

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 51 No. 7

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February 20, 2002

Army in action



TOW missile system has impact worldwide; first part of series

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Win or lose



World Trade Center flag carried by soldier-athlete in Olympic Games opener

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Just for kids



Youngster spends day visiting chief of staff

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View getting better from barracks

Renovations, new furniture approved for old buildings

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Redstone is trying to improve the quality of life for newly arriving soldiers.

New flooring and new furniture are part of an ongoing project in the barracks for student soldiers of the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School. The Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School provided \$162,000 in year-end funds to replace old carpet with new tiles in two of the four old barracks plus purchase furniture for about 18 rooms.

The Aviation and Missile Command is providing \$468,000 for initial renovations and an additional \$132,000 to purchase new furniture. Commonly called the Sgt. York barracks, the four buildings include 3410, 3411, 3412 and 3413 which were built in 1987.

"This is the first phase of a 3 or 4 phase project to renovate the barracks," Bill Porr, director of public works, said. "As funds become available, we'll execute those other items."

The total renovation costs \$3.7 million. It will cost \$1.2 million for new furniture, bringing the total project to \$4.9 million.

"Soldier quality of life is directly related to readiness and retention," Lt. Col. Craig Cotter, commander of the 832nd Ordnance

Please see Barracks on page 4



Photo by Skip Vaughn

FIRST CLASS— Pvt. Joshua King, left, and PFC Miguel Vergara, members of C Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, have new tile flooring and new furniture in their room in barracks building 3410.

New telephone directory lets your fingers do the walking

Revisions to information due by Feb. 28 deadline

By JIM BOWNE
For the Rocket

It's that time again. "Time for what?" you may wonder. Well, time to start gathering information to update the new 2002-03 Team Redstone Telephone Directory and Post Guide.

"So what," you may be thinking, "this doesn't affect me personally." Well, yes, actually it does. That is, if you want the information provided about you and your organization to be accurate.

You know how it is when a new telephone book is published. The first thing you do is look to see if your name is in it. If it is, you check to see if it's spelled correctly. Then you check your telephone number. Sometimes it's correct; sometimes it isn't. Actually, sometimes you aren't even listed. And, to add insult to injury, sometimes people who are no longer here are still listed.

Well, there's a remedy to fix all these little problems. And now is the time to

make certain that all entries are correct — at least as correct as they can be.

The following guidance is provided to help you help the Public Affairs Office and the Corporate Information Center to produce up-to-date and accurate publications. All changes should be submitted by Feb. 28.

First of all, you should know that the format of the Telephone Directory is undergoing some major changes in order to make it more user-friendly. No longer will the "Table of Contents" be listed according to "Organizations." Instead, all entries will be listed alphabetically, in the same manner as are most telephone books. Also, the Table of Contents will mirror the organizational listings.

So, to find what you are looking for, you will simply look in the Table of Contents and turn to the referenced page number for the organization and telephone number. In case you skip the Table of Contents, some entries will be cross-referenced to make it easier for you to find the number you are looking for.

Also, CIC is requesting that every Team Redstone organization and tenant organization forward their changes listed in alpha-

betical order. Be sure to double check the organizational name, building number, and telephone number. Also, please delete or add information as necessary.

To look at a sample format, the CIC has established a convenient web site. The sample can be found under "Events" at <https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/>. All corrections are to be submitted not later than Feb. 28 to CIC. For more information, call Geneva Murphy at 876-6103.

As for the "Personnel" section of the Telephone Directory, it is the responsibility of each Team Redstone employee to ensure that his or her name, organization and phone number is correct. To view your information, go to <https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/>. Then click on "Phone Book" and then on "Update Your Directory Information." Corrections should be submitted by Feb. 28.

According to CIC, the only changes to the Personnel section that need to be submitted are: any deletions or additions, new employee, changes to employee job title, and organizational names.

Please see Directory on page 4

Police officer offers his viewpoint

I am sick and tired of hearing complaints from people who work on Redstone Arsenal about waiting times and other trivial problems at entrance gates. It seems that the complainers know more about how to do the job of security than the guards, soldiers, military police, and police do. Many of the problems at the gates would not exist if only:

- Drivers would not hold security badges upside down when entering a gate.
- Drivers would register their cars on post if eligible to do so.
- Drivers would hang up the cell telephone when speaking to a guard at a gate.
- Drivers would carpool.
- Drivers would not try to bring weapons and other contraband on post.
- Drivers would have all required documents ready when entering a gate.
- Drivers would clean out their cars.
- Drivers would drive the speed limit when entering and leaving a gate.
- Drivers would ensure that everyone in the vehicle has and shows a picture ID.
- Drivers would not get out of their vehicles to move cones and traffic control devices.

- Drivers would turn the music down or off when entering a gate.
- Drivers would dim or turn off their headlights at night.
- Drivers would not be so self centered as if they are the only driver on the road.
- Drivers would remove their security badge from their shirts and hold it up.
- Drivers would tune up their cars to cut down on exhaust emissions.
- Drivers would help and be more cooperative.

The people who work security gates are among the lowest paid group of workers on Redstone Arsenal. They must work in some of the most hazardous and worst conditions possible on a daily basis. They are required to deal with people who are abusive and at times may harm or even kill them. They deserve more respect and fewer complaints, written to the *Redstone Rocket* or otherwise. If every person who complains about security measures at the gates could work on gate 9 just one eight-hour day shift — just to see what it is really like — I am certain the complaints would stop!

Carl H. Matson
police officer, RSA

Pharmacy gives best of service

I have been serviced by the pharmacy at Fox Army Health Center since I first came to Redstone Arsenal in 1976. Not once have I had anything but the best of service and courtesy from all of the workers at the pharmacy over these many years. The worst issue about the pharmacy is the caste system put in place by Tricare when it comes to determining the order of servicing for prescriptions. We cannot discriminate based on sex, race, ethnic background, etc., but we can do so based on whether or not we choose to be part of Tricare Prime. There should be one discriminator, and that is if you're not active duty then you take a number and wait your turn and each active duty soldier goes to the front of the line. Your retired rank — whether general officer or buck sergeant — is just

that, a retired rank which should have no bearing on how long you wait.

Great job guys and gals.
Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Fox Army Health Center provided the following response. "We thank you for your letter expressing appreciation for the pharmacy service at Fox Army Health Center. The priority system in use at the pharmacy is based on a Department of Defense policy, which gives priority for service to Tricare Prime enrollees. Since the implementation of this priority system, which encourages use of the call-in refill system, our average wait time at the pharmacy has decreased from 50 minutes to 12 minutes. Again, thank you for your interest in Fox Army Health Center."

Looking for Post Exchange bargains

Fail to understand why the great disparity in price exists between the PX and the Commissary for like items. For instance during the holidays the same chocolate oranges were selling for \$3.15 each at the PX and \$2.10 at the commissary. Many clothing items have been annotated that they are lower than those in the outside markets. Sometimes they are higher. Usually the PX is no place for the bargain hunter!

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Post Exchange provided the following response. "The Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) is an 'appropriated fund' activity. Commissaries are funded by tax dollars and sell merchandise at cost plus a 5 percent sur-

charge which is used to pay for commissary construction and renovation projects.

"AAFES is a 'non-appropriated fund' activity. We operate almost entirely on money earned from the sale of goods and services — not tax dollars. We must establish our prices to cover operating expenses such as inventory cost, employee salaries, utilities, plus new construction and renovations of existing facilities. At the same time, we have a financial commitment to support the morale, welfare and recreational (MWR) activities of the Army and the Air Force (i.e., libraries, bowling centers, gyms, golf courses and more). AAFES paid \$260.4 million to the worldwide MWR funds last year. Every cent we earn goes back to our customers in one form or another."

Soldiers assist Cub Scout pack

Pvt. Mark T. Sasamoto, Pvt. James E. Taulbee, Pvt. Joshua A. Collar, PFC Ricky K. Vasquez, Pvt. Aaron R. Schreiber, Pvt. Keith K. McNeill, Pvt. Oscar H. Astorga and PFC Joshua D. Oprisa took time out of their very busy schedule at the Initial Entry Ammunition specialist course to volunteer their time Jan. 25-26 to assist the Redstone Arsenal sponsored Cub Scouts Pack 234 with its annual Pinewood Derby. They helped set up the track, assisted Scouts in their last minute maintenance, judged the pinewood cars for appearance; and they also acted as line judges to determine the

winners of the race.

These soldiers provided a selfless service which was greatly appreciated. We would like to thank Charlie Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, Drill Sgt. Clippinger and Drill Sgt. Jordan, and especially the aforementioned soldiers from Charlie Company, 2nd Platoon.

If anyone is interested in assisting in Scouting activities or joining the Scouts, you may contact Greg or Jani Thomas at 772-1968.

SSgt. Aaron Delaney
communications chairman,
Pack 234 committee

Wear uniform everywhere with pride

Soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and Coast Guardsmen, lend me your ears! In case you haven't gotten the word, America is back! So what's the meaning of this address? Read on.

It was a sad day back in the '70s when we as proud military personnel were discouraged from wearing our uniforms off post and off duty. It was even sadder and extremely demoralizing when it came as official command policy. I remember with regret when our com-

mander at Redstone Arsenal announced to us servicemen who were attending classes at local colleges and universities during duty hours that we would not go on campus in uniform because of an incident at Kent State University, Ohio.

It was even sadder and a more stunning blow to morale when command bulletins contained words such as "keep a low profile off post" and "wear only

Please see Uniform on page 4

Redstone Rocket

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Technology conference shares information on career opportunities

Annual event slated April 8-12 in town

Area business and government leaders held a press conference Feb. 12 to invite the Huntsville community to the annual Teams conference, April 8-12 at the Von Braun Center.

Congressman Bud Cramer; Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command; Brig. Gen. John Urias, deputy commander of Space and Missile Defense Command; Art Stephenson, director of Marshall Space Flight Center; Nancy Archuleta of MEVATEC, chairman for TEAMS week; and Bobby Bradley of Computer Systems Technology Inc., program chairman for E2Teams held the press conference to promote TEAMS Week and the E2TEAMS conference.

Technological Excellence in Aviation, Missiles and Space (TEAMS) Week, sponsored by the Huntsville Association of Technical Society, is a host of major conferences, one of which is the E2TEAMS conference. E2TEAMS (Education and Employment for Technological Excellence in Aviation, Missiles and Space) is a consortium of industry, academia, and public sector entities designed to create a national-level showcase for Huntsville to attract the best people, universities and companies to enhance our capabilities in aviation, missiles and space.

"Huntsville is one of the premier high-tech centers in the country and the E2TEAMS conference is very important for us to make sure we are actively recruiting and enhanc-

ing our skilled work force here," Cramer, honorary E2TEAMS chairman, said. "By working together, we can use this conference to help make sure our high-tech community remains a major national technological asset."

Dodgen echoed Cramer's sentiments and encouraged industry and community participation at the conference.

"We at AMCOM know that it is not just about the Army attracting the best and brightest engineers," Dodgen said. "It is about the community — academic, private industry, the space program and the military — acting together to bring the best and the brightest work force, and that includes excellence in every career field, to Huntsville."

"Another component of the conference is the collegiate grant competition," Bradley said. "The objective of this competition is to encourage faculty and students to pursue research initiatives and technology careers in fields pertaining to important areas of interest to our regional government and industry technology centers. The conference focus last year and announced competition topics were Advanced Propulsion and Hypersonic Systems, Robotics, Novel Power Sources, and Broad Spectrum Vision Sensors. We are extremely pleased that \$1 million in research grant funds is now in place for those research topics."

The theme for this year's conference is "Technology Town." Participants will include representatives of corporate America, government, business and academia. "Bringing these groups together at one time allows us to pave the pathway to educational, business and career opportunities in technology," Archuleta said.



Photo by Kim Gillespie
GENERAL VIEWPOINT— Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, expresses his support for the Teams conference scheduled April 8-12 at the Von Braun Center. Congressman Bud Cramer listens during the press conference held Feb. 12 to invite the Huntsville community.

Messages for military personnel get through worldwide

Web sites, Red Cross provide opportunities to boost morale

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
beths@times.com

When Bonnie Collett's youngest son was deployed overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, she did what any military mom would do. She resolved to keep in touch with him as best she could. When he later requested that she encourage friends to write to servicemembers rather than send him a Christmas present, she committed herself to the task.

"He said he would like it if I could get some folks to write to our troops. He told me that there are many guys that never get a letter or a card from anyone and it's depressing for them. So, that's why I do it," Collett, an administrative assistant at San Mina - SCI in Huntsville, said.

At first she asked friends and co-workers to write to "Any Soldier on Deployment." Then the anthrax mail attacks caused the Department of Defense to discontinue sending letters addressed to "Any Service Member." Collett was able to give some individual addresses of servicemembers to trusted friends, but she wanted to do more.

Now she asks her friends to send their messages via the web site <http://AnyServiceMember.Navy.mil>. Collett's youngest son serves in the Navy on a land-based, long range anti-submarine warfare patrol aircraft called an Orion PC-3. She said her oldest son serves in the Air Force on F-16s and her son-in-law is in Kuwait serving in the Army on Black Hawks.

"Nick's unit received gifts from school children - I think it was from a school in Illinois. When his CO called the guys together and explained what it was all about, he placed the box of goodies on a

table and told the guys to 'go for it!' Nick told me that it was great and the guys just loved all the drawings, pictures, little beaded flag pins and notes from the kids. They were grateful and touched. Some of them promised to be pen pals for that class," Collett said.

As the war against terrorism continues, morale-boosting messages are needed more than ever. Friends and family of servicemembers overseas still can send letters if they have individual addresses, but those addresses are not to be given out to the general public.

"I realize that people want to do a good thing here, but you've got to weigh it against safety issues. All it takes is one nut trying to do something crazy," Mary Bredden, relocation assistance program manager for Army Community Service, said. She explained that although ACS received several calls during Christmas asking for individual addresses of servicemembers, ACS

does not keep a list of soldiers' names and cannot supply that information.

Several private web sites have been created especially for the public to express appreciation to the troops overseas. One of the first to go online was "AnyServiceMember.org," a web site created by Army Forces Command employee Jack Coffey in Atlanta. His web site also posted Valentines made by school children and scanned into an electronic format this month.

Two mothers in Texas created a web site that allows school children to send mail to servicemembers via their local American Red Cross chapters. Debbie Michell and Shannon Smith began "Operation Enduring Response" after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, having school children write to servicemembers overseas on the 11th of each month for as long as the war on terrorism continues. Hundreds of schools are participating in the project
See Letters on page 8

Daily Bargain Matinees Only \$5.00	REGAL Daily Bargain Matinees in (1) STR:STEREO DIG:DIGITAL SOUND	Stadium Seating in ALL Auditoriums	Prices for Military after 6p.m. are Only \$5.50
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■ First phase of barracks renovation under way

Barracks

continued from page 1

Battalion, said. "And the senior leaders here at Redstone Arsenal fully support this."

The soldiers say they appreciate the change in their living conditions.

PFC Miguel Vergara, 29, from Louisville, Ky., is a member of C Company, 832nd residing in building 3410. He arrived a month and a half ago so he saw the transition in his room from old carpeting to new tile floors plus new furniture including bed, workstation and wall locker.

"The appearance of the room is now brand new," said Vergara, here for another

10 weeks for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal 55D course. "I think it's great because it provides an atmosphere that's simple, easy to maintain, clean and neat. A new soldier to Redstone gets the appearance right away that it's a new room, squared away."

His roommate, Pvt. Joshua King, 23, of Valparaiso, Ind., agrees. "It's great. The room appears to be brighter and bigger, like we have more room," said King, also in the EOD course.

"I think the soldiers overall are satisfied," C Company 1st Sgt. Willie Pullom said. "As a matter of fact that's what the whole thing is about — quality of life for the soldier, retention."

So far carpet has been replaced with tile

in buildings 3410 and 3411. Furniture has been replaced in nearly 18 rooms on the first floor of building 3410, which represents one wing of the three-story barracks.

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, visited the barracks in January and authorized AMCOM funding for the renovations and new furniture.

The initial \$468,000 will fund the first six priorities in the four buildings: Remove the existing carpet and base in the sleeping quarters and install vinyl composition tile; install new exhaust fans in the bathroom exhaust ductwork to alleviate the excess moisture problems; correct the laundry room washing machine drainage overflow problems; replace the attic exhaust fans with less noisy units; replace metal doors and hardware, which

are beyond repair; and replace the stair treads on the interior stairs.

"We're already in the process of planning," Porr said. "Hopefully in the next couple of months, we'll have it under contract and work will be started."

Cotter, the 832nd battalion commander, said the changes are not as visible as high-profile construction projects like the Sparkman Center, but the impact is just as great for the soldiers who arrive for training after just nine weeks in the Army.

"It really has a lasting effect on the young people that live here and train here," he said. "The leadership at Redstone recognizes that, and it's gotten the highest importance."

"The first impression is a lasting impression. If they have a good experience here at Redstone, it might encourage them to stay in the Army."

■ Updated directory publication should be easier to use

Directory

continued from page 1

Changes can be e-mailed to alicegreene@redstone.army.mil or faxed to 876-7151.

The Public Affairs Office has also sent out requests to organizations to update their text portions as published in the Post Guide. Again you are urged to carefully check all statistics listed, facts, figures and phone numbers.

Changes should be made directly on the copies that have been mailed out and

then faxed to 955-0133. If the entire text needs to be retyped, either send it on a disc to the Public Affairs Office or e-mail it to jim.howne@redstone.army.mil. For more information, call Jim Bowne of the Public Affairs Office at 955-9173.

There is a short turnaround for collecting this information. All corrected material should be returned either to the CIC (for the Telephone Directory) or to the Public Affairs Office (for the Post Guide) by Feb. 28. Please do your part so that the new Telephone Directory and Post Guide will be accurate and published on schedule.

■ Servicemembers represent nation's living symbol

Uniform

continued from page 2

nondescript civilian attire." This policy was in direct contradiction of our doctrine and for me personally, a complete reversal of attitudes and truths that I had lived by for the previous 16 years! But today, thank God, our president and the general American public, pride in your profession and patriotism are once again in vogue. We experienced our first and most powerful revitalization of American pride during Operation Desert Storm. True, we suffered a temporary relapse during the subsequent administration when a White House staffer bluntly told a soldier, "We don't like military people here," but those days were short lived and happily, America is back!

So what's the purpose of all this commentary? Simply put, we of the Huntsville and North Alabama populace would like to see America's finest displaying her finest. The only troops we see in uniform at local malls and around town are occasional newly arrived AIT students. Where are all the old seasoned veterans proudly flaunting their insignia, stripes, brass, awards and decorations? Well, America is back! There is no reason for you to be ashamed or to slight

your country's most honorable profession. We who support you, honor you, rely on you and pay you would like to see you and respect you. And it won't hurt you a bit to put on your "lights" (Class A's) when you attend church services, theatrical events, and social functions or when just dining out.

I remember serving in the mid-'50s in a place where civilian clothing was not an option. As our World War II veteran first sergeant gave our uniforms quick inspections before handing out our passes he said, "Recruiters say 'join up and see the world' but I say 'let the world see you.'" So, soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and Coast Guardsmen, America is back! The hippie cults no longer rule! We can fly banners, but you are a living symbol. Our symbol. Our living banner! So wear your uniform proudly. Flaunt it with pride!

Sorry, I cannot sign a name to this commentary because the sentiments therein reflect the feelings of many more than just the members of local veteran's and patriotic organizations, but thousands among ordinary citizens who will see you and be envious but proud while they pay silent gratitude to God and the USA for people such as you.

Name withheld by request

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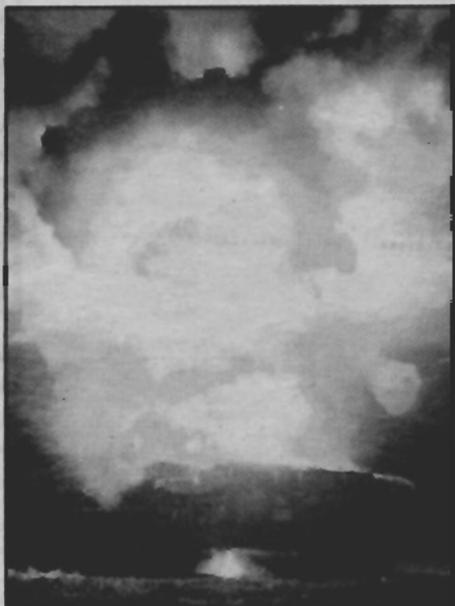
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Army in action

Combat proven missile system in tow with troops in Afghanistan



Redstone managed TOW has impact worldwide

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandyr@times.com

When the Marines were deployed to Afghanistan to fight the war on terrorism, the TOW missile system, managed at Redstone, went with them.

Now as troops from the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., take their place in support of Operation Enduring Freedom the TOW goes with them — representing Redstone and the Huntsville community.

"The TOW weapon system is combat proven," Claude Higginbotham, assistant project manager for TOW, said. "It was developed in the mid '60s — used in Vietnam, by the Israelis in the Yom Kippur War in 1973 and then later in Southwest Asia in Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Of course, we've made improvements and modifications along the way."

The basic Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided missile was "launched" in 1970 to destroy armored vehicles, at the time, Soviet tanks. The

development of the TOW missile into a family of missiles parallels the development of tank armor. When the armor improved, the TOW improved to defeat it.

War-fighting missile versions currently fielded are the TOW 2A and the TOW 2B. Similar in length, about 46 inches, and weight, about 50 pounds, the missiles are the Army's premier heavy anti-armor/assault weapon system, effective against tanks, armored vehicles and field fortifications such as bunkers.

The TOW is capable of operations from the ground (tripod), mounted on vehicles such as the Improved TOW vehicle, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, the Humvee, and the Marines use it on their Cobra helicopters.

The line-of-sight missile is operable in all weather conditions, even through dust, smoke and other obscurants, day or night.

Gunners launch the missile, keeping the cross-hairs on the sight aimed at the target while the missile flies. It is a wire-guided missile. Wire, about the thickness of human hair, is spooled in the missile and connected to the launcher. When the missile is launched, the wire unravels in flight. Guidance from the gunner to the missile to keep the missile on target is carried through the wire.

"The wire is amazingly strong," Higginbotham said. "It rarely breaks and it's almost spoof proof. There isn't a lot that can interfere with it from the outside like (signal) jammers."

TOW 2A missiles are combat rounds, direct attack — it flies and hits the target with a minimum range of about 65 meters and maximum of 3,750. It was developed by Raytheon Company for the Army to defeat advances in the armor threat created by the advent of first and second generation Explosive Reactive Armor.

The newest member of the family, TOW 2B is a fly-over shoot down missile

with explosively formed penetrator warheads and is designed to defeat the next generation advance armor threat well into the 21st century.

"The 2B has two warheads," Higginbotham said. "Armored weapons, like tanks, have most of their strength in the sides and near the bottom. A hit from the top is more likely to destroy the vehicle. The 2B flies over the target and identifies

Systems for the field Part 1 of series

it by the magnetic signature and profile. If the conditions are satisfied, the target detection device sends a signal to

the warhead. The warhead fires at a predetermined time based on sensor input."

The TOW 2A and 2B provide an effective heavy anti-armor capability today, however the last U.S. procurement was in 1995. The Army plans to replace TOW and Hellfire missiles with the Common Missile that enters development in FY '04-08. Production of the Common Missile is scheduled for FY '08 and beyond.

"The problem is that between FY '04 and FY '10 the TOW 2A/2B inventory falls below Army requirements," Higginbotham said. "We won't have enough TOWs and the Common Missile won't be available in quantity and that creates an operational risk. That's what the TOW Fire and Forget program was for — to fill in the gap."

TOW Fire and Forget adds an imaging infrared seeker for automatic target tracking and the elimination of the wire guidance which means a soldier can launch the missile then get out of harm's way. He doesn't have to keep his sights on the target until impact. It also has a man-in-the-loop stealthy mode (wireless) for precision engagement when conditions preclude fire and forget, ensuring that the gunner can engage any target he can see.

Although the TOW F&F was in the

See System on page 9

Courtesy Photo
DIRECT HIT— The TOW 2B is a fly-over, shoot down missile designed to defeat tanks, armored vehicles and bunkers. The Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided missile was combat proven in Vietnam. Newer generations also passed the test in Desert Storm and are being deployed with troops in Operation Enduring Freedom.

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Photo by Jennifer Trice/ASCE

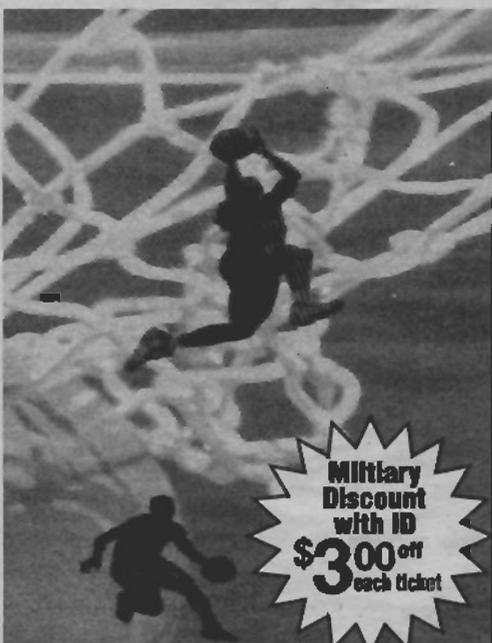
Engineers Week proclamation

With the proclamation for National Engineers Week, Feb. 17-22, are from left Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer, District 3 County Commissioner Jerry Craig; Jeff Mullins, president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Huntsville branch; and Marcella Funderburg, vice president of ASCE. Larry Donelson, ASCE treasurer, also attended the proclamation signing. ASCE will hold the National Engineers Week awards dinner Friday at 6 p.m. at the Huntsville Marriott. The dinner is a local highlight of the National Engineers Week celebration; and local engineers from every professional society will be recognized. Scheduled speaker is Maj. Gen. Hans A. Van Winkle, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C.

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Total commitment to life prescribed for all Americans

Black History Month Program reflects on lessons from past

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

African American achievers of the past had something in common that everyone could use today, according to Rev. O. Wendell Davis of Huntsville.

"They had a total commitment to what they believed in," said Davis, guest speaker for AMCOM's second annual Black History Month Program held Feb. 13 at Bob Jones Auditorium. "A total life commitment is what they had."

He described the four main areas of this commitment: Know yourself, value family, obey God and commit to your civil duties.

"When we get there, I believe we will have a total commitment to life," said Davis, pastor of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

An estimated 500 people attended the event which included singing by soloists Crystal Blackburn of the Acquisition Center and Arthurine Shackelford.

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, welcomed the attendees to the program with the theme "The

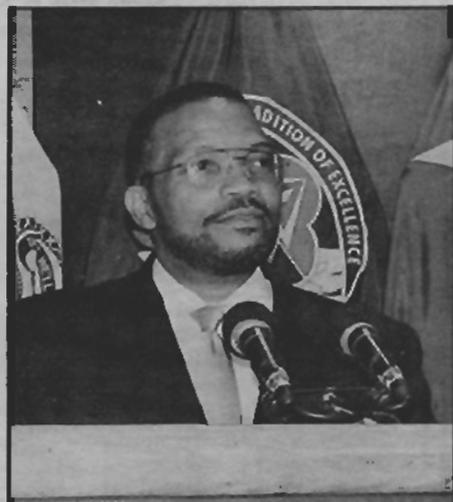


Photo by Skip Vaughn
GUEST SPEAKER— Rev. O. Wendell Davis, pastor of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, speaks during the Black History Month Program, Feb. 13 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

African American Legacy: Contributions and Service in America's Defense."

Three reasons for celebrating Black History Month include appreciating this nation's progress, resolving not to return to the past and looking toward the future, according to Dodgen. "We all must commit ourselves to never ever take one step backwards," he said.

Americans urged to write servicemembers overseas

Letters

continued from page 3

and the Red Cross is mailing the letters to military installations all over the world. Servicemembers also are invited to write back to the children.

"We would love to let the men and women stationed at your base have an opportunity to communicate with the children of America," Michell and Smith wrote in an e-mail message to *Redstone Rocket*. "If they would like to, they can write a letter and e-mail it to us at 'info@enduringresponse.com' and then we can e-mail each letter to every school that is participating in our program. The children really enjoy hearing from 'real live soldiers!' They are mainly interested in knowing that they are safe, how they spend their free time and what jobs they have in the military."

Teachers interested in having their classes participate in the project can get all the information they need at www.enduringresponse.com.

Kay McFarland, emergency services director of the Huntsville area American Red Cross, said although Operation Enduring Response has been picked up by a number of chapters, the Huntsville chapter has not participated.

"We did something like it for the World Trade Center rescue personnel and we had to go through and make sure the letters were appropriate and positive. We had to edit some ... you have to have the staff to do this and we can only accept letters from school



Photo by Beth Skarup

WITH LOVE— Four-year-old Jacob Lau, right, concentrates on painting a Valentine for servicemembers fighting the war against terrorism while his sister Maggie, 2, concentrates on unwrapping a piece of candy. The Laus plan to have their paintings scanned into an electronic format and posted on the AnyServiceMember.org web site. They are the children of Jenny and Mike Lau, a NASA employee who served in the Navy for six years.

children, not the general public," she said. "So we have not implemented any of that."

Instead she encouraged people to purchase pre-packaged gifts available at the American Red Cross sponsored web site, www.4troops.com, to be sent to servicemembers. These can be sent to particular soldiers or delivered to at-large personnel stationed in places such as Diego Garcia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Kosovo and Bosnia.

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Tax Assistance Center returns with plenty of business

Walk-in policy changes to handle patron influx

By Capt. DOUGLAS MOORE
Tax assistance officer

Redstone Arsenal's Tax Assistance Center assisted more than 400 taxpayers, and saved them nearly \$46,000 in tax return preparation fees in its first two weeks of operation.

The tax center provides electronic filing of both federal and state returns. This year the center has expanded its service offering to accommodate electronic filing of all state returns that are eligible for this service.

Appointments are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for all active duty and retired servicemembers and their dependents. Extended hours are also available on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-

7 p.m. Due to overwhelming client demand, the tax center's extended evening hours will no longer be set aside for walk-ins after March 1. Evening customers will be seen on an appointment basis only. The tax center is located in building 3489, at the corner of Ajax and Zeus. Please make your appointment by calling 313-5727.

Active duty personnel needing tax services should consult their designated Unit Tax Adviser for assistance in coordinating an appointment. The following individuals are UTAs:

- HHC 59th Ordnance Brigade – SFC Keithly Ible
- Headquarters & Alpha Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion – Sgt. Christopher Shuffitt
- B Company, 832nd – 1st Lt. Jerome Barnard and Sgt. Demmonique Walker
- C Company, 832nd – Sgt. Johnnie Walker
- D Company, 832nd – Sgt. Sonja Watson, SSgt. John Kennedy and SSgt. Roy Fisher

- MEDDAC – Sgt. Arthur Mascarenhas, Sgt. Antonio Mason and Spec. Lisa Yancey
- NCO Academy – SSgt. Robert Turner
- HHC AMCOM – Sgt. Latoya Parker and SFC Tracy Haywood

• Marine Detachment – Gunnery Sgt. Mark Gomien
• 167th Infantry – 1st Lt. William Bridger
The center will be closed to the general public in order to provide assistance for trainees from Bravo and Charlie companies, 832nd Ordnance Battalion on the following evenings from 4:30-8 p.m.: Feb. 21, March 12, March 14, April 2 and April 11.

The Tax Assistance Center would like to thank Army Community Service for its continued financial support. In addition, we welcome our new tax assistance volunteers Randy Duff and Estan Rodriguez. If you are interested in being a Volunteer Income Tax Assister, please call 313-5727.

■ TOW developed in 1960s and still serving worldwide

System

continued from page 6

16th month of a 42-month Engineering and Manufacturing Development contract with Raytheon, budget cuts have killed the program. Funds were decremented for FY '02 and no funding will be provided in '03.

"Even with that, we keep working on making improvements to the TOW," Higginbotham said. "We are working on the

Bunker Buster using a 2A missile, removing the warhead and replacing it with a fragmenting high-explosive bulk warhead."

The TOW 2B Aero is also in the works which extends the range of the 2B by using a more aerodynamic nose and added wire length.

TOW is in service with 39 international armed forces and integrated on more than 15,000 ground, vehicle and helicopter platforms worldwide. It is the preferred anti-armor weapon system for NATO Coalition Forces, United Nations

and peacekeeping operations worldwide.

About 50 people locally support the TOW program, including personnel from the project office, AMCOM, Redstone Technical Test Center and support con-

tractors from Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, Ariz. TOW is part of the Close Combat Missile Systems Project Office in the Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles.

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Soldier carries World Trade Center flag at Olympic opener

Salt Lake City ceremonies 'pretty emotional,' she says

By BRIAN LEPLEY
Special to the American Forces Press Service

SALT LAKE CITY— It was an offer two-time Olympian Sgt. Kristina Sabasteanski couldn't refuse.

U.S. biathlon team leader Steve Sands had a request for the Army World Class Athlete Program soldier Feb. 7.

"I was sitting at breakfast the day before opening ceremonies and the team leader says 'How would you feel about carrying the World Trade Center flag?'" she said.

Sands nominated Sabasteanski as the biathlon team's pick to represent skiing athletes. It didn't take long for her to say yes.

"I was speechless. I was like, wow! It was so exciting," she said.

The tattered flag was recovered from the WTC ruins after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in New York City. It was carried into the 19th Winter Olympics opening ceremony at Rice-Eccles Stadium here Feb. 8 by eight athletes escorted by New York City firefighters and Port Authority police.

"It was pretty emotional," Sabasteanski said. "You're feeling 'Wow! This is the World Trade Center flag and it represents the power of America, that we can come back.' Then you're thinking ... this flag was what was left of 3,000 lives. ... You're feeling somber. One second you'd be inspired, elated, and the next you're choking back tears."

The flag's appearance left the crowd of 55,000 spectators and 5,000 ceremony participants in respectful silence.

The crowd pleaser of all Olympic opening ceremonies, however, remains the parade of athletes. Representing 77 countries, more than 2,300 athletes had the spotlight as their nations' names were announced. With only 234 medals to be presented, marching into the stadium at the ceremony represents the highlight of the games for 90 percent of the Olympians.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st class Preston Keres
CHOSEN ONE— Army Sgt. Kristina Sabasteanski was one of eight athletes chosen to carry the World Trade Center's American flag into Rice-Eccles stadium during opening ceremonies of the XIX Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Feb. 8.

"I waited 12 years to walk into an Olympic games opening. Last night was so perfect," said Spec. Mike Kohn of the U.S. bobsled team. "I'm fortunate enough to represent this country in the games as an athlete and a soldier. It doesn't get any better than that."

The WCAP athletes joined more than 200 other American Olympic team athletes, coaches and officials in a pre-ceremony pep talk from President Bush.

"Last night being next to our commander-in-chief was just overwhelming for me," Kohn said. "I just can't stop smiling. I'm really enjoying this. It was just such a moving experience."

Sabasteanski is on her second consecutive Olympic team. The opening ceremony in the United States was different from Nagano, Japan, in 1998.

"That was amazing in Japan, but then I was like, 'Wow, I actually made the Olympics!' Now I'm in my own country and these Americans are cheering for everyone here," she said. "It was one of the biggest highs of my life."

Sabasteanski and Kohn are two of the 12 Army athletes and coaches at the Olympics. Kohn teams with fellow WCAP athlete Spec. Doug Sharp as a pusher on the USA 2 bobsled. Dan Steele



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st class Preston Keres
GIVING HONOR— Eight U.S. Olympians, including women's biathlete Sgt. Kristina Sabasteanski (second from right), hold a U.S. flag during the national anthem at the 2002 Winter Olympics opening ceremony in Salt Lake City, Feb. 8. The tattered flag was found in the rubble of New York's World Trade Center following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

of the Oregon Army National Guard and Chicagoan 2nd Lt. Garrett Hines of the Army Reserve, both former WCAP members, are also bobsledders. Coaching the women's bobsled team are Spec. Bill Tavares and Sgt. Tuffy LaTour. The driver of the women's USA 2 sled is Spec. Jill Bakken. All three are WCAP members.

WCAP athletes on the men's biathlon

team are Spec. Jeremy Teela and Sgt. Lawton Redman. National Guard Sgt. Kara Salmela joins Sabasteanski and WCAP's Spec. Andrea Nahrgang on the women's squad.

Editor's note: Brian Lepley is reporting from the Olympics for the Army Community and Family Support Center, Alexandria, Va.

HHC 59th basketball team keeps rolling after slow start

Preseason champs beat Marines, end week with nine straight wins

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

HHC 59th won the preseason basketball tournament but opened the regular season with two losses. Things couldn't be better since then.

With a strong team concept, HHC 59th reeled off nine wins in a row through last week to improve to 9-2.

"We're playing well right now," assistant coach Levon Green said. The head coach is Jerry McIntyre.

On Feb. 11, HHC 59th beat the Marines 73-68 with four players in double figures. Power forward Laevrmond Watts and guard Robert Bullard scored 17 points apiece. Benjamin Carter, the 6-foot-3 center, had 14 and guard Sheldon Goldsmith added 12.

HHC 59th roared to a 39-23 halftime lead and held on after intermission.

"Just playing together as a team and playing to our team's strengths," Green said of the win. "All our games are tough. I tell them we have to come to play every night. You can be taken out any given night."

The team played good defense against the Marines, according to Green.

Dante Butler, a 6-4 center, scored a game-high 22 as the Marines fell to 6-3. Guards Ryan Stewart and Christopher Rybicki added 14 apiece.

"We kind of got off to a slow start," Marines forward Rodney Stanley said. "If we had gotten off to a quicker start, I believe it would've been a closer game and maybe we'd have a chance to win it. We just got off to a slow start."

"We came out the second half like there was no tomorrow. We played the second half like we should've started the game off."

After that win, HHC 59th beat Bravo team-1 twice to assume first place in the Eastern Conference. Now the opening losses against AMCOM and Delta seem distant memories.

Here were the troop basketball standings as of Friday:

Eastern Conference — HHC 59th (9-2), ROTC (8-4), Charlie (7-4), Bravo-1 (8-5), Marines (7-5), K Battery 4/14th Marines (4-6) and Charlie 1st of the 167th (the gate guards) team-1 (1-9).

Western Conference — AMCOM (9-2), Delta (9-2), NCO Academy (6-5), Bravo-2 (4-7) and Charlie 1/167th team-2 (3-9).

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Intelligence office works around clock to identify threat to post

Workers take extra shifts, sacrifice personal time

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

Most Redstone workers felt the effects of Sept. 11 only slightly — longer waits at the gates, parking problems, limited building access and perhaps the emotional turbulence of an uncertain future.

Some paid a higher price. Army National Guardsmen were brought in to augment security forces already feeling the strain of longer hours and more responsibility.

Then there are those unseen, unsung heroes tucked in the basement of 5302, keeping watch while the rest of us go about our business. A small group of intelligence analysts along with support personnel in the Intelligence and Security Directorate have stepped up to the challenge to keep terrorists at bay.

"They've gone beyond the call of duty," Keith Ryan, chief, Intelligence Division, said. "Sept. 11 greatly complicated our lives. This division was set up to provide intelligence and security support to the command on a five-day, 40 hour a week basis. After Sept. 11, we started working 24 hours a day, seven days a week with a staff that was not meant to operate that way. Some of our people are working



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

GLOBAL SEARCH— Workers in the Intelligence Division, from left, Charlene Coker, Keith Ryan, Joe Fuqua, Shirley Williams and Sandy Woodard gather intelligence for the daily summaries. Other workers include Terry Smith, Jim Edgecomb, Todd O'Bradovich, Kevin McClure, Kenny Kirkland, Karl Uchrinecko and Sharon Smith.

60 hours overtime per pay period."

Under normal circumstances the Intelligence Directorate is primarily responsible for system threat assessment reports. Simply put, these analysts gather intelligence on weapons systems and technology used around the world then get that information to the program executive offices and project managers currently

developing weapons systems for the U.S. Designs and modifications can then be made to the system to assure it can defeat the opposing threat.

Since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the Intelligence Division has been assigned the additional responsibility of threat assessment to Redstone and its remote sites

including Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas; Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa.; the Aeroflightdynamics Directorate at Moffett Field, Calif.; and the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate at Fort Eustis, Va.

"We publish two intelligence summaries every day," Mike Hooley, deputy director, Intelligence and Security Directorate, said. "One in the morning and one in the evening. We prepare briefings twice a day for the chief of staff and at least once a week, the CG (commanding general) and Mr. Flinn attend."

To get the information for the summaries and briefings, intelligence analysts scour the computer networks — top secret, secret and unclassified — for any information that may affect any aspect of Team Redstone and the whole of AMCOM.

While the responsibilities and shift work has tripled, staff has remained the same. About nine analysts must handle their regular system threat assessment support to acquisition duties as well as the added shifts for threat assessments to Redstone and its remote sites.

The division has 17 positions but after Sept. 11, two employees left when their Reserve units were mobilized. Two more left for other jobs. Three analysts still in the division are reservists and could at some point be mobilized, weakening the division further but Ryan is hopeful he can retain the rest of his staff and do some hiring.

See Security on page 13

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Scout's honor: Youngster gets VIP tour of Redstone Arsenal

Day with chief of staff resulted from top bid in charity drive auction

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

The 2001 Combined Federal Campaign continues to be the most successful ever, and not just by a dollars measure, but in terms of giving and sharing. Kevin Goldasich, 15, a Boy Scout and Lincoln County High (Tenn.) student, spent a "Day with the Chief of Staff," as the result of his mother's contribution and winning bid to CFC's silent auction.

The Day with Chief of Staff was donated for the silent auction by AMCOM chief of staff Col. Ed Stone, and raised nearly \$400 of the total \$8,000 raised through the auction.

Goldasich, interested in a possible military career (including West Point), described the day as "interesting and fun," and something he "planned to share with his Scout troop." And that's exactly what Stone had in mind when he donated his Day with the Chief.

"The day was designed for high school students. We planned a lot of interesting things as a way, we hope, to encourage students to consider a career based on math



PRIZE WINNER— Kevin Goldasich, 15, a Lincoln County High student, spends a day with chief of staff Col. Ed Stone, right, as the result of his mother's contribution and winning bid to the CFC 2001 silent auction.

and science," Stone said. "Seeing how research and development is crucial to our mission, and how this transitions from a largely civilian work force here at AMCOM to our active duty mission, is important for developing the Army's future work force. We hope that young people who have this kind of opportunity will go

back and share with their classmates, friends, and in Kevin's case, Scout troop, what they learned about the Army."

But the chief was quick to note, this wasn't really a "typical" day for him. Goldasich was provided a "VIP" tour, which included attending the Association of United States Army (AUSA) Soldiers' Breakfast featuring guest speaker Mike Durant; a visit to the Advanced Prototyping, Engineering and Experimentation laboratory and the Missile Guidance Directorate; attending NASA's press conference and meeting the commander, pilot and crew of the recently returned STS-108 Endeavor mission, who shared highlights of their December mission to the International Space Station;

lunch with the 832nd Ordnance Battalion at Redstone's dining facility; a visit to the Program Executive Office for Aviation; and a visit and tour of the Redstone Airfield. Goldasich received mementos from most of the visits on his tour, including a book autographed by Durant, autographs from the Endeavor astronauts, posters, and a paper-mache hand-painted egg from India that Stone let him select as a gift for his mother, Jo Goldasich, a Command Analysis Directorate employee who placed the winning silent auction bid for the Day with the Chief.

In discussing the highlights of his day, Goldasich mentioned speaking at length to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Mark Kelly, the Endeavor mission pilot, and his favorite, riding in the Palletized Loading System truck. He also mentioned getting to sit in the seats of several of the helicopters, including the UH-60 Black Hawk, and operating the Apache helicopter simulator. Goldasich admitted that he "didn't really know," there were so many different aspects of the AMCOM mission, and that there would be so much to see and do on his day with the chief.

The person responsible for setting up the Day with the Chief was Shelley Feltmeyer, Stone's administrative assistant. Feltmeyer made sure the day and its tours equaled what a visiting general officer would receive, and she also included the strategists behind the CFC campaign and its silent auction: Gay Money, chairman of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee, Tennessee Valley CFC and an employee of the Integrated Materiel Management Center; and Claus Martel,

See Winner on page 13

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"Black Hawk Down" pilot

Retired CWO 4 Mike Durant, held captive 11 days by hostile forces in October 1993 after his Black Hawk helicopter was shot down in Somalia, speaks Feb. 13 at the Officers and Civilians Club during the AUSA general membership meeting/Soldiers' Breakfast sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army. His story is part of the hit movie "Black Hawk Down." Durant resides in Madison and is a program manager for NLX Corporation, a computer simulation company based in Sterling, Va. The 530 attendees included 245 soldiers who received a free breakfast, courtesy of AUSA. "It was a great turnout," Emily Vandiver Dickson, AUSA vice president for special events, said. "It was a really moving speech and it was very inspirational."

■ Overtime becomes norm for intelligence workers

Security

continued from page 11

A couple of detailed employees from the Programs and Security divisions within ISD have pulled extra shifts to lessen the workload.

The strain also reaches the Special Security Office responsible for keeping the classified computer networks up and running, now 24 hours a day. They must add shifts to support the intelligence gathering initiative.

"These people are doing a fantastic

job," Ryan said. "They have made sacrifices not only personally, but their families have sacrificed as well. We have people working 60 hours overtime per pay period. No complaints. Are we shorthanded? Yes. Have we lost people? Yes. Are we doing the mission? They are going above and beyond. The caliber of the work they do is a credit to their professionalism and commitment to this organization."

The challenge now is to find qualified applicants for the authorized positions Ryan has currently and additional staff for future planned hires funded in the POM for 2004-09.

■ Charity auction bid delivers special day for youngster

Winner

continued from page 12

Money's assistant and an employee of AMCOM's Historical Office.

"The CFC 2001 campaign was such a great success this year with more than \$1.8 million in contributions from the organization in this area, and the silent auction was a large part of that success," Money said. "The silent auction was not just items, but also included people's time and unique skills."

Jo Goldasich, Kevin's mother, talked about the surprise and envy of her co-workers. "Most of the people didn't realize the unusual and great items that were available

on the silent auction web site," she said.

And the user-friendly aspect of the web site, credited to Martel's work and expertise, was a large reason for its success. Bids could be made 24 hours a day during the bidding period, and bids and results were posted instantaneously.

"The success of the CFC campaign really depends on the commitment and leadership of our people," Money said. "Col. Stone has set a great example for this command. The way he personally donated so many items, and took the time and the effort to make this day with Kevin so special is taking that extra step we need — leading by action. And getting to see how much fun it was for Kevin was truly a rewarding experience."

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Introduction to Flash	Apr 29-May 3 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21020104N
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Government Contract Law	Mar 25-Apr 26 • M • 6-9pm • 23020037N
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PMP Examination Review	Apr 1-22 • M • 6-9pm • 23020034N
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Engineering Technologies	
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Modeling and Simulation of Radar Systems	Apr 15-19 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 23020015N
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Laptop computer puts weapon system testing at fingertips

Portable testing system goes online for Marines

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

The Army is making sure the Marine Corps maintains its readiness through a system developed by the Research Development and Engineering Center's Automated Test Equipment/Test Program Set Management Division.

The Vehicle Automated Diagnostic System is a portable tester that is capable of allowing field technicians to diagnose and repair track and wheeled vehicles and their weapons systems by utilizing Interactive Electronic Technical Manuals through the use of a laptop computer.

VADS could most simply be described as having properties similar to the vehicle diagnostic testing systems used by civilian automotive repair facilities, but incorporating properties unique to the military, such as weapons diagnostic capability and transportability.

"VADS is an off-shoot of the Army's Internal Combustion Engine, or ICE tester, which is used for vehicle maintenance. We expanded the concept to meet the Marine Corps' unique requirements, and subsequently for the project manager for Bradleys," said Kevin Glenn, RDEC's project team leader for the VADS.

The VADS consists of a laptop computer, test adapter vehicle, transducer kit and test cables which comes packaged in two transportable cases, each approximately 2 feet high, 2 feet wide, and 2 and a half feet long. The VADS operator runs the interactive manual on a laptop computer. The computer is linked by cables to the actual VADS unit (which is in turn cabled to the vehicle) and acts as the "technological interface" between the interactive manual on the laptop and the vehicle. The operator, using the interactive manual on the laptop, is guided through a series of diagnostic tests to pinpoint problems with the vehicle's starting system, fuel system, brake system, transmission or weapon system line replaceable unit. "The degree of testing available is dependent on the type of vehicle and the number of sensors installed," Glenn said.



Courtesy photo

HIGH-TECH SYSTEM— Mark Roberts, right, a member of the VADS team, shows Stan Thompson, left, of NAVSEA Crane, the VADS as it is used on the Humvee vehicle.

What the operator sees on the laptop computer is a split screen, with text instructions on one side and the graphics or images of the vehicle or weapons system on the other. Once a problem or system failure is located, the VADS then instructs the operator on how to correct the problem, to include what parts are needed.

"I attended training the Marine Corps' 'train the trainers' class, and I was amazed at what was explained on the computer screen. The VADS is so good, between the graphics and the instruction, I felt like I could have fixed the problem, and I don't know anything about Marine Corps vehicles," said Randall Schaefer, one of RDEC's 16 VADS government and contract team members who are led by ATE/TPS division chief Authur McDonald, and manufacturing, science and technology division chief Ronald Chronister.

John Finke, the Marine Corps' Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment project officer, emphasizes that VADS is vital to Marine Corps because it meets the Corps' unique requirements, and is a necessity for maintenance.

"Our technicians must be able to evaluate and repair the vehicles wherever they are located, so the system has to be rugged

and portable, and multi-platform," Finke said. Other requirements included compatibility with any PC/laptop with RS232 and Windows 95/98/2K, and most importantly, being expandable and upgradeable.

"The Marine Corps provided us their requirements, which is what really drove the special VADS design," said VADS team member Mark Roberts, an electrical engineer who is credited with developing the hardware for the VADS systems. "Mr. Tony Dickerson, the Marine Corps' technical lead for the VADS program, has been instrumental in providing the AMRDEC with requirements and functioning as a liaison between the Army and the Marine Corps."

Finke is quick to point out they are pleased with the product, its performance and the VADS team's customer support. "We consider AMRDEC to be the Center of Excellence for automotive testing. We are also pleased with the product's evolution," he said.

The evolution of VADS is a source of pride for both sides. "Fourth generation VADS is being developed right now and its evolution is something that we are depending on to support the Marine Corps' new truck, the Medium Tactical Vehicle

Replacement (MTVR)," Finke said.

Glenn is also quick to point out that the fourth generation of VADS roughly coincides with the five years it's been in existence. "We have actually been somewhat technologically slowed down just by the age of the vehicles. For example, the computer diagnostics for civilian automobiles is now all based on digital technology, while most military vehicles are still using analog and digital technology," Glenn said.

But that will soon change with the Marine Corps' new MTVR. "The MTVR is similar to a 'deuce and a half,' but has the capability to haul 14 tons. It is also so technologically advanced, the truck will actually communicate to the driver via an LCD display," Finke said.

With its digitally based technology, and an Interactive Electronic Technical Manual developed by the manufacturer, Glenn and Roberts expect the next VADS to be truly state of the art.

"We are working on a VADS that is wireless," Roberts said. "The operator will no longer be confined to the vehicle because his laptop is attached to the VADS that is mounted in the vehicle. The operator will be able to carry the laptop around the vehicle while viewing the diagnostics or instruction for repair."

The Marine Corps has averaged around 50 to 100 VADS purchases a year. The total VADS package is roughly \$20,000 for each unit, but Finke does not see the cost as being prohibitive. "VADS is not an option, but a necessity for maintenance of our vehicles — particularly now that we have an advanced capability vehicle like the MTVR."

So a system that began as Personal Computer Interface cards for engine diagnostics, then added a case for protection, is becoming a "real time" diagnostic system that will allow the operator to evaluate and fix a vehicle or weapon system anywhere or anytime through wireless laptop technology. With the capability of ordering parts "online," and documenting each step of the operation by "saving" a file particular to that operation, the operator can also quickly return to a repair step for problems that require more parts, equipment or time. According to the VADS team, an automotive tech for the Marine Corps could be referred to as an automotive "high-tech."

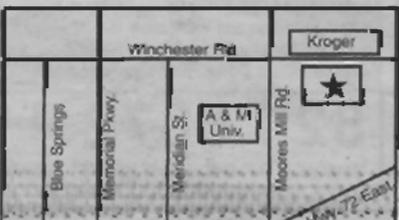


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