

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Aug. 18, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

Mandatory viewing by all APG personnel

The Garrison Directorate of Information Management will broadcast the Army Campaign Plan presentation on channel 21 at 8 and 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Aug 9 thru 13, 16 thru 19, and 23 thru 25. The presentation is approximately 35 minutes.

This is a Northeast Region Office/Installation Management Agency tasker for all personnel (military, civilian and contractor) to view the presentation by Aug. 25.

389th Army Band (AMC's Own) performs locally

The 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) has two concerts scheduled for Bel Air and Aberdeen.

The Bel Air Recreation Center will sponsor the Concert Band 7 p.m., Aug. 15, at the William A. Humbert Amphitheater located at 39 Hickory Ave. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held 7 p.m. at C. Milton Wright High School Auditorium, Fountain Green Road (Route 543).

The City of Aberdeen will sponsor the Concert Band, 7 p.m., Aug. 17, at Festival Park. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held 7 p.m. at Aberdeen Middle School.

DA photo policy change

Effective immediately, military personnel are no longer required to forward hardcopy photos to the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center for Enlisted Soldier Promotion Selection Boards if the photo studio has the capability to upload photos electronically to the Department of the Army Photo Management Information System (DAPMIS). Only selection boards held at the Human Resources Command in Alexandria for active Army officers still require hardcopy photos.

The APG Photo facility will no longer issue paper copies to enlisted Soldiers for the annual promotion

See SHORTS, page 6

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2

Veterans' Voices

Page 3

Commissary garners awards

Page 4

APG Forum

Page 7

Community Notes

Page 8

MWR

Page 12

DTC aids war efforts

Page 13

Vehicle safety emphasized at OC&S



The state of Maryland Purple Heart Monument is unveiled at Aberdeen Proving Ground during the dedication ceremony at the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum Aug. 7. Performing the unveiling are Department of Maryland Military Order of the Purple Heart officers and past commanders Orville R. Hughes, left, judge advocate, and James A. Hontz Jr., finance officer.

Photo by RALPH BROTH

State Purple Heart monument dedicated at APG

Yvonne Johnson

APG News

On the grounds of the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum, a site where hundreds of military artifacts are displayed in remembrance of America's fighting forces, an additional tribute to the nation's war wounded was dedicated Aug. 7.

The State of Maryland Purple Heart Monument, a white granite structure decorated with the distinctive gold edged heart surrounding the silhouette of its founder, Gen. George Washington, was dedicated before a crowd of hundreds of Soldiers, veterans, family members, military and political leaders, and of course, Purple Heart recipients.

The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools and the Military Order of the Purple Heart hosted the event.

Brig. Gen. William M. Lanaers, OC&S commander and chief of Ordnance welcomed the dignitaries and guests who included Col. Kevin M. Smith, OC&S deputy commander and chief of staff; Michael Baker, repre-

senting Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski; George W. Owings III, Secretary of Veterans' Affairs State of Maryland; Andrew H. Anderson, commander, Department of Maryland Military Order of the Purple Heart; Edward J. Oliver, MOPH senior vice commander; retired Maj. Gen. Joseph Brooks, chairman of the Harford County Commission on Veterans Commission, and Jane Cross, wife of the late Blair Cross, the Maryland Veteran of the Year for 2004.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with the nationally recognized Purple Heart Day, which marks the day the award was established in 1782.

"For those here today who sacrificed so much, I know you are remembering others who gave more," Lanaers said.

He asked for a moment of silence "to remember America's heroes;" then praised all involved in bringing the state monument to APG.

"Freedom is not protected by weapons but by people," Lanaers said. "By men and women who are America's heroes. The monument is here

and it is here because we remember those who gave so much."

The ceremony included the posting and retiring of the colors by the OC&S Color Guard, the reading of a proclamation from Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., proclaiming Aug. 7 as Purple Heart Recognition Day in the state of Maryland, and the reading of a congratulatory letter from Mikulski.

The keynote speaker, George W. Owings III, was sworn in that morning as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, State of Maryland.

He said the governor has charged him with preserving what veterans have done in writing and on video.

"Our young people coming along today must never forget the sacrifices that you made," Owings said. "The Purple Heart is the one medal no one intentionally seeks. You are not recommended for the Purple Heart, you are entitled to it."

He praised the Order for its community service commitments, and said that one problem he planned to address was

the thousands of recipients who are non-members.

"As your secretary, I am now hopeful that I can assist the Order in finding more members," Owings said.

"It's the heart and soul of the American fighting men and women who defend America," he added. "Our young people today, they too are ready because they know the value of freedom. This memorial is a piece of stone but it brings light and warmth. We will pass through here but this [monument] will remain for those who stand ready to wear the Purple Heart if called to do so."

Anderson thanked the OC&S and APG for approving the site of the state monument and everyone who helped make it a reality.

"We are here today to honor some very special Americans," Anderson said.

He read the history of the medal, noting that Gen. George Washington established it in 1782, making it the military's oldest award.

"Approximately 1.6 million awards have been distributed to this day," Anderson said. "The

Purple Heart motto, 'Some gave all, all gave some,' serves as a permanent reminder that freedom is not free."

As the monument was unveiled, Thomas Wallace, past commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, assisted by two youths from the Young Marines placed a memorial wreath in honor of the medal's millions of recipients.

Then, the assembly stood in quiet contemplation during the playing of the service songs and "Taps" by the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own).

Dr. F. William Atwater, Ordnance Museum director, also thanked the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own), the 61st Ordnance Brigade S-3, the OC&S all service color guard and salute battery, and the officers from Company E, 16th Ordnance battalion who served as ushers and parking attendants, for "performing above and beyond what is normally expected of them to honor those who have gone before them. "Their presence made this ceremony what it See PURPLE HEART, page 2

APG employees receive NSPS briefing

Yvonne Johnson

APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground civil service employees learned more about the new system that will impact the 700,000 civilian employees that support the national security mission, during a Town Hall Meeting at the Post Theater Aug. 3.

David Snyder, the Army Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel Policy conducted the briefing on the National Security Personnel System, NSPS, which contains the most sweeping changes to take place in more than 25 years of civilian personnel management.

Snyder said the new system would provide a more competitive and progressive employer at a time when the country's security demands a highly responsive system of civilian personnel management.

"Like the Secretary of Defense [Donald Rumsfeld] said, the current system just doesn't work well," Snyder said.

He said that Rumsfeld was confronted with this fact during the 9-11 crisis in 2001.

"We are trying to improve a system while retaining its core values," he said. "The current system is inadequate to manage today's Department of Defense personnel."

Some inadequacies include a system that is too slow in hiring, provides the same pay to poor performers as it does to outstanding performers, limits flexibility to reassignment, and has limited accountability measures, he said.

"The NSPS will establish new rules for how civilians are hired, assigned, compensated, promoted and disciplined," Snyder said.

He added that NSPS senior executive, Secretary of the Navy Gordon England, named

Mary E. Lacey as the NSPS program executive officer. PEO. Lacey is the technical director of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, responsible for a business base of more than \$4 billion, with more than 16,000 employees. Lacey will oversee the design, development, implementation and

involved in these sessions will craft options on the labor relations, appeals and human resources elements of NSPS. Their input will be forwarded to Working Groups made up of representatives from the Office of Personnel Management, the legal community and others, who will address the subjects

of compensation and pay banding); performance management; workforce hiring; assignment, pay setting and workforce shaping; employment and appeals;

and labor relation. "Input from stakeholders to is key to the development of NSPS," Snyder said.

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2004, signed in November 2003, gave the Department of Defense

authorization to establish a more flexible civilian personnel management system. The NSPS Program Executive Office was established in April 2004.

Employees can learn more on the NSPS Web site at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/faq.html>, which addresses the most frequently asked questions. They include the following:

What does the implementation of NSPS mean to me?

NSPS will establish new rules for how civilians are hired, assigned, compensated, promoted, and disciplined. It will also have elements that address the Department's labor relations within the framework of merit principles, veterans' preference, and employees' rights to organize and bargain collectively.

What are the key elements that will be changed under NSPS?

Staffing: Hiring, Assignment, Advancement, Removal, RIF

See NSPS, page 12

"The NSPS will establish new rules for how civilians are hired, assigned, compensated, promoted and disciplined."

David Snyder

Army Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel Policy

administration of the new human resources management system.

Snyder said the involvement of key stakeholders is ongoing through Focus Group sessions, which began in July at various sites across the Department of Defense components. Stakeholders

ee engagement and appeals;

and labor relation.

Department of Defense

Getting ready for school - Are all immunizations up to date?

Janelle Lucksavage

CHPPM

In all the back-to-school preparation and excitement, many parents may forget to do one thing that is vital to children's health: stay current on vaccinations. If children's vaccinations are not kept up to

date, it could affect the health of the children.

"When it comes to child health, prevention is always better than treatment. And nowhere is this more evident than with immunizations," said Dr. Carden Johnston, 2003-2004 president of American

Academy of Pediatrics.

Ideally, immunizations should begin at birth, with the child completing the primary series by age two - but the process doesn't stop there. Vaccinations are a life-long step to take for optimal health. Immunizations are one of the

most important tools to protect children and adults from many infectious diseases.

Some people choose not to get vaccinations because they worry about the safety and side effects of the vaccines.

Although vaccines can produce some minor side effects,

they are extremely safe. Before the FDA gives approval for a vaccine to be administered to the public, it goes through years of research and testing. Then, after FDA approval, vaccines are continually monitored for their safety and

See SCHOOL, page 12

Veterans' voices

Gulf War veterans can find oil well fire exposure info on Web

CHPPM

In addition to the risk of sustaining combat casualties, some of the U.S. troops deployed during the 1991 Gulf War were also exposed to the smoke from hundreds of oil well fires that burned out of control over a period of about nine months in 1991.

Depending on their proximity to the burning oil wells, veterans could have been exposed to varying levels of petroleum combustion pollutants.

Now, Gulf War veterans can get an assessment of the health risks from their exposure to the smoke by logging on to a U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Gulf War Fires Web site, <https://gulfwarfires.apgea.army.mil>.

armymil.

To document the extent of environment pollution from the burning oil wells, CHPPM gathered air and soil samples in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from May 1991 until November 1991, when the last oil well was capped.

By combining this sample data with troop location data, the personnel registry, satellite images, and meteorological models, CHPPM can estimate a Gulf War veteran's exposure to oil well fire smoke and any health risk from that exposure.

By entering their social security numbers on CHPPM's Gulf War Fires secure Web site, Gulf War veterans can get personalized information about their exposure to oil well fire smoke, including a map of



Oil well fires burned out of control over a period of about nine months during the 1991 Gulf War.



Photos by DR. JACK HELLER

their unit's known locations in theater, their health risk associated with exposure to oil well fire smoke and CHPPM's method of calculating exposure and health risk.

An online form makes it easy for veterans to request a signed copy of their exposure and risk report.

Answers to frequently asked questions related to

exposure and health risk calculation are also provided on the Web site.

For those who would like to learn more about the oil well fires set in Kuwait by retreat-

ing Iraqi forces during the 1991 Gulf War, read DoD's Oil Well Fires Environmental Exposure Report at http://www.gulflink.osd.mil/owf_ii/.

Purple Heart

From front page

was," Atwater said.

The ceremony attracted Purple Heart recipients from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Iraq War. Many remarked that they thought the ceremony was "moving."

"I thought it was especially moving because it made me think of friends I lost to IED's," said Staff Sgt. John McGill, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion.

McGill was wounded in Iraq during a mortar attack while assigned to an armored cavalry regiment out of Fort Carson, Colo., from April to

September 2003. He arrived at APG in June after recuperating from two back surgeries at Landstuhl, Germany, and at Fort Carson.

He added that all his memories were not sad ones.

"I'll always remember when [Secretary of Defense] Rumsfeld pinned my medal to my pillow while I was in a hospital in Baghdad," McGill said.

Hans Wassenius, an 82-year old World War II veteran from Brandywine, was wounded by shrapnel in France while serving in "Patton's Army," the 95th Infantry.

"I caught shrapnel in my back and legs but I was able to return to my unit," Wassenius said.

He said he thought the cere-

mony was very nice and that he hoped to return to APG to revisit the memorial.

Another Iraq War veteran, Dwayne Frost, from Prince Georges County, was injured while serving with the Washington D.C. National Guard's 547th Transportation Company as a force protection escort attached to the 82nd Airborne Division.

He said he never thought it would happen to him.

"This ceremony brought back a lot of memories," he said. "A lot of people don't understand what we went through over there."

GI Bill turns 60

Department of Veterans Affairs

June marked the 60th anniversary of the GI Bill, signed into law June 22, 1944 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The original GI Bill offered a broad range of benefits, including education and home loan guaranty programs still administered today by the Veterans Administration.

Millions of World War II veterans used education and home loan programs and transformed a nation of renters into homeowners while building a solid middle class of college educated and technically trained profession-

als.

About 21 million veterans, service members and family members have received more than \$77 billion in GI Bill benefits for education and training since 1944.

The current Montgomery GI Bill offers benefits not only to veterans, but to active duty service members and members of the National Guard and Reserves as well.

The GI Bill's home loan guaranty program has been used by 17.5 million people for loans totaling \$830 billion. Last year, the VA issued the third highest annual number of loan guaranties in the last

50 years.

June marked the 60th anniversary of the Veterans Readjustment Act that became known as the GI Bill. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill into law June 22 1944.

The bill has been updated several times to keep pace with the needs of today's veterans. In the 60 years since its signing, more than 21 million veterans and family members have received education and training from the VA.

In 2003, the VA helped provide education or training for 32,754 veterans and active-

See GI BILL, page 5



Photo by RALPH BROTH

Thomas D. Wallace, past state commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, places a wreath at the Purple Heart Monument in front of the Ordnance Museum, assisted by Scott Fissel, 12, left, and Kyle Lafex, 13, members of the Young Marines from Parkton American Legion Post 256.

The Purple Heart - then and now

The Purple Heart is displayed in Washington, D.C., at the Society of the Cincinnati's Anderson House Museum and another at Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh, New York.

The Purple Heart itself is what signified a hero of the Revolutionary War.

The Purple Heart was initially awarded to three soldiers - Sgts. Elijah Churchill, William Brown and Daniel Bissell Jr. On May 3, 1783, Churchill and Brown received the Purple Heart, then called the Badge of Military Merit, from Gen. George Washington, its designer and creator. Bissell received his on June 10, 1783.

These three are the only known recipients of the award during the Revolutionary War.

On Aug. 7, 1782, at his Newburgh, N.Y., headquarters, Washington devised the Badge of Military Merit, which was the "figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding." This badge was for "any singularly meritorious action" and permitted the wearer to pass guards and sentinels without challenge. The honoree's name and regiment were inscribed in a Book of Merit.

After the Revolutionary War, no more Americans soldiers received the Badge of Military Merit. It was not until Oct. 10, 1927, that Army Chief of Staff Gen. Charles P. Summerall directed a draft bill to be sent to Congress "to revive the Badge of Military Merit."

The Army withdrew the bill on Jan. 3, 1928, but the Office of the Adjutant General filed all correspondence for possible future use.

Although a number of private efforts were made to have the medal reinstated, it wasn't until Jan. 7, 1931 that Summerall's successor Gen. Douglas MacArthur confidentially reopened the case. His object was to have a new medal issued on the bicentennial of George Washington's birth.

Miss Elizabeth Will, in the Office of the Quartermaster General, created the design from guidelines provided her. The only difference in her design is that a sprig appeared where the profile of Washington is on the present Purple Heart.

John R. Sinnick of the Philadelphia Mint made the plaster model in May 1931. The War Department announced the new award on Feb. 22, 1932.

After the award was reinstated, recipients of a Meritorious Service Citation Certificate during World War I, along with other eligible Soldiers, could exchange their award for the Purple Heart.

At the same time, revisions to Army regulations defined the conditions of the award.

"A wound which necessitates treatment by a medical officer and which is received in action with an enemy, may in the judgment of the commander authorized to make the award be construed as resulting from a singularly meritorious act of essential service," states the regulation.

At that time the Navy Department did not authorize the issue of the Purple Heart, but Franklin D. Roosevelt amended that. By Executive Order on Dec. 3, 1942, the award was extended to the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard beginning Dec. 6, 1941.

President Harry S. Truman retroactively extended eligibility to the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard to April 5, 1917, to cover World War I.

President John F. Kennedy extended eligibility on April 25, 1962, to "any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with an armed force has been, or may hereafter be, wounded."

President Ronald Regan, on Feb. 23, 1984, amended Kennedy's order, to include those wounded or killed as a result of "an international terrorist attack."

Purple Heart Medals were awarded to military members or next of kin who were wounded or killed in the terrorist acts of Sept. 11, 2001.

Army regulations, amended June 20, 1969, state that any "member of the Army who was awarded the Purple Heart for meritorious achievement or service, as opposed to wounds received in action, between Dec. 7, 1941 and Sept. 22, 1943, may apply for award of an appropriate decoration in lieu of the Purple Heart."

There are no records of the first individual who received the revived and redesigned Purple Heart.

Local posts of the American Legion and the Adjutant Generals of state National Guards both held ceremonies to honor recipients.

What Washington wrote in his orderly book on Aug. 7, 1782 still stands today:

"The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered a permanent one."

Shortly after the award was re-instituted, a group of combat wounded veterans in Ansonia, Conn., formed the first chapter of the civilian organization whose membership was composed of recipients of the decoration.

Their action gave birth to a fraternal body that, until then, had been just a record on paper.

The living organization grew rapidly during and after World War II and is now a nationwide body. It became known as the "MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART OF THE UNITED STATES OF America, Inc." (MOPH) Congress by H.R. 13558 which became Public Law 85-761, on Aug. 26, 1958, chartered the organization.

MOPH maintains its national headquarters in Springfield, Va., and has chapters throughout the United States.

For more information visit www.purpleheart.org.

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

Editorial content is prepared, edited and approved by the APG Public Affairs Office. The APG News is printed by Homestead Publishing Company, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with APG. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Homestead Publishing Company of the products or services advertised.

For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 2201, AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to editor@usag.apg.army.mil. Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

Staff

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| APG Commander | Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg |
| Public Affairs Officer | George P. Mercer |
| Editor | Debi Horne |
| Editorial Assistant | Marguerite Towson |
| Contract Photojournalists | Yvonne Johnson |
| | Meghan Bowen |
| Graphic Designer/Web Designer | Blake Voshell |
| Web site | www.apgnews.apg.army.mil |

APG Commissary takes top honors in display competitions

Meghan Bowen
APG News

Illustration by
BLAKE VOSHELL

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Commissary in-store displays have done more than sell food; they have won gold three years in a row, with their most recent win for 'Best Endcap Display' from the National Frozen & Refrigerated Foods Association.

NFRA's annual 'Golden Penguin Award' was bestowed on APG's Commissary for its entry into the March 2004 National Frozen Food Month competition,

which recognizes outstanding frozen food merchandising, according to the NFRA's official Web site.

"We have excellent customers who support us," said Diane Mann, APG store manager, who attributes their success to the patrons as well as the "family-like" atmosphere of the staff.

"We also took silver for overall Best Frozen Food Display," Mann said, who displays a few of the almost two-foot tall glass penguin statue awards from previous years on a bookshelf in her office.

"The Golden Penguin Award is recognized throughout the industry as a symbol of excel-

lence," according to the NFRA's criteria pamphlet.

"It represents dedication, innovation and success in the promotion of frozen foods. The Golden Penguin Awards program attracts entries from across the country and from professionals in all aspects of the frozen food industry."

Besides an entry form, APG's Commissary had to submit a typed narration and art portfolio summarizing their Nestle sponsored display.

All of the entries were judged by "qualified" marketing professionals from accredited colleges and universities.

As a winner of the award, APG's Commissary will

receive industry-wide recognition at the National Frozen and Refrigerated Foods Convention in Washington, D.C. in October.

The March National Frozen Food Competition was just one of the larger promotions within the "Bring Us To Your Table! Freezer Favorites" industry-wide marketing and public relations campaign, which encourages patrons to buy featured products through the display competitions and shopping spree giveaways, according to the NFRA Web site.

APG's Commissary also ranked best in the Eastern Region, when they won StarKist Tuna's "Charlie the

Tuna" award for a lighthouse display that featured houses made out of the blue tuna tins.

The Commissary is currently competing for another 'Golden Penguin Award' in the Summer Favorites Retail Display Contest, which promotes various ice cream and novelty products.

Mann commented on the customer reactions to the commissary display contests.

"A lot of the customer's get very involved," Mann said. "They want to know if we've won yet or not when we're participating in a contest."

"We've got a great crew [at the Commissary]. Each display is a team effort," Mann said.



Photos by DIANE MANN
Aberdeen Proving Ground's Commissary ranked best in the Eastern Region with their "Charlie the Tuna" award from StarKist Tuna for this lighthouse display that featured houses made out of the blue tuna tins.



The Aberdeen Proving Ground Commissary wins 'Best Endcap Display' from the National Frozen & Refrigerated Foods Association for their frozen food case display featuring the Gordon's Fisherman and other sea life.

College fair draws crowd to APG

Meghan Bowen
APG News

Representatives from regional colleges and universities offered a variety of programs specialized to fulfill the APG Soldiers needs at the 16th annual College Fair sponsored by the Aberdeen Proving Ground Education Center July 28 in the APG Recreation Center.

College recruiters handed out information pamphlets and giveaways to both active duty service members as well as civilians who attended.

"We're very sensitive to the needs of the military," said Linda Kai Kai, Community College of Baltimore County admissions coordinator. "We're really well known for our Allied Health program and Veterans Affairs Office too."

Ruth Brisson, academic advisor and recruiter for the weekend and accelerated colleges at the College of Notre Dame, commented on why CND came to the APG college fair.

"We wanted to bring awareness about our accelerated business program to the military and civilian population at Aberdeen Proving Ground, which is great for people who go through the local HEAT [Higher Education and Technology] Center," Brisson said. "Also we're starting a cohort program in which each student becomes a member of a group of 20 to 25 people to follow the program, and to focus on one course at a time."

One APG Soldier, Sgt. Melvin Johnson, attended the college fair with a purpose.

"I came to get information on the ROTC program," Johnson said.

2nd Lt. Jonathan Fredritz, represented the ROTC program from Morgan State University, and just started an 18-week Basic Officers

Course on APG.

Michael Dinicola, admissions assistant for TESST College of Technology offered prospective students "hands on training programs as well as financial aid assistance."

"We're best known for our Electronics, Computer and Telecommunications

Technology classes," Dinicola said.

Marty Kindsvatter, representative for Harford Community College's APG office, informed prospects about the Associate of Applied Sciences Degree in Technical and Professional Studies that was developed at the request of

See COLLEGE, page 12

The APG Forum

Commentary — Did You Know?

**Chaplain (Maj.)
Joseph L. Di Gregorio**
USAGAPG

The shepherds of Spain have retained throughout the centuries an interpretation of Psalm 23 that still rings true for us today.

The opening verse, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," speaks of the instinctive trust of the sheep for the master. They believe the shepherd will care for them so they have confidence in him.

The Psalm continues, "In green pastures he gives me repose." Sheep begin their

grazing at 3:30 a.m. They continue until 10 a.m. when they rest. The shepherd directs them first to the rough herbage, gradually to the smoother grasses.

Finally he brings them to the fine sweet grass of the green pasture,

The sheep dislike drinking from running streams. Hence the verse, "Beside restful waters he leads me." Sometimes the shepherd must construct small pools of still water so the sheep can drink.

We are familiar with the following verse, "Even though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me." There is a valley of the shadow of death in Palestine.

It is a narrow pass, four miles long, stretching from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea. The walls of the valley are about 1,500 feet high. The width seldom exceeds 15 feet.

Only one path cuts through the pass. Twice a year the sheep pass through the valley to seek a milder climate. They encounter three dangers. First, a ravine breaks the path midway through the valley. The shepherd must coax the sheep to leap across it. If they fall, the

shepherd uses the curved end of his staff to pull them back up.

The second danger is the pointed rocks which menace the sheep along the sides. Any sheep wounded by rocks or thorns will be noted in the evening when the shepherd inspects each one for cuts or fever.

He rubs oil on the cuts. Then to alleviate the fever a sheep may have, he plunges their heads into a basin of cool water to lower their temperature.

Thus the words: "You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows."

The third danger comes from hostile dogs and wolves that prowl the valley. The lead sheep gives a signal if any such enemy appears.

The shepherd rushes forward using the pointed end of his staff to drive off the predator and kill him if need be. Hence the words, "I fear no evil, for you are at my side with your rod and your staff to give me courage."

One other problem the sheep sometimes face is poisonous grasses. This is why the shepherd scouts the range before the sheep get there. He

pulls out the deadly vegetation and piles it on tables like stone slabs found in the fields. The Psalm captures this scene in the words, "You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes."

The term shepherd traditionally applies to those who are leaders in the church. However, it also applies to those who are leaders in society both civil and military.

What are the leadership values pointed out to us in the 23rd Psalm?

- The capacity to inspire trust.
- The ability to nourish others in mind and soul.
- A sense of forgiveness and compassion, helping people overcome guilt and depression.
- The power to heal psychological and spiritual wounds.
- The courage to defend those we love from evil.
- The sensitivity to remove false values from the community.

As a father or mother, as a lower or senior enlisted or as an officer...what kind of shepherd are you for your family...for your country?

God bless you.

AEC employee appointed to HC Board of Education

Stephanie McKenna
USAEC

The chief of the U.S. Army Environmental Center Compliance Branch was appointed to the Harford County Board of Education Aug. 4 by Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.

Lee Merrell's concern for the quality of his granddaughter's education, who is in the Harford County public school system, prompted him to get involved with the school board.

"It's obvious from comparing American schools to

schools in other countries that something is wrong with our school systems," Merrell said. "I hope to be able to help find a solution."

Merrell holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas, Austin and a master's degree in environmental administration from George Washington University.

He has been with USAEC for eight years, working to help keep Army installations informed about new environ-

mental regulations and providing guidance on how installations can best comply with complex environmental laws.

Merrell's desire to improve local schools also reflects USAEC's organizational efforts to help community education through its school partnership program.

USAEC has partnered with the Edgewood Elementary School since 1997 to enhance its environmental science and reading curricula.

APGFCU honors community roots



Desiré Phelps
APGFCU

Aberdeen Proving Ground

Federal Credit Union has released three optional designs for its Visa(r) credit cards that honor Harford County's dedicated vocations.

APGFCU received its community charter status in April 2003, allowing it to serve the communities of Harford and Cecil Counties. With designs featuring an eagle cresting the American flag, a carved duck decoy, and a stack of school

books, county residents and APGFCU members have the opportunity to show their pride in the local ties that keep the community so strong.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground military base is the area's leading employer and home to more than 2,700 military family members. One way that APG Federal Credit Union salutes the area's strong military foundation is by offering a patriotic eagle design for its credit cards, allowing cardholders to show their pride whenever they make a purchase.

A decoy duck design pays tribute to the local and time-honored tradition of decoy carving.

With roots that are centuries old, decoy carving has itself carved a niche into the hearts of locals, and now, both carvers and connoisseurs alike can show their enthusiasm for the craft when they choose the new decoy design.

APGFCU's efforts in financial education and recent school-business partnerships with Deerfield and Thomson Estates Elementary Schools are examples of its commitment to promote financial literacy and support the teachers who educate children.

Offering the school book design was a natural and respectful extension of that dedication, and a symbol that any teacher, parent, or student would be proud to carry.

The idea of having optional credit card designs is not a new one, but APGFCU's local twist on the initiative reinforces its commitment to the new and expanded communities it serves.



Army News



Task Force Logistics restructures theater support

Army News Service

A Task Force Logistics conference July 28 through 30 at Fort Lee, Va., asked operations officers from the field to provide their take on the new Theater Sustainment Command.

This conference was the most recent phase of Task Force Logistics' design of a new organizational structure that will help the Army be more effective and efficient in its battlefield operations, officials said.

"We're bringing in the best and brightest from the field to get the field's expertise," said Col. John Wharton, Task Force Logistics deputy.

Field attendees include operations officers from major military commands, the current theater support commands and joint commands, Wharton said. The invited joint commands represented a push to involve all the services in the development of the joint-capable TSC.

"Certainly [Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker] has made it clear that he is a joint Soldier first," Wharton said. The changes in logistics have been in the making since February when the chief of staff approved the separate focus area task force for logistics.

The new TSC will eliminate layering of commands by combining operational level functions of the current corps support command and the theater support command, officials said.

"[Theater Sustainment Command] is going to work on [eliminating] redundancy and maximizing flexibility," said Maj Chris Stolz, Task Force Logistics operations officer. "We want to maximize throughput by knowing demands and tailoring to the needs of the units of actions."

TSC will be a modular organization with a standard headquarters and subordinate support units tailored for the

mission requirements of specific operations. Modular subordinate units will provide capabilities for theater opening; theater distribution; medical; petroleum, oils and lubricants; aviation, civil engineering and multifunctional supply, maintenance and transportation support.

Wharton emphasized the collaboration with CASCOM to develop new standard requirement codes, known as SRCs, that are associated with tables of organization. He said SRC teams as small as one or two Soldiers will be able to provide support based on their specific capabilities. Currently, a whole unit would be required to be mobilized to provide support for a job that could be done by a few.

TSC will work under the new unit of employment operational headquarters known as the UEy, with the TSC commander serving as the senior Army logistics commander in the UEy. TSC headquarters will provide command and control of assigned, attached and operationally controlled units.

Sustainment brigades will provide support to operational-level units in the UEy's area of operations and sustainment support to tactical-level forces engaged in combat in forward areas. This will allow throughput of critical sustainment, like fuel and ammunition, from the theater logistics hubs at ports to brigade units of action engaged in combat, Stolz said.

Right now, both COSCOM and TSC have to funnel supplies and services through different layers of management before getting to Soldiers in the rear and forward of the battle areas. With the new technology, trucks will be able to transport materiel right from the ports to the brigade or units of action where they are needed, officials said.

Eventually, predictive technology will even be able to tell where units of action will be and what they will need, offi-

cially said. They said, consequently, UAs will have their necessary supplies even sooner. This technology is still in the conceptual phase, officials added, but said the prediction will take into account the operational environment of the units and anticipate their needs, Stolz said.

The big difference is in the way that the logistics systems will operate, according to Stolz. He called the present systems "stove-piped systems" that do not talk to each other. The emerging systems have integrated communications, Stolz said. This means that the logistics information system will receive all requirements and the computer network will show that.

"The big difference is everybody will see what everyone else sees," Stolz said. In the past units could only see what affected their specific segment, he said. With integrated communications, it will be possible to look down the entire pipeline and speed the process by prioritization and reallocation, Stolz said.

The objective is to get rid of the layering of commands and redundant combat services support activities to get the necessary services to the field, Stolz said.

"The Soldier is going to see that he or she is not going to have to ask for the same thing two or three times," Stolz said. "Soldiers will see shortened echelons of support, but the support that is forward with them is much more robust."

The goal is have much more rapidly deployed equipment and the way to do that is through visibility to the Soldier and the command, Stolz said. The command will be able to know where the Soldier is and what he or she needs and the Soldier will know when he or she will be receiving the supplies needed.

TF Logistics is working with the Army Logistics community (Army Staff, the Army Materiel Command, the Army

theater support commands) to develop the required capabilities based upon tasks, functions, and missions. Collaboration includes work with the Joint Forces Command and several regional combatant commands according to Stolz.

"Everybody knows we have to do this, everybody wants to see it done and everybody is working to get it done as quickly as possible," Stolz said.

The new modular structure is underway with brigade combat teams and the 3rd Infantry Division, which now has four units of action, Stolz said. He said it's now imperative is to implement an end-to-end distribution system that can support the modular Army. TF Logistics hopes to have 80 percent of the TSC design in place no later than Sept. 30, Wharton said.

VOIP provides functionality

AKO

Army Knowledge Online is offering users a fast, easy, and secure way to get questions answered and problems solved from the Web.

Anyone with questions or problems using AKO, can go to <https://www.us.army.mil>, select the "AKO Help" link, and on the next page select the "Contact Us" link. This Voice Over Internet Protocol feature can be accessed by any of the "AKO Help" links within the portal. The "Contact Us" button offers a "Push-to-Talk" service that allows the user to enter a phone number "Talk by Phone" or use their PC "Talk

by Computer" to speak with an AKO expert right from the Web site.

Note: The "Talk by Phone" option is only for AKO Users calling from the United States or Canada. All International users must use the "Talk by Computer" option. Once user clicks the "Contact Us" button they will have a choice to speak using a telephone or by using their PC's microphone and speakers. It requires no special equipment or technology to use and best of all it is fast and free. Look for the "Contact Us" button on AKO to speak with an expert right from the Web.

GI bill

From page 2

duty personnel, 88,342 reservists and 61,874 survivors.

The results of the VA's programs have led many to call the G.I. Bill one of the most important achievements in the history of the U.S. Congress.

Pending legislation

Pending bills before Congress include:

The Montgomery G.I. Bill for the 21st Century – which covers the educational costs of eligible service members.

The Montgomery GI Bill Revitalization Act, which offers enhanced educational benefits and a living stipend to

active military personnel who enlist in the military for four years or more.

The Veterans Higher Education Opportunities Act would adjust veterans' education benefits to reflect the average monthly costs of tuition and expenses for students at public institutions or higher education.

Other bills would increase the rates of basic educational assistance to members of the Selected Reserves.

In addition, home loan guarantee program revisions would provide veterans the opportunity to obtain loans large enough, particularly in expensive housing markets, to obtain loans large enough to purchase homes as housing costs increase.

POST SHORTS

boards.

Requests for hardcopies for other types of selection boards will still be honored as well as for officers in the above category.

Any questions should be directed to the Soldiers' servicing Military Personnel Branch.

Tennis courts closed for repairs

Plumb Point tennis courts are closed for repairs and will reopen as soon as possible.

Additional motorcycle classes offered

Four additional motorcycle safety training classes are scheduled.

Aug. 14, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Aug. 17, 7 a.m. to noon

Aug. 24, 7 a.m. to noon

Aug. 27, 7 a.m. to noon

Anyone interested in registering should call David Backert, 443-910-1213, or e-mail dwbvast@aol.com.

CWF offers discounted BJ's membership

Members of the APG community, including civilian employees, contractors, military, retirees and their families, are entitled to sign up for a discounted membership to BJ's Wholesale Club. The \$25 fee buys a 15-month membership for two people. If currently a member, the 15 months will begin as soon as the current membership expires.

The Edgewood Area can

sign up 9 a.m. to noon, Aug. 18, in room #5 in building E-5106. Do not go to the BJ's Wholesale Club store to sign-up for this offer. The Civilian Welfare Fund group representative must process the paperwork.

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

Women's Equality Day Essay Contest

All military, civilian, and family members within the Aberdeen and Edgewood Area communities are welcome to participate in the Women's Equality Day Essay and Display contest.

The theme is Celebrating Women's Right to Vote.

The deadline for submitting essays is Aug. 16.

Plaques will be awarded to two winners in each category at 3 p.m., Aug. 24, on the second floor of building 3071.

Displays may include models, posters and/or collages. Essays must be double-spaced, 12 font and two to four pages long.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Arbel Connor, 410-278-2529, Sgt. 1st Class McCormick, 410-278-5598, or Sgt. 1st Class Ahmed, 410-436-1076.

ACS offers Dr. Thomas W. Phelan's 1-2-3 Magic Workshop

This two-day workshop is

designed to help parents manage difficult behavior in their children ages 2 thru 12.

The workshop will be held 6 to 8 p.m., Aug. 23 and 25 at ACS building 2754 Rodman Road.

All attendees will receive a complimentary copy of Dr. Thomas W. Phelan's 1-2-3 Magic book.

Free childcare will be available. Call Laura Reich, ACS, at 410-278-7478, to register by Aug. 20.

ACS sponsors "Another Dynamic Huggable Delightful Child"

The Exceptional Family Member Program will sponsor "Another Dynamic Huggable Delightful Child," a class that will focus on parents who have children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD.

The training will educate parents on ADHD, behavior modification and child training techniques.

The class will be 6 to 8 p.m., Aug. 25, at Army Community Service, building 2754.

Free childcare is available but advance notice is required. To register by Aug. 20, call Reeshemah Bugg, EFMP coordinator at 410-278-2420.

Family Child care training scheduled

Family Child Care training will be conducted Sept. 20 through 24 at 2201 Rodman Rd, building 2752 in the Aberdeen Area.

Applicants who are interested in providing home-based childcare, especially infant and toddler care, and residents in the Edgewood Area, are encouraged to apply.

Deadline for applications will be Aug. 27.

Being a professionally trained provider in a warm, home environment offers

many benefits including the potential for over \$500 per week; self employment; free training in a marketable profession; transferable credit to Army installations worldwide; free use of the lending library; free referrals by the Central Registry; free monthly newsletter; free workshops (nutrition, health, child development, safety, CPR, taxes and more); participation in the National CDA credential program; participation in the USDA food program and participation in the National Family Child Care Home Accreditation program.

For more information, call Alexia Baker, 410-278-7140/8720.

Testing alert to APG community

Aberdeen Test Center will support a training exercise Aug. 16 through 27.

Residents and boaters in the surrounding community may hear weapons firing and aircraft flying as well as observe aircraft illumination devices may create flashes of light visible off-post.

Activity may take place in the installation's restricted waters and/or in the air, over both land and water, and may include weapons and use of air and watercraft.

For more information, call 410-278-1147

Government symposium on ISR Transformation

The U.S. Strategic Command is sponsoring the "Government Symposium on Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Transformation...Showing the Way Ahead," Sept. 28 through 30 at the Adam's Mark Hotel, Denver.

This symposium will bring agency directors and senior military personnel together to discuss the challenges and opportunities ISR transformation presents.

The symposium will feature briefings on contemporary issues by intelligence community and Department of Defense leaders, including USSTRATCOM, Joint Forces Command, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Preliminary topics are DoD ISR Integration, ISR Advocacy, Information Integration, and Network-Centric ISR.

For additional information, visit: www.federalevents.com, or call 888-603-8899.

Spend the day or weekend in New

York City

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring a trip to see the "Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show" on Broadway, in New York City. Choose to spend either the day or the weekend.

The weekend trip costs \$499 for a single, \$325 double, \$275 triple, and \$225 with four people in the room. The bus will depart 9:30 a.m., Nov. 26.

The daytrip costs \$115 per person. The bus will depart 6 a.m., Nov. 27.

Price includes charter bus transportation, the ticket for the show and hotel accommodations, with time before the show for shopping and lunch.

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

Dental assistant positions available

Spectrum Healthcare Resources has full-time opportunities for dental assistants at APG.

The position offers good pay in a supportive team environment and a rewarding position caring for military personnel. Applicants must be a graduate of a dental assistant program and have a current CPR certification.

For more information, call Jenn Margherio at 1-800-325-3982, extension 4288, fax 1-877-519-4595 or e-mail Jmargherio@spectrumhealth.com.

AA Thrift Shop offers bargains

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.

Saturday evening mass ends Aug. 31

The 5 p.m. Saturday evening mass will be discontinued beginning Aug 31.

The Sunday 8:45 a.m. mass at the Aberdeen Area Chapel and the 10:45 a.m. mass at the Edgewood Area Chapel will not be affected.

For more information, call 410-278-4333.

Weight Watchers holds lunchtime meetings at APG

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.

Take advantage of group support where it's convenient at APG. Lunchtime Weight Watchers meetings are open to all APG civilian personnel, retirees, military personnel and family members.

For more information about the Weight Watchers' program at APG, call 410-278-1151.

Paid volunteers needed

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory will be conducting multiple studies in July and August at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Paid listeners need to be 18- to 40-years old, with normal hearing.

The listening time for each study is 2 to 4 hours. Each listener will be paid \$15 to \$20 per hour for each study. You may participate in one or more studies.

Interested volunteers should contact Gloria Diehl 410-278-5967 or e-mail Gdiehl@arl.army.mil.

County Commission on Disabilities needs student reps

Aug. 16 is the deadline for a 'rising' junior and senior high school students with a disability to apply to become the student representative on the Harford County Commission on Disabilities.

The applicant should be interested in developing their leadership skills and providing input on the needs of youth with disabilities. The commission is comprised of 16 volunteers appointed by the county executive with the approval of the Harford County Council.

Commission members work as advocates and catalysts for change for citizens with disabilities; investigating opportunities for improvements in quality of life and supporting community participation.

Nominated by the county executive and approved by the Harford County Council, the student representative will serve on the commission during the 2004-05 school year.

The student must be available to attend commission meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the historic Bel Air Colored High School, 205 Hays Street.

For more information, call Reeshemah Bugg, Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator, 410-278-2420.

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.

For an emergency, call '911' or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

Community Notes

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 15
389TH ARMY BAND
(AMC'S OWN)
CONCERT**

The Bel Air Recreation Center will sponsor the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) Concert Band 7 p.m., at the William A. Humbert Amphitheater located at 39 Hickory Ave.

In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held 7 p.m. at C. Milton Wright High School Auditorium, Fountain Green Road (Route 543).

**MONDAY
AUGUST 16
PINK RIBBON
CLASSIC GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

Upper Chesapeake Medical Center and The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Cancer Institute at Franklin Square will sponsor the American Cancer Society Pink Ribbon Classic Golf Tournament at Winters Run Golf Club with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

The cost to play is \$150 per person or \$500 for a foursome. Each player will receive free breakfast and a

buffet lunch.

For more information or to participate, call Todd Sullivan at the American Cancer Society at 410-933-5142, or e-mail todd.sullivan@cancer.org.

**TOASTMASTERS
MEETS**

Gunpowder Toastmasters Club 2562 will meet at 11:40 a.m. at the Gunpowder Club at the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

This daytime club offers an opportunity for both civilian and military personnel on and off the base to improve

their communications, leadership and listening skills.

For more information and directions, call Len Kolodny at 410-734-6573.

**TUESDAY
AUGUST 17
389TH ARMY BAND
(AMC'S OWN)
CONCERT**

The City of Aberdeen will sponsor the 389th Army (AMC's Own) Concert band, 7 p.m. at the Festival Park, Aberdeen. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held 7 p.m. at Aberdeen Middle School.

272-4000 or 1-800-225-2555, ext. 5451. Open to the public.

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 21
30 AND OVER NIGHT**

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054, located at 206 Spesutia Road, Aberdeen will sponsor a 30 and Over Night, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Donation is \$5.

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 22
BASKET BINGO**

Basket Bingo to benefit the North East VFW Post 6027 will be held at the VFW Post 6027, Route 272, Turkey Point Road, North East. Doors open at 2 p.m., bingo starts at 3 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10. Extra packs cost \$5 each. Food, beverages, baked goods, door prizes and raffles will be available. No smoking will be allowed.

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 12
SECOND ANNUAL**

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson at 410-378-3338, Jean Patterson at 410-398-7457, Linda French at 410-287-0041 or call VFW Post 6027 at 410-287-7817.

RIDE FOR PRIDE

USO-Metro, American Legion Post 221, Seventh District Optimist Club, WSMD-98.3 STAR FM, and Honda PowerSports of Crofton present the second annual Ride For Pride.

The event will include a 40-mile ride through scenic Southern Maryland.

Police will escort the ride, and celebrity riders will attend both the ride and the post-ride party.

**MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 13
BOATER SAFETY
COURSE**

To register in advance, go to www.usometrodc.org or visit Honda PowerSports of Crofton from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the day of the ride.

Donation is \$25 per rider, and sponsors an Operation USO Care Package. For more information, visit www.usometrodc.org.

The Bush River Power Squadron will conduct an eight-week boater safety course, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Box Hill Community Center, 2920 Strathaven Lane, Abingdon. Class size is limited.

To register or for more information, call 410-515-0195.

MOVIES

**ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50 -- Building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard
To verify listing, call 410-272-7520.**

SPIDERMAN 2

**FRIDAY, AUG. 13,
7 P.M.
SATURDAY (FREE
ADMISSION),
AUG. 14, 7 P.M.**

Starring: Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst

Peter faces new challenges as he struggles with "the gift and the curse," desperately trying to balance his dual identities as the web-slinging superhero Spider-Man and his life as a college student.

Peter finds that his relationships with all those he holds dear are in danger of unraveling.

His lifelong yearning for M.J. becomes even stronger as he fights the impulse to reveal his secret life and declare his love.

Peter's life is about to become even more complicated as he encounters a formidable new foe, Dr. Octavius. (Rated PG-13)



**THURSDAY
AUGUST 19
HOME SELLING
SEMINAR**

A free Home Selling Seminar will be offered by Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union 6 to 8 p.m. at the APGFUCU Operations Center in Edgewood, 1321 Pulaski Highway.

Guest speakers Cathy Werner of RE/MAX American Dream and Robert Brendel of Stonegate Title will cover topics such as reasons for selling, market analysis, costs of selling, for sale by owner, showing a home, negotiating the sale, and home inspections.

To reserve a space, call 410-

Visit
APG News
online at
www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

Youth fall gymnastics registration

Registration is open for all ages for 10-week sessions and will continue until the classes are full. Classes begin Sept. 18.

Cost is \$40 per youth, and youth must be a Child and Youth Services member.

To register, call Christina Keithley, 410-278-7571 or e-mail Christina.keithley@usag.apg.army.mil.

Aberdeen Area schedule

Ages 2 1/2 thru 4, 9 to 10 a.m.
Ages 5 thru 7, 10 to 11 a.m.
Ages 8 thru 16, 11 a.m. to noon

Edgewood Area schedule

Ages 2 1/2 thru 5, 1 to 2 p.m.
Ages 6 and older, 2 to 3 p.m.



Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Activities

Refunding Shirley Caesar concert tickets

Refunds for the Shirley Caesar Concert will be given at MWR Registration and Ticketing Office, building 3326 in the Aberdeen Area. The receipt or ticket must be presented in order to receive a refund. All requests must be in by Sept. 30, 2004.

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

Methods of registration

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

Ray Caralle Jr. Memorial Junior Golf tournament

Tournament will be held at Exton Golf Course Aug. 16. Start time for youth ages 7 through 11 is 10 a.m. and ages 12 through 17 is noon. Cost is \$10 and \$15, respectively, and includes tournament fee, prizes and lunch.

To register, call 410-436-2213/2233, or visit Exton Golf Course.

MWR Summer Fishing Tournament

This cash prize tournament

will be held 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Aug. 15, at the Edgewood Area Boat Ramp and Dock area. Winners will be determined by the weight of the fish.

Contestants must provide their own fishing equipment and bait. Tournament rules and state fishing laws will be enforced. A fishing license is not required.

Register by Aug. 12. Cost is \$5 for active duty and \$10 for all others.

Whitewater rafting trip

Experience the fun and excitement of a rafting trip down the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Aug. 28, in Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older, and are required to sign a hold harmless agreement prior to departing on the voyage.

Transportation and lunch

are included. The van will depart from the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center. Register by Aug. 13. Cost is \$100.

Back to School special at Chesapeake Challenge

Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park is offering \$1 off all go-cart rides through Sept. 6.

For more information, call 410-278-4124.

Survey for concert attendees

Attendees to the 2004 Army Concert Tour featuring Montgomery Gentry on July 17 at Aberdeen Proving Ground are asked to fill out the survey at <http://www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/entertainment/concerttour/>. It should only take a few minutes. Any feedback will be appreciated.

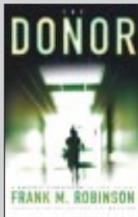
LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

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

For more information, call 410-278-3417.

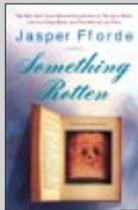
The following is a list of some new books available at the APG MWR libraries:

The Donor by Frank Robinson
Dennis Heller wakes up in a hospital to discover that he's just undergone major surgery for a minor car accident. Worse, it isn't the first time: the strange masked surgeon is the same one who cut him open in Boston after Dennis went in for a routine physical.



Garden of Beast: a novel of Berlin 1936 by Jeffery Deaver

Something Rotten: a Thursday Next novel by Jasper Fforde



Eventide by Kent Haruf

Kill the Messenger by Tami Hoag

Darkly Dreaming Dexter by Jeffery Lindsay

The library's Web site, www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html, provides access to the library's online catalog and also has a complete annotated listing of the library's new material, as well as a list of available films on DVD.

Looking for child care?

APG offers child care for children as young as 6 weeks old. Services are available for dependants of military, DOD civilians, contractors on base and military retirees.

To learn more, everyone is invited to the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center, building 2485, for Childcare Open House Day, 3 to 5 p.m., Sept. 9.

There are openings available for children ages 12

months through 5. Hourly slots are available for children 18 months and up.

For more information or directions, call Ruth Strauss at 410-278-7111.

The following Family Child Care providers located in on-base quarters will also be open for visits: Aberdeen Area-Tonya Armstead, 410-273-8994; Abigail Lane, 410-292-9205; Maria Quinones, 410-293-6486; and in the Edge-

wood Area Laura Jordan, 410-676-2710 and Angie Rivera, 410-676-7465. An appointment is needed to visit these provider's homes.

The EA Child Development Center, building E-1901 has openings for ages 12 to 18 months and limited openings for other age groups. For a tour appointment, call Myria Figueroa at 410-436-2077.

SCHOOL LIAISON/YOUTH EDUCATION

Aberdeen Youth Center, building 2522, Ballet Room.

The schedule of classes for ages 4 and 5 will be held 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday, starting Sept. 21.

Ballet classes will be held every Wednesday, starting Sept. 22. For ages 6 to 8, classes will be held 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.; ages 9 to 12, classes will be held 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; ages 13 to 18, classes will be held 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Tap Character classes will be held every Friday, starting Sept. 24. For ages 6 to 8, classes will be held 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.; ages 9 to 12, classes will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; ages 13 and older, classes will be held 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Modern Dance/Lyrical Movement also will be held 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Friday, starting Sept. 24, for ages 12 and older.

Ballet classes (Mom and Me) will be held 9 to 9:30 a.m. every Saturday, starting Sept. 25 for 3 year olds.

Edgewood Area

specials, customers can bid on a 36" Striker doll, a 7-day vacation package from www.GovArm.com and Trading Places, Harley-Davidson shirts, coolers, any remaining 9-inch Striker toys, bowling parties and more.

Visit the APG Bowling Center and start earning Bowling Bucks. The more you bowl, the more you eat, the more Bowling Bucks you earn. Collect \$25 in Bowling Bucks and take home a plush Striker bowling pin, bear, or ball. Collect all three while quantities last.

For more information, visit

EA Golf Course Club House.

Male and female bowlers are needed to fill existing team vacancies. A team consists of two women and two men or three women and one man. Also, the league will welcome anyone bringing in their own team.

Bowling begins Sept. 8 and ends sometime in April 2005.

For more information, call Dolores Huff, league secretary, 410-679-1718.

Thursday National Guard - There will be a meeting 7 p.m., Sept. 9, at APG Bowling Center to determine the cost and number of weeks. Team should be comprised of four per team (three men or women one man or woman, two men two women).

Friday Fun Bunch - There will be a meeting 6 p.m. Sept.

10 at the APG Bowling center to determine costs and number of weeks. Team is comprised of four bowlers (two men and two women).

Saturday Youth League - Bowling for ages 5 and up begins 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 11. Early signup is Aug. 28. Consideration will be given to other scheduled sports events. A year-end banquet guarantees a trophy to all participants. There will be raffles and giveaways throughout the season.

Saturday Cosmic Doubles League - Bowling begins 2 p.m., Sept. 25 for 12 weeks for \$10 per person per week. Signup is limited to first eight teams. Any combination of bowlers forms team (all men, all women, mixed). Cash prizes will be awarded at the end of league.

Collect Striker toys during Bowling for Bucks

Story and photo by Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Through Aug. 31, the APG Bowling Center will be offering Bowling for Bucks, the popular series that allows customers to purchase bowling bucks to buy prizes at the auction party at the end of the 2-month promotion.

Collect Bowling Bucks to purchase one of three 9-inch Striker toys, adorable plush collectibles, available with every purchase of \$5 or more.

In addition to food and beverage specials, music, free or discounted bowling and other

specials, customers can bid on a 36" Striker doll, a 7-day vacation package from www.GovArm.com and Trading Places, Harley-Davidson shirts, coolers, any remaining 9-inch Striker toys, bowling parties and more.

Visit the APG Bowling Center and start earning Bowling Bucks. The more you bowl, the more you eat, the more Bowling Bucks you earn. Collect \$25 in Bowling Bucks and take home a plush Striker bowling pin, bear, or ball. Collect all three while quantities last.

For more information, visit



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Plush Striker toys, a ball, bear or bowling pin, are awarded to those who collect \$25 in Bowling Bucks during the Bowling for Bucks series that ends Aug. 31 at the APG Bowling Center.

the APG Bowling Center; call MWR Web site, 410-278-4041; or visit the www.apgmwr.com.

Teen Driver Education offered

Teen Driver Education registration is now being taken for the Aug. 23 through Sept. 3 sessions.

Class fee is \$285 per student plus a \$15 registration/membership fee for teens of APG military and civilian personnel.

Sponsored students pay \$5 more. All classes are conducted in building 2752, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Students should bring notebook and pen/pencil. Bring a snack and drink for weekday classes.

All rules and procedures will be thoroughly explained by the driving instructor. Parent orientation will be conducted during the first class of each session.

Parents should make sure students are on time and picked up in a timely manner. To make an appointment to

register, call Christina Keithley at Outreach Services - Central Registration, building 2752, or call 410-278-7571.

For more information about the Teen Driver Education Program, call Rules Driving School, Inc., at 410-939-7008 or 410-937-2184, or call Ivan Mehosky at 410-278-2857.

Roye-Williams holds Open House

Roye-Williams Elementary School will hold an "Open House/Back to School Night," 6:30 p.m., Aug. 26.

Roye-Williams is combining its Open House and Back to School Night to form a partnership between home and school before the school year begins.

The school store will be open for parents and students to purchase back-to-school supplies, and parents will be able to deposit funds into their child's lunch account.

For more information, call the school at 410-273-5536.

Registration for the APG School of Ballet and Dance begins

APG Child and Youth Services will hold registration for the School of Ballet and Dance by appointment 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Aug. 12 through Sept.

2, at CYS Outreach Services-Central Registration Office, room 110, building 2752.

Classes include ballet, modern dance/lyrical movement and tap character, and will be taught by renowned instructor Karen L. Williams

Students ages 3 through 18 of military and civilian employees at APG and sponsored personnel are eligible for sign-up. The date for determining age eligibility is Oct. 1, 2004.

Classes cost \$95 per student per discipline and include one hour of instruction per week for 22 weeks and a recital. A \$15 annual registration/membership fee is required for students ages 6 and older, with a 20 percent discount for each additional child and 10 percent discount for each additional class.

Classes cost \$105 per student per discipline if a sponsor is required, plus a \$15 registration fee for students age six and older.

Aberdeen Area

Classes will be held at

high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors (ages 14 through 18 as of Jan. 31), who can maintain at least a "C" average, and are active in school activities, their community and their youth center.

The program runs from August to March. Completed application packets are collected in December and reviewed by a panel of adults, representing various organizations at APG.

In January or February, an award ceremony is held to announce the "Youth Of The Year" winners and runners-ups.

Winners and runner-ups may also receive college scholarships assistance.

In March, APG "Youth Of The Year" winners will compete in the Boys and Girls Clubs of America state of Maryland "Youth Of The Year" competition in Annapolis at the State Legislative Breakfast.

"Last year's winners, Anastasia Phillis of the Aberdeen Youth Center, and Wyndell Williams of the

Edgewood Youth Center, were thrilled beyond expectations to take part in the competition," said Ivan Mehosky, APG School Liaison.

"Although neither won, they scored exceptionally high and impressed all the judges. Besides making new friends and networking, they got to meet Danny Spriggs, U.S. Secret Service deputy director and former Dallas Cowboys football player; Billy Ripken, former Baltimore Orioles baseball player; several state senators, and Gov. Robert Ehrlich," Mehosky said.

Application packets can be picked up at the front desks at the AA Youth Center, building 2522, or the EA Youth Center, building E-1902.

For more information and assistance, call Angela Gittings, AA Youth Center, 410-278-4995, and Catherine Hanlon or Jerome Wing, EA Youth Center, 410-436-2862.

Mehosky is the program coordinator and can be called at 410-278-2857.

DTC oversees testing of up-armored HMMWV, armor kits



Photo by SGT. MARVIN DANIELS
This High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle was damaged by an improvised explosive device in Iraq. The Developmental Test Command's Aberdeen Test Center played a key role in efforts to acquire improved armor packages for HMMWVs.

Mike Cast
DTC Public Affairs

As attacks in Iraq revealed the vulnerability of U.S. forces traveling in light tactical vehicles or hauling supplies and equipment, the Army began seeking better ways to protect Soldiers from a variety of threats.

The Army started adding armor to its High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, or "HMMWV," years before Operation Iraqi Freedom, but attacks from small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and "improvised explosive devices," or IEDs in military parlance, prompted the Army to place an urgent priority on shortening production schedules and beefing up protection for vehicles already in the field.

The land-mine hazards in Bosnia led the Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) to contract with O'gara-Hess & Eisenhardt, a component of the Armor Holdings Company's Mobile Security Division in Fairfield, Ohio, to produce armor for the "up-armored" M1114 HMMWV variant. The up-armored M1114 weighs about 2,000 pounds more than the standard HMMWV and includes 200-pound steel-plated doors, steel plating under the cab and several layers of bonded, ballistic-resistant glass to replace zip-up plastic windows. The first up-armored HMMWV's rolled off production lines in 1996.

The firm also developed armor for the M1116 and M1145 Air Force variants of the HMMWV, as well as armor kits for other vehicles and an armor kit that can be installed on the M998 A2 HMMWV.

But ground operations in Bosnia, though regularly dan-

gerous, were nothing like the current situation in Iraq, where attackers have used rocket-propelled grenades and IEDs to kill or maim U.S. Soldiers almost every day since the end of major combat.

Army leaders called for a substantial increase in the production of the up-armored HMMWV's per month to meet the critical need for protecting troops in Iraq.

The Army's Aberdeen Test Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, one of several Developmental Test Command test centers, began testing the up-armored HMMWV and armor-protection kits for the remainder of the HMMWV fleet in August of 2003. In addition to testing against the range of ballistic threats tactical vehicles could encounter on the battlefield, ATC engineers and technicians have thoroughly tested the impacts that added weight of armor or armor kits have on vehicles' automotive performance.

To protect Soldiers already using standard-production HMMWV's, engineers from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, a division of Army's Research Development and Engineering Command at APG, began developing an add-on armor door and panel kit for fielded HMMWV's in August 2003.

With design and integration help from Detroit Arsenal's Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, RDECOM created the Expedient Armor Survivability Kit and provided it to ATC for testing in mid-October 2003.

Maj. Gen. Robert Armbruster, former commander of the Army Test and Evaluation Command, the higher headquarters for both DTC and ATC, assigned Col.

John Rooney, DTC's chief of staff, to lead the test and evaluation team for the up-armor and add-on armor kits.

On Oct. 8, 2003, Armbruster called the key players together for a "rock drill" to make sure everything was on track. ATC's ballistic tests of the RDECOM kit began Oct. 15, and by Oct. 27 the first kits had arrived in Iraq. DTC issued a safety confirmation a few days later.

Rooney said he was very gratified that ATC could accomplish the full range of testing required for this kit in less than two weeks. Testing took place seven days a week, 24 hours a day when test items were available.

"We're aware that guys' lives are on the line, that every minute counts and every day counts," he said.

James Fasig, retired ATC technical director, noted that ATC ran tests seven days a week, 24 hours a day, when items were available to test.

At the time this article was written, some 6,900 of the RDECOM kits had been shipped to Iraq, and about 6,500 had been installed in theater.

DTC and ATC have been involved in testing numerous other HMMWV armor protection kits from various manufacturers. Currently, 123 potential armor solutions have been tested, Rooney said.

By November, 2003, ATC testers had completed enough of the HMMWV testing for them to turn their attention to testing needed for armor protection kits designed for the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck, the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles, the Palletized Load System and other tactical wheeled vehicles. Manufacturers provided the

Army with samples of their armor, referred to as "coupons" by testers. Materials used for armor ranged from heavy steel to lightweight composite materials bonded with epoxy. The baseline for testing was the M1114 HMMWV. ATC testers subjected the coupons to a variety of ballistic "threats" to determine if they could prevent projectiles and fragments from penetrating them.

This type of survivability testing takes place at ATC's Indoor Armor Test Ranges. One of these ranges is designed for testing soft and hard body armor, another is designed for one-piece and composite vehicle armor, and the third is a 100-meter range that can be configured to meet various test requirements. These ranges have a centralized data processing facility.

Some protective armor kits were eliminated early by the coupon tests because the armor on them didn't match the protective capabilities of their competitors, Rooney said.

"When we started this process, we knew we needed to find solutions quickly and compare across a number of solutions," he said. "There are very likely scenarios that provide a significant challenge to the kits. This was not a 100-percent test, but it was a very simple test."

"Generally, the first test is a go/no go test to determine what the (coupons) will stop in a controlled environment," added Fasig. "The data is available almost instantly after the shot."

The armor systems that cleared this hurdle underwent ballistic survivability testing while mounted on test vehicles at ATC's Outdoor Armor Test Ranges. For this type of testing, ATC places instrumentation in the test vehicle and on anthropomorphic dummies to obtain data on the impacts of various threats to both the vehicle and its occupants. Plywood devices that represent vehicle occupants are used for fragmentation tests.

These tests not only help the Army determine the impacts to vehicle occupants from projectiles or fragments that pass through armor, but also whether the add-on armor systems themselves can fragment and injure or kill anyone in the vehicle, Rooney said.

ATC testers also designed tests to determine how easily Soldiers could open doors, roll down windows, enter or exit vehicles - the human-factors-engineering aspects of system performance that could impact operational safety and the ability to fight back when attacked.

The Munson Test Area, which has a variety of courses and road surfaces that challenge test vehicles, is ATC's primary area for conducting automotive testing. Testers drove vehicles with installed armor systems over the test tracks to check road handling, wear and tear on mechanical parts, stress points caused by the extra weight, its effect on drive shafts and power trains, and other vehicle performance characteristics.

ATC's Roadway Simulator, the world's largest automotive test simulator, was used extensively during system testing. The Roadway Simulator is designed to conduct vehicle-dynamics, power-train performance, and shock and vibration testing on vehicles ranging from 5,000-pound, 2-axle light trucks to 80,000-pound tractor trailers in a controlled laboratory environment.

The challenge for manufacturers was to develop armor systems that could optimally protect Soldiers without being so heavy they significantly degrade vehicle performance and maintainability, Rooney said. Various systems provided to ATC had strengths and weaknesses from a tester's standpoint, he added.

While some systems were more protective than others because they used heavier armor, their weight was a serious problem.

As an example, he cited a system modification made by

one of the companies in competition. It had added more armor to make its system more protective, but it wound up being so heavy it snapped the test vehicle's drive shaft. Some systems with composite materials were light enough for vehicle performance requirements, but not protective enough.

The challenge with today's technologies is to design systems for light and medium-weight vehicles that thwart ballistic threats despite the fact that adversaries are devising more powerful explosives, Rooney added.

The Army strives to do the best it can with the available technologies and resources, he said.

The solutions the Army has been focusing on now to meet current urgent needs may not be the ultimate solutions, Rooney added.

The Army will keep looking for better solutions and testing them, he said.

In the meantime, Soldiers are being advised of the capabilities of systems fielded to them.

Giving Soldiers accurate information about system capabilities is another critical goal of testing, Rooney said, because they need to base their tactics on a realistic understanding of the level of protection afforded them.

Although test programs for protective systems continue, the accomplishments of the ATC to date have been "major," according to Rooney, who said ATC has been "rapidly determining the capabilities and limitations" of armor systems on behalf of the Army. The testing necessary to ship nearly 7,000 armor kits to Iraq this summer was no small feat, he said.

When test items were made available, testing took place 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Rooney said.

"We would have run ballistic tests twenty-four/seven if we would have had enough kits," Fasig added.



Courtesy of U.S. ARMY

As a result of road-side attacks in Iraq, the Army had an urgent need to add armor to the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle.

College

From page 3

the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools in January 2004. The degree incorporates up to 30 credits for military specialties and training with supporting coursework selected to meet the career needs of

the noncommissioned officer. "Troops gain a lot of management credit and hands on experience with this degree," Kindsvatter said.

Mike Melo, director of the Virginia 'Troops to Teachers' office, represented the Maryland chapter of TTT. The TTT program is a Department of Defense pro-

gram established in 1994, whose main focus is to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low-income families throughout America, which reflects the 'No Child Left Behind' Act of 2001.

"The purpose of TTT is to assist eligible military personnel to transition to a new career as public school teach-

ers in 'high-need' schools," Melo said.

"We just had an interview at the Pentagon with the Department of Defense and we'll be starting a 'Military Spouse to Teachers' program soon," Melo said.

Education Service Specialist, Dori Lawton, said the college fair was a "success."

"We had 150 Soldiers and some civilians in attendance," Lawton said.

Another Education Services Specialist, Jennifer Clay, who organized the college fair, had an idea to mobilize more Soldiers to be able to attend the fair.

"I want to coordinate a bus for the Edgewood Area mili-

tary students to be transported to Aberdeen for next year's fair," Clay said.

"All the recruiters I talked to said they made a lot of good solid contacts, and that's what it's all about," Clay said.

For more information, visit <http://www.apg.army.mil/garrison/apged/education.htm>.

School

From front page

effectiveness and are always held to the highest standards possible.

Vaccine side effects are typically a low fever or a sore injection site. These symptoms can be treated with a mild pain reliever (acetaminophen or ibuprofen). A warm, damp cloth or a heating pad can help reduce soreness. Moving or using the limb that has

received the injection can also help to reduce soreness at the injection site.

Despite possible side effects, in general, it is a lot safer to immunize children than to allow them to get any of the infections that vaccines prevent.

More guidance

- Check with health-care providers for the current vaccine schedule. Because researchers are always working to make vaccines better, the

schedule could change with vaccine improvements.

- Health-care providers will know which vaccines the child may be missing or will need soon and should provide that information to the parent during checkups or sick visits.

Schools and day-care facilities also furnish information on immunization requirements.

- Keep all the shots received and dates received documented in a shot record.

- Keep track of any negative reactions to previous shots.

- Follow all instructions from the health-care provider after a shot is given.

Before certain vaccinations are given, Vaccine Information Statements will be provided to the parent.

These are information sheets produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that explain the benefits and risks of the vaccine.

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 requires that all providers of

vaccines give VISs out each time the vaccine is given.

Immunization is one of the best means of protecting a child against contagious diseases.

The fact that residents of the United States and some other countries no longer see diseases such as polio and diphtheria does not mean they no longer exist - it simply means that vaccines are working.

However, they will only continue to work as long as children continue to be immu-

nized.

The viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable disease and death still exist and can be passed on to people who are not protected by vaccines.

For more information, visit the CDC's National Immunization Program Web page, <http://www.cdc.gov/nip>, or call the CDC National Immunization Information Hotline at 1-800-232-2522 (English) or 1-800-232-0233 (Spanish).

achieved.

The notional timeline demonstrates the projected "spiral" approach to implementation.

Will NSPS affect my retirement and health insurance benefits, or leave entitlements?

No. NSPS will not change the rules regarding retirement, health insurance, annual leave or sick leave.

For more information, access the APG Web site at www.apg.army.mil and click on the NSPS link.

NSPS

From front page

Job Classification/Pay Banding
Pay for Performance
Labor Management Relations
Discipline, Adverse Action and Appeals
What will not change under NSPS?
Merit System Principles
Veterans Preference Principles
Laws against prohibited personnel practices

Anti-discrimination laws
Leave and attendance
Travel and subsistence
Pay under the Executive Schedule

Computing pay for firefighters
Rules on employee training
Health insurance and retirement benefits
Safety and drug abuse program

What protections does NSPS provide employees?

NSPS will be designed and operated within the framework of merit principles, veterans' preference and employees'

rights to organize and bargain collectively.

NSPS provides three levels of employee protection.

First, it must adhere to the merit system principles, second, rules regarding prohibited personnel practices remain unchanged, and third, NSPS requires that before implementing the new personnel system, DoD will partner with the OPM, collaborate with employee representatives, and notify Congress regarding areas of disagreement.

What is the purpose of Focus Groups?

The intent of Focus Group sessions was to provide a means to obtain stakeholder input and comments on personnel processes that could be included in NSPS.

How will PEO Work Groups participate in designing NSPS?

PEO Work Groups will use input from Focus Groups, the experience and structure of current personnel demonstration programs, and the principles of modern human resources management systems to develop alternatives for NSPS. Both the DoD lead-

ership and union leadership will discuss NSPS design alternatives in planned meetings during the summer of 2004.

The input from these meetings and discussions will contribute to the drafting of the proposed NSPS regulations in late 2004.

What is the timetable for NSPS implementation?

NSPS will be implemented in phases beginning (tentatively) in July 2005. Full implementation will occur over several years as aggressive, event-driven milestones are

OC&S emphasizes day of safety awareness



Pvt. Dana Spidle, center, an Advanced Individual Training Soldier with Company A, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, uses a fire extinguisher to douse the flames in a burning car under the watchful eyes of Edgewood Area firefighters Capt. John Hamilton and Donald Wehrly.

Story and photos by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Recognizing the high number of service members lost to automobile accidents on America's highways each year, the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School shut down its training facilities for one day to conduct Privately Owned Vehicle Safety Awareness classes for the hundreds of Soldiers, Marines and Airmen stationed on Aberdeen Proving Ground July 15.

The 16th and 143rd Ordnance battalions conducted simultaneous round-robin styled training in which troops rotated through five different stations, all geared toward educating them on safe conduct and awareness.

On the Edgewood Area, Lt. Col. Robert Pastorelli, commander of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion and Sgt. Maj. W. Joe Horn, acting battalion command sergeant major, briefed their Soldiers before releasing them to the instructors.

"The number one killer of Soldiers today is POV accidents," Pastorelli said. "It shouldn't be that way. For the 12 weeks you are here, I, your cadre, and staff will do as much as we can to inform you of the biggest risks that will take your lives."

Horn said the Army is losing more Soldiers in garrison than in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We're going to try to show you how you can save your life and maybe somebody else's," Horn said. "The Army can teach you a lot if you pay attention. Today is one of those days when you need to

pay attention."

The battalion divided into groups to rotate through the stations that included Drunk Driving Awareness, DUI, Drugs and Alcohol, Shock Trauma, Driving Safety, and Vehicle Fires.

Firefighters and paramedics from the Edgewood Area Fire Department, led by Capt. John Hamilton and fire inspector Thomas Stanford, focused on small fires that can be handled safely.

"We want you to know your extinguisher capabilities and recognize the size fire you can fight safely," Stanford said.

He said that before using a fire extinguisher users should "check the label to make sure it's for the type of fire of fire you're going to fight, and check the gauge to ensure it's within operating range."

"The basic vehicle fire extinguisher lasts 15 to 20 seconds," Stanford said. "Whether off duty or on duty, you need to be aware of what to do in the event of a vehicle fire."

The class concluded with the firefighters setting a vehicle on fire, then supervising as the Soldiers took turns attempting to put it out with extinguishers.

The Shock Trauma station was run by Debbie Yohn, a registered nurse with People Affected by Drunk Driving, PADD, a non-profit organization that educates and helps victims of drunk driving.

"The PADD mission is to eliminate suffering caused by drunk driving," Yohn said. "We focus on drunk driving and the price you have to pay. Sometimes you go to jail, but often it's to shock trauma or to the coroner."

She showed a film with different scenarios focused on the ramifications of reckless behavior.

In one, after stopping for drinks at the end of a long day, a driver causes an accident and the death of another driver.

"Drinking and driving cost him his career and another man his life," the narrator said. In the next scene, a father says goodbye to his dying son who was smoking marijuana while driving.

"If you drive fast, it only takes one split-second of lack of judgment to make an accident happen," the father said.

"You need to stay sound, healthy and take care of yourselves," Yohn said at the film's end. "We want you to promise yourselves that you will be responsible. Make that commitment, for yourselves and for your careers."

Judith Kressig, a brain injury survivor and PADD volunteer, explained that her noticeable limp and slurred speech were due to a 1986 accident in which she was a passenger in the car of a drunk and drugged driver.

Kressig was ejected from the car through the windshield and suffered severe damage to the right side of her brain. Both knees were crushed and there was damage to her liver as well.

She shared her story of the injury and her difficult physical therapy and recovery. Despite the odds she recovered enough to return to college and earn a degree in English.

"Not too many people graduate college after a brain injury," Kressig said.

She said she has volun-

teered with MADD since 1997 and with PADD since 2000.

"I've been called the 'shock trauma show and tell,'" she said, "But I firmly believe God wanted me alive to spread the news. Sometimes people don't think about consequences until someone like me makes them stop and think."

Brian Willem, a Bel Air mortician, closed out the shock trauma presentation explaining the financial aspects and expenses of funerals and burials.

He dramatized his point with gory photographs of accident scenes, an embalming and autopsies that left many Soldiers cringing.

Mike Gimbel, a substance abuse education counselor, gave an animated talk on impairment caused by drugs and alcohol. "The most common drug among teens is marijuana. They say it makes them concentrate better," Gimbel said. "I dismiss that along with the argument that it's safer than alcohol."

"Would you get on a plane if you saw the pilots smoking marijuana? Of course not."

"There is no such thing as a legal age with drugs, unlike alcohol, which can be consumed responsibly," he added. "You smoke pot to get stoned. When you're stoned, you're impaired."

Even legal drugs, such as pain medications are hazardous when not taken as directed or when engaging in activities that are not recommended.

"There is no prescribed pain medication that makes it alright for you to drive a vehicle," Gimbel said. "All are narcotic drugs that will impact your ability to drive."

He said that drivers must be extra cautious when consuming over-the-counter stimulants such as dietary supplements, most of which, like Ephedra, are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

"They do the same thing as amphetamines," Gimbel said. "They speed up the blood pressure, which affects the heart rate."

He added that although many dietary supplements claim to be Ephedra free, this does not mean they are safe.

"They are a mixture that is just as bad as Ephedra because it still gives you a false feeling that you are awake," he said.

"If you know someone with a problem with drugs or alcohol, do your best to try to get them help, because it doesn't get any better."

"If you eat well, get enough sleep and exercise, you don't need supplements," he con-

cluded.

Gimbel is a recovering alcoholic and self-described "former drug czar," now working with PADD to educate children, parents, community groups, and businesses about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

The Driving Safety Station, run by OC&S master instructor Arno Fels, focused on adjusting attitudes and behaviors while driving.

Wearing a marching hat and knickers from his native Germany, Fels said that aggressiveness was one of the greatest dangers of the road, worldwide.

"We can drive with respect to others," Fels said. "At some point when we get mad, we have to learn how to change our behavior to control our bad habits."

He said changing behavior could sometimes mean accepting the bad behavior of others and using other than hostile or aggressive methods to try to change their behavior.

"I am trying to instill in you to keep your senses," Fels said. "Be aware of the situation, maintain control, recognize anger and control your behavior."

Several students remarked that they appreciated the day's message.

"I thought it was very educational," said Pvt. Roger Gibson, Company C 143rd. "I heard a lot of it before but it's good to stay familiar with it."

Pvt. Tim Strandberg added

that he was most impressed with the shock trauma station.

"It was very informative and the speaker's recovery from the brain injury was impressive," Strandberg said.

"This was training for every Soldier," said Pvt. Daniel Heitzer. "Most people don't think about fire extinguishers. Most people just want to get away from the fire but sometimes you have to take a risk to save a life. I saw the value of the day."

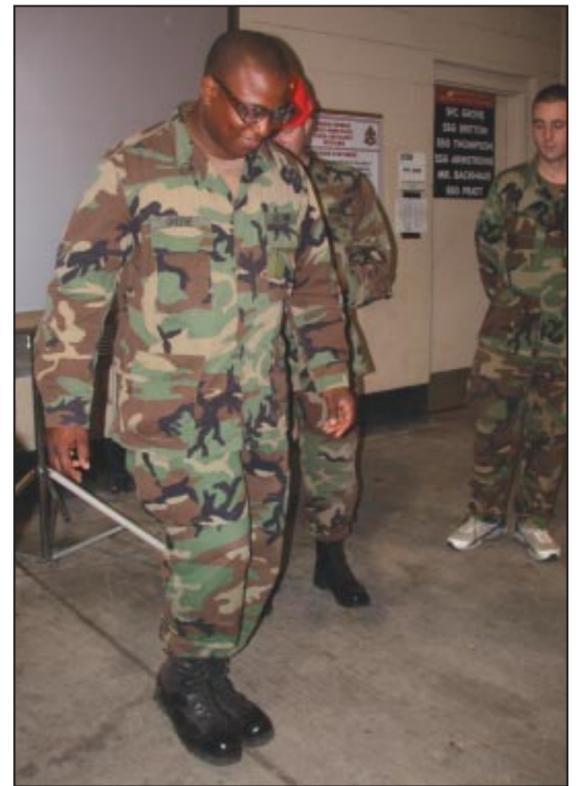
Sgt. 1st Class John Rodriguez, operations non-commissioned officer, said the 61st Ordnance Brigade S-3 coordinated the training for the battalions.

"This is a more focused version of what we do everyday," Rodriguez said. "As leaders, we have to look at each task, determine risks, then think of ways to control those hazards."

"This lets the Soldiers know how important safety is," added Staff Sgt. Adoon Jordan, an instructor with Headquarters and Headquarters, 143rd Ordnance Battalion.

He said it served as a good reminder for the troops who come here from basic training, and train for three weeks before getting a "taste of freedom."

"Without these kind of reminders, some could go out and make bad decisions," Jordan said. "We stopped training for safety. That proves to them how important it is."



Pvt. William Green, Company A, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, tries to walk a straight line wearing goggles that simulate intoxication, a part of the DUI/Drugs and Alcohol station training.

Compete for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

Sgt. Bryon Pieper
MRIDCC

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense and Aberdeen Proving Ground invite all services and commands to participate in MRICD's First Annual German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition.

"This is a rigorous competition that tests the overall aptitude of the Soldier," said Spc. Garrett Roberson. "Each

participant must compete in track and field events, including a road march, a swimming, and a marksmanship."

The GAFPB has been an integral part of an affiliation-related activity between the German Armed Forces Command, the Military District of Washington (since May 1994), and APG (since March 2001).

The GAFPB was introduced in 1972 for all three services in the grades of bronze, silver and gold.

Beginning with the fifth repeat, the gold badge will feature a specific number designating the current repeat.

The grade of the badge awarded depends on the results of the road march and the marksmanship performance.

Prerequisites for the award are:

- General military performance
- Sports performance
- Performance in specialty and overall aptitude

There are 250 slots open to all services, and each unit is allowed up to 10 Soldiers to compete for this badge. More than 10 names from each unit can be submitted, but extras will be added to a "standby" list. If there are any slots left open after Aug. 18, then the participant and/or their unit representative will be notified immediately.

The first 250 registration forms received will be accepted. The cut-off date for registration for the event is Aug.

18. "Soldiers compete for this badge for esprit-de-corps, self-fulfillment and satisfaction, honor and prestige," Roberson said. "It also enhances DA photos and will impress the promotion/quarter board with a foreign award, and the opportunity to meet new people."

For more information on the competition or to register as a participant, visit Web site <http://usamricd.apgea.army.mil/GAFPB>.



Gold German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

Reserve, Guard can seek reimbursement of medical, dental claims

American Forces Press Service

National Guard and reserve members who paid their medical and dental bills and saved their receipts may now seek reimbursement from TRICARE, officials of the military health care system announced July 23.

Officials said the system will begin processing medical and dental claims for Guard and Reserve members who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Only guardsmen and reservists issued "delayed-effective-date active-duty orders" for more than 30 days in support of a contingency

operation, and their families, may be eligible to have medical claims reimbursed.

And according to TRICARE, only those medical expenses incurred during the military member's "early eligibility" period - up to 60 days prior to reporting to active duty - from Nov. 6, 2003, to the present are eligible for reimbursement.

This temporary entitlement is part of the Defense Department's 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program, which sought to enhance benefits for Guard and reserve members called to active duty.

Normally, under TRICARE guidelines, Reserve and Guard members cannot be enrolled into TRICARE until they reach their final duty location.

The temporary entitlement gives them access upon receipt of activation orders, up to 60 days in advance.

Last year, President Bush signed legislation authorizing three new temporary provisions for guardsmen and reservists and their families that provided enhanced access to for a limited time during contingency activation.

The provisions were made retroactive to Nov 6, 2003.

A second provision tem-

porarily extended eligibility for TRICARE benefits to 180 days for those guardsmen and reservists who separated from active duty status during the period Nov. 6, 2003, through Dec. 31, 2004.

The third provision extends TRICARE medical benefits to reserve-component sponsors and family members who are either unemployed or employed but not eligible for employer-provided health coverage.

All temporary provisions will end on Dec. 31, 2004.

However, the measure did include three provisions for permanent health benefits:

making benefit counselors available for Guard and Reserve members in each TRICARE region, authorizing medical and dental screening and care for members alerted for mobilization, and providing TRICARE eligibility for reserve officers pending orders to active duty following commissioning.

Guardsmen, reservists and their family members must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and be TRICARE eligible to qualify for the temporary benefit.

In order to apply for reimbursement, eligible members

must submit a TRICARE (CHAMPUS) claim form, a copy of their itemized bill, an explanation of benefits, and proof of payment (if the bill was already paid) to their regional TRICARE claims processor.

Claims processing instructions and a downloadable TRICARE claims form, DD Form 2642, are available at local TRICARE service centers or from TRICARE regional contractors, or may be downloaded from the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/claims/>.

Facility sifts out camouflage design duds

Story and photos by
Curt Biberdorf
SSC

Patterns for military camouflage developed in-house or collected from other sources can efficiently be tossed out or retained for further review after scrutiny in the Camouflage Evaluation Facility.

Since its setup in the 1980s, the facility at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center here, has provided a controlled environment to view domestic, foreign and experimental camouflage in simulated daytime and nighttime conditions to provide clothing and equipment to help warfighters operate unseen by the enemy.

"The requirements we have are different from hunting camouflage," said Richard Cowan, a chemist on the Materials System and Integration Team. "Animals are

not out there looking through passive night vision devices. We also have to protect people in a wide variety of terrain."

Still, he said researchers look at all designs they receive because they never know if they will work. Unsolicited samples of camouflage designs come from any number of places.

"Camouflage is a funny thing. It's subjective and personal to a lot of people, but it's becoming a much more scientific endeavor because of the advances in electro-optical devices," Cowan said. "One guy was working on his design for six years. I looked

him up later and found out he worked at an auto shop in Louisiana. (Designing camouflage) was a hobby."

Regardless of its origin, the facility provides a standardized baseline to check against. At

the far end of the airy main room are four zones simulating a desert, urban, woodland and arctic setting, giving the backdrop where camouflage patterns are

clipped to board, dressed on a manikin or worn by a person. Walls are painted to match the scene. Live trees and plants, bark, soil and sand are used because they give the correct reflectance level essential in checking night vision, according to Cowan, and these components can be adjusted as desired.

Full fluorescent lighting from the high ceiling helps simulate daylight conditions. Calibrated lighting along the sides produces nine night-sky settings from "moonless overcast" to "twilight maximum."

Camouflage patterns are first measured with a spectrometer for reflectance and

then compared with visual screenings from various distances up to 50 feet away under every level of lighting. From a balcony at the facility's entrance, researchers look at the patterns through night vision goggles to determine near-infrared and short-wave infrared camouflage protection.

"Numbers will give you a good idea, but visually we can find out how bad it is by looking at how well it blends into the environment," Cowan said.

Buckles, webbing and commercial items out of catalogs have been recent items of interest. Other products evaluated range from face paint, battle dress uniforms, ghillie suits and backpacks to collective protection items such as solar shades and tarps.

Foreign military uniforms, dozens of them already avail-

able in storage, and commercial hunting uniforms are typically studied and compared to discover any advantages, according to Cowan.

If a manufacturer has a new material or if there's a question about existing quality, the facility provides the resources to easily inspect it.

Beyond existing designs, the Materials System and Integration Team investigates new camouflage assisted by a digital inkjet textile design and printing system, located in a side room, that avoids the expense of screen production, print pastes and large yardage requirements.

It scans fabrics or photographs into the system, or directly from digitized pattern files or digital photographs; measures samples with a spectrometer; and saves existing colors to the library or creates new colors from the color wheel.

"You can take a photograph of a specific terrain and then design a camouflage to blend in," Cowan said. "It's for a quick visual demonstration. The pattern can be called up on-screen and evaluated on-screen."

Once the desired pattern is electronically created, the inkjet printer rolls out 60-inch-wide pre-treated textile fabrics with reactive or acid dyes.

Standard or experimental fabrics can be printed, and all fabrics are steamed and washed following printing to fix the colors. An average print run is 5 linear yards, much cheaper than in the past when the cost could reach \$5,000 just to obtain a minimum yardage rotary screen print trial from a manufacturer, Cowan said.

The inkjet system and facility helped in downselecting designs for the Marine Corps Utility Uniform, and contributed to the design of the new Army Combat Uniform and Future Force Warrior.

"This is where we take the first swipe at it," Cowan said. "We still need to go to the field and area of operation to complete the evaluation, but the facility is a money-saver. If it doesn't work here, chances are it isn't going to work in the field."

For more information about the Soldier Systems Center, visit Web site, <http://www.natick.army.mil>.



A setting for arctic camouflage in the Camouflage Evaluation Facility is used as a background to quickly view and downselect patterns.



Manikins dressed in camouflage uniforms are displayed in the woodland setting in the Camouflage Evaluation Facility.



A setting for urban camouflage in the Camouflage Evaluation Facility is used as a background to quickly view and downselect patterns.

DoD Hotline offers anonymous reporting

American Forces Press Service

DoD Inspector General Joseph Schmitz wants to remind service members there are any number of ways outside their chains of command to report suspected incidents of wrongdoing.

The push to inform service members of this option grew out of the recent series of Senate hearings about prisoner abuse in Iraq.

Senators believed there was no way for service members to report wrongdoing outside their chains of command.

Schmitz' office runs the DoD Hotline Program.

Service members and civilians who wish to report incidents without going through their chains of command can take full advantage of this program.

Those with suspicions can call toll free 1-800-424-9098, commercial 703-604-8569, or DSN 664-8569 to report misdeeds.

Service members and civilians can also mail their concerns to The Defense Hotline, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-1900.

The e-mail address is hotline@dodig.osd.mil.

(NOTE: Fraud, waste and abuse complaints can also be submitted online at <http://www.dodig.osd.mil/HOTLINE/fwacompl.htm>.)

For more information, visit the inspector general's Web site at <http://www.dodig.osd.mil>.