

**Picatiny Arsenal National Hunting and Fishing Day
September 17, 2011**

Finally, for a change, the weather was cooperative and perfect, conducive for a trout contest and the children and grandchildren of Picatinny's employees, military, retirees and guests were prepared to do some great fishing during the annual children's fishing contest sponsored by the Picatinny Rod and Gun Association (PR&GA). Around 400 trout to include some real lunkers were stocked courtesy of the PR&GA and the Civilian Welfare Council in the N. Basin due to extremely high water levels at Lynn's Pond where the contest is normally held. The trout weren't too cooperative but that didn't deter the children from trying and having a good time.

Prizes were awarded to the children in three age groups. The 6 and under group was won by **Ethan Gerhard**, 3 ½ years old from Rahway, 1.10 Lbs. The 7 – 11 group was lead by **Brenden Kelly**, 9 years old from Kinnelon, .80 Lbs, followed by **Daniel Coscia**, 11 years old from West Milford, .77 Lbs, and **Chloe Rayer**, 9 years old from Lake Hopatcong, .71 lbs. In the 12 – 15 age group **Yunlya Tarven**, 14 years old from Morris Township, .84 Lbs took the honors. Winners received rod & reel combo's, tackle boxes, nets and lures. Each child that participated in the contest received a small prize. Everyone went away a winner! The prizes were presented by General Jon Maddux Picatinny's Commander and Mike Tutko, Chairman National Hunting and Fishing Day. There were 37 children that attended the event.

In addition to the trout contest the children were also given the opportunity to learn safe handling of firearms with Chuck Horvath using pellet guns and using a bow & arrow on archery target range by Art Reimer and the Dover Sportsmen's Club members. There was also a collection of black powder primitive weapons on display by Richard McDaniels and a fly tying techniques and demonstration by Al Wagnecz. Again this year John Rogalo's Labrador retriever (Dory) demonstrated her waterfowl retrieving techniques. The PR&GA annual pig roast was held at "Bucky's" that evening to cap off a perfect day.

A special thanks to those who helped prepare the pond for stocking and those who prepared lunch & dinner and to all the sponsors and volunteers that made this years National Hunting and Fishing Day a success, without them this annual event would not have been possible!

MIKE TUTKO
Chairman NHFD