

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 51 No. 15

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

April 17, 2002

Army in action



Stinger missile still has sting for short range air defense

Page 3

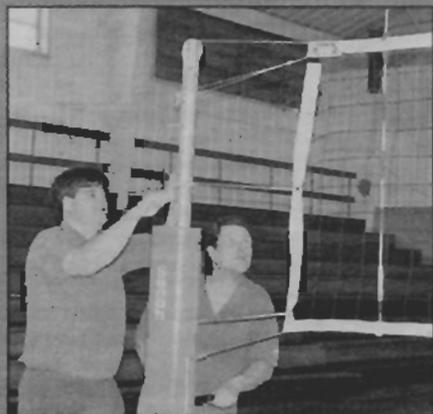
Family focus



Earth Day, Arbor Day observed on nature path

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Win or lose



Preseason volleyball tourney on center court at Pagano

Page 16

Caring for children is their business

Family Child Care providers meet special needs of parents

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
beths@htimes.com

When SSgt. Sherry Green leaves for annual training in a few weeks, she'll be comforted knowing that her 9-month-old daughter Ashley will be in good hands. Her Family Child Care provider at Redstone Arsenal will care for the baby while she's away.

"It's nice to know I have someone to leave her with that I can trust, someone she's used to," Green said.

Normally her husband would be available to watch Ashley and their 6-year-old son Rashaan in the evenings but this time he'll be away from home, too. SFC Donnell Green, an Army Reserve recruiter working in Decatur, leaves for his Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course just two days before Sherry leaves for her training.

It's not easy for a mother to leave her children for three weeks, especially when one is an infant. But it helps knowing that Karen Lamberth is certified for extended care. It also helps that Green has known Lamberth for more than three years and that their husbands work together. But most of all, it helps knowing that her daughter is happy in Lamberth's home each day.

"I've been delighted (with the FCC program), I really have," she said, explaining that she prefers the personal, one-on-one attention

See Care on page 12



Photo by Beth Skarupa

HANGING AROUND— Karen Lamberth, a Family Child Care provider, helps Aubrey Fox, 3, hang on a bar at her neighborhood playground as Bryce McArthur, 4, plays with a ball in the background.

Women's club recognizes students for their merit

One-time award grants total \$5,000 this year

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The Officer and Civilian Women's Club helps standout students pursue their educational dreams each year.

But instead of scholarships, the club's merit awards are one-time grants. The idea is to recognize scholastic achievements, citizenship, and the desire for further education. This year's five honorees include two graduating high school seniors and three college students.

"Merit Awards is a cornerstone program in the foundation of this club," Chris Swart, the merit awards chairperson, said.

The winners include Meghan Archer, a student at the University of Alabama and daughter of club member Michelle Archer; Lisa Anderson, a senior at Sparkman High and daughter of club member Barbara Anderson; Scott Taylor, a student at Georgia



Photo by Skip Vaughn

WINNING SMILE— Meghan Archer, center, among five merit award winners, talks after the awards luncheon with Martha Brouse, left, president of the Officer and Civilian Women's Club; and Chris Swart, the merit awards chairperson.

See Honorees on page 13

Union schedules paybanding briefings

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 1858 is sponsoring a series of six meetings which began April 16 and end June 3 wherein the merits of paybanding both at RDEC and the Acquisition Corps will be discussed. The meetings are held in Bob Jones Auditorium on the following dates and times: April 29 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.; and from 5-7 p.m. May 6, May 20, May 28 and June 3.

Each meeting will provide an opportunity for different groups to present, discuss and answer questions about how they view paybanding and its past as well as future impact on them and others, both positively and negatively. The group schedules are: April 16, RDEC employees; April 29, Acquisition Corps; May 6, RDEC management; May 20, RDEC employees followup; May 28, RDEC management followup; and June 3, Acquisition Corps followup.

Both management and employees are

invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. The purpose is to provide the facts concerning paybanding such that the AFGE Local 1858 members may cast an informed vote June 10 to decide whether they wish to:

- Continue the RDEC Demonstration Project (paybanding) for another five years.
- Modify the RDEC Demonstration Project and extend it for another five years.
- Make the RDEC Demonstration Project permanent.
- Discontinue the RDEC Demonstration Project at the end of its five-year temporary status (on Oct. 1, 2002).
- Support the development of an Acquisition Corps type paybanding system within the various AFGE Local 1858 bargaining units.

Jim Brothara
president,
AFGE Local 1858

American Festival committee established

In further response to my letter to the editor appearing in the March 13 *Redstone Rocket*, the response from the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, and the response from African-American Festival Committee, it appears that the time is ready to say: "Let's roll" and make plans for the first American Festival. The term "Let's roll" was one of last comments of a great American who decided it was time to divert the flight plan of the terrorist who had taken charge of the plane. This act obviously

saved a lot of lives of other fellow Americans had the terrorists got to complete their flight plan.

The emphasis here is to say that we are all Americans regardless of our much diversity. As Team Redstone, we are all Americans and we should stand united with our many diversities and cultures. As stated in my letter to the editor, "it is not my intention to lessen the importance of the African-American Festival,

See Festival on page 8

PX patron says show me the money

At the Post Exchange recently I noticed a sign that stated that AAFES had donated \$1,447,560 to this installation. I have several questions.

Does this mean the total amount is solely for Redstone Arsenal?

Is there an accounting for this money by recipient (i.e. golf course, automotive skill shop, multi-craft shop, etc.)?

How was the distribution of this money made and by whom?

How much of this money was used for overhead?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Dan Ahern, director of community and family activities, provided the following response. "Excellent question! First of all, the total amount listed on the signs as donated by Redstone Arsenal AAFES operations is absolutely correct. And that \$1.4 million amount does go to MWR. Unfortunately, it's not all going to Redstone Arsenal MWR.... Now for the rest of the story.

"Does this mean the total amount is solely for Redstone Arsenal?" No, it's not

See Money on page 8

Financial education should start early

Redstone Federal Credit Union is committed to educating young people about the importance of personal financial management skills. Our efforts to cultivate these skills often expand to include financial education assistance to their schools.

The week of April 14-20 is National Credit Union Youth Week. The theme for NCUY Week is "Your Future, Your Money, Your Choice." We are encouraging all young people in the surrounding communities to learn more about managing their personal finances. Students and teachers are invited to visit any RFCU office to get information about youth money matters, register for door prizes and giveaways, and participate in branch tours.

Recent surveys and polls indicate a lack of basic financial knowledge among many young people today. This lack of

knowledge will be a great contributor to financial problems they may face as adults, such as bankruptcy and obtaining affordable credit. Since young people are consumers who generate billions of dollars in economic activity, we want to highlight the importance of earning, spending and saving wisely by inviting area schools to participate in our National Credit Union Youth Week celebration.

We are inviting all young people in the Tennessee Valley community to join us during National Credit Union Youth Week to explore, learn and grow in financial management skills. It could really make a difference in their future! To find out more, call Pamela Donald at 722-3421.

Pamela Donald
marketing/public relations coordinator,
Redstone Federal Credit Union

Afternoon nightmare: Losing purse like leaving life behind for thieves

Honest people report find, shine as everyday heroes

By SANDY RIEBELING

Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

To the utter delight of my two children, instead of going straight home after a long Monday at the Arsenal, I pulled the van into the parking lot of the Athens Taco Bell. We were meeting my husband there for a quick "family" dinner before spending the evening at a foster parent meeting.

Jared and Rayne got out of the van, jabbering about how neither of them wanted lettuce on their tacos while I locked the doors and I reached for my purse. My purse. Hnnnn. It wasn't on the floor next to my seat where it normally rested. OK, maybe I did take one curve a little too sharp and it rolled behind my seat. Nope. I could feel my blood pressure rising. I wasn't what you would call panicked but I did start running around the van wildly moving book bags, lunch boxes, jackets, a brief case, camera bag, kids toys, and stray school papers that had gotten loose the week before. Nothing.

That's when I felt it — that prickly feeling that starts on the top of my head and sort of runs down my limbs as a full fledged panic sets in. My purse — my life — was missing. In a flash I saw grubby thieves charging thousands on my credit cards, laughing at the stupid woman who left her purse... who left her purse... in the bathroom on the first floor of building 5301 at the Sparkman Center.

Whew! I knew where it was and it had only been an hour since I left so all I had to do was call work and ask someone to go and get it for me. Chances are it was still sitting right where I left it.

I reached for my cell phone, which happened to be in the side pocket of my purse which happened to be in building 5301, or so I hoped. I took a deep breath and started again. There was a pay phone in the parking lot. I could make the call from there. I hustled the kids, who were now a bit on edge because Mom was acting totally weird, over to the phone where I discovered I had no money. Or rather, I had \$50 but it was in my wallet which was in my purse which was in the bathroom...

Calling card. I could just use the calling

See Purse on page 11

Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 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 35899.

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/

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Army in action

Stinger still impacts short range air defense mission

Latest model on block supports transformation

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
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With decades of combat proven experience, the Stinger missile is still growing and changing to meet the Army's short range air defense mission. From the basic missile fielded in the late 1970s to the latest model, Block I, currently being produced to support Army transformation, Stinger has been in the battle.

Stinger is a compact system lethal against aerial targets including cruise missiles, fixed wing aircraft, helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles. It is light enough, about 35 pounds, to be used as a man-portable shoulder launched weapon, but versatile enough to be adapted to multiple platforms including humvees, tanks and helicopters. A Stinger system on a humvee transforms it to an Avenger; and a Bradley armored vehicle to a Linebacker.

No matter what the platform, Stinger works the same. It is a fire-and-forget dual mode missile employing both infrared and ultraviolet target detection with a range of about five kilometers.

"When a missile is activated, it uses both IR and UV channels," Lt. Col. Earnest Harris, product manager, Stinger Missiles and Platforms, said. "It picks the strongest signal between IR and UV and locks on."

Because the missile has IR capability, the seeker must be cooled prior to launch to detect a heat source. Activation of a missile releases argon gas to the missile seeker but only for a short time. Once

activated, the gunner (for the shoulder launched system) has 40 seconds to lock on his target and fire. After firing the internal missile battery and coolant reservoir provide in-flight missile seeker cooling and power.

The missile has two motors, one for the initial launch out of the tube that propels it about 30 feet forward. That motor drops off and the flight motor ignites to carry the missile to target. It has maximum flight time of 17 seconds. If it has not engaged the target by then, it will self destruct.

Systems for the field Part 7 of series

In many cases, where the Stinger is, a Sentinel radar can be found. The Sentinel provides an air picture to identify and track low-flying threats. When a threat is detected, radar operators cue the Stinger operators about the threat by providing coordinates.

On all the Army's 99 Linebackers and some of the Army's 800 Avengers the system has a "slew-to-cue" feature which is a signal from the radar to the Stinger that automatically turns or "slews" the turret in the direction of the threat, within the field of view of the FLIR. Stinger platforms use Forward-Looking Infrared to detect targets.

"Stinger is unquestionably the best fire-and-forget short range air defense system in the world," Harris said. "It is used in the Air Force, Marines, Navy, Army. We field them in the air defense units, special operation forces and some aviation (Black Hawk and Kiowa Warrior)."

Block I production began in 1996 with

Raytheon in Tucson, Ariz. Several more years of production are expected.

"We've made significant strides, especially on sustainment of the Stinger based platforms," Harris said of his last three years as product manager. "There is always a funding challenge but there's

also the challenge of keeping these older vehicles and components maintained."

The Stinger Missiles and Platforms Product office has a staff of about 10 core personnel and 15 matrix. It is managed under the Short-Range Air Defense Project Office.



Courtesy photo

ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPON— The Avenger uses a Humvee equipped with Stinger missiles to defend air space within a five kilometer range.

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Earth Day, Arbor Day celebration takes path to nature

Enjoy the great outdoors with children, families

DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT RELEASE

The Directorate of Environmental Management will hold a celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day at the Path to Nature, near the Col. Hudson Recreation Area on April 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mayors Loretta Spencer of Huntsville and Jan Wells of Madison will be present to help plant a tree at 10 a.m., along with several other special guests. The morning activities are geared toward children and families, and everyone is encouraged to come out and bring their family. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy during the day. The entire Redstone community is invited to participate in the festivities; and a Commander's Letter will be issued to encourage everyone on the installation to participate in the fun and educational events.

In the afternoon there will be a program geared toward the adult Redstone community. Hardwood tree seedlings will be given away beginning at 1:30. Then Keith Hudson, wildlife biologist with the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, will present a Backyard

Wildlife Habitat Workshop from 2-5 p.m. This is a "how-to" program that will help anyone interested in attracting birds and other wildlife to their back yard, or larger areas. Topics discussed will include landscape plants beneficial to wildlife, artificial and natural nesting structures, sources/strategy for feeding wildlife, managing urban "pest" wildlife, and management of specific urban wildlife species - including purple martins, hummingbirds, bats, songbirds, and many others. Participants will build a workshop workbook of detailed information on how to manage for many different species or groups of species, including what to plant, where to plant, how to care for it and what it will attract. Attendees will not only get to see examples of artificial boxes/feeders, but will receive detailed plans for many different kinds of structures.

Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes to take a tour of the nature trails.

For more information, call Susan Weber of the Directorate of Environmental Management at 842-0019.

Here is the agenda for Earth Day and Arbor Day:

- 8:30 a.m. — Students arrive for nature tours and eco-scavenger hunt.
- 10 a.m. — Recognition of representatives from environmental agencies, school

systems, and city and county governments by Col. Brent Swart, deputy post commander. Swart, Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, and Mayors Loretta Spencer and Jan Wells will plant a tree with children from the Child Development Center in honor of Arbor Day.

- 10:30 a.m. — Arbor Day presentation
- 10:45 a.m. — Introduction to Alabama native reptiles
- 11:30 a.m. — Lunch on the grounds
- Noon — Announcement of scavenger hunt winners
- 12:15 p.m. — A representative of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge will do

hands-on presentation on rare and endangered species, and native wildlife.

- 1:30 p.m. — Students leave.
- Note: There will be concurrently running activities under the tents on recycling, forestry, and cultural resources until 1:30.
- 1:30 p.m. — Native tree seedling give away
 - 2 p.m. — Keith Hudson of Alabama Freshwater Fish and Game will present a program and walking tour on "How to Attract Backyard Wildlife." Attendees will all receive a notebook full of useful information.
 - 5 p.m. — Program ends.

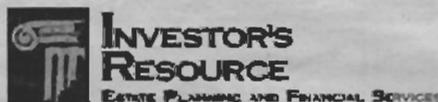


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FOLLOW THE LEADER—Youngsters walk the Path to Nature during a past Earth Day celebration.

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Trees serve as source of joy, spiritual renewal for future generations

Arbor Day grows from state to worldwide observance

By **JESSE HORTON**
Installation forester

J. Sterling Morton, editor of Nebraska's first newspaper was the originator of the idea for Arbor Day. In 1872 Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day, namely "Arbor Day," be set aside for the planting of trees. It was estimated that more than 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

During the 1870s, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day. In 1882 the traditional celebration began in schools. By 1894, Arbor Day was celebrated in every state of the union and has now spread to other countries throughout the world. Due to climatic conditions and vegetative responses of trees, each state has adopted a particular day or week for Arbor Day celebrations. Alabama has set aside the second week in February of each year as Arbor Week.

Since Feb. 23, 1993, Redstone Arsenal has continued to support the ideals of Arbor Day, which is the education and practice of planting, protecting and caring

for trees for the future. Many of our recent and proposed facility construction projects are being designed and planted with native plant species to encourage greater adaptability and an overall reduction in maintenance costs.

Our installation forester continues to plant trees as part of the forest management program in support of the Army mission. Approximately 80 acres were planted this March on areas no longer required as open land and where the southern pine beetle had damaged forest stands. These small trees will develop into forested areas that will provide benefits to our mission such as buffer areas, noise reduction, habitat for wildlife, training cover and even future timber harvest revenue for continued program operations.

Redstone continues to fulfill its commitment to be good steward of its natural resources and protect the environment. Protection of trees and planting of trees, shrubs and other plants in the family and troop housing areas through the Self Help Program have demonstrated a desire on the part of our installation residents to provide a healthful, beautiful and enjoyable environment to live and work in.

Redstone Arsenal plans to begin its

See Trees on page 5

Kiowa Warrior helicopter users confer at Redstone Arsenal



Photo by Skip Vaughn

READINESS AWARD— From left Lt. Col. Jeff Crabb, product manager for scout/attack helicopters, presents the unit readiness award to 3/4 Cavalry Squadron represented by CWO 4 Bred Rassega and SFC Virgil Bowling.

Annual conference comes in from field

Members of the Scout/Attack Product Office usually travel in June for the annual Kiowa Warrior helicopter users conference. But this year was different.

Because of budget considerations the conference was held at Redstone Arsenal, April 9-12, for the first time.

Lt. Col. Jeff Crabb, the product manager for scout/attack helicopters, presented the unit readiness award for 2001 to 3/4 Cavalry Squadron, 25th Infantry Division, Scofield Barracks, Hawaii, on April 10 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Also during the morning's program, a plaque was presented to the family of Joseph Dewitt, who served as assistant product manager for training devices until his death last December.

Crabb succeeded Col. William Gavora, who served a dual role as project manager for aviation systems. Gavora will leave this summer for his next assignment with the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate at Fort Eustis, Va.

"I am a true believer in this aircraft and in the people who fly it and sustain it," Gavora told the Kiowa Warrior users. More than 240 people attended the conference.

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Nebraska planted seeds for Arbor Day in 1872

Trees

continued from page 4

Arbor Day 2002 Celebration along with the Earth Day Celebration on April 23 at the Path to Nature, near the Col. Hudson Recreation Area, at 10 a.m. Officials and a representative for the commanding general and the mayors of Huntsville and Madison will be honoring this occasion by planting a tree. The preschool children from Child Development Center will provide a few songs to inspire us to keep the spirit of Arbor Day alive.

This year the Arsenal will receive its third "Tree City USA" award. Setting aside a day to emphasize the importance of trees and their potential to enhance the

quality and beauty of the environment is noteworthy of our community.

On April 26, Redstone will join hands with the neighboring communities of Huntsville and Madison County in Huntsville's Big Spring Park, at noon to proclaim Arbor Day 2002. Proclaiming this day in honor of trees demonstrates our recognition of the value of trees and their positive impact on the environment.

So, take time out from your busy schedule and join us in celebrating Arbor Day at Redstone Arsenal and at Big Springs Park. If your work schedule won't permit your departure then make plans to plant and care for a tree this planting season. After all, planted trees, wherever planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal for you and future generations.

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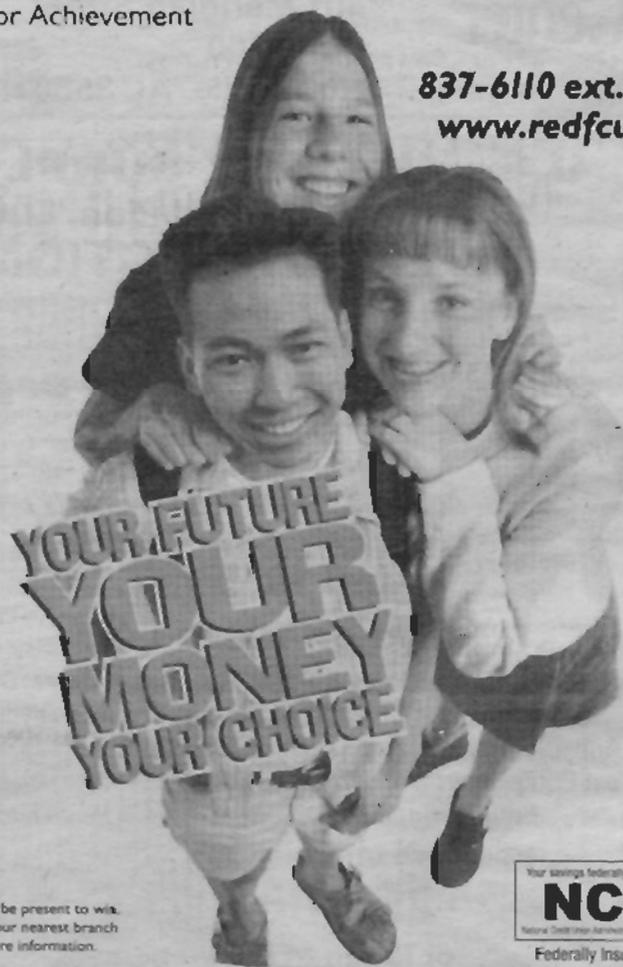
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Connections that last

Military Personnel Office lays out welcome mat

Office's new home
former dental clinic

It's like a new home for the Military Personnel Office family.

MILPO held an open house Thursday at its new location: buildings 3493 and 3494 on Roadrunner Road. The office moved from building 3710 into what used to be the troop medical and dental clinics which have been renovated.

There's no comparison to the former location, according to Eather Moore, chief of personnel services. "It's nice, it really is," she said of MILPO's new home.

"That makes me want to work another 20 years," she added laughing. "I'm serious, I was approaching retirement. I think I'm gonna hang out here a little while."

Moore will have 36 years service in July, all in Military Personnel. She arrived July 30, 1966.

"I've only had one job on this post. So somebody likes me," she quipped.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

OPEN HOUSE— Showing the ceremonial cake at the Military Personnel Office open house are from left Ron Wilson, military personnel clerk/supply; Sarah Trial, officer records technician; and Eather Moore, chief of personnel services.

Administrative professionals have changing job titles, growing duties

50th annual observance
celebrated April 21-27

By ELLEN MAHATHEY

International Association of Administrative Professionals

Administrative Professionals Week is April 21-27, with Administrative Professionals Day observed April 24.

Fifty years ago this event was called "National Secretaries Week" and was organized by forerunners of IAAP and by office product manufacturers. After IAAP changed its name two years ago from Professional Secretaries International, the observance was also changed to keep up-to-date with the changing job titles and expanding responsibilities of today's administrative work force.

The International Association of Administrative Professionals suggests that "employers observe Administrative Professionals Week by providing training for their administrative staff through seminars, continuing education, or self-study materials. Another suggestion is to make a commitment toward delegating responsibilities that better utilize the skills of administrative professionals."

IAAP's collective goals for this year's observance include: educate the public about the expanding roles of administrative professionals, enhance the image of the profession, encourage students to consider administrative careers; and promote lifelong learning, certification and other professional development activities.

"Administrative professionals want to utilize Administrative Professionals Week and Administrative Professionals Day as a time to call attention to our professional

contributions to business, and also seek greater opportunities for education and growth," past IAAP president Candy Daniels said. A recent poll shows that most administrative assistants and other office support staff prefer observances directed to professional education or group recognition.

Department of Labor statistics show there are more than 4.8 million administrative professionals in the United States, including 3,195,000 secretaries and 1,611,000 administrative support staff to supervisors and managers. Job titles of administrative professionals today cover a wide range: administrative assistant, executive assistant, associate, coordinator, secretary, office supervisor, office manager, legal secretary, clerical supervisor, and administrative services manager to name a few. Administrative professionals carry responsibilities like: managing multiple projects, designing and producing documents and newsletters, scheduling meetings and travel, maintaining computer databases and financial records, supervising and training others, creating and giving presentations, facilitating work teams, and using the Internet for research and e-business.

IAAP has 640 chapters and more than 40,000 members and affiliates worldwide and is the leading association for administrative professionals. The Redstone Arsenal Chapter was chartered seven years ago and since then has sponsored an annual seminar, developed a strategic plan, provided mini-training sessions for Administrative Professionals Week, funded two \$500 scholarships each year, and continues

See Duties on page 13

High school, college students experience engineering adventure

Visit to technical facilities part of teams conference

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

The Aviation and Missile Command played host to 150 high school and college students April 8 in support of "Adventures in Engineering Day."

The day is designed to let area high schools and regional colleges and universities send their students for tours, presentations and a "hands-on" experience with engineering. The event is part of the E2 TEAMS, or Education and Employment Technological Excellence in Aviation, Missiles, and Space Week and Conference sponsored by the Huntsville Association and Technical Societies.

Col. Ed Stone, AMCOM chief of staff, welcomed both groups of students and emphasized the importance of what AMCOM does for the Army, and the role he expected them to play in AMCOM's future.

"We are depending on you, with your knowledge and innovation, to come up with our next new missile or aviation system," Stone said.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, AMCOM commander, was stating the same objective at the TEAMS Conference at the Von Braun Center. "Work force development is not a priority of AMCOM, it is the priority of AMCOM," he said.

The 70 high school students represented 13 high schools and four home schools. The students made an early morning visit to Test Area 1, where they visited an array of displays representing aviation, missile and robotic systems managed by Team Redstone including a Black Hawk helicopter, the Multiple Launch Rocket System, the Avenger, and the Mini Flail. A Bat launch was also planned, but high winds prevented that event.

Bob Jones High School students Paul Burke and Jonathan Scott expressed disappointment about the Bat launch cancellation, but expressed excitement about what they saw and "operated." "I liked the Avenger because I got to use the controls. I saw 'Black Hawk Down' so it was fun to get to actually see a Black Hawk up close," Scott said.

"The hands-on time spent with the equipment always gets rave reviews," said Toby Strange of TMI Inc., who coordinated the various displays of equipment at Test Area 1. "And Chuck Gibbs and Wes Widner always do a first rate job with the setup at Test Area 1. The organizations that demonstrated will provide stellar opportunities to these students for many years in the future."

The remainder of the students' day included visits to Missile and Space Intelligence Center, Marshall Space Flight Center, and the Space and Missile Defense Command's Advanced Research Center.

The planned afternoon visit to Test Area 1 by the college students had to be canceled due to inclement weather, but this allowed their scheduled time at Software Engineering Directorate to be expanded.



Photo by Kim Gillespie

TRAINING SIMULATOR— A college student uses an M-16 training simulator at Software Engineering Directorate. College students visited the directorate as part of the E2 TEAMS Week.

"Since Software Engineering is one of the featured technological tracks at this year's TEAMS Conference that the college students are attending, the more time they get to actually see what we do and talk one-on-one with our employees about what they do, the better," Bill Craig, director of the Software Engineering Directorate, said. "This isn't just about a job, it's important that they get a sense of how excited we are about we do, and how much career satisfaction our employees feel."

Students visiting Software Engineering were shown everything from the Interoperability and THAAD labs, to TACM and the MLRS. The students got some real "hands-on" time when they operated the directorate's various training simulators for aviation, the M-16, Stinger, Javelin and ITAS. The students also visited the lab containing the Configurable Avionics Aircraft Prototype Environment where they got to test their flying skills. Unmanned vehicles and robotics were also represented.

Lance Brock, a student at Clark University in Atlanta, said he particularly enjoyed the flight simulator. The students used words like "fun" and "tempting" to describe what they saw at Software Engineering. Georgia Tech student and aerospace engineering major Stephen Stefes had plenty of questions, but the directorate's Alice Sheppard, Jeff Rowe and Mike Rodgers weren't fazed. "Engineering students always ask lots of questions about the technical stuff," Sheppard said.

Elizabeth Coleman, a University of Alabama student with family in Huntsville, said she would like to find a job in the Huntsville area after graduating later this year. "And from what we've seen, there seems to be plenty of work here," she said.

The college students also visited SMDC's Advanced Research Center, Marshall Space Flight Center and National Space Science Technology Center.

The mood and benefits from the day were best summed up by Software Engineering's Kathy Crawford, who along with Edgar Dalrymple assisted Craig with the event. "I think Mr. Craig has as much fun as the kids. He truly enjoys showing what we do and how it is relevant to our community," she said. "We enjoy it also."

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■ Consumer asks about PX dividend

Money

continued from page 2

solely for Redstone Arsenal, and, in fact, none of it comes to us as operational income at all. The Army Materiel Command operates its Army MWR programs as what is called a 'MACOM Single Fund.' Under this combined MWR Fund concept, all AAFES Simplified Dividend generated by all the installations goes to the AMC Headquarters. Posts then get to compete for re-distribution of excess funds from the HQ account, but it is reserved solely for purposes of Capital Purchases or Minor Construction, and not for use to cover operational expenses or 'overhead.' Incidentally, Redstone's ASD is by far the largest in the major command, and as a result, we (along with two other AMC posts) get a 'reserved re-distribution' which equates to about 25 percent of the total ASD we contribute. In FY '02, for instance, that came to about \$350,000. None of the other 16 AMC installations with MWR programs get the reserved dollars — but all can then compete for the excess NAF funds at the HQ for their capital improvement needs.

"In recent years, Redstone has competed favorably in this re-distribution program. Among other things, we received a significant NAF 'grant' to construct a car wash (which we hope to see under construction soon near the

Shopette on Goss Road), and \$350,000 this FY alone for improvements to our Bowling Center.

"Is there an accounting for this money by recipient (i.e. golf course, automotive skill shop, multi-craft shop, etc.)? Again, there are no individual MWR program recipients of this money. It doesn't come back to the installation as 'operational income' at all, but rather is reserved strictly for capital purchases and minor construction. In recent years, the CPMC program has made over \$700,000 of improvements to our bowling center alone in the form of new pinsetters, new masking units, new furniture and carpet, all new automatic scoring system, ball lifts, kitchen equipment, and installation of the very popular Xtreme Bowling entertainment package. A \$90,000 golf cart path renovation was completed last year, and much needed new equipment and furnishings were purchased for outdoor recreation, the School Age Services, the Recreation Center, the Flying Activity, golf course, and Stables. This FY, we have an approved \$696,000 CPMC program which is now being executed.

"How was the distribution of this money made and by whom? Ultimately, the 'distribution decision authority' is the commander. Here's how the process works: a two-year CPMC plan is developed annually as a part of the NAF Budget Planning cycle. Much of the input for

capital investment needs comes from customers and of course our individual activity or program managers who make up the Directorate's 'Strategic Planning Committee.' Collectively, we on the MWR management team compete internally for project consideration, and then collectively develop our professional recommendations to the commander based on need and value to the overall MWR program, expected positive impact on customer satisfaction, and anticipated potential for return on investment. The commander here approves the annual budget plan, and it is forwarded to the MACOM for their commander's ultimate approval. In the past three years at least, AMC has never disapproved a project we submitted for approval — as long as the dollars were available to fund it. Inci-

dentally, we can re-invest into CPMC exactly what we make in combined MWR Net Income Before Depreciation each year plus the AMC re-distribution dollars.

"How much of this money was used for overhead? None.

"Again, thanks for the excellent questions. As you see, it took a pretty complex set of answers.... and these answers are only good for the way we do MWR business at Redstone Arsenal today. We're still not exactly sure what effects the Transition of Installation Management process will have on MWR here next FY or into the future! If you'd like to contact me directly with any related questions, please feel free to call or email at: 876-2073 or dan.ahern@redstone.army.mil."

■ American cultures event planned

Festival

continued from page 2

but I think the time is here to move forward and stand united. The implementation of this suggestion should tell everyone that the 'American Cultures Festival' is for everyone."

The comments from the EEO Office and the African-American Festival Committee are appreciated. The EEO Office identified some of our diversities; i.e., African American History, Asian-American History, Native American History, Hispanic-American History, Women's History, Equality Day Observance, Individuals with Disabilities, etc. I am sure that we could rely on many other heritages and the list would be more numerous.

Our greatness as a nation lies in the fact that our much diversity is combined whereby each citizen can be proud to say, "I am an American." It was the for-

ward thinking of our forefathers who decided in the Declaration of Independence that it was time to become Americans. Aren't you glad they decided this course of action? Their geniuses and forward thinking are further embraced in the drafting of a Constitution which has withstood the tests of times with emphasis of our status as "One Nation Under God With Liberty and Justice For All."

We have established a basic planning committee who has indicated a willingness to make American Festival a reality, hopefully, on Sept. 11. This committee would welcome members of the many diversities set forth hereinabove who would be willing to be interviewed for serving on a "Steering Committee" under the generic title "I Am An American." Planning Committee POCs are Sam Wright 955-9549, Dave Landram 955-8813, Vern Spearman 313-2939 and Winslow Hill 842-0639.

Winslow L. Hill

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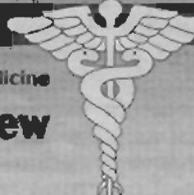
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Bravo Bulldogs finish first in orienteering competition

Unit earns bragging rights on land navigation course

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

Bravo Company dominated this year's 832nd Ordnance Battalion orienteering competition April 6 at Vincent Park. More than 150 soldiers competed in the annual event; and for the first time ROTC cadets from Alabama A&M University competed alongside active duty soldiers.

"Orienteering and land navigation are perishable skills," Capt. Raymond Leonard, of Alabama A&M ROTC, said. "We saw this as an outstanding training opportunity and a better way to build our rapport with soldiers at Redstone."

Each team consisted of three soldiers, who had two hours to find five points on the land navigation course, SSgt. Nelson Soto-Vazquez of 832nd said. Each squad consisted of 12 soldiers (four teams of three soldiers). At the end of the two-hour time limit per team, the times of the whole squad were tabulated.

Headquarters & Alpha Company fielded three squads (36 soldiers, 12 teams of three soldiers), Bravo Company had three squads (36 soldiers, 12 teams of three soldiers), Charlie Company had two squads



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

GETTING IT RIGHT— Capt. Dave Knapp of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Department plots points for his team. A team of EOD officers participated in the event for fun.

(24 soldiers, eight teams of three soldiers), Delta Company had two squads (24 soldiers, eight teams of three soldiers), NCO Academy had two squads (24 NCOs in eight teams of three NCOs) and A&M cadets had one squad (12 cadets in four teams of three cadets).

Bravo Company won with 11 points of 20 in seven hours, 46 min. Charlie Company finished second with 10 points of 20 in five hours, 23 minutes. Delta Company placed third with 10 points of 20 in seven hours, 42 minutes.



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS— 832nd Ordnance Battalion soldiers get last minute instructions before heading onto the land navigation course.



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

PLOT THOSE POINTS— 832nd Ordnance Battalion soldiers find comfortable spots on the ground to plot their points on maps before taking off on foot to find their points on the land navigation course.

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Sylacauga native promoted to major at Logistics Support Activity

Page 11 The Redstone Rocket April 17, 2002

Maj. Marcus Odum
an Ala. A&M grad

By ROBERT SALINAS
Logistics Support Activity

After years of being away and building up his career, Capt. Marcus Odum returned to Alabama to become Maj. Odum.

After assigned to LOGSA, Odum was advised he would become Maj. Odum on April's Fool's Day 2002. "It's not a joke," Odum remarked in his acceptance address, "I've got them on now (his oak leaves). I'm really Maj. Odum now."

Odum, a native of Sylacauga, received his commission in the military intelligence corps after graduating as a distinguished military graduate from Alabama A&M University in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

The promotion ceremony April 1 at the Sparkman Center was the first in a long time, according to Col. Kurt Weidental, commander of Logistics Support Activity. In his remarks, Weidental described a promotion to field grade officer as "opening a great deal of opportunity." He went on to describe Odum as a man with "great credentials and great opportunity."

Pinning on his oak leaves for the first time was Kathy Odum, his wife, and retired Lt. Col. Jesse Pugh, Maj. Odum's longtime friend and mentor. It was Pugh who was responsible for Odum attending Ranger and Air Assault schools, and for guiding Odum through his time at A&M.

Pugh had some thoughts about the new major. In his comments during the ceremony, taking responsibility for his success or failure. "I will tell you all, if Marcus Odum is not a good soldier, then it's my fault: I trained him.



Shawn Harris/ Photo Lab

NEW RANK— Marcus Odum is promoted to major in front of building 5308 at the Sparkman Center. Pinning on his new rank are his wife, Kathy, and retired Lt. Col. Jesse Pugh.

"The rank of major means... you have arrived. I want to tell him a little secret. Times before that I used to tell all my students, 'Army kept your name on the books in pencil, and they did that for a reason. They said when you messed up, they could erase it real easy, and they can replace you.' But at this time now that he will be promoted to major, we'll put him down in ink. We'll give him career status, but we will also give him additional responsibility. Additional responsibility to his family, to this command, to this nation, and we trust he will serve all very well."

After some additional comments about a much younger Odum, Pugh concluded his portion of the ceremony with a tale about soldiers in general.

"Soldiers, three categories. There are soldiers who

make things happen. There are soldiers who watch things happen, then there are soldiers who wonder what happened? By being selected for promotion to major in the United States Army, the Department of the Army has sent a clear message that Marcus Odum makes things happen," Pugh said.

Many members of the Odum family attended the ceremony and were happy about Odum's success. "The whole family is proud of him," his brother James Odum said. "We always hoped the best for him and it's finally paying off."

Coming from a family of seven, originally eight, James seemed to think his brother had done well for himself. "As far as comparison (within the family) there is none," James said. "He's a military man... and he's hating a hundred; he's the only military guy in the family."

Other members of his family mentioned some concern for his safety during recent times, but all knew Odum was ready to go into battle if required. "Worried, yes," his sister Linda Fuller said, "but that's his job. He was ready to go if he was called. He's a soldier. He was ready to do it."

When Odum finally addressed his friends and family about becoming a major, his comment was still "It's not April Fool's yet, is it? I got 'em on now. I know it's April Fool's Day, but I know I definitely made it."

When asked about how special it was to see Odum promoted here in Alabama, it was his family who said it best. "(He's one of) Sylacauga's finest. They're all proud of him down there... family, friends and folk," James said. "You know, he's got lots of friends down there... graduated Sylacauga High School down there... I forgot what year... But they're all very proud of him."

"I wish him all the well he can be," Fuller said, "as far as he can go. Take it all the way to the top."

Editor's note: Robert Salinas is a logistics management specialist in the Logistics Support Activity.

■ Samaritans recover lost purse

Purse

continued from page 2

card, which was in my wallet next to my \$50 which was in the purse... Dear Jesus, help me. I was in a Dr. Seuss nightmare.

Another deep breath. Now I prayed for real that my purse would be safe until I could figure out a way to get to it. I took the kids into Taco Bell, sat them in a booth and explained that we were going to wait to eat until Daddy came so we could all eat together. It was a half-truth I could live with.

My husband arrived about 10 minutes later. I marched up to him with that

"don't you dare say a word" look in my eye, told him I left my purse at work. I needed to use his calling card and to feed the kids while I made a call.

It was so late now (5:45 p.m.) that everyone from my office had surely left for the day. I called the only other place I could think of — the Provost Marshal Office.

Just seconds into my story, the nice lady on the other end of the line asked, "Are you the one who lost the purse?"

I nearly fainted with relief. If they knew about the purse, someone must have turned it in. Yes, in fact, an officer with the Provost Marshal Office was at the building collecting it as we spoke.

She had no idea if the contents were still in the purse. I told her I would be there within the hour to claim it.

When the officer behind the desk returned my purse to me, I could tell by the weight that most if not everything was still in it. I asked who turned it in and he gave me the name on the report.

I called Carol Meekins the next day to thank her for giving me my life back and she informed me that two other women had actually found it and brought it to her office, which was close to the bathroom, in hopes of finding the owner.

Not only did Ms. Meekins make several calls in an effort to find me and let me know my purse was safe, she had to sit with the police officer and complete an inventory of the contents of my purse.

The thing weighs at least 10 pounds. I haven't even seen the bottom of it in months so I can only guess what they had to go through. To the both of you, my sincere thanks.

I went looking for the two good Samaritans that found my purse but I couldn't find them. I hope they will contact me so I can thank them properly.

As a reporter for the *Rocket*, I spend a lot of time informing our readers about the dangers lurking in everyday life and how to avoid being a victim — theft, violence, abuse. So it was my pleasure to share this embarrassing slice of my life with you, if only to remind us all that there are good, helpful, kind, thoughtful people all around us and given the opportunity, they can shine as everyday heroes.

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Family Child Care providers must pass certification

Care

continued from page 1

her child gets in a smaller daycare setting. "When you first leave your child, it's so hard. (Karen) would call me at work and tell me how Ashley was doing. It made the transition so much easier."

FCC is set up to accommodate people with different schedules and different needs, especially soldiers like Green. She's stationed at Company C, 926th Engineering Battalion, Combat Heavy. Five care providers operating on post are trained for extended care. That means they can care for children at odd hours or even full time for a limited period.

"Because of 9/11 (terrorist attacks), the care providers decided to rise to the occasion," Marian Caudle, director of FCC, said. If a soldier gets deployed and doesn't have anyone to care for his children, a Family Child Care provider with extended care training can take them until other arrangements can be made.

FCC providers operating multi-age homes on post can care for a maximum of six children ages 5 and under, while those with infant homes can care for a maximum of three children ages 2 and under. Currently there are eight FCC providers on post but one substitutes in the others' homes if they get sick or have an appointment.

Lamberth said she first decided to be a care provider because she wanted her own children, now 2 and 3 years old, to have friends in her home. She quit her job at Fox Army Health Center last year to be home with them and decided to use the experience she'd gained working at a daycare center in Germany before moving to Redstone.

"I just enjoy being with (all the children) and I like doing it in my home so my kids can be with me too," she said. "I enjoy watching them when they see something new. The other day Bryce (McArthur, 4 years old) was so excited when we opened up an empty ant hill. It was only his second day here but his mom said he hasn't had any problem coming here at all since then."

Denise Jones started working as a care provider when she first came to the Arse-



Photo by Beth Skarupa

FAMILY FUN— From left Ashley Green, 9 months old, and Charlie Lamberth, 2, enjoy being outside at their neighborhood park during an outing with Family Child Care provider Karen Lamberth.

nal seven years ago. After a two year hiatus working for ChildWise she decided to be a FCC provider again a year ago because her own children, ages 17, 15 and 8, needed her at home more.

"I just really enjoy these kids," she said, gesturing to the preschoolers painting pictures in her backyard. "They're fun and they keep me young." She laughed and added, "They're fun and we have a good time together. And it's all about them."

Each caregiver must go through extensive background checks, complete 20 hours of training and become certified. Training includes instruction in CPR, first aid, child safety, child abuse, guidance and discipline techniques and activities for children, medication administration and communicable diseases. Classes also focus on business practices and Army regulations.

Requirements for caregivers include getting a health assessment, proof of car insurance, providing immunization records for their pets and drawing up a daily activity schedule, a fire evacuation plan and a contingency plan. Caregivers also must post a menu and their homes must pass fire safety and health inspections. FCC homes also have an open door policy so parents can stop in to see their children anytime.



Photo by Beth Skarupa

PRETTY AS A PICTURE — Two-year-olds Shandi Burrows, left, and Deanna Vaughn get ready to paint pictures in the backyard of their Family Child Care provider Denise Jones.

"The open door policy eliminates the chances of problems. If we see something where we're concerned we can order an inspection," Caudle said. "I'm in the homes at least once a week and the nutritionist is in the homes more than once a week."

FCC also partners with the ChildWise program on post, allowing the caregivers to take the children in their care with them to play at the ChildWise building twice a week. This gives the children the chance to play in a large group and promotes camaraderie among the care providers.

The FCC providers are private contractors so they set their own rates, Caudle said. Rates currently range from \$40 to \$100 per child per week, depending on the parents' combined income. Caregivers are subsidized for keeping children in their home.

"That way the E-1 can get the same quality childcare that an O6 can get

because this makes it affordable," Caudle said. FCC also subsidizes caregivers interested in earning a Child Development Associate credential. Both Lamberth and Jones are working on getting this national credential to enhance their current certifications.

Professional development and career opportunities are just a few of the benefits of becoming a care provider. Others include enhancing parenting skills, having your liability insurance paid by the Army, USDA food reimbursement resources and use of a family child care lending library.

Children of active military, retired military, Department of Defense civilians and contractors are all eligible for FCC. Both the caregivers' young children and their customers' children must be registered with the central enrollment and registration office located in the Challenger building.

For more information about FCC, call 876-7801.



Photo by Beth Skarupa

HANDY HANDS— Two-year-old Hannah Carter, right, concentrates on painting her hand while Shandi Burrows, 2, paints a picture in their Family Child Care provider's backyard.



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Photo by Bobbie Carroll

Golf course memorial

Dan Ahern, director of community and family activities, addresses a memorial service April 5 at Redstone Golf Course for the family of Maj. Mike Goodridge who died in a train accident in November 2000 in Austria. A flagpole and American flag were dedicated in memory of Goodridge, his wife Jennifer and their sons Mikey and Kyle. Looking on from left are John and Dr. Debbie Shepard of Naples, Fla., Goodridge's sister; and his parents, Julie and retired Lt. Col. Clair Goodridge.

Five students receive annual merit awards from club

Honorees

continued from page 1

Tech and son of club member Becky Taylor; Marcella Weinzettle, a student at St. Joseph's University and daughter of club member Fran Weinzettle; and Timothy McFalls, a senior at Bob Jones High and son of club member Sharon McFalls.

The awards were presented April 9 at the club's luncheon in the Officers and Civilians Club.

"I feel incredibly honored because I know I had a lot of stiff competition and it's always good to have somebody recognize your effort," Archer, 22, said after accepting her \$1,500 award. She said the money will go directly toward tuition. Archer is a senior in Tuscaloosa majoring in communications studies with a minor in German.

Only dependents of OCWC members and club members or their spouses may compete for the awards. The awards must be used to pay for tuition, books and fees in pursuit of undergraduate or graduate degrees. Students receiving fully paid scholarships are not eligible. The students must submit a 250-word essay, their transcripts, and an outline of their outside activities. Previous award winners may compete in succeeding years but may only win once in each category.

"They are amazing kids," Swart said of the winners.

The club's \$5,000 in merit awards represents part of the approximately \$20,000 it gave to the community this year in the form of scholarships and charitable contributions, according to Martha Brouse, president.

Funds for these awards are raised through the club's annual art auction, Pineapple Open golf tournament and various other fund-raisers. The First Command Educational Foundation, with local representatives Mary Bissell and Angie Lunn, contributed again this year.

Members of the merit award selection committee included Tim Grey of AMCOM, Col. William Gavora of PEO Aviation, Maj. Reed Young of PEO Air and Missile Defense, Maj. Lewis Stewart of PEO Tactical Missiles, Capt. Christine Hackett of Missile and Space Intelligence Center, Dr. Linda Gentle of Space and Missile Defense Command, Barbara Hafele for the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School, club member Dede Busk and professional educator Bissell.

During the luncheon attended by 65 people, the club elected the following officers for 2002-03: Swart, president; Kay Nagel, vice president; Brenda Cotter, second vice president; Cathy Ryan, treasurer; and Lea Ann Bryant, secretary.

Administrative Professionals Week slated

Duties

continued from page 6

working on changing secretaries' job descriptions to administrative assistants. The Redstone chapter believes in networking and mentoring. The chapter meets every third Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club, except

July. Membership is open to all federally employed secretaries, clerical, and administrative office professionals.

Chapter officers for 2001-02 include president Jenny Glazner, president elect Susan Douglas, corresponding secretary Gladys Richard, treasurer Kathy Johnson, member at large Julie Manning, membership chairman Marilyn Dale and past president Ellen Mahathey.

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Technical Word Processing for Scientists & Engineers	Jun 11 • T • 8am-4:30pm • 21020516N
Advanced Java Programming	Jun 11-27 • T&Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21020494N
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C Programming for the Linux OS	July 8-Aug 7 • M&W • 5:30-9:30pm • 21020163N
Unigraphics Modeling and Part Design	July 9-Aug 1 • T-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21020507N
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Network Operations Management	July 16-Aug 13 • T&Th • 5:30-9:30pm • 21020585N

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UAH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Special athletes treated to X-treme experience at Rocket Lanes

Redstone soldiers coach bowlers at annual tournament on Arsenal

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

This wasn't just another outing for the special needs children of the Huntsville City Schools. It may have been the ninth year Redstone hosted the Special Athletes Bowling Tournament at Rocket Lanes, but there was nothing ordinary about it.

"When the kids got here, John Howard (Rocket Lanes manager) asked them if they wanted to bowl the same old boring way or if they wanted the X-treme experience," Natalie Taylor, Exceptional Family Member Program manager, said. "The lights went down and the spotlights and music came on. You should have heard them go wild. It was great. The little kids were even dancing."

Dancing and cheering right along with them were 32 soldiers who volunteered their morning to make the April 9 event as special as possible. Soldiers from units including HHC AMCOM, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, MED-DAC and the 95th Maintenance Company, TMDE, helped 72 special athletes choose bowling balls, maneuver wheelchairs and set up bowling ramps while offering a little advice and a whole lot of praise. High-fives were

popping all down the lanes.

"Look at those smiles — Wow!" Mary Kay White, Lee High School special education teacher and event coordinator, said. "The kids were especially excited about meeting the soldiers this year, after 9/11 (happened) because the military has been in the forefront. I've certainly emphasized how blessed we are to live in a military community that invites us to be a part of them. All the soldiers — they volunteer for this — and it makes us feel good that they want to be with special needs children. They're so good with them. And John Howard always makes us feel so welcome. Today has been wonderful. You'd never guess this is Natalie's first year organizing it."

Taylor has been with Army Community Service less than a year and has successfully coordinated with special needs groups from the Huntsville community to provide Arsenal support for other events, including the Special Olympics bowling tournament in February.

"Master Sgt. (William) Loew has been a big help coordinating the soldiers for all our special events," Taylor said. "He comes in, knows the ropes, talks to the soldiers and everyone has a good time. He's pretty special for helping out that way. We appreciate all the soldiers who come out and volunteer for these events. Some more than once."

This event makes three for SFC Ardella Anderson,

HHC AMCOM, who volunteered last year and for Special Olympics this year.

"I have an excellent time, every time I do it," she said. "I like the way the bowling center is set up with the balls that glow and the music. We're having a great time."

It was a family affair for Pvt. Anthony Wright, Bravo Company, 832nd., and his wife Amanda.

"The drill sergeant told us about the event. I'm on B-shift and don't have to go in until 4 (p.m.) so I thought I'd spend the day doing this. When my wife heard I was coming here, she asked my drill sergeant if she could volunteer, too.

"I knew it would be fun but I didn't know it would be this much fun," Wright said. "It's great seeing their faces light up when they do good. This was more than what I expected. And the cookies were great."

Students from Butler and Lee high schools, who were also athletes in the tournament, baked loads of chocolate chip and sugar cookies for the soldiers. Athletes from Challenger Elementary made ribbons for all the participants of the tournament.

"The best part (of today) is talking with the soldiers," Weston Holmes of Lee High School said. "I'm having a lot of fun. The only bad part is the gutter balls."



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS— SFC Lolethia Gordon, HHC AMCOM, helped all her "kids" feel like champions at the special athletes bowling tournament at Rocket Lanes April 9. She is pictured with Patrick Crutcher, 15, and Irene Cley, 13, both students at Chapman Elementary School.

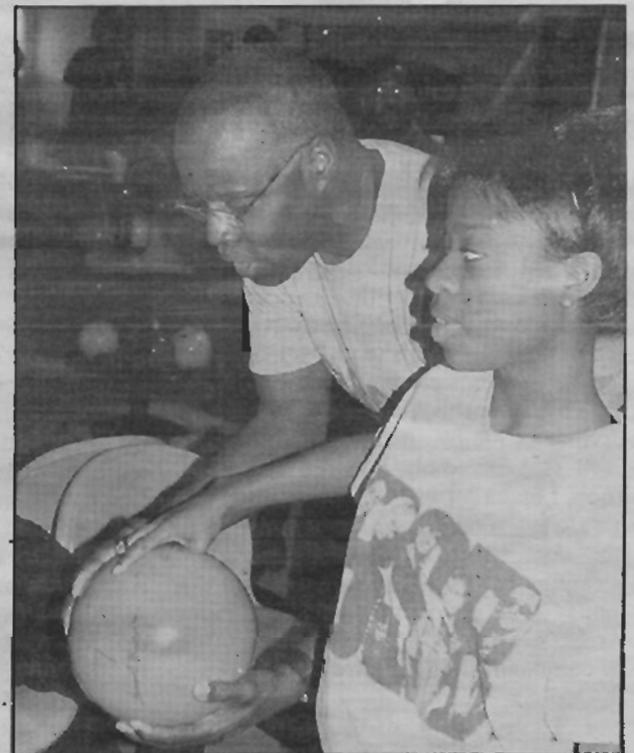


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

TALKING STRATEGY— CWO 3 Eduardo Hope, 95th Maintenance Company, TMDE, coaches D'Angella Toney of Lee High School, during the special athletes bowling tournament at Rocket Lanes April 9.

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Army Emergency Relief campaign continues with fund-raising events

Fund-raising activities for the Army Emergency Relief campaign include the following:

April 15-29 — from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Book sale, building 5300, second floor. For information call Brian Barry 842-9908 of Command Analysis Directorate.

April 17, 24, 30, May 8 and 15 — from 7:15 a.m. until they're all gone, Krispy Kreme doughnut sale, building 5300, front entrance. Call Belinda Bailey 876-5171 of Corporate Information Center.

April 18 — from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Car wash/bake sale/barbecue/hot dog sale, building 5301 (parking lot). For information call Sandra Dargin 313-1070 or Roosevelt Pitts 313-1063, IMMC Air Defense.

April 18 — from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bowl-a-thon, Rocket Lanes. For information call DeShannon March 842-9144, IMMC.

April 19 — from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Chili cookoff, Fox Army Health Center, Skylight Conference Room. Call SSGT. Slade 876-7449.

April 24 — from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Car Wash, building 5250 (rear). For information call Maj. Field 876-4380, PER&MS.

April 25 — Bake Sale, Military Personnel Office, building 3494. Call Sgt. Crewse 876-0972, HHC AMCOM.

April 25 — Plant Sale, Sparkman Center (cafeteria parking lot). Call Romona Rice 313-1641, IMMC.

April 27 — from 5-9 p.m., Spring Fling Jazz Concert, Rustic Lodge. Call Claus Martel 876-2334 or Shelley Feltmeyer 842-0044, Command Group/NCOA.

April 30 — from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., RASA Fun Day, building 4488. Call CWO 2 John Cage 876-2317 or Donna Johnson 876-9675.

May 1 — 1 p.m., Fun run/walk at Sparkman Center area. Call Kellie Mayfield 876-9236, Sparkman Center Management Office.

May 2 — from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Barbecue/hamburger/hot dog/vurst plus theme basket silent auction, building 5308. Call Maj. Scott Armstrong 876-1832, PMO SHORAD.

May 2 — from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Car wash/barbecue/hot dog sale, building

5301 (parking lot). Call Stanley McCrary 313-1094, IMMC Short Range Missile Directorate.

May 3 — 8:30 a.m., Golf tournament, Redstone Golf Course. Call Ron Walton 876-4336 or Nadine Manderson 842-0172, IMMC.

May 7 — from 7:30 a.m. until it's all gone, Bake sale, building 5300 (corridor). Call Mary Ann Caissie 955-8859, LAISO.

May 7 — from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Barbecue lunch, building 5250, back parking lot. Call Capt. Hawkins 876-5355, PM CCMS, PEO Tactical Missiles.

May 8 — from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Celebrity car wash, AAFES Garage. Call SFC Vasquez 876-0972, AMCOM EEO and HHC AMCOM.

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Win or lose

Troop volleyball takes center court at Pagano Gym



Photo by Skip Vaughn

NET ADJUSTMENT— Recreation specialists Bobby Taylor, left, and Joe Reed adjust the volleyball net at Pagano Gym in preparation for the preseason tournament.

Preseason tournament opens with seven teams

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

The volleyball net was already up last week at mid-court in Pagano Gym.

This week brought the preseason double-elimination, volleyball tournament for troop teams. Games began Monday night and continue through April 23.

"I'm giving out the schedules now," recreation specialist Joe Reed said last Thursday.

The seven teams included HHC 59th, Delta Company, Bravo Company, Charlie 832nd, AMCOM, the Marines and NCO Academy.

Monday's matchups included HHC 59th vs. Delta, Bravo vs. Marines and AMCOM vs. Charlie. NCO Academy, the defending post champion, played the winner of HHC 59th vs. Delta on Tuesday.

The final is slated for April 23 at 6 p.m. and 6:45 (if necessary).

The season should start by April 29 and end by early June. Games will be played Monday through Thursday nights beginning at 6, 7 and 8 at Pagano Gym.

The best-of-three matches use the rally scoring system where there's a point on every play. The first two sets go up to 25 points; and the third set, if necessary, goes up to 15. The winner of each set must have at least a two-point lead at the end. The troops use a let serve which means a serve is good if it lands fair, even if it

touches the net.

"It's a fast-paced game because of the scoring system," sports director Ted Compoc said. The rules changed about two years ago.

The preseason tournament, used in all troop sports here, helps provide insight on the teams.

"It gives coaches a chance to evaluate their teams plus the opposition because Commander's Cup points are critical," Compoc said.

He already has an idea of this year's favorite. The NCO Academy finished 12-0 and beat the Marines for last year's volleyball title.

But the NCO Academy's only returnee is player-coach Edward Sasan. The other players graduated; and star William Kelly has retired.

"They're expected to repeat," Compoc said. "(Sasan is) not only a good coach and player, he's a good organizer. They seem determined to defend their crown."

"My prediction is it's gonna be a good year," Sasan said. "I can tell you that we're still gonna have that championship trophy in my office. It isn't gonna go anywhere."

Tom Lettis, first sergeant for Bravo Company, has a different view. Bravo Company won the Western Conference title last year before losing to the NCO Academy in the postseason tournament.

"We're gonna be in the hunt. Looks like we've got a pretty good team," Lettis said. "You can tell Sergeant Sasan he's gonna be playing for second," he added, laughing.

Bravo team leaders include Luis Billingslea, Howard Jones and Joseph Heliminak.

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Tae Kwon Do students kick into high gear

Instructor and students looking forward to demonstrating skills

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
beths@hntimes.com

Not only will Tae Kwon Do students get the chance to show off their skills during a demonstration at the block party Saturday, but instructor MSgt. Jeffrey Davis will get to see his dream come true. For years he's wanted to start his own Tae Kwon Do school and now he's gone and done it.

Davis and his students are looking forward to the demonstration scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at the Youth Center's side patio area. They've come a long way since classes began in November.

Things didn't look so good for Davis' dream when he began offering Tae Kwon Do classes through Child and Youth Services, but he was patient. He knows if you have a dream, you don't give up. You make it happen.

"The first day of class no one showed. I was there at 4:30, 5:00, 6:00, 6:30 and no one showed," Davis said. "But I was still optimistic. I think one student finally showed by the second week and I was overly pleased. And I was willing to train just one."

Now Davis has 23 students ages 5-adult attending one to three of his classes per week. He considers this a good, comfortable number and says all his students are progressing and doing well.

"I knew it would take time to do this and I appreciate the parents who have signed up with their kids," he said. "I think I have 4 or 5 parents now that have their children in it and they've actually joined with their kids. They feed off each other and I'm glad they enjoy it. It's been good."

He doesn't pressure his students, preferring to build their confidence instead. He knows that with time and practice they'll get to where they can do what they need to do. He encourages them to work at their own pace and increase their flexibility through stretching.

"You have to be able to stick with it. If it's worth fighting for you can attain it," he said. "That's the beauty of the whole thing, it's something you've achieved. I'm not going to test and promote you unless you show me you can do it."

Davis took his first Tae Kwon Do class at the age of 25 after years of playing baseball and running track because he wanted to do something new and challenging. Seventeen years later he continues to be challenged by the sport.

Once you become a black belt you have to be able to give back and teach others. Davis worked as a volunteer assistant for a Tae Kwon Do instructor at the Youth Center in Virginia when he was stationed there for three years. That's when he got the idea to open his own Tae Kwon Do school.

He decided when he moved back home - his wife Melissa is from Huntsville and her parents live here - he would fulfill his dream. After Virginia he spent a year sta-

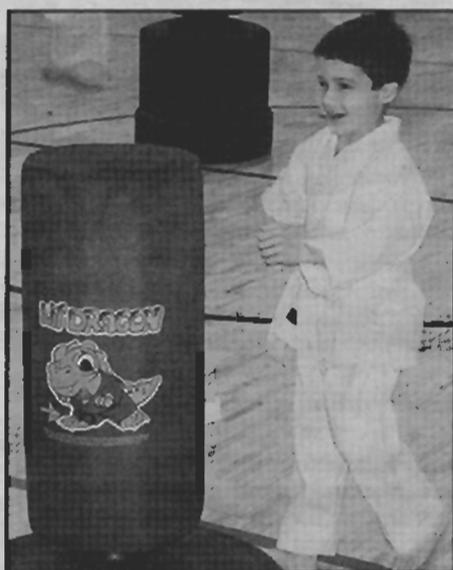


Photo by Beth Skarupa

TAKE THAT!— Rowan Sankar, 5, perfects his moves as fellow students practice in the background at Tae Kwon Do class.

tioned in Korea and went to school at Fort Bliss, then ended up back at Redstone Arsenal last summer.

In addition to being a Tae Kwon Do instructor, Davis is the NCO-in-charge of the Leadership Development Personnel Proponent Office at Redstone. He has 23 years of service in the Army this year and will retire next year. He said he plans to establish the Tae Kwon Do program here and keep going with it because he wants to give back to the community.

"I'm not trying to make money off this. I benefit by giving something back as a teacher. My payment is seeing my students do something," he said. "What I'd like to do, I'd love to stay on post and teach on post as long as they'll have me."

Surinder Sankar signed her 5-year-old son Rowan up for Tae Kwon Do last month. She said Rowan loves attending class and is looking forward to the upcoming demonstration.

"I'm very pleased with the program. I was happy that they were offering Tae Kwon Do and the instructor is great," she said. "Most places you hear about are very, very strict and kids don't know or understand that. He's very open about it. He still makes the kids do what he needs them to do, but he's very open and understanding."

Students can join the Tae Kwon Do classes at any time whether they're beginners or advanced. Classes are offered year-round but students can take them month-to-month. Students can even pro-rate months when they know they're going to miss a few weeks.

The classes are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 and 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 7 and 8 a.m. at the Youth Center. Students may attend 1-3 classes per week. Classes cost \$40 per month for the first family member, \$33 for the second family member and \$28 for the third. Anyone interested must first be registered through Central Registration.

For more information, call 876-5437 or 876-3704.

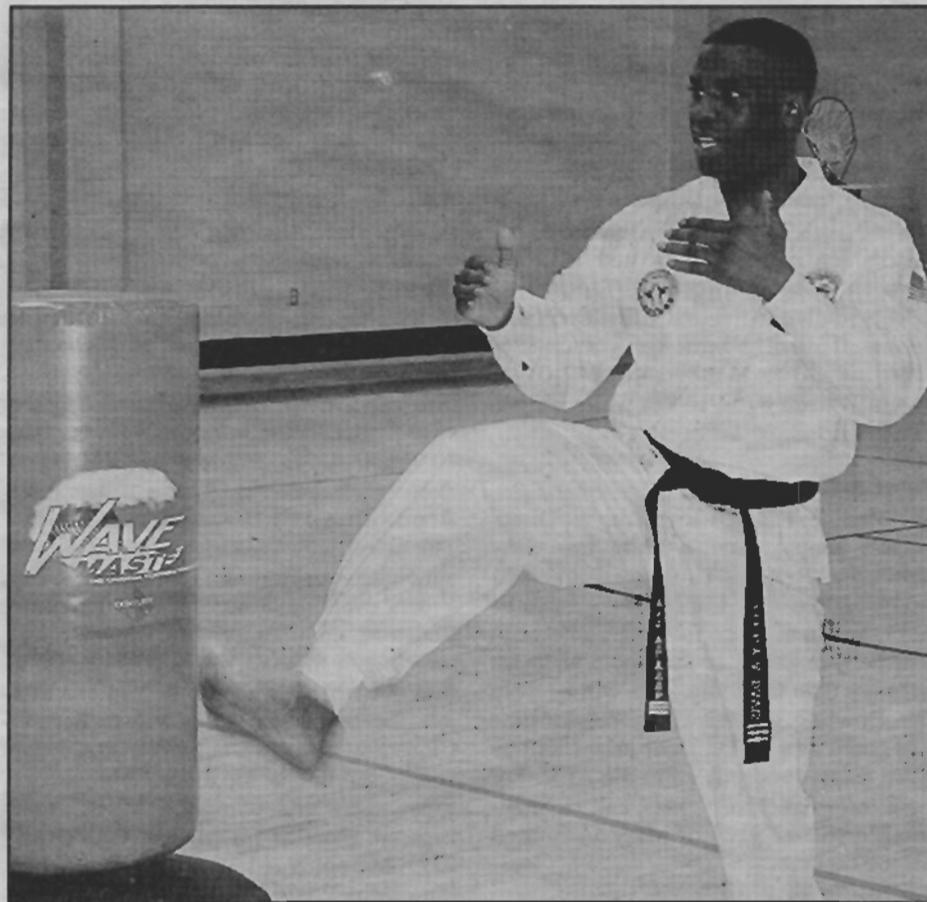


Photo by Beth Skarupa

DO THIS!— Tae Kwon Do instructor MSgt. Jeffrey Davis demonstrates a move to his students during class.



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