

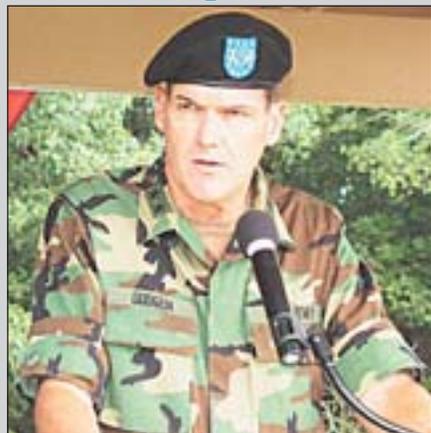
Redstone Rocket

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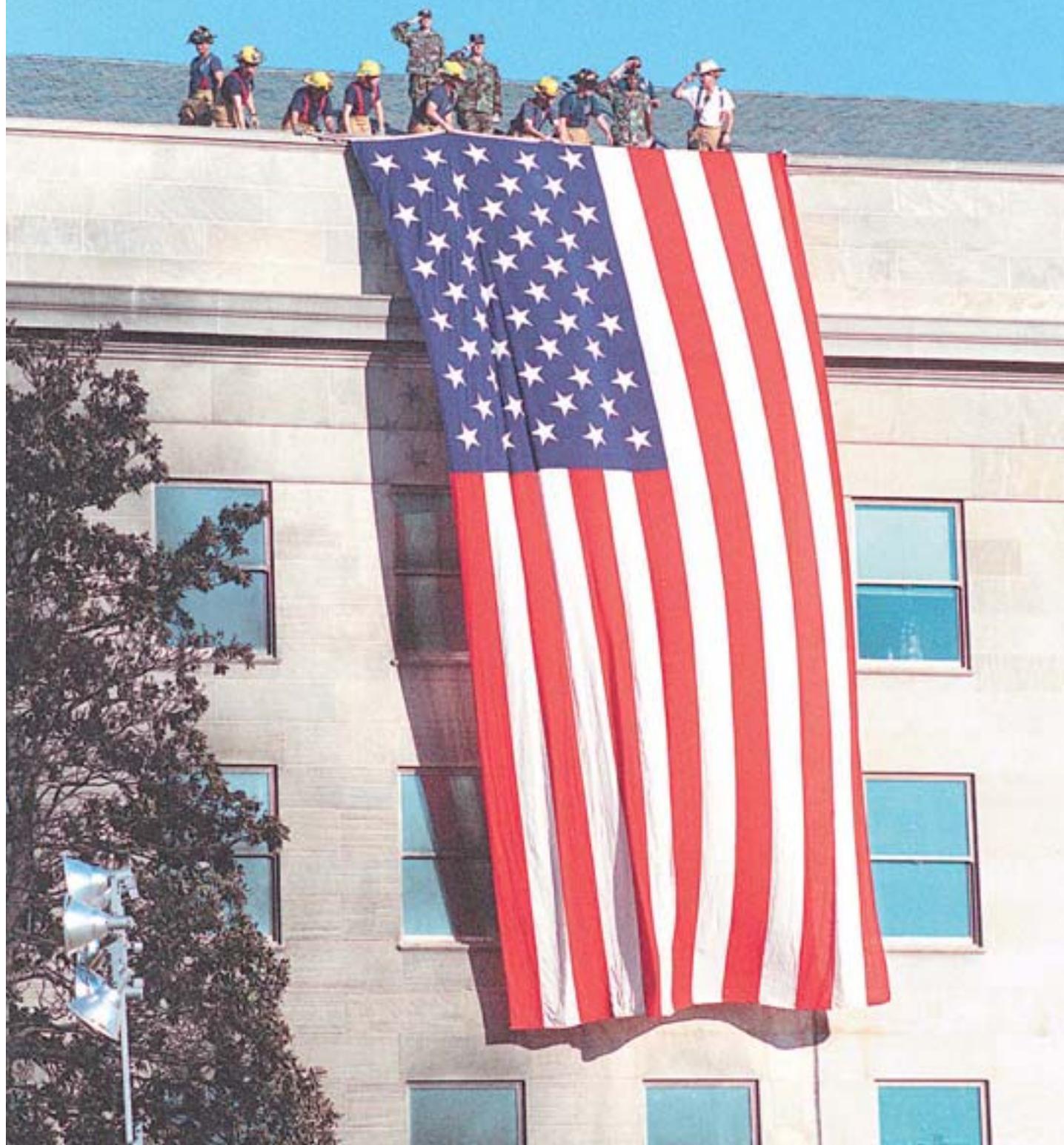
Post profile



Commanding general recalls hectic year

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We will remember September 11, 2001



Hail and farewell



Charlie Company 167th completes mission

Page 7

Win or lose



Headquarters and Alpha drops Delta in tourney

Page 14

Army chief reflects on Sept. 11

On Sept. 11, 2001, without warning or reason, the forces of hatred and fear attacked America. We all remember the pain and anger we felt in the aftermath of those attacks as we honored fallen comrades, colleagues, dear friends, and loved ones who had been lost. Some who survived will live in agony for the rest of their lives. We embraced all of their families during the pain of their bereavement. In remembrance of the sacrifices made that day, we will pause on Sept. 11 for a moment of silence and quiet reflection at each installation and garrison throughout the Army. The times for this observance will be coordinated by each major command.

Our nation has provided and continues to provide the world leadership needed to bring to justice those responsible for these terrible attacks. In the year since, the Army, in concert with other services and our allies, has devoted itself to winning the global war on terrorism, providing stability in those regions of the world important to us, and training to defend the United States and its interests. These commitments have not been without further sacrifice by soldiers who

have gone into harm's way on our behalf. The Army remains "on point for the nation," as it has for over 227 years. By protecting and preserving our way of life, soldiers are keeping faith with all Americans. The Army is strong; it is ready.

Secretary White and I, as well as the rest of the Army leadership, are privileged by your service and inspired by your examples of loyalty, duty, honor and integrity. Your courage, selfless service and respect for one another, and for others, make us the great Army that we are and enable us to fulfill our contract with the American people – to fight and win our nation's wars, decisively.

So as we pause this Sept. 11 to remember the sacrifices of so many during those attacks – in Washington, in New York City and in Pennsylvania – it is appropriate that we reflect on what it means to be an American. God bless each and every one of you, God bless this magnificent Army of ours, and God bless America.

Gen. Eric Shinseki
Army chief of staff

Landscaping idea takes root

When driving into the Sparkman Center off Burose Road, there is a stop sign for people turning left onto Sparkman Circle. We all know to look both ways before entering the street; however, in order to see whether vehicles are coming from the left (especially if you're a short person to begin with), you have to pull out into the crosswalk. Although the landscaping is beautiful at that entrance, the bushes and

the height that they are becomes a safety issue for either the people who are walking or for the drivers turning left onto Sparkman Circle. To keep the landscaping beautiful, I would recommend that the bushes nearest the stop sign be removed while keeping those that are further back from the sign.

Joyce A. Scharf
Integrated Materiel Management Center

Athlete likes Rocketman event

Just wanted you to know I did my fifth Rocketman Triathlon at the wonderful Arsenal, Aug. 25 – number 40 in all since August 1996. This is one of my favorites due to the course and lovely area's facilities. I am so

grateful to be part of this event and more grateful to the U.S. Army and Redstone Arsenal for letting us be there once again! Bless you all!

Regina M. Martin
Guntersville

Fund director appreciates support

Expression of appreciation to Redstone Arsenal:

On behalf of the Board of Managers of Army Emergency Relief, please accept my appreciation for your outstanding support of the 2002 AER fund campaign as evidenced by your command's contribution of \$100,027.

In addition to raising funds that will provide emergency financial assistance

to soldiers and their families, your campaign also improved the understanding of AER's mission and programs by all soldiers in your command. These significant achievements add substance and vitality to the phrase, "Helping the Army take care of its own."

Nathaniel R. Thompson Jr.
director of Army Emergency Relief and retired lieutenant general

Rocket rumblings: Impact of Sept. 11

How have the events of last Sept. 11 affected you?

"To take God's word seriously where it says to pray for our leaders, those in authority over us, to pray for our nation," responds **Debbie L. Montgomery**, who works for contractor CoTs.

"...If there ever was a time our commander in chief, our government officials,

our military commanders needed wisdom, direction and strength to follow through with difficult decisions, it is now."

Send your response to this *Rocket* rumblings question – 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.

Personnel central repository key to reducing gate waits

Access control system planned for emergencies

As a result of the events of last Sept. 11, military and civilian employees found themselves waiting in three hours of traffic to enter Redstone Arsenal gates during periods of increased force protection levels. This situation indicated the need for a better system to control access to Redstone during periods of heightened security and to help minimize the long lines of traffic at the gates.

In a cooperative effort between the Personnel and Training Directorate and the Corporate Information Center, the Personnel Central Repository was developed to ensure that the appropriate military, civilian employees and contractor employees are allowed access to Redstone during periods of increased force protection. Each AMCOM primary organizational element was provided guidance to code their employees under the three conditions of Installation Closed, Key Mission Essential Only, and Weather Emergency. In addition, other Redstone commands and activities were encouraged to code their employees to preclude

problems at the gate, should the commander of Redstone impose heightened security or weather emergency.

The repository consists of several different applications. Currently, one of the key applications, which Aviation and Missile Command employees might find interesting, is the Redstone Personnel Locator. The locator is a database that contains both work and personal contact information. Work telephone numbers will be used to update the local government telephone directories to ensure they are more up-to-date. Personal telephone numbers will be used to contact employees during periods of national emergency or personal emergencies. Personal telephone numbers will be protected and only released to those in your chain of command plus a limited number of people, such as the AMCOM Operations Center, who have a need to know. Employees are encouraged to provide all requested contact information to include work and personal telephone number. At a minimum employees should provide their organization name, office symbol, work numbers and at least one personal emergency con-

Redstone Rocket

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Redstone's commanding general recalls hectic first year

Outpouring of support, patriotism since 9/11 'everyday business' in this community

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

Here's the text of an interview Thursday with Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, who became commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal Sept. 10, 2001, the day before the terrorist attacks on America:

What are your thoughts on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks Sept. 11?

Dodgen: "I guess my thoughts now are to the response of the American people, the soldiers, the firefighters, the policemen, everybody coming together wanting to do something and supporting each other. I guess the one thing I remember is that feeling as a nation. There are few things that drive our diverse society together and 9/11 was one of them. What I remember the most is the giving of the people for the people who have suffered, the support of our armed forces and realizing that the defense of this nation resides in those forces. I just gained an overwhelming confidence in our civil liberties and institutions such as our police officers and firefighters, and an understanding now more than ever that we all have to come together and work together if we're going to truly keep America safe."

How did the attacks impact the initial days of your tour at Redstone?

Dodgen: "The initial impact was a complete rearranging of the priorities. Normally when a commanding general comes in, you want to understand the institution and the people's priorities. In the aftermath of 9/11, it focuses you on security. It focuses you on a certain aspect of the command. So it's certainly taken me longer to get to know the institution. Also after 9/11, you just gain a tremendous respect for the dedication of the soldier and this work force to the security of



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TAKING CHARGE— Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen assumes command of Redstone Arsenal last Sept. 10, the day before the terrorist attacks on this nation.

this nation and to assuring that the soldiers in the field have everything they need in order to move forward."

How would you describe your first year as the commanding general?

Dodgen: "I would say very hectic because of the adjustments to 9/11 and hectic because of all the reorganizations that the military has initiated."

How has the security posture changed in the past year?

Dodgen: "In the aftermath of 9/11, we sent all the workers home and we went to the highest security posture to assure we knew every person on the Arsenal. So we established a security posture I haven't seen short of war, Threatcon (force protection condition) Delta. And since then we have gradually adjusted our security posture to bringing things back as much

as we could to a normal state. The posture is to continue to do the mission of Redstone Arsenal as well as safeguard our well-being. At the same time, routine security and monotony tend to undermine stability. We have continued to make adjustments to our posture to increase our security and keep our guard force alert. The caution is still there and the caution needs to stay there."

What is that posture now?

Dodgen: "If you go to the front of the gates, you see Threatcon Bravo. We're still in a state where we're cautious about people that enter on the Arsenal and we safeguard against unauthorized entry in certain areas. So we're still at a very high state of security compared to before Sept. 11."

What are your goals for the next year?

Dodgen: "I think the No. 1 goal would be the safety and well-being of every individual that works and lives on the Arsenal. At the same time I want to maintain the great support we've given to the soldier. So wherever the soldier is assigned, the aviation and missile support is as responsive as ever. At the same time since next year is the last year of our QDR (Quadrennial Defense Review) cuts, I want to begin to revitalize our work force, to bring

in young people to work on the Arsenal and position the work force for the future."

How secure is Redstone Arsenal?

Dodgen: "I'd have to answer that by saying I'm confident we're looking at the right things, we're monitoring the right things, trying to predict threats of the future. We're doing what we need to do to say the Arsenal is secure and we'll continue to do that. A good part of that is the 100 soldiers of Charlie Company 1st/167th, the job they've done the past year. Which is why we had such a great (farewell) ceremony today to thank Capt. Pugh and 1st Sgt. Haigler and the rest of Charlie Company. I'd say the Arsenal is secure. And I say that because we're recognizing the threats of the past and keeping our eye on the potential threats of the future."

What have you learned about the Redstone Arsenal community since Sept. 11?

Dodgen: "The thing I've learned is that the outpouring of support to the Arsenal and to every person in uniform in the aftermath of 9/11 is everyday business in this community. It involves community support, it involves patriotism. I've learned it's just a natural feeling of a great community and I'd say a special commu-

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Colonel was short distance from Pentagon terrorist attack

De Fatta witnessed compassion during 9/11 rescue attempts

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

"We thought it was a bomb," said Col. Rick De Fatta, who was in the Pentagon "just around the corner" from where the Boeing 757 crashed into the building last Sept. 11.

"I'd just come back from a staff meeting," he said. "We were watching what was going on at the World Trade Center. The second tower had just been hit. Suddenly the building shook. There was a loud thud. We all ran to the windows — believe it or not. We had no idea what was going on."

De Fatta, project manager for Short Range Air Defense, came to Redstone in June. For the year prior, he was assigned to the Pentagon as the chief of staff for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. His office was on the E-ring, very near to where American Airlines flight 77 toppled one of the building's five sides.

"Everyone got out in an orderly fashion," he said. "From the north parking lot, we could see the smoke. We still thought it was a bomb. You couldn't see anything of the plane. Just a lot of smoke and fire."

Anxious to see what had happened, De Fatta had to walk around the entire build-

ing to get to the crash site. Fire crews were coming in. A crowd of 200 people had gathered, mostly military with a few civilians. They stood there waiting to do something but no one knew what to do.

"We organized into litter teams," De Fatta said. "There were four of us to a team — of all ranks — from privates to three-star generals holding a litter. We were standing there with our rubber gloves, ready to go in."

They would be there for six more hours. Watching the fire crews work. Waiting for the chance to re-enter the burning building in the hopes of finding someone alive.

"We would get all ready to go in and then at the last minute, they would pull us back," De Fatta said. "It was so frustrating. Nobody wanted to go into the building but everyone wanted to go in if there was something we could do."

Just after the crash, De Fatta's wife, Michelle, was flooded with calls from family and friends from around the country, wanting to know if he was all right. It took about two hours from the time of the crash until De Fatta was able to call Michelle and reassure her.

"She started crying, she was so relieved," he said. "She asked what she could do but there was nothing any of us could do. It was so totally unbelievable what happened. And there were rumors about everything. No one knew what was going on. We heard that the World Trade



Photo by Sandy Riebeling
TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT— Col. Rick De Fatta, project manager for Short Range Air Defense, draws a sketch of his office location at the Pentagon, just around the corner from where the hijacked plane hit the building Sept. 11.

Center collapsed but it seemed impossible to believe. And not many people tied the two events together, New York and Washington."

Philip De Fatta, a sophomore at Oakton High School, was sitting in class, about 15 miles away from the Pentagon when he heard his principal's voice over the intercom.

"He said that the World Trade Center was attacked and the Pentagon was on fire. Everybody was going psycho. A lot of kids had parents that worked there," Philip said. "Of course I was worried that my dad might have gotten hit. I was able to call my mom and she told me he was OK."

Philip's sister, Lauren, then a high school freshman, remembers walking down the deserted hallway unaware of the terrorist attacks but knowing something just wasn't right.

"I walked into the chorus room. Everyone was crying," Lauren said. "It was about 45 minutes before I got through to my mom. I wanted to make sure my dad wasn't hurt. I was really happy that he was OK but I couldn't show it. Some of the girls were really crying."

"All the TVs were on in the hallways," she said. "We stayed and watched until they said it was safe for us to go home. I didn't get to see my dad that day. He was still there, waiting to pull bodies out of the building."

De Fatta was eventually sent home, realizing that after so long, there was no reason to go into the building. Everyone who had survived was out by then.

It was the first of many long days at work but De Fatta was grateful. Grateful to be alive and that no one in his office was injured or killed. He was grateful that he was able to get the office back up and running in just a few days, despite the heavy smell of smoke and the soot that seemed to cover every square inch of the office.

"The goal was to get back to business as usual, as quick as possible," De Fatta said. "We got back to business but it wasn't like before. Some people wouldn't come back to the office. This one woman would break out in hives every time she came in the building. Anxiety. Post traumatic stress. Everyone was affected in some way."

Soon after the attack, banners, cards and letters of support began to pour in from across America. The halls and walls were covered in well wishes. Memorials were placed inside the Pentagon.

"Lots of people died," De Fatta said. "I didn't realize until I saw a picture of someone on a memorial that it was someone I'd worked with on a regular basis."

See **Compassion** on page 13



Now that we are approaching the 9-11 year mark we here at Sabghi's are truly thankful for our customer's on Redstone Arsenal and their partonage. This past year has been a difficult one for us all and Sabghi's wants you to know we appreciate you and all that you do.

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Garrison commander supports nation's outpouring since 9/11

Col. Devlin was in briefing at Pentagon when plane hit

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

By the time Jennifer Devlin left for work that morning, the terrorists had already struck in New York. She called her mother and her husband, Bob, both of whom were at work in their Pentagon offices, never suspecting that the terrorists had yet another target.

"When I got to work and saw that the Pentagon had been hit, I knew I lost him," said Jennifer, referring to her husband, Col. Bob Devlin. "I knew his office had just moved. My mom was on the south side. I knew she was OK. I knew that he wasn't."

"I'd always swore to myself that I wouldn't be one of those hysterical Army wives but when I saw the TV, I absolutely became the hysterical Army wife."

It took her a while to calm down enough to think clearly. She had to get home, hoping beyond hope that somehow her husband had survived and that he would call. Rumors about other bombs and planes were rampant in the Washington, D.C. area. Unsure of what to believe, Jennifer decided to pick up her son, Owen, 7, from school.

"I couldn't do anything for Bob," she said. "Whatever happened, happened. I needed to shift gears to take care of my son. I needed him to be with me."

For the next five hours she fielded phone calls from family and friends asking about her mother and husband. Only about every 10th call came through, she said, because the lines were jammed. Occasionally the voice mail service was able to catch a call that couldn't get through otherwise. It was both a blessing and a curse. She prayed desperately to hear from her husband and at the

same time, feared receiving the call that would make her a widow.

She got the message around 2:30 that afternoon.

"It was a frantic call from a Sgt. Ramirez, I think," said Jennifer. "He said, 'Your husband wanted me to tell you that he's OK.' Bob called me from the Metro about a half an hour later."

"She was long past crazed," said Devlin, Redstone's garrison commander since July. "After the plane hit, we cleared and secured the offices. Outside it was a matter of accountability. Making sure that all our people got out. The phones were clogged. I finally stopped a staff sergeant and tried to call home on his phone but I couldn't get through. So I wrote down the phone number and asked him to continue to calling."

Devlin had been assigned to the Pentagon only a few months earlier as the deputy director for programs under the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. He was attending a briefing at the time of the attack.

"We heard a rumble and someone told us that a plane just crashed outside the building," Devlin said. "We went out into the hallway and saw the smoke cloud coming through. Our first reaction was to get out of the way."

Surprisingly, Devlin didn't describe the scene as chaotic. Just a month earlier the Pentagon had rehearsed almost the same plane crash scenario in a mass casualty training exercise. Workers were leaving the building and finding their rally points without notable hysterics.

"Rumors were flying, though," he said. "We heard there was a bomb at the State Department and that there were still planes unaccounted for. The planes kind of made you wonder because there were two at the World Trade Center."

Fire and medical crews arrived quickly. Eventually the workers were released to go home but the parking lot was jammed. Most of the people were stuck at the scene for

several hours.

"My money, ID, watch were all in my desk drawer," Devlin said. "I had to borrow money to get on the Metro. That's when I finally got my wife on a cell phone. I was with a couple other people and we were all calling our wives to see who could give us a ride home from the Metro stop."

He had made it through the first day, but many long days ensued. He coordinated the 25 office personnel so

See **Outpouring** on page 13



Photo by Skip Vaughn

FROM PENTAGON TO ARSENAL— Col. Bob Devlin was working in the Pentagon as the deputy director for logistics programs when a hijacked 757 crashed into the building Sept. 11, 2001. Devlin is greeted here by retiring Col. Brent Swart who he succeeded as garrison commander in July.

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Patchwork flag sewn with common thread of hope

Community answers the question: What does the flag mean to you?

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@himes.com

From a distance, it's hard to see what makes this flag so different from the rest. It has a blue field of stars and 13 red and white stripes. But as you approach this giant symbol of American freedom, what it really means to the people of this community comes into focus. It is not sewn from flowing yards of nylon or cloth. Rather, it is crafted from bits and pieces of the human spirit, from that place in the gut of every American that would not falter in the midst of terror. It is a banner of victory.

Each of the 325 cloth squares that make up the flag was decorated by a child, a worker, a soldier, a retiree or a family member connected to Redstone and it displays the emotion, the sentiment, the message of what the flag means to that person.

Some squares honor fallen police and firefighters. Some are adorned with hand drawn pictures and paintings of America's most recognizable symbols — the Liberty Bell, eagles, peace signs, religious symbols, purple mountains majesty, the space shuttle, the Twin Towers. Even portraits of famous Americans can be found — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Abe Lincoln, Betsy Ross. Some chose to honor their home state while others highlighted membership in and support of civilian organizations or military units. There are a couple of stinging messages to Osama bin

Laden and then there are others: "God Bless America"; "Puppy Power, let us give thanks for our K-9 heroes"; "United We Stand"; and "We love our soldiers."

"There is a wide range of emotions here," Diane Campbell, director of the Recreation Center, said. "The idea is what the flag represents to you. It's harder to capture than you might think but when you see it all together, you realize the emotion is hope."

The patchwork flag is the result of Project Healing Arts, promoted by the Army's Arts and Crafts at the Community and Family Support Center. The project was posted to the Army's web site; and Dan Ahern, director of community and family activities, thought it was a worthwhile cause.

"We started in March. It was originally supposed to be completed for Flag Day but we missed that deadline," Myra Garriott, Child and Youth Services coordinator, said. "We were hoping it could be used in one of the local 9/11 ceremonies but we don't know yet. We're just glad to have it done."

In the spring, Recreation Center staff members carefully cut 10-inch squares of red, white and blue cloth to be distributed to anyone in the community interested in contributing to the project. Some of the blue patches are made of small star prints on blue while others are decorated. At the deadline, a few of the squares had yet to be decorated so the plain cloth pieces were incorporated to help with the "look" of the flag.

After spending 19 hours sewing 325 cloth squares into the 11-by-21-foot flag, Garriott has a new appreciation for Betsy Ross. She's picked up the nicknames Myra Ross and Betsy Garriott.

"I had to move all the furniture out of my living room to sew the flag," she said.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling
PERSONAL MESSAGES— Each of the 325 squares on this flag reflects the emotions of children, workers, soldiers, retirees and family members from the Redstone community. The flag project, called "Healing Arts," was promoted by the Army's Arts and Crafts at the Community and Family Support Center. Mike Chemsak, chief of Recreation and Family Support Division, talks with Myra Garriott, child and youth services coordinator, who spent 19 hours sewing the squares into a flag.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling
WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL— Morale, Welfare and Recreation workers, from left, Jack Ferguson, Mike Chemsak, Gena Jones, Tony Richards and Dan Ahern hold the top of this 21-by-11 foot patchwork flag constructed with 325 individually decorated squares. In front, from left are Diane Campbell, Myra Garriott and Karen Hammond, also from MWR.

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Post says goodbye to soldiers of Charlie 167th Infantry

Activated National Guard unit helped security after Sept. 11

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

A year ago the 100 soldiers of Charlie Company 1st/167th Infantry lined up inside the Recreation Center for in-processing. They assembled again Thursday to say goodbye.

This time the activated National Guardsmen stood in formation on the Redstone Activity Field under a hot sun to receive awards and words of thanks for helping to keep Redstone secure in the aftermath of Sept. 11.

"A lasting bond has developed between Team Redstone, our local community and Charlie 167th," Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, said. "And they will be sorely missed."

The Cullman-based unit will be replaced by Alpha Company, 131st Armor Brigade (Infantry) from Centre.

"You all have done your unit and your state proud," Dodgen said.

He presented Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medals and Meritorious Service Medals during the



ANSWERED CALL— Members of Charlie 1st/167th Infantry stand in formation before their farewell ceremony Thursday at Redstone Activity Field.

ceremony as the soldiers' family members and others looked on. A reception followed in the Recreation Center.

Spec. Mike Burgett, 38, from Union Grove, said he had mixed emotions about leaving and returning to his job as an industrial electrical supervisor for BE&K Construction.

"I'm relieved in a way and kind of saddened in a way, too, because we've come to know these people out here," Burgett said. "We've come to be one big family. We'll kind of miss that togetherness, so to speak. I'll also be glad to kind of get back home to my regular job, my civilian job."



FAMILY MAN— Charlie Company SFC Leo Deason shares a quiet moment with his daughter Savannah, 8, during the farewell ceremony. He and his wife, Monica, reside in Trussville with their three daughters.

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Sentinel is out there, looking for the enemy

Product manager channels 9/11 emotions through improving radar, soldier support

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



Courtesy photo

STANDING GUARD— The Sentinel radar, managed by the Sentinel Product Office at Redstone, is used to detect low-flying aircraft and has been deployed in at least 15 homeland defense missions since the Sept. 11 attacks, including the Winter Olympics held in Salt Lake City, Utah, in February.

Like most Americans on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Lt. Col. Dave Cook's attention was focused on television news reports of attacks on the World Trade Center. He watched in utter disbelief as the second tower was hit. Nearly 45 minutes later, a third plane crashed into the Pentagon, the building where he'd spent the last three years working.

"At first I was in denial," said Cook, Sentinel product manager, who watched the news reports from his office in the Sparkman Center. "Then I thought, OK, maybe it wasn't as bad as it looks. I was upset. I knew a lot of people at the Pentagon. I'd made some good friends while I was there. Right after it happened I tried calling my old office but most of the phones were down. When I saw (Brig.) Gen. (Roger) Nadeau, I thought he might get more information. He and I both worked at the Pentagon and moved here right around the same time (July). All we heard were rumors at first."

Unable to get information through official channels, Cook called his wife who called the wife of one of his friends that worked in the Pentagon, Lt. Col. Kurt Nutbrown, and found out that Nutbrown had survived the attack, barely.

"He was in the area near where the building was hit, attending a briefing in a conference room," Cook said. "They were trapped inside and had to escape through the ceiling tile and crawl to safety. Some of the people in that room didn't make it out."

Cook continued to make calls, but officials were hesitant to provide names of those injured or killed until the families could be notified.

"When I talked to Gen. Nadeau, he had better information," Cook said. "He was the one who told me that Jerry was missing."

Lt. Col. Jerry Dickerson and Cook spent a year working side by side as executive officers in the Pentagon.

"Our desks were right next to each other," he said. "We did PT together. We worked 12 hour days because as the XO you have to be there before the boss gets in and stay late to finish out the day. Jerry and I used to be the last ones out of there."

On Sept. 11, Dickerson didn't make it out of the building.

"Jerry was married with two young kids," Cook said. "He was competing for battalion commander while we were working together. Even though he didn't get it, he stayed committed to his job. He continued to work just as hard as ever. He only had one more year to retirement."

While official notice of his death didn't

come until weeks later, Cook had seen an e-mail a few days after the attack listing Dickerson as a fatality.

"I remember going through a lot of emotions. Glad that I was alive but sad for all the people we lost. And yes, I was mad."

Unlike most Americans, Cook had somewhere to go with his emotions. As the product manager for the Sentinel radar, he focused his attention on the job at hand.

"One of the first things we did was look at ways the Sentinel could be used to protect ourselves against this happening again. At the same time we were working on improvements and increasing support for the system so that it could be used in the war on terror. Our radar was one of the first in Afghanistan. It is also the radar of choice for homeland defense, used in at least 15 missions since 9/11."

Sentinel provides a three-dimensional air space picture to detect low-flying aircraft and missiles that other radars are unable to see. The Sentinel is a rapidly deployable radar that works in conjunction with other military and commercial radars to complete the air picture from the ground up.

One of the homeland defense missions was guarding the air space around Salt Lake City, Utah, during the Winter Olympics in February of this year.

The product office spent more than \$1 million in support of the troops in Afghanistan by providing contingency packages and contractor field engineers in combat areas.

"Yes, I guess you could say what we do here allows me to blow off some steam about what's happened and what's going on over there now," Cook said. "I'm grateful to be able to contribute — to provide the war fighter with the equipment he needs to go up against this enemy. It makes me feel good that we have made a difference. Sentinel is out there looking for the enemy."

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Soldier served on front lines in war against terrorism

Platoon had casualties but everyone survived

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

In the wake of Sept. 11, America prepared to fight a new war. The War on Terrorism took us to Afghanistan in search of the mastermind behind the attacks. In one of the opening attacks of this new war, Operation Anaconda saw some of its first heavy casualties. The operation was covered extensively in the media. Newsweek made it their cover story for the week of March 18. However, the brave soldiers who graced the front pages in the weeks following seem to have almost dropped into obscurity since newer operations and incidents have drawn media attention elsewhere.

Among those soldiers is Sgt. Bob McCleave, nephew of local residents Harold and Ester McCloud. On Oct. 9 he left his wife Kari and 11-month-old daughter, Brittany, for Asia. For several months he was in and out of Afghanistan. On March 2, he had a front row seat for the beginning of Operation Anaconda. As a forward observer for the 6th Field Auxiliary, McCleave found himself involved in the fighting that left eight Americans dead and 50 wounded over several days. When asked where he was wounded, he laughs. "Oh everywhere," he says. "I had four pieces of shrapnel in my right elbow,

three in my left, one in my hip, one in my back and one in my left thigh. I really thought my thigh was the worst. I had a hole the size of a 50 cent piece there."

Others had injuries ranging from cuts and scrapes to those who have required amputation since. McCleave feels that they were fortunate when other platoons lost lives. "We were lucky enough. Everybody who went in came out," he says.

Since returning to the United States, McCleave and the others have been stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y. He sees them whenever possible, but it has been infrequent because of the requirements of



Photo by SSgt. Keith Barber

ON DUTY— Sgt. Bob McCleave pauses while serving at Camp Freedom, Karshi Kanabhad, Uzbekistan before Operation Anaconda. He was wounded by shrapnel and has since returned to the United States.

medical care. He commutes to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., monthly to meet with specialists for the most serious of his injuries, his left hand. Shrapnel in his arm severed the ulnar nerve. The damage has left him without feeling or control of several fingers. To attempt to regain these functions, doctors grafted nerve tissue from his left calf into the arm Aug. 12. This left a 12-inch incision in his calf and doctors unsure about recovery possibilities. McCleave has been told it takes approximately a year and a half for the graft to heal fully. In this time, the nerves they are attempting to correct could die completely if healing does not proceed quickly. They intend to repeat the procedure higher up his arm in October to ensure that does not happen.

Meanwhile he is keeping a positive outlook. He is scheduled to leave the Army in March and plans to do so with fond memories.

"I have no regrets," McCleave says. "I set two goals for myself in the Army: to become an NCO and to see live combat. I did both."

He plans to go to college in California, where he grew up, when he is discharged. Hopefully he will be able to return to one of his favorite sports, swimming. His family is proud.

"With every generation, you worry for the future," says his uncle, Harold McCloud. "When you see them step up

and put their lives on the line for our country, you know that we're going to be OK."

McCleave is more modest. "I did my job," he says. "I did what I was supposed to do, that's all."

Missile school retiree dies in Birmingham

Daniel H. Grantham Sr., a retired soldier and former instructor at the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School, died Aug. 28 at UAB Hospital in Birmingham. He was 68.

Grantham retired from the Army with 26 years service. He also retired after 10 years as a civilian instructor at OMMCS. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, and the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Bridgette, of Huntsville; three children, Dana Robinson, Patricia Hancock of Indianhead, Md., and Daniel Grantham Jr. of Fayetteville, Tenn.; one sister, Francis Butler of Leesburg, Fla.; and one brother, Ray Grantham of Clinton, N.C.

"It is indeed an honor to have known this man," Bobby Brooks of Intelligence and Security Directorate said. "And if there ever was a role model of a man and a friend in which to follow, surely, this man was him."

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Americans wear patriotism on lapel after Sept. 11 attacks

Pentagon memorial pins proved big fund-raiser

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

Pentagon memorial pins became a big seller at Redstone as Americans grieved over the events of last Sept. 11.

J.D. Crownover, webmaster and information assurance security officer at the Integrated Materiel Management Center, sold 2,000 of the pins as a fund-raiser for this year's Army Emergency Relief campaign. This raised \$6,900 for AER.

"I think it probably reflected a sense of pride in being associated with the defense of our country," Crownover said of the outpouring.

The pins, one-inch in diameter, are now being carried by the gift shop in Sparkman Center building 5302. The cost is still \$5.

"I've been selling them I guess about a month," Bill Tucker, the shop's owner, said. "Some weeks I'll sell 10 or 15 of them; other weeks I won't sell any. I've still got about 60 left."

Crownover told Tucker where he could get the pins because he couldn't find a source. CRW Flags, out of Glen Burnie, Md., was one of two sources Crownover had used but proved to have the more popular design.

The pin was designed for the memorial service held at the Pentagon one month after the terrorist attacks.

"I think it helped raise the spirit of the people around here on the Arsenal because this was a memorial specifically for the Pentagon which doesn't seem to get a lot of attention from the news media and so forth," Crownover said. "Most of the attention has been on the Towers and this gave a boost to us around here."

He conducted his fund-raiser throughout the AER campaign, held March 1 through May 15, which set a record in exceeding \$100,000.

"I'm thinking next year of trying the same kind of thing only with the AMCOM shield, looking for sources on that," he said. "Naturally the demand won't be nearly as high."

Crownover has a personal concern a

year after the Sept. 11 attacks. He mentions arrests of suspected terrorists without warrants, and Homeland Defense plans to build personal data bases to more easily

track Americans.

"As a libertarian, I've been gravely concerned about the loss of many of our civil liberties," he said.

Thirty soldiers sign in for duty at Redstone

Soldiers who arrived at Redstone in August include the following:

SFC Danny Oliver, Program Executive Office for Aviation; SSgt. David Desarro, Delta Company 832nd; PFC David Libby, AMCOM; SSgt. Irene Reddoch, Delta Company 832nd; SSgt. Gregory White, Headquarters & Alpha Company; SSgt. Ronnie Shepherd, Delta Company 832nd; SSgt. Vashone Jordan, Delta Company; SSgt. Fredrick Traylor, RASA; Spec. John Cadieeux, MEDDAC; SSgt. Wealthy Shepherd, Delta Company 832nd; SSgt. Nikidra Arthur, MEDDAC; Sgt. Maj. J.C. Winston, Delta Company 832nd; SSgt. Tezsllyn Johnson, Logistics Support Activity; SFC Douglas Snead, Headquarters & Alpha;

Lt. Col. Steven Froniabarger, AMCOM/IMA; Lt. Col. Cory Mahanna, Program Executive Office for Aviation; Lt. Col. Freddy Mullins, STRICOM; Maj. John Moorehead, PEO Aviation; Lt. Col. Kathryn Sommerkamp, AMCOM; CWO 3 Thomas Lafontaine, AMCOM; Lt. Col. Eric McKsymick, PEO Tactical Missiles; Maj. David Olson, LOGSA; Lt. Col. Andre Ramsey, PEO Aviation; Col. Kevin Dietrick, STRICOM; Col. Gregory Parlier, AMCOM; Lt. Col. John Oxford Jr., PEO Tactical Missiles; Capt. Erwin Rivera, STRICOM; Lt. Col. William Blackledge, STRICOM; Maj. Thomas Farrell Jr., Corps of Engineers/National Guard; and Lt. Col. Shane Openshaw, PEO Aviation.

Education committee back in session for new school year

Parents urged to attend meeting at the Challenger Club Sept. 18

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

Kids aren't the only ones who go through growth spurts over the summer. Redstone Arsenal's Education Committee is growing, too. At least 10 more organizations on post will send representatives to serve on the committee, bringing the total to 18 members.

"Some of the representatives from the organizations are parents as well," Pam Berry, director of Youth Education Support Services, said. "We're really trying to focus on information sharing of the educational programs and activities available to our kids through Huntsville city schools."

The Education Committee's first meeting of the school year will be noon Sept. 18 at the Challenger Club.

"Everyone is invited," Berry said. "We encourage parents to come and learn more about the education system and how

it impacts their child. We want them to become more informed and more involved with the committee and in the schools because anytime parents are involved with their child's education, research has shown that the child is more academically successful."

There are no "burning issues" on the agenda, according to Berry, because it is the first meeting of the school year. Now is the time for parents to bring any issues or concerns they may have to the committee for investigation and resolution.

Past issues worked through the committee include student/teacher ratios in the classroom and school choice for children residing on the Arsenal.

Besides the committee members, school representatives from the six schools that serve post children are expected to attend. Those schools include Westlawn, Williams, Butler High School, New Century Technology High School, Academy for Academics and Arts and the Academy for Science and Foreign Language.

For more information, call Berry at 955-6309.



Courtesy graphic

TRIBUTE TO PENTAGON— This pin was designed for the memorial service held at the Pentagon one month after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

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■ Pentagon attack leaves lasting impact on family

Compassion

continued from page 4

Other visual cues of innocence lost surrounded the work force and the city. Military guards replaced civilians at the gates. Entrances to the building were limited and guarded. Workers now had to sign in on an accountability roster — a daily reminder of what had happened and that it could happen again.

“When I would go running from the Pentagon to Washington, down the mall to the capitol building, the first month after the plane hit, it was like a ghost town,” De Fatta said. “Very few people out strolling. Very few runners.”

And there were changes that weren't so obvious.

“After 9/11, I had a different attitude about what I was doing,” De Fatta said. “Most of us would rather be in the field. It helped me understand the importance of what we do. It was less of a chore to go to work.

“My personal resolve was to do my job — to take care of the people assigned to me with an increased commitment, an increased determination to get to the bottom of what happened.”

“I didn't think it would ever happen here, so close,” Philip said of the attacks. “It makes you think about what's really important. It reminds people that the Army does more for the country than what they know. I've wanted to go to

West Point for a long time. My dad graduated from there in '78. I want to go even more since this happened.”

Philip plans to apply to West Point in the spring.

The fact that her dad is “on the job” makes Lauren feel a little safer in the aftermath of uncertainty.

“I knew our Army would take care of it,” she said. “I feel safer because my dad's a part of it.”

Lauren managed to find other silver linings to the dark cloud of Sept. 11.

“Things changed at my school overnight,” she said. “We all had this huge bond. The little cliques disappeared. The petty stuff was gone. It was something we were all going through. And it brought me and my friends closer together. I still talk to my friends in Virginia. It's the first time I've stayed in touch with my friends after a move. I feel like these friends will be there forever.”

Out of all the memories, there is one that will stick with De Fatta forever. It isn't the blast, or the smoke or the destruction; it is the compassion of one human being for another.

“On the day of the rescue, I was there with the litter teams and I watched this guy on a bike. I don't know who he was but for six hours he rode back and forth between the shoppette and the rescue workers, carrying supplies all over — on his body, on his bike — bringing stuff in for the aid workers. That was what he could do to help. And he did it.”

■ Devlin proud of Americans' unity since attack

Outpouring

continued from page 5

that they were able to continue doing the job. For a few days, people worked from home. The Army Materiel Command provided office space temporarily.

“It was a great outpouring from AMC and the community,” Devlin said. “People were helping each other, asking what they could do. Banners, cards and flags came pouring in, enough to cover the Pentagon — five floors and office space for 25,000 people.”

Devlin remembers the abundance of cookies brought in for the rescue and fire crews and Red Cross workers. He noted the “ungodly” hours spent recovering human remains. There were unanswered questions about what to do next. How would the Army respond? How can the Army help at the Pentagon and in New York? How do we keep this from happening again?

“The worst moment had to be two or three days later,” Devlin said. “I was driving home around 10 at night, the request lines were open on the radio. A 13-year-old girl calls in this frantic, helpless voice. She asked them to play ‘Somewhere Out There’ for her dad who was still missing. He used to sing that song for her... By that point, we knew all we would find is remains.”

Devlin also had to make his peace with the loss of many friends and acquaintances killed in the attack. He attended only one funeral, that of Michael Lee Selves, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Seeing how the Army took care of the families, how the generals made it a point to attend and render honors to these victims and the outpouring of the community helped heal the wounds.

Jennifer, too, had to work through some fear. “I know my husband is in the military but he wasn't on a ‘deployment,’” she said. “He went to work that day just like anyone else's husband. I praise God that Bob was spared. And I think I appreciate him more now. I'm thankful I have him every day.”

It took a few months before Jennifer was able to drive by the Pentagon and look at the damage — well after the reconstruction began.

“It was a good thing for me to see the progress,” she said. “To know they didn't stop us. Seeing it rebuilt at such a rapid rate reminded me that they hadn't gotten us.”

“I have no burning desire to remember the attack,” Devlin said. “I put a lot of value on overcoming Sept. 11. I'm proud of the reaction of the people coming together. The outpouring of this nation is my lasting memory.”



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Headquarters & Alpha works over Delta Company

Gators beat Dragons 11-1 during postseason tourney

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

Members of Headquarters & Alpha Company's softball team went right back to work after Labor Day. So did their bats and gloves.

The Gators beat Delta Company 11-1 in four innings Sept. 3 at field 14 in the postseason softball tournament. Their next hurdle in the winner's bracket was Bravo Company, 17-5 winners over the Marines.

Bravo and Delta were to play for the championship at 6 p.m. Sept. 10.

"We came up hitting," Headquarters & Alpha pitcher/coach Tim Rodriguez said. "Our bats stayed with us the whole game and our defense. We played good defense the whole game."

Rodriguez went 2-for-2 with a sacrifice fly and three RBIs. On the mound, he tossed a two-hitter against the Devastating Dragons.

"We're playing some good ball right now," he said, "but we're gonna get ready for (last) Thursday night to play Bravo

Company."

Jerome Barnard went 3-for-3 and lead-off hitter Joe Cox added two hits for the Gators, who played errorless defense.

"We played together as a team," first baseman Jason Brown said.

"Our defense was pretty good," said catcher Carroll Laviolette, who had an RBI hit in the Gators' four-run third inning.

He has a reason for the team's improvement during the year. "More of our players started showing up," Laviolette said.

Delta managed its lone run and two hits in the second. Otherwise the Dragons went three-and-out each inning.

"They jumped on us quick and we just couldn't recover," Delta first baseman Tyrone Thomas said. "We definitely didn't play our game tonight. It must've been that long (Labor Day) weekend. We'll be back though."

Bravo Company, the defending champion, jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first against the Marines. Reggie Williams added a leadoff homer in the third and the Bulldogs struck for eight runs in the fourth.

Walt Andrews homered, doubled and scored twice for the Marines.

In elimination games Sept. 3, MED-59th stopped the NCO Academy 17-2 in three innings. DAC beat Charlie 167th 9-7 and HHC



Photo by Skip Vaughn

THAT'S THE BALLGAME— Tim Rodriguez of Headquarters & Alpha scores the final run as the Gators beat Delta 11-1 in four innings. Looking on at left is Delta catcher Curtis Ward.



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Skip's picks

Georgia Bulldogs favored to bite South Carolina

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



Skip's picks went 23-13 in the first week of the college football season. Here are my predictions for selected games this week:

Georgia at South Carolina – **Georgia**
North Texas at Alabama – **Bama**
Vanderbilt at Auburn – **Auburn**
Ohio at Florida – **Florida**
Indiana at Kentucky – **Kentucky**
Ole Miss at Texas Tech – **Ole Miss**
Utah at Arizona – **Arizona**
Army at Rutgers – **Rutgers**
South Florida at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
Florida State at Maryland – **Florida State**
Louisville at Colorado State – **Colo. State**
Memphis at Southern Miss – **Southern Miss**
Jacksonville State at Mississippi State – **MSU**
Grambling State at Alabama A&M – **Grambling**
California at Michigan State – **Mich. State**
Washington State at Ohio State – **Ohio State**
Arizona State at San Diego State – **ASU**
Michigan at Notre Dame – **Notre Dame**
Miami (Ohio) at Louisiana State – **LSU**
Wake Forest at N.C. State – **N.C. State**

Brigham Young at Nevada – **BYU**
Georgia Tech at Clemson – **Ga. Tech**
Southern Cal at Colorado – **USC**
Iowa State at Iowa – **Iowa**
Miami at Temple – **Miami**
Nebraska at Penn State – **Nebraska**
Texas at North Carolina – **Texas**
UCLA at Oklahoma State – **UCLA**

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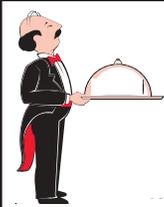
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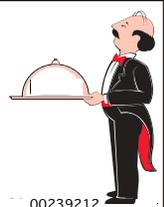
Logistics Clerk/Equipment Specialist – High school diploma or equivalent is required. The successful candidate will have experience with military (as a civilian or military member) that is similar to the position described below. Must have a detailed working knowledge of military property/supply management policies and procedures, to manage specialized aviation tools and support equipment. Must possess knowledge of Logistics and Property Accountability regarding specialized tools and re-supply procedures. Must be able to conduct inventories and Reports of Survey in accordance with military guidelines and procedures. Will be required to enter inventory, and shipping and receiving information into logistics databases. Must be able to provide equipment disposition recommendations, maintain email correspondence with customer sites regarding compliance with Government Furnished Equipment regulations. Will be capable of completing assignments/tasks with minimum supervision. Will require initiative in planning task details, conducting equipment research/inventories at various worldwide locations and coordinating results with other team members and the customer equipment manager. Must have extensive hands-on experience, knowledge of aviation tools and support equipment, as well as knowledge of operational support, equipment accountability, and equipment inventory, repair, and recoverability procedures. This work will include special assignments related to equipment management and involve extensive travel to worldwide locations where Army Aviation fixed wing equipment is stored, used, repaired or disposed. Knowledge of SPBS and ULLS is desired. Must possess a working knowledge of MS Access, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Current passport is required. All applicants must be able to obtain a Secret security clearance based upon a Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI) within 3 months of commencement of employment. The duration of this work is one year only. (Reference # PAM050078)

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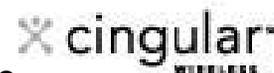
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Sports & Recreation

Walkathon

"America's Walk for Diabetes" is Oct. 19 at the University of Alabama-Huntsville campus. Walk teams are needed. For more information, call the Huntsville ADA 539-4404.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Civilian of year

John Chapman, director of the Integrated Materiel Management Center, has been named Civilian of the Year for the Third Region of the Association of the U.S. Army. Chapman entered active duty with the Army in 1969; and his civil service career began in 1975 at Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, Texas.

Pineapple open

The eighth annual Pineapple Open fundraising golf tournament, presented by the Officer and Civilian Women's Club, will be held Oct. 4 at 8:15 a.m. at Redstone Golf Course. The rain date is Oct. 11. Entry fee is \$60 for individual players, \$45 for RSA members and \$10 for lunch only. Signup deadline is Sept. 27. For more information, call Christine Hackett 313-7626.

Hunter safety orientation

The mandatory Hunter Safety Orientation will be held Thursdays from 4:30-6 p.m., Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 17, Nov. 7 and Nov. 21 in the Recreation Center, building 3711. All persons hunting on Redstone Arsenal, including guests, must complete the annual Hunter Safety Orientation and a state-approved hunter education course. This live orientation is suggested for all first time hunters and those who have not hunted on post in a few years. The course should be on computer soon at Outdoor Recreation. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation 876-4868/6854.

Youth in-line hockey

Child and Youth Services In-Line Hockey registration is open to Redstone and Madison County youth ages 6-17. Registration will be held Sept. 10-24. Cost is \$50 plus \$25 USA hockey membership fee (plus \$15 CYS Central Registration

fee if not already registered) for youth whose parents/guardian are military, retired military, DoD or DoA civilians, RSA contractor or NASA employees. For all others cost is \$100 plus \$25 USA hockey membership fee. Redstone-affiliated youth will sign up at Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Call 876-3704 or 313-3699. All other youth will need to sign up at S&V Sports, 3190 Leeman Ferry Road., phone: 883-9917. A copy of a current sports physical must accompany hockey registration.

Basketball salute

The Association of the U.S. Army will present "Salute to Military Night" with the Huntsville Flight vs. Asheville Altitude basketball game Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. Tickets are \$5 per person. For more information, call Lawrence 429-1008.



Conferences & Meetings

Training in communication

Rocket City International Training in Communication Club meets at 5:45 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Covenant Presbyterian Church, a half block east off Whitesburg Drive. Visitors are always welcome. Membership is open to both women and men. Dues are \$55 per member per year whether paid by corpo-

rate sponsorship or the individual. ITC is a non-profit organization. Membership dues are tax deductible. For more information, call Fay White 539-6953.

Alcoholics anonymous

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets each Thursday at 11 a.m. in Sparkman Center building 5304, room 4309. For information call 313-1478. The Redstone Arsenal group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets each Wednesday at noon and Friday at 5:15 p.m. in room 11 of Bicentennial Chapel.

Communicators club

Toastmasters "Communicators Club" meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. on the third floor of building 5304 at the Sparkman Center. For information call Ron Legowik 876-5619 or Robert Ruff 313-6173.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Sept. 19 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at Redstone Golf Club. For more information, call retired CSM Jean Rose 313-1659.

Administrative professionals

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals, will hold its monthly meeting

See Announcements on page 19

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SYSTEMS ANALYST — Sr. analyst to perform UNIX administration, including system installation and configuration, debugging, optimization, and rebuilding system kernels. Working knowledge of shell programming, TCP/IP, NFS, and system security concepts. Strong background in all aspects of administration for Linux, NT, and UNIX.

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at 11 a.m. Sept. 17 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Crystal Shell of Will Technology is to speak on entrepreneurship and business development. All administrative professionals are invited.

Retired officers

The Retired Officers Association will hold its informal monthly breakfast Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at Valley Hill Country Club, 8300 Valley Hill Drive, southeast. For more information, call retired Lt. Col. Bill Aldrup Jr. 881-0652.

Waiting spouses

Waiting Spouses is a group of ladies who are geographically separated from their husbands. They get together one Saturday a month to participate in various social activities. If your spouse is active duty and away on an unaccompanied tour, attending training, etc., then they'd love to have you join them. The group's next night out is scheduled for Saturday at Oktoberfest. Free child care will be provided. For more information, call Tracy Silvia or Kristi Foster 876-5397.

Federal retirees

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees will meet Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. Breakfast, \$5 a plate, will be followed by the program at 10. Scheduled speaker is Liz Bilich, director of administration for

the Better Business Bureau. For more information, call 881-4944 or 881-3168.

? Miscellaneous

Soldier payments

The deadline for the \$2,700 payment for VEAP to MGIB convertees is rapidly approaching. The responsibility falls on the individual to check and ensure that they have paid the full \$2,700 within the statutorily required deadline (18 months from the date entered on their DD Form 2366). Meeting this deadline is critical. Soldiers have no education benefits to utilize until the required \$2,700 is paid in full. Furthermore, soldiers who fail to pay the \$2,700 in full by the deadline will forfeit all contributions made to that point and will not be eligible for any MGIB benefits, according to the Education Center. Many soldiers have had problems with their local finance offices erroneously stopping the reduction in pay when it reaches \$600 or \$1,200. Finance has erroneously refunded some payments to soldiers. DFAS will send out a message to finance offices for corrective action. Soldiers, however, are ultimately responsible for initiating action to discover and correct any finance mistakes. Soldiers may have to make lump sum payments to ensure the full \$2,700 is paid within the required 18 months. For more informa-

tion, call the Education Center 876-9761.

Oktoberfest

Redstone Arsenal's seventh annual Oktoberfest promises fun for all ages Sept. 12-15 at Redstone Activity Field. Come on out for German schnitzel, bratwurst, rip-pchen, and other cuisine, delicacies and beverages served by the Soldatenstube German restaurant. Terry Cavanagh and the Alpine Express will be in the 'Fest tent each night with all the games, music, and traditional Bavarian dance you can handle. The 2002 national polka champions Mike Sheehy & the Moonlighters will be there Saturday. There will be games, carnival rides, a kids' area with live band, military displays all day Saturday; an arts and crafts fair and parking are included with the gate admission. Price for Sept. 12 and 15 is \$8, and \$10 for Sept. 13 and 14. There are no advance ticket sales — all tickets for purchase at the gate. Look for \$2 off coupons (limit one coupon per person) in The Huntsville Times and Redstone Rocket. 'Fest times are Thursday from 5-11 p.m.; Friday 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Saturday noon to 1 a.m.; and Sunday 1-8 p.m. For more information, call 876-5232.

Tuition assistance policy

Beginning Oct. 1, Department of Army will pay the full amount of tuition and fees for college or training courses provided by an approved institution when the cost does

not exceed \$250 per semester hour. The \$250 ceiling includes lab fees, computer fees, and security facility fees where required. When an institution's charges exceed \$250 per semester hour, the Army will pay \$250 per semester hour, and the soldier is required to pay the remaining costs. The new policy increases the annual TA amount from \$3,500 to \$4,500 per fiscal year per soldier. The student is still responsible for maintaining a passing grade; and any failure, withdrawal or incomplete must be resolved before additional TA is provided. For more information, call the Education Center 876-9761.

Butler High reunion

The Butler High Class of 1972 is planning its 30-year reunion for Oct. 4-5 and seeks current information about former classmates. Former '72 classmates, other interested alumni and faculty, past and present, are invited to participate in this milestone event. For more information, call Sharon Wise Pendrey 880-1969 or Greg Welch 881-4001.

Army family team building

Ever wonder about military traditions and courtesies? Why a chain of command and chain of concern is important? What Army and community resources are available to you and, just what are your benefits and entitlements as an Army spouse,

See Announcements on page 20



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VMIC is a wholly owned subsidiary of GE Fanuc Automation. GE Fanuc Automation is a leading global supplier of industrial control systems and is a joint venture between GE and FANUC, Ltd. of Japan. Headquartered in Charlottesville, Va., GE Fanuc is part of GE Industrial Systems, a \$6 billion global leader in manufacturing products used to distribute, protect, and control electrical power and equipment, and supplying product and service solutions for commercial, industrial, residential, and utility applications. GE Industrial Systems is one of GE's major businesses. GE Fanuc products and services include CIMPPLICITY® industrial automation software, nano to high-end PLCs, a wide range of CNCs, motion control systems, operator interfaces, industrial computers, CO2 and YAG lasers, and a wide range of integration and customer support services.

We are seeking talented, energetic, motivated, and qualified individuals to fill the following positions:

(Please reference job number with correspondence.)

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The following positions require familiarity with Windows applications:

2nd Shift (Four Tens, Mon. – Thur., 4:15 p.m. – 2:45 a.m.)

- SMT Touch Up & Repair #520
- SMT Operators (4) #521, 522, 523, & 524
- SMT Kitting (2) #525 & 526
- Final Assembly/Hand Solderer #527

1st Shift (Mon. – Fri., 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., except #528)

- SMT Touch Up & Repair #528 (Mon. – Thur., 6:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
- Final Assembly/Hand Solderer #529
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Visit our web page for more information.

B E N E F I T S

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090802

Announcements

servicemember or civilian employee? If so, plan to attend "White Gloves and Combat Boots," Sept. 17-19. This three-evening session is provided free of charge by the Army Family Team Building staff and will be held in building 3491 on Honest John Road from 6-9 p.m. each night. Space is limited. Call 876-5397 by Sept. 13 to enroll.

School age services

Fall break and intersession camp registration for School Age Services and middle school/teen programs continues through Sept. 20 at central enrollment registration, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. The annual fee is \$15 per person. Please bring a copy of the child's immunization record to registration. For more information, call Chris Carter 876-3704 or Pam Berry 955-6309.

Common access cards

The Military Personnel Office will begin issuing the Common Access Card on or about Sept. 23. The upgrade of the equipment will take place the week of Sept. 9. MILPO will continue to be open but there will be no ID Cards issued from Sept. 9-12. The operating hours for MILPO will continue to be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

St. Barbara dinner

The Redstone Arsenal/Huntsville chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association is sponsoring its annual St. Barbara Dinner Dance saluting the Air Defense Artillery branch Oct. 26 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Lt. Gen. Dennis Gavin, commander of the Assessments Command and deputy commander for initial entry training for the Training and Doctrine Command. For more information, contact the chapter secretary at the following e-mail address: mhowell@colsa.com.

Abandoned vehicle

A white 1987 Acura Legend has been moved to the Provost Marshal Office impound lot, building 3453. Its vehicle identification number is JH4KA3255HC006336. The owner or anyone with knowledge of this vehicle should call SSgt. Mike, in the operations division, 876-4137 or 876-2222.

Physics lecture

Nobel Laureate Douglas Osheroff from Stanford University will deliver the fifth Putcha Venkateswarlu Memorial Lecture, Sept. 20 at 3 p.m. in Dawson Auditorium at Alabama A&M University. Osheroff was the co-recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Physics along with Drs. David M. Lee and Robert C. Richardson for the discovery of "Superfluidity in Helium3." The topic of his public lecture at A&M is "The Excitement of Discovery in Physics." The lecture will be followed by a public reception at 5 p.m. in the Clyde Foster Multi-purpose Room in the School of Business on the campus.

Handicap identification

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office provided the following information about self-identification of handicap. The form needed to update the employee's identification is SF Form 256. Employees who wish to change their handicap status can do so by going to their personnel specialist and asking for form 256 or they may get the form from the Internet. After the employee makes the changes needed, he or she must return form 256 to the personnel specialist. The personnel specialist will do all the work from that point on. When new employees hire in, they sign this form. If an employee's status changes while he or she is employed by the government, it is the responsibility of the individual with a disability to make the changes of their handicap by updating their records. For more information, call Tom Wharton in the EEO office 876-3436.

Acquisition and logistics day

The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics issued guidance regarding Acquisition and Logistics Excellence Week for 2002. This year's focus is on acquisition and logistics excellence, sharing implementation successes and challenges, and determining how best to apply the successes to organizational missions. A general session is scheduled Sept. 18 from 9-11:30 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium with the theme, "AMCOM — Maintaining Acquisition

See Announcements on page 21

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and Logistics Excellence through Training, Teamwork, and Transformation Initiatives." Members of the AMCOM community are encouraged to participate. Government employees will receive 2.5 continuous learning points for their attendance. There is no pre-registration requirement, however, space is limited. Registration information will be provided via e-mail and invitations.

Essay contest

The Kids Essay Contest, sponsored by Family Media, will accept essays on "Why I am proud to be an American" through Sept. 30. No purchase is necessary and the essay should be 100 words or less. Two winners will be selected from each participating DeCA region to receive a home computer system. This contest is open to students attending elementary, middle, or high school and are dependents of authorized U.S. military commissary/Exchange shoppers. All entries will be judged by a program sponsor and those decisions are final. Winners are responsible for all taxes. Entries can be submitted via the web at <http://www.familymedia.com.dmi/index.1> asso; or mail to Essay Contest, P.O. Box 399, Old Bethpage, N.Y., 11804. Call Pam Berry 955-6309 for more information.

Big Spring Jam weekend

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council has Big Spring Jam Weekend Passes for sale at the corporate price of \$25. (The regular price at the gate is \$30.) The jam is Sept. 27-29. Contact your CWFC representative to purchase your discounted weekend pass. Make your check payable to Big Spring Jam. The council web site has the names of your council members. The discounted weekend passes will be on sale through Sept. 25. For more information

on this year's jam entertainment, contact the web site at www.bigsspringjam.org.

Master's degrees

Nova Southeastern University will hold an information and registration meeting on its master of business administration program Sept. 19 from 6-8 p.m. at Calhoun Community College, conference room 101-E, 102 Wynn Drive. For more information call 800-672-7223, ext. 5026.

Employment workshop

Looking for work? Army Community Service can help by providing you with the proper tools. Military spouses are encouraged to register for a free workshop scheduled Sept. 17 at 9 a.m. at building 3491. It will help you identify your key skills, define your ideal job, use effective job search methods, improve your resume and interviewing skills. To register call ACS 876-5397.

Fresh pizza

The Sparkman food court began serving pizza this week. Hot Stuff Pizza features "individual fresh proofed pizza made fresh daily," a prepared release said. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. A grand opening will be held Sept. 18 at 10 a.m., with free samples served until 11. Prices range from \$3 and \$3.45 per 6-inch pizza.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday from 9-5. Walk-in consignment hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9-12:30. The shop has appointments

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Photo by SSgt. Sharon Mc Bride

Remember the 11th

SSgt. Kimberly Henderson, Sgt. Stephen Dix and SSgt. James Talley, all of HHC 59th Ordnance Brigade, participate in a moment of silence last Dec. 11 to remember the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Ceremonies were held throughout the Army to mark the third month since the attacks.

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