

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 51 No. 8

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

February 27, 2002

Win or lose



Alabama A&M ROTC team runs past Marine Reservists in troop basketball action

Page 9

Post profile



Small Business Office does big-time business

Page 10

Army in action



U.S. soldiers re-enlist at Afghanistan base

Page 11

Disposal site to fire up by fall

Chemical agent stockpile destined for incinerator

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

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT – A security fence lines both sides of the winding road leading to the chemical weapons storage area.

Some 155 earth-covered igloos within that area store liquid chemical agents that the Army began producing during World War I. The blister agents and nerve agents fill cartridges and projectiles that have been stored at Anniston Army Depot since 1961.

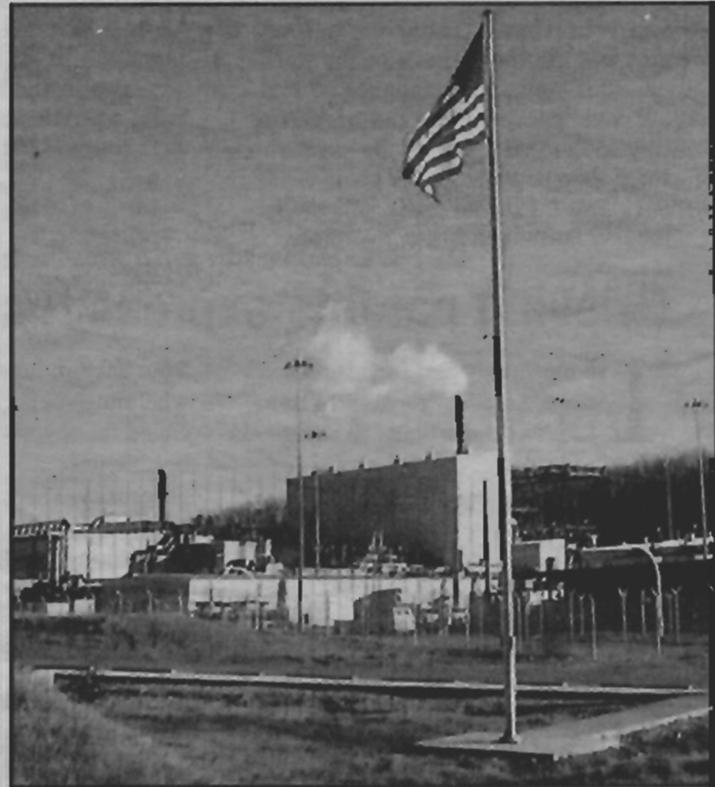
Operations to destroy these agents by burning will begin sometime this summer at the new Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

"We know the technology works," Mike Abrams, the facility's public affairs officer, said while conducting a tour of the site near the storage area.

Similar disposal operations have been conducted at Johnston Island in the Pacific Ocean since 1990 and at Tooele, Utah, since August 1996. So far some 15,900,000 pounds of chemical agents altogether have been destroyed at those two sites equaling about 25 percent of the stockpile. Anniston Army Depot stores 4,508,000 pounds of chemical agents, representing about 7 percent of the nation's stockpile. The depot is among eight storage sites nationwide.

"We began construction of this project in June 1997 and finished construction in June 2001," Abrams said. "It took \$324 million to get us where we are today."

Westinghouse will operate the facility and its \$100 million of
See Depot on page 4



Courtesy photo

READY TO OPERATE— The Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility covers a 50-acre site on Anniston Army Depot in Calhoun County. The facility was designed to safely destroy 2,254 tons of chemical warfare materiel.

Delegates passionate about issues at Army family action conference

AMCOM to study top issues, solve some, elevate others

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandyr@htimes.com

Becky Taylor will always wonder if her cancer could have been prevented.

When her yearly checkup with her Tricare doctor showed she had severe anemia, the symptom was quickly treated but her iron levels would not rise. Her doctor began to suspect colon cancer.

"We tried several things first but my doctor was pushing for me to get a colonoscopy," Taylor, retiree spouse, said. "Tricare said 'No,' that we had to get more testing done before they would pay for a colonoscopy."

It was 15 months from Taylor's initial checkup until she had the colonoscopy that

detected her cancer.

"I will always wonder that if I'd gotten the test when my doctor wanted it, would they have found the polyps and clipped them before they became cancerous?" Taylor said. "Or even if it was already cancer, would it have been stage 1 instead of stage 3? By the time it was diagnosed, it had spread to my lymph nodes. What did that time delay cost me?"

Because the cancer had spread, treatments are longer and more severe. Taylor is optimistic about her own full recovery but frustrated by the system that delayed crucial testing. So when she heard about the 14th annual Army Family Action Plan conference Feb. 19-20, she not only voiced her concerns on the survey but volunteered to be a delegate for the Medical/Dental group.

"I don't want anyone else to go through

See Delegates on page 6

Sparkman Fitness Center lifts entrance requirement

All members of the Sparkman Fitness Center are invited to start working out again.

Since Sept. 11, those without Redstone identification badges – including retirees and spouses – have been turned away from the building entrances because of heightened security. But that's about to change at the fitness center in building 5302.

"Starting March 4, the Sparkman Fitness Center will open at 5 a.m. again instead of 6 a.m. All Sparkman Fitness Center members – retirees, spouses, etc. – will be allowed to utilize the facility again," Edna Dye, Sparkman Complex manager, said.

"If fitness center members do not have a Team Redstone badge, they will have to enter and exit through the north door of the fitness center. They will not be allowed to enter through the main

See Fitness on page 6

Commissary baggers deserve thanks

I want to express my appreciation to the cashiers and baggers at the Commissary. I think they are the greatest. They do their best at all times, but do not receive a "job well done," only complaints.

I want to say something about some of the customers who are inconsiderate.

First, I think that it is very inconsiderate of someone who wants to complain about the store announcing that it will be closing at closing time. How else will the shoppers know the store is closed if they don't announce it? It is also unfair for cashiers and baggers to stay until the late, late shoppers are finished shopping when most know the store is closed. And what really gets me is the bad attitude they get. Secondly,

the baggers work for tips only, and it is awful when they bag the customer's groceries and they don't even want to give them a tip. And last, how some customers complain about not having paper bags? To be stressing over such an issue, when there are bigger issues in this life to be upset over, not having paper bags is definitely not one of them. Life is too short for that kind of foolishness. We have lots to be thankful for, like having a commissary to shop at and that it has something to pack our groceries in and baggers to pack them. What a privilege. Sounds much like ungratefulness to me.

Linda Cook
retired military and ex-cashier

Grieving parents express thanks

To our family and friends at Redstone Arsenal, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to each and every one of you for your support during our difficult time of the loss of our son. Even though thank you doesn't feel like enough, it comes

from deep in our hearts. Your overwhelming support and prayers are appreciated far beyond words. We will never be able to repay your love, kindness and generosity. Thank God for people like you.

Jackie and Carol Wilburn

Americans right to wave flag

Please consider the following for publishing in the *Redstone Rocket*. The author is unknown. But I wish I had written it. It should be published in every newspaper about every month or so to ensure that everyone gets to read it. Our nation seems to be changing its character and every red-blooded American should take notice. If we don't turn this around, we may cease to exist as "one nation under God."

"Broken Arrow, Okla., School officials remove 'God Bless America' signs from schools in fear that someone might be offended.

"Channel 12 News in Long Island, N.Y., orders flags removed from the newsroom and red, white and blue ribbons removed from the lapels of reporters. Why? Management did not want to appear biased and felt that our

nation's flag might give the appearance that 'they lean one way or another.'

"Berkeley, Calif., bans U.S. flags from being displayed on city fire trucks because they didn't want to offend anyone in the community.

"In an 'act of tolerance,' the head of the public library at Florida Gulf Coast University ordered all 'Proud to be an American' signs removed so as to not offend international students."

"I, for one, am quite disturbed by these actions of so-called American citizens; and I am tired of this nation worrying about whether or not we are offending some individual or their culture. Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Americans. However,

See Flag on page 4

Gate guards doing good work

I know this has become a much beleaguered subject but I felt that I had to make one more statement. I read the letter submitted by one of the RSA police officers in the Feb. 20 Rocket. He made some very good points as I've observed some of the behavior described being exhibited by many of the RSA community entering the gates. On the whole however, I think the Guard units and FPOs that man the gates have done an exemplary job. I have entered the gates at different times during the day, in inclement weather conditions and sometimes not in a very good mood. Each time that I've entered the gate be it Gate 8, 9 or 10 the person(s) checking IDs,

searching the cars or making visual inspections have been professional, polite and in some cases more upbeat than I might have been in their place. I'm always greeted politely and thanked and wished a nice day as I continue on my way most times with a smile. These people do a great job under sometimes less than great conditions and I for one would like to say "kudos" to them all. Keep up the good work; you really are appreciated.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: You're right, all sides have been presented so you get the last word on this subject.

Emergency response appreciated

I would like to thank the Redstone emergency response team that came to my rescue on our first snow day of the year. As I was coming into building 5309 in the Sparkman Center, I slipped on the wet marble floor and fell. Then co-worker Bill Dye and Paul McManuels quickly reacted to pull me from the floor. I thanked them and went on to my office on the second floor. Well, I called the Sparkman Management Office and notified them that the handicap automatic doors were malfunctioning and that the floor inside the front door was wet and had snow on it. When I told her someone had already fallen, she told me it was required to go to Occupational Health at the Fox Army Health Center to get checked out. I said no problem, I will go over there right now. Next thing I know within seconds Ricky Moore, the SMO emergency response team leader, was at my desk evaluating the situation and asking if he could walk me down to the front door. I told him I appreciate that but I can

walk to my car. To my surprise, when I got to the front door, I saw all kinds of emergency vehicles. I would like to thank the Redstone Emergency Response Team that were first on the scene, the veteran federal EMTs, HEMSI Ambulance Service, the Redstone Fire Department, etc. I was highly impressed with the professional well-trained personnel that came to my rescue. After what I saw and experienced, I could not think of a better group I would want to come to my co-workers' or family's rescue in a life-threatening emergency. Also, I would like to thank my co-workers, Nellie Coiner and Glenn Whitehead, for taking me to Occupational Health and even going in with me to see the doctor. As a government employee, I now know we are very well protected here on Redstone Arsenal by so many diversified professionals and co-workers.

Thanks to all!

Dallas Crowell Jr.
Readiness Directorate, IMMC

Who has the right of way?

At several locations on Redstone Arsenal where running/walking paths cross vehicle roadways, there are Warning signs that indicate vehicles should yield to pedestrians

(Alabama Department of Public Safety, road signs) and small Stop signs, facing pedestrians, that indicate pedestrians should

See Roadways on page 4

Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 878-1500 Editorial fax 935-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

The *Redstone Rocket* is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in The *Redstone Rocket* through the Public Affairs Office, Army Aviation and Missile Command, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the *Redstone Rocket* is The Huntsville Times, located at 2317 S. Memorial Parkway, Huntsville AL 35801.

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

email: redstone-rocket@redstone.army.mil
Rocket articles are available online at the following:
http://www.redstone.army.mil/pub_affairs/

Rocket Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Al Schwartz

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Reporters: Sandy Riebeling

Beth Skarupa

SSgt. Sharon McBride

Copy Editor: Scott Seeley

Advertising Sales: Jennifer Rodgers

Aletha Pardue

Susan Lavender

The *Redstone Rocket* is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by The Huntsville Times a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

The *Redstone Rocket* is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and

Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for The Rocket are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, 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.

Higher headquarters wants to know your feelings about things

AMC-wide sensing survey online through March 11

INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE RELEASE

Gen. Paul Kern, commander of the Army Materiel Command, has released an AMC-wide sensing survey through the office of the AMC Inspector General. Kern asked the AMC inspector general to conduct a command climate assessment of the entire command.

In addition to a message by Kern, on each e-mail there is a strong endorsement by Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, encouraging each government and mili-

tary member of the Aviation and Missile Command to take the time to respond to the assessment. Dodgen endorsed the survey as an ideal opportunity to provide input to the AMC commander and emphasized that this process is strictly anonymous. Any information you choose to provide will be consolidated at command level with the other responses.

AMCOM in cooperation with AMC will be using an automated survey that will be sent electronically to each employee with endorsements by both Kern and Dodgen. The AMCOM IG, along with the Corporate Information Center, is coordinating to ensure every employee has an opportunity to participate in this process.

The survey period is Feb. 11 to March 11.

"I intend to use this information to help me better understand our professional work force and identify areas that will help AMC with fielding the Objective Force and the transformation of the Army," Kern said.

Supervisors are asked to allow employees time to complete the automated survey during duty hours; the survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. The survey assesses perceptions about your job, work group, directorate, human relations and other areas.

As with any survey there are always concerns about confidentiality. According to Lt. Col. Johnny Bray, AMCOM IG, to ensure anonymity the completed sur-

vey will be processed and summarized in statistical form by the AMC IG. This information is for statistical analysis only. No attempt will be made to identify you. The survey was designed by AMC to only capture the data from the survey, not who sent it. The data from each survey that is completed is appended to a secure data file that will be sent back to AMC after March 11.

If you should have problems accessing the survey, call AMCOM's CIC help desk 876-2291.

Dodgen further wanted to encourage everyone to use AMCOM's IG resources if you have any personal issues you would like to discuss. Bray can be reached at 876-9701.

'Standing united' theme for annual African-American Festival

Black History Month event slated Thursday morning

The seventh annual African-American Festival will be held Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium with the theme "Team Redstone Standing United."

Tonya Terry, of WAAY television channel 31, will emcee the festival. Terry joined WAAY-31 News in May 2000 as an assistant to the overnight producer. In less than a year, she doubled her duties to include anchoring. Before joining WAAY-31, Terry worked as an anchor-reporter at stations in

Troy (WTBF Radio), Dothan (WTVY Channel 4) and another station in Huntsville. Terry attended Troy State University in her hometown. She lives in Huntsville with her husband and three sons.

The Alabama A&M University Choir, under the direction of Richard F. Tucker, will perform. The A&M Choir continues a choral tradition, which had its inception during the tenure of William Hooper Councill, an ex-slave and the school's founder. Tucker, the director since 1989, received bachelor's and master's degrees from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J. The choir has performed for various city, state and national events.

The Save the Youth Club from Stone Middle School will also perform at this year's festival. It received an Alabama State Board of Education's award for character/spiritual and community involvement. The student members provide entertainment for parents, students and faculty events. They were instrumental in the Box Tops for Education, Windsor House Nursing Home Adoption, and American Cancer Society programs.

Individuals from the audience will have the opportunity to win door prizes including a 19-inch color television, a DVD player, and gift certificates from a local clothing store.

Immediately after the festival, a soul food meal will be available in the cafete-

ria of building 5250. The lunch menu includes ribs, fried chicken, baked beans, potato salad, collard greens, green beans, fried okra, corn bread, blackberry cobbler, and butter roll.

Civilian, military along with all personnel in the surrounding communities are invited to attend. For more information, call Lois Ragland 955-5335. The festival will be broadcast live on Channel 42.



Courtesy photo

TONYA TERRY

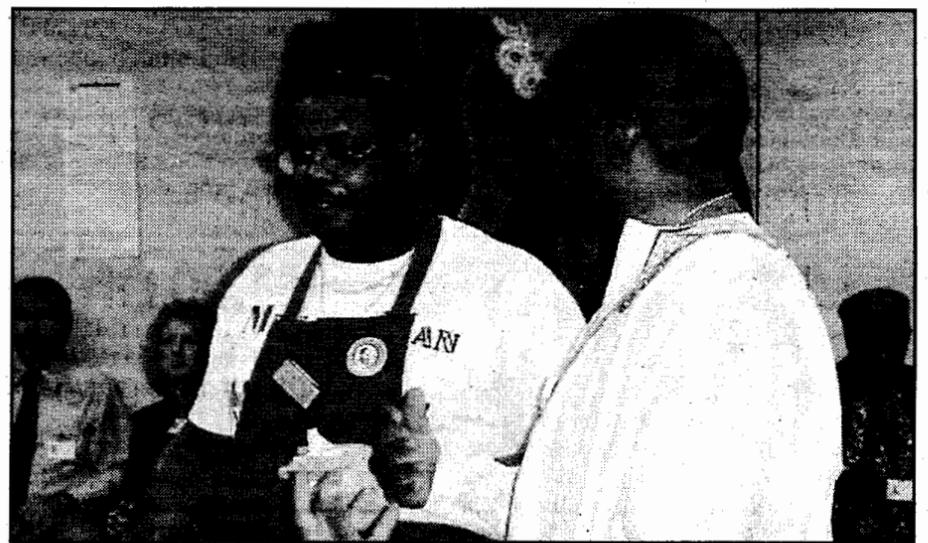


Photo by Louise Olszewski/ CPOC

Celebrating black history

Members of the South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center celebrated Black History Month on Feb. 20 with music, various informational and visual displays, and a luncheon. Terry McGee, left, and Cecil Mabry discuss the celebration. McGee was responsible for the layout of the buffet tables. Mabry is dressed in traditional African attire.

<p>Daily Bargain Matinees Only \$5.00</p> <p>REGAL Daily Bargain Matinees in (1) STRATERIO DIGITAL SOUND</p> <p>HOLLYWOOD 18 S. Memorial Pkwy. in front of Joe Davis Stadium 883-1602</p> <p>QUEEN OF THE DAMNED (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:05 1:30 4:05 4:30) 7:10 7:40 9:40 10:05 DKG DRAGONFLY (PG-13) (1:25 4:25) 7:25 9:55 DKG IN THE BEDROOM (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:10 4:10) 7:00 9:45 DKG * SUPER TROOPERS (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:35 4:35) 7:30 10:00 DKG JOHN Q (PG-13) (1:40 4:30) 7:10 9:40 DKG CROSSROADS (PG-13) (1:10 4:10) 7:40 10:05 DKG RETURN TO NEVER LAND (G) (1:00 3:00 5:00) 7:00 9:30 DKG HART'S WAR (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:40 4:20) 7:05 9:40 DKG COLLATERAL DAMAGE (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:35 4:35) 7:15 9:45 DKG ROLLERBALL (PG-13) (1:15 4:15) 7:35 9:55 DKG BIG FAT LIAR (PG) (1:00 4:00) 7:00 9:55 DKG BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:00 4:00) 7:00 9:55 DKG COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (PG-13) (1:20 4:20) 7:20 10:00 DKG WALK TO REMEMBER (PG) (1:15 4:15) 7:15 9:50 DKG SNOW DOGS (PG) (1:25 4:10) DKG BLACK HAWK DOWN (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:00 4:00) 7:00 9:45 DKG A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG-13) (1:05 4:05) 7:05 9:50 DKG LORD OF THE RINGS (PG-13) (1:00 4:25) 7:50 DKG</p>	<p>Stadium Seating in ALL Auditoriums</p> <p>Prices for Military after 6p.m. are Only \$5.50</p> <p>MADISON SQ. 12 Madison Sq. Mall 830-6829</p> <p>RETURN TO NEVER LAND (G) (1:10 3:10 5:10) 7:10 9:30 DKG JIMMY NEUTRON (G) (1:20 4:20) STR MONSTER'S BALL (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:30 4:30) 7:30 9:50 STR JOHN Q (PG-13) (1:15 4:15) 7:15 9:55 DKG COLLATERAL DAMAGE (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:20 4:20) 7:20 10:00 DKG BIG FAT LIAR (PG) (1:00 3:00 5:00) 7:00 9:30 STR ROLLERBALL (PG-13) (1:30 4:30) 7:30 10:00 STR IN THE BEDROOM (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:00 4:00) 7:00 9:50 STR AMÉLIE (R) - ID REQUIRED (1:10 4:10) 7:10 9:55 STR MOTHMAN PROPHECIES (PG-13) (1:05 4:05) 7:05 9:35 STR KUNG POW (PG-13) 9:45 STR SNOW DOGS (PG) (1:15 4:15) 7:15 STR A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG-13) (1:05 4:05) 7:05 9:45 STR OCEAN'S ELEVEN (PG-13) 7:20 9:40 STR</p>
--	--

Carmike 10
1359 OLD MONROVIA ROAD 430-0770

NOW SHOWING

BLACK HAWK DOWN (R) THX/DOLBY 1:00 4:00 7:00	CROSSROADS (PG-13) THX/DOLBY 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:45
COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (PG-13) DTS 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35	LORD OF THE RINGS (PG-13) 1:00 4:15 7:45
I AM SAM (PG-13) DTS 1:00 4:05 7:05 9:35	A WALK TO REMEMBER (PG) DTS 1:05 4:15 7:05 9:20
SUPER TROOPERS (R) DOLBY 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45	*HARTS WAR (R) DTS 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED (R) THX/DOLBY 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:40*	DRAGONFLY (PG-13) THX/DTS 1:15 4:00 7:00 9:30*

STADIUM SEATING
IN ALL AUDITORIUMS

Prices for military only \$4.50 after 6pm

For Daily ShowTimes
Call 430-0770 or visit our website www.carmike.com

*SHOWS AFTER 10:30 PM ARE FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY

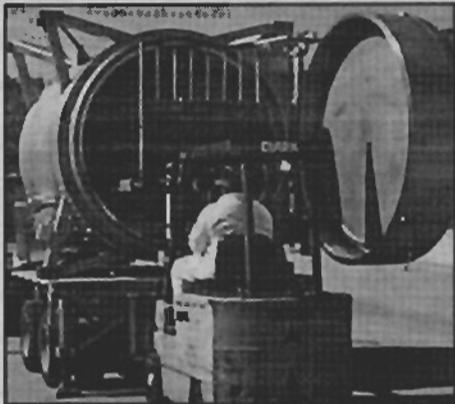
■ Depot stores 7 percent of U.S. chemical stockpile

Depot

continued from page 1

equipment. The incinerator plant will have about 600 Westinghouse workers under the management of 15 government people.

Preparations are under way to begin the burning operation as early as June or as late as August. Not everyone in the Anniston community or the state hierarchy agrees with the project. But the Army believes in its proven method of disposal by burning. Congress in 1985 ordered destruction of this country's chemical



Courtesy photo

ON THE MOVE— A forklift operator loads munitions into the Enhanced On-site Container for transport to their storage site. The container will be hydraulically sealed for the trip.

warfare agents.

"We expect to begin operation this summer and conclude operation in 2009," Abrams said.

A grant issued by the state in June 1997 authorizes the Army to build the facility, test it, operate it and close it.

The Anniston Chemical Activity is responsible for the safe storage and management of the chemical stockpile. This represents nearly 2,254 tons of chemical agent including 873,020 pounds of GB



Courtesy photo

PRE-ENTRY— Anniston Chemical Activity workers discuss surveillance operations inside the storage bunker. The worker in protective gear will visually check the munitions as part of regularly scheduled procedures.

nerve agents, 1,657,480 pounds of VX nerve agent and 1,976,760 pounds of mustard agent.

"We haven't been able to have a lot of visitors obviously since Sept. 11th," Cathy Coleman, the activity's public affairs officer, said.

Safety is a priority for the activity. The agents are constantly monitored and the slightest leak in a container stored within a reinforced igloo is reported to the local community and fixed.

■ Americans should show patriotism

Flag

continued from page 2

the dust from the attacks had barely settled in New York and Washington, D.C., when the 'politically correct' crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others...

"We are proud of our heritage and those who have so honorably defended our freedoms. We celebrate Indepen-

"It always amazes me how incredibly detailed we do things," Coleman said.

The activity's monitoring, security and safety procedures were described in a nine-minute video she showed to a group of visiting public affairs specialists from Redstone in the emergency operations center.

Later hard hats and protective goggles were required as Abrams led the group on a walking tour of the disposal plant.

"We're never going to take safety for granted," Abrams said.

dence Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Flag Day. We have parades, picnics, and barbecues where we proudly wave our flag. As an American, I have the right to wave my flag, sing my national anthem, quote my national motto, and cite my pledge whenever and wherever I choose. If the Stars and Stripes offend you, or you don't like Uncle Sam, then you should seriously consider a move to another part of this planet..."

Eddie Allen
IMMC

■ State law addresses right of way

Roadways

continued from page 2

stop for vehicle traffic. Who has the right of way? Vehicle drivers and pedestrians end up looking at each other dumbfounded, wondering why the other does not proceed. Someone is going to get hurt when both decide to proceed at the same time.

Also, the new speed bumps in front of the commissary should have been positioned at 90 degrees from present to slow down the patrons and baggers. The clearly posted signs, four of them, state: "Notice: Pedestrians and Baggers Yield to Vehicles." Again, vehicle drivers and patrons/baggers are unsure, who has the right-of-way?

And one more issue: Now that the inner gate on Patton Road is unmanned and north of the Guard Shack is now four lanes, the southbound traffic merges to one lane at the shack. Drivers going south in the left-hand lane and passing under the guard shack awning unknowingly merge into the right lane without any warning or informative signage. We need to look at correctly marking this location soon. This was not a problem when the shack was manned because the left lane was the visitor lane and all visitor traffic had to stop.

Let's look at these safety issues and make sound corrective decisions that will provide the best protection for drivers and pedestrians.

Larry Ashton
retired SFC

Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following response. "The warning signs that the writer mentioned are standard warning signs that are placed at potential haz-

ardous locations — i.e. roadway curves, narrow bridges, railroad crossings, merging traffic, etc.

"These signs in no way give a pedestrian the right of way over any vehicles. They only serve to notify a driver of a potential hazard; a driver is not required to slow down on the approach to one of these signs but should be alert to the potential risk associated with the warning.

"Alabama law does not give a pedestrian exclusive right of way over vehicles. The law states that: 'When traffic signals are not in place or not in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if need be to yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger. No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.'

"Because of the way the law is stated, we have taken additional precautions to install the small stop signs at locations on the running trails where these trails cross busy roadways, especially in remote locations on post.

"The same law that applies to the running trails also applies to the crosswalks on Acton Drive in front of the PX and commissary.

"DPW (Directorate of Public Works) has issued a work order to change the stripping and markings south of Gate 4 to adequately separate the lanes and will reduce the length of the right turn lane to Mills Road. This will establish a priority to the inside lane, clear up confusion that currently exists and allow more time for southbound traffic to merge into one lane to continue south on Patton Road."

Fishin' for Values?

Our menu offers a delicious variety of seafood and chicken dishes, side items and desserts.

At Captain D's, we believe in being the best neighborhood seafood restaurant for everyone we serve.



SEAFOOD

HUNTSVILLE

4953 University Drive
837-5927

Accepted at participating Captain D's.



\$1.00 Off

Any Regular Menu
Dinner or Platter

(Expires April 28, 2002)

Please present coupon before ordering. Limit one dinner or platter per coupon. Offer does not apply to six Captain's Combo meals, or any other specials, coupons or discount offers. At participating Captain D's.



\$10.99

10-Piece Fish Value Pack

Ten batter-dipped fish filets, one pint of cole slaw, fries and hushpuppies.

(Expires April 28, 2002)

Please present coupon before ordering. Limit one Value Pack per coupon. Not good with any other specials, coupons or discount offers. At participating Captain D's.



\$6.99

Two 3-Piece Fish Dinners

Each dinner includes three batter-dipped fish filets, cole slaw, fries and hushpuppies.

(Expires April 28, 2002)

Please present coupon before ordering. Limit one dinner per coupon. Not good with any other specials, coupons or discount offers. At participating Captain D's.



\$2.25 Fish & Fries

Two batter-dipped fish filets, fries and hushpuppies.

Please present coupon before ordering. Limit one dinner per coupon. Not good with any other specials, coupons or discount offers. At participating Captain D's. (Expires April 28, 2002)

\$2.25 Fish & Fries

Two batter-dipped fish filets, fries and hushpuppies.

Please present coupon before ordering. Limit one dinner per coupon. Not good with any other specials, coupons or discount offers. At participating Captain D's. (Expires April 28, 2002)

0022116

Army tests advanced Patriot missile system at White Sands

Missed intercepts under investigation

The Missile Defense Agency and the Army conducted a test of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 system Feb. 16 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

A PAC-2 missile successfully intercepted and destroyed a QF-4 full-scale drone aircraft. However a second PAC-2 missile and a PAC-3 missile missed their assigned sub-scale targets. The causes of

the two intercept failures are currently under investigation, officials said.

The test was conducted as a simultaneous engagement in which one PAC-3 missile was to engage and intercept a cruise missile target, while two PAC-2 missiles were to engage and intercept a full-scale aircraft emitting radar-jamming signals and another sub-scale aircraft.

The mission was designed to replicate as closely as possible an actual battlefield scenario, officials said, with three targets and three missiles in the air at one time.

Patriot's sophisticated system logic selects the most efficient missile for each engagement, officials explained. In this case, a combination of Raytheon's PAC-2 and Lockheed Martin's PAC-3 missiles were used.

The Army's mix of missiles for the future force, officials said, will include both PAC-3 and an upgraded PAC-2 missile, called GEM+, currently in production.

In addition to the target intercepts, the test was supposed to demonstrate successful interaction of all system elements — including radar, command and control equipment and target identification systems.

Soldiers of the 2nd of the 43rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion, from Fort Bliss, Texas, participated in the test by running it as a tactical firing mission. It was the first of four operational flight tests planned during Initial Operational Test and Evaluation for the PAC-3 system, scheduled to conclude in May.

The Army Test and Evaluation Command is conducting the tests. Formed in 1999 when the Army consolidated developmental and operational testing and evaluation into a single command, ATEC has been deeply involved in the PAC-3 program.

The PAC-3 missile is a high velocity, hit-to-kill missile and is the next generation Patriot being developed to provide increased defense against tactical ballistic

missiles, cruise missiles, and hostile aircraft, officials said. They explained that unlike earlier Patriot missile explosive warheads, the PAC-3 missile literally collides with its target in mid-air at extremely high speed, destroying the target and neutralizing its payload.

Other system upgrades include improved radar performance, allowing enhanced target discrimination; and new system software that improves determination of target launch and impact points and provides an interface with the Theater High Altitude Area Defense system known as THAAD.

Prior to the Feb. 16 test, the PAC-3 system had completed two controlled test flights, five tactical ballistic missile body-to-body intercepts, three cruise missile kills, and one aircraft kill resulting in 11 successful developmental flight tests.

The Patriot PAC-3 program is managed by the Missile Defense Agency in Washington, D.C., and executed by the Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense and the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office in Huntsville.

Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Dallas, Texas, is the prime contractor responsible for the PAC-3 missile segment. Raytheon Company is the prime contractor responsible for the Patriot air and missile defense system and the system integrator for the PAC-3 program.

Space Camp scholarships available for military children in community

Apply March 1-15 for awards program

The Army Community Service Volunteer Program is pleased to announce the Space Camp, Space Academy, and Aviation Challenge scholarship program for 2002 open to military dependents. Scholarships have been provided by the Air Defense Artillery Association, Association of the U.S. Army, Enlisted Wives Club, First Command, and the Officer and Civilian Women's Club.

Applicants must be active duty or retired military children living within a

50-mile radius of Redstone Arsenal having completed grades 4-6 for Space Camp, grades 7 and 8 to attend Space Academy, and grades 7-9 for Aviation Challenge.

Applications are available March 1-15 at ACS building 3491 on Honest John Road, the Post Exchange and local schools. Completed applications, a copy of the child's military ID card and an essay titled "Why I wish to attend Space Camp, Space Academy, or Aviation Challenge" must be returned to ACS by noon March 15.

For more information, call ACS at 876-5397.

sit back and relax...



With Redstone's OASIS™ of Convenience, Security & Safety

Redstone's OASIS™ lets you manage your finances anytime, anywhere...your place or ours. With OASIS™ services, you'll enjoy the safety, security, and convenience of automated services and online transactions. Sign up now for WorldWide Branch Online (WWBO), a Freedom Check Card, and any other OASIS™ service to be eligible to win a Sony® Vaio laptop, a Palm Pilot or a web-enabled cell phone.

Visit our web site for an entry form and complete contest rules and restrictions.

REDSTONE
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

www.redfcu.org

REGISTER TO WIN ONLINE!

your place or ours

Must be a PFCU member. Some restrictions may apply. This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

■ Family action conference raises quality of life issues

Delegates

continued from page 1

what I went through," Taylor said. "If we can make some changes through this forum then I'm willing to do what it takes. I strongly believe that if your doctor wants you to have a specific diagnostic test, you should be able to get it."

Group members agreed with her and "elimination of all pre-authorization

requirements when diagnostic testing is ordered by a primary care manager or specialist" became the top issue for the Medical/Dental work group.

The AFAP conference had 75 delegates split among six work groups to hear issues voiced from a quality of life survey conducted several months ago. Work groups included Medical/Dental, Housing, Travel, Transportation and Personnel Finance; Commissary/AAFES, Civilian and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Subject



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

WORKING THE ISSUES— Members of the Medical/Dental group talk about Tricare preauthorization concerns during a work session for the Army Family Action Plan conference Feb. 19-20. From left are subject matter experts Lisa Knapp and Tammy Smith, both with Humana Health, and delegates Capt. Tijuana Coiller, commander of HHC AMCOM; SSgt. Dean Murdock of the NCO Academy and his wife, Patay.

matter experts for each group were included in the discussions.

"We had a massive list of issues," Cathy Ryan, conference chairman, said. "Each group had the task of prioritizing the issues (relating to their work subject) and choosing the top three to present to the commander at the out-brief."

When the top three issues were selected, each group developed the "scope" of the issue to better explain who is affected and then provide recommendations for each.

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of AMCOM and Redstone, and Brig. Gen. John Urias, deputy commanding general for research, development and acquisition, attended the spirited out-briefing at the Officers and Civilians Club last Wednesday afternoon.

"I see a lot of things that can be resolved and worked here at the local level," Dodgen said after hearing the issues and recommendations. "We've got some credible things to take up the line."

One issue came up in two separate work groups, bringing ironic laughter from the audience.

Both the Civilian group and the Medical/Dental group took issue with how dependent status is determined.

"I'm raising my grandson," Diane Schwartz, retiree spouse, said. "I want to get him on Tricare but he's not classified by them as a dependent. The IRS classifies him as a dependent. I can claim him on my taxes, but he's not eligible for Tricare. What makes a person a 'dependent' should

be standard across the government."

The Civilian work group wanted the same thing, to use IRS requirements to determine "dependents" concerning health benefits.

Other top issues/recommendations included:

- **Medical/Dental** — Eliminate all pre-authorization requirements when diagnostic testing is ordered by a PCM/specialist; use the current IRS definition of a dependent for Tricare eligibility; and increase medical specialists in the local network by recruiting and increasing the Tricare Maximum Allowable Charges.

- **Commissary/AAFES** — better selection of healthy foods including fresh seafood and items for special diets such as low-sodium foods, wheat breads, unprocessed bulk foods and organic foods and implement survey to identify special needs. Change DoD policy to allow all military ID card holders full, unlimited access to the commissary. Currently there are restrictions of use for National Guard and Reserve soldiers and retirees. And third, make an effort to better understand the needs of young soldiers so that selections at the commissary and PX reflect their needs.

- **Moral, Welfare and Recreation** — Referring to golf course graduated greens fees and annual fees, change the current scale of three pay groups to the four-step scales used at other installations. Also on the golf course, active duty and Reserve

See Delegates on page 7

■ Center relaxes entrance rule

Fitness

continued from page 1

building doors or exit into the building. This will open the fitness center back up to all members," she said. "Team Red-

stone employees will be able to enter through the Sparkman hallway doors between the hours of 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Before and after hours, they will have to enter through the north door also."

Closing time for the fitness center will remain 7 p.m. weekdays.



RE/MAX
HUNTSVILLE
Each Office Independently
Owned and Operated



Sid Pugh
337-7653

The Pugh Group
www.pughgroup.com
533-SOLD (7653)
Pughgrp@bellsouth.net



Investment Opportunity on "Fixer Upper" 2 bedroom and a study, 1 full bath, some hardwoods, eat-in kitchen, indoor laundry, treed lot with pecan trees. \$29,900 (2906-6th Ave)



New Home! .54 ac lot, 3 bedrooms, master with private glamour bath, large open family room with vaulted ceiling and FP, covered porch, deck with nice view \$110,000 (3335M-62)



Over 2,600 sq ft, full-finished basement, hardwoods, ceramic & marble tiled floors, 3 BR, sunroom, formal living & dining, detached garage w/insulated bonus room, 1 ac fenced yard \$129,850 (7249W-62)



Four bedrooms, computer/study nook loft area, main level master suite, open family room, formal dining room, covered porch, community lakes, park & pool \$192,850 (110MH-62)



New Custom Home! 5 BR, a Bonus R. and 4BA, Master & Guest room, are on the main level. F.P., Lg FR, spacious kitchen and breakfast, deck, covered porch, 3 Car Garage, over 3,100 sq.ft. \$269,850 (206T-62)



New Construction in Jacobs Landing! Four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, hardwoods, ceramic tile, crown molding, FP, formal dining, full brick, cul-de-sac lot \$187,500 (130J-61)

Create a perfect Scrapbook of Memories

Snip, Snap 'N' Scrap
"for all your scrapbook needs"

albums • stickers • paper • pens
templates • diecuts • punches & more

12036 Hwy. 231/431 N Suite A • Meridianville **829-5420**

New World Travel

3 Night Bahama Cruise.....from \$329
7 Night Western Caribbean Cruise
From New Orleans.....from \$649
11 Night Hawaii.....from \$899

(256)882-0093




Visit our website for our bargains www.newworld-travel.com
Subject to availability. Restrictions may apply.

3030 South Memorial Pkwy Across from Applebees

Recommendations considered after conference

Delegates

continued from page 6

component soldiers are requesting reserved tee times because the busy league schedules prevent them from obtaining desirable tee times at the close of business on weekdays.

Barns at the Riding (stable) Activity need to have increased electrical outlets and installation of light fixtures to create a safer, healthier environment for both horses and owners.

• **Civilian** — Concerning the Federal Employee Health Benefits and policies, there's a need to increase benefits for dental and eye-care without additional premiums; applying IRS guidelines to dependency status and increasing the number of carriers/providers for health care benefits.

Monetary awards taxed at a higher rate (26 percent) brought suggestions of including it with regular pay and taxed according to employees' base pay; increase the amount of award to include taxes or allow employee to receive the full amount of the award and be responsible for year-end taxes.

Provide financial assistance for education and training for the total civilian work force comparable to the military program by expanding the term "mission related" from local to Total Army Mission and implement a continuous learning policy for entire civilian work force comparable to the policy that applies to the acquisition work force members.

• **Travel, Transportation and Personnel Finance** — Revise current regulations to include shipment of two vehicles (instead of one) at government expense for those PCSing overseas.

Request Personnel Action Centers establish suspense dates for processing personnel finance actions and maintain accountability for soldier concerns which means better service from and access to

the PAC office.

Reassess speed limits in the housing area to assure safety of residents and property. Installation of speed bumps, warning signs and flashing lights are suggestions to keep drivers from speeding through neighborhoods.

• **Housing** — Quarters clearing process is perceived as being costly and time consuming for the soldiers. Cleaning teams are not affordable and it is believed that the inspector is harder on the individual than a cleaning team, pressuring the soldier to hire a cleaning team. Recommendations include hiring additional personnel to reinstate the walk through reinspection and establish an AAFES-based cleaning team that charges on a sliding scale for rank and square footage.

Pest problems call for increased supplies and strengths of pest control products at Self Help, as well as coordinated spraying.

Timely response to work orders and sending the right person for the job was also listed in the top three issues. Some recommendations included feedback surveys on work performance and a Base Ops grievance hotline.

A committee at Redstone will task appropriate agencies with the stated issues to see what can be resolved locally and what needs to be elevated to the Army Materiel Command, which is the next level. AMC has a similar conference, prioritizing issues it receives from all its commands to decide what to elevate to Department of Army level.

"We appreciate the time and effort you put into this," Col. Brent Swart, deputy post commander, told the delegates, volunteers and subject matter experts. "We will study these issues and expect everyone back here in three months for the out-briefing."

The out-briefing is scheduled for May 16. For updates to the AFAP, check the following web site: www.redstonemwr.com.



Advantage Homes Series

Available at Ashley Green, Shadow Creek and Hidden Cove



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

Models & Sales Centers are open:
Sun. & Mon. 1-6
Tue.-Sat. 11-6.

The energy right Program is offered in homes at Ashley Green, Colinwood and St. Charles.

DISCOVERY TOYS ESPRIT DYMBOREE OSH KOSH LEVI MONDAY'S CHILD HEALTHTEX LITTLE ME GAP LITTLE TUMES

KIDS' KLOSET

QUALITY CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT
Clothing • Shoes • Baby Equipment
Toys • Maternity • Accessories

Spring & Summer Sale! 3 DAYS ONLY!

FRIDAY, March 8th 9am-6pm
SATURDAY, March 9th 9am-6pm
SUNDAY, March 10th 11am-4pm (at prior day)

Jayco Community Building
Airport Road • West of Kid's Space
www.mykidskloset.com

Is It Tough Enough? Is It Like A Rock?

Protect Your Truck With
The #1 SPRAYED-ON BED LINING
system in the world.

We specialize in custom color

Lifetime Warranty

- Won't Peel, Crack or Warp
- Resists Abrasion, Even Under Heavy Use
- Out-Performs All Drop-In Liners
- Not a Paint-Like Coating...Sprays on up to 1/4" Thick
- Helps Keep Your Gear from Sliding
- All Colors Available

PERMANENTLY PROTECTS AGAINST RUST AND CORROSION

Be sure with **Rhino Linings**
NOTHING BEATS A REAL RHINO

256-880-1121
3100 Leeman Ferry Road • Huntsville, AL 35801

www.westminsterhomes.com

Ashley Green
From the \$120's, New Phase!
Take Hwy 72 W, go south on Wall Trace, turn right into Mary Glah Court. 810-6757

Shadow Creek
From the \$100's, New Phase! New Plans!
Take Madison Blvd., go south on Zurich Road, go 4 miles, turn right into Shadow Creek. 461-4126

Colinwood
From the \$110's, New Phase Open!
Take Hwy 72 W, go south on Wall Trace, turn left on College. Turn left onto Twelve Oaks. Call Home Community to book. 721-1900

St. Charles Place
From the \$140's, New Phase Open!
Take Madison Blvd., go north on Wall Trace, St. Charles Place on right. 772-8700

Creekwood
From the \$90's, GRAND CLOSE OUT!
Take Hwy 72 W, go south on Skingate Road, Turn left on Cr. Road. 461-4126

Hidden Lake
From the \$220's, New Phase Open!
Take 431 S, go right on Sutton Road, left on Old Big Cove Road. Go 1.7 miles, turn left onto Hidden Lake Drive. 539-0775

Hidden Cove
From the \$140's
Take 431 S, go right on Sutton Road, left on Old Big Cove Road. Go 1.7 miles, turn left onto Hidden Lake Drive. 539-0775

Brokers warmly welcomed. Prices, terms and features subject to change without notice.

Disabled American Veterans serving veterans

Local DAV leader believes many vets unaware of benefits

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

They've earp it. It's not a gift, it's a right. But many veterans aren't aware of the benefits they're entitled to or can't put in a claim because they have trouble maneuvering through the Veterans Affairs system.

"People get frustrated," George Boyer, commander, Huntsville chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and retired Redstone employee, said. "Boy, don't I know it. Getting the forms and the paperwork filled out to make claims for service related ailments and injuries can be frustrating. That's what the DAV is for — to help people get the right information to the right people. We'll help you from start to finish. If you don't have the right records, we'll fill out the paperwork to request them."

Some illnesses can be linked to chemicals soldiers were exposed to while serving on active duty. Servicemembers suffering from medical conditions that could be linked to their military service should be aware of their rights to medical benefits and compensation.

The DAV provides trained service officers to answer questions, prepare paperwork and get the process started. These packets are sent to service officers in the national DAV organization that are located in each state's Veterans Affairs office. The two work together to make sure claims are submitted properly, reducing the frustration of the process.

"We have a veteran's (medical) clinic right here in Huntsville but most folks



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

CHAPTER COMMANDER— Just after CWO 3 George Boyer retired from the Army in 1976, he joined the Disabled American Veterans Huntsville chapter and began helping other veterans get benefits they were due. He is now the chapter commander — and earnestly working to see that any veteran that needs help, gets help.

don't know about it," Boyer said. "We've been putting the word out though. Anyone who served two years active duty (after 1980) and has an honorable discharge can be seen at the clinic free." Before 1980 there's no time quota. The VA Clinic serves Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. No Reserves or National Guard.

Boyer goes on to explain "free." Veterans who want to use the clinic must first enroll either in person at the clinic or by mailing the information to the VA in Birmingham. If requirements are met, the veteran becomes eligible for benefits and is assigned a health care provider. If the veteran has insurance, his insurance company is billed for the visit but he rarely has

to pay a copay. Veterans without insurance are billed according to their income and type of care needed. Most copays are nominal. If a veteran is indigent, he is seen without charge. All clinic patients are eligible for the prescription program which means patients pay \$7 per 30-day supply of each medication.

Patients referred to another VA facility or hospital can get transportation from the clinic if necessary. Birmingham is the closest VA hospital.

"A lot of guys, when they leave the service, are trying to deal with all kinds of things — family details, moving, transportation, housing. They don't realize how important the medical report is — that they should sit down and go through their years of service and put down everything that happened. That broken leg they had four years ago may not bother them now but it may be a problem when they get older. They need to be sure and list everything, just in case it comes back on them later."

Besides assisting with claims, the chapter has a lending closet for wheelchairs, walkers and crutches. They operate a food pantry which provides free food to veterans in need. They own a van at the Tut Fann State Veterans Home used to transport veterans on outings. They also provide assistance to veterans' widows by getting the paperwork filed and informing them of additional benefits.

"There are other benefits, like education," Boyer said. "If a veteran was a legal resident of Alabama and his initial enlistment was in the state of Alabama and he was at least 20 percent disabled at the time of his death, his children can go to any state supported institution free. The benefits vary from state to state so you have to know what your state offers."

Getting information out to the veterans is also a primary concern for Boyer. If the veterans don't know about the benefit, how can they use it? Boyer also encourages veterans who don't necessarily need to use the clinic to become members anyway. Funding for clinics, like the new one opening soon in the Madison area, is determined by the numbers of people in the system.

"This GS-14 working out at the Arsenal may never set foot in the clinic but he

should become a member," Boyer said. "There are people out there who need it. If the numbers aren't big enough for funding, we lose the service, and some people can't do without it."

Boyer is also concerned at the aging membership of the DAV. Most of the members are World War II and Korean War era veterans. It's organizations like this that put the veteran's voice before Congress to keep and increase support for veterans.

"We need young people to come in and get involved," Boyer said. To be a member, a veteran must have at least a 10-percent compensable rating from the VA. "It doesn't have to be a war wound or a bullet. It doesn't matter how long or where you served. But if we don't start getting a new generation in here, we're going to lose clout with Congress."

Family members can join the DAV auxiliary. Huntsville chapter auxiliary members are active in the community with volunteer work at schools and the Tut Fann State Veterans Home.

"We make goody bags for the veterans at Tut Fann," Joan Monroe, commander of the state DAV auxiliary, said. "We help in any way we can. Membership also means we can stay informed of all the new information coming out about benefits."

The Huntsville DAV Chapter 26 meets the first Monday of the month at the American Legion Post 237 Annex, 3806 Colonial Park Circle in Huntsville. A free dinner, prepared by the DAV auxiliary, is served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7.

"The food is absolutely delicious," Boyer said. "And nobody is going to ask you for money. Visitors are welcome. Just come on out. We have a good time."

Funds for the local chapter come through the annual Poppy sales at places like Wal-Mart and the Post Exchange.

Boyer retired from the Army in 1976 then came to work at the Arsenal as a calibration technician. He retired in 1999. He also joined the DAV in 1976 where they quickly put him to work as a service officer and he has been involved in the organization ever since.

For more information or claims assistance, call the DAV office at 883-7314. The VA Clinic number is 533-1645.

Easy Credit Terms - Nationwide Warranties
Free undercar inspection
\$20 Instant Rebate
Valid for most regularly priced services! Expires 3/15/02 at participating Meineke locations. Not valid with any other offer or for oil, lube & filter, winterize or rotate and balance. Must present coupon at time of estimate.
CV Shafts • A/C • Oil Change • Brakes • Shocks • Struts • Coil Springs & lots more.
10033 S. Mem. Pkwy - 882-0365

Laser Vision Correction

Laser Vision Correction can reduce your dependence on glasses or contacts in a matter of seconds. See if you are a candidate for Laser Vision Correction by calling EyeCare Madison.

There is Only One Number To Call 1-800-990-EYES (3937)

NEARSIGHTED ?
FARSIGHTED ?
ASTIGMATISM ?

EYECARE
MADISON

9238 MADISON BLVD., SUITE 100
MADISON, AL 35758

Put Your Future In Your Hands

Please Apply for next class start

The Therapeutic Massage Program at Virginia College at Huntsville

- Swedish • Deep Tissue • Neuromuscular
- Kinesiology • Eastern Modalities
- Biomechanics • 1290 Contact Hours
- Preparation for NCBTMB exam

Preparing students for an engaging career in Therapeutic Massage
Please call (256) 533-7387
Financial Aid available for qualified students

Virginia College at Huntsville
2800-A Bob Wallace Ave

www.vc.edu

Win or lose

ROTC cadets outrun Marine Reservists in unit basketball

**A&M Bulldog Battalion
beats Cannoneers 51-41**

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

The ROTC basketball team, representing Alabama A&M University's Bulldog Battalion, proves youth can prevail.

ROTC improved to 9-4 in the troop league by beating K Battery, 4th Battalion, 14th Marines 51-41 on Feb. 19 at Pagano Gym.

"I think basically we stayed in a 3-2 zone and we pretty much boxed out and rebounded pretty good. And we kept our intensity up," ROTC coach Robin Livingston said. "We kept running with the ball."

Charlie Mack III, a 6-foot forward, led ROTC with 11 points. Darold Belcher, the 6-1 center, and Demondrae Montgomery, 5-10 guard, added 10 points apiece.

"It was a pretty physical game but we held our composure," Livingston said. "I guess we didn't let anything get under our skin and we finished out the game."

ROTC led 25-18 at halftime. K Battery 4/14th Marines pulled within six points twice during the game - once in each half.

The Cannoneers (4-7) got a game-high 16 points from forward Damian Cason.

"I know he had a good hand but we didn't get the ball to him enough in the first half," Cannoneers coach Gregory Hearn said. "And we took too many 3-point attempts in the game. We went to the 3-pointer a bit too early."

The ROTC cadets, 10-4 by Friday and second in the Eastern Conference, are having success with their fast-paced style. Their starters include Mack, Belcher and Montgomery; Toussunt Trammell, a 6-foot forward; and Christy Maxwell, a female 5-6 guard.

"I think one of the main reasons (for their success) is they're young, they're full of energy as far as playing a sport," Livingston said. "They pretty much follow your guidance as far as coaching them and they're pretty disciplined. They know the fundamentals of the game and they just play good together - I'd have to say the speed, too."

Here were the troop basketball standings as of Friday:

Eastern Conference - HHC 59th (10-2), ROTC (10-4), Charlie (8-4), Bravo-1 (8-4), Marines (7-6), K Battery 4/14th Marines (4-7) and Charlie 1st of the 167th (the gate guards) team-1 (2-9).

Western Conference - Delta (11-2), AMCOM (9-3), NCO Academy (6-7), Bravo-2 (5-8) and Charlie 1/167th team-2 (3-11).

Redstone Rocket wants to hear from readers

In an effort to generate reader feedback, the *Redstone Rocket* is running a continuous coupon for opinions on how to improve the newspaper.

Please provide your comments in the space provided. The identification information is optional; we'd like to be able to contact you for more information if necessary. The coupons can be faxed to 955-9138 or mailed to the Aviation and Missile Command, Public Affairs Office, AMSAM-PA, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 35898.



Name: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

Comments on the *Redstone Rocket*:



New! Friday Beginner Group & Party!

Want to learn a few basic patterns and techniques?

Just looking for a place to practice?

Call for more information!

2315-B Triana Blvd. 551-0155

studio@dancesporthsv.com

http://www.DanceSportHSV.com

DanceSportHSV

**GEICO
DIRECT**

BEING CALLED UP? MOBILIZING? DEPLOYING?

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
ABOUT YOUR CAR INSURANCE,
CALL YOUR GEICO DIRECT REPRESENTATIVE TODAY.**



If you've had a recent change in your duty status, get in touch with GEICO immediately. We offer: Discounts for active duty, guard, reserve and retired military • Offices near most military bases • Reduced coverage for secured/stored vehicles • Emergency deployment discounts. We've served the military since 1936 and we're standing by you now. Call us.

(256) 837-0551 | 6210-C Old Madison Pike | Huntsville
One block west of Space & Rocket Center

Government Employees Insurance Co. • GEICO General Insurance Co. • GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. GEICO auto insurance is not available in MA or NJ. GEICO, Washington, DC 20076. © 2001 GEICO

Post profile

Command's small business office has healthy bottom line

More than \$700 million awarded to small businesses in fiscal 2001

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

When a Huntsville electronics plant decided to move its work to Mexico, Sharon Newton had to make a decision. She could go south of the border and keep her job, or find work around here.

"I'd worked for that plant 18 years," Newton said. "My family was here. I didn't want to take my daughter to Mexico. It wasn't really a choice."

A year ago she went to work for Neal Industries Inc., a manufacturing and machine shop in Woodville, just east of Huntsville, as a machinist's helper. The company's mainstay is government contracts for building and sometimes designing hardware for the military mission. Contracts include blank firing adapter kits for SHORAD, tube assemblies for testing at Redstone, helicopter parts, machine gun covers and laser mount assemblies for the 50-caliber machine guns.

"I love what I do here," Newton said. "I'm learning a lot."

Newton's paycheck underscores the importance of the small business initiative going on at the Aviation and Missile Command and its tenant and related activities. At a time when companies are shutting down or moving out, small businesses can survive with the help of government contracts.

Last year AMCOM's contract awards totaled about \$6 billion. Of that \$700 million was awarded through the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Program.

"That's good news," Mit Merritt, chief of the Small Business Office, said. "We worked with about 750 contractors nationwide last year and we're always looking to expand the pool."

The SADB office supports small businesses in an effort to have direct contracts. This helps maintain a large pool of specialty businesses that can and are willing to perform smaller jobs and services that the Lockheed Martin and Raytheon-type prime contractors aren't inter-



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS—Machinist helper Sharon Newton works at Neal Industries Inc. in Woodville, a small business that is working on several government contracts to provide items such as Blank Firing Adapter kits for SHORAD, coupling assemblies and bell cranks for helicopters, and laser mount assemblies for machine guns.

ested in doing. Many times small businesses work as subcontractors to the prime but the small business office assists these companies in getting their own contracts as well.

A congressional mandate sets a national goal that a "fair proportion of total purchases and contracts" for all government agencies go to small/disadvantaged businesses. The current goal is 23 percent. AMCOM met their target in FY '01 as part of achieving the larger goal.

Defining a small business isn't difficult, but it is complicated. It is not determined by gross revenues or a set number of employees across the board. Each type of business has its own thresholds listed in a reference book, "North American Industry Classification System," depending on the requirement or nature of the work.

Other criteria provides a basis to be included in the SADB program.

Such businesses include women-owned, service disabled veterans, 8a companies certified small or disadvantaged from the Small Business Administration, National Industries for the Blind/National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NIB/NISH), Alaskan Native and a relatively new category Hubzone.

Neal Industries fits several categories—woman owned, 8a and Hubzone.

"Hubzone has been around about four years," Merritt said. "It's a new community-based economic development program designed to stimulate the economy and create jobs in economically distressed locations."

SADB recruits for new businesses as well as putting out the word of the types of jobs and services the government needs, hoping to make a connection for small businesses — everything from manufacturing to high tech services.

"We go out to small business fairs across the country and we get folks coming in daily from all over, large and small business, looking for opportunities," Merritt said.

The biggest challenge to the job, according to Merritt, is contract bundling, which is a consolidation of contract requirements by federal agencies that become so large and diverse that a small business can't do it. It's done to save money but at the same time, works against the goals of awarding small business contracts.

"We met our goal last year," Merritt said. "I'm optimistic that we'll make the goal this year. One of the reasons is the senior level support for this program. The command group chartered a senior council for small business concerns comprised of senior representatives from the major players at Redstone. This is the first year for the council and I believe it's going to be a good thing. It gives the small business program a lot of visibility with the senior managers. That's important."

The Small Business Administration has a web site for small businesses called PRO-net at <http://pronet.sba.gov>. This provides information on how to register in the system and can be used as a marketing tool to provide profiles of businesses for consumers. Procurement opportunities are also listed at this site.

Rick's Transmissions 32 Years Experience
Automatic Transmission Specialists

FREE Towing w/Major Repairs

All Makes • All Models
Automatics • Standards • 4WD • Differentials
12 Month Unlimited Mile Warranty on Rebuilds
Clutches • Brakes • Electrical • Drive Axles

10% Off for RSA Personnel

534-0948 1 Day Service On Most Cases • Mon.-Fri. 9AM-6PM

Explosives Safety Training

- Mar 4-6 Ammunition/Explosives Certification Tag Huntsville
- Mar 4-8 Forty-Hour Explosives Certification Tag Huntsville
- Apr 10 Explosives Safety Refresher Training RSA, AL
- Apr 29-Mar 1 Ammunition/Explosives Certification Tag Huntsville
- Apr 29-Mar 3 Forty-Hour Explosives Certification Tag Huntsville

> Promote safety awareness > Attain or maintain certification
 > Increase technical knowledge > DoD and contract analysis
 > Enhance career development > AIC-B 356-3 & ATEC-B 345-1

AMTEC CORPORATION
(256) 722-7200
fax (256) 722-7232
safety@amtec-corp.com
www.amtec-corp.com

ALL ABOUT WIRELESS
"connecting your worlds"

- FREE Nokia Phone
- FREE Long Distance
- FREE Nights/Weekends
- Pre-Paid Phones
- Pre-Paid Cards
- Nationwide Paging
- 2-way Email Paging

1042-A Winchester Rd.
746-9006
Mon-Fri 10-6pm • Sat 10-4pm
Authorized Retailer

SunConn Sprint PCS

LOWEST MORTGAGE RATES AVAILABLE

6.25%
15 yr. fixed
0 discount points

6.625%
30 yr. fixed
0 discount points

4.875*
30 year amortization
3 year fixed
Annual adjustments thereafter

★ REFINANCE 1st & 2nd Mortgage
★ VA RATE REDUCTION
★ PURCHASE

539-0707

MortgageALABAMA

*Loans over \$75K rates subject to change
2806 6th Street • Huntsville, AL 35805
Locally Owned Since 1989

U.S. soldiers re-enlist at Afghanistan air base

First five sign up in Kandahar unit

Editor's note: Two days after the re-enlistment and shortly after this article was written, several 101st soldiers were involved in a firefight on the air base's perimeter. Intruders with Kalashnikov automatic rifles attacked after dark Feb. 13. Cpl. Anthony Mata of C Company, 2/187th Infantry, reportedly rushed through a barrage of tracers to shield his wounded platoon leader and pull him to safety.

By Spec. DAVID MARCK
Army News Service

KANDAHAR AIR BASE, Afghanistan — "I don't think there is anything more patriotic you can do than re-enlist in a combat zone — absolutely nothing compares," said Col. Frank Weircinski, commander of Task Force Rakkasan, before he administered the oath to four of five soldiers who re-enlisted Feb. 11.

Raising their right hands in front of Kandahar International Airport were: SSgt. Scott M. Weaver, SSgt. Stanley L. Richardson, Sgt. Vincent T. Talamantes, Spec. Armando Acevedo Jr. and Spec. Adrian M. Hollar.

They were the first soldiers to re-enlist in the Army while deployed with Task Force Rakkasan, part of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Staff Sergeant Weaver said I'd have to start a war to get him to re-enlist," Weircinski added with a smile. "I'll do anything to keep a good soldier."

"I told them the only way I'd re-enlist is if we get into some kind of combat situation," said Weaver, an intelligence analyst for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, who chose an indefinite re-enlistment. "I'd hate to put in 10-plus years, and when the real deal comes around, walk away from it."

The length of the re-enlistments ranged from four years to an indefinite amount of time, and all of them had different reasons for choosing to stay.

"I've got twins on the way," said Acevedo, a Rio Grande City, Texas, native who is a communications chief with 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, here. "I figured if I re-enlist now, I'll have the benefits to help them out."

"I still don't know about making the Army a career," he said. "I'll have to talk to my wife about that later. I had to get permission to do this."

Richardson, on the other hand, has decided to go ahead and work toward serving at least 20 years. An ammunition NCO with 2nd Bn., 187th Inf. Regt., who already has 10 years of active duty under his belt, the Talladega, Ala., native opted for an indefinite re-enlistment.

"I went ahead and finished it out," Richardson said. "This is what I've been doing ever since I've been out of high school. This is what I love."

"My benefit is being able to do this for another 10 years," he added proudly.

Talamantes, a team leader for Co. A, 2nd Bn., 187th Inf. Regt., has been enlisted for over three years and has similar motivations. He chose to re-enlist because he wants to do more for his country.

"I've been able to see a lot of places my friends haven't, and I've been able to do a lot of things that I

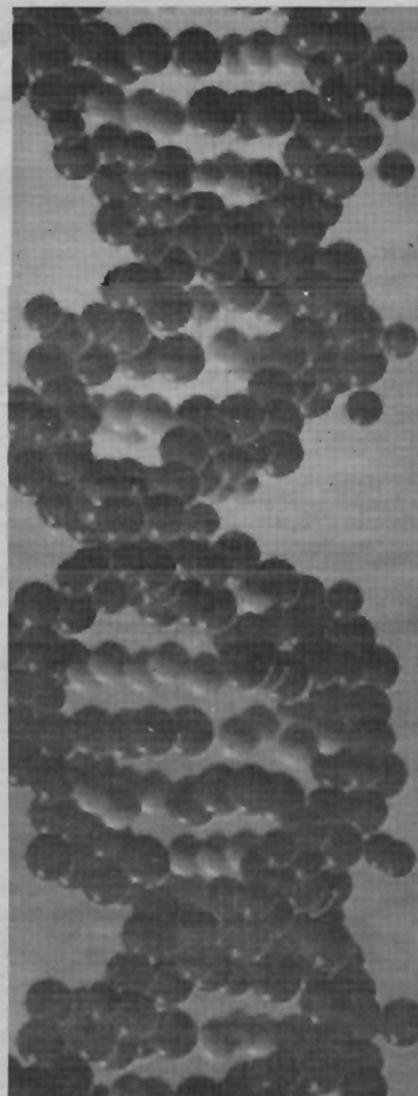
wouldn't have been able to do otherwise — but just to serve my country is benefit enough," Talamantes said.

"I still have the same feeling and butterflies as I did when I enlisted the first time," he added, "and I also have the same sense of pride."

Editor's note: Spec. David Marck is a member of the 314th Press Camp Headquarters reporting from Afghanistan.



PFC Jeremy W. Guthrie/314th Press Camp Headquarters
CHECKPOINT— Pvt. Eileen Schnetzka of the 511th Military Police Company, 10th Mountain Division, stands watch in a Humvee at a checkpoint at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. Schnetzka, who is from York, Pa., is deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Nuovo Technologies, Inc. is a Sun Microsystems™ Value Added Reseller Enterprise Computing Certified company.

We can supply you with the most recent equipment, installation, upgrades and technical support for any Sun™ system. Our certified Competency 2000 Level staff can assist you with the most difficult problems that you may have when operating your Sun™ system and software. Even the toughest strains can be run on any Sun™ Server.

DUNS: 96-777-4886 ~ FED ID: 59-3419783 ~ CAGE CODE: 09FG4
1900 Hwy 87, Suite 7 ~ Navarre, FL 32566
Phone: 850.939.1548 Fax: 850.939.5885
<http://www.nuovotech.com>

Why get a clone when you can have the original?

Sun, Sun Microsystems, and the Sun logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc. in the United States and other countries.



**VALUE ADDED
RESELLER
ENTERPRISE COMPUTING
CERTIFIED**

Soldiers should decide by March 1 on retirement bonus option

Those eligible under plan get retirement pay early

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The first soldiers eligible for a \$30,000 bonus must decide by March 1 whether they want the new Career Status Bonus/REDUX retired-pay plan.

Under the CSB/REDUX plan, soldiers essentially receive \$30,000 of their retirement pay early, at least five years before hanging up their uniforms, a personnel official said.

The March 1 deadline for the bonus applies to soldiers who began their service after July 31, 1986, and before March 1, 1987. They must select between either the High-Three or CSB/REDUX retirement options.

A few soldiers already opted for the CSB/REDUX plan when they signed up for the Thrift Savings program, officials said. They explained that soldiers are supposed to make the decision by the 15th anniversary of their entry into service, but the initial deadline was delayed until March 1.

Choices about such options need time and careful thought, said Gary F. Smith, former chief of Army Retirement Services in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. He described the career-status bonus as smart for someone who will invest the \$30,000 wisely.

"It would not be smart for someone who will use the bonus to run out and buy

a car," Smith said.

Many soldiers are unsure which retired-pay plan they are covered by, personnel officials said. They explained that three different plans are currently in use. The plan a soldier uses is determined by his or her DIEMS, or Date Initially Entered Military Service.

Soldiers with DIEMS before Sept. 8, 1980, receive a percentage of their final basic pay. Those with DIEMS on or after Sept. 8, 1980, receive a percentage of the average of their highest 36 months of basic pay, referred to as the High-Three formula. Soldiers with DIEMS after July 31, 1986, may choose between the High-Three and Career Status Bonus (CSB/REDUX) formulas. Each formula begins with the number of years of creditable service, officials said.

A notice will appear on qualifying soldiers' Leave and Earnings Statements alerting them that they must choose a formula. The choice cannot be changed once made, officials said.

Soldiers choosing the CSB/REDUX option receive a \$30,000 career-status bonus during their 15th year of service and agree to serve five more years. Retired pay then equals the number of years of creditable service multiplied by 2.5 percent, minus 1 percent for each year of service under 30, multiplied by the average of the soldier's highest 36 months of basic pay.

At age 62, retired pay will be recomputed under the High-Three formula, but will not be retroactive. Under

The career-status bonus is smart for someone who will invest the \$30,000 wisely. "It would not be smart for someone who will use the bonus to run out and buy a car."

— Gary F. Smith
former chief,
Army Retirement Services

CSB/REDUX, the longer one stays on active duty, the closer the percentage multiplier is to what it would have been under the High-Three formula, up to the 30-year point at which the percentage multipliers are equal.

The \$30,000 career-status bonus is subject to federal and state taxes. According to the Internal Revenue Service's elective deferral limit, citizens may shelter up to \$11,000 in tax-free savings programs such as the Thrift Savings Plan in 2002.

Misunderstandings about health care for retirees are also common, according to Army personnel officials.

"One of the reasons people join the military is because they think they'll have free medical care for the rest of their lives," Smith said. "But retirees are living longer now and the military has downsized."

To take or decline the Survivor Benefit Plan is perhaps the soldiers' toughest retirement decision, Smith said.

"Initially, it looks like a lot of money

going into something you don't automatically see the value of," Smith said. "And some soldiers think they'll be better off investing the money elsewhere, but they don't, leaving survivors without income protection when the soldier dies."

An Army retiree himself, Smith recommends that soldiers take their children's needs into account when choosing whether to move or to stay in the same location as their final duty station.

"Moving around is often harder for kids than it is for adults. They have to say goodbye to friendships just like we do," Smith said.

Since many retirement benefits continue for family members after the retiree departs by death or divorce, soldiers should give their loved ones an active role in retirement planning, Smith recommended.

A proactive attitude is Smith's advice for a smooth retirement. "Don't be afraid of retirement. It's natural to be anxious," he said. "But go into it with a positive attitude and be proud of yourself. That will make the experience so much more pleasurable."

Editor's note: This article is an excerpt from this month's "Hot Topics" insert in Soldier's magazine. The special insert is dedicated to the memory of Gary F. Smith, former chief of Army Retirement Services, his deputy Max Beilke, and the Army's former Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel Lt. Gen. Timothy Maude. The three were meeting about the retirement program when terrorists crashed a jet into the Pentagon and killed them Sept. 11.

At PAYLESS OPTICAL OUTLET

Our Prices Are ...

NO BULL!

\$29⁹⁵
Single Vision
PACKAGE

\$69⁹⁵
Bifocal
PACKAGE

Bring in this coupon
when ordering
and receive...

\$5 OFF

UV Scratch Coat
& Tint Package

with purchase of complete pair of
eyeglasses (Frame with Lenses).

PACKAGES
INCLUDE

Plastic Lenses with Frame

- COMPLETE -

Choose from Hundreds on Display!

Progressives, Transitions and Other Lens and Frame Products At Similar Savings!

*All normal fit's up to +4.00 diopters sphere and -3.00 diopters cylinder. Add up to +1.00. Plastic lenses only. Eye exam not included.

QUALITY EYEWEAR AT **AFFORDABLE PRICES!**

HUNTSVILLE • 975 Airport Road SW



Next to
Books-A-Million

(256) 882-2040

Call for Additional Locations in Alabama and Other States!

TOMORROW

Columbo Artists Presents **RAMONDA**

MOSCOW GRIGOROVICH BALLET
Choreographed by Yuri Grigorovich
Former Artistic Dir. of the Bolshoi Ballet
COMPANY OF 85

MARCH 6, 7:30 PM
VBC Concert Hall

This company will perform the full-length classical ballet masterpiece, *Ramonda*. The Moscow based company has leading dancers from across Russia along with stars of the Bolshoi.

Tickets on sale now at VBC Box Office or Ticket Master outlets (incl. Publix), Ticketmaster.com or call 1-800-277-1700.

Presented by Huntsville Community Ballet Association.

This program has been made possible by a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Remember when little girls wore
lace pinafores and minded
their manners?

Memories of Childhood
Patricia

It is 1948 and a demure four year-old
shows off her prettiest dress, her favorite
doll, and her best behavior.

RETIRED

Brooks Dolls & More

614 Madison St. Suite 2 - Huntsville
Corner of Madison and Lowe's
www.brooksdolls.com
539-3656

Collection of the Master™
by Richard Simmons

Army materiel commander surveys research and development lab

Gen. Paul Kern expresses interest in work under way in California

By ARTHUR RAGOSTA
For the Rocket

MOFFETT FIELD, Calif. - Gen. Paul Kern, the newly appointed commander of the Army Materiel Command, recently visited the Aeroflightdynamics Directorate, located at the NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field. Kern received his fourth star and assumed the duties of AMC commander last Oct. 30.

Prior to this assignment, he served as the military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology and was the senior military adviser to the Army acquisition executive and the Army chief of staff on all research, development and acquisi-

tion programs and related issues.

During his visit, the general was briefed on the unique facilities and personnel at Moffett Field, including the cooperative working relationship between NASA and Army personnel. The general and his wife were treated to tours and project briefings at the laboratories of the flight control and cockpit integration and aeromechanics branches of the NASA/Army Rotorcraft Division. Researchers from the Army and NASA presented overviews of their work in the fields of flight controls, human systems integration, advanced aerodynamics, and autonomous rotorcraft.

The general and his entourage took advantage of the location of Moffett Field in the heart of Silicon Valley to visit the campus of Stanford University and several small, high-tech firms providing information technology of potential benefit to the Army Materiel Command.

The general showed enthusiasm for the work being

performed at Ames, at times interjecting suggestions for areas of cooperative work and frequently asking questions about limitations in current technology. He discussed plans for his new Science and Technology Command and displayed interest in applying more techniques from biological sciences in aviation work. Additionally, he expressed satisfaction with the cooperative work that will lead to improved reliability, availability and maintainability.

The Army Materiel Command is responsible for the procurement and logistical support of vehicles, clothing, weapons and expendables for the Army. The Aeroflightdynamics Directorate is a research and development laboratory of the AMC subordinate Aviation and Missile Command headquartered at Redstone Arsenal.

Editor's note: Ragosta is chief of the Research Support Division in the Aeroflightdynamics Directorate at the NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif.



Win a Vacation

to one of over 30 destinations

We will draw a winner for a
FREE Vacation
every week, all year long.

Look for official rules elsewhere in this section

Win a vacation - Fill out this form and drop it by one of the participating businesses on this page.

No purchase necessary

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (H) _____ (W) _____

A drawing will be held each week at one of the participating businesses. Visit all the businesses to increase your chances to win!
Only one vacation awarded per individual per year.



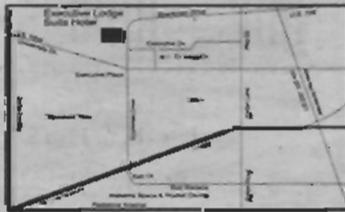
Your Home Away
From Home

- Per Diem Rates
- Ask About Our Executive Club

1535 Sparkman Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35816
(256) 830-8600 • FAX (256) 830-8899

1 (800) 248-4722

Major Credit Cards Accepted



Headaches? Tension? Numbness?
Neck, Arm or Low Back Pain?

We Can Help!

Dr. Tracy Bagwell

State & National Board Certified
Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician

Accepting: Federal Blue Cross • Blue Shield • Mail Handlers • Blue Cross Blue Shield
• Namci • Wausau • Aetna • MedNet • PHCS • And Others

2227 Drake Avenue • Suite 13 • Huntsville AL • 880-8833
Located 1 mile west of Parkway - Braham Springs Professional Village

15% OFF MENS & LADIES SUITS

ULTRACLEAN CLEANERS

2719 PATTON ROAD • 539-4724
(Corner of Bob Wallace and Patton Rd.)

Sabghi's

YOUR EXCLUSIVE DIAMOND MERCHANT

Jewelry REPAIR month...
...going on now

\$19 VALUE!

RING REFURBISHING

\$7.99 (Expires 3/8/02)

\$19 VALUE!

Make your Rings LOOK NEW!

REFURBISHING INCLUDES:

- Professional Cleaning
- Stone Inspection and Tightening
- Straighten Prongs & Check Prong Tips
- Re-Round Rings
- Professionally Polish
- Replace Original Pattern Finish* (*Refurbishing cannot replace laser or machine-cut finishes.)

ALL OTHER JEWELRY REPAIRS 20% OFF

Stadium Place • 3030 S. Memorial Pkwy. (Next to Applebee's) • 880-2810 • 880-2155

First class of logistics assistance reps completes training

By MICHAEL R. JOHNSON
LAR training coordinator.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas - Corpus Christi Army Depot conducted a graduation ceremony for the first Aviation and Missile Command logistics assistance representative Depot Aviation Maintenance training class Feb. 1.

Blaine Withers, deputy to the commander, presented the LARs a certificate of Phase One completion. Corpus Christi's certified instructors provided advanced training on depot general orientation and overview, use of precision tools, T55-L-712 engine in-depth disassembly and assembly, basic and advanced blueprint reading, T700-701 engine in-depth disassembly and assembly, geometric dimen-

sioning and tolerancing, AMCOM engineering support, and basic and advanced sheet-metal repairs. With the acquisition of a T55-714 training/depot maintenance work requirement verification engine (coming soon), the LARCCAD training will be updated to this new engine. This new 714 engine training and all aforementioned subjects are open to interested Corpus Christi employees.

A second group of AMCOM LARs was to arrive Feb. 2 as part of the second pilot Depot Aviation Maintenance training program. This Phase One training familiarizes field logistics personnel with depot operations, processes, quality control and quality assurance, providing individuals insight and knowledge to depot operations and processes that will enhance their knowledge to better

serve the customer in the field.

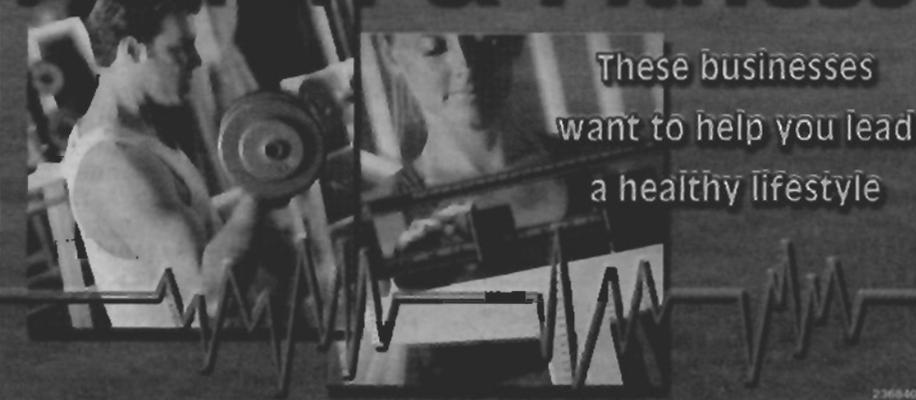
This program evolved from an idea by Larry Simone, Corpus Christi business development office, (currently chief of aircraft production division, directorate of maintenance) to provide depot level training to the logistics assistance representatives. As LAR training coordinator, I refined and expanded this into the present Phase Two program. With the support of Tom Ingram, readiness director, Norbert Lutz, logistics assistance division chief, Col. James Budney, Corpus Christi commander, Blaine Withers, deputy to the commander, and Greg Martin, Corpus Christi training and data branch chief, and the technical instructor abilities of Bob Jones, Tom Diaz-DeLeon, Mel Dobbins, Alfredo Torres, Danny Ybarro and Neil Garvin, the

training plan became a reality.

The Corpus Christi training program is part of the AMC/AMCOM LAR University and is expected to run five years and provide training to every field LAR and the new LAR interns. The AMCOM LAR maintenance intern program is being developed to provide Corpus Christi employees and others that may not fully qualify as journeyman level LARs (GS-12) an opportunity to become LARs through a formal intern program. AMCOM LARs fill emergency essential positions and are worldwide mandatory mobile.

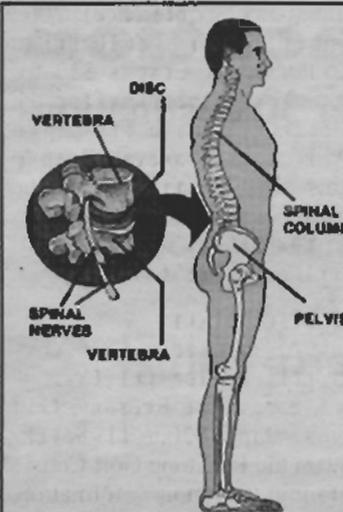
Editor's note: Rick Hunter, Corpus Christi Worldwide National Maintenance Program Office, was also instrumental in developing the LAR training program.

Health & Fitness



These businesses want to help you lead a healthy lifestyle

Meet your back.

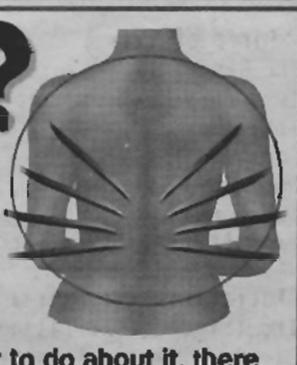


THE SPINAL COLUMN
The spinal column is a series of 24 individual movable bones which begin at the base of your skull and end at your hips. The spine is formed like a series of building blocks with cushions in-between. The discs allow movement and absorb shock. Exiting from the vertebrae are 31 pairs of spinal nerves which control the various organs and tissues.

ARTHRITIS
There are many forms of arthritis which affect the spine and other joints. A common type is osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis may thin the spinal discs and create bony spurs on the vertebrae which can cause pain and pressure on the spinal nerves and surrounding tissue. Chiropractic manipulation often can help restore flexibility and reduce discomfort.

Jones Valley Chiropractic
881-1011

Back Pain?



Huntsville, AL - Most people have no idea what to do when they experience back pain; they use heat, ice, sleep on the floor, even take pain pills hoping their pain will go away. The more you don't know, the more likely you may experience serious disc or nerve injury. If you are tired of suffering and don't know what to do about it, there is a Free eye opening Report that has just been released.

For your FREE copy call toll-free 1-888-688-6897
24-Hour Free Recorded Message

Weight Loss



I looked like this before I lost 202 lbs. in 11 mo. with this all natural, special formulated fat burning kit. Come in and see me and I will discuss your personalized fat burning kit with you.

only **\$79.95**
10% to 20% OFF

- No Program Fees • No Pre-Packaged Food • All Natural
- Weight Loss
- Hormone Issues
- Sexual Energy
- Sport Nutrition

CyberSports nutrition

We Deliver!
1641 Sparkman Dr. • 830-4234
The Pro Shop Inside Cosmo's Fitness
Info@nutrition.com • www.canutrition.com

Charles Smitley

FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF AGAIN



Nutritious Diet
Safe & Effective Medication
Physician Supervision
Individual Counseling

50% off
1st visit
by mentioning this ad

Hours:
Tue. & Thurs. 8am - 7pm
Wed. & Fri. 8am - 5pm

DR. VITKIN'S WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC
7531 South Memorial Parkway ~ Suite B ~ Huntsville ~ (256) 880-2902
fax (256)442-1465 email: vclinic@aol.com

Did You Know Most BCBS Will Cover Chiropractic Care?

Did you know Tricare for Active military will also cover chiropractic care?

FREE CONSULTATION

Health Check
for new and existing patients
\$150.00 credit

This health check entitles the bearer to \$150 credit towards examination, x-rays and/or treatment. No obligation. Cannot be used on services already rendered. Limit one health check per patient. Excludes Medicare/Medicaid patients. With coupon only. Expires 2-28-02

Back Pain • Leg Pain • Arm Pain • Headaches • Numbness & Tingling • Tendinitis • Whiplash • Arthritis • Sports Injuries • Auto Accidents

Jones Valley Chiropractic Clinic
7900 D-2 Bailey Cove Rd. SE **881-1011**
(Across from Grissom High School)

Dr. Curt P. Summers

Preferred Provider
BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama
The Mail Handlers Benefit Plan

Sports & Recreation

Baseball trip

Attention Cardinals and Braves fans: The annual CWF Council-sponsored baseball bus trip to Atlanta is Aug. 2-4. The ballgames are Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Stadium seats are in the air-conditioned Lexus Box level, which is in the yellow area of the Turner Stadium seating chart on the Internet. The bus will depart Redstone Arsenal (parking lot at Goss and Bomford Roads) at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 2 and return Sunday evening, Aug. 4. Food and beverages on the bus will be provided by the Civilian Welfare Fund Council. Accommodations are at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The cost for the weekend package is \$185 per person based on double occupancy. Depending on interest of the group, they may tour CNN headquarters in Atlanta on Sunday afternoon. A small tour fee would be extra. A deposit of \$85 per person is required with your reservation. Call Mary Ann Meyer-Schuck, CWFC trip coordinator, 313-5924 for reservations and more information.

Duathlon

The 3D Duathlon, 5K run/25K bike/5K run, will be held 9 a.m. March 16 at Hampton Cove. The 3D Research Corporation is sponsoring this inaugural event to benefit the Huntsville Hospital Foundation. Cost is \$25 for individuals and \$40 for relays, or \$35 and \$50 after March 1. For more information, call race director David Drenning 533-9620 evenings or register online at www.active.com.

Hunter certification

All hunters wanting to hunt on Redstone Arsenal and anyone born on or after Aug. 1, 1977 must show proof of completion of a state certified hunter education course

before purchasing their hunting license. To accommodate the Redstone community, Outdoor Recreation will sponsor a certification class from 6-10 p.m. Feb. 27, 28 and March 1 at the old post theater. The course will include hunter responsibility, wildlife laws, wildlife management and identification, firearms safety, archery, muzzle loading, basic survival and first aid. You must attend all three class dates. To pre-register, call Bill Parks or Missy Ruffner 876-4868/0302 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Golf tournament

The Redstone Chapter of the United States Army Warrant Officer Association announces the WAMTEMC (Worldwide Ammunition, Missile, TMDE and Electronic Maintenance Conference) 2002 Golf Tournament, March 12 at 10 a.m. at Redstone Golf Course. Cost is \$30 for non-members, \$16 for members; and the price includes cart. Format is four-person scramble, A, B, C and D player. Open to everyone, this event is sponsored by the Ordnance Corps Association and the Warrant Officer Association. To register call CWO 5 John Blackmon 876-6221.

Ladies golf association

The Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association will hold a "Tee Off Coffee," March 6 at 9 a.m. at the Redstone Golf Course. Membership is \$20. All ladies eligible to play on the Redstone Golf Course are invited to join. For more information, call Kathy Newton 772-8603.

Aviation support conference

The Aviation Ground Support Equipment (AGSE) Weapons Systems Management Office at Redstone Arsenal will hold the third annual AGSE Users Conference, June 3-7 at Fort Campbell, Ky. The theme this year is "Focus on the User." Attendance is intended for aviation officers,

NCOs, and enlisted personnel from throughout the aviation community. The focus June 6 is on the maintainers. Issues important to the community will be collected for discussion at the conference. E-mail user issues by April 6. For more information on the conference, housing options, display availability, or user issues - e-mail Maj. Hank Isenberg at henry.isenberg@redstone.army.mil, or Doug Cowart at doug.cowart@redstone.army.mil.

Test and evaluation days

The Army T&E Days 2002 Conference, "Responding to Asymmetrical Warfare: The New Reality for Test and Evaluation," will be held June 11-13 in the South Hall, Von Braun Center. All test and evaluation, acquisition, and industry personnel are encouraged to attend. An exhibit will be held in conjunction with the conference. For more information call the host office, AMCOM T&E Management Office, Michael McFalls 876-3462 or Sherry Hilley 842-6715.

Conferences & Meetings

Alcoholics anonymous

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets each Thursday at 11 a.m. in Sparkman Center building 5304, room 4309. For information call 313-1478. The Redstone Arsenal group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets each Wednesday at noon and Friday at 5:15 p.m. in room 11 of Bicentennial Chapel.

Retired officers

The Retired Officers Association will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Jennifer Tilgham of G.L. Smith and Associates, financial planners. For more information, call retired Navy Cmdr. Matthew C.F. Boenker 885-4274.

Operations research section

The Redstone Arsenal-Huntsville Military Operations Research Section announces its February meeting "Predicting Combat Effects" presented by Dr. Dean Hartley, author. Hartley will discuss his new book titled "Predicting Combat Effects," which analyzes hundreds of historical battles to



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

Ordnance ball

Ordnance Ball 2002, scheduled March 15 at 6 p.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club, will include a cake-cutting ceremony like this one from last year's ball. Scheduled speaker is Maj. Gen. Mitchell Stevenson of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., the Army's chief of ordnance. A choir from Lee High School will perform patriotic tunes. Cost is \$25 per person. Make checks payable to the Ordnance Ball Committee (no refunds after March 12) and mail to ATSK-BX, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, building 3458, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 35897. For more information on the 190th ball, call 1st Lt. Rasheed Muwwakkil of 832nd Ordnance Battalion 842-9143 or 876-7597.

determine whether there are any consistent formulae for predicting combat effects. The meeting is Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Officers and Civilians Club, ballroom 3. Lunch begins at 11 and the presentation at 11:45. For more information, call Mike Tomlinson 864-8355.

Logistics and supply

The Logistics and Supply Chain Management Training Conference is March 19 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. This event is co-produced by the Association for Enterprise Integration (AFEI) and Market Access International. For more information call Vicki Orendorff, Market Access, (703) 807-2747.

See Announcements on page 16



Photo by 2nd Lt. Dallas Wood Higgins/CAP

Winning squadron

The Cadet Color Guard from the Redstone Composite Squadron, Redstone Arsenal, tied for first place with the Maxwell Composite Squadron in the Alabama Wing 2002 Color Guard Competition at Maxwell Air Force Base. Cadet MSgt. Matthew Hulseay, left, salutes as Cadet TSgt. Christine Bloom presents the American flag to the color guard judges. The competition events included Physical Fitness, Uniform Inspection, Drill and Ceremonies, Present the Colors outdoors and indoors and an Aerospace exam.



Charles Woods, M.D.

Are You a Candidate?

LASIK Open House
Thursday • March 7 • 5:30 pm

Offers 15% discount to BCBS Federal Employees

The EyeCenter

256-705-3955 or 800-233-9083
401 Meridian Street, Suite 200
Huntsville, AL 35801