

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule

The recycling schedule pickup for Wednesday, Dec. 24, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



CFC exceeds goal

Contributors to the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign not only met the goal of \$300,000 but exceeded it by \$43,979, or 14.66 percent.

Awards were provided in recognition of the generous spirit of all participants. There were 376 Oriole awards (flashlight key ring, \$100 to \$249 contribution); 211 Ravens awards (mini first aid kit, \$250 to \$499); 113 Falcon awards (sand timer, \$500 to \$999); 79 Silver Leadership awards (small Fort McHenry print, \$1,000 to \$1,999); and 17 Gold Leadership awards (large Fort McHenry print, \$2,000 or more).

The campaign ended on Nov. 28, but donations can still be mailed to Combined Federal Campaign, Attn: Lindsay Miller, 100 S. Charles St., 5th Floor, P.O. Box 1576, Baltimore, MD 21203-1576; or call Robert Solyan, 2004 chairperson, 410-306-2275.

Flu shots at KUSAHC

The annual Influenza Immunization Program is in progress at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

Flu shots are being offered to all TRICARE beneficiaries in the Immunization Clinic at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic on a walk-in basis.

Contact the Immunization Clinic at 410-278-1746 for clinic hours during the upcoming holiday schedule.

At this time, flu shots are not being administered to DoD civilian employees. Civilian employees are encouraged to obtain a flu shot from their primary care provider or another civilian source.

Holiday refuse removal schedule

Tuesday's Dec. 23 removals are moved to Monday, Dec. 22 and Thursday's Dec. 25 removals are moved to Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Tuesday's Dec. 30 removals are moved to Monday, Dec. 29 and Thursday's Jan. 1 removal is moved to Tuesday, Dec. 30.

There will be no trash pickup on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

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Holiday ethics

Community ushers in holiday season with tree lighting

Story by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

As they do every December, members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community gathered to usher in the official start of the holiday season with the annual tree lighting ceremony held Dec. 7 near the Post Library.

Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, welcomed Soldiers from the 16th Ordnance Battalion, led by Col. Paul Meredith, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, family members, retirees and civilians to the celebration.

Mark said that celebrants should keep in mind the ser-

vice members serving overseas and of those, like the OC&S Soldiers, who are yet to serve during the holiday season.

"Today our military is deployed around the world," Mark said. "Thanks to their contributions and sacrifices, America is a safer and better place."

Lt. Col. Carol Van Schenkoff offered a prayer for blessings on the community and for those serving in harm's way.

"Always protect and be with those deployed," she said.

After throwing the switch to light the hundreds of bulbs that decorate the tree, Mark led all in the singing of holiday car-

ols.

Right on cue, Santa and Mrs. Claus rode in with sirens blaring, on a fire engine, courtesy of the APG Fire Department.

They passed out candy canes to the children, joked with the soldiers, and led the singing of more carols, then sent all on their way with their best wishes for the holidays.

"Take care and have a safe holiday season," Santa told the Soldiers. "We want you all back safe and sound next year."

The Edgewood Area tree lighting, originally scheduled for Dec. 14, was postponed due to inclement weather.



Photo enhancement by JOSEPH MARCUS
Pfc. Chris Ledo, Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion, belts out a holiday tune for Santa during the Aberdeen Area holiday tree lighting, Dec. 7.

Officer Candidate School Board announced

Deborah Craten Dawson
RDECOM Adjutant

On March 11, the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Meade, will convene a board for soldiers applying for attendance at the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School.

Along with the U.S. Military Academy and the Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Officer Candidate School remains an important source of commissioned officers for the Army. Recently the Army has increased the number of soldiers who may attend OCS.

Candidates should apply through local boards - Fort Meade for APG soldiers - and those selected begin a rigorous, 14-week course of instruction at

Fort Benning, Ga.

Aberdeen Proving Ground soldiers who wish to become commissioned officers should prepare their applications early.

The key prerequisites for eligibility are:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Have a GT score of 110 or higher.
- Pass the Army Physical Fitness Test score 180.
- Pass the Scholastic Aptitude Test, minimum score of 850 or American College Test, with a minimum score of 19.
- Have at least 90 semester hours of college study.
- Achieve a score of 80 or higher on the English Comprehension Level Test, if primary language is not English.

• Be at least 18 years old and less than 30 (can waiver age up to 35). Have a complete physical exam six months prior to date of application.

Completed packets must be submitted to the RDECOM Military Personnel Office no later than Feb. 2.

Each application consists of one packet containing all original documents, and three photocopies of the original packet.

Additional information may be found in Army Regulation 351-5 (Officer Candidate School) or the OCS Web page <http://www.armyocs.com/home/>.

For more information, call the RDECOM Adjutant's Office, 410-436-2130/3239 or e-mail milpo@sbccom.apgea.army.mil.

ASAP open house promotes safe holiday hosting

Story and photos by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Members of the Army Substance Abuse Program set a safe holiday hosting example during their Open House in building 2477, Dec. 11.

Guests feasted on a number of treats and refreshments prepared by the ASAP staff, including meat and fruit trays, curry turkey salad puffs, mini sausages in a special sauce, and thirst-quenching punches with names like Perk a Punch, Fort Knox Punch, and Sunshine Punch. There were also alcohol-free champagne and beer for those who appreciate the taste but not the effects.

Cindy Scott, ASAP prevention specialist, said the event was held to show the community how to celebrate the holidays without alcohol.

"This is all about being a responsible host and having a healthy environment," Scott said.

Each guest received a brochure on responsible hosting that included recipes, safe holiday tips, and information on Maryland laws pertaining to alcohol and drugs.

"Don't let friends drive drunk is the most important message we can send out," Scott said.

Alcohol and driving

- The three most critical skills necessary to driving safely are judgment, vision and reaction.
- Alcohol is a depressant that impairs driver's judgment, vision and reaction.
- Critical driving skills become impaired at alcohol levels well below the legal limit.
- Alcohol can have different effects depending on when the individual has eaten, mood, metabolism, the level of fatigue, and the use of prescription drugs or over-the-counter medications.



A bowl of curry turkey salad and turkey salad puffs offer tasty, healthy treats for guests.

- A 12-ounce can of beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, and a 1-ounce shot of liquor all contain the same amount of alcohol.
- The average body processes alcohol at a rate of about one drink per hour.
- Drinking and driving is a deadly mixture that can cause injury, property damage, and death. A drunk driving conviction can result in court costs and fees, higher automobile insurance rates, fines, loss or suspension of driving privileges and imprisonment.

Making the right choices

- Set a drink limit and don't push drinks; offer food and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Always use a jigger to measure alcohol for drinks. Do not free pour.
- Make alcoholic punches food-based. Use fruit juice or eggnog. This will slow down the absorption rate of the alcohol.
- Never allow guests to drink and drive.

See OPEN HOUSE, page 3

2003 Commander's Cup goes to USMC

Devil Dogs regain bragging rights with three division wins, one post championship

Story and photos by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' U.S. Marine Corps Detachment reestablished itself as the top unit in Aberdeen Proving Ground intramural sports by posting the highest point total to claim the 2003 Commander's Cup award during the annual award ceremony held at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center, Dec. 7.

The unit participated in all 12 sports programs offered throughout the year - finishing first in its division in volleyball, golf and softball; second in volleyball, softball, tennis, and the bench press and deadlift competitions; third in soccer and flag football, the 3-on-3 basketball competition and won the post championship in bowling for a total of 230 points.

Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, and 1st Sgt. Lonzia Hawkins presented the awards. Marni Allison, Morale, Welfare and Recreation program manager, hosted the ceremony.

Guest musicians from the New Destiny Church in

Edgewood included the Rev. Michael Nelson who provided musical selections on keyboard and Bernadette White who sang the national anthem.

Mark congratulated all who participated in the intramural sports program throughout the year, remarking that their enthusiasm was exhibited in the championship games she attended.

"It always seems to take an extra game to decide the winner. That's how hard you play," Mark said. "Ultimately, there can only be one winner, but I compliment and congratulate all participants."

"There's lots to do at APG if you want to do something athletic in nature," she added.

Capt. Douglas Philips, USMC executive officer, accepted the unit's award. He said that winning the cup was a pleasure after finishing as the runner-up last year.

"This is inherent of a winning team. They worked hard and they deserve it," Philips said.

Marine Staff Sgt. Orlando Robinson, the unit's athletic coordinator, added that winning the cup was the goal all

See MARINES, page 12



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 DOD Police:

Aberdeen Area 410-306-2222
Edgewood Area 410-436-2222
Off post in Maryland, call 1-800-492-TIPS (8477).
Your call may save lives.

APG thanks three retirees during November ceremony

Story by Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Two Soldiers and one civilian from three different commands on Aberdeen Proving Ground bid farewell to their careers before family, friends and coworkers during the monthly retirement ceremony held Nov. 26 at Top of the Bay.

Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, led the ceremony.

The honorees included Master Sgt. Edward Allen, Kirk, U.S. Army Medical Clinic; Staff Sgt. Bernard DeWitt, Company B, 16th Ordnance Battalion, U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School; and Billy W. Russell, U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit, RDECOM.

Doesburg noted that it was "not by happenstance," that the ceremony was held the day before Thanksgiving.

"This ceremony gives us a chance to say thanks to great [people] and wish them the best of luck in all their endeavors," Doesburg said. "Without soldiers and civilians like these, we would not in fact have the best Army in the world."

To Allen, who is considering going into teaching, Doesburg said, "Thank you for your service. I have no doubt you will make a fine teacher."

To DeWitt, who plans to enter law enforcement, he said, "I think everyone here understands the importance of first responders. Thank you for your service to our Army."

Doesburg said that Russell distinguished himself during Operation Safe Removal, and that his coworkers have said the positive attitude he brings to the workplace to the workplace will be missed very much.

"Thank you for your 35 years of service," Doesburg said. After thanking the family members, remarking, "This ceremony is for them as well," Doesburg bestowed a final thanks to the honorees on behalf of the nation.

"All of us here today will continue to do well because of you," he said. "On behalf of the country and the U.S. Army, thank you all for your contributions."

Command Sgt. Maj. James A. Barkley, RDECOM, assisted Doesburg in the awards presentation.

Allen and Dewitt received the Meritorious Service Medal, the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement and the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation. Their wives received the Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation.

Russell received the DA Certificate of Appreciation and his wife Jane, received the APG Certificate of Appreciation.

As the honorees formed a receiving line and accepted congratulations from attendees, they reflected on their careers.

Russell said that he is no longer "stressed" and feels like he's going back to his wife after 35 years.

"I can finally do things with her we've been putting off," he said.

"I'm just glad to have him to myself for awhile," Jane Russell added.

DeWitt, who has been stationed on Aberdeen since 1997, said he already misses the military.

"This uniform was a way of life," DeWitt said. "The Army was good to me."

His wife, Mattie, a customer service manager at the Post Commissary, said that hardships were minimal for her and their three children, sons Christian, 13 and Julian, 22 and daughter Devan, 18.

"It's been pretty pleasant for us," she said. "The children always seemed to adjust well."

Allen, accompanied by his wife, Myong Sun, offered thanks to God and to mentors he met along the way.

"There was a command sergeant major at Fort Hood Texas who once told me he thought I had potential," Allen said. "From that point on, I excelled."

He added that former APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Stalling also was an inspiration.

"He instilled qualities in me that gave me a big boost," Allen said.

Master Sgt. Edward Allen is from Macon, Miss.

Allen enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1973 and again in 1979. He served four overseas tours, one in Germany, two in Korea and in numerous stateside assignments. He culminates his 26-year career as the Chief Medical Noncommissioned Officer, Kirk, U.S. Army Health Clinic.

Allen holds a master's in business and a Bachelor's in political science and public service. He plans to move to Columbus, Miss. And go into teaching at the high school and college level. He and his wife have two children, Edward Jr. and Teresa.

Staff Sgt. Bernard DeWitt was born in Cheraw, S.C. He enlisted in the Army in 1984 and served overseas tours in Germany, Southwest Asia, Turkey and Hungary as well as numerous stateside assignments.

DeWitt serves as a writer/instructor and Operations NCO with Company B, 16th Ordnance Battalion, 61st Ordnance Brigade.

Billy W. Russell is a retired Army first sergeant. He served two tours with TEU before his retirement after 22-years in 1985. He returned to TEU in 1989 and over the course of 14 years was involved in many different projects and missions.

They included escort, alert team procedures, disposal missions and remediation projects. His final position was as a supply technician with Company A. He retires with more than 35 years of service.

Russell and his wife have been married for 39 years and have two children, Lisa and John, and five grandchildren.

His plans for retirement include traveling and spending time with his wife.



Aberdeen Proving Ground's newest retirees, from left, Master Sgt. Edward Allen, Kirk, U.S. Army Health Clinic, and his wife, Myong Sun; Staff Sgt. Bernard DeWitt, U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, and his wife, Mattie, and Billy W. Russell, U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit, and his wife Jane, stand for the playing of the national anthem during the monthly retirement ceremony at Top of the Bay, Nov. 26.

Photo by RALPH BROTH

Uniformed services' reemployment rights explained

<http://www.esgr.com/employers/thelaw.asp?c=userra0.html>

Many American companies are going beyond the call of their legal responsibility to assist their employees who are members of the National Guard and Army Reservists called to active duty.

These companies not only pay their citizen-soldiers the legally-required minimum, but they also make up the difference between their active-duty stipend and their usual salary, and also pay their usual salary in full.

Employers are required by law to hold the jobs of Reservists and Guardsmen open while they're away, and to pay them at least one-half their usual rate of pay.

The Veterans' Reemployment Rights Law (signed in 1940), Chapter 43, Title 38 of the U.S. Code, is the primary federal law governing reservists' job security in the public and private sector. Under VRR, reservists returning from active duty lasting four years or less were guaranteed the jobs they left or an equivalent position, as long as they return within 90 days of being relieved from active duty.

To be eligible for reemployment under VRR, a reservist must:

- Leave a position other than a temporary position.
- Satisfactorily complete the period of active duty and have a certificate to that effect.
- Qualify to perform the duties of the position, or if disabled, the nearest comparable job.
- Apply within the allotted time frame after separation from active duty.

On Oct. 13, 1994, the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act was signed into United States law (Chapter 43, Part III, Title 38) as part of the VRR statute. The USERRA expands the rights of servicemen and women who return to the workforce after military service.

Under USERRA, employees are protected for five years (cumulative) of military leave from a pre-service employer. Notice must be provided to employers by either written or verbal communication with as much advance notice as possible. USERRA makes no specific requirements concerning how much notice an employer should receive but employers are allowed to request actual military documentation, such as a copy of military orders, after 30 days of military absence. Employers must reinstate employees returning from military duty

according to the following criteria:

- Service of 1-30 days: Employee returns to work the beginning of the next regularly scheduled work period on the first full day following completion of service and expiration of an 8-hour rest period following safe transportation home.
- Service of 31-180 days: Employee application for reinstatement must be submitted not later than 14 days after completion of military duty.
- Service of 181 or more days: Employee application for reinstatement must be submitted not later than 90 days after completion of military duty.

USERRA "clarifies and strengthens" the rights provided in the VRR and "is intended to minimize the disadvantages to an individual that occur when that person needs to be absent from his or her civilian employment to serve in this country's uniformed services. USERRA makes major improvements in protecting service members' rights and benefits by clarifying the law and improving enforcement mechanisms. It also provides employees with Department of Labor assistance in processing claims. Specifically, USERRA expands the

cumulative length of time that an individual may be absent from work for uniformed services duty and retain reemployment rights."

Those suffering injury or an acquired disability while on active military duty may request up to a two-year extension for the reemployment deadline following service. Guidelines provided by USERRA also stipulates that employees should resume work "(A) in the position of employment in which the person would have been employed if the continuous employment of such person with the employer had not been interrupted by such service, the duties of which the person is qualified to perform or (B) in the position of employment in which the person was employed on the date of commencement of the service in the uniformed services, only if the person is not qualified to perform the duties of the position referred to in to in subparagraph (A) after reasonable efforts by the employer to qualify the person."

For a list of companies that are going beyond their legal responsibilities in supporting employees deployed as reservists, see <http://www.coldfury.com/HF/index.html>.

APG News

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UNITING COMMON GOALS



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, left, and Henry Scott, business representative, Local 2424, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace workers, (IAM&AW), relax after signing the newly renegotiated agreement between management and the union that covers working conditions and policies of wage grade/wage leader employees in the Garrison, the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, Army Research Laboratory, and Ordnance Center and Schools; and wage grade/wage leader/general schedule employees in Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and the U.S. Army Dental Activity. The new contract will become effective upon approval by the Department of Defense. Looking on, front row, from left, Joseph McDeshen and Linda Bryant, management negotiating team members; Diane Smith, director, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; Kimberly Hart, management negotiating team member; and C.W. Watson, management chief negotiator. Back row from left, Joseph Craten, garrison civilian deputy, Michael Wise, Charles Gambrell, Paul Jones, vice president, Local Lodge 2424 union negotiating team members; and Thomas Buetner, president, Local Lodge 2424.

Chaplain's Corner

Commentary: A clean resolution



Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Curtis

One day, late in my senior year of college, my roommates and I got in to a disagreement as to who would take out the trash from our apartment. For weeks, the trash piled up. It piled up quite neatly in bags and boxes right next to the door. But, not one person would move one bit of the pile do the dumpster we

each walked by on our way to class each day. The smell in the apartment got unbearable.

Finally, we decided that we needed to clean up the problem. Without even knowing who was supposed to start, the deal was that each of us would take one bag or box each time we walked past the dumpster. It took a few days, but eventually the pile was whittled away just to one last bag - the bag which had been there for almost a month. My roommate decided it was time for a ceremonial removal and lifted the bag only to discover that everything inside had liquefied, causing the paper bag to weaken... and then spill all over our living room. It was a disaster that took us even longer to clean up.

As we look at our lives, we might have such disasters strike here and there, we

might have a mess in our lives that requires a special cleaning. Fortunately, God does that cleaning for us. We don't have to do anything more than let him do it.

The Bible says that God has much grace for us in Psalm 103:8: "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in grace."

This should be great news for each of us, because many of us do things or think thoughts each day which would anger God - unholy thoughts, actions which do not promote a view of people who would like to follow him. These are things that make a mess in our lives.

The great grace that God has causes him to remove our sin from us. The grace causes us to be cleaned - by God. Psalm 103:12 states, "As far as

the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sin from us."

He is the one who cleans up our lives when we ask for forgiveness, when we give our lives to him through faith in the work that Jesus Christ did on the cross in dying for our sin.

We don't have to resolve to clean our lives on our own - this would be impossible. It would be like my carpet trying to clean itself. But, we do need to resolve to let God into our lives to do that cleaning work. We need to put our faith in him alone and trust in his grace to clean our lives.

(Editor's note: Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Curtis is the Battalion chaplain for the 16th Ordnance Battalion and active in the 10:15 a.m. Protestant Worship Service.)

Army to update ID cards and DEERS for Reserve Component

OCPA

The Army announced Nov. 24 ongoing initiatives to update Reserve Component Soldiers and family members' identification cards and information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

Due to the extension of Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers on active duty in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the Army estimates as many as 55,000 Soldiers will need new identification cards while still in the theater of operations.

Limited access to system connectivity in these countries and a widely dispersed population that needs replacement identification cards, make it necessary to expedite issuance of these cards, which convey benefits and privileges and will act as the Soldiers' Geneva Conventions card.

In addition to the mobilized Soldiers affected, there are an estimated 95,000 family members who will require new ID cards, and also require that their eligibility for services and access to facilities be updated in the DEERS.

In order to update DEERS, a Soldier's tour end date must be updated in the component personnel information systems. Updating this information depends on what type of extension they fall under.

Of the estimated 55,000 Soldiers that require ID cards, approximately 10,000

have already had their tour dates extended and DEERS information updated.

RC Soldiers on their first or second year of mobilization fall under Title 10 United States Code 12302 for a maximum 24-month partial mobilization. Extension orders by unit, once approved, are forwarded from the Army G3 to theater.

Units will compile and forward a by-name roster of Soldiers who will be extended on active duty past 365 days through U.S. Army Human Resources Command-Alexandria (AHRC) to individual state Joint Forces Headquarters, AHRC-St Louis and the USAR Regional Readiness Commands. These rosters will help ensure all Soldiers are accounted for in the extension process in order to ensure correct eligibility for all benefits.

Joint Forces Headquarters in each state and the RRCs will amend the original mobilization orders and distribute them to ARNG and Reserve Soldiers and their respective units. These orders will ensure there are continued pay and benefits and proper fiscal tracking.

Upon receipt of the roster of extended personnel, both the ARNG and AHRC-St. Louis will update eligibility end dates in their personnel systems, which in turn updates DEERS.

Once the new date is posted to DEERS, Soldiers and family members can get a new ID card at any DoD ID Card issuance

facility.

Family members do not need the signature of their sponsor in order to get a new card. Regulations permit issuance to family members of deployed Soldiers without a signed DD Form 1172, Application for Uniformed Services Identification Card - DEERS Enrollment, as long as eligibility can be confirmed in the DEERS system.

Family members wishing to confirm eligibility can call 1-800-538-9552 or 1-800-334-4162 (California), 1-800-527-5602 (Alaska and Hawaii).

Family members can locate the nearest ID card issuing facility at the Rapids Site Locator Web page at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl>.

If DEERS fails to reflect the extension, family members can call the RC Personnel Services Support Division in AHRC-Alexandria for assistance, commercial 703-325-0083. For other DEERS issues, family members can call the DEERS/Realtime Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) Project Office, commercial 703-325-2595.

The AHRC-Alexandria DEERS/RAPIDS Support Office will transmit a MILPER message to the field reinforced by a DoD wide email message to all DEERS/RAPIDS offices in the very near future to alert them to this issue and what they should do to support these Soldiers and family members.

Fact of the Week

To reduce solid waste, reuse bags, containers, boxes, paper, glass jars and other items.

- APG Pollution Prevention Program

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Letter to the editor:

Dear Edgewood Area Soldiers in the blue van,
Thanks for giving me a ride to my car last Friday morning at the PT field. I know I was an inconvenience because the van was full, but I want you to know I appreciate the ride.
My foot was fractured from messing with that pot-hole.

HOOAH blessings,
Carol Vanschenkof
Garrison Chaplain

Open House

From front page

- Never serve alcohol to anyone under 21.
- Never ride in a car with anyone impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- Stop serving alcoholic beverages 90 minutes before your party is over. Serve a dessert treat, coffee, tea and soft drinks.
- Offer guests who appear to be impaired non-alcoholic beverages or offer to mix their drinks for them.
- Keep the focus on the celebration - not on drinking. Party games and sing-alongs are socially acceptable and fun for all ages.

An attractive platter of holiday cookies on hand during the ASAP Open House offered guests an example of a tasty snack that also slows alcohol absorption.

Holiday Recipes

Sunshine Punch

Two 12-ounce cans frozen pineapple orange juice
One 12-ounce can frozen apple juice
One 2-liter bottle ginger ale sherbet (any flavor; rainbow looks the nicest)
Prepare juices according to directions. Pour juices into punch bowl. Add ginger ale and scoop sherbet on top.
Serves 30.

Mini sausages with special sauce

Two 1-pound packs of mini smoked sausages
Mix together eight ounces of grape jelly and one 12-ounce can of chili sauce (not cocktail sauce) in a saucepan until well blended.
Place sausages in saucepan and simmer for 30 minutes.
Serve with toothpicks.
This recipe works well in a crock pot.

For more recipes and safe holiday tips, stop by the ASAP office in building 2477 or call 410-278-DRUG (3784).

Religious service Christmas schedule

Catholic services

Saturday, Dec. 20
7 p.m. - Stable mass, EA

Wednesday, Dec. 24
5 p.m. - Children's pageant mass, EA

Wednesday, Dec. 24
11 p.m. - Music cantata, AA - followed by midnight mass

Christmas, Dec. 25
10 a.m. - mass, AA

Christmas, Dec. 25
11 a.m. - mass, EA

Wednesday, Dec. 31
5 p.m. - New Year's Eve mass, AA

New Years Day, Jan. 1
11 a.m. - mass, EA

Protestant services

Sunday, Dec. 21
9:15 a.m. - Advent service, EA

Sunday, Dec. 21
10:15 a.m. - Advent and cantata service, AA

Wednesday, Dec. 24
6:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve candlelight service, AA

Gospel services

Sunday, Dec. 21
12:30 p.m. - Sunday services, AA

Sunday, Dec. 21
5 p.m. - Youth Christmas Program, AA

www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

First Baptist Church of Aberdeen

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Discipleship Training 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

- Youth Ministry Teams
- SBC Children's Mission Program (3 yrs. - 6th grade)
- Prayer Meeting

Dr. Gary Johnson, Pastor
219 E. Bel Air Ave. • Aberdeen, MD 21001
410-272-2845

NO ROOM AT YOUR HOUSE FOR THE HOLIDAYS? THERE'S ROOM AT THE INN!

SLEEP INN Edgewood
"Indoor Pool"

Best Western Invitation Inn
Wild's Restaurant & Lounge

Comfort Inn Edgewood
"Free Local Calls"

Located in Edgewood off I-95 at Exit 77A, you will find us conveniently near Bel Air, Belcamp, Churchville, Aberdeen and Havre de Grace, you'll find what you are looking for with us. For more information or to make your reservation, simply ask for the LHOME rate

1-800-408-4748 www.hesshotels.com

Visit the APG News online!

For the most up-to-date information in the community, check out the APG News Web site.
<http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil>

POST SHORTS

The only scheduled pickup for Christmas trees is Monday, Jan. 5.

Christmas holiday gate operations

The Harford Gate, or Route 22, in the Aberdeen Area and the Wise Road Gate, or Edgewood Road in the Edgewood Area, will be closed from 8 p.m., Dec. 24 through Jan. 4, for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. The Harford Gate and Wise Road Gate will reopen 4 a.m., Jan. 5.

Santa is coming to APG

Escorted by the APG Fire and Emergency Services Division, Santa Claus plans to visit Edgewood Area housing Dec. 22 at approximately 6 p.m. On occasion, he will get off the fire truck and greet children and parents.

On Dec. 23, Santa will visit Aberdeen Area housing at the same time, but due to his busy schedule that day, will stay on the fire truck.

Santa will be waving to children and parents while riding on top of a firetruck with a spotlight on. He will give out small candy canes at each location.

WRAMC holiday bus curtailment

The Walter Reed Army Medical Center Bus will not operate from Dec. 22 through Jan. 2, 2004. Normal bus operations will resume on Jan. 5.

For more information, call Arthur Mellinger at 410-278-2161/4811.

Requesting the band

The 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) is unavailable for commitments through Dec. 31. Any questions regarding scheduling the band should be referred to Sgt 1st Class Marvin Hunter, 410-278-4380.

ACS assists families for the holidays

With the holiday season fast approaching, Army Community Service would like to remind the APG community that ACS is the point of contact for military families seeking assistance.

This includes active duty Soldiers, Active Guard and Reservists, retirees, widows and widowers.

ACS also partners with agencies seeking to sponsor families for the holidays.

In the past, ACS has supported over 200 military families during the holidays in partnership with on-post agencies, as well as local businesses.

The families appreciated the fact that the APG community was there to assist them in their time of need. The names of military families in need of holiday assistance must be referred through the unit's commander.

APG organizations may sponsor families with monetary donations, food baskets, toys, and gifts. For more information, call Arcelio Alleyne, 410-278-2450.

Marines Toys for Tots drive continues

One new toy could mean the difference between a smile and just another day of disappointment to a needy child.

Deer Creek Archery, 3021 Churchville Road, is an official Marine Corps Toys for Tots collection location.

Now through Dec. 21, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the Pro-Shop on Thursday, 4 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, noon to 9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information or for directions, visit Web site at www.deercreekarchery.com or call 410-734-9554.

APG News Web site takes a holiday

The APG News Web site Dec. 11 through 26 issues will be updated on Dec. 29.

The site is located at

www.apgnews.apg.army.mil. For more information, call the editor at 410-278-1150.

Nominations for William H. Kushnick, John W. Macy Jr. Awards

Nominations for the William H. Kushnick Award and the John W. Macy Jr. Award for CY 2003 are due to the Office of the Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel Policy, Policy and Program Development Division, by close of business Jan. 30.

These awards recognize outstanding achievements of Department of the Army civilians. All civilian employees, appropriated fund and non-appropriated fund, U.S. citizens, and local nationals engaged in Civilian personnel administration in the Department of the Army (DA) are eligible for nomination for the William H. Kushnick Award. Any DA supervisor, military or civilian (Colonel/GS-15 or below), U.S. citizen or local national, appropriated or non-appropriated fund, is eligible for nomination for the John W. Macy Jr. Award.

Requirements for the nomination may be found at <http://cpol.army.mil>.

For more information, call Dolores Miranda at DSN 221-6641 or 703-325-6641, or e-mail Dolores.Miranda@asamra.hoffman.army.mil.

For more information on the William H. Kushnick Award, see <http://cpol.army.mil/perm/5493.html>. For more information on the John W. Macy Jr. Award, see <http://cpol.army.mil/perm/5494.html>.

Possible delays at gate

In late December, APG Garrison will begin constructing shelters at APG's entrance gates for protection from winter weather during vehicle inspections.

The construction may cause delays upon entering and exiting the installation.

For traffic issues, call Officer Joe Davis, acting traffic division supervisor, 410-278-5451.

For construction questions, call Greg Bryant, contracting officer representative, 410-306-1178.

EA Shoppette begins new hours

The Edgewood Area Shoppette, building E-4010, will be open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Civilians are authorized to purchase food items.

The shoppette carries frozen food, quarter pounders with cheese, chicken sandwiches, rib sandwiches, Krispy Kreme donuts, new items and special request items.

FEMA Helpline hours change

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that the hours of operation for the toll-free Helpline serving Marylanders affected by Hurricane Isabel have changed to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Individuals who have applied for disaster assistance from FEMA and have questions about their application may call the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or TTY 1-800-462-7585. Helpline operators are available to assist callers with questions on the status of their disaster assistance application, change of applicant's address or other application information, how insurance settlements affect disaster assistance applications, or other questions about assistance.

Theater holiday schedule

The Post Theater will be closed from Dec. 19 through Jan. 9.

Outreach Office holiday schedule

The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 1011B Woodbridge Center Way, Edgewood, will be closed Dec. 24 to Dec. 26, and Jan. 1. On Dec. 31, it will close at 1 p.m.

Regular operating hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. For more information, call 410-676-6800.

Lose weight for the holidays

Lunchtime Weight Watchers meetings are continuing on post with the newest program from Weight Watchers' - FlexPoints. FlexPoints makes losing weight in the real world easier.

Get 11 weeks for the price of 10.

Lunchtime Weight Watchers meetings are open to all APG civilian personnel, retirees, military personnel and family members.

For more information, call 410-278-1151.

NAF employees receive credit for military service

Regular Nonappropriated Fund employees participating in the NAF Retirement Program may be eligible to purchase certain prior military service to be credited for NAF retirement benefit computations.

Employees having previous creditable military service, that has not been used under any other employer's retirement system, may wish to purchase their military service (not to exceed five years) to be credited for NAF retirement benefit computation purposes.

The entire deposit must be paid to the USANAF Employment Retirement Plan before Separation for Retirement or the post military service will not be credited.

For employees participating in the Plan on Jan. 1, 1998, interest is first added to the unpaid balance of the deposit on Jan. 1, 2001.

For further information or an appointment, employees are encouraged to call NAF Personnel, Julie Bates, 410-278-8994, or Jean Futty, 410-278-8993. editor at 410-278-1150.

ARL hearing study

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory is conducting a study on hearing.

Participants need to be 18 to 30 years old with normal hearing.

The time commitment is 5 hours, and each participant will be paid \$10 per hour. Employees of ARL and their relatives are not eligible.

Interested volunteers should call Justin MacDonald, 410-278-5925, or e-mail him at jmacdonald@arl.army.mil; or Martha Dennison, 410-278-5918, or e-mail her at mjdenis@arl.army.mil.

Toastmasters meet in Edgewood Area

The Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562 meets on the first and third Monday of every month at 11:40 a.m. at The Gunpowder Club.

The lunchtime club offers an opportunity for people to improve communication, leadership and listening skills and to overcome fear of public speaking.

For more information, call 410-941-1120 or 410-734-6573.

Employee LES changes

Effective with the pay period ending Jan. 24, Social Security numbers will be "masked" and only the last four digits will show on civilian employees' printed Leave and Earning Statements.

This change should help protect employees against identity theft. Only the printed LES will reflect the change and the full nine-digit SSN

numbers will be visible on the LES electronically on myPay.

CWF hosts trips

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a trip to Broadway, in New York City to see "The Lion King" on April 17. Cost of the trip is \$135 per person and includes charter bus transportation and theater ticket. The bus will depart from the Aberdeen Area 6 a.m. The show begins 2 p.m., leaving time for shopping/touring and lunch prior to the show.

They also will sponsor a trip to Scotland, May 11 through 19.

Trip highlights include a ferry to the Isle of Skye, Edinburgh Castle, Loch Ness, sightseeing with local guides to a malt whiskey distillery, the Duke of Athol's Blair Castle, the Museum of the Isles on the Isle of Skye, Inverewe Gardens, and more.

Cost per person is \$2,250 for single occupancy, \$1,999 each for double-occupancy, and \$1,960.00 each for triple-occupancy. Price includes airfare, hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation in Scotland, seven Scottish breakfasts, five three-course dinners, taxes, tours, and tips for baggage handlers.

A \$200 deposit per person is due upon reservation.

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

After Hours Clinic

The After Hours Clinic at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is closed on Sundays and holidays. Patients needing advice on health care can call the Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-308-3518.

Anyone with an emergency problem should call '911' or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

Database of scholarships

All personnel in the military community, including dependents, are encouraged to search MilitaryReport.com's Education Center scholarship database, which has a listing of \$300 million in scholarship funds.

In addition to the scholarship search available, the educational services provide comprehensive and updated information on educational benefits, such as the G.I. Bill, Veterans Educational Assistance Program and Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.

To access these education services, visit <http://www.military.com/Carriers/Education/1,13289,,00.html?ESRC=mr.nl>.

New Internet address for PMCD

Public information about the Army's chemical weapons disposal program is available at a redesigned Web site: <http://www.pcmd.army.mil>.

To obtain comments or arrange an interview with a chemical weapons disposal program representative, contact the Public Outreach and Information Office at 1-800-488-0648.

Early morning Child Development hours

The CDC staff is considering opening the Aberdeen and Edgewood area centers Monday through Friday for Soldiers who participate in early morning physical training.

The rate would be \$23 per month for three days per week and \$40 per month for five days per week from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. These rates apply only for Soldiers participating in early morning PT.

For patrons not currently enrolled in the Child/Youth Services programs, an annual \$15 registration fee will be required.

If interested in using this service at the AA Child Development Center, call Ruth

Strauss, 410-278-711, or e-mail her at ruth.strauss@usag.apg.army.mil.

At the EA Center, call Myria Figueroa, 410-436-8361, or send an e-mail to myria.figueroa@usag.apg.army.mil.

Safety reminder

The APG Garrison Safety Council reminds motorists that turning on headlights is mandatory when operating windshield wipers.

Turning them on at dusk is also a good safety habit.

Kirk offers 'Take care of yourself' class

Class will be held the third Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon.

All TRICARE Prime beneficiaries are eligible to attend. Instruction will be provided to teach patients how to treat minor illnesses and injuries at home, and when to see a doctor.

The classes will be conducted by a registered nurse using the "Take Care of Yourself" handbook. See article on the book on page 11.

At the end of each class, Medication Cards will be given out which will allow patients to pick-up specific over-the-counter medications without a prescription.

For more information and to register for classes, call Preventive Medicine, 410-278-1964. (See article on page 11.)

EOC phone numbers

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Emergency Operations Center is under the direct control of the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment/Fire Department. For information, call 410-278-3182 and 410-278-3183.

Flexible Spending Account open season begins soon

The Flexible Spending Account Open Season also coincides with the FEHB Open Season. To enroll in the FSA, contact the carrier SHPS directly at Web site <https://www.fsafeds.com/fsafeds/> or call 1-877-FSAFEDS (372-3337).

Questions may be directed to Teri Wright, CPAC, 410-278-4331, teri.wright@usag.apg.army.mil, or to a servicing personnel assistant.

Religious education

The Protestant, Gospel, and Catholic congregations announce the start-up of their Sunday Religious Education Programs for Fall 2003.

Aberdeen
Protestant, 9 a.m.
CCD, 10 a.m.
Gospel, 11:30 a.m.
Edgewood
CCD, 9:15 a.m.
Protestant, 11 a.m.

For more information, call the Post Chapel, 410-278-4333.

Workplace Violence Prevention Training

Workplace Violence Prevention classes are available for one or two hours and can be used to meet CO2 requirements.

Classes can be scheduled for the office, or a location can be arranged.

Topics include Community Skills Training, APG's Workplace Violence Program Overview, Diversity in the Workplace and Managing Your Stress.

For more information or to schedule a class, call Paul Papp at 410-306-1079, or e-mail him at paul.papp@usag.apg.army.mil.

Join Weight Watchers on Jan. 7

APG's Weight Watchers at Work Program will begin a new series of lunchtime meetings on Jan. 7. Get the advantage of group support where it's convenient at work.

Try the new Weight

Watchers FlexPoints system. FlexPoints make losing weight in the real world easier.

Lunchtime Weight Watchers meetings are open to all APG civilian personnel, retirees, military personnel and family members. For more information, call 410-278-1151.

Ordnance Museum hours

The U.S. Army Ordnance Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. daily, and closed all holidays except Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day.

For more information, call 410-278-3602 or visit Web site www.ordmusfound.org.

Veterans needed

The Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs is compiling a list of veterans who are interested in becoming members of a speakers' bureau to attend and participate in local functions.

This resource list will consist of veterans from all eras to present a balanced perspective of the costs to maintain freedom.

Any veteran who would like to be included on this list, or who wishes to discuss this project, should call Mike Poulin, Harford Community College designee to the commission, at 410-836-4172 or e-mail him at mpoulin@harford.cc.md.us.

AA Thrift Shop offers discount

The Aberdeen Area Thrift Shop offers 10 percent off total purchase to patrons who present this ad.

The Thrift Shop sales hours are Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Consignment hours are Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call 410-272-8572.

Online resource for Operation Iraqi Freedom

An online reference for frequently asked questions about Operation Iraqi Freedom, to include supporting soldiers, mail, family related issues and locating soldiers is at <http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html>.

ASAP offers training materials

The Army Substance Abuse Program has updated training materials in video, pamphlet, booklet and CD format.

Topics include alcohol, heroin, cocaine, Ecstasy, and more.

Training materials can be used in meeting the mandatory four hours of military training and the three hours of required training for all civilians.

Anyone with questions about preparing for a class should call Troy Denson, prevention coordinator, 410-278-3137.

EOC phone numbers

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Emergency Operations Center is under the direct control of the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment/Fire Department. For information, call 410-278-3182 and 410-278-3183.

APG Telephone Directory update

The Directorate of Information Management is currently validating the garrison and tenant information in the Aberdeen Proving Ground Telephone Directory.

The purpose of this validation is to ensure that the Emergency Response System (911) has electronic access to accurate information.

DOIM representatives will be calling individual numbers to verify that the name, building, floor, and room number

Community Notes

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18 EXODUS SUPER SUPPER SPECIALTY MEAL

The Exodus Super Supper Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, for Dinner, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

During this event all military personnel, family members, department of defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$3.25 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, department of defense civilian, retiree and their guests.

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

The Exodus Super Supper Specialty Menu includes chicken noodle soup, grilled steaks, shrimp scampi, fried catfish, chicken cordon bleu, freedom fries, rice pilaf, baked macaroni and cheese, seasoned mushrooms and onions, broccoli with cheese sauce, corn O'brien, assorted salad bar, hot dinner rolls, German tomato salad, creamy cole slaw, jellied fruit salad, chocolate chip cookies, cheese cake, carrot cake, soft serve yogurt with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification. For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green at 410-306-1393/1398.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20 JOY NIGHT

The Young Adult Choir of St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will host Joy Night beginning at 7 p.m. Come and celebrate the Christmas Season. For more information, call 410-939-2267.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Edgewood Baptist Church and the APG Post Chapel Church Choirs will perform a Christmas Cantata, "Treasures of Christmas: Joyful Sounds of the Season," 10:45 a.m. at the Edgewood Baptist Church, 422 Edgewood Road, a.m.; Edgewood. Everyone is invited to the free concert. Nursery service also will be provided. For more information, call 410-676-5838.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Grove Presbyterian Church located at 50 East Bel Air Avenue (corner of Old Post Road and East Bel Air Avenue), Aberdeen, will present 'Sounds of the Season' at 5 p.m. The musicians of Grove Church to include A Joyful Noise in the Grove bell choir, the Chancel

Choir, soloists and instrumentalists will provide special music. A light reception will follow.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY SPECIALTY MEAL

The Christmas Day Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building 4503 for lunch, noon to 1:30 p.m. During this event all military personnel, family members, department of defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$5.25 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, department of defense civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$4.55 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Christmas Day Specialty Menu includes cream of broccoli soup, roast prime rib of beef au jus, baked ham, roast turkey, honey glazed Cornish hens, mashed potatoes, scalloped sweet potatoes and apples, corn bread dressing, green beans with mushrooms, seasoned corn, turkey gravy, brown and serve rolls, assorted salad bar, assorted salads, assorted pastries, soft serve yogurt with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change

without prior notification. For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green at 410-306-1393/1398.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31 NEWYEAR'S EVE MILITARY FAMILY/SOLDIER PARTY

All military families and soldiers from Aberdeen and Edgewood areas of the proving ground are invited to a New Year's Eve Military Family/Soldier Party, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., at the Gunpowder Club, building E-4650.

Bring the entire family to the party. Food, drinks, music and party favors will be provided. There will be games, toys and crafts for the children, as well as childcare services.

The party will be split with one ballroom for children and the main ballroom for adults. Note: Main ballroom strictly for adults only.

Cost is \$2 for adults. Children's admission is free but a donation is requested for the childcare providers. There is a room capacity so tickets should be reserved soon, or arrive early.

For more information or tickets, call Sharon Dixon, 410-297-6899.

FRIDAY JANUARY 9 AMERICAN LEGION HOSTS

COMEDY SHOW

American Legion Post 128, 44 North Parke Street, Aberdeen, will host a comedy show 7 to 10 p.m. with proceeds benefitting World War II veterans' memorial programs.

The show will feature comedy by John Dodge and Uncle Nic as well as Jim Bishop, who has appeared on Comedy Central and performs regularly in Atlantic City, N.J.

Cost is \$10 per person and includes finger food, draft beer and sodas. For reservations, call 410-272-9822.

SATURDAY JANUARY 24 BASKET BINGO

The Military and Civilian Spouses' Club will sponsor Basket Bingo, 7 p.m., at the Edgewood Area Gunpowder Club. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per ticket for three cards and additional sets of three cards cost \$5. Tickets will also be sold at the door if available. Food, a bake sale and drinks will be available and there will be door prizes, special games and raffles.

Visitors can obtain a pass onto post with any valid picture ID at the gate.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Amy Carlson at 410-939-6429, or Susan Burnett at 410-272-8438.

Holiday closings and hours

Aberdeen Commissary

Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Dec. 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 25, closed
Dec. 26, closed
Dec. 29, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Jan. 1, closed

APG Main Store

Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25, closed
Dec. 26 through 27, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Dec. 28, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 29 through 31, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Jan. 1, closed
Jan. 2 and 3, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Jan. 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

APG MCSS

Dec. 24
Dec. 19 through Jan. 5, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Jan. 1, closed
Dec. 25, closed

APG Shoppette

Dec. 24, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25, closed
Dec. 26 and 27, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 28, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 29 through 31, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Jan. 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Jan. 2 through 4, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Burger King

410-273-7464
Dec. 20 through Jan. 4, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, closed

Normal hours resume Jan. 5

Donna's Pit Beef

Closed Dec. 20 through Jan. 5.

EA Shoppette

Dec. 24 through Jan 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, closed

Re-Nu-It Centers

Dec. 22, 23, 29 and 30, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 through Jan. 6, closed
Normal operations will resume on Jan. 7.

Top of the Bay

Dec. 22 through Jan. 2, closed

OMMS LIBRARY

The Organizational Mechanical Maintenance Library hours are Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8:45 p.m. and Friday noon to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 410-278-4991.

The Challenge, autobiography by Col. Margaret E. Bailey

Federal Employees Almanac 2002

War In European History by Michael Howard

Carnage and Culture by Victor D. Hanson

Organizing Genius, the secret of creative collaboration by Warren Bennis

Moral Issues in Military Decision Making by Anthony E. Hartle

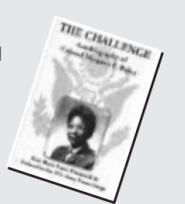
Personal Finance for Dummies, 3rd ed. by Eric Tyson, MBA

Prepare the Army for War by Military History Office

How to Go To College for Almost Free by Ben Kaplan

Air Force Spoken Here, Gen Ira Eaker and the Command of the Air by James Parton

A complete annotated listing of the library's new material can be found on the Internet, as well as the library's online catalog: www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html.



APG closing announcements

If the installation is closed, is experiencing a delay in opening or if liberal leave is in effect due to weather or other emergency situations, check for postings on the local television and radio stations (listed below), WAPG-TV Channel 3 (on Aberdeen Proving Ground), or call 410-278-SNOW (7669). A recorded telephone message will contain updated information and should begin at about 5 a.m.

Announcements about federal offices in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to APG; listen for those that name APG specifically.

For general information, call 410-278-1147, the APG Public Affairs Office.

The radio and television stations are:

Station	Frequency	Location
WAMD	AM 970	Aberdeen
WXCX	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WARM	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WBAL-TV	Channel 11	Baltimore
WMAR-TV	Channel 2	Baltimore
WBFF-TV	Channel 45	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13	Baltimore

MOVIES

The Post Theater will be closed Dec. 19 through Jan. 9 for the holidays.

Gift Wrap schedule at PX (building 2401)

Thursday, Dec. 18
3 to 9 p.m.
Crime Prevention and Bakerfield Elementary PTA

Friday, Dec. 19
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
61st Ordnance Brigade

Saturday, Dec. 20
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
KUSAHC and NCO Fellowship

Sunday, Dec. 21
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
143rd Ordnance Battalion

Monday, Dec. 22
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Company A, Company B and Company C, HHC 143rd Ordnance Battalion

Tuesday, Dec 23
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Cub Scout Pack 651

Wednesday, Dec. 24
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
EA Youth Service
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
TEU, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.



our gift to you this holiday

Local Number Portability

Local Number Portability means you keep the same number!

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Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

2003 MWR Holiday Schedule

Activity	Friday Dec. 19	Saturday Dec. 20	Sunday Dec. 21	Monday Dec. 22	Tuesday Dec. 23	Wednesday Dec. 24	Friday Dec. 26
Arts & Crafts AA	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed
Arts & Crafts EA	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 10 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	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.
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.
Bowling Center	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.	1 to 10 p.m.	1 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 to 10 p.m.
Equipment Rental Center	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed
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 2 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fitness Center AA	5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Closed	Closed	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Closed
Hoyle Gym/ Fitness Center	5 a.m. to 10 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	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.
Ticket and Registration	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Library AA	Closed	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
Library EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center AA	10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Recreation Center EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Snack Bar	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.

Activity	Saturday Dec. 27	Sunday Dec. 28	Monday Dec. 29	Tuesday Dec. 30	Wednesday Dec. 31	Friday Jan. 2	Saturday Jan. 3	Sunday Jan. 4
Arts & Crafts AA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed
Arts & Crafts EA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Athletic Center	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	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.
Auto Crafts	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.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bowling Center	2 to 10:30 p.m.	1 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	5 to 10 p.m.	2 to 10 p.m.	1 to 6 p.m.
Equipment Rental Center	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed
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 2 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 6 p.m.	5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed
Hoyle Gym/ Fitness Center	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	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.
Ticket and Registration	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	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 p.m. 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 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.

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

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

Activities

METHODS OF REGISTRATION

Registering for any MWR event can be accomplished by visiting the specific facility for the event, mailing in a registration form found in an MWR Program Brochure, visiting the MWR Registration, building 3326, or online at www.apgmwr.com.

MAT PILATES INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

Mat Pilates Instructor Certification will be held Jan. 11, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the AA Fitness Center, building 3320. Cost is \$99 (study guides are extra). Learn the history of pilates, myths and misconceptions, the six basic principles, 30 mat pilates exercises and how to incorporate pilates in an aerobic class or make it a class of its own. At the end of this workshop, applicants must pass a 100-question test and practical to receive certification. Deadline for registration is Dec. 27.

NEW YEARS EVE BOWL

Come spend an exciting New Year's Eve with the whole family. Be able to bowl the night away and spend the evening with the children. Bowling begins at 10 p.m., Dec. 31 at the APG Bowling Center. Cost is \$25 per couple or \$15 per person. Price includes food, soda, cosmic bowling and shoes. Register by Dec. 22.

BOWLING FOR BEGINNERS

Every Wednesday Jan. 7 through 28 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the APG Bowling Center classes will be held to teach the basic fundamentals of bowling: how to keep score, what type of equipment to use, the proper rolling techniques, lane spotting procedures, best lane approach and types of ball releases. Classes will orient the participants to all aspects of bowling and prepare them to acquire the skills necessary to become proficient in

the sport. Register by Jan. 5. Cost is \$20.

CHECKMATE

Learn the fundamentals of chess, how to keep score, and get the basic moves to have the ultimate strategy. This four-week class will be held on Thursdays starting Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$15 for families. Master the principals of sound offensive and defensive maneuvers and experience all the fun and satisfaction of doing it.

THE ART OF SCRAPBOOKING

Starting on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at Russell Gym, learn the art of scrapbooking. Class will

teach how to organize, document, and preserve family photographs, memorabilia and histories. Cost is \$25. Register by Jan. 5.

CARPENTRY FOR THE NOVICE

This hands-on instruction in the art of carpentry will teach people the basic cuts with various saws and how to put the pieces together for the desired finished

product. Classes will teach participants the skills they need to become proficient in wood working procedures. Classes will be held on Thursday starting Jan. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the EA Arts and Crafts. Cost is \$35. Register by Jan. 6.

LEAPING SKI TRIP GETAWAY

Take a motorcoach trip to

Poconos, Pa., and do a little skiing and relaxing.

Stay two nights in the Ramada Inn Hotel, Feb. 27 through 29, receive meals and a premium open bar. Cost is \$209 (quad), \$229 (triple) and \$239 (double).

Pick up and return locations to be determined by number of registered patrons. Deposit of \$65 is due on Jan. 9.

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

Operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library, building 3320, are Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Edgewood Area library is open Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For information, call 410-436-3589.

Harvard Yard by William Martin

One of the oldest Harvard legends is the one of how John Harvard's parents were brought together by none other than William Shakespeare, who then gave them a gift of an original manuscript upon the birth of their son. Now, Peter Fallon sets out to find those priceless pages that were thought to have been lost in the Harvard Hall fire of 1764.

Trojan Odyssey by Clive Cussler

The Cove: An FBI Thriller by Catherine Coulter

Sins of Two Fathers by Denis Hamill

The Tristan Betrayal by Robert Ludlum

Cry No More by Linda Howard

A complete annotated listing of the library's new material can be found on the Internet, as well as the library's online catalog: www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html.



Bowling Scores

Wednesday Lunch Doubles Week of Dec. 13 Men's High Game Scratch Henry Schwartzman, 221 John Brown, 194	Women's High Series Scratch Anita Harris, 567 Marian Nelson, 506	Men's High Series Handicap Bernard Hammond, 680 Mike Finkel, 668	Boy's High Game Handicap David Sexton, 268 Dauvon McCormick, 249
Men's High Game Handicap Henry Schwartzman, 268 Kevin McNesby, 251	Women's High Series Handicap Anita Harris, 681 Marian Nelson, 608	Women's High Game Scratch Luz Montanez/ Laura Paligo, 175	Boy's High Series Scratch Dauvon McCormick, 367 David Sexton, 320
Men's High Series Scratch Henry Schwartzman, 405 John Brown, 371	Thursday Lunch Doubles Men's High Game Scratch Barry Hudler, 222 Ron Wayne, 171	Women's High Game Handicap Tracey Burroughs, 250 Barbara Adams, 247	Boy's High Series Handicap David Sexton, 683 John Keegan, 646
Men's High Game Handicap John Heath, 260 Brad Davis, 259	Men's High Series Scratch Barry Hudler, 387 Ron Wayne, 336	Women's High Series Handicap Tracey Burroughs, 655 Barbara Adams, 651	Girl's High Game Scratch Jessell Cons, 135 Magan Pace, 129
Women's High Game Handicap Kathy Krout, 246 Dawn Gordner, 238	Men's High Game Handicap John Heath, 485 Barry Hudler, 459	Women's High Series Handicap Johnny Jones, 222 Virgil Mills, 201	Girl's High Series Handicap Lawrencia Searles, 665 Jessell Cons, 632
Women's High Series Scratch Dawn Gordner, 360 Jeanine Worthington, 302	Women's High Game Handicap Jane Fortes, 178 Debbie Burkins, 161	Men's High Game Handicap Johnny Jones, 264 Chuck Sabina, 261	Saturday Youth - Shooting Stars Boy's High Game Scratch Chris Denardi, 198 Curtis Swauger, 190
Women's High Series Handicap Dawn Gordner, 452 Betty Taylor, 450	Women's High Game Handicap Jane Fortes/Ruthann, 254 Gina Bukowski, 244	Men's High Series Handicap John Lewis, 691 Johnny Jones, 686	Boy's High Game Handicap Chris Denardi, 269 Luke Leopard, 268
Wednesday Mixed Men's High Game Scratch Bernard Hammond, 214 Tom Curtis, 210	Women's High Series Scratch Jane Fortes, 312 Debbie Morrow, 274	Women's High Game Handicap Luz Montanez, 181 LaTasha Taylor, 162	Boy's High Series Scratch Chris Denardi, 488 Curtis Swauger, 483
Men's High Game Handicap Jacque Brown, 241 Tom Curtis, 231	Women's High Series Handicap Ruthann Cunningham, 475 Jane Fortes, 470	Women's High Game Handicap Lucy Montanez, 260 Ronda Taylor, 251	Boy's High Game Handicap Chris Denardi, 737 Juan Ponce, 667
Men's High Series Scratch Tom Curtis, 552 Bernard Hammond, 521	Thursday National Guard Men's High Game Scratch Bernard Hammond, 234/232 Emmett Toombs, 207	Women's High Series Handicap Ronda Taylor/ Lucy Montanez, 665 LaTasha Taylor, 664	Girl's High Game Scratch Ashley Taylor, 181 Jessice Page, 124
Men's High Series Handicap Jacque Brown, 625 Bob Shimek, 619	Men's High Game Handicap Bill Morton, 251 Bernard Hammond, 248	Women's High Series Handicap Ronda Taylor/ Lucy Montanez, 665 LaTasha Taylor, 664	Girl's High Game Handicap Ashley Taylor, 264 Jessica Page, 236
Women's High Game Handicap Anita Harris, 207 Marian Nelson, 182	Men's High Series Scratch Bernard Hammond, 638 Virgil Mills, 562	Saturday Youth Rising Stars Boy's High Game Scratch David Sexton, 147 Dauvon McCormick, 144	Girl's High Series Scratch Ashley Taylor, 523 Heather Miller, 297
Women's High Game Handicap Anita Harris, 245 Fran Sclafani, 243			Girl's High Series Handicap Ashley Taylor, 716 Heather Miller, 622

SCHOOL LIAISON/YOUTH EDUCATION

FINANCING COLLEGE EDUCATION

Information is available on college scholarships and loans at the School Liaison/Youth Education Services office, building 2752. If interested, call Ivan Mehosky at 410-278-2857.

SCHOOL'S OUT

To get the latest information on Harford County Public School closings throughout the year, visit www.schools-out.com. For more information, call 410-588-5203.

TEENAGERS PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

Based on the national best-

seller by Chad Foster, and read by over a half million teenagers across the country, Ivan Mehosky will be taking sign-ups starting Jan. 12 through 28, for APG teens 13 years of age and up for a series of evening classes starting in February. Meeting dates, times and location will be announced pending interest (parents will be notified). Using a video, lecture, group discussion and student workbook, Chad Foster relates to young people and delivers the messages that parents, educators, and employers value and reward. Through inspirational and entertaining sto-

ries about people like Michael Jordan, Elton John, and Arnold Schwarzenegger, the teaching topics and the book's messages of success focus on: pursuit of dreams, communication skills, early career preparation, networking skills, integrity and community service. (About the Author: Chad Foster is one of America's most sought-after motivational speakers. Through in-person appearances or his video, he shares his messages of success with more than 120,000 students and educators each year.) For more information or to sign-up, call Ivan Mehosky at 410-278-2857.

Veteran's View

Local vet named Maryland Veteran of the year

Story and photo by Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Many in the Harford, Cecil and Baltimore counties veterans community would agree that few have done more for veterans than Blair Cross, former chair of the Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs and former head of the state's Korean War Veteran Association.

For his lengthy record of accomplishments in attending to the needs of Maryland veterans, Cross has been named the Maryland Veteran of the Year, 2003-2004 by the Joint Veterans Committee.

A former resident of Bel Air, now residing in Port Deposit, Cross is well known throughout the region as a tireless champion of veterans' rights.

The Towson High School alumni association nominated Cross for the honor after reviewing his record for selection to the school's Hall of Fame. Following the school's 50-year class reunion in October, Cross was inducted into the Hall of Fame and presented an honorary high school diploma based on his merits. Cross quit school to enlist in the Army during the Korean War.

In addition, Cross was honored during a Founder's Day ceremony at the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training, or MCVET, in Baltimore, Nov. 7.

He and four others who founded the High Street center were lauded for pioneering the creation of the facility that has to date restored the lives of 4,500 homeless veterans through a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitative program that includes training in education, employment and life skills.

Cross said that he was humbled by all the attention his efforts have drawn.

"I just do things for the people; for deserving vets who served our country and need a helping hand," Cross said. "The most meaningful thanks for the things I've done come from my fellow veterans."

Blair said that during the MCVET ceremony he recalled a story in which while visiting the center one day, he was approached by one of its

residents.

"He asked me if I was Blair Cross. When I told him I was, he proceeded to tell me the story of his life," Cross said.

"He had lost everything, his family, and job to alcohol and drugs and he said that until he heard about the center he was ready to commit suicide.

"I want to thank you for saving my life," he told me," Cross said. "That touched my heart. I knew then how worthwhile it all had been."

MCVET

Along with fellow veterans, Chester Silverman, Art Lego and Doug Johnson, Cross envisioned a place that would not only house homeless veterans in Maryland, but also offer drug and alcohol counseling, and training in education and life skills so that veterans could return to their communities as productive individuals.

Eventually, they approached the Mayors Office of Homeless Services in Baltimore. Staff member Petra Hill was assigned to work with them on soliciting funds and locating a suitable location for the center.

The abandoned Sweetheart Cup Company on High Street was selected, and grants writer C.J. Harris began soliciting businesses and organizations for funds to renovate the building.

They received \$8 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, \$3 million for renovations and \$5 million for operations.

They received an additional \$5 million from the Department of Labor to oversee training and rehabilitation.

Today, the center stands as a model veterans' center and is often visited by representatives from other states. It contains classrooms for training by volunteer educators, an employment assistance office operated by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; a health clinic operated by the Maryland Veterans Administration; a dining facility; a military-styled barracks with strict cleanliness rules and procedures; and separate apartments for those who advance to become gainfully employed or enrolled in a fulltime

educational program.

Cross said he had no idea the center would develop into what it is today.

"It's absolutely marvelous the way its been operated," he said.

He credited the current director, retired Col. Charles Williams, and his predecessors with "running an outstanding operation."

"To date, our success rate stands at 70 percent," Cross said. "Those are the kind of things that make it all worthwhile."

Cross thanked his Towson alumni for nominating him and said that along the way, others have influenced his devotion to the cause of veterans.

"Lou Wilson was a very active veteran in

Harford County," he said. "When he passed away, his wife asked me to speak at his funeral. She said I knew more than anyone in the world the importance of what we were doing.

"Those kinds of little things touch me," Cross said. "Those are the kinds of things I don't write down because I do it for the love of doing things for people."

Cross is a member of the MCVET Advisory Committee, AMVETS, Catholic War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart; and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He will be presented as the Maryland Veteran of the Year in April at the Elks Lodge in Bowie, Md.



Blair Cross, the newly selected Veteran of the Year by the Maryland Veterans Commission, poses with the plaques he received when he was inducted into the Towson High School Hall of Fame and when he was honored as a founder of the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training during the center's Founder's Day ceremony in November.

Oral histories being captured at AMC

Darryl Howlett
Joint Munitions Command

Capturing the thoughts and emotions of personnel intertwined with history is all a part of the job for a historian.

And that job is even more important when capturing oral history from those personnel returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

George Eaton, JMC/Army Field Support Command historian, is leading a team of historians in collecting the oral testimonies.

"Our history office has three missions: to collect, protect and write the history of the command. Our jobs consist of promoting and keeping a record of this command," he said.

Eaton said the purpose of oral history is collecting primary data and people's impressions of what they saw, did, how they reacted to any number of situations. It's their story.

"We will interview everyone who's returning from (Southwest Asia) from the very top, people like (Brigadier) General Boles to the guy over there who was humping ammo," he said.

Eaton said he estimates the history office will conduct up to 200 interviews - each interview taking up to one hour to 90 minutes.

Along with the oral histories, Eaton said the project would also include collecting situation reports, execution orders and other documents. Through Oct. 1, close to 70 interviews had been conducted.

The historian does not conduct oral history just for contingencies, though.

Kevin Kastelic, a public affairs assistant for JMC, has assisted Eaton in the past editing transcribed oral histories. He recently transcribed an historical interview for a high ranking retired civilian official.

"It took about a week to go through six hours of an oral historical and edit 220 pages," Kastelic said. "In transcribing the interview, I found it really interesting. I thought [the transcribing] would take weeks, but it didn't."

Listening to the tapes did give me a sense of knowing the person. My subject traveled a lot in his career, and it made me think, 'Boy I thought I had traveled a lot.'"

For the AMC-SWA people, the number of personnel interviewed would be separated into two sections, according to Eaton.

"We'll interview about 100 people who deployed to Kuwait and Iraq from JMC/AFSC and fifty to one hundred people who supported from their home station," Eaton said.

Eaton said the large project could lead to the team to seek outside help.

"We're considering contracting out for an oral historian and a transcriptionist. You figure a one-hour audio tape takes four-and-a-half to five hours to transcribe.

So, estimate one year to gather the oral histories, and another year to transcribe them. The total project could take up to two years. We can't afford to take that much time. A contract will let us get it done in about one year," Eaton said.

Border Legion announces reunion

The Border Legion 2003 Reunion will be held in Germany, May 28 to June 1. The reunion will center in Fulda, with separate events taking place in Bad Hersfeld and Bad Kissingen.

The reunion is open to past and present troopers who served with the 11th and 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment (and supporting units) along the East-West German border.

For more information, call Glenn Snodgrass, 703-676-2672, or e-mail JGS525@aol.com, or call Don Snedeker, 703-676-4019, or e-mail him at donald.c.snedeker@saic.com.

Home Depot offers support to families

Home Depot has extended the Project Homefront program, in coordination with Rebuilding Together and USA Freedom Corps, to help the families of all active duty military.

Created by The Home Depot the volunteer program helps military families repair and maintain their homes while a family member is deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

One million volunteer hours and \$1 million in home improvement materials and support are being donated to Project Homefront through its long-standing Team Depot program because they know firsthand the emotional and financial challenges these families face.

While the military takes care of the homeland, Home Depot will take care of their homes.

In coordination with Rebuilding Together, the country's largest volunteer home rehabilitation organization, and USA Freedom Corps, a volunteer coordinating council created by the White House, The Home Depot will commit \$1 million to the project and one million hours of service through its Team Depot volunteer corps.

Help The Home Depot support the service men and women who have been deployed by supporting their families at home. For more information, call the Rebuilding Together Development Office at 1-800-4-REHAB-9 or via email at info@rebuildingtogether.org.

Anyone looking for opportunities to start volunteering should visit www.usafreedomcorps.org.



Project Homefront



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Where excellence surrounds you

Health & Safety

A healthy smile is always in style

Maj. Georgia dela Cruz
CHPPM

While a nice smile does improve a child's self-esteem and social connectivity, a child's teeth and mouth are important for other reasons.

Healthy baby teeth are important for chewing, learning to speak properly, and guiding the development of the permanent teeth.

An important part of keeping a child's teeth healthy is regular dental visits. The American Association of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that children visit the dentist within 6 months of the appearance of the first primary (baby) tooth, or by 12 months of age, whichever comes first.

Why so early? Because a lot of things can go wrong with a child's mouth that may affect the child's ability to eat, speak or grow properly, and, if are detected early, can be prevented.

Soldiers can enroll their children in the TRICARE Dental Plan with United Concordia before their first birthday so that they will be covered for their first visit. The enrollment and payment must be received by the 20th day of the month in order for coverage to be effective

on the first day of the following month.

A TRICARE Benefits advisor can help find a dentist who will see young children, or parents can search for a provider on the TDP Web site. Visit www.ucci.com and click on the TRICARE tab at the top of the page. On the left side column under On-line Services click on 'Find a Dentist.' If the family dentist does not treat young children, ask for a pediatric dentist referral in the area.

Friends who have experience with dentists in the area are another good resource.

Parents should try to schedule their child's first visit early in the day when the child is alert and rested. When making the appointment, talk to the office manager or dentist about what will happen. Then prepare the child for the visit and build excitement about new discoveries. Treat the visit to the dentist just like a visit to the Post Exchange (PX), Shopette, etc.

On the day of the visit say, "Today we get to go to the dentist. The dentist will use a special little mirror and a light to 'count' your teeth and to make sure that they are all nice and healthy."

It is important to remain calm, patient and

reassuring. For children under the age of 3, parents may need to sit in the dental chair and hold the child during the examination. Another position that works well is for the parent to sit knee to knee with the dentist, and hold the child's hands while the child's head is in the dentist's lap.

There are several things that will happen during the visit. The dentist will examine the child's teeth, jaws, bite, gums, and oral tissues for any problems with development or disease. The dentist will ask questions and provide information on how to prevent tooth decay, such as:

- Diet - Sugar-containing drinks like juices, milk or other beverages should be limited to mealtime or snack time. Never put a child to bed with a bottle containing anything but water. Breast milk has natural sugars and can also cause tooth decay. Babies who sleep with their mother and suckle repeatedly throughout the night expose their teeth to these sugars and can get decay.
- Weaning - Infants should be encouraged to drink from a cup as they approach their first

birthday. Children should be weaned off the bottle at 12 to 14 months.

- Oral habits - Sucking on fingers or a pacifier should be discontinued by the age of 2, or the child's bite will become disrupted.

- Cleaning the teeth - Parents should begin brushing their child's teeth as soon as they erupt into the mouth.

- Fluoride use - Parents should not use toothpaste during brushing before the age of 2 unless their dentist recommends it. If the household drinking water is not fluoridated, the dentist may recommend fluoride supplements or the use of fluoride toothpaste during brushing.

It's never too soon to start teaching children good dental habits. Help children keep their "stylin' smile" for a lifetime by ensuring that they eat nutritious foods, brush their teeth every day, and go for regular dental visits every 6 months.

(Editor's note: Maj. Georgia dela Cruz is a Dental Staff Officer assigned to the Directorate of Health Promotion and Wellness, CHPPM.)

Safety Council reminds all of safety over the holidays

National Safety Council

It's that time of year when the hustle and bustle of the holiday season overshadows the necessity of safety concerns. The National Safety Council has put together some topics to remind everyone to take care over the holidays.

Decorations

Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass "angel hair" - it can irritate the eyes and skin. Non-flammable cotton is a common substitute. Both angel hair and cotton snow are flame retardant when used alone, however, if artificial snow is sprayed onto them, the dried combination will burn rapidly. When spraying artificial snow on windows or other surfaces, be sure to follow directions carefully. These sprays can irritate the lungs if

they are inhaled.

Fireplaces

Do not try to burn evergreens or wreaths in the fireplace or in a wood stove to dispose of them. They are likely to flare out of control and send flames and smoke into the room. Also, do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace because it often contains metallic materials, which can be toxic if burned.

Candles

Never use lighted candles near trees, boughs, curtains/drapes, or with any potentially flammable item.

Toys, gifts

Be especially careful when choosing toys for infants or small children. Be sure anything they are given is too big to get caught in the throat, nose or ears. Avoid toys with small parts that

can be pulled or broken off. When several children in one family are given toys, consider their age differences and the chances that younger children will want to play with older kids' toys.

Older adults

Select gifts for older adults that are not heavy or awkward to handle. For persons with arthritis, make sure the gift does not require assembly and can be easily opened and closed. Choose books with large type for anyone with vision impairment.

Plants

Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat. But many plants can cause severe stomach problems. Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and

amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach.

Food, cooking

The holidays often mean preparing large meals for family and friends. Wash hands, utensils, sink, and anything else that has come in contact with raw poultry. Keep in mind that a stuffed bird takes longer to cook. For questions concerning holiday turkey preparation and cooking call the U.S. Department of Agriculture Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. Refrigerate or freeze leftovers in covered shallow containers (less than two inches deep) within two hours after cooking. Date the leftovers for future use.

Alcohol, parties, driving

Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about

alcoholic drinks. More than half of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related. Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party.

Stress

The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year. Stress can't be avoided completely, allow time for some relief. Allow enough time to shop rather than hurry through stores and parking lots. Only plan to do a reasonable number of errands. When shopping, make several trips out to the car to drop off packages rather than trying to carry too many items. Take time out to relax, read or enjoy a favorite hobby.

New safety ideas jump out of conference

Kathryn Pardo

Army News Service

The U.S. Army Safety Center hosted a conference Nov. 17 through 21 in Atlanta, Ga., attended by about 500 service members and civilians from across the military.

The conference provided strategies that leadership can actually use to reduce accidents Army-wide, said Mario Owens, a Safety Manager in the Army Safety Office in Arlington, Va.

Educational courses, best practice workshops and special meetings took place during the course of the conference. A vendor-trade show also informed the attendees of means to lower the number of accidents Army-wide.

The purpose of this year's conference was to "drive the Army toward the DOD mandate by informing, training and motivating the leaders responsible for implementing the Army safety program," said a message sent by Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Smith, the Director of Army Safety, to all Army activities Oct. 9.

"This year's conference is results-oriented," stated the message from Smith. "The Army is committed to meeting the Secretary of Defense's goal."

Rumsfeld set a goal to "reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates by at least 50 percent in the next two years" in a May 19 memorandum to secretaries of the military departments.

Smith is committed to having less than 100 fatalities Army-wide this year, or least lowering it to that level by fiscal year 2005, said Fran Weaver, Safety and Occupational Health Manager, Policy and Strategy Directorate at the Army Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Al.

The conference focused on accidents involving personally owned vehicles, and operational accidents on both air and ground, Owens said. It also focused on Soldier decision-making.

One of the new initiatives introduced at the conference was an advice column with a kangaroo named Joey. Hopefully Joey will "bridge" soldiers and experienced safety experts at the center, said Weaver. Soldiers can write to Joey about their safety mistakes, and he can "tell them how to do it right," she said.

A new web-based risk assessment tool was also demonstrated at the conference, said Col. Tim Sassenrath, the deputy director of Army Safety. This new initiative is for POVs, military aviation and military vehicles, and it is under development.

Smith and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark L. Farley, the command sergeant major of U.S. Army Pacific Command, also called USARPAC, spoke along with others, at the conference.

Farley's presentation, titled "Risk Management: Promoting Decision Making Training as a Soldier 'Life Skill,'" focused on ways in which leadership can help soldiers make good decisions and avoid accidents.

"Safety is an integrated function. It is a Soldier function and it is a command function," said Weaver.

"USARPAC has taken an interest in getting to the heart of the problem," Weaver said, "and Farley is the champion of this effort at his command."

More Soldiers die in POV accidents every year than were killed by enemy fire during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, according to the Army Safety Center Web site. These accidents occur when Soldiers are on their own time.

This conference, with the theme "Go for the Goal," aimed to give commanders tools to communicate safety messages to their Soldiers.

"The conference was a good opportunity for everyone to recognize the problem and discuss possible solutions," said Sassenrath.

"Everyone who attended the conference felt that they had the necessary tools to reduce accidents, and that reducing accidents by 50 percent Army-wide is an attainable goal," said Sassenrath.

(Editor's note: Kathryn Pardo is an intern in the Office, Chief of Public Affairs, Community Relations and Outreach Division.)



One of the new initiatives introduced at the safety conference was an advice column with a kangaroo named Joey.

Consider donating use or lose leave

CPAC

As the leave year draws to an end on Jan. 10, many employees find themselves with annual leave they are unable to use. The Voluntary Leave Transfer Program, or VLTP, offers employees a means to transfer, or donate their annual leave to fellow employees with medical emergencies.

Donations may be made to any qualified federal employee (a local list is printed every other week in the APG News).

In most cases, to be eligible for donations a federal employee must have exhausted both their annual and sick leave balances in accordance with program guidelines.

In order to donate to a local employee, the donor must complete the OPM 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program, indicating the intended recipient and number of hours to be donated. This form is submitted through their supervisor to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

To donate to a federal employee from an outside agency, the donor must complete an OPM Form 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient (Outside Agency), under the leave transfer program.

By law, annual leave is the only leave allowable for transfer/donation (Title 5 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 630. Leave donations are not tax deductible.

In a leave year, a leave donor may donate no more than a total of one-half of the amount of annual leave he or she would be entitled to accrue during the leave year in which the donation is made. The limitations on donating leave, as cited above, can be waived if the donor is a family member of the recipient. If employee is in the eight-hour leave accrual category, the maximum that can be donated is 104 hours; in the six-hour category, 78 hours; and in the four-hour category, 52 hours.

Leave must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2003. Submitting the appropriate forms prior to the end of the leave year will ensure timely processing.

Completed forms may be faxed to 410-278-7652.

For more information, call Ronda McKinney, 410-278-8988 or e-mail ronda.mckinney@usag.apg.army.mil.

LEAVE DONATION

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); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). Employees leaving the program should contact Melda Callender, 410-278-8997, or e-mail melda.callender@usag.apg.army.mil, to complete a termination form.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Michele Amrhein (taking care of premature son)	Beverly King (caring for husband)
Fay Walker Banker (hip replacement)	William Klein
Mildred T. Becker (surgery)	Pamela Klinger
Marian Bellis (fracture of left tibia)	Anita L. Koller (care for husband)
Robert J. Boonstoppel (coronary bypass surgery)	Danny Kopp (lung cancer)
Tammy Budkey	George Kudrna (caring for father)
Patricia Burcham (caring for father, Arthur Cummings, ATC retired)	Angela R. Little (neck and shoulder injury)
Jane E. Calahan	William B. McLean (kidney failure)
Jackie Childress	Shirley M. Orłowicz (back surgery)
Patricia D. Choate	Calvin E. Peake
Joseph Dugan	Karen S. Pense
David Fletcher	Linda M. D. Queen
John Gage	Tess Ramos (lung surgery)
Sharon Gary (care for family member)	Michael Reynolds
Patty Gibson	Cheryl L. Roark
Edgar W. Greer	Matthew Ryan
Tresa Harris	Marquerite Soper
Fern L. Hitchcock (surgery)	Jorja V. Thomas-Murcia
Melanie A. Hoffman (parasinusitis, fibromyalgia condition)	Eunice Thompson
Richard Hoffman	Alison Tichenor
Beth Kelly	Sandra M. Wachter (surgery)
	Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant)

Holiday ethics summary: avoiding common pitfalls

OSJA

The following are rules about proper ethics during the holidays as set by Army and post regulations.

Including contractor employees in holiday parties

Don't offer contract employees time off to attend a holiday party during the duty day. Contractor employees attending an organization's holiday party must be either in an unpaid or leave status.

Contractor employee for gift exchanges

Keep in mind that contractors are "prohibited sources" as outlined in the Joint Ethics Regulation. Because of this, JER restrictions on the acceptance of gifts apply. While the JER permits acceptance of items valued less than \$20, acceptance of items from contractors is

discouraged.

Superiors may only accept a holiday gift from a subordinate costing \$10 or less. Participation in any kind of gift exchange, of course, has to be truly voluntary and must not be coerced. An across-the-board \$10 limit is advisable to cover all bases.

Use of government time

Holiday celebrations may occur on government time if previously approved, and within reasonable limits. Holiday preparation should not become a significant part of any employee's duty.

Fundraising

Fundraising is allowed for office events if the money is to be raised only from among the members of the group for their own benefit. Prior approval by the Garrison solicitation

office is required. For example, employees can have a bake sale, provided it doesn't interfere with the mission and is properly approved. Fundraising may take place in general areas but may not occur in work areas.

Holiday greeting cards

Government funds may not be used to purchase holiday greeting cards.

Subordinates are prohibited from preparing or addressing personal greetings for their supervisors.

Official resources may not be used for holiday greeting cards.

Electronic greeting cards with digital photographs, video, sound, or other large file attachments should not be transmitted on Army systems.

Sending such messages with executable

attachments, including files that may contain executable code instructions (such as "exe" files) or opening such attachments is discouraged for several good reasons, including the potential for computer virus propagation and the consumption of bandwidth.

Alcohol

According to paragraph 2-5, AR 600-85, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and

Control Program, official and unofficial functions will not encourage or glamorize consumption of alcohol, and alcoholic beverages may not be given as prizes. Gift exchanges are not included in the "prize" prohibition, but of course the alcohol cannot be consumed during an official-time event without advance written permission.

ChalleNGe marks 10 years with class reunion

Story and photo by Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The Maryland Army National Guard's Freestate ChalleNGe academy celebrated 10 years of restoring the lives of at-risk youths with a 10th anniversary and class reunion celebration at the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Oct. 25.

Alumni and family members of classes 1 to 20, assembled for the event that was led by Col. Richard E. (Thunder) Young, director; Col. David W. Arnett, deputy director; and Michael L. Bryant, chief of staff.

The festivities included a performance by the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy drill team, and musical entertainment by the St. Veronica Youth Steel Band.

Young said that the program's success is based on the dream of those who founded the program and the academy's staff.

"Every successful team has a supporting cast and ours is the staff of the ChalleNGe Academy and the advisory council," Young said.

"When our first director invited me to join this mission, I wanted to leave but stayed on. Today, I'm still fulfilling that same mission," he added. "Because of this organization, now everyone knows that just because a child is at risk, doesn't mean they won't make it."

"Thanks to the dedication of all involved, we can celebrate 10 years of success," Arnett said. "One day, we'd like to see this place filled up with graduates."

Bryant said that much of what has been accomplished began with a dream.

"The dream included the ChalleNGe Invitation, an event that includes various sporting events," Bryant said, noting that Military Youth Corps academies from around the nation participate in the annual event.

"That dream gave opportunities to other, and today the ChalleNGe Invitation is a national and federally funded program."

Former directors Lt. Col. Ron Martin-Minnich, chaplain and program director, and Col. Vernon Sevier, advisory council, also were on hand for the historic event.

Martin-Minnich, who leads the Recruiting, Placement and Mentoring Program, said he began with Class #5, and noted that the first class graduated 25 of 28 cadets.

"Many have told me that the program makes them realize that all the sacrifices and frustrations are worth it," he said. "Not just as you graduate, but as you grow into adulthood."

Several attendees agreed with Martin-Minnich's remark.

"This program disciplined me and made me realize what I could do with my life," said Giovanna Marino, Class #17.

Marino graduated in December 2002. She obtained her GED and now is attending Montgomery College, majoring in fashion design.

"It changed my life," added Myron Austin Sr., an alumnus of Class #8. A valet with the Veterans Administration Hospital in Baltimore, Austin said he was "going nowhere" until he joined the academy.

"It turned me around 360 degrees and gave me direction," he said. "There's no telling where I would have ended up without it."

"It sure helped me get my act together," added Carl Norwood, Class #7, who said he now makes "good money" driving a tractor-trailer.

Gary Wood, of Edgewood, a graduate of Class #1, attended with his fiancé, Antonetta Thompson, an environmental scientist with the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

Wood, who works for a power washing and water proofing company, said the academy was "tough, but worth it."

"We were an experiment at that time, but I think our success helped the program take off," Wood said. "It was hard, but it taught me about teamwork and how you don't have to do everything by yourself. It's great to come back and see that everyone is still succeeding."

MDARNG Freestate ChalleNGe Academy

Since September 1993, the MDARNG in partnership with the District of Columbia National Guard has operated the academy at Aberdeen Proving Ground for 16 to 18-year old unemployed high school dropouts.

This youth intervention program is funded jointly by the Department of Defense and the state of Maryland. The National Guard Bureau, under the direction of Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, Maryland Adjutant General, provides overall direction.

The ChalleNGe program is a 24-hour a day, five and one-half month residential program with a staff of 42 personnel, followed by a 12-month post-residential mentoring phase. The residential phase includes Job Shadowing at MDARNG facilities and a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) course in basic construction skills. In addition, certified instructors from Harford Community College provide educational instruction for the academy's academic and vocational courses.

In 2000 and 2002, the USO presented academic excellence awards to the academy in recognition of its General Education Development (GED) diploma success rate. In 2002, the Harford County Council issued a proclamation lauding the academy and its cadets for their active participation in community assistance projects.

Success rate: 1993 to 2003

Total graduates	1,577
Total GEDs	1,126
Total GED Success rate	72%



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

The Maryland Army National Guard Freestate Challenge Academy drill team performs for alumni, staff, family members and friends during the 10th Anniversary and Class Reunion at the 5th Regiment Armory.

DIO lends a hand for the holidays

Dianne Swauger
Special Contributor

The personnel in the Directorate of Installation Operations participate in the Harford County Neighbors in Need Program every year.

It started with a small group of employees six years ago and has grown to include participation by the entire directorate.

"These families never expected to receive so much; it was wonderful to see the smiles on their faces," said Teresa Porter, DIO secretary.

Early in November boxes begin appearing in the DIO shops, offices and warehouses. Directorate employees soon fill the boxes and deliver them to building 4304, where employees sort, pack and prepare the deliveries.

Each family received a complete Thanksgiving Day Meal that included a turkey and a ham with all the trimmings.

"Thanks to the generosity of many, we not only provided the families a full Thanksgiving meal, but we also provided more than two-weeks worth of groceries," said Fran Epps, LV&B project manager.

A few dollars and grocery items is a small price to pay for the overwhelming feeling of goodness DIO employees get from helping others.

"Although it was a very emotional day for these families, our groceries were received with smiles and hugs for the delivery crew," Porter said. "The overwhelming sense of satisfaction is beyond compare."

One employee views this as a way to help out those in need in her own community.

"We are reminded that there are people less fortunate than us right here in our very own neighborhoods," said Lisa Weismiller, DIO realty officer. "We always leave their homes taking much more with us than we left with them."

Preparations are already underway for the upcoming Christmas holidays.

"There is no time to rest, as we are already delivering the boxes to be filled to help out our Neighbors in Need for Christmas. We have much work to do, as we will be sponsoring three families this Christmas. We will be providing food, clothing, and toys for our families."



Photo by TOM VINCENTI

Boxes of food ready to be delivered to "Neighbors in Need."

Army chief leads Soldiers to be 'adaptive'

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

The Army's chief of staff said he wants Soldiers to be more adaptive, and he's leading by example by becoming acclimated to being thrust into the media limelight.

"Both junior Soldiers and leaders need to be more adaptive and capable of doing a wider range of missions with a greater degree of skill," Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said during an hour-long interview Dec. 4, a portion of which will be aired later this month on Army Newswatch. "Leaders can't just manage change, they have to lead it."

Schoomaker, who regularly uses analogies to explain his points, compared his definition of an adaptive Soldier to a track team. "We're not looking for an individual who is just good at sprinting a quarter mile or throwing a javelin," Schoomaker said. "We're looking for someone who can compete in a decathlon or pentathlon."

An example of more versatile Soldiers is the 1,200 National Guard troops who will be reclassified from field artillery and air defense artillerymen to military police. A total of 10 units will rotate into Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for the 5-week training, said officials from the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office.

The new job specialty will assist guardsmen in supporting the Global War on Terrorism, but when and where they will deploy has not been released, officials said.

The retraining of the guardsmen supports Schoomaker's vision of reorganizing the Army to be more "Relevant and Ready."

Relevant and Ready is all about anticipation, Schoomaker

said. It's not about preparing for yesterday's challenges, he added.

"My measuring stick is not if we're the best army in the world, but are we as good as we can and should be," Schoomaker said. "There's one million Soldiers in the total Army, and not all of that structure is as available to us as it should be."

Part of the Army's new Transformation goal is to transform Soldiers from pure specialties to being warriors first, Schoomaker said. Soldiers must be able to protect themselves, live in the field and understand the fundamentals of being a Soldier, he added.

Since assuming his position, Schoomaker hasn't announced a new weapons system or any changes to the military uniform, but he is focusing on ways to immediately improve the Army.

His 16 focus areas have been dubbed "The Way Ahead." At the top of the list, which can be found at www.army.mil, is "Soldier" and Schoomaker said the Army is investing in the quality of the Soldier and not the quantity.

Increasing the number of military personnel currently serving is not the key to fighting terrorism, Schoomaker and his service counterparts said during a recent conference on national security.

"If we add to the force, we run the risk of not having money for ammunition, fuel and the money to modernize," Schoomaker said. "You cannot overcome challenges with a mere quantitative edge, it's the quality of the Soldier."

However, Schoomaker said that he would not totally dismiss the notion of increasing troop end strength, but it's not currently in the plans.



Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS ALBERTO BETANCOURT
Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker ponders before answering a question during an interview at the Pentagon Dec. 4.

CALL keeps Soldiers informed

Joe Burlas
Army News Service

Just as enemy forces change their tactics, techniques and practices, so must Soldiers adapt to a shifting environment.

The Center for Army Lessons Learned has recently transformed the way it does business in order to help Soldiers adjust to enemy changes quickly.

"We've embedded some of our team members in the divisions in Iraq," said Col. Larry Saul, CALL director. "...if an event occurs right now, today, and a unit experiences a new enemy TTP (tactic, technique or procedure), they conduct an AAR (after-action review) and then they send that information through their chain of command to the division. We have three liaison officers with the divisions in Iraq ...we also have a team in Afghanistan. They get this information and share it with the other division LNOs (liaison officers) who share it with their brigades and battalions."

Those teams also share the information with

the CALL headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., which in turn passes it to units slated to head in theater, the Combat Training Centers — the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.; the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.; and the Combat Maneuver Training Center, Hoenfels, Germany — so they can update mission rehearsals with the latest TTPs, the Training and Doctrine Command to include appropriate lessons learned in training curriculum and doctrine, as well with a host of joint, interagency and multinational organizations.

CALL evaluates ongoing real-world missions, unit rotations through JRTC and NTC, and other major exercises - providing not only changes in TTPs, but also solutions to new enemy TTPs and analysis of ongoing operations and issues.

Technology has also helped in changing how long it takes to get lessons learned into the hands of people that need them, Saul said.

"It (used to take) about a month or more for the unit to 'hot wash' through the information and figure out what was important, and then

send it to CALL," Saul said. "It took CALL a couple of months to analyze the data, then add the printing cycle — six months easily could pass before the unit in the field got a useful product."

In addition to having CALL "boots on the ground" in Central Command, posting findings on the Web (<http://call.army.mil>) has helped reduce the time between learning of a new enemy TTP and getting that information out. Access to that information is restricted to Department of Defense personnel via a DoD computer or an Army Knowledge Online account as a force protection measure.

Units getting ready to deploy to Iraq and other interested parties have access to a wealth of linked resources, including dozens of after-action reports from currently and recently deployed units, a convoy operations smart card, an IED standoff cheat sheet and a draft of a convoy leader training handbook.

According to "24 Frequently Asked Questions" posted on the CALL Web site by 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment

in mid November, units getting ready for deployment to CENTCOM should focus training on operations at the section and crew level. "That is the level at which the majority of our operations were run in Iraq, from presence patrols to convoy escorts."

CALL is now organized to take requests from the field via e-mail from its Web site. While some questions may require extensive coordination with other agencies, the goal is have to an answer back to the requestor within 48 hours. For the most part, CALL is hitting that mark, Saul said.

CALL is the Army's only organization that is a true training aid, Saul said, because it takes what units have experienced, either in training or actual operations, to provide insights, observations and analyses with the goal of increasing warfighting capabilities across the force.

(Editor's note: A Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Public Affairs Office press release contributed to this article.)

Marines

From front page

year.

"It was a challenge finding people willing to coach teams and maintaining standards with all the rotations," Robinson said. "Overcoming those odds with such a small detachment is quite an accomplishment."

Robinson credited Staff Sgt. Jake Abbe, who piloted the program most of the year before being transferred to California, with the program's success.

The second-place Commander's Cup trophy went to Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion, last year's first place winner, and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Chemical Defense took third.

Lt. Col. Walter Keegan, 16th Ordnance Battalion commander, and Capt. Ivan McPherson, Company C 16th commander, accepted the second-place award.

"This unit [Company C 16th] set its mind to be a contender," Keegan said. "There's a reason why these two organizations are in the thick of it every year. It's because the commanders and cadre stay committed."

"We are either first or second every year because we have motivated Soldiers who like to stay involved," McPherson added.

MRICD commander, Capt. Matt Moser, accepted the third-place award and the

award for Sgt. Bryon Pieper who was selected Sports Representative of the Year.

Pieper was unavailable, on temporary duty, competing for the Expert Field Medical Badge.

"This is a great accomplishment for such a small unit," Moser said. "I'm very proud to accept this for our fine Soldiers."

The Unit Sportsmanship Award went to Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion. The award goes to the unit that meets or exceeds a specific list of criteria that includes participating in all athletic events, attending all sports meetings, adhering to all rules of eligibility, plays fair, shows respect for its opponent and officials, and is gracious in winning or losing. Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Player, drill sergeant, accepted the award for the unit.

Other awards went to the post championship winners who included:

3-on-3 basketball - Company E, 16th Ordnance Battalion
Racquetball and tennis - Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion
Basketball - HHC 61st Ordnance Brigade
Flag football - Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion
Soccer - Company B, 16th Ordnance Battalion
Dead lift competition - USMC
Bowling - Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion
Volleyball - MRICD
Bench press competition - HST

The Sports Representative of the Year award that went to Sgt. Bryon Pieper is displayed with the third, second and first place commanders cup trophies prior to the Dec. 10 award ceremony in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center.



Capt. Douglas Philips, USMC executive officer, center, accepts the 2003 Commander's cup trophy from 1st Sgt. Lonzia Hawkins, Headquarters Support Troop, left, and Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, during the Commander's Cup award ceremony at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center, Dec. 10.



Marines from the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, foreground, and Soldiers from Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion stand at attention for the playing of the national anthem during the Commander's Cup award ceremony.