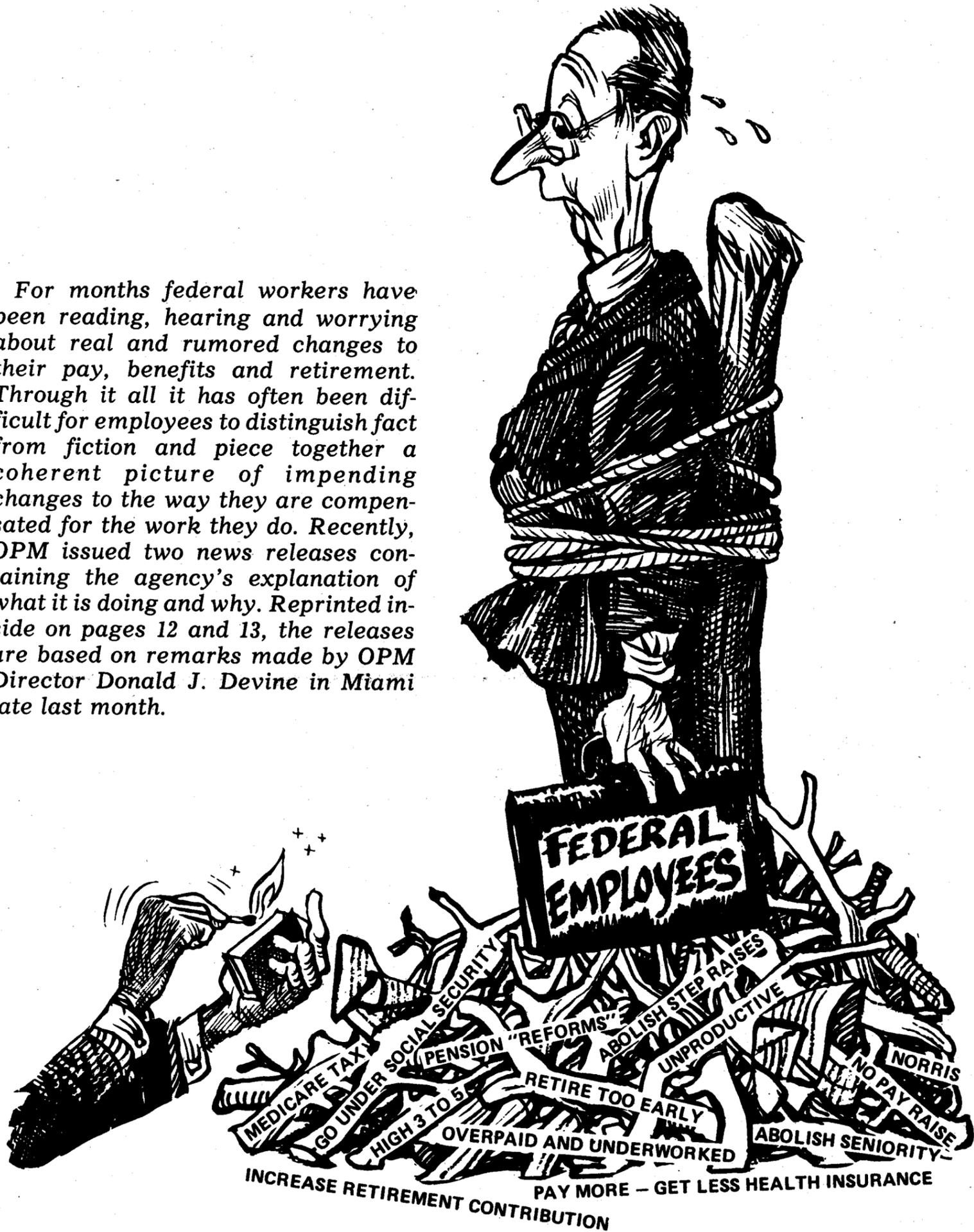


The Redstone Rocket

Vol. XXXI No. 41

March 16, 1983

For months federal workers have been reading, hearing and worrying about real and rumored changes to their pay, benefits and retirement. Through it all it has often been difficult for employees to distinguish fact from fiction and piece together a coherent picture of impending changes to the way they are compensated for the work they do. Recently, OPM issued two news releases containing the agency's explanation of what it is doing and why. Reprinted inside on pages 12 and 13, the releases are based on remarks made by OPM Director Donald J. Devine in Miami late last month.



Inside

Married interns

Intern program may pose problems for married couples. See page 3.

Locksmith

Arsenal's locksmith says work can be frustrating, but rewarding. Page 16.

Computers

Demand grows for computers and as many as 5,000 terminals may be in use here in a few years. Story on page 19.

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not to be considered an official expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised.

Letters

Wants to help

Editor:

I would like to respond to the letter entitled "Slow Computers" which appeared in the March 9, issue of The Redstone Rocket.

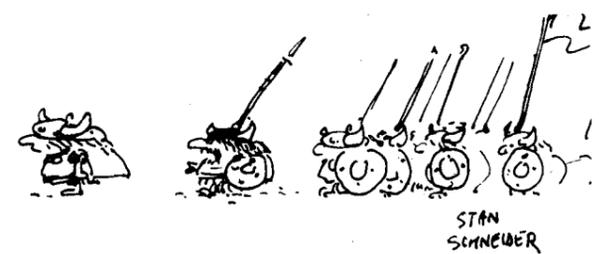
The letter writer is not specific about which computer system (i.e., MICOM-Unique, CCSS, Scientific and Engineering, or IRM) the complaint concerns. However, deducing from procedures described in the letter, it appears to be one of the business systems (MICOM-Unique or CCSS) and I will confine my remarks to those systems.

Both the MICOM-Unique system (system number 4) and the CCSS system (system number 1) have been undergoing rather drastic changes for the past seven or eight months. These changes have involved adding hardware, re-configuring existing hardware, and, in the case of the MICOM-Unique system, completely upgrading the operating system software. These changes are being made to try to provide better service to the user community as a

whole and to provide for the tremendous growth in the number of terminals that has been experienced and is expected to continue in the future.

This change has not been accomplished without some occasional "growing pains" as is the case with any major system change. There have indeed been cases of the extended logon times mentioned by the writer. Overall terminal response time is a major measure of the effectiveness of a computer system and has been closely monitored for these systems during this period. Statistics for the MICOM-Unique systems show a steady improvement over this period with a current average response time of approximately 6.5 seconds. The CCSS system has remained about constant and currently at 10.5 seconds is considerably slower than the MICOM-Unique. The CCSS system will have the operating system software completely upgraded and will have an additional mainframe (computer) added to the configuration within the next several months. This should result in a noticeable improvement of the response time on this system.

The writer also refers to the system "quitting"



"The men want pizza, Sire. Let's invade Italy."

forcing a new logon. This does occur; however, records indicate that the MICOM-Unique system was available for terminal usage during 95.4% of the teleprocessing period over the past six months. For the same timeframes the CCSS system was available 93.8% of the time.

While I believe the writer may have overstated the problem for general system responsiveness, this is not to say that this individual has not experienced specific problems attributable to a variety of causes. In response to the writer's plea for "HELP" I invite this individual to call me at 876-4529 to discuss the specific problems. Maybe together we can find solutions.

John B. Mountain
C, Techniques Division
Mgt Info Sys Dir

Sell it

Editor:

The government's effort to brainwash the public against Federal Civil Servants (FSCs) with lies and innuendos is going full throttle. In his February 83 conference, the president stated "I don't know why they're complaining about the proposed increase of 11% contribution to the Federal Civil Services Retirement (FCSR) system; They now pay only 7% of their salary and the government has to kick in 28%." I do not believe that statement. If it is true, then I have a suggestion for Mr. Reagan: Sell our retirement system to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. I feel sure they would jump at the opportunity and cut the government costs by 21%. To illustrate how this could be accomplished, I created a phantom FCS who started work 30 years ago at a yearly salary of \$3,000 with a \$1,000 increase each year. I multiplied each year's salary by 14% (combined employee/employer contribution to the FCSR fund) Then, I compounded the first 10 years by 5%,

the next 10 by 7% and the remaining years by 9%. This should be fairly close to Treasury Bill rates for those years.

The end results of this computation are as follows:

The 30 year retiree would receive his earned benefits from interest alone if the government could get 8.45% interest on the fund. If this retiree had a year of sick leave, then the government would need 8.75% interest in order to keep the principle intact. A 35-year careerist would receive his annuity, from interest, if the government could invest his FCSR fund at only 6.83% since his account would contain \$349,193.

If the 5, 7 & 9 percent happens to be a little high, that is offset somewhat by the fact that most employees do not accelerate their salary at a pace as slow as \$1,000 a year, especially since implementation of the intern program. I feel that these figures are actually conservative. Many employees work longer than 30 or even 35 years which creates a much larger principle in the latter years.

Managing the FCSR fund as mentioned above would result in approximately one-fourth of a million dollars left in the account of each retiree after he and his wife have passed on. The interest thereafter would be sufficient to cover early-out types, medical retirees and COLAs. I believe Metropolitan could do this on 14% of salary per employee, leave the FCSR system as is, and make a nice profit for stockholders.

I suspect that politicians responding to this might say, "But past administrations have not kicked in the governments 7% and they have not invested the FCSR funds in Treasury Bills and Government bonds". I am sure they haven't! But the money wasn't stashed in a vault, either; the government used it, thereby avoiding the issuance of that amount in government securities. Therefore, the end result is the same as if they had invested the fund.

President Reagan is not alone in perpetrating the aforementioned farce; Donald Devine, Chief of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), proclaims it at every opportunity.

George Street

Army standard

Editor:

This is in response to the letter published in the Redstone Rocket, dated 2 March 1983, regarding MICOM's Automatic Test Equipment. The Land Combat Support System (LCSS) was the first multi-purpose automatic test equipment received at MICOM. However, the LCSS was not delivered to

nor is it presently located in the "MOP" Shop. The Maintenance Operating Procedures (MOP) Shop ceased to exist during August 1960. LCSS, S/N 0108, is presently located in the Maintenance Test and Procedures Branch, Air Defense Maintenance Engineering Division, Maintenance Engineering Directorate.

Your article of 23 February 1983 was in error, and should have read "has received the first Army Standard Multi-purpose Automatic Test Equipment." MICOM has acquired via the development process

several types of automatic test equipment. These include, but is not limited to, the Emerson Company's E-8200, General Electric's GETS-1000, Martin Marietta Missile Automatic Test Equipment, which have multi-purpose test capabilities. However, they are not Army Standard.

Jewell G. House
Maintenance Test & Procedures Branch
Air Defense Maint Engr Div
Maintenance Engr Directorate
Missile Logistics Center

Comparisons

Editor:

It is hazardous to base actions solely on one's own viewpoint. Moreover, ignorance about others perpetuates ignorance about one's self because it is only by comparisons that one can discover personal differences and similarities. The "glass" through which other cultures are viewed serves not only as a window; it serves also as a mirror in which each

can be seen as a reflection of one's own life.

More than ever, we need to become our own teachers in a world where educated selves will be able to continue the process of self-educating. No content can serve this purpose better than cultural

encounters. The discovery of "other" is also the discovery of "self"; without the combination, training is possible but not self-educating.....

SSgt. R. Q. Billups
RR/EO

Letters to the editor should be signed (name withheld on request) and sent to: The Redstone Rocket, DRSMI-G. Unsigned letters will not be used.

Reserved parking

Editor:

I would like someone to explain to me why carpool members have reserved parking spaces. I do not understand why the Union or whatever should punish someone for driving by themselves. There are

many reasons for driving to work alone. I drive a small car and drop my husband off at his office, not on RSA. We drive from our home to work for \$10 in gas a week. How many carpools can do that? The parking should be reserved for handicapped only, and I mean handicapped. Management and carpools should park like everyone else, first come first serve.

Name withheld by request

Better sober

Editor:

I am sending you an article that is a short version of what I used to be like, what happened and what I am like now. There is one very important difference in what I used to be like and what I am like today, and that is that I like me a lot better sober than I ever liked me drunk.

I hope your readers will find the article in-

teresting, but even more I hope that it will be food for thought for someone like me who thought that they just might drink a little too much, sometimes.

Please withhold my name from publication. This is in keeping with Alcoholics Anonymous tradition 11 which states that we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: See the article elsewhere in the Rocket today.

DON'T SPEED...DRIVE AT 55 mph!



DARCOM puts commands back together

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command announced Friday the intent to establish three new commands by merging six existing commands.

A U.S. Army Aviation Systems Command (AVSCOM) will be created by consolidating the U.S. Army Aviation Research and Development Command (AVRADCOM) and the aviation elements of the U.S. Army Troop Support and Aviation Readiness Command (TSARCOM).

A U.S. Army Troop Support Command (TROSCOM) will be created by consolidating the troop support elements of TSARCOM, the U.S. Army Mobility Equipment Research and Development Command (MERADCOM), and the U.S. Army Natick Research and Development Laboratories (NLABS). MERADCOM and NLABS

will become part of TROSCOM without geographic relocation.

A U.S. Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM) will be created by merging, in place, the U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Command (ARRADCOM) and the U.S. Army Armament Materiel Readiness Command (ARRCOM).

The headquarters of AVRADCOM and TSARCOM are presently located in St. Louis. MERADCOM is located at Fort Belvoir, Va. and NLABS in Natick, Mass. ARRADCOM is located at Dover, N.J., Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Watervliet, N.Y. ARRCOM is located at Rock Island, Ill.

The newly designated commands of AVSCOM and TROSCOM will be located in St. Louis while AMCCOM will be headquartered at Rock Island.

Total employment is expected to remain at the

current level for each geographical location involved and there will be no resultant physical relocation of people. Implementation will be carefully planned and time-phased to minimize disruption. The effective date of the reorganization will be established as part of the planning process. AVSCOM will serve as a single manager for research, development, acquisition and support of Army aviation systems. TROSCOM will perform the same role for Army troop support equipment. AMCCOM will assume total management responsibility for armament, ammunition, and chemical materiel logistics and readiness support now assigned to ARRCOM and ARRADCOM.

The reorganizations will strengthen and simplify DARCOM's management structure in support of U.S. Army forces without increasing resource requirements.

Intern couple face challenges, hard choices

BY GINGER STEPHENS

The intern program is a career move that few married couples likely would choose. A mobility agreement signed by each intern is a confirmation agreeing to move wherever the job is, even if it means without the wife, or husband, as the case may be.

Billy and Debbie Saint of Product Assurance Directorate are married interns facing the inevitable consequences of temporary separation. Billy got into the intern program last September. Debbie's decision to apply in November was weighed carefully, knowing that the promise of more financial and job security might also mean being away from home and Billy.

Knowing the career opportunities helped in making the final decision. "As a married couple the internship is an opportunity for both of us to learn a field and develop a career that will be rewarding. It's a chance for both of us to improve," said Billy.

The Saints, married 5½ years, consider Huntsville home and would rather not move but "if it's necessary, it's part of it," said Billy.

The drawbacks of the program for the Saints are the uncertainties of not knowing the eventual assignments which limits their long term plans, and the potential separation.

Although DARCOM tries to assign married interns to the same installation, there is no guarantee. "Nobody wants to be separated that long if you're

*'It's not an obstacle
we can't handle'*



Debbie and Billy Saint

married but it's not an obstacle we can't handle," he said.

Program analyst interns, like Billy, generally spend the first two years at one station, travel to various short-term schools, then transfer to a permanent station before the beginning of the third year of training.

As a quality assurance intern, Debbie will be leaving this week to spend six months' training at Rock Island, Ill. During the last twelve weeks of school Debbie will find out where she will be stationed for the continuation of the 3 year internship.

"It's possible she'll be coming back here, but we don't know yet," said Billy.

With experience as a quality control inspector in a private industry, quality assurance is something Debbie would "enjoy doing for a long period of time," she said. "After five years service I was going backwards because of the layoffs."

In private industry, Debbie was paid only when she worked — no sick leave or annual leave, except

a two week paid vacation during the plant's scheduled yearly shutdown.

She enjoyed her work but, "there, you do it their way and they didn't want to hear any ideas. Supervisors here are at least willing to listen," she said.

After encouragement from Billy, Debbie decided to apply for the intern program. "We kind of push each other," said Billy. "She talked me into taking the PACE examination," which eventually landed his intern opportunity.

Billy has 15 years service at Redstone with experience in military personnel and as a supply clerk.

The program analyst internship was offered to Billy after scoring well on the PACE. He entered the program in September 1982 and has enjoyed the training.

"It's been my experience that interns are a part of the team like everyone else," he said.

When asked about his goals, Billy replied, "I just want to complete the program and get everything I can out of it."

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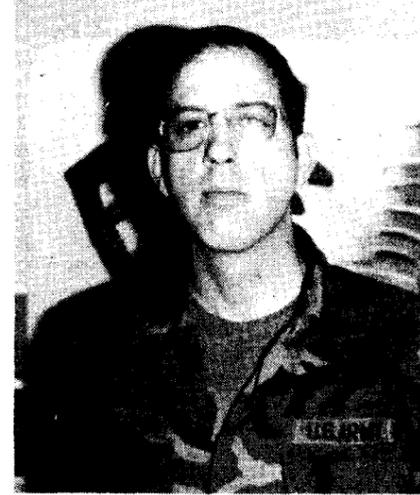
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**What do you want us
to ask in Troop Talk?**



Pvt. 2 Cynthia A. Magee — 4th S. Co. — “What do other people think about the school and its instructors?”



SFC Scott G. Williams — Co. B — “Why is the Army allowing so many category four people to come into active duty in a technical career field?”



PFC Tammie M. Brown — Co. A — “Why doesn't the Arsenal provide transportation to and from the Huntsville area for the soldiers?”



SFC Joseph E. Flynt — Co. A — “If you had the authority to change the current promotion policies, how would you make them more competitive and rewarding?”



Pvt. 1 Tresa L. Zayas — 8th S. Co. — “Why did Reagan take our pay raises from us, especially since so much defense money goes toward weapons?”



Pvt. 1 James M. Coffman — 8th S. Co. — “Why do they wait so long to give students their orders when they graduate? They give us our orders two hours before we graduate.”

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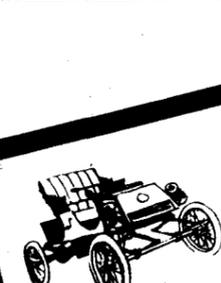
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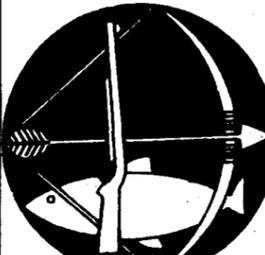
FOR INTERVIEW CALL
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Civilian educators support Army

WASHINGTON — School administrators from across the United States joined into a special partnership with military educators in February and passed a resolution calling for a closer liaison between the two groups.

The formal voting came at the 115th annual convention of the Association of American School Administrators conducted Feb. 25-28 in Atlantic City. The conference theme, "Quest for Quality," reflected the joint desire to promote improved student achievement and instructional excellence.

The resolution encourages sharing professional information and programs. Joint efforts by the Army education directorate and the association resulted in the drafting of the resolution. (ARNEWS)



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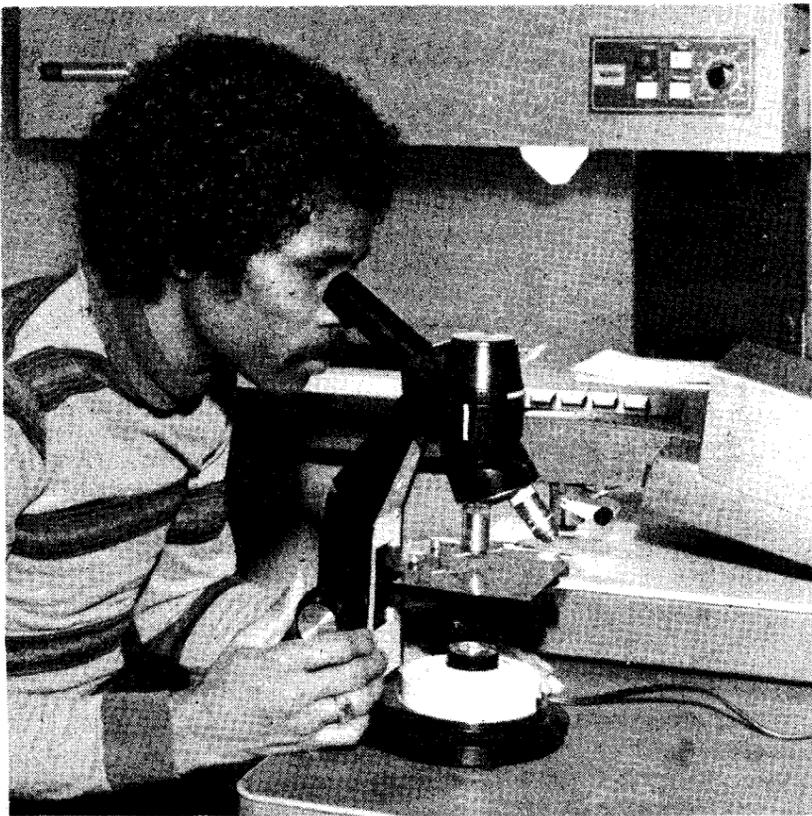
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Examining a test piece of microfiche film by microscope insures that the documents being photographed will be completely legible in spite of the

great reduction in size that takes place in the process. David Cross of the BMDSCOM Technical Library is making the quality check.

Smaller is better at BMD technical library

A substantial step toward controlling a spreading bulge of paper documents has just been taken at the technical library of the Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command.

With library holdings threatening to overflow the space available to house them, the library's managers turned to microfiche as a solution. The upshot is savings of money as well as space.

For an investment of approximately \$28,000 in equipment, projected costs of \$54,328 over a five-year period have been avoided. That is the estimate of what it would have cost to expand the current library in BMD's Research Park building.

With space at a premium in the building, expansion was extremely doubtful, said Anna B. Dumas, BMDSCOM librarian. So, the microfiche process appeared to be the only long-term solution.

A refinement of the microfilm technique of photographic document storage, microfiche compresses from 98 to 420 pages of standard letter-size

paper onto a piece of film about 4 by 6 inches. Even using the 98 page-per-fiche reduction rate, that means more than 25,000 pages of bulky paper can be reduced to around 250 sheets of film that occupy a space 4 inches high by 6 inches wide and only 1 inch deep.

The stacks of paper documents are transformed into microfiche in the library itself, since much of the material is classified. Besides the combined camera-film processor, the library had to invest in a microscope and densitometer — both to check completed images for proper quality — and a microfiche duplicator. The duplicator makes microfiche copies for reference from the original piece of film, which is not viewed or handled by patrons.

Photographing the more than 3 million pages in the library will take approximately a year, Dumas said, after which it will simply be matter of putting new acquisitions on film as they are received.

A.A. — one sergeant's opinion

Editor's note: This article was written by a Redstone soldier, a 38 year old staff sergeant.

Alcoholics Anonymous — What do you think of when you see those words? Not too long ago I thought very little about them or the fellowship they represent. If I thought about them at all I would summon up a vision of throngs of nameless drunks stumbling and staggering along one after the other in a long line that led first to a back street mission house for free soup and salvation and then back out onto the street where the drunks would beg for handouts for a bottle of cheap wine so they could drink themselves into a stupor before passing out in some back alley. There they would spend the night cold and alone. In the morning they would stumble to their feet and start the cycle all over again.

That is what I thought an alcoholic was — a skid row bum, and Alcoholics Anonymous could only be a group of nameless skid row bums. I couldn't have been more wrong if I had really tried, which I hadn't. I did not even want to think about it because I was afraid that those anonymous alcoholics were saving a place for me at the end of that long line. I would have nightmares about them and I would wake up in a cold sweat.

I would tell myself that I wasn't like those people. I was a career NCO in the U.S. Army, I had willpower, I could control my drinking, I would never get like those people.

Sometimes I would swear that I would never drink again, but come morning things would look better and I would put my bad dream out of my mind, and along with the dream I would forget all thoughts about what my own drinking was doing to me. After all, didn't everyone drink? Of course, they did. It was part of the American life style. Wasn't that the reason I was in the Army, to defend the American way of life? I could never become an alcoholic, I had too much going for myself. I had my job, my family, a good car, I had never been in jail or hospitalized for drinking. But I was getting drunk more often than I wanted to admit, and at the worst possible times.

But then I was under a lot of pressure at work and drinking was a good way to relax, or so I told myself. Then there were the times when I couldn't remember what I had done when I was drinking, but I couldn't think about that.

Sometimes I would go for days or weeks without a drink. Didn't that prove that I didn't have a drinking problem? Of course, when I wasn't drinking I was nervous and irritable, but that couldn't mean anything. With all the problems I had who wouldn't be nervous and irritable. Money, that was my problem. I never had enough money. If only I could get a promotion, or a transfer to an area where the cost of living wasn't so high, then I wouldn't have any

problems. But, when I did get a promotion and a transfer I still couldn't pay all my bills.

I borrowed from my life insurance, I sold my car, but still I couldn't meet expenses. Maybe if my wife would get a job things would work out, but nothing helped. Why couldn't people just leave me alone?

No matter what happened my problems only got worse. My family life deteriorated to the point where the Military Police had to be called several times to break up fights between my wife and I. I started spending less and less time at home. I would often get drunk and sleep it off at the home of a friend or in the company day room. I would be late to company formations or miss them all together. My job performance got worse, I was either hung over or I was waiting for quitting time so that I could have my next drink. Needless to say I didn't like myself very much at the time, but still I didn't think I had a drinking problem.

Company Commander

One day my company commander called me into his office to talk to me. He didn't say that he thought I was an alcoholic, but he did confront me with several situations where my behavior was less than that expected of an NCO. I don't know why, but I admitted that I thought that I might drink a little too much, sometimes. He told me that he was entering me in the drug and alcohol program and that I had a choice, I could be a success in the program or I could get out of the Army. I went to see a counsellor who asked me about my drinking. I told him that I seldom had more than a couple of beers with my fellow NCO's after work. I knew he didn't believe me when he said that, in addition to the weekly sessions with him, he wanted me to attend meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous. I remembered my bad dream and told him that I would have nothing in common with those people. But, he told me to keep an open mind and we could talk about it later.

I didn't want to go to A.A., but I also didn't want him to tell my commander that I wasn't accepting his advice, so, after putting it off all week, I decided to go to an A.A. meeting. Boy, was I surprised. It wasn't anything like I had imagined. Why even some of my old drinking friends, that I hadn't seen in a while, were there. Also there were some very friendly men and women there who smiled at me in a way that no one had in a long, long while. They shook my hand, offered me coffee, and said they were glad to see me, in fact, they said they had been waiting for me. They told me that alcoholism was an illness that couldn't be cured, but could be arrested. They said that they understood what I was going through because they had been there. They said that they were alcoholics but they had chosen not to drink that day. They told me about themselves, but

I thought some of them were talking about me. They really seemed to understand the way I felt. They were alcoholics, but they didn't drink, and they were happy. They definitely had something that I didn't have, and what ever it was, I wanted it. They told me that there were no dues or fees for A.A. membership, that the only requirement was a desire to stop drinking, and that I could be a member if I said I was.

Went To Meetings

I started attending meetings on a regular basis. That was three years ago, and I still attend A.A. meetings on a regular basis. Today I have gained some peace of mind, my family and financial problems have improved, and I no longer have the compulsion to drink. But I know that I am only one drink away from my next drunk. I'm not perfect, and I never will be. But I am making progress in that direction. I didn't get the way I was overnight, and I know it will take years for me to really get better, but I am working on it.

I try to use the twelve steps of A.A. and practice the principles of the program in all of my affairs, but sometimes I can feel myself slipping back into my old behavior pattern. That's when I need the program of Alcoholics Anonymous most of all. For through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous I am learning to live sober, one day at a time.

Alcoholics Anonymous may not be the answer for everyone, but it sure has helped me. And when it comes right down to it, that's all I can say. I can't speak for anyone else, or for the fellowship of A.A., but I can speak for myself, and if you were to ask me my opinion of A.A. I would have to say that in this sergeant's opinion the program and the fellowship of A.A. is my life-line to a sane and sober way of life that far exceeds anything I had ever dreamed possible when I was still drinking.

I can take no credit for my life today, I owe it all to the commander who cared enough to put me on the drug and alcohol program, the counsellor who sent me to my first A.A. meeting, and to God, as I understand Him, who revealed Himself to me through the members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I have asked that my name be withheld from this article because it is traditional for the members A.A. to do so when speaking in public or writing for publication. There are several A.A. meetings every-day of the week in the Huntsville area and two meetings a week here on Redstone Arsenal. Each Wednesday at noon there is a meeting at the Bicentennial Chapel, and there is a meeting at the Post Chapel each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The locations of the other meetings in the area may be obtained by calling the A.A. Answering Service 534-8524, or writing Inter Group, P. O. Box 1452, Huntsville, Ala. 35807.

Lance, LCSS specialty split

BY SHEILA WALKER

Military occupational specialty 27B has been split into 27B, land combat support system test specialist and 27L, Lance System Repairer, according to SFC Scott G. Williams, chief instructor of LCSS team. The change was effective March 1.

Williams explained that the split was necessary to ensure that additional maintenance duties that Lance repairers now have were met. Some of the additional duties are repair of the Lance launcher, loader and transporter, and mechanical and hydraulic system repairs. These skills plus basic electronics and systems training will be taught in the new 27L course which is approximately 17 weeks long.

Matthew Salopek, Chief of LCSS/Lance Team, added that the 27L course would provide specific training to perform those tasks. This will greatly improve the operational readiness of Lance units in the European Theater, said Salopek. One of the big problems with the combined MOS was that the missiles were being maintained but the firing

vehicles were not being maintained properly, he added.

One change in the 27B course is a reduction of course length from 31 to 29 weeks. Two weeks of Lance instruction have been dropped. Students in the 27B course will still receive instruction in the repair of the TOW, Dragon, Lance and Shillelagh missiles.

Lesson plans for the 27L course have already been completed. Instruction will commence in basic electronics training at Toftoy on June 3 with the systems portion beginning July 29.

Salopek said that one advantage to the split will be an overall improvement in the maintenance and reliability of missile and firing vehicle repairs.

A two-man team from the Land Combat Department, SSgt. Lilton Monteith and SSgt. James S. Donnelly, will comprise the Mobile Training Team in Europe to train the 27Bs converted to 27Ls who are already in the field. The training will begin April 25 and end July 15.



SSgt. Lilton Monteith verifies connections of the Missile Guidance Set of a Lance Missile. Monteith is one of two instructors who will be going to Germany to train soldiers in MOS 27Bs who are being converted to MOS 27L.

Art, poetry contest winners

SSgt. Jerry L. Miller of Company B and PFC Annette McDade of Company A were the winners in the Black History Month art and poetry contest.

Miller took both first and third place honors in the art competition, his winning entry was a painting of boxer Sugar Ray Leonard. McDade was the poetry champion with a poem called "Liberated Woman".

Second place in art went to Pvt. Diane Jones, 6th Student Company, for her family tree collage. CWO 2 Richard Metcalf, Company B, was second in poetry and Capt. Steven W. Schultz, 5th Student Company, took third.

Col. James A. Hall, School Brigade Commander, gave awards to the top finishers and certificates to all participants in the event early in March.

Overweight soldiers miss promotions

Effective April 15, soldiers who are identified as overweight and placed on a weight loss program will be placed in a nonpromotable status.

In addition to being in a nonpromotable status, Army Regulation requires that service members not be allowed to attend professional or civilian schools or be assigned to command positions.

Once placed on the weight loss program, a service member will have six months to lose the weight agreed upon in consultations with the commander and medical personnel. If he does not make satisfactory progress within the six months, he will be evaluated by medical personnel to determine the reason for the obesity. When it has been determined that no medical reason exists for the obesity, the service member may be considered for separation.

To be eligible for reenlistment, all Army personnel must meet the weight standard six months after the effective date of the regulation (AR 600-9).

Before any service member is placed on a weight-loss program, he is medically evaluated to determine if he is actually overweight. Medical personnel also determine the amount of weight the soldier can safely lose per weigh-in, according to 2nd Lt. Carleen L. Evans, Company A weight control officer.

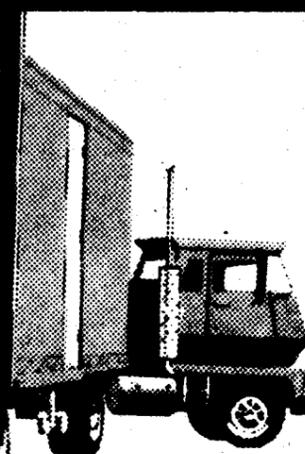
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Community relations award presented

In recognition of over eight years' participation in Exceptional People's Day at the Northeast Alabama State Fair, the Army has awarded the Missile and Munitions Center and School its Community Relations Award of Excellence.

The award was presented in ceremonies on the arsenal March 8.

Sponsored by the Huntsville Jaycees, Exceptional People's Day is a day set aside for the handicapped of northeast Alabama to visit the fair. Military personnel from the Missile School act as their escorts, and in 1982, more than 500 volunteered their services.



Colonel James A. Hall, Commander School Brigade, presents the Department of the Army Community Relations Award of Excellence to Lt. Col. William B. Greer, Commander 2nd Battalion. Most of the nearly 500 soldiers who participated in last year's Special People's Day were from Greer's battalion. (Photo by Harry Sarles)

New-look Chinook delivered to Bragg

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — Delivery of the first modernized CH-47 Chinook helicopter was made last month to the 159th Aviation Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (air assault).

By early 1984, the 159th is scheduled to form the Army's first CH-47D company.

During the Chinook's modernization process —

which is done at the Boeing-Vertol factories in Philadelphia — the aircraft is stripped to its frame and rebuilt using state-of-the-art technology, including new, powerful engines, improved avionics, triple cargo hooks and night-vision goggle capability. The result is a helicopter, the CH-47D, which can lift twice the payload under the same conditions as the Ch-47A. (ARNEWS)

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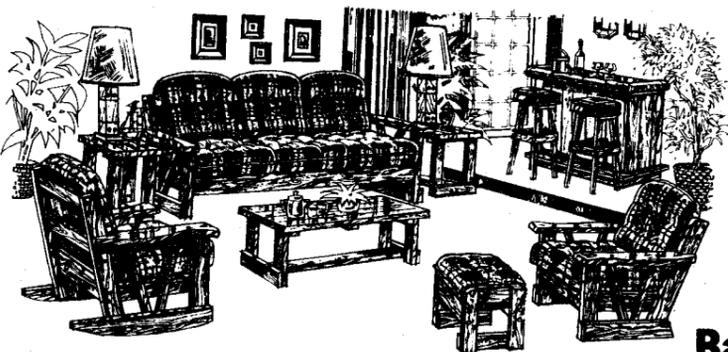
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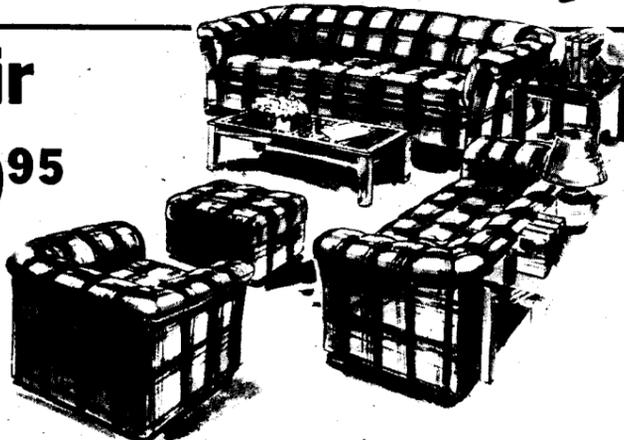
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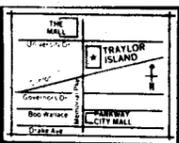
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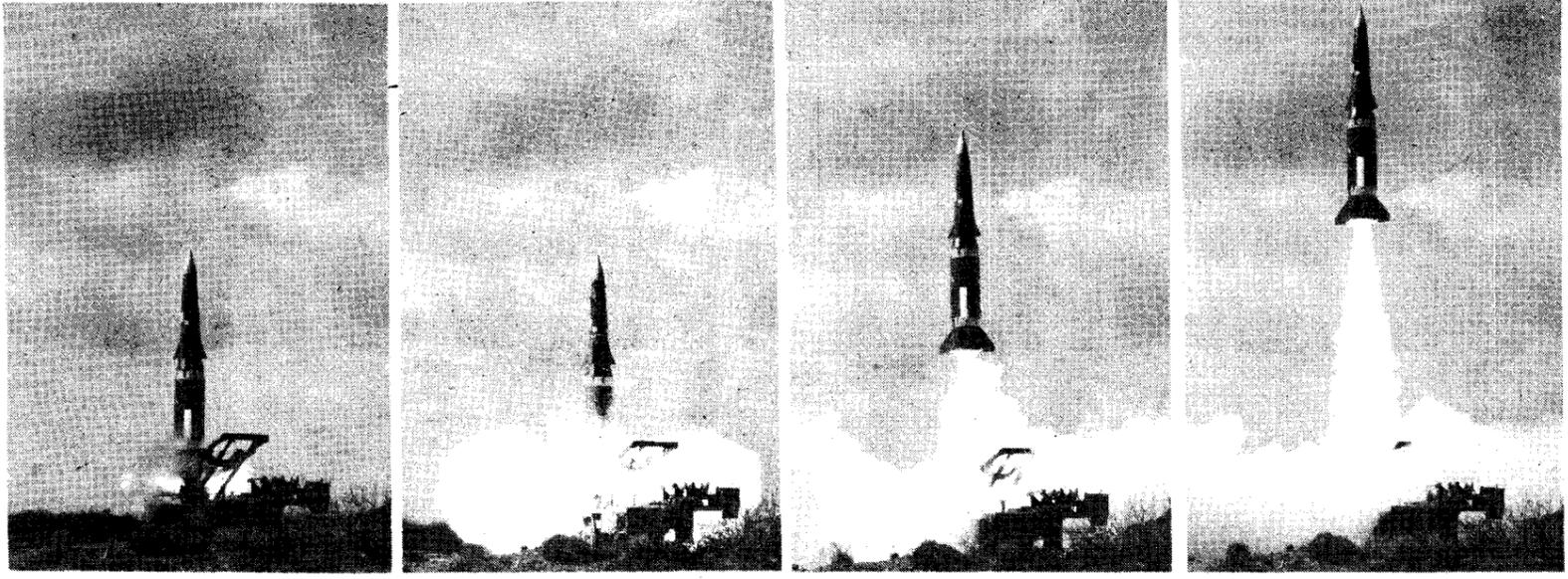
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Pershing II on target in sixth flight

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. — The Army fired a single stage Pershing II missile here March 13 and said a few hours later that the missile "impacted in the target area with the required accuracy".

Demonstration of accuracy was the primary purpose of the flight, the sixth in the Pershing II engineering development test program. Soldiers from Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 9th Field Artillery,

based at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, participated in the firing.

The flight took the missile almost 200 miles high and 88 miles uprange from the launch site on McGregor Range northeast of El Paso, Texas, to the target area on White Sands.

Pershing II firings will now shift back to the Eastern Test Range for further long range, two stage flights over the Atlantic.



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Pension changes necessary, OPM claims

(MIAMI, FLORIDA) — Reforms aimed at controlling escalating federal pension system costs, restoring the system's financial health and original purpose, and making the system fairer to the tax-paying public were discussed here today by Donald J. Devine, Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

"Few Americans realize that the true debt of the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) now totals one half trillion dollars (\$500 billion)! On a per person basis, the unfunded liability of CSRS is much greater than that of the Social Security system. While Social Security outlays grew 1,209 percent between 1960 and 1981, CSRS outlays grew 1,891 per-

cent. Unlike most private sector pension plans, CSRS benefits are fully indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Most private sector retirees receive indexed Social Security benefits, but their private sector add-on pensions rarely are indexed. 'Only 42 percent of all private sector retirees have an add-on pension plan in addition to their Social Security benefits, only three percent have guaranteed indexing built into their private pensions and benefits for the remainder are increased, on the average, at rates of three percent per year or less,' Devine said.

"The generous cost of living raises which result have created a situation in which a federal

age of retirement with full benefits to 65 with 30 years of service. Retirement at age 55 would remain an option for federal employees but those choosing to do so would be charged an actuarial reduction for early retirement. Due to the gradual phase-in of the proposed reforms, employees eligible for retirement at enactment would not be affected by the changes.

Adjustments for those below age 55 are also phased-in to account for past contributions to the retirement system. The actuarial reduction for early retirement for each year below age 55 with 30 years of service would be one-half of one percent per year. For an individual who is 54 at the time of enactment, for example, there would be a 5 percent reduction for retirement at age 55. Once the proposed reforms are fully implemented, persons retiring at age 55 would receive 50 percent of full retirement income. A person retiring at age 60 would receive 75 percent of full retirement income.

Two important benefits are expected to result from the proposed reforms. Federal employees would be encouraged to work longer, thus providing the public with the added benefit of accumulated experience in the civil service, and the CSRS would receive additional revenue and incur reduced outlays.

Among other proposed changes are provisions designed to insure that, in future years, CSRS will be fully supported by equal contributions from employees and the federal Government. Employee contributions are presently seven percent of payroll and would rise to nine percent in fiscal year 1984 and 11 percent in fiscal year 1985. As a result of this change, true actuarial value of retirement benefits would be set at a level of 22 percent of payroll, fully supported by employee and agency contributions. Benefits paid by CSRS would remain competitive with private sector pension plans.

Other proposed changes freeze the cost of living allowance for retirees in fiscal year 1984 and return CSRS benefit calculations to an average of the "high five" years of an employee's earnings history, rather than the present high three years. This change would be implemented in three years. All off-budget federal agencies would also be required to meet the full costs of funding the system.

A separate staff plan is being developed by OPM for new federal employees who would be covered under the Social Security system, as an add-on benefit system. Putting new federal workers under Social Security was proposed by the President's Commission on Social Security, and has been endorsed by the Administration. The combined cost of the new Social Security-plus-staff plan would equal that of the modified CSRS retirement plan, and benefits would be comparable.

"The net effect of these reform proposals," Devine concluded, "will be to put the Civil Service Retirement System on a sound financial foundation, ensuring that it will continue to provide benefits to retired federal employees and their dependents. These reforms are in the interest of the federal employee who depends upon CSRS and the taxpayers who must pay for the system and its benefits."

'A federal employee will receive about double the amount in total pensions paid over a lifetime in comparison with a private sector individual who retired at age 55'

cent. More critically, while federal employee contributions have increased 427 percent, government contributions have grown 2,351 percent. Clearly, CSRS needs reform even more than does the Social Security system," said Devine.

"The \$20.8 billion annual contribution by the Federal Government (which does not include \$9 billion in interest paid on government securities) makes CSRS the fourth largest federal entitlement program. Most federal employees believe that their retirement system is funded entirely by the seven percent salary contributions they make and the matching amount contributed by their employing agencies. But it's just not true.

"In actual fact, OPM, through payments drawn directly from the U.S. Treasury, adds another 26 percent of payroll just to fund current benefit payments and meet legal requirements. Even with this heavy commitment of general revenue, the unfunded liability of the system is huge and growing. During 1980 and 1981 alone, the unfunded liability of CSRS grew by nearly 24 percent. There is growing concern that American taxpayers will be unwilling to continue supporting such a large level of expenditure through a system that desperately needs these reforms," Devine continued.

Noting that CSRS benefits are quite generous in comparison to private sector pension practices, Devine pointed out that "federal employees can retire with full benefits at age 55 with 30 years of service, whereas most private sector employees can not do so until age 65. In fact, half of all federal employees retire before age 60, compared with only 7 percent who do so in the private sector.

"While federal employees receive full benefits (56 percent of their pretax salary) when they retire at age 55, with 30 years of service, private sector employees receive the equivalent of a 75 percent income reduction at age 55. Put another way, a federal employee will receive about double the amount in total pensions paid over a lifetime in comparison with a private sector individual who retired at age 55."

employee who retired in 1972 at the same time as a typical private sector friend, and received the same initial retirement pay, is today receiving at least 25 percent more in monthly benefits than his friend," Devine continued.

Typical private sector employers pay a 5.4 percent retirement contribution for Social Security, as well as an additional 11 percent of salary for add-on staff plans for those companies which provide such plans. The Federal Government pays 7 percent through the U.S. Treasury and the additional 26 percent through the U.S. Treasury. The total 33 percent government contribution represents nearly twice the typical private sector payment.

"Even if one adds in the long term (40 years) employer's share of the Social Security unfunded liability for the private sector, the employer share still represents only 31 percent of payroll. Allocating the equivalent unfunded CSRS liability over 40 years would require the federal government to pay an incredible 85 percent of payroll in employer retirement costs, which is far, far more than any private sector employer would pay," Devine said.

"At one time, more generous retirement benefits for federal employees could be justified on the basis that federal employees were underpaid compared to the private sector. However, several public and private studies now indicate strongly that federal employees no longer trail the private sector in pay. We are very concerned that the more than two-thirds of Americans surveyed in polls who believe that federal employees are over-paid in salary and benefits; like retirement, will turn against the system unless reforms are made. No retirement system can survive in the long run in the face of such substantial public disenchantment. These reforms are designed to head off that kind of rebellion among the taxpayers," Devine continued.

The retirement system reforms were developed at OPM, and were included in the president's fiscal 1984 federal budget. One proposal would raise the

Social Security rescue bill

If passed, the so-called Social Security rescue bill would require new federal workers to join the old-age system beginning next year.

They would not only be under Social Security but also a supplemental retirement system, according to an Office of Personnel Management spokesman in Washington, D.C.

"New federal workers as of Jan. 1 next year would be under Social Security and there would be a supplemental retirement system set up for them," said OPM's Ed Shell.

The \$165 billion Social Security rescue bill, which would also raise the retirement age for Americans in their 30s was sent to the Senate for a vote. "The House passed it and it's over on the Senate side now," Shell said Friday.

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Director outlines 'package of reforms'

(MIAMI, FLORIDA) — A comprehensive package of reforms designed to fulfill the promise of civil service reform was described here today by Donald J. Devine, Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

"What better opportunity to provide major reforms in the civil service system than during its centennial year," Devine said. "As President Reagan declared in his Civil Service Centennial Proclamation, the Pendleton Act, which created the civil service in 1883, is 'based upon merit principles, the goal being to hire the most capable and qualified people to do the public's work.'

The reform package, which was developed at OPM, contains proposals which have been included in the Reagan Administration's FY 1984 budget, as well as items which have been developed by the agency but are not yet formally approved by the President. Devine said they are "based upon and fulfill the promise of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, which was passed by Congress during the previous administration. These reforms are built upon that Act's purpose: to make performance the most important factor in making personnel decisions, and to make the Federal Government's personnel practices more consistent with those of the private sector, where the vast majority of the American people work. This is a purpose which unites two presidential administrations, two political parties and the American people."

The reform package consists of several major elements, including: a pay-for-performance system which would cover 1.4 million general schedule (GS) Federal employees, reforms of the Federal Government's pension system and its employee health insurance program, and proposals involving overtime rules and the scope of bargaining in Federal labor-management relations.

Merit System Principles

Director Devine noted that "most people in the Federal community are familiar with the Merit System Principles (2, 8 and 9) which provide essential federal employee protections. Less well-known are those principles which require that 'selection and advancement should be determined solely on the basis of relative ability, knowledge and skills, after fair and open competition which assures that all receive equal opportunity,' (1), that 'appropriate incentives and recognition should be provided for excellence in performance,' (3), 'requiring high standards of integrity, conduct and concern for the public interest,' (4), 'that employees should be retained on the basis of the adequacy of their performance, inadequate performance should be corrected and employees should be separated who cannot and will not improve their performance to meet required standards,' (6), and that training should be

provided where it 'would result in better organizational and individual performance, (7).

"The essential thrust of these Merit Principles, which undergird the entire civil service system, is that federal employees should serve the public interest through performance and efficiency. The reforms now being advanced by OPM are based upon those principles.

"For example, OPM's proposed Performance Based Incentive System (PBIS), which is awaiting the signature of the President, would put 1.4 million federal employees in a pay-for-performance system for the first time. This proposal would move the federal Government from a system in which within-grade raises are automatically awarded to a system in which the best performers in the work force receive the largest raises. This proposal translates Merit Principle 3 into reality through the pay system.

"Our related proposal for reforming the reduction-in-force (RIF) rules in the government would emphasize performance over seniority when Federal employees are separated due to budget or organizational needs, as is required by Merit Principle 6. This reform would recognize that performance is the essential merit element and that the Federal Government can no longer afford to separate its best people, as is too often the case in the present irrational RIF system. Placing more emphasis upon performance than on seniority will give women and minorities in the Federal work force who've proven themselves to be good performers a much better chance of keeping their jobs rather than being separated because they lack seniority.

Retirement Reforms

Describing a far-reaching proposal for reforming the Federal retirement system, which is part of the Administration's 1984 budget package, Devine said it was crucial that the government "arrest sharply escalating costs of civil service pensions, and return the system to its intended purpose of being sup-

ported equally by federal employees and the federal pension system has been going out of financial control much more quickly. Social Security outlays grew 1,209 percent between 1960 and 1981, while government contributions to the Civil Service Retirement system have grown 2,351 percent.

"This inequity is resented by many citizens working in the private sector. Federal employees must realize that something must be done to control the federal pension system's costs, and to make the benefits it provides more consistent with those in the private sector. The vast majority of taxpayers, who must work until they are 65 before they can retire at a full pension, should not be asked to bear the tremendous financial burden of supporting a Civil Service Retirement System which allows a federal employee to retire at 55 with full benefits.

Health Benefits

"The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program proposal described in the Reagan Administration's FY 84 budget introduces greater employee choice in selecting health insurance benefits by instituting a market-type 'voucher system.' It would give insurance companies strong market-oriented incentives to control costs to remain competitive and would encourage employees to sign up for plans which offer lower rates in exchange for cost-sharing features.

"Other OPM proposals, which are in the final stages of consideration in the executive branch, would aim at focusing federal labor-management relations on ways of promoting greater efficiency and more productive use of human resources in government, and would make federal overtime pay rules more consistent with private sector practices. In another area, supervisors' pay differentials would be increased to correct a long standing inequity for federal blue collar foremen.

"I call upon all Federal employees to take these reform proposals seriously, and hope that they will not choose to oppose them blindly. Change never comes easily, but these are necessary changes,

RIF rules in the government would emphasize performance over seniority

ported equally by federal employees and the government. Right now, the system has an unfunded liability of one-half trillion dollars, and 85% of the income into the retirement fund comes from the taxpayers. Only this huge subsidy from the treasury keeps the Civil Service Retirement System from collapsing. While a lot of attention has been focused on the Social Security System's problems lately, the

needed to successfully bring the institution of the civil service into its second century. Few institutions survive for a century, and none do so without adjusting to change. These reforms will provide the foundation upon which the federal personnel system will operate for many years to come, and will enable this institution to survive to celebrate the bicentennial of the Civil Service in the year 2083," concluded Devine.

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Logisticians help develop money-saving system

BY SKIP VAUGHN

Two Missile Command workers helped invent a new method to figure how often parts of missile systems and support systems need to be replaced.

August "Augie" Tranquill and David Sparks assisted in improving the Army's method for figuring and updating "initial failure factor" estimates. This has been used here since December and is expected to be used in the future by other commands.

"We were two of the main players in a study group that developed an improvement to the Army's method for developing initial failure factor estimates and updating the initial estimates based on historical demand data," says Sparks.

Sparks is a general engineer in the land combat maintenance engineering division, Missile Logistics Center. He and Tranquill, an operations research analyst in the logistics support analysis office of MLC, were on an original team of about 12 people.

The team included representatives from commands under the U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command. They rewrote a DARCOM pamphlet on determining failure factors.

Tranquill explains it as a new way "to compute the initial estimates and to update those estimates." He adds, "The final update program that is being developed here at MICOM will be exported to the remaining DARCOM commands for their use."

His efforts along with Sparks have not gone unnoticed. They were selected as "logisticians of the year" by the local chapter of the Society of Logistics Engineers. On March 25, they expect to brief the DARCOM deputy director for readiness and the Army chief of staff.

"What we did was rewrite a DARCOM pamphlet," says Sparks. "It contained a cumbersome method for determining initial failure factors only. What we did was to rewrite the pam to streamline and simplify the method for determining initial estimates and to include a second part of the pam that addressed updating initial estimates based on historical data."

There was already a directive to update failure estimates, Sparks says, but no standard method for doing that. In many cases, there was no updating being done.

With the new method, initial failure factors are fed into a computer. The computer uses these estimates for initial "provisioning" then data is collected on repair parts usage for a two-year period.

The actual and expected repair demands are compared after that period. If they're significantly different, the computer figures adjustments to the initial estimates.

"It should result in tremendous cost savings both in procuring initial estimates and follow-on provisioning," says Sparks.

The 33-year-old engineer has been at Redstone since 1977 after working in the DARCOM intern pro-

gram at Red River Army Depot at Texarkana, Texas. A 1974 graduate of Auburn University, he and his wife Martha have two sons, ages 4 and 2.

Tranquill, 39, has been an Army civilian here since 1968. The Avella, Pa. native is a 1965 graduate of Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pa. He and his wife Linda have a 12-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter.

He and Sparks have written a MICOM regulation on determining failure factors and plan to write a paper when they get the chance.

"What we have done is developed a better way of doing the business," says Sparks.

Says Tranquill, "I think the important thing now is the methods have been developed by the people who actually use the failure factors."

Jack Isom, director of the Missile Logistics Center, calls their work "substantially valuable" with wide application. "Failure factors serve as a springboard to how many dollars we need, how many people we need . . . There's no question that this is a landmark occurrence."



Tranquill and Sparks (in foreground) go over failure factor data

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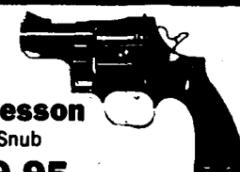
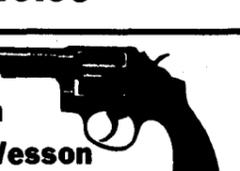
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Army launches measures against drunk driving

WASHINGTON — In its continuing effort to dry up the incidence of drunk driving on and near Army installations, the Department of the Army's law enforcement office is moving on two fronts.

First to emerge from the planning stage is the distribution to the major Army commands of two pamphlets published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; "Improved Sobriety Testing" and "Guide for Detecting Drunk Drivers at Night."

The first pamphlet tells police officers how to test drivers at roadside to determine whether they're intoxicated. The second provides a 20-point checklist detailing the visual cues and probability values that officers can use to discriminate nighttime drunk drivers from sober ones.

Use of both pamphlets, say DA law-enforcement officials, will help military police standardize their screening process, will improve the chances of detecting the alcohol-affected driver, and will work toward minimizing police mistakes during screening.

Accompanying the second pamphlet is a 15-minute videotape for use in training sessions.

The other part of the Army-wide crackdown on drunk driving consists of certain imminent changes to Army regulation 190-5, such as:

- A procedure for issuing letters of reprimand to drunk drivers.

- Improved procedures for assuring the swift temporary suspension of on-post driving privileges upon a person's apprehension for driving while intoxicated (DWI). The suspension would apply regardless of whether the incident occurred on or outside the installation.

- A provision for automatic 1-year suspension of on-post driving privileges upon one's refusal to undergo a blood-alcohol check.

- Counseling and rehabilitative services to DWI offenders.

- The encouragement of commanders to consider administrative actions against offenders, regardless of whether the offense occurs on post or off post.

"We're really optimistic," summed up a senior law-enforcement official, "that these measures will improve our effectiveness in dealing with the problem — and that they will help increase the safety of people out there on the roads." (ARNEWS)

Missing personnel not forgotten

WASHINGTON — The nation's 2,494 personnel unaccounted for as a result of their service during the Vietnam era still command the concern of U.S. military leaders.

According to the Department of Defense officials who monitor the status of POW/MIA personnel,

President Reagan recently has put top priority on the resolution of this issue.

In a recent memorandum to the service secretaries, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger urged them to take the lead to ensure that the missing are not forgotten.

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R.F.C.U.

Locksmith job can be frustrating but also rewarding

BY SKIP VAUGHN

The door at the rear of warehouse style building reads "Locksmith" and inside the room sits Roger Mitchell.

Mitchell, wearing jeans and smoking a pipe, is one of two locksmiths working for the Army's Redstone Arsenal Support Activity. The other one works out of another building.

"Well, its about 41,000 acres, I'm told, of Redstone Arsenal and all the buildings on the arsenal have some type of locks on them. All those locks are my responsibility with the exception of NASA," says Mitchell. NASA has its own locksmith to make sure the locks on its buildings are in proper working condition.

Mitchell's job includes putting new door locks in housing quarters on a master key system; handling periodic security changes to building locks; and servicing walk-in vaults.

He gets called if the vaults, located mainly in large buildings, can't be opened. "I'll service them, take care of them, change combinations when required...open them when there's lockouts," he says.

Over a year ago, Mitchell responded to a somewhat difficult vault lockout. "The bolt-work inside the door had slipped off its linkage and even though the combination would work, the bolts could not be withdrawn," he recalls.

"We had a choice at that point to either do one of two things," he continues. "One was to take a burning torch and burn the door open which is expensive and in this case wasn't necessary. The other choice was to go to the side of the door and with a jack hammer cut a small hole in the wall."

They cut a hole just big enough for Mitchell, 5-foot-5 and 130, to crawl through. "When I crawled through, I had the back panel off the door, opened it and repaired it before they finished fixing the hole in the wall," he says.

Mitchell, who will have worked here three years in August, is on 24-hour call. Some days there are no emergency calls; others as many as three or four. This is in addition to the six to 12 routine, minor repairs each day.

Mitchell sometimes handles car lockouts but, again, the workload varies. "It goes in cycles.

Sometimes I'll do two or three (car lockouts) a week. Sometimes I'll go a month without having to," he says.

The 47-year-old Birmingham native did his apprenticeship under a Decatur locksmith named Dulin Sherman whom he describes as "probably one of the best locksmiths in this part of the country." Mitchell previously served 22 years in the Army, retiring as a sergeant first class.

He and his wife Janie have a son Oddis and daughter Sharon, both students at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

"My opinion of being a locksmith, it's one of the best trades there is, however you've got to enjoy it," Mitchell says. "I enjoy it. It can be frustrating at times, and then very rewarding."



Mitchell at work in his locksmith shop

Exchange announces bicycle defect

DALLAS — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has announced a repair program for the team Murray deluxe BMX boys' 20 inch bicycle.

AAFES took the action after several of it stores reported cases in which the bottom plate of the pillow block (double clamp) stem broke during assembly or use of the bicycle, causing the handlebars to collapse. The problem appears isolated to a small number of the bicycles manufactured. However, AAFES has temporarily removed the bicycle from sale and urges customers to examine the lower part of the handlebar/stem assembly for looseness, broken welds or fractured metal. While there have been no injuries among the

reported cases of defective stems, AAFES officials caution that the possibility of injury does exist.

The bicycle, model 3-5337, is track certified. The 20 inch model which AAFES sold has a painted silver finish with red-trimmed handle grips, seat and padding.

Customers who suspect the stem on their child's bicycle is defective should contact the Murray Ohio Manufacturing Company for a replacement pillow block stem. Write to Murray Ohio Service, Box 268, Brentwood, Tenn. 37027; or call collect to (615) 373-6507 or 6508. Customers stationed overseas should contact their local exchange for assistance.

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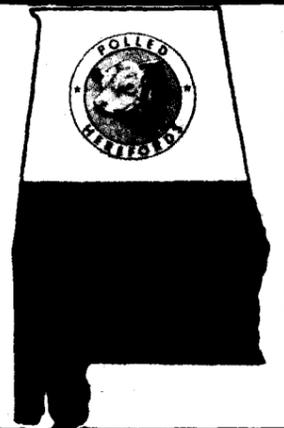
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'MAME' survey looks at reserve units

Beginning in April, the Missile and Munitions Center and School will begin the second field survey of Reserve Components missile and munitions combat service support headquarters and units. Called "MAME-83 (RC)," or "Missile and Munitions Evaluation-83 (Reserve Components)," the survey is to provide technical assistance to units and personnel, to identify problem areas affecting readiness, and to set in motion appropriate corrective actions, improvements developments.

MAME-83 (RC) is not an inspection of RC units or commands. Rather, it is a tool to enhance support to those units. Results of MAME surveys are carefully evaluated by TRADOC and DARCOM, and program changes are made based on survey findings.

The survey team plans to make direct contact with more than 60 percent of the RC missile and munitions units and headquarters. Teams will visit units during scheduled drills and annual training periods, and make contact with RC personnel coming to Redstone for training. Members of the Individual Ready Reserve and units not visited will be surveyed by mailed questionnaires. To further enhance the quality of the data collected, one USAR and one ARNG officer will participate in the survey process.

The last time the Reserve Components were the focus of the MAME survey was in 1980. That project was very successful in surfacing and resolving many RC problems. This year's MAME-83 (RC) survey takes on added significance to the Total Army concept because over 70 percent of the Army's

missile and munitions capability is within the Reserve Components. Several improvements have been made in this year's survey process, to include expanded use of ADP, a wider scope of data collected, and an increase in the number of units scheduled for visits.



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Redstone nears top in TRADOC tourney

The Redstone Arsenal basketball team surged to the forefront of the Training and Doctrine Command basketball tournament at Fort Eustis, Va. last week and was in good position to try for the title.

According to SSgt. Prentiss Thomas, troop sports coordinator, the arsenal team defeated Fort Monroe 87-84, Fort Rucker 125-109 and Fort Lee 100-98 to win the right to play in the winner's bracket semi-final early this week.

Redstone faced Fort Belvoir, also unbeaten in its games, on Monday for the right to play in the championship game but results were unavailable prior to the "Rocket" deadline.

If the arsenal team won Monday it went into the championships. If it didn't it had to face another team in the loser's bracket semi-finals to earn a shot at the championship.

The team is made up of all-stars from arsenal unit teams.

Petty officer wins UAH road race

Petty Officer 1st Class Randy K. Scharberg was the first-place winner of a six-mile race held at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Saturday, March 12.

With a time of 31.17 minutes, Scharberg, of the Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment, topped runners in all sex and age divisions to receive the first place trophy.

Scharberg, has been assigned to Redstone Arsenal for five weeks. This is his fourth running trophy. The other three were acquired in Spain.



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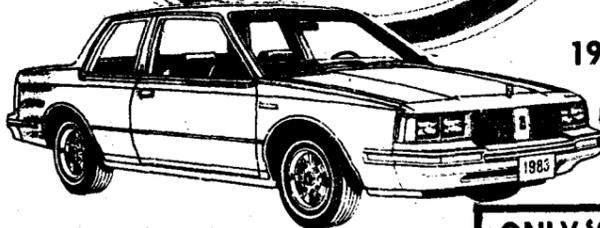
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Need for computers grows rapidly

BY SKIP VAUGHN

The demand for computers at the Missile Command is growing so rapidly that there may be as many as 5,000 computer terminals here within the next five years.

That's the opinion of Bob Payne, a computer systems administration specialist in the program management office of Management Information Systems Directorate.

"I'd say that just about every organization on this arsenal makes use of computers in some fashion," he says. "The use of computers is almost essential in getting the job done in most every organization on the arsenal. That need, to use computers, is growing very rapidly."

There are from 400 to 500 terminals at MICOM and hundreds of terminals worldwide that are linked into computers here. At least dozens of individual computers perform particular jobs in offices here without being linked to a large computer.

The central computer facility is located at Management Information Systems Directorate. The MISD network includes nine large computers located at building 5201 and two others at building 5400. "Just about every major organization on the arsenal has terminals of some sort accessing computers over here," says Payne.

Most of the terminals are at the Missile Logistics Center followed by other big users such as Finance and Accounting. Plans are to add over 100 more terminals to the logistics center during the next 18 months and 15 to 20 more at finance.

These offices and others are linked into a computer data base. Materiel Management Directorate, for example, has terminals linked into a data base on repair parts. The civilian personnel office uses a data base on personnel records.

Of the nine large computers at MISD, five are for the large data processing business; one is for the procurement automated data and documentation system; two are for printing; and one is for the electronic mail system.

"We already have close to 100 terminals hooked into the electronic mail system," says Payne. "Within the next two to three years, it'll grow by several hundred."

The remaining two major computers, located at building 5400, are used to support the scientific and engineering community.

Computer applications here vary from such things as an electronic filing system to an automated system for badge and decal information at the provost marshal office. In the works is a computer system at Facility Engineering to store information on locations of facilities.

About 8 million pages are printed at MISD each month, according to Payne. Finance and Accounting not only uses the system for financial data but "we print a pretty large number of commercial checks everyday," he says.

Plans are to install more so-called micro computers which would allow for greater expansion of the number of terminals. The four micro computers

at present include one at Product Assurance, one at Army Missile Lab and two at MISD.

"At some point in the future there will be maybe 5,000 computer terminals all having access to computers through an integrated communications network," predicts Payne, who says this could happen in the next five to six years.

MISD, which provides automatic data processing services to the command and other supported activities, has a five-year plan that can be divided into seven major projects.

These include development of the command terminal network; developing an "information resource management system for the 1980s" (expanding the functions that can be done on a terminal); developing a standard graphics system; updating the scientific and engineering computers; updating the business computers; enhancing communications support; and updating the technical data facility.

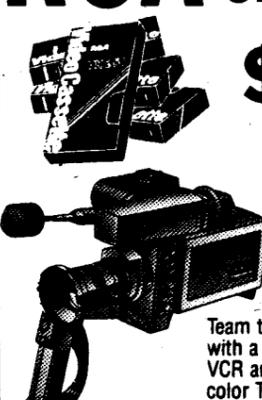
"The end results of all these projects will hopefully mean users will have easier and faster access to a computer and there will be a multitude of functions that he or she could perform using a computer," says Payne.

It all comes down to increased productivity, being able to do more work with the same number of people. "The computer gives the person more immediate access to the data he needs to do his job," Payne says.

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CHAMPUS covers obesity treatment

As of Dec. 27, 1982, CHAMPUS will provide limited coverage of certain surgical treatments for morbid obesity, an overweight condition that can be life-threatening.

By mid-February, CHAMPUS claims processors throughout the country are expected to start paying claims for morbid obesity treatment received after Dec. 27, 1982.

Three specific types of stomach operations will be cost-shared by CHAMPUS: gastric bypass; gastric stapling; and gastroplasty (the latter two operations decrease the size of the stomach with a stapling procedure).

The surgical procedures are covered by CHAMPUS only when one of the following conditions is met:

* If the patient is 100 pounds overweight for height and body structure, with a life-threatening medical condition related to morbid obesity. The life threatening conditions are: diabetes mellitus; hypertension; cholecystitis; narcolepsy; pickwickian syndrome (and other severe respiratory diseases); hypothalamic disorders; and severe arthritis of the weight-bearing joints.

* If the patient is 200 percent overweight for height and body structure, even without a related medical condition.

* If the patient needs a second operation to correct complications from previous surgery for obesity. The previous surgery need not have been covered by CHAMPUS, but the corrective operation must be one of the three listed above.

CHAMPUS doesn't cover the non-surgical treatment of obesity or morbid obesity, like the wiring of the jaws or special diets.

Secretary MOS closes to Army enlistees

WASHINGTON — Military occupational specialty 71C (secretary) no longer is available to initial Army enlistees, according to officials at the U.S. Army Military Personnel Center.

Only in-service personnel may apply if they meet the following course prerequisites:

- Have a CL (clerical)-score of 100 or higher;
- Be in grades E-4 through E-6;
- Be able to type at least 35 net words per minute, as determined by the standard Army typing test (available through education centers);
- Obtain a score of 11 or higher on the test of adult basic education, form D (available through education centers);
- Have 11 months of service remaining upon com-

pletion of the 12-week school (unless applying under table 4-3, AR 601-280);

• Be eligible for a secret clearance (required before awarding of specialty).

Application procedures for the 71C course are as follows:

A. Applications not in conjunction with reenlistment have to be submitted on DA form 4187, military personnel offices will verify that all applicants meet these requirements before sending the applications to Milpercen, Attn: DAPC-EPT-F, 2461 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22331.

B. For those applying in conjunction with table 4-3, AR 601-280, for reenlistment, the following guideline applies:

• Upon verification of qualification by the Military Personnel Office, submit the written application via reenlistment channels to Milpercen Attn: DAPC-EPT-H, for reenlistment processing.

All applications submitted for 71C school must be accompanied by documentation that verifies eligibility requirements.

Because of changes in eligibility criteria, several school seats are available for qualified applicants for the remainder of fiscal 1983.

Although specialty 71C is closed to new enlistees, their entry into the secretarial field is open under specialty 71L — after which they may progress to 71C at the E-4 or E-5 grade levels.

For more information, call Autovon 221-9526.

Department of Defense



HUMAN GOALS

Our nation was founded on the principle that the individual has infinite dignity and worth. The Department of Defense, which exists to keep the Nation secure and at peace, must always be guided by this principle. In all that we do, we must show respect for the serviceman, the servicewoman and the civilian employee, recognizing their individual needs, aspirations and capabilities.

The defense of the Nation requires a well-trained force, military and civilian, regular and reserve. To provide such a force, we must increase the attractiveness of a career in Defense so that the service member and the civilian employee will feel the highest pride in themselves and their work, in the uniform and the military profession.

THE ATTAINMENT OF THESE GOALS REQUIRES THAT WE STRIVE

To attract to the defense service people with ability, dedication, and capacity for growth;

To provide opportunity for everyone, military and civilian, to rise to as high a level of responsibility as possible, dependent only on individual talent and diligence;

To make military and civilian service in the Department of Defense a model of equal opportunity for all regardless of race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

and to hold those who do business with the Department to full compliance with the policy of equal employment opportunity;

To help each service member in leaving the service to readjust to civilian life; and

To contribute to the improvement of our society, including its disadvantaged members, by greater utilization of our human and physical resources while maintaining full effectiveness in the performance of our primary mission.

Ernest R. Meyer
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

James H. Doolittle
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

Robert H. Brown
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps

John D. Marsh, Jr.
Secretary of the Army

John F. Lehman
Secretary of the Navy

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Announcements

Joint meeting

A joint meeting of the National Contract Management Association and the North Alabama Chapter of the Federal Bar Association will be held Thursday, March 17 in the ballroom of the officers club. A social begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch and the program to follow at 12 noon. Speaker will be Joel R. Feidelman, a member of the international law firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Schriver and Kampelman. The subject will be "White Collar Crime in Government Contracting." Members and prospective members are invited. The cost is \$5.50. For reservations call Beverly May 876-8806 or Debbie Pinkston 876-1139.

Pre-separation

The Army Continuing Education Center will conduct a pre-separation briefing March 15 from 8 a.m. - 12 noon at Toftoy Auditorium. Representatives from on post and in the local Huntsville community will discuss benefits, rights, resume and interview techniques, moving, finances and more. All personnel leaving the service and their families are welcomed to attend.

Seminar on negotiations

The North Alabama Chapter of Government Accountants will present a seminar on "Winning Negotiations" April 18-19 at Von Braun Civic Center. Dr. Jack Turner, Hal Burrows and Judge Jere Blankenship will speak on the art of negotiation. The cost of \$60 includes a banquet dinner and a lunch. Those interested in attending should submit training forms through the normal process. Authority for a federal agency to sponsor participation is contained in the Government Employees Training Act.

Operations research symposium

The 22nd Annual Army Operations Research Symposium (AORS XXII) will be held Oct. 4-5 at the U.S. Army Logistics Management Center, Ft. Lee, Virginia. Some 200 Army, academic, and industrial leaders are expected to participate. The theme "Integration of Modeling and Simulation with Testing to Efficiently Resource the Acquisition Process," was selected to encourage presentation of ideas to enhance the application of available resources in the procurement cycle. Attendance will be limited to invited participants and observers. Papers which reflect thoughts on methodology, application of current or formative techniques, problem areas, and conceptual techniques to improve the acquisition process will be solicited by letter. Individuals or groups desiring to participate should write Commander, U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Agency, ATTN: CSTE-STD (AORS), 5600 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041 or call AUTOVON 289-2416/2446.

Retirement party

There will be a retirement party for Dorothy Sherrill March 25 from 4-6 p.m. in the patio room of the officers club. The cocktail party will have hors d'oeuvres for a \$3 donation and cash bar. Reservations must be made by close of business March 18. Call Fay Couch 876-1155 or Eulyia Balentine 876-4963.

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Accountants

The North Alabama Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants will meet Thursday, March 17 at Michael's Restaurant, Ramada Inn. Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and program to follow. June Gibbs Brown, inspector general for NASA in Washington will speak on "The IG's — Where We've Been and Where We're Going". For reservations call Aaron Walker 876-1366 or Marilyn Olson 895-4167.

LRC

The MICOM Learning Resource Center is offering several foreign language courses for all interested military and civilian personnel: German Gateway, German Headstart, Spanish Headstart, Saudi-Arabic Headstart, and a Russian reading course. The self-paced gateway and headstart programs provide an orientation to the language and culture emphasizing listening and reading comprehension, and speaking ability. The Russian reading course prepares students to read and understand Russian prose. The programs are helpful for people going to Germany, the Spanish speaking countries, and Saudi Arabia. For more information call the LRC at 876-1061.

CWF softball

All civilian employees interested in fielding a team or in playing softball in the Civilian Welfare Fund League on the arsenal for the 1983 season call Doug McKee at 876-1745.

SOLE meeting rescheduled

The regular luncheon meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Society of Logistics Engineers scheduled for March 17, has been rescheduled for March 24 to avoid conflict with spring break for Alabama public schools (AEA week).

Passover Seder

Jewish personnel at Redstone Arsenal are invited to a Passover Seder to be held at Temple B'nai Shalom. For information and reservations call Rabbi Robert Scott, auxiliary Jewish chaplain after March 20. Reservations should be made by March 25.

Free family entertainment

The Gail and Ezra show offers free family entertainment at the arsenal today and tomorrow. Ventriloquist Gail Wenos and her dummy Ezra will give three performances today at 6 a.m. at the Prayer Breakfast, at 4:30 p.m. at the Post Chapel and at 7 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. There will be a fourth performance tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. for the Protestant Women of the Chapel. The public is invited.

Bloodmobile

March 16 — Bldg. 3711 (Recreation Center), 9 a.m. - 12 noon. March 17 — Thiokol (Bus), 7:30 a.m. - 12 noon. March 18 — Bldg. 5681 (Bus), 8 a.m. - 12 noon. For more information call Naomi Whitaker 876-3124 or 876-2759.

Recreation center

Tonight — Domino tournament at 7 p.m. Thursday — Movie "Green Berets" at 2:30 & 6:30 p.m. and Bingo at 8:30 p.m. Friday — Movie "Summer Camp" at 2:30 & 6:30 p.m. Saturday — Checkers tournament at 2:30 p.m. Sunday — Show "Georgia Gritz" at 8 p.m. Monday — Bumper Pool tournament at 7 p.m. Tuesday — Pool tournament at 7 p.m.

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Caving club

The Huntsville Grotto (Caving Club) of the National Speleological Society meets 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month in the auditorium in Toftoy Hall.

Obituary

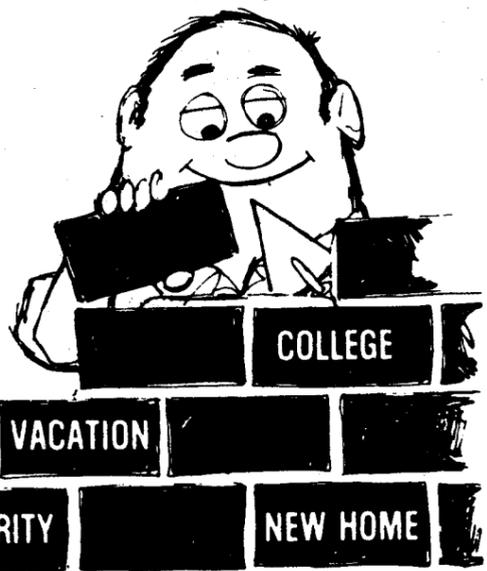
Billy F. Chappell

Billy F. Chappell, 65, died March 7 of an apparent heart attack. He has been employed in the procurement law division of the Legal Office since coming to Redstone in June of 1955. Survivors include his wife and two children.

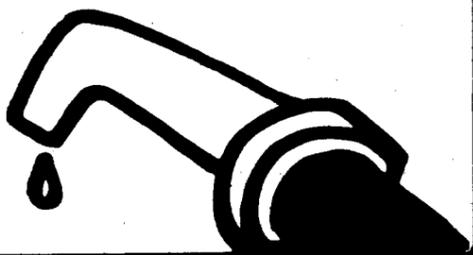


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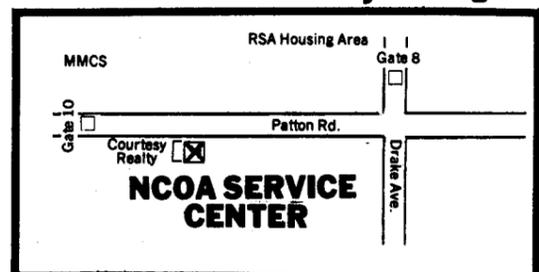
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