

Army Engineer Spouses' Club

Castle Gram

Volume III, Issue V

December 2012

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249th Engineer Battalion Soldiers unload power restoration equipment to help return electricity to Northeast region priority facilities.

249th Engineer Battalion helps states recover from Sandy

Source: *Belvoir Eagle*; By Tim Cherry/Staff writer, November 8, 2012

The 249th Engineer Battalion deployed Soldiers and eight large, medium voltage, generators from Fort Belvoir, Saturday, to help states suffering from Superstorm Sandy's aftermath. The Soldiers, members of C Company, 249th Engineer Battalion, will assess the electrical power needs of priority facilities in New Jersey, New York and other areas in the Northeast region. The unit is examining high priority facilities such as hospitals, shelters, command centers and fueling stations to determine the exact use of the generators.

"We're happy to provide help where we can," said Maj. Jayson Putnam, 249th Engineer Battalion executive officer. "Hopefully it'll make things a little bit easier for them as they get through this mess."

Sandy's path of destruction has been widespread and devastating. In New York, for example, 461,713 customers remain without power as of Monday, according to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's website.

The 249th Engineer Battalion provides commercial-level power to military units and federal relief organizations through services such as transformer inspection, circuit breaker maintenance and electrical power assessments. C Co. Soldiers join fellow battalion servicemembers deployed in the Northeast region to help states suffering from large scale power outages. The 249th Soldiers deployed from Belvoir and Fort Bragg, N.C., with more coming from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. In addition to New York and New Jersey, Soldiers are deployed in Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The battalion deployed some Soldiers prior to the storm to assess the potential power needs of priority facilities before Sandy hit.

Capt. Daniel McLeod, 249th Engineer Battalion adjutant and public affairs officer, said Soldiers will use this data and other information collected during training exercises prior to the storm to determine the power needs of each state's priority facilities. The battalion will then coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and private contractors to restore power. "They're prepositioned in these areas to be subject matter experts in terms of power generation," McLeod said of the battalion's Soldiers. "We're doing everything we can to make sure everything gets powered up in a timely manner."

Putnam said Soldiers are enjoying the opportunity to serve and protect U.S. citizens. "It's a mission that brings the guys a lot of satisfaction," Putnam said. "They can see where their efforts help people directly."

McLeod said the battalion will deploy more Soldiers to help states restore power. "We've seen the effects of Sandy become far worse than anybody could have imagined. It's basically all hands on deck here at the battalion," McLeod said. "Everybody that can be helpful out there is going."

"Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected - through the years and across the miles."



Kathy Moakler
President

The Gavel



...a note from our President

Dear Friends,

I'm a little late getting my letter to Elsie this month. We spent a few days in NYC with several million (or so it seemed!) of our closest friends soaking up the holiday spirit. Did the requisite Radio City Christmas Show - the Rockettes are super as always. I'm prejudiced since my daughter-in-law's sister was a Rockette so I've seen how hard they work and how easy they make it look. The Rockefeller Center tree was up but sheathed in scaffolding but it was interesting to see how they drape the lights and bulbs on such a huge tree. My son and I spent an hour trying to access a good spot for the parade but finally decided that our view would be better in the hotel on TV - our hotel that was a block away from Herald Square. The 7000 people hitting the doors at midnight at Macy's were very quiet - they didn't disturb our sleep at all! We thoroughly enjoyed a destination Thanksgiving with two of our three adult children. It really did put us in a holiday mood.

I hope that you take some time from your holiday decorating and baking and shopping to join some of us at Arlington for the annual wreath laying. Barbara Fleming has info about that event in this Castle Gram. And if you haven't been to National Harbor and the magnificently decorated Gaylord Convention Center, make sure you sign up for our luncheon on 12-12-12.

From the pictures in this issue, looks like we have some potential Picasso's in our group. Anna Marie Cox has coordinated some great events for the year. Wish I could make more of them but my boss reminds me that I can't play all the time.

Renee Bostick came up with a great philanthropic idea for our group - donating books for the children visiting at the area Fisher Houses. We will be collecting them at the Wine Tasting in February but if you can't attend we will be publishing info by email on where they can be collected in January and February. And if you are a long-distance member, why not plan to donate a children's book to your local Fisher House or other home that serves those supporting the ill or wounded. Remember to buy an extra book while making your book store run this December or add it to your on-line book order.

Your Red Book should be winging its way to your mailbox as you read this. Thanks to Jackie Caldwell for all her editing and her exemplary work in promoting membership.

From your AESC Board and our families, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a fruitful and blessed new year.

Essayons,

Kathy Moakler

AESC MEMBERSHIP for 2012-2013

Thank you to all members who have joined.

Welcome to our new members.

The Red Books will be mailed out shortly.

For your convenience the Membership Form is located on Page 13.

For more information contact Jackie Caldwell

Email: jbc21047@aol.com

Cell phone: 703-340-5505



HEAR ALL ABOUT IT



Perfect Gift !!!

Engineer Ornament

Available in

Gold and Silver

\$30 each

5+: \$25 each

www.armyengineerspouses.com



*Upcoming Board Meeting/
Cookies Exchange*

Wednesday, 5 Dec 2012

1100-1300

At the Home of

Lynda Flowers

7524 Weymouth Hill Rd

Clifton, VA 20124



Seasons Greetings



Anna Marie Cox
VP

UPCOMING EVENT



12.12.12 Lunch

Pienza Italian Market Restaurant

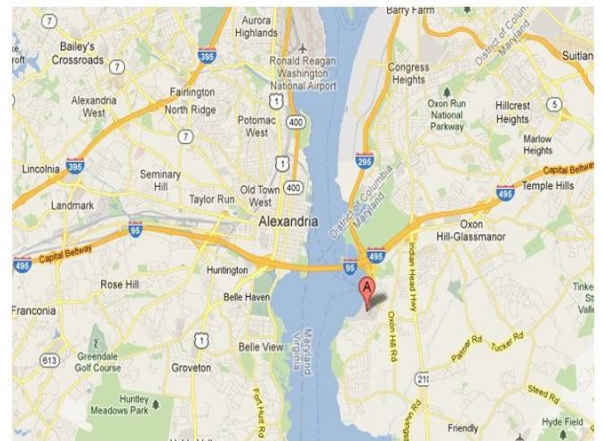
December 12, 2012

12pm

We will be enjoying a buffet lunch in the beautiful Gaylord National Hotel! This hotel is a spectacle in itself and will be beautifully decorated for the holidays! Make this a special day for YOU and reserve a spa treatment after our lunch together. It might help you face the busy holidays ahead!! Spa Reservations: 301-965-4400 or online.

Please RSVP by Dec 7

The Gaylord National Hotel
201 Waterfront Street
National Harbor, MD



Check them out online at <http://www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylord-national>

PROGRAMS FOR 2012-2013



THE CAPITAL CONNECTION

- December 12 12:00pm Lunch at Pienza Italian Market Restaurant
 RSVP by December 3 Gaylord National Resort
 Bring \$\$ for lunch
- January Happy New Year No Event
- February 16 7:00pm All-American Wine Tasting (couples event)
 RSVP by February 8 At the home of Todd & Connie Semonite
 10230 Fairfax Dr, Ft Belvoir, VA 22060
 Please bring your favorite cheese/crackers, a
 snack or appetizer to share.
 Wine will be provided.
- March 14 10:00am Crime and Punishment Museum
 RSVP with payment Lunch at Rosa Mexicano
 by March 4 (\$19) (Bring \$\$ for Lunch)
- April 10 10:00am Knollwood Bake Sale
- April 21 1:00pm AEMA Scholarship Brunch, The Fairfax
 RSVP with payment (couples event)
 By April 12 (\$25)
- May 9 11:00am-1:00pm Tudor Place Victorian Tea and Tour
 RSVP with payment Tea with finger sandwiches and dessert included
 by April 23 (\$33)

Please use the RSVP form included in this issue of the Castle Gram to make any reservations that require payment.

**Our Deepest Sympathy to
 Bonnie Rorabaugh
 For The Loss Of Her Husband
 COL (Ret) William P. Rorabaugh
 on Veteran's Day**

**Bonnie Rorabaugh
 507 Wyoming Ave
 Dover, DE 19904**

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

BRUSH N BLUSH PAINT CLASS (1)



RED, WHITE, **BLUE**. **BLACK**, and **YELLOW** were the colors of paint given to the budding artists who participated in the Brush and Blush AESC program in November. There were seven AESC members who donned paint stained aprons (and that was a wise move!) and eagerly awaited instruction from the *real* artist in the room. It was amazing to see how, with a little professional instruction and guidance, these colors could be blended and placed on a blank canvas to achieve an impressionist, Van Gogh-like painting of Washington, D.C. ("Starry Night in D.C.").

As you know, art is an expressive form of communication, an interpretive medium from the artist. And that was clearly evident after three hours of brush strokes to canvas! The group learned how to take a basic design, a rectangle, and make it into the Lincoln Memorial. Using the same brush in different ways/angles, each "artist" was able to create sweeping clouds and stars as well as defined buildings (Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial) and bridges. The blended paint on that brush created the shadows, the contours, the light areas that gave the flat canvas "life".

It wasn't all serious focus on brush and canvas...there was laughter. There was conversation: "Why does my Washington Monument look so big?", "I like the rocks on YOUR bridge better.", "I love making the trees...where ever I want to cover up mistakes!" There was even lunch of Panera sandwiches and trimmings consumed and enjoyed!

As one can see from the photograph of the finished projects, each artist, presenting her impressionist interpretation of Washington, D.C., is smiling and blushing slightly over her success as an artist. Should YOU desire to purchase one of these works of art, please contact the artist individually for pricing and shipping information :-)

**Thank you,
Anna Marie Cox
for arranging this fun
adventure!**





“Like” our new public Facebook page!
Facebook Editor: Elizabeth Hill

We post events, photos, and scholarship information on the page. It is a great way to let more people know about AESC as well as keep members in touch.

<https://www.facebook.com/ArmyEngineerSpousesClub>



Our Webmaster, Susan Wright, has done her magic!
Check out our remodeled AESC website at
<http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/>



Castle Boutique—Shop On Line
Easy Access on Website
10% discount for Members
No Check Out Lines
Saves Gas
No Worry with Parking
AND
Support Our Scholarship Fund !!



Castle Gram will resume in Feb 2013
Safe Travel
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Birthdays.....

Vicky Groninger	December 3
Janice Smith	December 4
Mary Beth Savre	December 5
Jay Burcham	December 7
Shelley Hatch	December 7
Jenny Offringa	December 10
Tonya Dalton	December 14
Isabel Stevens	December 15
Holly Scherer	December 21
Nicole Gallagher	December 28
Joan Stockton	December 29
Shannon Hendrickson	December 31

Joyce Rebh	January 5
Priscilla Noah	January 6
Marna Rockwell	January 10
Harbans Singh	January 10
Lynn Jackson	January 13
Julie Strock	January 16
Sheila Hancock	January 21
Brandie Sinkler	January 22
Elisa Kinsman	January 23
Paula Van Antwerp	January 25
Marilyn Milne	January 28

Betty Swygart	February 4
Deborah Wehr	February 4
Elizabeth Hill	February 5
Sharise Spellmon	February 6
Sue Wright	February 6
Bobby Buxbaum	February 16
Toni Mudd	February 29



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

DONATE A BOOK:

What: AESC Picture/Chapter Book Drive
When: Now—Wine Tasting Feb 16, 2013
Where: For Fisher House
Why: For Children to read while staying with their parents





WELFARE/SERVICES & MORE

~ Please join the AESC on December 15th at Arlington National Cemetery. We will be laying wreaths on the gravesites of our military veterans. These wreaths are being provided by the Wreaths Across America organization. Please meet at 0930 at the Memorial Amphitheater (near The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier). There will be a short welcome along with a briefing before the event begins. We encourage participants to take the metro as parking is limited. If you would like to sponsor a wreath, please go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org. It is only \$15.00 to sponsor a wreath. If you should have any questions, please email Barbara Fleming at flemingebm3@att.net.

~The AESC will be conducting a book drive from our members for a donation that will go to the Walter Reed/Bethesda Fisher House. So, while you're out shopping this holiday season, or post-holiday season, please pick up a book and mail it to: AESC, PO Box 6332, Alexandria, VA 22306. The final collection will be at the February Wine Tasting Event on February 16, 2013. We greatly appreciate your support and we hope that we will be able to make this an annual book donation to the Fisher House from the spouses of the AESC.

~At this holiday season, please take the time to volunteer in your community. We all have very busy lives and sometimes even just taking 5 minutes to check in on a friend or neighbor is all that is needed to provide comfort to someone who might be feeling alone or overwhelmed due to the holiday season. Check your local paper for organizations that need help over the holiday season. And of course; our military posts/bases, hospitals, veteran's homes, and assisted living homes are just some of the ways that you can connect directly with a military member, military spouse, or a veteran. A heartfelt thank-you to all our members who volunteer. It doesn't have to be every day that we volunteer, but even those five minutes you can give, even once a year, means a lot to that individual that you have reached out to and touched. If you have a story about a volunteering experience that you would like to share, please submit it to our newsletter Editor Elsie Mersereau, at brumer5@yahoo.com.

Chutney Cheese Ball—Gene Villiva

One 8 ounce package cream cheese softened	One 2 ounce package slivered almonds toasted
¼ teaspoon curry powder	½ cup or more Mango Chutney

Stir toasted nuts, curry powder and chutney into cream cheese. Shape into a ball and chill before serving. Serve with crackers.



Nominations...it's a little early, but please start thinking about who you'd like to nominate for AESC's 2013-2014 board or volunteer yourself! We'll start working on the process towards the end of January. It's a fun and rewarding activity and you'll get to meet and work with many new friends!

Bette Meuleners 571-235-3566

Perfect for Cookie Exchange

Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

<http://www.eathealthyourway.net/recipes/oatmeal-chocolate-chip-cookies>

These oatmeal chocolate chip cookies have the familiar flavors of brown sugar and chocolate, but get a sophisticated twist from tahini (sesame paste). Tahini helps to lower the saturated fat by more than 66 percent while adding a nutty flavor to an old classic.

Ingredients (About 45 cookies)

- 2 cups rolled oats, (not quick-cooking)
- 1/2 cup whole-wheat pastry flour
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup tahini
- 4 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 large egg white
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup semisweet or bittersweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts



Preparation

1. Position racks in upper and lower thirds of oven; preheat to 350°F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Whisk oats, whole-wheat flour, all-purpose flour, cinnamon, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl. Beat tahini and butter in a large bowl with an electric mixer until blended into a paste. Add granulated sugar and brown sugar; continue beating until well combined; the mixture will still be a little grainy. Beat in egg, then egg white, then vanilla. Stir in the oat mixture with a wooden spoon until just moistened. Stir in chocolate chips and walnuts.
3. With damp hands, roll 1 tablespoon of the batter into a ball, place it on a prepared baking sheet and flatten it until squat, but don't let the sides crack. Continue with the remaining batter, spacing the flattened balls 2 inches apart.

Bake the cookies until golden brown, about 16 minutes, switching the pans back to front and top to bottom halfway through. Cool on the pans for 2 minutes, then transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely. Let the pans cool for a few minutes before baking another batch.

SHARE AND ENJOY

SHARING

RESERVATION FORM



2012-2013 Army Engineer Spouses' Club Reservation Form
Member Name _____ Email _____

November 14 - Brush n Blush Painting Class
11am-2pm Create your own 11x14 canvas masterpiece (Starry DC). See painting on our website.
RSVP by November 1 with payment of \$60 per person. Lunch is included.
If you are interested in attending please email annamarie.cox@gmail.com

December 12-Lunch at the Pienza Italian Market Restaurant (bring \$\$)
12:00pm located in the Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor
RSVP by December 3
Name(s) attending: _____

➡ January-No Program

February 16 - All American Wine Tasting
7:00 pm in the home of Connie and Todd Semonite, 10230 Fairfax Dr Ft Belvoir, VA
RSVP by February 8. Wine is provided-please bring your favorite cheese or an appetizer to share.
Name(s) attending: _____

March 14-Crime and Punishment Museum
10:00am-Join us as we enjoy the Top Detective Challenge at this popular museum.
RSVP by March 4 with payment of \$19 each Lunch afterwards at Rosa Mexicano (bring \$\$)
Name(s) attending: _____

April 21 - AEMA Scholarship Brunch
1:00 pm Join us for Champagne Brunch as we award our scholarship winners!
RSVP by April 3 with payment of \$25 each.
Name(s) attending: _____

May 9-Tudor Place Victorian Tea and Tour
11:00am-1pm We will enjoy a tour of this Mansion and enjoy tea, sandwiches and dessert!
RSVP by April 23 with payment of \$33 each.
Name(s) attending: _____

Total \$\$ enclosed: _____

Check our website for more information on each program (details, maps, websites, etc)
Mail this form and your check to: AESC Reservations * P.O. Box 6332 * Alexandria, VA 22306

AESC 2012-2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club welcomes membership from spouses of all U.S. Army Engineers and all civilian employees of USACE and, with approval of the Executive Board, other persons who are associated with the Corps of Engineers.

PRINT NAME as you would like to be listed in the Castle Directory (The Redbook)

Last _____ First _____

Nickname _____ If you are in the military, list your rank & job title

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-mail _____

The Castle Gram (in color) is sent to you via email. If you do not have email, a black and white copy will be sent to your home address.

Your Birthday (month/day only) _____

Preferred method of contact:

- E-mail
- Home phone
- Cell phone
- Do not contact me

Check one:

New member - I was invited by _____

Returning member

Eligibility Information:

Spouse's Name _____

Check one: Is Spouse: Active Retired Deceased

Spouse's title/rank/job assignment

If retired, use current firm, if any. If active duty, use official abbreviation.

By sending this application, you agree to have the above information placed in the Castle Directory. Membership runs from July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2013. Membership information received by Oct 15, 2012 will be included in the 2012-2013 Castle Directory. After that date, new member names will be published in the Castle Gram and information will be emailed to members to update their Red Book. Thank you.

Annual dues + 1 copy of the Castle Directory \$25 _____

Additional Castle Directory(ies) : Each \$5 _____

Total: _____

Please make check payable to AESC and mail to: AESC MEMBERSHIP
P.O. Box 6332
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

You may also print the membership application online at www.armyengineerspouses.com.

Jackie Caldwell
Membership
Chairman

MEMBERSHIP



AESC
P.O. Box 6332
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332