



Military Department Newsletter

This newsletter is published for the benefit of the Military Department employees but is also available to the public. For questions or comments please email REMARKS@MDMILDEP.ORG.
Volume V, Issue 1, January 2012

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST

- [Important Info about Flu Shots](#)
- [State Health Care Quick Links](#)
- [Tax Question? Check this Site](#)
- [What Does the Payroll Tax Cut Mean to You?](#)
- [Changes to MD Child Support Enforcement](#)
- [New MD Toll Rates](#)
- [Gov Deals, Buy Surplus Equipment](#)
- [History of the Maryland Defense Force](#)
- [How to get Copies of Your Guard Documents](#)

"A WORD TO THE WISE"
Go to Wise

COMPUTER TIPS

- [Find a File Quickly](#)
- [5 Reasons to Use an Optical Mouse](#)
- [Save Ink Print only Sections of a Web Page](#)

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

TIMOTHY DAVIS, WILLIAM ANDERSON, JAMES BARNES, RICHARD BLEVINS, JEREMY ANDREWS, JOSHUA MCDAID, ALLYSON SOLOMON, VIRGINIA CORNES, BURGESS DAUGHERTY, DARRYL DISCHER, STEPHEN GRANT, CHRISTOPHER HARMON, CASSANDRA SALLIE, RICHARD JORDAN, BEVERLY MCMILLAN, DELEASHIA JORDAN, TIMOTHY MAYO, OSCAR WEBB JR., GUMERCINDO MEDINA, AMBER BEACHY, RODNEY GOGGINS, SHAWN BROWN, REBECCA BLUE, ROBERT HOOPER III, LEROY MCCORMICK, ELLA COURSEY, ROBERT BALLINGER, JOHN PURSELL, JOHN DILUTIS, JONATHAN MCGLONE, THOMAS GILBERT, DANIEL WHITE, JOSEPH FIELDER, NOAH HILLS, SAMID AGHALAROV, ROBERT BALLINGER, JOHN PURSELL, JOHN DILUTIS, JONATHAN MCGLONE, THOMAS GILBERT, DANIEL WHITE, JOSEPH FIELDER, NOAH HILLS, SAMID AGHALAROV

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"---The History of the New Year



The first time the new year was celebrated on January 1st was in Rome in 153 B. C. (In fact, the month of January did not even exist until around 700 B.C., when the second king of Rome, Numa Pontilius, added the months of January and February.) The new year was moved from March to January because that was the beginning of the civil year, the month that the two newly elected Roman consuls—the highest officials in the Roman republic—began their one-year tenure. But this new year date was not always strictly and widely observed, and the new year was still sometimes celebrated on March 1.

[Click here for more information \(An interesting read\).](#)



Apply for Social Security ON LINE

Social Security offers an online retirement application that you can complete in as little as 15 minutes. It's so easy. Better yet, you can apply from the comfort of your home or office at a time most convenient for you. There's no need to drive to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative.

In most cases, once your application is submitted electronically, you're done. There are no forms to sign and usually no documentation is required. Social Security will process your application and contact you if any further information is needed.

[Click here for more information.](#)

MD Child and Youth Program 1st Annual Survival and Ski Trip



Children will spend the morning learning about hypothermia and ice safety, as well as fire starting and safety signaling, from a real life DNR Park Ranger.

LUNCH IS INCLUDED! Pizza, salad, breadsticks, and soda will be served after our morning sessions.

Children will have the entire afternoon to ski/snowboard as much (or as little) as they want. Unsure if your child is a skier, that's ok! We will have board games and craft activities inside all afternoon if they want a break from the slopes. Children between the ages of 7-11 are invited to attend as long as a parent/guardian stays with the child. Parents/Guardians of all participating children are invited to stay and ski/snowboard at the group rate. Please contact 1LT Stinchcomb in Family Support at 410-576-2992. for further information or if you want to purchase a ski pass for yourself!

Date: Sunday, Jan 8, 2012

Time: Drop-off: 8am - 9am Pick-up: 5pm - 6pm

Location: WISP Resort, 290 Marsh Hill Road, McHenry, MD 21541. The drop off and pick up will take place in the WISP Hotel, Morris Room



Weather Closing Information

The Department of Budget and Management publishes statewide emergency and closure information on its web site at the site listed below. That Department's Office of Personnel Services and Benefits also authorizes and coordinates media announcements concerning inclement weather using radio stations serviced by the Associated Press, which are listed on its website. However, employees should verify media announcements with their supervisors or by

Features

MD Guard Soldier Gets Call From President Obama

Taskforce Normandy Soldier, Sgt. Samantha Sherrill, an Army air traffic controller.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait—A Maryland National Guard Soldier, deployed to Kuwait with the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, received a holiday phone call from President Barack Obama.

Sgt. Samantha Sherrill, F Co. 1st Battalion 111th General Support Aviation Battalion, which falls under the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, was chosen by her command to represent the unit and speak to President Obama on Christmas morning. The President expressed gratitude for her service on behalf of the American people.

"He asked me to tell everyone he thanks us and our Families for their sacrifices," said Sherrill.

Sherrill's military occupation is an air traffic controller. She works full time for the Maryland National Guard and is studying to be a physician's assistant. When not deployed, she lives in Randallstown, Md. While stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq, Sherrill became a Certified Tower Operator and trained Iraqi air traffic controllers in preparation for the U.S. departure.

"I felt very confident in the Iraqi controllers we left behind," said Sherrill. "We completed the mission we were assigned, and I wish the Iraqis success in the future."

The 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, comprised of units from approximately 25 states and territories, was mobilized in September, 2011 and deployed to Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn. As the last combat aviation brigade in Iraq, members of the unit flew the last aircraft out of Iraq on Dec. 18. The brigade will finish its year-long deployment in Kuwait supporting Operation Spartan Shield.

calling the Joint Forces Headquarters phone line at 1-866-400-6364 and selecting Option 5.

Employees located at the Warfield Air National Guard Base may also call the base's main greeting line at 410-918-6210 and selecting Option 2. Employees may also opt to follow closure announcements on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/MdStateClosing> or by SMS by texting follow MdStateClosing to 40404 in the United States. Standard message and data rates apply.

[Click here for State closure information.](#)

[Click here Air Guard Information.](#)

7 Reasons why 7 Billion People Means Trouble



Our population has in fact reached 7 billion and here are some reason that we should be concerned.

[Click here for story courtesy of smartplanet](#)

"Items of Importance to State Employees"

Procedures for Release of State Employees Under Emergency Conditions [\(click here\)](#)



Military Department Reg 5-8 Mangement of MDNG Personnel During Emergencies [\(click here\)](#)

Emergency Essential Employee Acknowledgement Document [\(click here\)](#)

TID BITS

- **Federal Holidays for the Year** [\(click here\)](#)

- **State Holidays - For the Year** [\(click here\)](#)

Very important message in this month's "Computer Tips" column (Tip #3). With today's fiscal climate any little bit of department savings can help. This tip shows you a way to print only portions of a webpage rather than the whole article. Thus saving ink which can be very costly.

MORE PARAPROSDOKIANS (Winston Churchill loved them.)

Everyone knows what they are but in case you don't, here is the definition:

"A figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation."

1. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
2. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
3. Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
4. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
5. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

A WORD TO THE WISE

A POTPOURRI OF SCAMS



Job Hunter Scams – Scams targeting job hunters vary and include attempts to gain access to personal information such as bank account or social security numbers and requirements to pay a fee in order to even be considered for the job.

Debt Relief and Settlement Services – Seriously consider third-party assistance for getting out of debt. These companies often require upfront fees and potentially leave the consumer drowning in even more debt. There has been an increase in these types of scams in the previous 2 years.

Work from Home Schemes – Some work from home schemes promise to teach the secrets to making money online, others claim you can make money assembling items at home or get paid to be a

mystery shopper. Some victims even found that their opportunity to work from home was a job to fence stolen goods. The end result is that instead of getting paid, you can end up losing hundreds—if not thousands—of dollars

Not So "Free" Trial Offers – Misleading free trial offers online for diet supplements, penny auctions and money making schemes blanket the internet resulting in thousands of complaints ever year. The free trial offers seem no-risk but complainants state they were repeatedly billed every month and found it extremely difficult to cancel.

Lottery and Sweepstakes Scams – The victim—often a senior citizen--receives a letter in the mail or phone call from someone pretending to be with Reader's Digest, Publisher's Clearing House or a phony foreign lottery. The scammer claims that the victim has won millions but must first wire hundreds or even thousands of dollars back to the scammers to cover taxes or some other bogus fee. The victim wires the money, but the prize never arrives.

Advance Fee Loan Scams – A perennial problem, advance fee loan scams prey on consumers and business owners who are struggling financially. Victims are told they qualify for large loans but must pay upfront fees—often more than a thousand dollars. The victim wires money to the scammers, but never receives the loan.

Over-Payment Scams - Over-payment scams typically target small business owners, landlords or individuals with rooms to rent and sellers on classifieds or sites like Craigslist. The scammers overpay the amount for the services or products and then ask the victim to wire the extra amount back to them or to another fraudulent entity. Ultimately though, the check is forged and the victim is out the money wired back to the scammers.

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Funny Quote of the month

"Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?" Author Unknown Fav



