

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Oct. 13, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

Fire Station holds open house

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire Station, building 2200, will hold an open house 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 9 to close out Fire Prevention Week.

Firefighters and rescue personnel will be available to answer questions on equipment displays, perform demonstrations and discuss Fire Prevention Week. McGruff the Crime Dog will be on site to teach the little firefighters about fire prevention, test their skills with a fire hose and see if they can find their way through a smoke-filled maze.

For more information, call 410-278-0533.

Holiday closure

The APG Veterinary Clinic will be closed Oct. 11 and reopen at 7:30 a.m., Oct. 12.

Reduced gate operations for holiday

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Columbus Day federal holiday.

The Harford Gate, Route 22, in the Aberdeen Area and the Wise Road Gate in the Edgewood Area will close at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 8, and reopen at 4 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12.

AAFES announces Columbus Day hours

The Main Exchange will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Burger King, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; APG Shoppette, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the MCSS will be closed.

Phase III C&GS class begins tonight

Enroll now for the final Phase III Command and General Staff Officer Class to be conducted on Thursday evenings, 7 p.m., beginning Oct. 7, at the Army Aviation Support Facility in the Edgewood Area.

This final phase III class is open to all field grade officers who completed Phase II. Officers enrolled in the correspondent course option are also encouraged

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AEC celebrates National Lands Day

Flags ride for AER



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Chief Master Sgt. Paul Mendez, left, and Master Sgt. Joe Neisser, of the Maryland Air National Guard's 135th Support Wing, attach American flags to Mendez motorcycle before the 4th Annual Flag Ride at the Harley-Davidson Buell Store in Baltimore County Sept. 26. An annual charity event, this year's ride benefits the Army Emergency Relief fund. See story on page 2.

Shirley Caesar to headline evening of Gospel

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The First Lady of Gospel, evangelist Shirley Caesar, returns to Aberdeen Proving Ground for an evening of Gospel, Nov. 5 at the Post Theater. Tickets cost \$30 in advance, \$35 the day of the concert. Doors open 6 p.m., the show starts at 7 p.m.

This will be Caesar's second visit to APG. She played to a packed house in February 2003 and was due to perform again in July, but the outdoor concert was postponed due to heavy rains.

Several choirs from the sur-

rounding area will also perform that evening. Check future issues of the APG News for more information.

Shirley Caesar

With an exhaustive list of career credits, singer and Pastor Shirley Caesar works tirelessly to spread the word of God through music. She believes the Lord trusts her to deliver the word, and her efforts speak greatly to her faith and application of it.

Her latest musical effort, SHIRLEY CAESAR & FRIENDS, is a collection of collaborations intended to bridge gaps.

"If it's not saying anything to the people, I don't want it," Caesar said.

Featured collaborators include Grammy Award winners Patti Labelle and Gladys Knight, rhythm and blues songstress Faith Evans, and Gospel greats Oleta Adams, Kirk Franklin, Desmond Pringle, Kim Burrell and Dottie Peoples. This diverse compilation of inspirational songs is boldly moving for a legendary gospel woman who has been recording for more than 40 years. Raised in North Carolina, Caesar grew up in an environment of obstacles.

Segregation, the death of her father at age 8, and caring for a semi-invalid mother made for a less than ideal upbringing.

She began singing as a young girl in church. Meanwhile struggling with school, she was encouraged to pursue goals outside of academics. She eventually graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's in marketing from Shaw University, and has been granted several honorary degrees from other educational institutions. Her musical career also flourished. She began singing professionally with the Caravans in the mid-

60s, performing and recording with the group.

In 1966 her solo career took flight as audiences fell in love with her soul-stirring voice.

Caesar has recorded more than 40 albums, participated in 16 compilations and three gospel musicals. Her credits include 11 Grammy Awards, 13 Stellar Awards, 18 Dove Awards, an Essence Award, a McDonald's Golden Circle Lifetime Achievement Award and the NAACP Achievement Award, as well as an induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

See CAESAR, page 4

ACS recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

ACS

Each year during the month of October, the Department of the Army and organizations across the nation demonstrate their commitment to the safety of families by celebrating Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This year's campaign slogan is, "It takes a community to prevent domestic violence."

Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program understands that families experience life-changing

transitions. When a military career is added, the challenges of constant relocations and deployments may increase stress for Soldiers and family members.

Domestic violence is abuse between intimate partners, which can take many forms. It may include emotional or verbal abuse, denial of access to resources or money, restraint of normal activities or freedom (including isolation from friends and family), sexual coercion or assault, threats to

kill or to harm, and physical intimidation or attacks. In extreme cases, domestic violence may result in the death of a partner.

"Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time for collective action: a time for communities to unite to mourn those who have died as a result of abuse, celebrate those who have survived, connect with those who work to end violence, and raise public awareness," said Laura Reich, ACS family advocacy specialist.

Aberdeen Proving Ground's ACS Family Advocacy Program will sponsor two information booths at the Post Exchange 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oct. 14 and Oct. 27.

Across the country, families and friends of victims have adopted the purple ribbon to remember and honor loved ones who have lost their lives at the hands of a person they once loved and trusted.

Shelters and local battered women's programs use the purple ribbon to raise aware-

ness about the crime of domestic violence in their communities. The purple ribbon also has been recognized by State Legislatures in proclamations commemorating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"Everyone on APG is asked to stop by and pick up their purple ribbon to show their support to end domestic violence," Reich said.

For more information about domestic violence, call Reich at 410-278-7478/2500.

APG 2004 Combined Federal Campaign begins

CFC staff

The Aberdeen Proving Ground 2004 Combined Federal Campaign got under way on Sept. 29.

Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command stressed at the ceremony that all military and civilian employees should be given the opportunity to contribute in order to assure success.

Others present included Col. John T. Wright, Garrison commander; Lindsay Miller, CFC director; Robert Solyan, CFC chairman; Lisa Mack, CFC vice chairwoman; Heather Sachs, CFC loan executive and Christopher White, artist and long time supporter.

White, an award-winning

artist, provided a copy of his print "College Creek, Annapolis." The numbered and signed prints will be given to Gold and Silver level donors to the Central Maryland Combined Federal Campaign.

In addition, the APG CFC Office has six framed prints (three large and three small) of another White print titled, "Fort McHenry," that will be raffled off approximately every two weeks during the course of the two-month campaign.

"Once a contributor has filled out their CFC pledge card, they should flip it over and write their name, telephone number and organization on the 4 inch by 5/8-inch tear strip," Solyan said. "The CFC Office will collect the strips and conduct a drawing to

See CFC, page 11



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

From left, Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Lindsay Miller, director of CFC for Central Maryland; Chris White, U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center illustrator and the paintings' creator; Robert Solyan, CFC chairperson; Betty Scott, CFC administrative specialist; and Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, display the original painting, "College Creek, Annapolis," to open the 2004 Combined Federal Campaign. Not shown is Lisa Mack, CFC co-chairperson. Prints of White's painting will be available for Gold and Silver level donors to the 2004 campaign. In addition, six prints of his 2003 painting, "Fort McHenry," will be raffled off during this year's campaign.

Thousands attend Flag Ride to benefit AER

Story and photos by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Motors roared and the earth rumbled as more than 2,000 motorcycles pulled out of the Harley-Davidson/Buell Store in Baltimore on the 4th Annual Flag Ride Sept. 26.

Begun in 2001 to benefit the families of the victims of 9-11, this year's ride was earmarked for Army Emergency Relief, which provides emergency financial assistance to Soldiers and their families.

Out in front were Army recruiting vehicles from the Guard and Reserves, followed by uniformed members of the armed forces on their privately owned motorcycles.

They included members of the Air National Guard's 135th and 175th Operations Support Wings out of Martin State Airport, led by Lt. Col. Ronald Leard who was the designated road captain; Maryland Army National Guard units from Dundalk and Havre de Grace; and recruiters from Dundalk's 1/75th Infantry Regiment and the 9th Theater Support Command, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Leard, who has participated in all four rides, said the turnout to support the Army was impressive.

"For the first ride we only had 500 riders," Leard said. "This is a huge turnout of support for America's Soldiers."

Representing the AER was Greg Mason from Alexandria, Va. He said the monies donated by the riders to participate would go into a general fund to benefit Soldiers and their families around the world.

"All AER offices will have unlimited access to these funds as needed," Mason said, adding that, "This is the first time AER has been a benefi-

ary of this kind of event."

Marge Fissel, Aberdeen Proving Ground AER coordinator said requests for assistance from active duty and activated National Guard and Reserve service members have increased dramatically during the War on Terror.

"Charitable events like this are a plus for AER, our Soldiers and their families," Fissel said.

Uniformed members of Baltimore County and the Maryland Transportation Authority Police motorcycle units escorted the riders as they circled the I-695, Baltimore beltway, a 55-mile ride that ended back at the store for a post-ride party.

Many riders said they participated for the fun of it but also to support a worthy cause.

"I've done this three of the four years," said Master Sgt. Fred Punte, an Air National Guardsman from Bel Air, as he prepped his 2002 Pearl White Ultra Classic Harley.

"This year they asked us to wear our uniforms," Punte said. "We were happy to come out and show our pride."

Master Sgt. Joe Neisser of Fallston, a "first-time rider," said he heard about the ride through Leard, his commander in the Air National Guard.

"He encouraged us to participate," Neisser said. "I think it's great."

Chief Master Sgt. Terry Allen added that there were 22 participants from Martin State Airport.

"We're having a great time," Allen said as he stood by his 2000 Electrolide. "I'll be back next year."

Sgt. David Eaton from the MDARNG's Havre de Grace armory said he came out to,

"support the military cause."

He rode a 2004 Harley Buell he just purchased in July.

"I came alone but the others saw me so now I'm riding with a group," Eaton said.

An Air National Guard loadmaster, Master Sgt. Nancy Harris was the lone military female in the group. Riding a 2003 Dyna Glide Sport, Harris said she's enjoyed all four rides.

"It's a neat experience," Harris said. "People wave at you from the bridges and cars beep as you ride by. Everybody on the road is a part of it."

"There's just a lot of camaraderie in doing these kind of things," added Patti O'Shea of Baltimore as she and her passenger, Judy Griffith signed in at the entrance.

"Everyone gets along whether you're riding a Harley or not," O'Shea said.



Sgt. Brandon Marshall, Maryland Army National Guard, 1/175th Infantry Regiment, helps Eddie March, 9, and Ryan Kahl, 8, check out a TOW missile system mounted on the roof of a high-mobility multi purpose wheeled vehicle during the Harley-Davidson Flag Ride to benefit the Army Emergency Relief, Sept. 26.



Henry and Judy Jackson of Dundalk take off with hundreds of other riders on their "flag bike," a 1993 Ultra Classic Harley, during the 4th Annual Flag Ride at the Harley-Davidson Bruell Store in Baltimore.

VFW Post 6054 ceremony remembers 9-11

VFW Post 6054

A special memorial service was held Sept. 11 at the Charlton-Miller Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6054 to pay tribute to the thousands of men, women and children who lost their lives due to terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

Commander Terry W. Robinson opened the service saying "We are assembled here to pay tribute to the ones who lost their lives when a series of hijacked planes crashed into New York City's World Trade Center, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and another plane heading to Washington, D.C., which fell

short in a Pennsylvania field.

"Before you is the flag of our nation, nick named "Old Glory," Robinson said. "The flag is a symbol of all that is sacred to us. The red of our countries flag is made redder by their heroism, the white most stainless pure by the motives which impelled them. In the starry field of our nation's glorious banner, the blue has been glorified by the service they have given for America's ideas. The flag reflects what we are - and what we hope to be." Robinson then introduced Dezeri Kirlow, 5, and Alexis Norris, 4, who led the audience with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Omeyomen Allie, VFW

Post 6054 Black Youth in Action Debutante for 2004, also read an essay on how the events of Sept. 11, 2001, affected her life.

Allie stated that she was in her classroom when an announcement came over the intercom instructing all students and teachers to assemble in the auditorium where they were told of the tragic events of the World Trade center.

"I'll never forget the feeling of helplessness," Allie said. "I can only imagine what the people in the trade center were going through."

Three years later Allie said she has a whole new insight on life.

"I value my family even

more and try to spend as much time as possible with them," she said.

Ladies Auxiliary Senior Vice President Linda Smith performed a candle lighting ceremony in remembrance of all who died and suffered in New York, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon. A candle was also lit to remember those who still live and suffer because of that day.

As Robinson named the World Trade Center, The Pentagon, United Flight 75, American Flight 11, American Flight 77, United Flight 93, the New York Fire and Police Departments, and Port Authority, Smith lit a candle. A special candle was lit for

service men and women who have died fighting the war on terrorism.

Afterwards Robinson asked for a moment of silence and heartfelt prayers for those families who lost their loved ones. Vanessa Reed, President of Ladies Auxiliary recited a poem written in honor of the third anniversary of the attacks titled "Remember," written by Sharla L. Zglombicki.

VFW Post 6054 Chaplain Sam Williams led a closing prayer asking everyone to keep in their thoughts and prayers the Soldiers and civilians who died defending our country and fighting the global war on terrorism. He also asked to honor all the families whose

loved ones sacrificed their lives. In his prayer, Chaplain Williams asked for the blessings for service men and women and their families, and to continue to bless the United States of America.

Robinson dedicated the service to the men and women who have served our country, those that are still on the battlefield and all civilians.

"These men and women are worthy of far greater recognition than mere words and markers," Robinson said. "The sacrifices they've made, and deeds they have performed shall be written in history, and shall remain alive in our memories for generations to come."

APG News

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Remember

Sharla Zglombicki

Will you always remember
Where you were that September day?
Exactly what you were doing
Perhaps, some plans you had made?

Can you still feel those emotions-
Of fear, of loss, and of pain?
The shock that ran straight through you
When you heard about that first plane.

Or, how about that emptiness
You felt as you first realized
That our safe and powerful country
Had suddenly been terrorized.

What about all those pictures
That showed the worst of it all?
The utter devastation and confusion
As we watched the towers fall?

Remember how we watched in frustration
As the rescuers searched through the rubble?
We'll always remember those heroes
Our "Angels", when our world was in trouble.

And let's not forget how we
panicked
Over security alerts every-
where
How "catching a plan"
changed forever
And the threat of anthrax was
a scare!

Yes, I'm sure we'll always
remember
Many scenes from that day in
0 1!
Some nightmares will haunt
us forever

Some fade as the time marches on.

We need to remember our fallen
The innocent killed in attacks,
Our heroes of wars, past and present
Those still fighting in, Afghanistan and Iraq!

But mostly, I ask you dear people,
To remember this day with pride!
Remember how flags were soon waving
Over our red, white, and blue countryside!

Let us always remember the les-
sons
We learned on that day years
ago.
But remember,
too, we're Amer-
icans!
Let our Patri-
otism continue
to grow!!!



Photo by DAVE MIAL • Illustration by BLAKE VOSHELL
Linda Smith, senior vice president, Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 6054, lights
candles in remembrance of all who died and suffered on Sept. 11, 2001.

Maryland National Guard helps with flooding

2nd Lt. Wayde Minami
Maryland Army National Guard

It may not have been the largest Maryland Army National Guard deployment in recent history, but for the people of Port Deposit, a small town located along the banks of the Susquehanna River in northern Maryland, it was certainly the most important.

As the remnants of Hurricane Ivan battered the state on Sept. 19, the town found itself in imminent danger from the rain-engorged river. As the rain continued to fall, Port Deposit officials were cut off from portions of the town. It was time to call out the Guard.

"We got the call [to stand by] around [5 p.m.]," explained Sgt. Daryl A. Cheatham, a fulltime member of the MDARNG stationed at

the Aberdeen Proving Ground Edgewood Area. "I called everybody and had them on standby and they were just waiting for the call to get to the armory."

That call came around 9 p.m.

Cheatham and seven other Edgewood Guardsmen, including Sgt. 1st Class Scott D. Hash, whose own home was just across the river from Port Deposit, and his son Sgt. Walter D. Hash, loaded into four heavy-duty 5-ton trucks and headed north.

"When we got there, the first thing we did was report to the mayor's office, and he wanted to go check where the high water marks were," Cheatham said. "Throughout the night, we took the Department of Public Works personnel around [the town]."

The Guardsmen, members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Aviation Brigade and Company A, 2/226th Division Aviation Support Battalion, stayed on site until the next morning, at times driving through waist-deep water.

Port Deposit Mayor Rob Flayhart was grateful for the timely assistance.

"If it wasn't for those vehicles, we couldn't have accessed the north side of town," he said.

Cheatham agreed. "It came up to the first step, and at one point to the gas tank of the 5-ton [truck]," he noted. "Their vehicles wouldn't have made it through."

High tide came around 2 a.m., with the river cresting at six feet above normal.



Courtesy of Maryland National Guard
Maryland National Guard Sgt. Daryl A. Cheatham indicates the depth of the water through which he drove on the night of Sept. 19 as Port Deposit Mayor Rob Flayhart and fellow Guardsman Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Brenchick look on.

Deer hunting season begins on Aberdeen Proving Ground

Meghan Bowen
APG News

Bow, black powder and firearms hunters are preparing for the hunting season in an effort to regulate the deer population on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Drivers entering APG see many deer along the side of the road especially at dawn and dusk going to and leaving work. Over several hundred collisions with cars occur on certain sections of busy roads, such as Maryland Boulevard, every year. "A word of warning in that, drivers need to be careful driving especially in the twilight hours to avoid such collisions," said Jim Pottie, biologist, DSHE Environment Conservation and Restoration Division. "The average cost of such a collision is over \$1,000 even on minor collisions.

"We're trying to control the deer herds," Pottie said. "We have between three and four thousand deer on post. Ideally, we'd like to take a thousand deer this season in order to reduce the population."

Pottie commented on the three types of hunting that may be practiced on APG.

"The firearm season is the long established method of deer hunting," he said. "The archers are very successful at taking deer as well though. It's a difficult skill; they have to get within 25 yards of a deer to

hit them, whereas with a firearm, the hunter can kill from 100 meters away, which is easier. With the black powder guns a hunter only gets one shot. If you miss, you have to start all over again from scratch."

For all hunting styles, hunters must meet specific eligibility requirements as well as obtain a permit. These guidelines are listed in Appendix APGR 200-6 on the APG Web site, www.apg.army.mil.

Pottie commented on new requirements for obtaining a deer-hunting permit on APG.

"We've increased the requirements for acquiring a permit. A hunter must either have a current approved security clearance or investigation, or get a Criminal History Check from his or her state of residence," Pottie said. "For instance if [a prospective hunter] already has a job here, a security officer provides a memo to buy permits at the Outdoor Recreation Center for them. For retirees, both military and civilian, after one year their security clearance is no longer valid. So they have to get a criminal history check within 60 days of when they want to hunt," Pottie explained.

Most facilities require that after a hunter harvests their first deer for the season, they must pay for an extra permit

for each additional deer. Maryland approved legislature that waves the additional fee on Federal Facilities like APG, according to Pottie.

The first bow-hunting season began Sept. 6 and will be in effect until Oct. 22. The last three seasons will run Nov. 1 to 13; Nov. 29 to Dec. 4; Dec. 13 to 18 and Dec 27. to Jan 31.

The black powder season has two sessions. One will last from Oct. 23 to 30 and the other will take place from Dec. 20 to 25.

The firearms season also has two sessions. One will last from Nov. 15 to 27 and the other will take place from Dec. 6 to 11.

A total of seven deer may be harvested by each hunting type, with a maximum of two antlered deer per set.

"We have regulations to maximize the 'antlered' or male deer population during the hunting season by having a gap of two 'antlerless' or female deer harvested in between every single antlered deer," Pottie said.

There are two different types of hunting spots depend-

ing on the specific weapon that hunters use during a deer season, according to Pottie.

"During the firearm season, hunters must stay within a radius of 50 yards of an 'X' on the ground. They use paint marked trees to establish the angle at which the hunters can fire.

During the archery season, hunters are designated a block of land to hunt. They use natural boundaries such as streams or roads to mark off their hunting space. At the corner of each boundary, signs mark the end of the hunter's section," Pottie said.

For those hunters who do not use all of their harvested venison, the Department of Natural Resources has a donation plan, which provides the meat to the homeless through their 'Harvest for the Hungry' program.

"I get the level of population control I need," Pottie said. "The people who like to hunt get to hunt. And those who like venison get to eat venison. At least one family I know uses venison as their primary meat product."

Deer hunting permits, for those who already have a current criminal background check on file, can be purchased at the Outdoor Recreation Center, building 2407.

"The biggest thing that we want people to do is be safe.

Also please be patient and kind with the Outdoor Recreation Center staff, because there's not many of them and there are a lot of hunters," Pottie said.

For more information on purchasing permits, call Ken Singleton, 410-278-4124.

Tip of the Week

Composting recycles the nutrients and minerals found in once living things.

**Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works**



Cadets from ROTC programs in local colleges and universities move in a wedge formation through the Lauderick Creek area of Aberdeen Proving Ground during an annual Situational Training Exercise held Sept. 23 through 25.

Future leaders train at APG

Story and photos by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

ROTC cadets from Loyola and Towson spent three days in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground refining the skills that could one day shape their Army careers.

During their annual Situational Training Exercise, held Sept. 23 through 25, about 50 cadets practiced reconnaissance, first aid, road

marching, land navigation and other training exercises, some for the first time, others in preparation for a Leadership Development Course at Fort Lewis, Wash., that will determine if they have the stuff to advance to active duty.

Lt. Col. Bill Haase, Loyola University professor of military science, Maj. Larry Doxtater, executive officer, and Master Sgt. Ronnie Dority, senior military instructor, led the training.

Doxtater said the participants, which could include cadets from Delaware, Morgan State and Johns Hopkins universities as well, conduct the training themselves.

"This is a part of the developmental leadership process," Doxtater said, noting that the cadets range in military skill levels 1 to 4, as in freshman to senior.

"The MS-4s train the lower classmen and then are evaluated by the instructors," he said. "These are skills they will have to develop to do well at Fort Lewis."

"The MS-3s are the core group," he added. "This is all about developing juniors to go out there and be successful against about 4,500 to 5,000 cadets from around the country on a 32-day exercise needed to obtain their commission."

He said that while some will go on to active duty service, many already are in the National Guard.

"APG is always supportive and does everything it can to help us out with an environment that is very supportive to training," Dockstetter said.

Cadet Lt. Col. Charles Gruver, commander of the troops, and an MS-4 from Towson University who recently returned from Fort

Lewis, said it was his job to oversee the training.

"We're trying to make things as close to Fort Lewis as possible," Gruver said.

"The MS-4's job is to develop and execute the plans for MS-3 training," he added.

Already in the National Guard, Gruver is among the top cadets in the country, Doxtater said. He plans to remain in the Guard and move on to branch military intelligence.

Cadet Sgt. Maj. Paul Brown, an MS-3 from Loyola, said his troops were "working well together and motivated."

"It's my job to take care of the troops and make sure the first sergeant stays informed," Brown said.

A native of Elkton, Brown said he plans to remain in the National Guard and become an infantry officer.

The battalion executive officer, Monique Medina, a Towson University cadet from Aberdeen, led the staff in ensuring the training went as planned.

The top female in the battalion, Medina said the learning process was a unique experience.

"We're still learning and we're leading others who are learning," Medina said.

She said that she has adapt-



John Shafick, a Towson University senior ROTC cadet, applies camouflage to his face before leading the "enemy forces."



Cadet 2nd Lt. Ryan Corcoran plays dead while cadet Jack D'Agata pats him down for intelligence documents during the prisoner of war portion of their training. Both are from Loyola University.

ed to the military lifestyle well and enjoys being in a position to help others.

"I advise mostly from my experience," she said. "I may not have all the answers but I know how to do what needs to be done. You have to take charge and establish that you

are a leader to get those who have to follow you in that thinking process."

A 2001 graduate of Aberdeen High School, Medina plans to pursue a career in the Army's medical services field after her graduation in 2005.

LEAVE DONATION

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). Employees leaving the program should call Ronda McKinney, 410-278-8988, or e-mail rondamckinney@usag.apg.army.mil, to complete a termination form.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Marian Bellis (fracture of left tibia) | fibromyalgia condition) |
| Sarah Blevins | Richard Hoffman |
| Michael Cain | Janice Johnson (diabetic neuropathy) |
| Iris Campbell (chemotherapy) | Anita Koller |
| Barbara Crossley | Beverly King (caring for husband) |
| Victoria Cwiertnie | Danny Kopp (lung cancer) |
| Jessica Dang | Jin Kwon |
| Thomas Davies | William B. McLean (kidney failure) |
| Carl Davis | Melissa Mullan |
| Shelia Davison (benign paroxysmal positional vertigo) | Tess Ramos (total hip replacement) |
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| Renee Gaffney | Marguerite Soper |
| Charles Gambrell | Alison Tichenor |
| Cynthia Henry (bronchitis with complications) | Linda Tignor |
| Melanie A. Hoffman (parasinusitis, | Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant) |

Caeser

From front page

Her television appearances include Live from Disney World Night of Joy, the Gospel According to VH-1, a White House performance for George Bush, and a speech on the Evolution of Gospel Music to the U.S. Treasury Department.

With a schedule including recording, performing, and ministering, Pastor Shirley constantly finds ways to spread messages of love and encouragement. She is a warm soul with remarkable intentions and talent evidenced by her selfless acts and expansive artistic prowess.

(Editor's note: Information taken from www.shirleycaesar.com.)

Pathfinder seeks to increase battlefield communication

Curt Biberdorf
Soldier Systems Center

Laser beam trip wires, flying cameras, roving toy-sized vehicles and a local wireless network boosted by "Super-Crumbs" are shaping up into a connected system of systems under the Pathfinder Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration.

Pathfinder ACTD, sponsored by the Special Operations Command with the ACTD and Urban Technology Office at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., serving as technical manager, is an effort to integrate unmanned ground vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles and unattended smart sensors into a mobile, self-forming and self-healing network. The network enhances situational awareness, command, control and communi-

cations to commanders and assault forces operating in urban areas.

"It's helped to give Soldiers reconnaissance and tie data together so that it's easily shared," said Adam Fields, Pathfinder ACTD senior engineer. "Instead of one guy getting the information that gets bottlenecked, everyone can get it at the same time."

Started in October 2002 with the War on Terrorism well under way, the ACTD is preparing for the culminating event in February 2005 and then wrapping up with an extended user-evaluation of the ACTD products through September 2006.

"The integration (of the systems) is starting to work," said Susan McKinney, ACTD and Urban Technology deputy program manager. "It's been hard to plan because things have

fluctuated wildly for the entire duration."

She said the ACTD has conducted dozens of technology working group assessments to check equipment function in the field, several limited objective experimentations to enable Soldiers to use the equipment and further refine it, and one military user assessment with Rangers on a training exercise.

Fields said he and other team members were embedded with the Rangers during the user assessment because the Rangers' operational tempo is so high that they had insufficient time for new equipment training on the system. The unprecedented opportunity gave the Pathfinder team a chance to experience real field conditions while gaining a better understanding of the operation of the system and its performance.

"I wasn't feeling too good at first, but we were able to fix mistakes," Fields said. "The feedback they gave was that this has potential. They said to make the changes to see that it works and give it back to them in February to operate it themselves."

Pathfinder is focused on enabling commanders and warfighters to understand the situation and develop a decisive plan before making enemy contact for faster action and more efficient use of resources.

The system would be used in small team operations consisting of early-entry Special Operations and lightweight conventional forces. No more than 200 warfighters would be engaged for a limited duration and focused objective in a relatively small geographic area. For the culminating demonstration, Rangers will seize an airfield to accommodate arrival and deployment of a direct-action assault force into an urban area.

Specific technologies to be employed fall into five areas using mature products now available for purchase that meet Pathfinder requirements.

Networked

The network is the backbone of the Pathfinder system. Network repeaters take the form of small stationary black box sensors set known as "BreadCrumbs" or "Super-

See *PATHFINDER*, page 11



Photos courtesy of U.S. Army
A BreadCrumb network node is set up in a field.



A Soldier operates a Tacticomp handheld computer tied into a wireless network.



The Talon unmanned ground vehicle can allow Soldiers to send a coded laser to guide smart munitions from longer distances.

POST SHORTS

to take advantage of this final class. Students will be enrolled in ATRRS when they arrive.

For more information, call Lt. Col. Mark Valeri, 410-299-2068.

Hispanic Heritage Month observance

The APG Garrison in coordination with U.S. Army center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and U.S. Army Research, development and Engineering Command will celebrate this year's Hispanic Heritage Month Observance 11:30 to 12:30, Oct. 14, at the Stark Recreation Center in the Edgewood Area. Food samples will be provided. There is no cost to attend this event.

This year's theme is "Hispanic Americans: Making a Difference in Our Communities and Our Nation."

The guest speaker will be J. Fernando Barrueta, president and CEO of the Hispanic College Fund.

Two buses will provide transportation from Aberdeen Area to the Edgewood Area. Bus #1 will arrive at the APG Athletic Center, building 3300, at 10:30 a.m. and depart at 10:40 a.m. Bus #2 will arrive at the parking lot behind APG Garrison headquarters building 305 at 10:30 a.m. and depart at 10:40 a.m.

The buses will return to the Edgewood Recreation Center at 12:30 p.m. for a departure time of 12:40 p.m. to return to the Aberdeen Area locations.

For more information, call Diane Simmons, ECBC, 410-436-8479; Carmen Adrover, CHPPM, 410-436-8341, Nellie Duprey, ATC, 410-278-7509; Kathleen Crosby, EEO, 410-278-1137; or Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Serino, EOA, Garrison, 410-278-1534.

Army seeking warrant officer candidates

The U.S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen

to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties if applicants are qualified. Applicants with less than 12 years of active federal service are encouraged to apply.

For more information and all forms/documents required, visit www.usarec.army.mil/warrant, or call DSN 536-0328/0466/0271/1860/0458/0484 or commercial 502-626-1860.

Gen. Emmett Paige scholarships available

The Gen. Emmett Paige Scholarship provides funding to veterans, military personnel, and their family members who are majoring in specified fields in college for \$2,000.

This program is open to veterans and persons on active duty in the uniformed military services and to their spouses or family members who are currently enrolled full-time in an accredited four-year degree-granting institution in the United States. Veterans entering college as freshmen may apply. Spouses or family members must be sophomores or juniors.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, be of good moral character, have demonstrated academic excellence, be motivated to complete a college education, and be working toward a degree in engineering (aerospace, chemical, computer, or electrical), mathematics, physics, or computer science with a GPA of 3.4 or higher.

For more information, see <http://www.military.com/Education/ScholarShip/Profile/1,14220,0546,00.html>.

USO photo contest ends soon

The deadline to participate in the USO-Metro Photography Contest is Oct. 15. Submit a photograph to the 6th annual USO-Metro Photography Contest. The winning photographer will receive a \$300 prize, and the winning photo will be featured on the cover of the 2005 Guide to Metropolitan Washington. All photos must have a military theme. The contest is open to all military ID card holders. Mail the photo to USO-Metro Photography Contest, Attn: Lisa Frederick, 228 McNair Road, Bldg. 405, Fort Myer, VA 22211, or call 703-696-3278.

Thrift Shop to disburse funds

The APG Thrift Shop will accept requests for donations from schools, service organizations and military units through Oct. 31.

The request should include the name of the organization, point of contact, address, telephone number, amount requested and specific details on what the funds will be used for. In the past donations have been granted to area Aberdeen schools, Boy Scouts, Army Community Service and veteran organizations.

Mail or drop off requests to

APG Thrift Store, building 2458, APG, MD 21005-5001.

For more information, call the store during operating hours, which are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the first Saturday of the month. Consignments are only taken 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday.

Shirley Caesar returns to APG

The Shirley Caesar concert that was cancelled in July has been reset for Friday, Nov. 5 at the Post Theater. Doors open 6 p.m. and the show starts 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$30 in advance, \$35 the day of the concert. Local groups also will perform. For more information, contact Morale, Welfare and Recreation registration in building 3326 or call 410-278-4907 or email: mwr_registration@usag.apg.army.mil.

Johns Hopkins USFHP open forum

An open forum will be offered 1 to 2 p.m. and 2 to 3 p.m., Oct. 13, in the NCO Room at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Recreation Center, building 3326, on the corner of Raritan and Erie streets. Representatives from Johns Hopkins will provide materials and answer questions about the USFHP, a TRICARE Prime option.

The forum is open all DEERS-eligible family members of active duty and retired uniformed services members, retirees of all ages, family members of Reserve/National Guard on active duty for 31 days or more, non-remarried spouses and unmarried children of deceased service members, Coast Guard family members, NOAA retirees and their family members, as well as eligible family members of deceased NOAA members. No pre-registration is required.

For information, call 1-800-80-USFHP (7347), or Ed Cramer, USFHP at Johns Hopkins, 443-287-2529 or e-mail ecramer3@jhmi.edu, or visit www.hopkinsmedicine.org/usfhp.

ACS holds small business class

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program will hold "How to Start a Small Business," 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oct. 14, at the Aberdeen HEAT Center.

Seize the opportunity to learn how to start a business. This information will help prospective and established businesses clarify their needs and learn more about the resources available to them.

Classes are free to APG adults with valid ID, cardholders, family members, active duty, civilians and contractors.

The HEAT Center is located on 1201 Technology Drive, Aberdeen (Off of Route 22).

For registration or more information, call Marilyn Howard, manager, Employment Readiness

Program, ACS, at 410-278-9669.

Military Christian Center offers local trips for military personnel

The Military Christian Center has sightseeing and shopping trips scheduled for October. Pickup times and locations include:

Oct. 9, 1:30 p.m. pickup, White Marsh Mall

Oct. 10, 9 a.m. pickup, Baltimore Inner Harbor (Civil War flagship, submarine, paddle boats, shopping mall, etc.)

Oct. 16, 1:30 p.m. pickup, Arundel Mills Shopping Center

Oct. 23, 9:30 a.m. pickup, Philadelphia, Pa. (Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, shopping mall)

Oct. 23, 9 a.m. pickup, Towson Town Center

Oct. 30, 1:30 p.m. pickup, Arundel Mills Shopping Center

Oct. 31, 6:30 a.m. pickup, Washington, D.C. (White House, Capitol, Washington Monument and more) All trips are free, with a donation of \$2.

The Military Christian Center is located at 16 N. Philadelphia Blvd., Aberdeen, and is open Friday through Sunday. Free home-cooked meals and dorm facilities are available.

When a call is received, a member of the staff will pick up. The center is a practical place to hang out and relax for the weekend.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call 410-272-1144 after 8 p.m. Friday evening.

Research study needs volunteers

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory is conducting a study on speech in noise. Paid listeners need to be men between the ages of 18 to 38 with normal hearing.

The study requires two visits lasting two hours each. The study will take place Oct. 14 through 22. Non-military listeners will be paid \$20 per hour.

Interested volunteers should call Kim Fluit, 410-278-5850, e-mail kfluit@arl.army.mil or call Martha Dennis 410-278-5918, or e-mail mjdennis@arl.army.mil.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield service visit

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit the Aberdeen Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground 9 to 11:30 a.m., Oct. 12, in building 305, room 236, to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary. The representative will not visit the Edgewood Area this month.

For more information, call Teri Wright, 410-278-4331, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

APG plans Retiree Appreciation Day

Aberdeen Proving Ground will hold its annual Retiree Appreciation Day 8 to 11:45 a.m., Nov. 13, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. Representatives from area agencies to include, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, Commissary, Post Exchange, Community and Family Activities and the Veterans Administration will be on hand.

The National Association for Uniformed Services will provide a guest speaker.

Following the program everyone is welcomed to stay for lunch at the Dining Facility, building 4503.

For more information, call Army retirees Col. Charles M. Shadle, chairman of the APG Retiree Council, 410-663-9263 or Command Sgt. Maj. Barry Decker, co-chairman of the APG Retiree Council, 410-306-1153.

Community Notes

SATURDAY, SUNDAY OCTOBER 9 & 10 SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Upwards of 200 teams from New York to Virginia will be competing in the 7th Annual Columbus Day Weekend Youth Soccer Tournament.

The tournament headquarters area is the Ladew/Weber fields, where 14 tournament fields are located.

Tournament brackets are scheduled for girls under age 9 through under age 19 and for boys under 9 through under 15.

Teams are guaranteed three preliminary matches and all matches in age groups from under 9 through under 19 will feature the 'USSF 3 official system.' The under 9 and under 10 ages will play '7 versus 7' on a "downsized field."

For more information on the

tournament or to register a team, visit Web site <http://www.ghsc.org/tourneys/tourney04/> or contact Jeff Hess, 888-528-9009, days, 410-806-0946, evenings, or e-mail Tourndir@ghsc.org.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10 BULL AND OYSTER ROAST

VFW Post 10028, 821 Old Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen, will hold a Bull and Oyster Roast, 2 to 6 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-272-1218.

THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY OCTOBER 15 THRU 31 RIPKEN STADIUM HOSTS DIAMOND OF DARKNESS

Ripken Stadium will host Diamond of Darkness, a

Halloween themed park for children and adults of all ages. The event will include a haunted hayride, a wooded walk, a haunted house and more. Diamond of Darkness will be open 7 to 10 p.m., Oct. 15 through 31, Thursday and Sunday, and 6:30 to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday.

Haunted house tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$7 for children ages 10 and under; the hayride/haunted walk tickets cost \$14 for adults and \$10 for children ages 10 and under; or a Combo Pass tickets cost \$18 for adults and \$13 for children ages 10 and under. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation.

The Foundation uses baseball taught "The Ripken Way" as a tool to help young people develop positive character traits.

Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling the Ripken Stadium Box Office at 410-297-9292.

For more information, call Matt Musgrove at 410-908-6187, or Ripken Stadium at 410-297-9292, or visit matt@diamondofdarkness.com.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 16 FLEA MARKET/BAKE SALE

VFW Post 10028, 821 Old Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen, will hold a Flea Market/Bake Sale, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

Home baked goods will be offered for sale. Refreshments available. All tables cost \$10.

For more information, call 410-272-1218.

R&B FUNK SHOW

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054 presents the final R&B Funk Show for 2004, atarring Baltimore's own "Badd" and "Class." The show will be held at American Legion Post 17 located at 415 Edgewood Road, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Donations will be taken \$20 in advance and \$24 at the door and includes a light buffet, cash bar and D.J. Tickets can be purchased at the VFW Post 6054 or by calling Post Commander Terry Robinson at 410-688-3188 or 410-272-3444.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 17 BROOKS AND DUNN IN CONCERT

Information Manufacturing Corporation presents a Salute To The Military concert 7:30 p.m., Oct. 17, at the Nissan Pavilion at Stone Ridge, Bristow, Va., just off I-66, Prince Williams County. Brooks and Dunn will perform, with special guests Montgomery Gentry and Gretchen Wilson.

Military can receive half price lawn tickets through Oct. 15 when they present military ID at the Nissan Pavilion box office or any Ticketmaster outlet (including Andrews AFB, Bolling AFB, the D.C. Visitors Center, Fort Belvoir, Fort Meade, Goddard Space Flight Center, Nation Naval Medical Center, NSA, Patuxent Naval Air Station and the Pentagon).

Limit eight tickets per certificate or military ID.

Discount not valid with any other offers. The offer is valid while tickets are available. A service charge applies to all tickets. Event is rain or shine. Ask for W-type.

For more information, call 703-754-6400 or visit www.nissanpavilion.com.

HURSDAY OCTOBER 21 BUS TRIP TO WWII MEMORIAL, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Harford County Tourism and the Bel Air Friends of the Harford County Public Library will sponsor a bus trip to the Library of Congress and the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. from the Sheraton Four Points Motel, off Maryland Route 22 in Aberdeen and return to the motel at 5:30 p.m.

Participants also will have two hours to tour D.C. on their own.

Cost of the trip is \$35 per person and includes a box lunch. Reservations and full payment are due by Sept. 25.

Make checks payable to Harford County Tourism and mail the payment along with your name, street address,

city, state and zip, phone, e-mail address and cell phone number to Harford County Tourism, 211 West Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen, Md. 21001.

All fees are non-refund-

able/non-transferable. The fee can also be charged over the phone. For more information, call Harford County Tourism at 410-272-2325 or 1-800-597-2649.

MOVIES

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

EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

Friday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.

Starring: Stellan Skarsgard, James D'Arcy

Father Lankester Merrin thinks that he has glimpsed the face of Evil. In the years following World War II, Merrin is relentlessly haunted by memories of the unspeakable brutality perpetrated against the innocent people of his parish during the war. In the wake of all the horror he has seen, both his faith in his fellow man and the Almighty have deserted him. He can no longer honestly call himself a man of God. Merrin travels far from his native Holland in a desperate attempt to escape the horrors that he witnessed there. While drifting from place to place, he finds himself in the place where Evil was born; Merrin will finally see its true face. (Rated R)

SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.

Starring: Jon Voight, Scott Baio

A group of smart-talking

toddlers find themselves at the center of a media mogul's experiment to crack the code to baby talk. The toddlers must race against time, to stop the villainous powerful media mogul Bill Biscane (Voight), from using his state-of-the-art satellite system to control the minds of the world's population. (Rated PG)

SUSPECT ZERO

Saturday, Oct. 9, 9 p.m.

Starring: Aaron Eckhart, Ben Kingsley

When Dallas FBI Agent Thomas Mackelway (Eckhart) violates serial killer Raymond Starkey's civil rights during an unorthodox arrest, Starkey goes free and Mackelway is demoted to a remote branch of the agency in Albuquerque. Mackelway investigates the murder of a traveling salesman Harold Speck, which turns out to be the first of three seemingly random killings. Or perhaps they are not random at all. The assignment consumes him. His past mistakes haunt him. His head throbs constantly, as he tries to find the link between the victims that will lead him to their killer. (Rated R)



Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Activities

New operating hours

The MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center's new operating hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month.*

*If this happens to fall on a training holiday, then the Thursday prior the office will be open 11 a.m. to 7 pm.

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.

MWR looks out for singles through BOSS

The BOSS "Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers" Program meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m., building 305, conference room.

The program is Department

of the Army directed, installation managed and service member operated to support the overall quality of life, recreation and leisure and community service for single and unaccompanied service members and single parents.

For more information, call Joyce Founds, Morale Welfare and Recreation advisor, at 410-278-2621.

2004 Soldier Show

The 2004 U.S. Army Soldier Show returns to the APG Post Theater Oct. 23 and 24. The Soldier Show is a high-energy 90-minute review, showcasing the talents of active duty Soldiers who are selected by audition from throughout the Army.

They are amateur artists who have a passion for music, dance and performing.

They come from infantry, artillery, transportation, military police, medical, intelligence, armor, aviation, signal, and other tactical units.

The show is assembled in six weeks and then tours for six months.

The 2 p.m., Oct. 23 and 24 shows are open to active duty

usag.apg.army.mil.

2004-05 Basketball

Registration for basketball will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 18 through Nov. 8, by appointment only, at the Central Registration Office, building 2752 and the Edgewood and Aberdeen Area Youth Centers.

Cost of registration for the basketball league is \$40 per child, \$76 for two children and \$112 for three children. Cost of registration for the basketball clinic is \$30 per child.

Children must be Youth Center members to participate. Membership fee costs \$18.

The Basketball Program will consist of five age groups. Leagues include ages 7 to 8, 9 to 10, 11 to 12 and 13 to 14, with ages as of Dec. 31, 2004.

A basketball clinic will be held for boys and girls ages 4 to 6 with ages as of Nov. 10, 2004.

personnel only.

The 7 p.m., Oct. 24 show is open to the public.

Shirley Caesar concert with local choirs

Evangelist Shirley Caesar will be Ministering in Song on Nov. 5 at the APG Post Theater. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the show. Purchase tickets online at www.apgmwr.com or MWR Registration.

U.S. Amateur Boxing Tournament

The Integrity School of Hybrid Boxing and Community Recreation Division will host an Amateur Boxing Tournament featuring local and national amateur boxers Oct. 16 in Hoyle Gym and Fitness Center.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. and boxing will start at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$20 for front row ring side seats, \$15 for floor seating and \$10 for bleacher seating. Tickets cost \$20 the

Registration dates and times

In the Aberdeen Area, building 2752, walk-in registration will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Oct. 21 and 28 and Nov. 8. In the Edgewood Area, building E-1902, walk-in registration will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 20, 27 and Nov. 3, and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Nov. 2 and 8.

For more information or to make an appointment, call the CYS Youth Sports Office at 410-306-2297.

Sports Physicals are due to the Central Registration Office by Dec. 1.

Registrations taken after Nov. 8 will be put on a waiting list. Bring a completed physical examination and proof of age to registration.

A CYS sports registration form, NYSCA parents code of ethics and CYS code of conduct forms must be completed.

day of tournament. Purchase tickets at www.apgmwr.com, MWR Registration, or the Hoyle Gym and Fitness Center.

Football Withdraw Tournament

Suffering from the Raven's bye week? If so, then play in this golf tournament at Exton Golf Course on Oct. 17. This will be a Captains Choice Scramble at 1 p.m. Cost is \$10 and includes cart fee, greens fee, food and beverages. Registration closes Oct. 14. For more information call, Dave Correll at 410-436-2213.

MWR 8-Ball Billiards Doubles

This event will be a double-elimination tournament. Play will begin promptly at 7 p.m. and all participants must be pre-registered.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three teams based on the number of entries. Tournament will be held 7 to 11 p.m., Oct. 22, at the Recreation Center. The cost is \$10 per team. Register by Oct. 20.

The CYS sports program is in need of volunteer coaches for all age groups.

2004-05 Cheerleading Program

In the Aberdeen Area, registration for cheerleading for ages 6 through 15 will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 18 through Nov. 8, by appointment. To make an appointment, call Central Registration at 410-278-7571.

In the Edgewood Area, registration for cheerleading will be held every Wednesday, or call Chris Fielder at 410-436-3862.

Practice will begin Dec. 1 or 2; the program will end mid-March 2005. Games are held every Saturday in January and February. Cost of registration is \$40 per child, with 10 percent off every additional child.

For more information, call Bill Kegley at 410-306-2297.

Sign up for Youth Services Sports

Karate classes

The fall session for karate classes for ages 7 through 18 will be held Monday and Wednesday at the Aberdeen Youth Center, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Oct. 18 through Dec. 22. The class must have a minimum of 10 youths.

Karate classes cost \$60 per session. Youths must be a current Youth Center member.

Classes begin once the minimum number have signed up

For more information or for registration, call Christina Keithley at 410-278-7571, or e-mail Christina.Keithley@

Winter Expo welcomes skiers, campers

Meghan Bowen
APG News

The Community Recreation Division of Morale Welfare and Recreation held a Winter Expo displaying ski rentals and camping equipment Sept. 14 in front of the Bowling Center.

MWR rents downhill, snowboard, and cross-country ski sets including boots and poles from Dec. 1 to March 31, 2005. Ski equipment rentals range from \$80 to \$125

for season-long rentals. Ski racks and bibs are also available for a \$5 rental fee.

Winter campers were also able to check out the A-frame camper, which comes equipped with a stove and sleeping area. The camper is available to rent for \$35 a night.

"We were driving by and saw the pop-up [camper]," said Sgt. 1st Class James Greer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th

Ordnance Battalion. "We might take the A-liner to Pennsylvania for camping."

Information was available on the campgrounds in the Edgewood Area, Skipper's Point, which offers travel trailer campsites, picnic tables, running water, 15 tent sites, barbeque grills and port-a-pots. Campfires are allowed on the sites. For reservations, call 410-278-4124.

Travel trailer campsites are available for \$5 per night. Tent

sites are available for \$3.50 a night. Sites for Boy Scouts are available for \$15 a night.

Outdoor Recreation's hours of operation are Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed on Sunday and federal holidays.

For more information, call 410-278-5789.

Greenskeeper Revenge

On Oct. 23 the Greenskeeper is making up for all year and placing the flag anywhere he wants. This is a fun four-player scramble tournament playing the course the way the greenskeeper sees fit to set it up. Put a team together or sign up and be paired up into teams.

Lunch and beverages follow. It will be an 8 a.m. shotgun start at Ruggles Golf Course. The cost is \$35 per player. Register by Oct. 21.

Jujitsu

These instructional classes in the "ancient art of hand

combat" are designed to enable the student to become proficient in the art of self-defense.

The course includes learning take-downs, grappling, gripping, and ground floor fighting to subdue an opponent.

The instructor will give an overview and syllabus of the requirements for obtaining belts as well as the recommended training regiment for progression. Students will be responsible for obtaining any equipment needed for the program.

Classes will be held 6 to 7 p.m., Oct. 19 to Nov. 9, in Russell Gym. The cost is \$35. Register by Oct. 14.

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:

Founding Myths: Stories That Hide Our Patriotic Past by Ray Raphael

Did you know that the legend of Paul Revere's Ride was invented by a poet in 1861, 86 years after the fact? Or that Molly Pitcher, the revolutionary heroine whose picture adorns current textbooks, is a complete fabrication? These and many other myths of American history can be found in this book.

Chain of Command: the road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib by Seymour Hersh

Family First: your step-by-step plan for creating a phenomenal family by Dr. Phil McGraw

The Language Police: how pressure groups restrict what students learn by Diane Ravitch

Becoming a Leader the Annapolis Way: 12 combat lessons from the Navy's leadership Laboratory by W. Brad Johnson

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.

SCHOOL LIAISON/YOUTH EDUCATION

Teen Driver Education

Teen Driver Education registration is now being taken for the following sessions: Oct. 20 thru Nov. 2, Nov. 3 thru 16, Nov. 17 thru Dec. 2 and Dec. 6 thru 17. Class fee is \$295 per student plus a \$15 registration/membership fee for teens of APG military and civilian personnel. Sponsored students pay \$5 more.

Classes are conducted in Child and Youth Services, building 2752, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students are to bring notebook and pen/pencil. Bring a snack and drink for weekday classes. All rules and procedure will be thor-

oughly explained by the driving instructor. Parent orientation will be conducted during the first class. Parents should make sure students arrive on time and are picked-up in a timely manner.

To make an appointment to register, contact Christina Keithley at Outreach Services -Central Registration, building, 2752, room 110, 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.

EA fitness classes

Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210

Power Step: 11:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday

This class uses "the step" for 60 minutes of intense cardio workout. Abdominal strengthening exercises and a relaxing cool down are also included.

Power Bar: 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, Thursday

A total body strengthening class that uses the power bar (a weighted bar), the step, hand weights and tubing for resistance.

Abs Blaster, Mat Pilates and Hatha Yoga classes are cancelled.

AA fitness classes

AA Fitness Center, building 320

Step & Sculpt: 11:30 a.m., Monday

Class consists of cardiovascular conditioning using "the step." Hand weights are also used to sculpt. The class ends with abdominal and flexibility exercises.

Power Cut: 4:30 p.m., Monday and Wednesday; 11:30 a.m., Thursdays

A 60-minute class that uses barbells or dumbbells for conditioning and strengthening, the class uses high repetitions to exhaust the muscle groups.

Step/Conditioning: 5 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday

This class uses "the step" in combinations with various sports conditioning moves to provide cardiovascular improvement as well as muscle conditioning.

Mat Pilates: 6 p.m., Wednesday

Gut Cut: 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays

This is a 30-minute workout designed to sculpt and strengthen the abdominal and lower back muscles.

Aerobic Kickboxing: 5 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays

The class consists of a cardio workout that combines traditional high/low aerobics with punches and kicks.

APG Athletic Center, building 3300

Yoga Fit: 11:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday

Class is based on aerobic format, warm-up, workout phase and cool down.

Columbus Day holiday hours

Ruggles and Exton Golf Courses open daily.

AA Arts & Crafts

EA Arts & Crafts

Auto Crafts

Bowling Center

AA Library

EA Library

AA Rec Center

AA Rec Center/Snack Bar

EA Rec Center

EA Rec Center/Snack Bar

MWR Registration/ITR

AA Fitness Center

APG Athletic Center

Hoyle Gymnasium/Fitness Center

Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Center

Top of the Bay

Oct. 8

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Closed

Closed

noon to midnight

12:30 to 11 p.m.

noon to 11 p.m.

5:30 to 10:30 p.m.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

5:30 to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed

Oct. 9

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

1 to 5 p.m.

Closed

noon to midnight

12:30 to 11 p.m.

noon to 11 p.m.

3:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Closed

Closed

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Closed

Oct. 10

Closed

Closed

Closed

Closed

Closed

1 to 5 p.m.

Closed

noon to midnight

12:30 to 11 p.m.

noon to 11 p.m.

3:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Closed

Closed

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed

Closed

Oct. 11

Closed

Closed

Closed

Closed

Closed

Closed

12:30 to 6 p.m.

12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

noon to 6 p.m.

12:30 to 5 p.m.

Closed

Closed

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed

Closed

Pathfinder

From page 5

Crumbs.” These network nodes can be placed almost anywhere, including on an unmanned ground or air platform, or a warfighter. The SuperCrumb is in transition to the 3rd Infantry Division through a rapid fielding initiative.

Sensing

Stationary and mobile acoustic, seismic, magnetic or imaging sensors are a piece of the reconnaissance and surveillance capability.

These sensors are hand-emplaced on the ground, in trees or any other strategic location, or can be mounted on an unmanned ground or air platform for a variety of purposes, to include increasing area perimeter security while concentrating troops where [they] would expect to see the enemy, according to Andy Mawn, ACTD and Urban Technology Office program manager and Pathfinder ACTD technology manager.

“It could be a light beam that’s broken when the enemy passes by to let our guys know someone’s approaching,” Fields said. “You can place these further out from the troops to better warn them. It makes them a more powerful fighting force.”

Eyes in sky

Man-portable unmanned aerial platforms, such as the Raven, developed by the ACTD and Urban Technology Office, and Pointer, are the air vehicles capable of conducting day or night video surveillance and can relay communications for troops with broken radio signals.

Transition of the Raven to the Army via an urgent need statement and to the Special Operations Command via a combat mission need statement are transition highlights for the program, according to Mawn.

Targeting

Targeting is another technology area for the ACTD, and Pathfinder leveraged the Talon robot, which is commonly used for jobs best avoided by warfighters, such as entering a booby-trapped cave. The ACTD is integrating the Special Operations Forces Laser Aiming Module used to send a coded laser to guide smart munitions to a target.

“It’s on the robot, so you don’t expose [Soldiers],” Mawn said. “You can clearly identify targets without having Soldiers get into harm’s way,” Mawn said. He added that by using a radio relay attached to it, troops can drive it out to longer and more useful distances.

Tools

Display tools are necessary for processing and reviewing information from the sensors and unmanned platforms.

A hardened laptop computer or similar handheld device holds the database, a single place for command and control. Pathfinder is leveraging the Tacticomp handheld computer, with its internal networking capability that could provide the functionality of several pieces of gear, such as the Soldier radio, Global Positioning System receiver and laser rangefinder in one package.

“Everybody equipped with a computer is plugged into what’s going on. It’s a wireless network, a little World Wide Web for all the guys on the ground,” Mawn said, adding that network nodes are another technology that has transitioned to the Army.

“We’re looking at tools that have multiple capabilities, and we’re constantly working the transition issues,” Mawn said. “By integrating existing technology they’re already using, that frees research and development dollars to fill in holes in the ACTD.”

Three new proposed ACTDs are in the pipeline to experiment with an unmanned helicopter, take Pathfinder to a higher unit level and further refine small, unmanned aerial vehicles. Meanwhile, all hands are on Pathfinder.

“We have all these pieces that need to work together,” Mawn said. “All the ingredients are good. Now we have to mix them for the final product.”

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

CFC

From front page

award one large and one small print at each drawing. Names not selected during the first drawing will remain in the mix for the next two drawings. Contributors can improve their chances with each submission of a pledge card.”

The 2004 CFC Contributor’s Guide for national/international organizations is at Web site <http://cfccmd.org/>. Paper copies of the guide and pledge cards are available from organization key workers or at the CFC office. The APG 2004 CFC contribution period ends Nov. 30.

For more information, visit the APG CFC office at building 120, room 114, or call 410-278-0001/0002/0003.

Health

Some military to get break on Medicare Part B premiums

DoD

The Department of Defense announced Sept. 14 that nearly 35,000 Medicare beneficiaries who are eligible for TRICARE Health Benefits will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part B without having to pay a surcharge for late enrollment. Also, those Medicare beneficiaries who enrolled in Part B since 2001 and are paying more than \$66.60 per month will receive a refund for the premium surcharges paid since January 2004.

"Not only are we enrolling eligible beneficiaries in Part B effective Sept. 1, but we are also making sure that those eligible individuals who had been paying higher premiums get their refunds," said Commissioner of Social Security Jo Anne Barnhart. "Beneficiaries should receive notices regarding these actions by the end of October."

The Social Security Administration automatically

enrolled affected beneficiaries in Medicare Part B during the month of September 2004 without requiring the beneficiary to take any action. Those eligible beneficiaries who have paid a premium surcharge during 2004 will have that surcharge automatically refunded to them as well. Beneficiaries eligible for these special provisions were identified by the DoD, SSA and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Eligible beneficiaries should receive two letters, one from DoD and one from SSA.

The DoD letter emphasizes that those beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part A based on age, disability or End Stage Renal Disease, must have Medicare Part A & B to retain their TRICARE eligibility. The SSA letter tells beneficiaries that they have been enrolled in Medicare Part B effective September 2004, provides them the option of

selecting a different month of Medicare Part B entitlement in 2004 and explains how the premium will affect their Social Security payment amount.

Beneficiaries eligible for the surcharge waiver who are currently receiving Social Security benefits will receive a refund check and a letter explaining how this change will affect their Social Security payment amount.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr. stated, "We welcome these new provisions and the assistance they provide for many of our military beneficiaries to retain their TRICARE benefits as a supplement to Medicare coverage. The help and cooperation from CMS and SSA have been excellent."

"The new Medicare law protects thousands of military retirees from having to make higher payments to enroll in

Medicare Part B," said CMS Administrator Dr. Mark B. McClellan. "This will allow eligible military retirees to use their TRICARE benefits as a Medicare supplement."

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 included two provisions for those Medicare beneficiaries who are eligible for TRICARE, a health care coverage program for active duty and retired members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors. The law:

- Eliminates the Medicare Part B surcharge for uniformed services beneficiaries who enrolled in Part B during the years 2001 to 2004. Medicare Part B premiums will be reduced for these beneficiaries to the regular monthly premium rate and beneficiaries will be reimbursed for any surcharges paid in 2004.

- The law also allows uniformed services beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare

Part A, but not enrolled in Medicare Part B to enroll in Part B without a premium surcharge. These beneficiaries were automatically enrolled in Part B effective Sept. 1, 2004, but most can change that date to any other month in 2004.

To remain eligible for TRICARE benefits, uniformed services beneficiaries also must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

Information may be updated in DEERS by visiting an identification card issuing facility. To find the nearest identification card issuing facility, beneficiaries may visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl>. Beneficiaries with questions or who require further assistance regarding DEERS may contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office Telephone Center at 1-800-538-9552, or TTY/TDD 1-800-363-2883 for the hearing impaired.

For general information about TRICARE benefits, beneficiaries may call the TRICARE Information Service at 1-888-363-5433, contact the health benefits advisor at their nearest military medical facility, or visit the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>.

Additional information regarding these benefits under the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-173) is available at <http://www.ssa.gov/legislation/tricarefact.html> or <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/legislation/tricarefact.html>.

Beneficiaries who think they may be affected by the new law who do not receive a notice by Nov. 1 should contact their local Social Security Office.

If beneficiaries have questions about enrolling in Medicare Part B, they may call SSA toll free, at 1-800-772-1213 or visit any Social Security office.

Flu vaccine clinics available throughout Harford County in Oct. and Nov.

APG News

Flu vaccines will be available October through November at locations throughout Harford County.

The Harford County Health Department will offer five flu vaccination clinics 1 to 4 p.m., Oct. 21 and Nov. 18.

The flu shot fee is \$7, which can be billed to Medicare with proof of membership card.

Oct. 21

Edgewood American Legion 17, 415 Edgewood Road

Havre de Grace American Legion Post 47, 501 St. John Street.

Nov. 5

Bel Air United Methodist Church, 221 Linwood Avenue.

Nov. 9

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 201 Mt. Royal Ave., Aberdeen

Nov. 18

Whiteford American Legion Post 182, 2217 Whiteford Road (new location)

Upper Chesapeake Health System also will offer flu clinics throughout Harford County in November. The cost is \$10, which must be paid in cash.

Beginning Nov. 1, eight one-day clinics will be held in Bel Air:

- Harford Mall, 9:30 a.m. to

1:30 p.m. Nov. 1; 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10; and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 14.

- Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 6 and 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 17. A pediatric flu clinic for children ages 3 to 11 will be offered at Upper Chesapeake from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 13, and a pediatric follow-up clinic will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 11.

- In Aberdeen, Klein's at Beards Hill Plaza will hold a clinic from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 2.

- In Havre de Grace, Harford Memorial Hospital flu clinics will be open from 4

p.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 11 and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 20.

- In Joppatowne, Holy Spirit Church will hold a clinic from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 12.

- In Hickory, St. Ignatius Church will hold a clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 16.

- In Jarrettsville, a flu clinic will be offered from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company.

- In Pylesville, a flu clinic will be offered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 28 at St. Mary's Church.

People at high risk of severe illness if they get influenza

include:

- Adults ages 50 or over, even if they are in good health.

- Infants ages six months to 23 months - children younger than two years old have one of the highest rates of hospitalizations due to influenza.

- Anyone with a chronic health condition - these include: heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, asthma, cancer and HIV/AIDS.

- Children six months to eight years getting flu vaccine for the first time - these children will need a follow-up booster one month after the first dose of vaccine.

- Women who will be more than three months pregnant

during flu season, which is typically November through March.

- Health care workers.

- Household contacts or caregivers of adults or children at high risk (includes adults 65 and older, infants under 24 months (babies less than 6 months can get influenza but are too young to get flu vaccine), anyone with chronic health problems and pregnant women.

For more information, call the health system at 1-800-515-0044.

(Editor's note: Information gathered from local newspapers.)

Vioxx voluntarily withdrawn from the market due to safety concerns

www.usamma.army.mil/

Merck announced Sept. 30 that it is voluntarily withdrawing Vioxx (rofecoxib) from the market in the U.S. due to safety concerns. The market withdrawal in the United States is to the pharmacy level, which means that Vioxx will no longer be available at pharmacies. At this time this is not a patient level recall; therefore, pharmacies are not required to contact patients to have them immediately discontinue Vioxx or return unused medication.

ication.

The company's decision is based on new data from a long-term, randomized controlled trial (the Adenomatous Polyp Prevention on Vioxx or APPROVE trial) comparing Vioxx 25 mg daily and placebo in patients at risk of developing recurrent colon polyps. The trial was halted after safety monitoring showed an increased risk of confirmed cardiovascular events, such as heart attack and stroke, beginning after 18 months of treatment in patients taking Vioxx

25 mg daily vs. placebo.

The FDA notes that while the risk that an individual patient taking Vioxx will suffer a heart attack or stroke related to the drug is very small, the study suggests that patients taking Vioxx chronically are at about twice the risk of a heart attack compared to patients taking placebo. The FDA did not require the withdrawal and has not had the opportunity to closely evaluate the new data.

The FDA has issued a Public Health Advisory for

Vioxx, available on the FDA's Web site at www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/vioxx/default.htm, or healthcare providers may contact the FDA's Drug Information Office at 301-827-4573 or 1-888-463-6332. Merck may be contacted at: 1-888-368-4699; a press release is available on the company's Web site at www.merck.com

MTF pharmacies should stop filling or refilling prescriptions for Vioxx and advise patients of the voluntary withdrawal of Vioxx from the market.

The Pharmacy Data Transaction Service (PDTs) will reject all new and refill prescription for Vioxx at all Military Health System pharmacy points of service (MTF pharmacies, TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy and TRICARE Retail Network pharmacies).

Patients should be advised to consult with their healthcare provider about alternative medications.

MTF pharmacies should make every effort to accommodate patients who want to

discontinue Vioxx immediately and desire to be switched to a different formulary medication as determined by their provider.

Healthcare providers may wish to consider the patient's risk for serious GI adverse effects when deciding whether to place patients on another COX-1 sparing NSAID, such as celecoxib (Celebrex), etodolac (Lodine, generics), meloxicam (Mobic), or valdecoxib (Bextra); a nonselective NSAID; salsalate; acetaminophen; or other medications.



Army News



Six military children lead mom to start charity group Operation Shoebox

Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

Sending care packages to Iraq came naturally to Mary Harper — she and her husband have five children and a son-in-law on active duty in the Army. And all have spent time deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We were sending care packages to our kids," Harper said, in a telephone interview with American Forces Press Service. "And I said to my husband, 'If we can help them, how come we can't help their brothers and sisters in arms?'"

Thus was born Operation Shoebox in the Harpers' living room. More than 20,000 shoeboxes later, the organization has outgrown the Harpers'

house and a local storefront in their hometown of Belleview, Fla., and recently set up shop in a 12-by-32-foot "barn-type shed," Harper said.

The group works to send care packages to military service members deployed to Iraq. Most packages are packed in shoeboxes because they're the perfect size, Harper explained. They're small enough to ship easy and not overwhelm the military postal system, and sending several small boxes instead of one big one allows troops to receive individual packages more easily.

Military regulations forbid sending packages addressed to "Any Service member," so Operation Shoebox maintains a database of individual troops and their addresses. Service

members can sign up to be supported by the organization on the charity group's website. Harper said they also get lists of troops from family readiness groups of deployed units.

Currently the group has about 4,500 Soldiers on the list. They're working now to make and pack more than 4,000 Christmas stockings to send to Iraq — roughly double the 2,200 they sent out last year. Harper said they try to avoid packing the Christmas stockings with the personal-care items they pack in routine care packages.

"We want them to have something fun instead of just foodstuffs and stuff we send them regularly," she said.

Operation Shoebox, a licensed nonprofit organiza-

tion, has a board of directors and an active roster of volunteers, including 140 residents of a local retirement community.

"They have really gone gung-ho in helping us," Harper said of the retirement-community residents.

Having six family members in the Army during wartime has not always been easy to handle, Harper admits.

"Last year I did go crazy when they were all over there, and there was no way to reach them, no communication or anything like that," she said. "It was really rough."

She professes not to know what motivated most of her family to join the Army. Daughter Becky, now 1st Lt. Rebecca Gregg, started the

migration to the Army by enlisting for the education benefits. Her brothers and husband followed suit, Harper said. Currently, Harper has one son, Spc. Chris Delaney, deployed to Iraq with the 25th Infantry Division out of Hawaii.

Most of the others are stationed in Georgia. Becky, who is a physician assistant; her husband, Capt. Chet Gregg, a military attorney; and her brother, Spc. William "Bobby" Bouma, are all assigned to Fort Stewart. Spc. Shawn Harper, Harper's stepson, is stationed at nearby Hunter Army Air Field.

Another son, Sgt. Sean Delaney, is serving a one-year assignment in Korea.

Sean, Becky and Bobby are

all in training preparing to return to Iraq for a second rotation there, Harper said. But even if her children never deploy again, she'll still be running Operation Shoebox.

"For me, it's like my mission," Harper said. "People just don't understand that one of the things that helps [Soldiers] get through their day is knowing that Americans back here are supporting them."

"The Soldiers still need support. It doesn't matter that the actual war phase is considered done. They're still over there fighting for our freedom here. This is the least we can do," she added. "It's not over. As long as our sons and daughters are over there, it's not going to be over until the last one comes home."

Prices drop on issue uniform items sold at military clothing sales stores

Capt. Diane Weed
HQ AAFES

Prices for most issue uniform items sold at Army & Air Force Exchange Service military clothing sales stores decreased on Oct. 1.

The annual Defense Supply Center Philadelphia price changes went into effect and the overall prices for issue

items dropped by a little more than one percent.

"This year, the temperate battle dress uniform coats and the Air Force men's and women's lightweight jackets are the only items with any significant price increase - and that increase is less than \$4 per item," said Hazel Green, DSCP planner at headquarters

AAFES.

AAFES never makes a profit on DSCP items since they're always sold at cost. So any price decreases, or conversely increases, are determined by the DSCP and passed along to the customers via AAFES stores.

The DSCP is the sole military supply source for issue

merchandise. DSCP items sold by AAFES made up 57 percent of the total MCSS' sales in fiscal year 2003. In addition to DSCP items, AAFES offers higher-quality optional items in order to give customers more choices.

On the other end of the spectrum, AAFES offers Exchange Select insignia

products that sell for 30 to 60 percent less than name-brand equivalents.

"If you can't find what you are looking for, let your MCSS manager know so they can get the item you need," said David Lumbley, Divisional Merchandise Manager for MCSS. "Our MCSS managers have a great network and cross-level

merchandise everyday to take care of their customers' needs."

The MCSS concept was established by a Congressional charter for the Air Force in the mid 70s and for the Army in 1981. Today AAFES runs 192 MCSSs: 100 for the Army, 88 for the Air Force and four for the U.S. Marine Corps.



Photo by JANMICHAEL GRAINE

Workers gather at the BayScapes Garden waiting for work to begin.

Environmental Center celebrates National Public Lands Day

Lori J. Smith
AEC

Several U.S. Army Environmental Center employees celebrated National Public Lands Day Sept. 23 by spending the afternoon enhancing the BayScapes garden on the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground while providing an environmental education opportunity for community children.

Students from Edgewood Elementary School joined the celebration planting flowers and shrubs. The partnership between Edgewood Elementary School and AEC was first chartered Oct. 27, 1997, to support the educational experience of Edgewood Elementary School students.

National Public Lands Day was the perfect day for students to learn the importance of maintaining our public lands for our own enjoyment, according to John Barczak, a biologist for the AEC Natural Resources Branch.

"It was a beautiful, sunny day for planting and improving one of America's treasured public places," Barczak said.

National Public Lands Day has become the largest hands-on volunteer effort of its kind to improve America's public lands. The program encourages volunteers of all ages to experience a physical connection to the environment by

donating time to remove trash from picnic areas, build trails, plant seeds, improve habitat for wildlife, and enhance historic and cultural resources.

The center's observation of National Public Lands Day was originally scheduled for Sept. 18, but rain associated with Hurricane Ivan forced the celebration to the later date.

More than 40 volunteers came together to enhance the BayScapes garden, a demonstration of the use of native plants that filter pollutants, resist local pests and disease, create habitat and help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The most significant addition is a fence to protect the native plants from installation wildlife.

In addition, the students had the opportunity to see the proclamation issued by Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., declaring Sept. 18 "National Public Lands Day" for the state.

"Having the kids from Edgewood Elementary visit in the afternoon was an added bonus," Barczak said. "I look forward to enjoying everything in the garden as it matures over time."

The AEC BayScapes garden is located next to building E-4460 on Beale Road, about 150 yards from the EA parade field.



Photo by LORI J. SMITH
Edgewood Elementary School students help U.S. Army Environmental Center employees with planting in the BayScapes Garden in recognition of National Public Lands Day Sept. 23.



Photo by LORI J. SMITH

A volunteer plants native Chesapeake Bay vegetation.



Photo by JANMICHAEL GRAINE

Pam Klinger of the AEC Integration Branch works the ground with Peggy Gieseking, chief of the Base Operations Support Division.