

# Redstone Rocket

33. 18  
Vol. 34 No. 17

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October 3, 1984

## Tow project office marks its 20th anniversary

It has been 20 years since the beginning of a project office for the Tow antitank missile.

Since Oct. 1, 1964, the project office has grown to 115 people. The missile has seen battlefield experience, has evolved into Tow 2, and has met production milestone after milestone.

Two secretaries, Judy Polly and Evelyn Hunter, can recall the early years.

"It was hectic," says Polly, secretary to the deputy project manager. "We had more men than there were secretaries. Actually two or three girls were working for everybody, one office to another."

Hunter joined the office even earlier, on Dec. 19, 1962, when it began as a branch under research and development special projects. She was the typist for four people. She remembers, "a whole lot of typing and an awful lot of secret documents."

Tow began as a day-only, optically guided system. It has evolved into a long range, all weather, day-and-night system.

"Tow 2 is the finest antitank system in the world," says George Williams, deputy project manager. "First of all, it defeats the threat. Second of all, it's probably the most cost effective system around."

The system was first mounted on a tripod but is mounted now on vehicles including jeeps, personnel carriers and helicopters. It has become the primary antitank system for more than 35 countries, according to Williams. The 400,000th Tow missile is expected to be produced sometime next year.

Two Huey helicopters were equipped with Tow for combat use during the Vietnam conflict and they had a "phenomenal record on hitting tanks," Williams said. This was believed to be the first attempt to put a guided missile onto a helicopter.

The first project manager was Col. Ballard Small. He was followed by Col. James Lothrop, Col. Robert Huntzinger and Col. James Brill. When Brill retired, Tow was combined with the Dragon project office under the leadership of Col. Arthur Goodall. Around



ANTITANK — Soldiers operate the Tow antitank missile system.

1979, after about two years, they were split again and Col. Neil Williamson became Tow project manager. He was followed by Col. Byron Powers and Col. James Lincoln, the project manager since May.

Hunter and Polly, the longtime secretaries, are among the few people remaining in the office since 20 years ago. Others include Coy Jackson and Edwin Baker.

## Charity campaign under way in federal agencies

The Combined Federal Campaign opened last week with kickoffs for the Huntsville area and the Missile Command.

Representatives of recipient agencies, the campaign chairman, and others participated in programs held Thursday and Friday at the Rocket Auditorium.

"As we go forward in this campaign, I would ask that we work together and that you would support one another and that you retain in your mind one thing: That you are your brother's keeper," said Maj. Gen. Jerry Max Bunyard, campaign chairman.

Leaders from recipient or federated agencies spoke of the need for CFC contributions.

International services agencies are 35 American charities "that touch the lives of 45 million people in 35 underdeveloped countries overseas," said Kathleen Hall, southeastern region director for ISA. "We Americans can make a world of difference," she said.

Elaine Lynch, district director of the American Lung Association of Alabama, represented the national health agencies at Friday's MICOM kickoff. "Illness and disease do not discriminate," she said. "It is your continued good health that is the major concern of the national health agencies."

United Way of Madison County was represented by retired Maj. Gen. Louis Rachmeler. "It works because you care and share your love," he said.

Myra Bice, chairperson of the CFC Coordinating Committee, listed the national services agencies as the United Negro College Fund, National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, and Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation.

"Love is the Answer," a CFC film with actor Kevin Dobson, was shown. An estimated 400 people, including campaign monitors and solicitors, attended

Friday's MICOM kickoff.

The campaign with a goal of \$650,000 is slated to run through Oct. 26.

## 'Excellence in Missilery' selected command's motto

The motto selected for the Missile Command's new insignia is, "Excellence in Missilery."

This was chosen out of 334 entries submitted from 73 people in a motto contest, according to Mary Cagle, command historian. Instructions were that the words should apply to the whole command's mission.

"The word missilery does take in it all and that's the reason Gen. Bunyard decided on missilery," Cagle said. Missilery is defined as the art and science of design, manufacture and use of missiles.

Cagle called the Institute of Heraldry about the motto so the institute can add it to the proposed insignia. The proposed insignia is expected to be sent here soon for the command's consideration.

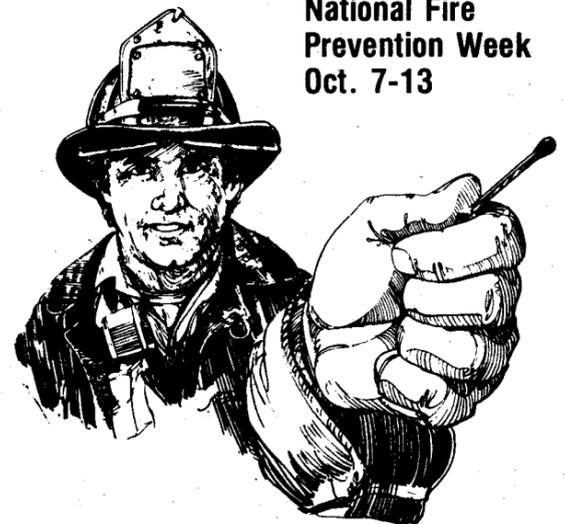
Other suggested mottoes included "Dedicated to Excellence," "Peace through Strength," "Missiles for Peace," and "Strength thru Excellence." Maj. Gen. Jerry Max Bunyard made the final choice, Cagle said.

Freda Pankey received a \$50 savings bond for her winning motto. Pankey, on a temporary promotion to the historical office since February, said she was surprised about winning.

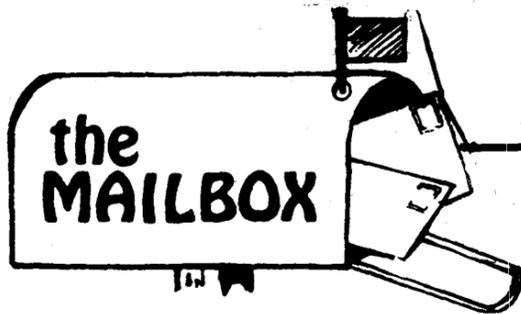
"Since the mission or the function of the command is missiles, they design, develop, deploy, support the missiles. That's how I came up with missilery,"

Pankey said. "And then we strive for excellence, so Excellence in Missilery."

National Fire  
Prevention Week  
Oct. 7-13



(See related story on Page 16)



## Cashier responds

**Editor:**

This is in reply to letter entitled "Commissary policy" (Sept. 26 Redstone Rocket).

First, I would like to say I am sorry this happened and really thought it was over and done with. Since the major feels he has been called a liar, how does he think I feel with regard to the amount of money given to me. I feel in all honesty I was given two \$1.00 bills. As for going to the back I did not do this, I went to the office as cashiers are to do. My supervisor did go get my cash drawer, a check was made, a count made, and it balanced out to the penny. All stores have this policy. If the tape and cash agree, this is honored, this is the policy of this commissary.

Second, as to the major requesting to see someone in charge and being told there was no one on the premises, this is not true. He did speak to the gentleman second in charge. As to seeing the manager, and being told he would check the tapes, and feeling put off, this is not my problem. Finally hearing from the manager that the tapes agreed and the major said "Case closed," I feel it should be.

If the major is unhappy as to how the commissary is run, why does he not put in a suggestion.

Name withheld by request

## Hispanic recognition

**Editor:**

In reference to the letter written about the Hispanic Heritage Luncheon, it is very unfortunate that we still have people in the federal workforce who are incapable of appreciating America's most valuable resource i.e. the diverse ethnic groups of people who make up America.

One of the Equal Opportunity Office's primary goals is to help assure that every individual receives equal opportunity to be all that he/she can be. Our job is far from complete as long as there are people in the workforce who believe and act as the writer of the referenced letter.

Redstone Arsenal is fortunate to have employees from most all ethnic groups. There are still not as many people from the minority ethnic groups in the

higher-graded positions as there should be according to the demographic makeup of the Huntsville metropolitan area. However, those who are in higher positions have earned those positions just like everyone else except that it is generally more difficult for the minority member to have equal opportunity to earn those positions. Historical, and unfortunately current, employment and promotion practices have created the imbalance we are trying to correct in the federal government today.

In September 1968, Congress passed Joint Resolution 1299, now Public Law 90-446, which authorized the president to annually proclaim the National Hispanic Heritage Week. In accordance with this statute, the Department of Defense encourages agencies to plan activities in recognition of this observance. It is a most appropriate time to surface the many valuable contributions made by Hispanics throughout the history of America as well as to recognize our own workforce Hispanics for their contributions to mission accomplishment. The proclamation, week's activities and the luncheon/program were designed for that purpose.

From the many, many favorable comments received, it is gratifying to know that the great majority of people who took time out from their busy schedules to attend the luncheon/program found it to be an enriching as well as an enjoyable function.

Catherine Gant  
Hispanic employment program manager  
Equal Employment Office

### Sign your letter

Letters will not be considered for publication in the Redstone Rocket unless they are signed and contain an address or phone number for the writer. Names are withheld on request but unsigned letters will not be used.



We support the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign.

## Universal Children's Day observed this Saturday

Universal Children's Day on Saturday, Oct. 6, is a project resulting from a concern for children, according to a parent who works here.

"I'm interested because I'm a parent and I have a concern for children, too," said Juanita Sales, a MICOM attorney. "There ought to be a children's day and we ought to recognize children and their accomplishments."

In 1979 the General Assembly of the United Nations designated that year as the International Year of the Child. Each year since then the U.N. has set aside a day in October as Universal Children's Day.

The special day will be observed in the Parkway City Mall from 2-4 p.m. Saturday. Mayor Joe Davis and County Commission Chairman Mike Gillespie are to issue proclamations, declaring Universal Children's Day. From 2-3 p.m. the proclamations will be read, a puppet show will be presented, and children's stories will be read.

Local musicians are to perform children's songs. All children are encouraged to wear international costumes to the observance. Balloons and refreshments will be provided by the Parkway City Mall Merchants. The event is coordinated by the Baha'i Community of Huntsville. "I'm taking my children," Sales said.

## THE REDSTONE ROCKET

Editorial Offices.....876-1500  
Advertising Offices.....539-3980

Editorial Offices . . . . . 876-1500  
Advertising Offices: . . . . . 539-3980

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The Advertising office of the Redstone Rocket is located at 108-B, South Side Square, Huntsville, phone 539-3980, post office box 5351, 35805.

Advertising deadline for display and commercial classified is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to personnel at Redstone Arsenal, NASA and Industrial Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for the Rocket are \$20.00 a year, tax included.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to the race, creed, color, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source.

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# Robins gives team credit for missile's success

BY SKIP VAUGHN

Like a running back who credits his linemen, John Robins praises a team effort that turned a failing missile system into a success story.

Robins, acting project manager for Roland, received the first annual product assurance achievement award last week. He was presented a plaque and certificate "for his outstanding leadership, commitment, and accomplishments in the area of product assurance for the US Roland program."

The presentation was made by Maj. Gen. Jerry Max Bunyard at the weekly staff meeting.

"As I said to the folks at the staff meeting, I feel awkward accepting an award for taking advantage of the excellent resources here at MICOM," Robins said. "I mean, in simple terms, last spring (of 1983) we had a system that did not work. But this summer, through

really an excellent government-contractor team effort, we have a system that exceeds the requirement."

He has been Roland's acting project manager for two years. It has been a difficult time during which the future of the project was in question.

"I've never seen a project that's had as many different management challenges as US Roland and I hope that I'll never see another like it," Robins said. "The thing is the people from here down, under those circumstances, pulled together to provide a system that works."

The team effort resulted in improving a system that was about a third of the requirement to a system that is 60 percent above the requirement. "Equally as important, only one third of the problems or failures required a part to fix it. And that's really significant,"

Robins added.

He came to Roland after serving as the deputy project manager for Hawk project.

Robins, 57, was born in a little town out of Atlanta called Conyers, Ga. "My mom and I were born in the same house in the same room, several years apart," he said. His father was a civil engineer, in charge of bridge building, who moved the family around north Georgia until settling in Rome, Ga., when Robins was in the fifth grade.

After preparatory school Robins went to Auburn University where he received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1949. He then worked in the construction business for two years before coming to Redstone in 1951.

"I heard that they were opening up missile opportunities over here so I applied and got a job," he recalled. He worked as an engineer in the production division for a Dr. Gunkle who had been his hydraulics professor at Auburn, he said. Within a few months Robins moved to the laboratories where he worked on the Honest John rocket. In 1962 he became the deputy for the Lance project. He moved to the job at Hawk project in 1976 before joining Roland in June 1982.

He and his wife Jeanne have three sons and a daughter, all adults, and four grandchildren.

"Most of my hobbies I had to set aside here in the last year or so," Robins said with a laugh. "But I like hiking, fishing, and playing with my grandchildren."

Playing with his grandchildren—again, it takes a team effort.



DIRECTS ROLAND— John Robins, acting project manager for Roland, has received a product assurance award.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Girl Scout leaders

The Redstone Arsenal Girl Scouts need adult volunteers for leader and co-leader positions for all age levels (Brownies, juniors and cadets). Training will be provided and no experience is necessary. For more information call Donna Manning 830-2943 or the Girl Scouts of North Alabama 883-1020.

## Single living

A seminar for those who are single or suddenly single again will be held at the Sheraton Motor Inn from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 30 and Nov. 1. Entitled "The Single Syndrome and Positive Thinking," the seminar's topics include advantages and disadvantages of single living, positive thought patterns for single living, and encouragement for the single Christian. Cost is \$10. For reservations call Wendolyn LaFleur 533-9517.

## Economy couples

The Economy Couples Club for all E-1's through E-4's who are married and live off post will meet at 4 p.m. Oct. 14 at the Post Chapel. Family members are welcome.

## Craft and bake sale

An arts, craft and bake sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Dunnnavants Mall. Items for sale include needlework, quilts, afghans, ceramics, woodcrafts, Christmas items, baked goods and other items. The event is sponsored by ALANA, a womens auxiliary for a child placement organization called AGAPE.

## ITC founder's day

The Redstone International Toastmistress Club will celebrate Founder's Day with a luncheon at the Officers Club from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 17. All present and past members and guests are invited. Tickets are \$6.25 and reservations close Oct. 10. For tickets call Jean Bishop 895-4493 or Annell Battles 895-3990.

## Military preretirement

The semiannual preretirement orientation for military personnel with 19 years or more active federal service will be held at 8 a.m. Oct. 19 in the Post Theater. Spouses are encouraged to attend. For more information call the Retired Services Office 876-2022.

## Blood drive winners

Here are the winners of the August blood drive: 1-50 category, Technology Integration Office, 33.33 percent; 51-100 category, Support Services Division, 22.22 percent; 101-150 category, Advanced Sensors Directorate, 20 percent; 151-200 category, Civilian Personnel Office, 10.80 percent; 201-400 category, Finance & Accounting, 13.76 percent; and 401-over category, Facilities Engineering Division, 14.55 percent.

## Sale at commissary

More than 2,300 items in Army commissaries have been marked down during October for the Troop Support Agency's eighth annual anniversary "saleabration". Stores will display banners, posters and balloons to create a carnival-like atmosphere for the sale and customers can use coupons to increase their savings.

## Frame shop closing

The Picture Frame Shop, located in the mall area of the Post Exchange, has closed due to loss of contract. Last day of business was to be Sept. 29.

## Post Exchange hours

The following holiday hours will be observed by the Post Exchange on Oct. 8: main exchange, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; shopette, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; snack bar, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.; service station (pump island only), 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Theater will open at 5 p.m.

## Auto painting seminar

An auto painting seminar will be held at the Auto Crafts Shop, building 3617, at 6 p.m. Oct. 25. Anyone interested in attending should call the auto crafts shop 883-2502.

## OWC western night

The Officers Wives Club's Western Night will be Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Officers Club. Tickets are \$7.50 per person. For tickets call Kathy Brodowski 830-5923 or Bonnie Manga 830-4081.

## Exchange sale

Merchandise in the Europe and Pacific sections of the post exchange mail order catalog is discounted for orders postmarked in the month of October. Shoppers should deduct 10 percent from the unit price of each item when completing the order form. Shipping and handling fees are not reduced. This "Christmas in October sale" does not apply to items in the America sections of the catalog or in catalog supplements, flyers or sales publications.

## Jewish services

Rabbi Sherwood Weil of Temple B'nai Sholom in Huntsville will hold High Holy Day services at Bicentennial Chapel on Oct. 5 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in observance of Yom Kippur.

## Catholic women

The Catholic Women of the Chapel will meet at Bicentennial Chapel Oct. 5 at 8:30 a.m. for a bus tour and Mass at Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman. Lunch will be provided and the group will return at 2:30 p.m.

## Mass in Spanish

A Mass in Spanish followed by a Spanish potluck supper is scheduled Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Post Chapel.

## LRC

The Learning Resource Center at building 7446 offers a four-hour videotape course entitled "Delegation, Employee Performance Standards and Managerial Coaching." For more information call the LRC 876-1061/1416.

## Carpool Hotline



### Fayetteville

Carpool wanted from Fayetteville, Tenn., to 5400 area, hours 7:30-4. Curtis Brown 876-6114.

### Oneonta

Ride wanted from Oneonta to 4505 or vicinity, hours flexible. Kenneth Price 876-4645.

### Priceville/Decatur

Carpool wanted from I-65 or Highway 67 to 5681, hours 6:30-3. Jackson Waters 876-1221.

### Florence/Rogersville/Athens

Carpool wanted from Florence/Rogersville/Athens to 2722, hours 7:30-4. Morris Williams 876-5726.

### Fayetteville/Park City

Riders or carpool members wanted from Fayetteville or Park City, Tenn., to 7172, 5102 and 3300. Jerry Harslip 876-3260.

## Blood program

Here's the blood program schedule for October: Today—9 a.m. to 3 p.m., building 4666 (bus), contact Florence Lee 453-1503; Oct. 5—7:30-12, building 4488, contact Linda Gentle 876-3939; also Oct. 5—8:00-12, building 5400 (bus), Peggy Cook 876-3580; Oct. 9—12:00-5, building 3207, 1st Sgt. McGovern 876-4760; Oct. 12—8:00-12, building 4566 (bus), Jeannie Dunaway 876-7203; Oct. 16—8:30-12:30, building 4752 (NASA), George Newby 453-0902; Oct. 17—9:00-12, building 3711, no appointment necessary; Oct. 18—4:00-8 p.m., building 3207, Sgt. Powells 876-7354; Oct. 19—8:00-12, 7442 (bus), Teresa Davis 876-9248; also Oct. 19—7:00-12, 5681 (bus), Cindy McDougal 876-2704; and Oct. 26—7:30-11:30, 8027, Brenda Ellison 876-2373.

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# Post card applications request absentee ballots

The presidential election is not too far off so soldiers and their families stationed away from home should consider voting absentee.

"All active duty military personnel and their dependents who are not legal residents of Alabama can register to vote absentee by using the Federal Post Card Application," said Capt. Melvin Doolan, adjutant and voting officer for Special Troops.

This is a post card that can be addressed to someone's home county and can give the information the county would need to send that person an absentee ballot. These cards are available from company voting officers.

Each state has its own requirements on when a request for an absentee ballot should be mailed. Company voting officers should have information on each state's requirements. People should not wait much longer, according to Doolan.

"They need to go ahead and get their request in as soon as possible," he said.

Besides the post card applications, Doolan and other voting officers have a voting assistance guide.

This is a publication put out by the Defense Department to assist voting officers.

Doolan, 35, of San Antonio, plans to vote absentee in the upcoming election. "Last time the presidential elections came up I was in Texas so I didn't have to vote absentee," he said. "But prior to that I voted absentee while I was in Germany."

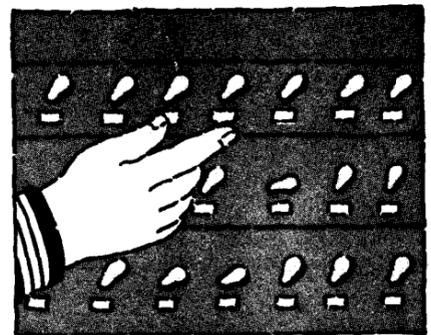
This year's voting slogans submitted by military people include: "When people vote, people listen" and "America— I'll vote for that."

Doolan subscribes to both mottoes. "Part of being an American is having a voice in the government," he said. "If you don't utilize that right, you're not taking part as an American."

Company voting officers include 1st Lt. Robert Krefting of HHC who can be reached at 876-5710 and 2nd Lt. Terry Wilfong of 291st MP Company whose phone number is 876-2489. Doolan can be reached at 876-3791.

School Brigade's voting assistance officer is 1st Lt. Marta Toney, its assistant adjutant. Her number is 876-6670.

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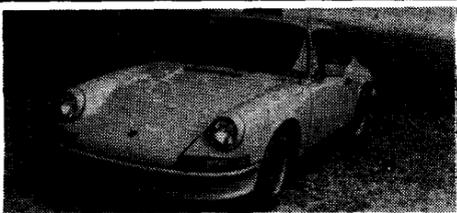
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1980 Cutlass Supreme, maroon, air, AM/FM, 8 cyl. .... **\$5600**



1981 Pont. Phoenix silver, automatic, air, 4 cyl., gas saver, one owner, like new ..... **\$3950**



1983 Honda Accord LX, blue, automatic, air, PS, AM/FM, like new ..... **\$8850**



1980 Eldorado Biarritz black, automatic, 8 cyl., astroof, leather ..... **\$11,600**



1984 Camaro red, air, 6 cyl., one owner, like new, 5 speed, 3030 miles, ..... **\$8850**



1978 Delta Royal dark blue, automatic, air, 8 cyl., loaded ..... **\$2800**



1981 Grand Prix maroon, automatic, air, 6 cyl. .... **\$6288**

**University Motor Co.**  
**536-3546** ACROSS FROM CENTURY BUICK

# Crime prevention meetings scheduled in October

The topics of drug abuse, spouse and child abuse and rape prevention will be discussed in a series of meetings scheduled here during October as part of Redstone Arsenal's observance of national crime prevention month.

Charles Thorpe, a criminal investigator who is chief of the crime prevention team here, said the three topics were selected for emphasis during crime prevention month because they are representative of crimes that occur in the mostly young, close-quartered and sometimes stressful military environment.

The crime prevention meetings will be held at Bicentennial Chapel from 7-8:30 on successive Thursday evenings Oct. 11, Oct. 18 and Oct. 25.

Thorpe said the purpose of the meetings is to familiarize the public with common criminal activities and preventive techniques. Methods of avoiding involvement in criminal activity or being victimized by it will be discussed.

"We will also use the meetings to stress crime prevention programs already in effect here now," Thorpe said. These include neighborhood watch

and property protection programs. Halloween safety will be discussed also.

"Chaplains will be available to explain their community assistance programs," Thorpe continued. "They become involved probably with more spouse abuse cases than we do and most of those we get we turn over to them or to ACS," he said.

To inaugurate crime prevention month on the

arsenal, said Thorpe, military police in cooperation with the local postmaster are arranging to present a special first-day cancellation of a "McGruff" commemorative stamp to the post commander. The U.S. Postal Service in recognition of crime prevention week will issue a stamp honoring McGruff, The Crime Fighting Dog, whose motto is "Take a bite out of crime."



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# Nebraska picked to rebound from 'impossible' upset

BY SKIP VAUGHN

Don't give up on the Nebraska Cornhuskers who were upset last week at Syracuse.

The Cornhuskers were unbeaten and number one before losing 17-9 to the Orangemen, a team they had whipped 63-7 last year. Syracuse was coming off a 19-0 loss at home to Rutgers when it pulled the *impossible* upset.

Nebraska faces the undefeated Oklahoma State Cowboys this week. How's that song go? *Mamas don't let your babies grow up to be Cowboys*. The pick here is... Nebraska.

In other games Miami (Fla.) travels to Notre Dame, Auburn goes to Mississippi, and Maryland visits Penn State.

Last week's picks resulted in a 20-11 record, making the season marks 84-41-3. Here are Skip's Picks for this weekend in major college football:

- Okla. State at Nebraska— Neb. by 13
- Georgia at Alabama— Georgia by 3
- Auburn at Ole Miss— Auburn by 7
- Syracuse at Florida— Fla. by 1
- Rutgers at Kentucky— Ky. by 3
- Miss State at Southern Miss— So. Miss by 7
- Tulane at Vanderbilt— Vandy by 14
- North Carolina at Clemson— Clemson by 10
- Virginia at Duke— Virginia by 7
- East Carolina at Pittsburgh— Pitt by 3
- Florida State at Memphis State— FSU by 14
- No. Carolina State at Ga. Tech— Tech by 10
- Maryland at Penn State— State by 13
- Miami (Fla.) at Notre Dame— Miami by 7
- Kansas State at South Carolina— SC by 21
- Va. Tech at Va. Military Inst.— VPI by 14
- Wisconsin at Illinois— Illinois by 1
- Indiana at Minnesota— Minn. by 3
- Iowa at Northwestern— Iowa by 10
- Michigan State at Michigan— Mich. by 14
- Ohio State at Purdue— OSU by 1
- Navy at Air Force— Air Force by 30
- Oregon at Arizona— Arizona by 3

- California at Ariz. State— ASU by 10
- Brigham Young at Colorado State— BYU by 30
- Colorado at Missouri— Missouri by 7
- Harvard at Army— Army by 14
- Texas Christian at Ark.— Ark. by 10

- Houston at Baylor— Baylor by 7
- Texas at Rice— Texas by 30
- Washington at Ore. State— Wash. by 21
- Southern Cal at Wash. State— USC by 13
- Stanford at UCLA— UCLA by 7



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# Poem expresses thoughts about being a soldier

BY PAM ROGERS

A member of 515th Ordnance Company decided to write a poem about his feelings as a soldier.

Sp4 Darryl Couch thought it would, like his other poems, express his sentiments and entertain his friends.

After reading his latest work, members of his section decided it was time for Couch to share his poetry. With the help of their supervisor, SFC Roy Suitt, it was submitted to the *Redstone Rocket*.

"I've been writing poems since I was about 15," said the 21-year-old soldier from Milan, Mich. Couch

says he is better able to express his feelings through poetry. He has written several romantic poems.

Suitt says he encourages Couch's writing. "When you see a spark of success, you need to put fuel to it," he says.

Couch joined the Army after finishing high school. "I thought it would be a good way for me to start my life," he says. He plans to continue his education eventually, and would like to study accounting.

The poem Couch wrote about being a soldier is entitled, "Who am I? I'm a soldier!" It reads as follows:

*Some people call me Uncle Sam's boy.  
Others say I'm government property,  
and a green machine.  
But do you know who I am?  
Let me give you a hint.*

*I'm not a Robot.  
And I'm not your enemy.  
I am your defender of liberty  
and Justice for all.  
I've pledged my life to protect,  
You and our country.  
My job is a very special one.  
Because I love my freedom.  
I have a heart filled with pride,  
lots of things are riding on my shoulder.  
Yet they can't weigh me down.  
You see, I'm a responsible person,  
and there are more like me.  
Do you know who I am?  
You bet buddy, I'm proud!  
Because I'm a soldier!*

## Annual volksmarch open to civilian and military

As many as 2,000 to 3,000 walkers are expected for Redstone Arsenal's Annual Volksmarch on Nov. 3.

SFC Charles Begley, NCOIC of Morale Support Activities, said the event will be open to the local civilian community. The past two volksmarch events have been open only to Redstone Arsenal. Begley said the large turnout is expected because of the growing popularity of this German-originated "people's walk" as a form of recreation in the United States.

"The time is right for volksmarching now," he said. "It's a movement that has spread from Europe."

Begley, who has participated in over 50 volksmarches himself, believes they benefit both personal health and community awareness. "It's an activity that families can participate in together," he said, "and it sure beats sitting in front of the TV set."

Participants generally pay a nominal entry fee, and receive an award, traditionally a small medal, upon completion of the walk. The award for this year's volksmarch will be a medal attached to a key ring.

The route is 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) long, following established trails near housing areas and in wooded areas on and around Weeden Mountain. The course begins and ends at the NCO Club. German and American food and beer will be available at the end of the walk.

Entry fee will be \$3 before Oct. 15, and \$4 thereafter. For more information contact Begley at 876-3030.



POET — Sp4 Darryl Couch uses poetry as a form of self-expression.

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## Veterans should safeguard their basic documents

Veterans concerned about their families' well-being after they are gone can ease their worry by safeguarding basic documents relating to military service, life insurance and Veterans Administration correspondence, says George Shellman Jr., chief, Veterans Services Division, VA Regional Office in Montgomery, Ala.

Securing papers, marriage certificates or child custody evidence from fire, theft or loss could be one of the most important legacies a veteran can leave the family, according to Shellman. Other documents that should be protected and filed with family papers are government and commercial life insurance policies, any VA correspondence with identifying claim numbers or Social Security numbers, wills, and where

applicable, naturalization papers.

The division chief reminds families that they should be aware of survivor benefits as well. These include death pension, dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected death, burial benefits and interment in a national cemetery.

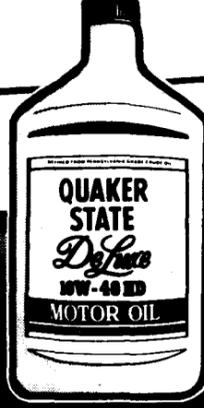
"The few minutes spent by the veteran organizing and protecting documents—and informing the family—can do much to avoid anguish during times of emotional stress," said Shellman.

He said veterans should encourage family members to seek information and assistance concerning benefits at the Montgomery VA Regional Office. That office can be reached by dialing 539-7742.

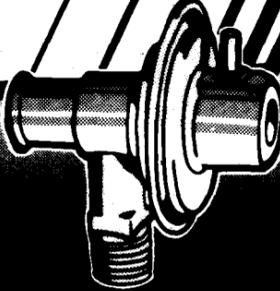
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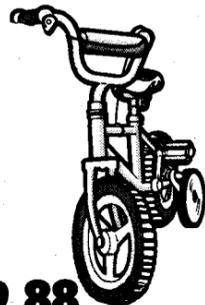
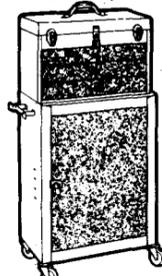
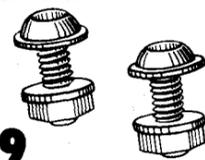
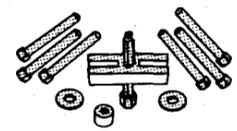


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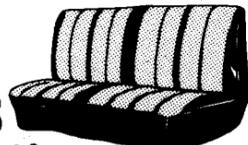


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# Nuclear ordnance company passes tough inspection

All Army units are inspected periodically but few undergo as tough a test as a nuclear weapons group, according to members of the 515th Ordnance Company here.

The 515th has just passed its nuclear weapons technical inspection and the commander says it wasn't easy.

"It is one of the most stringent inspections that a unit can go through technically, said Maj. David Megahan, who leads the company of 142 enlisted soldiers and 14 officers.

"Technically it is stringent and consequentially too. If you screw up, things can be bad," he said.

The inspection was conducted by the Army Forces Command's inspector general. The 515th receives a nuclear weapons technical inspection every 18 months.

Inspection duties are rotated between the Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Ga., the Defense Nuclear Agency at Albuquerque, N.M. and Department of Army in Washington. "DNA has a requirement to certify us every four years and DA follows the same guidelines," explained CWO Garland Kidd, quality control officer for the 515th.

The inspection had six parts. One was an examination of the group's nuclear proficiency. "They were primarily interested in our ability to perform our technical mission," said Megahan, 39, an ammunition officer with nuclear assignments off and on since 1970.

"Our unit is a nuclear weapons support unit and they were primarily interested in our ability to support artillery firing units in tactical environments.

"We support them by supplying ammunition to them and maintaining that ammunition if necessary," the commander said.

Megahan and Kidd do not discuss the specific weapon systems they resupply and support but do say they work with missiles, projectiles such as artillery cannon rounds, and atomic demolition munitions.

From a personnel standpoint, the company was evaluated to make sure the correct number of people with required specialties were on board and that security clearances were in order. Due to the nature of the mission, the 515th "probably has more people with higher-level clearances than other units," Megahan pointed out.

The inspectors also looked at company operations and training to make sure members were trained to function in a tactical nuclear environment and could in fact do that.

A logistics and facilities examination looked into areas such as convoy procedures. There was also a security inspection as well as one to determine if the 515th was being adequately served by the external agencies here that it depends on for support in medical, personnel, supply and similar areas.

Megahan described nuclear weapons as "one of the highest technology fields the Army has. "It's the nature of the business," he said. "There's not too much room for mistakes or variations of ways of doing things."

The company has enlisted nuclear weapons technicians, warrant officer nuclear weapons maintenance supervisors, others with ammunition-type specialties and the usual supply, clerical and similar skills needed to run a company.

The company headquarters is in the north end of building 3480. It has an operations and maintenance unit in "Skunk Hollow" west of Vincent Drive and a motor pool on Snooper Road near the Education Center.

For its tactical mission the company maintains a sizable fleet of transport trucks and other vehicles that were included in the nuclear weapons technical inspection. "The 515th must maintain itself 100 percent mobile in a tactical or field environment," said Kidd, 35, and a 17-year veteran of the nuclear weapons field.

Added Megahan, "The doctrinal concept is that we would not depend on others for transportation due to the nature of the business. Doctrinally they require us to move frequently and to do that we have to have our own transportation.

He said the 515th at Redstone spends "the lion's share" of its time on "contingency mission training." The company uses a training area near the airfield, another on the Tennessee River and a third off Patton Road. For training purposes the company uses dummy nuclear devices and keeps no nuclear items on Redstone Arsenal, Megahan said.

About once yearly the 515th travels in convoy to Texas to actually train with artillery units. "Here we have no interacting with artillery units because there are none around," Megahan observed, adding that the company is looking at the possibility of training some with a reserve artillery unit.

The company assists the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School in teaching the officer basic course and has operational control of the Nuclear Weapons Support Detachment which supports the school and national guard.

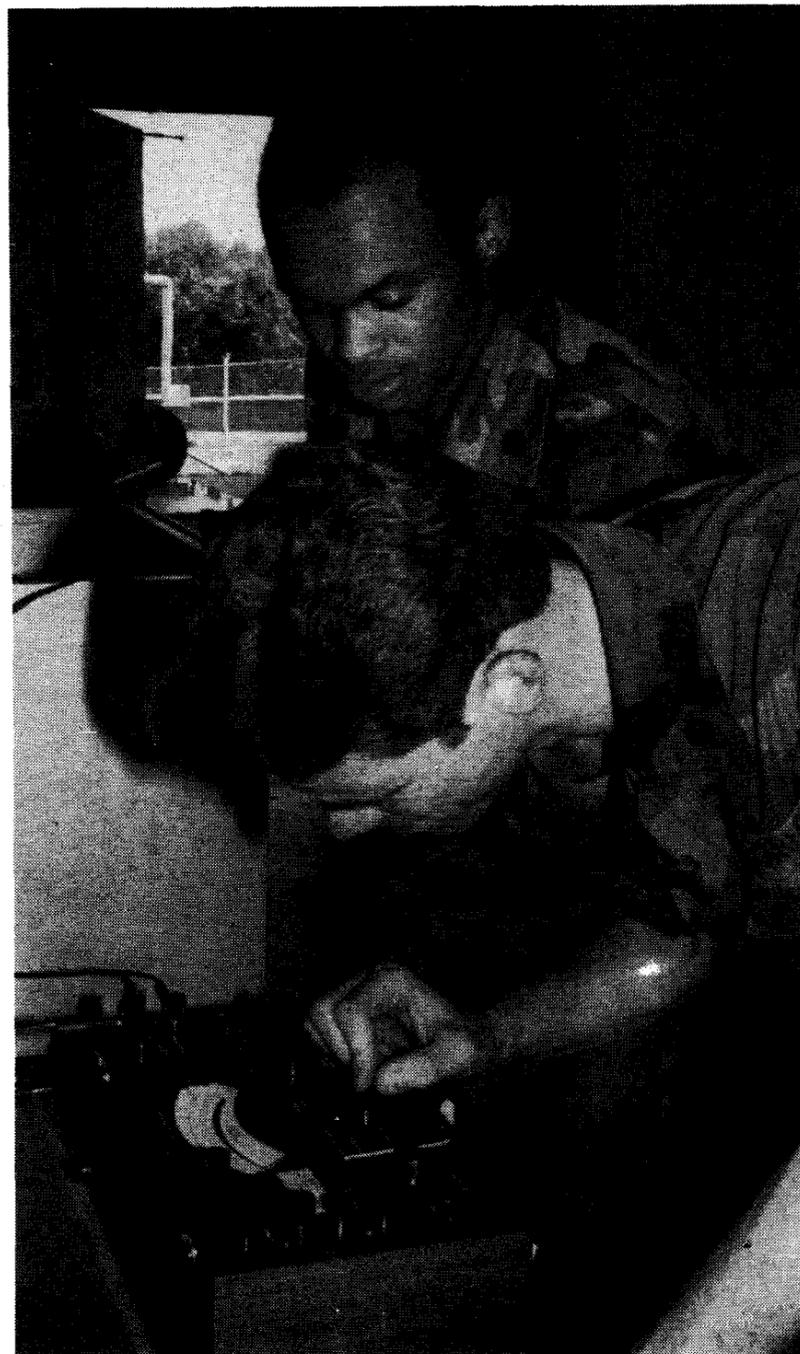
The 515th is a contingency force on call to the Forces Command. It moved here from Guam in 1978 and is one of only three company's of its type in the United States. Its "sister" unit is the 50th Ordnance Company at Fort Carson. The 833rd Ordnance Company recently was established in New York state.

Megahan said his company began anticipating the nuclear weapons technical inspection last July and had worked hard to obtain a satisfactory rating on it. "It was a complete, company-wide effort", he said, "that depended on the motivation and attitude of the soldiers.

"There are so many areas looked at and almost any can be detrimental" to the outcome of the inspection, he added.



**HEAVY LIFTING** — Brawn as well as brains is a plus when you're in the nuclear weapons maintenance field. It takes four soldiers to lift the heavy iron cover from a Lance missile container. Shown flexing their muscles are, clockwise from lower left, Pvt. Jonathon Lee, Pvt. Bryon Brown and Sp4 Fred Arceneaux.



**CALIBRATION** — Sp4 James Goins and Sp5 Terry Turner demonstrate a calibration technique used in nuclear weapons maintenance.

# Updated family action plan goes to print in January

WASHINGTON — An updated edition of the Army family action plan goes into printing this January. The new version will include initiatives based on issues raised by major Army command representatives in a planning conference scheduled for November.

The Army leadership uses the family action plan as a guide to resolving a wide range of family problems — including dental and medical care, housing, education, employment and child care. The issues often originate from local and regional seminars in which families have participated.

“Our goal is to keep the family action plan dynamic,” said Lt. Col. Milton T. Tankersley from the Army’s community and family policy division. He said the Army plans to continue looking into family issues indefinitely. “I don’t see an end to it,” he said. “I see it (the action plan) staying here, just being refined each year.”

Army families already have gained from the initiatives published last January. Among those, improved chances for continuous federal employment, better child care and education, and increased legal rights.

One issue — job security — has been a long-time problem for military spouses. Frequent moves and unwritten codes for behavior kept many women in volunteer work and limited their opportunities for career development.

Programs developed to lessen the job-hunting burden include the civilian personnel offices crediting volunteer experience on the same scale as paid experience. Guidance for including volunteer experience on job applications is available from civilian personnel offices. In addition, the Army has opened its overseas intern positions to family members who don’t have civil service status. It also is giving priority job placement to family members moving within the United States as well as those returning from positions overseas.

Finding and keeping good jobs isn’t the military spouse’s only problem. Accomplishing routine, service-related family business also has been difficult because commanders required a power of attorney in the soldier’s absence. Because law requires no power of attorney, spouses picking up family mail no longer will need one.

Sponsorship and orientation programs for soldiers and their families also are being improved. The Army has re-written its regulation on sponsorship and has written a “how to” pamphlet for sponsors. The regulation expands the target population for sponsorship to include soldiers in all grades and civilians moving overseas. “Out sponsors” also will be provided for soldiers leaving an installation.

The orientation program introduces new families to the Army lifestyle and its community. A program also has been tailored to families being stationed overseas.

Child care represents yet another area improved through the family action plan. During the past year, the Army has upgraded its child care facilities to meet minimum fire, safety and health standards.

A budget request for fiscal years 1986 through 1990 includes money to construct facilities and hire family child care coordinators. The coordinators will also monitor the establishment of “in home” child care services. Job descriptions and training packets for care

givers have been standardized, further improving the quality of care offered.

Many other on-going initiatives continue to receive the Army’s attention. Some will just take longer than others, Tankersley said. Of the 66 family issues and concerns addressed in the 1984 action plan, progress has been made in more than half. (Arnews)



## Army leaders see progress made on this year’s family action issues

WASHINGTON — The Army’s leadership is making progress in resolving those issues outlined in the current Army family action plan, according to officials in the Army’s community and family policy division.

Published last January, the action plan outlines 65 issues regarding the relationship between the Army and its families.

The following list updates some of the major issues that have taken place:

Spouses now can sign for quarters without a power of attorney. Field commanders have been informed, and the controlling regulation is being updated.

Army policy now requires that family members be invited to participate in design panels when they involve construction of family quarters.

The civilian personnel office will give credit for volunteer experience when it is included on the standard form 171.

Intern positions outside the continental United States now are open to non-civil service status family members. The regulations are being updated.

The Army is testing a priority placement program for placing family members in equivalent jobs after returning from a competitive position overseas. So far, the Army has placed more than 816 people. The test runs through this December.

All lesson plans from the primary leadership development course through the Command and General Staff College will include instruction on the importance of providing for the Army family.

Two instructional video tapes slated for completion this October will be available to orient new recruits and their families to the Army lifestyle.

The Army now can use mailing lists for bulk mailing of official information to families.

Since November 1983, the student travel program has provided one-way or round-trip transportation to students visiting their parents overseas. Congress has provided additional money for this year, a funding deemed necessary because of the program’s popularity.

The Army is following a guideline for upgrading its child care facilities.

A standardized job description has been completed for the staff of child care facilities. A training packet for the staff have been sent to the field.

An exceptional family member program has been developed to consider a family’s special needs when the soldier is eligible for reassignment.

The Army has re-written its regulation on sponsorship to provide better training for sponsors and thus an easier transition for the reassigned soldier. Civilians also now will be provided with sponsors in some instances.

Families no longer need a power of attorney to pick up mail from the soldier’s duty station. No determination has been made on whether a power of attorney is needed to sign for household goods.

The fiscal years 1986 through 1990 include money for family child care coordinators for “in home” child care service. Standard operating procedures for babysitting co-ops are being written. They are scheduled for completion by the first quarter of FY85.

A capstone regulation is being written so soldiers and their families can receive information and training on consumer and financial affairs.

A family action plan general officer steering committee has been established and will meet for the second time this September.

A handbook on family fitness is at the printers. (Arnews)

## CHAMPUS makes changes in its rules on mental health care for families

CHAMPUS has simplified and strengthened its rules on mental health care, according to officials of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services.

The changes become effective Nov. 13, and CHAMPUS claims submitted for care received after this date will be processed under the new rules.

Although the eligibility rules are tighter, the changes make it easier for those who really need mental health care. CHAMPUS remains committed to providing mental health care benefits tailored to the special needs of military families who must move frequently, often unaccompanied and to remote areas, officials said.

The new CHAMPUS rules now clearly spell out a long-standing CHAMPUS policy that only significant, professionally recognized mental disorders qualify for coverage — those that not only cause distress but also impair a patient’s ability to function. This means that a patient’s disorder must be significant enough to interfere with his or her ability to perform normally, such as at work or in school.

The new regulation also:

- Spells out covered mental health care services to include all types of professionally recognized psychotherapy — for both inpatients and outpatients. Treatment is not restricted to individual or group therapy, but may include other services, such as family therapy.

- Extends the limit for group therapy sessions to 90 minutes from 60 minutes. Psychotherapy, on an inpatient basis, may be extended to more than five sessions a week, if medical review agrees it is medically or

psychologically necessary. Normally, CHAMPUS will continue to cover the bills for two therapy sessions in a seven-day period, on an outpatient basis, unless more are justified as medically or psychologically necessary.

- Allows therapeutic absences from inpatient facilities for more than 72 hours if the doctor or psychologist receives permission in advance from CHAMPUS as part of the patient’s treatment plan. This means that CHAMPUS coverage can continue even though the patient is allowed to be at home with his or her family for a short trial period.

- Requires that all psychiatric hospitals, public as well as private, be accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals, or be approved by Medicare. This should continue to ensure quality care for CHAMPUS patients. CHAMPUS families should check with the hospital, their Health Benefits Advisor (HBA), CHAMPUS claims processor or CHAMPUS before getting care to make sure the hospital is approved.

- Provides for more extensive review by CHAMPUS and other professionals to determine whether the care is necessary and appropriate.

CHAMPUS will not cover any mental health care ordered by a court unless the treatment would have been medically or psychologically necessary, even if the court hadn’t ordered it.

CHAMPUS families should check with their HBAs before getting mental health care because certain reviews and paperwork must still be completed at various points during treatment for CHAMPUS to share the bills.

## Flag football

Here are the troop flag football standings as of Sept. 27:

Eastern Conference		
	W	L
B Company	4	0
A Company	3	0
5th Students	2	1
7th Students	0	3
95th	0	3
6th Students	0	3
291st MP	0	3
Western Conference		
	W	L
HHC	4	0
MEDDAC	3	1
515th	3	1
Marines	2	1
C Company	2	2
8th Students	1	3
4th Students	0	3

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Nancy Brennan/Flight Attendant



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# Illegal kill costs coon hunters \$1,325

One illegally-killed coon cost four hunters a total of \$1,325 in Magistrate's Court here Sept. 20.

Robert M. Buchanan of Mount Olive, John T. Smith of Scottsboro, Johnny W. Talley of Woodville and Dannie L. Bowling of Lacey Spring each received a \$75 fine for hunting out of season. Each was also fined \$250 for hunting without permission and Buchanan received an additional \$25 fine for hunting without a license.

The four were caught hunting on the arsenal's east boundary near Gate 3 the night of August 4 and were apprehended with a dead coon in their possession by Game Wardens Jeff Marksberry and Steve Beste.

Also in Magistrate's Court, a three-time DUI offender was sent to jail for 60 days. Winford N. Moore, a civilian, also received a \$5,000 fine which was suspended, was put on probation for two years and ordered to enroll in an alcohol counseling program.

For a second drunk driving offense, Pvt. Watson Baumgartner of Medical Company was sentenced to 48 hours in jail, fined \$500, and put on probation for a year. He was also ordered to undergo counseling and lost his driver's license for a year.

PFC Michael A. Thompson of C Company received a \$500 fine and six months probation for a second DUI offense. His driver's license was suspended for a year and he was ordered to perform 20 days of community service.

Eleven first offenders received fines of \$250 and 90

days probation. They were also ordered to attend DUI school, got 90 day suspensions of their driver's licenses and had their post driving privileges revoked for a year. They are Keith Barnes, civilian employee of the Officers Club; Sp5 Angel Cruz of 6th Student Company; Anthony Martin, civilian; PFC Stephen O.



Mogray, 6th Student Company; Alex J. Nazarek, civilian employee of NASA; MSgt. William J. Rothwell, HHC MICOM; Matthew H. Shirley, civilian; Pvt. Douglas M. Blake, 7th Student Company; Sp5 Richard G. Byrd, B Company; SFC Charles O. Womack, B Company; Sp4 John F. Zewald, 7th Student Company.

In recent court-martial actions here, Sp5 Davie Hobbs of HHC MICOM was convicted of assaulting an MP and assaulting a commissioned officer. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, 16 months confinement and reduction in rank to E-1. His confinement was limited to nine months by a pre-trial agreement.

Sp4 Nathan R. Goodgame of HHC MICOM was convicted of larceny, wrongful appropriation, AWOL and possession of marijuana. He received a bad conduct discharge, reduction to E-1 and 28 months confinement, limited to nine months by pre-trial agreement.

Pvt. Joseph Martin of 7th Student Company was convicted of distribution of marijuana. He was ordered to forfeit \$397 per month for three months and was sentenced to 30 days hard labor without confinement.

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## United Airlines ending Washington route

United Airlines' decision to soon stop its Huntsville-Washington route is not seen as having a major impact on Army travelers here.

The airline has announced it intends to abandon its Huntsville-Washington connection at the end of October. United will still provide Huntsville with service to other cities.

"I don't know that it'll have a whole lot of impact on Army travelers," said Ralph Jordan, transportation officer for Redstone. He pointed out that Eastern Airlines has a flight that arrives at Washington National 30 minutes after United's flight.

"In fact Eastern has three flights per day into National," Jordan said.

Each day an average of 25 government people, including Army and NASA, travel from Huntsville to Washington. Many Army travelers have preferred

United's service because it was direct and went into Washington National instead of Dulles.

Eastern recently moved into the Huntsville-Washington market and now offers five flights a day from Huntsville to Washington. Republic Airlines has five and United has two.

Routes from Huntsville to Washington National include: 6:44 a.m. Eastern arrives 10:33; 6:45 United arrives 10:04; 11:46 Eastern arrives 4:59 p.m.; 4:08 p.m. Eastern arrives 8:28 p.m.; and 4:59 p.m. United arrives 8:17 p.m.

From Huntsville to Dulles routes include: 6:40 a.m. Republic arrives 10:30; 6:44 Eastern arrives 11:05; 7:10 Republic arrives 12:05 p.m.; 10:35 a.m. Republic arrives 2:25 p.m.; 1:50 p.m. Republic arrives 6:05; 4:08 Eastern arrives 8:32; and 5:44 Republic arrives 10:10.

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FULL..... 129 Ea. Pc. Ret. Value 649.95  
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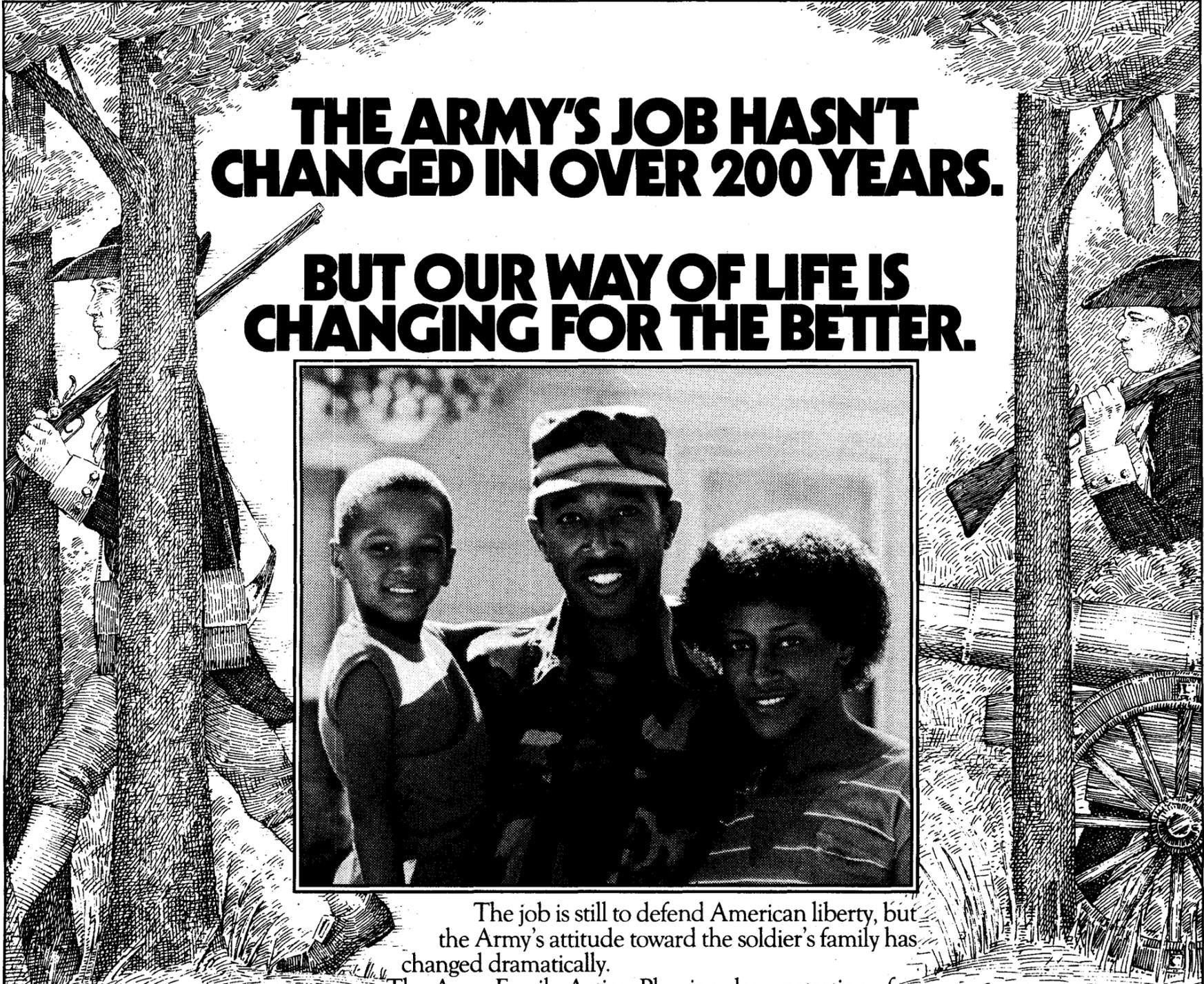
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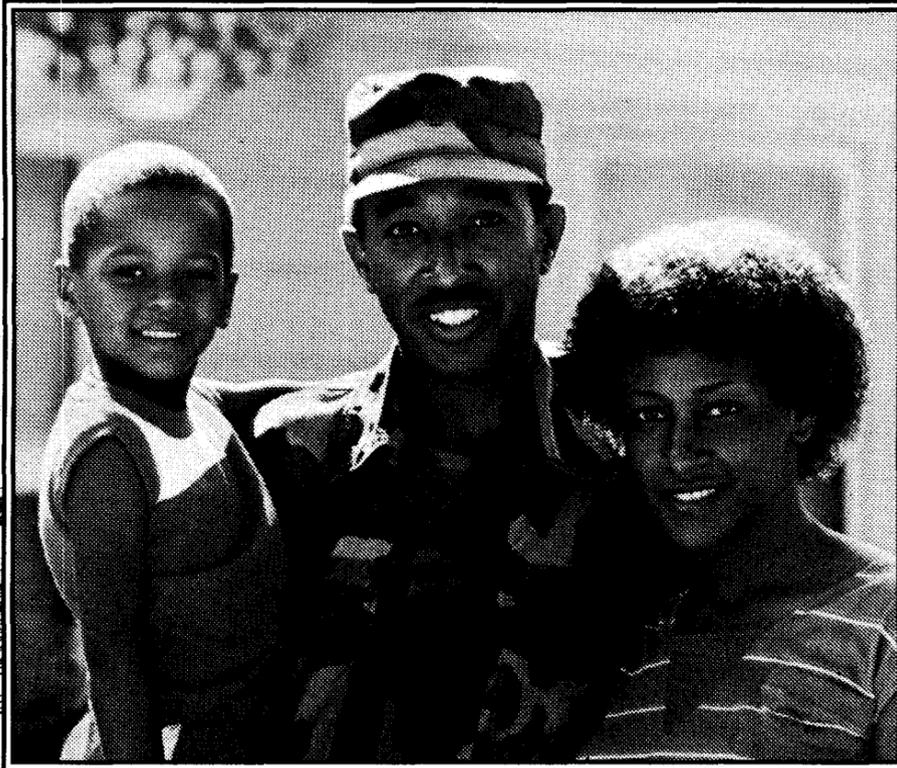
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The Chief of Staff, General John A. Wickham, and Sergeant Major of the Army Glen E. Morrell, are totally committed to this plan and have pledged their full support.

The construction of over 2,500 Army family housing units has already begun. Many new child-care facilities have been approved for construction; 250 have already been improved. A Health Facility Modernization Program has also begun. And presently, employment resource centers are being established to help expand employment and priority placement opportunities for Army family members.

Your problems can't be solved immediately, but they *will* be solved. The Army has always had the responsibility of defending the nation. Today it has another important responsibility—to continue to improve the lifestyle of the Army family.

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# Secretary finds laughter an 'international language'

By CINDY WATSON

Trube Sutton has worked with the foreign students here for 12 years and says she finds the work rewarding.

Sutton, secretary to the Allied Student Training Detachment commander, sits behind her desk in the same office she has occupied for several years.

One wall is lined with snapshots of all the foreign students here. She glances over at the wall often.

"It's very rewarding, they mostly have such simple requests," Sutton said about the students she works with.

"Most problems we take for granted are big problems for them," she added, "It makes me feel good when I can find out what needs to be done."

Using her hands to make an imaginary piece of paper she tells of the most common problem the students have.

"I help with things like, what to do with a phone bill or junk mail.

"I can straighten out things that are confusing in their minds. Some of the students have gotten letters from the Selective Service to go register, I am guessing their names are coming from getting a drivers license," Sutton said.

"You know that would be scary to get such a formal letter from the government," she added.

Even with the questions she answers daily, Sutton always finds the time for laughter.

"Laughter is an international language you can share with all of them," she said.

Sutton finds the students treat her as she wants to be treated. "They are always polite, courteous, and respectful," she said.

The only problem, which is not a problem at all to Sutton, is the cultures of these students are different. Many were raised to believe women are not supposed to know very much.

She laughed and said, "they will ask me a question, then if Capt. McChesney walks into the office they will ask him the very same.

"Most of the students like to deal with the top man. They know Capt. McChesney trusts me, then they trust me," she said.

Areas of discussion she says she always gets away with playing "dumb" are religion and politics.

"I always try to avoid religious discussions and political discussions to an extent. I just play dumb when the subject is brought up," she said.

She sat back in her chair and glanced again at the snapshots.

"These people are grateful for so little, we don't realize the day to day impressions we leave on them," Sutton said.

Not only do we leave an impression on them but Sutton feels she has learned a lot from the foreign students. Does she feel lucky to be an American?

"Yes, more so than the average person. I see pictures of their homes and I listen to a lot of conversations. I am thankful most every day," Sutton said.

"This really is the greatest country," she added with a smile.



SUTTON

## Youth soccer

Here are the AYSO Region 388 standings as of Sept. 30:

Eisenhower (under 10)				
	Won	Loss	Tie	Pts
Scorpions	3	1	1	7
Cheetahs	3	1	1	7
Sharks	3	2	0	6
Cobras	0	5	0	0

Bradley (under 12)				
	Won	Loss	Tie	Pts
Panthers	4	0	0	8
Strikers	3	1	0	6
Rowdies	0	3	1	1
Scorpions	0	3	1	1

McArthur (under 14)				
	Won	Loss	Tie	Pts
Rowdies	3	0	0	6
Bandits	0	3	0	0

Pershing (under 16)				
	Won	Loss	Tie	Pts
Blasts	4	0	0	8
Redstone Red	3	1	0	6

## Benefits extended for disabled vets

Veterans receiving compensation for service-connected disability may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation counseling benefits under expanded Veterans Administration programs, according to George Shellman Jr., chief, Veterans Services Division, VA Regional Office in Montgomery, Ala.

The basic period of eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services has been extended to a period of 12 years following discharge from active duty or from the date the veteran was notified of entitlement to VA compensation for the disability — whichever is later. The basic period may be extended if the veteran received an upgraded discharge or was unable to enter or complete training for a period of time because of his or

her medical condition.

Shellman pointed out that the purpose of the vocational rehabilitation program is to assist disabled veterans to overcome an employment handicap which resulted from their service-connected disability. In the case of a veteran whose handicap prevents employment, assistance to achieve independence in living is provided.

The VA regional office provides evaluation and counseling to assist in the development of a comprehensive rehabilitation plan designed to suit the disabled veteran's particular needs.

The Montgomery VA Regional Office can be reached at 539-7742.

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# National Fire Prevention Week observed Oct. 7-13

BY SKIP VAUGHN

Many fires are preventable and their causes remain the same year after year, according to Redstone's fire inspector.

"We've had a quiet year. We've been real lucky," said Fire Inspector Bill Cross.

National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7-13, commemorates the Great Chicago Fire that occurred Oct. 9, 1871. The theme this year is "Learn not to burn."

This means "being able to spot common fire hazards and knowing how to detect and eliminate the hazard itself," Cross said. In fiscal 1984 the Redstone Fire Department responded to 104 fires. Some of the fires were unavoidable, resulting from research and development activities, but 51 were preventable, according to Cross.

Careless smoking habits caused 14 of the fires and improperly stored flammable or combustible liquids caused seven. Miscellaneous fires, which includes those caused by children, accounted for 30.

"Smoking is probably the greatest cause of fatal fires in private residences," Cross said. Smoking materials should be disposed of either in a metal container—not a trash can—or in an ash tray.

Flammable liquids should be stored in a safety container and in a cool area. They should never be stored near a gas pilot light or where they can be reached by children. Fire officials recommend that gasoline, commonly stored for lawn mowers, should only be kept in a limited amount (up to a gallon). Contact the fire department if in doubt about where to store a flammable liquid.

"On cooking fires, the emphasis is not leaving a stove unattended while you're cooking," Cross said. "I guess cooking with grease is probably the problem most fire departments have."

Grease can ignite quickly. Cross recommends keeping a lid handy to cover a burning pan or using a dry chemical fire extinguisher. "You should never try to pick up a burning pan," he advised.

For home use the fire inspector recommends either a dry chemical extinguisher or halon extinguisher. "The halon's more expensive but it's much better," Cross said. "That's state of the art for electronic (equipment) fires."

Office fires have not been much of a problem here. Workers are advised to watch for hazardous conditions such as extension cords with multiple outlets, im-

proper disposal of smoking materials, and faulty fluorescent lights. Cross recommends knowing at least two escape routes.

Smoking is the largest contributor to home fires but cooking and children playing with matches remain continuing causes, according to Cross. "Year after year they never seem to change," he said.

"Biggest thing that's helped the fire department reduce the numbers of fires and fatalities has been the smoke detectors," Cross added. By regulation there is a smoke detector in each sleeping area on post—from troop barracks to family housing. Cross recommends that residents in family quarters check their smoke detector at least once a month.

The Redstone Fire Department will conduct fire drills and fire extinguisher demonstrations throughout the post during Fire Prevention Week.

To report a fire call 876-2117 or, on government phones, 117.



## Avoid hassle for TDY travel advances

BY PAM ROGERS

Military and civilian travelers can easily get advances for TDY if they follow a few rules, according to a travel pay official.

"You must get your orders to travel at least three days prior to pickup," says Ann Howard, chief of the Travel Pay Section here. The three-day rule enables employees in her section to disburse funds in a timely manner.

Howard says people are not obeying this regulation, and it has resulted in misunderstandings between travelers and the Travel Pay Section. She says the lines in the travel office wouldn't be so long if people didn't wait until the last minute to have their advance requests processed.

Vouchers are another source of aggravation for the travel office and travelers alike, Howard says. Personnel who have received an advance are required to submit a voucher within 15 days after completion of TDY. She says prompt payment of money owed to the traveler depends on adherence to this rule.

All travel costs are based on the price of air fare. Although travel by privately-owned vehicle can be approved, a cost comparison of POV vs. airline travel must be done before travel is performed. The comparison must include additional travel time, mileage

and per diem costs for travel by POV.

If the comparison reveals that travel via POV would be more expensive, the employee is not allowed to claim expenses in excess of those incurred during air travel. Regardless of the outcome of the cost comparison, employees will be charged annual leave for duty hours, in excess of flying time, spent in travel. The same rule applies to personnel who travel by other common carriers, such as buses or trains.

For example, if an employee obtains approval to drive a POV to Orlando, Fla., and a cost comparison shows driving is more expensive than flying, no per diem or mileage would be allowed for the trip to and from the temporary duty station. Lodging for the last night in Orlando would not be allowed if TDY ended in time for the employee to have flown back the same day.

An employee who makes a trip by POV more cheaply than by flying is allowed per diem and mileage at 20.5 cents per mile, but excess travel time is still charged to annual leave.

"People are always saying we cheated them out of this or that, but we pay in accordance to regulations," says Howard. She says travel pay problems can usually be solved if travelers have patience and an understanding attitude.



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## Officers' wives set fashion show Oct. 9

A fashion show will be part of the monthly luncheon of the Officers Wives Club on Tuesday, Oct. 9.

The show, presented by Casual Corner, will be a seminar on how to create, organize and maintain a wardrobe. The event is for OWC members and guests.

"It's just a monthly function but every monthly function contributes toward goodwill and friendship," said Pam Stieglitz, the OWC publicity chairman.

It will be held in the Officers Club ballroom. Social time is set for 11 a.m. with lunch at 11:30.

Reservations should be made by noon Friday by calling one of the following: A-E, Gayle Moore 533-0226; F-L, Kathy Brodowski 830-5923 M-R, Ann Patterson 837-6579; and S-Z, Sherry Sorrell 837-1655. Cancellations should be made by noon Monday by calling Sherry Richey 830-2729.

"Remember to bring your favorite recipes for the new OWC cookbook," Stieglitz added.



MODELS — Members of OWC rehearsing for the fashion show are, from left, Helen Jansen, Charleen Garrett, Judy Frago and Flo Boyer.

## This month in history

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>43 years ago:</b> The Redstone Ordnance Plant was activated (Oct. 6, 1941), with Maj. Carroll D. Hudson as its first commander. Ground breaking ceremonies for construction of the Ordnance manufacturing facility occurred on Oct. 25, 1941.</p> <p><b>35 years ago:</b> The Secretary of the Army approved the transfer of the Ordnance R&amp;D Division, Sub-Office, Rocket, from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Redstone Arsenal (Oct. 29, 1949). The Fort Bliss group included some 120 German scientists who had come to the United States in "Operation Paperclip" during 1945-46.</p> <p><b>34 years ago:</b> The Fort Bliss group completed the move the Redstone Arsenal, expanding the arsenal's R&amp;D mission to include both rockets and guided missiles (Oct. 31, 1950).</p> <p><b>27 years ago:</b> The Secretary of Defense elect, Neil H. McElroy, Secretary of the Army</p> | <p>Wilber M. Brucker, and other top defense officials were visiting Redstone Arsenal when the Russians put up their first Sputnik the night of Oct. 4, 1957.</p> <p><b>25 years ago:</b> Juno II Vehicle AM-19A placed a 91.5-pound satellite (Explorer VII) in orbit (Oct. 13, 1959).</p> <p><b>24 years ago:</b> Maj. Gen. August Schomburg, commander of the Army Ordnance Missile Command (AOMC), pressed a button, a model Nike Zeus missile intercepted a model Jupiter missile, and the explosion severed a red ribbon, officially opening building 5250 as the Army Rocket &amp; Guided Missile Agency (ARGMA) headquarters (Oct. 15, 1960). (Building 5250 became the AOMC Headquarters following inactivation of ARGMA and ABMA in December 1961.)</p> <p><b>20 years ago:</b> The Tow Project Office was</p> | <p>established (Oct. 1, 1964).</p> <p><b>19 years ago:</b> Two CONUS Strategic Army Corps Basic Hawk units were deployed to Vietnam (October 1965).</p> <p><b>12 years ago:</b> The Improved Hawk weapon system began replacing the Basic Hawk which had been in the field since August 1960 (October 1972).</p> <p><b>7 years ago:</b> The General Support Rocket System (now Multiple Launch Rocket System) Project Office was established (Oct. 1, 1977).</p> <p><b>4 years ago:</b> The Air Defense Command and Control Systems (ADCCS) Project Office transitioned from the US Army Communications Research and Development Command to the US Army Missile Command (Oct. 1, 1980).</p> |
|--|---|---|

Compiled by Mary T. Cagle  
Command Historian

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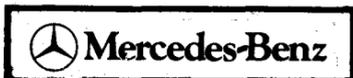
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# BMD engineer's idea cited by Secretary of Defense

His idea for a "better mousetrap" hasn't brought the world beating a path to Donald Parker's door, as an old saying claims will happen. But, then his idea is a lot more complicated than an improved mousetrap.

What has resulted from Parker's innovation is big savings for taxpayers and benefits for him in both recognition and financial reward.

Parker, an engineer with the Army's Ballistic Missile Defense Advanced Technology Center (ATC), devised an improved and much less costly way of performing demonstration and checkout of a special sensor system under development at the ATC.

For his ingenuity, plus perseverance in seeing that the idea was implemented, Parker was awarded a Department of Defense Productivity and Excellence Award on Sept. 26, with Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger making the presentation.

John H. Black, a logistics manager for the Redeye system in Himads management office at MICOM's Missile Logistics Center, received the same award at the ceremony.

The latest honor comes on top of Army recognition of Parker's idea. Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh Jr., last fall presented Parker with a plaque citing him as one of the service's two outstanding sug-

gesters of the year.

That most tangible form of reward, money, wasn't left out, either. In April 1983, Parker received a \$9,634 bonus through the federal incentive awards program, which encourages employees to submit ideas for cutting costs and improving methods of doing things. The amount of the award was based upon calculated savings for the Army of \$1.2 million as a result of Parker's suggestion.

His idea was for equipment and methods to test components in infrared sensor systems being developed by the Army for defense against ballistic missiles. Infrared sensors are useful for ballistic missile defense because, looking into the intense cold of space, they can detect approaching ballistic missile warheads at great distances.

Developing such sensors and associated components and performing the necessary ground tests on them once they're developed require methods of simulating what the sensors would "see" in space during a ballistic missile attack.

Parker in 1981 was the contract monitor for an ATC project in this field. He noted that a contractor's proposed use of computer-generated tapes for simulating

sensor output would require development of a special "signal processor test driver" and a recorder at an estimated cost of \$1.7 million.

Meanwhile, Parker learned of a "sensor synthesizer" that had been developed by another contractor for a different ATC program. He determined that, with some modification, the existing synthesizer could do the job. The cost of the item and modifications would be about \$400,000.

Pointing out a cost-saving alternative did not end Parker's role in the adoption of the idea, however. He had to also convince all those involved that the more economical approach would be just as effective as the more costly way. "Selling" his idea took many meetings and discussions over roughly a year.

The suggestion wasn't Parker's first. He has made several during his 22-year career as an Army civilian employee, beginning with one which brought a \$25 award.

The 34-year-old engineer has worked in the BMD program for approximately 15 years. A native of Kentucky, he was graduated in 1961 from Western Kentucky University at Bowling Green, where he majored in physics. Parker, his wife and two daughters live in Huntsville.

## Women's uniform change gets mixed reaction

By CINDY WATSON

As of Oct. 1 women may don the new Army garrison cap, according to Army uniform officials.

The new cap is authorized as an optional item for all women with the Army green, pantsuit, classic, mint-green, maternity, hospital and food service duty and maternity, and administrative-flight uniforms.

The garrison cap is to be worn with the front vertical crease of the cap centered on the forehead, in a straight line with the nose so that the front lower portion of the cap will be one inch above the first two fingers. The top of the cap will be opened to cover the crown of the head. The bottom of the rear vertical crease will fit snugly to the back of the skull.

"I don't like it. If I had to pick between the two I would pick the beret over the garrison. I don't think the garrison would stay on your head right, it would fall off," said Spec. Jean Heredia, supply clerk.

Hair is not supposed to cover any part of the bottom edge of the cap. Also, hair is not supposed to be visible on the forehead below the front bottom edge of the

cap.

"I don't like it. It isn't any more practical than the beret," Capt. Dottie Johnson, organizational effectiveness staff officer, said about the ruling on the hair regulation with the garrison.

Others did not seem to mind whether or not the hair must be worn differently.

"I think it is a good move. I have found there is no discrepancy between the two, although it would limit the hair policy. You do have to keep your hair flat or it won't fit right. I am used to it, when I first came in the Army that was the hat I wore." Staff Sgt. Debra Thompson, assistant administrative NCO, said.

"I like it a lot better than the beret. It's more compact and convenient," Spec. Denise Zavadil, office management clerk, said. "Wouldn't have any brass to shine either," Zavadil added.

November is the expected arrival time of the garrison caps at the military clothing store here, according to Margaret Harrison, supervisor of the clothing store. She said the estimated cost would be about \$3 to \$3.50.



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• Sign the ad.  
• Deadline is 9 a.m. on the Thursday before the ad will appear. Ads will run for only one week. You may resubmit them.

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ments for rent, or businesses.

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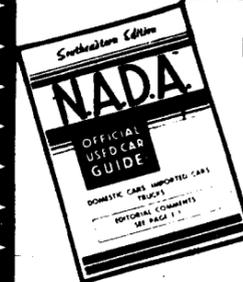
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