

## POST SHORTS

### Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Dec. 18, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

### Holiday tree lighting

Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander, U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground will host the Edgewood Area tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m., Dec. 15, in front of the EA Chapel, building E-4620.

The 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) will perform, and Santa Claus will make an appearance.

### Holiday refuse removal schedule

For the week of Dec. 23, refuse will be removed on Monday, Dec. 23, for Tuesday scheduled stops, and on Tuesday, for Wednesday scheduled stops.

There will be no trash pickup on Christmas Day. Thursday and Friday's pickups remain the same.

For the week of Dec. 30, refuse will be removed on Monday, Dec. 30 for Tuesday scheduled stops and Tuesday, for Wednesday scheduled stops.

There will be no trash pickup on New Year's Day. Thursday and Friday pickups remain the same.

### Flu shots available at KUSAHC

Flu vaccine is available to retirees and family members at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. No appointment or prescription is necessary.

The Immunization Clinic is open on Monday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 to 11:45 a.m.; Wednesday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 8 to 11:45 a.m. and Friday, 8 to 11:45 a.m.

Flu immunizations will be available for DOD civilians at KUSAHC and Edgewood Occupational Health Clinics from Jan. 6 to 9, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

### Vet Facility holiday hours

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will operate its normal hours 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, in December with the following exceptions:

Clinics will be held by appointment only on Dec. 13, 17 and 19. Appointment hours are between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

No clinics will be held after Dec. 19 until January

See SHORTS, page 3



Photo by SONYA P. REYNOLDS



Photo courtesy of APG PHOTO LAB

## A jolly good time at Aberdeen Area tree lighting ceremony

Santa captures the caroling sounds of Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion soldiers during the tree lighting ceremony in the Aberdeen Area Dec. 8. Back row left, Pvts. Shelton Fuller Jr. and Jason P. Muncy; and front row left, Pfc. Keith D. Drew and Pvt. Paul G. Wagoner III.

## Defense Authorization Act readies forces for 21st century

**Jim Garamone**  
American Forces Press Service

The National Defense Authorization Act for 2003 funds the military portion of the global war on terror and the continuing transformation of the U.S. military to face the threats of the 21st century.

President Bush signed the bill into law Dec. 2 during a ceremony at the Pentagon. The act actually allows DoD to spend money released under the 2003 National Defense Appropriations Act, which Bush signed Oct. 23.

Under the two bills, service members will receive at least a 4.1 percent pay raise beginning Jan. 1, 2003. Many mid-level NCOs and officers will receive a pay jump of between 5.5 percent to 6.5 percent.

The bills call for an increase in the basic allowance for housing to cut out-of-pocket expenses to 7.5 percent. The bill puts elimination of this financial inequity to service members on course for fiscal 2005.

The act also deals with the hot button issue of concurrent receipt. Currently, military retirees who receive Department of Veterans Affairs disability payments have their retired pay reduced dollar-for-dollar by the VA payment.

The act authorizes an enhanced special compensation for military retirees who "incurred a qualifying combat-related disability." The retiree must have received the Purple Heart for the injury or have a service-connected disability of 60 percent or higher incurred as a direct result of combat or training for combat.

Other personnel portions of the act include a National Service Plan. The new program encourages volunteers to enlist in the military and serve 15 months on active duty, followed by either an additional active-duty period or 24 months in the Selected Reserve. If time remains on service commitments, it may be spent on

active duty, in the reserves or serving in organizations such as the Peace Corps or Americorps.

Those who qualify may receive one of the following incentives: \$5,000 payable after completing the initial 15 months of active duty; repayment of student loans up to \$18,000; an education allowance at the Montgomery GI Bill monthly rate for one year; or an educational allowance of one-half the Montgomery GI Bill rate for three years.

The act continues special pays and bonuses for active duty and reserve personnel and expands special pays given to high-demand military specialties. It also increases the bonus awarded to prior-service personnel.

The act makes medical improvements a high priority. The legislation calls on the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs to share assets, especially in regards to pharmacy benefits.

Congress continues to improve the TRICARE program. The legislation expands TRICARE Prime Remote to cover dependents who remain in remote locations when they cannot accompany sponsors. An example of this is a spouse is assigned to Korea on an unaccompanied tour.

Congress also expressed concern over the stability of the TRICARE provider networks. Many providers complain that claim processing takes too long. Under the legislation, the requirements for TRICARE and Medicare will be the same.

The budget supports an active-duty end strength of 1,389,700 with the Army set at 480,000, the Navy at 375,700, the Marines up slightly to 175,000 and the Air Force pegged at 359,000. The overall strength of the reserve components is unchanged from fiscal 2002 at 864,558.

See DOD ACT, page 6

## Holiday greetings for troops only a click away

**Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs**  
Army News Service

With the click of a mouse, heartfelt messages have been sent to thousands of deployed troops this holiday season.

"Your bravery and sacrifices are deeply appreciated by this American family, and our flag and the flags of hundreds of other families in our community are flying proudly in your honor," wrote Steve and Ellie Earnhart from Vandalia, Ohio.

The Earnharts posted that message using <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>, which

is the online version of the holiday letter campaign dubbed "Operation Dear Abby."

When the "Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs were suspended last year because of the anthrax mail attacks, Web sites sprang up to give an alternative to people who want to show support to troops during the holiday season, officials said.

The Web site <http://www.anyservicemember.org/> is another place where greetings

See GREETING, page 5

## Installation watch card

### Do observe and report:

- Unusual or suspicious activity or suspected surveillance.
- Unusual questions or requests for information relating to capabilities, limitations, or operational information.
- Unusual vehicles operating in or around the installation.
- 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.

### Do not:

- Discuss any aspect of military operations or planning.
  - Discuss military capabilities or limitations.
  - Discuss force protection measures, capabilities, or posture.
  - Disclose any information related to unit deployments.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately to APG Police:**  
Aberdeen Area 410-306-2222  
Edgewood Area 410-436-2222  
Your call may save lives!

## DTC commander promoted to brigadier general



Photo courtesy of APG PHOTO LAB  
Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Marvin (Keith) McNamara, commanding general of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, is assisted by his wife, Lynn, left, and his mother, Lois, in pinning on his new rank insignia in ceremonies at Top of the Bay Dec. 2. Lt. Greg Montgomery, left, the general's aide, and DTC Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Robinson are in the background.

**Mike Cast**  
DTC

Brig. Gen. Marvin "Keith" McNamara, who as a colonel assumed command of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Aug. 29, received his brigadier general stars Dec. 2.

Lt. Gen. Joseph Cosumano Jr., commander of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and the Army Space Command, presided over the ceremony at Top of the Bay.

Cosumano was the assistant commandant of Fort Bliss, Texas, home of the Army's 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, when McNamara was a junior officer assigned to that unit. He also had professional contact with McNamara when he served in other assignments that supported America's air defense artillery and missile defense capabilities.

Cosumano lauded McNamara's dedication to the Army and his service to the United States at home and abroad, citing his leadership as a highly capable air defense artillery officer with the 11th ADA, a Patriot missile brigade that played a key role in defending coalition forces in Saudi Arabia and people in Israel during Operation Desert Storm.

While commending McNamara for his leadership in various Army and joint-service assignments since he was commissioned

See PROMOTION, page 13

## 2002 CFC wraps up for the holidays

**John Belcher**  
2002 CFC Chairperson

The 2002 Combined Federal Campaign is now complete.

Twenty-three of 50 organizations met the goal and exceeded their portion of the goal.

"The key-workers gave that extra mile from their hearts and made the difference in making the Aberdeen Proving Ground goal," said Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander. "The key-workers were the backbone of the CFC campaign."

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MWR

# Knowing the facts about winter storms

Courtesy of webmaster@co.ha.md.us

Winter Storm Watch indicates that severe winter weather may affect the area.

Winter Storm Warning indicates that severe winter weather conditions are definitely on the way.

Blizzard Warning includes large amounts of falling or blowing snow and sustained winds of at least 35 miles per hour are expected for several hours.

A Traveler's Advisory is issued if travel is expected to be difficult or dangerous.

## Frostbite, hypothermia

Frostbite is a severe reaction to cold exposure that can permanently damage its victims. A loss of feeling and a white pale appearance of fingers, toes, nose and ears is one of the first signs of frostbite.

Hypothermia is a condition brought on when the body temperature drops due to prolonged exposure to temperatures less than 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, slow speech, memory lapses, frequent stumbling, drowsiness and exhaustion. Elderly people are affected by this often and should be checked on during cold weather events.

If frostbite or hypothermia is suspected, warm the person and seek immediate medical assistance. Never give a frostbite or hypothermia victim something containing caffeine or alcohol.

## Wind chill

Wind chill is a calculation of how cold it feels outside when the actual temperature and the speed of the wind are combined. A strong wind, combined with a temperature of just below freezing can have the same effect as a still air temperature about 35 degrees colder. Dress warmly in layers and always wear a hat to hold in body heat.

## Kerosene heaters

Use only correct fuel for your unit and follow the manufacturer's instructions to include adequate ventilation. Remember that kerosene heaters produce carbon monoxide, a deadly odorless gas that can kill quickly at high levels. Stay alert for family members that experience drowsiness and flu like symptoms. Maintain a carbon monoxide detector if a kerosene heater is in use. If the detector activates or you notice

symptoms, turn off the appliance and open windows to ventilate the area. Move the occupants of the dwelling to fresh air and call 911 immediately. In Maryland, use of kerosene heaters in multiple family dwellings (apartments, townhouses, etc.) is prohibited. While Harford County currently permits the use of kerosene heaters in single-family dwellings, other jurisdictions may not.

Check with the local jurisdiction. (Check with DIO)

## Before a winter storm

\* Follow the advisories issued by forecasters, which describe the location, strength and movement of the storm.

\* Service snow removal equipment and have ice melter on hand to melt ice on walkways, and kitty litter to generate temporary traction.

\* Have sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be unavailable.

\* Winterize the home by insulating walls and the attic; caulk and weather-strip doors and windows; and install storm windows or cover windows with plastic on the inside.

\* Have safe emergency heating equipment available such as a fireplace with an ample supply of wood, a small, well-vented wood, coal or camp stove with fuel, or portable space heaters or kerosene heaters.

All of these heat sources will create carbon monoxide, which is an odorless deadly gas. Have a carbon monoxide detector installed in the dwelling and always provide adequate ventilation when these products are in use.

\* Keep pipes from freezing. Wrap pipes with insulation or layers of old newspapers and cover the newspapers with plastic to keep out moisture. Let faucets drip a little to avoid freez-

ing and know how to shut off water valves. Never attempt to thaw frozen pipes with a blowtorch or other flame-producing object.

\* Have the recommended emergency supplies on hand.

\* Move cars out of the roadway to allow plows and emergency vehicles access.

\* Check on neighbors to make sure they know about the impending situation. Assist elderly or disabled neighbors with their preparations.

## If indoors

\* Stay indoors and dress warmly. Be alert for signs of carbon monoxide poisoning and hypothermia.

\* Conserve fuel. Lower the thermostat to 65 degrees during the day and 60 degrees at night. Close off unused rooms.

\* Listen to the radio or television for the latest storm information or emergency instructions.

## If outdoors

\* Dress warmly. Wear loose-fitting, layered, lightweight clothing. Layers can be removed to prevent perspiration and chill. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent. Mittens are warmer than gloves because fingers share warmth when they touch each other.

\* Cover the mouth. Protect the lungs from extremely cold air. Try not to speak.

\* Avoid overexertion. Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing cars can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse.

\* Watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia.

\* Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent loss of body heat.

## If trapped in a car

\* Do not leave the car unless help is visible

within 100 yards.

\* Watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia.

\* Display a trouble sign. Hang a brightly colored cloth on the radio antenna.

\* Keep the tail pipe clear of snow build-up and run the engine for about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm. Open a down-wind window slightly for ventilation. Keep a winter travel kit in the trunk with a small amount of sand in a covered container, a blanket, extra mittens and a few candles and a pack of matches in a non-flammable container (1 pound coffee can). The candle will provide warmth in the vehicle if stuck in the vehicle for an extended period of time.

\* Do minor exercises to keep up circulation. Clap hands and move arms and legs occasionally. If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping. For warmth, huddle together. Use newspapers, maps or floor mats for added insulation.

\* If driving during a major winter storm is necessary, let someone know destination and expected arrival time. Advise them of the route of travel and tell them you will call when you arrive.

## After a winter storm

\* Be patient. It will take time for plows to clear the snow from the roadways. Major routes will have priority. Secondary roads and residential areas will be cleared next. Remove parked cars from the street to assist in the plowing efforts.

\* Do not allow children to build snow tunnels or forts near the roadways. During plowing operations they can collapse and trap children under the snow.

\* Check on neighbors and help each other dig out.

\* Call a private contractor to plow out a long driveway. Do not call for government resources to clear the driveway. They are not permitted to do so.

\* Those with a 4-wheel drive vehicle can volunteer to assist in transporting medical personnel to hospitals or patients to necessary treatment (kidney dialysis, cancer treatments, etc). Emergency Medical Services may be too busy with emergency calls to assist in routine medical needs.



## TRICARE is available over the holidays

Sierra Military Health Services

It is comforting to know that wherever holiday plans lead, TRICARE coverage follows. While traveling, whether on duty, at college or on vacation, medical care may be needed.

If not near a Military Treatment Facility, there are rules to follow to avoid Point-of-Service charges.

Customers should remember that routine care is not covered when traveling outside the Prime Service Area.

In addition, services may need to be paid for up front. If so, the bill should be paid and a Claim Form should be submitted for reimbursement.

Users can download a form by clicking on the 'Forms' link at <http://www.sierramilitary.com>.

## Emergencies

TRICARE covers care for medical,

maternity or psychiatric emergencies that would lead a prudent layperson to believe a serious medical condition exists or that the absence of treatment would result in a threat to the person's life, limb or sight.

This includes situations of severe pain. Examples of medical emergencies include heart attacks, poisoning, convulsions and other acute conditions.

## For this type of an emergency:

1. No prior authorization is required.
2. Call 911 or seek the nearest military or civilian hospital emergency room.
3. Notify primary care provider of the ER visit. Follow-up care requires a referral from the primary care provider.

## Urgent care (non-emergency)

Urgent care refers to medical attention

for a condition that is not life-threatening but could become critical if not treated. Examples of urgent care may include eye, ear, or suspected bladder infections and high, continuous fevers. If possible, check with the Health Care Information Line for the most appropriate course of action. Call 1-800-308-3518, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

## To make sure your claim is paid correctly:

1. Before receiving care, call SMHS at 1-888-999-5195, and choose the 'urgent care/out-of-area care' option to obtain an authorization.
2. After receiving care, call SMHS and choose the 'urgent care/out-of-area' option to provide information on the services received in order for the claim to pay correctly.

## Before making travel plans, understand the risk

Susan Grendahl  
OSJA

It is that time of year when soldiers are preparing to visit loved ones. Often these visits include taking leave approved by the commander and purchasing tickets, whether bus, plane, or train. Part of the holiday may also include securing reservations at a hotel.

It is important for soldiers to remember that leave can be disapproved or leave dates can suddenly change. Soldiers may want to consider purchasing refundable tickets or inquiring about cancellation policies prior to making these expensive plans.

A soldier should always check with his or her commander prior to making any plans

centered around leave dates.

The U.S. Army will not compensate a soldier who purchases tickets or makes reservations and cannot use them due to a change in leave status.

The Personnel Claims Act, Military Claims Act, and Federal Tort Claims Act will only compensate soldiers for loss or damage to tangible property. Worthless travel tickets or unused hotel reservations are not considered tangible property and will not be compensated.

Soldiers take the risk when purchasing tickets or making hotel reservations that sudden changes in missions may cause them to forfeit the cost of the tickets.

# APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM, APG, MD 21005-5005, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

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

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## PLAYING ON A SNOW DAY



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Enjoying a day off from school due to last week's snowfall, Joshua Cox, 7, left, uses a snowboard to carve the finishing touches on a snow fort designed by he and his brother Enoch Cox, 9, center, and friend Andrew Babeu, 9, kneeling.

## POST SHORTS

2003.

For appointment dates in January, customers may call after Dec. 27. The facility will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

### Family Child Care training in EA

Family Child Care training will be conducted Feb. 3 to 7 at the Edgewood Area Youth Services building. Applicants who are interested in providing home-based child care, especially infant care for those residing in the Edgewood Area, are encouraged to apply.

Being a professionally trained provider in a warm, home environment offers many benefits such as self employment, free training in a marketable profession, transferable credit to Army installations world wide, free use of the lending library, free referrals by Central Registry, free monthly newsletter, free workshops (nutrition, health, child development, safety, CPR, taxes), participation in the National CDA credential program and participation in the USDA food program.

For more information, call the FCC Office, 410-278-7477/8720/9832.

### Have you updated your DEERS information?

DEERS beneficiaries are reminded to update information whenever beneficiaries face a life change, e.g., new baby, retirement, deployment, etc. Visit Web site [http://www.tricare.osd.mil/smart/deers\\_month.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/smart/deers_month.cfm) for more information.

### Exodus supper meal

The annual Exodus Super Supper will be served Dec. 19 in APG dining facilities. Dinner will be served in buildings 4219 and 4503 in the Aberdeen Area and in building E-4225 in the Edgewood Area.

All military personnel are invited to dine from 5:30 to 7

p.m. Family members, retirees and guests are invited to dine from 6 to 7 p.m.

The standard meal rate of \$3.25 applies to any officer, enlisted member, family member of sergeant or above, retirees and their guests and Department of Defense civilians.

Additionally, the discount meal rate of \$2.80 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The menu includes old fashioned bean soup, grilled steaks with mushrooms, fried shrimp, fried catfish, fried chicken, French fried potatoes, baked potatoes, backed macaroni and cheese, seasoned mushrooms and onions, broccoli with cheese sauce, corn on the cob, salad bar, rolls, pineapple upside down cake, beverages and soft-serve yogurt. Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call the Installation Food Service Office at 410-306-1392/1393/1397/1398.

### EA Thrift Shop going out of business

The Edgewood Area Thrift Shop will close permanently on or about Dec. 19. A blowout sale on everything in the store will be held Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All consignors are welcome to withdraw items without charge.

Hours are Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the first Saturday

of the month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information call Chairperson Colleen Newing, 410-676-4733

For more information, call 410-676-4733.

### Classes offered to prevent cold injuries KUSAHC

Now that winter is coming, it is imperative that leaders counsel their personnel about cold weather injuries. Cold weather injuries are preventable.

Successful prevention requires vigorous command leadership and proper use of preventive measures. Prior planning, cold weather training, and the proper clothing and equipment are paramount.

Specific preventive measures include conserving body heat, avoiding unnecessary prolonged exposure to cold, moisture and activities favoring cold weather injury. Preventive Medicine and Wellness, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, offers classes on cold injury prevention and awareness.

For information, contact 1st Lt. Parrie or Spec. Roberts at 410-278-1991/1956.

### WACVA 114T sells cookbooks

The Women's Army Corps Veterans Association Chesapeake Beacon Chapter 114T is selling cookbooks for \$12.50, plus shipping and handling, to offset expenses for their holiday charities for local veterans' hospitals.

# Budget runs short on APG

**Sonya P. Reynolds**

APG News

## Budget

"It's tough running the garrison with no money," said Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, in her opening remarks at the Community Action Council meeting Nov. 2 in building 305 conference room.

Mark said the main issue concerns improvements to APG. Year-end money helps, but it is not enough to cover all that is needed.

"At year end, we actually got some money. It's really hard when you get money the last three weeks of the year and not during the year," Mark said. She continued noting that although they were able to review some pending contracts, it

wasn't enough to take care of everything. Some improvements have been made such as the roads being paved and the replacement of trees.

Offering an explanation behind the shortage in funds, Mark said that orders came from higher headquarters and she is forced to work with what she has.

"I got a message down from my resource manager and basically was told to stop spending all money in my [materialization and modernization for the installation] account," Mark said.

She added that the shortage of funds does not mean that they would stop all work orders but rather fix them at a slower pace.

Mark said that the Army has made such drastic decisions because they are on terrorism watch, and that because of this, the year would start off the same way it has in the past.

"We're going to start off the year like we were a year ago, maybe a little worse this time," Mark said.

She assured the council that even though APG is experiencing cuts, she will continue to focus on what needs to be done, and asked for patience from everyone present.

"It's not the way I would like to run a garrison. I like the one where I fix everything immediately but unfortunately that's not the way it is," Mark said. "I do the best with the resources that I have. I don't want to always say I don't have any money, but right now that is the situation."

She asked members of the CAC to keep this in mind as the meeting proceeded.

## Health

Flu shots are now available to retirees and family members at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. Appointments are not necessary.

Lt. Col. Allison Mirakian, deputy commander for Nursing, said that the clinic has been receiving complaints of family members not being able to get an appointment to see a doctor because appointments were not available.

The problem exists because patients, active duty and dependents, are not keeping scheduled appointments. Mirakian said that by the time the clinic receives a cancellation phone call, it's at the last minute, making it too late to fill the empty space.

"Even though we have a cancellation, if we don't get it in a reasonable period of time, we can't refill it," Mirakian said. "One third of our appointments are lost due to cancellations and no shows."

Other issues of concern posed to Mirakian were about what to do in the event of an emergency. After a parent took her son to an emergency room physician, following a car accident, she was told to make a follow up appointment with the regular doctor. Upon trying to secure an appointment on post, she was told that the earliest he could be seen was three days from the date of the call. Mirakian directed her, in the event of an emergency, to contact the Patient Advocate at KUSAHC, 410-278-1724, because KUSAHC does not have the resources to deal with emergencies.

She also said to go to the nearest hospital that has an emergency room. Mirakian said that personnel in the Aberdeen Area should go to Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace and personnel in the Edgewood Area should go to Upper Chesapeake Hospital in Bel Air.

Mirakian stated that a new phone system is coming.

## Neighborhood safety

Several committee members addressed issues related to the monkey bars at Skippers Point Recreation Playground. Members said three children have broken their arms after falling from a seven foot high monkey bar. They feel that by adding mulch under the bars this could eliminate the problem.

Mark suggested that Safety/DCFA look into the matter further. She stated that due to the lack of funds, it is not possible to add more mulch, but rather remove the monkey bar completely.

As a response to complaints about sports physicals not being thorough enough, Mirakian suggested those seeking sports physicals seek appointments with Wellness, but warned that it may take longer.

## New mayors

Mark swore in Marcus Lucas, mayor for Aberdeen Mobile Home Park and Naomi L. Buckhouse, vice mayor for Patriot Village.

*See CAC, page 6*

# ATC annual awards ceremony recognizes employees

**Susan Hagan**  
ATC

Fifteen U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center employees were recognized at the ATC Annual Awards Ceremony held at the Post Theater on Oct. 9.

The Commander's Quality Award, presented to an ATC work group or team for sustained high-quality achievements was awarded to the VISION Digital Library Team. The team led by Dr. Samuel Harley, consists of George Bartlett, Thea Blunt-Henderson, Joseph Compton, Gary Hettchen, Richard Marvel (SFA Frederick Manufacturing), Ted Nanavati (Nanavati Consulting), Michael Reil (SFA Frederick Manufacturing) and Alan Scramlin. The VISION Team developed the Virtual Information System-Integrated, ONline (VISION), which allows material developers to retrieve detailed technical and operational data on warfighting systems as they go through their lifecycle. This permits production decisions to be made early in the acquisition lifecycle.

The Commander's Award, which is given to a civilian or soldier for outstanding individual achievement on a technical project or study resulting in significant advances in testing technology or outstanding project management, was presented to Joseph Compton. He provided leadership and technical skills to the implementation of ATC's VISION initiative and worked to design and implement several different variants of the Advanced Distributed Modular data Acquisition System and on the development of the automotive database recorders.

The Groak Award, named for the late George Groak, a former general foreman of facilities support, recognizes employees providing various types of test support, without which the ATC technical mission could not be accomplished.

The Groak Award was presented to Barry Kefauver. Over

the past year, Kefauver was the lead mechanic for two major ATC test programs; the post production test of the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles competitive re-buy program and the production qualification tests of the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems Launcher, Resupply Vehicle, Resupply Trailer and Rocket Systems Launcher. Kefauver's efforts and expertise helped each program to meet critical suspense dates and be completed on time.

The Crozier Award was presented to Sgt. Thomas Frederick. Frederick, a soldier, operator, maintainer, tester, and evaluator for developmental testing at ATC, has supported various tests including the M1 Panther, M1A2 Abrams upgrade, M2A2 Bradley, and Land Warrior testing. Currently, he is assigned to the Stryker program.

The Crozier Award, named for the late Maj. Gen. William Crozier, Chief of Ordnance from 1901 to 1917, is presented to a soldier for excellence in technical test project management and test support.

The Fritter Award is named for the late Richard W. Fritter, a former budget analyst for ATC, and is awarded for exceptional contributions by employees whose jobs give administrative support to ATC, including clerical, supply, safety, security, budget and administrative.

The Fritter Award was presented to Chantal Marus for providing exceptional support to facility security. An increase in security and reporting requirements following the events of Sept. 11 significantly impacted the workload and work schedule of ATC's Security and Intelligence Team. Marus was responsible for required facilities modifications and upgrades, completion of vulnerability assessments, preparation of supporting security planning documents, and preparation of security status briefings.

The Nichols Award was presented to Jeffery Adams. Adams has distinguished himself as a leading expert on flash radiography. His technical expertise combined with his ability to communicate effectively with co-workers, customers and project managers has given ATC an edge to new types of testing in support of the warfighter.

The Nichols Award is named for the late Charles W. Nichols, a former technician at ATC, and recognizes the efforts of ATC technicians without whom the ATC technical mission could not be accomplished.

The Technical Director's Award was initiated last year to recognize authors within ATC for outstanding technical papers or reports on topics pertinent to the test and evaluation mission.

The Technical Director's Award was presented to Douglas Griffin. Griffin worked to complete a major test on the developmental test of the Light Armored Vehicle - Service Life Extension. Findings during the test led to a number of improvements to the test item. Griffin's leadership and customer oriented approach resulted in an excellent working relationship with the test sponsor.

## Greeting

### *From front page*

can be read such as, "I am grateful for the opportunity to send this message to you and tell you how proud I am of our U.S. soldiers," written by Chris D.

Even though "Any Servicemember" mail was suspended, family members and friends can still send loved ones letters and packages overseas by using name, rank and APO address. The Christmas mailing deadline was Dec. 4 for parcel airlift mail and Dec. 11 for first-class and priority mail, letters and cards.

For those who want to send sentimental notes to unknown service members, though, the only authorized way is through e-mail; and more than 500,000 people have already sent messages to the military service of their choice, said an official from the Military Postal Service Agency.

Anyone can read or post a message for troops. School-aged children, spouses of veterans and individuals from foreign countries have expressed their feelings for the troops that have left their family behind to fight for America's freedoms.

"Good luck against the Taliban. I hope you beat the Taliban's butt," wrote Jamie from New Berlin, U.S. Virgin Islands.

The United States' allies have also taken the time to address troops.

"You brave souls, march onwards my friends," wrote Maria Lambrinos from Adelaide, Australia. "You are truly God's Army, and we thank you with all our hearts. Stay safe and wishing you a speedy return."

# CAC

From page 4

## Commissary

Tammy Spickler, Aberdeen Commissary manager, introduced the new Assistant Manager Ronald Woodard.

The Defense Commissary Agency Program is hiring students for part-time work. Students that are interested must maintain a "C" average to be eligible.

Scholarships for military students, in the amount of \$1,500 dollars are available. For more information, visit Web site [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) and click on "Scholarships for Military Children."

Bob Weaver, chief of the Facility Maintenance Operations Division, DIO, briefed the committee on snow and ice removal procedures, which have been posted in the *APG News*.

Weaver suggested residents direct their questions or concerns to the AA Service Order Desk at 410-306-1400 or the EA Service Order Desk at 410-436-3731.

## DCFA

Roy Ballinger, director for Community and Family Activities, informed the committee of Morale Welfare and Recreation's new Web site at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

He distributed the November/January brochure to attendees. Ballinger added that anyone with special

skills or interests is encouraged to sign up to teach classes in their specialty.

"It is a way to get paid doing something you enjoy," Ballinger said.

## DLES

The new Visitors Centers are in place and day passes are being issued. In addition, the color of the pass will change daily so people can't use the pass for more than a one-day entrance.

At the request of the residents of Bayside Village, stop signs will be installed.

## DIC

Signage changes are planned for Route 40, letting people know when the gate is closed and to use the MD Route 715 gate.

## Army Family team Building

Godofredo Posadas is the new program manager for Army Family Team Building. He said that he has plans of implementing new monthly orientation classes for fami-

lies that are new to the Army.

## Employment Readiness Program

Over 1,000 job seekers attended the Aberdeen Proving Ground/Harford County co-hosted job fair. Fifty-four employers were present to review resumes and 32 positions were offered.

## DIO

Funds received at year end will be used to replace trees lost during the drought, according to Bert Scott, Directorate of Installation Operations.

He noted that the mission is not to work on preventive maintenance but breakdown maintenance while repairing potholes and leaks will continue.

On a final note, Scott said that funding was not good in 2002 or 2003 and it probably will not get better any time soon. He said that maybe 2004 would be a better year.

# DoD Act

From front page

The legislation expands the size of the service academies from 4,000 to 4,400 students beginning in the 2003 to 2004 school years.

In the authorization act, the legislators say they "believe that active-duty end strength needs to be increased in the long term."

The act authorizes \$7.3 billion for counterterrorism programs throughout the services. Much of this is channeled into biological warfare defense and chemical and biological detection, protection and decontamination.

The programs also cover the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program. The Senate and House approved \$417 million for this counterproliferation activity.

The act directs DoD to set up National Guard civil support teams in all states and ter-

ritories. The teams provide medical and technical advice in the event of a terrorist attack involving weapons of mass destruction.

In readiness accounts the act fully funds President Bush's request of \$78.4 billion. This covers such items as steaming days, flying hours, tank miles and depot maintenance.

Modernizing the force is a large part of the budget.

In aircraft, the bill authorizes 23 F-22 Raptors this year and 27 in fiscal 2004.

The act also funds \$3.4 billion for Air Force-Navy research on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program.

The act allots \$3.7 billion for 12 C-17 Globemaster III air transports.

The act also provides funds to upgrade F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft.

The Army's Comanche helicopter program will receive \$910 million for engineering and manufacturing development.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld cancelled the Army's Crusader artillery system. The act authorizes DoD to shift funding from that program to other indirect fire programs.

A total of \$673 million will be split among six promising technologies.

The act authorizes two new Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and close to \$1 billion for research and advance procurement for Navy aircraft carriers.

The authorization act can be a grab bag of initiatives. Included in this year's budget are calls for DoD's senior-level Joint Requirement Oversight Council to study missile defense programs and report on their progress before the programs may be fielded.

Also included is authorization to create the new positions of undersecretary of defense for intelligence and assistant secretary of defense for homeland security.

It also exempts the military from portions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Provisions allow service members to train more realistically at their stations while expanding buffer zones around training areas.

Finally, the 2003 budget buys the Army's last Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles. The request funds \$376.3 million for 103 tanks and \$397 million for 138 Bradleys.

In a sign of things to come, the budget authorizes \$788 million for the Stryker Armored Vehicle and \$759 million for research on the Army's Future Combat System.

# Managing the stress of holiday entertaining

**Paul A. Papp**  
DSHE

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles designed to help make the holidays safe and sane.)

When things at home are less stressful more energy is available to cope with the stress that comes with work and that can make everyone happier.

The holiday season provides opportunities to gather with friends and family. Connecting with friends and loved ones is important but the stress of "doing it right" can drain away all of the fun, relaxation and recreation.

## Dealing with holiday entertaining

*Be realistic.* Entertaining may not be a strong suit. There is no rule that says a party or dinner or get together must occur over the holidays. There are some who can whip up a party on a moments notice and then there are the others.

Take an honest look at circumstances and ask some basic questions - "Do I really want to do this?" "Am I any good at throwing a party?" "Do I have time to add one more thing into my schedule?"

If the answer is "no" to any of these questions, be a party-giver instead of a party giver.

Maybe there is someone who can help in entertainment endeavors. Holiday entertaining can be planned and executed by two or three hosts or hostesses working together.

*Set a budget.* With the cost of entertainment being so high it's a good idea to set spending limits. Too little and the project won't be up to standards. Too much, and anger and resentment could be the lasting result of an otherwise pleasant get-together.

*Make a list.* Planning and organization will prevent many of the problems that can result in a holiday disaster.

- Who to invite? It doesn't have to be everyone you know. A small gathering of close friends, with no expectations

placed on them, can prove to be an oasis in the midst of a hectic holiday season. Bigger doesn't always mean better. The right mix of people will result in a relaxing and refreshing event.

- What's on the menu? Do you need to schedule a day of cooking? How about covered dishes brought by the people attending? Would a caterer's cost be outweighed by saved time and less worry? Special dietary needs?

- Gift exchange? Be sure everyone knows or be prepared with extras ensuring no one will be embarrassed or feel left out.

- Will the party be a time for games or other planned activities or will the gathering be a time for conversation and catching up?

- Should paper plates or the good china be used? How much time is available to spend cleaning up after the guests leave? Remember that trying to manage the inevitable stress is the goal. If doing dishes and cleaning is relaxing or if the thought of anything less than a formal setting is the same as being a social outcast, then go for the formal - it doesn't happen much any more. If cleaning up is a big downer, make sure that there isn't much of it to do or that help is available. Paper plates can be thrown out in no time.

There are probably many other details that will need tending. Organizing early will help avoid missing things or fixing things last minute.

### Alcohol use or abuse

There was a time when a good host was expected to keep their guest's glass full. Maybe that time hasn't passed but the contents of the glass have changed. Very few people expect alcohol at social gatherings or will leave because it isn't there. Over the last few decades we have

become better educated about alcohol - it's pluses and minuses. No one wants one of their guests arrested for driving under the influence when they leave the party. No one wants anyone injured or worse because of what they drank at the party.

### If serving alcohol, these tips may keep everyone safe.

- Suggest that every group has a designated driver, someone who will not be drinking any alcohol.

- Be sure that only people 21 and over are consuming alcoholic beverages at the party. Besides the guilt if something does go wrong with an underage drinker, you are violating criminal laws in all states when allowing a minor to drink alcohol in your home. It's even worse when you are also the supplier.

- Either control the amount of available alcohol or make it possible for guests to spend the night if they are not fit to drive home.

- Make sure there are things to eat when alcohol is served. A full stomach means the alcohol takes longer to absorb into the blood stream. It also promotes less drinking as a means of avoiding that bloated feeling.

- Offer options to guests. When there are other beverages available people will be better able to limit their intake of alcohol. Soda, coffee, juices, teas, waters, non-alcoholic punches are all good alternatives.

- Some non-alcoholic drinks can be found at [www.kaiserpermanente.org/toyourhealth/recipes/nonalcohol99.html](http://www.kaiserpermanente.org/toyourhealth/recipes/nonalcohol99.html) or <http://beverage-recipe.com/directory/1333.asp>.

- There is no rule that says a host must serve alcohol for the party to be successful.

The next article will look at holiday depression.

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## CFC

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*From front page*

Aberdeen Proving Ground's goal of \$325,000 was exceeded by \$17,211.53, for a total of \$342,211.53, equaling 105.30 percent.

There were 403 Oriole awards, a Road Atlas Pocket Map, for a \$100 to \$249 contribution; 230 Ravens awards, a Soapstone Coaster, for a \$250 to \$499 contribution; 113 Falcon awards, a Large Canvas Bag, for a \$500 to \$999 contribution; 81 Silver Leadership award, a Small Print, for a \$1,000 to \$1,999 contribution; and 11 Gold Leadership awards, a Large Print, for a \$2,000 or more contribution.

Anyone still wishing to give a contribution can send it to CFC of Maryland, P.O. BOX 1576, Baltimore, MD 21203-1576, or call Melda Callender, chairperson for 2003 at 410-278-8997.

# Community Notes

## ABERDEEN COMMISSARY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Christmas**  
Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.\*  
Dec. 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Dec. 25, closed  
Dec. 26, closed (in lieu of Monday)  
Dec. 27, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.\*

**New Year's**  
Dec. 30, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.\*  
Dec. 31, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.\*  
Jan. 1, closed  
Jan. 2, 100 a.m. to 7 p.m.\*  
\*Early Bird shopping

## FRIDAY DECEMBER 13 YOUTH CHRISTMAS TREE

The Youth of Edgewood Baptist Church will perform a free Christmas musical drama at 7 p.m. at the Edgewood Baptist Church, 422 Edgewood Road, Edgewood. Everyone is invited to see this drama set in contemporary time. For more information, call the church office at 410-676-5838.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

A Christmas Celebration will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Edgewood Area Chapel, building E-4620, featuring special musical solos, skits performed by soldiers of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion and the Renowned Grace Assembly Band. Refreshments will be served.

## CWFTRIP TO DINNER THEATER

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring a trip to the Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater, departing the Aberdeen Area at 4:30 p.m.

The cost is \$49 per person, which includes charter bus transportation, dinner and the holiday show, The Sound of Christmas.

For reservations or more information, call Angela Keithley or Jacqueline McKeever at 410-278-4603/4771.

## FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 14 AND 15 WACVA CHAPTER 114 MEETING

The Chesapeake Beacon, Chapter 114, of the Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association will hold its monthly meeting Dec. 13 at 449 W. Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen, at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to assemble Christmas baskets for the women veterans hospitalized at Perry Point VA Hospital, Baltimore VA hospital and BREC.

Members interested in distributing the baskets to the Perry Point VA Hospital on Dec. 14 should meet at 10:15 a.m. in the hospital gymnasium.

Members interested in delivering the baskets in Baltimore on Dec. 15,

should meet at the Aberdeen Senior center at 10 a.m.

All women serving in the armed forces are invited to join the Women's Army Corps as regular members of the chapter (all women serving in the Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Army Nurse Corps, Women's Army Corps and Women's Army Auxiliary Corps), members-at-large (women who do not want to belong to a chapter at this time), or associate members (women in the Air Force, Marines, Navy and Coast Guard).

For more information, call Wanda Story at 410-272-5040 or go to Web site [www.wacva.com](http://www.wacva.com).

## DECEMBER 14 CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

The Christian Education Department and the Church School of St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, are hosting a Christmas Fellowship with storytelling, readings, Christmas carols, and gingerbread house making/baking at 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Free admission. For more information or to sign up for baking, call Sister Caledonia Henry at 410-939-5393.

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 15 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Edgewood Baptist Church and the APG Post Chapel choirs invite the community to a performance of "With A Name Like His," a Christmas cantata, at 7 p.m. at the Edgewood Baptist Church, 422 Edgewood Road.

## 'STUFF-A-TRUCK' FOOD DRIVE

Each month, the Harford/Cecil County Food Bank feeds over 2,100 needy families in the local area. Brody Transportation is placing its truck at Ripken Stadium from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for "Stuff-A-Truck" to collect donations of non-perishable food items and household goods for the food bank.

For more information, call the Harford/Cecil County Food Bank at 410-272-1883.

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 HOMELAND SECURITY WORKSHOP

A Homeland Security Workshop, "Up Close & Personal," will be held at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. open to all Department of Defense, armed forces, law enforcement officials, and private industry.

Experts in homeland security and law enforcement, from the federal government and industry, will be presenting valuable workshops in wireless security, disaster prevention & recovery, identity theft, technical security planning, homeland security and much more.

Technology companies will be on hand demonstrating the latest in homeland security products and related physical security products. For more information about registration, workshop fees, agenda, speakers, and a complete list of vendors, visit <http://www.fbcinc.com/homelandsecurity>.

For more information, call Mark at 1-800-878-2940 ext. 235 or e-mail [mark@fbcdb.com](mailto:mark@fbcdb.com). This workshop is sponsored by The Federal Business Council & The Training Co., in conjunction with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and PartnerPoint.org.

## AFB HOLIDAY PARTY

The Army Family Team Building community holiday party will be held at the Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All military and Department of Army civilians are invited to bring their children out for an evening filled with games, prizes and treats.

There will also be free pictures with our special guest in his red suit, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Attendees need to R.S.V.P. by Dec. 16 to Army Community Service, 410-278-7572/7478.

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 19 ASMC HOLIDAY PARTY

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Chesapeake Chapter, will host its annual holiday party at Top of the Bay, Gunpowder Room, at 11:30 a.m.

The menu includes fried chicken, baked ham, beef tips ala burgundy, vegetables, salad, rolls, coffee and tea. Cost is \$12. There will be games, 50/50 raffle; door prizes and loads of fun. Donations for the adopted family will be accepted at the party. If interested in attending, contact an ASMC representative.

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 21 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Edgewood Baptist Church and the APG Post Chapel Church choirs invite the community to a performance of "With A Name Like His," a Christmas cantata, at 7 p.m. at the Edgewood Baptist Church, 422 Edgewood Road.

## STABLE MASS

A Stable Mass will be held at the Edgewood Area Post Stables. Participants will leave the Post Chapel at 6:30 p.m. proceeding to the stable while singing carols. Mass will begin at 7 p.m. and a hot chocolate social will be held at the chapel following

Mass. All are welcome to attend this tradition of celebrating Mass among the animals in a manger, which was begun by Francis of Assisi in 1223 a.d.

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 22 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Edgewood Baptist Church and the APG Post Chapel Church Choirs invite the community to a performance of "With A Name Like His," a Christmas cantata, at 10:45 a.m. at the Edgewood Baptist Church, 422 Edgewood Road.

## CHRISTMAS PLAY

First Baptist Church of Aberdeen at 219 E. Bel Air Ave. presents "Hark! The Angels Sing" on Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. See the story of Jesus' birth as told through the eyes of angels. For information, call 410-272-2845.

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 24 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The public is invited to First Baptist Church of Aberdeen at 219 E. Bel Air Ave. for a 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 29 HAVRE DE GRACE CHURCH TOUR

There will be a free, self-guided tour of historic Havre de Grace churches from 2 to 4 p.m. Churches include Havre de Grace United Methodist Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church of Havre de Grace, Zion Temple, First Baptist Church, The Church of St. Patrick, First Christian Church and Christ the King Pentecostal Church.

Brochures are available at Tour Headquarters, Havre de Grace United Methodist Church located on 101 S. Union Ave., 410-939-2464; Havre de Grace Tourism Commission located on Pennington Avenue, 1-800-851-7756; and Discover Harford County Tourism Council located on 3 W. Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen, 1-800-997-2649.

## MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50  
Building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard



### TUCK EVERLASTING

**Friday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.**  
Starring: Alexis Bledel, Ben Kingsley

When Winnie is lost in the woods near her home, she happens upon Jesse, a boy unlike any she's ever met. His family holds a powerful

secret. Winnie must decide whether to return to her life or stay with her beloved Jesse and his family forever. (Rated PG)



### GHOST SHIP (FREE ADMISSION)

**Saturday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.**  
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Julianna Margulies

After discovering the Antonia Graza, an Italian luxury liner a passenger ship missing

since 1962 floating adrift on the Bering Sea, salvagers claim the vessel as their own. Once they begin towing the ghost ship towards harbor, a series of bizarre occurrences happen and the group becomes trapped inside the ship, which they soon learn is inhabited by a demonic creature. (Rated R)

### FORMULA 51

**Saturday, Dec. 14, 9 p.m.**  
Starring: Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Carlyle

Elmo and his blue magic formula have sparked a gold rush. Everyone wants a piece of the action. Who will outsmart whom? Who will double cross whom? But most importantly, who will walk away with the formula? (Rated R)



## HOLIDAY SPECIALTY MEAL

The annual Holiday Specialty Meal is scheduled Dec. 25, noon to 1:30 p.m., in the Aberdeen Area Dining Facility, building 4503. All military, family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited. The standard meal rate of \$5.25 applies to any officer, enlisted member, family member of sergeant or above, retirees and their guests and Department of Defense civilians. Additionally, the discount meal rate of \$4.55 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal and permitted to eat in the

dining facility by the installation commander.

The menu includes turkey noodle vegetable soup, roast prime rib of beef au jus, baked ham, roast turkey, mashed potatoes, baked sweet potatoes, savory bread dressing, seasoned broccoli, seasoned corn, turkey gravy, assorted salads, assorted pastries, assorted fresh fruits, assorted beverages and soft serve yogurt.

Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call the Installation Food Service Office at 410-306-1392/1393/1397/1398.

## OC&S LIBRARY

The Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School library has a portion of its holdings on the FirstSearch database.

Users no longer have to search the old card catalog

to find the title of books held by the library.

This database can only be accessed through computers located in the OMMS library, which is in the basement of building 3071.

The hours are Monday and Friday, noon to 4:15 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

For more information, call 410-278-3471.

## POST CHAPELS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

### Catholic

Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Pageant  
Dec. 20, 6 p.m., EA Confessions  
Dec. 21, 4 p.m., AA Stable Mass procession from chapel to stables  
Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m., EA Stable Mass (Post Stables)  
Dec. 21, 7 p.m., EA Hot Chocolate Social  
Dec. 21, 8 p.m., EA Confessions  
Dec. 24, 4 p.m., EA Family Mass/Christmas Pageant  
Dec. 24, 5 p.m., EA Carols preceding Midnight Mass



Dec. 24, 11:30 p.m., AA Midnight Mass  
Dec. 24, midnight Christmas Day Mass

Dec. 25, 10 a.m., AA Christmas Day Mass  
Dec. 25, 11 a.m., EA Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) Mass  
Dec. 31, 6 p.m., AA Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) Mass  
Jan. 1, 10 a.m., EA

### Protestant

Protestant Choir Cantata  
Dec. 15, 10 a.m., AA Cantata  
Dec. 15, 5 p.m., Grove Presbyterian Church, 50 E. Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen

## Gift Wrap schedule at post exchange

Thursday, Dec. 12 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion  
Soldier Support (AIT)  
1st Lt. Sarai Martin, 410-278-8579

Cyndi Bodeman, 410-676-1404  
Thursday, Dec. 19 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
U.S. Air Force Detachment 1  
Eilen DiCuirci, 410-272-5349

Friday, Dec. 13 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
389th Army Band (AMC's Own)  
Spc. Adam Getz, 410-278-8769

Friday, Dec. 20 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
520th Theater Army Support Group, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
1st Sgt. David Zahn, 410-436-3647  
Aberdeen TEENS Supreme Club, 3 to 9 p.m.  
Norma Warwick, 410-278-4995

Saturday, Dec. 14 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion  
Melissa Brillhart, 410-273-2439

Saturday, Dec. 21 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Aberdeen TEENS Supreme Club, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Edgewood TEENS Supreme Club, 3 to 9 p.m.  
Norma Warwick, 410-278-4995

Sunday, Dec. 15 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
4th Combat Engineer Battalion  
Sarah Ortis-Brown, 410-272-6043

Sunday, Dec. 22 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Edgewood Area Youth Services Club Beyond  
Sue Miedamer, 410-272-8421

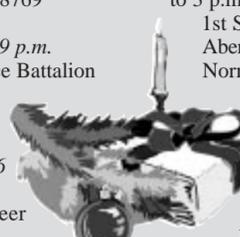
Monday, Dec. 16 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Protestant Women of the Chapel, Aberdeen Area  
Sue Miedamer, 410-272-8421

Monday, Dec. 23 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
4th Combat Engineer Battalion  
Sarah Ortis-Brown, 410-272-6043

Tuesday, Dec. 17 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
16th Ordnance Battalion Coffee Group  
Kim Grubbs, 410-272-9137

Tuesday, Dec. 24 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Tech Escort Unit  
Cindy Stein, 410-588-5866

Wednesday, Dec. 18 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Girl Scout Troop 2025



# MWR Morale, Recreation & Welfare

## Activities

### Tai Chi

Discover the ancient form of martial arts that teaches the integration of the body, mind, and spirit using breathing and balance to relax and renew the mind and soul. Dr. Rocky Farley will classes Jan. 3 to Feb. 3, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the AA Youth Center, and Jan. 7 to 30, 6 to 7 p.m. at the EA Fitness Center. Register by Dec. 20, at MWR Registration, building 3326; AA Fitness Center, building 320; or the EA Fitness Center, building E-4210. Cost for the classes is \$40 or \$100 for three consecutive months. For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil.

### Urban line dancing

Get in the groove and learn some fun basic dance steps in the latest dance craze all over the East Coast. Come out to the Recreation Center Jan. 8 to Feb. 26 to meet new friends and burn off some of that holiday food while you are at it. Classes will be from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. and cost \$55. Register by Jan. 2 at MWR Registration, building 3326. For more information, call Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854 or e-mail earlene.allen@usag.apg.army.mil.

### Ballroom dancing

Basic traditional American Ballroom Dance will be taught Jan. 9 to Feb. 27, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., in the AA Recreation Center. The cost is \$55. Singles and couples are welcome. Register by Jan. 2 at MWR Registration, building 3326. For more information, call Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854 or e-mail earlene.allen@usag.apg.army.mil.

### Beginner racquetball class

Learn the knowledge and gain the ability to play and enjoy the game of racquetball. Learn how to select the proper equipment to use, the basic strategies, hitting techniques and much more. Classes will be held in the APG Athletic Center Jan. 6 to Feb. 3, 7 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$20. For more information, call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868 or e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil.

### Equipment Resource Center special

Rent skis on Dec. 23 and return them on Dec. 26 for a one-day fee of \$14. Also, a year-end special to rent skies Dec. 30 through Jan. 2 costs only \$14 (the cost of a one-day rental fee). For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 410-278-4124 or e-mail outdoor.recreation@usag.apg.army.mil.

### Canasta class

Experience the challenge of competition with the game of canasta. This four-week class, held on Mondays, Jan. 6 to Feb. 3, 6 to 7 p.m., at the AA Recreation Center (building 3326), consists of learning the basic rules and strategies of a card game, which can be played by individuals and families. Cost is \$15.

Register by Jan. 2 at ITR/Central Registration (building 3326, or call 410-278-4907.

For more information, call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868 or e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil.

## APG SCHOOL LIAISON

### MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION

[www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org)

The MCEC has researched on-line resources designed to help the mobile military child succeed.

These resources can be used to help all children. Here are some of the areas to check out: MCEC Read-Up On Reading ([www.MilitaryChild.org/reading-corner.cfm](http://www.MilitaryChild.org/reading-corner.cfm)) features Gotta Look-Great Starting Point, Reading Standards and Assessments, Reading Resource Links on the Internet, Fun Stuff For Kids (and Moms and Dads), Heavy Duty Research Databases and school reading programs.

### THE MCEC ASSESSMENT RESOURCE CENTER

([www.MilitaryChild.org/assessment](http://www.MilitaryChild.org/assessment)) was developed to help parents, students, and educators compare and understand different state testing requirements.

Since testing requirements are constantly changing, the information on this site is updated routinely.

For each state, DoDEA, and Washington, D.C., get the big picture of assessment and accountability in each state education department; get a quick overview of the state assessment program when available; go to a test-by-test description of what's being assessed; learn what's tested in that state; link to downloadable versions of tests; learn when tests are administered; locate test results by school district, school, and grade when available; and check out graduation requirements keeping in mind that the local school district is always the final authority on graduation requirements.

### "JUMP" INTO MENTORING PROGRAM

Twenty-five mentors are needed at Edgewood High School starting in January, one hour per week during school time at the school to assist at-risk-learning disability students in grades 9 through 12.

Training will be provided. Help change the world one student at a time.

For more information about the Juvenile Mentoring Program, a grant funded program of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, or to sign-up, contact Brian Tome, JUMP program coordinator, Alliance, Inc., at 410-994-0600, extension 1138; cell phone, 443-807-1088; fax, 410-658-8045 or e-mail Brian at btome@allianceinc.org (in partnership with School Liaison/Youth Education Services, Ivan Mehosky, director, 410-278-2857; cell, 410-322-0181 or e-mail him at ivan.mehosky@usag.apg.army.mil).

### SCHOOL PARTNER-SHIP MEETING

There will be a meeting on Dec. 19, 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the conference room, building 305 to discuss current APG partnerships that are in place with Harford County Public Schools, and to determine their future direction. If your organization has a partnership or is interested in this area, send a representative.

Part of this process will be to meet each other and find out how many and what kind of partnerships APG has.

Nancy Spence, Harford County Public School coordinator for Business Partnerships will attend the meeting. Request representatives call or e-mail Ivan Mehosky to indicate attendance.

## LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

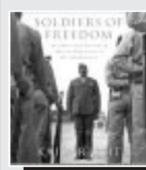
Operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library, building 3320, are Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Edgewood Area library is open on Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For information, call 410-436-3589.

**Kitchen Privileges:** a memoir by Mary Higgins Clark

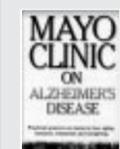
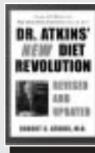


When Mary Higgins Clark's father died in 1939, her mother ran an ad: "Furnished rooms. Kitchen privileges." Thus began a succession of tenants who changed the lives of the Higgins' family and set the young Mary on her start as a writer.



**Soldiers of Freedom: an illustrated history of African Americans in the Armed Forces** by Kai Wright

**Dr. Atkins New Diet Revolution** by Robert C. Atkins

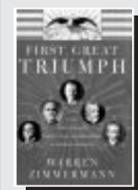


**Mayo Clinic on Alzheimer's Disease**

**The Harley-Davidson Century**



**First Great Triumph: how 5 Americans made their country a world power** by Warren Zimmerman



**On the Shoulders of Giants: the great works of Physics and Astronomy** by Stephen Hawking



To receive a complete listing of the library's new materials via e-mail and also reserve items electronically, call the library at 410-278-4991

## Arts & Crafts classes

### Edgewood Arts & Crafts (building E-4440)

For more information, call Holly Shisler at 410-436-2153 or e-mail her at holly.shisler@usag.apg.army.mil.

### Ceramics

Dec. 14 and Jan. 11  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
\$15 including supplies

### Woodshop Orientation

Dec. 7 and Jan. 4  
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. \$5

### Framing Class

Nov. 21, Dec. 19 and Jan. 30.  
5 to 9 p.m.  
\$25 plus supplies

### Aberdeen Area Arts & Crafts (building 2407)

### Framing Class

Nov. 2, Dec. 7 and Jan. 4  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
\$25 plus supplies

For more information, call Debbie Brooks-Harris, 410-278-4207 or e-mail debbie.brooks-harris@usag.apg.army.mil.

# Christmas holiday schedule for MWR activities

All MWR activities are closed Christmas and New Year's Day

Activity	Thursday Dec. 19	Friday Dec. 20	Saturday Dec. 21	Sunday Dec. 22	Monday Dec. 23	Tuesday Dec. 24	Thursday Dec. 26	Friday Dec. 27
Arts & Crafts AA	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Arts & Crafts EA	1 p.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Athletic Center	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Auto Crafts	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bowling Center	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.	1 p.m. to 10 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. to 6 p.m.	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Equipment Rental Center	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Exton*	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fitness Center AA	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Closed	Closed	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Closed	Closed
Fitness Center EA	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Closed	Closed	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Closed	Closed
Hoyle Gym	5 a.m. to 10 p.m.	5 a.m. to 10 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.
MWR Registration	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Library AA	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Closed	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Closed	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Closed
Library EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center AA	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Ruggles*	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Activity	Saturday Dec. 28	Sunday Dec. 29	Monday Dec. 30	Tuesday Dec. 31	Thursday Jan. 2	Friday Jan. 3	Saturday Jan. 4	Sunday Jan. 5
Arts & Crafts AA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed
Arts & Crafts EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed
Athletic Center	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 10 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Auto Crafts	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bowling Center	1 to 10 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.	1 to 10 p.m.	12 to 6 p.m.
Equipment Rental Center	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.	7 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Exton*	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fitness Center AA	Closed	Closed	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Closed
Fitness Center EA	Closed	Closed	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Closed
Hoyle Gym	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
MWR Registration	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Library AA	1 to 5 p.m.	1 to 5 p.m.	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Closed	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Closed	1 to 5 p.m.	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Library EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center AA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Ruggles*	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\*In event of inclement weather course will be closed and signs posted.

# Scholarship season opens for 2003 to 2004 school year

**Courtney Brooks**  
*Army News Service*

College tuition cost was the highest priority identified by this year's Army Family Action Plan and a number of Army-affiliated organizations are now offering scholarships and loans to ease the financial burden.

Numerous financial aid programs exist, and applications are now being accepted as the 2003 to 2004 scholarship season gets underway. Most programs began accepting applications during early November and set deadlines in February and March.

Army organizations offer everything from randomly selected scholarship winners to providing funds for children of parents killed on active duty. This year, money has even been set aside for students in families impacted by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The most effective way for prospective college students to begin their search is by calling their school liaison officers, who are located at all Army installations, said Sonia Wriglesworth, an education specialist with the Army Community and Family Support Center in Child and Youth Services Directorate.

School liaison officers provide valuable secondary school information, Wriglesworth said. Local officers supply students with the compact disc, "Starter Kit School Liaison Officer Scholarship," which includes listings of more than 100 available scholarships, Wriglesworth said. Also included on the CD are tips for winning scholarships, prioritizing, preparing, contacting schools to explore financial aid opportunities and application deadlines.

"Also, visit Web sites to locate private sector

*See SCHOLARSHIPS, page 14*

## Promotion

*From front page*

as a second lieutenant in 1979, Cosumano noted that McNamara is one of the Army's youngest general officers.

McNamara, an Ohio native who earned his bachelor's degree in business-computer science from The Ohio State University, received his commission on Aug. 30, 1979, through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Ohio State.

Since receiving his first leadership assignment in February 1980 as a platoon leader and tactical control officer for the 68th Air Defense Artillery Battalion at Fort Bragg, N.C., he has held numerous command and leadership assignments.

In addition to his Desert-Storm-era assignment as an operations planning officer with the 11th ADA Brigade and his other air defense artillery assignments in the United States and Germany, McNamara also has served as the commander of the U.S. Army Forces Central Command - Saudi Arabia, in Riyadh; as the chief of a joint warfighting division within the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization in Washington, D.C.; and as director of the Acquisition Integration Team for that organization.

Before attending the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., he was an operations research senior analyst with the Command, Control, Communications and Countermeasures Joint Test Force at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. That assignment gave him some of his early experience in conducting joint military tests.

McNamara credited his DTC headquarters staff as well as the commanders and employees of DTC's test centers around the country with helping him become quickly familiar with the mission and high-profile programs of the command, an organization that tests the Army's developmental weapons, equipment and systems before they are fielded to soldiers.

"When I came out on the Army promotion list in June, the very next day I was slated to take command of the Developmental Test Command," he said. "Walking in the job, I had a lot to learn to be properly qualified as a boss and as a leader."

McNamara added that he developed a "great appreciation of the professionalism of the civilian workforce" throughout the command during his first three months as its commander.

He publicly acknowledged several of the mentors who have helped him develop leadership traits and skills over the years, including Cosumano; retirees Maj. Gen. Joseph Garrett, Brig. Gen. Anson Schulz, Sgt. Maj. Robert Smith; and Lt. Gen. Paul Mikolashek, currently the Army Inspector General.

"I've been very fortunate to follow such great people throughout my career, and I've been very fortunate to have great people in the organizations I've been in," McNamara said. "That's why I have been

successful throughout my career."

He said his rise through the ranks over the years was not only the result of serving with capable leaders and organizations, but also resulted from keeping a focus on his number-one responsibility, support for the individual soldier.

"The change in rank to general officer hasn't necessarily given me a shot in the arm," McNamara said. "Really, it's the opportunity to command and continue to lead that has given me an injection of what I call passion to be in the Army. It is an opportunity to support the Army in what we're trying to do, which is to make sure the individual soldier - who isn't here today, but who is

serving in Saudi Arabia, in Kuwait and in Korea - is provided the best capability."

He stressed the need to test Army equipment so that the soldier will not only have systems that are "optimally capable," but also safe to operate.

Support for soldiers will remain his number-one priority as he serves DTC, he said.

"I never dreamed of being a general officer," he said. "I just strived to continue, after being that lieutenant colonel and battalion commander, to do well for the organization, as I'm trying to do today for a great organization, the Developmental Test Command. Simply put, I love the fact that I am in the Army, I've always loved it, and I will love it in the future."



Photo by SONYA P. REYNOLDS

Center, student Mikayla Brennecke, posing as the school's mascot, an eagle, spreads her wings as she prepares to drop a copy of the APG News in the time capsule as part of the re-dedication ceremony of Edgewood Elementary School, Oct. 6.

(Editor's note: This reprint correctly identifies the student taking part in the ceremony. The staff at APG News apologizes for the error.)

## Scholarships

From page 13

financial aid," Wriglesworth said. "Seek out guidance officers, school liaison centers and libraries."

She recommends American Legion's annually updated publication titled, "Need a Lift," a 152-page financial aid reference guide for veterans, veterans' dependents and members of The American Legion. The manual is available for \$3.95 at the American Legion National Emblem, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, Ind., 46206 or by calling 1-888-453-4466 for credit card orders.

Army-affiliated organizations offer a great deal of the available aid listed on the CD, in the manual and on various

Web sites.

The Retired Officers Association is among the groups helping students fund a university education.

TROA's main program is the Interest-Free Loan and Grant Program. It offers interest-free loans renewable annually for up to five years of full-time undergraduate study, according to the TROA Web site. Assistance is available only to students who have not earned an undergraduate degree. The program provides \$3,750 loans, and students selected as loan recipients and their sponsoring parent must sign a promissory note before funds can be disbursed.

TROA is also offering students the opportunity to win the TROA Base/Post and the American Patriot Scholarships. Applicants for the programs must be planning to

attend an accredited college or university during the 2003 to 2004 school year as full-time students. All loans, grants, and scholarships are for students seeking their first undergraduate degree. Eligibility for the scholarship stipulates the applicant must be under age 24, a child of a TROA member, children of active-duty, Reserve, National Guard, or retired enlisted military personnel.

The selection process for the Base/Post program is different this year, said Trey Linnemeier, program development officer TROA Scholarship Funds. The \$1,000 awards will be granted at random to 100 dependents of active-duty personnel worldwide.

"We wanted to give everyone the chance, no matter what their academic standing was, because everyone can be a TROA member," Linnemeier said. "TROA didn't want to disqualify students who had a harder time academically."

The American Patriot Scholarship, in its second year, was prompted by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Linnemeier said. "It's basically for children whose military parent died on active service."

Eligible applicants can apply and receive more information online at [www.troa.org/education](http://www.troa.org/education). Beginning Jan. 1, the site changes to [www.moaa.org/education](http://www.moaa.org/education).

Another place students might begin their search is by applying for funds at local commissaries.

The Defense Commissary Agency, partnered with the Fisher House Foundation, offer the Scholarships for Military Children Program. Scholarship, school and community activities, leadership qualities, and a short essay are required to enter the contest. Every commissary has applications, and all students are encouraged to apply for the \$1,500 minimum award given out at each base.

While applying for all scholarship awards, students should keep a few things in mind, Wriglesworth said. "Apply only if you're eligible, complete the whole essay, be aware of and meet all deadlines, and make sure your application materials have a final review by somebody else, like an adult."

She said there are endless opportunities available for students in Army families who make an earnest effort.

"When you start looking, it's like a domino effect," Wriglesworth said. "You'll keep finding more and more."

Officials from various organizations repeatedly reiterated that they want to aid students in funding higher education institutions.

"We enjoy helping members of military and military children to get a degree," Linnemeier said. "With each year of rising costs of college, we want to help in whatever way we can."

Robinson agreed. "We recognize that it's a way of giving back to our patron base, military service members and their families," he said. "We recognize that they do a valuable service to our country."

Students may also look into other local opportunities available, like chapters of the Association of the United States Army, the Officers' Wives Club and the Enlisted Wives Club.