

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 51 No. 30

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July 31, 2002

Family focus



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earns first victory**
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Secretary of Army lauds community's unity

*Terrorism war, Army transformation
focus of celebration luncheon speech*

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Secretary of the Army Thomas White promises that his first visit to Huntsville won't be his last.

During his keynote speech July 24 at the local Armed Forces Celebration Week luncheon White applauded this community's support for the military and stressed the importance of the ongoing war against terrorism, Army transformation and the resources to accomplish both.

"We have had tremendous success to date on the war against terrorism," White told the more than 900 attendees at the luncheon in the Von Braun Center North Hall.

But he noted, as President Bush has said, this is going to be a long war. Al-Qaida is in a number of countries and there are other terrorist organizations.

"Afghanistan is the beginning, it is not the end," White said. And he stressed, "We will win that war, period."



Photo by Skip Vaughn
PEP TALK— Secretary of the Army Thomas White addresses local soldiers after the Armed Forces Celebration Week luncheon.

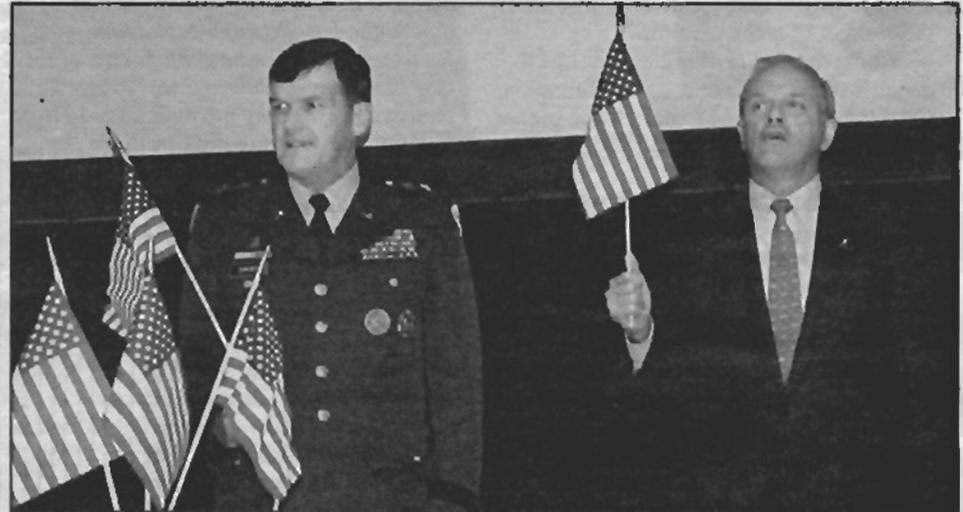


Photo by Skip Vaughn
WAVING FLAG— Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, and Secretary of the Army Thomas White join everyone in singing "God Bless America" at the conclusion of the Armed Forces Celebration Week luncheon. More than 900 attended the event July 24 at the Von Braun Center North Hall.

On transformation White said the Army must change for future conflicts including becoming lighter and more strategically and tactically mobile. "We must transform, transformation is an imperative," he said.

Both the war against terrorism and the Army's transformation take money. And White said the president's 2003 budget, under consideration in Congress, is "the finest budget the Army has had since the first year of the Reagan administration."

White arrived at Redstone Airfield that morning and had briefings on the aviation and missile programs here before going to the Von Braun Center. He toured the military exhibits and then attended the luncheon. After the luncheon program, he addressed Redstone soldiers assembled by post CSM Roscoe Johnson before meeting local reporters at a brief press conference.

"Thank you for being the best Army this nation's ever had. I'm very proud of you," White told the soldiers.

During the press conference he emphasized the importance of the missile and aviation programs managed in Huntsville and his goal to improve the quality of life for soldiers and their families.

"It seems like to me he really seems intent on improving the soldiers' way of life," PFC Jason Tucker, Redstone's Soldier of the Year, said. "And it looks like he's trying to make things better not only for the soldier but for everyone who works for the Army."

The Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce and the local chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army sponsor the annual celebration luncheon. "United for Freedom" was this year's theme.

Higher headquarters commander pushes network solutions

*Be proactive, not reactive
to emerging issues, he says*

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

In a single word, "challenge." Gen. Paul Kern, commander of Army Materiel Command, set the tone July 24 as the Advance Planning Briefing for Industry kicked off in the Bob Jones Auditorium.

"Each and every one of us in the AMC family is going to be challenged over the next years to see how we can get our technologies through the Lead System Integra-

tor to production contracts," Kern said. "We need to be proactive — not reactive — to emerging issues, focusing on solutions to problems."

Kern said that AMC's future contributions to the Army's objective force must be able to operate across boundaries in complementary ways.

"We are all going to have to work together at critical points to achieve network solutions as multiple packets of information, such as sustainment, command and control and intelligence get to the right people at the right times," Kern said. "What's going to be even more criti-

**'There is a tremendous
potential in our work
force to do things better.'**

— Gen. Paul Kern
Army Materiel Command

cal in that future is that we have to be able to defend that network."

In yet another reference to the future, the commanding general challenged the audience on another responsibility.

See Solutions on page 4

Driver wants lane reopened

Who can explain rationally why Gate 9 has been reduced to four lanes incoming during the morning hours? I understand the problem with the outgoing traffic driving too fast when the guards are standing there to check incoming vehicles; however, can they not penalize those who are not obeying the speed limit instead of those of us who are making a concentrated effort to arrive at the gate at a time when we can get to work on time?

We have tried arriving earlier but it doesn't seem to make much difference. Could the Provost Marshal Office please review this situation and consider opening the fifth lane again?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following response. "Thank you for your questions. As we said last week, we appreciate the open discussion on possible changes. We also apologize for any inconvenience that they may cause.

"As you have probably noticed, we have stepped up enforcement of speed limits to make outbound traffic safer. We are confident that enforcing reasonable speed limits will solve the safety problem.

"The changes to the inbound lanes are part of a separate effort to look at a number of different ways to prevent individuals from illegally entering the installation via

the outbound lanes. We are taking a measured approach to evaluating possible solutions to the problem. We currently track traffic flow at each of the gates through the peak hours using surveys of gate delays. When we are considering flow changes we establish them as a test, then survey their impact to determine whether we can implement them without the gate time exceeding 20 minutes. If, during the survey, we find that traffic backlogs above that time, then we adjust our procedures back. One of the first surveys we conducted was to see the impact of decreasing inbound lanes of traffic from 5 to 4 during peak traffic in the morning. Delays did go up to 20 minutes during the first few days of the survey. They have gone down since. We conducted this survey because we are considering a related survey to analyze the impact of possible changes to the outbound lanes to stop or delay any attempt by individuals to illegally enter the installation via the outbound lanes. Reducing the inbound lanes allows us to set up outbound traffic patterns that will not significantly delay outbound traffic and survey the impact of those changes. We will consider reopening the fifth lane after we have completed the surveys. If we do conduct the outbound survey, we will publish our intent to conduct the survey in the Rocket, and continue to limit backlogs to balance your convenience with everyone's security."

Rocket rumblings: More views on steroid testing

J.D. Crowover thinks steroid testing might be a good idea. He responded to our question of the month: Should professional baseball players be tested and disciplined for steroid use?

"It depends on who is supposed to be requiring the testing," wrote Crowover, webmaster at the Integrated Materiel Management Center. "The sanctioning body of any sport has the right to impose whatever it deems necessary to ensure the fairness of its sport, so in this case I would say 'Yes.'"

"But if the question is referring to our government imposing the testing and will fine or jail violators then my answer is a resounding 'No!' Our government is supposed to be ensuring the safety of its citizens, not wasting its time trying to control how many home runs somebody

might hit.

"Can you say 'Libertarian'?"

Janet Ballard of THAAD Project Office wrote, "I saw in the Rocket where you solicited opinions on the use of performance enhancing drugs in baseball. I hope it's not too late to comment.

"Two words: Mark McGwire. Why should freaks break records set by truly great players?"

"Two more words: Lyle Alzado. Didn't he die from overuse of steroids?"

"Performance enhancing drugs give an unfair advantage to the user, which is contrary to the primary purpose of sports. They are also dangerous."

Send your opinion - 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.

Puzzled about parking policy

I would like to address two areas of concern that I have regarding the enforcement of official policy at Redstone Arsenal. These concerns are parking in unauthorized zones at Redstone Arsenal and pedestrians' right of way in crosswalks.

According to Army Regulation 190-16 (B-4 THREATCON Measures), vehicles are not to park within (25 meters) 33 feet of an inhabited building. Yet, time and again I see government or Chugach vehicles parking either right next to the building or in front of a no parking sign. They are even so brazen to park right in front of the no parking sign.

I have asked some of these drivers if they are exempt from DoD and Redstone Arsenal policy and their normal response is "I'm in a government vehicle." I can understand workers who need to park next to a building to utilize the tools they keep in their storage bins, but I do not understand why a government employee is allowed to park, basically anywhere he or she wants, just because they are too lazy to park in the parking lot, the same as everyone else. Does the Provost Marshal grant these people special privileges because of their government employee status, or are they subject to parking regulations the same as you and me? If the

parking regulations are to be enforced, they need to be enforced equally, with no favoritism.

According to the Alabama Motor Vehicle and Traffic Code (32-5A-2 11 Pedestrians right-of-way in crosswalks): "When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk..." Why, in front of the Commissary do we have a sign that reads, "Notice: Pedestrians and Baggers Yield to Vehicles"? Is this sign a violation of the Alabama Vehicle Code and if it is who put it up and why did he choose to contradict the Vehicle Code?

Jlm Pool

Editor's note: The Provost Marshal Office provided the following information on Force Protection measures and enforcement:

"Reference memorandum, AMSAM-RA, May 10, 2002, subject: Parking on Redstone Arsenal. Paragraph three describes when the standard is in effect (FPCON Charlie and Delta); paragraph four describes what the standard will be.

See Parking on page 5

Rock and roll at Army concert

Unless you've just awakened from a very deep slumber, you already know that your local Morale, Welfare, and Recreation team, Army Entertainment, and some outstanding national and local sponsors have teamed up to bring the Army Concert Tour back to Redstone Arsenal and the Huntsville/Madison communities again this year.

This great musical entertainment event will be held on the Arsenal's Activity Field just off Patton Road, on Saturday, Aug. 24, with a double-headliner show - featuring the immensely popular group Kansas opening for chart-topping classic-rockers Styx at this year's event!

We anticipate another fun-filled evening. Our ability to host quality events at a great value was demonstrated to concertgoers last year who called it "a

super show," "the best outdoor concert venue we've ever enjoyed," and "literally, not a bad seat in the house (on the concert field)."

But what I'm personally writing to make sure you know is that patronage of this event is also a wonderful way to demonstrate your support of America's Army at Redstone Arsenal. How you might ask? Because 100 percent of the net proceeds from the Army Concert Tour is returned into the local military community. MWR dollars directly support all of our community and family programs here at the Arsenal, such as unit funds, child and youth activities, youth and soldier sports programs, bowling, sport tournaments and tours, golf, our multiple recreation facilities and programs, outdoor recreation, clubs

See Concert on page 5

Redstone Rocket

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Helicopter programs take flight with selective upgrades

Acquisition strategy explained at briefing

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

Paul Bogosian, deputy program executive officer for aviation, told the Advance Planning Briefing for Industry audience that his PEO "is a big, complex organization that does a lot of business - this year we have a \$3.2 billion program, with more than \$27 billion in the '04 to '09 POM."

The deputy said that the PEO has 60 officers and a work force of 1,500 in core, matrix and contractor support roles. The PEO spends \$60 million locally.

"The Apache, the Black Hawk and the Chinook are legacy platforms that have performed marvelously in Operation Enduring Freedom," Bogosian said. "That's why we're focusing on selective upgrades. Also, we're going to be fielding Army aviation in the interim force with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. We will also have two, six-ship platoons of Comanches linked with UAVs in the Future Combat System."

Block approach

Bogosian described Comanche's acquisition strategy.

"We're moving to a block approach to fielding the Comanche," he said. "What's good about that from your perspective is that it opens up new opportunities in the future for new capabilities. The premise of this approach is that we're going to field the technology that we have in hand, and those things that lie out ahead of us will make their way into future upgrades. Technologies will be incorporated as they arise."

In terms of what industry can provide, the deputy said that whatever technology or component that a company provides to the Comanche program must be lightweight, digital, have embedded diagnostics and be highly reliable.

"The enrichment of this system over time is centered on the ability to bring new capabilities on line without having to invest in a tremendous amount of nonrecurring engineering efforts, testing, evaluation and specialized training," Bogosian said.

Apache units

On the Apache, Bogosian said that

Army still plans to procure 501 AH-64Ds, yielding 22 Longbow Apache units by July 2008. Right now, with the planned product improvements, the Apache platform will be in the inventory until 2030.

Bogosian said that all the PEO's aircraft will undergo such enabling technology improvements as reducing operating and support costs, digitization, acquisition and targeting, reducing the maintenance burden, transportability and survivability. He also said that the continuous evolution of the PEO's aviation platforms provides for capability upgrades and technology insertions by industry to assist in avoiding obsolescence.

Black Hawk up

On the Black Hawk, the deputy said that 1,200 aircraft will be converted to the M-model configuration. The emphasis on this configuration is on digitization as well as airframe and propulsion improvements, with the M-model aligning itself to the objective force.

Bogosian then referred to the Chinook as being a national asset. "It's kind of like the B-52," he said. "It is doing the job that

needs to be done, and doing it in such a fashion that no one would imagine going into conflict and not having the CH-47 available. We are going to take 300 existing D-models and convert them to the F-configuration."

Moving to the PEO's fifth project, the deputy said that now the Army has a single Unmanned Aerial Vehicle project manager, who has three product managers; one each for future systems, extended range/multipurpose and small UAVs.

"UAVs will be organic to FCS, and we're looking forward to providing what the Army needs in 2010," Bogosian said. "Evolving UAV capabilities include manned and unmanned teaming with the Apache, arming the Hunter with the Bat submunition and a variety of new payload priorities."

Bogosian concluded by saying that the PEO's newest addition is the Project Manager for Aviation Systems - "the basket PM as we refer to it," with a budget of \$492 million, a force of 247 working on 58 systems in five areas: Air Traffic Control, Fixed Wing, Scout/Attack, Aviation Ground Support Equipment and Aviation Mission Equipment.

Industry partners deemed crucial to command's goals

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen sees readiness challenge

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

The future of the Aviation and Missile Command could be summarized as "getting better" in several ways. According to Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, the command's future goal for 90 percent aviation readiness, along with its critical role of engineering oversight for both aviation and missile systems will mean better safety and efficiency for programs, and continuing work for the command.

Dodgen presented his overview, "AMCOM's Focus on Future Readiness," at the Advance Planning Briefing for Industry held July 24-26 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Industry and government personnel attending the briefing were told by Dod-

gen of the command's upcoming challenges. He cited partnerships with industry as crucial to the near-term goals, but emphasized that the partnerships were also crucial to the mid-term goals. "We must reach 90 percent aviation readiness," Dodgen said.

He provided a specific example of improved readiness by describing AMCOM contractor General Electric's help in producing engine kits for the Black Hawk. "This is a great success story. We really benefited from GE's technical expertise and production base," Dodgen said. By looking at the previous process used to supply engine parts, and finding a way to optimize the process by producing "kits" to ship to the depots providing maintenance, AMCOM and its industry partner were able to improve engine reliability and performance, while simultaneously reducing backorders. By measuring and tracking the results, the command and GE were able to not only

resolve a supply issue, but also improve efficiency. "This would not have happened without our partnership with private industry," Dodgen said.

The war on terrorism and the Army presence in Afghanistan have also highlighted the need for aviation readiness. "The depots must be made more efficient," Dodgen said.

Contract issues

Reaching the 90 percent aviation readiness goal will also depend on a new contract to be managed by AMCOM. "Flight readiness rates have been adversely impacted by supply and maintenance issues," Dodgen said. The upcoming "Fort Rucker Maintenance Contract" will integrate supply and maintenance aviation requirements and, like the GE project previously described, have its progress assessed by tracking and measurements.

Dodgen also emphasized the underlying, but sometimes overlooked role of AMCOM's engineering expertise for both

missile and aviation systems. "Our engineering oversight is also crucial to ensuring efficiency and safety. Engineering oversight ensures that there is a great design and product before it is ever used in the system," he said.

Another short-term goal related to contracting is the next Omnibus contract award. "We are taking a hard look at the Omnibus 2000 contract and identifying potential improvements. There will be one immediate policy change to the current contract," Dodgen said. The policy change allows directed 8(a) sole source actions for services (up to the prescribed \$3 million limit) to be processed outside Omnibus 2002.

Long-term plans

In addressing AMCOM's long-term challenges, Dodgen cited the major Army restructuring that is under way that includes Transformation of Installation

See Plans on page 6

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Missile recycling seen as option for disposal

Initial low rate production set for Anniston facility

In the next 15 years, about 600,000 Army tactical missiles will reach the end of their useful service life. Once these items reach shelf life expiration, disposition must occur. To reduce the number of these missiles that must be stored and eventually demilitarized, the Army has adopted a number of initiatives, which include service-life extension programs, foreign military sales, and increased live-fire training. Even after these initiatives are employed, more than 500,000 missiles are projected to require demilitarization.

Munitions demilitarization is accomplished through a variety of destructive and Resource Recovery and Recycling technologies. While traditional destructive means such as open burning/open detonation are necessary and remain viable disposal methods, the community is limiting its reliance on such methods and focusing on R3. The Redstone community proposed the establishment of a missile recycling capability as a cost-effective alternative to traditional destruction methods.

The Research Development and Engineering Center with support from the Defense Ammunition Center developed a pilot-scale facility to disassemble, process

and reclaim virtually all energetic materials and components from TOW missiles. The facility has successfully recycled more than 1,200 missiles, proving that recycling was technically feasible, cost-effective and environmentally safe. On April 25 a milestone decision was made to transition selected technologies to the Anniston Munitions Center as a production scale TOW Missile Recycling Center. Low rate initial production at this new facility is scheduled to begin in October and will execute demilitarization of all TOW missiles. Currently buildings are being readied and equipment is being installed in preparation for low rate initial production at Anniston Munitions Center.



File photo

Newly retired

Col. David Miller has retired as the assistant program executive officer for horizontal technology integration in the Program Executive Office for Aviation. His successor, Lt. Col. Gary Bliss, is to arrive in August and be promoted to colonel. Miller works for Camber Corporation in Huntsville.

General Kern challenges work force to improve

Solutions

continued from page 1

"We need to vacuum the world's technology communities, labs, universities for multiple capabilities, and, then, be able to integrate those capabilities into production contracts," Kern said. "Unfortunately, this is not the way that our current acquisition system is set up."

Shifting from the future to the present, Kern lauded AMC's current support efforts.

"AMC is dedicated to providing the

logistics support that the Army needs to ensure land force dominance," Kern said. "Our logistics support elements are not only now with the 101st Airborne Division in Afghanistan, but also in 17 other countries. You know, AMC is now one-half the size it was at the end of the Cold War. Not surprisingly, the roles of contractors in logistics support efforts have increased. We need to be vigilant in our efforts to protect them on the battlefield."

On a specific Redstone note, Kern cited the Black Hawk helicopter.

"We are going to have to keep the Black Hawk flying another 20 to 30

years," Kern said. "Maintaining that critical sustainment piece will depend on how well we design key components now, based on the goals of improved reliability and reduced support costs. These current workhorses will be our future workhorses, not just for operational missions, but also for force sustainment missions."

As example to guide APBI attendees, Kern said that a car made in Japan has one-half the labor hours and one-half the parts compared to a car made in America, while the Japanese model is twice as reliable.

"We have to look at the processes we're using, turning the studies we've done into action," he said. "It's going to be critical in the recapitalization lines we're currently building that we reduce parts counts and not use the same old standard technical data packages. Doing so will help us now and in the future with reduced turnaround times."

"There is a tremendous potential in our work force to do things better. We need to turn Moore's Law around because there is no large, planned increase in the Army's obligation authority. We need to do right

now what makes the best sense. We don't know where the next mission is going to be. Commonality is the right thing to do."

Kern mentioned Low-Cost Precision Kill and the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System as examples of what needs to be done now.

"LCPK reduces transport load outs by a factor of 20 to one," Kern said. "It's a sound economic solution, and it reduces the sustainment footprint."

Kern closed by saying that the aging work force is not the problem.

"I don't care if you work until you're 110," Kern said. "The challenge that we face is that there is no follow-on work force. What are we going to do six, 10 years from now when it's time for first-unit equipped?"

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Air, missile defense systems poised for future battlefield

By PAM ROGERS
For the Rocket

The Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense stands poised to support the Army's transformation to an objective force of smaller, lighter and faster weapon systems, according to Dr. Shelba Proffitt, deputy PEO AMD.

With its mission to develop, integrate, acquire and field land-based air and missile defense systems, the office works with the Missile Defense Agency and for the Army acquisition executive to provide agile, lethal, deployable and versatile weapons, she said in a talk during the Advance Planning Briefing for Industry here last week.

Systems the office manages include lower tier air and missile defense systems, including legacy Patriot and the Patriot PAC-3; the Medium Extended Air Defense System; short-range air defense systems, including Stinger, Avenger, the Sentinel radar and the surface launched advance medium range air to air missile; as well as the joint land attack cruise mis-

sile defense elevated netted sensor system and the joint tactical ground station.

With existing systems and those that are emerging and will emerge in the next couple of decades, PEO AMD can create through sensors and tactical battle management a single integrated air picture that will enhance the precision of future battles.

Proffitt touched briefly on some of the disappointments experienced during the Patriot PAC-3's operational testing series, when there were missiles that failed to fire and some missed targets, but stood firmly behind the system.

"PAC-3 is the best missile I have tested in my entire life," she asserted, pointing out that it will be the interceptor for the MEADS system, a more agile air defense system that is completely C-130 transportable and is scheduled to replace Patriot in 2028.

The SLAMRAAM system is designed to defend the maneuver forces at ranges beyond Stinger's capability, providing one component of the new Extended Area Air Defense, Proffitt said.

Government drivers should obey policy

Parking

continued from page 2

If we are below FPCON Charlie, the parking restriction in paragraph four won't apply and there are no restrictions.

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but incomplete. According to Alabama Motor Vehicle Traffic Code (32-5A-2 11), 'When traffic signals are not in place or not in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk, when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger. No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.' The 'pedestrians and baggers Yield to Traffic' signs were installed in front of the Commissary in an attempt to stop pedestrians and baggers from entering the roadway without observing vehicle traffic. As such, the signs are oriented toward pedestrian traffic."

See Kansas, Styx in concert here

Concert

continued from page 2

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director,
Community and Family Activities

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*Troubleshooting Electrical
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THURSDAY

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*Windows 98,
Introduction
*Computer Keyboarding

TUESDAY

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Part One (Word/Excel)
*Introduction to
Microsoft Publisher
*Introduction to
Computers

WEDNESDAY

*Windows 98 Introduction
*Microsoft
Power Point 2000

THURSDAY

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*Microsoft Word 2000,
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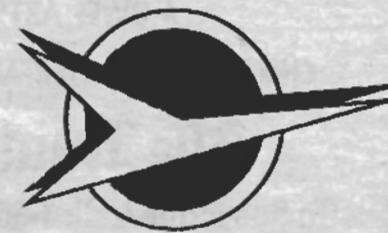
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Defense program on target to hit bullet with bullet

Director sees test bed in place by fall 2004

By JIM BOWNE
For the Rocket

Now that the United States is no longer bound by the constraints imposed on defense by the anti-ballistic missile treaty, talk has been escalating about whether or not one can "hit a bullet with a bullet." According to Brig. Gen. John Holly, the answer is a resounding "yes."

Holly is the program director of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office. He spoke enthusiastically about his program while briefing a large crowd at last week's Advance Planning Briefing for Industry.

"We have a real program, a real mission, and a real opportunity to provide a real capability to our country," Holly said.

Holly's mission is to build a test bed for Ground-Based Midcourse Defense. He received the mission Jan. 1 and expects to have the test bed in place by Sept. 30, 2004. "We'll achieve our mission in 799 days," he said.

The GMD was previously known as National Missile Defense. The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization established the NMD Joint Program Office in 1997. With significant contributions from all the

services, the JPO's goal was to design, develop and, if directed, deploy a system to protect all 50 states from limited ballistic missile attack.

'Our job is to build a GMD test bed by 2004. We have to build a realistic prototype and test it to see how it will operate in as realistic an environment as we can possibly make it.'

—Brig. Gen. John Holly
Ground-Based Midcourse Defense

"We were redesignated the GMD JPO in the summer of 2001," Holly said.

The GMD JPO has three primary objectives: to develop and demonstrate an integrated system capable of countering known and expected threats; to develop and construct the initial GMD parts of the Ballistic Missile Defense System Test Bed to provide realistic tests and reliable data for further system development; and to create a development path allowing for an early capability based on success in testing.

The GMD element includes the Defense Support Program, Upgraded Early Warning Radar, X-Band Radar, Ground-Based Interceptor, and GMD Battle Management, Command, Control and Communications.

The Department of Defense subsequently determined that the GMD components required additional testing under operationally realistic conditions. The Missile Defense Agency wants to build a BMDS test bed to provide operationally realistic trajectory, sensing, interception, and battle management command and control and communication scenarios.

"Our job is to build a GMD test bed by 2004," Holly said. "We have to build a realistic prototype and test it to see how it will operate in as realistic an environment as we can possibly make it."

Holly has his work cut out for him. In June construction began at Fort Greely, Alaska, on the silos in which the Ground-Based Interceptors will be housed.

"We can defend all 50 states from Fort Greely with interceptors," Holly said. "Of course, there are lots of weather prob-

lems and logistics to contend with. Right now it's summer, but it's a harsh environment in winter time, and the silos still have to survive as well as the interceptors within them. We have to know how to build it and field it. Whether we launch out of Kodiak (Alaska) is yet to be determined."

The last three flight tests have been successful. "The target increased in complexity with each test," Holly said. "It was about 30 minutes between the time the kill vehicle intercepted the target, flying at about 15,000 miles per hour. The largest piece that was left after intercept was less than eight inches long. So yes, we can do it — hit a bullet with a bullet. This system works, in terms of hit-to-kill."

Holly pointed out that one of his goals is to continue to improve the system against countermeasures. He also is anxious to complete booster development. "We have to build, test, build, test," he said. "I want to build the test bed, demonstrate it, and ensure that it is fully integrated into a defense system."

■ Commanding general outlines future challenges

Plans

continued from page 3

Management, the Army Contracting Activity, and the Army Materiel Command's Research, Development and Engineering Command. "The TIM will shift base operations to the garrison. This is about making base operations more efficient and it addresses funding by ensuring that 90 percent of the money intended for base operations reaches the installation," Dodgen said. "The Army Contracting Activity is intended to consolidate base operations contracting activities for the Army by regions. We will be part of the South Region located at Fort McPherson, Ga. AMCOM will retain its contracting function for all other acquisitions."

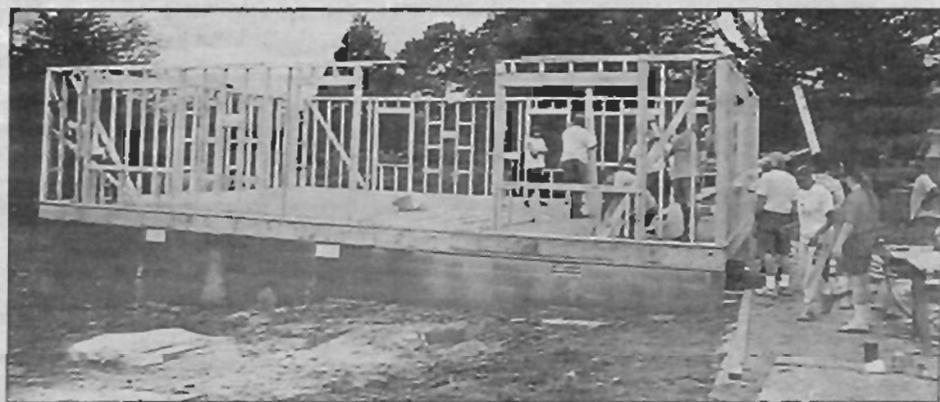
According to Dodgen, the RDE is being established as part of AMC's reorganization, and AMC commander Gen. Paul Kern's intention is to create a new synergy in the R&D area. "AMRDEC's

(Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center) has an important role here, so they will add to that synergy," Dodgen said.

He mentioned another topic related to personnel — the impending retirement eligibility of nearly 50 percent of the Redstone work force. "We must address who will take their place. The secretary of the Army was here yesterday and he said it is an Armywide problem that we must resolve," he said. In referring to Secretary of the Army Thomas White's visit, Dodgen said he had a great visit.

"We visited AMRDEC and the new Prototype Integration Facility. We showed him our missile technology, and how our work is tied to both a logistics and engineering base. He was very familiar with our products," Dodgen said.

While Dodgen concentrated on the challenges the command faces in supporting the Objective Force and readiness, he was optimistic about meeting the challenge.



Courtesy photo

Community service project

Volunteer Dorothy May says this will be "the house that Redstone built." Employees from the Redstone community are building a Habitat for Humanity house; and volunteers are still needed each Saturday through September. For more information, call May at 842-8391 or Dorothy Scott at 876-2275.

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Family focus

Successful stepfamilies: a new twist to Cinderella story



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

FAMILY TIES— Volunteer instructor Colleen Nicholson developed and co-leads a four session class on how to strengthen stepfamilies, a parenting class offered through Army Community Service. The next class is tentatively scheduled for October.

Parenting class developed to make transition easier

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

The reality is that stepfamilies are created from loss; but then again, so are butterflies. But before a butterfly can spread its wings and fly, it goes through loss, change and growth. Once the process is complete, the beautiful creature emerges and begins a new life.

Stepfamilies, too, have to go through a process of change and growth but the end result can be a positive, healthy, successful family. But sometimes families need a little help getting through the rough spots.

"Traditional families are already complex, but to bring two families together — each with different backgrounds, traditions, values, experiences — it can get a little chaotic," Colleen Nicholson, volunteer instructor for the new Strengthening Step Families class at Army Community Service, said. "Everybody has different expectations and the parents are usually more positive than the kids. It's important to be realistic, to have open communication and develop conflict resolution skills."

Nicholson, who holds a master's degree in counseling and psychological

services, developed the four-session step-family class in partnership with Virginia Dempsey, Family Advocacy program manager at ACS. Dempsey recognized the need after the pair taught a parenting class earlier this year.

"We got a lot of feedback and realized that we have so many stepfamilies out there and their issues are different than the traditional family," Dempsey said. "There are more players involved, the children have other issues. We wanted to offer something that focuses on their particular needs."

The dynamics of the stepfamily are complicated and fraught with myths and misconceptions of what the ideal family should be.

"Stepmothers are not the evil villains of the family," Nicholson said. "And not all stepparents are going to love their stepchildren instantly. Sometimes the basis of the relationship will not be one of parent-child but one of respect and friendship. These are not instant families. They go through stages and sometimes become chaotic before things settle down. It can take a year or two or more to get things working in the right direction."

Dealing with loss is a major issue for the whole family. Take the time to grieve.

See Parenting on page 9



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Parenting

continued from page 8

Nicholson advises. Parents must deal with the loss of the former spouse and examine the cause of the divorce, and work on ways to develop skills that will make the present marriage a success.

While the parents have issues, it's the children that suffer the most loss. Parents and stepparents must recognize that while they are embarking on a new, exciting relationship, children may not see it that way.

"Kids feel that loss of control, continuity in lifestyle," Nicholson said. "There are new rules, new people in their life, possibly adjusting to a new home, new routine, having to compromise some of their activities to accommodate the family. The loss of attention from their parent and competing for attention with new stepparent and stepchildren in the home.

"And because some kids just can't come out and say what they're feeling they might act out, become rebellious or angry, resentful or even get depressed," she said. "That's why it's so important to have open communication and the ability to resolve these issues as they come up."

A common problem is something Nicholson calls loyalty conflict. It's when a child is afraid to develop a relationship with the stepparent because he or she doesn't want to be disloyal to the biological parent.

"Children need to understand that there's enough love to go around," Nicholson said. "Love isn't a limited resource and it's OK to love the stepparent. They are not taking anything away from the love they have for their biological parent."

It takes time for everyone to understand the new roles and feelings that come with being part of a stepfamily. Some families may need counseling. But no matter what

the problem or solution, families should never be ashamed to get the help they need.

"These are complex situations," Nicholson said. "Parents may need help and they should do everything they can to get it. If that means reading a book, going to the pastor at church, getting counseling, or going to these kinds of classes, they should do it for the success of the family."

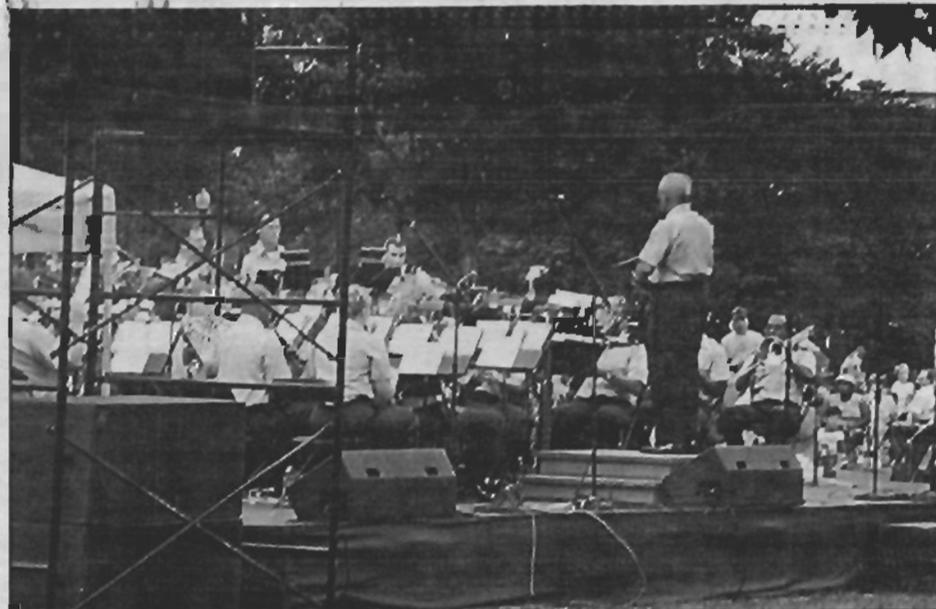
A student in the first class conducted by Nicholson and Dempsey highly recommends the class.

"We are taking the proactive approach," she said, explaining that she and her husband married only a few months ago and they have custody of her 9-year-old son. "We're not having any problems, but we wanted to stay ahead of the game. Some of the issues they covered in the class we'd already discussed and it made us feel good that we were doing it right. But there were some things we hadn't even thought about. The class gave us the opportunity to bring it out, discuss it. One thing we learned was how important it is to include my son's input when we make a family decision."

Regular family meetings and encouraging all family members to contribute is highly recommended by Nicholson. "It gives them a stake in what's going on and makes them feel valued, that people listen and respect their opinions."

Other quick tips offered by Nicholson: Clearly define the roles of everyone in the household; the couple relationship must be strong and the kids must see that unity; communicate feelings; build new family traditions; and concentrate on the positive.

"There are a lot of good things that can come from a successful stepfamily," Nicholson said. "The children have more role models and more people to care for them and share their lives with. There's more family support, new experiences, extended family. Making the stepfamily work also provides a healthy marriage model for the kids."



Courtesy photo

Park concert

The 151st Army National Guard Band performs July 22 at Big Spring Park for a Concert in the Park during local Armed Forces Celebration Week.

Strengthening the Step Family sessions cover a wide variety of topics governing the needs of individuals, couples, families and special issues of military families. The instructors try to tailor the sessions to the particular needs of the students taking the class. Sessions are held in the Child-Wise building on post. Free child care is provided, along with light refreshments.

"We want to do everything we can to

make life better, the marriage stronger for stepfamilies," Dempsey said. "I know it's not an easy step for parents to decide to come to the classes but we're planning to have another one in the fall, probably October. I hope when they see the announcement they can at least call about more information. Maybe then they can decide to come to the first session. Once you're here, it's easy."

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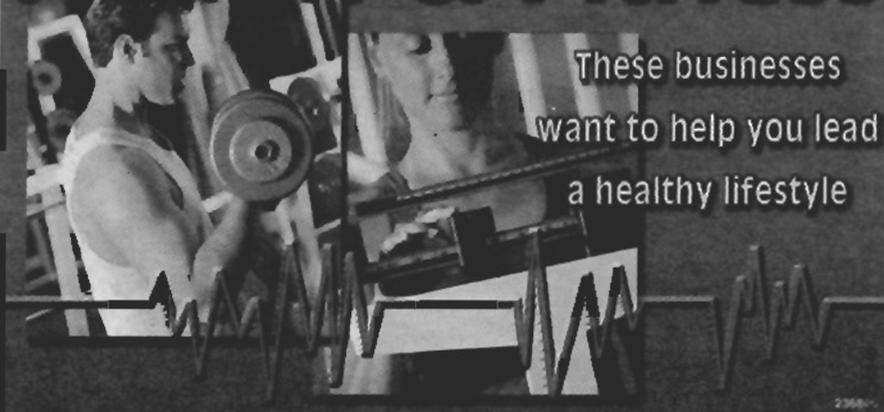
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Post NCO, Soldier of Year appreciate 'great honor'

Sgt. Foster and PFC Tucker win multi-event competition

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

It was fitting that a drum roll preceded the announcement of the Redstone Arsenal NCO and Soldier of the Year winners. After all there is some drama associated with the competition. And most of the 340 attendees didn't know who had won until post CSM Roscoe Johnson made the announcement during a luncheon July 22 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

Sgt. Calvin Foster of 95th Maintenance Company is the NCO of the Year; and PFC Jason Tucker of Bravo Company is the Soldier of the Year.

One of their first duties was to lead the Pledge of Allegiance during the Armed Forces Celebration Week luncheon July 24 at the Von Braun Center North Hall.

Foster, 26, from Pensacola, Fla., has been stationed at Redstone for a year and a half. He and his wife, Melissa, have a daughter, Kayla, 2.

"It's a great honor," Foster said. "And

I don't want to say anything without mentioning my two competitors, Sgt. (Ronald) Steele and Sgt. (Toby) McGhee. We all had to do the same things. And that day I happened to be better than them. And I'm sure if we do it again, one of those guys would have a great chance of winning."

Tucker gave special thanks to 1st Sgt. Tom Lettis, Drill Sgt. Stanley Parker and to his father, John Tucker. He has been stationed at Redstone 10 and a half months.

"I think it's a great honor," Tucker, 19, from Vancouver, Wash., said. "It helps me try to stand out, it helps my unit as far as trying to win what we can. And I'm just trying to achieve."

The other Soldier of the Year candidates included Spec. Rachel Arnold, Spec. Brett Holder, PFC Loniel Greene and Spec. David Nault.

"These candidates had to endure a lot of mental and physical stress," Johnson said before announcing the winners. The competition included a written exam, physical fitness test, land navigation, common task testing, M-16 marksmanship and a formal board.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

HONOREES— NCO of the Year, Sgt. Calvin Foster of 95th Maintenance Company, and Soldier of the Year, PFC Jason Tucker of Bravo Company, are recognized during a luncheon July 22 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

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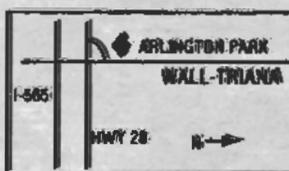
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Private pilot's license within reach at Flying Activity

Lifelong desire to fly can become reality

By KELLEY LANE
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

Tired of the everyday hobby? Feeling grounded? Maybe a walk in the clouds would do you good, or better yet, a ride in the clouds. With the help of the experts at Flying Activity, you can do just that.

From the retired ace to the most nervous beginner, they can have you soaring in no time. For a modest membership fee and reasonable instruction rates you too can get off the ground and on your way. Some may think this is an endeavor only for the young. Timothy Thompson, operations assistant at flying services, says not so.

"We have student pilots that are 60 or 70 years old, that are just beginning to learn how to fly," he said.

Flying Activity boasts a fleet of 13 planes, ranging from the small Cessna 150 to the roomier Cessna 182. Some are more forgiving and designed for the less experienced pilot. Others are winged hotrods for the more seasoned. Twenty-four instructors teach the classes and guide the student through the air. A mechanic is kept on staff for all maintenance and service needs. A volunteer mechanic assists in keeping the fleet sound and ready. The office staff keeps things inside running as smoothly as the planes glide outside.

This is a state of the art facility. A computerized system, designed and written specifically for their needs by a member, keeps track of all necessary records for members and aircraft. It ensures the most accurate and up to date information about the condition and maintenance of each plane. It also keeps track of individual information, ensuring everyone is approved to fly and within their limitations before they ever leave the ground. Internet access in the Pilot's Lounge gives instant weather reports and detailed maps and information about the conditions in the air at Redstone and wherever the flight is headed. Flight



Photo by Kelley Lane

READY FOR TAKEOFF— Timothy Thompson of Flying Activity stands outside a Cessna 182.

lessons can be scheduled to accommodate most schedules, and once certified planes are available 24 hours a day to members. Pilot supplies can be purchased through the offices. They can get the aspiring ace whatever he or she may need.

The facility is not open to the public at large. It is open to eligible members of Redstone and the surrounding community. Who is eligible? The list is extensive: active duty military personnel and their families, retired military and their families, Department of Defense and NASA employees, contractor employees, and many more are on the list. The list grows every year. Chances are you are eligible, too. Once eligibility is established a one time \$25 fee gives you membership. Dues are \$25 per month.

The flight training program consists of a combination of classroom instruction

and practical experience. Beginners would start with the Private Pilot Ground School course. It is a once a week course for several months. It is \$150 for supplies plus \$140 for tuition for a total of \$290. Instrument Pilot Ground School teaches the more advanced aspects of airplane gauges and readouts. It is \$150 for supplies and \$150 for tuition for a total of \$300. Estimated total cost for a private pilot's license is around \$3,400.

While attending class, students begin their practical experience in the air. Hourly rental of the plane varies by the type of aircraft, but ranges from \$39-\$81. An additional \$22 per hour pays for your instructor. Flights with an instructor teach the basic ins and outs of piloting aircraft. Lessons are tailored to the individual and some will progress faster than others.

"Depending on the individual, time

frames are different," Timothy Thompson said. "It may take one person six months, it may take another one a year — it may take another one a month."

Fuels costs are included, unless fueling has to be done at another airport. Then Flying Activity will reimburse the student \$2 per gallon. When your instructor feels you are ready, you will then begin solo flights. As part of the family feel of the program, students sign their shirts from their first solo flight and hang them on the wall of the classroom. They ring the room, some preprinted with the name and date in anticipation of the moment, others simply whatever the student was wearing at the time — including a dress shirt and tie.

When your instructor feels you are ready for the pilot's test, another instructor will assess you. If both agree, you will then take the written portion of the test. A minimum of 40 hours of flight time is required to receive a private pilot's license. Flying Activity is an authorized Federal Aviation Administration computer test station. The test is computer generated. When you pass it, you are then scheduled for the flying portion of the exam with a licensed examiner. The test is designed to be similar to the standard driving test, without the pesky parallel parking. Through the Flying Activity, certification can be obtained for private pilots, commercial pilots, and flight instructors. Color coded wings are awarded for each level so that students may proudly display their accomplishments, and staff may visually recognize the level of training completed.

"It's something some people want to do their whole life," Thompson said. "They've put their kids through school, sent them to college, and now they say this is what I want to do. I want to fly."

Open house for the activity was held earlier this summer, but due to overwhelming response another is tentatively planned for this fall. They are also adding online services so that members can schedule flights and reserve aircraft from the comfort of their home or office any time of day or night. Their offices can be reached at 881-3980 for more information.

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Tactical missiles among future combat system candidates

Program executive officer provides update on plans

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, program executive officer for tactical missiles, illustrated the PEO's mission of providing the American soldier with the finest, combat effective, and supportable tactical missile systems, by highlighting PEO systems that are Future Combat System candidates.

Sorenson said that the PEO is supporting the Army's transformation by aggressively working on the Javelin pre-planned

product improvement, the Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System, the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System, the Line-of-Sight Anti-Tank missile, the Compact Kinetic Energy Missile and the Common Missile.

"The Javelin P31 will have high lethality, with its fire-and-forget precision strike capability against advanced armor and it will have an Active Protection System," Sorenson said. "It will be manportable, have an increased target identification range, be capable of many missions, with one shot equaling one kill."

Sorenson said that APKWS has two

key performance parameters - a maximum range of 3.7 miles, with an 80 percent probability-of-hit accuracy - that make it a potential FCS candidate.

"HIMARS, as a candidate, will be able to kill high-payoff, stationary or moving, hard or soft, hot or cold armor, materiel and personnel targets," Sorenson said.

"GMLRS will have a maximum range of 37 miles, targeting counter-battery, enemy air defense, command and control sites, and other high payoff targets," Sorenson said.

The general said that LOSAT can be transported on the battlefield by the UH-60L Black Hawk, while CKEM will be

the Army's kinetic energy "silver bullet," offering lethality overmatch in a small package.

"The Common Missile will meet future aviation and fire-support requirements, by leveraging Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and Army NETFIRES Science and Technology investments for an accelerated development schedule to support the FCS fielding schedule," Sorenson said.

He concluded by telling the Advance Planning Briefing for Industry audience in the Bob Jones Auditorium that the PEO Tactical Missiles is also focusing on the supportability of systems in the field.

Long term care insurance info meetings scheduled

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program was created by the Long-Term Care Security Act, which was signed into law of President Clinton on Sept. 19, 2000. The Office of Personnel Management sponsors the federal program. OPM selected John Hancock Life Insurance Company as the insurers for the federal program. John Hancock and Met Life formed Long Term Care Partners, a jointly owned new company exclusively dedicated to serving the long term care insurance needs of federal families.

As a part of its educational campaign, OPM has held a series of video teleconferences that explain Long Term Care Insurance. As a follow on to these teleconferences, educational meetings are scheduled for face-to-face interchange with Long Term Care representatives.

Learn more about Long Term Care Insurance by visiting the web at www.ltcfeds.com. If you have additional questions, sign up for an informational meeting where you can talk face-to-face with a representative. The link for meetings is posted on the web site. If you are a civilian employee or servicemember, select the Redstone Arsenal sites. There are nine different sessions with a variety of sites - Bob Jones Auditorium, SMDC, Corps of Engineers, and RDEC SEILA Auditorium.

Here is the schedule:

- Aug. 19 - 8-9 a.m., 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium.
- Aug. 20 - 9-10 a.m. at Corps of Engineers cafeteria, and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium.

- Aug. 21 - 8-9 a.m. and 10-11 a.m. at SEILA auditorium, and 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. at Space and Missile Defense Command, 2D1200.

Register for any of these sessions on the web or by calling 1-800-582-3337. Registration is not mandatory but encouraged.

Retirees also can learn more about Long Term Care Insurance. If you are a retiree, you may register via the web or by phone. Be sure to select your location as Huntsville. The sessions for annuitants are scheduled Sept. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Radisson Huntsville airport.

Register for Long Term Care Insurance meetings via the web at www.ltcfeds.com or by calling 1-800-582-3337.

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Army acts as customer to hardware designers

By PAM ROGERS
For the Rocket

Remember back to the days when you were fresh out of college and getting ready to start your first job? It was a heady feeling, knowing you possessed the latest, greatest knowledge, skills and ideas the ivory tower had to offer. But then you actually started that job and found you didn't have a clue how to do anything until you learned the policies and procedures that govern day-to-day work in any office. Bright young folks with good ideas sometimes find "the way we do it here" puzzling, frustrating and downright stupid. They can even get discouraged and leave, taking their ideas and brainpower somewhere else.

That's one reason the Research Development and Engineering Center has been holding a design competition for University of Alabama-Huntsville students for the last several years. Aviation and Missile Command, acting as the "customer," gives a specification for a piece of futuristic military hardware. Senior engineering students submit concepts and in the process learn how to work with an integrated product team — just as they will do when they get to the workplace.

It's a win-win situation for everyone involved, according to Jim Winkeler, chief of the aviation team in RDEC's Advanced Systems Directorate.

"It's so much fun to work with these kids. We really get fresh and innovative concepts and ideas," he said, adding that some of the government engineers who have been in the work force for a long time can't see the forest for the trees.

"It refreshes us and it's a good educational experience for them," he said.

The program lasts for two semesters, with team leaders chosen the first semester. In the latest competition there were three team leaders who began the project with a series of leadership development seminars designed to teach them to work with large, integrated product teams. The next semester, three international teams were formed that included mechanical, aerospace, electrical, computer and industrial engineering students from UAH and ESTACA, a college in France.

Over the years, teams have submitted designs for a hybrid rocket sub-orbital vehicle, a tactical missile, a mag-lev train and a rocket-launched glider, among other

military equipment. This time the requirement was a hybrid unmanned vehicle that could fly, land and then dispense and recover an autonomous unmanned ground vehicle. The proposed fielding date for the vehicle was 2012, so that students had to consider some, but not much technology that might not yet be available.

Winkeler explained why the project is spread over two semesters.

'It's so much fun to work with these kids. We really get fresh and innovative concepts and ideas.'

— Jim Winkeler
Advanced Systems Directorate

"The first semester we provide specs of what we want the thing to do — how high, fast, far and the payload. We actually end up working with them. Some have never heard of a UAV or UGV. We make changes to the specs as we deem necessary to facilitate the project. Then we meet with them outside the formal classroom environment — the entire class — and brief the specs," he said. After that, the government and the students sign on as "customer" and "contractor," and the specifications are locked in.

"It's like responding to an RFP. Once the specs are locked in, they never change," Winkeler said. The team leaders then review resumes from the rest of the class and "hire" their team members. At first all the teams work together to develop a baseline concept. Then each team comes up with three design variations.

The competing teams don't just submit written proposals, but also have to give a briefing to a review panel — yet another thing engineers in the real world are required to do.

This year's winner was called "Chicken Hawk," a futuristic-looking rotorcraft that carries a small UGV in its belly. The unmanned rotorcraft can fly out, land and the UGV rolls off on its own. The winner was announced at the American Helicopter Society luncheon. And just because a team wins the design competition doesn't mean the members get an automatic "A." And conversely, according to Winkeler, teams whose designs are not chosen don't get a bad grade.

"They're graded on how they approached the technological issues and how they performed in the IPT, not whether they won or not," he said.

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Win or lose

Charlie Company 832nd Wolfpack finally roars



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LEADERS OF PACK— Charlie 832nd pitcher Justin Henderson exchanges a high-five with left-center/coach Donald Clippinger after the Wolfpack's 11-8 win over Charlie 167th Thursday at field 14.

Defense decides fate in first softball win

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

In softball it's better to receive than to give. Just ask Charlie Company 832nd.

The Wolfpack had been allowing runs with mistakes all season long, resulting in a winless record after six games. But this night would be different.

Thanks to seven unearned runs, Charlie 832nd beat Charlie 167th Infantry 11-8 on Thursday at field 14. This time the Wolfpack cut its errors to four and benefited from its opponent's nine miscues.

"They played good ball tonight," Wolfpack coach and left-center Donald Clippinger said of his players. "They've been beaten in the season by making a lot of stupid errors and they didn't make them tonight."

"We played smart tonight," right-center Clint Nephew said. "We've been practicing a good bit and tonight it paid off."

Dale Espinoza and Lance Cole had three hits apiece for the Wolfpack (1-6). Winning pitcher Justin Henderson added a double, two RBIs and three runs.

"We didn't make mistakes, we made good plays," Henderson said. "We've got to work on that more, stay away from errors. And we should be a good team."

The difference in the game was the Wolfpack allowed four unearned runs and received seven from Charlie 167th (4-3).

"We just had one of our off nights," 167th coach Wayne Roberts said. "They hit the ball very well and we didn't. They played a very good game and we'll get them next time."

Sean Persall went 4-for-4 with a two-run homer in the seventh for the 167th. Blake Scott doubled twice while Mike Burgett and Travis Nelson added two hits apiece. Jackie Nail took the loss.

"We had some errors in the field, and they hit the ball and we didn't," Burgett, the shortstop, said. "We had routine errors that we normally don't have."

And the Wolfpack appreciated the generosity.

Results from last week's slow-pitch action included:

July 22 - Bravo d. Delta 15-4, Headquarters & Alpha d. Marines 16-3 and MEDDAC d. Charlie 832nd 15-5.

July 23 - Marines d. Charlie 832nd 16-8 and Delta d. 902nd 18-17.

July 24 - Headquarters & Alpha d. MEDDAC 13-10, Delta d. NCO Academy 17-14 and HHC 59th d. Marines 16-5. The 59th remained the only unbeaten team at 7-0.

July 25 - Delta d. Marines 16-6, Charlie 832nd d. Charlie 167th 11-8 and Bravo d. 902nd 15-9.

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

IT'S A HIT— Charlie 167th's Octavious Porter singles to right field in the fourth inning. But his team was outlit 14-12 and lost 11-8 to Charlie 832nd.

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Contract award work leads to Army level recognition

Acquisition Center worker cited for his innovations

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

Carol Cooper, director of the Acquisition Center's PEO Tactical Missile Procurement Directorate, was recently honored at a Fort Myer, Va., ceremony with the Secretary of the Army's Excellence in Contracting Award for his acquisition work with the Army Airborne Command and Control System.

"This is the highest level of Army contracting awards, and Carol was honored in the category of Outstanding Contracting Officer for Systems Contracting (Civilian)," said Carol Lehman, director of the Systems Acquisition Directorate and Cooper's former supervisor and his nominator. "He is the first AMCOM Acquisition Center employee to win an award at this level, and that really says a lot about Carol's expertise and the quality of work we do here at this command."

The award covered fiscal 2001, during which time Cooper served as the source selection authority for the A2C2S and the division chief, Systems Acquisition Missile Directorate, Acquisition Center. "I submitted Carol for the award last fall based on the unique and innovative contract work he did for A2C2S, and we found out in May he had won the award," Lehman said.

Cooper said he was surprised to learn he had been submitted for the award, but not necessarily surprised that the A2C2S acquisition and contract award had attracted the attention of an awards committee.

"The organization truly allowed me to be creative and innovative and to take risks and use a combination of various methods to ensure we made the best source selection and contract award possible," he said. "The contracting team was a group of highly skilled professionals, and we were allowed to employ new approaches which cut cost and reduced schedule. The contract is a hybrid and includes the combination of cost-plus-incentive-fee, fixed-priced incentive, and cost-plus-fixed-fee."

The A2C2S was acquired using several innovative acquisition reform initiatives in the procurement process. According to Cooper, an integrated product team prepared the required documents, the Statement of Work and Request for Proposal, and the team developed a performance based best value requirement statement of need document that took advantage of all available technologies in the marketplace.

"The RFP was structured to encourage prime contractors submitting proposals to use small and disadvantaged businesses as subcontractors to the maximum extent possible. This approach ensured increased small and disadvantaged business participation," Cooper said.

Two aspects of the evaluation process that enhanced and accelerated the proposal evaluation process were oral presentations by bidders to the evaluation board members and the use of an online electronic database tracking system for the evaluation of proposals. During these presentations, valuable insights into the proposals were obtained through face-to-face interactions.

The delivery schedule imposed by the Army was extremely ambitious and the team of Acquisition professionals who evaluated the various approaches offered by industry as the Best Value solution for the A2C2S, had to demonstrate significant flexibility, knowledge and understanding of the requirements to accomplish this task. The use of an online electronic data base tracking system for the evaluation of proposals was very useful and reduced the administrative process time and allowed for real time immediate dissemination of proposal data. Additionally, during the proposal process each bidder was instructed to execute and sign a model contract as part of their final proposal, thereby reducing the lead time for the actual contract award.

"Once the winning proposal was identified, we were able to award the contract within two days," Cooper said.

The total proposal, evaluation and award time was 147 days. "This is amazing that he managed to award a performance-based, best-value procurement in this time frame," Lehman said.

The complexity of A2C2S and the technical and organizational skills Cooper



Photo by Kim Gillespie

AWARD RECIPIENT— Carol Cooper, director of the Acquisition Center's PEO Tactical Missile Procurement Directorate, recently received the Secretary of the Army's Excellence in Contracting Award. He is the first AMCOM Acquisition Center employee to win a contracting award at a Department of the Army level competition.

used to perform the contract award were not only unique in the contracting and acquisition award, they would also be considered characteristics of an outstanding employee at any organization, according to Lehman. "Carol has the unique ability to ascertain risk and use common sense. He can also stay focused — not everyone has that skill, and by staying focused he can follow a project to a successful conclusion," she said. "He took a very large and extremely complex project, and made sure it stayed on track. He is very customer focused and politically astute — he anticipates issues and resolves them before they become a showstopper. Coupled with his integrity and experience, you have an excellent employee who is also balanced."

Cooper said he is pleased by the award, but also pleased that the award and the ceremony have allowed him to share the success and lessons learned from A2C2S with his peers. "When my article describing the

A2C2S acquisition and contract award appeared in the May-June 2002 issue of Army AL&T (the Army Acquisition Corps' publication), I began to get numerous inquiries from my peers from other agencies asking for details so they could implement some of the same techniques."

The actual contracting award ceremony June 26 also publicized the winners' outstanding contributions to the contracting world. "Claude Bolton Jr., the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, presented the award to Carol and talked about what he was doing here at AMCOM. That means a lot when you consider the number and level of high level organizations in attendance," Lehman said.

Cooper agrees with Lehman's assessment of the award ceremony. "It was not only an honor, but it also gave us an opportunity to talk about what we are doing here at AMCOM. It was a very impressive event," he said.

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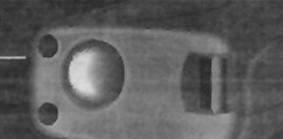
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Proponency sergeant major enters ranks of retirees

Sgt. Maj. Gary Suckow considers corporate job

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

Few soldiers command more respect on the Arsenal and it was evident when it came time to say goodbye. Soldiers and civilians

who had worked with Sgt. Maj. Gary Suckow gathered at the Soldatenstube to honor him for his service to his country and wish him the best of luck as he retires.

Suckow began his military career at age 17 with his mother's signature. He enlisted as a light infantryman and attended basic training at Fort Knox, Ky.

"There were three mountains there named agony, misery and heartbreak. And

for me coming from Florida, that's exactly what they were," he said.

He then attended his advanced individual training at Fort Polk, La., "the real infantry school, not the one down at Benning," Suckow quipped.

Suckow came to Redstone Arsenal for the first time in 1977 as a corporal. He reclassified from infantry to TOW/Dragoon missile systems repair.

"I had mastered the infantry tactics, and I wanted more time with my family. We were always deployed or in the field doing some sort of training when I was with 1st Cavalry 24th Infantry," he said.

As a senior 27 series NCO, Suckow did extensive work supervising maintenance work on a variety of missile systems.

Suckow returned to Redstone Arsenal in 1995 out of the Sergeants Major Academy. He was the chief instructor of the land combat division at Missile Systems Training Department. He then served a tour as the deputy commandant of the NCO Academy. He became the department sergeant major for MSTD. Suckow most recently was the Proponency sergeant major ensuring 18,000 Reserve, National Guard and active duty Ordnance soldiers are served.

"Proponency is all about looking to the future and making sure that ordnance soldiers are taken care of from the cradle to the grave," he said.

Suckow is looking to work in the corporate sector and maybe raise cattle.



Photo by Spec. Evan Morrow

BEST OF LUCK—Capt. Mary Walsh, executive officer of 59th Ordnance Brigade, wishes proponency Sgt. Maj. Gary Suckow well during his retirement reception.

Voting help available for soldiers and their families

All Americans should have the chance to vote, no matter where they live.

The main goal of the Army Voting Assistance Program is to help soldiers, as well as other eligible individuals, to register and vote.

In this general election year, when many federal, state and local officials will be elected, the 2002-03 Army Voting Assistance Program has two basic missions.

First and foremost is the traditional voting assistance provided to soldiers, their family members, and overseas Army civilian workers and their family members. Individual voting assistance includes technical guidance provided by unit voting assistance officers. More help is available by using the installations chain of command, installation senior voting assistance officers, Army voting assistance program coordinator and the Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense.

The second mission is to educate every soldier about the importance of voting and their opportunity to vote. Direct command involvement is required to meet this mission.

For information about the command federal voting assistance program call Joe Winston, senior command federal voting assistance officer, 876-7217; Lewis Spencer, assistant senior command federal voting assistance officer, 842-2418; or Capt. Douglas Moore, staff judge advocate, 876-9005.



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Grissom grad learns life lessons riding across country



College student in Montana rides bike 2,475 miles home

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Aaron Sosebee gives new meaning to the words "road trip."

A few days after classes let out for the summer, the University of Montana student loaded his Bianchi mountain bike with carefully selected survival gear, waved goodbye to his girlfriend, Stephanie, and headed for home. The 32-day journey to Huntsville would take him across more than half the country, pedaling 2,475 miles of back roads, mountainous terrain, flat lands and hill country through almost every weather imaginable.

"It was an amazing trip," Sosebee said. "I traveled mostly back roads. I got to see a lot of places you don't see when you're in a car. It reminds you of how much there is that you'll never see unless you go looking for it."

Like, say, a cattle drive?

Three days into the trip while biking through Montana, Sosebee "got stuck" in the middle of a cattle drive. He spent more than an hour riding about 2 mph among a herd of bellowing bovine, chatting with the cowboys on horseback driving the herd.

"They were moving the herd from one

pasture to another and had to go right through town to do it," Sosebee said. "There wasn't much choice but to go with it."

And then there was the herd of buffalo near Yellowstone. "That wasn't as much fun," Sosebee said. "The herd wasn't as big but when you're on a bike, buffalo are a little more scary."

Within a matter of days Sosebee, 23, had developed a new way of life. He was up and on the road by around 4:30 every morning eating a bit of fruit for breakfast. After biking 25-30 miles, he'd start looking for a restaurant, gas station, grocery store, anyplace he could stop and get a hearty lunch, as long as his cash held out. When things got lean, he'd rely on the rice and peanut butter crackers he brought with him.

"I'd rest a little after lunch then get back out there," he said. "I liked to stop for the day by 2 or 3 in the afternoon to escape the strong heat of the day."

Sometimes he'd have to bike until late evening, depending on where the next town was. For the most part, Sosebee followed the popular Trans American Bike-way route. He met several other bikers, many coming from the other direction who could give him a little advice about the road ahead. Residents and business owners in the small towns along the trail were used to bikers. Most places had a camping area and on a really good day, Sosebee found a place to shower.

"I was stinky most of the time," he said. "I probably got a shower about once a week — whenever I could find a place... I'd stop for the night, set up camp, fix rice and vegetables on my little gas stove. Macaroni and cheese was one of my favorites. I tried to do a little reading before bed but I'd only get two or three pages done before I'd pass out."

By the time he reached his friend's house in Fort Collins, Colo., Sosebee had lost about 20 pounds. He took a day off for a visit but then he was right back out on the trail.

"Sometimes it got frustrating," he said. "It was like each state offered a different challenge — mountains in Montana. I got snowed on in Wyoming. I thought I was going to freeze to death that night. Colorado had the hills but not as bad as the

foothills in Missouri. I had to fight the wind all the way across Kansas. It was 105 degrees the day I got there. I thought that was bad until I hit the wall of humidity in Mississippi."

Yes, there were a few problems. He had three flats. It was hot and humid, and on occasion the rain fell. But overcoming the challenges was part of the fun. It made him appreciate the little things a lot more.

"To sit in a cool movie theater, in the dark and be entertained for two hours was a real treat," he said. "I saw three movies in Kansas. It's something I don't take for granted anymore. It's so important to look at the good things in life. Don't worry about the little stuff. It doesn't help."

But perhaps the best lesson along the way came from a fellow biker, a New Zealander, biking the route from Oregon east. They met up about halfway through the trip.

"Remember, this is just a vacation," he told Sosebee. "You can always hop on a bus and get home if you have to so just relax. Have fun. Enjoy the trip."

"And I did," Sosebee said.

It was somewhere near the southern part of Colorado that Sosebee decided to lighten his load. He mailed home some clothes, the 1,000 page Chinese novel he didn't have the energy to read, his walkman and a box of 20 cassettes. A little farther down the road, he left his "huge" bag of rice, keeping only enough for emergencies. And in Kansas when the heat got fierce and the wind fought him every mile of the way, he dumped the rest of his clothes, went to Wal-Mart and bought a pair of nylon socks, a lightweight mesh shirt and a pair of shorts. He wore those clothes for the last two weeks of the journey.

Throughout the trip, Sosebee called home to let his parents know he was all right. His mother, Rebecca, works at Challenger Elementary and his father, Michael, is a contract specialist at Marshall Space Flight Center.

"It was a deal we made before he started," Rebecca said. "When Aaron told us at Christmas that he wanted to do this we tried to talk him out of it. I should have known better. Once he gets his mind made up, nothing stops him. He agreed to call

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Photo by Sandy Riebeling
ON THE ROAD AGAIN— Aaron Sosebee, a 1997 Grissom High graduate who attends the University of Montana, rode his bike home from college for the summer break. The trip covered 2,475 miles and took 32 days.

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