

Redstone Rocket

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June 19, 2002

Win or lose



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fielded for preseason
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on 'Gilligan's Island'
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Command has plan to retain expertise

Work force demonstration project
proposed AMCOM-wide by '04

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Readiness tops the AMCOM commander's priorities for the Aviation and Missile Command.

"We are a readiness command," Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen said at the quarterly Town Hall held Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium. "We exist to provide the soldiers what they need to be able to complete their mission."

Dodgen, who assumed command here last Sept. 10, outlined his command philosophy during the meeting. Other elements on the list included: Everyone counts (everybody's role is important in this organization), supervisors make tough calls, be good stewards of our resources, each of us owes our nation — efficient execution in the workplace, and have fun.

See Plan on page 7

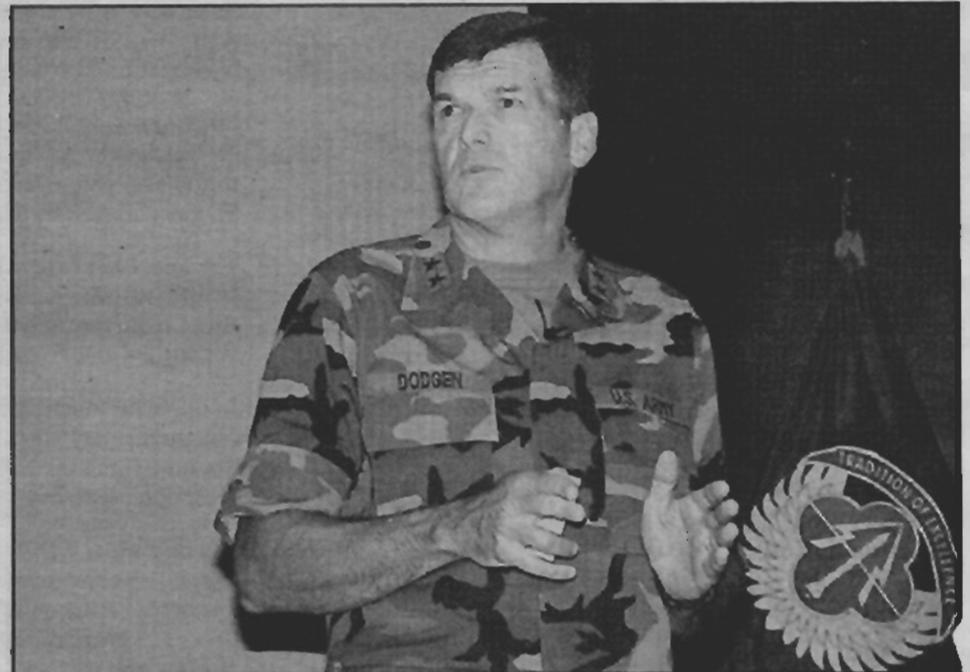


Photo by Skip Vaughn

GENERAL COMMENTS— Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, addresses AMCOM workers during the Town Hall held Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Toftoy family visits post to learn history of ex-commander



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

PROUD HERITAGE— Doris Toftoy Williams with her husband, George, stands next to one of her favorite pictures of her father, Maj. Gen. Holger Toftoy, former Redstone commander. The Toftoy family will hold its first reunion this weekend in Huntsville. More than 50 relatives from across the country will attend.

More than 50 relatives expected
for weekend reunion in Huntsville

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

At most family reunions relatives pass around pictures and tell stories to keep their heritage alive. The Toftoy family, reuniting for the first time in Huntsville this weekend, will have the chance not many families get.

They will walk the streets in a city revitalized by the efforts of one of their most famous relatives. The family will tour Redstone Arsenal and experience the legacy built by a man with a dream and a vision that was so big it reached to the stars.

Maj. Gen. Holger Toftoy, commander of Redstone Arsenal 1954-58, is credited for bringing the famed rocket science team led by Dr. Werner von Braun from Germany to the U.S. in 1945. The contributions made by that team, along with American scientists, engineers and technicians, advanced missile capabilities to the point of putting a man on the moon.

Most of that work went on at Redstone Arsenal, thanks to Toftoy's vision and persistence to bring the team to Huntsville, a city still thriving from this early missile mission.

In 1958 Toftoy was named commanding general of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Toftoy retired in 1960 and moved to Florida. He died in 1967 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

More than 50 Toftoy family members from around the country will gather in Huntsville for a family reunion, beginning Friday

See Legacy on page 9

Letters to the editor

Fathers play important role in family

The following poem, titled "Fatherless," is submitted for Father's Day:

You left me dad when I was very young
A day I will never forget
This made me grow up before my time
Because I was fatherless.

I never understood your reasons why
Or were there any at all
I just remember late at night
I would pray that you would call.

So many times I wonder dad
Did I ever cross your mind?
Did you ever want to come back
And make up for lost time.

Did you ever lie awake at night?
And miss me with all your heart
Or was it easy to go on
And make a brand new start.

Did you ever think of us at all?
When you lived life to its fullest?
Was it all really worth this
I mean this makes me clueless.

I tried to be the man you see
For my sisters and brother
But times were hard and sad too
Because of the pain of my mother.

I couldn't stand the sight of her
With her heart broken in two
But never once did she complain
She did what she had to.

As time went on and the years flew by
I grew into a man
I left my mom to fulfill my dreams
And do for her what I can.

After so long I received a phone call
From mom who wanted to say
I got a letter from your dad
He called me from Jail today.

This made me sad and angry too
Because you were never coming back
And now I have to deal with more
Now that I know where you're at.

But I find myself asking God
To watch over you and keep you safe
But to also place things on your heart
So you can realize your mistakes.

The love I have for you dad
Is still available somewhere in my heart
And I hope that maybe one day
We will be able to make a brand new start.

And maybe someday before I die
I might just pay you a visit
But now is not the time you see
I just don't feel this within me.

The hurt I feel won't agree right now
Nor will it allow me to forget
The tears I cried on my pillow at night
Because I grew up fatherless.

Gloria D. Dorsey
retired sergeant first class

Correction

One of the Space Camp scholarship award winners featured in the June 12 *Redstone Rocket* was misidentified. She was Shanley Hicks, a fifth-grader at Williams Elementary, daughter of Maj. Greg and Julie Hicks.

Rocket rumblings: Should airline pilots carry guns?

Our question of the month – Do you think pilots of commercial planes should be armed with guns? – has generated the following responses so far:

"Everyone flying puts their life in the hands of the pilot," Charles A. Hale wrote. "That alone speaks to the competence, reliability and professionalism of commercial airline pilots. If the pilots were armed on 9/11/01, that travesty would not have happened. Guns save lives. How many were lost that day because of unarmed pilots?"

Ronald W. Taylor asked, "If a pilot has a gun, and a person takes a flight attendant captive and holds a sharp piece of plastic, to his or her neck, and demands that the pilot give up the gun or the flight attendant dies, what does the pilot do?"

"Does the pilot let the attendant die and then shoot the bad guy, or does the pilot shoot through the attendant to kill the bad guy, realizing in either case his bullet could cause depressurization, or maybe just by pressing the bad guy the pilot causes the death of the attendant."

"Most pilots would give up a gun rather than feel they are the cause of someone else's death. Then everyone dies. If a fanatic wants everyone dead, odds are they will."

"I guess what I am saying is that a gun will not stop a fanatic from trying to die. Fanatics want to kill people and then die themselves. Fanatics do not surrender."

"If the pilots stay inside the flight deck, then they must be prepared to hear people die within the body of the plane. Coming out is what the fanatic wants. It's a no-win situation for the airlines. A marshal on the plane really is also worthless due to the number normally involved in a hijacking."

"Sure, give the pilots a gun. I don't think it will do a bit of good."

"I think pilots of commercial planes should concentrate on flying those commercial planes," Theresa Walker wrote. "Their job is to protect the passengers from an impact with the ground. Passenger danger within the plane would require the use of air marshals and/or other personnel trained in resolving terrorist threats."

Brenda Brahan wrote, "I believe that it would be a real asset for the commercial pilots to carry guns after they are evaluated by a psychiatric health professional and continue to do so every 3 or 4 years."

What's your opinion? 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.



Corpus Christi commended for community contributions

Army depot employs 2,900 in south Texas

By LOIS CONTRERAS
CCAD Public Affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, Texas — The Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation held an industrial appreciation luncheon June 5 honoring Corpus Christi Army Depot for its economic impact on the community.

Ron Kitchens, president/CEO, thanked the depot for its positive innovations with partnerships with private industry and Del Mar College and Flour Bluff High School on training programs geared toward replacing an aging depot work force.

"Corpus Christi Army Depot is the cornerstone of the military community in South Texas," Kitchens said. "The partnerships with private industry are also good for the economy because it means companies like General Electric, Sikorsky and Boeing bring more families into the community."

Carol Moffett, superintendent at Flour Bluff High, commended the depot on its pilot work-study program that just ended in which students in their junior year attended basic avionics classes at the depot and earned high school and college credit hours. This course is part of a cooperative training program with Del Mar College.

Col. Jim Budney, depot commander, accepted the award on behalf of the depot employees.

"I want to thank the Corpus Christi Regional Economic

See Contributions on page 4

Redstone Rocket

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Support team delivers aviation parts to warfighters

Contingency deployment program managed by command logisticians

By JIM BOWNE
For the Rocket

Customer support — that's what the Aviation and Missile Command's Contingency Deployment Program is all about, according to program chief Louise Ystueta.

CDP is managed by the mobilization/munitions division of the Materiel Management Directorate, Integrated Materiel Management Center.

"Basically, CDP monitors and oversees supply/parts issues that arise in carrying out the mission," Ystueta said. "We placed aviation-critical parts in containers and had them delivered to a pre-positioned location to support the warfighters."

In this case, Ystueta is talking about the Contingency Deployment Program's forward-deployed supply depot in Qatar, located on the Persian Gulf south of Kuwait.

"We support the troops who are there in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," Becky Heslip, team leader, said. "We support the Apache, Black Hawk and Chinook, making sure that an asset is made available to the customer in the shortest amount of time."

The currently deployed CDP deals primarily with aviation parts, although they also have a missile support package in the continental U.S. To accomplish this support, they use large, ISU-90 containers which were used to ship the materiel and are now being used to store the parts.

"These containers are large, with 400 cubic feet of usable space," Willena Richardson, the program's action officer, said. "The containers have a 10,000-pound capacity, are military and commercial airlift compatible, and are lightweight and durable."

CDP recently used a Boeing 747 to move the package to Camp Snoopy, on the eastern coast of Qatar. "The containers and pallets are arranged for ease of accessibility," team member Jane Wyatt said.

The aviation packages are set up to support a certain number of aircraft. "In Qatar, we have seven ISU-90s (containers) with Apache parts, five with Black Hawk parts and five with Chinook parts," Wyatt said.

When AMCOM receives a high priority requisition from a customer, the requisition is passed to the CDP team, which usually gets the parts to the customer within 24 to 48 hours. "If we had to ship the parts from CONUS, it could take three days to three weeks, depending on transportation," Heslip said.

"When a customer needs a part, we can get it to them



Courtesy photo

SPECIAL DELIVERY— From left Louise Ystueta, Robert Hinckley, Angie Pippen and Willena Richardson visited Fort Campbell, Ky., to observe the April 5 loading and deployment of the AMCOM contingency deployment package to Qatar. The 18 ISU-90s and bulk aviation items completely filled the Boeing 747. Pippen and Hinckley went to Qatar with the ACDP package.

quickly because it's already in theater," Ystueta said. "Our team is responsible for maintaining and overseeing the accountability of the CDP. We do the coordination, take care of the people, and oversee the replenishment of the package."

Overseeing "the package" is a tremendous responsibility, with \$20 million worth of aviation parts sitting in Qatar. "It takes all of us to do this," Heslip said. "It's always a real team effort."

The team reached a milestone in early April, according to Ystueta. "It was the first time that a SARSS-1 was used to perform wholesale level receipt and issue actions," she said. "The SARSS-1, or Standard Army Retail Supply System-1, is a standard computer program used by the Army."

Test vehicle unveiled during conference at Von Braun Center

Rocket and missile launcher serves as submunition target

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The Army took the opportunity to unveil a new vehicle last week during its annual conference for the test and evaluation community.

Smerch is the Soviet name for the rocket and missile launcher which will be used for testing required to run analysis for the pre-programmed product improvement for the Bat submunition.

Brig. Gen. Steve Seay, commander of the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command, cut the ribbon to dedicate the new vehicle last Wednesday during the Army T&E Days 2002 Conference at the Von Braun Center South Hall. STRICOM, based in Orlando, Fla., has two divisions in Huntsville: the Targets Management Office and the Threat System Management Office.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for the acquisition and testing community," Seay said.

STRICOM obtained eight of these vehicles, including two actual operational systems and six surrogates. They were purchased to serve as targets for the Bat submunition during testing.

"This is just an example of how the acquisition community saved in excess of \$20 million," Seay said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

DEDICATION CEREMONY— Brig. Gen. Steve Seay, commander of the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command, participates in last week's ceremony for the Smerch test vehicle.

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Eighty-four receive advanced degrees from Florida Tech

College extension graduates advised to make difference

New graduates should seek the most challenging assignments and strive to make a difference in the world, according to Mit Merritt of the Aviation and Missile Command.

Merritt, chief of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, delivered the commencement address May 10 for the Florida Tech extension. Eighty-four students received advanced degrees in business and management during the ceremony at the Officers and Civilians Club.

The Florida Tech graduates included active duty military personnel, Department of Defense civilians, Marshall Space Flight Center employees, and workers from local industries.

Here is a list of the graduates and their degree:

Dianne R. Atchley, M.S.M. in Acquisition and Contract Management; Pamela Nicole Baugh, M.S. Management/Information Systems; Joyce Bilodeau, M.S. Management/Logistics Management; C. William Borders, M.S. in Acquisition and Contract Management; Angela Branch, M.S. Management/Information Systems; James Mark Braswell, M.S. Engineering Management; Debora S. Bryson, M.S. Management; Lawrence A. Burke, M.S. Management; William Butler, Professional Master of Business Administration; Kevin Caldwell, M.S. Management/Information Systems; Mahona Carleton, M.S. Management/Logistics Management; Daniel Chang, Professional Master of Business Administration; Leslie Conway, Professional Master of Business Administration; Jonnesa Countess, M.S. Management/Information Systems; Sylvester R. Crutcher, Professional Master of Business Administration; Michelle Cunningham, M.S. Management/Information Systems; Tim Curry, M.S. in Systems Management; Connie L. Davis, M.S. Management; Leah J. Davis, M.S. Management; Mary G. Davis, M.S. Management; Robert S. Dumas, M.S. Management; John B. Dyar, M.S. Management/Information Systems;

Douglas E. Engle, M.S. in Systems Management; Michelle Susanne Fahey, M.S. in

Acquisition and Contract Management; Phillip J. Faieta, M.S. Management/Logistics Management; Cori L. Fairchild, M.S.M. in Acquisition and Contract Management; Rebecca J. Fowler, PMBA in Information Systems; William Brit Frank, M.S. in Engineering Management; Richard D. Garland, M.S. in Systems Management/Operations Research; Freida S. Garrison, M.S. Management; Maxine Goff, M.S.M. in Acquisition and Contract Management; Laurie S. Granda, M.S.M. in Acquisition and Contract Management; Christella M. Green, M.S. Management/Human Resources; Denise R. Harrigan, M.S. Management; Tim Hendrix, M.S. in Logistics Management; Beulah Patricia Hill, M.S. Management/Information Systems; Brenda L. Hill, M.S.M. in Acquisition and Contract Management; Bradley J. Huhlein, M.S. in Engineering Management; John Steven Kelley, M.S. Management; Beverly Kelly, M.S. Management/Logistics Management; Michael T. Krause, M.S. Management; Esther Lai Hing, M.S. Management; Kenneth L. Lawing, M.S. in Acquisition and Contract Management; J. Maureen Lawrence, M.S. Management/Information Systems; Susan K. Lunsford, M.S. in Logistics Management; Oksana A. Mandybur, M.S. Management/Information Systems; Lori Marks, M.S.M. in Acquisition and Contract Management; Erica McClain, M.S. Management/Contract Management; Sheila McCord, M.S. in Logistics Management; Emmie Mercer, M.S. in Management/Information Systems; Mary Kristin Moro, Professional Master of Business Administration; Pamela P. Myres, M.S. in Acquisition and Contract Management;

Royce Glynn Ogburn II, M.S. Management/Information Systems; Jeffrey C. Olson, Professional Master of Business Administration; Beverly K. Penaranda, M.S. in Management/Information Systems; Clarissa S. Pence, M.S. Management/Human Resources Management; Vester Lee Pinson III, M.S. Management/Information Systems; Robert Eric Pistorius, M.S. in Logistics Management; Westley Aaron Plemons, M.S. in Acquisition and Contract Management; Michael D. Pridgen, M.S. Management/Logistics Management; Blake Reid, M.S. Management/Information Systems; William R. Reynolds, M.S. Management; Kevin J.

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Depot receives award for economic impact

Contributions

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Development Corporation and the community for its support of the military in south Texas, and in particular, their support of CCAD," he said. In August 2001, the depot was among the recipients of the corporation's "Compass Award," which

is awarded to industries that created more than 25 new jobs during the previous year.

Approximately 90 community and business leaders and depot employees attended the luncheon at the Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz Center.

The depot is the largest industrial employer in south Texas with more than 2,900 civilian employees.



Photo by Sharon Haynes

DEPOT RECOGNIZED— Jos Adame, left, chairman of the board of the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, congratulates Col. Jim Budney, second from right, commander of Corpus Christi Army Depot, as Frank Brogan with the Port of Corpus Christi, and Nueces County Commissioner for Precinct 3 Oscar Ortiz, right, look on. The depot was honored at a luncheon and received an industry appreciation award from the corporation June 5.

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Hellfire missiles fired in combat from Panama to Afghanistan

Air-to-ground anti-armor missile evolves to overcome enemy threat

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

Feedback from pilots who depend on Hellfire missiles to make the air-to-ground armored kill is colorful to say the least. One pilot reported being able to "hit a fly on an elephant's butt" from nearly nine kilometers out.

"The guys in the field love it," Lt. Col. James Nagel, deputy project manager, Aviation Rockets and Missiles, said. "It's the best system on the battlefield in aviation."

Since its debut in 1985, Hellfire has been growing and changing to keep up with technological advances as well as the evolving enemy threat. From its first time in combat in Panama for Operation Just Cause in 1989 through the Gulf War and now in Afghanistan, every generation pushed the capabilities further.

The basic Hellfire, models A, B and C, and the interim Hellfire were designed as a laser guided anti-armor weapon that homes on a laser spot that can be projected by ground troops, the launching aircraft or other aircraft. Primarily launched from the Army's Apache and the Marine Corps' Super Cobra, Hellfire has also been qualified for use on Army Black Hawk and the Kiowa Warrior helicopters.

The basic Hellfire missile utilizes a semi-active laser seeker, analog autopilot and single shaped charge warhead. The interim Hellfire, fielded in '91, is very similar but adds a precursor warhead for increased lethality against reactive armor.

"Probably the two biggest threats since the mid '80s is the reactive armor showing up on Russian tanks and electro-optic countermeasures," Philip Skelton, chief, program management office, ARM, said. "Electro-optics try to fool the missile seeker by lasing spots other than the target hoping the missile will hit one of those spots instead of the target."

In May 1994 the laser-guided Hellfire II was fielded with improvements that included electro-optic countermeasure



LONGBOW HELLFIRE

hardening, increased warhead lethality, electronic fusing and software controlled digital seeker and autopilot electronics. Hellfires to this point had been analog. The switch to digital provided a low-cost ability to upgrade missiles through software changes. It too can be fired from Army Apache, armed Black Hawk and Kiowa helicopters as well as Navy and Marine helicopters.

The Longbow Hellfire fire and forget missile was fielded four years later. It uses radar-aided inertial guidance and has the capability to conduct battle both day and

night in adverse weather conditions and with battlefield obscurants present.

It is part of the

Apache AH-64-D Longbow system that also includes a mast-mounted millimeter wave fire control radar with associated electronics designed to greatly increase the survivability of the host helicopter. The plan is to use Longbow Hellfire missiles on the Army's developing Comanche helicopter.

Primarily an anti-tank weapon, Hellfire secondary targets include radar installations, communications posts, bunkers, buildings, air defense units, armored personnel carriers, oil rigs and bridges.

Longbow missile production ends in FY '03, costing about \$100,000 each — Hellfire II's price at about \$60,000 apiece. Basic C models are now used for training while several thousand each of the later models are in the inventory. The missiles average about 70 inches long and weigh about 100 pounds.

"It's the best 100-pound missile in DoD," Carol Frazier, project manager, ARM Project Office, said. "It's lethal against any fielded armor threat out there."

Even though Common Missile, currently in development, is slated to replace Hellfire in future years, the project office is investigating some interim modifica-

tions until common missile is fielded.

The project office, with oversight and funding from the Navy, delivered the Hellfire Blast Fragmentation Warhead Missile, an adaptation of a Hellfire II, just last year. The Blast Frag is a supplemental

■ Delivering deployment packages takes teamwork

Support

continued from page 3

"Both the package and the people fall under the Logistics Support Element under AMC's LSE for operational control," Richardson said. "The AMC-LSE for Southwest Asia is responsible for life support and force protection of the two people performing the mission at Camp Snoopy."

"Both of these people came from DDRT (Defense Distribution Depot in Red River, Texas)," Ystuenta said. "Willena (Richardson) and I watched the loading at Fort Campbell (Ky.) and got to meet Angie and Robert. Angie Phippen is the supply technician on-site at Camp Snoopy, and Robert Hinckley is the materiel handler.

armament for the Navy and Marine Corps' AH-1W Super Cobra and the HH-60 Seahawk helicopters with the primary target of ships, patrol boats, radar communications installations, air defense units, armored personnel carriers, oil rigs and bridges.

About 75 people from the project office work to support Hellfire along with many other people in organizations across the Arsenal. The project office is also responsible for the Hydra 70 Rocket System.

Both Phippen and Hinckley deployed to Camp Snoopy and are government civilians responsible for the care and accountability of the parts package.

"It takes a lot of involvement by a lot of people to make this package successful," Ystuenta added. "The package began with 'lessons learned' out of Desert Storm. Although this was the first time a package deployed, we solved all the problems that arose. I'm really proud of our whole team and all the AMCOM players. Other organizations which made significant contributions include the 321st Theater Materiel Management Center, the 106th Transportation Battalion, the Aviation Logistics Management Division at Fort Campbell, and the 561st Corps Support Battalion in Qatar."

Systems for the field Part 12 of series

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Win or lose

Ten teams competing in preseason softball tournament



Photo by Skip Vaughn

FIELD OF DREAMS— Recreation assistant Paul Greene helps get field 14 ready for the preseason softball tournament.

Bravo Bulldogs ready to defend post title

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

The troop softball teams are in action beginning this week.

The preseason tournament began Monday and is to continue through June 28 at the fields off Patton Road. Ten teams are competing in the double-elimination, slow-pitch event.

Tournament games are Monday through Friday beginning at 6, 7 and possibly 8 p.m.

"We've got 10 teams and I've got to get through in two weeks so it (the schedule) can vary," recreation assistant Joe Reed said.

The tournament teams include 902nd, MEDDAC, Headquarters & Alpha, HHC 59th, Marines, Charlie 1st/167th (the gate guards), Bravo, Delta, NCO Academy, and Charlie 832nd.

Bravo Company, coached by Henry Hayes and Reginald Williams, is the defending post champion.

"We've got the best team on post as usual," said Hayes, who also plays left-center. "We've got a good (11-player) roster. And it's going to be very hard to beat us this year."

Redstone Arsenal drinking water deemed safe in annual report

The Directorate of Environmental Management has completed the installation's 2002 Drinking Water Quality Report and announces that Redstone's drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

Environmental Management has made the report available to residents on Redstone Arsenal through the U.S. Postal Service and to installation personnel and organizations via the AMCOM info web site located at: https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/rasa/whats_new/water.rtf.

In 1998 former President Clinton announced the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water right-to-know initiative, the Consumer Confidence Report rule. The rule requires that all community water supply systems prepare annual drinking water quality reports for their consumers.

These CCRs enable individuals to make practical, knowledgeable decisions about their health and their environment. You are encouraged to review the CCR. For more information, call Gene Daniels at 955-7591.



Russell Moore/Photo Lab

Army birthday

Members of the flag detail from B Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion raise the American flag last Friday at Redstone Arsenal as part of a dawn ceremony to mark the Army's 227th birthday and National Flag Day.



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■ Forty-two percent of AMCOM workers eligible to retire

Plan

continued from page 1

"If you don't enjoy what you're working at, then something's wrong," Dodgen said.

Tim Grey, director of personnel and training, described upcoming personnel initiatives at the command. These include: Adopt the Army's centralized Resumix and support systems, provide work force training on new systems, establish management employee relations and training cells in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, establish system evaluation processes to measure progress, and implement an alternative personnel system - the Department of Defense civilian acquisition work force

personnel demonstration project.

The personnel demonstration project, designed to improve personnel processes, is to be implemented by March 2003 for non-bargaining unit employees. March 2004 is the proposed conversion for bargaining unit employees, through close cooperation with the employee union. Major features of the demo include pay banding, simplified job classification, contribution-based compensation and appraisal system, and employment flexibilities.

"We need to make changes for a lot of different reasons," Grey said. One reason is the command's aging work force. Some 42 percent of AMCOM workers are retirement eligible and the employees' average age is 47.

"We are going to have a very large

change in this organization in the next 10 years, government-wide and AMCOM-wide, and we have to do something to be able to prepare for that," Grey said.

He encouraged workers to think about who will succeed them when they retire and to be willing to pass on their knowledge and experience. "We need to say who's going to replace me," he said.

Also during the town hall, Dodgen emphasized his commitment to installation security and to fairness for all employees.

"I think the general did a good job of covering the issues," Jim Brothers, president of AFGE Local 1858, said afterward. "And I think he had some good responses. If there are employees that have concerns they're afraid to raise, they're going to have to learn to either speak up or go to sources that can help them with it. I can guarantee that we the union will do what we can to

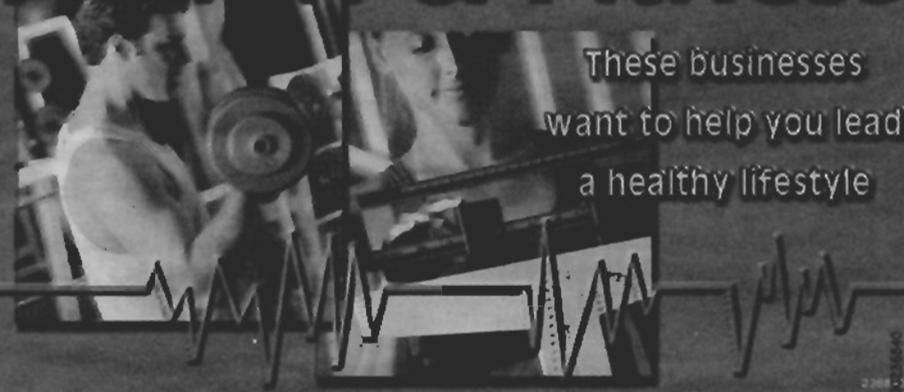
ensure that fairness is used in every situation. I was impressed with the general's use of the word fairness. I think he believes it."

On the issue of the personnel demonstration project, Brothers said, "I'm concerned that Mr. Grey led people to believe that the acquisition work force demonstration project is the only alternative that we have. I'm a firm believer that it is not the only alternative."

An estimated more than 500 seats were filled in the 700-seat auditorium for the town hall which was broadcast to Corpus Christi, Texas, Letterkenny, Pa., and remote places on Redstone.

"It was very interesting," Madeline Jackson, in a temporary position as a business planner in the Strategic Planning Office, said. "I heard a lot of things that I wasn't aware of. He (the general) was very frank and I appreciated that."

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Redstone firefighter's home destroyed by fire

Family pet killed in blaze that gutted home May 7

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

When Redstone firefighter Ed Lackey arrived on the scene, the house was already engulfed in flames. Thick black smoke churned and rolled from the roof of the one-story structure in a quiet neighborhood in Meridianville. As soon as he jumped out of his truck, his firefighter instincts kicked in.

"But I couldn't do anything," he said. "It was my house burning." He wasn't allowed to go in because of the investigation that would come later. "After a while, when they (the responding firefighters) wouldn't let me do nothing, I went sort of numb."

Lackey was on duty at Redstone's fire station 1, where he works as a driver operator, when he learned of the fire. He's also assistant chief for the Meridianville Volunteer Fire Department and wears a pager that alerts him to fire calls in his hometown department even when he's at work.

"I saw on my pager that the address of the fire was about a block away from my house so I went out to my truck and got the radio so I could listen," Lackey said. "On my way back into the station, I heard them call the address over the radio. It was my address."

Lackey called Meridianville for confirmation and then called chief Troy Vest at Redstone.

"I told him my house was on fire and I had to go," Lackey phoned his wife, Donna, who was at work in Huntsville, on his way to the fire.

Six fire departments responded, about 40 firefighters in all, along with the Red Cross and HEMS. It took nearly two hours to extinguish the blaze. Some of the firefighters handled suppression while other salvage crews worked to save as many of the family's belongings as possible.

Lackey's son-in-law, a firefighter with Hazel Green, one of the responding departments, was able to remove Lackey's Honda 1520 motorcycle from the garage before it was damaged. The house was a total loss, as were most of their possessions.

"The hardest part was the dog," Lackey said. One of their two house dogs died in the fire.

After the fire investigator came, Lackey



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

BACK ON THE JOB— Ed Lackey, driver/operator for the Redstone fire department, rushes out to answer a call. Lackey came back to work two weeks after a fire destroyed his Meridianville home.

ey and his family and friends were allowed to go in and try to save some of their belongings. A few things were salvaged from the debris — his wife's china and silver, some guns, jewelry and even a plastic tote full of family pictures.

"Wendell Jones and his wife took the pictures and laid them out to dry," Lackey said. "They saved a lot of them." Jones is the captain at Redstone's Vincent Road fire station.

"I can't say enough about the people who came out to help us," Lackey said. "We had neighbors and friends who brought tables, chairs and coolers with refreshments for the crews that day. People walked up and handed us cards with money. We had offers for places to stay. It really restores your faith in humanity."

Crews and friends stayed most of the day, well into the evening securing everything possible and boarding the house to keep trespassers out. The next morning his whole crew from Redstone arrived to assist in the cleanup and salvage effort.

"It was really hard for my daughter. She lost everything," Lackey said, explaining that the electrical arc that started the fire originated in Heather's room and destroyed everything to the brick walls. "She had 155 trophies from baton



Courtesy photo

UP IN SMOKE— Redstone firefighter Ed Lackey arrived on the scene to find his home already engulfed in flames. An electrical arc in his daughter's bedroom caused the fire that destroyed his home in Meridianville May 7.

and beauty pageants — six years worth of trophies, all those outfits." Heather, 12, just completed seventh-grade.

"The school was great though," Lackey said. "Her principal and teachers showed up. Her cheerleading squad took her on a shopping spree. One of our neighbors took her out clothes shopping, too."

After the fire May 7, Lackey and his wife and daughter, moved in with his in-laws in Meridianville and plan to stay there until the house is rebuilt. The couple have a grown daughter, Nicole Edwards who lives in Hazel Green, and two grandchildren, Kaytlyn and Jessica. The family has spent much of its time completing an inventory and collecting information for the insurance company.

"The one thing I would suggest to everyone, if you have a video camera, video everything in your house, from a pair of socks to a million dollar ring," Lackey said. "I started doing an inventory but it was on a disk in my house because I was still working on it. The other advice is that when you do get an inventory done, put it in someplace other than your house, for obvious reasons."

Lackey has been back at work a couple of weeks and admits taking those first few calls, from both departments, was a little harder than usual. But this wasn't the first time Lackey's home burned.

When he was 8 years old living in a small town in Ohio, he went to school one morning and his house caught fire.

"When I got home from school, what I had on my back was all I had," Lackey said. "That was the reason I became a fire-

fighter." He served on the volunteer fire department in his hometown of East Springfield, Ohio, before moving to Meridianville. He's been a firefighter 15 years, more than seven of those have been at Redstone.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

Bible school believers

Nearly 100 kids, workers and teachers attended Vacation Bible School at the Bicentennial Chapel, June 10-14. The fun included learning scripture, singing songs, hearing stories, playing games and tons of crafts centering around this year's theme, "Great Crowd of Brave Believers." Cierra Beasley, 5, from the kindergarten class, said that "playing has been the most fun."

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Junior ROTC cadets hone leadership skills at academy

Weeklong development program draws 108 regional participants

By Spec. EVAN MORROW
Staff writer
evan.morrow@omnics.redstone.army.mil

The military honorees in this ceremony were younger than the usual graduates at Redstone.

They were high school students in Junior ROTC.

The Tennessee Valley Leadership Academy commencement exercises took place Friday in the Fitness Center.

Cmdr. Russ Beshirs presided over the commencement event that featured guest speaker and retired Marine Ray Swaim, who has been involved with young people and the public education system at Sparkman High for 34 years.

Tennessee Valley Leadership Academy is a five-day leadership development program hosted by the Hazel Green High School Naval JROTC, and sponsored by the Navy's Chief of Naval Education and Training in Pensacola, Fla.

"The goal of the program is to bring young cadets out of public schools and teach them how to become leaders in their units, in school, and in their communities through the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training program," Master Chief Petty Officer Tim Strickland, a drill instructor at TVLA, said.

The program is designed to take these cadets and "dress up" their leadership skills so they are ready to go back to their units. At some point during the instruction they receive here, the light should go on in their heads signifying that they know what it means to be a leader, Swaim said.

The academy class consists of 108 high school cadets from seven southeastern states. Cadets volunteer to participate in this program and are selected based on their demonstrated leadership potential.

The curriculum covers general leadership characteristics of the cadet officer, the link between excellence in physical fitness and excellence in leadership, field leadership techniques, techniques for commanding troops, the sword manual, and social etiquette and manners.

"The program instills self-confidence and pride in young cadets," Senior Chief Petty Officer Doug Williams, a 10-year veteran of the program, said. "They leave here having done things they never thought possible."

"It's great to see young folks come in and see them leave a week later more confident and committed," Senior Chief Petty Officer Mark Boesch, a drill instructor at TVLA, said. "They hold their heads higher and they are eager to put the things they learn here to work at their unit. They come in nervous and walk out ready to lead."

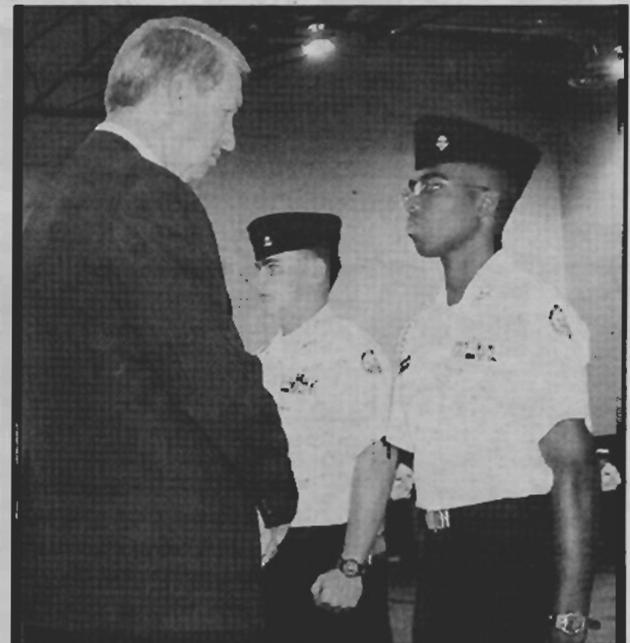


Photo by Spec. Evan Morrow
CONGRATULATIONS— Keynote speaker Ray Swaim congratulates Petty Officer 1st Class Sheldon Roberson of Baldwin County, Ga., on completing the Tennessee Valley Leadership Academy.

Relatives of Redstone pioneer reunite in Huntsville

Legacy

continued from page 1

evening with a reception at the Hilton downtown.

"We have a place set up for pictures and memorabilia to be displayed," said Doris Williams, daughter of the late Maj. Gen. Toftoy, and one of the reunion coordinators. "This is going to be the first time many of us have met. It's very exciting."

The family tried for a reunion last year in the Midwest where most of the Toftoy relatives live but the timing just wasn't right. When it was delayed, Williams offered up Huntsville as a possible site this year so that the family could share in the contributions of one of its celebrated relatives.

"It's part of the family's history," Williams said. "I thought it would be an interesting place for everyone to see. I think they'll be surprised by everything Huntsville has to offer."

On Saturday the group will tour the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, see an IMAX movie and have lunch before loading on buses and touring the Arsenal.

"We're planning to take the group down near the Goddard House where the general's quarters were when he was commander," Mike Baker, AMCOM chief historian, said. "The North Alabama Veteran's and Fraternal Coalition is hosting 'Toftoy Day' at the Arsenal with a presentation in the Bob Jones Auditorium at the Sparkman Center. We've been working with Ed Banville from that organization and have some pretty special events planned, but we're keeping them quiet as a surprise for the family."

The tour will also take the group by Toftoy Hall, a building located in the mis-

sile school area named for the former commander, then down Toftoy Thruway.

"We are really grateful to Mike Baker and the rest of the crew at the Arsenal for helping us out with everything," George Williams, Huntsville attorney and husband of Doris, said. "They have gone above and beyond the call for us. We appreciate that."

Saturday evening family members will be treated to a Cajun shrimp boil catered by Tim's Cajun Cafe at the Hampton House in Hampton Cove.

"Sunday is a free day for people to do what they want," Doris said. "We're thinking people might want to tour some historic homes or visit the Botanical Gardens or the art museum."

The last get-together will be Sunday evening with a Southern barbecue by Gibsons at Ditto Landing on the Tennessee River.

Toftoy was the son of Norwegian parents, Nils and Thea Toftoy. Nils was born in Norway and settled in Illinois where Thea was born. Nils lived to be more than 100 years old.

Toftoy had two children. Charles "Chuck" served in the Army and now lives in Washington, D.C. He is married to Patricia and they have two sons, Eric and York. Doris came to Huntsville with her family in 1952 when her father was transferred here. She attended the University of Alabama, where she met her husband, George. The two were married on the Arsenal in the original chapel in 1954.

Doris and George have four children, Ken Williams, controller for the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Candi Randolph who lives in Indiana, Mark Williams who lives in Florida and Dan Williams who lives in Tennessee. They also have six grandchil-

dren: Zachary, Nathan, John, Christopher, James and Brandon.

"They'll all be here," George said. "In fact, three of our grandsons are going to Space Camp (at the U.S. Space and Rock-

et Center) the week before the reunion. And Ken has done a lot of work helping pull this thing together. We're looking forward to meeting everyone. It's been a long time in the making."



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Scholarships in store for three local military children

Second annual program awards \$1,500 to each

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

The Defense Commissary Agency is helping three local students in their pursuit of higher education.

Jason Merkel, Neal Call and Monica Ecklin are this year's winners of Scholarships for Military Children, a program funded by the vendors and manufacturers who sell groceries in commissaries. It gives military children the chance to earn a \$1,500 scholarship to a four-year college or university.

The Redstone Commissary had three of the more than 1,300 recipients worldwide; and the average gpa for the winners was 3.8. The second annual program is administered by Fisher House Foundation, which operates a network of comfort houses located near military medical centers, providing a "home away from home" for the families of hospital patients in crisis.

"Having three winners at one post or one base, that's amazing," Dave Shaw, zone manager for the Defense Commissary Agency, said. The scholarship awards ceremony was held last Wednesday at the Challenger Activity Center.

"I'm very grateful for being selected,"

said Merkel, 18, son of retired Reserve Capt. Jay and Marilyn Merkel. "And I'd like to extend my gratitude to all the people that made this possible."

A graduate of Bob Jones High, he plans to attend the University of Alabama-Huntsville this fall and major in computer engineering.

Call, son of retired Lt. Col. Kevin and Lorie Call, plans to attend Georgetown University in the fall. He is a graduate of Arm and Hammer United World of the American West.

Ecklin, daughter of Donald and Tery Ecklin, is a graduate of Bob Jones High who plans to attend Vanderbilt University in the fall.

The scholarships were open to qualified sons and daughters of U.S. military ID card holders - including active duty, retirees, and National Guard or Reserves - who were graduating high school seniors or enrolled in a four-year program. The scholarship business partner/sponsor at Redstone Commissary is Kraft Foods Inc.

"Kraft is very supportive of this program," Bob Stoudt, retail sales manager for the Mississippi-Louisiana territory for Kraft military sales, said.

Other participants in the ceremony included James Burchfield, store director for Redstone Commissary, and CSM Lawrence Rogers of Redstone Arsenal Support Activity.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER— Jason Merkel, center, recipient of a Scholarship for Military Children, talks with Bob Stoudt, left, of Kraft Foods, and Dave Shaw of Defense Commissary Agency.

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Photo by Colette "Sam" Glover

Scouts honor

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, receives a certificate of appreciation for giving the opening address to more than 400 Boy Scouts at Scoutreach Activity Day, Feb. 22-23 at Alabama A&M University. From left are Dodgen; Vern Spearman, vice chairman of Scoutreach Activity Day and Scoutmaster of Troop 102, Huntsville; Bill Burns, assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 306, Redstone Arsenal; Mark Knox, Eagle Scout, Troop 306; and Jason Hopkins, Eagle Scout, Troop 102.

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Hatch Act holds rules for political participation

Playing field different for federal workers

Federal workers face the same dilemma every election year. To be or not to be political?

The Hatch Act outlines what federal workers can and cannot do during election campaigns. While it is Department of Defense policy to encourage DoD employees and members of the armed forces to carry out the obligations of citizenship to the maximum extent possible, there are some limitations, which may vary depending on the individual's employment status. The limitations for members of the Senior Executive Service, other federal employees, and members of the armed forces are different.

"When the Hatch Act Reform Amendments went into effect on Feb. 3, 1994, greater latitude for participating in the political process was given to most federal employees," David Points, deputy ethics counselor in the Legal Office, said. "Except for career appointees in the Senior Executive Service, administrative law judges, and employees of specified agencies (i.e., FBI, CIA, IRS and Merit Systems Protection Board), federal employees may participate in partisan politics. However, there are still limits."

The Office of Special Counsel is charged with enforcing the Hatch Act. Civilian employees should contact it with specific questions via a Hatch Act hotline at 1-800-854-2824. Military personnel should contact the AMCOM Office of the Staff Judge Advocate in building 111.

Permissible activities

DoD civilian employees — except career members of the Senior Executive Service may not engage in activities 10, 11, 12 and 13 — in their personal capacities may:

1. Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections;
2. Register and vote as they choose;
3. Assist in voter registration drives;
4. Express opinions about candidates and issues;
5. Contribute money to political organizations;
6. Attend political fund-raising functions;
7. Join and be an active member of a political party or club;
8. Sign nominating petitions;
9. Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, or municipal ordinances;
10. Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections;
11. Make campaign speeches for can-

didates in partisan elections;

12. Distribute campaign literature in partisan elections; and

13. Hold office in political clubs or parties.

Prohibited activities

Civilian DoD employees (including career members of the Senior Executive Service) may not:

- Use official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election;
- Collect political contributions unless both the collector and the donor are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the donor is not a subordinate;
- Knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business with DoD;
- Engage in political activity while on duty;
- Engage in political activity while in any federal workplace;
- Engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform or displaying official insignia identifying the office or position of the DoD employee;
- Engage in political activity while using a government owned or leased vehicle;
- Solicit political contributions from the general public;
- Be a candidate for public office in partisan elections;
- Wear political buttons on duty; and
- Contribute to the political campaign of another federal employee who is in the DoD employee's chain of command or supervision or who is the employing authority.

Because the Hatch Act has its own definitions — for example, a "partisan political office" means any office for which any candidate is nominated or elected as representing a political party — attorneys here urge you to discuss any questions you might have with the Office of Special Counsel. The AMCOM Legal Office will give you its opinion (phone 313-2820), but because Office of Special Counsel has Hatch Act enforcement authority, only its opinion is binding on the United States government.

For active duty military personnel, the rules are more restrictive as set out in Army Regulation 600-20.

Military restrictions

A soldier on active duty will not:

1. Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the

course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political contributions from others;

2. Be a candidate for civil office in federal, state or local government except in circumstances permitted by AR 600-20, or engage in public or organized soliciting of others to become partisan candidates for nomination or election to civil office;

3. Participate in partisan political management or campaigns or make public speeches in the course thereof;

4. Make a campaign contribution to another member of the armed forces or to a civilian officer or employee of the United States for promoting a political objective or cause;

5. Solicit or receive a campaign contribution from another member of the armed forces or from a civilian officer or employee of the United States for promoting a political objective or cause;

6. Allow or cause to be published partisan political articles signed or written by the soldier that solicit votes for or against a partisan political party or candidate;

7. Serve in any official capacity or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club;

8. Speak before a partisan political gathering of any kind for promoting a partisan political party or candidate;

9. Participate in any radio, television or other program or group discussion as an advocate of a partisan political party or candidate;

10. Conduct a political opinion survey under the auspices of a partisan political group or distribute partisan political literature;

11. Use contemptuous words against certain officeholders such as the president, vice president, Congress, secretary of the Defense or the Army, state governors, and state legislatures;

12. Perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee during a campaign or on an election day;

13. Solicit or otherwise engage in fund-raising activities in federal offices or facilities including military reservations, for a partisan political cause or candidate;

14. March or ride in a partisan political parade;

15. Display a large political sign, banner or poster (as distinguished from a bumper sticker) on the top or side of a private vehicle;

See Activities on page 13

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Skin cancer curable if detected early, treated promptly

Damaging effects of sun begin during childhood

By LINDA DONNELLY
Fox Army Health Center

It's that time again - long, hot summer days with plenty of outdoor activities. This year about 1 million people in the United States will be told they have skin cancer, and ultraviolet radiation from the sun is the main cause.

The damaging effects caused by the sun begin at an early age, so it is essential to begin protection during childhood to prevent skin cancer later in life. The most important forms of defense against skin cancer are to limit your time in the sun between the hours of 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., always wear sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher, wear a hat, and wear long-sleeves if you have to be in the sun during the aforementioned hours. The sunscreen should be "broad-spectrum," meaning that it protects from both UVA and UVB rays.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States and according to recent estimates, 40-50 percent of Americans who live to age 65 will have skin cancer at least once. Most skin cancers appear after the age of 50, but the damage from the UV radiation begins years before. People with the greatest risk are those who have fair skin that freckles easily, but anyone can get skin cancer. Tanning booths and sunlamps also pro-

duce the UV radiation that can cause skin cancer.

There are three types of skin cancer, with the most common being basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. These types of cancers generally appear on the head, face, neck, hands and arms. The third type is melanoma, which is the most serious. Melanomas generally occur on the chest, stomach or back in men, and commonly on the legs of women. Although it is important to remember any of these skin cancers can occur anywhere on the body.

The most common warning signs of skin cancer include changes on the skin, especially a sore that doesn't heal, a change in a mole, or a new growth. The growth may be small, smooth, shiny, or pale, or have a waxy-look; or may be a red lump, which may bleed or have a crust. It can also be a flat, red spot that is rough or scaly. If a mole changes color, grows rapidly or has irregular shape, there is the possibility of cancer. Not all changes to the skin are cancer, but if any of the aforementioned conditions persist for more than two weeks, see a health care provider for an evaluation.

Protection is the key to prevention of skin cancer, and if detected early and treated promptly, skin cancer is almost 100 percent curable. If you have any suspect moles, skin lesions or changes in the skin, it is very important to visit your health care provider promptly to have these assessed.

■ Election rules even more restrictive for soldiers

Activities

continued from page 12

16. Participate in any organized effort to provide voters with transportation to the polls if the effort is organized by or associated with a partisan political party or candidate;

17. Sell tickets for, or otherwise actively promote, political dinners and similar fund-raising events; and

18. Attend partisan political events as an official representative of the armed forces.

For activities not expressly prohibited that may be contrary to the spirit and intent of the Department of Defense's policy for

political activities for members of the armed forces, rules of reason and common sense apply. Any activity that could be viewed as associating the Department of the Army directly or indirectly with a partisan political cause or candidate will be avoided.

The policy does not preclude participation in local nonpartisan political campaigns, initiatives or referendums so long as the soldier does not wear a uniform or use government property or facilities, allow participation to interfere with or prejudice the soldier's performance of military duties, or engage in conduct that may imply that the Department of the Army has taken an official position or is otherwise involved in the local political campaign or issue.

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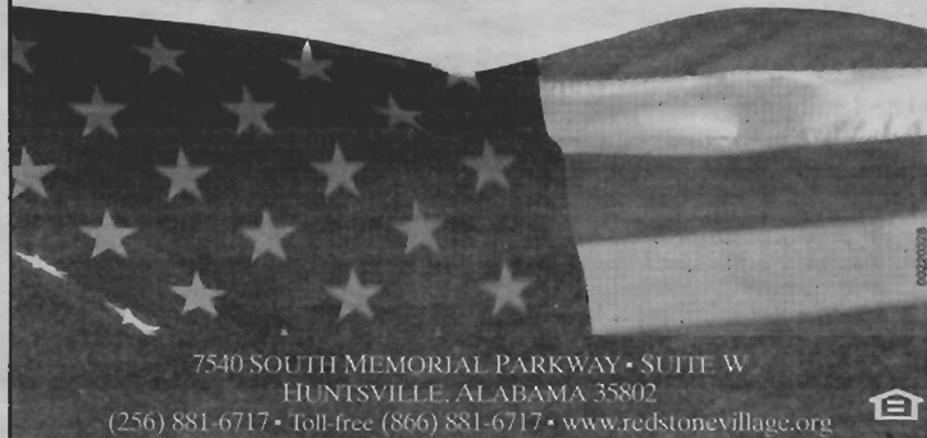
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Testing missile on 'Gilligan's Island' presents challenge

Soldiers battle boredom, heat at PAC-3 launch in Kwajalein

Editor's note: The Army and the Missile Defense Agency conducted an operational test of the PAC-3 missile system last month in Kwajalein. This article gives some insights on testing in the South Pacific.

By PAM ROGERS
For the Rocket

Conducting a Patriot PAC-3 test at Reagan Test Site in the Marshall Islands just could be the ultimate challenge of logistics and ingenuity. Kwajalein Atoll is about as remote as you can get, halfway between Hawaii and New Guinea, and everything has to be shipped in.

Before the system could be tested all the tactical and support equipment had to be delivered — enough to fill four C-5 cargo planes — from Fort Bliss, Texas and White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Then everything — generators, power plants, antenna mast groups, 5-ton tractors, launchers, communication relay group, an instrumentation van, computers, truck-mounted shelters containing the engagement control station and other equipment, in addition to 10 pallets of

spare parts — had to be loaded onto barges for transport to Meck and Gellinam Islands. The missiles arrived later on board two C-141 aircraft and were taken to Gellinam, where the launchers were set up. Since this was a remote-launch test, the radar equipment and engagement control station were positioned on Meck, between Kwajalein and Gellinam.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion of the 43rd Air Defense Artillery, accustomed to the dry desert climate of Fort Bliss, had to deal with near-100 percent humidity and temperatures that hovered around 90 degrees every day. Most were anxious to get the test over with and get back to Texas, but at least one, Sgt. Scott Floutz, communications NCO, didn't mind the weather so much.

"It's better than Fort Bliss. I miss my family, but there's humidity here and it rains once in a while," he said.

The salty air and humidity wreaked havoc with equipment, especially with the copper contacts on some of the components. It was a constant battle to keep everything dry and salt-free, according to CWO 4 Buddy Burton, PAC-3 missile flight test officer for the Operational Test Command.

"Running the air conditioning inside

See Testing on page 15



Photo by Pam Rogers

USER, PROJECT MANAGER AND TESTER— Discussing the special issues of testing in the tropics are, from right, Spec. Adriel Suceda, 2nd of the 43rd PAC-3 crew member; Col. Tom Newberry, Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense project manager; and Col. Jerry Thomason, air defense artillery test director for the Operational Test Command.

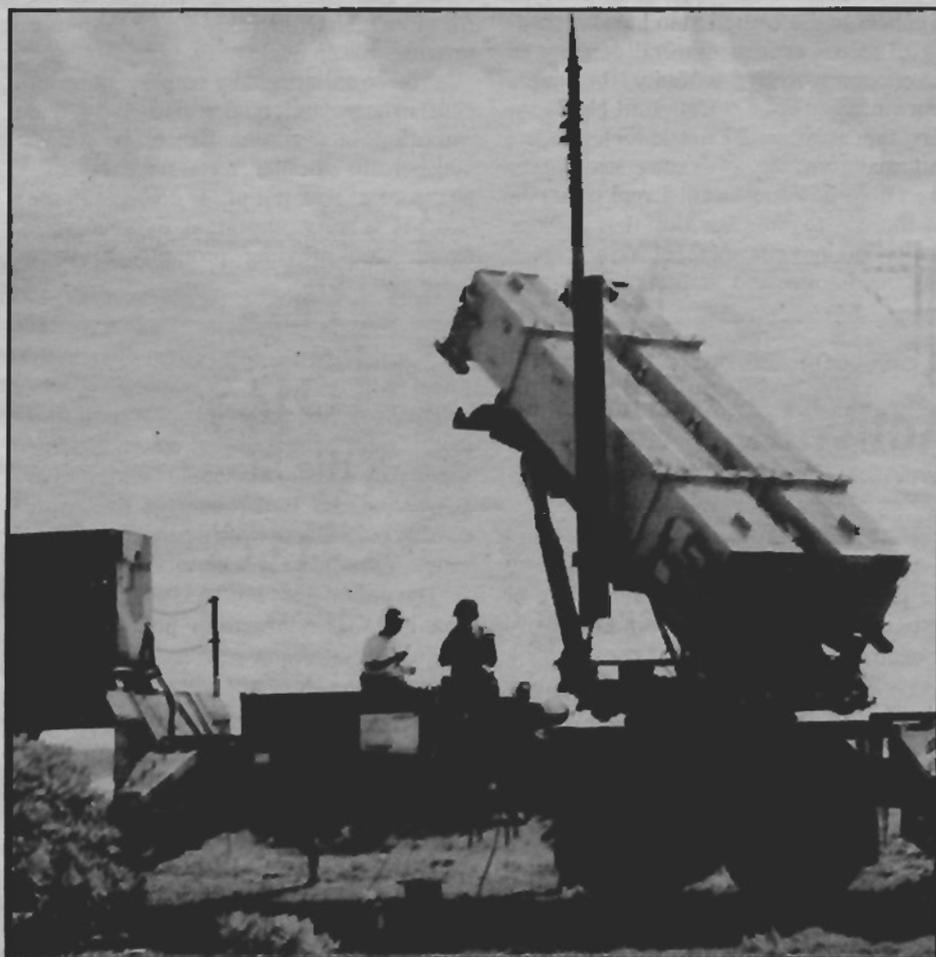


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■ Soldiers launch advanced Patriot from island

Testing

continued from page 14

helps, but there is corrosion on all the equipment outside," he said, as two maintenance technicians worked behind him to troubleshoot monitors in the engagement control station.

Over on Gellinam, nicknamed "Gilligan's Island," soldiers fought boredom by fishing as they waited for their mission to begin.

"We're just waiting for something to shoot down," said SSgt. John Culver, NCO-in-charge for the mission, with all the confidence of a soldier who knows he is using a proven weapon.

A few days later Culver and the other PAC-3 soldiers got their wish as the system intercepted a ballistic missile target fired from Wake Island, 675 miles away. It was roughly the equivalent of launching a missile from Huntsville and intercepting a target fired from just south of Washington, D.C. There were cheers in the control room on Kwajalein Island as the video feed showed the PAC-3 and target colliding in a ball of fire. The only disappointment came when the second missile of the planned ripple engagement failed to launch.

"The soldiers of the 2nd of the 43rd have performed flawlessly throughout operational testing," Col. Tom Newberry, Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense project manager, said. "Testing here in the South Pacific has been a real challenge

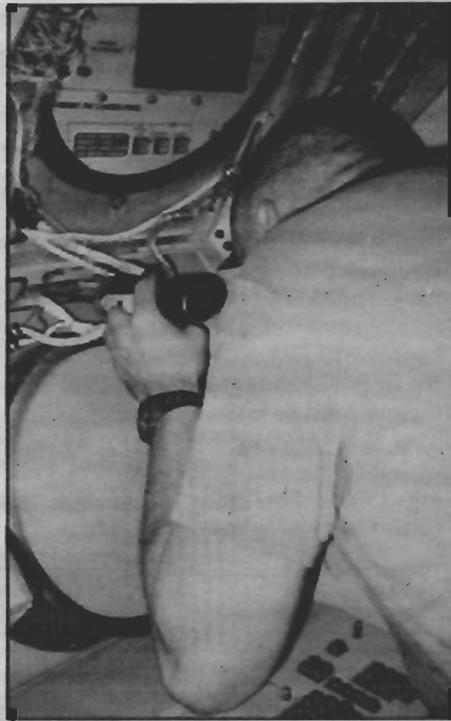


Photo by Pam Rogers

CONTROL MONITOR— CWO 2 Bob Hughes, a maintenance technician with D Company, 2nd of the 43rd, inspects a monitor in the Patriot engagement control station.

that these soldiers have met and exceeded in every way. Conducting this test from among four different islands presented a big challenge that our PAC-3 soldiers handled as a matter of course."

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