



# APG NEWS

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

www.TeamAPG.com

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

Vol. 60, No. 37

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### EXCELLENCE

Three APG police officers earn Maryland Traffic Safety certifications.

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Team APG is reminded to sign up for APG's emergency notification system AtHoc.

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### INNOVATION

Operations begin at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, processing the first mustard agent-filled munition last week.

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## newsbrief

### DEFENSE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & APPRAISAL PROGRAM

Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower & Reserve Affairs

The Department of Defense has worked with the Office of Personnel Management to develop the Defense Performance Management and Appraisal Program, a DOD-wide performance management program that links individual performance to DOD values and organizational mission.

The civilian workforce is critical to accomplishing the mission for the Department of the Army.

The Army began its phased implementation of the new appraisal program in April. Approximately 3,100 civilian employees within the Civilian Human Resources Agency became the inaugural group to enter this new program, which ensures ongoing recognition and communication between employees and supervisors throughout the appraisal cycle.

The Army's phased implementation will be executed from April 2016 through June 2018. During this time, the Army will transition more than 200,000 Army civilian employees into the new program.

For more information, visit [cpol.army.mil](http://cpol.army.mil).

## online

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Photo by Rachel Ponder, APG News

From left, Chaplain Maj. Chad Davis, with the APG Religious Support Office; Charlie Volz, with the Directorate of Emergency Services; Chaplain Assistant Staff Sgt. Eric Esposito; and DES Acting Fire Chief Adam Ballard, push a five-foot tall, 250-pound tractor truck tire while Chaplain Assistant Pfc. Donovan Wallace, dressed in firefighter gear looks on during Phase III of the Team APG PME Hard physical training session held on APG North (Aberdeen) Sept. 9.

# Testing their mettle

*Physically, Mentally & Emotionally Hard challenge honors 9/11 first responders*

Story by **RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Despite the unforgivingly hot and humid early morning conditions of Sept. 9, nearly 100 Soldiers, civilians and first responders gave it their all during the Team APG Physically, Mentally, Emotionally, or PME, Hard physical training session.

Held two days before the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks,

the rigorous challenge on APG North honored the bravery and dedication of first responders. The event featured 12 teams of eight people, with at least one firefighter and one police officer from the Directorate of Emergency Services on each team. Volunteers serving as cadre timed the competition and ensured that teams were completing the tasks correctly.

The morning began with a safety briefing and welcome by Command Sgt. Maj. Mat-

thew McCoy, of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia Jr.

According to McCoy, the purpose of the challenge is to honor and remember the "true heroism" that first responders demonstrated during the tragic events of 9/11. The Team APG Challenge built upon previous PME events spearheaded by McCoy.

See PME, page A7

# APG SAMC inducts three NCOs

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

The loyalty, discipline and caring professionalism of the Non-commissioned Officer Corps was brought to bear for three Aberdeen Proving Ground NCOs who were officially inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, also known as SAMC, during a ceremony at the Myer Auditorium Sept. 9.

Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew D. McCoy of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, or CECOM, led the official party welcoming the NCOs into the prestigious club reserved for only those whose leadership achievements and performance merit special recognition.

The inductees included Sgt. 1st Class Joseph M. Scalies of CECOM; and the 20th CBRNE Command's Staff Sgt. Nickolas S. Gordon and Staff Sgt. Mercedes N. Smith.

Joining McCoy in the official party was Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth D. Graham, 20th CBRNE Command; Jonce L. Hamm, a SAMC member and project management professional; and chapter president Sgt. 1st Class Joseph S. Conway of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command.

The guest speaker, APG Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Bruce

See NCOs, page A5



Photo by Gregory Mahall, CECOM

From left, Sergeant Audie Murphy Club inductees, Staff Sgt. Nickolas S. Gordon; Sgt. 1st Class Joseph M. Scalies and Staff Sgt. Mercedes N. Smith, and SAMC chapter president Sgt. 1st Class Joseph S. Conway heft the NCO sword before cutting into the celebration cake after the induction ceremony at the Myer Auditorium Sept. 9.

## Grab your lederhosen - Oktoberfest this weekend!



A troupe of German dancers and musicians perform during the 2015 APG Oktoberfest and similar entertainment will be present at this year's festivities.

The Team APG community is invited to the 2016 APG Oktoberfest at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center and surrounding grounds starting Friday, Sept. 16, 4 - 7 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The free event includes a Festhalle, family fun area, German entertainment, German food and beverages for purchase, and bingo. The main events on Saturday include a Volksmarch and Car & Bike Show.

For more information about APG Oktoberfest, visit [www.apgmwr.com/2016-oktoberfest](http://www.apgmwr.com/2016-oktoberfest).

File photo by Molly Blossie, APG News

## STREET TALK

Constitution Day is Friday, Sept. 16. Which part of the U.S. Constitution do you think is the most important?

The Second Amendment: the right to keep and bear arms, for self-protection and for peace of mind.



**Dale Mellinger**  
Retired U.S. Air Force

The First Amendment because it protects freedom of religion and freedom of speech. It is part of what America is about, it's why I fight for this country. I definitely have my own beliefs, but I respect those that have different beliefs.



**Sgt. 1st Class Wanda Clarke**  
APHC (Provisional)

The Second Amendment: the right to bear arms. Without the Second Amendment, I can't protect my wife or my grandkids.



**Rick Sorrells**  
Retired Army

The Preamble because that is what our Founding Fathers laid out for us. The Preamble is still relevant today; I think they did a good job writing it.



**Kevin McKinney**  
CECOM SEC

When I was a child I learned the Preamble [to the U.S. Constitution] by watching [the television show] "Schoolhouse Rock!" I taught the song to my children and I can still sing it today. As a country, I would like to see us maintain the First and Second Amendments.



**Jennifer Carder**  
Contractor

# Corvias to host open house this weekend

Corvias Military Living

Corvias Military Living, Aberdeen Proving Ground's on-post housing partner, invites the community to attend an open house on Sept. 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hosted at one of the newly renovated Bayside Village homes, 2932 B Bay Court, all active duty, retired military and Aberdeen Proving Ground employees, including contractors, who are interested in moving on post are encouraged to attend.

"Living on Aberdeen Proving Ground saves you money," said Allison Fenwick, Corvias' Community Manager at APG. "We look forward to showing the community all that we have to offer, and why living on post is a great value and a great place to be."

Homes are now available for move-in. Spacious two-, three- and four-bedroom town and duplex homes are available with exterior storage, oversized laundry rooms and covered parking for many styles. Rent includes 24-hour maintenance services, lawn care, average use of utilities and access to ample amenities to include the pool and Corvias Community center. Select 4-bedroom homes are currently offered at an all-inclusive rental rate as low as \$1,670 per month.

Open house attendees can receive a personal tour of homes, visit the beautiful community center and learn more about limited-time special offers to include no application fee.

Corvias Military Living has managed Aberdeen Proving Ground's housing since 2009 and has received national awards for high customer satisfaction. The company's residents enjoy 24-hour maintenance, lawn care, free resident events and fam-



Photo by Rachel Ponder, APG News

Renovated townhomes in the Bayside community on Aberdeen Proving Ground feature new kitchen appliances, cabinets, granite countertops, light fixtures and vinyl flooring.

ily-friendly amenities, including a Community Center with playgrounds, fitness centers, game rooms and a resort-style pool.

There are no application fees, security deposits or credit checks required at move-in for active-duty military. Applicants from the newly eligible categories will be required to pass installation background checks as well as credit and income requirements. Active-duty service members are exempt from these requirements.

For more information and to apply, call 410-305-1076 or visit [APG.CorviasMilitaryLiving.com](http://APG.CorviasMilitaryLiving.com).



## Police & Fire BLOTTER

The following statistics were provided by the APG Directorate of Emergency Services, recapping the fire, medic and police responses, issued citations and arrests made during the month of August.

*\*Mutual Aid often involves incidents off post in the local community.*

<p><b>Calls for Service</b></p> <p><b>FIRE: 205</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fire Alarms – 30</li> <li>▪ Mutual Aid* – 27</li> <li>▪ Watercraft Emergencies – 0</li> <li>▪ Fire Drills – 20</li> </ul> <p><b>MEDIC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mutual Aid* – 0</li> <li>▪ Chest Pains – 2</li> <li>▪ Breathing Problems – 1</li> </ul> <p><b>POLICE: 1444</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alarm Activation – 187</li> <li>▪ 911 Hang-ups – 19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Traffic Accidents – 11</li> <li>▪ Active Warrants – 8</li> </ul> <p><b>Citations</b></p> <p><b>TOTAL: 269</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Warning Citations – 144</li> <li>▪ Non-Warning Citations – 125</li> </ul> <p><b>Incidents/Arrests</b></p> <p><b>TOTAL: 10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Traffic Related – 0</li> <li>▪ Warrant Arrests – 5</li> <li>▪ Domestic Related – 0</li> <li>▪ DUI/Alcohol Related – 1</li> <li>▪ Drug Related – 0</li> </ul>
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How are we doing? E-mail comments and suggestions for the APG News to the editor at [usarmy.apg.imcom.mbx.apg-pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.apg.imcom.mbx.apg-pao@mail.mil)

## See Something

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

Provided by the INTEL DIV/DPTMS

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- Suspicious activity or suspected surveillance.
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- 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.

INSTALLATION WATCH CARD

### DON'T

- 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.

Report suspicious activity immediately to APG Police!

APG (North & South): 410.306.2222  
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Card created by APG Intel

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

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# APG officers receive MD traffic certification

Story and photo by **LAUREN FINNEGAN**  
APG News

Four APG Directorate of Emergency Services, or DES, police officers were recognized by the Maryland Highway Safety Office and Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission for attaining distinctive levels within the Maryland Traffic Safety Specialist Program, also known as TSS, during a ceremony at the BWI Airport Marriott in Linthicum, Maryland, Sept. 8.

Patrol Branch Chief Capt. Gerald Dove and Patrol Supervisor Sgt. Matthew Stewart received TSS-I designations while Accident Investigator Cpl. Richard Workman, received a TSS-II.

Sgt. Charles Rykiel, also a patrol supervisor, received the highest certification possible, a TSS-III. Only one other person in the state has earned this level of certification since the inception of the program in 2008.

The TSS program recognizes Maryland police officers, sheriff deputies, state troopers and federal law enforcement divisions for experience, education, training and proficiency achieved in highway safety. Officers must enroll in the program and submit supporting documentation for TSS-I, TSS-II, or TSS-III certification. More than 750 officers enrolled in the TSS program this year with approximately 40 earning a level of distinction.

Each level of certification entails taking safety related elective courses, as well as independent traffic experience, with Level II requiring certification as either a crash reconstruction investigator, a drug recognition expert or Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Level I inspector. Level III requires certification as an instructor in the standardized field sobriety test, drug recognition, or speed detection device operation.

"Receiving this certification gave me inspiration to continue my traffic education," said Workman, who also had to submit a traffic safety-related project for his TSS- II certification. "It showed me that after 26 years of traffic enforcement, the achievements I have completed have not been forgotten and that I have not been forgotten."

Workman's traffic-related study dealt with the process of reconfiguring a problematic intersection on APG North (Aberdeen). His recommendations



(Above) APG DES police officers, Sgt. Matthew Stewart, Capt. Gerald Dove, Sgt. Charles Rykiel, and Cpl. Richard Workman, receive Traffic Safety Specialist certificates during an award ceremony and luncheon at the the BWI Marriot Sept. 8. The officers were acknowledged for exceptional levels of experience, training, and proficiency in highway safety and traffic enforcement.



(Left) Sgt. Charles Rykiel admires his TSS-III award from the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Committee. Rykiel is only the second person in the state ever to receive the honor, which represents mastery in the area of traffic safety and enforcement.

were used to bring the intersection into compliance with the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Transportation Engineering Agency, or SDDTEA.

The TSS-III certification also required Rykiel to conduct a traffic study. His project detailed methods to combat high incidents of vehicle and deer collisions on post.

Rykiel has been working towards TSS-III ever since being introduced to the program when he was a traffic investigator in Baltimore City. He came to APG after he received his TSS-I, but then learned that he was not eligible to complete the program because, at the time, federal police divisions operating

in Maryland, such as APG DES, were excluded from participating.

Rykiel successfully petitioned the Maryland Highway Safety Office to allow federal divisions to participate in the course so he, and other federal officers, could continue training in an area that is his "specialty and passion."

Thomas J. Gianni, chief of the Maryland Highway Transportation Authority Police, congratulated the attendees on their accomplishments and, stressed that traffic safety education is critical for officers serving Maryland communities, especially given the rise in traffic fatalities to a level not seen since the 1980s.

"The program grew out of the concept that traffic safety is public safety," he said. "Achieving our goal of zero deaths will come out of leadership, professionalism, and the nobility of this calling."

Dove added that traffic safety is an issue that affects everyone's lives.

"Our roads are congested with vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrian traffic and distracted drivers who may be texting and talking on cell phones and making the roads even more dangerous," he said. "I have investigated horrific collisions due to excessive speed, drugs and alcohol, as well as distracted drivers; that stays with you, and your goal is to help prevent these kinds of tragedies."

"These TSS awards are recognition of our dedicated excellence and proficiency in traffic safety and our committed duty to serve and protect the Aberdeen Proving Ground community and all those who drive on our roadways. Today, I am especially proud of our officers who received their TSS awards; it means a lot."

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

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## What do

the 35th Chief of Staff of the Army,  
the #1 NFL draft pick of 2013

and Aberdeen Proving Ground

all have in common?

Central Michigan University

# Garrison CSM 'privileged to serve'

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

The new command sergeant major of the APG Garrison describes himself as a man of faith and family who feels privileged to serve the nation and the men and women of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia said his life has been based on a sound family upbringing and a firm marriage that has lasted for nearly all of the 27 years he has been in the Army.

A native of American Samoa, Tia said he realizes he's reached the pinnacle of his career, in an enviable position and he doesn't hesitate to share his knowledge or his faith with others.

"I've led a blessed life that I've really enjoyed," Tia said. "God has placed a lot of people that I was able to learn from in my path. I got to serve with leaders of character and now I'm in a position to get out there and make an impact, establish a legacy and set the example."

He called the strong civilian and contractor presence that makes up the garrison and the installation "unique" and said he's already gaining additional knowledge.

"We work with them toward common goals of security and safety of our Soldiers and families as well as our civilians and contractors," he said, adding that he looks forward to addressing current and future challenges and engaging APG Soldiers and civilians.

"We have a great command team and Col. [James E.] Davis is a great leader as well as a man of family and faith. We're both focused on the path that keeps us situationally aware and at the same time promotes a strong community relation-



APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Toese Tia Jr. said he looks forward to serving the Aberdeen Proving Ground community and believes a true leader leads by example.

ship," Tia added.

"I think as the garrison command sergeant major I need to get out there and ask questions and understand what our community needs and is going through, he said. "These are challenging times and it can be reassuring to see that leaders really do care about their people."

Tia said his role models include his mother who encouraged him to work hard and take pride in his work, no matter what it may be.

An Ordnance Soldier, Tia was previously assigned to APG for the Ordnance Center and School's Advanced Non-commissioned Officer Course in 1999.

He said a lot has changed on APG since then, but when it comes to developing leaders, much remains the same. He said one of his favorite sayings is "Be the leader you want to be led by," and much of what he seeks to accomplish at APG plays into that.

"It all boils down to leadership by example. There is only one standard and it applies to all," he said. "For the younger generation, when they truly understand that, it inspires them to be great leaders."

Tia helped coordinate the Physically, Mentally and Emotionally Hard, or PME, tribute to the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks that was held

Sept. 9. More than 100 APG emergency responders, Soldiers and civilians teamed up to face a series of mentally and physically challenging hurdles in the Olympic Pool and on a giant obstacle course set up on Fanshaw Field.

Tia said the obstacles were designed to promote teamwork as well as to test key physical and mental aspects.

"We do PME all the time, but because it's 9/11, what better way to honor those service members and emergency responders who answered the call that day. The Team APG Challenge is our way of honoring those who went up into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. They made the ultimate sacrifice."

Tia said he looks forward to his time at APG. With a son at West Point in Upstate New York and a daughter at The Citadel in South Carolina, he said he's perfectly situated.

"Relaxing to me means spending time with my family," he said.

When he has down time, Tia prefers the music of the 1980s and 90s and his main hobby is spending time with family and exercising.

"I believe that good health is important so you can enjoy your later years," he said.

While born in American Samoa, and he says he may return there some day, Tia claims the state of Washington as his stateside home, and says he's a dedicated Seattle Seahawks fan.

Overall, Tia said he did not foresee himself "reaching these heights" and he's thankful and excited about what the future holds for him and APG.

"We want to make this Army the best in the world. That's what this command projects."



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# ALL THINGS MARYLAND

## Escape Rooms come to Old Line State

Marylanders join world-wide craze, solve riddles to be freed from locked puzzle rooms

By **LAUREN FINNEGAN**  
APG News

What do cliff diving, bungee jumping, and sky diving have in common? They are adrenaline-inducing activities that give participants a rush of excitement. Now, a new mode of entertainment, is popping up all over the country, offering that same rush of excitement without requiring a 13,000-foot drop.

In an escape room, participants are locked inside of a room and have to complete puzzles and solve clues to earn the right to exit. The idea for games in which players had to break out of a room, started with video games in the 1970s. The games became more complex from there, and in 2004, with the release of the computer game, *Crimson Room*, people began getting hooked. The game, which can still be found online today, has more than 800 million views.

These types of video games inspired Takao Kato, from Japan, to create a real-life version of an escape room in 2007. His first version was a moving attraction that he would set up in bars and the idea eventually progressed to become a permanent businesses.

The escape room craze took off in 2012 and since then the attraction has can be found in 280 cities around the world. Here are some of the escape rooms available in Maryland for those who are up for the challenge.

### Harford County: Great Escapes Harford

Harford County will begin its own escape room experience starting this Friday, Sept. 16, with the opening of Great Escapes Harford.

Owners Chris and Katie Cole said they had so much fun with their family during their first escape room experience, they started searching for ones in Harford County. When their search came up empty, they decided to fill that void with their own escape room.

"We thought it would be a fun, new entertainment option for Harford County residents and visitors," said Katie Cole. "Escape rooms are a really unique concept and offer a good time for everyone, from families to businesses and more."

Open Thursday through Sunday, Great Escapes requires reservations for any of its three rooms which can accommodate from 6-10 people, and are geared towards guests ages 14 and older.

Players can choose to try and solve the mystery of what lies within the secret rooms found behind King Tut's tomb in "The Pharaoh's Chamber," escape a serial killer's hideaway in "The Killer's Lair," or search for an antidote to save a poisoned magician in "The Dressing Room."

Katie Cole said she is "excited to see and hear people's reactions to the puzzles."

"Whether [players] beat the clock or not, we hope it becomes a good memory they talk about and share with friends, and an experience they want to try with friends," she said.

Great Escapes Harford is located at

2108 Emmorton Road, Suite 6, Bel Air, MD 21015. For more information and reservations, visit, <http://www.greatestcapesharford.com/>.

### Baltimore City: Lock N' Key Escape Room

Lynn Handy and her husband Matt said they always knew that they wanted to open up their own business. But they never found anything that excited them, until Lynn came across an NPR article about a new escape room craze.

She started digging deeper to find out more and her research led to an, "aha moment," when she realized, "this is what I want to do." She and her husband began visiting escape rooms, around the country to see what aspects they wanted to include in their project.

Their research and work led to the opening of the Lock N' Key Escape Room on June 8. Since its debut, Lock N' Key has been giving families, friends, and coworkers the opportunity to put down their cell phones and "spend a great hour of playing games." Besides having fun, she said the games are about "collaboration and team work."

Players have the option of choosing between two rooms, either Bank Heist or Classified. While Bank Heist is the more challenging option, with only a 40 percent escape rate, the Classified room has an interesting aspect, in that players are able to go head-to-head in identical rooms to see who can escape first.

She said she is excited for the future of the business.

"Every one of our families have had an absolutely great time," she said.

She added that besides debuting new rooms in the fall, they are working with nonprofit organizations and local schools to hold fundraisers to help give back to the community.

The Lock N' Key Escape Room is located at 1118 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230. For more information, call 443-805-1796 or visit <http://www.locknkeyescaperoom.com/>.

### Prince George's County: Laurel's House of Horror

Laurel's House of Horror owners Rich Blankenship and Charlene Dudek had already realized their dream of opening a haunted attraction in an old abandoned movie theater, but when they were introduced to the escape room concept at a haunt show in Florida, they decided to do some research. They found that while escape rooms were becoming popular, none in the area had the one thing that they planned to bring to it; horror.

Fast forward eight months later, and their escape rooms have taken off. They offer two escapes: "Nightmare at the Movies," and "Escape the Movies." Both challenges have elements of well-known horror movies that gives participants an extra sense of urgency when trying to escape. Aspects of *Saw*, *Halloween*, *Nightmare on Elm Street*, and *Insidious* can be found in "Nightmare at the Movies," while memorable parts of *Friday the 13th*, *The Purge*, and *It*, can be found in "Escape the Movies."

Both experiences have four rooms that participants must work through



Courtesy photo

Escape Rooms have popped up across the globe, including right here in Maryland. Participants pay to be locked in themed rooms – with friends, family or strangers – and must solve a series of clues and brain teasers to escape in an allotted amount of time.

before reaching the end. Dudek said this spin on the concept brings an "excitement that drives [participants] even more to get them to the next room."

Laurel's House of Horror is located at 935 Fairlawn Ave, Laurel MD, 20707. For more information, visit [www.laurelhaunt.com/escape-room](http://www.laurelhaunt.com/escape-room), or call 240-278-4545.

### Anne Arundel County: Mission Escape Rooms

Jason Cherry of Mission Escape Rooms, located in Annapolis, decided to start his business after experiencing an escape room with his family. He said the experience left him wondering why there wasn't something like this in downtown Annapolis. Recognizing a need for something other than retail or food in the area, Cherry got to work.

Mission Escape Rooms has been open since February and has been such a success that another location will open in Waugh Chapel, also in Anne

Arundel County, sometime in the fall. The Annapolis location has four different rooms to choose from, each with a different theme and escape rate. Its Military Room is the most challenging with an average of only eight percent of participants breaking free.

For those who are ready to get "locked in" for the first time, Cherry recommends that "participants... enter with a creative mind."

"The rooms require creativity, some MacGyvering, and a whole lot of team work," he said.

Mission Escape Rooms is located at 40 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. For more information or for reservations, call 410-263-3333, or visit [www.missionescaperooms.com](http://www.missionescaperooms.com).

*Editor's Note: These are just a few of the many escape rooms in Maryland. Additional escape rooms across the region can be found by searching "Maryland escape rooms" on your preferred internet search engine.*

## NCOs 'backbone and heart' of the Army

Continued from Page A1

T. Crawford, thanked the command sergeants major for their leadership and congratulated the inductees and their families.

"Nothing says as much about who we are as an Army as when we recognize our noncommissioned officers," he said. "As well as the backbone, they are the heart and soul of the Army."

The program included a video of Army campaigns highlighted by a fashion show of uniforms matching each period and the singing of the national anthem by Courtney White of ATEC.

The inductees received Army Commendation Medals, SAMC medallions and certificates. The three lit red, white and blue SAMC candles and one gold candle lit by Conway.

Conway thanked program organizers, particularly, McCoy and other senior leader, for their support of the

SAMC program.

"We couldn't do this without our senior leadership," he said, adding that he "couldn't be prouder" of the three inductees.

"They're all professional NCOs; the cream of the crop," he said.

### Sgt. 1st Class Joseph M. Scalies

A CECOM Operations NCO, Scalies has been in the Army 13 years. He thanked his chain of command and other leaders who saw potential in him.

Currently on orders for Afghanistan, Scalies said he is aiming to retire as a sergeant major and he looks forward to future challenges.

### Staff Sgt. Nickolas S. Gordon

Gordon is the Signal Information Services NCO for the 20th CBRNE Command. A native of Brogue, Pennsylvania, he has 10 years in the Army and has served at Fort Hood, Texas; and Fort Campbell, Kentucky and has deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

### Staff Sgt. Mercedes N. Smith

With 10 years in the Army, Smith, a native of Ozark, Alabama, is the Chief Paralegal NCO for the 20th CBRNE Command. Her past assignments include Korea; Guantanamo Bay,

Cuba; Bagram, Afghanistan; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Rucker, Alabama; and Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

### Sergeant Audie Murphy

SAMC namesake Audie Leon Murphy rose to national fame as the most decorated U.S. combat Soldier of World War II. Among his 33 awards and decorations was the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award for bravery; and five decorations from France and Belgium.

Murphy was credited with killing more than 240 of the enemy while wounding and capturing many more. He rose from private to staff sergeant and became a legend in the 3rd Infantry Division, earning a "battlefield" commission to 2nd lieutenant, was wounded three times, fought in nine major campaigns across the European Theater, and served overseas three years.

They're all professional NCOs; the cream of the crop.

Sgt. Maj. Matthew D. McCoy  
CECOM Command Sergeant Major



# PME puts focus on sacrifices of first responders

Continued from Page A1

Tia encouraged participants to push through physical, mental and emotional discomfort to work together as a team, and to cooperate with the cadre.

"If you are frustrated, that is the emotional part of it," he said.

The first phase of the competition was held in the Olympic Pool where teams were tasked to swim 300 meters while pushing or carrying a 10-pound rubber pool brick.

During Phase II, teams were given five items: a fireman bunker suit, a dummy weapon, an eight-pound sledge hammer, a 45-pound weight plate and a five-gallon water jug. They were instructed to carry the items throughout the competition and to never allow them to touch the ground.

Team members were also directed to draw two cups containing slips of paper requiring the completion of certain activities to move forward. The activities ranged from singing the national anthem, or answering U.S. history trivia questions, to performing physical challenges like push-ups or carrying extra equipment. It was up to individual teams to decide which team member completed the tasks.

"By design there was some ambiguity," McCoy said. "Just like in combat, or in a fire or in a raid in a drug house, you never know what is behind the door. You can plan, you can train, but essentially you get dealt, what you get dealt."

In Phase III, teams completed five obstacles and several physical tasks at stations on Fanshaw Field. The obstacles included breaching a door; pounding a tire with a sledge hammer while team members conducted CPR on dummies, and using teamwork to move a 5-foot tall, 250-pound tractor truck tire 20 meters.

1st Sgt. Richard R Bernard, of the Garrison's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, said most of the equipment used for the obstacle course was borrowed from DES.

"They really went above and beyond," he said of their support for the event.

Phase IV consisted of teams drawing other conditions and then running a half mile while carrying equipment.

At the conclusion of the event Senior Commander Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford congratulated the teams, and led them in a cheer, "One Nation, One Team,



Capt. Norbert Reed, with the Army Contracting Command-APG, carries a 10-pound rubber pool brick during the first phase of the Team APG PME Hard physical training session held at the Olympic Pool on APG North (Aberdeen) Sept. 9.

Photo by Rachel Ponder, APG News

One Fight."

Crawford said events like these are important, because it reminds us of the challenges and sacrifices first responders face every day.

"We will never allow ourselves to forget those first responders," he said.

### Winners

Crawford, McCoy and Tia presented medals to the first, second and third-place teams.

First place went to Team 11, or "The Half Dirty Dozen." Jim Evangelos, with the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, or CERDEC, said strategy and teamwork were the keys to success. According to Evangelos, team members were patient and supportive.

"The morale was off the charts," Evangelos said. "Everyone had an excellent attitude; we all did the best we possibly could."

Team 12, or "Team Bicep," received second place.

"It is great to come out and contribute to such a worthy cause, and to come away with a little hardware doesn't hurt either," said Capt. Vincent Austin, with Army Contract-

ing Command-APG.

Third place went to Team 10, or "Team Extreme." DES Battalion Chief Jimmy W. Ray Jr., called the event "outstanding."

"Anytime you can bring different organizations and personnel together to work as a team it benefits the overall cohesiveness of the Garrison immensely," he said.

Event organizers received positive feedback from participants, and McCoy said opening the event to all of Team APG brought the community together.

"We want to be all inclusive here," he said. "For the next and future [PME] events we definitely want to open it up again."

Tia said the PME challenge builds resiliency and unity and displays the need to work together to be successful.

"Just like the entire Army, our DA civilians and our other joint services, we fight together, and we come together," he said. "We want to illustrate that to our civilian counterparts. We want to make sure they understand it will always be a combined fight."

For more information or to volunteer for a quarterly PME physical training session, email McCoy [matthew.d.mccoy.mil@mail.mil](mailto:matthew.d.mccoy.mil@mail.mil).

**We will never allow ourselves to forget those [9/11] first responders.**

**Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford**  
APG Senior Commander

ing Command-APG.

Third place went to Team 10, or "Team Extreme." DES Battalion Chief Jimmy W. Ray Jr., called the event "outstanding."

"Anytime you can bring different organizations and personnel together to work

From left, APG civilians Sandy Sanders, Lita Singh, Sheila Lloyd, Kathleen Zielenski, and Angela Boynton carry firefighter equipment, while Garrison Chaplain Assistant Sgt. 1st Class Tameka Dixon, serving as a cadre, observes the team during Phase IV of the Team APG Physically, Mentally, Emotionally, or PME, Hard physical training session held on APG North (Aberdeen) Sept. 9.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson, APG News



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**51<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL**  
bel air  
**festival for the**  
**arts**

**Sunday,**  
**September 18th**  
**2016**  
**9:30 AM to**  
**5:00 PM.**  
**Shamrock Park**  
**on Hickory Avenue**  
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**FREE ADMISSION**

- 350 Craftspersons, Artists & Photographers
- Food · Live Entertainment
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**T-Shirts & Sweat Shirts** may be purchased at the information booth the day of the Festival!

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**MORE ONLINE**

More events can be seen at [www.TeamAPG.com](http://www.TeamAPG.com)

## EVENTS & TOWN HALLS

### TAPS GOLF OUTING SEPTEMBER 15

Ruggles Golf Course, 9 a.m. Hosted by EOIR Technologies. Registration fee is \$105 for industry personnel, \$80 for government civilians and service members. Registration includes breakfast, lunch, prizes & more. For more information, call 410-306-8721.

### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH OBSERVANCE SEPTEMBER 22

APG South (Edgewood) recreation center. 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class April Marinakes at 443-567-1298.

## MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

### FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING SEPTEMBER 15

Bldg. 4403. 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Hosted by the APG Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Protection & Prevention Division. For more information, contact Ernie Little at 410-306-0583 or [ernest.w.little.civ@mail.mil](mailto:ernest.w.little.civ@mail.mil).

### SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS SEPTEMBER 15

Harford County Executive Barry Glassman and Karen Holt, director of the Harford County Department of Economic Development, will present a "Harford County Update" during the monthly luncheon for the Society of American Military Engineers, or SAME, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Wetlands Golf Course, 740 Gilbert Road in Aberdeen. To register, go to <https://sameseptember2016luncheon.eventbrite.com> or email [rsvp@fredward.com](mailto:rsvp@fredward.com). For more information, contact Stanley Childs at [stanley.e.childs.civ@mail.mil](mailto:stanley.e.childs.civ@mail.mil).

### SUICIDE PREVENTION GATEKEEPER TRAINING SEPTEMBER 20

Bldg. 3147, 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free training explores the QPR (question, persuade, refer) method and equips students with the ability to recognize a suicide crisis. For

more information, call Lamont Coger at 410-278-7779.

### AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS STARTS SEPTEMBER 20

Each Tuesday, Sept. 20 through Dec. 13. Bldg. E4301, Classroom 99; 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Free Basic class and advanced class available. Bring lunch. Textbook "A B C, A Basic Course in American Sign Language" can be purchased online. For more information, contact Randy Weber at 410-436-8546.

### EEO HR FOR IMCOM SUPERVISORS TRAINING SEPTEMBER 22

Bldg. 3147. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration is required. Maximum of 50 people per class. For more information, contact Charles Gilmore at [charles.l.gilmore3.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.l.gilmore3.civ@mail.mil) or 410-278-0130.

### WARRANT OFFICER RECRUITING SEPTEMBER 22

8452 Zimborski Ave., Fort Meade, MD. Classroom #5; 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more information, call 910-431-6797.

### FIRE MARSHALL TRAINING SEPTEMBER 27

Bldg. E4810. 9 a.m. to noon. Hosted by the APG Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Protection & Prevention Division. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the class. For more information, contact Inspector Loren Brown at 410-278-1128.

### HEALTH & RESILIENCY HOME RUN TO HEALTH EXPO SEPTEMBER 15

Bldg. 330, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Various vendors, giveaways, samples and health screenings. Special appearance by Iron Birds mascot. For more information, contact Lori Woehr at 410-278-3352 or [lori.a.woehr.civ@mail.mil](mailto:lori.a.woehr.civ@mail.mil).

### CHILDHOOD OBESITY INFO SESSION SEPTEMBER 15

Bldg. 6000 (Myer Auditorium), 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dr. Allison Agwu will provide attendees with ways to keep children healthy, as well as teach fun parent-children fitness activities. For more information, contact Tiffa-

ny Grimes at 443-861-7901 or [tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil](mailto:tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil).

### MENTAL HEALTH INFO SESSION SEPTEMBER 20

Bldg. 6001, 2nd Floor, Room 224. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This presentation explores the Transcendental Meditation technique as a means to reduce anxiety, depression, and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress. Open to installation employees, military and contractors. Non-C4ISR employees must bring CAC to gain access to the building. For more information, contact Tiffany Grimes at 443-861-7901 or [tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil](mailto:tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil).

### CPR & AED TRAINING SEPTEMBER 22

Bldg. 3147, Room 205. 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Open to all. For more information, contact Mike Slayman at 410-306-0566.

### C4ISR CPR & AED TRAINING SEPTEMBER 29

Bldg. 6001, 2nd Floor, Room 224. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration required. Open to C4ISR employees, military and contractors. For more information, or to register, contact Tiffany Grimes at 443-861-7901 or [tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil](mailto:tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil).

### MEDICAL TOWN HALL OCTOBER 4

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### BIKE RIDE FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS OCTOBER 5

Parking pad east of ATEC headquarters, Bldg. 2202. All are invited to participate. Special guests include: Medstar Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins Breast Center; Harford County Health Department. Riders must have reflective clothing or belt; helmet; and no earbuds. For more information, contact Gale Sauer at 443-861-9260.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISCELLANEOUS

### LEADING IN THE ACQUISITION ENVIRONMENT COURSE SEPTEMBER 27-30

Bldg. 6175, Guardian Gateway, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hosted by Defense Acquisition University. Course provides an overview of the competencies and skills needed to lead in an acquisition environment. Experiential activities include role playing, simulation, communication, and critical-thinking exercises; a leadership challenge; and completion of a 360 degree feedback instrument and executive coaching to develop action plans related to the feedback. Level III certification in at least one acquisition career field and at least three years of Level III experience are required prerequisites for the course. Upon completion, students will earn 31 Continuous Learning Points. For more information, visit <http://www.dau.mil/training/Pages/apply.aspx> or contact Ben Metcalfe at [benjamin.metcalfe@dau.mil](mailto:benjamin.metcalfe@dau.mil) or 410-272-9471.

### COMMISSARY HOURS CHANGE STARTING OCTOBER 2

The APG Commissary will alter its hours of operations on Sunday, opening an hour earlier at 10 a.m. starting Sunday, Oct. 2. For more information, call 410-278-3101.

### FORGING STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS COURSE OCTOBER 5-7

Bldg. 6175, Guardian Gateway, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hosted by Defense Acquisition University. Action-based learning course introduces professionals to the methods and skills necessary to identify, assess, and promote the building of stakeholder relationships required for success in the acquisition environment. Level III certification in at least one acquisition career field is a required prerequisite for the course. Upon completion students will earn 25 Continuous Learning Points. Applications due by Sept. 30. For more information, visit <http://www.dau.mil/training/Pages/apply.aspx> or contact Ben Metcalfe at [benjamin.metcalfe@dau.mil](mailto:benjamin.metcalfe@dau.mil) or 410-272-9471.

### APG SOUTH 2016 WATER MAIN FLUSHING

The APG South (Edgewood) 2016 water main flushing schedule is as follows: Through September: E3000-E4000 area; Oct. through Dec.: E5000 area; Nov. 10-12: APG South housing area, Austin Road. For more information, contact Robert Warlick at 410-436-2196 or [robert.w.warlick2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:robert.w.warlick2.civ@mail.mil).

### CHANGE IN MASS SCHEDULE

There are no longer weekday masses at the APG South (Edgewood) chapel. Weekday mass

# MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

## Upcoming Activities

For more upcoming events visit [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).



## SAVE THE DATE

### APG OKTOBERFEST SEPTEMBER 16-17

APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center and surrounding grounds. 4 to 7 p.m. Sept. 16; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 17. Annual Oktoberfest celebration will include Festhalle, German food and beverages, entertainment, family fun area, bingo and more. Volksmarch and Car & Bike show set for Sept. 17. For more information, visit [www.apgmwr.com/2016-oktoberfest](http://www.apgmwr.com/2016-oktoberfest).

## LEISURE & RECREATION

### DISNEY ON ICE DISCOUNT TICKETS OCTOBER 28, 7:30 P.M.

OCTOBER 29, 11 A.M.; 2:30 P.M.; 6:30 P.M.

OCTOBER 30, NOON; 4 P.M.

Royal Farms Arena, Baltimore. Tickets are \$23 each, while supplies last. Visit MWR Leisure Travel Services to purchase tickets. For more information, call 410-278-4011.

### PENNSYLVANIA RENAISSANCE FAIRE TICKETS THRU OCTOBER 30

2775 Lebanon Rd, Manheim, PA 17545. Tickets are \$25.25 each. For more information, call 410-278-4011/4907.

### CINDERELLA DISCOUNT TICKETS NOVEMBER 6

Hippodrome Theater, Baltimore, 6:30 p.m. Upper balcony seating, \$39 per ticket. Visit MWR Leisure Travel Services to purchase tickets. For more information, call 410-278-4011.

### BINGO MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

APG Bowling Center; early bird games at 6 p.m., session program at 7 p.m. Eight session games paying out \$50 each. Two nightly jackpots paying out \$200 and \$500. For more information, call 410-278-4041.

## CHILD & YOUTH

## SERVICES

### FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 9

APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center. 6 p.m. "Ratchet Clank." Free movie, giveaway, and craft activity. Food available for purchase. For more information, call 410-278-4011.

### FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 23

APG South (Edgewood) recreation center. 6 p.m. "The Jungle Book." Free movie, giveaway, snacks, and craft activity. For more information, call 410-278-4011.

### SESAME STREET USO EXPERIENCE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES SEPTEMBER 30, 2 P.M. OCTOBER 1, 1 P.M.

APG North recreation center. Tickets available starting Sept. 7 at Bldg. 2503, APG South CDC, Bayside CDC, APG North CDC. Maximum of 8 tickets per family. Free admission for military families and their children. Open to all DOD ID card holder family members. For more information, call 410-278-4589.

OCTOBER 1, 1 P.M.

APG North recreation center. Tickets available starting Sept. 7 at Bldg. 2503, APG South CDC, Bayside CDC, APG North CDC. Maximum of 8 tickets per family. Free admission for military families and their children. Open to all DOD ID card holder family members. For more information, call 410-278-4589.

## SPORTS & RECREATION

### SENIOR SCRAMBLE SEPTEMBER 19

Exton Golf Course. 9 a.m. Food and drink included. Members \$30, Authorized patrons \$35, guests \$40. Call 410-436-2213 for more information.

## ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

### SMART START YOUR SMALL BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 28

Bldg. 2503 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Session explores how to start a business and qualities of a successful entrepreneur. Open to public. To register, contact Marilyn Howard at 410-278-9669.

**GREAT DISCOUNT TICKETS THROUGH MWR!**

...and much more!

**Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire Tickets**

**\$25.25**

Mount Hope Estate  
2775 Lebanon Rd, Manheim PA 17545  
August 6 - October 30, 2016

Experience the Fantasy of a marvelous trip back in time to the days of yore as the castle gates swing wide to usher in the 36th Season of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. Featuring 35 acres of Jousting Knights and Royal Delights, the Faire welcomes you with a cast of 100's of costumed merrymakers, over 90 shows daily, manicured gardens, scores of artisans demonstrating the ancient crafts, and 22 Royal Kitchens... Truly the Faire remains a marvelous fantasy of bygone days and Knights!

For more information contact 410-278-4011/4907 or email [usarmy.apg.imcom.list.apgr-usag-mwr-leisuretravel@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.apg.imcom.list.apgr-usag-mwr-leisuretravel@mail.mil)

**The Sesame Street / USO Experience for Military Families**

2 Shows: Sep 30 & Oct 1  
AA Rec. Center, Bldg 3326

inside

**LEADERSHIP**

The new research and technology director at ECBC shares his goals and vision.

New | B2

**STEM**

ARL continues its partnership with Harford County Public Schools through PACES program.

ARL | B3

**ENGINEERING**

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and ARL begin looking at collaboration opportunities.

Army | B5

newsbrief

**NAVIGATION WARFARE**

USASDMC/ARSTRAT

The Army is highly dependent on the use of position, navigation and timing data, known as PNT. The typical brigade combat team depends on over 28 different systems and 600 total systems that leverage PNT.

Adversaries understand U.S. advantages and are developing capabilities to deny PNT to U.S. forces while simultaneously pursuing independent means of receiving PNT data, including global navigation satellite systems.

Navigation Warfare, or NAVWAR, allows the Army to take deliberate defensive and offensive actions to assure U.S. forces PNT through coordinated employment of space, cyberspace and electronic warfare operations. It prevents the use of GPS by hostile forces while ensuring unimpeded use for U.S. forces and allies.

The Secretary of the Army designated the Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command as the Army representative to identify and advocate for PNT and NAVWAR requirements.

USASDMC/ARSTRAT is developing a TRADOC-sponsored Army NAVWAR concept whitepaper. This concept will be used to establish a baseline for how the Army will execute the NAVWAR fight.

For more information, visit <https://www.army.mil/info/organization/unit-sandcommands/command-structure/smdc/>.

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/HzQlow>



U.S. Army photo

Technicians check documentation during the first transfer of chemical weapons from the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot stockpile to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Sept. 7.

# Operations start to destroy chemical weapons stockpile

By **JAMES CAMPBELL**  
PEO ACWA

Officials confirmed processing of the first mustard agent-filled munitions Sept. 7 in the facility built to destroy the chemical weapons stockpile stored at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot.

“Our team in Pueblo has successfully processed the first mustard-agent munitions, marking the start of the pilot phase of operations,” said Program Executive Offi-

cer Conrad F. Whyne, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, headquartered on APG South (Edgewood).

“Our operations require the skills of a dedicated workforce, community support and many organizations working together,” Whyne said. “This teamwork will continue until we destroy the stockpile.”

“This is a momentous day for all of us involved in the U.S. chemical demilitarization program,” said Col. Thomas A. Dun-

can II, depot commander. “After years of design, construction and systemization, the Pueblo plant, its operators and the depot workforce have proven their readiness. As we move forward, we continue to keep the workforce, the community and the environment safe.”

The 85-acre Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, also known as

See **CHEMICAL**, page B7

# CECOM hosts first Software Solarium

Story and photo by **PHIL MOLTER**  
CECOM

A standing-room-only crowd made up of some of the Army’s brightest software experts gathered at the Top of the Bay on APG North (Aberdeen) Sept. 7, for the inaugural Software Solarium, hosted by the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, known as CECOM.

The internet of things...the internet of battlefield things...the deep future of the software environment...were just a few of the terms overheard in the opening minutes.

Why hold a Software Solarium? The exponential growth of software over the past decade has placed the Army at a strategic crossroads. Virtually every warfighter and business system in use today



Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford, CECOM Commanding General, gets the assembled software luminaries charged up for the first discussion panel, during the inaugural CECOM Software Engineering Center Software Solarium, held Sept. 7 at the Top of the Bay.

See **SOLARIUM**, page B7



U.S. Army photo

## Army returns life-saving helmet

During a ceremony at the Orangeburg, New York, Reserve Center, on Sept. 10, Col. Dean Hoffman, right, program manager for Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment, PEO Soldier, presents Staff Sgt. Frankie Hernandez, left, with the Advanced Combat Helmet that saved his life while he served in Afghanistan.

While on deployment to Afghanistan, Hernandez was fired upon on May 18, 2012, but his advanced combat helmet stopped the bullet from hitting his head.

When protective equipment like an advanced combat helmet or an enhanced small arms protective insert fulfills its role in combat -- by taking fire -- Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier brings it back to the U.S. to evaluate how well the gear performed.

According to Hoffman, Hernandez is alive today because of the work of the PEO Soldier team, industry, Army scientists and engineers, and places like Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, Army Research Laboratories and the Defense Logistics Agency.

# Lab showcases futuristic resupply vehicle

By **DAVID MCNALLY**  
U.S. Army Research Laboratory

The commanding general of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command met with Army Research Laboratory officials Sept. 8, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Acting ARL Director Dr. Philip Perconti briefed Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins about the lab's science and technology initiatives on the general's first visit since assuming command of RDECOM Aug. 9.

Researchers and engineers showcased the Joint Tactical Aerial Resupply Vehicle, or JTARV. The rectangular-shaped quadcopter, also known as the hoverbike, has generated a lot of interest since Army researchers imagined a distant future where Soldiers order resupply and an unmanned aerial vehicle appears minutes later.

In 2013, 60 percent of U.S. combat casualties were related to convoy resupply.

"Convoy resupply involves having a route clearance package, which means more vehicles," said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Guenther, an enlisted advisor at the ARL Weapons and Materials Research Directorate. "Those need to be coordinated in advance. This negates the need for all that. Basically what this does is give us speed and agility on the battlefield."

Researchers see a future JTARV flying low to the ground or at thousands of feet at speeds of 60 miles per hour or more. With a payload capacity of up to 300 pounds, the vehicle could provide vital resupply at short ranges.

Army researcher Tim Vong told the general, "Anywhere on the battlefield, Soldiers can potentially get resupplied in less than 30 minutes."

Vong, associate chief of the U.S.



Photo by Conrad Johnson, RDECOM

**Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins, left, commanding general of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, learns about a prototype version of the Joint Tactical Aerial Resupply Vehicle, or JTARV, Sept. 8, from Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Guenther, right, an enlisted advisor at the ARL Weapons and Materials Research Directorate.**

Army Research Laboratory's Protection Division, likened the concept to "Amazon on the battlefield."

"We want to have options like that," Vong said.

While the current prototype is electric, researchers are looking at a hybrid propulsion system that may dramatically increase range.

"We're exploring increasing payload capacity to 800 pounds and extending the range up to 125 miles," Vong said. "We're also looking to integrate advanced intelligent navigation and mission planning. We're looking to end up with a modular, stable platform that can be used for even more dynamic and chal-

lenging missions."

The laboratory began exploring the JTARV concept in the summer of 2014. They discovered a manufacturer, Malloy Aeronautics, and a systems integrator, SURVICE. The laboratory entered into a contract and quickly moved from concept to full-scale prototypes.

ARL transferred the program to another RDECOM organization, U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny, New Jersey, earlier this year; however, the lab still serves as subject matter experts on aeromechanics, assessment, analysis, propulsion, intelligence and controls and materials and structures.

"We're taking a spiral approach," Vong said. "We're looking at adding sensors for obstacle avoidance and building a semi-autonomous capability. This will help the craft to avoid obstacles like power lines, buildings, or trees, he said. It will also allow the vehicle to operate in degraded visual environments."

In June 2016, the U.S. Marine Corps joined the program to make it a joint effort.

"I'm very impressed," Wins said. "It's my first opportunity to come out to the Army Research Lab. As the new commander, I'm just getting around to all the [Research, Development and Engineering Centers] and the labs."

The general specifically wanted to be briefed on the JTARV.

"I'm hearing a lot about it," he said. "I wanted to see what it was all about. It demonstrates to me the high quality of the workforce," he said. "It also shows what our people are doing and how they're thinking about the problem of how the Army will fight in the future."

In addition to many other industry, government and academic partners, the JTARV project is teaming with the Office of Naval Research and Near Earth Autonomy, a company with many employees associated with Carnegie Mellon University, to demonstrate full autonomy in the near future.

The general said he plans to visit more with scientists and engineers across the command in the near future.

"I am interested in really getting an understanding of how this command works, how this command provides support to the operator and how we can convey that message to the Army -- that we are focused on the priorities of the Army...that we're focused on delivering capabilities to the Army that help the future force," he said.

# New ECBC research and tech director driven

By **RICHARD ARNDT**  
Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Although Aug. 22 was the first time he walked into the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center as an employee, Dr. Eric L. Moore was hardly a stranger. As a long time steward of the U.S. Chemical and Biological Defense Program, and former Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or DTRA, division chief, Moore has had more than a decade's worth of experience working with ECBC. Only now, his interaction is as a part of the organization rather than as a partner of the organization.

"I really believe in my heart that this is the premier chemical and biological science and technology laboratory in the world. I believe that the work we do is absolutely critical to our nation. And so, I'm very excited to be here working with the ECBC team," Moore said.

Moore joined the Senior Executive Service on Aug. 22, and began his new role as Director of the ECBC Research and Technology Directorate. Moore previously served as a division chief of the Advanced and Emerging Threat Division in the DTRA Chemical and Biological Technologies Department. In that role, he led and managed efforts to provide a robust fundamental knowledge base for countering current and future chemical and biological threats, which brought him front and center with many of ECBC's critical programs, projects, and people, particularly the toxicology and threat agent programs. Now, he will use those experiences to lead ECBC's science and technology portfolio into its second century of existence.

"I've known Dr. Moore for many years and it's a pleasure to work with him," said Dr. Christopher Whalley, acting chief of the ECBC Toxicology and Obscurants division, and longtime colleague of Moore's. "Dr. Moore possesses a tremendous wealth and depth of knowledge and experience in the CBRNE arena due to his many years in the military and at DTRA prior to coming to ECBC."

Whalley had the opportunity to get to know Moore while working on several DTRA-funded toxicology projects.

"He is considered by his peers and superiors as a subject matter expert in this area. His expertise is in great demand from anyone who works or has an interest in chem-bio defense. His demeanor is very humble. He listens intently to the opinions of others and gives an extremely thoughtful and measured response," Whalley said.

That ability to listen is part of Moore's first goal as Director of Research and Technology. Moore said that a major goal within his first 90 days is to get to know the people of the directorate.

"I want to meet our people. I want to understand how they work, where they work," Moore said. "Then, I want to

understand the life support functions that impact our work -- what's our operations tempo, how do we play into the budgeting and funding process. And then, I want to hear from our folks about what low-hanging fruit is out there -- some short-term opportunities that we can galvanize around as a team and build some success."

He said he hopes that over that same period of time the ECBC workforce will get to know him and his values as well.

"For me, it's all about service," Moore said. "I'm here because I want to help the people, the mission, the organization succeed. I'm very conscious of making sure that my actions are in the best interest of the center, our people, and the Army."

The guiding principles that Moore follows in his day-to-day activities are the Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.

"I love the Army Values," Moore said. "I actually live by them, and I think that living a value-driven life is important. I think the Army Values are basic human values -- they form the basis for human relationships and our ability to be successful both on the job and in our personal lives. At the end of the day, what we do here -- and how we do it -- provides us a chance to grow as human beings."

Moore also draws many of his personal values from his martial arts background. As a skilled practitioner of Tai Chi and Kung Fu, Moore says the principles that martial arts teaches -- understanding yourself, understanding the world around you, and how those two things work together -- are foundational leadership skills that force you to understand your duty and impact to others.

One of Moore's initial duties as Director of Research and Technology is to understand ECBC's mission, how the organization sees itself, and find ways to contribute to ECBC's success.

"I think the most important thing is to understand what that organization is really about in a comprehensive manner," Moore said. "It's one thing to look at an organization from the outside and think you understand, but it's another thing to really hear from the people who do the work and understand how that work is being accomplished."

Moore's road toward becoming ECBC's Director of Research and Technology was built on his sense of duty and lifelong interest in science. He developed his passion for science and technology as a young child growing up in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I remember reading this big book about George Washington Carver at my aunt's house, and learning about his scientific research with plants. I thought: wow this is really cool stuff, I want to do that too," Moore said.

While Moore had always dreamed of



Courtesy photo

**Dr. Eric Moore joined the Senior Executive Service in August and began his new role as Director of the ECBC Research and Technology Directorate.**

working in science, working for the military was not always a part of his plan. With his father serving in the U.S. Air Force, Moore grew up with an awareness and respect for the armed services, but he did not think he would take the same path, until he joined the ROTC program during his junior year at Fisk University. While completing basic training as a part of the ROTC program, Moore had his first encounter with chemical and biological defense.

"We spent a lot of time training in situations where you're wearing all your chemical protective gear -- suit, boots, gloves, and mask," said Moore. "It's Fort Hood, Texas. It is 96 degrees. We're in full protective gear and we're running. We're at the rifle range. I can't breathe. I'm sweating and the sweat is getting in my eyes and I can't see to qualify with my weapon. I remember thinking that it was impossible under those conditions. I remember thinking that we needed better countermeasures. I wanted to be part of developing better capabilities for Soldiers in that situation."

After graduating from Fisk with a bachelor's degree in biology, Moore accepted commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Medical Service Corps. During this commission, he supported the Chemical and Biological Defense Program in various roles, including serving at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, or MRICD.

"I first became familiar with the chem-bio defense program, and the mission of protecting the warfighter, while serving here in the Edgewood community at MRICD," he explained. "In the early 90s, the medical program and the physical program didn't really talk to each other that much, but some of us saw the need to have some cross-collaboration. I remember as a young captain meeting Dr. Harry Salem -- at that time he was the editor of the Journal of

Applied Toxicology. So through him I became familiar with the ECBC community and began forming good, productive relationships with people."

Those relationships would serve Moore well throughout his career in uniform and beyond. As he was winding down his military career, his civil service colleagues in the chemical and biological defense arena continued to reach out to him for his advice and expertise.

After he earned his Ph.D. in Neurophysiology from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Moore originally planned to follow his military service with a career in the pharmaceutical industry. However, Moore said that the relationships he formed while on active duty paved the way for continued service as a civilian employee.

"I felt like I could make a contribution," said Moore of his decision to enter civil service. "I think at the end of the day we all want to find an area where we can make a contribution, and there's definitely a strong need in the area of chem-bio defense."

Those who have worked with him before, are excited for what Moore will bring to the table in his role as director.

"Dr. Moore challenges you to be your best. He's open to new ideas and avenues of research. Because of his background and previous professional history, he often suggested new ideas to consider during research," said Dr. Frederic Berg, division chief of Chemical Sciences.

"Dr. Moore's flexibility and willingness to let the Agent Chemistry team explore has allowed ECBC to remain at the forefront of emerging threat agent science for the past several years. In Dr. Moore, ECBC R&T has a leader driven to succeed, who will not only push you to succeed, but will help you, in every way possible, to reach your goals."

# Army Research Laboratory, Harford County continue science, technology education partnership

*U.S. Army Research Laboratory*

A collaborative effort between the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and Harford County Public Schools has been underway at the APG STEM and Education Outreach Center for the past two years.

Physics and Chemistry Explorations in STEM, or PACES, has proven to be “an exceptional program for surrounding schools,” officials said.

PACES provides students with a day of hands-on laboratory activities and opportunities to interact with Army scientists and engineers. More than 600 eighth-grade students from five area middle schools participated in the pilot program that launched at the STEM and Education Center in January 2015.

The center serves as the home base for ARL STEM Outreach programs at APG. During the 2015-2016 school year, PACES expanded to include all of the county’s eighth-grade students.

Andrew Renzulli, HCPS science advisor, said that as a result of the positive student and teacher feedback, they have successfully leveraged STEM funding to continue offering PACES.

“Curriculum modules for PACES align with the next generation science standards and blends aspects of physics, chemistry, mathematics, technology and engineering as students participate in experiential learning,” Renzulli said.

Lab experiences are based on cell phone

technology and designed to peak student interests. Students experimented with various combinations of electro-chemicals, analyzed data and determined which combination would provide maximum voltage to power a battery. They also had to determine correlations to ARL science initiatives regarding the Army’s ability to efficiently create, maneuver and store power to support military field operations.

In the physical science lab, students used a variety of common household items to build working speakers to determine how a speaker uses electricity, magnetism and vibrations to produce sound. Results were analyzed among the various mediums use to identify variables that affect the quality of the sound produced. Students used a personal sound meter with earbuds, donated by Hollins Communications Research Institute, to determine if their individual listening level falls within a safe range.

Cindy Dinunno, ARL-APG STEM outreach coordinator and ARL speaker lab instructor, developed a third lab where students will be able to build a touch screen.

“I really enjoy the direct interaction with the students,” Dinunno said. “One of my most rewarding moments was when a team of girls, upon hearing music through the speaker they built exclaimed, ‘We could be scientists!’ Our goal is to inspire these students to discover and explore the many STEM opportunities available to

them.”

Katie Hall, ARL-APG STEM outreach site manager said she is happy with the program’s progress.

“In 2016, PACES was expanded to encompass all 3,000 Harford County public school eighth-grade students,” Hall said. “We were fortunate to gain assistance from members of ARL’s Post-Doctoral Association. The post docs volunteered their time to lead lunch discussions and spoke about various cutting-edge technologies. They provided invaluable insight about a wide range of STEM educational paths and career opportunities.”

The laboratory’s ability to inspire youth in STEM hinges upon engagements with Army scientists and engineers, officials said. In preparation for the upcoming year of PACES, STEM personnel are collaborating with scientists and engineers to develop additional opportunities for students to be exposed to Army science.

For information, call the ARL STEM office at 410-278-0888.



U.S. Army photos Harford County eighth-grade students participate in the Physics and Chemistry Explorations in STEM program at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory’s STEM Outreach Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

## Did You Know ?

### The U.S. Air Force celebrates its 69th birthday Sept. 18.

Prior to Sept. 18, 1947, the USAF did not exist as a separate and independent branch of the military. The Army and the Navy were responsible for military aviation for land-based operations and for sea-based operations from aircraft carrier and amphibious aircraft, respectively. The Army-initiated designations for a separate air force prior to this included the U.S. Army Air Service, in 1918; the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1926 and the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1941.

After World War II, in 1947, the separate Air Force entity was created when President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act. Along with establishing the USAF, the act created the National Military Establishment

– later named the Department of Defense; a Secretary of Defense and Joint chiefs of staff.

The act merged the Department of War (renamed as the Department of the Army) and the Department of the Navy into the National Military Establishment (NME), headed by the Secretary of Defense. It also created the Department of the Air Force, which separated the Army Air Forces into its own service.

Today, the USAF has 86 installations worldwide. As of 2015, the service operates more than 5,137 military aircraft, 450 ICBMs and 63 military satellites. It has a \$161 billion budget with 307,001 active duty personnel; 177,221 civilians; 69,200 Air Force Reserve personnel, and 105,500 Air National Guard.



U.S. AIR FORCE

By YVONNE JOHNSON, APG News

Sources: www.military.com/air-force-birthday; www.wikipedia.org; www.af.mil; www.nationalmuseum.af.mil

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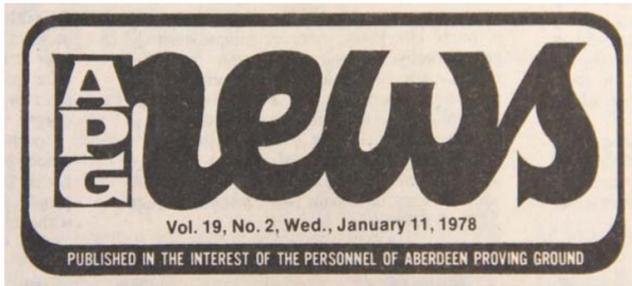
Report capabilities that bring together opportunities, opportunities, (network) and (network)



FOR ENROLLMENT  
ALEXANNUALMEETING16



# 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 1978.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News



## 10 Years Ago

*Sept. 21, 2006*

A student in a protective suit rolls a barrel of simulated waste inside the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, which celebrated 15 consecutive years without a lost-time accident.



## 25 Years Ago

*Sept. 18, 1991*

Lt. Gen. Henry J. Hatch, center, passes the unit guidon to Col. Ralph G. Wooten, left, as outgoing commander Col. Louis. M. Jackson looks on from right, during a change of command for the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency.



## 50 Years Ago

*Sept. 15, 1966*

Despite the loss of his arm, Sgt. Karoly Molnar, an OC&S student, handles a form milling machine in the Machinist Course.

# Tell them you saw it in the APG News



Miles Kincaid  
Bachelor of Science,  
Cybersecurity  
Navy Veteran

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# Army scientists collaborate, share research

By **DAVID MCNALLY**  
U.S. Army Research Laboratory

Officials from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command began two-days of meetings and briefings at the Army Research Laboratory last week.

Home-on-home style workshops bring two organizations together to share information and discover areas for potential collaboration.

“We very much want to support SMDC in whatever way we can,” acting ARL Director Dr. Philip Perconti told the visitors. “That is why we think this is a really important meeting for us to have...so we can get together and you can see our areas of expertise and how you can take advantage of the research that’s going on here.”

The SMDC Technical Center at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, has the mission to “research, develop, test and integrate capabilities for materiel solutions in tactical space, high-altitude, missile defense, cyberspace, directed energy and other related areas of technology,”

according to their website.

“We want to be sure that our experts and our researchers are cognizant about what you’re doing in the areas that you’re working and we may be able to pull some of those technologies forward into the applied work that SMDC is doing,” said William “Bill” Colson, director of the SMDC Technical Center. “Our goal is to look at where we can leverage each other.”

Colson said pockets of relationships are already in place.

“If we can build on that and expand it a little bit, make sure that we have good connectivity and understanding each other in what we’re doing, I believe the Army is going to benefit from that,” he said. “I’m trying to look at Army [Science and Technology] as an enterprise.”

Colson said he is very familiar with the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, the laboratory’s parent organization.

“In fact, I was here all last summer working as director of Programs and Engineering over at RDECOM for Maj.

**I certainly see ARL as foundational to all the S&T efforts going on across the Army enterprise.**

**William “Bill” Colson**  
SMDC Technical Center Director

Gen. Wharton,” he said. “I got to know ARL pretty well through that experience. I certainly see ARL as foundational to all the S&T efforts going on across the Army enterprise.”

Scientists and engineers from both organizations gave detailed briefings on their research activities.

“I think since you’re spending this much time, it’s useful to think about what our expectations are for this meeting and what a potential outcome might be that looks favorable,” said Dr. Jeff Zabinski, acting director, ARL Weapons and Materials Research Directorate. “We’re getting together and we’re talk-

ing with each other. We’re opening a dialog. We’re going to tell you what we do, what’s important to us, what our needs are and I think, SMDC, you’re going to do the same thing. You’re going to tell us what your needs are, what you’re working on.”

Zabinski said the hope is that the two organizations would find a way to work together.

“Somewhere in there, if we find a way to perhaps work with each other, collaborate, leverage each other in such a way that the Army gets something better than it had if we didn’t meet,” he said. “That’s a pretty good expectation.”

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Apoplectic

**Pronounced:** ap-uh-PLEK-tik

**Part of Speech:** Adjective

**Definition:**

1. Of, relating to, or causing stroke
2. Affected with, inclined to, or showing symptoms of stroke
3. Greatly excited or angered: an apoplectic rage

**Use:**

- She was positively apoplectic with anger when she realized she had been cheated.
- He choked with apoplectic rage at the obvious insult.
- Her father was so apoplectically opposed to women working, that she never again brought up the subject.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News  
Source(s): [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com); [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com); [www.oxforddictionaries.com](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com)

## ACRONYM OF THE WEEK

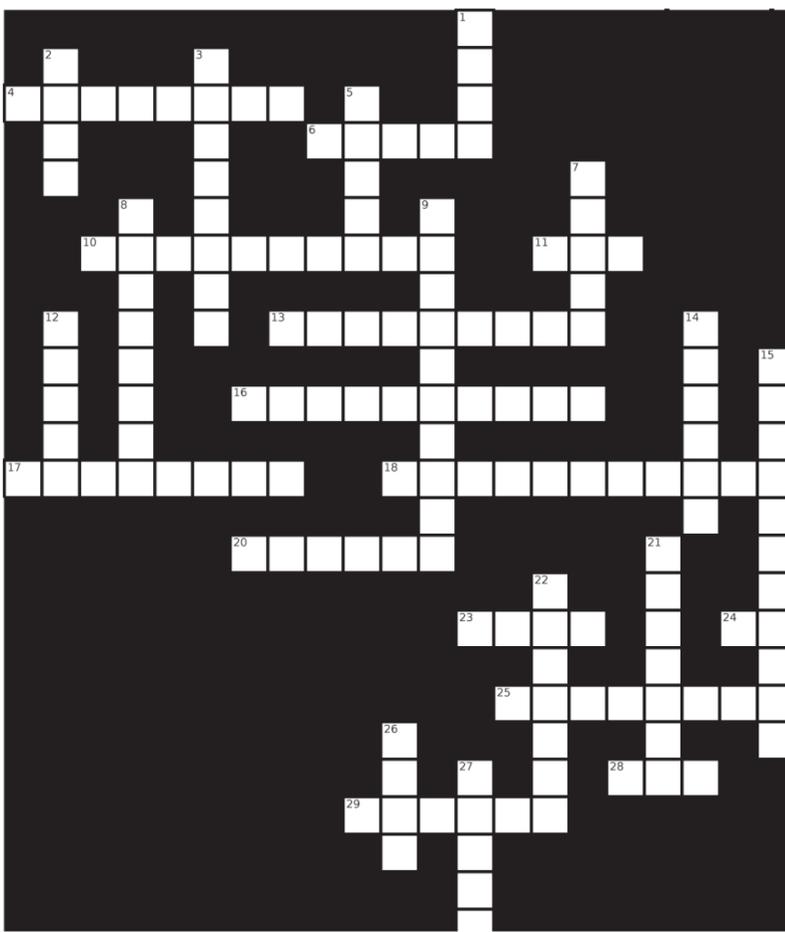
### GETS

**Government Emergency Telecommunications Service**

The Government Emergency Telecommunications Service, or GETS, is a White House-directed emergency telephone service provided by a division of the Department of Homeland Security, or DHS. GETS uses enhancements based on existing commercial technology to support federal, state, local, and tribal government, industry, and non-governmental organization personnel during crisis or emergencies by providing emergency access and priority processing for local and long distance telephone calls on the public switched telephone network.

GETS is intended for use during emergency or crisis situations when the landline network is congested and the probability of completing a normal call is reduced. GETS calls receive priority over normal calls; however, GETS calls do not preempt calls in progress or deny the general public’s use of the telephone network. GETS is in a constant state of readiness.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**, APG News  
Source(s): [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov); [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)



## The APG Crossword

### National Talk Like a Pirate Day

Get your “Arghs” ready for Sept. 19 when it’s officially “Talk Like a Pirate Day.” Two friends, John Baur and Mark Summers came up with the idea for “Talk Like a Pirate Day” in 1995, but never thought that it would catch on. Now, over 20 years later, it’s celebrated all over the world. So break out the eye patch and grab some mates to try and solve this puzzle. If you succeed, you won’t have to swab the poop deck.

By Lauren Finnegan, APG News

**Across**

4. One of the most common pirate rules, was that there was no \_\_\_\_\_ onboard the ship. It was only allowed on land.
6. A person who brought bad luck to a pirate ship was called this.
10. This city in Jamaica was frequented by pirates because of its well-protected harbor and corrupt

government.

11. “\_\_\_\_\_ Eyed Willie” is the name for the pirate whose treasure is found in the movie “The Goonies.”
13. Pirate crews were one of the earliest examples of this type of government.
16. This city has a Major League Baseball team called the “Pirates.”

17. Pirates pierced their ears with silver and gold because they thought it would improve this.
18. This was the game that the two creators of Talk Like A Pirate Day were playing when they thought of the idea.
20. “Treasure \_\_\_\_\_,” by Robert Louis Stevenson is one of the most famous pirate stories ever written.
23. The title of the movie starring Robin Williams as Peter Pan.
24. Most pirates didn’t have the well-known “Jolly Roger” flag, but just a plain flag of this color.
25. “Jake”, from a popular Disney series, fights Captain Hook and Mr. Smee with his band of friends in this fictional place.
28. Pirate careers were very short because of the danger. Blackbeard’s career spanned only \_\_\_\_\_ years.
29. This Captain, who later became the governor of The Bahamas, helped rid the islands of pirates.

9. This pirate wove hemp into his beard and lit it on fire before boarding a ship to put fear into the crew.
12. National Talk Like A Pirate Day was first celebrated in 2002 when this writer mentioned it in his nationally syndicated newspaper column.
14. Captain William Kidd was once a privateer who was sent to hunt pirates in this ocean, before turning into a pirate himself.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ is a type of punishment in which sailors are tied to a line and dragged under the ship from side to side or the length of the ship.
19. This pirate was nicknamed “my pirate” by Queen Elizabeth I.
21. Johnny Depp plays this famous fictional pirate captain in Disney’s “Pirates of the Caribbean” series.
22. The most successful pirate was this Welshman who captured 400 ships.
26. Rum, water, lemon juice, and sugar makes up this drink that was popular with pirates.
27. “Davy Jones” was slang for.

**Down**

1. She was one of the greatest pirates of the China seas who had 80,000 men under her command.
2. To encourage their crew to fight hard, captains would compensate them every time they lost one of these.
3. Blackbeard had a peg leg because he lost his leg due to this disease.
5. Pirate’s \_\_\_\_\_ is a popular cheddar puffed corn and rice snack.
7. Mary Read and Anne \_\_\_\_\_ were women pirates who dressed as men to join the crew of Jack Rackham.
8. The name for pirates who fought for slaves and treasure during the Crusades.

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

Solution to the September 1st puzzle



# Chemical weapons to be destroyed by 2020

Continued from Page B1

PCAPP, will employ neutralization followed by biotreatment to safely destroy more than 2,600 tons of mustard agent in artillery projectiles and mortar rounds stored at the Pueblo depot since the late 1950s, said Greg Mohrman, site project manager.

“The start-up of this facility reflects the diligence and determination of multiple local, state and federal agencies, all dedicated to ensuring safe, secure and environmentally sound operations,” Mohrman said.

The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, known as PEO ACWA, is respon-

sible for destroying the remaining U.S. chemical weapons stockpiles in Colorado and Kentucky. The PEO oversees the contract for design, construction, operation and closure of the Pueblo facility with Bechtel National, Inc. and subcontractors AECOM, Parsons and Battelle Memorial Institute, known collectively as the Bechtel Pueblo Team.

The pilot phase of operations at the plant will include ramp-up, testing, demonstration and an integrated facility demonstration to validate final operating conditions, said Scott Susman, an ACWA engineer.

“The pilot phase ramp up approach also allows the operators to get slow and deliberate practice in performing their

duties with actual chemical munitions after having been practicing over the last several months with simulated munitions,” Susman said.

PCAPP is forecast to complete its destruction mission by 2020, at which time the chemical destruction facilities will be decontaminated, decommissioned and dismantled in compliance with public law.

Problematic chemical munitions not easily processed by the main plant’s automated equipment will be eliminated using an Explosive Destruction System. In its initial 10-month campaign which ended in February, the Army system destroyed 560 artillery projectiles, mortar rounds and sealed steel bottles con-

taining agent samples. Mohrman said the unit will remain on site ready to destroy any future reject munitions found during each of the main plant’s three planned destruction campaigns.

The Pueblo stockpile, together with that at Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky, accounts for the last 10 percent of what was originally a national stockpile of more than 30,000 tons of chemical weapons. The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity destroyed the initial 90 percent, which was stored at nine sites across the U.S. and on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific. The Kentucky site is currently scheduled to begin destroying munitions in late 2017.

# Solarium sets sights on future of Army software

Continued from Page B1

requires complex software that must be developed or acquired, updated, integrated, and maintained, in quick succession, to support the end user. The software in question may be used to enable a weapon system’s capability or provide enterprise functionality to perform worldwide logistics – in both cases, software has become a key component for Army readiness. This is complicated by the fact that the future software environment is defined by an industry driven move towards primarily software managed weapon systems, infinitely easier to sustain and update than hardware with its associated long, drawn out acquisition processes.

“But when you look at our Army, you can make the argument that we’re still a hardware focused institution,” said Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford, APG Senior Commander and CECOM commanding general, during his opening remarks. “And my very simple question is, is that a good place to be? If the answer to that is no, and my gut tells me that it potentially could be, then the question becomes: What do we do about it? So let’s have this conversation, let’s at least arm our Army to make some informed decisions as we go forward.”

This event brought together more than 100 senior leaders in the Army software community, along with representatives from sister services and academia.

“I’m very pleased with the turnout,” said CECOM Software Engineering Center, or SEC, acting director Medhat Abuhantash. “This is an opportunity to bring all the leaders and the stakeholders in software to have a meaningful discussion on the future of software and the challenges we face; we’re very excited about this event.”

Presenters from the National Security Agency and the Army Research Laboratory set the stage with deep looks into threats, vulnerabilities, assurance and the long term future of software development.

“This is the Army’s Software Solarium,” Crawford said. “This is your opportunity to develop some strategic questions for the Army as we go forward.”

The connection between software and Army readiness was palpable.

“For us, the internet of battlefield things that was just referred to, ties all these sensors to the capability to deliver lethal effects,” said Brig. Gen. David T. Isaacson, Deputy Chief of Staff G-6/Chief Information Officer, U.S. Army Forces Command. “All of our capabili-

ties are interwoven, and if the software, and packages, the burgeoning capabilities are not interoperable, or they’re cumbersome, then we increase the time it takes to deliver lethal effects.

“We want to reduce [that time] and make sure that we’re interoperable, that they’re protected, and the information is assured,” Isaacson continued. “This helps us reduce the kill chain from sensor to shooter to deliver combat effects as quick and efficient and effective as we can make it.”

One of the main points of holding this software-focused event was to bring together the divergent software elements of today’s Army.

“There are pockets of excellence, there is tremendous work going on throughout the Department [of the Army] in the software space,” Crawford said. “But one of the biggest problems we’ve got is that we’re not optimized to take advantage of the opportunity to leverage everyone’s work...one of the points that I wanted to make is from this day forward, I would like to have this group make some decisions based on commission, not omission. Everybody’s working hard, but I don’t think we’re optimized.”

The Software Solarium involved four panel discussions, targeting distinct lines

of effort. Those lines of effort included: Enabling a “More Defensible Network” by improving integration of software assurance and acquisition lifecycle activities; Driving Army-wide efficiencies in the software lifecycle to dramatically improve readiness, while reducing cost, risk, and complexity; Optimizing Army software development and sustainment oversight and policy; and Developing the optimal government and contractor workforce mix to maintain technology overmatch in the evolving and increasingly complex software environment.

“At the end of the day, everyone that participated was much more informed and gained further insights,” Crawford explained. “As an outcome of this event we have set the stage to have a common dialogue about how to best position our Army to address these challenges and to help our Software Enterprise adapt to the new strategic realities of the next great frontier.”

This Software Solarium was just the first of what is hoped to be many, with the next scheduled to coincide with the CECOM Advanced Planning Briefing to Industry, scheduled for late January or early February 2017, and expanding the scope of the discussion to include industry partners.

## BY THE NUMB#RS

### Oktoberfest

Nearly 7 million people from across the globe will descend upon Munich Germany starting Sept. 17 for the annual Bavarian festival. APG will host its own annual Oktoberfest celebration Sept. 16 & 17 with opening festivities starting at 4 p.m. Friday.

#### 7 million

Liters of beer are consumed during the Bavarian festival held each year in Munich, Germany. For Americans who didn’t grown up with the metric system, that’s just under 2 million gallons.

#### 500,000

Number of people expected to attend Oktoberfest Zinzinatti. The annual festival in Cincinnati, Ohio is regarded as the largest in the United States.

#### 610 A.D.

Year that some reports date the origin of the soft pretzel – a common Oktoberfest snack – as an invention by European monks. The pretzel, or brezel, established firm roots in Southern Germany, and eventually came to the United States with German immigrants who settled in the Philadelphia area.

#### 206

Years since the Crown Prince Ludwig, later to become King Ludwig I, was married to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen on Oct. 12, 1810. Munich citizens were invited to the royal wedding reception that gave rise to the traditional Oktoberfest festival.

#### 16

Days in length of the original Bavarian festival held each year in Munich, Germany. The festival was moved from its Oktober date to instead start in September for better weather.

By **XYXYXY**, APG News

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