way of getting noticed. Rates vary and depend on size and length of run time. Easily the most adaptable and dynamic way of advertising your services.

Directory
The Family and MWR Directory is a regular publication featuring all of our facilities and programs with contact information, hours of operation and services provided. Distributed throughout the installation, over 15,000 copies are printed. It is one of the most useful resources if you live, work, or regularly visit Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Sponsorship opportunities available year round for MWR EVENTS (Oktoberfest and other MWR programs.)
Please ask the MWR Team at 410-278-3904/9816/7952/1364 about the packages.
For Donation Opportunities contact Alan Hickox: 410-306-4515

Army Fee Assistance program for child care moving back to contractor

By **J.D. LEIPOLD**
Army News Service

A program that helps Soldiers with off-post child care expenses will begin transitioning from the Government Services Administration, or GSA, to a contractor, Feb. 22.

The Army Fee Assistance program helps Soldiers with the cost of off-post child care when on-post care is unavailable. The transition to the contractor, Child Care Aware of America, or CCAoA, will take place over about eight months.

GSA will continue to manage Army Family accounts until the transfer to the contractor is complete in October, said Stephanie Hoehne, director of the Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation activity, which oversees the Army Fee Assistance, or AFA, program.

The program had been under the administration of CCAoA from 2004 until 2014, when it was transferred to GSA. However, under GSA, a backlog of 25,900 items accrued and multiple IT security breaches potentially exposed information from 8,000 Families.

There was no indication by the Army of dissatisfaction with the services provided by CCAoA, which continues to service the fee assistance programs for the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force. Hoehne said the Army made the decision to move the program to GSA through an interagency agreement which hoped to save the Army \$4 million by eliminating a contract during the 2013 sequestration.

The decision was a good one at the time, Hoehne said, but the problem was in the execution and oversight of the transfer and ensuring GSA was prepared to take on the full volume of work, which ultimately did not save money.

Following testimony in September before the same committee, GSA and the Army started taking major steps in rectifying the problems faced by Army families under the GSA administration.

These improvements included reductions of eliminations in long-term backlogs in every major category and a transition away from GSA administration back to the contractor.

"Since September, we have eliminated the backlog of unpaid invoices... and made significant progress in transitioning Army Fee Assistance to Child Care Aware of America," Hoehne said. "In addition, the Army also increased the levels of communication and support to Army families, reiterating our strong commitment to work with GSA



Photo by Kevin Stabinsky

In this file photo, children at Fort McPherson, Georgia, take part in a children's parade. Over the next eight months, the Army will transition its fee assistance program for off-post child care from the Government Services Administration to contractor Child Care Aware of America.

to restore AFA to an effective and efficient program."

She said that in October, the Army informed families that GSA had paid the backlogged provider invoices and those families who had paid the subsidy portion of their child care fees to the provider upfront should expect providers to credit their accounts. Hoehne noted that families were encouraged to contact the Army if reconciliations were not made in a timely manner.

Hoehne said the transition will consist of seven geographically defined phases and that all families residing within a geographic area will be transitioned to the contractor as a group. With the formal transition, CCAoA will begin management of any families new to the AFA program regardless of their location.

The formal transition timeline has recovery periods built in and each phase

would be monitored and success would be validated before moving on to the next phase. She noted the timeline could be shortened if no problems are encountered in each phase, but, "We were deliberately conservative in planning because care of the families is the priority driving this effort."

"Families will receive email notification with full details seven to 14 days before their account is processed and moved to CCAoA," she told the committee.

To facilitate consistent and effective communication with families, the Army, the contractor and GSA have developed a communication plan that includes scheduled communications throughout the transition.

"These communications will consist of regular emails, website updates, webinars and a designated Facebook page,"

Hoehne said. "There will be an email link embedded in each communication for Families to contact the Army directly with any questions or concerns."

CCAoA Executive Director Lynette Fraga addressed the committee's concerns on the breach of Family personal information that happened at GSA explaining that the first steps being taken were to screen and conduct background checks of all staff. She said CCAoA would also ensure access to the data system is limited to only high-level managers.

"Since initial discussion with the Army, CCAoA has been developing the required infrastructure to ensure programmatic success," Fraga said. "This includes a Family-centered approach, exceptionally trained and experienced staff and robust work flow and data management systems and protocols."

SMA Dailey's Senior Enlisted Council focuses on personnel

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS JOY DULEN**
U.S. Army Human Resources

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey sits down with senior sergeants major from around the U.S. Army four times a year to discuss issues that affect his biggest concern - the welfare of Soldiers. It's called the Senior Enlisted Council, SEC, and the first meeting of 2016 convened at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, or HRC, Jan. 21.

Since the HRC daily mission is to optimize total force personnel readiness, Dailey said it was the perfect setting for the topic at hand.

"This time, what we talked about was our personnel and how we're going to rearrange the talent management and leader development of our senior non-commissioned officers," he said.

Dailey changed what was once known as the Board of Directors, or BOD, to the SEC shortly after taking over as the 15th Sgt. Maj. of the Army in January 2015. The council meets monthly via video teleconference and in-person quarterly. Topics can range from military pay and compensation recommendations for the future to uniform changes. However, Dailey said

the time has come to concentrate on people after more than a decade of focus on an Army at war.

"The Chief of Staff of the Army has tasked me with taking a look at how we manage our enlisted force, how we maximize the talents and capabilities of our Soldiers, and really answer some of the questions that we've asked for a long time," said Dailey.

Topics discussed during SECs can affect the force in as little as a month or they can extend into ongoing talks for years. Dailey said it just depends on the issue.

"We get recommendations and some of those start with one individual Soldier," he said. He gave the example of a recent change in Army policy on the authorized wear of black socks with the Army Physical Fitness Uniform. A Soldier stood up in a town hall meeting and asked why black socks

weren't allowed. Less than 30 days later, the policy was changed.

"We took that to the Senior Enlisted Council, had a unanimous vote that it was in keeping with the finest traditions of Army service, went to the Chief of Staff of the Army and



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joy Dulen

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, right, talks with Command Sgt. Maj. James Sims, U.S. Army Material Command, left, during a Senior Enlisted Council (SEC) meeting at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Jan. 20. The SEC meets quarterly to discuss issues that affect the welfare of Soldiers.

we quickly made a decision," Dailey added.

Some issues are much more complex. When you're discussing working through the intricacies of military compensation and reform, it could take several months to affect the force, he said.

"The perfect example is the Non-commissioned Officer Evaluation Report that has just been launched," said Dailey. "We worked on that for two years in the Senior Enlisted Council, previously the BOD under [former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond] Chandler, and some of these things take a lot of work because we have to call in the professionals, like those people who work here at the Human Resources Command, to be able to inform us and do the analysis."

No matter what the issue or length of time needed for discussion, Dailey reiterated the SEC's biggest concern

is the welfare of Soldiers. They don't want to make decisions that could have a negative impact over the long term.

"This is the Army, it's a big organization and it's hard to turn back," he said. "Simple things like black socks - not a huge effect on Soldiers. But the Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report, that has a huge effect on the total population of NCOs, not just now, but into the foreseeable future."

Dailey said the SEC will continue to meet with a fresh new focus on people and the Chief of Staff of the Army's number one priority: readiness.

"We're an organization made up of people and we're the largest people organization in America," he said. "Human Resources Command is one of those critical nodes that we have to invest in for the future and make sure we get it right because they're here to take care of our people. And our job as an Army is to always get better."

We're an organization made up of people and we're the largest people organization in America. Human Resources Command is one of those critical nodes that we have to invest in for the future and make sure we get it right because they're here to take care of our people. And our job as an Army is to always get better.

Sgt. Maj. Daniel Dailey
Sgt. Maj. of the Army



The Army conducts the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical Increment 3, or WIN-T Inc 3, Functional Qualification Test #3 at the contractor facility in Taunton, Mass., in December 2015, in preparation for the WIN-T Inc 3 Follow-on Operational Test this spring.

Army prepares to test enhanced network operation tools at NIE 16.2

Story and photos by **AMY WALKER**
PEO C3T

To make it easier for Soldiers to manage the vast tactical communications network, the Army plans to operationally evaluate newly enhanced and simplified network operations, or NetOps, tools during Network Integration Evaluation, or NIE, 16.2 this spring.

The NetOps tool suite enables communications officers (S6s and G6s) and staff to provide a second set of eyes on the Army's tactical communications network, Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, or WIN-T, ensuring Soldiers and commanders remain connected, communicating and synchronized.

"NetOps provides a picture of actual on-the-move network battlefield conditions at all times, so if there is any break in the communications it is known right away," said Sgt. First Class, Jason Gourlie, satellite communications, or SATCOM, systems operator for the 101st Airborne Division, who supported recent NetOps testing. "Mission objectives can change at any given second and without proper communications, without that ability to reach back, there can be a delay in a commander's on-the-spot battlefield decisions, which could [potentially] change the outcome of the mission or even cost lives."

The WIN-T network is the tactical transport mechanism that delivers high-speed, high-capacity voice, video and data communications at every echelon throughout theater. It supports Soldiers in the command post, in networked vehicles traversing the battlefield or even early entry paratroopers seizing a remote airfield. WIN-T is the tactical network backbone to which other networked communication systems and mission command applications need to connect to function effectively. The Army's suite of NetOps tools help Soldiers to configure, operate, monitor, troubleshoot and defend this immense network. The new NetOps enhancements simplify and increase visibility across the network to make these tasks easier, more efficient and effective.

The NetOps upgrades will be tested as part of the WIN-T Increment 3 follow-on operational test, or FOT, scheduled to be conducted during NIE 16.2 this spring on Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. As part of an extensive effort to reduce risk for the FOT, the Army recently tested the new NetOps improvements during the WIN-T Increment 3 functional qualification test #3, or FQT3, supported by Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division and 10th Mountain Division, at the contractor facility in Taunton, Massachusetts.

The contractor's in-plant test bed environment mirrored an operational WIN-T network environment using actual WIN-T Increment 2 equipment and vehicles. The Army will perform additional risk reduction testing at its own emulation test bed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, to further prepare for NIE 16.2. A successful test at the NIE will support the new NetOps software technical insertion into the WIN-T network, projected for fiscal year 2017.

"The functional qualification test highlights the synergy between PM WIN-T, the Army Test and Evaluation Command [ATEC] and industry," said Col. Greg Coile, project manager for WIN-T. "These three entities teamed early in the testing process to ensure that all the proper testing procedures and instrumentation were in place to increase efficiencies in time and cost by reducing risk for the operational test at NIE 16.2 this spring."



As part of Network Integration Evaluation 16.2 this spring, the Army plans to operationally evaluate newly enhanced and simplified network operations tools sets that make it easier for Soldiers to manage the vast tactical communications network that spans the battlefield.

The new NetOps simplifications also improve defensive cyber visualization to help signal Soldiers more easily manage and protect the network. The WIN-T Inc 3 FQT3 included the implementation of Public Key Infrastructure, or PKI, in the tactical formation. PKI supports the distribution and identification of public encryption keys, enabling users and systems to securely exchange data over networks and verify the identity of whom they are communicating. It provides assured identity for personnel and non-personnel entities, and prevents unauthorized systems and services from connecting to the network. It also reduces system complexity by reducing the number of passwords needed to manage the network.

The Army continues to listen to Soldier feedback from theater, user juries and test events to make WIN-T NetOps, systems and user interfaces more intuitive and easier to operate. System simplification increases equipment and network "up-time" through the reduction of human error while reducing task completion time and training requirements. Recent simplification improvements include enhancements to the troubleshooting and preventative maintenance tools that alert operators of potential network equipment problems.

"The biggest benefit [of the upgrades] is the increased usability piece of the NetOps tools and the enhancement of monitoring capabilities," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles Coker, instructor at the Army's Cyber Center of Excellence. "It provides NetOps personnel with a robust software solution for better management of the network and it also allows Soldiers to probe into the network to troubleshoot connectivity issues. The user interface is easy to circumnavigate as the tools provide you step-by-step guidance towards planning, installing and managing your unit's tactical network. Now that we have that capability, planning, establishing and sustaining a tactical communications network for future missions is more easily attainable."

WIN-T NetOps provides the big picture of the network so communications officers and staff can better manage net-



Soldiers, from the 101st Airborne Division and 10th Mountain Division, train on and support the testing of the new network enhancements during the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, or WIN-T, Increment 3 Functional Qualification Test #3 at the contractor facility in Taunton, Mass., in December 2015, in preparation for Network Integration Evaluation 16.2 this spring.

work resources, fix breaks in connectivity faster or even before they may happen, and improve network visibility to better defend the network against cyber-attacks. Going forward, the Army will continue to make NetOps more user-friendly, providing a consistent look and feel across the various WIN-T configuration items to minimize training impact and reduce Soldier burden.

"I have used the previous NetOps before and this version has gotten more powerful," said Sgt. 1st Class Jean Burgoosdeleon, tactical command post platoon sergeant for the 101st Airborne Division. "It helps with quicker setup of equipment and adds more capability. The S6 shop can monitor your network and actually inform you when something goes down. When you are engaged with something else, it's like having a second set of eyes on your equipment. It is providing a [definite] edge."

Both the at-the-halt and on-the-move increments of WIN-T will share a common NetOps for more seamless interoperability, easy monitoring and a reduction in training requirements. The

new NetOps software enhancements are also helping to pave the way for the convergence of the NetOps tools and management for both the upper tactical internet (WIN-T) and the lower tactical internet (radio networks). The goal of NetOps convergence is to provide one tool, or an easy to use integration of tools, into a single seamless delivery so that the S6 has one tool set to more easily see and manage the entirety of the network. The S6 will be able to see all the many facets of the network in one cohesive picture, said Lt. Col. (P) Ward Roberts, product manager WIN-T Increment 3, which manages the WIN-T NetOps.

"As the Army continues to add more capability to the network to ensure Soldiers at every echelon remain connected and engaged, all of this technology, this unified network of capability, has to be managed," Roberts said. "By converging and simplifying NetOps across all those command posts, networked vehicles and radio networks, we gain power and a stronger foothold on the network and on our enemies."

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

THIS WEEK IN APG HISTORY

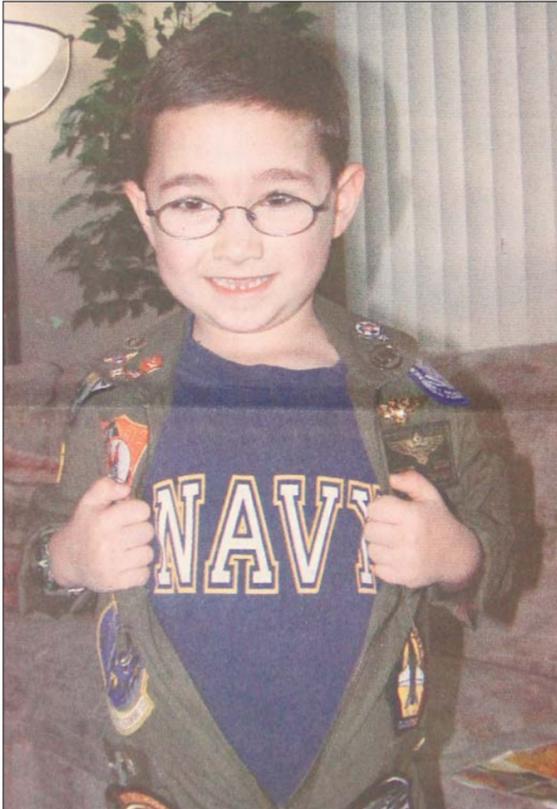


Take a look back in time as the APG News explores what made the headlines around APG during this week 10, 25 and 50 years ago. This week's APG News masthead is from 1966.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News

2015

10 Years Ago: Jan. 26, 2006



(Left) Local youth and military enthusiast Chase Lucas reveals a U.S. Navy t-shirt under his flight suit.

(Below) APG Garrison Commander Col. John T. Wright, left, presents a plaque naming Eric Ouimette Police Officer of the Year during a ceremony at the Emergency Services Building.



2010

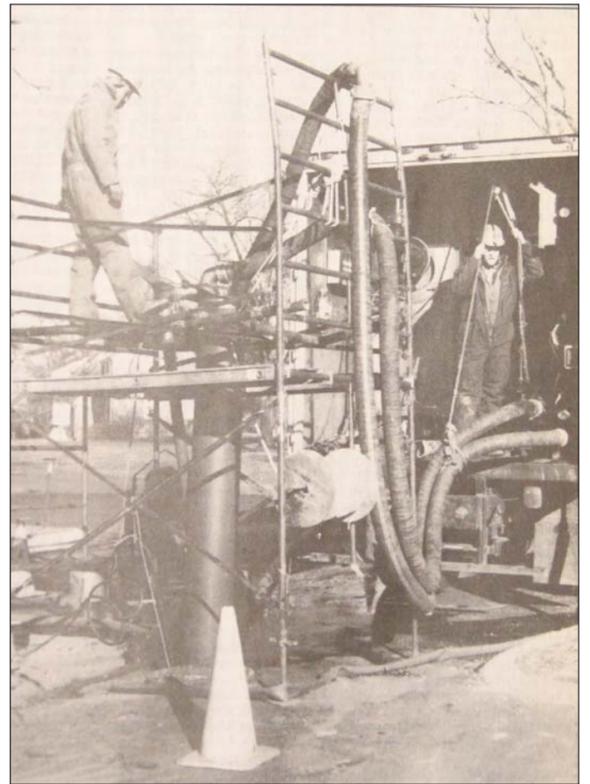
2000

25 Years Ago: Jan. 30, 1991

1990

(Right) Pipeline reconstruction contractors Jeff Tyler, right, and Northern Lassiter, left, get ready to circulate water through newly replaced sewage lines while upgrading APG sewers.

(Below) APG Commander Maj. Gen. George H. Akin, far right, gets ready to host an over-flight of the installation for Harford County elected officials.



1980

1970

50 Years Ago: Jan. 27, 1966



(Left) Brig. Gen. David W. Hiester, commander of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School, right, cuts the ribbon officially opening the newly-completed 13th Enlisted Training Company mess hall

1960



(Right) Ordnance Museum curator retired. Col. George B. Jarrett, paints the Iron Cross of Germany on an A7V tank model.

1950

REAL ID Act implementation begins

DOD installations no longer accept driver's licenses from five states

By **JIM GARAMONE**
Defense Media Activity

Defense Department installations will no longer accept driver's licenses from Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico and Washington as proof of identity, DOD officials said.

Federal Policy

The ban, which also includes licenses from American Samoa, is a consequence of the REAL ID Act of 2005.

The REAL ID Act grew out of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks -- most of the terrorists involved had driver's licenses from Florida and Virginia. Congress tightened up issuance processes and documentation needed to get a driver's license. Compliant cards must have specific security features to prevent tampering, counterfeiting or duplication of the document. The licenses also must present data in a common, machine-readable format.

The REAL ID Act affects only access control policies where individuals are required to present an identification document for accessing federal facilities, entering nuclear power plants or boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft. The federal REAL ID Act implementation rules allow for exceptions, officials noted. For example, they explained, life or safety issues such as medical emergencies, and situations in which physical access is necessary to apply for benefits are two exceptions.

Those attempting to gain physical access to DOD installations must show an alternate form of identification, such as a passport, officials said.



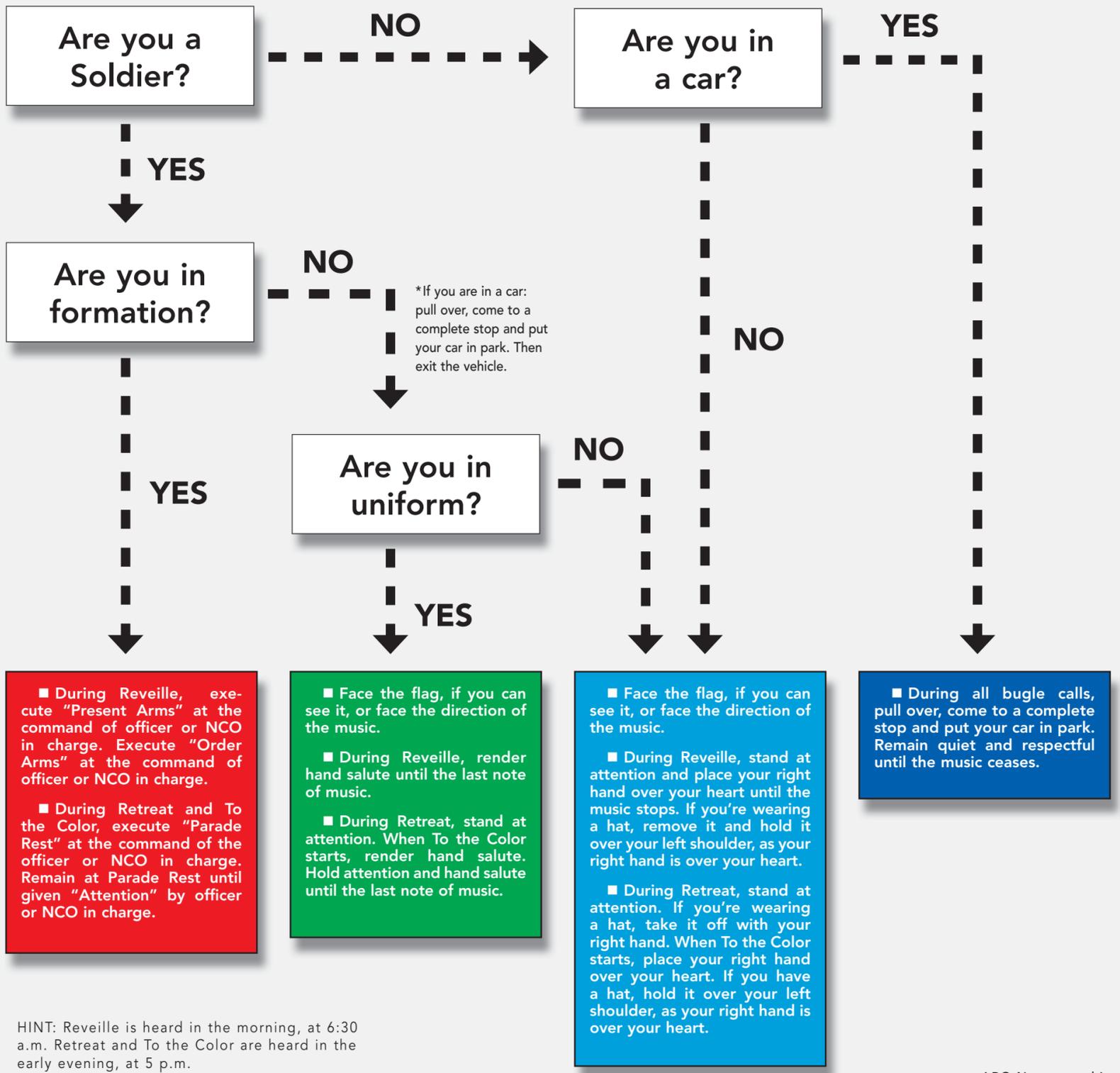
Service members, family members, DOD employees, and federal employees with the DOD common access card, DOD uniformed services identification and privileges cards, federal personal identification verification cards or transportation workers' identification credentials are not affected, officials said, as these cards are authorized in DOD policy to facilitate physical access to installations.

"All federal agencies including DOD must comply with the law regarding the use of REAL IDs for official purposes," an official said. "For most DOD installations, an identification card or an installation pass is required to facilitate access. Hence, where an ID or an installation pass is used for physical access, DOD installations are prohibited from accepting driver's licenses or state identification

cards from states deemed non-REAL ID compliant.

"DOD policy allows commanders to waive the DOD access control requirements for special situations, circumstances, or emergencies," the official said. "Therefore, installations may authorize other alternatives to facilitate installation access, such as a graduation ceremony guest list, escorts, etc."

You hear the bugle call, now what?

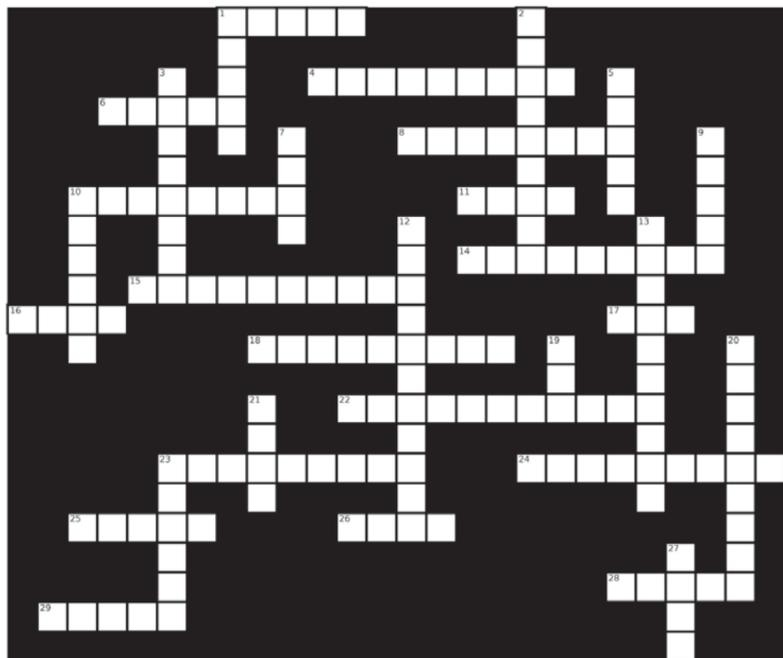


APG News graphic



Want to make a difference in how services are rendered at APG? Tell us how we are doing. Visit <http://ice.disa.mil>.

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



The APG Crossword

Walkin' in a Winter Wonderland

By **STACY SMITH**, APG News

As temperatures drop and snow piles up, grab a hot cocoa, a warm blanket and enjoy the coldest season of the year with this challenging, winter-themed puzzle.

Across

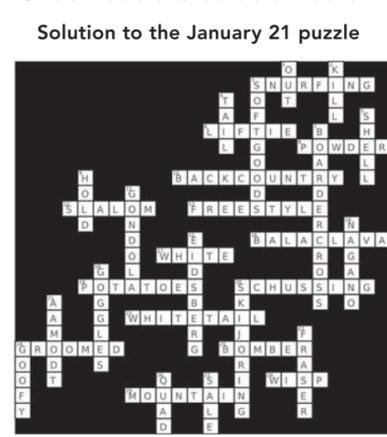
- 1. Russian city where the 2014 Winter Olympics was held.
- 4. Animal that some believe can accurately predict how long the rest of a given winter will last.
- 6. These animals don't truly hibernate during the winter, but go into what is called a torpor, from which they can easily be awoken.
- 8. Astronomical phenomenon that marks the shortest day and the longest night of the year.
- 10. Lack of this electromagnetic radiation is believed to cause seasonal affective disorder in some people during winter months.

- 11. Spanish word meaning "cold."
- 14. This 1993 blizzard, dubbed the "Storm of the Century", was significant because sophisticated storm tracking technology allowed governors to declare a state of _____ before a single snowflake fell.
- 15. Continent with the coldest climate on earth.
- 16. The famous Grimm's Fairy Tale princess who befriended seven dwarfs is said to have lips as red as blood, hair as black as ebony and skin as white as _____.
- 17. The "snowy" variety of this bird species is native to Arctic

- regions and thrives in colder climates.
- 18. Winter sport in which teams of two or four teammates make timed runs down narrow, twisting, banked, iced tracks in a gravity-powered transportation device.
- 22. Medical condition that occurs when extreme exposure to cold causes the body's core temperature to drop to, 95 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.
- 23. Infectious disease with outbreaks that typically occur in winter, and symptoms that can include a high fever, runny nose, sore throat and muscle pains.
- 24. Cold _____ is a process by which plants become acclimated to winter.
- 25. Name of the White Witch who froze Narnia in the Hundred Years Winter in writer C.S. Lewis' series "The Chronicles of Narnia."
- 26. Considered the most difficult type of jump a figure skater can perform due to its extra half rotation.
- 28. "Winter is Coming" is the motto of this house in the fictional Westeros from the hit HBO television show "Game of Thrones," which also became a humorous Internet meme.
- 29. The fur on some animals, like the arctic fox and snowshoe hare, changes to this color in the winter, enabling them to hide from predators and prey.

- vested during winter.
- 7. Synonym for the Abominable Snowman, an ape-like legendary creature that is said to inhabit the Himalayan region of Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet.
- 9. The red winterberry is a species of this plant that grows during winter and is an important food source for birds.
- 10. A type of skiing discipline that involves zigzagging between poles or gates.
- 12. Famous English playwright and author of "The Winter's Tale."
- 13. Clusters of ice crystals that fall from a cloud.
- 19. Oral or written expression used to express sensations of cold.
- 20. "The Winter of Our Discontent," published in 1961, was the last novel written by this American author.
- 21. Indigenous midwinter festival once celebrated by Germanic peoples and now associated with Christmas.
- 23. Forms when ice or snow melted by sunlight or some other heat source refreezes as it drips off under exposed conditions.
- 27. _____ Frost is the personification of freezing cold weather, a variant of Old Man Winter.

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



WORD OF THE WEEK

Quixotic

Pronounced: kwik-SOT-ik
Part of Speech: Adjective

Definition:

1. (Sometimes initial capital letter) resembling or befitting Don Quixote.
2. Extravagantly chivalrous or romantic; visionary, impractical, or unrealistic.
3. Impulsive and often rashly unpredictable.

Use:

- They tried in vain to dissuade him from his vast and perhaps quixotic project to somehow house all the homeless in his state.
- Others existed only as working hypotheses, unrealized plans or quixotic fantasies.
- He's been on that quixotic quest for three years.
- To call this lawsuit quixotic would be too generous.

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

ACRONYM OF THE WEEK

ANL

Argonne National Laboratory

Argonne is a multidisciplinary science and engineering research center where "dream teams" of world-class researchers work alongside experts from industry, academia and other government laboratories to address vital, national challenges in clean energy, environment, technology and national security.

Argonne is managed by UChicago Argonne, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science.

Located near Lemont, Illinois, the facility features 15 research divisions, five national scientific user facilities, has a workforce of 3,400 and is the largest national laboratory by size and scope in the Midwest.

With a budget in excess of \$700 million, Argonne initiatives include Hard X Ray Sciences; Leadership Computing; Materials for Energy; Electrical Energy Storage; Alternative Energy and Efficiency; Nuclear Energy; Biological and Environmental Systems; and National Security.

British physicist and Professor of Physics at the University of Chicago, Peter Littlewood is the 13th ANL director.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News
 Source(s): <https://www.wikipedia.org/>; <http://www.anl.gov/>

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

Solarium: Warrants need training, Army over-relies on contractors

By **DAVID VERGUN**
ARNEWS

Two major problems impact readiness, warrant officers said at the first-ever chief of staff of the Army-sponsored Warrant Officer Solarium, at the Command and General Staff College, Jan. 15.

First, the Army is too dependent on contractors to maintain front-line equipment. Second, warrants are not getting all of the technical training they need to lead in their traditional role.

Contractor dependent

In the last 14 years of warfare, a surge of forces and new equipment made it necessary to hire new contractors to maintain forward-based equipment, Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Morris told Lt. Gen. Robert Brown, commander of the Combined Arms Center, and other senior leaders.

Furthermore, there just wasn't the training time available, he added.

"Now the time has come to reclaim our equipment," said Morris, who provided his own example.

"I'm an electronics-maintenance technician," he commented. "I work on communications devices, radios, night-vision, [and] other equipment. A lot of stuff that came out over the last 10 years I'm not allowed or capable of working on."

There's often no technical manuals to repair or fix this stuff, "so that essentially turns me into a logistician," he said. For instance, "if a broken radio is brought to me, I have to determine if it's under warranty, who fixes it, when to expect to get it back, and determine whether or not to order a new one, things of that nature.

"It takes my technical abilities away and makes me more generalized as a logistician."

Many of the approximately 85 warrants agreed and had similar experiences.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Heath Stamm had other concerns.

"In a decisive-action fight with a peer-level competitor, when we're taking ground and moving, when bullets start flying, how willing will these civilian contractors be to fix that digital system" as movement into harm's way commences, he asked.

"We haven't fought a frontline fight in a long time," he pointed out. "People say we were in Afghanistan, but we were static. When we start moving and taking ground again, that's going to change the dynamics.

"Everywhere you see a contractor in the field, you should probably look and say 'where's the warrant officer that needs to replace him,'" he continued.

Stamm summed up his feelings for warrants taking control: "I'm the tech-



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Fatima Nettles, second from right, tells Lt. Gen. Robert Brown, commander of the Combined Arms Center, far left, that warrant officers are the best technical experts in the Army, albeit "mostly due to our own initiative and self-training." The event was the first-ever Warrant Officer Solarium, held at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Jan. 15.

anical expert on that system. One, I'm cheaper; two, when bullets start flying, I'll continue working on that system."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Nick Koepen agreed that the Army is over-reliant on contractors, particularly during deployments.

The Army can send only so many people overseas, he explained. "When we deploy our aviation units, we're not taking our maintainers and our warrant officers with us. So we have contractors fixing our aircraft. Then, what happens when we bring them back and we're expecting our guys [to fix them] who've never had the training and experience? They can't fix it."

Warrants losing technical edge

Morris said that not only is the Army over-reliant on contractors, warrant officers themselves are not getting some of the crucial training needed for them to lead in their traditional technical role.

Noncommissioned officers and even privates are getting trained up on new equipment first and the warrant officers are not being formally inserted into the process, he said.

Morris provided a recent personal example.

The new M-1135 nuclear, biological, chemical, reconnaissance Stryker variant came to Fort Carson, Colorado, and a FLMNET, or field-level maintenance new equipment training team came out. Their trainees were 94F

maintainer enlisted Soldiers "who worked for me," Morris said.

"So I inserted myself into that two-week class with all the privates and specialists on my own initiative, because I want to know everything technical going on within my sections," he said. "I don't like it when my Soldiers know something and I don't, so I try to learn everything I can. That's an issue."

Morris said he'd prefer to be trained first because chiefs are supposed to be the subject-matter experts on systems they're responsible for. The commander should feel confident that his chief warrant officer is trained up on everything.

Also, having that training would better enable the warrants to determine what's needed in the maintenance program and in the training program, he said.

Then, "when the team does come to train, I can assist with the training," Morris said. "That builds confidence in the Soldiers that their leaders, the warrant officers, have the competence to teach them and to train them."

The enlisted Soldiers can then say, "My chief already knows this so I'll listen to him." Not, "my chief is asking me the same questions I was going to ask him." That's a gap in training. My team members have had similar experiences. I suspect it could be a problem across the Army."

One way to alleviate this, Morris said, is to insert a chief into the procurement and acquisition phases of

equipment "so we can have that warrant officer making recommendations and getting their point of view."

"Most systems look at lethality, maneuverability and protection, but maintenance is overlooked," he said. "It's an afterthought."

Having noted where improvements can and should be made, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Fatima Nettles said warrant officers are still the best technical experts in the Army, albeit "mostly due to our own initiative and self-training."

The general weighs in

Having junior Soldiers learn new equipment maintenance first is not the right way, Brown said. "It needs to be the other way around," with warrant officers leading in that effort. They shouldn't have to insert themselves into the training process on their own initiative.

Warrant officers should be embedded in the process, he said. They will help adapt technology to people, not people to technology.

Brown said he believes that it wasn't intentionally done that way, just overlooked. "But we can push this" change.

The general also said he agreed that warrants should be the frontline, go-to experts when it comes to technical leadership, with less reliance on contractors.

Brown said this is the valuable input senior leaders need, because they don't always get the ground-level view. He promised to follow up on the discussions with other senior leaders.

Youth center undergoes improvements

Continued from Page 1

in the fundamental practice or core standards."

"It means we are doing what we need to do, correctly," he said. "The reaccreditation is a way to show your customers, the parents, that we want a quality, safe program."

Child, Youth and School Services Coordinator Ruth Strauss called it an "amazing achievement."

"It demonstrates the dedication and attention to detail the staff have and that they deliver awesome experiences that enhance children's learning and understanding of the complex world they live in," she said. "It demonstrates a program built on mutual respect of children, staff and families."

Accreditation process

Mckinney said to be reaccredited there are several standards that the center has to meet, which is organized into three separate sections: administration, human resources and programming.

During the process Mckinney submitted written evidence that the school age program complied with the COA, known as a "self-study."

In the final phase a reviewer made a site visit to the APG South youth center, Dec. 14-15, 2015, to confirm that the SAC program was adhering to the evidence in the self-study. The reviewer observed the center and interviewed children, staff and parents.

Center improvements

Mckinney said to prepare for the reaccreditation, in addition to sub-



Program assistant Rita Bradby reads to Parker Ambrose, 5, and May Ambrose, 6, after school at the APG South (Edgewood) youth center. The youth center's School Age Center recently received an expedited five-year reaccreditation from the Council on Accreditation.

mitting paperwork, the center underwent a series of renovations. Projects included installing a brand new floor, repainting the walls, and purchasing new furniture and supplies. The center also set up dedicated areas in the SAC room for activities, called "Amazing Stations." Stations include art, games, reading and acting. McKinney said he used input from youth center parents and children to implement the changes.

"We really streamlined the building so it looks more professional," he said.

"We changed the environment around, so it is more conducive to school age. We want to make it a fun, safe environment for kids to play."

Mckinney thanked all the staff members for their dedication, calling it a "team effort." McKinney also thanked the support of Strauss and APG Garrison leadership, especially retired Col. Gregory R. McClinton, who was the garrison commander when the reaccreditation process began.

"Col. McClinton, when I first came

here really supported me in transforming this building," he said. "Without the support of the garrison and the support of my chief, I wouldn't be able to achieve this."

Mckinney said that there are several upcoming projects planned for this year including installing a new gym floor, repainting the gym, building a patio for middle school students and buying a greenhouse.

"We plan to make continuous improvements," he said.

The APG South youth center has 10 staff members and provides care before and after school for about 18 children per day, in kindergarten through eighth grade. The youth center partners with the National 4-H, Character Counts and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, to provide fun, educational activities for the children.

The Council on Accreditation is an international, independent, nonprofit, human service accrediting organization founded in 1977 by the Child Welfare League of America and Family Service America (now the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities). The mission of COA is to partner with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards.

For more information about APG CYSS programs, visit <http://www.apgmwr.com/child-youth-school-services/cyss-home> or call Outreach Services 410-278-7571.

MDNG Soldiers work with first responders

Continued from Page 1

received a call about an older man who lost heat and power in his house, and requested help to get him from his house to his son's house. Due to conditions impassable by even a MDNG Humvee, Pinder trekked through the snow to the man's house.

"He flagged me down with a light," Pinder said. "I went up to him and he was shivering, so I gave him my cap, gloves, and jacket to stay warm."

The man was unable to walk through the unplowed street. Pinder then decided to carry the man from his house to the vehicle. They were trying to stay positive through the storm together.

"We were encouraging each other the whole walk down," Pinder said.

Pinder completed this mission by helping the man safely get to his son's house. He said it made coming out in the storm worth it to help people stay safe and better the communities of Maryland.

In Harford County, MDNG Soldiers helped get vital medication to a 93-year-old resident, according to a post on the

Maryland National Guard Facebook page by Christine Sonia von Lange.

After a Maryland State Police vehicle became stuck in the snow in Odenton Jan. 23, MDNG Soldiers from the 128th Brigade Support Battalion helped free the vehicle, as well as respond to calls of other stranded motorists.

In Annapolis, citizen Soldiers from the 110th Information Operations Battalion, freed an ambulance one shovelful at a time, Jan. 24.

In previous snowstorms, the Maryland Guard has assisted stranded motorists, worked with local law enforcement and firefighters with transportation and evacuation, distribution of supplies and search and rescue.

In 2010, during "Snowmageddon," a Maryland National Guard Soldier helped deliver a baby. The largest weather related activation for the Maryland National Guard was for Hurricane Sandy in 2012 when more than 800 service members and 200 pieces of equipment were deployed.



(Above) Maryland National Guard service members, working with local first responders, rescue a stranded Harford County resident who was immobilized with a leg injury, Jan. 23.

Maryland National Guard photo

(Left) A Maryland National Guard LMTV stands frozen from the heavy snow and wind caused by Winter Storm Jonas in Glen Bernie, Jan. 23.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mitch Miller, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Did You Know ?



Punxsutawney Phil will launch his 130th prognostication on Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, 2016.

For those planning to make the trip to Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to witness Phil in action, the Groundhog Day website at <http://www.groundhog.org> contains a schedule and travel guide, maps, and lodging, and busing and event information.

Groundhog Day origins

Falling midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, Feb. 2 is a significant day in several ancient and modern traditions. The Celts, for instance, celebrated it as Imbolc, a pagan festival marking the beginning of spring. As Christianity spread through Europe, Imbolc evolved into Candlemas, a feast commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the holy temple in Jerusalem. In certain parts of Europe, Christians believed that a sunny Candlemas meant another 40 days of cold and snow. Germans pronounced the day sunny only if badgers and other animals glimpsed their own shadows. When German immigrants settled Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries, they brought the custom with them, choosing the native groundhog as the annual forecaster.

The first official Groundhog Day celebration took place Feb. 2, 1887, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The event was the brainchild of newspaper editor Clymer Freas, who sold a group of businessmen and groundhog hunters—known collectively as the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club—on the idea. The men trekked to Gobbler's Knob, where the inaugural groundhog became the bearer of bad news when he saw his shadow.

Today, local dignitaries known as the Inner Circle preside over the Punxsutawney festivals. Its members wear top hats and conduct the official proceedings in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect. Reportedly, they communicate with Phil in "Groundhogese."

Punxsutawney, a borough that is home to some 6,000 people, was immortalized in the 1993 film "Groundhog Day," which was actually shot in Woodstock, Illinois.

Also known as woodchucks, but no relation to hedgehogs, groundhogs belong to the group of large ground squirrels known as marmots. They grow up to 25 inches long and can live for 10 years in captivity. According to legend, Punxsutawney Phil is more than 125 years old thanks to the magical punch he imbibes every summer. Groundhogs spend the winter hibernating in their burrows; by February, they can lose as much as half their weight. The bristly rodents eat succulent plants, wild berries and insects—and they don't mind helping themselves to garden vegetables or agricultural crops.

Oh Canada

Canada's first Groundhog Day took place in Wiarton, Ontario in 1956. It came about because a local resident wanted to throw a party for his friends and thought Groundhog Day was the perfect excuse. The tradition has evolved and Wiarton Willie is now Canada's leading four-legged prognosticator.

Controversy erupted around Wiarton Willie in 1999 when Groundhog Day organizers realized that he'd died during his winter hibernation. They presented onlookers with an open coffin containing the body of a stuffed groundhog.

Condolences poured in, but the unorthodox presentation sparked criticism and mockery in Canada and abroad.

Notable celebrations

Crowds as large as 40,000 have gathered to celebrate the holiday in Punxsutawney. Other celebrations of note include the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park in Nova Scotia, home of Shubenacadie Sam, and the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas, which claims to be the second largest Groundhog celebration in the world despite having no groundhog or making weather predictions. Simply called "Groundhog," the festival culminates with a party in Groundhog Park and features live bands, food and beer.

Most everywhere else an actual groundhog is involved. Here's a list of active groundhog prognosticators in the U.S. and Canada:

- Buckeye Chuck** – Marion, Ohio
- Chattanooga Chuck** – Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Chuckles** – Manchester, Connecticut
- Cocalico Cal** – Ephrata, Pennsylvania
- Dover Doug** – Dover, Pennsylvania
- Dunkirk Dave** – Dunkirk, New York
- Fred** – Val d'Espoir, Quebec
- French Creek Freddie** – French Creek, West Virginia
- General Beauregard Lee** – Lilburn, Georgia
- Grady the Groundhog** – Chimney Rock, North Carolina
- Holtville Hal** – Holtville, New York
- Jimmy the Groundhog** – Sun Prairie, Wisconsin
- Lawrenceville Lucy** – Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania
- Malverne Mel** – Malverne, New York
- Manitoba Merv** – Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Mount Joy Minnie** – Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
- Murray** – Howell, Michigan
- Nibbles** – Asheville, North Carolina
- Octorara Ophie** – Quarryville, Pennsylvania
- Oil Springs Ollie** – Oil Springs, Ontario
- Poor Richard** – York, Pennsylvania
- Queen Charlotte** – Charlotte, North Carolina
- Shubenacadie Sam** – Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia
- Sir Walter Wally** – Raleigh, North Carolina
- Staten Island Chuck** – Staten Island, New York
- Stormy Marmot** – Aurora, Colorado
- Susquehanna Sherman** – Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania
- Uni** – Myerstown, Pennsylvania
- Western Maryland Murray** – Cumberland, Maryland
- Winnipeg Willow** – Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Woodstock Willie** – Woodstock, Illinois



By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News

Source(s): <http://www.groundhog.org>; <http://www.history.com>; <http://cponline.thecanadianpress.com>; <https://en.wikipedia.org>



Have a great idea for a story?

Know about any interesting upcoming events?

Wish you saw more of your organization in the paper?

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

- Story ideas or content must be geared toward the greater APG community and cannot appear to endorse any private company.
- The deadline for content to appear in an upcoming issue of the APG News is the **Thursday PRIOR** to publication. The APG News cannot guarantee submissions received after the Thursday prior to publication will appear in the next issue of the paper.
- Send story ideas or pre-written content to amanda.r.rominiecki.civ@mail.mil or call 410-278-7274 for more information.
- Please note, the APG News editor reserves the right to (1) reject any content deemed inappropriate, irrelevant or against regulation, (2) delay the publication of submitted material if it is not timely and (3) edit or shorten content for space and style reasons without altering the meaning of the submission.

APG SNAPSHOT

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



CALM AFTER THE STORM

Not bothered by the cold, a "snow couple" enjoys the morning sunrise at Plumb Point Loop on APG North (Aberdeen), Jan. 26.

Courtesy photo by Col. Norb Fochs



Photo by Jeff King, USAG APG

WINTER STORM JONAS WALLOPS APG

Winter Storm Jonas, which dumped more than two feet of snow on Aberdeen Proving Ground Jan. 22-23, required a coordinated response from the garrison's directorates of Public Works; Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; and Emergency Services, as well as the Emergency Operations Center, which includes individuals from key organizations and tenants across the installation, to ensure the safety and security of installation personnel.

(Above) The APG North (Aberdeen) athletic center sits surrounded by a blanket of two feet of snow Jan. 24, prior to snow removal by the installation's snow crews.

(Right) A street lamp illuminates an American flag in Patriot Village on APG North (Aberdeen), Jan. 22.



Courtesy photo by Melissa Johnson



Photo by Jeff King, USAG APG



Photo by Lauren Brennan, CECOM

APG SNOW CREWS DIG US OUT

(Above) Garrison Directorate of Public Works snow removal team members Barry Devonshire and Clifton Wilmot clear and salt sidewalks at the APG Post Office Jan. 26 to ensure the safety of Team APG.

(Left) DPW employee Barry Devonshire works to clear a path along the APG North (Aberdeen) Bayside Child Development Center, Jan. 25.