

# Redstone Rocket

VOL. 51 No. 31

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

August 7, 2002

## Post profile



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## Win or lose



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## Quarterly beats monthly soldier competition

Change aligns Redstone with other Army posts

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

Redstone Arsenal is changing how it recognizes top soldiers and NCOs.

No longer will there be a Soldier of the Month competition. From now on a Soldier of the Quarter and NCO of the Quarter will be selected.

And the quarterly competition will include a written exam, physical fitness test, common task testing, land navigation (day and night), weapons qualification and a formal board.

Previously the soldier of the month and

NCO of the quarter were decided solely by a formal board appearance.

"The soldier of the month program is great. However, to meet the future needs of the Army on a worldwide mission, we need to better prepare soldiers," post CSM Roscoe Johnson said. "We can better prepare them through this NCO/Soldier of the Quarter program."

He pointed out that other Army installations are already using a quarterly awards program. This gives them an advantage for preparing soldiers and NCOs for annual competition at higher headquarters level.

"What we're doing now is getting in line with transformation of the Army," Johnson said.

The NCO/Soldier of the Quarter competition for the first quarter (July, August and

September) will probably be held the second week in September, with an awards luncheon tentatively set Sept. 26. The second quarter competition (October, November and December) will be held in November. The third quarter competition (January, February and March) is late February or early March. And the fourth quarter competition (April, May and June) will be held in May.

The quarterly winners will compete for 2003 NCO/Soldier of the Year in late June or early July. And the winners will be announced during Armed Forces Celebration Week.

Sgt. Calvin Foster of 95th Maintenance Company is the 2002 NCO of the Year; and PFC Jason Tucker of Bravo Company is the Soldier of the Year.

## Home Depot back to doing business with government

Service from local stores suspended only two weeks

By SANDY RIEBELING  
Staff writer  
sandy@htimes.com

Huntsville Home Depot stores are still suffering from company policy that is no longer in effect.

In mid-June an article appeared in newspapers across the country reporting that Home Depot, the nation's largest hardware and home improvement chain, told its stores not to do business with the U.S. government or its representatives. It was a longstanding company policy because Home Depot had never applied to become a government contractor or subcontractor. A policy reminder sent from headquarters to its 1,400 stores in June sparked the maelstrom of public opinion which resulted in Home Depot's change of policy.

"This store does quite a bit of business with units and agencies on the Arsenal," Wes Allen, assistant manager of the Home Depot store on Memorial Parkway, said. "We were unaware of the policy until recently. When it came to our attention, we followed the guidelines. It was only about two weeks until things changed. We were extremely happy they elected to bring (government business) back in."

Customers in both the Madison and Huntsville stores were vocal about the issue, according to Allen. And while loss of government purchases was felt in Home Depot's bottom line, there was a deeper issue at work.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**BACK TO BUSINESS**—Assistant store manager Wes Allen, Huntsville Home Depot, is "extremely happy" that the company revised its policy to allow stores to do business with federal governmental agencies. "We always enjoyed doing business with the Arsenal," he said. "Much to our delight we will continue."

"The feeling out there was that we were anti-government and that couldn't be further from the truth," Allen said. "As a company we donated a lot of materials to rebuild the Pentagon after the 9/11 attacks."

But it's not all about business.

"I took it personal," Allen, a former Marine and combat veteran of the Gulf War, said. "I'm an American through and through. Eighty percent of our salaried management team have a military back-

ground. Lots of our employees are ex-military or former government workers. Some have even worked for the government and here part time.

"It became a personal issue for us," he said. "And much to our delight, things have changed. We are back to doing business with the government and will continue to work very hard to accommodate

See Business on page 4

## Still puzzled about parking

In the July 31 Rocket one of the questions in the letter to the editor "Puzzled About Parking Policy," the answer given to the reader referenced that when the ThreatCon level is below Charlie, that parking restrictions do not apply and there are no restrictions. My questions concerns the parking restrictions that seem to still be in effect around the buildings on the 3300 row and the OMMCS barracks. If we have gone below Charlie, why are we still having to deal with these parking restrictions? It appears that OMMCS is the only group here on base that is still doing this. All the other groups are allowing parking near or at their buildings.

### Name withheld by request

*Editor's note: The Provost Marshal Office provided the following response. "The parking situation that currently affects Redstone Arsenal is based on requirements of Army Regulation 525-13, Antiterrorism, dated Jan. 4, '02, Appendix B, Force Protection Conditions and Threat Levels. These requirements discuss protection of mission essential and vulnerable areas and high-risk targets.*

*"Parking becomes an issue early in Force Protection Condition Bravo (measure 14) and gets more stringent at FPCON Charlie (measure 34).*

*"Measure 14 tells the commander to move automobiles and objects such as trash containers and crates away from*

*MEVA/HRT to a distance based upon countering the assessed threat or to implement appropriate compensatory measures in accordance with local plans. The assessed threat could be any number of things to include vehicle bombs, suicide bombers, aircraft, missiles, or other types of threat. Compensatory measures could include, but are not limited to, procedures such as frequent inspection by explosive detector dog teams, centralized parking, or controlled access to parking areas.*

*"Measure 34 (FPCON Charlie) tells the commander to remove vehicles and containers that are near the MEVA/HRT plus, implement centralized parking and shuttle bus service where required.*

*"The intent of the parking policy recently implemented at Redstone Arsenal is to allow the individual commanders, building custodians and supervisors the opportunity to use their best judgment to control the parking around their facilities during FPCON Bravo. Obviously, the situation can be different at different buildings based on the facility manager's decisions and the importance of the facility. However, that option is not available during FPCON Charlie. A commander may always increase measures taken under the FPCON system, but may not ease measures that have been dictated by a higher authority. What you currently see in place at some of the locations mentioned is a commander's decision to keep stricter measures in place for security reasons."*

## Security checks required for safety

Having been up close and personal with too many terrorists over three continents and 36 years, I must disagree with Jan Heitmann's opinion in the (July 24) Rocket. We haven't taken security far enough.

How up close and personal? I was in the Frankfurt PX an hour before it was bombed in the 1980s. I trained students as emergency riot policemen in Wash-

ington, D.C. in 1967. I've been shot at in Vietnam and followed by suspicious vehicles in Germany. I've been there!

While I agree that the invasive security checks are inconvenient, they are not nearly as inconvenient as would be death or serious injury by terrorist activity....

**Albert M. Archibald Jr.**  
retired lieutenant colonel

## Rocket rumblings: On preventing school violence

With children returning to school, here's the Rocket rumblings question for this month: What's the answer to school violence?

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.

## Shoppers lift parking spaces

Late Friday afternoon after spending the day in the field training soldiers, I stopped at the Commissary to pick up a few items. I thought, "Why not drive down the first row and see if I can get one of those coveted 15-minute parking places." But no luck. I parked and went in to see James Burchfield, the commissary manager. While waiting to see him, his staff quietly whispered, "Are you going to ask him to take the signs down?" I just smiled. I believe many commissary patrons truly enjoyed the special parking when it was first put in place. However, Mr. Burchfield agreed that it is now abused. Upon leaving the commissary, I conducted a fairly unscientific study: After standing approximately 20 minutes by the spaces, four cars never moved. I respectfully suggest changing these spaces to handicap parking to better serve our veterans

and family members.

**SFC Dave Hays**

*Editor's note: The Commissary provided the following response. "We appreciate the reader's comments regarding the 15-minute parking spaces at the Commissary. We have also conducted our own research regarding the use of these spaces. As everyone knows, 15-minute parking is intended for customers on the run for a few items, in and out in less than 15 minutes. Based on recent observations, these spaces are being abused. This is unfortunate. We used the honor system, since we do not have the manpower to police its use. We agree with the reader in taking out the 15-minute parking spaces, in-turn, creating four more handicapped slots. This of course will be coordinated with the RSA command."*

## Security in concert with events

This is in reference to the two activities planned on Redstone Arsenal during August (Styx concert) and September (Oktoberfest) that are open to the public.

As a worker on the Arsenal, I am required to show my badge, which is a picture ID, (sometimes two picture IDs) and often a proof of insurance, driver's license, and automobile registration when I come through the gate. What identification will be required of the persons entering the Arsenal for these two events?

Additionally, how are these persons going to be controlled to ensure that they only go to the designated event area? Once inside the gate, they are presumably free to wander about wherever they please.

Access to the arsenal is very strictly enforced at this time. But it would appear that for these two events the access could possibly be compromised.

Name withheld by request

*Editor's note: The Provost Marshal Office provided the following response. "Thank you for your concerns for the safety and security of Redstone Arsenal. For upcoming special events occurring on the installation such as the two you have men-*

*tioned, the same forms of identification that we currently use will be required for guests visiting the installation. This will consist of a picture ID (driver's license or equivalent), proof of insurance and vehicle registration. However, once appropriately validated by the identification process, they are not required to have an escort or be vouched onto the installation.*

*"For both upcoming events, Redstone Arsenal Gate 10 (Patton Road) will be the primary means of entrance and exit for visitors attending these functions. A traffic control and security plan is currently in development that will restrict visitors to only the event areas themselves starting at Gate 10 and extending to the post activity field where the events will occur. Visitors will not be allowed to "wander about" but will be required to park in designated areas and only visit the event site. Additional security measures such as random vehicle patrols, military working dog teams, traffic control posts, foot patrols, road blocks and event security personnel will ensure that visitors are restricted to only designated areas. This plan is very similar to the one used at last year's Army Concert Tour event that worked very well.*

*"Thanks again for your concern."*

## Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 676-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4538 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

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

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

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

email: redstone-rocket@redstone.army.mil  
Rocket articles are available online at the following:  
[http://www.redstone.army.mil/pub\\_affairs/](http://www.redstone.army.mil/pub_affairs/)

### Rocket Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Al Schwartz  
Editor: Skip Vaughn

Reporters: Sandy Riebeling  
Kelley Lane  
Spec. Evan Morrow

Copy Editor: Scott Sasley

Advertising Sales: Jennifer Rodgers  
Aletta Pardue  
Patie Sims

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## Letters to the editor

### Giving false sense of security

The letter (July 31 Rocket) pertaining to Gate 9 and reopening lanes begs the question, why is there much concern to prevent individuals from illegally entering the installation via the out-bound lanes — especially at Gate 9? You can see them coming from a long way off. However, the smaller gates I can understand the concern, but do we not have armed guards at the gates? Put up a sign that says WRONG WAY, Deadly Force Will Be Used. I know we can't use deadly force, because if I had an extreme life or death emergency, and the gate is backed up, I would enter the installation via the outbound lanes, cutting across the grass. Whatever it would take to get to the hospital, but I would consider stopping at the gate so I wouldn't get shot.

There are plenty of ways to infiltrate this installation. If you don't believe me, I'll make you a bet I can get in any building on this complex. I may be detected but I can enter the installation undetected and enter the building of choice (excluding the heavy secured ones). That leads to another false impression. That is having tanks at the gate. We need something that is faster and more maneuverable that can chase the vehicle down and eliminate the threat.

Name withheld by request

*Editor's note: The Provost Marshal Office provided the following response. "Thank you for your concern. One of our many missions is to provide a safe and secure place for all who work, visit or live on Redstone Arsenal. We must provide this with the personnel and equipment available. Our intention is to control, not deny, access to the installation. Posting signs such as you recommended does not control access nor project the proper message. The primary reason for adjusting entry and out-bound lanes is to provide additional layers of security. Personnel are limited and we must utilize all available assets to provide this security and access control. As to whether or not access may be gained at buildings on the installation, it is incumbent upon individual directorates, based on particular security posture, to provide the necessary amount of control at their buildings to ensure only authorized personnel are allowed access.*

*The tanks that you refer to are not being utilized to chase unauthorized personnel entering the installation. They are Bradley Fighting Vehicles that are posted at various locations on the Arsenal to provide additional perimeter security."*

### Soldier expecting maternity uniform

Two months ago, I went to CIF to be issued my maternity BDUs. I was issued one set that was unserviceable. The other set was brand new, but not in my size. Pregnant females are authorized three sets. I never wore the new set of BDUs because it was not my size. So I was forced to wear that one set of unserviceable BD's until I purchased two sets online. I realize that if I am issued any military clothing, I must replace it if it becomes unserviceable. After all, I do get a clothing allowance each year.

I was told at CIF that the maternity BDUs have been on backorder for at least a year. What does a soldier do in the meantime? I definitely was not going to wait on CIF to receive these BDUs. I'd rather not walk around in a faded, unserviceable uniform for nine months and project an unprofessional appearance.

This post does have shortages in military clothing. If it isn't available, you can either ask Clothing and Sales to order it for you or simply purchase your items online. I have not had any success with Clothing and Sales.

Can there be a solution to this problem? Will there ever be a solution to this problem? I believe this issue affects the quality of life. Money is not the issue,

but taking care of soldiers should be.

Name withheld by request

*Editor's note: Kenny Barton, the Post Exchange manager, provided the following response. "Unfortunately, maternity BDUs are currently not available through either the Central Issue Facility or the Military Sales Store. The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia supplies the maternity BDUs to both facilities through government contracts and is the only authorized source. There has been a production delay since midsummer. The 'get well date' is November 2002. While both facilities can provide the uniform once the uniforms are available, CIF can issue the uniform, whereas the MCSS can sell the uniform.*

*"With that being said, there is an alternative. The AAFES procured maternity ensemble, consisting of shirt, skirt, slacks and maternity tunic is currently available through the MCSS. The ensemble can either be purchased or issued from the MCSS. For issue through the MCSS, a DA 3078 form is required as prescribed in Army Regulation 700-84 paragraph 4-9, Maternity Uniform.*

*"If we can be of any future assistance, please contact Kathie Winters, MCSS manager, at 882-1248."*

### Sod wasting away in summer sun

While visiting my son who is stationed at Redstone, I became aware of what is possible misappropriation of government funds. The work that is being done to better the housing situation on Redstone is wonderful, but what concerns me is how a pallet of sod, which costs \$150, could sit for five days without being laid.

I have worked with a sod farm for the last nine years as the office manager, and our office has won many awards for our work. What mainly concerns me is on Thursday evening when I arrived on Redstone a full pallet of sod sat on the corner of Hof and Goss. On Monday late afternoon when I left it was still sitting there. Sod must be laid within 24 hours after being pulled, especially when the heat index is 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Otherwise the sod dies sitting there in the hot dry sun, and the government has just wasted \$150 — money that could have been used for something else. You can lay the sod down, but now it is too late. When I spoke with my daughter-in-law on Tuesday, the sod was still sitting there. I am sorry to hear of the govern-

ment waste and their inability to properly care for their housing areas — especially when the government can't pay their soldiers what they truly deserve to support their families. I hope this situation is promptly taken care of, and this does not happen again.

Name withheld by request

*Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following response. "Thank you for your concern — we appreciate any ideas that can help preserve the taxpayers' investment in Redstone. The sod that you saw was being used in a housing area contract that the government awarded to the building contractor at a fixed price. The contractor is liable to establish the sod in the areas designated as part of the contract. If the contractor does not lay the sod in an appropriate time and it dies, it will not be acceptable to the government and the contractor is responsible for providing more sod at his own expense. As a result, the contractor is wasting his money not the taxpayers."*

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# Ordnance school serving ever-changing Army

## Soldiers get training on new machinery

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

The Ordnance field is at the forefront of Army transformation.

By fiscal 2009, Ordnance soldiers will be dealing with even more sophisticated and technical computerized equipment. It's all part of the Army's change to a faster, lighter force for the future.

"Objective force 2008 at this time is a list of requirements for weapons platforms, robots and command and control systems designed to meet the challenges of future battlefields," Tim Brady, chief of the Training and Doctrine Command Munitions System Manager's Office, said.

Making Objective Force 2008 a reality involves replacing the old methods of combat force development.

### Contractor role

The Battle Lab in Fort Knox, Ky., will build the first future combat system integrated weapons platforms and take them to a civilian contractor.

However, the contractor will be more involved in the actual maintenance of the machine than before. Training accreditation will get these companies more involved in shaping the soldiers who will perform maintenance on these vehicles in the field.

"The companies themselves may provide their own technicians in some cases to work on equipment when the facilities are available," Brady said.

### New name for school

The Ordnance Munitions and Electron-

ics Maintenance School, formerly called the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School, will continue to play a major role.

"Even after we have moved into the 21st century, some of our allies may still be operating with legacy style equipment," Brady said. "We're still going to need the forklifts to lift ammo pallets into the 21st century. We're also looking at legacy style forces sticking around for another 15-19 years in the U.S. Army before they go extinct."

Although training is needed to operate the new Objective Force equipment, there's no guarantee that often-deployed units can spare soldiers for the classroom.

"This is where distance learning pro-

grams can pick up the slack. Soldiers can acquire new skills and sharpen their old ones without coming out of the field," Brady said. "Along the same lines, streamlining and downsizing will require Ordnance units to maintain this new equipment with less manpower. The Army is cutting down the amount of soldiers and material needed to shape the battlefield and support the rifleman in his mission.

"OMEMS must consider the requirements of the new workload and make the necessary adjustments to the training. This training must focus on the mental agility necessary to operate the new machinery. We've got to be ready to fix and arm the Army of the future."

## Bianca onboard at missile defense project office

Col. Damian Bianca has taken the reins of the Ground Based Midcourse Missile Defense Ground Based Interceptor Project Office. He became project manager during a recent ceremony, succeeding Col. Mary Kaura.

This is not Bianca's first tour in Huntsville. He has held numerous tactical missile assignments at Redstone Arsenal, including work with the Multiple Launch Rocket System, Javelin, TOW, and Follow on to TOW. His last assignment at Redstone was as the Follow on to TOW product manager. Bianca's most recent job was director for ground combat systems in the office of the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology.

The Ground Based Interceptor Project Office, formerly called the National Missile Defense Weapon System Project Office, is developing the interceptor missiles and support equipment that will be used in the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense program, formerly



Courtesy photo

Col. DAMIAN BIANCA

known as National Missile Defense. GMD is being designed to protect the United States from long-range ballistic missile attack.

## Commissary extends hours for customers

### COMMISSARY RELEASE

We at the Redstone Commissary are proud to announce our new and expanded hours of operation. The store is now open on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and the Tuesday through Saturday hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All closing hours will now match our friends next door at the Post Exchange.

We hope that this will eliminate confusion, while allowing our valuable customers more time to browse and shop. Our early morning hours from 8-10 a.m. are considered Early Bird Shopping. Deliveries and sales people will still be on

the sales floor filling up their sections. The meat and produce departments will also be getting their areas ready for the day.

For those that love to shop early and don't mind the minor inconveniences, Early Bird Shopping may be right for you. Our late night hours are expected to be a hit for those that get off of work later and don't like crowds.

Whatever your preference, the Commissary is your best shopping value in town. With savings averaging 30.4 percent versus comparable downtown stores, coupled with world-class customer service, we are well worth the trip.

## Store chain restores link with government business

### Business

continued from page 1

those agencies in providing whatever services we can."

The decision to change its position and pursue government business was based on feedback from its associates, customers and a further evaluation of the systems and administrative requirements necessary to become a federal contractor.

Home Depot has frequently been recognized for its efforts in supporting the government and local communities during national emergencies and disaster relief, a public release from the company stated. Its support in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks was recognized by former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Sen. Max Cleland (D-Ga.) and other government officials. Following the attacks, the company also expanded its benefits to assist associates whose

Reserve units had been activated.

"We've always supported the federal and local governments during emergencies and natural disasters through donations and volunteer efforts," Bob Nardelli, chairman, president and CEO of Home Depot, said. "Now we'll be able to support them as part of our regular business as well."

Government credit cards were intended to make it easier for both government workers and contractors in buying routine supplies, according to Randy Richardson, director for business management in the Acquisition Center.

"We're glad that they'll come back and accept the credit card," Richardson said of Home Depot stores. "The fact that they seem to be reconsidering and coming back to do business with the government is a good thing. We hate to see anybody walk away from us because the intent is to make it easier for them to deal with us. That was the original purpose of the credit card and we hope it has over the years."



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# Fish kill discovered in Huntsville Spring Branch

Redstone's environmental office has been assisting with the investigation into the cause of a small fish kill in Huntsville Spring Branch.

The dead fish, first noticed July 30 near the Martin Road bridge over the creek, included sunfish, carp, drum, bluegill, bass and suckers. They were apparently floating from a point upstream from the bridge. Arsenal officials were convinced there was no on-post cause for the fish kill.

Susan Weber and Gabby Ehinger, environmental protection specialists, helped collect several fish for analysis by the Alabama Division of Wildlife and

Freshwater Fisheries Office. That office also sent two investigators out to begin the investigation into the fish kill.

Alabama Department of Environmental Management investigator Ricky McWhorier said they see most of their fish kills (about 10 per year) during these "dog days of summer." He said the water in Huntsville Spring Branch has been particularly hot and that, along with the low dissolved oxygen at night, could have been part of the cause. Still, he and the other investigators saw at least 10 times as many live fish in that stream as dead ones, and very high dissolved oxygen during the day.



Courtesy photo

**DEAD ZONE**— Officials were trying to find out what caused this small fish kill in Huntsville Spring Branch.

## Transformation represents Army's objective for future

*Task force deputy describes plans*

By **EVETTE BROOKS**  
For the Rocket

Mike Schexnayder, deputy director of the Objective Force Task Force, told the Advance Planning Briefing for Industry, July 24 that "the requirement to transform the Army is based on security challenges of the 21st century, as well as the need to respond more rapidly and decisively in full spectrum of military operations."

The objective force will focus on units of employment, units of action and future combat system battalions.

"The objective force will have special purpose capabilities and be network-centric with advanced technology for soldiers,"

Schexnayder said. "The units of employment will direct campaigns and major operations. It will be highly tailorable and not a fixed table of organization. UEs will have long-range fire capability."

Units of action will be capable of deploying anywhere in 96 hours and fighting immediately upon arrival. Precision strikes and precision maneuvers are key UA elements.

The future combat system will have overwhelming combat power for the full spectrum of military operations, according to Schexnayder.

"The objective force is the transformation of the entire United States Army and will take the dedicated efforts of the entire Army team, the help of our sister services, industry, academia, OSD (office of secretary of defense) and Congress to ensure that transformation succeeds," he said.

## Bicyclist seriously injured in traffic accident

A longtime scientist in this command was injured when struck by a pickup truck while riding his bicycle on post July 30.

Charles Bowden, a senior research scientist in Weapons Sciences Directorate at Research Development and Engineering Center, was listed in serious condition Aug. 1 in the surgical intensive care unit at Huntsville Hospital. He suffered a broken leg and internal injuries in the mishap

which occurred about 5:30 p.m. July 30.

Bowden, 68, of southeast Huntsville, was traveling north on Patton Road when he was struck by a northbound Chevrolet pickup truck, a U.S. government vehicle, at Huntsville Spring Branch.

"An investigation is being conducted by police operations," public affairs specialist Bob Hunt said.

Bowden has worked at Redstone for 36 years.

## Redstone welcomes newly arriving soldiers

Thirty-four officers and 16 enlisted soldiers arrived for duty at Redstone Arsenal during July.

Personnel and Training Directorate provided the following list of newcomers:

- Lt. Col. William Lamb, Missile Defense Agency Support; Maj. Richard L. Williams, Program Executive Office for Aviation; Maj. Michael Newell, Simulation Training and Instrumentation Command; Maj. Robert Marion, PEO Aviation; Col. Damian Bianca, Missile Defense Agency Support; Maj. Jason Galindo, PEO Aviation; Maj. Ernest Dunlap, STRICOM; Maj. Matthew Ambrose, U.S. Army Element; Maj. James Atkinson, Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense; Maj. Harold Buhl, PEO Air and Missile Defense; Capt. Tommy Bailey Jr., Redstone Arsenal Support Activity;

- Maj. Nolan Clark, Medical Department Activity; Maj. Gregory Franks, PEO Air and Missile Defense; Lt. Col. John Penney, Aviation and Missile Command; Maj. Randy Murray, PEO Aviation; Lt. Col. Mark Am, Missile Defense Agency Support; Maj. Todd Lamb, PEO Air and Missile Defense; Maj. Jon Rickey, STRICOM; Maj. Gregory Creech, JSIMS; Col. Kevin Noonan, STRICOM; Maj. Ronald Frye, MEDDAC; Lt. Col. Mark David-

- son, Delta Company 832nd; Maj. Leon Thurgood, PEO Aviation; Maj. Dennis Crumley, Research Development and Engineering Center; Maj. Keith Barshinger, HHC 59th; Lt. Col. Gary Bliss, PEO Aviation; CWO 4 Serge Covington, Delta Company 832nd; Capt. Roger Henderson, PEO Aviation; Col. Robert English, AMCOM; Maj. Larry S. Anderson, STRICOM; Maj. Stanley Lewis, STRICOM; Lt. Col. John Giunta, STRICOM; Lt. Col. Randy Pestona, AMCOM; CWO 4 Charles Green, Delta Company 832nd;

- SSgt. Grant Scott, Bravo Company 832nd; SFC Daryle Stinnet, Bravo Company 832nd; Sgt. Jeannie Williams, Delta Company 832nd; SFC Todd Barks, AMCOM; PFC Michael Gola, AMCOM; SSgt. Angela Morgan, AMCOM; SSgt. Michael Williams, MEDDAC; Spec. Twylia Derrico, Headquarters & Alpha; Spec. John Palamountain, Headquarters & Alpha; Pvt. Brian Lasher, HHC 59th; SSgt. Fernando Puga, Delta Company 832nd; Sgt. Derrick Davis, PEO Aviation; CSM Lewis Lockett, NCO Academy; MSgt. Larry Bright, Delta Company 832nd; SSgt. Bryan Mills, Headquarters & Alpha; and PFC Rashad Valmont, HHC 59th.



**Charles Woods, M.D.**

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# Engine test capability soars with Raptor's arrival

Facility does checkups for Army helicopters

By DAN O'BOYLE  
For the Rocket

True to its namesake - raptor - the Redstone Aviation Propulsion Test and Research Facility or RAPTR is a turboshaft engine test site for Army aviation's 'birds of prey.'

The facility was officially opened during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday at its McAlpine Road location.

"RAPTR is no longer a vision; it's now a reality," Dennis Powellson of Research Development and Engineering Center said. "We can now validate component life analysis, and this facility offers project managers a low-cost, best-value alternative for engine testing. Also, engine manufacturers will be able to test both government and commercial engines at a very reasonable price."

With accurate and comprehensive instrumentation, the facility can test engines up to 6,000 shaft horsepower, in torque ranges up to 2,000 foot pounds.

"This facility was created in response to customer needs," Barry Baskett of Research Development and Engineering Center said. "We also need to be thankful for the visionary foresight of the IMMC (Integrated Materiel Management Center) for providing funding to help create this facility. This is a world-class facility that will help us work through the technology, qualification and sustainment phases of engines. The knowledge base of engineers will be expanded by this facility and we can quickly provide improvements and gain the insight to actually predict situations. Now, we can actually learn on hardware, rather than look at black and white

images on pieces of paper."

The facility's accurate control and measurement ability should help engineers perform durability and operational analysis. The facility will also aid the qualification of alternate sources for components and parts.

"It's important, on this occasion, that we acknowledge our dependence and close association with RTTC (Redstone Technical Test Center)," Dr. William McCorkle, director of Research Development and Engineering Center, said. "This is yet another part of our master plan to convert Redstone real estate to aviation engineering support facilities. This facility represents a tremendous number of opportunities. This is a very exciting time, involved as we are in the transformation of the Army in so many ways. A lot of people are beginning to discover the capabilities that we have here and this is just another step."

The facility should be a key element in the Aviation Corridor of Excellence. Plans for the site include a rotor spin pit, hydraulics lab and electronic component test facility.

"The Army has high expectations for aviation propulsion systems and propulsion technology in the objective force," Paul Bogosian, deputy program executive officer for aviation, said. "As we look at the systems we take forward - the Apache, Black Hawk and Chinook - what we do to deliver objective force capabilities is highly dependent on propulsion capabilities. A lot of what we determine, and the path ahead that we set for the Army - when it comes to propulsion technology - will be pursued in this facility. And that's very gratifying. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us, and we're glad it's here."

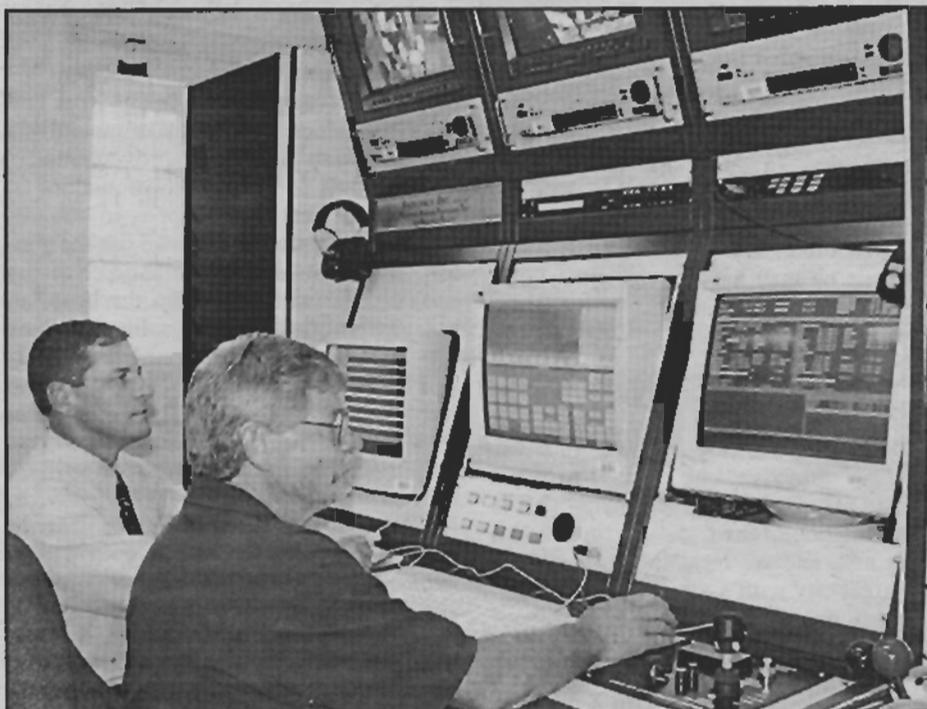


Photo by Dan O'Boyle

**TIME TO TEST**— Mike Patterson, left, of Sytronics Inc. and Jerry Beckham of AMTEC prepare the computer controls at the newly-opened Redstone Aviation Propulsion Test and Research Facility on the south end of the Arsenal. The facility affords a new capability to test propulsion aviation engineering components and engines.

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# Winds of change fly Fox commander from Korea

## Army health center has new leadership

By KELLEY LANE  
Staff writer  
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

A degree in geography is not necessary to know that Huntsville is a long way from Korea. In June, Lt. Col. Steven Klamerus made the trip with his wife and twin sons to assume command of Fox Army Health Center.

While he may have never gotten used to life in Korea, Klamerus has made the adjustment to life in Huntsville quickly and with enthusiasm.

"What I was looking for was a command in a relatively small MEDDAC, and of the places that were available this was the most attractive," he said. "I'm not a big city person. I like small towns. This is a combination of the two — I can live in a small area and we have the convenience of a great city with a lot of stuff to offer."

A Michigan native, Klamerus wanted to pursue a medical degree but was unsure how to finance it. The Army offered a means to satisfy his goal with a minimal service commitment. He fell in love with Army life and has spent 22 years living it since. So far, life here in Huntsville has involved a lot of observation.

"I didn't want to come in and try to make a lot of changes quickly," he said.

"The people that are here do things the way they do for good reason. They've developed processes that have worked. The goal is to learn what we're doing here first, think about it, and then decide what changes we can make to improve it."

So the new commander has spent his first month watching how things work and asking questions. He plans to spend his second month planning improvements.

His plans for Fox involve making it more user-friendly. He hopes to streamline things for the people who use the center. "That's what I want to do. Not the mission and what we do at the hospital, not anything relating to quality, but how we can make it easier from the time a person picks up the phone and says 'I need to see a doctor' to get what they need and get on with their life." He intends to do this by possible changes to the phone system, appointment system and customer service. He encourages those with an idea or innovation to improve Fox to call or send an e-mail. Suggestions from the community are always helpful and welcome.

Klamerus says he is happy with the quality of service at Fox, and his first impressions of Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville.

"After 22 years, I've been most everywhere the Army has to send you, if not to live, than at least to visit," he said. "This really is one of the very best places in the Army. From a medical prospective, there



Photo by Kelley Lane

**OPEN DOOR**— Lt. Col. Steven Klamerus, commander of Fox Army Health Center, says encourages those with an idea or innovation to improve Fox to call or send an e-mail.

are probably a few places that are comparable in terms of a nice place to live and work, but I don't think there is any place better than this."

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# Army workers help arm unmanned aerial vehicle

Awards presented from Air Force

The Air Force has honored 66 members of the Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles, Redstone Technical Test Center and Research Development and Engineering Center for their support to the successful Predator/Hellfire program.

"Since the U.S. Air Force's decision to weaponize the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle nearly two years ago, the advice and active support of Redstone Arsenal personnel has been invaluable," Lt. Col. Ken Johns, Air Force deputy director for quick reaction combat support, said. "Once the Hellfire was chosen as the munition to be mounted on the Predator, Redstone personnel have been full partners in the development and rapid deployment of this unique and historic war-fighting capability.

"At the Headquarters, Department of the Army level, approval was granted to

supply the Air Force with M299 Hellfire missile launchers from active Apache units, along with modified missiles for operational testing. Eventually, HQ DA authorized Redstone Arsenal to provide missiles for operational U.S. Air Force use.

"Redstone Arsenal personnel were enthusiastic, flexible and dedicated in the entire testing, motor swap out, and preparation for shipment and deployment activities involved with this weapon system. Additionally, numerous 'on-the-fly' modifications were tested and incorporated by the Warheads and Special Weapons Group to meet specific Air Force requirements.

"All in all, Predator/Hellfire was our most unique and successful weapon employed in the current operations, and it represents the best of Army/Air Force cooperation. The purpose of the visit is to say thank you, distribute a few tokens of appreciation, and shed some light on all those who labored in the Redstone Arsenal trenches to make this happen."



Russell Moore/Photo Lab

**TEAM COOPERATION**— James "Snake" Clark, Air Force director of quick reaction combat support, and Brig. Gen. Dan Goodrich, Air Force deputy director of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, present a memento to Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, program executive officer for tactical missiles. The memento recognizes the outstanding contributions of the PEO, Research Development and Engineering Center and Redstone Technical Test Center team to the successful Predator/Hellfire program.

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| Fundamentals of C                             | Sept 9-26 • M-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21030073N      |
| Fundamentals of Oracle                        | Sept 16-Oct 21 • M&W • 5-9pm • 21030103N        |
|   | OR  |
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| Introduction to Java Programming              | Sept 16-20 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21030109N         |
| Desktop Admin Using Windows 2000 Professional | Oct 14-17 • M-Th • 4:30-9:30pm • 21030091N      |
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| Oracle9i: Database Admin Fundamentals I       | Oct 22-Nov 21 • T&Th • 5:30-9:30pm • 21030120N  |
| Visual Basic Fundamentals                     | Oct 23-Dec 11 • M&W • 5:30-8:50pm • 21030105N   |
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| Principles of Supervision                      | Sept 19-Nov 21 • Th • 6-8pm • 23030003N     |
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| Coaching Your Team to Success                  | Sept 30-Oct 7 • M • 5:30-9pm • 23030039N    |
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| Principles of Subcontract Management           | Oct 15-Nov 5 • T • 6-9pm • 23030056N        |
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| Modern Numerical Solutions That Work                               | Oct 15-18 • T-F • 1-5pm • 23030115N           |
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# Just for kids

## Management student clowns around to heal sick kids

### Redstone worker visits youngsters in hospital

By LISA ANDERSON  
Army Management Staff College

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — Flaming orange curls escape from his baseball cap as he bounds into the hospital lounge, surprising his young audience. His painted face and bright costume only enhance his smile and his jolly nature as he gingerly moves among his young audience, stepping over intravenous tubes and oxygen hoses, telling jokes while he mysteriously pulls coins out of little ears and makes commonplace items disappear without a trace.

What began as a boyhood passion for magic, fueled by a Christian outreach program for young children and adult involvement in the Foster Parents' Association, has turned into a lifelong passion for Randall Yeoman, alias "Bolo the Clown." Yeoman, an information technology professional from the South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center at Redstone Arsenal, and Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Program, Class 02-2 student at the Army Management Staff College here, recently shared his talents and enthusiasm with young patients at Inova Fairfax Children's Hospital.

Why be a clown who performs magic tricks, one might ask?

"Why not!" said Yeoman, father of three and foster father of two.

According to Yeoman, being a clown gives him the ability to use his "kid-friendly" identity to relate to ill children.

"More and more, those of us in the clown and magician profession are learning that we can serve a dual purpose in the community — we can entertain sick kids while providing important therapy," Yeoman said. He explained that by letting kids participate in magic tricks like rolling coins between their fingers and other simple tricks, they develop dexterity in their fingers and hands and foster curiosity and interest beyond the confines of their illnesses.

Yeoman said what he learned at AMSC only enhanced what he uses every day.

"Instead of juggling balls, I was juggling priorities and deadlines," he said, laughing. He then grows serious, saying that SBLM was a great experience for him and he knows he can use what he's learned here in his personal and professional lives.

"I have no problem speaking to people when I'm wearing my face," he said. "With all the oral presenta-

tions required, SBLM forced me to speak to others as just me, which was more challenging."

The 46-year-old magician said he honed his craft by joining several affiliations including the Fellowship of Christian Magicians and the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Being part of a bigger group provides invaluable information and networking, according to Yeoman. He also said that the Internet is his greatest resource for finding books, clown and magic supplies, and tips and tricks from his associates.

According to Yeoman, his colorful vocation does have pitfalls like attracting attention when he's going to a "gig," and risking exposure of his magic tricks. He explained that when coming to AMSC, he decided to bring his makeup case along. He said he went through security and search processes, and expected problems. However, his unusual baggage didn't seem to cause much interest — the guards didn't say a word as they pulled out his red wig, strings of colored hankies, fake flowers and collapsible cups.

Yeoman said another pitfall is the threat of being "found out." Some of his tricks rely upon the reliability and integrity of others like cabinet and prop makers.

"I asked a cabinet maker to take the magician's oath once," he said, laughing. "I was probably his most unusual customer."

Yeoman also said that although everybody likes to be tricked, finding out the secret behind a trick is often a let-down, unless he uses his fail-safe "sucker ending." He explained that when a joke or trick doesn't go as planned or if his curious audience finds out how a trick is performed, he acts like it was supposed to happen that way.

When Yeoman became a foster parent several years ago, he said he not only gained a son but also an associate. Yeoman said that his son Jon, alias, "Jo-Jo," is a top-rate performer who helps him with his magic tricks.

"Finding ways to help your community isn't magic," Yeoman said. "The trick in life is to recognize your real gift, and use it wisely."

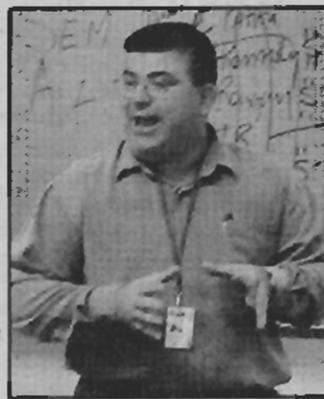


Photo by Galen Williams/ SBLM 02-2  
**UNMASKED**— Randall Yeoman, alias "Bolo the Clown," came out of hiding to give seminar briefings during the Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Program.

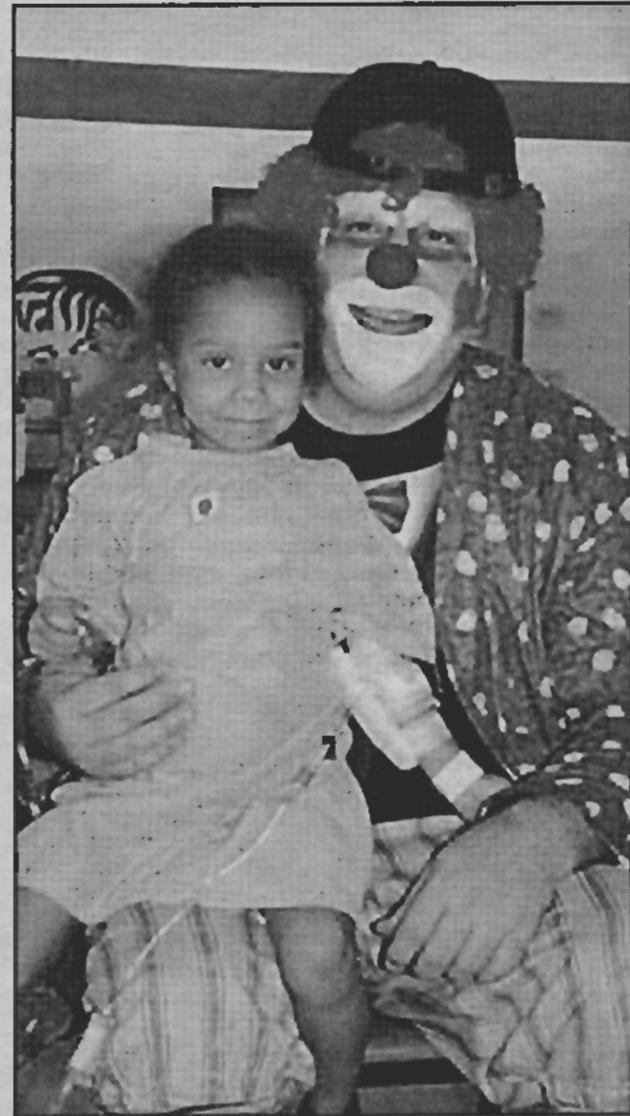


Photo by Galen Williams/ SBLM 02-2  
**NEW FRIEND**— "Bolo the Clown" cuddles Virea Polard during his visit to Inova Fairfax Children's Hospital.

Yeoman and his classmates from SBLM Class 02-2 will graduate Friday.

*Editor's note: Lisa Anderson is a marketing specialist in administrative services at the Army Management Staff College.*



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# Delta starts slow, finishes fast for softball victory

*Hammerin' Kent Hamann powers Dragons past medics*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@htimes.com

The forecast was bleak for the Delta Company slow-pitch softball team.

It appeared Delta would have only nine players July 29 against Medical Company because of uncertain weather. Delta did have 10 on the field when the game started but MEDDAC erupted for eight runs in the top of the first.

But the Devastating Dragons bounced back.

Kent Hamann hammered a two-run double and scored on the play as Delta got three runs in the sixth for a 14-13 win at field 14. Delta improved to 5-4 while Medical Company fell to 2-5.

MEDDAC made its own comeback July 30 with a 14-9 win over previously unbeaten Headquarters & Headquarters Company 59th.

"In my opinion, on any given day we can win," Delta coach/third baseman Johnny Kennedy said. "This team has no quit in it. And that's one thing; we have matured from the first game. There's no quit in these guys."

Hamann started the comeback with his two-run homer in the first. Delta added two unearned runs in the inning to cut the deficit to 8-4. Hamann finished the night with a homer, two doubles - including the game winner - and six RBIs.

"I'm getting too old," Hamann, 37, said while catching his breath after scoring the winning run. "I'd have preferred a walkoff home run as opposed to an in-the-park runoff home run. I'll take the win anyway we can get it."

Hamann played baseball in high school in North Carolina. He's been playing softball ever since joining the Army 18 years ago. He normally plays shortstop for Delta but was on second in this game as the Dragons had to adjust their lineup.

"We started off pretty rough because everybody wasn't sure whether or not it was gonna be rained out," Kennedy said.

The Dragons' season has progressed the same way. Start slow then gain momentum. "Now we've got a competitive squad," Kennedy said.

Lee Hallman had three hits with a double, one RBI and scored three runs for the Dragons. Guy Chanpuang got the win on the mound. Delta trailed 10-5 after two innings, 11-10 after four innings, 12-11 after five innings and 13-11 after the top of the sixth. The Dragons scored the winning runs with one out in the sixth.

"We stayed too close to them," MEDDAC right-center Clifton Perry said. "And they got us in the end with three good runs. But we'll be back next game. We've got to tighten the reins up and ride the horse a little bit harder."

Medical Company pitcher Michael



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**DELTA LINER**— Kent Hamann led Delta with a homer, two doubles - including the game winner - and six RBIs. The Devastating Dragons beat Medical Company 14-13.

Copeland had a three-run double in the first. He batted twice in the inning as the medics sent 12 batters to the plate. They scored eight runs on seven hits and were helped by two errors in that inning which proved to be their offensive highlight.

Johnny Davis had three hits with a double and scored three runs for MEDDAC. Jason Mims went 3-for-3 with three RBIs and a run. But on the night, the medics stranded 10 base runners while Delta left only two.

"We've got to improve a little more on batting and just minimize the errors," MEDDAC second baseman Antonio Mason said. "We played pretty good defense. But too many innings we went three up and three down. We just couldn't get the bats cracking."

The medics did just that the next night against HHC 59th which had won seven straight games. They had two big innings, got the lead and prevailed 14-9.

"We just came to play," Davis, the MEDDAC shortstop/coach, said. "We played good hard ball and we prevailed. We essentially played an error-free game. Lots of hits, we hit the ball. We just showed up. We were really pumped and you have to be to play an undefeated team."

### Game results

Last week's results included:

July 29 - 902nd d. Marines by forfeit, Delta d. MEDDAC 14-13 and Bravo Company d. Headquarters & Alpha 12-5.

July 30 - NCO Academy d. Charlie 167th 13-12 and MEDDAC d. HHC 59th 14-9.

July 31 - HHC 59th d. Charlie 832nd 13-3, Bravo d. 902nd 17-0 and Charlie 167th d. Headquarters & Alpha 17-13.

Aug. 1 - MEDDAC d. Marines 13-3, Delta d. Charlie 832nd 15-5 and Bravo d. NCO Academy 19-1.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**NOWHERE TO RUN**— MEDDAC's Christopher Hudson singled in the sixth but was erased on a fielder's choice.

NCO Academy (4-3), Charlie 167th (5-4), Headquarters & Alpha (3-3) and 902nd (3-5).

National Conference - HHC 59th (8-1), Delta (6-4), MEDDAC (4-5), Charlie 832nd (1-8) and Marines (1-8).

### League standings

Here were the unit-level standings after last week's games:

American Conference - Bravo (7-1),



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# Aye, Matey, there are treasures to be found on Arsenal

## Post treasure hunt promises payoff

By SANDY RIEBELING  
Staff writer  
sandyr@hntimes.com

Free money. What better motivation to take a trip around the Arsenal and see all the activities at my disposal.

When I told my son, Jared, I was going on a treasure hunt at work, his first response was, "Can I come, too?"

Why not, I thought. He's nearly 10 years old and we've only got a few days together before he goes back to school so I printed the map and instructions to the Morale Welfare and Recreation Treasure Hunt, we hopped in my trusty, dusty brown van and headed out.

To his dismay, there were no great ships, high seas, or swashbuckling pirates but it didn't take long before he discovered treasures on his own. Before the 14-stop adventure was complete, he'd garnered quite a trove for himself, including free tickets to a Huntsville Stars baseball game, candy treats, a rubber ball, pens and a "cool" bag.

All the while I was finding the answers to questions about each stop and getting that all important signature.

Many of the places we visited I'd already been because of my work as a staff writer for the *Redstone Rocket* and some I used off the clock.

One of my foster children attended the Youth Center for the summer. They kept him busy with field trips and activities and gave me peace of mind. Parents may want to check into their free after school program for the upcoming year. Child and Youth Services also offers intercession camps during fall, winter and spring breaks. Oh, if only I lived close enough to use it...

A few years ago the arts and crafts lady helped me make a customized stepping stone for one of my son's teachers. I noticed they are having some interesting sales on framing, art supplies, basket supplies, stained glass and general craft supplies until the end of the month.

My sister and I sometimes meet at the Fire House Pub, grab a quick free — I said free — hamburger before an evening of bingo at the Challenger Club. It's a rare treat but a lot of fun. Yes, I realize I live on the edge.

Which brings me to the Flying Activity, a place I thought I'd use to get my private pilot's license until one of the pilots took me for a flight during an interview. I was impressed with the activity, the safety record, the instructor pilot credentials (or I never would have left the ground) but in flight, I discovered that perhaps I should just go to the library and check out an exciting book. Let my mind soar while my feet are firmly on the foot rest of the recliner.

Speaking of books, I learned on my adventure that contractors (that would be me) can now get library cards at the MWR

Library. I was just giddy looking at the stacks filled with all these books — more than 40,000 — about places I've never been and things I have yet to learn. I'm a real fan of ink and parchment but I stopped to take a look at one of the eBooks. My son yanking at my sleeve was the only thing that kept me on my true course of the afternoon.

I returned the favor when he decided we needed to stop and rest at the Rocket Lanes. The idea of Xtreme bowling intrigued him; and he loves to bowl. This I knew was somewhere we would revisit because he can be relentless.

Almost next door, we stopped at the Recreation Center to pick up tickets for the Styx concert Aug. 24. I've already got a baby-sitter booked for the evening.

Onward we sailed to Hotel Redstone. The last time I was there the lobby was being renovated. Wow! It looks completely different and very "uptown."

Next up was the Soldatenstube where we checked out the menu with "schnitzels as big as manhole covers," according to the manager. The Wednesday night buffet sounds tempting, being able to try a little of everything, and nostalgic. I was a cook at a German restaurant during my college days.

Cars in need of repair is also nostalgic of my college days, which brought us to the Auto Skills Center. Rich McKay from Integrated Materiel Management Center had his car on the lift, changing the oil and greasing the chassis. My father was a mechanic so being in the bays brought back some nice memories, the clink of sockets and ratchets, the spinning whir of the air wrench. While I have no burning desire to work on my own car, the center does offer instruction and advice for those who do. People like me are much more likely to take advantage of the diagnostic services. Manager Bill Woosley said checking air conditioners and adding freon are the hot tickets in August for the Auto Skills Center.

Nearing the end of my journey, we pushed on, visiting Outdoor Recreation where they rent anything and everything to do with outdoor sports. A couple was at the counter getting a season pass for the swimming pools on post, while I was searching for the answer to "What's the animal on the top of the computer?" question to continue my hunt. By the way, hunting season on the Arsenal is just around the corner, recreational assistant Bill Parks reminded me. I told him the only kind of hunting I do is for that missing sock in the dryer, which happens to be open season year-round.

My next to last stop was the golf course. I only go there to take pictures of other people playing golf but I do have



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**DO IT YOURSELF—** Rich McKay of Integrated Materiel Management Center takes a lunch break to change his oil at the Auto Skills Center, just one of 14 stops on the MWR Treasure Hunt.

this secret desire to learn. I guess it's not so secret anymore. As fate would have it, the golf course is offering a ladies clinic in September that teaches the basics — driving, putting and the ever important, hitting out of bunkers. Who knows? Maybe you'll see me on the links.

Ah, last but not least, we complete our quest at the Officers and Civilians Club. Vickie McCoy, MWR membership services clerk, smiles at us as we enter the office to find our last clue.

"Did you have a good time?" she asked.

Jared holds up his bag of goodies. "I sure did. I went on a treasure hunt of my own. It was great."

Thinking about it there in the office I realized I'd discovered a few new things myself, things easily overlooked when not reminded. Yes, I would have to say I had a pretty good time.

McCoy gave me some information about membership packages that provide discounts to many of the places I'd visited.

"And having the membership card makes it easier for people to get on post to use the facilities," she added, holding out a large bag full of envelopes — our payoff for a hard day's work.

Jared reached in, picked out an envelope, opened it and carefully counted the five \$10 MWR bills inside.

"Hey, what are we going to do with all this money?" Jared asked.

Somehow I knew there was bowling in our future.



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# Waiting spouses help each other while soldier is away

*Wives' night out Aug. 17 offers crafts and dinner*

By SANDY RIEBELING  
Staff writer  
sandy@himes.com

The Waiting Spouses group sounded like so much fun that military spouse Tracy Silvia couldn't wait to join. Problem was, her husband wasn't deployed.

"I volunteer at ACS and heard about the Waiting Spouses group," Silvia said. "I really wanted to be a part of it but they wouldn't let me because, well... I'm not a waiting spouse. So I did the next best thing. I asked Kristi if she needed help with the program. I was looking for more active ways to volunteer and it was great for me."

It was a good fit for the program, too, according to Kristi Foster, Waiting Spouses coordinator and Army Emergency Relief officer with Army Community Service.

"The group is growing and it's nice to have the help," Foster said. "Tracy is full of great ideas and she has the energy."

Waiting Spouses is a support group for military wives who are geographically separated from their husbands. The group plans an activity or outing once a month to take some time out for themselves and build friendships with women going through similar situations.

The group has gone to plays, concerts, movies, dinner, arts and crafts shows and organized activities like a jewelry making class. "We're always asking members for suggestions for things they want to do," Foster said.

This month, it's a Stampin' Up party and potluck dinner Aug. 17.

"It's going to be really great," Silvia said. "A military spouse, Cindi Delaney, who is not even in the group, is having a party for the group and paying for all the sup-



Courtesy photo

**OUT ON THE TOWN**— July's activity for the Waiting Spouses group was dinner and a play at Burrett on the Mountain and Renaissance Theatre. Performers posed with group members, from left, Michel Hokanson, Tracy Silvia, volunteer coordinator, Gary Knight, actor, Jennifer Simmons, actor sitting, Susan Kenyon, actor and Debbie Roesch.

plies out of her own pocket." Delaney is an ACS volunteer and employee at the Child Development Center.

Stampin' Up projects include decorating and personalizing scrapbook pages, book marks, gift bags, occasion cards, and other paper items. Poly Shrink charms will also be available.

Last month the group attended a dinner and play, "TimePiece," at Burrett on the Mountain and Renaissance Theatre. Only a few in the group were able to go but that's just fine, Foster said. Waiting Spouses has a list of 23 members but not all the members attend every outing.

"Scheduling is probably the hardest thing about the group," Foster said. "Everyone is going everywhere and

it's tough to find a night that suits everyone. We encourage people to come whenever they can."

Free baby-sitting is also provided through designated Family Child Care providers on post. Foster needs to know in advance how many children will need care for the evening.

"Jenny Pugh and Tracy Hope are excellent providers," Silvia said. "And what mom couldn't use a night out without the kids? It's tough when your spouse is away."

But the group isn't just about getting out of the house for one night. It's a support network. Women talk to each other, vent a little, learn ways to manage and cope with the added stress of being a single parent.

"We had one woman who came to the group devastated that her husband had to lengthen his overseas tour," Silvia said. "Another member who hadn't been there the night she came, got her phone number, called to check on her and now the two are going to dinner once a week."

They also help each other when it's time for the husband to come home.

"It may surprise you, but it's really a tough time," Silvia said. "You think everything is going to be wonderful again but there's an adjustment period. You have to learn how to live together again. A lot of the women in the group have gone through this a time or two and can offer some advice."

While the members interact on nights out and through the development of personal relationships, Foster and Silvia contact each person on the list at least twice a month.

"Whether they're active or not we still want to have that link," Foster said. "We check on them, see if there's anything we can do, and let them know what's coming up next."

Anyone interested in attending the August meeting or getting on the Waiting Spouses contact list should call 876-5397.



Pictured left to right: Latasha Leslie, Roberta Rivord, James Allison of Absolute Serenity Spa.

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# Redstone Rocket

# Role models make difference during their lunch break

## Mentors impact lives of local youngsters

By **KELLEY LANE**  
Staff writer  
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

Members of the Redstone community enjoy a nice life here, thanks in part to the city of Huntsville and its residents. Redstone has a longstanding history of working with the area to ensure mutual benefit to the city and the post. One of the simplest ways to keep that partnership going and prosperous is by planning for the future. "Giving back to the community" has become a much used catch phrase by politicians and celebrities. However it is often only lip service to a much needed and essential part of planning for a successful future of our community and our nation. To really help one must not only talk about giving, there must be action involved. That's where the Team Redstone Community Mentor Program comes in.

Through this command program, volunteers meet one-on-one with students from the local school system to be role models, tutors and friends to children who need their help. The program is open to soldiers, government employees, civilians and retirees who believe in the importance of every child and care enough to give one hour a week to enrich their lives and aid their community.

Mose Hall, a financial management analyst in Resources Management for 20 years, got involved when his own children were grown, but he did not wish to stop teaching and being involved with children. A co-worker suggested he try the mentor program. A training process matched each volunteer with a child from the various local schools. The children come from varied backgrounds, but they are all in either academic or social at-

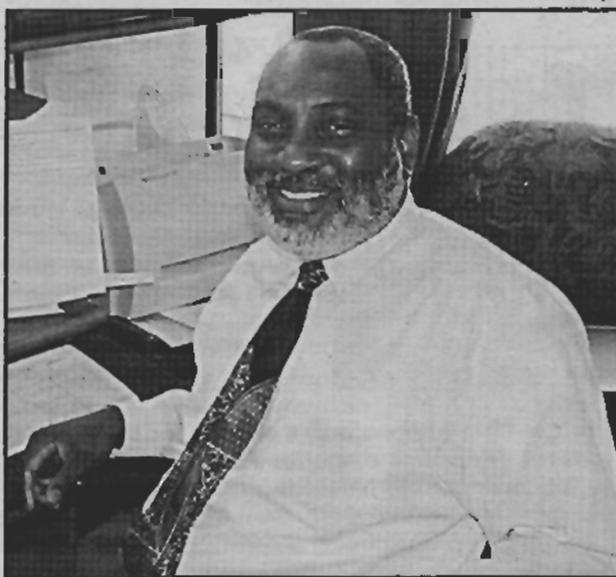


Photo by Kelley Lane

**REAL MENTOR**— Mose Hall, a financial management analyst in Resources Management, volunteers for the Team Redstone Community Mentor Program.

risk situations. Making a difference in the life of such a child may seem a daunting task, but Hall was ready for the challenge.

"Since I had raised three children myself without any problems, I thought I had a lot to offer," he said.

For seven years Hall has made the trip once a week to mentor and counsel the same boy, following him into high school. He has become a trusted and integral part of the life of a child who many would have labeled a lost cause, being from a single parent household and a disci-

pline problem. Hall saw it as an opportunity and his duty to help.

"There are so many kids who are in the system and need help, but no one is there," he said.

No special experience is necessary to be a mentor. The life, social and academic skills that have gotten you where you are now are all that is needed. Good judgment and objectivity are key elements to the mental profile of a mentor, but so are concern, compassion and enthusiasm. Unfortunately, volunteer numbers are down lately. Hall doesn't understand why. "I don't know what the problem is," he said. "I talk to people and they say they don't have time or their supervisor might not want them to go. This is a command program, I'm sure a supervisor is not going to tell you not to support the program."

Having a positive presence in their life from a mentor can show a child that it is possible to succeed and that the world does care what happens to them. However, the number of children needing a mentor is always growing, even if the number of mentors is not.

"If people are given the time to go out and spend with these kids, I really don't see any reason why they shouldn't do that," Hall said.

In a time where public schools are under heavy scrutiny by the community for academic struggles and school violence, this program is a way for people to stop talking about what needs to be done and really do something to help. It can also provide new perspective on the plight of public schools and educators. Mentors see firsthand the efforts of teachers and administrators, but they get to do something that school employees cannot always do in large classes and overcrowded schools, spend one-on-one time catering to the specific needs of a child.

See Mentor on page 15

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# Storage building discovery is rattling experience

*Snake skin found during inventory*

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

It's not the type thing you'd like to find in a storage building or anywhere else.

SSgt. Jerryl Yarbrough, supply NCO for Headquarters & Headquarters Company 59th, was supervising two soldiers while working in storage building 3614 on July 23. They were cleaning out the warehouse and preparing some old equipment for turn-in when they found a snake skin.

Fortunately, the snake wasn't attached and never made an appearance.

"It's a diamondback rattlesnake, quite poisonous," Yarbrough said. The skin wasn't there when the soldiers were cleaning out one of the storage cages that morning, but they found it when they returned that afternoon.

The fresh skin was inside the storage cage and pieces of it were in a nearby hallway. "So apparently (the snake) had been out crawling around," Yarbrough said.

Yarbrough, 29, from Lufkin, Texas, knows about snakes. He used to encounter them while picking berries and



Photo by Lawrence Welcomes/stock control  
**UNCLAIMED PROPERTY**— SSgt. Jerryl Yarbrough of HHC 59th shows the sneke skin discovered in a storage building July 23.

going fishing back home. He also had two pet snakes, ball pythons.

"I just feel everybody needs to make sure their areas are clean and be careful before they go inside their (storage) cages," Yarbrough said, "because some people have pallets and I know they like to hide in stuff like that."



## Grilling out

Photo by Spec. Evan Morrow

MSgt. Teresa Rowland takes care of business at the grill during the Headquarters & Alpha Company barbecue Friday while SFC Michael Coman looks on.

## Program needs more volunteer mentors

### Mentor

continued from page 14

Whether it be help with math homework, problems at home, or more complicated issues, having an adult friend say that they are there for you, to help just you, can mean all the difference in the world.

Mentoring may seem like a one way street, but it is not. While the obvious benefit is to the child and the community, mentors take things from the experience that cannot be found elsewhere. Mentors get the feeling of satisfaction that comes from knowing that you are a positive part of a child's life. You know

that every week a child is waiting for you with anticipation. Mentoring can improve your parenting skills and how you relate to the people in your lives. It can raise your social consciousness. It can also help eliminate stereotypes. Through helping a child, you can learn more about yourself and the world that you might never have known otherwise. You learn that it is possible for one person to make a difference.

For more information on the Team Redstone Community Mentor Program or an application to be a mentor, call Ruby Turner in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program office at 876-5705.

# Higher headquarters cites auditor for outstanding performance

*Rodger Keene receives annual recognition*

By SHARIE MILLER  
For the Rocket

Rodger Keene of the Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office has been named runner-up for the Army Materiel Command Auditor of the Year Award for 2001.

"The award is based on Keene's outstanding performance, professional audit products, and significant contributions to this command, AMC and DA, while serving as team leader in the internal review section of the Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office here at AMCOM," Ellis Cox, chief of the Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office, said. "He was assigned 20 audits/reviews during the nomination period, leading his team to

the completion of 16. His audit programs, work papers, draft and final audit reports were exceptional."

"Every audit is different," Keene, a team leader and auditor, said. "Although the types of audits have not changed much over the years, the way they are performed is quite different. These days, audits are more extensive and more limited in scope. More audits are done, but this helps auditors complete them quicker."

Audits are performed to make sure that management controls are working and to prevent fraud and waste. They are also used to find better ways to do things.

"Only a small portion of audits are done looking for illegal trends or systemic problems," Keene said. "Most audits are started because someone has identified a problem."

He has spent 22 of his 32 years of civil service at Redstone.

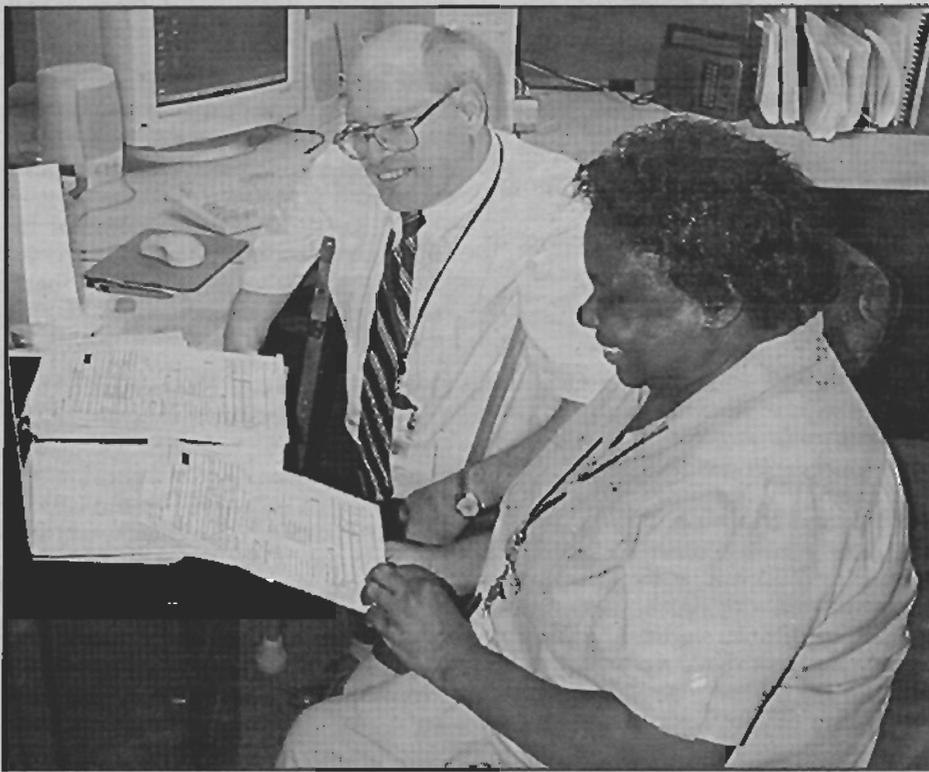


Photo by Sharie Miller

**PAPERWORK**— Rodger Keene and Eura Reaves work in the Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office. Keene is runner-up for the Army Materiel Command Auditor of the Year Award.



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