



# APG NEWS

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## Training addresses suicide, substance abuse issues

By **ALAN FEILER**  
APG News

Last summer, Curtis Thompson was paying a visit to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., when he met Roderrick "Skip" Johnson, a



Johnson

substance abuse/suicide prevention program manager for the U.S. Army Materiel Command Wellness Division. He was impressed, to say the least, and he knew he had to bring Johnson to APG.

"He's a professional and very passionate about his work," said Thompson, a retired Army officer who works in the Transition/Wellness Office at the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity at APG South (Edgewood). "He delivers the message in a very different way. It's hard to explain, you have to be there in attendance to feel the difference.

"Some of these speakers, you're like, 'Hurry up, hurry up!' But Skip leaves you with a taste in your mouth for more. He's got the gift. Folks will be in for a real treat."

The APG Army Substance Abuse Program will present Johnson March 26 and 27 for a series of two-hour training sessions, one on substance abuse and one on suicide prevention. On March 26, the first session will be held at CECOM/Myer Auditorium, Bldg. 6000, from 9 to 11 a.m. and also at the Post Theater, Bldg. 3245, from 1-3 p.m. The following day, the sessions will be held at the

See **SUICIDE**, page 14



Photo by USAF Senior Airman Susan Moreno

Dust and noise, generated by APG test missions, like the event shown here at an APG test site, are the focus of a Joint Land Use Study currently looking at ways to accommodate new growth and economic development with surrounding communities, and protect public health, safety and the environment while protecting operational missions. JLUS findings will be released February 2015.

## APG JLUS aims to promote compatibility with communities

By **ALAN FEILER**  
APG News

It all comes down to being a good neighbor, according to Robert J. Melascaglia, installation master planner for the Master Planning Division at APG's Directorate of Public Works.

Melascaglia was referring to the Joint

Land Use Study, or JLUS, currently being conducted at APG. The JLUS is a cooperative planning effort between an active military installation, surrounding cities and counties, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders.

"That's the goal," Melascaglia said. "If there's housing right outside our

boundary, we're not going to build an industrial complex parcel next to it. We would build something similar to their land use, and we'd expect the same of them. It's a two-way street where we identify encroachment issues and how to minimize them. The counties have to

See **JOINT**, page 12

## FWP training workshop set for March 31

By **RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

In honor of Women's History Month, the APG community is invited to attend a free training workshop from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mallette Training Facility, Bldg. 6008, March 31. The free annual event is hosted by the installation's Federal Women's Program (FWP) committee.

Workshop-goers will have the opportunity to attend one training in the morning and one training in the afternoon. In keeping with the 2014 National Women's History Month theme -- "Celebrating

Women of Character, Courage and Commitment" -- attendees will hear a presentation by U.S. Army Reserve Deputy Chief Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson. Anderson has served since 2011 as the senior advisor to the Chief, Army Reserve on policies and programs for the USAR including

See **WORKSHOP**, page 14

Rachel Acevedo, from the Civilian Human Resource Agency, sang "I am Woman (Hear me Roar)," by Helen Reddy, at last year's Women's History Month observance at the Mallette Training Facility March 13.

Photo by Sean Kief



## ROVR collects animal health records

By **JANE GERVASONI**  
U.S. Army Public Health Command

Military Families value their electronic health record system and are grateful that they no longer have to take paper copies of their health records with them each time they move. Now, the U.S. Army Public Health Command is training veterinary personnel on a similar system for government-owned animals and privately-owned animals belonging to military Families.

The new system is called the Remote Online Veterinary Record, or ROVR, for short. The system will offer Army veterinary service personnel worldwide new methods for recording and maintaining veterinary clinical information about the animals they treat.

"ROVR is a secure, web-based application that provides the means to electronically record, store,

See **MILITARY**, page 14

Veterinarian Carol Bossone gives Maria Schnople's dog, Daisy, a routine check-up at the APG veterinary clinic. Information on the dog's health will be entered in the ROVR system and can be accessed by other Army veterinarians if Schnople and her dog move to another military installation.  
Photo by Rachel Ponder



## "Make Sure Your Vote Counts"

It only takes a few quick steps to make sure your vote is counted no matter where you are in the world. The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) can be easily completed by using the FPCA online assistant, filling out the PDF or picking up a hard-copy version from your unit voting assistance officer.

1. Complete and sign the FPCA using your State's instructions. Find your state's instructions at <http://www.fvap.gov/military-voter/registration-ballots>

2. Fold and seal your FPCA. If using the online FPCA, print, sign and put it in an envelope. By using the approved envelope template, you qualify for free postage. Get your envelope template at <http://www.fvap.gov/co/overview/materials/forms>

3. Address and mail the FPCA to your local election official. Be sure to include your return address, and affix postage if using a foreign postal service.

4. Your ballot should arrive at least 30 days prior to the election.

5. Fill out the ballot and send it in

For more information, the APG Installation Voting Assistance POC is Janet Dettwiler; APG North (Aberdeen), Bldg. 4305, Rm 151; 410-306-2302; DSN 458-2302

For additional information on FVAP or assistance with the absentee voting process, visit [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov). For live chat assistance, call FVAP at 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584 (CONUS)/312-425-1584 (OCONUS), or email [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov). Remember, you also can contact your unit or installation voting assistance officers for assistance during any step of the process.

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### INDEX

Pg 2 ..... Street Talk  
Pg 3 ..... At your service  
Pg 8 .... Mark Your Calendar  
Pg 9 ..... Crossword  
Pg 11.....APG News history  
Pg 14.....Did you know?

ICE system  
<http://ice.disa.mil/>  
Facebook, <http://on.fb.me/HzQlQw>

### IN THIS ISSUE



**MWR travel fair offers getaways, special attractions**

Page 5



**Analyzing the protective capability of body armor**

Page 10

### WEATHER

Thursday

Mostly Sunny  
chance of rain 0%



54° | 33°

### More inside

Bullying and disability discrimination **PAGE 3**  
APG hosts suicide prevention awareness training **PAGE 5**  
AER kicks off this year's campaign **PAGE 10**  
Contracting cutoff dates for Fiscal Year 2014 **PAGE 15**

# New technologies to support signal battalions

Story and photo by **AMY WALKER**  
PEO C3T

In preparation for the Army's Network Integration Evaluation, or NIE, 14.2 this spring, the 86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, or ESB, is training with new tactical communications equipment that is smaller in size for easy transport, yet significantly increases capability.

"These new network technologies will increase our readiness and agility," said Lt. Col. Keith Dawson, commander of the 86th ESB, which will be evaluating the equipment at NIE 14.2 in May. "They will enable us to deploy in smaller teams instead of deploying as an entire battalion like we did in the past."

ESBs are modular in nature and primarily support other units that don't have their own communications equipment. As the Army continues to evolve its force structure while becoming a leaner and more expeditionary force, it is looking to increase the capability and versatility of these units. Upgrades and new technologies fielded by the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, or WIN-T, program, the Army's tactical communications network backbone, are filling these requirements.

In line with the 86th ESB's motto, "The first voice heard," the unit is the first to be fielded with some of the new technologies.

"For NIE 14.2, we will conduct demonstrations with new equipment, such as 4G LTE and a new line-of-sight radio, for a proof-of-concept as to what future ESBs are going to look like," said Maj. Rickie Meers, 86th ESB operations officer (S3).

As part of their training in support of NIE 14.2, a hands-on demonstration of the new equipment, along with WIN-T Increment 1B upgrades, was held at Fort Bliss, Texas, in late February. The event enabled Soldiers and commanders to better understand the capabilities and the space and manpower requirements needed to deploy the equipment.

"This new equipment is good, but we have to take it out into the field and use it; we have to learn how to pack it up in trucks, get it deployed, so we can put it on airplanes," Dawson said. "We hope to provide lessons learned from the NIE to the rest of the Army."

ESBs can support higher headquarters at corps and division, but they also have smaller teams to support units within a brigade combat team, or BCT, or when needed, to provide network support for natural disaster relief efforts or other emergencies around the world. As their name suggests, the expeditionary nature of these units requires an ability to be agile and the new WIN-T technologies and upgrades support those requirements.

"A lot of the equipment is more maneuverable and it's going to make it



During Network Integration Evaluation (NIE) 14.2, the Army will evaluate a 4G LTE system that allows Soldiers to use the Secure Internet Protocol Router (SIPR) Network on the battlefield via mobile devices and Wi-Fi. The equipment shown was part of a demonstration for Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) Increment 1 advancements, at Fort Bliss, Texas.

easier and quicker to deploy; making it a lot easier for our Soldiers to pack up and go when they need to," Meers said. "Plus the capability, the amount of bandwidth and data we can pass through, has also greatly improved."

The Army's semi-annual NIEs, which are held in a realistic operational environment at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range, N.M., provide operational test data for programs of record, validate network baselines for fielding and collect Soldier feedback on promising industry capabilities. NIE 14.2 will include increased joint and coalition force participation, and to help support the coalition aspect of the event, the WIN-T Increment 1 program is introducing the Mission Network Enclave, or MNE, a small baseband package that enables Soldiers to share information with coalition partners. When needed, MNE can also be reconfigured for disaster response to provide commercial internet to first responders.

During NIE 14.2, the 86th will also evaluate a 4G LTE system that allows Soldiers to use the Secure Internet Protocol Router (SIPR) Network on the battlefield via mobile devices and Wi-Fi. These capabilities could help reduce the many wires and cables cluttering tactical operations centers and further untether commanders and Soldiers in command post areas.

Also being evaluated is a radio-bridging and voice cross-banding module that allows Soldiers to fuse radio and phone networks. Additionally, a new line-of-sight, or LOS, radio reduces size,

weight, and power, known as SWaP, and significantly increases throughput from 16 megabits per second (Mbps) to approximately 200Mbps.

"These new LOS radio systems are lighter and easier to set up, so it will make it easier to deploy; throw them in the back of a truck or on an airplane and you're gone," Meers said. "The bandwidth is exponentially better. I started 10 years ago and you wouldn't even have thought about having 200 megabits going through a LOS system; it's just great."

The Tropo Lite, a transit case-based tropospheric, or tropo, scatter communications system, is being assessed to replace the Army's current truck and trailer-based system. Tropo systems shoot microwaves instead of satellite radio frequencies, allowing for secure, high-speed transfer of large volumes of data between sites and over terrestrial obstructions such as mountains. They also reduce the Army's reliance on expensive commercial and military satellites. Nicknamed "Tropo-in-a-can" by the Soldiers because of its smaller size and transportability compared to legacy capability, the Tropo Lite is also much faster to set up.

"I can put it in a helicopter, take it to a remote site, and hook it up without requiring three trucks and six Soldiers," said Sgt. Maj. Roberto Marshall, 86th's former command sergeant major. "Now I only need two Soldiers, a small truck and we are up and running."

The 86th ESB also received on-going WIN-T Increment 1B upgrades that add a Network Centric Waveform modem,

which optimizes bandwidth and satellite utilization. The upgrades also provide a Colorless Core capability that encrypts data as it is transported over satellites and line-of-sight links, enabling Soldiers to send information securely across the battlefield. The upgrades improve the security and efficiency of the network, and since these capabilities are inherent in the mobile WIN-T Increment 2 network, they also increase the interoperability of both increments.

"The 1B upgrades makes it a lot easier for commanders on the ground to plan and execute their missions when they don't have to worry about interoperability," Meers said. "With this new 1B equipment it's not going to be a second thought; it's just going to work."

ESBs will be able to support any unit on the battlefield or area or operations within their footprint with the new WIN-T technologies once they are deployed. Vetting the proof-of-concepts through the NIE will help work out any initial bugs and improve tactics, techniques and procedures to provide Soldiers with the best capabilities possible.

"I am excited about the improvements we are going to get from this equipment," said CW2 Keith Hudson, 86th ESB network technician responsible for implementing the components in the tactical network. "As the equipment is being fielded, it is challenging our Soldiers to think outside the box -- how can I do this and how can I get better performance out of my equipment? That input is going to improve the Signal Corps holistically once the equipment is deployed to all ESBs."

## Joint land use study promotes good neighbor policy

Continued from Page 1

grow and APG has its mission. So how do we do this best?"

The APG JLUS is a yearlong study funded through a grant from the Department of Defense, the Office of Economic Adjustment, and contributions by Harford County's Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor (CSSC), the JLUS project manager. The APG JLUS Study Area encompasses all land and operational areas near APG locations and use area that may impact current or future military operations.

Besides APG North (Aberdeen) and South (Edgewood), the JLUS area includes the Churchville Test Area, Graces Quarters, Carroll Island, Pool's Island, Spesutie Island and smaller properties containing utilities, towers and other range infrastructure.

The goal of JLUS is to protect the health and safety of residents and workers; preserve long-term land use compatibility between APG and the surrounding communities; promote comprehensive community planning that addresses compatibility issues; enhance a cooperative spirit between the installation and community officials; and coordinate comprehensive plans and regulations between local jurisdictions and APG.

Guiding JLUS's development will be an executive committee, an advisory committee and the public, via community workshops.

Eight members of the compatibility/community/military planning firm Matrix Design Group, along with two CSSC members, toured APG North and South, as well as Graces Quarters and Carroll Island last week. They collected data, conducted site investigations, interviewed officials on the installation and met with representatives of the cit-



Photo courtesy of CSSC Office  
**Tim McNamara**, chief of infrastructure & community relations & security for Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD), presents an overview of the APG South (Edgewood) to **Celeste Werner**, deputy project manager for Matrix Design Group. **Todd Beser**, second from left, with APG's DPW Environmental Division and Chesapeake Bay Program, and **Dave Goad**, chief, Compliance & Conservation Team with Aberdeen Test Center, far right, also made presentations during the site tour.

ies of Aberdeen and Havre de Grace and Baltimore, Cecil, Harford and Kent counties.

"They've been on the go the whole week," Melascaglia said of the Matrix team. "This is the first major step with JLUS."

The tours of APG North and South, some of which were in restricted secure areas, were hosted by the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, or ATC. In particular, the issues of noise exposure and dust generation are the paramount concerns of the APG JLUS. The team was given a detonation presentation by ATC that featured a kinetic bul-

let fired from an Abrams tank and shot one mile downrange.

"Every time you hear a 'boom! boom!' they're testing munitions or gun barrels for tanks and things like that," said Melascaglia. "There are impacts on the community. That noise propagates to the North Shore, over in Kent County. The ATC uses noise sensors to calibrate the noise models based on climatic conditions. Those models tell them how the noise will propagate across the bay, and who will hear the effects of that noise. So the goal is to minimize that impact and not to fire if the noise goes over 140

decibels."

Dust tends to be mainly an issue in APG's Perryman Area, where driving test tracks were constructed in a manner that stirs dust in the air. "Some of it migrates beyond the fence," Melascaglia said.

He said many JLUS studies address endangered species on installations, but that issue does not pertain to APG. The bald eagle population here is now designated a threatened species, he said, and regulations are in place not to have construction or any work encroach a 500-meter buffer radius around their nests.

Melascaglia emphasized that the key word in the JLUS acronym is 'Joint.' While the Matrix group employs 24 compatibility factors (such as air quality, energy development, roadway capacity, etc.) to ensure that an installation's ability to conduct mission is not encroaching upon neighboring communities. The JLUS also examines if those municipalities are developing in a manner to affect an installation.

The APG JLUS report is expected to be released February 2015. The recommendations will be reviewed and implemented in a fashion where "we'll figure out how we can best serve each other's interests," Melascaglia said.

The JLUS team also visited Phillips Army Airfield at APG North and the Weide Air Aviation Support Activity facility at APG South, to determine if air traffic from the installation impacts the local community.

Matrix officials will return to APG periodically, but the bulk of the research for the APG JLUS was conducted last week, according to Melascaglia, who reports directly to Garrison Commander Col. Gregory R. McClinton regarding updates on the study.