

Redstone Rocket

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Lab personnel demo gets five more years

Union, command agree with work force support

By SKIP VAUGHN
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An experiment that has changed how research center people are paid and promoted has earned an extension.

The Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory Personnel Demonstration project will continue for another five-year test period under an agreement signed Friday by leaders of the union and command. Bargaining unit employees of the Research Development and Engineering Center have participated in the Department of Defense project since 1997. This represents most of the center's 2,336 workers.

"By far the majority of the employees have indicated to me, both privately and in called meetings at RDEC, that they wanted it renewed," Jim Brothers, president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 1858, said. "I'm talking about 98 percent of them did. Only 1 out of 50 opposed it."

Key features of the demonstration include pay banding, pay-for-performance management system, simplified classification, training for degrees, advanced in-hire pay setting, sabbaticals, voluntary emeritus participants, extraordinary performance pay, local intern accelerated pay setting, and a distinguished scholastic achievement appointment authority.

"This has been with the union's full participation," Dr. William McCorkle, director



Photo by Skip Vaughn

IT'S OFFICIAL— Signing the laboratory demonstration project extension are, from left, Dr. William McCorkle, director of the Research Development and Engineering Center; Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal; and Jim Brothers, president of AFGE Local 1858. Looking on are Lana Hargrove of RDEC; Tim Grey, director of personnel and training; Jackle Bennett and Brooke Woerner of Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Earl Smith and Bill Clemons of AFGE Local 1858.

of Research Development and Engineering Center, said. "This has been a really good thing. The union and the RDEC are really good friends."

The memorandum of agreement for a five-year extension was signed by Brothers, McCorkle and Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal.

More than five years ago, the union and command agreed to the project for the research center's bargaining unit employees. This project, a first of its kind in the Army, began Sept. 28, 1997. The Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel Management agreed that, after five

years, the entire demonstration would be re-examined for either permanent implementation, change and another 3-5 year test period, or expiration.

"It's turned out to be a very effective way for the government to get its work done and a very good way for folks to do their job," Dodgen said.

Since the personnel demonstration is essentially an open-ended experiment, any changes can be made immediately after negotiations with AFGE Local 1858 and subsequent publication of the new personnel features in a DoD Federal Register Notice. The project's Personnel Management

See Demonstration on page 7

American Red Cross wants to beef up blood donor base



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

THE GIFT OF LIFE— Barry Porter, manager of the Madleon/Marshall County chapter of the American Red Cross, talks with donor Bill Summers about the growing need for blood donors and thanks him for doing his part.

Mad cow disease exclusions cut number of potential givers

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
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Bill Summers lays his head back, relaxing in the blue recliner, his legs crossed at the ankles, one arm thrust out to his side. From the needle in his arm, the connecting tube turns crimson red, slowly filling a pint size plastic bag with blood.

It's not a big deal for Summers, who donates regularly at the Red Cross office downtown. He even jokes with collection specialist Bridget Jones, calling her the "head vampire."

But for the stranger, who in a time of crisis cannot survive without it, what Summers offers is nothing less than a miracle. It is a miracle, however, in short supply.

"We're coming up on Labor Day weekend. Holidays always increase the demand on our blood supplies," Barry Porter, manager of

See Donors on page 7

Military families are one big family

Our family recently had an experience that would change our lives forever. Only because of many amazingly generous and thoughtful military families were we able to get through what we hope will be some of the toughest times that we'll ever have to face.

It began with a telephone call to my neighbor, Suzi, because I felt light-headed and my heart racing. She calmly called 911 and spoke to the operator about my symptoms until the ambulance arrived. Suzi made sure that all of my children were taken care of and sent her husband, Tom, to find my husband. As I was put in the ambulance, several neighbors were there to see if they could help and were very concerned. Suzi made sure that she and my infant son rode along in the ambulance. Suzi was my Guardian Angel that day. Had she not had the foresight to call 911, I would not be here today. After spending seven days at Huntsville Hospital and three and a half days at University of Alabama at Birmingham, the cardiologist at UAB diagnosed me with a rare genetic heart disorder that is extremely life-threatening. I had an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator put in at UAB and was finally able to return home after being in the hospital for 11 days.

While I was away and for two weeks after I returned, neighbors all along Ripley Drive, Cooke Drive and Bomford Road jumped in to help in any way that they could. We had meals served to us

every other day for 3-4 weeks — all from people in this neighborhood. Various neighbors also watched the girls off and on to help out.

Suzi and Tom Harrison in particular took care of the children for several days while my husband went back and forth to the hospital and before family was able to arrive. Suzi helped my husband give our infant son bottle after bottle, which he had never taken before. The girls missed their mommy, and Tom and Suzi were both there to comfort them. On top of taking care of her own children, my husband, and my children, she somehow found the time to visit me in the hospital. She just sat, talked and held my hand. She was my Guardian Angel to the end and still is to this day.

As a military family, we often miss being near family of our own. But this experience has reminded us that military families are all like one big family. We gladly welcome new neighbors and sadly farewell neighbors who are leaving. We are always there to help each other whenever necessary — no questions asked. We make the most of the sometimes very short time that we have together. We make new friendships everywhere we go that last a lifetime. We are proud and honored to be a part of such an elite group and are grateful to every other military family out there. We are truly one of a kind!

Kim and Matt Russell

Thanks for community support

I would like to extend a public and heartfelt thank you to the Redstone community for its support of the C.W. Bill Young Bone Marrow Drive. I would first like to thank the eighty volunteers who registered for the National Marrow Donor Program. They provided 80 new opportunities to save a life.

I would like to thank the staff at the Recreation Center for providing the location and support for the drive; the 832nd Ordnance Battalion, drill sergeants, staff and instructors of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School for encouraging the soldiers to participate and providing them the opportunity to do so; and Ms. Jean Weisser of IMMC for her help organizing and coordinating this event. And thanks

to my wife Sue and daughter Stacie, who provided food, drink and most importantly, encouragement from the time I started organizing this event until the cleanup after. A very special thank you has to go to two organizations on Redstone Arsenal, the Officer and Civilian Women's Club as well as the Enlisted Spouses Club. These wonderful volunteers provided refreshments, their precious time and even more dear to my heart they registered for the NMDP. And last but certainly not least, thanks to MSgt. Paul Goodspeed and the soldiers from Fox Army Health Center. Without them this drive would not have been successful. Thank you all for your support.

Sgt. Maj. Bob Furla

Union has concerns about project

During the July 30 Acquisition Demonstration Briefing I asked Mr. (Jim) Brothers, president of AFGE Local 1858, to explain our union's position on the proposed Acquisition Demonstration Project. He replied, they are currently opposed to it but that position could change if 23 concerns were successfully addressed by the command. I request that the union's position be published including those 23 concerns. I have only heard the command's position and as a proud, card carrying member of the AFGE Local 1858 I want to know what issues are being nego-

tiated or negotiated away.

Anita Epps

Editor's note: The American Federation of Government Employees, Local 1858, provided the following response. "Any AMCOM employee who wishes to have a copy of the 23 concerns may obtain it by calling our office at 876-4880 or 881-7430 and request a copy from our secretary, Ms. Mae Nell Perkins, who will either send a copy via e-mail or fax to the requestor. Anyone may pick up a copy at our office in building 3202 on Mauler Road."

Rescued driver appreciates team

On the evening of Aug. 7, upon completion of my workout behind pool 1 (Vincent Drive), I accidentally backed my vehicle into a ditch. Try as I may, to no avail I was unable to free the standard shift. After making several attempts to free my vehicle, I decided to seek assistance. The reason I'm writing this letter is because I would like to extend my gratitude to the 'many' folks who came to my rescue by rendering their assistance. I would like to

thank Mr. Jay and his family. Mr. Jay alone went to the extent of pushing my vehicle out of the ditch. Sad to say, this attempt failed; however, Mr. Jay did not give up. Mr. Jay went back to his job (with his young son at his side) to get rope to tow my vehicle out of the ditch. Mr. Jay suggested prior to his departure I phone my insurance company for a wrecker. I did but was told it would be a

See Rescue on page 3

Worker questions logic of smart cards

I have worked at Redstone Arsenal since 1966, and have seen many changes in the intervening years. The most notable trend over these years has been the intrusion of the government into the lives of individuals. I realize that working at RSA (the government) brings a certain amount of intrusion into one's life just by the nature of the job. The other "government intrusions" are those that we have allowed to occur because

we are too lazy and/or too apathetic to try to correct. In essence, then, we have given up much of our freedom. But what about "America, home of the brave, land of the free"? To the world, our nation represents the optimum condition of freedom, and I will endorse that. But America's individuals are having their freedoms curtailed more each day, as the

See Cards on page 3

Rocket rumblings: On preventing school violence

With children back in 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.



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Army identifies paratrooper wounded in Afghanistan

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The Army has identified the 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper who was wounded near L'Ware, Afghanistan Aug. 7.

Sgt. Patrick Holt, 24, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, was wounded after he came under enemy small arms fire while conducting a reconnaissance patrol with special operations and other conventional forces.

He is listed in stable condition and expected to make a fully recovery, officials said.

Holt, a native of Southfield, Mich., was evacuated to Bagram Airbase for initial treatment and then evacuated to Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany for follow-up treatment.

Editor's note: From an 82nd Airborne Division public release.

Smart cards serve multiple identification roles

Cards

continued from page 2

government continues to intrude. When Patrick Henry made his famous statement, "Give me liberty, or give me death," it is significant that he didn't say, "Give the Colonies liberty, or give the Colonies death." His was a personal search for liberty, specified at the time by his willingness to fight off the perceived yoke of tyranny cast upon the Colonies by Great Britain. Ah, poor Patrick! If he merely offered his life for a chance to be rid of miniscule tea taxes and insignificant tariffs, what could he ever do about such a loss of freedom that we are experiencing today? Then consider the motto of the state of New Hampshire: "Live free or die." It isn't the state that would die; it is the individual!

All of this seems relevant to me because of the article in the July 24 Rocket concerning "smart cards." They seem so logical, so secure, and so easy. Remember the laziness and apathy I mentioned earlier? If we give over another segment of our lives to the government, yes indeed they are their smart cards, because Americans just gave away more of their individual freedoms, and became more "dumbed down." Don't get me wrong, I believe in more security against foreign subversives. But each of

us must help with that effort, and not just blindly trade these increased security restrictions for privacy robbing smart cards. Like Patrick, I want to live free! There is no way to get out of this world alive, and I would prefer that I have to face a little more of an unknown threat than to live out my life as a government mummy. Why are we so hung up on this particular aspect of life anyway, when we are so callous about other life-values? Abortion in our country kills far more people each year than died in the September attacks. Euthanasia is becoming more and more popular. And what about dear old Mom? Yeah, I guess it's time to put her in the nursing home. Are we so selfish that we aren't willing to do anything for ourselves anymore? We trust in Uncle Sam so much that he has become our god. If I choose, can't I live with a little more element of danger, like Patrick, and live free? Not with a smart card, I can't. The new god doesn't intend to let me do that. Wake up America! Now is the time to hold fast to our individual freedom. There are other ways to enforce security than with these soul-robbing smart cards.

I know that there are many of you out there who think these cards are good. So be it, just let me have my choice. Don't take away my freedom in exchange for some slight edge in security; I'm not interested. Live free or die. What is the next step? The Army's Lt. Gen. Peter M.

Team responds to trapped driver

Rescue

continued from page 2

45 minute to one hour wait before the wrecker would arrive.

I was sitting with my foot on the brake, which began to develop a burning sensation that became unbearable. The burning sensation began to get the better of me, and the vehicle gave way. In the meantime, as I sat what seemed like an hour or more, the vehicle began to coax further backward. This posed an additional problem. At this point I was unable to exit the vehicle due to the small space allotted between that of the door and terrain. I no longer had a front view.

Shortly thereafter, other patrons began to approach my vehicle to offer their assistance. One lady went to get post

security, after checking on my well-being. As if this wasn't enough, I started to feel faint and dehydrated. Two gentlemen offered to pull me through the window and another young lady offered me her bottled water.

I do not know the name of the patrons who later came to my rescue by rendering their selfless aid; however, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you (you know who you are) to include the post officer who directed the rescue mission. True team spirit! I would like to add, Jesus charted the way for our learning that, whatever our bad day may involve, He's calling us to meet fellow strugglers where they are, refusing to distance ourselves by reason of any position or resources we may have.

Barbara J. Young
RD&E Center

Cuviello has your life well planned out for you. By 2005, it is his plan to have fully implemented biometrics into these smart cards. This will involve such things as facial, iris, hand geometry, voice, signature, and/or retina recognition. Any Biblical prophecies coming to mind yet? How much longer do you think it will be before these cards will be required of all Americans? How easy will be the next step of inserting these chips from the cards under our skin. Are you going down without a fight?

Mike Wahl
Redstone Technical Test Center

Editor's note: The Personnel and Training Directorate provided the following response. "In an effort to restrict access to sensitive personal information, Department of Defense has worked to consolidate systems throughout the department that process identification cards for all servicemembers, civilian employees, family members, and surviving spouses. Because of the complex and ever expanding requirements to keep personal information secure, DoD decided to establish one identification card for all services that would identify personnel, allow entry into computer systems, allow access to records if applicable, allow

access to facilities, and authorize other services to the cardholder.

"The Common Access Card is the end result of this effort. The CAC will allow every DoD federal employee, regardless of category — military or civilian — to carry one card that will, when fully deployed, ensure security of personal information; provide identification; allow facility access; control network, data base and computer system access; provide emergency medical information; maintain property accountability; pay travel expenses; authorize Internet purchasing; and allow execution of other administrative and financial functions. This card is a powerful tool for the holder as it has memory storage capacity that allows it to be tailored to meet individual requirements and can be modified as the individual's situation changes. The information stored on the CAC interacts with electronic card readers and computer systems to identify the holder as an authorized user of the system or service.

"By adopting this type of identification and access system, DoD will be able to provide much greater control over the security of an individual's personal information as well as ensuring receipt of authorized services in a timely manner for the individual."

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Family focus

Redstone family nominated for award, free trip to Washington



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

MAKING A DIFFERENCE— SSgt. Johnny and Jennifer Kennedy, with their daughter, Meghann, have been nominated for the national AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year award. The Association of the U.S. Army will announce the winner later this month.

Association of U.S. Army sponsors volunteer honor

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

Volunteering may be its own reward but the Association of the U.S. Army wants to make sure volunteers know they are appreciated.

The national headquarters of AUSA created the Volunteer Family of the Year award program this year as a way to honor families who go the extra mile to improve the Army quality of life and the well being of the community.

Redstone nominated two families for the national competition through the Redstone-Huntsville chapter of AUSA: SSgt. Johnny and Jennifer Kennedy and their daughter, Meghann, and SFC Dan and Evelyn Teats and their children, Jordan and Jacob. Since the nomination in June, the Teats have been reassigned to Hawaii, but they are still participants in the competition.

The Kennedys remain at Redstone, immersed in volunteer activities that began for Jennifer just days after arriving on post two years ago.

"The best thing to do when you PCS is to get involved," Jennifer said. "I was here three days when I met Evelyn (Teats). She was involved in everything

and then got me involved."

Jennifer Kennedy is the housing mayor for Endeavor Village, an instructor with Army Family Team Building, treasurer of the Enlisted Spouses Club, and has served the Army Family Action Plan conference for two years, first as a recorder and this year as a delegate. She has also been involved in special projects through these activities and Army Community Service. She was selected as Redstone's New Volunteer of the Year earlier this year.

Besides volunteering, Jennifer works at First Command Financial in Huntsville as an administrative assistant.

SSgt. Johnny Kennedy, D Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, is a senior instructor for AIT soldiers conducting most of his training at the Ammo Supply Point on post.

Kennedy coached his daughter's softball team for two years. The first summer's coaching was interrupted by a six month tour in Hungary, where he continued his volunteer work through public affairs service for the Ohio Air Guard stationed there and with visits to the local orphanage.

Back home he's known as his company's "sports director," putting together teams and coaching softball. He spends a lot of his spare time as Mr. Mom while Jennifer is attending meetings, teaching classes and working on special projects.

Meghann, 8, also gets in on the work from time to time. "I like helping and I've made a lot of new friends," she said.

"Our days are hectic sometimes," Kennedy said. "We come in and tag each other as we pass going from one thing to another. At the end of the year I hardly saw Jennifer for two weeks. She'd come home long enough to change clothes and I'd hear echoes of 'I love you' and 'I'm sorry' coming from down the hall.

"But being able to adapt to change and to support each other no matter what each other does is so important. It's how we keep it together as a family."

"I don't know what we would do without our volunteers," retired Col. Brent Swart, former deputy post commander and nominator of the volunteer families, said. "Then there's this small yet enthusiastic group of core volunteers that you see over and over again. When you sit in the seat of the garrison you see just about everything that comes along — AFTB, Enlisted Spouses Club, little league, the mayor's program and on and on. And these guys were always there."

"It would be tough to pick one family over the other," he said. "They are both deserving families who have given a lot to this community."

Swart's staff worked with other organizations such as Army Community Service, to develop the nomination packets for the local AUSA chapter to submit to the national competition.

"The Volunteer Family of the Year award recognizes Army families who truly make a difference in the Army quality of life and in the community," John Rogers, president of the AUSA Redstone-Huntsville chapter, said. Up to three families can be nominated from each of the 200 chapters nationwide to compete for the award.

Rubbermaid and AUSA are partnership sponsors of the program.

"We honored both families at a luncheon during Armed Forces Week in July and the winner at the national level will receive an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the AUSA convention in October. The winning family will also receive \$1,500 in cash and a supply of Rubbermaid products," Rogers said.

AUSA will announce the winning family later this month.

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Acquisition demo agreement on table for signing

Personnel system would change command-wide under proposal

After several negotiation sessions, the union and management representatives reached a Memorandum of Agreement on Acquisition Demonstration. If signed by Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of Aviation and Missile Command, and Jim Brothers, president of AFGE Local 1858, by Sept. 3, this agreement will allow most AMCOM bargaining unit employees covered by AFGE Local 1858 to join the acquisition demo along with the nonbargaining employees at Redstone Arsenal beginning in March.

Some command employees' positions are excluded from the acquisition demo by law (to include wage system, Lab Demo, intelligence workers under CIPMS, and law enforcement officers). Also excluded would be employees whose positions are scheduled to leave the command by Oct. 15, 2003 unless the positions are scheduled to move to another acquisition demo activity.

Maxine Maples Kilgore, director for Southern and Western Regions, Army Acquisition Career Management, said this is the best acquisition demo agreement reached within the Department of Defense. It would provide employees all the benefits of the acquisition demo while maximizing the employees' rights.

For the first time in history at Redstone Arsenal, this would allow the union to participate in the pay and awards process for bargaining unit employees.

The goal of the Acquisition Demo Negotiation Team was for the union and management to jointly develop an agreement that would provide needed flexibility to compensate command employees for their contributions while protecting them. For example, this is the first agreement in Department of Defense that would give all employees the full general pay increase (annual cost of living) raises

for the life of the agreement. Other agreements within Department of Defense limited the full GPI for all employees to 1 or 2 years, and then included this money as part of the pay pools.

The draft agreement would give the union two seats on the Personnel Policy Board (the governing board of the acquisition demo) and one seat on each of the bargaining unit Pay Pool Panels as full members. Among other responsibilities, the Personnel Policy Board, with management and union participation, will establish the pay pool structure. The Pay Pool Panels review/approve the supervisors' scores and determine the allocation of award money to employees within that pool. No other agreements in DoD give their unions full membership on Pay Pool Panels. For the first time in history at Redstone Arsenal, this would allow the union to participate in the pay and awards process for bargaining unit employees. All Personnel Policy Board, Pay Pool Panel members and all managers will receive training on their responsibilities.

The union members of the acquisition demo negotiation team included Brothers, assistant president Bill Clemons and Ruth Easley. The management representatives included Charlie Barnes, Michael Ayres, Don Dixon and Phyllis Conner. Advisers to the team included Kilgore and Walter Pickett, labor relations adviser at Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

Under the draft agreement, managers and employees would be in separate pay pools and each pay pool would receive the same percentage of money for salary increases and awards. Bargaining unit employees' ratings and awards would be reviewed and approved by Pay Pool Panels that would include union membership. The agreement would protect employees on temporary promotions and also protect employees who have previously competed for developmental positions. Employees would retain their existing rights to appeal or grieve decisions through the negotiated grievance procedure.

More information on the acquisition demo can be found by clicking the Acquisition Workforce Demonstration Project link on the AMCOM Info web.

Editor's note: The joint union and management Acquisition Demo Negotiation Team provided this article.

Women's Equality Day celebrated Aug. 26

Local Army commands and the Office of Personnel Management will celebrate Women's Equality Day with a program at 10 a.m. Aug. 26 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Scheduled speaker is Dr. Amanda Goodson, director of safety and mission assurance at Marshall Space Flight Center.

Goodson is well respected as a speaker and workshop leader. She has the unique ability to be dynamic, motivational, encouraging and educational all at the same time.

She has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, a master's in management and a doctor of ministry degree with emphasis on church administration.

During the program, some local Army activities will present awards to women for outstanding achievements in their careers.

All federal employees, contractor employees and the public are invited to attend.

Women's Equality Day marks the 82nd anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote.

For more information, call the following members of the Aviation and Missile



Courtesy photo

Dr. AMANDA GOODSON

Command's Equal Employment Opportunity Office: Bernard Collier at 876-9223 or Thomas Wharton at 876-3436.

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Purple Heart ceremony serves as annual recognition



Photo by Skip Vaughn

DAY IS DONE— Charlie Kane, a Marine Corps veteran of World War II, performs "Taps" during the Purple Heart Memorial Service.

Aug. 7 marks 220th anniversary of award to U.S. war casualties

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

It was a solemn ceremony to honor those who have given so much for their country.

"All gave some and some gave all," Ken Shepard, past commander of the George A. Rauh Chapter 2201 of the Military Order of Purple Heart, said during the Purple Heart Memorial Service held Aug. 7 near building 3300.

Aug. 7 marked the 220th anniversary of the founding of the Purple Heart, considered the oldest military decoration in the world. The award is presented to members of the U.S. military, or their survivors, who have

been wounded or killed by enemy forces. Shepard and Don Powers, present commander of the Huntsville chapter, led the ceremony attended by about 50 guests and around 200 soldiers from the 832nd Ordnance Battalion, 59th Ordnance Brigade and the Aviation and Missile Command.

The chapter and the Purple Heart memorial site in the school area were established in 1990. Nearly 90 members are on the chapter's rolls but many have moved away through the years. Thirty-nine members have died since 1990.

CSM Lawrence Rogers, command sergeant major for Redstone Arsenal Support Activity, said the ceremony honors soldiers as well as civilians who have been wounded or killed during armed conflict.

"I think of soldiers and civilians who lost their lives on Sept. 11th," he said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

IN REMEMBRANCE— Vicente Tainatongo, member of George A. Rauh Chapter 2201 of the Military Order of Purple Heart, rings memorial bell for each of the 39 members who have died since 1990.

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Parents urged to enforce juvenile curfew policy

Children should be off streets 10-4 each night unless accompanied by authorized adult

PROVOST MARSHAL RELEASE

Periodically the Provost Marshal's Office revisits issues that directly affect the Redstone community in order to serve as a reminder. The installation juvenile curfew policy is one of those issues.

Now that school has started back, children should be focused on homework, athletic programs, etc. However, since the curfew is a year-round policy, the existing installation curfew still remains in effect even through the fall, winter and spring.

The installation curfew is an issue that should be of high importance to us all, particularly with the increased security and force protection measures currently

in effect. By having a curfew in effect, not only does it protect the installation's property and residents, but it also more importantly helps to ensure the safety of our children.

In accordance with AMCOM Regulation 210-2, appendix Z, paragraph C (Control of Children) children under 16 years old will not, except in case of necessity, go or remain on installation streets, highways, public places, or private places held open to the public from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. unless accompanied by either a parent or guardian or a duly authorized adult. Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring that children under their control or supervision abide by these curfew restrictions. Please help us to help you ensure the safety of your children by enforcing the installation juvenile curfew policy and let's have a safe school year.

■ Personnel project deemed among best Defense-wide

Demonstration

continued from page 1

Board, composed of both union and management officials, can identify needed changes. The board is considered unique in the Department of Defense since AFGE Local 1858 has full membership and joins in decisions.

"We've had three amendments to make it better," Brothers said of the project's first five years. "I think overall this is a great example of what we can do as a team."

About 65 percent of the center's workers who responded to a 2001 Office of Personnel Management survey supported

the project. This is the highest rating of any S&T Reinvention Laboratory personnel demonstration project in the Department of Defense. Compared to the China Lake demonstration project, the center's demo achieved this rating level four years earlier. There are five projects in the Army, three in the Navy and one in the Air Force.

During the first five years, all Army demonstration projects are evaluated by Office of Personnel Management. The director of this evaluation effort said at a recent Washington conference that the Research Development and Engineering Center's project is among the top three demonstrations in the Department of Defense.

■ Rules for safer blood put donors in short supply

Donors

continued from page 1

the Madison/Marshall County chapter of the American Red Cross, said. "We're doing everything we can to encourage people to donate."

Conditions were much the same last year around this time. Blood banks had about a day's supply of blood on hand. Then, in September, terror struck. Proud, loyal Americans flooded blood donation centers around the country waiting up to 10 hours to give blood. Two months after the terrorist attacks the nation's blood banks had swelled to a 10-day supply.

"Now we're back down to a one and a half day supply," Porter said. "And because of the new donor rules excluding donors who lived in certain areas around the world, our donor base has decreased. We're having to work harder and harder to get those people who can give, to give more often."

Porter is referring to the new regulations the Food and Drug Administration placed on donors after the outbreak of mad cow disease in several European countries in the mid-1980s.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, widely known as mad cow disease, is a chronic, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of cattle. Worldwide there have been more than 180,000 cases since the disease was first diagnosed in 1986 in Great Britain. People who ingest the BSE agent through tainted meat could contract a brain illness linked to BSE called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

"There's no evidence that mad cow disease or vCJD can be transmitted by blood, none whatsoever," Porter said. "It is a theoretical risk. But we're erring on the side of caution. We're leading the way in making the blood supply safer by expanding on the original FDA regulations."

In 1999 the FDA excluded blood donors who had spent a cumulative total of six months in England since 1980. The American Red Cross not only implemented that regulation but in 2001, voluntarily expanded their policy to defer donors who

have spent time in the United Kingdom for a cumulative total of three months or more since 1980 or donors who have spent time in any other European country for six months or more since 1980 or donors who have received a blood transfusion in the United Kingdom.

"Obviously this affects our community greatly because of all the military here," Porter said. "Not only have we lost the soldier who's spent time in Europe but all of his family who was with him as well. That family will never be allowed to donate, at least not until we come up with a test to detect vCJD in blood."

The American Red Cross implemented the more stringent standards in October 2001. Since then, the FDA has decided to follow suit and new regulations for all blood suppliers will go into effect in October.

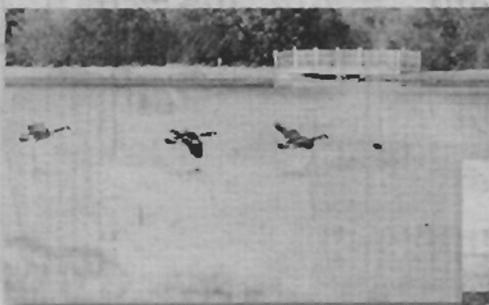
Now Porter has a twofold mission. First he must recruit more donors who qualify under the new regulations to replenish the local donor base lost and at the same time, encourage sporadic donors to become more regular in their giving. Workers from Army affiliated agencies at Redstone Arsenal donated 3,608 units of blood to the Red Cross last year through various drives on post.

"Current Red Cross donors donate an average of 1.7 times per year," Porter said. "Donors can give blood up to six times a year. It's really more a perception problem, I think. People don't realize how quickly time passes and they feel like they just gave when in reality it might have been five or six months ago. Getting these people to donate two or three times a year would be a tremendous help."

Porter isn't sure what to expect as we approach the 9/11 anniversary but he's hopeful that it will be a reminder for people to come and donate again.

"It's a time to remember what happened and those who perished," he said. "To support our nation and its effort on the war on terrorism and to prepare for the future with an adequate, safe blood supply at all times, whether the cause be terror or nature. We're much more likely to get hit with a natural disaster than a terrorist strike. The need for blood continues."

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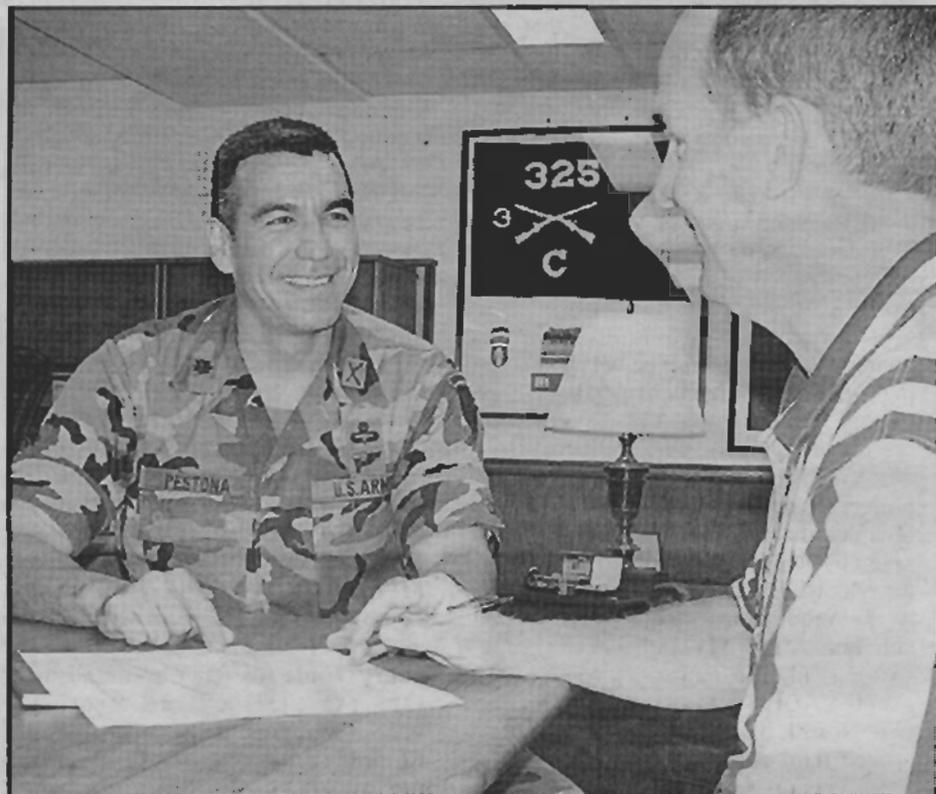


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

ON THE JOB— Lt. Col. Randy Pestona, inspector general for the Aviation and Missile Command, talks with Ernie Morgan, inspections team chief, about proposed inspection topics. Pestona arrived at the Arsenal July 29 after serving three years at the Space and Missile Defense Command as force developer.

Most of Pestona's career spent in light airborne infantry units

By **SANDY RIEBELING**
Staff writer
sandy@huntsville.com

As the son of an Army sergeant major, Lt. Col. Randy Pestona doesn't really have a hometown. He went to three different high schools and graduated in Columbus, Ohio. He's lived in Huntsville longer than anywhere else in the world and liked it so much, he's decided to stay, at least for a while.

Pestona arrived as the new inspector general for the Aviation and Missile Command Aug. 29, after serving three years at the Space and Missile Defense Command as the force structures division chief. This is his first tour as an inspector general and he's looking forward to the challenge.

"Whenever you're given the opportunity to help people, it's a pretty good job," Pestona said. "I'm here to provide assistance and to make sure the right thing is being done. The IG is the eyes, ears, voice and conscience of the command."

The inspector general is tasked with upholding the standards at AMCOM, to ensure that procedures and operating policies comply with Army regulations and are being carried out in a fair and consistent manner.

To that end Pestona's responsibilities include providing assistance, conducting investigations, inquiries and inspections and ensuring compliance through teaching and training.

"When a person comes to me with a problem or the perception of a problem, I try to provide as much confidentiality as possible," he said. "It may be someone with a concern about treatment at the golf course all the way over to how performance awards are decided. We want to make sure people are doing the right thing. And if

they're not, we let them know, and through teaching and training, correct the problem."

Having just completed 20 years in the Army, Pestona has seen life from many different angles.

"I'm a grunt — a muddy boots kind of guy," he said. "Most of my career has been with light airborne infantry units."

Pestona has been around the world and had some unusual assignments since being commissioned as a second lieutenant through the ROTC program in 1982. He saw combat as a platoon leader in Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, was assigned as the presidential security liaison officer for Haitian president Jean Bertrand Aristide and was in charge of the 101st Airborne Division's participation in the 50th Commemoration of D-Day.

"About 100 of us jumped in the Normandy area as part of the 50th anniversary," Pestona said. "The oldtimers jumped first — the guys who'd done it 50 years before — then we jumped. It was pretty special to be there. Very inspiring."

But the proudest moment of his military career had nothing to do with his own lengthy list of accomplishments.

"My daughter, Amy, is a senior at the University of Kentucky on a four-year ROTC scholarship," Pestona said. "She went to Fort Benning (Ga.) for jump school and I did her fourth and fifth jump with her. The proudest moment of my military career was the day I got to pin her wings on her."

Pestona and his wife, Nancy, have two children, Amy and son, Robert, 12, a seventh-grader at Monrovia Middle School.

"The Army's been very, very good to me," he said. "There have been some bittersweet moments but I wouldn't change anything. We're glad to be here in Huntsville. We're spoiled here. And who knows? Maybe we'll retire here someday."

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Working off clock pays off for higher headquarters' honoree

Small business specialist does project after hours

By KELLEY LANE
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

Members of the Redstone community receive numerous awards for their work here at the post. Doing the job well is nothing new here. Occasionally, members of our community are honored for the work they do at home on their own time. Going above and beyond the call of duty makes their achievements exceptional in an environment where excellence is the norm. David Seitz of the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office is one of these exceptional people.

As the deputy chief of the SADBU office, Seitz has been responsible for numerous contributions, including the development of training programs for the 8(a) and HUBZone programs, planning conferences for industry and government business, and support and membership of various integrated product teams. Most notably though is the innovation he has made outside of the office.

In October, the SADBU office received notice that the codes they rely on to identify and classify products and businesses were being changed from the Standard Industry Classification codes to the North American Industry Classification



Photo by Kelley Lane

ANNUAL HONOR— David Seitz shows the award he received as Army Materiel Command's Small Business Specialist of the Year.

System. After having relied on the SIC codes for many years, they knew it was going to be a big adjustment. Soon to present itself was the problem of translating the old codes into the new ones, while verifying by stock numbers, description and other needed codes. This process

involved looking up the items in several different publications to get all of the necessary information, a process that was slowing down office operations.

"This exercise took about 15 to 20 minutes to look up each requirement. It was very time consuming," Seitz said of the process.

As an effort to help the people in his own office and streamline transition to the new codes, Seitz began the monumental task of condensing all the resources into one user-friendly cross reference listing. Working on the project in his spare time on nights and weekends he was able to put the document together in about three weeks. Realizing that this listing would benefit their buyers, who were also struggling with the changes, he expanded his project to include them. When it became obvious that the cross reference could help all the other commands, he included them as well. It has since been distributed by the Acquisition Center to all its personnel, and Army Materiel Command has sent it to all of its major subordinate commands SADBU offices. Further distribution is still being planned. He made a printed hard copy, and an Excel Spreadsheet version so that the listing can be searched by computer for even faster results. It is the only known all inclusive cross reference in existence for the use of those involved with government small business relations.

Seitz has received numerous e-mails from various SADBU offices thanking him for his contribution. Twenty minutes of tedious searching through several books has been reduced to 20 seconds with one publication. Now items could be acquired, received and distributed accordingly in a more timely and efficient manner. The savings generated in terms of time and money by the use of the cross reference are immeasurable. Many have written singing the praises of his listing and its seemingly anonymous author, not knowing that it was Seitz's own creation.

"I got an e-mail from a buyer saying I don't know who developed this thing, but boy it sure comes in handy," he said.

At the fifth annual Small Business Conference June 25-26 in Alexandria, Va., Seitz was honored for his achievement. He received an engraved plaque and was named AMC Small Business Specialist of the Year. The award is given annually to the nominee for outstanding contribution and support of the Small Business Programs. While his other accomplishments were also cited, it is most notably his work developing and implementing the use of his reference listing that has made him stand out this year.

"Nobody told me to do anything," Seitz said of his after-hours project. "I just did it on my own to help myself and the people in my office. The award is very nice and unexpected."

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Bone marrow drive yields potential donors from post



Photo by Spec. Evan Morrow

EASY DOES IT— Spec. Tanya Turner probes for a vein so she can take a sample from Spec. Kristl Hurd during the bone marrow drive Thursday at the Recreation Center.

Blood testing process held twice each year

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

Some people line up for the chance to potentially save someone's life.

That's the case with the bone marrow program which began in November 1992. It's a Department of Defense funded operation run by the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Center in Kensington, Md.

The program must seek authorization for the drive from the installation commander every three years, or if a new installation commander comes in. Testing for potential donors starts after the installation is canvassed with flyers and e-mails.

"Representatives on post handed out 300 flyers down at the Sparkman Center," Jean Weisser, who coordinates the drives here, said.

Those who consent to be tested first fill out an application form that covers medical concerns that might prevent them from donating marrow. They then move over to a station where two witnesses confirm that the individual has consented to be tested.

Lab technicians from Medical Department Activity handled the actual blood

drawing process. Sgt. Jacqueline Brown, a lab technician for 15 years, has plenty of experience with all types of veins.

"Some blood work requires that the patient fast the day before, but this is a come as you are operation. It is important that patients hydrate before they give blood, because this helps make the veins more receptive to the needles," she said.

Samples are sent to the Naval Medical Research Center in Maryland, where lab technicians determine whether any of the applicants can donate bone marrow.

"The names and information of those who are tested is strictly confidential. The Bill Young Marrow Donor Center keeps these records so possible donors can be contacted if they turn out to be a match," Weisser said.

"Testing is free. The average family pays about \$30,000 to find a match, and an individual who consents to be a donor may have to pay up to \$3,000 for all the tests. As it is only 30 percent of those who need transplants find a match within the family, which leaves 70 percent of patients to go to the bone marrow registry looking for a match.

"We try to run two drives a year. The most applicants we've had for a three-hour drive was 181. The most successful drive on post yielded close to 300 applicants. We're looking for this time around to be a great success."

Soldier's fish remedy story causes medical concerns

Unauthorized medications can be dangerous to health

ARMY SURGEON GENERAL RELEASE

Prompted by reports of potential health complications resulting from a soldier's self-medication with drugs purchased "in the fish medication aisle" of a local pet store, the Army Medical Command is taking steps to ensure soldiers and their families are aware of the dangers associated with taking medication without a prescription.

In a letter to the editor of The New England Journal of Medicine published in July, doctors at the Pentagon's DiLorenzo Tricare Health Clinic cited the case of a soldier suffering from a persistent sinus infection. The soldier reluctantly admitted that he had treated himself with a combination of penicillin and sulfa antibiotics intended for fish.

"The idea that you can treat yourself with medicines intended for fish or other animals is a dangerous one," Col. Robert DeFraités, a doctor who heads the Army surgeon general's preventive medicine office, said. "Animal medications are not tested for use in humans or licensed for human use by the Food and Drug Administration. You just don't know what you're getting in terms of the quality and strength of the ingredients."

In addition to questions about the nature of the ingredients, fish antibiotics

and other nonprescription drugs intended for animals could cause side effects, some of them serious.

"Antibiotics and other drugs intended for use in animals could interact with other prescription or non-prescription drugs a soldier might be taking," DeFraités said. "There could be a range of reactions, even severe allergies, which can be fatal."

Like many of his U.S. colleagues, DeFraités is also concerned about over-use of antibiotics.

"If antibiotics are taken or prescribed indiscriminately, they become less effective in fighting disease in the individual who has overused them," DeFraités said. "Or, you can kill bacteria in your body that you need, for example in the digestive tract, and you cause illness or damage to yourself that way."

Some soldiers may perceive that a visit to sick call is a sign of weakness, or fear that they may be removed from duty status by a doctor or medic.

"Dedication to duty is commendable; however, if you don't get care when you need it, you damage both your own health and your unit's health," DeFraités said.

He encouraged soldiers and family members to consult with a health-care provider (doctor, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or pharmacist) before consuming any prescription or nonprescription drugs, especially if other drugs, vitamins or dietary supplements are already being taken.

Other health insurance affects Tricare benefits

TRICARE RELEASE

If you have health care coverage under a plan other than Tricare, you have other health insurance.

Many Tricare beneficiaries are enrolled in other health plans through non-military employers or their spouse's employer. When you are covered by another plan, the other plan, by law, must be considered your primary source of health care coverage, with the following exceptions:

- Veterans Administration coverage (in which beneficiaries who are eligible for both Tricare and VA benefits select either Tricare or VA for coverage of each episode of care)
- Tricare supplements
- Medicaid
- Maternal and child health and Indian health plans
- State Victims of Crime Compensation programs.

That means that each claim must be filed with the other health insurance before it can be filed with Tricare. Once the other plan processes or pays its share of the claim, the claim can be submitted to Tricare, along with the other plan's Explanation of Benefits, which states whether the other plan paid on the

claim, and if so, how much.

If you choose to cancel your other health insurance, there are steps you must take to notify all parties involved so that Tricare can begin to process and pay your claims as the primary insurer:

- Notify the other insurance company in writing that you wish to cancel the insurance. Give the company a date that you wish to cancel its policy and request a confirmation from the other insurer when it has completed your request.

- Bring the confirmation with you to your provider's office. Inform the provider's billing clerk that you are canceling your other health insurance, and show the clerk the confirmation. The doctor's office will then be able to update their records and file your claims correctly.

Fill out the Humana Military Health-care Services Other Health insurance form and submit it to the address listed on the bottom of the form. Tricare Prime members receive OHI forms in their Tricare Prime Enrollment kits. Copies of the form may also be obtained from your local Tricare Service Center at Fox Army Health Center or online from the Beneficiary Services/Online Member Services/Download Forms feature at www.humana-military.com.

Immunization boosts defense against childhood diseases

By LINDA DONNELLY
Fox Army Health Center

It's that time again - it feels like summer, but children have already returned to school. Now is the ideal time to get all your family's immunizations up-to-date.

Immunizations are not just for babies and young children. Although the majority of immunizations are given during the first six years of life, some require boosters in the adolescent or adult years.

Immunizations, or vaccinations, are an artificial way to produce immunity to specific diseases. When a baby is born, they normally have immunity to certain diseases, but this immunity is only temporary. Immunizations are one of the best ways to protect your child and yourself from contagious diseases that at one time killed or seriously disabled many people in the United States.

Recommended immunizations during childhood are: Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus toxoids and Acellular Pertussis, Haemophilus Influenzae type b, Inactivated polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella, Pneumococcal conjugate, and varicella. Additionally, due to certain conditions, some children should receive Hepatitis A and Influenza. Your healthcare provider can help determine which vaccines are recommended or required.

Immunizations recommended for adolescents and adults are dependent upon individual risk and can include Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Inactivated poliovirus, Influenza and Pneumococcal, Measles,

Mumps and Rubella, Meningococcal, Tetanus-diphtheria and Varicella. Again, your healthcare provider can offer advice or recommendations.

Vaccinations are among the most effective and risk-free medicines available. There is extensive testing done before a vaccine is licensed for public use. In most cases, the possible risks associated with contracting the disease are much more severe than any potential side effects of the vaccine; however, there are some common side effects of vaccines. These are a low-grade fever, and some redness or soreness at the location of the injection. Your healthcare provider can provide information on the risks and benefits associated with specific vaccines.

Due to the high percentage of vaccinated people in the United States, many potentially deadly diseases have nearly disappeared in this country. That does not mean that the viruses or bacteria that cause the disease have vanished. They are still out there and can be brought into this country by foreign visitors, or by U.S. residents who travel overseas. That is why it is extremely important to maintain our immunization programs. Without immunizations, these diseases could spread quickly throughout the country. For more information on immunizations, contact your healthcare provider or your local county health department.

Editor's note: Linda Donnelly is a health systems specialist at Fox Army Health Center.

Outdoor warning: Mosquito bites can carry risk with itch

West Nile Virus
sometimes fatal

By CHERIE MILLER
Fox Army Health Center

The new buzzword in the public health arena is West Nile Virus, a mosquito borne disease quickly making its presence known throughout the United States.

West Nile encephalitis is an infection of the brain caused by WNV, which is typically found in Africa, west Asia, and the Middle East. It had never been documented in the western hemisphere prior to 1999, but is closely related to St. Louis encephalitis that is common in the U.S. WNV is transmitted to humans by the bite of a mosquito that is infected with the virus. Mosquitoes become infected by feeding on birds that carry WNV in their blood. Infected mosquitoes then transmit the virus to humans and animals. Symptoms occur from 5-15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito and range from mild flu like symptoms to severe illness affecting the central nervous system. Death results in 3-15 percent of the cases.

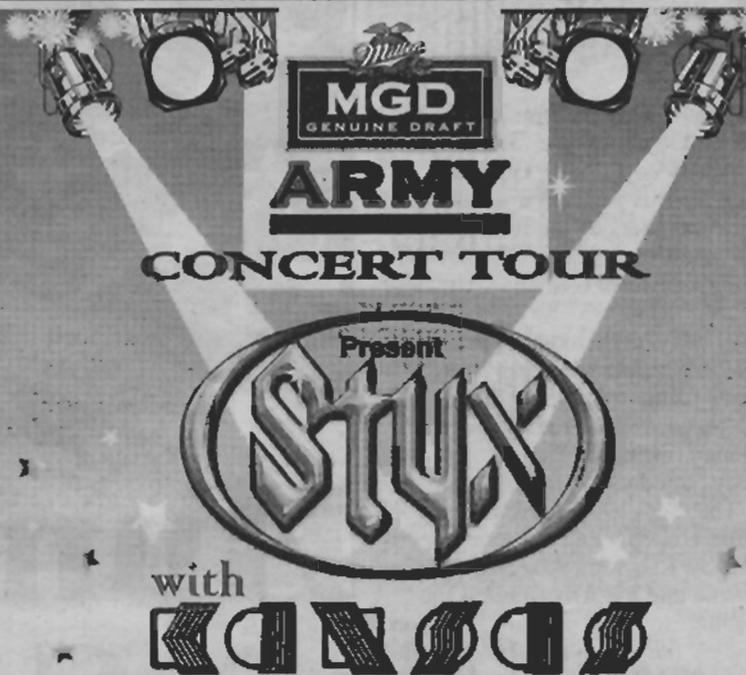
During the summer of 1999, there were 56 human cases of presumed St. Louis encephalitis in the state of New York. The unusual death of some birds in the same area promoted an investigation that revealed the outbreak to be West Nile encephalitis. Public health officials began a proactive program of surveillance among bird and mosquito populations along the eastern seaboard states expecting the virus to migrate state by state.

Health departments, vector control agencies, and veterinarians at Redstone Arsenal, and throughout Alabama, perform surveillance for WNV to detect and control infected mosquitoes and birds as early as possible. In addition you can implement control measures minimizing the risk of exposure by reducing or eliminating breeding sites and harborage.

Since mosquitoes breed in standing water, a good control measure at home is to eliminate such sites. Old tires are the favorite breeding area for mosquitoes and should be completely removed from your property. Empty stagnant water in

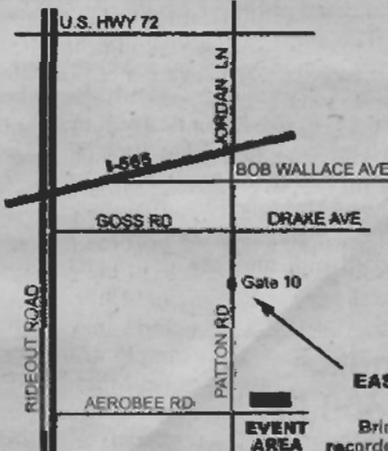
See Bites on page 13

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Redstone, Huntsville unite for patriotic tribute concert

Higher headquarters band performs at park Sept. 9

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

The Army Materiel Command's band, or "AMC's Own" as the 389th Army Band of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., is designated, will perform a special free concert for members of the Redstone and local communities Sept. 9 at Huntsville's Big Spring Park from 6 to approximately 8 p.m.

The Monday night concert is scheduled for the week marking the first anniversary of the tragic Sept. 11 events, and will feature special tributes to soldiers, police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians/paramedics. The Sept. 9 concert's theme is "Huntsville United," and the event is co-sponsored by Redstone Arsenal, the city of Huntsville and the Arts Council Inc.

According to SFC Bryan Simpson, who handles the 389th's operations and plans, Gen. Paul Kern, AMC's commander, was personally responsible for making the band's visit possible.

"Gen. Kern said he wanted us to visit his subordinate commands and installations and play for the communities," Simpson said. "Finding funding to bring a band our size can be a problem for some commands and installations, and having a venue big enough to support a large audience can also be an issue. Gen. Kern had AMC fund the travel costs, and communities like Huntsville are supporting our efforts by finding us locations that make our music available to soldiers and civilians."

The timing of the band's visit could not have been better, according to Simpson. "Our visits to AMC commands and installations are largely scheduled for September, and 9/11 is on everyone's mind. We are really seeing a lot of interest and excitement about our concerts," he said.

The 389th Army Band's history goes back almost 60 years, and the band has ties and "lineage" that can be traced back to the 13th Cavalry Regimental Band and the U.S. Army Signal Corps Band. The 389th Army Band was activated at Fort Monmouth, N.J., in 1944. During World



Huntsville United Sept. 9, 2002

LOCAL LOGO— The theme for the Sept. 9 concert and tribute is "Huntsville United." Shirts featuring the "Huntsville United Sept. 9" logo are being sold by the Volunteer Center of Huntsville and Madison County and can be purchased on post through CWFC representatives for \$10 each.

War II, the 389th Army Band helped sell more than \$1 million in war bonds, and was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) for its contribution to the war effort. In 1986 the Secretary of the Army designated the 389th Army Band as "AMC's Own," meaning the band represents all of the 65,000 Army Materiel Command military and civilian personnel.

The band is commanded by CWO 4 Jerry Standridge, who led the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Band before coming to the 389th Army Band.

The band will also include a special guest during its visit to Huntsville and other AMC tour sites. Col. Julia E. Oliver of the Maryland Defense Force (State Guard), an alto clarinetist and a former

Army Women's Army Corps member, will play with the 389th Army Band. "Col. Oliver holds the distinction of being the first and only woman assigned to an Army band other than the WAC band when she joined the 173rd Army Band at Fort Dix, N.J.," Simpson said.

The 389th Army Band's performance at the Sept. 9 "Huntsville United" concert will conclude with an audience-participation candle lighting tribute and a fireworks show.

There is no charge to enter the park area, and attendees are invited to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnics. Concession stands will sell pizza, soft drinks and snacks. Other events for the Sept. 9 concert are in the planning stage, and

more information will be forthcoming.

The Volunteer Center of Huntsville and Madison County has been authorized to sell "Huntsville United Sept. 9" T-shirts for the event. Shirts may be purchased on post through the Civilian Welfare Fund Council. The shirts (white with the red, white and blue "Huntsville United Sept. 9" logo on front) are \$10 each and available in medium, large and extra large, and can be purchased by check from any CWFC representative beginning today. For more information, call CWFC president Charles Urban at 955-7662, or vice president Jerry Campbell at 876-8138. A list of CWFC representatives is available on the CWFC Intranet site at https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/cwfc/01_01/poc_062102.doc.



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Local students earn scholarships from admin professionals

Page 13 The Redstone Rocket August 14, 2002

College junior, freshman selected for two awards

IAAP REDSTONE CHAPTER RELEASE

The International Association of Administrative Professionals, Redstone Arsenal Chapter has presented two scholarships.

Jonathan Kyle Hillhouse and MSgt. William Loew each received a \$500 scholarship. Twenty-one members and

three guests attended the awards luncheon at the Officers and Civilians Club. Twenty-six students competed for this year's scholarships.

"We are pleased to assist these men with their expenses toward education in the business field," Pat Motes, the awards chairman, said. "The selections were based on academics, activities, recommendations, community service and an essay."

Loew, assigned to Redstone Arsenal Support Activity, is a junior at Columbia College pursuing a bachelor's degree in

business. He plans to graduate in 2004.

Hillhouse, a 2002 graduate of Lawrence County High School, will attend Memphis University this fall and major in business administration with a minor in history.

"Hopefully our scholarships will help these young men succeed in obtaining their educational and career goals," Motes said.

At the luncheon Motes thanked the members of the scholarship selection committee: Wendy Mitchell, Jackie Kenner and Elizabeth Blackmon. She also reminded members to promote the IAAP scholarship to high school seniors and college

students who plan to major in business and encouraged those not selected this year to apply for the 2002-03 grants.

For more information about the next year's scholarships, call Motes at 876-9317.

Chapter officers for 2002-03 include Susan Douglas, president; Julia Manning, president elect; Sandra Simmons, vice president; Dorothy Scott, treasurer; Beth Hodges, corresponding secretary; and Armita Lee, member-at-large. For information on membership, open to all administrative professionals, call Marilyn Dale at 955-7743.



Photo by Myria Chastain

PRESENTATION— From left are Lisa Loew, her husband MSgt. William Loew, and Pat Motes, the awards chairman. MSgt. Loew received a \$500 scholarship from the International Association of Administrative Professionals, Redstone Arsenal Chapter.

Eliminate breeding sites for mosquitoes

Bites

continued from page 11

birdbaths and other receptacles where mosquitoes may breed. Empty all water from cans, jars, buckets, wading pools and other unused containers or turn them over when not in use. Drain and clean saucers under outdoor plant containers, pet watering dishes and birdbaths at least weekly. Clean clogged roof gutters and repair leaky pipes and outside faucets so that water doesn't collect. Ensure windows and screens are in good repair so that mosquitoes can't enter the home.

For personal protection, avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes will be looking for blood meals. If you must be outside, cover up exposed skin and use a good mosquito repellent. Recommended repellents contain 20-50 percent DEET; apply it lightly and evenly to exposed skin. It is not necessary to put it underneath clothing. When using an insect repellent, always follow label directions.

Editor's note: Cherie Miller is the environmental health and safety manager at Fox Army Health Center. For more information on West Nile Virus, call the Public Health and Education Center at Fox Army Health Center at 876-0196.

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Win or lose

Bravo Company regroups, rebounds from lopsided loss

Defending post champion
tops NCO Academy 18-3

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

The Bravo Company slow-pitch softball team wasn't used to this.

Charlie Company 167th Infantry surprised the Bulldogs 14-4 in four innings Aug. 5 at field 14. The 167th, the activated National Guard unit augmenting security, improved to 6-4. Bravo, the defending post champion, fell to 7-2.

"We just had some really good hitting going on," the 167th's Jack Eagly, who split time at catcher with Daniel Pugh, said. "And we had good defense. A lot of 1-2-3 outs as far as defense goes. This gives us more confidence."

The 167th outit the Bulldogs 12-5. Douglas Keefover, Travis Nelson, Sherman Cook, Wayne Roberts and winning pitcher Jackie Nail had two hits apiece. Keefover, Cook and Roberts doubled. Keefover and Nelson each scored three runs.

Henry Hayes homered and Joseph Helminiak took the loss for the Bulldogs. Corey Chester went 2-for-2, doubled and scored a run.

"They caught us in our time of celebrating the last couple of wins," Bravo first baseman/outfielder Reggie Williams said. "And we took them too lightly."

Don Lewis, league scorekeeper, called Bravo's lopsided loss "a shocker."

How would the Bulldogs respond to this late season adversity, with the playoffs looming Aug. 19-29?

Very well, thank you.

Williams went 3-for-3 with a triple, double, single and five RBIs as Bravo beat the NCO Academy 18-3 in three innings Aug. 7. The Bulldogs outit the Academy 10-5.

"Much better game, but still not to expectation of the Bulldogs," Hayes, the coach and left-center, said. We're



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LEFT IN OUTFIELD— Left fielder Joshua Parsons is part of Bravo's rebuilt outfield that lost three starters in recent weeks. He had two hits, an RBI and scored twice in the 18-3 win over NCO Academy in three innings Aug. 7. Right fielder Jeremiah Thompson had two hits with a double, two RBIs and two runs.

constantly rebuilding but things are getting better."

The Bulldogs had to regroup in recent weeks after losing 75 percent of their starting outfield. Stanley Parker left for Germany. Jay Bernard was reassigned to battalion headquarters and Joe Flowers graduated and returned to Kansas.

"We're gonna repeat," Williams said of Bravo's chances at defending its title. "Make no mistake about it.

We'll reshuffle, reload and start shooting again."

Bravo won't get any sympathy from NCO Academy first baseman Dennis Gibbs who has also seen his team lose players.

"They're in the same boat we are," Gibbs said. "We lost our team last week because of the school environment. We just didn't play together as a team. They're one of the best teams in the league. We were until we lost everybody."

Hayes, on the other hand, believes Bravo has adjusted since losing to Charlie 167th.

"Bad games happen, it just so happened we had a bad game," he said. "Everybody's entitled to one. Monday night (Aug. 5), that's like rebuilding. We lost some people. had to change some people around. A lot of new faces coming out."

And judging from their comeback, the Bulldogs are again armed and ready for the playoffs.

Game results

Last week's results included:

Aug. 5 - Charlie 167th d. Bravo 14-4 in four innings. Headquarters & Alpha d. Charlie 832nd 15-3 and 902nd d. NCO Academy by forfeit.

Aug. 6 - HHC 59th d. Delta 17-10 and Charlie 167th d. 902nd 16-10.

Aug. 7 - Headquarters & Alpha d. HHC 59th 13-12. MEDDAC d. Charlie 832nd 20-7 and Bravo d. NCO Academy 18-3.

Aug. 8 - 902nd d. NCO Academy 18-14, Charlie 167th d. Headquarters & Alpha 11-10 and MEDDAC d. Delta 14-3.

League standings

Here were the unit-level standings entering this week:

American Conference - Bravo (8-2), Charlie 167th (8-4), Headquarters & Alpha (5-4), 902nd (5-6) and NCO Academy (4-6).

National Conference - HHC 59th (9-2), MEDDAC (6-5), Delta (6-6), Marines (1-8) and Charlie 832nd (1-10).

Drive goes distance for young golfers at Redstone

Retired military tournament,
Chrysler raise \$1,800 for
youth golf program

The Rocket City Retired Military Golf Classic and Chrysler Corporation teamed up this year to raise \$1,800 for the Redstone youth golf program.

The annual tournament is held in June;

and this year the tournament committee designated the Redstone Arsenal Youth Golf Program as the charity to benefit. The tournament is open to all retired military and their spouses.

This year Chrysler sponsored the charity drive. There were many other corporate and individual sponsors who also supported the tournament.

Madison Square Chrysler and Jeep had

several new Chrysler cars available for test drive at Redstone Golf Course for the three-day tournament. For every person who took a test drive, \$5 was donated to the charity and the driver received a sleeve of golf balls. The test drives were open to everybody, regardless of whether they golfed in the tournament.

Chrysler has indicated they will return

to sponsor the charity again at next June's tournament.

"So come out and test drive a Chrysler product to help Redstone Arsenal Youth Golf," Jerry Whitsett, chairman of Rocket City Retired Military Golf Classic, said. "A special thanks goes out to Ted and Marge Gortsema, who are the Chrysler representatives who set it up and made it all happen."



Courtesy photo

FOR YOUTH GOLF— From left are Jay Foster, Redstone golf manager; Mike Jeffress, Chrysler sales; Missy Richards, youth sports director; and Col. Bob Devlin, deputy post commander. The \$1,800 check will benefit the Redstone Arsenal Youth Golf Program.

What Steps Should I Take After Experiencing An Auto Accident?

Assuming the bleeding has stopped and the broken bones have been put into casts, the next logical step is to pay close attention to the nerve system that is so often insulted by such traumas. Our office sees a substantial number of these patients. Usually, the sooner the vehicle occupants are examined and treated, the better. Sometimes, patients assume that if there is no direct neck pain or spine there is no damage done. Later, however, the same individuals find that after the swelling subsides, the pain begins. The first step in our office is to take a complete case history of the accident and other history. A thorough examination should be done of the neck, spine, and affected systems. Usually, if there is neck involvement, four to six x-rays are taken of that area to help rule out subluxations, stretched ligaments, and even fractures. If the back is involved, then x-rays are taken of the areas in question. Sometimes ultra sound treatments or muscle stimulation treatments are incorporated with the spinal adjustments to facilitate the treatments. The most important thing a Doctor of Chiropractic does is find and eliminate the misalignments that can pinch nerves and other fragile tissues of the upper neck. Usually all of the expenses of these examinations, x-rays and treatments are covered at 100% by the responsible insurance carrier.

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Dr. Gene Corfman

Master sergeant moonlights as Taekwondo instructor

Jeffery Davis shares time with Youth Center kids

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

The students are all ages, shapes and sizes. But they all share a common desire to learn a martial art. Some desired self-defense and others wanted aerobic exercise.

Whatever their goal, MSgt. Jeffery Davis is ready to teach them Olympic style Taekwondo.

Davis has been teaching for seven years and involved with the sport for 17. "I wanted a new athletic challenge. I felt that I had reached my peak in more traditional sports such as football, basketball and track," he said.

He began teaching at Fort Bragg, N.C., at some of the local schools. After moving to Fort Belvoir, Va., Davis stepped it up a

notch and really became involved with the teaching aspect of the sport.

"I taught every day of the week and observed different styles of teaching, as well as different martial arts," he said.

Davis continues to teach six days a week at Redstone. When he is not with his beginner and intermediate students here Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, he teaches at Gold's Gym.

"One of the biggest personal benefits I get from teaching is being able to give back to the community. I have been blessed with the ability to practice the martial art, but the ability to help members of the community succeed at the art gives me the most satisfaction," he said.

The course is designed to teach students respect for others, discipline and self-confidence.

"Taekwondo Olympic style fighting is a goodwill sport. It's not meant to spawn aggression or teach students how to injure or kill opponents. The focus is not on pain, but on the graceful nature of the sport. Form, technique and good sportsmanship are the key points I'm trying to get across to the students," Davis said.

The program at Redstone has been in place at the Youth Center since November. The Arsenal does not field a squad to compete in tournaments, but competitions probably are in the future as the program matures.

"Students are progressing well. There

are some that I can tell right now would do very well in a competition. Right now I want to build the students' confidence. I want them to feel, 'I can do this,'" Davis said.

He took a class to a tournament at Johnson High so they could experience the electricity of a crowded gym. Competitions consist of forms and free sparring. Forms are routines designed to teach students the basic blocking and striking techniques. The form part of the competition covers the technical aspects of the sport. Free sparring, on the other hand, is the practical employment of these techniques against an opponent.

"There are students who like forms but don't like to fight. There are others who like the free sparring but don't like the forms. I encourage my students to participate in both parts," Davis said.

The success of the program is largely due to the support of the Youth Center staff.

"They have provided the necessary equipment and the facilities to make this thing work, and I hope they know how much we appreciate them," Davis said.

Classes are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at building 3148. Intermediate students train from 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Saturdays from 7-8 a.m. Beginners train from 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 8-9 a.m. Saturdays.



Photo by Spec. Evan Morrow

IMPACT—Rachel Hernandez, who has been in the class since January, strikes a pad held by instructor MSgt. Jeffery Davis during the intermediate class at the Youth Center.

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Rumsfeld says transformation vital to global stability

Secretary of defense describes challenge

By LINDA KOZARYN
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Transforming the Defense Department is as important to the success of the global war on terrorism as other steps the military is doing to combat the threat, said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

The Defense Department contributes significantly to the world's peace and stability, and without stability, the world economy "tanks," Rumsfeld said last week during a roundtable with a group of journalists. When that happens, he said, "none of the hopes and aspirations of people in our country and in the nations with whom we have such extensive economic interaction can be fulfilled."

People need a reasonably stable world, the secretary stressed. They need to know that when their kids go to school they'll come home safely. They need to know that when they invest money they'll get a decent return. They need to know that they won't be attacked in their workplace or when they travel in other parts of the world.

'We do not really face highly competent armies, navies and air forces that are threatening our country today. What we do face are a set of capabilities and technologies and weapons of mass destruction that can cause enormous carnage in our country and deployed forces and friends and allies around the world.'

— Donald Rumsfeld
secretary of defense

How the Defense Department functions, Rumsfeld said, "makes an enormous difference not just to our country, but, because of our interdependence with so many other countries, to their countries as well."

Defense officials have focused on several areas to ensure the military transforms to meet today's and tomorrow's challenges. Attracting and retaining quality people is a top priority, Rumsfeld said.

"We need a work force that is adapted to the future, not the past," he said. "We need people who are capable of operating highly technical activities and providing the kind of leadership that is distinctive in our country and some other democracies."

Second, Rumsfeld said, is modernizing the force. The military must keep replenishing its ships, planes, tanks and other equipment.

"Once your airplane fleet, for example, gets old," he said, "you can keep it in the air, but you have to spend a lot more money on spare parts, and there's a lot more down time. So therefore, you have to have more airplanes to get the same number of sorties."

The military must also keep investing now to ensure the services have the capabilities they'll need 10 to 20 years in the future. "So what you have to do," Rumsfeld explained, "is balance the desire to spend the money on the people side against the desire to modernize and keep what you've got — (keep) your legacy systems going, and then also transform the force in a way that makes sense."

People are often hesitant to invest in items that won't benefit the country until after their careers are over, the secretary noted.

"But, if you think about the F-16 airplane," he noted, "I was at the roll-out for that and we're still flying it." The military rolled out the F-16 in 1975, Rumsfeld said, when he was defense secretary the first time.

"The B-1 bomber is still flying," he added. "I was around for that decision. I was the one who approved the M-1 tank, which was so successful in Desert Storm in the 1990s and is the basic piece of equipment for the Army today."

Decisions made today must be "right."

the secretary declared, since weapon platforms last a long time. He said defense officials are now putting a lot of attention on such investment decisions because the nature of the threats facing the country has changed.

"We do not really face highly competent armies, navies and air forces that are threatening our country today," Rumsfeld said. "What we do face are a set of capa-

bilities and technologies and weapons of mass destruction that can cause enormous carnage in our country and deployed forces and friends and allies around the world."

To deal with that, he concluded, the military has to organize, train and equip to address those kinds of capabilities, "as opposed to just continuing what we were doing in the 20th century."

Promotion boards to test automated system

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Army's sergeant-major board meeting this fall will test a new Automated Selection Board System that eliminates hard-copy files and presents records to board members only as electronic files.

Of the master sergeants in the zone for promotion, only those in the medical field (Career Management Field 91) will be in the test population, personnel officials said. Board members will review individual CMF 91 files (official military personnel file, photo, enlisted record brief, and letter to the board president, if submitted) on the ASBS as electronic files.

The board will review hard-copy records for NCOs in all other career management fields, officials said.

The board is scheduled to convene at the U.S. Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center in Indianapolis Oct. 1. It will review files for those being considered for promotion to sergeant major and command sergeant major, and for those being considered for attendance at the Sergeants Major Course.

CMF 91 noncommissioned officers should review, update and sign their hard-copy enlisted record briefs and DA Form 2-1 to ensure the board has a current back-up record, personnel officials advised. They said NCOs can do this with servicing personnel offices as done in the past.

NCOs in the test population should also access their electronic promotion file via the EREC web site at www.erec.army.mil, officials advised. Once there on the site, CMF 91 NCOs will be able to access their records by clicking on "promotion file." Within the promotion file there are several tabs (OMPF, Photo, ERB, and Statements).

OMPFs should be reviewed for missing or incorrect information, officials advise. They said questions or changes to files can be made directly to EREC following the instructions provided on the EREC web site in the "Enlisted Records

Division/OMPF" portal.

Customer service representatives are available by calling 1-866-771-6357 or DSN 699-3361.

Official photos can be viewed by clicking the "photo" tab. EREC is in the process of scanning the current hard-copy photograph that is on file at EREC.

"We'll scan in approximately 500 photographs for the CMF 91 NCOs prior to the document cutoff date of Sept. 13," said Sgt. Maj. Deborah Seimer at EREC. The remaining photos will be hard-copy.

Regardless of career management field, all NCOs in the zone are asked to process the appropriate SGM/SMC declination statement or CSM acceptance/declination statement in the "statements" tab, officials said.

The first officer files that will test the automated selection process will be the Colonel Army Medical command selection board which takes place from Jan. 21-31, officials said. They added that the next test board will be the Feb. 4 Captain AMEDD promotion selection board.

The U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command in St. Louis began automated boards in February for Active-Guard-Reserve entrance boards, along with AGR company and battalion command selection boards, an AR-PERSCOM official said.

"Officers and non-commissioned officers alike will be notified to review their electronic file through Army Knowledge Online," said George Piccirilli, the director of the Management Support Division in U.S. Army Personnel Command. He said soldiers and officers will essentially validate their own promotion file that board members see. Electronic review of their performance file and photo online is key to the selection process, he said.

"Future board members will use 21-inch monitors giving greater clarity than the microfiche ever did," Piccirilli said. "This process is going to work."

Editor's note: Information provided by the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command public affairs team.

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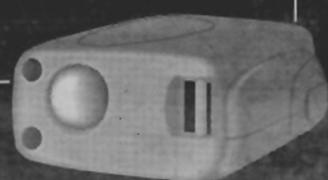
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White gloves, combat boots among lessons to build on

Army Family Team Building classes scheduled for fall

By CHRIS SWART
Army Family Team Building

The focus for the Team Redstone Army Family Team Building Program this year is not only on providing training to new military spouses, servicemembers and civilian employees but also the extended family — significant others, parents, brothers, sisters and grandparents.

Designed to be run and managed by volunteers, AFTB is a family training and readiness program that provides participants with an understanding of Army culture, as well as the skills and resources

they need to become ready, resilient and resourceful members of the military community.

Classes begin in September with "White Gloves and Combat Boots," AFTB Level I training. The classes meet 6-9 p.m. Sept. 17-19 at Army Community Service, building 3491 on Honest John Road.

Level I covers the following topics: Military Customs & Courtesies, Benefits, Entitlements & Compensation, Chain of Command/Chain of Concern, Family & Military Expectations, Military & Civilian Resources, Impact of the Mission on Family Life, Army Family Action Plan, Basic Problem Solving, Operation READY, and Supporting Your Child's Education.

The program needs volunteers to instruct or augment the office staff. AFTB uses a train-the-trainer approach to deliver local installation training. Interested volunteers must complete Level I as an introduction to the program before they can enroll in Instructor Training. The next Instructor Training seminar is scheduled Oct. 21-24 from 6-9 p.m. at Army Community Service. No teaching background is required, just a genuine desire to help Army families succeed.

The AFTB instructor motto for this year is, "Anytime, anywhere, because you care!"

Here is the class schedule:

• Sept. 17-19 — White Gloves & Combat Boots (AFTB Level I)

• Oct. 21-24 — AFTB Instructor Training

• Nov. 19-21 — Guns & Roses (AFTB Level I)

• Jan. 28-30, 2003 — The Big Picture (AFTB Level I)

• March 3-4 and 10-11 — It Takes a Team! (AFTB Level II)

• March 31 through April 3 — AFTB Instructor Training

• April 28-30 — Lessons from the Foxhole (AFTB Level I).

The atmosphere is very casual and the learning environment is always fun. Call 876-5397 to enroll.

Editor's note: Chris Swart is AFTB marketing chairperson.

Alcorn State University alums form local chapter

Alumni meet monthly at Richard Showers Center

By Lt. Col. TONY HODGE
For the Rocket

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Alcorn State University Alumni Association was officially chartered April 6 in Huntsville with 16 charter members.

The primary objective of the chapter is to bind the Tennessee Valley Chapter into a united fellowship working together for the advancement of Alcorn State.

Alcorn State University was founded on the site originally occupied by Oakland College, a school for whites established by the Presbyterian Church. Oakland College closed its doors at the beginning of the Civil War so that its students could answer the call to arms. Upon failing to reopen at the end of the war, the property was sold to the state of Mississippi and renamed Alcorn University in honor of James L. Alcorn in 1871, then governor of the state of Mississippi. Hiram Revels resigned his seat in the U.S. Senate to become Alcorn's first president.

The state legislature provided \$50,000 in cash for 10 successive years for the establishment and overall operations of the college. The state also granted Alcorn three-fifths of the proceeds earned from the sale of 30,000 acres of land scrip for agricultural colleges. The land was sold for \$188,928 with Alcorn receiving a share of \$113,400. This money was to be used solely for the agricultural and mechanical components of the college. From its beginning, Alcorn State University was a land-grant college.

In 1878, the name Alcorn University was changed to Alcorn Agricultural

and Mechanical College. The university's original 225 acres of land have grown to become a 1,700 acre campus. The goals for the college set by the Mississippi legislature clearly emphasized training rather than education. The school, like other black schools during these years, was less a college than a trade school. Alcorn initially was exclusively for black males but in 1895 women were admitted. Today, women outnumber men at the university 1,800 to 1,200.

In 1974 Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College became Alcorn State University. Governor William Waller signed House Bill 298 granting university status to Alcorn and the other state supported colleges. In truth, this law created a change of name rather than of purpose. Alcorn had already become a more diversified university. It provides an undergraduate education that enables students to continue their work in graduate and professional schools, engage in teaching, and enter other professions. It also provides graduate education to equip students for further training in specialized fields while they contribute to the advancement of knowledge through scholarly research and inquiry.

Alcorn began with eight faculty members in 1871. Today there are more than 500 members of the faculty and staff. The student body has grown from 179 mostly local male students to more than 3,000 students from all over the world. While early graduates of Alcorn had limited horizons, more recent alumni are successful doctors, lawyers, dentists, teachers, principals, administrators, managers and entrepreneurs. Dr. Clinton Bristow Jr. became the 16th president in 1995. Dr. Walter Washington, who assumed the presidency in 1969, was the longest-

tenured president in Alcorn's history.

Alcorn will continue to serve the generations to come and its distinct heritage will never be lost. Throughout the university's history, Alcorn has followed a carefully structured plan to retain and enhance the image and potential of students and to attract young people whose intent is to receive a quality education. Alcorn has served Mississippi, the nation and the world for more than 125 years.

The Tennessee Valley Chapter meets

the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Richard Showers Community Center. For more information call Tony Hodge 656-3010, Sam King 864-7272 or Melvin Mayo 876-1731.

Editor's note: Lt. Col. Tony Hodge, Alcorn State class of 1984, is assistant project manager for advanced development in the Precision Fires Rocket and Missiles Project Office. He is president of the Tennessee Valley Chapter.

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Defense Acquisition University on target for training



Courtesy photo

IN AGREEMENT— Jim McCullough, dean of the South Region Defense Acquisition University, signs a memorandum of understanding with Steve Milburn, director of Targets Management Office.

Military children deserve first-rate, first-class education

By RUDI WILLIAMS
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The theme for this year's Military Child Education Coalition conference was "Creating a Legacy for Children." Army Lt. Gen. James T. Hill said this theme is important to parents, educators and servicemembers because all parents want the best for their children.

Hill spoke to the more-than 350 attendees during the fourth annual conference, which was held in San Antonio, Texas, July 31 to Aug. 2. The general is one of the senior leaders for the Army's Secondary Education Transition Study.

Hill told the group he and every other parent must do their part in helping create a meaningful legacy for children. He noted both the military and the American public education system have made dramatic changes during his 35 years of service.

"Today's public schools are seemingly in crisis beset by distractions, detractors and problems on every front," said Hill, commander of I Corps and Fort Lewis, Wash. "They're under-funded, understaffed, hampered with changing urban demographics, union woes, law suits, public and parental apathy, mistrust, violence, home-schooling competition, and political correctness run amok."

However, Hill said he remains optimistic because he works daily with teaching and administrative professionals who are laboring to overcome the obstacles and are committed to a first-rate education for all children.

He noted organizations like the non-profit Military Child Education Coalition "refuse to accept the deterioration of our schools and work diligently doing their

part creating a legacy for children."

Hill said he applauds President Bush's goal of leaving no child behind, but he said, far too often, a whole group of children are left behind. "They're our sons and daughters with special needs," he said. As parents of a child with special needs, Hill said he and his wife, Toni, "know too well the challenges of moving Meghan from school district to school district and advocating for her rights over and over because federal law and guidelines are interpreted differently place to place."

He said parents and educators need to build a legacy for all children, not just "normal" children.

The well-being of service families is essential to readiness, Hill said, and he called education the corner stone of that well-being and of the country's well-being.

A secondary theme for the conference could be, "The Power of Partnership," Hill said. "If we are to achieve our common objectives — which translates into better educational opportunities for our servicemembers and families — we will do it through the power of partnership," he said. The general noted partnerships among educators, local and national government leaders, military leaders, and uniformed and civilian parents all help reach the common goal.

Achieving these objectives requires a commitment to constructive change, creative thought, and understanding that "small-minded people, befuddled with small-minded thoughts" can't stand in the face of determined, thoughtful advocates, Hill pointed out.

For example, he said, the military needs to develop a strategy to obtain in-state tuition policies for servicemembers and their families.

South Region campus signs up Targets Management Office

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

Targets Management Office workers now have a convenient way to get the training they need.

Leaders of the TMO and the South Region Defense Acquisition University signed a memorandum of understanding July 31 to establish an ongoing employee education and training benefit relationship. As a result the university will offer onsite classes at Redstone for the 62-member office. The office and the university have also partnered for all employee development training.

"The first class is in October," Steve Milburn, director of Targets Management Office, said. "There will be a series of classes in October and November, and picking up again in January."

The October class will be taught at the university's Research Park campus and the November class is at the targets office's training facilities. The office at

building 3211 on Hercules Road includes 59 civilians and three soldiers, some of whom are located at test facilities throughout the U.S. Its deputy director is Lt. Col. Al V. Brown.

"We provide aerial and ground targets for the joint service test and training communities," Milburn said. The Army office is part of the Project Manager for Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators under the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command, based in Orlando, Fla.

South Region Defense Acquisition University opened at Research Park with a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 21. The university began in 1971 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

"What we're trying to do with all the PEOs (program executive offices), project offices and major regional commands is establish an outreach program where we are providing real-time consulting and targeted teaching to support community needs," Jim McCullough, dean of the South Region Defense Acquisition University, said. "And this is in addition to our normal teaching of classes for certification. In FY '03 we will be teaching 83 resident courses in Huntsville."

Skelton: History important to students' growth, understanding

By RUDI WILLIAMS
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Quoting ancient politician and philosopher Marcus Tullius Cicero, Missouri Congressman Ike Skelton told attendees at the fourth annual conference of the Military Child Education Coalition that "gratitude is the greatest of all virtues."

Skelton was the final keynote speaker for the conference, which ran from July 31 to Aug. 2. More than 350 principals, teachers, counselors, administrators, servicemembers and parents attended the conclave. They were seeking ways to make life easier for transitioning military children and their parents.

"You play an important part in helping these children transition, learn and grow," Skelton said in expressing his gratitude for MCEC's work in helping military children succeed in school. "What young people learn in school is invaluable, and you help foster and improve the learning environments for military children."

The congressman noted the theme for this year's conference was "Creating a Legacy for Children." He said before a new legacy can be created, children have to understand history.

"History is integral to the values promoted by this society," Skelton said. "But it's something that has fallen by the wayside in many children's lives."

According to the 2001 National Assessment of Education Progress, 57 percent of the nation's high school seniors lack a basic knowledge of U.S. history, 32 percent performed at the basic level, 10

percent at grade-level work and only 1 percent were deemed advanced, Skelton said. Likewise, only about two-thirds of 4th and 8th graders showed a basic understanding of U.S. history, and fewer than one in five students in each grade were deemed proficient.

Skelton said history is important because it's all around us and we use it everyday. "Every decision we make, every observation we have is consciously or subconsciously measured against our own experience, our personal history," he noted.

Doctors, lawyers, judges, and congressmen use history in everyday decision-making, Skelton said.

If he were talking to a bunch of schoolchildren about the importance of learning history, Skelton said, he would give them a shortened version of today's speech. He said he would tell them "that it's interesting, tells them about their roots, and helps them make decisions for their future."

MCEC's work on behalf of military-connected children "is a very important facet of the education picture we look at" when the House Armed Services Committee is considering appropriations for the Department of Defense Education Activity, Skelton said. "The Department of Defense schools are so terribly important," he noted.

The unique nature of military families moving from place to place, post to post, and base to base make it impossible to get basic roots, whether it be in education or otherwise, he said. The Military Child Education Coalition "helps in the transition, the learning process and (ensures) the children are not left out," Skelton said.