

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 51 No. 16

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Missile being developed for various platforms

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NCO Academy team makes strong return

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Volunteers 'bowled over' by recognition

Redstone Arsenal community honors Volunteers of Year

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

Karen Laska is glad she checked the invitation posted on her refrigerator at home.

Otherwise she might have gone to the wrong place for the Installation Volunteer Recognition Luncheon scheduled April 25. She mistakenly thought it was at the Challenger Activity Center again this year but the actual site is the Officers and Civilians Club.

Laska, a nominee last year, is among seven Volunteers of the Year for 2002. They will be honored at the luncheon at 11 a.m. Thursday in the club.

The winners include Laska, Service to Youth; Amanda Loew, Youth Service; Elaine Macedonia, Community Service Involvement; Anne Lewis, RSA Military Community Sustained Service; Chris Swart, Military Community Sustained Service; Phyllis Montgomery, Special Events; and Jennifer Kennedy, New Volunteer.

"I'm very appreciative of all of this," said Laska, who coaches young bowlers in the RSA Junior Senior League at Redstone Lanes. "I do it because I enjoy it. I enjoy the young people that I work with."

She coaches bowlers age 12-and-up on Saturday mornings at Redstone Lanes. About 24 youngsters participate in the youth division.

"I started with the children bowling and just got involved in it," said Laska, wife of retired Lt. Col. James Laska. "I have always enjoyed working with children, with the youth groups. I've worked with Boy Scouting, Girl Scouting, first aid rooms in schools; mainly involving children."

She and her husband volunteered with the youth bowling group in 1974 while he was stationed here as a soldier. James Laska retired in 1984 and the family returned to Huntsville in 1985. He also coaches the youth bowlers. Their daughter Mary is married and has children of her own. Their son, Brian, and daughter Ann, a student at University of Alabama-Huntsville, have also helped coach youth bowling. Laska was an assistant coach until about 1994 and then became coach.

"Jim deserves this (award) as much as I do because he's been by my side through all this," Laska said. "He surely does. We

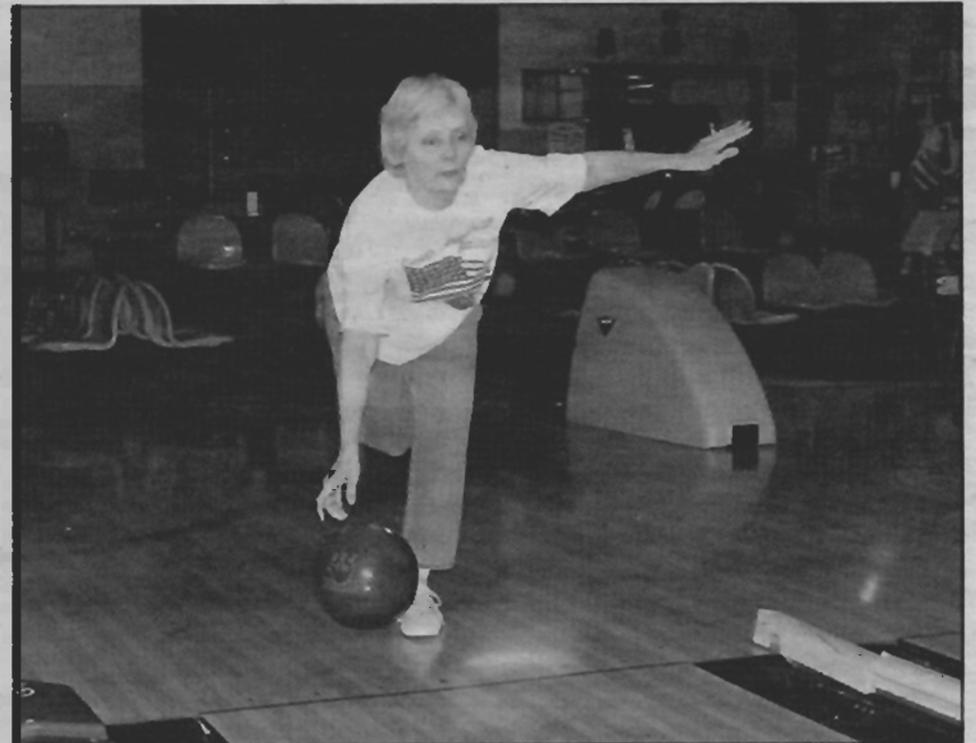


Photo by Skip Vaughn

JUST PRACTICING— Karen Laska, a Volunteer of the Year winner, practices her game at Redstone Lanes. She coaches bowlers age 12-and-up on Saturday mornings at Redstone Lanes; and about 24 youngsters participate in the youth division.

kind of work together as a team."

Swart, the Military Community Sustained Service winner, arrived at Redstone in June 2000 with her husband, Col. Brent Swart, the deputy post commander. She is secretary to the project manager for utility helicopters.

"What an honor. It really is," Swart said of her award. "To be recognized by your peers, that they know what you do and see that it's important."

"I am just so honored and sort of bowled over that they picked me," she added. The Swarts plan to stay in the local community after the colonel retires July 1.

Since 2000 Swart has served as a board member for Officer and Civilian Women's Club, adviser to the Enlisted Spouses Club and as an instructor for Army Family Team Building. She was a Thrift Shop board member from 2000-01. She taught AFTB classes from 1996-97. Swart's volunteer service began in 1983 as a Federal Women's Program committee member at the Ordnance Center and School at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Loew, 15, daughter of MSgt. William and Lisa Loew, is the Youth Service winner.

See Volunteers on page 7



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

ARMY COUPLE— Volunteer of the Year winner Chris Swart and her husband, Col. Brent Swart, arrived at Redstone in June 2000. Recognized for her Military Community Sustained Service, she was among seven winners.

Thanks for good fortune story

Reference the commentary by Sandy Riebeling titled "Afternoon nightmare: Losing purse like leaving life behind for thieves," April 17 *Redstone Rocket*...

I just read your article in the *Redstone Rocket* and I want to personally thank you for sharing your story. It was a real

joy to read of your good fortune and that honest, good people, who will take the time to do the right thing still are around. Wish we had more stories like this every day to read.

Rebecca Rodriguez
Corps of Engineers

Summer employment benefits youngsters

I was wondering if anyone out there knows who else besides the Department of the Army is going to be offering jobs for students during the summertime — in particular students under the age of 16. I want to know if there's a program established at Redstone Arsenal to aid our military dependent children to find work during the summer. If there is no such program, what will it take to get one started?

We need a program that is aimed only for military dependent children. Williams Technology Middle School has a lot of talented young people that are getting ready to attend high school in the fall. The majority of the students have extensive knowledge of computer programs, etc. I'm sure there is several contractors on Redstone Arsenal that would want to give our children an opportunity. Let's hear from you.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center provided the following response. "As indicated by the author, the Department of Army at Redstone Arsenal will have summer employment opportunities for eligible students. The Aviation and Missile Command, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has collected management's summer hire projections and is currently in the process of preparing a recruitment program for these positions. Job opportunities to eligible students will be announced and posted

at www.redstone.army.mil/cpo.

"In addition, there may be summer employment opportunities with other federal agencies and employers located at Redstone Arsenal (e.g. Marshall Space Flight Center, Non-Appropriated Funds, contractors) and in the Huntsville surrounding area. It is recommended that interested students contact these various employers, and the Huntsville Human Resources Department, to find out about other employers' summer employment opportunities.

"The summer employment program is a great opportunity for employers to expose students to a wide variety of occupations, and to encourage students to continue their education. There may be opportunities for students under the age of 16. However, when recruiting and hiring students under the age of 16, there are additional state and federal 'child labor' laws that must be followed, by all employers. In communicating with the Alabama Employment Security Office and the Huntsville Human Resource Department, there are limited opportunities for employers to hire students as early as 14 years of age. This is to ensure the safety of young students, and to avoid placing them in hazardous occupations.

"The Department of Army will continue to support the Student Employment Program, expose students to the wide variety of occupations Army recruits in fulfilling its mission, encourage students to continue their education, and to investing in 'tomorrow's work force.'"

Update wanted on new housing units

I want to know the status of the new houses being constructed on Hof Circle. Housing mailed out a letter in early March and if I'm not mistaken we were looking at the houses being ready by April. It is now April and we have not heard anything from housing. Can someone in housing give us an update? Also could they explain which areas of new houses being built belong to what rank structure — example officers, senior enlisted, etc.?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following response. "Thank you for your interest in our new housing. The status and distribution of the new quarters has been on the agenda for every Town Hall Meeting and monthly Mayor's Meeting. Normally, during these meetings, an in-depth discussion is held and updates are provided. Unfortunately, weather and other delays have again pushed the expected completion date from April to May for 18 units south of Goss Road. The current status and distribution plan is as follows:

"Area 2B Hof Circle (south of Goss Road): 8 units — SNCO, 4 bedroom; 10 units — SNCO, 3 bedroom (2 handicap). Current completion scheduled for this May. 4 units — CSM designated 4 bedrooms. Current estimated completion is

November.

"Area 4 Wesson Circle (north of Goss Road): 22 units — SNCO, 3 bedroom (2 handicap); 3 units — SNCO, 4 bedroom. Estimated completion is September. There are 71 additional units being constructed north of Goss Road. These units are allocated for Junior Enlisted/Junior NCO. They will be comprised of 3, 4 and 5 bedroom units. Currently, their estimated completion is April 2003. The letter you speak of was sent to all housing occupants. This was done in an effort to keep the whole community abreast of what is going on and what procedures are being used to make transition as painless as possible. When the letters went out, there was expectation that the 18 units on the south side of Goss Road (Hof Circle) would be ready by the end of April. Unforeseen circumstances have precluded this from happening. A few of the units have undergone final inspection with minimal corrective action needed. For safety reasons, it is not our intent to occupy any of the units until the whole area is complete. As stated above, it is anticipated that all 18 units will be ready by May 30. As we discussed in the Town Hall Meeting April 2, the ribbon cutting will be on May 30 at 10 a.m. Open house is scheduled as follows: May 30 from 1-4:30 p.m., May 31 from 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., and June 1 from 8 a.m. to noon."

Correction

Dan Ahern, director of community and family activities, asked that the following paragraph be added to his response to a letter to the editor regarding the PX dividend which appeared in the April 17 *Redstone Rocket*. "Redstone Arsenal also has one of the very few 'large' MWR programs in the Army which is profitable without receiving the AAFES dollars as operational income — a testament to just how efficient MWR here is. Very few (if any) other installations can make this claim. All our operational expenses and

so-called 'overhead' costs are paid from operations here without the support of AAFES, barracks telephone income, or interest — all income sources that the rest of the Army's MWR programs rely on heavily. This, of course, supports our overall aim, which is to be as business efficient as possible so as to return the maximum value to our community through a mix of good quality services, reasonable prices, and a substantial reinvestment into new capital goods, facilities and services."

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Rocket Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Al Schwartz

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Reporters: Sandy Riebeling

Beth Skarupa

SSgt. Sharon McBride

Copy Editor: Scott Seeley

Advertising Sales: Jennifer Rodgers

Aletha Pardue

Petie Sims

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Brigade equal opportunity staff members see changes



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

SHARING DUTIES— SFC Ann Pegram and SFC Nestor Santos look over some paperwork in the 59th Ordnance Brigade Equal Opportunity office. Pegram is getting ready to leave for Korea while Santos is new to the EO office.

As one soldier starts tour, another leaves for Korea

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

The OMMCS Equal Opportunity office hails a new soldier as one prepares to change duty stations.

SFC Nestor Santos is the newest addition to the 59th Ordnance Brigade Equal Opportunity office. The brigade office handles equal opportunity complaints, questions and education for the entire Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School.

Santos came to the Arsenal in 2000, but in December 2001 he made the switch over to the brigade.

"I was DA selected to serve as an equal opportunity adviser," he said. Santos joined the Army in 1982 and started out as an infantryman but in 1986 he re-classed as a 55B or ammo specialist. Since then he has been stationed in Georgia, Hawaii, Texas and the Arsenal. Santos and his wife, Olga, have two children, Nestor Jr., 15, and Luis, 9.

Later this year he hopes to finish up college and receive his bachelor's in business administration. "I hope to get a good job once I'm out of the Army," he said. Santos has 20 years in the Army but he isn't looking to retire anytime soon. Until then Santos is slated to be the brigade equal opportunity adviser for the next two years. "I might extend another year," he said.

SFC Ann Pegram, an outgoing brigade equal opportunity adviser, is leaving for Korea. On a command-sponsored tour, her sons, Jacob, 18, James, 14, and Dominic, 8, are going to be able to accompany her.

"It's just another PCS for them," she said about the move. "But I've enjoyed my time here at Redstone Arsenal. I like the fact that I've taken care of soldiers and that I've made a difference." SFC Richard Weber is en route from Fort Carson, Colo., to succeed Pegram this summer.

In Korea, Pegram will pick up her old specialty as an electronics maintenance chief. "SFC Pegram has done a lot for this office," Santos said. "We are sad to see her go."

New lanes open to Gate 1 traffic beginning this week

Multiyear construction to widen Martin Road

By SHARIE MILLER
For the Rocket

Traffic at Gate 1, Martin Road (East) will be rerouted to the newly constructed lanes beginning this week, said Michael Elliott, assistant project engineer for the Alabama State Department of Transportation-Huntsville Region.

During peak morning hours (5:30-8:15 a.m.) three inbound lanes will be open at the gate area. The two left lanes will be for regular traffic. The lane to the right, nearest the guard booth, will be for visitors and automobiles without decals.

Incoming commercial vehicles will still be routed into the parking area for inspection. Similar to current operations, there will be no outbound traffic during morning peak hours.

However, during other times, outbound traffic will be condensed at the gate area into one lane only, the right or south-most lane.

"The morning that traffic is redirected, cones will be moved into place and patrol cars will be out with lights flashing to help with traffic," Sgt. Maj. Gary Stepp, Provost Marshal Office, said. All visitor passes are good for only one entry. Visitors, or employees with visitor passes, who leave the installation and return the same day will have to have

their vehicle re-inspected and have a new pass issued.

On average there are 2,000-2,500 vehicles that enter and exit Gate 1 each day, Monday through Friday.

"The soldiers and security officials on the gates are doing their duty as directed

by the post commander and provost marshal. You can help move traffic by being patient and prepared," Stepp said.

This is part of a multiyear project to widen Martin Road East to four-lane traffic. Soon the existing bridge will be replaced and the road resurfaced.

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DEATH TO SMOOCHY (R) DTS 4:00 9:45	VAN WILDER (R) DOLBY 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15
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OTHER SIDE OF HEAVEN (PG) DTS	(1:40 4:20) 7:15 9:40
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PANIC ROOM (R) - ID REQUIRED DTS	(1:35 4:20) 7:05 9:35
THE ROOKIE (G) DTS	(1:35 4:15) 7:10 9:55
BLADE II (R) - ID REQUIRED DTS	(1:25 4:10) 7:10 9:40
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A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG-13) DTS	(1:05 4:05) 7:05 9:50
LORD OF THE RINGS (PG-13) DTS	8:15 9:30

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SPIDER-MAN™ (PG-13)	(1:15 4:15) 7:15 9:55
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FRAILTY (R) - ID REQUIRED	(1:30 4:30) 7:30 9:55
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A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG-13)	(1:10 4:10) 7:10 9:50

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Tactical command, control systems made in Huntsville

General Dynamics Decision Systems designs and fields operations centers

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

Soldiers used to rely on maps and binoculars to put together the information they needed on the battlefield. But things have changed.

Now the Army uses Tactical Operations Centers. These are configurations of vehicles filled with sophisticated instruments that give the commander everything he needs for command and control on the battlefield.

TOCs are being developed, tested and fielded for the Army by General Dynamics Decision Systems in Huntsville. The contractor also provides the Tactical Airspace Integration System, a digitized system fitted into two Humvees, for the Program Executive Office for Aviation.

"I guess the thing we're most proud of is we do all this here in Huntsville," Tom Harrison, command and control systems business unit manager for General Dynamics Decision Systems, said.

This proves convenient for local Army officials who include Col. Gary Jerault,



VEHICLE CHECKUP— Gary Woods, quality engineer at General Dynamics Decision Systems, inspects an M-1068 for shipment to Fort Hood, Texas. This vehicle is part of a tactical operations center.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

the project manager for TOCs and air and missile defense command and control systems, and Lt. Col. Wally Tubell, TOCs product manager. The project office reports to the Program Executive Office for Command, Control, Communications, Tactical at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

"It's a lot easier to drive down here (to the General Dynamics plant on Technology Drive) than it is to hop on a plane to go somewhere," Tubell said.

The tactical operations centers produced locally are delivered to the 4th Infantry Division and 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. More than 30 centers have been fielded to those divisions so far. This program began in 1999 with a \$44.8 million contract for 64 centers within five years.

"We bring together all the efforts of the various communications and battlefield functional efforts," Tubell said.

The Tactical Airspace Integration System is a separate but related program. This digitized airspace command and control and air traffic services system, all fitted into two vehicles, can be used as part of a TOC. "You can drive a TAIS up and put it into a TOC and have that picture," Harrison said.

The tactical airspace integration systems are being fielded at Fort Hood and Fort Bragg, N.C. This program began in 2000 with a \$22.3 million contract, with options which could reach a total value of \$150 million, for 53 systems in five years.

On Feb. 4 at Huntsville International

Airport, the Army air defense radar community and the Federal Aviation Administration held the last in a series of three demonstrations to determine whether the tactical airspace integration system could accept a civil FAA radar input for possible use in a homeland security role. "We certainly think we met all the objectives of the demonstrations," Harrison said. "The key point was making sure TAIS would link with that FAA radar and that worked well."

More than 100 people work in the General Dynamics' Huntsville operation including engineering, operations and quality assurance functions. "We bring a lot to this community not from just a General Dynamics perspective but also from a subcontracting perspective," said Harrison, a retired colonel.

"Our Huntsville operation is a part of General Dynamics Information Systems and Technology business," Fran Jacques, the company's public affairs manager in Scottsdale, Ariz., said. "That business is committed to the C4 ISR market (for command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance). The C4 ISR marketplace is key to the Department of Defense transformation initiative."

TAIS is a software intensive system; and General Dynamics Decision Systems has a top rating, Capability Maturity Model level 5, from the Software Engineering Institute.

Harrison sees a bright future for both the tactical operations centers and tactical airspace integration systems and General Dynamics' role.

"From an operational perspective, I think the TOCs provide the commanders with a common operating picture. And that picture allows him to make near real-time decisions for command and control," he said. "Advantages of TAIS are probably first and foremost the automation of previously labor-intensive activities — the ability to provide air traffic services, flight following and airspace management in an automated fashion, interoperable with the Army Battle Command system. That's the system by which the Army's digitizing. TAIS is a digitized system."

Command opens voluntary separation bonus windows

Still awaiting "the number" from higher headquarters, AMCOM officials decided they couldn't delay any longer in opening the window last week for separation bonus applicants.

The number refers to how many workers will actually be allowed to end their careers with Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay. The Aviation and Missile Command has been awaiting that information from the Army Materiel Command.

AMCOM officials opened the reshape and special reshape windows last Thursday, to continue through today, after waiting as long as possible. The message went out to the work force via electronic mail.

"We still haven't gotten the number from AMC," Don Dixon, chief of customer support B in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, said. "And we're getting down to the wire as far as salary savings. So we were concerned about waiting any longer to put out an announcement. It's gone out by e-mail to all the organizations so hopefully it's gotten down to everybody."

Some 28 people applied for the separation bonus on opening day.

"We decided to go ahead with the announcement so we could be ready to issue approvals once we get a number," Dixon said.

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Command has master plan for information management

Board develops guide for resource priorities

By MAXINE DOHERTY
Corporate Information Center

In August 2000, the AMCOM commanding general directed that a command Information Management Master Plan be developed. His direction stemmed from a realization that emerging Information Technology initiatives from higher headquarters were going to have a tremendous impact on AMCOM IT resources.

The commanding general's directive resulted in the formation of the Business Information Management Planning Board, consisting of representatives from all major functional organizations in AMCOM and chaired by the chief information officer. The BIMPB became a permanent AMCOM board after being approved by the command board of directors in September 2001. The board's first

accomplishment was the development of the information management master plan which will be used as a guide for the command to plan, prioritize and resource information technology needs based on mission requirements. The document also serves as a road map depicting the process for turning a requirement for information technology into an implemented IT solution.

BIMPB members officially signed the IMMP document April 3. With the signature of the BIMPB members, the document will be submitted to the AMCOM board of directors for final approval and implementation throughout the command.

Members of the Business Information Management Planning Board include James McGraw, Randy Gloyd, Rick Kellogg, Kenneth Brooks, Todd Hutto, Gerald Scheiman, Miriam Keat, Shirley Perkey, Deborah Cornelius, Robert Mione, Dennis Thrasher, Carolyn Pendergrass, Joe Winston, Pete Rivera, George Landingham and James Stiles.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

INFORMATION PLAN— Mike Ivey, the corporate information officer, signs the Information Management Master Plan, April 15 at the Corporate Information Center. CIC workers looking on from left are Brian Taylor, technical director; Maxine Doherty, technology applications director; Jetty Baddley, management analyst; and Terry Yancey, systems technology director. The Business Information Management Planning Board, with representatives from throughout the command, began developing the plan last July. "It was very challenging but these folks came together in a cooperative spirit," Doherty said.



Photo by Ronald Bowman

Congressional visit

Col. Waldo Carmona, commander of Aviation Applied Technology Directorate at Fort Eustis, Va., briefs members of a congressional delegation during their visit to the directorate March 15. He described the Vigilante, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and communication technologies. From left are Rep. JoAnn Davis, R-Va.; CWO 3 Lance Nation of AATD, in background; Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif.; Jean Reed, professional staff member, House Armed Services Committee; and Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va.

Conserving energy makes good cents for government

By MORTON ARCHIBALD
AMCOM Energy Team

What difference does one light bulb make? One computer? Try this...

Pull this sheet out of the newspaper, toss it into the air and watch it float down. It seems weightless, doesn't it? Now heft the whole newspaper to the same height, and drop it. Still seem weightless? Of course not, but it still doesn't make that much of an impact. But wait!

Now bundle together a bundle of 100 papers for your entire office. Care to drop that on your desk? But wait, there's more!

Now load up more than 200 bundles or 20,000 plus papers — that's the weekly circulation of the *Redstone Rocket*. How

would you like to load that by hand each week?

So the problem is not one light or one computer left on when not needed. The problem is thousands of lights and thousands of computers. So what is the solution?

Just as little instances of waste add up big time, so do little instances of savings. Each of us has the power to make a difference.

Now I'm not suggesting that you do without energy you really need just to say we've saved. If you really need that light, that computer or even that peripheral device, by all means turn it on, but when you're done, turn it off. We have enough money in the budget to pay for all the energy we need. We just need to cut out the waste.

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Army in action

Common missile in development for use in Objective Force

Primes compete to keep production costs down

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

As the threat of war has changed, the Army has changed right along with it, developing bigger and better systems to retain dominance on the battlefield and in the skies above it.

But sometimes less is more. The Army's future is a transformation to a leaner, lighter, more lethal force; a mobile force with quick response and a small logistical support footprint. Some current weapons systems will become part of the future Objective Force. Some will serve in the interim. And then there's development of new systems. The Common Missile, managed at Redstone, is one of those systems designed to serve in the Objective Force.

Systems for the field Part 8 of series

"Congress believes that we have too many anti-armor missiles out there," Bill Ruta, acting deputy project manager, Common Missile Project Office, said.

"PEO Tactical Missiles did a study to look at its future and define its transformation strategy. The Common Missile was envisioned from there."

The concept is to use a common missile to replace TOW and Hellfire missile systems.

The Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided system is a line of sight wire guided missile launched primarily from ground platforms such as the Bradley Fighting Vehicle or a Humvee. It can also be fired using a tripod on the ground or off a Cobra helicopter. With a range just over two miles, the anti-armor missile has the capability to kill any known armored threat and as a secondary mission can destroy bunkers, buildings and other soft targets. Several missile variants are in the Army's inventory.

Hellfire missiles are primarily launched from rotary wing aircraft, with the same lethality as the TOW against armored threats, current and projected. Hellfire and its variants use either laser guidance or millimeter wave radar technology with a fire and forget capability and have a reported range of eight kilometers.

With funding that flowed from the modified Hellfire program, the Research Development and Engineering Center began



Courtesy photo

ON DISPLAY— Robert Perry, left, Common Missile Project Office, and Scott Spiegel, Research Development and Engineering Center, discuss the benefits of the common missile at the Simulation and Modeling for Acquisition Requirements and Training conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 18.

investigating the possibilities of a common missile fired from both ground and air platforms using a variety of seekers with fire and forget and line-of-sight capabilities.

The Common Missile Project Office was started Oct. 1, 2001, working closely with the RDEC on the program. In December Common Missile became a cooperative program with the United Kingdom. They provide some funding and in return the Army considers U.K. requirements during system development.

Requirements include increasing missile range to Objective Force ranges, which exceed the current ranges of TOW and Hellfire; rotary, ground and possibly fixed wing platforms (for Navy and Marine Corps); meeting lethality requirements of projected threats to 2015; fire and forget, line-of-sight, non-line of sight (over a hill) and beyond line-of-sight capabilities; multimode warhead for armored and soft targets, and a tri mode seeker — imaging infrared, semi-active laser and millimeter wave radar.

"These seeker technologies aren't new but there isn't a missile out there that integrates all three into one sensor," Ruta said. "It allows for greater flexibility. The gunner can point and shoot or with the millimeter wave, lock on after launch. It also gives us greater ability in adverse weather conditions, plus good counter-measure resistance. If one sensor is countered, the other sensors can take over."

The program is in the concept and technology phase. Three prime contractors, Boeing, Raytheon and Lockheed Martin, are each working on a design concept using Simulation Based Acquisition. Using an SBA approach minimizes the amount of testing required on the program and modifications to the system can easily be assessed without the cost associated with building new hardware.

A milestone decision to continue into the System Development and Demonstration phase is expected by September 2003.

"We'll send out request for proposals using a leader-follower acquisition approach," Ruta said. "The prime will develop a majority of the system but the follower (other contractors) may also develop some of it. This way we ensure that there is a technology transfer from prime to follower."

Once the production phase is reached, the prime and follower will compete for the production contract.

"It may not be a winner take all," Ruta said. "The prime may produce 55-65 or even 70 percent of the production with the follower producing the remainder."

The biggest benefit of the leader-follower type acquisition is competition among contractors, thus keeping production costs low. Additional benefits include maintaining a good industrial base in the community and encouraging cooperation because with the quantities discussed (about 73,000 missiles), more than one producer may be needed.

After a 48 month SDD, the program should enter low-rate initial production in September 2007. Cost is projected at less than \$100,000 per missile. The first unit equipped is scheduled for FY '10.

With a shelf life minimum requirement of 10 years, the common missile is considered a modular missile which means shelf life items can be replaced and new technologies inserted to extend its life and grow with the advancement of future weapon systems.

As an Objective Force weapon, the common missile will be the primary missile for the Comanche helicopter and is being considered for use on the Future Combat System, a ground vehicle still in development for the Objective Force.

"We just stood up as a small project office, about 30 people, but it's a great team with experience coming from many different projects," Ruta said. "We think it's a great concept — one missile for many different users thus decreasing the overall cost to DoD."

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■ Commanding general to present volunteer awards

Volunteers

continued from page 1

A freshman at New Century Technology High School, she volunteered for the annual gift wrapping sponsored by the Enlisted Spouses Club last December at the Post Exchange. She was president of the National Junior Honor Society last year at J.E. Williams Middle School.

"It's nice to give back to the community," said Loew, who arrived with her parents in August 1999 from Fort Sill, Okla. She was born in Frankfurt, Germany.

Kennedy, the New Volunteer winner, is the wife of SSgt. John Kennedy of Delta Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion. They arrived in August 2000 from Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga. She began volunteering here that November. She serves as an AFTB instructor, works with the mayors program in the housing areas, is treasurer for the Enlisted Spouses Club, participated

in the Army Family Action Plan Conference, and coaches youth softball. Besides her volunteer work, she is employed in Huntsville as an administrative assistant at First Command Financial Planning.

"I've been with the Army a long time and I've always been told to volunteer and give back to the community," Kennedy said. "My dad's still in the service and we've always volunteered."

Besides the seven award winners this year's other honorees include Barbara Anderson, Aniceto Bagley, Helen Bergantz, Mikhail Brown, Lea Ann Bryant, Diane Davis, Carolyn Denno, Gordon Dison, SFC Michael Foote, Lois Mackintosh, Sharon Samuelson, Eva Small, Margaret Smart, Crystal Taylor, Frank Thonus, Lawrence Welcome and Sonya West.

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, is to speak and present awards at Thursday's luncheon.



Evelyn Teats/ Enlisted Spouses Club

GIFT WRAPPING— Amanda Loew, among the Volunteer of the Year winners, serves at the Christmas gift-wrapping booth last December sponsored by the Enlisted Spouses Club. She is the daughter of MSgt. William and Lisa Loew.



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Missile school's chief of staff hangs up his hat

Lt. Col. Richard Walters retires after 22 years of Army service

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

Putting soldiers first was chief on the priority list of the missile school's ex-chief.

Lt. Col. Richard Walters is retiring after 22 years in the Army. For the past three years, he served as chief of staff of the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School.

On April 15, Walters said an informal goodbye to the staff and soldiers of OMMCS at his farewell luncheon held at the Officers and Civilians Club. Walters said he plans on officially retiring later this summer, but his last day as the OMMCS chief of staff was April 12, closing out his Army career that started in the '80s.

Walters got his first taste of the Army as an ROTC cadet at Furman University in South Carolina. He graduated as the distinguished military graduate and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps in May 1980.

"I never intended to stay more than four years in the Army," he said. "Soldiers are the main reason I stayed." He ended up staying for more than two decades.

But his Army career wasn't always smooth, he said. "As a young lieutenant I had a tough time figuring out what ASAP meant, and it took me some time to figure out what time 1900 really was."

But he said he stuck it out, figured it out and prioritized what meant the most to him. "I really enjoy being around soldiers," he said. "And during my tenure in the Army I saw there were times when leaders weren't taking care of their soldiers. I wanted to be around to make sure that they were."

The past three years weren't his first at Redstone. Walters first set foot in Huntsville in summer 1980 to attend the Officer Basic Course. "I didn't know what to expect," he said. And now he's decided to start his career here as a civilian, too.

"My future plans include looking for a

job in Huntsville," he said. "I want to stay near my daughter, Kelly, 12. She is the love of my life." That way, he says, he'll ensure that they will always have time to do the things they love to do together.

"We like to play board games, and card games and eat out and travel to different places," he said.

Before his assignment as chief of staff Walters was the adviser to the commander of the Saudi Arabian Army Ordnance School, Taif, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. And throughout his military career, he served in a variety of command and staff positions. Walters has been stationed at three different places in Germany, as well as Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Gillem, Ga. At Redstone he has also served as an Officer Advanced Course small group leader, the OMMCS inspector general, and as the executive officer of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion.

Walters said he has many wonderful memories from serving at Redstone.

"I can remember working in my office as the 832nd Ordnance Battalion XO one Saturday morning in 1993 and having 2nd Lt. Larson and her father knock on my door trying to find out where to report," he said. "As I helped them find their way, I encouraged her to come see me if she needed assistance. I received a nice note from her father months later thanking me for my help and interest. That's what it's all about... helping and serving."

He's had several proud moments at Redstone. He served as commander of troops for the change of command ceremony when Col. David Hafele became commandant of the school in June 2001.

"But my most significant memories are the lives that have been part of my life," Walters said. He thanked all the 59th Ordnance Brigade executive officers that kept him straight while he served as the chief of staff. "Marty Muchow, Mark Spencer, Bryan Read, Scott Hoffman, Mary Walsh, and of course the secretaries... Joy, Eve, Janice."

Several soldiers and staff within OMMCS have been with Walters since the beginning of his tenure as chief of staff.

"There are just a few who have made



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

FOND FAREWELL— Lt. Col. Richard Walters, the Ordnance Missile Munitions Center and School chief of staff, is retiring after 22 years in the military. His last day at the school was April 12; and Walters plans to stay in the Huntsville area.

this journey with me for almost all of the past three years, Capt. (Bryan) Bohan, Sgt. Maj. (David A.) Rivera, George Benzenhafer, Richard Lee and Diane Jemigan."

But as he starts another chapter within his career, Walters said he just had a few parting words for those soldiers within the school that are picking up where he left off.

"I would like to remind officers that the job is all about soldiers," he said. "I've tried to ingrain that in every officer that ever worked for me. If you don't care deeply about soldiers, then you need to get out of the Army. The Army is not the place for you."

"For enlisted soldiers I would like to

tell them that the Army is a great place for opportunity," he said. "Make sure you get an education so that you will be successful wherever you go. Always make a good first impression, by that I mean at least make sure that your boots and uniform look great, and take initiative."

Lt. Col. Doug Taylor is slated to take over as chief of staff.

"I'm thrilled that Lt. Col. Doug Taylor is going to take my place as chief of staff here at the school," he said. "He took my place as battalion executive officer in 1994. I know he will help lead OMMCS to far greater achievements doing his time as chief of staff."



SFC Glenn Lundy/ Delta Company 832nd

Baseball clinic

With help from an instructor, Tatum Perry gets to demonstrate the proper batting stance during a baseball clinic April 13 sponsored by Youth Services for Redstone teams. Tatum is the daughter of Maj. Christopher and Monte Perry. The clinic was done at RSA Little League sports fields at no cost to parents. The Simply the Best Baseball School, based in Florida, provided two instructors who took the kids through a series of hitting, fielding, catching and throwing drills. Many of Redstone's volunteer coaches were on hand to observe and help where needed. Volunteer coaches and parents said they were happy to see some of the teaching tools and techniques explained and practiced.

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Redstone represented in commemorative Bataan Death March

Nine soldiers from here make 26.2-mile march

Through the efforts of Dan Ahern, director of community and family activities, and John Rogers of Association of U.S. Army, Redstone Arsenal sent nine soldiers to a popular commemorative event known as the Bataan Death March. The Bataan Memorial Death March is a 26.2-mile march through the high desert terrain of White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

This memorial march is conducted in honor of the servicemembers who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II, sacrificing their freedom, health and, in many cases, their lives. The 2002 Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., was conducted April 14 with 4,200 soldiers and civilians from 42 states and four foreign countries. Military units as far away as Korea had participants, including 8th Army who sent a military female heavy team and 2nd Infantry Division.

This memorial march recognizes the sacrifices made by thousands of U.S. and Filipino servicemembers overwhelmed by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands during World War II. This year marked the 60th anniversary of the World War II march.

The 26.2-mile march starts on the mis-

sile range main post, crosses hilly terrain, winds around a small mountain and returns to the finish line through sandy desert trails and washes. The elevation varies from about 4,100 to 5,300 feet. While marathon length, the memorial march is not a sanctioned marathon.

The event was open to military (active duty, Reserve, National Guard, ROTC, Junior ROTC or retired) and civilian teams and individuals in either heavy or light divisions. Military personnel marching in any military category must wear full field gear. Civilian marchers in any category should wear attire appropriate for a road march through desert terrain. All marchers entered in heavy division categories had to carry a 35-pound rucksack. SSgt. Maurice Conner of Delta Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion participated in this event and finished in 11th place.

A Redstone Arsenal team of CSM Lawrence Rogers, garrison command sergeant major; SFC Arthur White, NCO-in-charge of enlisted records at Military Personnel Office; SSgt. Doug Smith of NCO Academy, SSgt. Charles Mason of Delta Company and PFC Marlon Alvarado of Headquarters & Alpha Company finished 24th out of a field of 50 in the team competition. Teams must consist of five people. All five marchers must cross the finish line together. Team categories include male light, male military light, male mili-

tary heavy, female light, female military light, female military heavy, coed military light, coed military heavy, coed light, National Guard light, National Guard heavy, ROTC light, ROTC heavy and Junior ROTC light.

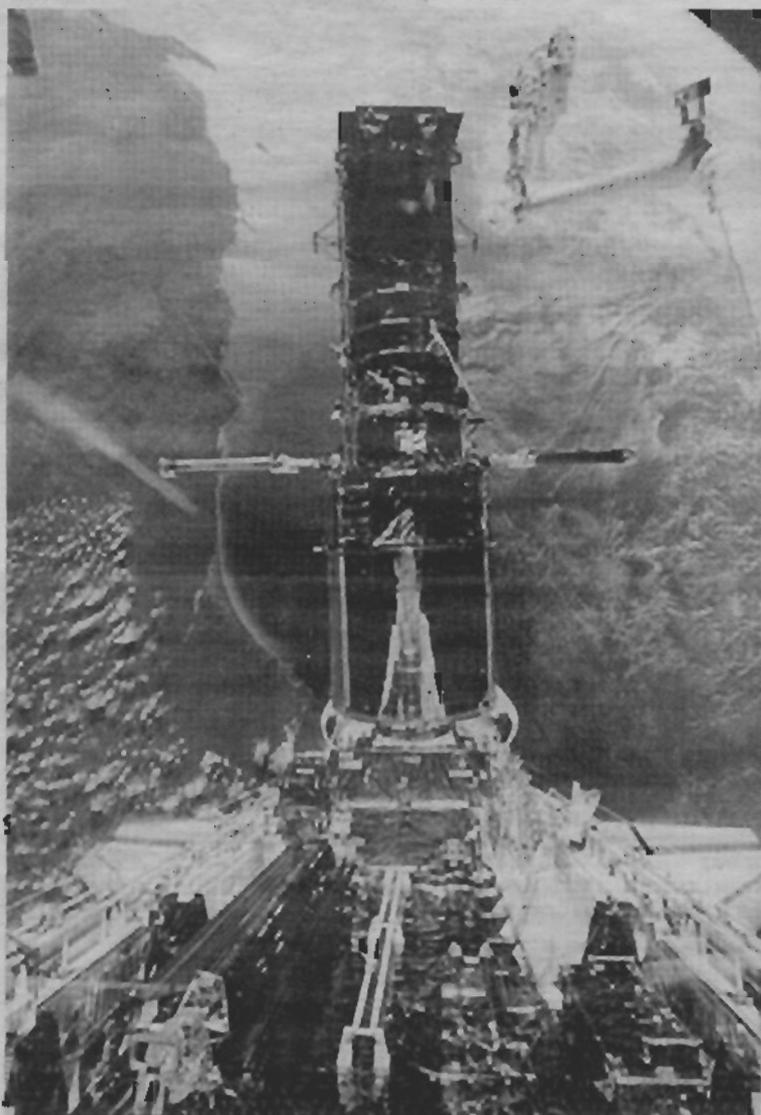
Individual competitors included Capt. Tijuana Collier, HHC AMCOM commander; 1st Sgt. Teresa Maguire, HHC AMCOM first sergeant; and SFC Tracy Watkins of Military Police in the military female light category.



Courtesy photo

Stars contribute

Cliff Pate, left, assistant general manager of the Huntsville Stars professional baseball team, presents a 2002 Family Pack of 12 Pick-A-Date Certificates to Lindsay Vaught, Army Emergency Relief representative for SHORAD Project Office. The tickets, along with free movie passes, dinners to area restaurants, and other goodies, will be in theme baskets auctioned off at the SHORAD AER fund-raising barbecue May 2. The baskets will be on display outside the Sparkman Cafeteria until then and silent auction bids can be made.



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Hail and farewell

Devastating Dragons get new senior enlisted leader

First sergeant accepts baton at Delta Company, 832nd

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

The Devastating Dragons gained a new first sergeant Friday when 1st Sgt. Renee Kelly was succeeded by 1st Sgt. Thomas Fortson in a change of responsibility ceremony.

Kelly, who served as first sergeant of D Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion for

the past two years, said an emotional goodbye to the soldiers and civilians of Delta.

"Words cannot express my appreciation," she said. "You are the finest, and I was honored to represent you as your first sergeant."

"We hit some bumps in the road along the way, and we overcame many obstacles. But remember once a dragon always a dragon," she said referring to the company's namesake.

"Remember leaders are like snowflakes, there are no two alike," she said. "1st Sgt. Fortson, do things your own way. This has

been the pinnacle of my career and I will cherish it to the end of my days."

Capt. Richard Langsmith, Delta commander, was on hand to say a few words about both first sergeants.

"1st Sgt. Kelly served with honor and distinction. When I first took command I was told that she was awesome. She has proved that to me every day. We would not be the company we are today without you."

Langsmith then turned his remarks toward the new first sergeant. "1st Sgt. Fortson, we now have placed our trust in you. Be vigilant in your endeavors and continue to improve this great company. This is your company now. You are the heart, and without the heart there is no fire."

Then the podium was turned over to the Dragon's new senior enlisted leader.

"It is an honor and privilege to serve as first sergeant of Company D, Devastating Dragons, 832nd Ordnance Battalion," Fort-

son said. "Under 1st Sgt. Kelly's watchful eye, challenges were met. Now as your first sergeant we will continue to train the Army of the future with professionalism and honor. It is indeed an honor to take the baton and continue to run this race. And lastly remember — no excuses, just results."

Fortson holds an associate degree and is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Liberty University. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal (seventh award), the National Defense Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral three, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral four, the Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) and the Army Gold Recruiter Badge.



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

FOND FAREWELL— 1st Sgt. Renee Kelly hugs one of her soldiers from D Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion. Kelly was succeeded by 1st Sgt. Thomas Fortson in a change of responsibility ceremony Friday.



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

NEW 1ST SERGEANT— 1st Sgt. Thomas Fortson is welcomed as the new first sergeant for D Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion. Fortson assumed responsibility Friday for the Devastating Dragons.



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Communications project moves forward with workers' certification

Twenty-one employees complete Confined Space Entry training

The Corporate Information Center, Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program Project Office and Wire Installation Team took another step April 10-11 toward the preparation of Phase II of a major communications project, I3MP.

Twenty-one government and contractor employees were awarded Certificates of Training for the successful completion of the Confined Space Entry Program. OSHA certified instructor Jim Eury of the 1108th Signal Brigade, Fort Detrick, Md., presented the certification training.

The project will be in full force for the next five or more years. During Phase II approximately 450 new manholes will be constructed to accommodate future fiber/copper cable in support of Redstone Arsenal's communications infrastructure. Leon Coleman, a telecommunication specialist for contractor NCCIM in support of CIC, said safety comes first.

Many personnel that earned the CSP certification will enter existing and newly constructed communications manholes during the performance of their duties in the I3MP Project Office. The primary duties of the I3MP team will include project management and quality assurance/quality control.

Redstone Arsenal Fire Department Rescue Team, headed by Jeff Burns, aided in the training by conducting a simulated rescue operation on Joe Lang of NCCIM CIC Wire Installation Team after he suffered a simulated oxygen deficiency in a manhole. The rescue team also demonstrated several other scenarios that one might experience while working in confined spaces. Experiencing oxygen deficiency for six minutes can cause death. Confined Space Entry can be dangerous, and to expose an individual to the many hazards associated with CSP can be life threatening.

Prior to certification training, Eury briefed CIC managers and supervisors on CSP, the liabilities and responsibilities they incur as leaders, and their duty to ensure that procedures, policies and regulations are followed.



Courtesy photo

TRAINING SCENARIO— The Redstone Arsenal Fire Department Rescue Team aided in the Confined Space Entry training by conducting a simulated rescue operation.

Five security Guardsmen earn Expert Infantryman Badge

Charlie Company 1st/167th has 100 percent success

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

Five members of Charlie Company 1st/167th Infantry, the activated National

Guard unit augmenting Redstone security, began preparing for the Expert Infantryman Badge in mid-January.

They trained nightly for the strenuous test conducted annually at Fort Benning, Ga. They completed the four prerequisites here including a 12-mile road march, weapons qualification, physical training test, and land navigation.

On April 3 they traveled to Fort Benning for 10 days of train-up and testing on 33 infantryman tasks. Historically only 30 percent of the soldiers who take the test pass.

All five earned the Expert Infantryman Badge.

"It was awesome," SFC Leo Deason, the unit's 2nd platoon sergeant, said. He earned his badge in 1995 and accompa-

nied the five soldiers on the trip as a representative. He said he would have been pleased if 2-of-5 had passed.

"I think we did outstanding," Deason said. "They were impressed with us."

The five included Capt. Daniel Pugh, company commander; 1st Lt. Jack Eagly,

See Badge on page 13

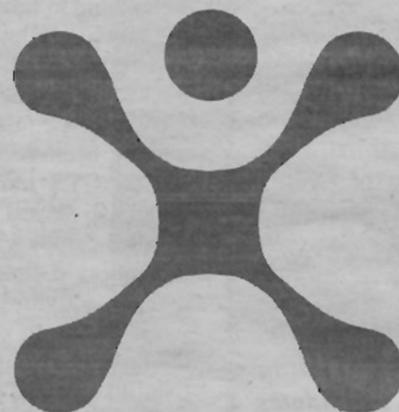
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Summer adventures attract kids to Youth Services

New offerings range from high adventure camp to sports clinics

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
beths@htimes.com

Whether your children are interested in Tae Kwon Do, science or puppetry, Redstone Arsenal is offering a wide range of activities to keep those in kindergarten through 12th grade excited about being involved this summer.

Thanks to youth input, middle school and high school students can choose from several specialty camps including two "high adventure" weeks, a fine arts week and sports clinics and lessons. According to Myra Garriott, Child and Youth Services coordinator, these new specialty camps came about because they asked the kids who use the Youth Center and attend the summer programs regularly what they wanted this year.

"It's a hard age. They think they're too old for child care, so we have to get cooler and try to do what they like to do," she said. "This is what they came up with."

Older students

The high adventure week will be offered twice, June 10-14 and July 9-12. The first two days of the week will be spent learning kayaking skills in a controlled environment. Kevin Cunningham,

co-owner of Tents and Trails in Huntsville, will teach students the basics at the Arsenal swimming pool, preparing them to kayak in Class II and Class III white water. On the third and fourth days, students will travel to Keel Mountain Adventure Course to learn basic rappelling, problem solving, teamwork and leadership skills from Lonnie Jones. The last day will be spent back at the Arsenal with Cunningham teaching land navigation and camping etiquette.

"The kids will be enjoying the great outdoors. Of course, if the weather's bad we'll be taking them to some indoor climbing walls," Garriott said.

She wants to encourage parents of students attending the high adventure week to volunteer to go along. MSgt. Jeffrey Davis, Tae Kwon Do instructor for CYS and father of 11-year-old Tiffany, thinks it's a great idea. He hasn't talked to his daughter about the specialty camp, but hopes she'll want to attend.

"I haven't asked her about that yet. I was in Korea for a year and she stayed in Virginia and then she was here with my in-laws for a year while I was away at training. I've only been back since June. I think it'd be a great thing for us to do together," he said.

That's exactly the kind of thing Garriott would like to see happen. She said she'd like to create opportunities for sol-

diers and their children to spend more time together. If things go well with the adventure camps, she may offer weekend kayaking excursions for parents and their children in the future.

Although the fine arts week is still in the planning stages, children can expect an overview of drama, puppetry and music July 22-26. Sports clinics planned include volleyball, basketball, in-line hockey and baseball.

"I want parents to contact me and tell me what their kids like to do," Garriott said. "We're doing a lot this year and it's all based off customer input."

Middle school and high school students interested in the specialty camps need not be signed up for other summer programs to participate. However, those interested must first sign up with Central Registration. The summer camps are open to authorized users of Redstone Arsenal, including family members of active duty military, Department of Defense civilians and contractors.

Youth Services also offers summer-long camp programs complete with outings to the Arsenal swimming pools, the park, roller skating, the bowling alley, movie theaters, Southern Adventures and a tour of the Huntsville downtown historic district and train station.

Younger students

School Age Services also offers new programs to keep children in kindergarten through fifth grade interested in activities this summer. Many of the students attend SAS during the school year, so the staff has planned field trips and mini-camps to revitalize those that continue with the program once the school year is over.

"We need to keep these kids entertained and energized because they're with us all year," Garriott explained. "One way we're really expanding is by partnering with MWR facilities. The School Age Services building can only hold 147 children. We care for 250, so it's essential that we be able to take them out to places like the bowling alley, recreation center, arts and crafts center, swimming pool, parks, tracks, nature trails and Pagano Gym."

"We just couldn't do it without them, they've been very cooperative," Carolyn Taylor, CYS training and programming specialist, agreed.

Mini-camps will be offered each morning unless a field trip is scheduled and include activities such as reading with weekly trips to the post library; hiking, biking and fishing with weekly trips to fish, hike or just explore nature; arts and crafts with projects done both at SAS and the Redstone Arts and Crafts Center; computer camp, sports, cooking and sewing, music and drama, and science and gardening.

The mini-camp groups will rotate every two weeks so children can participate in a variety of activities during the summer. Afternoon activities include the new club system, where children partici-



Photo by Beth Skarupa

WAY TO GO— MSgt. Jeffrey Davis, right, the Tae Kwon Do instructor for Child and Youth Services, demonstrates a move with the help of student Yolanda Dickerson during a class. Tae Kwon Do is one of the many activities that will be offered at Redstone Arsenal this summer.

pate in a variety of clubs including the American Indian "Flying Eagle" club, dance and music club, computer club, drawing club, outdoor games club, basketball club, Summer Learning Challenge club and photography club.

Lessons and outings

"New this year, for kids who want to participate in classes, we'll make sure they're transported there," Garriott said. "They can take things like tennis, golf, Tae Kwon Do, and swimming lessons. The pool staff has been very supportive, they're even giving us our own time slot." Field trips planned for the summer include outings to Carousel Skate Center, Sci-Quest, Dublin Park in Madison, Southern Adventures, the Arsenal swimming pools and parks, Burritt Museum, and Rocket Lanes.

Fees for the Youth Services and Middle School/Teen Summer Program Camp range from \$56 to \$138 per child per month, depending on the parents' combined income. Those older children arriving at the Youth Center for activities after 1 p.m. can participate for free, but have to pay for individual clinics and specialty camps. Those attending each morning get snacks and meals. Fees were cut in half this year in response to customer input, Garriott said.

"I just can't imagine that you could go off post and get anything comparable to this," Taylor said.

For more information, to suggest additional activities or to volunteer services, call Garriott at 876-3704 or e-mail her at myra.garriott@redstone.army.mil.

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Courtesy photo

Tactical launch

A dual launch of the Army Tactical Missile System was conducted Thursday at Launch Complex 33 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The missiles were launched from the same Multiple Launch Rocket System M270A1 launcher, flew 70 miles and each missile dispensed 13 Bat submunitions during the test. "The test not only validated the missile system's critical systems performance, but also demonstrated that warfighters can precisely deliver weapons, while staying well out of harm's way," Lt. Col. Bill Breffellh, the Block II product manager, said. "This system is responsive and flexible, giving battlefield commanders just exactly what they need." The Bat submunitions are dispensed from the missile, and then begin searching for and destroying moving armor targets.

■ Guardsmen pass test for Expert Infantryman Badge

Badge

continued from page 11

executive officer; 2nd Lt. Roger Moss, 1st platoon leader; Cpl. Benjamin Smith, a team leader for 3rd platoon; and Spec. John Holzer of 1st platoon.

Charlie Company was the only unit with 100 percent success on this year's test at Fort Benning. The other 10 or so units were larger active duty components. An estimated 126 of 200 soldiers earned the badge.

"I'm relieved and relaxed and real happy," Eagly said. "We're all happy that we all got it."

They completed the 12-mile road march, within the three-hour time limit, on Feb. 23 on Patton and Buxton Roads. They qualified with the M16 A2 rifle, hitting at least 38 of 40 targets, on Feb. 18-21 at Shields Range. On Feb. 16-17 they found points on a seven-mile land navigation course at day and night. And they scored at least 70 percent on all three

events in the physical training test (pushups, sit-ups and two-mile run) March 4.

But the real test came at Fort Benning April 4-11.

"We were tested (on 33 tasks) and graded in accordance with time and standards," Eagly said. "You have certain things you have to do in sequence under time, too. And if you do one thing out of sequence, then you're no-go."

The testers included cadre of the 11th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Regiment, School of the Americas, Ranger Training Brigade, Infantry Training Brigade and the Basic Combat Training Brigade.

"Now we get to almost relax a little bit," Eagly said. "It's a good relief."

Members of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion of the 167th Infantry, Alabama Army National Guard, a Cullman-based unit, arrived last October to augment security after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. About 12 of the unit's 100 men have earned the Expert Infantryman Badge.

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Army dedicates combat-ready launcher battalion

FORT HOOD, Texas — Complete with a simultaneous live-fire exercise, the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division has become the first combat-ready M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion in the world.

"The Initial Operating Capability milestone reached here today, results from a lot of hard work put in over a long period of time, by a dedicated soldier/civilian team," Lt. Col. Paul Myrick, product manager, said. "Warfighters in the Ironhorse Division have demonstrated that hard work and motivation leads to mission accomplishment."

The basic MLRS M270 Launcher has been overhauled to make it more accurate, lethal and survivable. Its carrier and launcher loader module have been rebuilt.

The M270A1 Improved Launcher consists of the basic M270 launcher with an Improved Fire Control System and an Improved Launcher Mechanical Systems modification. The IFCS modification, with its Global Positioning System, upgrades the M270 electronics and navigation equipment using new hardware and software to mitigate obsolescence. The ILMS modification upgrades the mechanical system and enables the launcher to reduce times at both the firing and reload points. In a typical fire mission, the M270A1 can achieve aim-point 83 percent faster and reload 30 percent faster than the basic M270 launcher.

Combined these upgrades in the M270A1 will provide overmatch capabilities to the Counterattack corps through 2020.



Photo by Maj. Tom Steiner

MILESTONE MARK— From left Lt. Col. Paul Myrick, product manager; Lt. Col. Mike Bowers, 2-20th Field Artillery commander; Al Duchesne, Lockheed Martin; and Lt. Col. Rocky Samek, TRADOC systems manager, gather at Fort Hood to mark the Army's first combat-ready M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion.

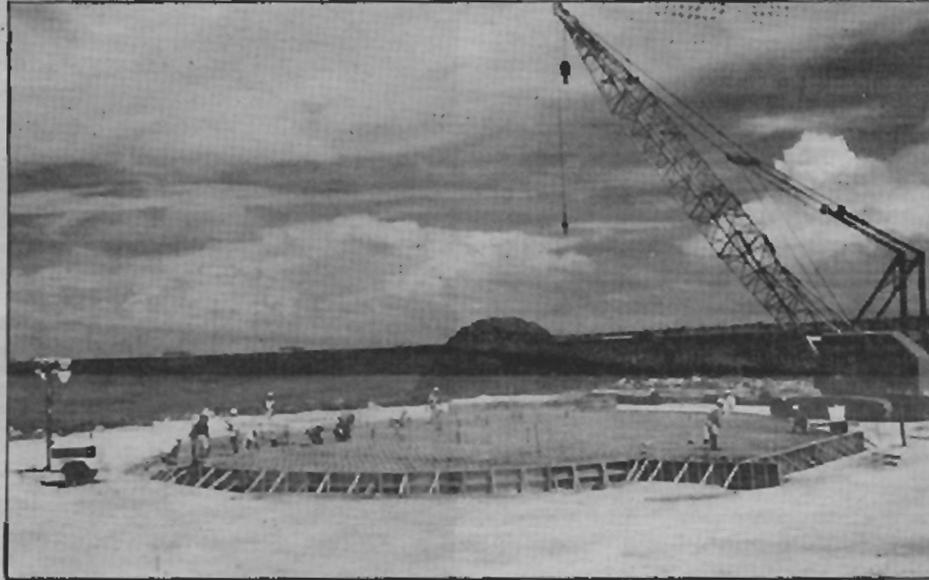
Corps of Engineers awards contract for test sites in Alaska

Ground-based midcourse project part of ballistic missile defense

The Army Corps of Engineers awarded a construction contract April 16 to Fluor Alaska Inc. for test bed facilities that will be used to validate the Ground-Based Midcourse Missile Defense operational concept.

GMD is an element of the multi-level Ballistic Missile Defense System. The contract contains basic requirements and various options that could amount to \$250 million in construction, or possibly more, if all items are executed.

The contract covers ground-based midcourse validation of the operational concept test bed facilities at Fort Greely, Alaska and Eareckson Air Force Station on Shemya Island, Alaska. The Corps' Alaska District, headquartered in Anchorage, will supervise the construction. The project will be incrementally funded and includes amounts allotted for optional construction of a similar nature at other unidentified sites. There are no optional years written in the contract, which was



Missile Defense Agency photo

RADAR WORK— A ground-based defense radar is under construction in this file photo. Similar work will be done in Alaska.

awarded by the Corps' Engineering and Support Center (Huntsville) contracting office.

GMD is intended to defend the entire

United States during the midcourse segment of a hostile missile's attack. The test bed facilities that will be constructed under this contract at the Fort Greely and Shemya installations will allow validation of potential activities associated with the GMD operational concept by testing the interoperability of the GMD components in a realistic environment. These test bed facilities will also assist in the validation of the GMD operational concept by validating activities such as construction techniques, operational procedures, installation, checkout, assembly and maintenance.

The new GMD test facility will cover about 260 acres at Fort Greely and a small area at Eareckson AFS.

The Corps of Engineers has been assigned major responsibilities in the design, contracting and construction of the test phase facilities. The Alaska District of the Corps will manage the construction through an on-site resident engineer office at Fort Greely, which is located about 95 miles southeast of Fairbanks (and 400 miles northeast of Anchorage), and at Eareckson AFS, about 1,500 miles west of Anchorage at the tip of the Aleutian Island chain.

Fluor Alaska Inc., and its subcontractors, will provide several hundred personnel at the high point of the Fort Greely construction activity. The government's intent is to provide a maximum opportunity for Alaska firms and qualified Alaskans to be employed in this construction project.

Construction is a phased process anticipated to begin in June at Fort Greely and be completed during 2004. Construction season for this area is usually April through October due to cold weather conditions. The expectation is for the contractor to have the exterior of four buildings completed by October, as specified in the contract. With the outside finished, construction can continue inside the buildings until the next spring. The facility should be fully operational in October 2004.

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Army Emergency Relief drive 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 15-May 15 — from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Lollipop and Muffin Sale, building 5400. Call Shirley Moore 876-2800, Weapon Science Directorate, RDEC.

April 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 24 — from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Car Wash, Bake Sale, Cookout, 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 — from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 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 29 — from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Chili Cookoff, Fox Army Health Center, Skyline Conference Room. Call SSgt.

Slade 876-7449, Fox Army Health Center.

April 29 — from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Barbecue box lunch, building 5400, second floor, room B314. Call Lee Isham 313-9808, Advanced Systems Directorate, RDEC.

April 30 — from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Arrest Your Boss. Call SSgt. Austin 876-2222, Provost Marshal Office.

April 30 — from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Barbecue lunch, building 5681 (front). Call SFC Kenneth McQueen 313-4167, PEO Aviation.

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 2 — from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cookout, building 5400. For information contact the Engineering Directorate,

RDEC.

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

May 3 — from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Fish fry, building 3410 (front). Contact Charlie Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion.

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.

May 15 — from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Car Wash, Hot Dog Sale, parking lot behind MILPO. Call Sgt. Crewse 876-0972, Military Personnel Office.

May 16 — from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cookout, building 5400. Call Maggie Ryan 876-4141, Systems Simulation and Development, RDEC.



Photo by Ronald Bowman

Flight demonstration

Sue Payton, deputy undersecretary of defense for advanced systems and concepts, prepares for a flight demonstration in an AH-64A Apache during her visit April 18 to the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate at Fort Eustis, Va. The pilot was Maj. Rob Johnson.

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Win or lose

NCO Academy as good as advertised in troop volleyball

Defending post champion reaches preseason final

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

The troop preseason volleyball tournament has confirmed expectations.

The NCO Academy is the team to beat again this year.

Last night's preseason final at Pagano Gym had the NCO Academy, defending post champion, in the winners bracket. The NCOs were awaiting the survivor from Monday night's games that had Delta vs. HHC 59th, followed by Bravo eliminated the winner in the semifinal.

"We'll be there Tuesday night," predicted Bravo 1st Sgt. Tom Lettis last Friday. Bravo's leaders on the court have included setter James Laban, spiker Jay Rodriguez and team captain Luis Billingslea.

The NCO Academy was definitely there.

"We won it last year and we'll do it again this year," Victor Blade, first sergeant and self-proclaimed bench warner, said Friday.

The NCOs are led by player-coach Edward Sasan. "He makes everything jell for us," Blade said. "He led them to the championship last year and he's gonna do it again this year.

"Let 'em know: NCOs make it happen."

The double-elimination preseason tournament began April 15. Results from opening night included Bravo d. Marines 25-9, 25-10; and Delta d. HHC 59th 25-16, 17-25, 15-6.

On April 16 NCO Academy d. Delta 25-14, 25-22; and Charlie d. AMCOM by forfeit. April 17 results included Marines



d. AMCOM by forfeit; and Bravo d. Charlie 832nd 25-15, 25-15.

NCO Academy beat Bravo 25-13, 25-17 on April 18. Delta eliminated the Marines 25-18, 25-13; and HHC 59th eliminated Charlie 832nd 25-23, 24-26, 15-9.

The final was slated last night at 6 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.

There's a place for people who've spent their entire careers serving their country.

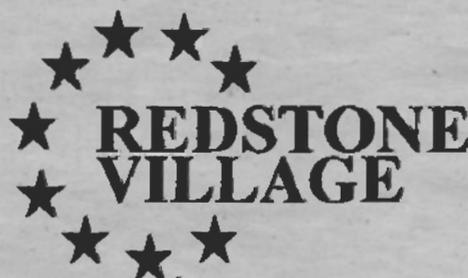
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Announcements

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9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the vacant parking spaces in front of the cafeteria at the Sparkman Center. A wide variety of plants will be available. For more information, call Romona Rice 313-1641.

Bake sale benefit

The Lead AMC Integration Support Office has planned a bake sale for Army Emergency Relief, May 7 at 7:30 a.m. in building 5300 (in the corridor that joins building 5302 and 5301).

Army family team building

The next Army Family Team Building Level I class is May 8-10 from 6-9 p.m. at building 3491 on Honest John Road. Level I courses include Military Customs and Courtesies; Benefits, Entitlements and Compensation; Chain Command/Chain Concern; Family and Military Expectations; Military and Civilian Resources;

Impact of the Mission on Family Life; Army Family Action Plan; Basic Problem Solving; Operation READY; and Supporting Your Child's Education. Space is limited and child care is free. Call 876-5397 by May 3 to enroll. This will be the last AFTB class offered until the fall.

Asian/Pacific month contests

As a tribute to this year's Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, the AMCOM/OMMCS EEO/EO Office will sponsor an essay and display contest. Essays should be double spaced, two pages or less, and pertain to this year's theme, "Unity in Freedom." Essays can be faxed or mailed to arrive at either office by close of business May 3. Call SFC Vasquez in the AMCOM Equal Employment Opportunity Office 876-8648 (fax 876-8947), or SFC Pegram and SFC Santos in the OMMCS Equal Opportunity

Office 876-9224 (fax 842-6853). Organizations that set up a static display should have them in place by close of business May 3 and must notify either office of the location and point of contact to ensure that your displays are evaluated. Judging is to take place May 7; and a representative should be available for questions and photos. Plaques will be awarded for the top three essays and trophies for the top three displays during the Asian/Pacific Heritage Month Celebration scheduled 1:30-3 p.m. May 16 at Heiser Hall.

Smooth move briefing

Soldiers can make their next permanent change of station move a "Smooth Move" by attending the levy briefing scheduled Thursday at 1 p.m. at building 3491. Representatives from Transportation, Education Center, Military Personnel, Finance, Travel, Housing, Legal, and Army Community Service will be on hand with information about moving. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Youth summer camps

Child and Youth Services is accepting applications for summer camps at School Age Services (kindergarten through fifth grade) and Youth Services (grades 6-12). Applications may be picked up at Central

Registration, building 1500 (Challenger Activity Center) on Weeden Mountain Road. For information call 876-3704 or 955-6309.

Mother's Day brunch

The Officers and Civilians Club will hold a Mother's Day brunch May 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For tickets and information, call 830-2582.

Lunch fund-raiser

On May 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., eat bratwurst and sauerkraut, hamburgers and hot dogs for a cause. Sponsored by PM SHORAD outside building 5308, this Army Emergency Relief fund-raiser will include a dunking booth and pie throw. For information call Maj. Scott Armstrong 876-1832.

Yard of the month

The Yard of the Month Program will kick off right after spring cleanup (April 25-26). The competition will occur monthly from May through September. Judging dates are May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5 and tentatively Sept. 3. There will be eight family housing winners selected each month and one award for the best unit. Awards include a \$25 gift certificate from the Post Exchange, two bowling passes, cottage rental one night per family, two

See Announcements on page 22



Photo by Philip Gentry

University honors

Jim Flinn, right, deputy to AMCOM's commanding general, and Dr. Jim Simpson, chairman of University of Alabama-Huntsville's Management and Marketing Department, were honored by Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for college schools of business. Flinn was named UAH chapter honoree for 2002, while Simpson was named the UAH business school's top teacher of graduate-level classes. Flinn was also named a honorary member to the society and is the first federal employee to receive the honor. Simpson is a frequent participant in management and marketing studies involving Army programs.

MOVING BACK TO ST. LOUIS?

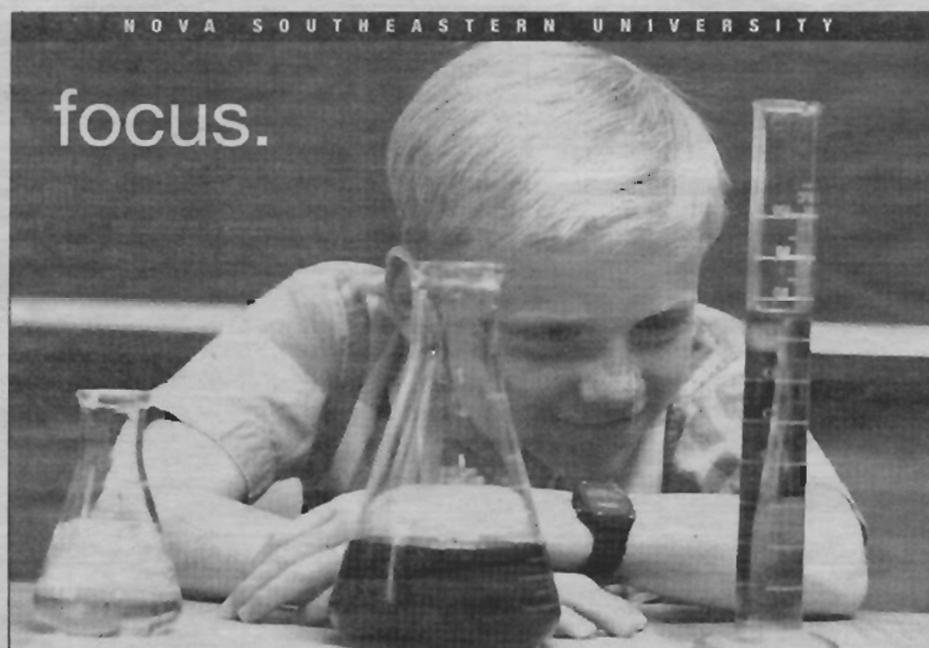


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