Redstone Rocket

VOL. 51 No. 17 | *Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL* | May 1, 2002

Army in action

Weapon system tests rely on fleet of targets

Page 6

Win or lose

Troop volleyball season opens at Pagano Gym

Page 12

Just for kids

Child Development Center aims for quality child-care

Page 15

No easy solution to domestic violence

Grip of power and control hard to break for victims

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandyr@htimes.com

Artwork by Cathy Salser

CREATIVE THERAPY— A Window Between Worlds is a support group in California that incorporates art in therapy for victims of domestic violence. This painting by Cathy Salser "Take Care of Yourself" is one of several portraits that convey the overcoming spirit of violence survivors.

It was a typical day of playing beat the clock, trying to have dinner ready by the time her husband came home from work. The laundry was going, pots on the stove boiling and in her arms "Judy" held her infant while her toddler had his arms wrapped around her leg, clinging to her every move.

The dryer began to buzz but the clothes were just going to have to wait. Just as Judy was taking the food off the stove, her husband came home. His attention was drawn to the closed door of the laundry room and buzzing dryer. How many times had he told her not to let the buzzer go off on the dryer? She knew to get the clothes out before it sounded. Without a word he crossed the kitchen in a few angry strides and punched Judy square in the face. Her nose was broken. It wasn't the first time he'd hit her or the last time he broke her nose.

Doesn't sound real does it? Men don't hit their wives because of a buzzing dryer. But it is real. Judy (who asked to remain anonymous) is a real woman living in Huntsville. Her husband had spent time in the military. And a buzzing dryer had nothing to do with it.

Like 4 million other women across America, Judy was the victim of domestic violence.

After hearing her story, the most common response is: Why does she put up with that? Why doesn't she just leave?

"It sounds simple to people who've never been a victim of domestic violence," Kathleen Wells, executive director, Crisis Services of North Alabama, said. "But how many people stay in a bad job because they're afraid to leave it? What if they can't find work? How will they pay the bills? Where will they live? They stay because they depend on that job. It may be bad. They may have to take medicine for the stress. Lose their families because of long hours and no time off but they're afraid to leave it.

"It's only a job. You don't love your boss or have children with him. There's no life-long commitment. How long do you stay?"

The dynamics of domestic violence are similar, according to Wells. Domestic violence is not about love or about wanting to spend all your time together. It is about power and control. Violence in a relationship is generally preceded by a pattern of coercive behaviors that begin with initial loving kindness and praise of the partner and move progressively to the use of abusive behaviors.

Abuse generally includes one or more of the following types: verbal, emotional, psychological, physical, sexual and destruction of property and pets.

At first things are great but as the relationship progresses, the insults and put-downs begin little by little. One survivor said that her husband always used the things she was most insecure about already to "chip away at my self-esteem."

The abuser, reported as male in 95 percent of the cases, continues the cycle by increasing his power and control over his partner through threats, intimidation and isolation.

"It's such a wide range of tactics," Wells said. "As things get worse, the abuser increases his control by keeping all the money and when she does get a little for expenses or groceries, he makes her account for literally every penny. In many cases the abuser controls who she sees or calls and for how long."

Apologies follow abuse

This dynamic becomes a way of life. When the time comes that the victim tries

See Abuse on page 17

Letters to the editor

Credit card staff needs investment

I was wondering if the Acquisition Center will be hiring anyone soon for the IMPAC Credit Card office. This is a major program on the Arsenal that is in major need of personnel to man it. There are two people running it now and when they are out, so are we – out of luck!

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Acquisition Center provided the following response. "The Acquisition Center appreciates the criticality of the IMPAC credit card program, and we attempt to resolve problems and answer questions as quickly as possible. Our credit card office lost one of its employees to retirement in December. We have added one additional person, and are currently working toward adding another to the office within the next 30 days."

Directions provided on gate U-turn

Thank you to the soldiers guarding our Arsenal gates; you are pleasant and professional through all types of weather and visitor attitudes; however, I do have a question: When using the Rideout gate, is the option to make a left turn directly behind the guard building to head back toward Goss Road sometimes available?

As I'm heading toward the U-turn position further down the road, I frequently see vehicles turning behind me; is the shortcut allowable at certain times – ever — when we remember to ask? Again: Hooah, you guys!

Susan Carr

Editor's note: The Provost Marshal Office provided the following response. "The Provost Marshal Office would like to thank the concerned citizen for bringing the road question to our attention. As the sole law enforcement agency on Redstone Arsenal, the Provost Marshal Office strives to provide the best service possible to all who work and live on the installation.

"Vehicles entering Redstone using the Rideout gate that you frequently see turning back north just beyond the guard shack are those individuals that are being turned around by the gate guards and being denied access to the installation."

Soldier feels rule doesn't hold water

Upon getting my orders to change duty stations, I made an appointment for my pre-inspection to clear housing. It was then I found out about a stupid rule that housing makes each family comply with before clearing post housing.

If the tenants plant flowers that are provided by housing, they must rip them up before they are allowed to clear. Last fall and this spring I spent many hours working to make my yard one of the prettiest on the block. Now does this rule make sense?

Each year housing spends thousands of dollars for plants to give housing residents. Many varieties, if left alone, will bloom on an annual basis. Now despite these facts, I have to rip them up anyway?

This to me seems like a huge waste of money — not to mention a waste of my time and energy. Every year housing under the Redstone Arsenal Support Activity advocates the "Yard of the Month" program. I see many families on a daily basis toiling away in their yards to make their neighborhood a more attractive place — while others let the weeds overtake their yards. Now I understand the weed owners. What incentive do residents have to take pride in their neighborhood if they have to turn around and undo their efforts before they leave?

When I questioned Self-Help about this practice, I was told that the new residents of my on-post home "might not want flowers" or "they might not take care of them." If that's the case then the new residents should have to rip everything out — not me.

I think this is just one more example of the archaic notions and rules that Redstone Housing makes their residents live by. I think this also is one more example of a broken system that is in need of a serious overhaul.

I could go on and on about other housing polices that don't make sense — like the fact there's not enough housing for soldiers who have handicapped dependents — but I digress.

If residents do things that improve the look and the value of the property, I think it should be left alone. Don't you think it's time to rethink this policy and other policies that don't make common sense? If not, then RASA needs to stop buying flowers to give out to residents

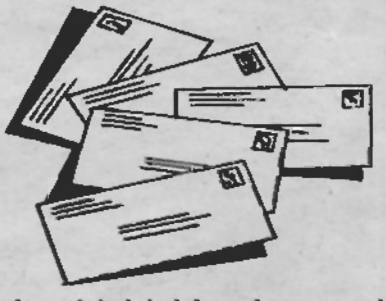
See **Landscaping** on page 13

Rocket rumblings: New column solicits readers' ideas on various topics

We want to know how you feel about major issues of the day.

As a new feature on this page each month, the *Redstone Rocket* will pose a question on a given topic and solicit your opinion. Please limit your written response to 50 words or less.

Here's this month's topic: Should seatbelts be installed for drivers and their passengers on all school buses?



Background: Traffic accidents resulting in serious injury or death to bus passengers are relatively rare events, according to School Bus Accident Research, a division of Taras Inc. In fact, a child is three times more likely to be killed while boarding or disembarking from a school bus than while the vehicle is moving. School buses often travel at relatively low speeds, and their height and mass provide substantial protection to bus passengers in collisions with passenger vehicles. However, the large size of coach and school buses can conversely present a substantial hazard to other motorists traveling in lightweight passenger vehicles.

Serious accidents involving school buses and inter-city coach buses often present several common issues. When passengers are killed or seriously injured, the accident will often involve a high-speed impact with a large truck, train, or collision with a fixed object such as a bridge abutment.

School buses are relatively stable vehicles, but may overturn under certain conditions. When overturns occur, ejections are rare, as windows and other portals are relatively small. Ejections in coach buses with large windows may be more common.

National Transportation and Safety Board studies have concluded that serious injury and death to school bus passengers is primarily a function of seating position, and not restraint usage. Those seated nearest the impact area are at greatest risk, and the use of a lap belt restraint does not generally increase the likelihood of survival. Lap belts are reqnired in the manufacture of small school buses of less than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight. They are not required in larger school buses or inter-city coach buses. However, crash test data and accident experience indicate that in frontal crashes involving changes in velocity of about 20 mph or more, lap belts often induce serious to fatal head, neck, spine, and abdominal injuries to restrained passengers, while unrestrained passengers in the same seating area receive only minor injury.

So what do you think? Send your thoughts – in 50 words or less – to the *Redstone Rocket* at the following e-mail address: skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil; or via fax at 955-9138.

Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9139 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

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

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

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

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

Rocket Staff
Public Affairs Officer: Al Schwartz
Editor: Skip Vaughn
Reporters: Sandy Riebeling, Beth Skarupa, SSgt. Sharon McBride
Copy Editor: Scott Seeley
Advertising Sales: Jennifer Rodgers, Aletha Pardue, Petie Sims

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

The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for The Rocket are $30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive delayed service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source.

New furniture destined for student soldiers' barracks

Ongoing renovation project to upgrade older buildings

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

Life is looking up at the Sgt. York barracks.

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

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

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

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

New furnitnre, including wall units and beds, are stored in a Redstone warehouse awaiting delivery to buildings 3410 and 3411.

"It's tentative," 1st Lt. Rasheed Muwwakkil, logistics officer for 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said last week of the delivery date. "I'm looking at 1 May."

"Soldier quality of life is directly related to readiness and retention," Lt. Col. Craig Cotter, commander of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said. "And the senior leaders here at Redstone Arsenal fully support this."

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

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

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

Photo by Skip Vaughn

INSPECTION— SFC Chuck Blessie, left, logistics NCO for 832nd Ordnance Battalion, and 1st Lt. Rasheed Muwwakkil, logistics officer, inspect new wall units which are among the furniture items which will be delivered to barracks 3410 and 3411.

Fox Army Health Center changes medical records process

Records to be kept at treatment facility

By MELBA MOODY
Fox Army Health Center adjutant

Running late for an appointment at Fox Army Health Center? You may not be as late as you think! Although we still invite you to be at your appointment 15 minutes prior, you no longer have to wait in line to pick up your medical records. That's right! FAHC staff will pick up your records for you and deliver them to the appropriate clinic.

Why the changes? Per Army Regulation 40-66, medical records are the property of the U.S. government and are subject to the same controls used to manage other government documents. Medical records accountability is a problem throughout the military. In an effort to increase the quality and continuity of healthcare, patients will no longer hand-carry medical records within or outside of the treatment facility. You are welcome to request any copies of medical documentation within the record, however the records will be maintained under the control of the medical treatment facility.

Military medical treatment facilities are making attempts to become more like our civilian counterparts where the patient is not burdened with record pick-up. We at FAHC are moving toward the "Closed Records System" because efficiency, continuity of care, accountability, and confidentiality of your medical information, is our goal. This system will save you time and allow us to provide to you the highest quality of healthcare.

FAHC is soliciting your cooperation in making this a smooth transition. Any questions regarding medical records accountability may be directed to the chief of patient administration at 876-8513.

K-BAR'S
Restaurant & Lounge
Serving Delicious American Food and
Our Signature El Majicano Mexican Food
Joyce & Ken Barnett Owens
1401 Weatherly Rd. SE • 489-KBAR(5227)
00218566

Carmike 10
1359 OLD MONROVIA ROAD 430-0770
4 THX AUDITORIUMS
STADIUM SEATING IN ALL AUDITORIUMS
NOW SHOWING

HIGH CRIMES (PG-13) THX-DTS 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45	CHANGING LANES (R) THX-DTS 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:20 9:45
LORD OF THE RINGS (PG-13) DTS 12:00 4:00 7:30	THE SWEETEST THING (R) DTS 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20
*JASON X (R) THX-DOLBY 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:45	VAN WILDER (R) DOLBY 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15
RESIDENT EVIL (R) DTS 4:00 9:10	*SCORPION KING (PG-13) THX-DOLBY 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15
BLACK HAWK DOWN (R) DTS 1:00 7:00	CLOCKSTOPPERS (PG) DTS 1:05 3:05 5:05 7:05 9:05
ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS (R) DTS 12:00 7:00	BIG TROUBLE (PG-13) DTS 4:00 9:45

Prices for military only $5.00 after 6 pm!
For Daily ShowTimes
Call 430-0770 or visit our website www.carmike.com
*SHOWS AFTER 10:30 PM ARE FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY.
00217094

Daily Bargain Matinees Only $5.00
REGAL
www.regalcinemas.com
Daily Bargain Matinees in ( ) STR=STEREO DIG=DIGITAL SOUND
Stadium Seating in ALL Auditoriums
Prices for Military after 6p.m. are Only $5.50

HOLLYWOOD 18
S. Memorial Pkwy, in front of Joe Davis Stadium 883-1602

SPIDER-MAN™ (PG-13) - Advance Tickets Now On Sale	
JASON X (R) - ID REQUIRED DIG	(1:50 4:50) 7:45 10:05
LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT (PG-13) *DIG	(1:20 4:20) 7:20 9:40
MURDER BY NUMBERS (R) - ID REQUIRED *DIG	(1:50 4:25) 7:00 9:35
THE SCORPION KING (PG-13) *DIG	(1:05 4:05) 7:15 9:30
THE SCORPION KING (PG-13) *DIG	(1:45 4:45) 7:45 10:00
CHANGING LANES (R) - ID REQUIRED *DIG	(1:15 4:15) 7:15 9:45
CHANGING LANES (R) - ID REQUIRED DIG	(1:40 4:40) 7:40 10:10
FRAILTY (R) - ID REQUIRED DIG	(1:20 4:30) 7:20 9:30
SWEETEST THING(R) ID REQUIRED DIG	(1:10 4:00) 7:30 10:00
HIGH CRIMES (PG-13) DIG	(1:45 4:30) 7:00 9:35
VAN WILDER (R) - ID REQUIRED DIG	(1:15 4:35) 7:35 10:05
CLOCKSTOPPERS (PG) DIG	(1:25 4:25) 7:25 9:55
PANIC ROOM (R) - ID REQUIRED DIG	(1:30 4:20) 7:05 9:35
THE ROOKIE (G) DIG	(1:35 4:15) 7:10 9:55
BLADE II (R)- ID REQUIRED DIG	(1:25 4:10) 7:10 9:40
E.T.-THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY (PG) DIG	(1:05 4:00)
ICE AGE (PG) DIG	(1:30 4:30) 7:25 9:25
A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG-13) DIG	(1:05 4:05) 7:05 9:50
LORD OF THE RINGS (PG-13) DIG	6:15 9:30

MADISON SQ. 12
Madison Sq. Mall 830-6829

SPIDER-MAN™ (PG-13)) - Advance Tickets Now On Sale	
CRUSH (R) - ID REQUIRED DIG	(1:30 4:30) 7:30 9:45
LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT (PG-13) *DIG	(1:15 4:15) 7:15 9:55
THE CAT'S MEOW (PG-13)	(1:30 4:30) 7:30 9:55
MONSOON WEDDING (R) - ID REQUIRED	(1:20 4:20) 7:20 10:00
MURDER BY NUMBERS (R) - ID REQUIRED DIG	(1:00 4:00) 7:00 9:50
FRAILTY (R) - ID REQUIRED	7:05 9:40
PANIC ROOM (R) - ID REQUIRED DIG	(1:25 4:25) 7:25 9:50
THE ROOKIE (G) DIG	(1:05 4:05) 7:05 9:40
BLADE II (R) - ID REQUIRED	(1:20 4:20) 7:20 10:00
E.T. (PG) -THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY	(1:05 4:05)
ICE AGE (PG)	(1:00 4:00) 7:00 9:30
THE TIME MACHINE (PG-13)	(1:10 4:10) 7:10 9:35
A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG-13)	(1:10 4:10) 7:10 9:50

00217095

Tax Assistance Center gives clients many happy returns

Free service realizes record in fees saved

By Capt. DOUGLAS MOORE
Tax assistance officer

The Redstone Arsenal's Tax Assistance Center closed its doors April 15, following a record year in total income tax returns filed and tax preparation fees saved.

This free tax service saved the Redstone community taxpayers $185,842 in tax preparation fees — a 31 percent increase over the previous year. In addition 1,236 federal and 1,328 state returns were filed during the tax season with total refunds approaching $1.3 million. Ninety-one percent of these returns were filed electronically. This statistic exceeds the IRS's 80 percent electronic filing goal for all income tax returns filed through volunteer income tax assisters by 2003.

Customer feedback was very positive, especially since the tax center welcomed the idea of e-filing all 37 eligible states this year. The center's staff also appreciated the fact that many of our customers took the time to give us written feedback about their tax preparation experience. Client feedback is essential to making an even better tax center in the future.

The center would especially like to thank the following tax volunteers and Redstone organizations for their support throughout the season: Randy Duff, Estan Rodriguez and Capt. Christine Hackett for their many hours of volunteer work; HHC AMCOM, 832nd Ordnance Battalion and MEDDAC for their loan of soldiers to staff the tax center; Army Community Service for its financial support in providing much needed office supplies; and the entire Corporate Information Center staff for its fantastic computer network support.

The Redstone Arsenal's Tax Assistance Center saved the Redstone community taxpayers $185,842 in tax preparation fees

Individuals who have yet to file or who need additional tax assistance should visit the Internal Revenue Service office at 806 Governors Drive southwest. The IRS office is open year-round, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to assist taxpayers. Tax Assistance Center clients with questions about a tax return prepared by the center should call the Legal Assistance Office at 876-9005.

Four soldiers enter NCO ranks at Fox Army Health Center

Soldiers become leaders when they earn their stripes as noncommissioned officers.

Four noncommissioned officers at Fox Army Health Center officially entered the NCO Corps in a ceremony April 19 in the commander's conference room at the health center. The soldiers had been promoted sometime ago; and the NCO induction ceremony formalized their transition.

"It's to signify the change in going from a soldier to becoming a leader," SFC Peter Perkins, detachment sergeant at Fox, said. Newly appointed corporals and sergeants are welcomed into the NCO ranks.

The Fox inductees included Cpl. Erin Bollinger, Sgt. Arvin Dewberry, Sgt. Ricardo Molinar and Cpl. Clifton Perry. They signed the NCO creed and recited the NCO oath of responsibility which was administered by MSgt. Paul Goodspeed, senior medical NCO.

The guest speaker was CSM Althea Dixon, command sergeant major for Southeast Regional Medical Command, Fort Gordon, Ga. About 50 people attended the ceremony which was organized by SFC Thomas Perkins, NCO-in-charge of readiness, education, training and security at Fox.

Fox Army Health Center has more than 80 servicemembers, including 30 NCOs.

Dorothy Moore/ Photo Lab

CAKE CUTTING— CSM Althea Dixon, third from left, of Southeast Regional Medical Command, Fort Gordon, Ga., cuts the ceremonial cake with Cpl. Erin Bollinger after the NCO induction ceremony April 19 at Fox Army Health Center. From left are Sgt. Ricardo Molinar, Cpl. Clifton Perry, Dixon, Bollinger and Sgt. Arvin Dewberry.

Celebrate Mom.....
New Madison Location
Mother's Day Sunday May 12th
Mother's Day is for giving thanks to those who do so much, to bring to each and every day a warm and thoughtful touch.
Dresses
$19.98
values to $36.00
Big Selection of Plus Sizes Available
*Girls sizes 7-16 sold at these locations
Madison-WalMart Supercenter on Madison Blvd
Albertville*, Arab, Athens*, Boaz, Guntersville*, Meridianville
the FACTORY Connection
www.factory-conection.com
00217089

Fine Color Printing Booklet & Newsletter Specialist
PRINTING SERVICE Xcel
Call for quotes & delivery guarantee! ▪ 539-1658
00217082

Dr. Tara L.F. Blasingame, DPM
Podiatrist
Specializing in the Medical & Surgical Treatment of all Foot Disorders
• Ingrown Nails • Bunions • Sports Injuries
• Diabetic Foot Care • Hammer Toes • Heel/Arch Pain
• Warts • Trauma • Bone Spurs • Corns and Calluses
• Thick Fungus Nails • Infections • Sprains • Arthritis
Computerized Gait Analysis & Custom Orthotics
Most Insurance Plans Honored
• BCBS PMD • MEDICARE • NAMCI • TRICARE • OTHERS
105 West Dublin Drive, Suite B
Madison, AL 35758-1797 • (256) 772-8566
♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
102 Sanders Street
Athens, AL 35611 • (256) 232-2009
No representation is made about the quality of the podiatric services to be performed or the expertise of the podiatrist performing such services.
00218565

Advanced Patriot missile goes 1-for-2 in latest test intercepts

First missile fails to launch; second missile hits target

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

The test, designated OT/DT-4, was a tactical multiple simultaneous engagement using one PAC-3 missile against a Storm II ballistic missile target and a second PAC-3 against a Patriot-as-a-Target tactical ballistic missile target. Objectives of this test included demonstrating the system's capability to properly classify and simultaneously engage and destroy two attacking tactical ballistic missiles.

The test resulted in the intercept of the PAAT target. The first PAC-3 missile failed to launch and the missile system launched the second missile. A final determination of the cause of the first missile's launch failure will be made when the test data is reviewed.

In addition to the target intercepts, test objectives included demonstrating successful operation and interaction of all system elements, including radar, command and control equipment and target identification systems. Soldiers from the 2nd of the 43rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion of Fort Bliss, Texas, conducted this firing mission in a tactical scenario.

This was the third of four operational flight tests planned during Initial Operational Test and Evaluation for the PAC-3 system. IOTE is scheduled to conclude in May.

The most recent PAC-3 system test was conducted March 21 and included both operational and developmental objectives. It involved a PAC-3 missile fired against a Hera target and a simultaneous engagement of an MQM-107 subscale drone by a PAC-2 missile. Both targets were intercepted and destroyed. The PAC-3 engagement was intended as a tactical ripple engagement using two PAC-3 missiles, but the second PAC-3 missile did not launch when the PAC-3 launcher lost power during launch sequence. The cause of the generator power loss is under investigation.

Formed in 1999 when the Army integrated developmental and operational testing and evaluation into a single command, the Army Test and Evaluation Command has been deeply involved in the PAC-3 program. ATEC's Developmental Test Command conducted extensive developmental tests on the PAC-3 system, and now ATEC's Operational Test Command is conducting the user field tests.

ATEC will prepare an independent final system evaluation report in support of the full rate production decision review scheduled for September. The report will be provided to the MDA and Army senior leadership and decision-makers in support of the review.

The PAC-3 missile is a high velocity, hit-to-kill missile and is the next generation Patriot missile developed to provide increased defense capability against advanced tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and hostile aircraft. Unlike earlier Patriot missile designs that use an explosive warhead to destroy its target, the PAC-3 missile literally collides with its target in mid-air at extremely high speed, destroying the target and neutralizing its payload. Other system upgrades include improved radar performance allowing enhanced target discrimination; and new system software that improves determination of target launch and impact points and that provides an interface with the Theater High Altitude Area Defense system.

The Storm II target used for the test was developed by MDA's Missile Defense Targets Joint Project Office and is a tactical ballistic missile surrogate typically used for test and evaluation of missile defense interceptor systems. It was flown in a single stage configuration using a modified SR-19 booster and maneuvering tactical target reentry vehicle based on a Pershing II. The Storm II was launched from Fort Wingate, N.M., and traveled on a northwest to southeast flight path to White Sands Missile Range.

The Patriot-as-a-Target is a modified Patriot missile simulating a short-range, full-body theater ballistic missile. It provides a low-cost surrogate ballistic missile to test system performance against multiple threats. The missile was flown on a northwest to southeast trajectory from a site on the White Sands Missile Range.

The PAC-3 program is managed by the Missile Defense Agency in Washington, D.C., and executed by the Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense and the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office. Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Dallas, Texas, is the prime contractor responsible for the PAC-3 missile segment. Raytheon Electronic Systems Company of Bedford, Mass., the Patriot system prime contractor, is the system integrator for the PAC-3 missile segment.

Marine Corps awards contract for ground operations centers

GENERAL DYNAMICS RELEASE

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – General Dynamics Decision Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics, has been awarded a five-year contract to build ground-combat operations centers for the Marine Corps. The initial development phase is valued at $13.4 million.

The General Dynamics team will integrate computerized intelligence, information and communication systems into combat operations centers that provide enhanced situational awareness for deployed Marine forces. The mobile operations centers will be the focal point of decision-making during all phases of ground warfare, allowing Marine forces to digitally collect, process and disseminate tactical data. Called the Unit Operations Center program, the contract will be administered by the Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va.

Port district gets former Price Center property

GRANITE CITY, Ill. – What used to be an Army base managed by AMCOM is becoming community property.

The Charles Melvin Price Support Center, which the Aviation and Missile Command inherited in 1997, closed in May 2001. The Army transferred most of the 750 acres to the Maritime Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation which in turn gave it to the Tri-City Regional Port District under a pre-established Public Port Benefit Conveyance Program. About 40 acres stays with the Army Reserves.

A ceremony April 22 marked the no-cost transfer of the first 575 acres to the port district.

"They're going to develop it as a multi-modem port facility – rail, truck and waterway barge," Carol Meekins, senior realty specialist in AMCOM's Engineering, Environment and Logistics Oversight Office, said. "There are also community and family facilities. There's housing, a golf course and child care."

Meekins and Dr. David Branham, chief of the EELO Office, were among about 50 attendees at the ceremony. Speakers included Col. Christopher Young, deputy chief of staff for installations at Army Materiel Command, and Congressman Jerry Costello, D-Ill.

Costello led the bipartisan efforts in the House and Senate to help the local community recover from the negative economic impact realized when the base closed. He introduced special federal legislation to Congress in March 2000 that was signed into law by President Clinton that October. The law stipulated that the Charles Melvin Price Support Center would be conveyed to the port district.

Budget Inn
1304 N. Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, AL 35801
256-539-9671
1-2 People $32 + Tax
Special Military Discount!
Directions: I-565 Exit 19B, 1/2 mile on right.
Restaurant & Sports Lounge on Site
• Free Continental Breakfast
• Non-Smoking Rooms Available
• Remote Control T.V. with over 70 Free Cable Channels
• Swimming Pool
• Picnic-BBQ Area
• Free Coffee
• Free Local Calls
Huntsville
I-565 Exit #19B
00221281

VETERANS LAW
Security Clearance Revocations
• VA Compensation/Pension
• VA Regional Office (RO)
• Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA)
• Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC)
• Filing a Claim
BOND, BOTES, SYKSTUS & LARSEN, P.C.
Attorneys Providing Financial Solutions
Former US Army Judge Advocates
539-9899 Visit our website at www.bondnbotes.com
No representation is made that the quality of legal service to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.
00221251

Looking for a New Idea?
Children's Party Special!
2½ hours of Lights, Music, and Action AND your own personal interactive DJ for UNDER $300
plus mention this ad and receive along with your party KARAOKE for only $50
Your Choice of Music – Your Place – Your Own Party
Call the PROS today for details at 533-5511
Sunday - Friday
No Holidays
DJ EXPRESS
A division of America's Party Pros
For groups of 10 to 100
* Some Restrictions Apply. Limited Availability
00221251

Army in action

Targets office supplies bull's-eye for weapon systems

Management office designs, builds and buys ground and air targets

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandyr@htimes.com

Every weapon system must have a target — something to destroy. In a time of war, targets are supplied by enemy forces. For weapon system development or training exercises, targets must be provided by another source.

The Targets Management Office manages a fleet of ground and aerial targets, everything from the real deal to computer generated virtual targets, available for every phase of testing and live fire exercises for the Army and joint services programs.

"In our business, everything is somebody's target," Steve Milburn, director of TMO, said. "If the soldier or customer needs a specific type of target, our office identifies and fills that need. We design, create, build, buy or modify a target to meet the requirements. This is a dynamic environment. As weapon systems change and improve this office answers the call to create new targets."

Each weapon system, from a machine gun to the Patriot, has a specific mission. As these systems are developed, they go through various testing phases to prove they can see, identify, track, acquire and destroy their enemy target. The only way to do this is to put a target in the sky or on the ground with the particulars of the enemy weapon and see what happens.

But you don't always need a fully operational Russian tank target to see if a missile can acquire such a vehicle. You may only need the sound (acoustics) of it, or maybe the heat generated from its engine and peripheral systems for an infrared seeker to lock on. Sometimes the test is to see if the seeker can identify the target by its shape and not the other signatures.

Systems for the field
Part 9 of series

The targets office has real and surrogates in the fleet. Surrogates can be anything from the hull of a real tank to a hunk of plastic in the size and shape of a weapon system that can house a variety of signature generators.

"It depends on what the customer needs," Robbin Finley, project director for ground targets, said. "You can't test a missile for its lethality against armor by using a hunk of plastic shaped like a tank. You have to use a real armored tank. But do you have to have one full up with everything functioning or can you use a disabled tank? There's a big difference in price, depending on the type of target used and of course, you don't want to spend more than you have to."

While the ground fleet includes many different types of real and surrogate U.S. and foreign targets, everything from tanks to vehicles to artillery pieces, the struggle is to keep the targets as up to date as the weapons technology.

"We have to go through a validation process with the intelligence community to verify that our target is representative of the actual enemy threat," Finley said. "We can use engineering tricks to simulate conditions or threats but they must be accurate."

The same theory is used for the fleet of aerial targets managed by TMO. There are about 20 types of targets used, depending on the situation and whether it's weapons testing or soldier weapons training.

The four main categories of targets include subscale fixed and rotary wing, full scale fixed and rotary wing, one-fifth scale fixed and rotary wing and ballistic missile targets. Many of these targets can also carry smaller targets called "towed missiles."

The smaller missiles can be adapted with instrumentation packages or emissions packages so that they can be used instead of destroying the larger, more expensive targets.

An MQM-107 aerial drone costs about $300,000 while a towed missile can cost $60,000 or less, depending on the modifications needed.

Aerial fixed wing targets use a launch motor for the initial thrust into flight and then the rocket motor takes over. Both helicopter and fixed wing craft are remote operated through electric line-of-sight with a maximum range of 115 miles. It is not unusual to fly drones in formations. There is no remote control for the rail launched ballistic missiles.

The control system for the drones was designed and developed at Redstone and is undergoing a transition from analog to digital control for better functionality.

The fleet of targets are positioned around the world but the TMO's operations division at Redstone provides fielding and operational support. This means once a target is designed, produced and fielded, staff and support contractors associated with TMO handle the target deployment, setup and operation.

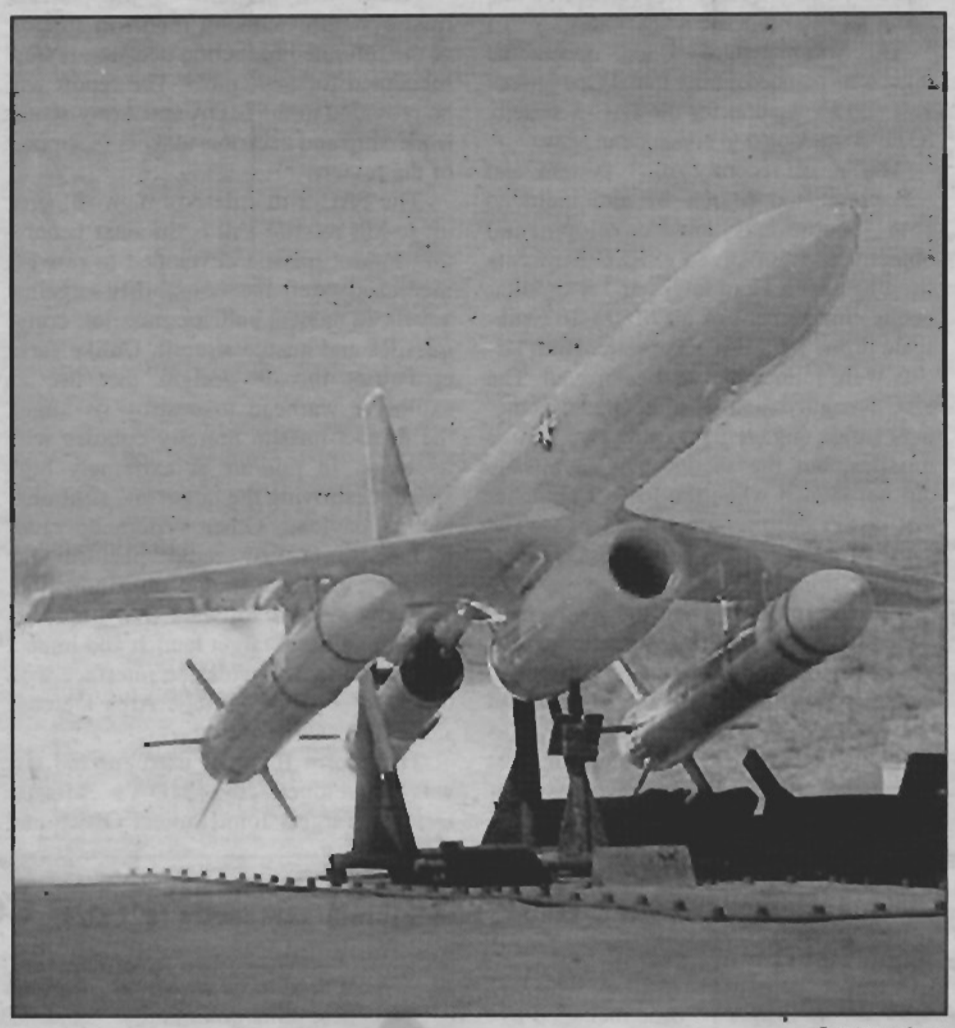
"Sometimes it's easier to take the target to the soldiers than to bring the soldiers to the site," Charlie Rich of operations division, TMO, said. "In late April we'll be deploying a MQM-107 to Eglin AFB (Fla.) for the Alabama National Guard Patriot unit training. We're working the details with the Lower Tier Project Office to get that set up."

The TMO is one of three management offices (Information, Targets and Threat Simulator) that make up the PM-ITTS, managed under the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command, a subordinate command to Army Materiel Command. Col. Matthew Fair is the PM-ITTS.

"We are principally a matrix organization," Milburn said. "We have a combination of folks from RDEC, IMMC, DCSS. We've got a great team of people."

But the mission and the staff (of 54 mostly civilian) are growing. The TMO is expanding to Ground Range Arrays, simulated battle array down range, to include the New Generation Army Targetry System, providing down range targets, battlefield effects and target sensors to collect data for the after action brief.

"It's part of the Army Transformation," Milburn said. "TMO — the Army's provider of next generation targetry."



Courtesy photo

UP AND AWAY— The MQM-107 "Streaker" carrying two towed missiles is primarily used as a target for Patriot and Stinger weapon systems. The Targets Management Office at Redstone manages a fleet of ground and aerial targets.

Green Mountain Lawn Care
Landscaping Fertilizing Mowing • Mulch
Pruning & Edging Seasonal Flowers Aeration/Overseeding
Pager 512-2424
Arsenal Employees -10%off
Free Estimates - 883-4211 - Phil Davis, owner - USA Retired

Many Annuity Owners Lose Money. Will You?
Some annuity owners lose over 50% of value of their annuity when it pays off (income taxes up to 36% plus estate tax up to 50% on estates exceeding $1 million).
It's true and we show you exactly how to help avoid the loss in our booklet "Annuity Owner Mistakes". The booklet is free & we show how to get more benefits from your existing assets & help preserve your annuity value.
Call Sandra Brown Stanley
Toll Free 866-859-2478 (24 hours)
or (256) 859-2478

Ordnance soldier lends voice to 'Army of One'

Young recruit gets chance to tell his story on radio

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

He was selected to become the voice of a new Army generation.

Pvt. Sekoya Ingram of C Company, 73rd Ordnance Battalion was interviewed and selected from hundreds of soldiers stationed at Fort Gordon, Ga., to provide the voice for a radio spot for the Army Recruiting Command.

Using his unique perspective as a new recruit, Ingram basically laid out how much the Army has meant to him. .

"At one point I thought I had nothing," Ingram said. "The Army is one big family. The Army has always been there for me." Since joining the Army, he said his whole perspective has changed. At 19, Ingram has been in the Army for 10 months.

It was while he was attending the radio and communications security repairer advanced individual training course at Fort Gordon that he was selected to represent the Army.

"On March 18 we received an e-mail stating that the U.S. Army Recruiting Command needed our help in looking for approximately 10 African American soldiers for radio and television spots the recruiters were developing," Capt. Connie Shanhols, the C Company commander, said. "The soldiers' voices were auditioned by Capt. Christopher West, the project officer for the advertising campaign, and a crew from Images USA."

His chain of command blessed off on his selection and Ingram along with his battle buddy, PFC Victor Beasley, traveled to Atlanta on April 18 to complete the radio broadcast.

"He basically had the experience of a lifetime," Shanhols said. During his two-day stay in Atlanta the soldiers were treated to a hotel stay, chauffeur and plenty of good food.

"We had a great time," Ingram said. "They spoiled us." Ingram graduated in April and is on his way to Korea.

"We are proud that Pvt. Ingram represented us so well," Shanhols said.

Editor's note: Capt. Connie Shanhols contributed to this story.

Courtesy photo

NEW GENERATION— Pvt. Sekoya Ingram of C Company, 73rd Ordnance Battalion was selected from hundreds of soldiers stationed at Fort Gordon, Ga., to provide his Army story for a radio spot for the Army Recruiting Command.

Worker suffers serious burns in incident

A Redstone contractor employee was injured in an electrical mishap last week.

Calvin "Lee" Hicks, 34, a technician employed by ERC Corporation, suffered serious burns April 23 while installing electrical test equipment in building 4500, as part of a Redstone
Technical Test Center contract.

Investigation into the incident is continuing, but preliminary indications are that Hicks was plugging a 480-volt, three-phase electrical connector into a wall receptacle when a short circuit apparently occurred. The short circuit, in turn, created a plasma arc and fireball, resulting in Hicks receiving second and third-degree burns.

Hicks was transported by Huntsville Emergency Medical Services Incorporated to Huntsville Hospital, and then to the Birmingham Burn Center where he was initially reported to be in stable but guarded condition.

Pediatricians prescribe breastfeeding for newborns

Mother's breast milk tops baby formula

By TAMIRIS CENTENO
Fox Army Health Center nurse

Should you breastfeed? Yes. Nothing is better for your baby than breast milk. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that infants consume breast milk exclusively for the first six months of life. Thereafter, breast milk combined with slowly introduced solid food is recommended through the end of the first year.

Why breast milk is so good: Studies suggest that breastfed babies may be bigger, stronger and, in some cases, smarter than their bottled-fed counterparts. That's because the nutrients in breast milk are sufficient and complete, perfectly designed for infants. Some nutritional components of breast milk that are not found in formula are especially beneficial. These include cholesterol, an important component of brain tissue and the biochemical basis for many enzymes in the body; and decosahexaenoic acid, which is important for your baby's brain function and visual and auditory development.

Other reasons why human milk is good for your child include the following:

- It is easier for babies to digest.
- It does not need to be prepared.
- It costs nothing to make and is always in supply.
- It is even good for the environment since there are no bottles, cans and boxes to put in the garbage.

Breastfeeding also provides physical contact, warmth and closeness, which help to create a special bond between a mother and her baby

The long-term benefits: Breastfeeding significantly reduces a baby's risk of lower-respiratory infections, bacterial meningitis, urinary tract infections and many diseases. In fact studies have

See Feeding on page 9

Concerts at the Columns
HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN
Grab a picnic, bring your blanket and come enjoy some of the world's finest musicians in the Garden. General admission lawn seating. Concerts will be held rain or shine.
GATES AT 6PM, SHOWS START AT 7:30PM

FRIDAY MAY 3, 2002
"JAZZ GREAT!"
WYNTON MARSALIS
$31.50 HSVBG Members • $33.50 Non-Members

From the movie and Grammy Award winning soundtrack of:
"O Brother, Where Art Thou?"
THE NASHVILLE BLUEGRASS BAND & THE FAIRFIELD FOUR
FRIDAY JUNE 21, 2002 • $22 HSVBG Members • $24 Non-Members

First Commercial Bank
Rising Relationships. Powerful Solutions.

**A third concert to be announced. Season ticket packages available.
Tickets available at the Garden Gift Shop and all ticketmaster outlets.
Charge by phone at 800-277-1700 or on the web at www.ticketmaster.com

00217088

Better Future? Better Start Now!

Computers
- Networking (Novell Microsoft Cisco)
- Computer Aided Drafting
- Imaging and Visualization
- Webmaster

Business
- Bachelor's of Management
- Administrative Assistant
- Administrative Office Management
- Accounting Assistant

Para Legal
- Assistant Research
- Legal Studies

Medical
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Administration
- Health Claims Specialist
- Medical Billing & Coding
- Therapeutic Massage

Financial Aid is available for Qualified Students

On going enrollment for next start

Virginia College at Huntsville
2800 Bob Wallace Avenue
Call Now!
(256) 533-7387
Visit us online at www.vc.edu

00228888

Guardsmen adjust their lives to help protect lives at depot

Activated National Guardsmen augmenting security Armywide

Editor's note — Since Sept. 11, 2001, many things have changed. One of those changes involves increased protective measures at Army posts. Sgt. Maj. Edward Brown wrote the following to depict the life of individual National Guardsmen augmenting security at Letterkenny Army Depot.

By Sgt. Maj. EDWARD BROWN
Courtesy to Redstone Rocket

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT, Pa. – Spec. Bradley Wilson comes from Chestertown, Md. An early arrival on Nov. 6, 2001, be was activated shortly after the events of September and arrived at Letterkenny after several weeks of preparatory training.

Single, with his wedding scheduled after this deployment is completed, Wilson awaits that day by working out at Gold's Gym and shopping for his fiancé at Chambersburg Mall.

Awaiting his wedding day, he has had to adjust to living with four other soldiers in one house at Kenny Hills. No complaints. "This is great. I knew I'd have to work with other soldiers and we get along well together," Wilson said. He wants to tackle some college courses during his deployment with plans to major in marketing and computer science.

Wilson was enthusiastic about the attitude of Letterkenny employees. "Depot employees make me feel good at the gates. I'm proud to serve them." In fact, Wilson said that the entire Chambersburg community has made him feel at home.

"I thought it would be an adjustment to live with four other soldiers in one house. I knew I had to work with them, but living with them is great. We gather to clean up the house and everyone performs almost like a family," he said.

Of course, Wilson thinks it would be nice to know when the deployment would end, but no one does. "I enjoy being stationed here at Letterkenny. If I knew how long I'd be here, I'd move my fiancé here.

"I love serving my country in this time of need," he said. "I love being a soldier. I have two years left in my obligation and my next goal is to attend the Army's Primary Development Course and become a noncommissioned officer."

Of course, the logical question to ask is why? Wilson said he simply wants the opportunity to lead and teach other soldiers.

Sgt. Jeff Phillips is a sportsman. "I love fishing and also going to the gym." This Maryland National Guard soldier is originally from Cambridge, Md., but moved to Delmar, Del., to assist his mother following his stepfather's stroke before he was activated.

"I love the Chambersburg area. Delmar has flat land. I love the people and mountains in this area. People at Letterkenny have really made me feel at home," Phillips said.

"I have some experience to make these assessments. I've been in the National Guard for 14 years. I've been activated twice in my career," he said.

Phillips went to Egypt on a peacekeeping mission before becoming activated to Letterkenny.

He understands the global scope. "Being activated to Letterkenny is, of course, easier than going to Afghanistan. And I'm making decent money and not all of our soldiers do. Some of the soldiers you meet have taken significant pay cuts once they were activated and left their daily jobs."

But Phillips has a different challenge. In his leadership position, he must continually find ways to challenge his soldiers. "I've got to motivate them. I have to find ways to keep my soldiers from becoming bored. And keep them focused on basic soldier skills," he said. This is not a particularly easy assignment. "My soldiers work a variety of shifts and must maintain their skills. We perform daily inspection duties to ensure they stay focused as soldiers. It isn't easy because National Guard soldiers practice only one weekend a month and during a two-week summer drill under ordinary circumstances. These are entirely different circumstances.

"I plan to keep our soldiers focused. We'll work out together three times a week at Gold's Gym. We'll undergo necessary inspections and your civilian employees will see soldiers committed to the task they've been asked to do," Phillips said.

Courtesy photo

ON DUTY— Spec. Bradley Wilson, left, and Sgt. Jeff Phillips are National Guardsmen who are helping augment security at Letterkenny Army Depot.

■ Mothers advised to breastfeed their babies

Feeding

continued from page 8

shown that even four months of breastfeeding may lower the incidence of some childhood-onset cancers, Crohn's disease and childhood onset diabetes. Breast milk also delivers passive immunity (the mother's immunity) to the newborn. Research also suggests that breastfeeding may help to protect against Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

What's in it for you: There are also many health benefits for you because breastfeeding does the following:

- Burns more calories and helps you get back to your pre-pregnancy weight more quickly.
- Reduces the risk of ovarian cancer and, in premenopausal women, breast cancer.
- Builds bone strength to protect against bone fractures in older age.
- Delays the return of your menstrual period, which may help extend the time between pregnancies. (Keep in mind that breastfeeding alone will not prevent pregnancy.)
- Helps the uterus return to its regular size more quickly.

What is Colostrum? Colostrum is the first breast milk that your body produces. It comes in just after the baby's birth and is especially thick and rich in proteins, antibodies and other ingredients to nourish and protect your child in his or her first days outside the womb. A few days later, a mother's body begins to produce mature milk which can sustain the baby throughout infancy.

How often you should nurse: Most doctors' recommend feeding your child "on demand," or whenever he or she wants to be fed. A newborn's stomach is tiny, so he or she needs to eat every few hours. Nursing also often helps your body produce breast milk. The breast adapts to what the baby needs and produces what the baby can take. Your milk supply will adapt to how much and when your baby needs it.

For information on Healthy Pregnancy/Healthy Baby classes call the Public Health and Education Department at Fox Army Health Center, open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 842-0196.

Army Emergency Relief campaign continues with fund-raising events

The Army Emergency Relief campaign collected $42,184 by Thursday. Scheduled activities for the ongoing fund-raising drive include the following:

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.

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.

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/wurst 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.

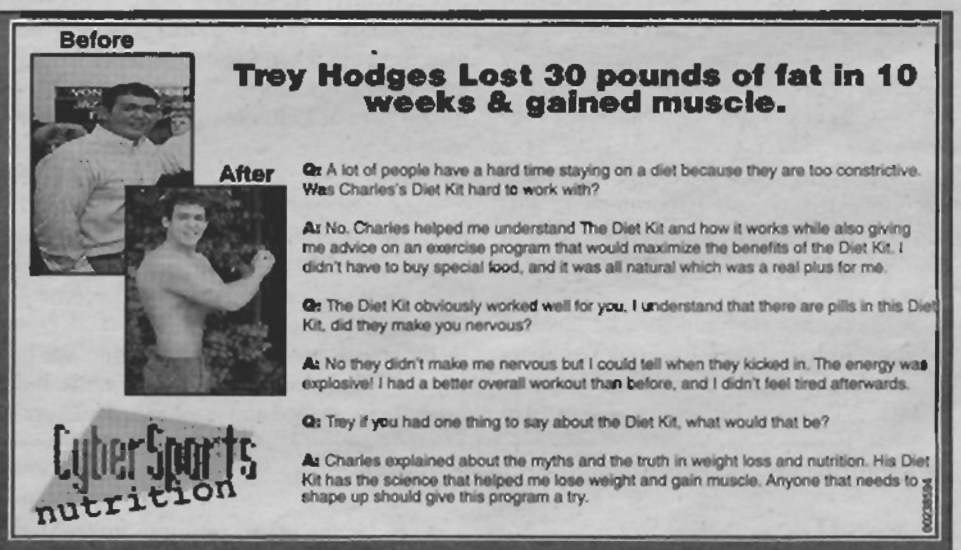
May 7 — from 7:30 a.m. until it's all gone, Bake sale, building 5300 (corridor). Call Mary Ann Caissie 955-8859, LAISO.

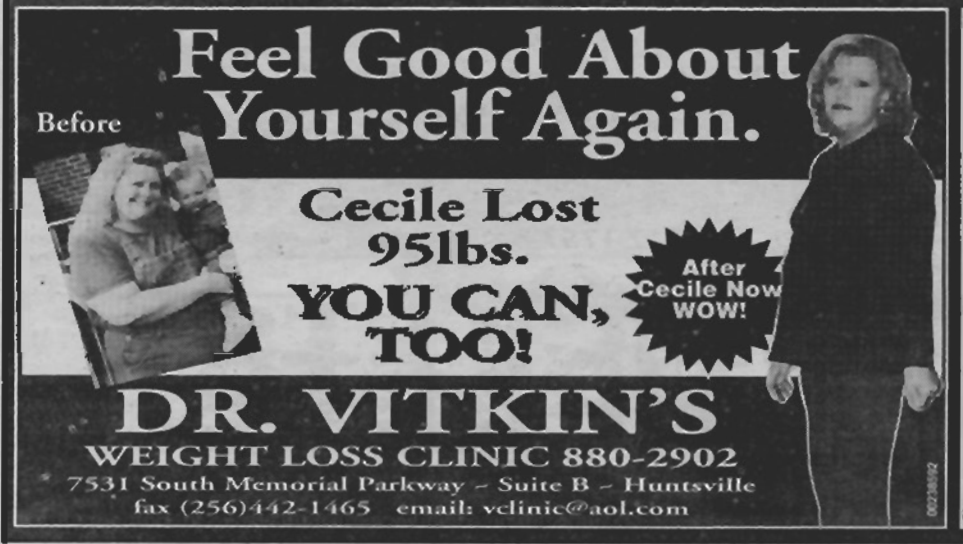
May 7 — from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Barbecue lunch, building 5250, back parking lot. Call Capt. Hawkins 876-5355, PM CCMS, PEO Tactical Missiles.

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.





Children, parents party down on the block

Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

SLIP SLIDING— Children with their parents await their turn on a blowup slide, among several activities available at the Block Party.

Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

KOOL-AID SMILES— Sharon Samuelson, Army Community Service volunteer coordinator, compares her clown smile with Hannah Yockel's red-stained one. Hannah is the grandchild of Barbara Anderson who works at the Fox Army Health Center.

Child and Youth Services 'Block Party' concludes Month of Military Child

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

Tethered multicolored balloons strained for freedom as laughter and shrieks from children floated through the air. The hum from military vehicles only added to the energy of the day. The air was laced with humidity, the smell of hot dogs, cotton candy and snow cones as the annual Child and Youth Services "Block Party" kicked off April 20.

"We are having an excellent turnout," Yvonne Lister, director of Child and Youth Services, said. Hundreds of children escorted by their parents turned out for the day. "This is the last big event for the Month of the Military Child," she said. April was the Month of the Military Child.

"It gives all the children that participate in our different programs a chance to party together," Lister said. "This is just one way for the Army to give back to its families."

832nd Ordnance Battalion soldiers clad in Army gray fitness uniforms milled about helping children shoot basketball hoops and create works of "spin" art. Some of the soldiers kept the children from mobbing the huge "moon bounce" and giant slide. Still others served free snacks.

"It's a beautiful day outside so I don't mind volunteering," Pvt. Derek Dieterich of B Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said. "Otherwise I'd be sitting in my room — ironing."

"Yeah it definitely feels good to help the community," Pvt. Matthew Boyle, also of Bravo Company, said.

Other soldiers had similar feelings. "It's always fun to volunteer to work with little kids," Pvt. Delaina Williams of C Company said. "Kids are so full of life; they always make you happy."

"I thought as long as we are going to be living here a while we might as well get involved with the community," Pvt. Ashley Nelson of C Company said. Most of the soldiers volunteering for the day are students attending class at the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School. Most are here for several months until they graduate.

But a host of volunteers, both civilian and military, provided free face painting, spin art, door prizes, bingo, a music deejay, a basketball shootout, Tae Kwon Do demonstrations, military vehicle demonstrations and a band.

"We didn't have much to do today," Pvt. Kenia Caravantes of B Company said. "We decided to volunteer and have some fun, too."

"We've had overwhelming positive feedback today from the parents and their children," Lister said. "So far everybody I've seen today has enjoyed themselves."

Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

STICKY TREAT— Pvt. Evelyn Diaz of C Company wears a little of the cotton candy she's rolling on a stick. The sticky treat was free to those attending the Block Party.

Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

WHAT'S THIS BUTTON DO?— SFC Danny Strickland of D Company shows from left Jessica Evans, Ashley Corpuz and Kimberly Evans the inner workings of a Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle.

Win or lose

NCO Academy wins preseason volleyball tournament

Defending post champ beats Bravo in final

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

The NCO Academy looks ready to defend its volleyball championship from last year.

In the preseason tournament final April 23, the NCOs beat Bravo Company 25-21 and 25-16 at Pagano Gym. The season was scheduled to open April 29 with seven teams.

"We're still hoping to get more team participation in this," recreation assistant Mike Potter said last week. "But it went pretty well (April 23)."

Games will be played Monday through Thursday nights beginning at 6 and 6:45 at Pagano. "If we get more teams between now and the 29th, we could extend it out from 6:45 to 7:30," Potter said.

The postseason tournament is to start May 28 and continue to about June 5. Eastern Conference teams include Charlie 832nd, Marines, HHC 59th and the NCO Academy. The Western Conference has Delta Company, Bravo Company and AMCOM.

NCO Academy, unbeaten last year, went 3-0 in the double-elimination preseason tournament that began April 15. Bravo (3-2) reached the final by beating Delta 25-18, 25-13 on April 22. Earlier that night Delta eliminated HHC 59th 25-14, 25-22.

The final belonged to NCO Academy.

"Basically we did what we did last year but we repeated it," Victor Blade, first sergeant and self-proclaimed bench warmer, said. "We dominated the whole game."

The NCOs are led by player-coach Edward Sasan. "He's really the key to this whole thing," Blade said. "I mean he does a really good job. He told me 'don't worry about anything, there will be a repeat.' And he delivered. NCOs make it happen."

"We had the ingredients," Sasan said. "That made the Academy win. It wasn't just one person."

The NCOs had only two practices before the tournament. From the very first practice, Sasan said he could see all he needed to do was "fine tune them."

"They just had it in them. It was all natural," he said. "It's like a recipe. All the ingredients were there."

Sasan, who plays setter, took a verbal dig at a preseason comment from Bravo 1st Sgt. Tom Lettis who said the NCOs would be playing for second this year. "We didn't play for second place," Sasan said, laughing. "They did."

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.

Post softball team outslugs opponents in doubleheader opener

Redstone soldiers' squad plays in league downtown

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

The post softball team shows no signs of a second-season jinx.

In its first season last year, Redstone won its division in the Metro Kiwanis SportsPlex slow-pitch league and finished fourth in the end-of-season tournament. The league had 16 teams in C level.

This year Redstone moved up to B level and opened with two wins April 23.

"I think we've got a very talented team," third baseman Jim McCool said. "I think we probably have a better team this year."

Redstone beat the Loose Cannons 11-10 and Chips & Salsa 14-13 in a doubleheader opener at the SportsPlex. Pitcher/coach Tim Rodriguez went the distance in both seven-inning wins.

The Loose Cannons led 10-9 when Redstone came to bat in the bottom of the sixth. Henry Hayes tied the score with a solo homer. Kent Hamann and McCool singled and Josh Zirbel drove in Hamann with the decisive RBI hit.

In the second game, Redstone roared to a 10-0 lead entering the bottom of the third. But Chips & Salsa chipped away and led 11-10 after five.

Redstone loaded the bases with one out in the top of the sixth when Hamann came to bat.

"Kent Hamann hit an in-the-park grand slam," Rodriguez said. "He drives the ball to right field and it got caught in the corner."

Hamann's blast put Redstone ahead 14-11 but it was just enough for the win. Chips & Salsa scored two more runs in the seventh when the slugfest ended.

Michael McGilton led off the game with a solo shot for Redstone. Zirbel and Reginald Williams each had a two-run homer.

"It's all soldiers," Rodriguez said of his team. "I carry a roster right now of 16."

Redstone returns to action Thursday night at 6 at the SportsPlex against a team from Scottsboro.

Huntsville STARS
NOW YOU CAN BUY TICKETS ONLINE!
Huntsville Stars vs Orlando Rays
Thursday, May 2 @ 7:05 pm
Redstone Federal Credit Union Night
Complimentary tickets available at all Redstone Federal Credit Union Locations
first 500 fans get a free gift courtesy of RFCU.
Friday May 3rd 7:05 pm State Farm presents Myron Noodleman and Fireworks.
Complimentary tickets at your participating State Farm agents' office.
Saturday May 4th 7:05 pm - Fireworks following the game.
Sunday May 5th 2:05 pm
For a complete schedule or more information call 882-2562
or visit www.huntsvillestars.com
0021708

Don't miss the chance to hold a Miracle in your hand
Little Miracles™
by Marie Osmond
IN STOCK NOW!
Brooks Dolls & More
(corner of Lowe and Madison)
614 Madison • Suite 2
539-3656 • www.brooksdolls.com • Huntsville
Authorized dealer of Little Miracles by Marie Osmond products.
0021383

Lower Tier Project workers receive individual honors

The following members of Lower Tier Project Office received awards April 16:

Certificates of Service – Ellen Richardson, 25 years; Gary Adams, 15 years; Brian Benis, 15 years; Edward Fowler, 10 years; Jamie Martin, 10 years; Andrew Fogle, 10 years; and David Crim, 10 years.

Employee of the Month – Jamie Martin (January), Jonathan Williams (February) and David Crim (March).

Promotion Certificates – Barry Belew to DB-4, Wallace Miller to DB-4, Michael Matusa to DB-4, Jaime Zapata to DB-4 and Ray Graham to GS-11.

Performance Awards – Gary Freeman, Mike Mardis, Donna Cancel, David Fogg, Ellen Richardson, Pam Owen, Cynthia Gurley, Geraldine Barber, Peggy Bowman, Jean Chambers, Kari Elliott, Winston Sconiers, Steve Coley, John White, Margaret Battle, Regeana Rainwater, Bob Echols, Tim Richmond, Margaret Tipton, Ed Fowler, John Haskell and Jamie Pepper.

Special Act or Service Awards – Andrew Fogle, Jennifer Shepherd, Glenn Davenport, Steve Thomas, Karen Caudle (RDEC), Lawrence Peterson (IMMC), Gary Hayes, Les Lewis (RDEC), Cary Boyd (RDEC), Robert Owen, Deborah Acanfrio, Steve Blake, Eric Baker, Lisa Moreland and Karen Potter.

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service – Don Pettigrew, Wallace Miller, Julia Forbes, Jacqueline Crepeau, Mike Mardis, Jeri Kirkpatrick, Carey R. Allen, Steve Blake, Andrew Fogle, Dennis Wilkerson, Gary Freeman, Harold Brown, Winston Sconiers, Ray Graham, Jaime Zapata and David Crim.

■ Soldier disagrees with rule on yards

Landscaping

continued from page 2

and put that money to work somewhere else.

Soldiers are giving up their basic housing allowance to live on post. They are giving up money that in the long run will help cut the Army budget. And yet the soldiers are the ones that are being penalized. I am now telling my neighbors to just let the weeds grow!

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following response. "Thanks for providing us an opportunity to discuss your issues with the Redstone Arsenal community.

"Addressing the most important issue first, AR 210-50, Housing Management, provides support for sponsors with family members enrolled in the exceptional family member program. The sponsor may forward a request for special housing consideration in writing to the DPW Housing Managment Division. The housing manager in conjunction with the military medical treatment facility and the Exceptional Family Member Committee, will make a recommendation to the installation commander based on the merits of each individual case. Modifications costing less than $15,000 can be approved by the MACOM. Modifications costing more than $15,000 require congressional approval. We have always been able to accommodate soldiers whose families have special needs, even if modification of the quarters is necessary. We know of no resident that has an outstanding request for this special housing consideration. If you are aware of a soldier that requires this special consideration, we would encourage them to contact the housing manager. We will gladly assist them.

"It is difficult to address the plant removal complaint without knowing the specific details. Unfortunately, and all too often, what one occupant considers as having 'improved the look and value of the property' is not shared by their successor in the quarters. Normally, occupants terminating family housing are not required to remove flowers and plants from their yards. Yard decorations such as plastic flowers, fountains, birdbaths, etc., must be removed. Flowerbeds in the middle of the yard are to be removed and the yard restored to its natural state. Landscape timbers are harboring termites. Occupants who actually laid these timbers have been asked to remove them and use the black edging to hold the mulch in place. This is especially critical where the timbers are close to the house. For this reason, the self-help store is no longer stocking or issuing landscaping timbers to the residents.

"The self-help store is a contractor-operated facility that exists only to receive, store, issue and loan Family Housing maintenance and repair items to occupants of family housing units. Self-help store employees are not the proponents of housing policy nor should they be consulted as a source for housing policy advice. Rather, residents should consult their resident housing guide or contact the DPW Housing Management Office if they have a question or concern about Redstone Arsenal housing policies.

"We encourage our residents to continue their outstanding participation in our 'Yard of the Month' program and we solicit your continuing support to leave Redstone Arsenal just a little prettier than you found it! We thank you and your neighbors thank you for all you are doing!"

Professional DEVELOPMENT

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Certificate Programs/Series

Java Developer · BEGINS MAY 7
Basic Contract Management · MAY 13 - 17
Systems Engineering · BEGINS MAY 22
C Programming · BEGINS JUNE 3
Network Menagement · BEGINS JUNE 4
High Performance Supervision · JUNE 17 - 21

Cisco Certified Network Associate
Accelerated Exam Prep
Prepare for the CCNA Exam with our intensive, one-week course. Work hands-on with routers and switches!
May 13-17 · 8am-5pm

Computer Training

REGISTER NOW BY PHONE OR WEB!

Oracle Database Tuning and Monitoring	May 6-20 • M&W • 5-9pm • 21020126N
Introduction to Java Programming	May 7-23 • T&Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21020493N
Adobe Photoshop: Advanced Topics	May 13-17 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21020331N
CCNA Accelerated Exam Prep	May 13-17 • M-F • 8am-5pm • 21020496N
Installing, Configuring & Administering Microsoft Exchange 2000 Server	May 13-23 • M-Th • 5-9:20pm • 21020108N
Advanced Flash Action Script	May 20-24 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21020342N
Oracle Networking	May 22-Jun 10 • M&W • 5-9pm • 21020127N
Fundamentals of C	Jun 3-20 • M-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21020138N
Managing a Linux Server	Jun 3-26 • M&W • 4:30-8:50pm • 21020199N
Networking Fundamentals	Jun 4-20 • T&Th • 5:30-9:30pm • 21020583N
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
Enterprise Web Portal Development with Oracle	Jun 11-July 18 • T&Th • 5:30-9:30pm • 21020576N
Oracle Database Backup and Recovery	Jun 12-26 • M&W • 5-9pm • 21020129N
C# - An Intro to .NET Programming for the Web	Jun 17-28 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21020177N
GoLive Authoring Fundamentals	Jun 24-28 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21020343N
Internetworking with TCP/IP	Jun 25-Jul 11 • T&Th • 5:30-9:30pm • 21020584N
Fundamentals of C++	July 8-25 • M-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21020141N
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
Enterprise Java	July 16-Aug 1 • T&Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21020495N
Network Operations Management	July 16-Aug 13 • T&Th • 5:30-9:30pm • 21020585N
Visual C++ for the Windows OS	Aug 12-29 • M-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21020169N
Client/Server Computing	Aug 20-Sep 12 • T&Th • 5:30-9:30pm • 21020586N

Management Training

Coaching Your Team To Success	May 7-June 25 • T • 5:30-8:30pm • 23020474N
Basic Contract Management Certificate Program	May 13-17 • M-F • 8:30am-4:30pm • 23020023N
Project Management Tool Chest	May 18-Jun 1 • S • 8am-3pm • 23020623N
3D Home Design	Jun 17-27 • M,T&Th • 6-8:20pm • 23020214N
High Performance Supervision	Jun 17-21 • M-F • 8:30am-4:30pm • 23020575N
Earned Value Mgmt for Project Success	Jun 24-26 • M-W • 9am-4pm • 23020582N
7 Habits of Highly Effective People® Workshop	Aug 12-14 • M-W • 8:30am-4:30pm • 23020589N

Engineering Technologies

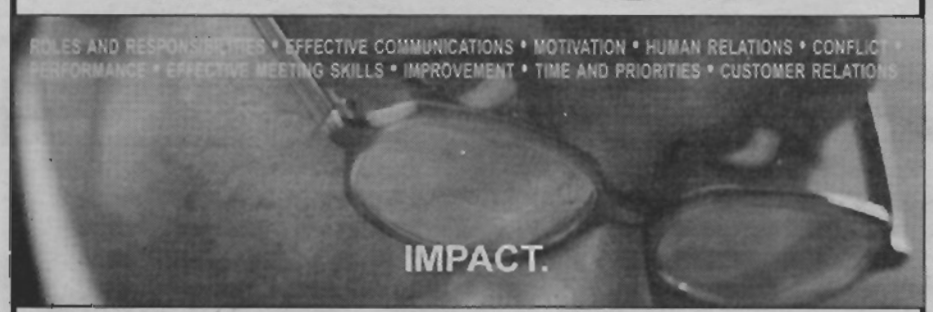
System Validation and Verification	May 13-14 • M&T • 8:30am-4:30pm • 23020353N
RF and MMW Seeker Technology	May 20-24 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 23020013N
Systems Engineering Overview	May 22-23 • W&Th • 8:30am-4:30pm • 23020489N
Advanced Radar Signal Processing Techniques	Jun 10-14 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 23020016N
Requirements Analysis and Allocation	Jun 17-18 • M&T • 8:30am-4:30pm • 23020490N
Trade Studies and Decision Making	July 22-23 • M&T • 8:30am-4:30pm • 23020491N
System Validation and Verification	Aug 19-20 • M&T • 8:30am-4:30pm • 23020492N

824.6372
www.coned.uah.edu
1.800.448.4035
pdinfo@cepo.conted.uah.edu
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution

UAH
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Division of Continuing Education

IMPACT

UAH Professional Development



High Performance Supervision

A CONCENTRATED ONE-WEEK CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

THIS PROGRAM INCORPORATES 13 ESSENTIAL AREAS OF SKILL-BUILDING. BRING YOUR COMPANY'S FUTURE TO LIFE BY LEARNING TO CONSISTENTLY PRODUCE DESIRED RESULTS AND REACH PEAK PERFORMANCE.

23020575N • June 17-21 • M-F • 8:30am-4:30pm • $995

questions? 256.824.6372 or 800.448.4035 UAH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

00221248

Redstone Arsenal plants seeds to preserve environment

Youngsters help celebrate annual Arbor/Earth Day

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

The youngsters seemed to like the snakes at Redstone's annual Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration April 23 at the Path to Nature.

Danny Dunn, natural resources division chief in the Directorate of Environmental Management, told about reptiles and let the youngsters touch three nonpoisonous snakes: a black pine snake, gray rat snake and black king snake. Some 60 students from Lakewood Elementary and 80 from the Academy for Science and Foreign Language were bused to the celebration.

The snakes were clearly the highlight of the day.

"It was fun," Julia Morgan, 10, a fourth-grader at ASFL, said after touching the black king snake. "The snake was smooth though."

A bystander asked if she was afraid of snakes. "I'm scared of poisonous snakes," she replied.

And what did she learn from the day's events? "That – um – um, to keep the earth clean," she answered.

Preserving natural resources is a key idea behind Earth Day, which began in 1970, and Arbor Day, which dates back to 1872.

"We have a fun-filled and educational day planned for you," Col. Brent Swart, deputy post commander, said in welcoming the students. This year's Earth Day theme was "Protecting Our Freedom and Preserving the Environment."

Jesse Horton, the post forester, presented Redstone's fourth Tree City USA award. Redstone shares this distinction with only 12 other Army installations worldwide.

Swart accepted the tree city award on behalf of the post. "It's my pleasure but it's a lot of hard work by a lot of folks," he said. "And we're just happy we can continue the streak."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

SNAKE HANDLER— Fourth-grader Julia Morgan of Academy for Science and Foreign Language takes her turn touching a black king snake during the Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration April 23 at the Path to Nature.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

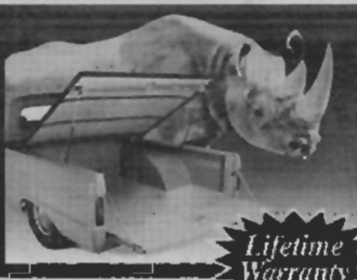
DON'T BE AFRAID— Danny Dunn, natural resources division chief in the Directorate of Environmentel Management, shows youngsters a black king snake during the Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration. He displayed three nonpoisonous snakes during the event.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

PINE SNAKE— Amber Dunn, 15, who assisted her father Danny Dunn during his presentation on reptiles, holds a black pine snake from Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. His name is "Pine Cone."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

TREE PLANTING— Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer, in foreground, Madison Mayor Jan Wells and Col. Brent Swart plant a tree for Arbor Day during Redstone's annual Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration at the Path to Nature.

Purchase a Rhino Liner & a Topper and get
$50 off
Exp. 5-30-02
We Specialize in Custom Color

Lifetime Warranty
• Won't Peel, Crack or Warp
• Out Performs All Drop-In Liners
• Helps Keep Your Gear from Sliding
• Resists Abrasion, Even Under Heavy Use
• Not a Paint-Like Coating...Sprays on up to 1/4" Thick
• All Colors Available
PERMANENTLY PROTECTS AGAINST RUST AND CORROSION
Be sure with Rhino Linings®
NOTHING BEATS A REAL RHINO
256-880-1121
3100 Leeman Ferry Road • Huntsville, AL 35801
00220110

Edward E. Blair
Attorney at Law
(256) 534-9995
Child Support
Divorce
Bankruptcy
200 West Court Square • Suite 51 ~ Terrace Level • Huntsville
"No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers"
00221247

Just for kids

Parents say they appreciate quality child-care

CDC teaches children life skills, provides nurturing environment

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
beths@htimes.com

Although parents working at Redstone Arsenal like the convenience of having a child-care center located on post, those who choose to send their children to the Child Development Center are most concerned about the quality of care it provides.

"I've been really impressed with it," Kelly Counts, a test engineer for the Precision Fires project office and mother of 2-year-old Kent, said. "They teach the children a lot of life skills – they even have them brush their teeth and encourage them to scrape their own plates after lunch... I like that they stress independence and teach them to take care of themselves."

As vice president of the CDC's Parents Advisory Council, Counts is especially pleased that parents are encouraged to drop in for lunch at the center and to be involved with special activities. "My son's in the toddler class. He still gets upset when I leave but his teacher said it's fine, she can handle him. They encourage you to be there," she said. "I was worried that I shouldn't go to the parade for Month of the Military Child because he would cry but they encouraged me to come to it anyway."

Dorinda Pleasure, a nursing assistant at Fox Army Health Center and mother of a 4-year-old son, also likes the CDC. "I've had no problem with it. It's working out great," she said. "What do I like best? Everything. They have convenient times, they meet the standards they're supposed to meet, it's convenient because it's on the Arsenal and the caregivers are great."

Counts agrees that the convenience of having a child-care center on post is a plus. "Location is very important too. For me it's only four miles away from my work," she said. "Also, I like how they accommodate children with special needs. My son is allergic to milk and soy and there's also a special needs child in his room. So they really work with you on that and it's been important to me."

Photo by Beth Skarupa

SEW FUN— Two-year-olds Brittany Chance, left, and Sean Sanders play with sewing cards in their toddler class at the Child Development Center. Brittany is the daughter of Keith and Frenchesca Chance; and Sean is the son of Sgt. Michael and Cindy Sanders.

Mary Washington, director of the CDC, often talks with parents who are considering placing their children in the program. She thinks it's most important to tell them that the center's goal is to provide appropriate, age specific programs as well as a safe, nurturing and secure environment that contributes favorably to the positive growth and development for their child while in the center's care.

"I would also invite them to come to visit us for a walk through," she said. Washington has been with CDC at Redstone since June 1991 and has 16 years with Child and Youth Services.

The CDC's mission is to provide quality care that reduces the conflict between parental responsibilities and unit mission requirements. It's open first to active duty military and Department of Defense civilians who are single parents and second to those active duty military and DoD civilians who have a working spouse. All other eligible patrons, such as reservists on active duty or inactive personnel training and DoD contractors, are accommodated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Caregivers must have a high school diploma or GED for entry-level positions and are required by the Department of Army to complete foundation level training that leads to an Army Child Development Certificate within 18 months. All caregivers are required to complete 24 hours of annual training each year.

CDC recently changed its hours to 5 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. daily to better accommodate those parents who are in the military. Both "full day" and "hourly care" programs are available. The center serves breakfast, lunch and a snack and follows USDA guidelines when preparing and serving food. Copies of the weekly menu are available in the CDC's lobby and are posted on the bulletin board in the program reception area.

In the past year, the inside of the center's building was remodeled and new playground equipment was purchased. According to Counts, plans include expanding the building to better accommodate children in "Preschool 3." She said parents of those children currently have to walk through the building and back outside and up a hill to get to the separate building where their children have class. It's not a problem when the weather is nice, but many parents have complained about the situation being inconvenient when it's raining.

CDC commits to quality child-care by maintaining accreditation by the National Association for Education of Young Children and certification annually by the Department of Defense. This year the center completed its reaccreditation process in February.

For more information about CDC, call 876-7952.

Buy It Or Sell It In The
Redstone Rocket
532-4300 • Fax (256) 532-4349

Charles Woods, M.D.
LASIK
Are You a Candidate?
LASIK Open House
Thursday • May 9th • 5:30 pm
Offers 15% discount to BCBS Federal Employees
The EyeCenter
256-705-3955 or 800-233-9083
401 Meridian Street, Suite 200
Huntsville, AL 35801
08221244

• Hardware • Upgrades
• Software • Customized PCS
• Network • Cable & Accessories
• Servers
Government Employee Discounts
Gov't/MPAC Credit Cards Accepted
BPA listed
CCR Registered
CableMart Inc.
Computer Hardware
Importer & Distributor
772-7563
9582 Madison Blvd • Ste 1 & 3
Madison
sales@cmicomputer.com
AMD 850MHz Duron Computer only $299
ATX mini-mid tower case 300w power, 64mb sdram, 8 mb video, 10gb hard drive, 1.44 floppy, 52 speed cd-rom, 3d sound, 56k modem, 10/100 base T network card, 120w speakers, ps2 keyboard, mouse, 1 year labor parts warranty
17" KTC monitor only $125
Cmachine
Check our web site for more great deals http://www.cmicomputer.com
02218547

Crafter looks for potential in people as well as things

Doll maker fired weapons in Army years before picking up glue gun

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandyr@htimes.com

If all you see when you're looking at an empty toilet paper roll is an empty toilet paper roll, you're not looking hard enough, says crafty queen Barbara Dowdell.

"What do you see?" she asked, pulling an old plastic purple flower out of her Wal-Mart bag. "I see this." Dowdell reached into the same bag and pulled out a small doll ornament made with a plastic doll head, the upside down flower as the skirt and two green leaves positioned as angel wings. "I can recycle just about anything."

The proof is laid out on the table before her. Cigar boxes reworked into lacy trinket cases, dry laundry detergent scoops transformed into pots for small flower arrangements, and the list goes on.

"I'm a Girl Scout leader for a troop at my church," Dowdell, a personnel management specialist in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, said. "We meet every Thursday at 6. I have to have a lot of little craft ideas for them. It's a Daisy troop so they're only 5 years old. It has to be something simple but fun. If it gets to Thursday morning and I can't think of something, my mind starts to spin."

Not all her projects are simple or small. Dowdell's cubicle is decorated with a sampling of her handiwork, including ornately dressed dolls with flowing lace skirts. These lacy ladies are not only pretty but can be practical as bathroom decor. Hidden under the skirt is a roll of toilet paper.

Dowdell was first in mind when one of her co-workers needed door prizes for the Combined Federal Campaign last year. She made several air freshener dolls for the event. She occasionally donates crafts for work-related occasions and volunteers at the Panoply craft booth.

But Dowdell wasn't always so crafty or resourceful. Her mother taught her to sew at an early age and she figured that was the limit to her creativity. Then about 10 years ago, a friend came to her with a fly swatter decorated in lace and a lot of encouragement.

"I looked at it and thought I could probably do that, so I went out and bought my first glue gun, which scared me to death, a spool of lace and a fly swatter. I started and finished the project that day."

Seven or eight glue guns and thousands of glue sticks later, she's still at it. For several years she participated in craft shows around North Alabama but as her daughter Tiffany, 12, grew up and became involved in sports, her crafting life took second to attending Saturday games.

"I bounce a lot of ideas off my daughter," Dowdell said. "She likes doing crafts and I want to encourage her creativity. We all have so much untapped resources within ourselves. I don't think people reach their full potential sometimes because they don't utilize what they have.

"I feel like God has given me this talent," she said. "It is a gift, something I can share with others — a way to give back. I woke up one day and realized that if I don't use it, I might lose the ability. I believe in doing and being everything you can. I'm still reaching."

A living example of her life philosophy, Dowdell began her government service more than 20 years ago as an active duty soldier. She enlisted in 1975 after spending a couple of years in college.

"I was going for elementary education but I knew in my heart that wasn't right for me," Dowdell said. "The Army was a great opportunity. I did a lot of growing up."

She left the Army in 1978 and ended up in Huntsville in 1980. She worked full time as a security guard at Redstone while attending Alabama A&M University as a full-time student and ROTC cadet. She graduated with a bachelor's in business in 1984, was commissioned into the Army Reserves and continued working her way up to a supervisor position in the guard force.

"In 1993 there were talks of a RIF but I wasn't worried," Dowdell said. "Then one day we came into work and all four captains (jobs) were eliminated. Now I was on excess. But the timing was good for me personally. I knew before that happened it was time to move on. This just gave me a little boost."

She began her work in the Civilian Personnel Office shortly thereafter.

"It changed my life for the better," said Dowdell, who has been married to husband, Gregory for 18 years and has two children, son, Chris, and Tiffany; and is a member of Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church.

While she doesn't see an end to her crafting, she is trying to overcome her need to save everything.

"I don't throw anything away — broken jewelry, hair barrettes, scrap lace and material, boxes — everything has potential.

"The good thing about crafts is that people don't know what they're supposed to look like," Dowdell said. "If you make a mistake it's easy camouflage. You can always stick a bow someplace."

Photo by Sandy Riebeling

HELLO DOLLY— Barbara Dowdell, personnel management specialist in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, spends her spare time making crafts of all sorts. These lacy ladies conceal rolls of toilet paper.

Give Us A Call

Custom Software Any Need Fast Turn Around

We Can Do It All!

NMC INFOTECH

- Software
- Information Management
- E-Commerce Solutions

880-9413

3313 Memorial Pkwy Suite 126

NMCINFOTEC@aol.com

Member of Chamber of Commerce

www.nmcinfotech.com

Laser Vision Correction

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

There Is Only One Number To Call

1-800-990-EYES (3937)

NEARSIGHTED ?

FARSIGHTED ?

ASTIGMATISM ?

EYECARE MADISON

9238 MADISON BLVD., SUITE 100

MADISON, AL 35758

■ Last year Redstone had 19 arrests for domestic disturbance

Abuse

continued from page 1

to change things, the abuse escalates, sometimes with the threat of violence to her or the children or her extended family. Sometimes it's more than just a threat. Then after a violent episode, the "honeymoon period" begins. The abuser is full of apologies, flowers and promises.

"I remember the first time my husband hit me," Diane, domestic violence survivor, who requested anonymity, said. "He punched me in the stomach. By the time it happened, I was already too far lost. I believed what he told me, that I was stupid and useless and ugly and that nobody cared about me but him. He said that if I made a big deal about it he would make sure the kids were taken away and he would get custody. He threatened my family and I believed he would hurt them."

Diane, like many survivors, didn't understand what was happening to her and that there were people in the community who would and could help. For the longest time, society turned the other way and left private matters private. But in the last 20 years, research into the dynamics of domestic violence has grown resulting in a public awareness campaign and funding for services to help victims escape the cycle.

HOPE Place, a shelter for battered and abused women, was established in 1981 with two rooms in a local hospital. Currently HOPE Place operates a 30-bed shelter in Huntsville and a 16-bed facility in Morgan County. In 1999 HOPE Place merged with HELPline, a 24-hour crisis hotline, to form Crisis Services of North Alabama. The agency provides a myriad of services including shelter for domestic violence victims (men, women and children), legal assistance, court advocates, several types of counseling, care for sexual assault victims, volunteer services, information and education, instruction on health and safety issues and legal rights, referrals to local agencies, education and training programs, first responder program, just to name a few.

Hundreds housed in shelters

In 2001, 727 people were housed in CSNA shelters and more than 30,000 assistance and crisis calls were received.

On average, a victim leaves the abuser seven times before making a final break. Over time the abuser gains such power and control, he manipulates the victim into returning to the relationship because "it'll never happen again" or "it was because I was drunk" or "I've gone to counseling" or "I will go to counseling" or "I've found God." Victims return many times because they love the person and want to believe that he can change or because they think it's the right thing to do for the family or because they fear what will happen if they don't. According

Although community services such as Crisis Services of North Alabama are open to military families, the Army does offer many confidential services to the military family and encourages victims or families with concerns to come forward. With the goal of prevention, the Army takes a proactive approach by offering classes and counseling before violent episodes occur.

to a national statistic, victims of domestic violence are at 75 percent greater risk of severe injury or death when they leave the relationship than when they're in it. The batterer feels he's losing control and gets desperate.

"Shelters are a band aid, not the answer to the problem," Wells said. "Stopping the violence is the answer. That's why it's so important to educate the whole community, not just the victims. People who come in contact with victims need to know how to help, how to respond."

Wells offers an example of the difference that one person can make, good and bad, in the life of a victim.

"One woman that came to us had been married 52 years and been abused for 52 years," Wells said. "Fifteen years before she came to us, she'd gone to her pastor and told him about the abuse. Basically the pastor said, 'Surely not. He's a good man. What did you do to provoke him?'

"For 15 years she didn't ask for help again," Wells said. "When she came here she said, 'He didn't kill me with his fists. He didn't kill me with the knife. He didn't kill me with the gun and he's not going to kill me with cancer.' See, he wouldn't let her get treatment for the cancer. Someone in her doctor's office figured out something might be going on and asked her if she was safe. The nurse made the call (to HOPE Place) with her right there in the office while her husband was in the waiting room."

If circumstances are suspicious, ask a few simple questions. "Is someone hurting you? Are you safe in your home?"

It may take asking many times before the person feels comfortable talking about it, Wells warns. Be prepared for denial.

"If I see something going on where I think someone may be in danger, it doesn't matter where I am or if I know the person, I ask the questions. I've had people get mad at me, laugh, and break down and cry."

Domestic violence can happen to anyone. It crosses all race, socio-economic and geographical barriers. It doesn't discriminate.

"And yes, it can and does happen in the military community," Wells said. "We recently had a situation where both people were in the military, at a post out of state. This time it was the woman who was the abuser. The man and his daughter had to relocate because he'd had concerns for his daughter's safety."

In 2001, there were 19 arrests on Redstone Arsenal for domestic disturbance.

Although community services such as Crisis Services of North Alabama are open to military families, the Army does offer many confidential services to the military family and encourages victims or families with concerns to come forward. With the goal of prevention, the Army takes a proactive approach by offering classes and counseling before violent episodes occur.

"Domestic violence is everybody's business," Wells said. "It's our responsibility as a community to keep our brothers and sisters safe. No one has the right to hit or hurt another human being. We all have the right to lead healthy, non-violent lives."

Escape path offered

For victims considering escaping a violent relationship, the following information was provided by CSNA: Plan ahead. Determine a safe place you can go. Arrange in advance to stay with family or friends or neighbors. Pack a bag containing extra clothing for you and your children, any medications you need, an extra set of house and car keys, important

papers such as birth certificates, proof of income, Social Security cards, driver's and marriage licenses, medical and insurance records, extra cash, checkbook or savings account book, title to your car and rent receipts. Store these items in a safe place, with friends or family or in the trunk of your car so that they are accessible when you decide to leave.

If you are not ready to leave or have no place to go, counseling and help are available for you, your partner and your children. Call Hope Place at (256) 716-1000 or 1-800-691-8426. Military families can call Virginia Dempsey, Family Advocacy program manager, at 876-5397.

Editors note: This is the first in a three-part series which continues next week.

Need cover?
Call USAA.

Free CD/DVD case. If you're not currently a USAA member, we'd like to send you a CD/DVD case as a symbol of appreciation for your service to our country. You don't have to join USAA to get the CD/DVD case, so what have you got to lose? And while you're on the phone, there's no better time to ask for a free auto insurance quote.

Just ask one of more than four million USAA members. They'll tell you better than we can about USAA's service and dedication to serving the military. Then give us a call and request your free CD/DVD case.

Call now to order your free CD/DVD case at 1-800-531-8776

USAA *We know what it means to serve.®*
INSURANCE · BANKING · INVESTMENTS · MEMBER SERVICES

CD/DVDs not included. There is no obligation to purchase or request a quote for any USAA product or service with this offer. Limit one CD/DVD case per household. • USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its subsidiaries and affiliates. Property and casualty insurance products are provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, USAA Texas Lloyd's Company or USAA Limited. Applicants for USAA property and casualty insurance must meet group membership eligibility requirements before purchasing for the first time. All applications for property and casualty insurance are subject to underwriting. Some restrictions apply. ©2002 USAA. All rights reserved.