

Redstone Rocket

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Army in action



Sentinel radar delivers the complete picture

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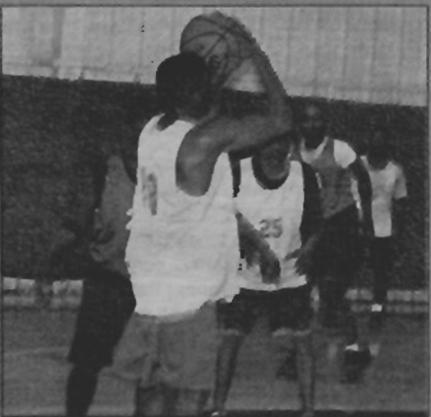
Post profile



Patriotic songwriter shows true colors

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Win or lose



Bravo Bulldogs win postseason tourney

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Aging work force a general concern

AMCOM commander sees retiring expertise

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The commanding general is concerned that the average age of the AMCOM work force is 47, within a decade or so of retirement.

After seven months in office Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, sees this as top priority. He's concerned about finding a way to retain the expertise the command will soon lose.

"I think the highest priority is rejuvenating the work force, or revitalizing the work force," Dodgen said in a March 25 interview with the *Redstone Rocket*. "Huntsville and AMCOM in particular has been a marvelous place for technological expertise, first in missiles for sure and lately in aviation. And the work force that has served this nation in great stead and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future is actually getting old."

See Expertise on page 8

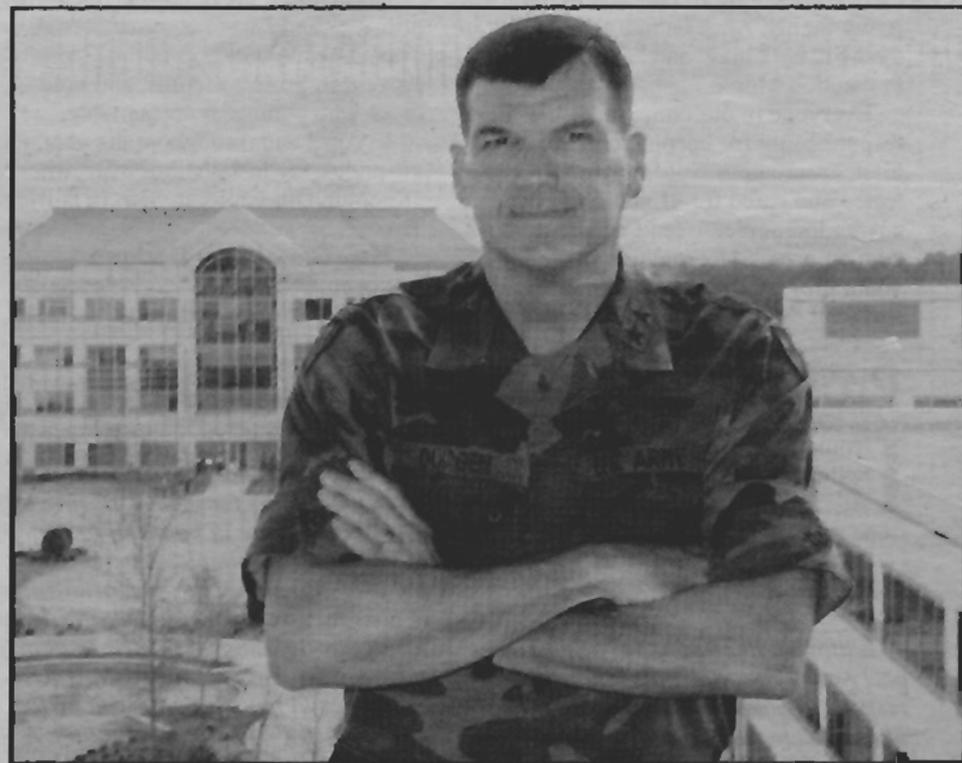


Photo by Skip Vaughn

LOOKING TO FUTURE— Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, wants the command to recruit and train young replacements for the many workers who will retire within the next decade.

Brothers in arms reunite at Fort Benning after 35 years

Redstone worker helps bring together ex-soldiers from throughout nation

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

These men became family in 1966. Six months of living together, fighting together, training together, surviving together had bonded these 169 soldiers for life. March 7, 1967 these privates and sergeants graduated Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., and became leaders of men.

Most of them survived Vietnam. Most, but not all. Ten graduates and two tactical officers are among those listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

Just over a year ago, one of the former officers from that graduating class, Redstone worker Robert Usher, began researching the names of those he served with, an interest sparked after the traveling Vietnam Wall made a stop in Huntsville.

"I got on the Vietnam Wall site and looked up one of the names of the guys from my class — 6th platoon mate 1st. Lt. Bill Zimmerman. He was KIA in 1968," said Usher, who works in the Security Assistance Management Directorate at Redstone. "I clicked on his page and found a note left by another guy in our class who happened to be my roommate at OCS."

Brian Smith left his e-mail address on the note and Usher contacted him "just to touch base." The two decided to see how many men from their OCS class they could locate and see if anyone was interested in having a reunion.

"It sort of turned into a contest," Usher said. "We stayed in touch, almost daily, gloating over our new finds. The list kept growing. Now everyone was contacting everyone. A reunion was in the works."

March 7, 35 years to the day after graduation, 49 former officers along with their families gathered at Fort Benning to honor the 12 who had fallen in battle, rekindle

See Brothers on page 11



Courtesy photo

ROOMMATES REUNITED— Thirty-five years after graduating from Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., classmates Robert Usher, left, Redstone worker, and Brian Smith, organized then attended a reunion for their 1967 OCS class at Fort Benning March 7.

April is 'Child Abuse Prevention Month'

We live in difficult and changing times, and we are dedicated to meeting these challenges. As the installation commander, it is my responsibility to make sure that every soldier, civilian employee, and family member has the support necessary to achieve our mission. Today, I want to focus on our children.

April is the month when we celebrate the well-being of all children in our Army family. April is both the "Month of the Military Child" and "Child Abuse Prevention Month."

Everyone in our community has the responsibility for keeping children safe. First, ensure your children are safe, protected and cared for. If you don't have any children, please lend a hand to those who do or volunteer to help in a child or youth program in our community. If you and your family can be foster parents or

adoptive parents, consider this and contact our Family Advocacy Program Manager at Army Community Service, 876-5397. If you see any child abuse, report it; it is Army policy.

Strong, caring families are resources for our Army community and, when our children are protected from harm, our soldiers can bring their full attention to the mission.

Child abuse prevention is one of my priorities and I want commanders at every level to take appropriate steps to prevent it, protect victims, and hold those who commit it accountable.

In April and throughout the year, join me and Army installations everywhere in "Keeping Our Children Safe in Difficult Times."

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen
commander,
AMCOM and Redstone

Process simple for naming buildings

I would like to know are there any buildings, roads, or parks, etc., named after any African American at Redstone Arsenal? What are the criteria?

Jesse Draper
Military Personnel

Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following response. "Presently, we are not aware of any roads, buildings or parks on post named after African Americans. There are numerous buildings and roads on Redstone Arsenal that have been memorialized (named) for individuals. In 1985 the Redstone Arsenal Support Activity along with the Public Affairs Office named many roads after Vietnam veterans from this area that were killed in

action. The ethnic background of these individuals was not known.

"The process for memorializing a road or structure in honor of an individual is relatively simple. A person must be deceased unless the memorialization is congressionally mandated, i.e., Howell Heflin Buildings. The person should have had an impact on Redstone Arsenal either in the mission arena or the overall support of the installation. A nomination should be forwarded through the Garrison Commander, Redstone Arsenal Support Activity, Attn: Col. Brent Swart, AMSAM-RA, Building 4488, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 35898 to the Commanding General, Building 5300, AMSAM-CG, Redstone Arsenal for approval."

Recalling 50 years of Redstone Rocket

My name is Analoyce Tipton and I have worked at the Von Braun Center for the last 29 years and Huntsville is my home. In 1959 or 1960, I was one of those scantily clad female workers who had their picture in the *Rocket*. I posed at the Railroad Museum by bales of cotton in a

bathing suit. I carried that picture in my wallet until approximately a year ago and my wallet was stolen out of my office here at VBC. I was saddened about the loss of that picture. That Taylor guy took it. Anyway, old times.

Analoyce Tipton
Von Braun Center

Volunteers deserve community's thanks

National Volunteer Week was established by executive order in 1974 as an annual celebration of volunteerism. This year, April 21-27 has been designated National Volunteer Week. During this week we take time to thank the many volunteers who contribute their time and talent to improving the quality of life in our community.

This year's national theme, "Celebrate the American Spirit, Volunteer," reflects the resolve of the American tradition of neighbor helping neighbor. It applauds the significant role volunteers play in helping others and in resolving social issues through their compassion and willingness to get involved.

Without volunteers, many services we enjoy would not be possible. Volunteers

support our community through human services, health care, and education. They help guide our children through mentoring, scouting, religious education, and sports programs. They help beautify our surroundings. Our outdoor life and recreational programs are supported by volunteers; and our civic organizations raise funds for scholarships, space camp, special events, disaster relief, and welfare in the community.

On behalf of the entire Redstone Arsenal community, I am proud to recognize our fine volunteer force and join others throughout the country who, this week, celebrate volunteers.

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen
commander,
AMCOM and Redstone

Consideration of Others really works

This anecdote (which actually happened!) is offered up as proof that: 1) CO2 awareness is increasing on the Redstone campus; 2) you can teach old dogs like me new tricks. If you decide to publish it, my old friends at AMCOM will probably roll over in their retirement condos, because they would probably remember me as a guy whose first reaction to institutional stupidity (government or contractor) was always a string of 4-to-8 letter words uttered in the nastiest and loudest tone possible. Additionally I have always made a point of telling my government and contractor friends that in my opinion, CO2 is the

ultimate victory of style over substance because it can be so easily misinterpreted as teaching: "Don't discipline the person who habitually commits acts of gross mis-, mal-, or non-feasance; hut do discipline the person who gets so angry at these acts that he or she finally loses his or her temper."

Anyway, it was Tuesday around 8 a.m. and I had been up since 1 trying to figure out where our system test of an SB70020 rewrite was having problems.

I went into the coffee room to get a cup of coffee; and because I was trying

See Consideration on page 11

Military retirement event memorable

I reached for that familiar light blue shirt with contrasting dark blue trousers, the ones not unlike those I had reached for on most mornings for the past 20 years and seven months. This morning I also added my matching dark blue tie and the coat garnished with medals, ribbons, rank and U.S. insignia that normally stayed hidden in a zippered garment bag. Still nothing too out of the ordinary, it was certainly an outfit I had worn before, but somehow this time would it would be different. For this would be my last official function as an active duty officer in the Air Force. It

would be a day I had looked forward to and dreaded all at the same time; it would be my retirement day.

It was a warm, humid Georgia morning and dawn was barely breaking as I strained to grab one last glimpse of my family and girlfriend through the window of the bus. We pulled out of the recruiter's parking lot and I was whisked down I-85 to the Atlanta Military Entrance Processing Station. Before I realized what was happening, I found myself standing in the even greater

See Retirement on page 11

Redstone Rocket

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Military Personnel family gets modern home near troops

Open house set April 11
at office's new location

By SSgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer
sharon.mcbride@redstone.army.mil

The Military Personnel Office, formerly near the Redstone Fitness Center on Patton Road, has moved to Roadrunner Road, buildings 3493 and 3494.

"The old building was dilapidated and beyond repair," Eather Moore, chief of personnel services branch, said. "Over here we have more space, and the building is cleaner and more modern."

MILPO is in what used to be the Dental Clinic. The clinic moved into Fox Army Health Center last year.

"Right now it can be a little inconvenient for our customers until they find where we are located," Moore said. "But they will find we are now easier to get to."

MILPO is now directly across from the Thrift Shop and adjacent to the Military Clothing and Sales parking lot.

The new location is ideal for the hundreds of trainees that attend school on the Arsenal, Moore said.

"They no longer have to cross Patton Road to get to us," she said. "They have to march; and at certain times of the day, traffic on that road can be a challenge."

Besides convenience for MILPO customers, including students, active duty soldiers, retirees and their dependents, the move helped improve the morale of the staff, Moore said.

"We no longer have to deal with old, musty smells or worrying about the roof caving in," Sarah Trial, MILPO officers records technician, said.

An open house is scheduled for April 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and take a tour of the facility.

"There will be finger foods and punch so come enjoy," Trial said. "Come and eat and enjoy some time with the MILPO family."

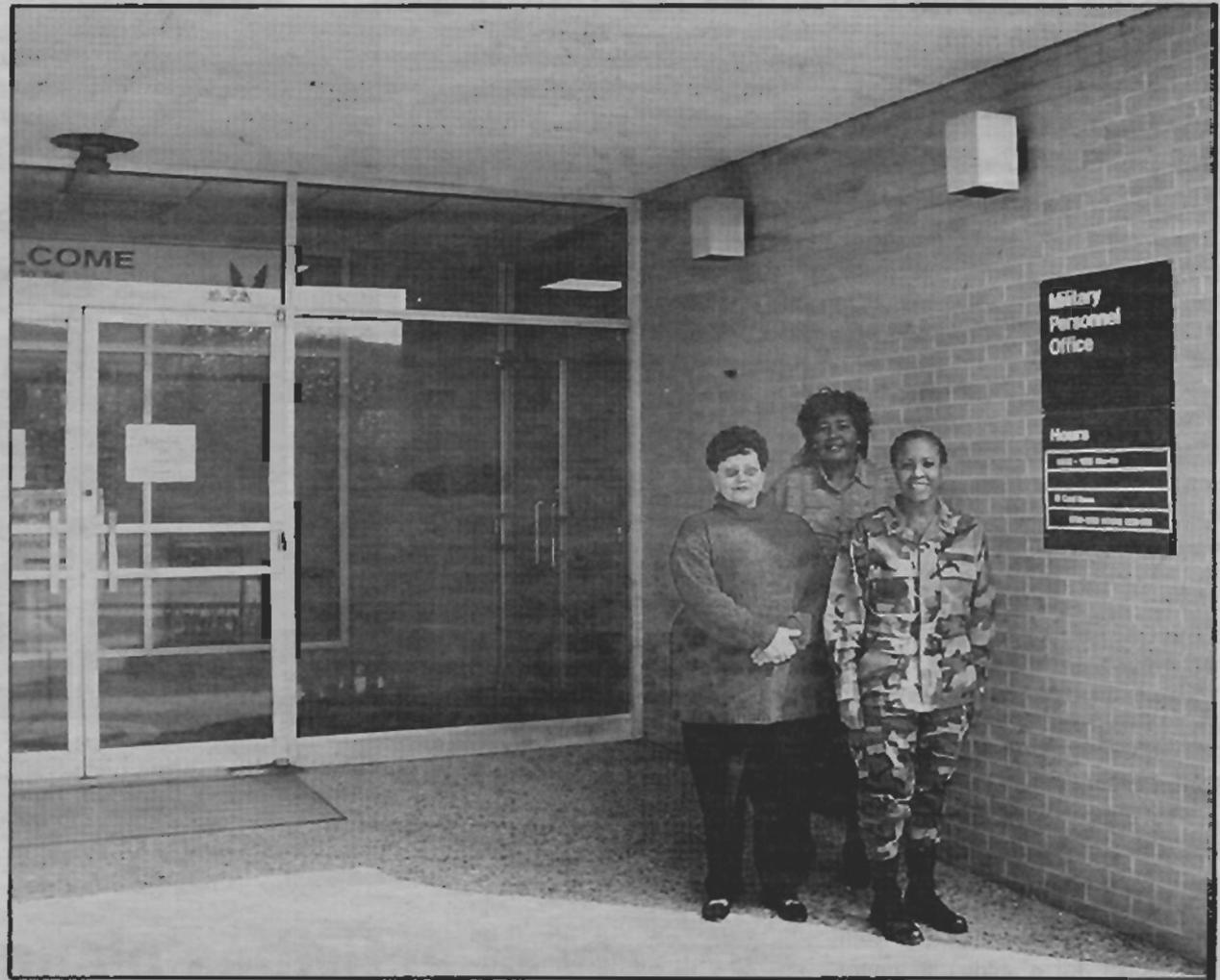


Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

MOVING ON UP— From left are Sarah Trial, officers records technician; Eather Moore, chief of personnel services branch; and SFC Loleithia Gordon, military personnel NCO-in-charge. The Military Personnel Office has moved to Roadrunner Road, directly across from the Thrift Shop. An open house is scheduled April 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ORIENTATION FLIGHT— Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, receives a briefing Friday before an orientation flight in an AH-64 Apache. The pilot, Maj. Rob Johnston, flew the helicopter Thursday from Fort Eustis, Va., along with co-pilot/gunner CWO 5 Craig Ernst. After the one-hour orientation flight, they refueled at Redstone Airfield before returning to the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate at Fort Eustis.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LIFTOFF— The AH-64 Apache, piloted by Maj. Rob Johnston of Fort Eustis, in back seat, lifts off from the Sparkman Center helipad on an orientation flight for Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, in front seat.

Fund-raising events on tap to benefit Army Emergency Relief

Program has assisted 105 people locally with more than \$92,000 since January

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@himes.com

Upon request Kristi Foster, Army Emergency Relief officer, pulled the most current stats from her computer concerning soldiers helped through AER this year.

"From January to today (March 27 at 10:30 a.m.), we've had 102 assists," Foster said. "Last year from January through March we assisted 85. So we're up 17 so far this year with two soldiers waiting in the lobby right now."

By the end of the day, the count was up to 105 assists totaling \$92,932.32 in interest-free loans and grants.

"Life is unpredictable sometimes," Capt. Joseph Davis, commander of Headquarters and Alpha Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said. "I don't have the exact count here but I know that over the last two years I've had easily 30 or more soldiers who've gotten help from AER."

Requests include anything from travel money for a soldier to return home in time of emergency to money for a car repair.

"If he's a junior soldier with a family and only one car and it breaks down, getting it repaired is very important," Davis said. "AER loans can help."

And what about the soldier just coming into the Army or for someone returning after having been out a few years? There's a gap in time between their last civilian paycheck and their first Army check. Some soldiers need a little help until that first check arrives.

No matter what the situation, every request is evaluated by the soldier's chain of command to assure that it's a

legitimate need. "It's always based on taking care of the soldier and what's best for the soldier," Davis said.

Soldiers, however, are not the only beneficiaries of AER. Widows and retirees are also eligible for assistance through the program. Some of those 105 assists this year have been widows.

"This is a good program," Davis said. "A necessary one. You never know when something is going to happen and you're going to need some help, or when your buddy may need AER. Wouldn't it make you feel good to know you contributed?"

Campaign contributions as of March 27 were \$14,508. The goal is \$50,000.

During the campaign, March 1 to May 15, every active duty soldier should be contacted and offered the opportunity to contribute. Civilians can't be solicited but donations are welcome, either directly or through the support and organization of fund-raisers.

There is always someone "waiting in the lobby."



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS— Capt. Joseph Davis, Headquarters and Alpha Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, right, talks with Sgt. Chris Shuffitt, operations sergeant, about giving every soldier in the unit the opportunity to contribute to the Army Emergency Relief fund.

Variety of activities planned for AER

The following is a list of planned fund-raising events for AER:

- Thursday** — Bowl-a-thon at the Rocket Lanes from 1-4 p.m., Christal Howard 876-2073.
- April 11** — car wash and bake sale in the parking lot of building 5301 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- April 15-29** — book sale in building 5300, second floor (Command Analysis Directorate), from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., for donations call Brian Barry 842-9909.
- April 18** — Bowl-a-thon at the Rocket Lanes from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., DeShannon March 842-9144.
- April 24** — car wash in rear parking lot of building 5250 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- April 25** — bake sale at the Military Personnel building 3494 and a plant sale at the Sparkman Center.
- April 27** — band concert at the Rustic Lodge.
- April 30** — RASA Fun Day at building 4438 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- May 1** — Fun Run/Walk at the Sparkman Center at 1 p.m., Kellie Mayfield 876-9236.
- May 3** — IMMC golf tournament at the Redstone Golf Course at 8:30 a.m., Ron Walton 876-4336 or Nadine Manderson 842-0172.
- May 8** — celebrity car wash at the AAFES garage from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in organizing an event, call Kristi Foster at 876-5397.

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I AM SAM (PG-13) 4:00 9:35	THE DOTS	*SORORITY BOYS (R) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15
BLACK SWAN DOWN (R) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50	THE DOTS	DRAGONFLY (PG-13) 1:15 7:00
ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS (R) 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20	THE DOTS	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED (R) 4:00 9:30
DEATH TO SMOCCO (R) 1:00 4:05 7:05 9:45	THE DOTS	*GOSFORD PARK (R) 1:10 4:10 7:00 9:30

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Reserve unit families get early start on possible activation

Chemical battalion spouses begin family support group

By SSgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer
sharon.mcbride@redstone.army.mil

Helping soldiers and their families prepare for the unexpected — that's what an Army family support group is all about, according to Ann Owens of Army Community Service.

"Family support groups are mainstays for all active duty units," Owens said. That's not always the case for Reserve or National Guard units. Because Reserve units traditionally drill only one weekend a month and two weeks out of the year, starting a family support group within such units can be a challenge.

But the 4th Chemical Battalion/100th Regiment within the 3rd Brigade/100th Division, an Army Reserve unit with several soldiers serving on Redstone, is leading the way in starting a family support group before the need arises.

"This unit is not waiting to be activated before thinking about a family support group," Owens said. And since Sept. 11, more and more Reserve and National Guard units are being called to serve full time.

Once activated, Reserve and National Guard soldiers and their dependents are



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

GETTING READY— The 4th Chemical Battalion/100th Regiment within the 3rd Brigade/100th Division, an Army Reserve unit with several soldiers serving at Redstone, is starting a family support group before the need arises. From left Brenda Parry, wife of CSM John Parry, and Denny Dalton, wife of 1st Lt. Garry Dalton, get family support group videos from Ann Owens at Army Community Service.

eligible for the same benefits as their active duty counterparts. That's a fact that many don't always know. "That's where the family support groups come in," Owens said. "To educate and inform."

Brenda Parry, wife of CSM John Parry,

and Denny Dalton, wife of 1st Lt. Garry Dalton, have taken the first steps in getting a group started for the 4th/100th.

The 4th/100th has members in Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee and is basically responsible for

instructing other Reserve and National Guard units who have been activated in the nuclear, biological and chemical arena.

"We make sure everyone is trained and ready to go," CSM Parry said. "That's our peacetime mission. But we know because of Sept. 11 anything can change. With Homeland Defense in effect we see our National Guard and Reserves are playing a more active role."

"We have family members spread out over five states," Dalton said. "So right now we are just trying to put information out, and hopefully we will start meeting on a more formal basis."

"Some family members might think, 'my soldier won't get activated,'" Owens said. "But you can never know for sure, and since Sept. 11 it's wise for all units to have some type of program in place."

Family support groups help with financial planning, legal matters, maintenance issues, issues in taking care of children, and any kind of emergency that families might have while their soldiers are away. And for the 4th/100th, taking care of their families is a priority.

"We want our families and soldiers to know that we can help them in figuring out where to go and who to call if the need arises," Brenda Parry said. "We're not waiting to start getting the ball rolling."

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Equal opportunity adviser serves as commander's 'eyes and ears'

EEO Office soldier arrives from Korea

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

The newest addition to the Equal Employment Opportunity Office is a soldier who just returned to the states from Korea.

SFC Adriano Vasquez succeeds retiring SFC Annie Bryant as the equal opportunity adviser, the office's military member. Vasquez served the same role the past two years for U.S. Army Support Activity Area III at Camp Humphreys in Pyontaek, Korea.

"We (as equal opportunity advisers) are change agents," Vasquez, 41, from New York City, said. "Change agents are people that help individuals see how actions impact on other individuals whether they be positive actions or negative actions. I'm the eyes and ears for the commander. I'm just somebody who basically sees what's going on, hears what's going on and tries to give the commander the information required to implement the Army's directive to treat everybody under its umbrella with dignity and respect.

"The EEO program encompasses making sure that everybody is judged basically on merit, fitness and capabilities," he added.

A graduate of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, Vasquez entered the Army in May 1984. He received an associate degree in business management from the University of Maryland in 2001. Vasquez attends Columbia College toward earning a bachelor's degree in business management from Maryland; and his goal is finishing in September.

Vasquez completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and then advanced individual training for administrative specialist. He finished airborne school and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. That was followed by six years in Korea. Next he was assigned to the 89th MP Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, and deployed with that unit to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War. After returning to the states, he was assigned again to Korea. He returned to Fort Jackson and served as a drill sergeant from 1997-99 before another tour in Korea.

His son, Adrian, and daughter, Marie, are 7-year-old twins. His hobbies include reading, fishing, martial arts, horseback riding, hunting and "any outdoors kind of stuff." He belongs to HHC AMCOM.

"My goal is just to assist the commander in ensuring that we have an environment that's free of any discriminatory practices based on any of the protected categories," Vasquez said.

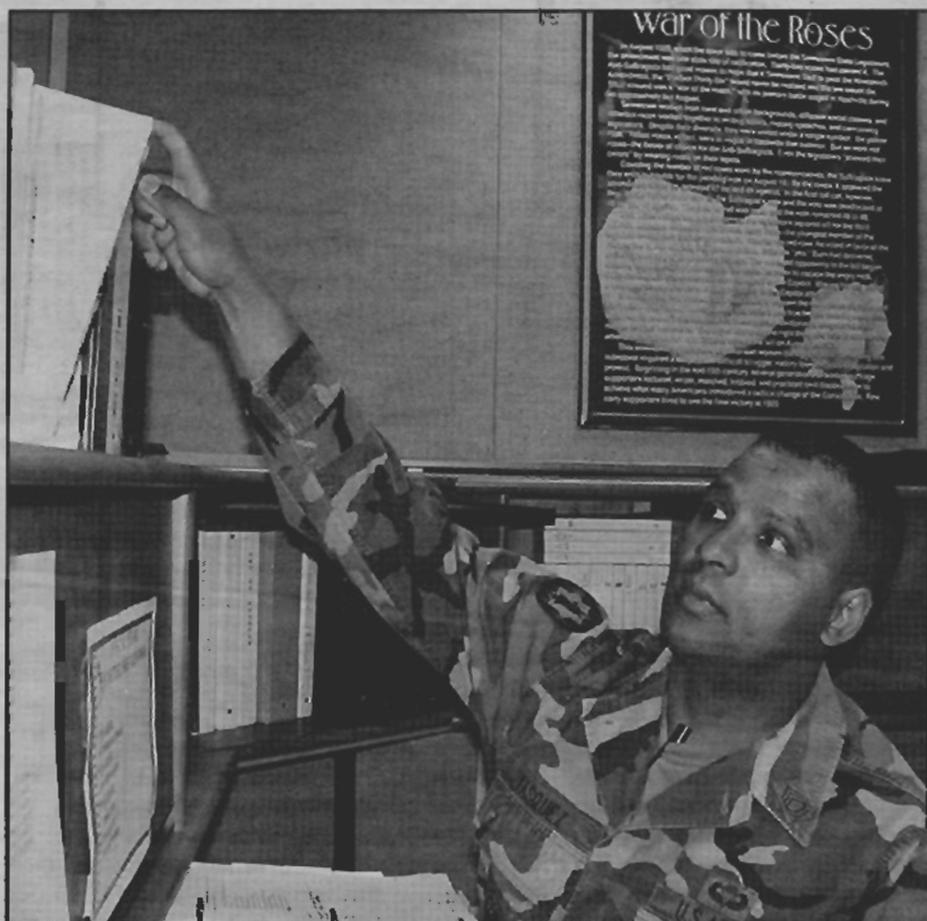


Photo by Skip Vaughn

DOING RESEARCH— SFC Adriano Vasquez is the equal opportunity adviser in the Equal Employment Opportunity Office.



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Shawn Harris/ Photo Lab

West Point briefing

Capt. Clifford Hodges, West Point admissions officer, addresses soldiers here at a breakfast March 22 in the Officers and Civilians Club.

Army Times newspaper to honor Soldier of Year

SPRINGFIELD, Va. — *Army Times* is proud to announce the second annual *Army Times* Soldier of the Year Award. In association with AT&T and Fisher House, *Army Times* will honor the soldier who best embodies the finest qualities of the men and women serving in today's Army.

The award is designed to recognize a special soldier who has shown unusual or heretofore unrecognized honor, valor and dedication to fellow soldiers and the community during 2001. *Army Times* will honor this "everyday hero" of the Army, one whose efforts unselfishly and consistently go above and beyond the call of duty at a ceremony on Capitol Hill. Maybe this soldier is someone who jumped in to help out in a desperate situation or someone who has helped an important cause. The newspaper staff is looking for someone who is always ready to lend a hand, who sees what needs to be done and unselfishly does it, or that person who inspires and motivates others to be better people.

The *Army Times* Soldier of the Year Award is particularly meaningful because the winner is selected from the nominations of soldiers themselves, the readers of *Army Times*. Nomination details and ads should be available online at www.armytimes.com/soldier.

Nominations must include: your name, address, commercial phone number and e-mail address; your nominee's name, address and commercial phone number; your nominee's current unit commander's name, address and commercial phone number; in 300 words or so, please describe why you feel your nominee deserves this award — nothing fancy, just make it legible; and names and contact information of three people who can verify the achievements of your nominee. Nominees must be active duty, Guard or Reserve through June 14, 2002. Deadline for nominations is April 12.

Nominations may be sent: online to www.armytimes.com/soldier; e-mail to soldier@armytimes.com; mail to Soldier of the Year Award, *Army Times*, 6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, Va., 22159; or fax to Soldier of the Year Award, (703) 642-7325.

Someone you know deserves this award. It might be a soldier in your platoon or simply someone you've admired from afar. (For once, rank is irrelevant.) *Army Times* Soldier of the Year winner and honorable mention recipients will be announced in *Army Times* this spring. An awards ceremony on Capitol Hill will follow in May. Maybe you know a soldier who inspires and motivates others to be better people and better soldiers.

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Dorothy Moore/Photo Lab

Modernization talk

Jim Filnn, deputy to the commanding general of AMCOM, delivers a "Logistics Modernization" presentation at the March luncheon for Society of Logistics Engineers. SOLE provides an opportunity to meet leaders in the defense logistics community and become aware of the challenges facing logisticians today. For more information on the group call Emma Louise Cooper, vice chairman for administration, at 955-9789.

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General says workers should focus on force protection

Expertise

continued from page 1

So command officials have to think actively about replacements and about building a work force for the future, according to Dodgen. "And you're going to have to talk about bringing young folks in," he said.

"In addition the Army is going through transformation. We're going to have to bring in more skills," Dodgen said. "So in addition to revitalizing the work force, there's going to be some training. And that's going to take some thought and some effort to bring in the right people."

A revitalization program will be unveiled at a future town hall meeting. Dodgen said the changes will be as seamless as the QDR cuts, with people making voluntary decisions. The work force will be kept informed. "It's a concern for everybody and I don't think we should be surprising the work force," Dodgen added.

Decisions within the next year "will determine if Huntsville, AMCOM, will retain the level of technical superiority we've had and grown accustomed to over the last 50 years now."

Dodgen said he continues to be impressed by the AMCOM work force. "What amazes me more and more as we work issues is the immense amount of talent in the command. There are a lot of capable people here. They're very supportive of the soldier in the field. Quite frankly I have met less than 10 percent of the work force, but the 10 percent I've met is top-notch in every regard. I'm very confident in this particular work force and how well we're organized."

But he also sees room for improvement. He mentioned a need for more partnerships with the people the command works with including the program executive offices, the folks in the field who receive support, the fellow agencies in the Army Materiel Command, and contractors.

"I would say the way ahead is not to work issues in a vacuum," Dodgen said. "Work issues with partners."

Upon assuming command Sept. 10, Dodgen said his initial goal was to see how the command does its work. More than half a year later, he has drawn a conclusion about its present and future.

"I think things work very well here. But while we're very well postured for today, that doesn't mean we're postured for the future," he said. "The Army's going through transformation to a force for the future. And I think the logistical base will have to be transformed in conjunction with the Army. They'll have to become more responsive and the logistical imprint we put on the battlefield will have to become smaller. The way we do that is better management techniques at our level, much better partnerships with contractors, and maybe thinking of ways

this logistical process will have to be sorted through."

With changes under way Armywide, some AMCOM workers have expressed concern about their job security. Dodgen said they should not be worried.

"I think the future of Huntsville and Redstone is very bright," he said. "The Army's reorganizing. It's a means to find the optimum integration that will serve the Army the best to ensure that our funding is very effectively spent. For the most part they're all reorganizations that will not affect the places where people work. They're reorganizations that will affect mostly the people that you work with. So I don't see many relocations."

A move toward regional management of Army installations is part of the transformation process. Seven regions will oversee installation management in an effort to streamline bureaucracy. Under the new structure, garrison commanders will have more authority over funding, resources and their people, according to the Army. Redstone Arsenal is part of the Southeast region at Fort McPherson, Ga., under this structure to begin in October.

"I'd had concerns originally because I was afraid the garrison would be drawn more toward regionalization than serving the men and women who live and work here," Dodgen said. "But after reviewing the plan, those concerns were unfounded on my part. I think you'll see better service - maybe not here at Redstone because the service is already superb - but across the Army. So I'm very comfortable with regionalization."

Members of the work force should continue to be focused on force protection, according to the commanding general. "We're still in a war. There are still bad actors in this world. And just by observation, we all have a part to play," he said. "And I certainly appreciate the patience that everybody has shown since Sept. 11th. A big part of that has been our National Guardsmen (activated from a Cullman-based unit to serve as gate guards). Kudos to them and to all in the security force here at Redstone. The second thing is the work force for AMCOM in particular, and that extends to the PEOs, needs to ensure the soldiers in harm's way have everything they need to get their job done."

Dodgen sees a continuing vital role for AMCOM and Redstone, with plenty of room for growth. But the command must also be ready for the future.

"We have to continue to maintain the level of the work force that will serve the future here at AMCOM," he said. "If I were to tell the work force one thing: Before you get ready to retire and get your just rewards for a great career, think about who's going to take your place."

"We're happy to be here," Dodgen said. "It's a great command, it's a great place to live and work, filled with great people. And I just come to work and love to meet somebody new everyday."

Sentinel radar gives complete battlefield picture from ground up



Courtesy photo

EYE IN THE SKY— The Army's Sentinel radar provides a 3-D picture of airspace low to the ground to detect, track, classify, identify and report low flying airborne threats that other radars can't see.

System serving overseas in addition to stateside

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@himes.com

There's no flying "under the radar" when the Army's Sentinel is on the job. Detecting low-flying threats is precisely what it's designed to do.

"The Sentinel 'sees' from the ground up, under what most other radars can detect," Lt. Col. David Cook, product manager, Sentinel Product Office, said.

The radar was one of the first assets to be deployed to Afghanistan not only for its unique ability to provide low-level search in mountainous terrain but also because it's easily deployed. Right now the system is deployed in support of several contingency missions including Bosnia and Kosovo as well as stateside missions for Homeland Defense.

Sentinel is a three-dimensional radar used to automatically detect, track, classify, identify and report airborne threats including fixed wing, rotary aircraft, cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles. Traditionally the Sentinel works with the Avenger, Stinger (manportables) and

**Systems for the field
Part 6 of series**

the Linebacker, to provide an air picture of the battlefield.

Sentinel also works with other radars, both military and civilian, as a means to "complete" an air picture. Federal Aviation Administration radars can view up and out great distances but don't pick up low flying aircraft. Sentinel has an acquisition range of about 40 kilometers from the ground to about 6,000 feet.

Two Sentinel radars were used, along with military and FAA radars, in safeguarding the airspace around Salt Lake City during the Winter Olympics.

"More than 30 flights were detected entering the no-fly zone around Salt Lake City," Cook said. "The radar was able to cue Air Force (aircraft) and Black Hawks which intercepted or rerouted the flights."

Providing support to the units for contingency missions, whether at home or abroad, is the No. 1 priority for the product office, managed under the Short Range Air Defense Project Office.

"This staff does an outstanding job,"

See Radar on page 10

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HHC 59th soldiers top competition for postwide honors

*NCO of Quarter,
Soldier of Month
belong to brigade*

By SSgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer
sharon.mcbride@redstone.army.mil

Soldiers from HHC 59th Ordnance Brigade made a clean sweep in the latest Redstone NCO of the Quarter and Soldier of the Month competitions.

Sgt. Ronald Steele won NCO of the Quarter for the third quarter, and Pvt. Loniel Greene is the Soldier of the Month for March. The results were announced during a March 21 luncheon at the Officers and Civilians Club.

"Early in my Army career I didn't want to be an NCO," Steele said. "But at my last duty station my supervisor set me down and talked to me. He said as long as I was going to be in the Army I might as well excel. I took what he said and ran with it."

Steele enlisted in the Army as a 71L or administrative specialist. He currently works as the brigade's personnel service sergeant. He said he decided to join the Army because he had nothing better to do.

"After high school I was doing nothing," he said. "I was just sitting around. A lot of my friends were getting into trouble." Steele grew up in Moss Point, Miss., under the supervision of his grandmother, Louise Waxton. He has been in the Army for four years.

"I like everything about the Army from the time I get up to the time I go to bed," he said.

Steele is preparing for the NCO of the Year competition by reviewing regulations and his own study guide. "I'm also

going to refresh my training on land navigation and spending extra time at the gym to pump up my score on my PT test," he said.

See Honors on page 14

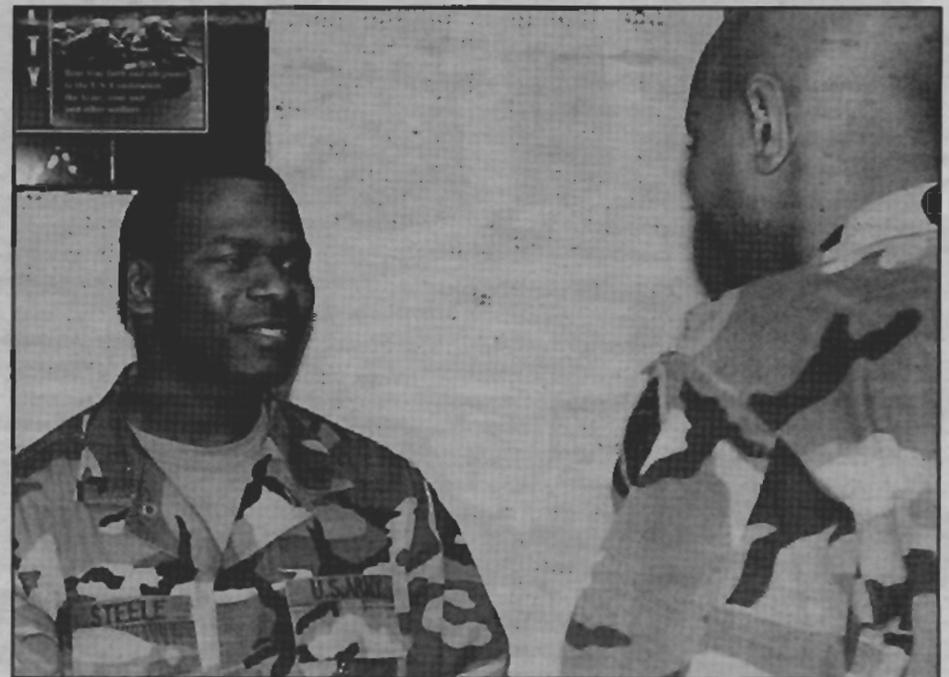


Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

NCO OF THE QUARTER— Sgt. Ronald Steele of HHC 59th talks with another soldier in brigade personnel. Steele was named NCO of the Quarter for the third quarter.

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

Fielding of three-dimensional radar began in 1997

Radar

continued from page 9

Cook said. "When I asked for volunteers to support the system (in Afghanistan), men and women in the office stepped up and offered to go."

Improving unit readiness rates and reducing life cycle costs is another priority. To that end, the product office is transitioning from a cost to a fixed price contract with the prime (Raytheon) that offers incentive fees linked to how well requirement rates are met. The contractor is also

responsible for supply and delivery of spares to the units.

The system consists of a Humvee equipped with GPS and communication equipment that pulls a trailer with the X-band radar and generator for power. It can be transported by UH-60 and CH-47 helicopters and a C-130 airplane.

Sentinel fielding began in 1997 and is expected to complete fielding for 140 systems to active and National Guard units by the end of this year. The current requirement is for 228 systems at a cost of nearly \$3 million each.



Charles Woods, M.D.

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■ Diplomatic approach defuses problem

Consideration

continued from page 2

to pull some test reports together for a 10 a.m. meeting, I did not stop to make a fresh pot even though there was almost nothing left. (There were two other full pots.)

A gentleman who walked in behind me saw what I had done and said in an aggrieved tone: "Aren't you going to make another pot?" I answered "No" and walked out, whereupon he said "What an a——" loud enough for a lady in the coffee room to hear.

I was going to ignore this comment, but then I realized — "Wait a second; CO2 is on my side this time."

So I went back into the room and politely inquired of the gentleman who his CO2 officer was, pointing out to him that he not only had used an unaccept-

able profanity, but had done so in front of a member of the sex which tends to be less forgiving about such things.

Well, this guy's face went pale and he immediately said "No, I didn't say that — I said 'What a jerk!'" To which the lady in the room said, "No I think you said something stronger than that."

Anyway, I let the guy off the hook by saying that I really wasn't offended and that I wished it was 10 years ago so we could go settle the matter on the lawn behind 5678, but that CO2 is CO2 so he ought to watch his step.

But the point is: If CO2 awareness hadn't increased, I wouldn't have thought to handle the problem this way, and he wouldn't have reacted by realizing he had seriously erred behaviorally.

Anybody remember the movie "Clockwork Orange"?

David Hallitsky
contractor CST

■ Formal ceremony brings closure

Retirement

continued from page 2

humidity and heat of San Antonio, Texas, with the distinctive bark of a Military Training Instructor firing off commands that didn't seem to register right away. "Pick 'em up! Put 'em down! Pick 'em up! Put 'em down!" This barrage of thunderous, guttural instructions continued until the 40 or so "Rainbows" (as we were referred to because of our varied civilian attire) finally figured out we were supposed to be picking up and putting back down our luggage in unison. It was my first taste of what being part of a team was going to be all about. And like that, my military career was under way.

I survived basic training and made it to my technical training school where I would learn to repair aircraft radio equipment. It was at Keesler Air Force Base near the Gulf of Mexico in Biloxi, Miss. Aren't there any locations in the Air Force that reach a normal temperature? Is this what I have to look forward to for the four years I signed up to serve? Evidently so. After tech school, I found out my first assignment would be Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Ga. — more humidity but this time complete with gnats and mosquitoes. During that assignment my girlfriend (Lisa) became my wife of nearly 18 years now and I made a decision that would play a major part in determining our future. I re-listed for a second term.

Back to Keesler I went, but this time I was on the other side of the fence; I was going to help shape the future of my Air Force as an electronics and communications systems instructor. The months grew into years and I found myself going to night school as I strived to meet my goal of earning an Air Force commission someday. That day soon came true in 1987. Upon returning from "chow," I was notified the commander was on his way to see me and I should stay put until

he arrived. What did I do now? Did someone rat me out for making a "California stop" at that intersection this morning? A crowd was gathered in my office area as Lt Col Whaylen walked in and singled me out of the crowd. "Staff Sgt. Kaufman, the Air Force has determined you are no longer needed in the enlisted ranks." I could feel the lump forming in my throat. "You have been selected to attend Officer Training School. Congratulations!" For a while I was in a state of shock, but I soon got a grip on reality. It's back to San Antonio for three more months of humidity!

Following a rigorous 12 weeks of training, physical and mental endurance, high pressure, creative time management, and separation from my family, I emerged a brand new second lieutenant. Surely the Air Force would see to it that I be assigned a little further from the equator this time. Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colo., is where I would attend the final class held for Air Force Munitions Officers (affectionately known as "B.B. Stackers") before the course moved to Illinois. Finally, I found myself in the midst of mild weather (it was spring-time), breathtaking scenery, and a whole new chapter in my Air Force career. From there, I was sent just two hours north to F.E. Warren AFB in Cheyenne, Wyo., where I'd sport my shiny new "butter bars" and eventually grow into a young officer and serve as a steward for a portion of America's nuclear deterrent arsenal of ICBMs. From one extreme to the other, my next assignment landed me on the tiny island of Guam where I was placed in charge of the second largest stockpile of conventional munitions in the Pacific theatre. Weathering several typhoons and a massive 8.1 earthquake, I was released from my tour seven months early to attend cross training into the contracting career field through the Air Force's Education With Industry Program. It was an opportunity that only 23 other officers in the Air Force were

■ Class of 1967 returns to Fort Benning alma mater

Brothers

continued from page 1

friendships and share memories.

"It was great to see everyone again," Usher said. "I thought all of them looked really old. Of course, I hadn't aged in my own mind. We got reacquainted, telling old war stories and lying about our exploits. We picked up right where we left off 35 years ago."

During a memorial dedication, the group unveiled a 450-pound granite monument listing the names and dates of death for their 12 brothers killed in action.

"They played Taps as the names were read," Usher said. "There wasn't a dry eye anywhere by the time they were done."

When Usher e-mailed everyone about the possibility of buying a monument to place at Fort Benning, donations poured in, more than enough to pay for it. Usher had it made locally and carried it to the reunion.

In addition to the memorial dedication, reunion activities included a visit to the barracks they shared during 1966-67 and a tour of the Infantry OCS Hall of Fame where two of the graduates are honored. The group socialized at a mixer at the hotel and a dinner at the Officers Club on

post, sharing hundreds of pictures that individuals brought with them.

"The walls were covered with pictures from the old days," Usher said. "Some were so graphic we had to take them down. It just wasn't something you wanted the ladies to see."

But the reunion was as much for the families as it was for the soldiers. Seeing the pictures and hearing war stories about their loved ones helped the wives and children make sense of it all as well.

"A lot of the guys who survived Vietnam didn't talk about it afterwards," Usher said. "It was something they had to close off and put away so they could go on with life. It wasn't something they shared with their families, until now."

Of the 169 graduates from the 52nd Company, 123 are accounted for as well as six of the eight cadre. In addition to those who died in Vietnam, 12 died in civilian life. This leaves 46 graduates and two cadre unaccounted for. In keeping with one of this country's greatest military traditions to never leave a man behind, the group has pledged to continue their search until the whereabouts of the last man is known.

The 52nd OCS company will hold their next reunion in Washington, D.C. in March 2004.

selected for that year. I would return to Duluth, Ga., and learn the defense contracting business while spending 10 months assigned to Rockwell Corporation's Tactical Missile Division. Next it was onto Hanscom AFB just outside of Boston where I would put the knowledge I gained to work in the procurement of radar systems and mission planning hardware. My career was reaching its end, but with just reaching my 18th year in service, there was still time for one more reassignment. This time to, of all places, an Army post! Yes, Redstone Arsenal was my new home as I joined the Defense Contract Management Agency where I'd be responsible for administering contracts for all the military services and even NASA. The excitement wasn't over though. During my three and a half years with this joint agency, I was ordered to serve a six-month tour of duty in the Balkans supporting the continuing Bosnian peacekeeping mission — an eye opening experience as to how fortunate we are to have the freedoms and liberties that are inherent in our great nation.

As I stood ready behind Maj. Gen. Dodgen, waiting to march on to center stage and receive the honors of a military career successfully completed, Lee Greenwood's melody resonated in my ear. With the band playing "I'm proud to be an American," I could feel the goose bumps rising on my skin and the tears welling in my eyes. This is it; I'm really there now. All the sweat, hard work, separations from my wife and two sons, the many sacrifices of long hours and commitment to duty were coming down to this short but very dignified tribute to me and the other Army War Air officers I

would stand tall and accept retirement honors with. General Dodgen delivered an articulate summary of the service we gave to our country, presented several items to symbolize our faithful devotion to our respective branches, pinned each of us with one final medal to add to our uniforms, and honored our devoted families for sticking by us as we did our duty for the nation. As I panned the crowd seeing the pride in my parents' face, the awestruck look of my eldest son Derrick, the nods of approval from friends and co-workers, I knew at that moment I made a wise decision to participate in this formal retirement ceremony. Going through the formalities brought full and complete closure to this period of my life and helped allow me to reflect on my accomplishments. It also showed me that I didn't get here alone. The support of my family, friends, associates, those that have worked for me and those I have worked for, all played an integral part in making me the person I am today.

So when your day comes (and eventually it will), remember you've spent the better part of your life giving your best to the service of this great country. Take advantage of allowing the country to honor your dedication by recognizing your service to her. The staff at Redstone Arsenal did a first class job ensuring my passing from the ranks of the military to that of a civilian was dignified and professional. I salute Maj. Gen. Dodgen, CSM Johnson, MSgt. Lowe, and all of the men and women who played a part in making my final day in a military uniform one of my most memorable ones!

Craig Kaufman
Retired USAP major

Post profile

Sept. 11 terrorism strikes chord with country songwriter

Will Clements plans to donate profits from patriotic song to New York police, firemen

By JIM BOWNE
For the Rocket

"I'm old fashioned, flag waving, love my country, and damn proud of it." That's how Will Clements unabashedly describes himself. Patriotic.

All of us remember what happened to our country Sept. 11, and probably none of us will ever forget. But few of us will ever write and publish a song about it.

However, moved by the tragedy of Sept. 11, "Statue of Liberty" is the latest in a long list of songs written by Clements, who works for Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment. He wrote his first song when he was 14. He's played clubs since he was 18. And he's written "about 100 songs."

Clements started writing "Statue of Liberty" in early November, a few weeks after the terrorist attacks on America.

"They struck my country," Clements said. "As I watched the events unfold on 9/11, the Statue of Liberty came to mind. The Statue of Liberty is one of the great symbols of our country. It really inspired me. I started thinking about all those who died for our country — not just on 9/11 — but all of them. It really had a devastating impact on me."

Clements comes by his fierce pride and love of country honestly. "I've spent my whole adult life associated with the Army," he said. "I served 14 years in the military and then went to work for the Department of Defense. And in my current job with TMDE, I directly support the Army in the field."

It's obvious that Clements loves his job with the government. It's just as obvious that he loves to write songs. In fact, it's sometimes hard to tell which he loves best.

"As a songwriter, I always put my feel-



Photo by Jim Bowne

TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY— Will Clements, who works in TMDE, hopes that his new CD titled "Statue of Liberty" will do well in the marketplace. Moved to write the song after the Sept. 11 tragedy he plans to give the profits, less cost, to the police and firemen of New York City.

ings and emotions into my songs," Clements said. "It's the same when I'm in the field. I travel extensively with my job — solving maintenance problems, helping our soldiers. Now it seems even more important."

When asked to state his top priority, Clements did not hesitate. "Priority number one is my family, my country and my job with the government," he said.

Between his government job, his songwriting, and his part-time job with Wal-Mart, Clements has had little time to promote his newest CD. In fact Clements just started promotion efforts in early March. "My wife, Jackie, was responsible for a line in the song as was Mike Dunbar from Nashville," he said. "I'm very fortunate to have the support of my family and peers. And of course my co-workers on the Arsenal have provided tremendous support for

this song. But without a booking agent or a promoter, it's up to me and my family to do whatever we can to promote the record."

So far some radio stations in Columbus, Ga., have played Clements' new CD. He also leaves copies at various radio stations during his off time. Clements and his wife plan to go to Wal-Mart headquarters in Arkansas to see if they will help promote his CD.

"I'm the dated merchandizing coordinator at the Wal-Mart on South Memorial Parkway in Huntsville," Clements said. "I'm responsible for ensuring the safety and freshness of products, and I monitor them through a data base that I set up. The folks at Wal-Mart have been tremendously supportive and are a great bunch to work with."

The new CD is available for sale at

www.willclements.com.

"The only money I want to make is what the CD cost me to make," Clements said. He plans to donate the rest directly to the firemen and policemen in New York City.

"I'm really proud of my country right now," he said. "The American spirit is unbelievable."

Here are the lyrics to "The Statue of Liberty":

God bless America
She stands tall she stands proud
She stands high above the clouds
For all of the world to see

And with a torch in her hand
She watches over this land
Calling all who want to be free

But there's a tear in her eye
For all who have died
In this land of the brave
Home of the free

As I look at her tonight
Her torch burns twice as bright
She's our Statue of Liberty

It's getting closer every day
When the guilty will pay
And we will live in peace once again
Ring the Liberty Bell
And the whole world you can tell
That America forever she will stand

Reaching out across the sea
As she did for you and me
With the promise of hope and dignity
We stand united by her side
With Old Glory flying high
Next to the Statue of Liberty

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■ Award winning soldiers belong to same brigade

Honors

continued from page 10

Greene, 21, the Soldier of the Month, is among HHC 59th's youngest soldiers. He has been in the Army for 10 months and Redstone is his first duty station.

"I came into the Army to get some discipline," Greene said. The Nashville native also works as a 71L but in the brigade mailroom.

Greene saw the Army as a challenge. "I wanted to do something different and see what I could do," he said. More recently he "saw the previous (board) winners and I wanted some of that for myself." Greene not only won the post board but the brigade board for the second quarter.

He is keeping his options open in deciding his next goal. Possibilities for Greene include applying for the Green to Gold program to help finish earning his degree in political science. He said he also aspires to someday become a lawyer or politician.

"I know that if I stay in the military I can be successful," Greene said, "or if I get out I can be successful."

He's not sure if he wants to make the Army a career. "But I know that if I hadn't joined the Army I would have stayed within my comfort zone," he said. "I would have probably never shot an M16, ran two miles let alone complete a PT test."

"But I'm really happy with my Army career so far. I've accomplished a lot. If I continue, I know it will only get better."

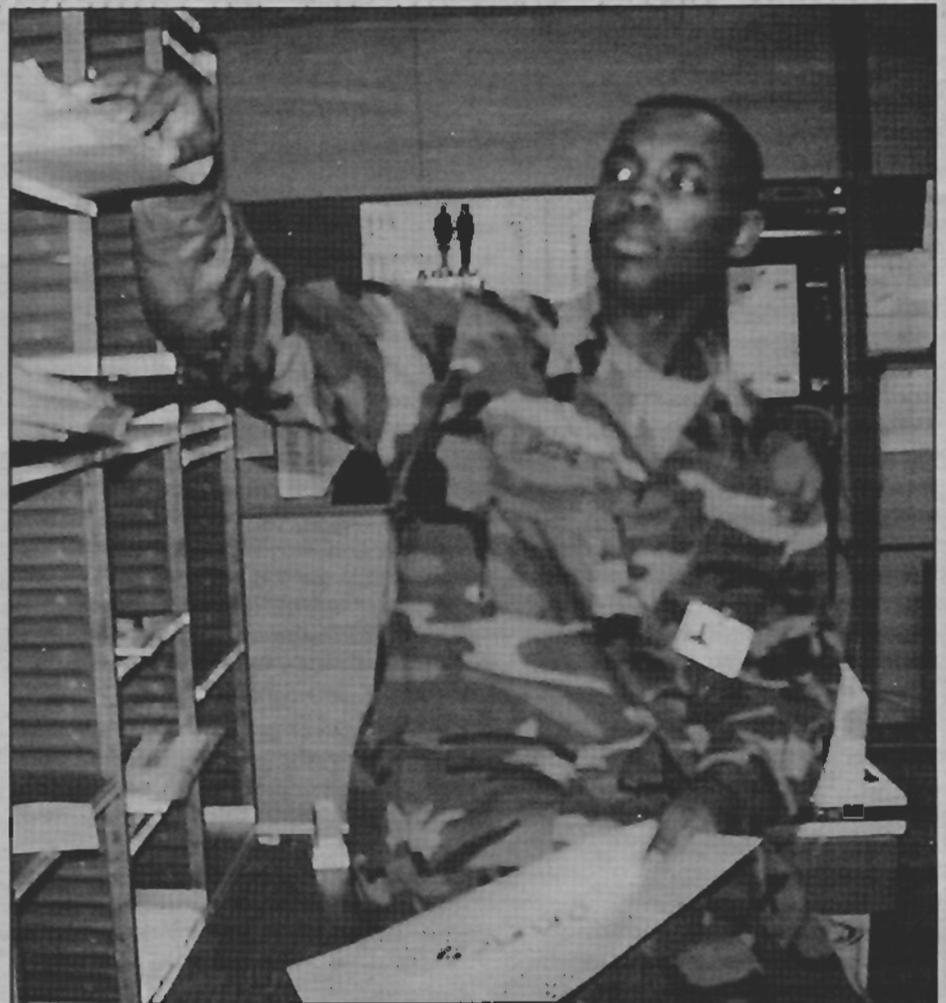


Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH— Pvt. Lonlei Greene of HHC 59th sorts mail in the brigade mailroom. Greene is the Soldier of the Month for March.

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School Age Services provides care, choices for children

Children have a place to go when school's not in session

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
beths@htimes.com

Do you worry about leaving your children alone after school, during spring break or in the summer?

If you or your spouse works at Redstone Arsenal, you can find peace of mind at School Age Services. The SAS staff will not only make sure your children are cared for, but they'll make sure they have fun too.

"It's very satisfying to see how happy the children are here and we have children that don't want to go home sometimes," Wanda Lackey, director of School Age Services, said. "It makes me feel good when they see me and give me a hug. We

really do touch their lives."

SAS has a computer lab complete with 15 workstations and an instructor and a homework lab with an instructor to provide help with school assignments or tutoring. Children also can choose to go to a variety of areas for play with wooden blocks, puppets, card games, dress-up clothes and dolls, computer games, a pool table, table-top football, the occasional science experiment and more.

Children also participate in various clubs including 4-H, choral group, photography, arts and crafts, cooking, cheerleading, sports and others. SAS is a Boys & Girls Club of America and has the mandatory "power hour" for homework as well.

When the weather cooperates, children can play outside on the swings and playground equipment or play with a variety of sports equipment including inline

skates, scooter boards, bicycles, and most kinds of games such as volleyball and basketball.

The children also can get involved in community service projects through the "Promise Passport" program, collecting clothes for the Downtown Rescue Mission, volunteering to clean the Bicentennial Chapel, gathering treats for the MPs at Christmas or reading to children and giving puppet shows at the Child Development Center.

"We feel children this age - in elementary school - should have choices and we try to provide them with good ones," Lackey said.

SAS provides care for children in grades K-5 both before and after school and maintains a ratio of 1 caregiver to 15 students, 1 to 12 for children in kindergarten. Full-day care is offered during spring break and intersessions and summer camps are offered during the summer. Hourly care is offered on an occasional basis.

Military dependents, children whose parents work for the Department of Defense and those whose parents are civilian contractors are eligible for the service. They must be registered at Central Enrollment. About 80 children attend every day after school and that number may double during the summer and the staff increases proportionally.

"We do quite a lot of partnering with MWR on post during the summer," Carolyn Taylor, training and programming specialist for SAS, said.

More field trips to places like Sci-Quest, Space & Rocket Center, Southern

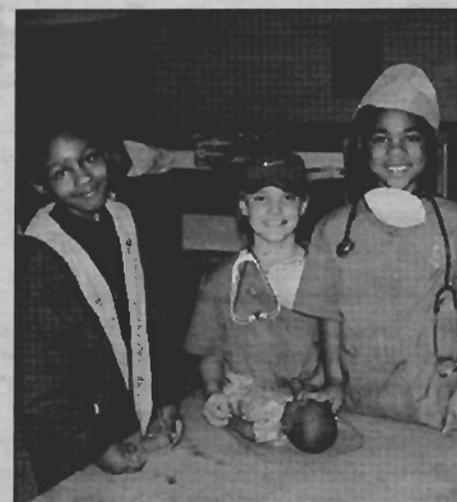


Photo by Beth Skarupa

DOLL DOCTORS— From left Raycheal Baker, 6, pretends she's the mother of the baby doll that "doctors" Jessica Marshall, 9, and Drema Jones, 7, are helping at School Age Services.

Adventures and the park are offered during the summer. Children also go to the bowling center, the library and the fitness center on post or swim at the Arsenal pool or complete projects at the Arts and Crafts Center in small groups. Sometimes speakers come in to give presentations on various subjects such as forestry, dentistry, hockey, space and weather.

"The staff here care about the children and try to work with them. I could say we have so many resources, but the caring adult really is the main thing," Taylor said. "I mean, I could go into a thousand different areas but that has to be the most important."

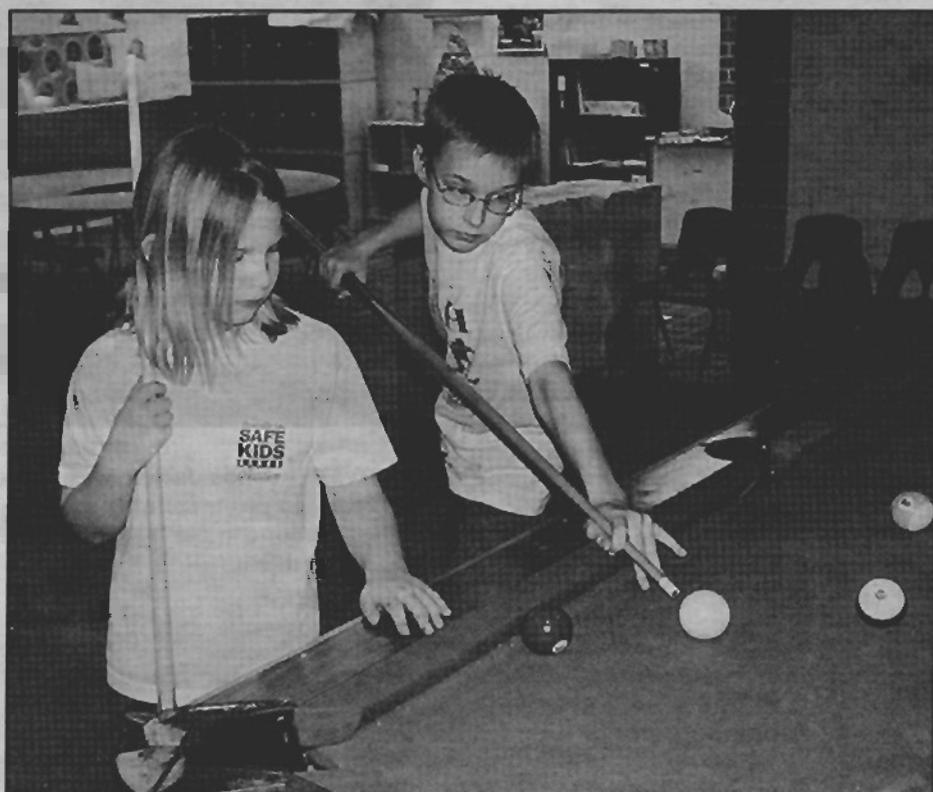


Photo by Beth Skarupa

HOT SHOTS— Alex Ference, 6, and her brother Tripp, 10, enjoy playing pool at School Age Services during spring break.

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Win or lose

Bravo wins basketball title by saving best for last

Bulldogs beat HHC 59th twice in postseason final

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

Bravo Company's Amos Jackson was smiling before the troop basketball final but knew his team would be in for a fight.

HHC 59th had already beaten the Bulldogs twice in the regular season and only needed one more win for the postseason tournament championship. Bravo team-1, advancing in the losers bracket, had to beat HHC 59th twice in the final.

"So it's gonna be a tough one for us," Jackson said before the showdown March 27 at Pagano Gym.

After the Bulldogs won the first game in overtime 65-60, the deciding game ended with the ball in Jackson's arms. He cradled a defensive rebound as the final buzzer sounded.

Bravo-1 beat HHC 59th in a thrilling 56-55 battle for the championship. The Bulldogs avenged both losses to HHC and snapped their opponent's 18-game winning streak.

"Coming out of the losers bracket, we could not lose to these guys," said Jackson, who finished with a game-high 16 points in the last game. "In (flag football) Bravo has come in second to the 59th. Not today. They talked so much trash during the weekend and during the week; all you can do is come out here and play hard.

"On the last rebound I knew when I got my hands on it, they were gonna have to foul me with two or three seconds left. I knew I was gonna make my free throws. Whew! That's the hardest I've played this year."

Jackson, 35, from Atlanta, is a 6-foot-1 forward who arrived in January from Fort Bliss, Texas. He played for Selma University in 1986-87 and joined the military in 1989.

Bravo (19-4) benefited from some newcomers like Jackson. The Bulldogs jelled as a team when it mattered most.

"I think the big thing was we had some new additions," said center Reggie Williams, who had 12 points and 13 rebounds in the last game. "And we finally started learning each other because we never had a practice together. We found

something that worked and we stuck with it. But the biggest thing is having faith in each other."

Besides the two losses to HHC 59th, Bravo lost to Delta Company on Jan. 10 and March 21. The 59th opened its season with losses against AMCOM and Delta before winning 18 straight.

Sheldon Goldsmith scored 14 points, Laevrmonde Watts had 13 and Patrick Perry added 10 for HHC 59th (18-4). HHC led 29-28 at halftime.

"Hard-fought game, both teams," 59th coach Jerry McIntyre said. "The officiating killed us. It was a competitive game. I'm just sorry I couldn't win it for my commander."

"Everybody played strong," 59th guard Robert Bullard said. "Their buckets went in. They converted their buckets when they needed to."

In the first game, Perry scored 19 points and grabbed 13 rebounds while Bullard had 17 points. The 59th led 27-23 at halftime; and the game was tied 49-all at the end of regulation. The Bulldogs outscored the 59th 16-11 in the extra five minutes.

Jackson scored a game-high 21, Donte Fisher had 11 and James Massey and Demmonique Walker added 10 apiece for Bravo. Williams blocked four shots. Massey set the tone in overtime with two straight 3-pointers; and Fisher had seven points in the extra period.

"A gutsy effort," Bravo coach Tom Lettis said before the trophy ceremony. "We teach our kids from the day they get here: if you have a positive attitude, you're gonna have a positive result. It

came down to physical fitness. I think we were in better condition than they were. But it could've gone either way. Great ballgame."

Since Jackson was the leading scorer in both games and finished with the decisive rebound, he deserves the final say. "Everybody stepped up to the plate," he said, still smiling. "And you know, one fight, one team. Bulldogs."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

IT'S OVER— Amos Jackson of Bravo gets ready to celebrate after grabbing the last rebound in the Bulldogs' 56-55 win for the title.

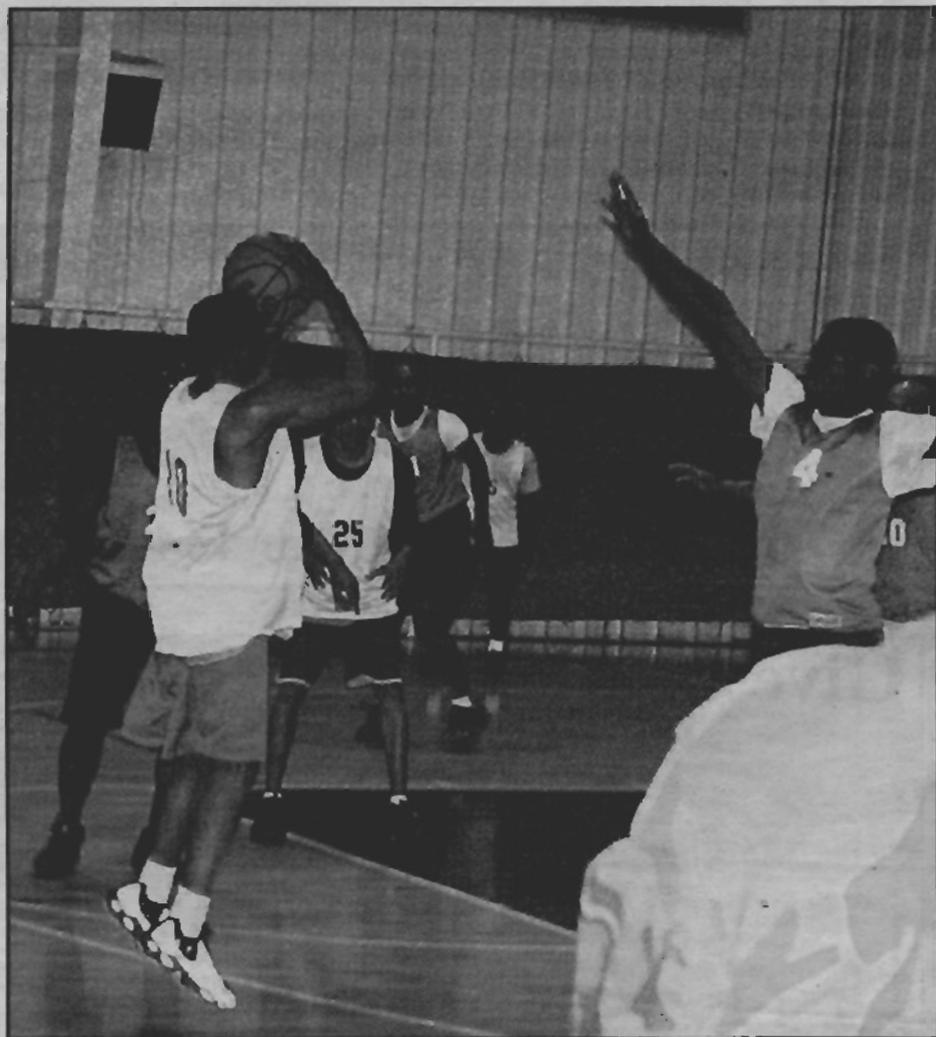


Photo by Skip Vaughn

ON GUARD— Bravo's Donte Fisher (10) shoots over the outstretched arm of HHC 59th's Robert Bullard (4) during Bravo's 65-60 win over the 59th in overtime. The Bulldogs then won 56-55 for the championship.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

WE'RE NO. 1— Members of Bravo Company celebrate their troop basketball championship.

Tax Assistance Center in homestretch after many happy returns

Avoid late rush for free service by scheduling appointment now

By Capt. DOUGLAS W. MOORE
Tax assistance officer

Redstone Arsenal's free Tax Assistance Center is nearing the end of the 2002 tax season with less than one month to go. The center has prepared more than 2,000 federal and state tax returns, resulting in approximately \$1 million in refunds for customers.

All states requiring the filing of state income tax returns may be prepared at the tax center. In addition most states are eligible for electronic e-filing for faster receipt of refunds. The Tax Assistance Center is staffed by four full-time income tax preparers and three part-time volunteers who are supervised by personnel from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

Clients seeking tax preparation should bring the following items to their appointment: all Form W-2s, 1098s, 1099s, and other reportable forms received for the 2001 tax year; Social Security cards for all family members; bank routing number and account number for direct deposit; a copy of last year's tax return if available; dependent care provider information to include name, address, phone number, and EIN or SSN (if applicable); any records of deductible expenses that you wish to claim on your return; and records reflecting the sale and purchase price as well as the purchase and sale dates of any stock investments sold in 2001. Customers who wish to file a joint electronic return must have their spouse present for signature or an appropriate Power of Attorney if your spouse is not available.

Taxpayers who anticipate on taking deductions for expenses such as mortgage

interest, real estate taxes, qualified charitable contributions, and un-reimbursed medical expenses should recognize that it may not always be advantageous to itemize in order to minimize their income tax liability. Every taxpayer is eligible to take a standard deduction in an amount according to their own filing status. For example a married couple filing a joint return for 2001 is allowed a standard deduction equal to \$7,600; a single person \$4,550; married filing separate \$3,800; and head of household \$6,650. Unless your individual deductions (also called "itemized" expenses) add up to more than your applicable standard deduction amount, it makes no sense to take individual deductions. Taxpayers must either take the standard deduction or their itemized deduction amount, but never both. Minimize your tax liability by taking the higher of these two amounts. In addition please note that some expenses such as moving expenses, traditional IRA contributions, qualified student loan interest deductions, and alimony paid will give rise to a deduction even if a taxpayer takes the standard deduction.

Receipt of these types of deductions is not contingent upon taking the itemized deduction option.

Refunds for federal and state returns that are filed electronically are typically processed the fastest. The Internal Revenue Service will normally process your return within two to three weeks, which is less than half the time it takes if you send in a paper return. To date 93 percent of the 850 federal returns prepared by the tax center have been filed electronically. While many state tax refunds are processed as quickly as federal returns, remember that most states have a separate refund schedule from the

IRS. State refunds will most likely be processed after your federal refund. Those who are not lucky enough to receive a refund and owe money to Uncle Sam can still file their taxes now, and then wait until the end of tax season to make their payment.

Avoid the final rush prior to April 15 and schedule an appointment at the Tax

Assistance Center. Please call 313-5727 or visit building 3489 off Ajax Road from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, or 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Should you need to cancel an appointment for any reason, please give the tax center a call so that other customers can take advantage of this free service.

North Alabama ROTC cadet earns George Marshall Award

UNA RELEASE

FLORENCE — John N. Nichols of Hoover has been named the George C. Marshall Award winner from the University of North Alabama's U.S. Army Reserved Officers Training Corps program.

Lt. Col. John T. Wright, professor of military science at UNA, said the award is named in honor of the late Gen. Marshall, who served as chief of staff of the Army and later as secretary of state and secretary of defense. He was the author of the Marshall Plan developed to restore a ravaged European continent after World War II. He is the only career soldier to ever be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Nichols will be one of almost 300 ROTC cadets attending the Marshall seminar in April at Washington and Lee in Virginia. A senior he was selected for the honor for his professional excellence, leadership, personal integrity and selfless service to the university and the nation, Wright said.

Nichols, a 1998 graduate of Hoover High School, is the son of Dean and Pam Nichols, who now live in Saint Clairesville, Ohio.

He will be commissioned Dec. 15 as a second lieutenant and will be assigned to active duty at that time.

The UNA ROTC program was started in 1948. More than 1,000 officers have been commissioned since then.

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President Bush calls for 'heartland' security

By LINDA KOZARYN
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — "Homeland security in the heartland is just as important as homeland security in the big cities," President Bush said March 27 in Greenville, S.C.

Speaking to local police, firefighters and other first responders, Bush said, "A volunteer firefighter in Fort Mills, S.C., put it this way: 'We may not be a big department like New York City, but we have the same goal, to help our neighbors in time of trouble.'"

The president said his most important

job is "preventing terrorists from hitting America again and taking innocent lives." His fiscal 2003 budget request reflects this priority.

It includes \$3.5 billion to make first responders' jobs easier, he said. It includes \$327 million "right off the bat" to provide critical training and equipment to first responders this year, he added.

"We've got to strengthen security in small-town America ... by helping smaller communities and smaller counties develop what we call 'mutual aid agreements,'" he said. "And in the budget that I've submitted to Congress, there's \$140 million to do just that."

One town may have a good hospital, another may be able to lend fire trucks, a third may have hazardous material experts, he said. "We've got to develop these mutual pacts so that we can coordinate efforts (and) pool resources."

The best homeland defense, Bush stressed, however, is to find the enemy where they hide and bring them to justice. He thanked the U.S. military for taking on that mission.

"I'm proud of our military," the president said. "And for those of you who've got a relative in the military, I want you to thank them on behalf of a grateful nation."

But giving thanks is not enough, he added. "We've got to make sure that they've got the best training, the best equipment, the best pay possible," Bush said. That, he continued, is why the budget request includes the largest increase in military spending in two decades.

"We don't seek revenge, we seek justice. But it's more than justice," he said. "This nation will defend freedom. We defend the freedom to worship. We defend the freedom to speak. We defend the freedom of all Americans, regardless of their background, to enjoy a country that says if you work hard, you can realize your dreams."

Health & Fitness



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Q: We know about your dieting success and background in the nutrition field Charles, but what other areas do you have experience in?
A: I may be able to help people with fibromyalgia, arthritis, aging problems and hormone issues just to name a few. I also have a lot of experience dealing with sexual issues, muscle building and training enhancement. When I have a one-on-one consultation we can discuss what issues that you are dealing with, and find out what natural dietary supplement would work best for you.

Q: How effective are the products used for sport training enhancement?
A: They work very well as long as you follow a workout regimen developed for you. The field of nutritional supplements has been studied and improved vastly over the past few years. Companies spend millions of dollars trying to find the easiest, most pure way to help people become more efficient in their training. You can see the proof of this when you watch athletes compete. Athletes today are breaking records with ease, and they are stronger than their counterparts of even a few years ago. Sports training supplements can help increase your energy and build muscle, so the workouts that you do can be the most effective.

Q: You mentioned sexual issues earlier, can you be more specific?
A: There are several issues that people deal with quite frequently, but the one I see most often usually has something to do with sexual energy or dysfunction. People believe that Viagra is the best thing since sliced bread, but what they don't realize is that there are natural substitutes that will help in that area as well. Also, a lot of sexual problems center around hormone levels in both women and men. We can help in that area too! I will talk to you about your specific problem and we may be able to develop a program that would help your issues naturally.

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